

The Carolinas GCSA's Bennett-Maples Scholarship honors Grant Bennett and Henson Maples, who formed the association at Myers Park Country Club in Charlotte, NC in 1954.



Grant Bennett

Grant Bennett was a fixture in Carolinas golf for decades, as a golf course superintendent, player and coach. Already an accomplished player, he ventured into the dual role of pro-superintendent at New Bern Golf and Country Club in 1946. He was at Florence Country Club as superintendent when he became the first secretary of the Carolinas GCSA.

During his time in Florence, Bennett furthered his reputation as an outstanding manager of both turf and people, particularly younger ones. There, his junior development programs helped McClenaghan High School to 11 state titles and produced several PGA Tour and LPGA Tour players. He was the PGA of America's national junior chairman.

Bennett's Carolinas GCSA executive role also began a tradition of leadership among superintendents from Florence Country Club. Association presidents, Chuck Green and Jeff Connell, each worked there. Eventually, Bennett moved on to build the Country Club of South Carolina and later the Wildewood and Crickentree clubs in Columbia.

He was a member of the Carolinas Golf Hall of Fame, the Carolinas PGA Hall of Fame, the South Carolina Golf Hall of Fame and the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame. Sons Gary, a superintendent, and David, a PGA member, followed their father into golf.



Henson Maples

Henson Maples, the Carolinas GCSA's first president, was a prominent figure at Pinehurst and in Carolinas golf for many years. A member of Pinehurst's famed Maples family, his first job in golf came at age nine when he was a water boy during construction of Pine Needles Inn and Golf Club. He learned his craft as a golf course superintendent under the guidance of his father Frank and the legendary Donald Ross.

A talented amateur golfer, he was captain of the Davidson College golf team while obtaining his degree in Business Administration. He took over golf course maintenance responsibility of Pinehurst's then four courses from his father in the late 1940s. He was in that role when Pinehurst hosted the Ryder Cup in 1951 and the U.S. Amateur in 1962.

In addition to his role as Carolinas GCSA president, Maples served on the board of directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America and on the USGA Green Section committee. He was influential in Richard S. Tufts' successful efforts to establish the USGA's Green Section Turf Advisory Service in 1953, a service that continues to this day.

When Henson Maples retired from Pinehurst in 1970, the resort had grown to include 108 holes of golf.