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## Tournament Fact Sheet

Champions Tour  
Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic  
presented by C Spire  
March 27 - 29, 2015

Fall Oak Golf Club  
Saucier, Miss.

## Golf Course Management Information

**GCSAA Class A Director of Grounds:**

Matthew D. Hughes



### Availability to media:

Contact Mary Cracchilo Spain, VP of Public Relations by phone 228-386-7134; cell phone 228-547-8473; or email

[mspain@mgmresorts.com](mailto:mspain@mgmresorts.com)

Twitter: [@beaubiloxi](https://twitter.com/beaubiloxi)

### Education:

B.S., Exercise Physiology, Ohio University, Athens, Ohio, 1997;  
Certificate, Golf Course Maintenance, Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa., 2001

**Age:** 40

**Native hometown:**

Westlake, Ohio

**Years as a GCSAA member:** 17

**GCSAA affiliated chapter:**

Louisiana-Mississippi Golf Course Superintendents Association

**Years at this course:** 11

**Number of employees:** 30

**Number of tournament volunteers:** 158

**Previous positions:**

2003-2005, Assistant Superintendent, The Country Club, Pepper Pike, Ohio; 2001-2003, Assistant Superintendent, Westbrook Country Club, Mansfield, Ohio; 1989-1999, Laborer, Lakewood Country Club, Westlake, Ohio

### Previous tournament preparation:

2003 U.S. Amateur, Oakmont Country Club, Oakmont, Pa.

### Previous tournaments hosted by facility:

2010-2014 Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic

### Get to know the superintendent:

Matt enjoys playing golf and camping.

### How Matt got involved in golf course management:

"[I] enjoy the game of golf."

### Course/event scoring record:

63

## Course statistics

**Average tee size:** 2,000 sq. ft.

**Average green size:** 8,283 sq. ft.

### Soil conditions on the course:

Sandy loam, sand capping

### Green construction soil mix:

USGA (sand 80%, peat 20%)

**Rounds per year:** 9,000

**Acres of fairway:** 37

### Source of water:

Pond, lake, well, effluent water

**Acres of rough:** 45

**Drainage conditions:** Good

**Sand bunkers:** 65

**Water hazards:** 13

## Championship ratings

Tee	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
Combo	7119	72	73.7	141

## Course characteristics

	Primary Grasses	Height of Cut
Tees	Bermudagrass; ryegrass	0.400"
Fairways	Bermudagrass; ryegrass	0.400"
Greens	Bermudagrass	TBD
Rough	Bermudagrass	2"

## Environmental management/features

Fallen Oak Golf Club uses bio-basins, shallow basins used to treat storm water run-off, to filter drainage water prior to it leaving the property.

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## Unusual wildlife on the course

Alligator; Armadillo; Beaver; Bobcat; Snakes

## Predominate species of trees on course:

Oaks

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## Interesting notes about the course:

Fallen Oak utilizes Sub-Air drainage on greens and Better Billy Bunkers to maximize drainage on the course.

## Comments overheard about the course:

Players at Fallen Oak are surprised by the amount of terrain the course has in south Mississippi.

## Significant changes recently made to the course:

The newly-remolded course is more player-friendly for the average to high handicap golfer and more strategic for the good golfer. The enhancement project involved the reshaping and movement of bunkers. With more than 20 bunkers removed, the remaining bunkers have been rebuilt using state-of-the art construction techniques and materials creating a much more strategic course. In addition, 15 of the hallmark live oak trees were repositioned to add to the Fallen Oak experience. Details of the enhancement include a complete bunker renovation in 2014 using the Better Billy Bunker method, planted 15 large live oak trees, rebuilt the green on No. 14, redirected the stream on No. 1 and added two new tees.

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**Course architect/date:**  
Tom Fazio, 2005

**Original course builder/date:**  
Agriscapes, 2005

**Most recent redesign or renovation/date:**  
Tom Fazio, 2014

**Renovation builder/date:**  
Medalist, 2014

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## Other key course management personnel

Chuck Simpson, GCSAA Member Assistant Superintendent  
Brent Williams, Assistant Superintendent  
Tommy Brown, Equipment Manager  
David Stinson, Club Manager  
Rick Gehr, PGA Professional  
MGM Resort International, Club Owner

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## Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to nearly 18,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Find GCSAA on [Facebook](#), follow GCSAA on [Twitter](#), and visit GCSAA at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org). The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, and has as its mission to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game. Visit [www.eifg.org](http://www.eifg.org).

For additional information please visit [gcsaa.org/newsroom](http://gcsaa.org/newsroom) or contact the Communications Department at 800-472-7878.

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## **Media story ideas to consider**

- Water: Golf's biggest challenge
- The benefits of a golf course to the community and the environment
- What's new in turfgrass research
- Superintendents doing more with less
- Get to know an interesting superintendent
- Who's in charge? A visit with the CEO