



## MAY TIP OF THE MONTH

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending a seminar on Improving Golf Instruction for the PGA Professional. It was hosted by former Oakwood Park PGA Professional and current Bristlecone Pines Pro Paul LoCicero. The seminar featured Mike Malaska, a top fifty Golf Digest PGA Golf Instructor. My May tip comes from one of several insightful tidbits I picked up that day. It was truly one of the most educational and beneficial three hours I have ever spent.

Can you see the line when putting? Ninety-nine percent of all people would first ask you if your eyes were over the ball as a starting point if you were having putting woes or difficulty seeing the line. Seems like sound advice and well for lack of a better term, the old school way to approach the task at hand. There is a better way, however, now in my mind I have learned. Conduct the simple test explained below.

Place a ball six feet or so from the hole making sure it is a straight in, no break putt. Push a tee into the ground directly in the line of the putt half way to the hole. Now assume your normal putting stance and get ready as if to stroke the putt. Look at the ball, the tee and the hole. Is the tee directly in the line to the center of the cup? If it isn't, you are not in the proper posture to make this putt and are not seeing the true line from along side the ball. Rather than forcing yourself to have your eyes over the ball, or in any pre-determined position, move your head such that your eyes are where the tee appears to be in the line. Now you are in a position to see the line. You have increased your chance of making the putt because now a good stroke will get the ball on line. The process of working on your stroke from this new position is worthwhile and will improve your putting. You will no longer make good strokes that send putts offline due to improper eye alignment.