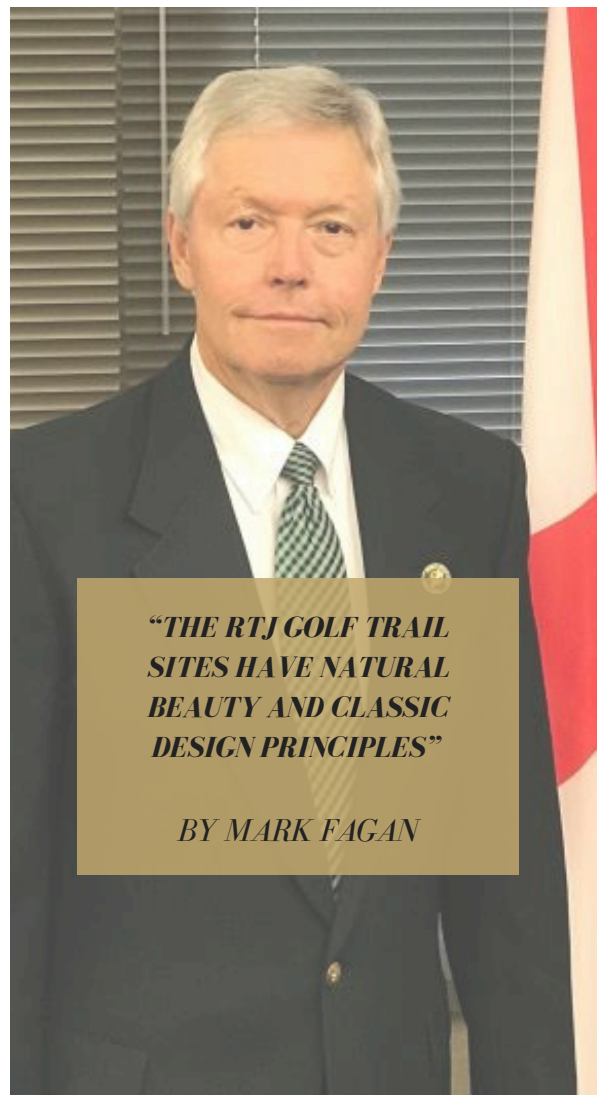


LEGACY MAILING

ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY

JULY 2026 EDITION



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GOLF'S LEGENDARY COUPLE HONORED FOR A LIFETIME OF PHILANTHROPY AND SERVICE TO THE GAME



Nicklaus Children's Hospital
FOUNDATION

The Robert Trent Jones Society has announced that Jack and Barbara Nicklaus are the recipients of the 2026 Society Legacy Award, recognizing their extraordinary lifetime contributions to golf, their enduring support for the game's traditions and values, and their far-reaching commitment to philanthropy.

The Legacy Award was established in the name of Robert Trent Jones, Sr. to honor individuals whose lives and work have helped expand, strengthen, and elevate the game of golf. Jack Nicklaus, whose record 18 professional major championships and global design influence have shaped generations of players and courses, and Barbara Nicklaus, widely admired for her leadership, grace, and charitable impact, embody the spirit of the award.

"The Legacy Award was established in Mr. Jones' name to honor individuals whose lifetimes are committed to expanding the game we all love," said David Leigh, President of the Robert Trent Jones Society. "It is with great pleasure that we honor Jack and Barbara Nicklaus for their countless contributions to the game, on and off the course. Jack's accomplishments speak for themselves, and Barbara's behind-the-scenes efforts have raised hundreds of millions for worthy causes. They are true champions in the game of life."

In a video presentation attended by Society officers and Club Delegates, Jack and Barbara reflected on how they got involved in pediatric charities, reminisced about Jack's experiences at Firestone and Barbara's association with other Tour wives.

Jack also talked fondly of their relationship with RTJ Sr. and his wife, Ione, and their friendship at Coral Ridge, RTJ's Florida home.

An edited video of the meeting will be available on the website shortly.

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CORNELL LIBRARY COLLECTION

SOCIETY VISITS RTJ ARCHIVES AT CORNELL LIBRARY,
MIDVALE CC OFFERS TROVE OF MEMORABILIA



DAVE LEIGH (PRESIDENT), DICK ROBBINS (HISTORIAN),
AND TIM ROSS (MEMBERSHIP)

The Robert Trent Jones Collection at Cornell

University offers the opportunity to examine the full breadth of an extraordinary life and legacy of a significant American golf course architect.

Jones prepared for his career by creating his own course of study at Cornell in order to achieve his goal. He completed his studies in 1930.

After two rounds at historic Firestone, Society leadership (pictured left) took advantage of one of their “stay & play” offers, making prearrangements with Cornell to review files of their respective courses—West Point, Firestone, and Valencia.

Archive files revealed photos of POWs doing construction at West Point, RTJ plans for Firestone North, and photos of an RTJ visit to Valencia in the early '90s! Along with sketches and other correspondence, the **Archives provide a treasure trove for clubs interested in preserving and highlighting RTJ's legacy at member clubs.**

Dave, Dick, and Tim were treated to **great hospitality and golf at both the Cornell and Midvale courses (Passport Program members).** Midvale Country Club shared its great history as **RTJ's first design**, for which **he was never paid**—it was the Depression, what can you say? RTJ visited Midvale numerous times over his lifetime, and the membership is justifiably proud of their legacy.

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SOCIETY NEWS

PORT ROYAL JOINS THE SOCIETY

Port Royal Golf Course in Bermuda has chosen to become the **Robert Trent Jones Society's 44th member**, honoring Jones' seaside gem.

The Port Royal course is famed within the RTJ portfolio, having opened in 1970, and is a **perennial tourist destination and PGA Tour stop**.

Port Royal has been the site of the PGA Grand Slam of Golf and the Bermuda Championship. Its **par-3 16th hole is one of golf's most photographed holes**, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

Port Royal joins the Society as its **eighth international member**, alongside courses in France, Spain, Portugal, Colombia, and Canada.

"We are excited to be a part of the RTJ Society and to continue to honor his work. We are anxious to share the many benefits the Society offers to our membership and look forward to Society members coming to Bermuda to play our storied course."

-Steven Lambert

Port Royal Head Professional

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THE RTJ GOLF TRAIL SITES HAVE NATURAL BEAUTY AND CLASSIC DESIGN PRINCIPLES

BY MARK FAGAN

In 1990, Dr. David G. Bronner, CEO of the RSA, began selecting sites for a collection of public golf complexes (The Trail) around Alabama. Robert Trent Jones, Sr. (Jones), at age 83, became the golf course architect for The Trail which now consists of 450 golf holes at 11 sites. From 1930-1990, Jones advanced modern golf around the world with his design philosophies and turf methods on the 500 courses he had designed or renovated. Bronner secured sites with natural beauty in all geographic regions of the state for the golf courses. Each site on The Trail was chosen based on Jones' design principles as detailed in his 1938 publication called *Golf Course Architecture*. Each site provided Jones with enough acreage to transform the blank canvass with his design characteristics for pristine courses.

The Trail's largest complexes are in more populated areas and the smaller complexes in less populated areas. Each complex on The Trail is within a manageable drive of another complex on The Trail. The shortened connection between sites allows for promotion as a golf trail. The trail concept is needed to bring tourists from distant states and countries to spend several days in Alabama.

The Trail courses are located on lakes, mountain ridges, lowland swamps, scenic valleys, and rivers. The courses were designed to keep the existing topography of the land and the natural elements undisturbed. The Trail of golf complexes runs from the Appalachian Mountains in North Alabama to Mobile Bay on the Gulf of Mexico. Oxmoor Valley and Ross Bridge are on the ridge line of the southern end of the Appalachian Mountains with a valley between two mountains. Grand National has a 600-acre lake. Hampton Cove is in the Flint River Valley with long views of surrounding mountains. Cambrian Ridge is on a geographical feature not found in South Alabama. Magnolia Grove has a jungle environment. Silver Lakes has two large lakes and mountain views. The Shoals is on the Tennessee River. Capitol Hill incorporates the waters from the Alabama River. Lakewood winds through large live-oak trees on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay.

Jones said, "Nature provides the raw material. The architect, working with that material without desecrating it, gives us the final product." Jones used his artistic ability to highlight natural charm and aesthetic appeal at each site on The Trail. The land dictated the routing of holes and the resulting shot values. The Trail was a design-build project with much of the design done on-site. This approach helped to prevent duplication of holes on the different sites. The architects waited until trees were saved or cleared before designing the features on each hole. This allowed the bulldozer operators to artistically shape the hills and mounds to fit the terrain. The Trail has 40 holding ponds for channeling excess water off the course and improving playability.

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THE RTJ GOLF TRAIL SITES HAVE NATURAL BEAUTY AND CLASSIC DESIGN PRINCIPLES

BY MARK FAGAN

CONTINUED...

Jones said, "There must be a just reward for those attempting the heroic carry, and there must be a way around for those unwilling to take the risk." The Trail holes have heroic shots, usually in carefully designed par fives, short par fours, and over water. The Trail courses have interesting elevation changes, punish bad shots, and reward good shots. These courses provide a test for the good golfers but do not break the spirit of the average golfers.

Tee positions were placed to maximize vistas and greens are nestled in crafted natural settings. Players have to devise a strategy from the tee for playing that hole. The strategy for each hole varies for the holes on that course. Up to eight large tee boxes were built on each hole to accommodate players with different abilities. The large tee boxes provide ample space for divot healing. The Trail holes incorporate modern club distances and ball flight in their design. The wide fairways forgive errant tee shots.

The skillfully placed fairway bunkers dictate the shot to be played. Fairway bunkers challenge longer hitters and entice average players into skillfully navigating the hole. Bunkering frames the greens and defends the fairway and green targets. Jones' "cloverleaf" and "cape and bays" bunkers enhance the routing and highlight the natural beauty of the land. The rounded "face" bunkers are clearly visible hazards. Jones combined the size, slopes and contours of his greens to bring the greenside bunkering into play in ever changing ways. Deep or shallow, the bunkers are an integral part of the green complex and the playability of the hole.

Many of The Trail holes feature beautiful water features that create memorable shot values over the most penal hazard. Holes play alongside lakes and winding streams and over ponds. Jones used water on The Trail courses to highlight hole routing and orient players for the best approaches.

The green locations are framed with mounding and bunkering to provide distinct visual appeal and excitement for approach shots. The large greens provide ample targets for well-pitched shots and spread traffic to reduce maintenance. The greens have at least four distinct pin areas which are relatively level and separated by contours. Approach shots that do not hit the correct pin area require a controlled putt over the contours.

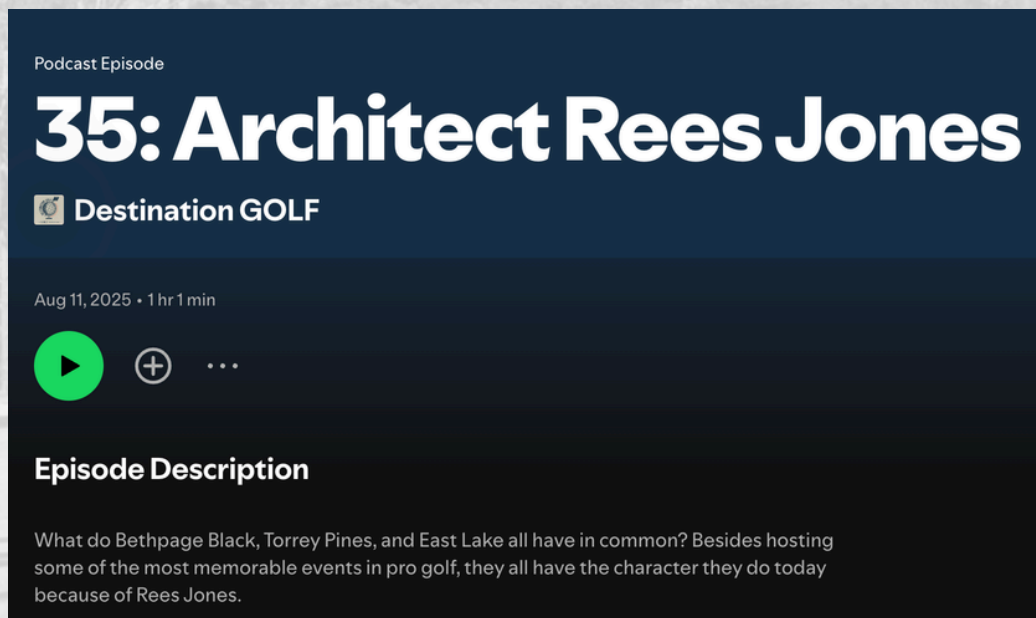
For the complete history and economic impact of The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Alabama, visit <https://store.bookbaby.com/profile/MarkFagan> and look for The Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail: Its History and Economic Impact, second edition, by Mark Fagan.

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REPLAY: 2025 REES JONES INTERVIEW



Podcast Episode

35: Architect Rees Jones

 Destination GOLF

Aug 11, 2025 • 1 hr 1 min

Episode Description

What do Bethpage Black, Torrey Pines, and East Lake all have in common? Besides hosting some of the most memorable events in pro golf, they all have the character they do today because of Rees Jones.

What links Bethpage Black, Torrey Pines, and East Lake? Beyond being the stage for some of golf's most iconic moments, each carries the signature influence of Rees Jones.

The son of the renowned Robert Trent Jones, **Rees reflects on a life shaped by the game and his father's legacy.** He shares insights into his extensive work at Bethpage Black, tracing two decades of evolution that have shaped the venue set to host this fall's Ryder Cup.

Josh Sens dives in with Rees about the sweeping changes he's witnessed over nearly eight decades on golf courses, and his thoughts on where the game is headed next.

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22ND ANNUAL ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY GATHERING

As a member of an RTJ Society Member Club, you are invited to attend the Annual Gathering. We will enjoy friendly competition on the **North & South Courses**, **meaningful connection**, and a **deeper look into Society happenings alongside fellow RTJ Society clubs**. Guest speakers and additional experiences are being thoughtfully planned, with more details to come. Please continue to check www.roberttrentjonessociety.com for updates.

DETAILS

REGISTER NOW



What: Two rounds of golf, course historical tour, Friday Welcome Reception, Saturday breakfast & dinner, and Sunday dinner including limited beer, wine, cocktails, and gifts

Who: Robert Trent Jones Society Members and Friends

When: September 11-13, 2026

Where: Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio

Attire: Country Club
Semi-formal for September 13 dinner

Member Rate: \$995/person
Non-golfing guests \$345/person

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HOLE HIGHLIGHT

THE 16TH AT GOLDEN HORSESHOE GOLF CLUB (GOLD COURSE)

Photo: Gold Course at Golden Horseshoe

Robert Trent Jones Sr. considered the **Gold Course at Golden Horseshoe**, which opened in 1963, among his **finest designs**. Routed through the rolling landscape of **Colonial Williamsburg**, it reflects his philosophy of rewarding precision, strategy, and bold shot-making.

This iconic design features **one of golf's earliest "island" greens**. The downhill tee shot over the pond is both visually breathtaking and immensely challenging. Small bunkers surround the surface of a green that offers a multitude of interesting hole locations.

Decades before island greens became commonplace, **Jones used the 16th to prove that strategy and spectacle could coexist**. The result is one of his most recognizable creations and a lasting symbol of his architectural legacy.

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WE CARE TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CLUB

Have something to share?

We welcome updates from member clubs, including tournaments, renovations, clubhouse news, and historical insights tied to the legacy of Robert Trent Jones, Sr. Submit content anytime to **MemberHappenings@RTJSociety.com** for potential inclusion in future LEGACY mailings.

Have an idea for future features?

LEGACY is designed to grow with our membership. We encourage suggestions such as favorite RTJ-designed holes, archival photos, and unique club stories. **Share your ideas at MemberHappenings@RTJSociety.com or with your Executive Sponsor.**

Warmly,
David Leigh
President
Robert Trent Jones Society