



## Email Newsletter

Thursday – May 7, 2018



### **Did you know that Highlands County has two historic golf Courses?**

#### **Pine Crest Golf Club**

In the 1890s Harlan Page Davidson purchased a tract of land on Lake Lotela near Avon Park for a hotel and golf course, but it wasn't until Harlan's son Col. Royal Page Davidson moved to Avon Park that anything was started. In 1925 he contracted with renowned golf course architect, Donald Ross to design a golf course. A year later, the club house and first nine holes of the course were completed. In 1936, E.B. Hitchcock of Chicago bought the property and made plans to expand the golf course to 18-holes.

In 1959, Pinecrest hosted the first nationally televised PGA Tour event. It was a match play elimination tournament for one of the biggest purses in golf at the time - \$171,000. The tournament was part of "World Championship Golf" which was televised over the NBC-TV network later that winter. The eight golfers who played were all Ryder Cup team members. Dr. Cary Middlecoff, a former dentist, won the Event. Players like Arnold Palmer and Sam Snead, among others have competed there. The photograph is Col. Royal Page Davidson and caddie in ca. 1920s.



**Next time we will share with you about the second historic golf course in Highlands County.**

(Image courtesy of the Avon Park Historical Society)