

YOUR GUIDE TO LIVING IN GEORGIA'S LAKE COUNTRY

Lakelife

VOL. 5, ISSUE 2

SUMMER 2011 ♦ FREE



The Queen of Boats

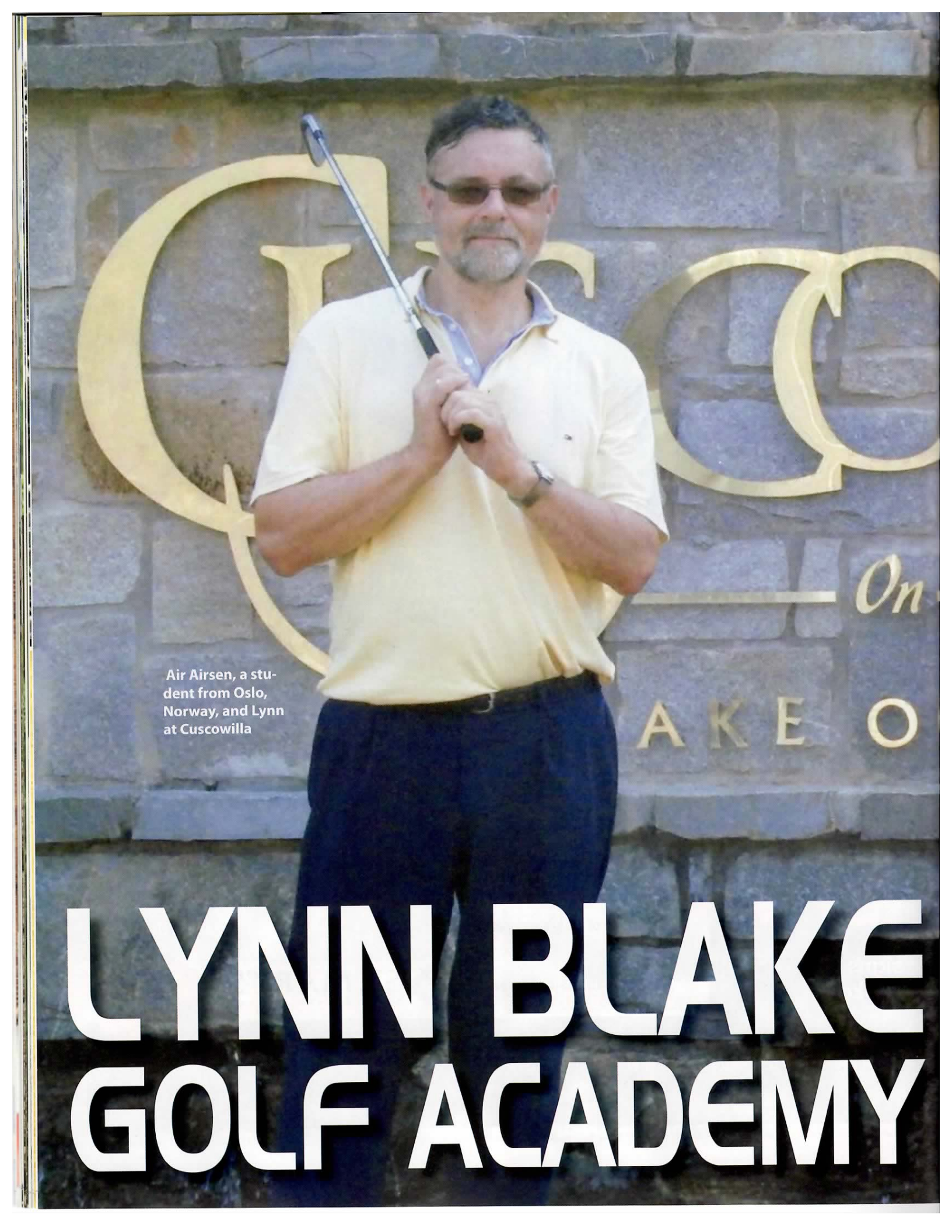
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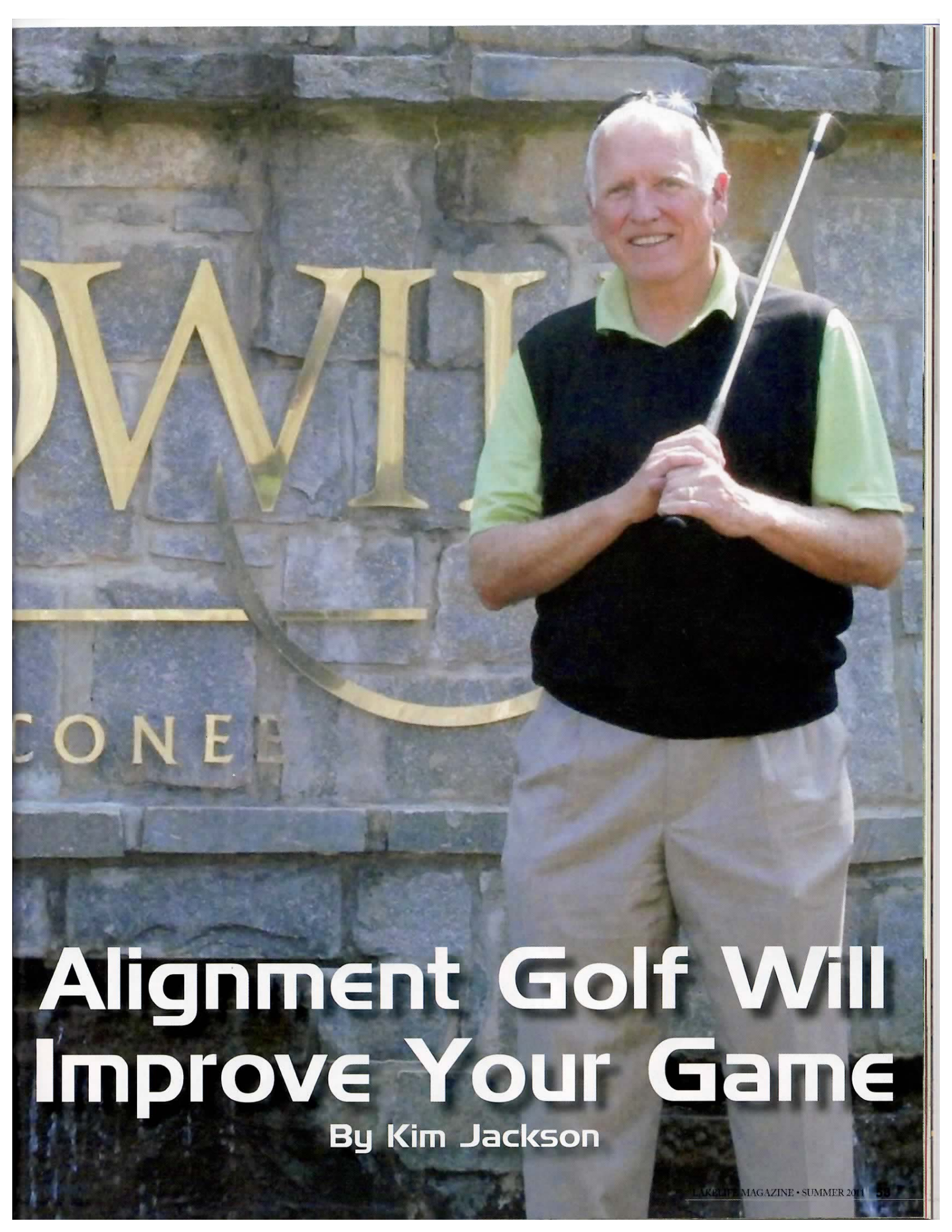
Summer Events • Lynn Blake Golf Academy • Lake Music • Eric Dodd

A SUPPLEMENT TO THE EATONTON MESSENGER AND LAKE OCONEE NEWS

A man with a beard and sunglasses, wearing a light yellow polo shirt and dark blue trousers, stands in front of a stone wall. He is holding a golf club with both hands. The wall behind him features large, stylized gold letters that spell out 'GOLF' and 'AKE O'. To the right, the word 'On' is written in a cursive font. The overall scene is outdoors, likely at a golf course.

Air Airsten, a student from Oslo, Norway, and Lynn at Cuscowilla

LYNN BLAKE GOLF ACADEMY



Alignment Golf Will Improve Your Game

By Kim Jackson

Warm, outgoing and confident is an apt description of Lynn Blake, the founder of Lynn Blake Golf Academy at Cuscowilla.

Blake - tall and graceful at age 64, with a shock of silver hair and twinkling blue eyes - has taught golf schools and clinics to thousands of professionals and amateurs throughout the world. Here at home on the Lake, he teaches the rank-and-file, as well as PGA TOUR players and PGA and LPGA teaching professionals. He has a cheerful nature and an eye for improving anyone's game.

Now retired from his own financial businesses, Blake embraced his passion for teaching golf and began his second career in January 2004. Since that time,

the results have been truly startling:

- Three PGA TOUR champions
- Five Nationwide Tour champions
- Three PGA Section champions
- Four PGA Section Players of the Year
- Two PGA Section Teachers of the Year
- One PGA Section Professional of the Year
- Two state open champions
- Two 2009 Q-School qualifiers
- Five 2011 PGA Professional National Championship (PNC) qualifiers
- Numerous Club Champions, Most Improved Players and Flight Winners

Behind all this is Lynn's thirty-year study of The Golfing Machine. He was one of the fortunate few to train personally under its author, Homer Kelley. "I studied with Mr. Kelley for a full week in January 1982 and spent time on the phone with him the year before and after. While keeping my financial career on track, I also built a business with golf schools in six states. Mr. Kelley died in February 1983, and a year later, the handwriting was on the wall. I had to choose: investment management or golf. I had a wife and three little ones, and I made the right decision, one I do not regret, but one that took me away from golf for twenty years.

January 2011 found Blake in Orlando, presenting one of only twenty main

Brian Gay and teacher Lynn Blake on the 18th green at Harbor Town after Brian's 10-shot victory at the 2009 Verizon Heritage.



Joe Don Rooney
of Rascal Flats, an
8-handicap, fired
a personal best 75
two days later in the
Outback Steakhouse
Celebrity Pro-Am.



platform topics at the PGA of America's bi-annual Teaching and Coaching Summit. In attendance at the two-day Summit were more than 550 PGA professionals. Blake said, "I was shocked and honored when I received the invitation. The PGA has 28,000 members, and this is their premier instructional conference. It was humbling to address my fellow teaching professionals. My biggest motivator was to be worthy, to not let them down."

Blake is what is known as a "destination teacher". This means that amateurs and professionals throughout the United States, and, indeed, throughout the world, seek his instruction and travel to him. Since his 2004 'comeback' school

groups and, over the past six years, has taught on the practice tee of more than 50 PGA TOUR events (including in 2010 the Masters, the U.S. Open at Pebble Beach, the British Open at St. Andrews, and the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits). Amid all this activity – whew! – his new Lynn Blake Golf Academy at Cuscowilla gives him a place, in his own words, to "hang his hat".

"The owners of Cuscowilla approached me in 2009 with the idea of building a permanent teaching facility. They wanted to provide their members and resort guests a place to practice, regardless of weather. Also, to provide a spacious teaching bay, complete with

2011 Golfweek 'Best You Can Play' list is now out, and Cuscowilla is again ranked #1. Blake takes full advantage of the Crenshaw-Coor design to teach a wide variety of shots.

"My branded teaching system – Alignment Golf – demands a different approach. Unlike most conventional instruction, I stress key alignments, not 'positions' or the 'method of the day'. Students come in for a minimum of one-half day and often stay several days. We work on all facets of the game: chipping and pitching, bunker play, putting, the full strokes, the mental game, and finally, course management. All delivered with the years of experience I've had with amateurs, professionals, and champions on the PGA TOUR."

Jarrold Clark, Director of Golf at Cuscowilla, and Wayne Watts, Assistant Professional, also teach at the Academy. Both are Class A PGA members and Lynn Blake Certified Instructors.

Blake also loves music, especially when played by jazz great Joe Gransden and his trio at the Ritz-Carlton. And now, Joe takes lessons from Blake. "Lynn is the man!" says Gransden. "I love it here at the Lake, and Lynn is making a terrific difference in my game."

Another famous personality that likes to hang with Blake is Joe Don Rooney of Rascal Flats. "He was here for two days recently," said Blake, "then went directly to the Outback Steakhouse Celebrity Pro-Am in Tampa and shot 75, his personal best score." "Man!" Blake beams. "Lake Oconee . . . the golf and the music – jazz with Joe G or country with Joe D. It doesn't get any better than this!"

The Lynn Blake Golf Academy is open seven days a week. For more information check out the website at www.lynnblakegolf.com or call Lynn directly at 770-527-3841.

"My branded teaching system, Alignment Golf, demands a different approach. Unlike most conventional instruction, I stress key alignments, not 'positions' or the 'method of the day'" – *Lynn Blake*

at the PGA TOUR Academy in St. Augustine, Florida, he has been visited by students from coast-to-coast (and Hawaii!) as well as from Canada, England, Australia, Scotland, Germany, Sweden, Norway, South Korea, and China.

For the past five years at The Barclays, a \$7.5 million PGA TOUR event and first in the FedExCup Series, he has led a team of five professionals that conducts The Barclays Golf Academy, a private client experience held each day during the tournament. He occasionally travels to instruct private

every camera and computer configuration imaginable. I accepted immediately and have been grateful ever since."

The Teaching Center itself is classic Cuscowilla. The building blends into the environment, and its lounge offers roomy club chairs, a stone fireplace, heart pine floors and a big screen television. The atmosphere is inviting and comfortable, a place to relax after a lesson or just to drop in and talk golf.

Meanwhile, Blake is all over the place: in the teaching bay one minute; in the short game areas the next; and finally, on the course itself. The



PGA TOUR
player and six-
year student,
stops off for
three days before
the 2010 PGA
Championship.
