

# 4G *Foliage* *A Dominant Landscape Component*

This book has shown that ornamental landscape effect is a dangerous beauty that is a threat to the game's future. Art historian Brent Brolin observed, *"From the beginning, beauty, through ornament, has been an integral part of most all cultures . . . when ornament could be used, it was, and in most cases in proportion to wealth."* One of the problems with turf management and landscape effects fashioned for TV spectacles is that the expense comes from the wealth of fans and economic driven interests. Ironically fans pay for ornamentation but have no say while non-players defined as businesses associated with the game and profitable tournament TV contracts control regressive turf maintenance and landscape effect practices sending the wrong message to the rest of the world.

Motivations of players, those who play the game for recreation, and non-players, those associated with the business of the game are different. Millions of US players have left the game recently while two non-players associations have increased their net assets by over a billion dollars. Beauty generates profits. Presently, landscape effects and financial prosperity of many non-player interests look good but the interests of players not.

## **Augusta National GC, No. 13** **Augusta, GA**

Of all the scenes at Augusta, I like No.13 best. Most scenes of the 13th show azaleas in the background. The scene is stunning with azaleas in the foreground. The reflected light is fascinating. The large pine's bark shows subtle reflected scarlet light of the azaleas.

Augusta National, famous for its "strategic problems," as the designer Alister MacKenzie preferred to characterize his design ideas, is now famous for its visual beauty which may come into play. ANGC has had no small influence upon course designers and owners. Pete Dye, another great course designer gives an account of designer Trent Jones' and ANGC's influence upon water hazards. Dye adapted ANGC's contrived water hazards for The Golf Club, depicted in Chapter 4A, and then admitted his faulty reasoning for installing a Trent Jones type water pond. Augusta National GC (ANGC) is not the cause of mankind's innate desire for beauty; however its beauty has been a guiding design influence.

Every course should be entitled to an ornamental landscape effect not in play. Blooms at Augusta National peak nearly every year at Masters Tournament time. Their care is known to require ice packed around the roots if blossoms appear too early. If blossoms lag, electrical generators have been used to power banks of incandescent lamps that shine all night to speed up nature's blossoming process.









## **Augusta National GC, Nos. 10 & 12**

### **Augusta, GA**

The colorful foliage in scenes of Augusta National GC No.10 and No.12 are especially interesting due to the play of light and shadows among the foliage that forms a backdrop to the 12th green.

Augusta National, conceived originally by Robert Tyre Jones, Jr., (1902-1971) and Alister MacKenzie was later remodeled by Robert Trent Jones and others. The course found its visual inspiration in the original fruit tree orchard that grew on site. The original ornamental plantings have been developed to a point that some scenes rival famous horticultural gardens.

Many courses aspire to achieve its look and feel, but there are none like Augusta National GC. We all, including professional players, fans, media producers, advertisers, and writers have made comments at one time or another about beauty of a golf scene; however, none more serious have been made that praise the beauty of an entire course, the Augusta National GC.



*Augusta National GC, Nos. 10*



*Augusta National GC, Nos. 12*

## **Hollywood GC, Nos. 13, 10 & 11**

### **Deal, NJ**

The course has no views of oceans or mountains, but what the course does have is large groups of various species of colorful Miscanthus grass and ornamental trees (shown on next 3 pages). They are not considered landscape effects placed willy-nilly, but visually beautiful, thoughtful groupings, not squandered everywhere to frivolous pursuit of beauty, but in telling places, out of the line of play. They make a beautiful statement when in bloom.

If you slice the ball at No.13, shown, and slice it extremely well, you will find a visual treat. If one may be playing very poorly, such a day will not be wasted on a course, particularly with such beautiful scenery. The scene of hole No. 13 has a pair of cherry trees in the margin of the right rough, beckoning to be seen. Like seeing a visage of a supreme spirit, such a powerful impression is never forgotten, especially if the trees might be in the foreground framing a lovely view of Miscanthus grass beyond.





*Hollywood GC, No. 13*