

GOLFChicago

Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

June/July 2016, Vol. 20 No. 4

UL Crown at The Merit Club

Big Sky Golf

Experience French Lick

Beyond Bunkers

Dave Pelz: Short Game Advisor

GOLFChicagoMagazine.com



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February	65 F	43 F
March	70 F	46 F
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May	88 F	60 F
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NOTES FROM GREG AND DAVE

Over the past month, our conversations and travels affirmed our faith in golf. This game can connect you to great people. Our staffers landed in Montana's Big Sky country, rolled south to French Lick in Indiana, and found a hidden gem in Ottawa, Illinois.

GOLFChicago was excited to interview former PGA Tour player Stan Utley. Though we all appreciate Chicagoland's great courses, it warms the heart to hear a professional golfer who has traveled the country on tours describe how fortunate Chicagoans are to be swinging clubs on our spectacular golf layouts. During our exclusive interview, Stan shared his excitement to return to our beloved city, his favorite courses, and a bit of his short game philosophy. Years ago, we attended one of his group clinics and that day changed our short games. Do yourself and your fellow members and



"My new security system vaporizes anyone who gets too close to my new golf cart. I'm really going to miss Bob."

playing partners a favor, and visit www.stanutley.com and look into booking Stan for a day—it'll change the way you attack greens.

The best in the world are coming to Gurnee! The second UL International Crown will be hosted by the Merit Club and includes four-player teams from around the globe. Much like

the Solheim Cup and Ryder Cup, the galleries of the Merit Club will be packed with the excitement and enthusiasm that only national pride can inspire. We often talk about the energy level that the Europeans brought to Medinah in 2012. Let's come out in the red, white, and blue and wave old glory!

We have a favor to ask. We are looking for your hidden gems across Illinois. We would love to hear your picks, so please follow us on Facebook, and share your off the beaten cart path tracks with us and our friends in the fairways.

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*At participating golf courses

GOLFChicago

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THE GOOD STUFF



Phenomenal Set for Juniors

Juniors sometimes get the short end of the stick when it comes to quality golf equipment. TaylorMade Golf's new line of junior golf clubs will have kids improving their game with an appropriate set of sticks. The Phenom Junior club sets are available in two set configurations; each was designed for a specific size and age range of player. Both sets include graphite shafts that have been flexed for junior swing speeds.

The K40 line comes in a six-piece set for golfers ages 5 to 8 that includes a 400cc Titanium driver, Rescue, 7-iron, SW, putter and bag at an MSRP of \$249.

The K50 comes in an eight-piece set for golfers ranging from 9 to 12 years old that includes a 400cc Titanium driver, fairway wood, Rescue, 7-iron, 9-iron, SW, putter and bag at an MSRP of \$299.

www.taylormadegolf.com

Dry Idea

Just in time for summer, Dog & Bone, a smart technology brand for mobile devices, splashes in with their line of screen-less waterproof/shockproof cases for the iPhone 6s/6s/6/6s Plus/6 Plus. With all of the water activities of the summer season, it makes sense to protect that expensive smart phone! The cases are available in three colors: Electric Orange, Blackest Black, and Silvertail. These cases feature a military-certified rating (MILSTD810G) and the highest level (IP68) of protection from water and dirt.

www.dogandbonecases.com



Cool Down

The summer heat is definitely on! The folks at Galvin Green discovered a way to keep you cool and provide 20+ UV protection. Designed by and for golfers, Ventil8 garments are crafted from textile fibers that draw moisture away from the body and then disperse it over a large area to promote rapid evaporation. The stylish and colorful line features polos, trousers, shorts, and skirts engineered to beat the heat.

www.galvingreen.com



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\$10.99 - 49.99

www.bottlebreacher.com

Big Salute

Ogio Golf is truly doing something unique by giving back to veterans through their Special Ops Collection. The collection features a variety of bags for travel designed in a patriotic and military style. Proceeds are donated to veteran support programs and developmental charities to help former military personnel transition into civilian careers.

www.ogio.com



Knock it Close

The man who is the Taylor in Taylormade has introduced his first-ever line of precision milled wedges. Legendary club designer Harry Taylor's sleek looking wedges might just shave a few strokes off your scorecard. Taylor put his expertise into grinding these wedges to a perfect blend of performance and precision. The milled face and perfect bounce will promote confidence and consistency from any lie. They are perfectly weighted and are available in black and satin finishes. Available lofts are 52, 54, 56, 58, and 60 degrees.

www.harrytaylorgolf.com



Fertile-Minded Eagle Scout Impacts Village Green GC

BEYOND BUNKERS

Neal Kotlarek

Managers at Village Green Golf Course in Woodridge challenged themselves in 2015 to improve course conditioning while reducing both expenses and environmental impact. This seemingly tall order was successfully encountered with the help of an intriguing set of allies: red wiggler worms and Boy Scout Troop 516.

While the teaming together of *Eisenia Fetida* with a group of Boy Scouts might seem unusual, it made perfect sense to Brandon Evans, general manager and head professional at the golf course, and course superintendent Jeff Hoste. “We wanted to reduce if not eliminate the use of synthetic chemicals on the golf course,” he says. “One of the most interesting and effective alternatives to synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is organic worm casings.”

Enter into this saga Justin Grecco, a member of the local Boy Scout troop who was seeking to perform a community service project in an effort to earn the status of Eagle Scout, the highest level of achievement in the Boy Scouts of America program. Justin managed a group of troop members, parents, and neighbors who worked together to create a system of vermicomposting that would generate natural materials to improve the golf course. The first step in this process was building worm bins to house the worms, nourish them, and collect their casings.

“The food source the worms need is basic refuse and waste, particularly used coffee grounds which are a great source of nitrogen,” says Evans. “So we collected waste materials from our dining service and were provided bags of used coffee grounds from the scouts and golfers who were interested in the project as a nutrient source. This collection process served a second purpose, obviously, as the clubhouse kitchen was able to reduce food refuse and paper waste.”

The materials are placed in the bins where worms eat over half of their body weight on a daily basis. The resulting casings are then separated from the compost in another section of the



worm bins. Once collected, the casings are combined with 500 gallons of water along with nutrients such as honey and molasses to create a tea rich in microorganisms. The resulting solution is then sprayed on the golf course in the same method used to deliver the synthetic chemicals.

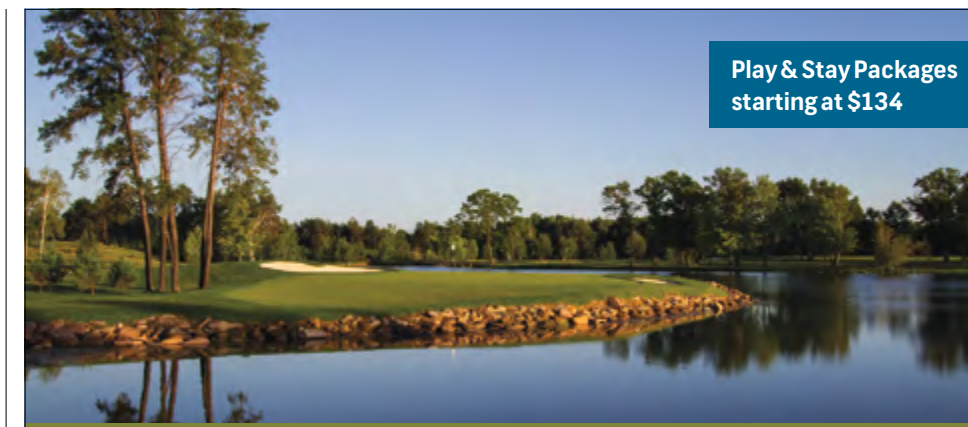
The project results were encouraging, to say the least. “We are really excited,” says Evans. “Not only does the golf course look great using this process, but our synthetic fertilizer use is down by almost 100%. And the food and paper waste from our foodservice area is reduced, as well.” Village Greens’ staff diverted approximately 1,500 pounds of these materials which would have previously been dumped in a landfill.

Hoste says that the difference between using synthetic chemicals vs. the natural compound in the tea can be readily seen under a microscope. “There’s no life to be found in the chemicals,” he says. “But there is an astounding number of microorganisms inside the tea that can help make the golf course soil and grass healthier.”

Evans says that the project has made an impact on the community. “A lot of our regulars want to contribute to the success of the program. Just this morning,” he says with a laugh, “I came into my office and found two bags of used coffee grounds on my desk.”

Last December 8th, Woodridge Park District President Fred Hohnke presented Grecco a Certificate of Appreciation for his management of the “Worm Farm” project. Justin is now an Eagle Scout and will enter Illinois State University this August as a freshman. His troop’s worm bin today houses approximately 15,000 red wiggler composting worms in the lower level of the Village Greens G.C. clubhouse.

“The work of Troop 516 in creating this system continues to reverberate across our golf course,” says Evans, who along with the Village Greens staff has helped 14 Boy Scouts earn their Eagle Merit badges. Inquiries from course managers and superintendents regarding the results of the worm farm project are fielded on a regular basis. “Justin’s project has the potential to make a lasting environmental impact not just in Woodridge but around the area,” Evans says. “Pretty exciting stuff.”



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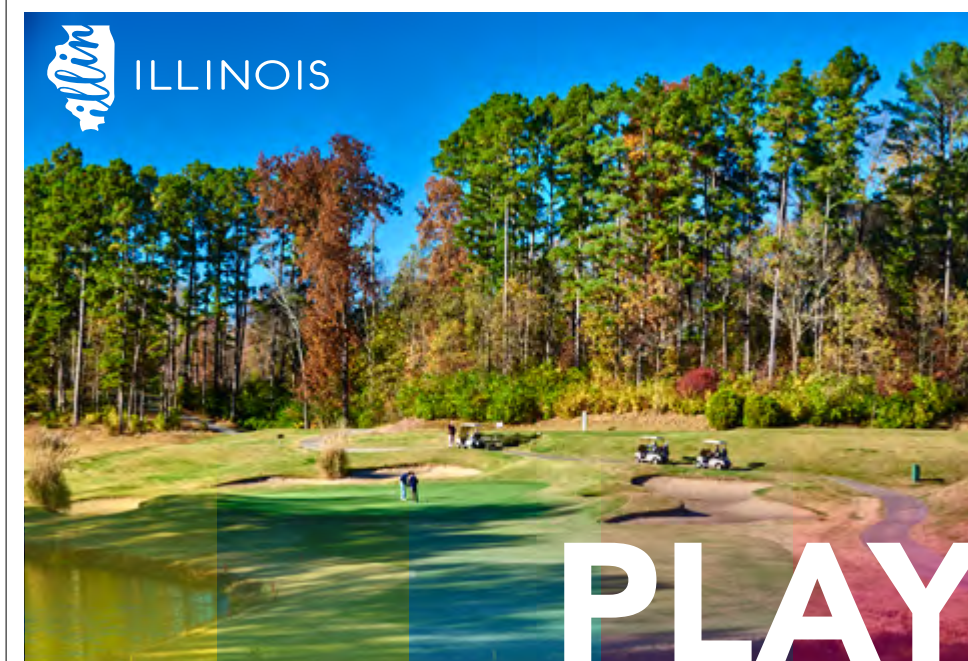
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Merit Club Hosts UL International Crown

Chicagoland Welcomes Golf's Global Team Championship

By Todd Mrowice

Chicago is no stranger to professional golf tournaments. Many of our local courses have played host to PGA and LPGA events in addition to major championships. On the global scale, Chicago welcomed the Ryder Cup in 2012 at Medinah as well as the Solheim Cup in 2009 at Rich Harvest Farms. Oh, and let us not forget the failed bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics. With golf being re-introduced to the games, there was the potential for another local track to make history by being the first to host Olympic golf in over a century.

Not to worry though, Chicago landed another golf event of global proportion with the UL International Crown. The event will be held July 19 to 24 at Merit Club in Libertyville, and our fair city will once again be the center of the golf world. If you don't know that much about the event, it's probably because the inaugural International Crown took place just two years ago, so the event is still very much in its infancy. With the quality and competitiveness of women's golf growing every year, the International Crown is an event that



should be on every golf enthusiast's radar. Here we'll provide you with a guide to get up to speed and ready to watch some of the best golfers on the planet.

The Basics

The UL International Crown tees up in even-numbered years, whereas the Solheim Cup is held in odd-numbered years, much like the Ryder Cup and Presidents Cup on the men's side. Also similar in comparison is that the International Crown features golfers from every edge of the Earth, unlike the Solheim Cup, which is only the United States versus Europe.

The International Crown is a four-day event. Eight countries participate, each with four

representatives carrying their flag. Participating countries are determined by the combined Rolex World Ranking where a country needs to have a minimum of four players to be eligible. The total field of 32 golfers will be determined on June 13th. Each country is then seeded and divided into two brackets.

Thursday through Saturday the event has a four-ball format. Points are awarded per match (two for a win, one for a tie, zero for a loss). At the conclusion of Saturday's matches only five of the participating countries move on to Sunday, where the drama really unfolds in singles matches.

A cumulative score spanning the entire four days of competition determines the winning country. This year the winning team will take home \$100,000 per player

History

Not much of it. That's not to say though that 2014 wasn't a great kickoff for the UL International Crown. Spain's quartet of Carlota Ciganda, Belen Mozo, Azahara Munoz, and Beatriz Recari dominated the weekend by going 2-0 in four-ball matches and 4-0 in singles. Spain tallied 12 of its 15 points on Saturday and Sunday earning the title of inaugural champions.

Anna Nordqvist and Team Sweden finished second with a total of 11 points. The Inbee Park led Republic of Korea would ultimately tie for third with Japan. The United States finished in sixth place after posting no points on Thursday and having an uphill battle the rest of the way.

The 2014 host course was Caves Valley Golf

Club in Baltimore, MD. The International Crown will be held off of U.S. soil for the first time in 2018 when the event takes place in South Korea.

The Players

The main thing for casual golf fans to realize is that international golf competitions (men or women) should not be confused with an all-star game. For these players it is a tremendous honor to represent their country to the rest of the golfing world. Often times you'll hear major champions talk about how nervous they were on the first tee or standing over a five-foot putt. So along with the honor comes a great amount of pressure and nerves, even for the best of the best.

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Montana, Glory of the West

By Dave Lockhart

Known for skiing, fly-fishing, and big game hunting, our 41st state is a nature lover's dream with mind-blowing golf. This is America's fourth largest state, but only 48th in population density. Even though this is Big Sky Country, getting there is swift; the legal speed limit on most highways is 80 mph. Montana has dynamic golf surrounded by unspoiled country without Chicagoland traffic. A gaper's delay in Montana usually involves a moose crossing the road or the golden light illuminating the mountain peaks. The clean mountain air renews your soul. Maybe that is why folks here say this is "the last best place on earth."





Tom Weiskopf at Black Bull

We started our golf adventure at Arnold Palmer's first-ever golf design, the appropriately named Big Sky Resort Golf Course which opened in 1973. A friendly, almost links-like layout that rests at the base of the Big Sky Mountain Range; this is the perfect place to begin your golf trip. The King may have had some thoughts about the two Open Championships he won on the windy links of Great Britain when he carved out this track where the breeze can certainly be a factor. You can get your game going if your driver is treating you right as the course sits at 6,500 feet of elevation. There could also be some interested spectators watching your game: moose, deer, and beaver are just a few of the wildlife that are roaming along the scenic and flowing West Fork of the Gallatin River. The Big Sky Resort Golf Course is a nice introduction to your western journey; it is sensibly priced, scenic, and just might be the place for your low round of the week.

At The Club at Spanish Peaks, you can expect to play one of the best mountain golf course experiences in the Western U.S. Before Tom Weiskopf began designing the golf course at Spanish Peaks, he wanted to get a feel for the old west, so he explored the massive 3,000-acre parcel on horseback. Weiskopf touts many virtues of the course, "The owner gave me the best land to choose from, the trees are huge, there's no housing, and the views are unparalleled." Players will encounter plenty of deeply gratifying challenges, and yet beginners and weekend warriors will enjoy themselves as well. It can be hard to keep your eye on your ball as you find yourself looking out to the Gallatin Range, the Spanish Peaks, and the summits of the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, which is 50 miles away. On top of the world at 7,000 feet, it feels as if it is just you, the golf course, and big sky.

There are a handful of forced carries, excellent par 5s (the second is unique with a hidden green behind a hillside), and of course Weiskopf's obligatory drivable par 4. Spanish Peaks delivers an excellent combination of playability and challenge by featuring generous landing areas, undulated greens, and flat out fun holes. It is interesting to note that you are in the wild here, and to back that up, every golf cart is equipped with bear deterrent! Thankfully, I did not see any of those big fellas this time. The glorious log cabin clubhouse is a treat in itself with delicious food celebrating Big Sky country. No trip to Montana is completed until you tee it up at Spanish Peaks, annually recognized in the top ten best courses in the state.

www.spanishpeaks.findyourbigsky.com

Old Works Golf Club in the humble town of Anaconda (nearby the city of Butte) stands as an unbelievable example of what was and what is. This perennial top 100 Jack Nicklaus Signature public golf course was a huge copper smelting mine that started in 1883. In the early 1990s, the bizarre and beautiful transformation began. Flue and oven remains can be found throughout the layout, and fairways border and wind their way through the slag. Many of the bunkers incorporate black slag, which makes it truly unique. The course is right in front of you: fun and fair in a stunning panorama. The rambling and beautiful Warm Springs Creek definitely comes into a play on a few holes, and a couple of other good-size water hazards are out there to keep you honest as well. You can almost feel the miners and the furnace operators working here in what had to be extremely difficult conditions in helping

build the backbone of our country. Come out to play and rejoice with Old Works this year as they celebrate their 20th anniversary. Thanks to the Golden Bear for putting his golden touch on this compelling piece of land that you will never forget.

www.oldworks.org

Tom Weiskopf leaves another strong golf print in the vibrant college town of Bozeman with Black Bull. The track is laid out on property that features natural wetlands and gentle elevation changes making the course very walkable and pleasurable. The jagged-edged (he likes to call them scalloped) old school bunkers have become a signature feature at Weiskopf courses, thus plenty of them can be found here. They seem to tie the holes together so that the course flows seamlessly throughout your round. Weiskopf is a major champion, winning the 1973 Open Championship at Royal Troon, and there is a certain links-like quality to this satisfying layout that winds through a stylish housing development. Furthermore, it was constructed on the historic Leachman Black Angus Ranch. It was here that people travelled from all over the world to purchase one of Jay Leachman's award-winning bulls. The streets in the community are even named after his prize-winning studs.

There are a handful of water features strewn across the property, but the engaging putting surfaces are the centerpiece at Black Bull. Weiskopf says, "they are probably some of the best conditioned greens I have ever putted on." Moreover, if you want to get serious about your game, he added, "The practice area is one of finest I have ever been involved with, it is unbelievable!"

Building to a crescendo, each hole adds more drama and challenge, with the climax coming at the eighteenth green. This is the number-one handicap hole playing at 426 yards to an uphill green. If you card or birdie on this this brute, then I am sure you will not have to buy any drinks at Black Bulls' rustically elegant Corral Clubhouse. Glorious conditions take center stage here at Black Bull, Bozeman's premiere private golf community built in the heart of the Gallatin Valley. Members can enjoy tennis, fitness, and a beautiful outdoor swimming pool.

www.BlackBullBozeman.com

Our Big Sky tour also included a couple of accessible private courses. The Reserve at Moonlight Basin is a new Jack Nicklaus design that is a wild ride of elevation filled with stunning unspoiled mountain views. The holes literally traverse the mountain where you rarely see other holes, or people for that matter. Nicklaus gave plenty of room off the tee, so you can spray it with minimal consequence. If you like challenging putting surfaces, then this may be the place for you. Every green is filled with twists and turns, humps and bumps, and roll true as a Montana sunset. For you big knockers off the tee, you might want to tip it out and try the Mill Creek tees at a robust 7,982 yards. The 14th hole is a par-3 at 286 yards. And yes, it plays downhill! The mark of any great golf course is the way it finishes. The 16th is a majestic par 3 as you face a green surrounded by bunkers and stately pines. Another picturesque elevated tee greets you at 17. This copious hole plays a lengthy 777 yards from the back tees, but remember it is downhill with thin mountain air and firm turf, so the ball will run like an Olympian! Not many courses feature a drivable 18th hole, but here at The Reserve that is just the case, and good luck on the topsy-turvy putting surface.

www.MoonlightBasin.com

A great way to break up your trip is to head down to one of the world's natural wonders at Yellowstone National Park. An easy drive of slightly over an hour from the Big Sky Resort area, you will find this massive scenic park featuring the famous Old Faithful geyser. Here the buffalo really do roam. As we were leaving the park, we spotted a lone bison in the distance, so we pulled over to observe one of our nation's living treasures. We sat in the car and shot video as the bull came closer and closer. He came within a couple of feet of us, and then he turned and walked directly behind the car. Priceless!

You will not be buffalooed getting to Montana, as it is easier than you think. United Airlines has direct flights jetting from O'Hare to Bozeman, Montana, in just under 3.5 hours, which leaves plenty of time to get in a round, or a mosey down to Yellowstone National Park. In the town of Bozeman, there is an astonishing 302 days of sunshine. A week that mixes an Arnold Palmer course, stellar Tom Weiskopf designs, and a couple of rugged Jack Nicklaus layouts is just about as big as it gets in golf. The last great place on earth is waiting for Chicagoans to heighten their golf experiences in Big Sky Country.

A Bendelow for the Ages in Ottawa

ON THE ROAD

Greg Jourdan

Just a few miles south of downtown Ottawa is an authentic hidden gem. Getting there is easy from Chicago or the suburbs. Pick your path to Interstate 80 and exit at Illinois 23 south. Seat time is less than 45-minutes from the western suburbs and an hour and a half of cruise control from the Loop.

Pine Hills Golf Club is an unspoiled vestige from golf's golden era. Designed by Tom Bendelow, who is credited with over 700 course designs, Pine Hills has been hosting golfers for over 92 years. The Ottawa Country Club commissioned Bendelow to build a nine-hole golf course on a 92-acre site shouldered by Coval Creek and majestic pine trees. Known as the "Johnny Appleseed of American Golf," Bendelow's course designs have grown the game by expanding golf's appeal beyond private, urban clubs to suburban and rural American. That is exactly how his legacy continues in South Ottawa.

The beauty of Pine Hills, especially for purists, is that Bendelow's routing is mostly

intact; moreover, the green complexes, also well preserved, are pushed-up and turtle-backed. Creating interest with each chip, pitch, and putt, Pine Hills forces golfers to use a variety of inventive shots to hop, roll, and stop the ball nearer to the hole. At just 6,174 yards from the back tees, the course should not be mistaken for a sporty nine-holer that can be conquered with a bomb and gash attack mode. The essence of the course is an old school feel that demands strategy and position to score well. Some 300-yard drives at Pine Hills leave bombers with an awkward 'tweener to a challenging green.

The first hole welcomes golfers with a pleasant handshake that forgives a right-to-left ball flight. The line of play is a gentle dogleg to the right. Showing less than 300 yards on the scorecard, I pulled out the driver and laced a shot over the green and out of play. I had an 'ah ha' moment before leaving the tee box. A hybrid was the play. The second hole bends a little to the left and plays much

longer than the 380 yards on the scorecard. After serviceable drives just off the long side of the fairway, my playing partner and I still had 6-irons left to the flagstick. The rough chewed both of our swings, so we were chasing bogey. Much like the seven greens to follow, it is not a cookie-cutter dance floor.

It should be noted that the trek from the second green to the third tee box is the longest walking stretch between holes. If you are able to walk, be sure to enjoy Pine Hills shouldering your bag or pushing a trolley.

The home stretch at Pine Hills begins with the uphill, sixth hole. The green is set against hardwoods, and it has a sneaky secret. A narrow crescent bunker hides behind this ticklish putting surface. If you under club your approach, then you feel like you are trying to lob a shot into someone's kiddie pool. An over-flighted shot will bound into the woods or rest in a shallow grave of silica. The back to front pitch of the green will cause even the best players to steady

their nerves. Following this wee par 3 is the number one handicap hole. The seventh hole is a 435-yard massive dogleg with a risk/reward opportunity. Opting to cut the corner over stately pine trees could position you with a short iron to the green. However, if your tee ball does not clear the treetops, frothy, billy goat lies increase your chances for a huge blemish on your scorecard.

The end of the first loop reintroduces golfers to Coval Creek. The tee shot offers plenty of width in the landing area. At 520 yards, the ninth hole's second shot brings the creek and arithmetic into play. Be sure to crunch your yardage and carry distance before attempting to cross the hazard. My power fade had too much sidespin and placed me with no other option than to knock a wedge shy of the hazard. A driver-wedge-6-iron sequence may not be the textbook route to par, but you'll find many of your successes at Pine Hills require imagination and strategy.

Playing golf at Pine Hills is a treat. If you are hesitant to make the trip to play a nine-hole track, then be assured that you'll want to get 27 holes in before you call it a day. The subtle nuances of each hole inspire creativity and shot making. The immaculately groomed greens will motivate you to find the break as you aim each putt and chip. This course is so nice you must play it twice—then one more time to try to clear the treetops at hole eleven.

Pine Hills offers much more than great golf on an historic course. The clubhouse's menu is what keeps the club busy year round. Guests should expect a welcoming staff, smiling patrons, and delicious eats. While I was not surprised that the golf course surpassed my expectations, the menu is on par with any club you'll visit. From the pizzas to the pork tenderloin to the wrap sandwiches, kudos to the artists in the kitchen for delivering some of the best 19th hole specials. A round at Pine Hills would not be complete without a meal

(or two) in the restaurant or on the patio that overlooks the final green. The signature sandwich is the Fold Over, comprised of house-made pizza dough filled with a your choice of a variety of mouth-watering ingredients, and is enough to feed a couple.

Pine Hills is one of the best values in golf. Walking rates are \$20 for 18 holes and just another \$1 on weekends. Rates with a golf car are \$30 during the week and \$37 on weekends. The club's efforts to grow the game include an admirable junior program and weekend family nights where parents can golf with their kids for \$25—that's two golf cars and four golfers!

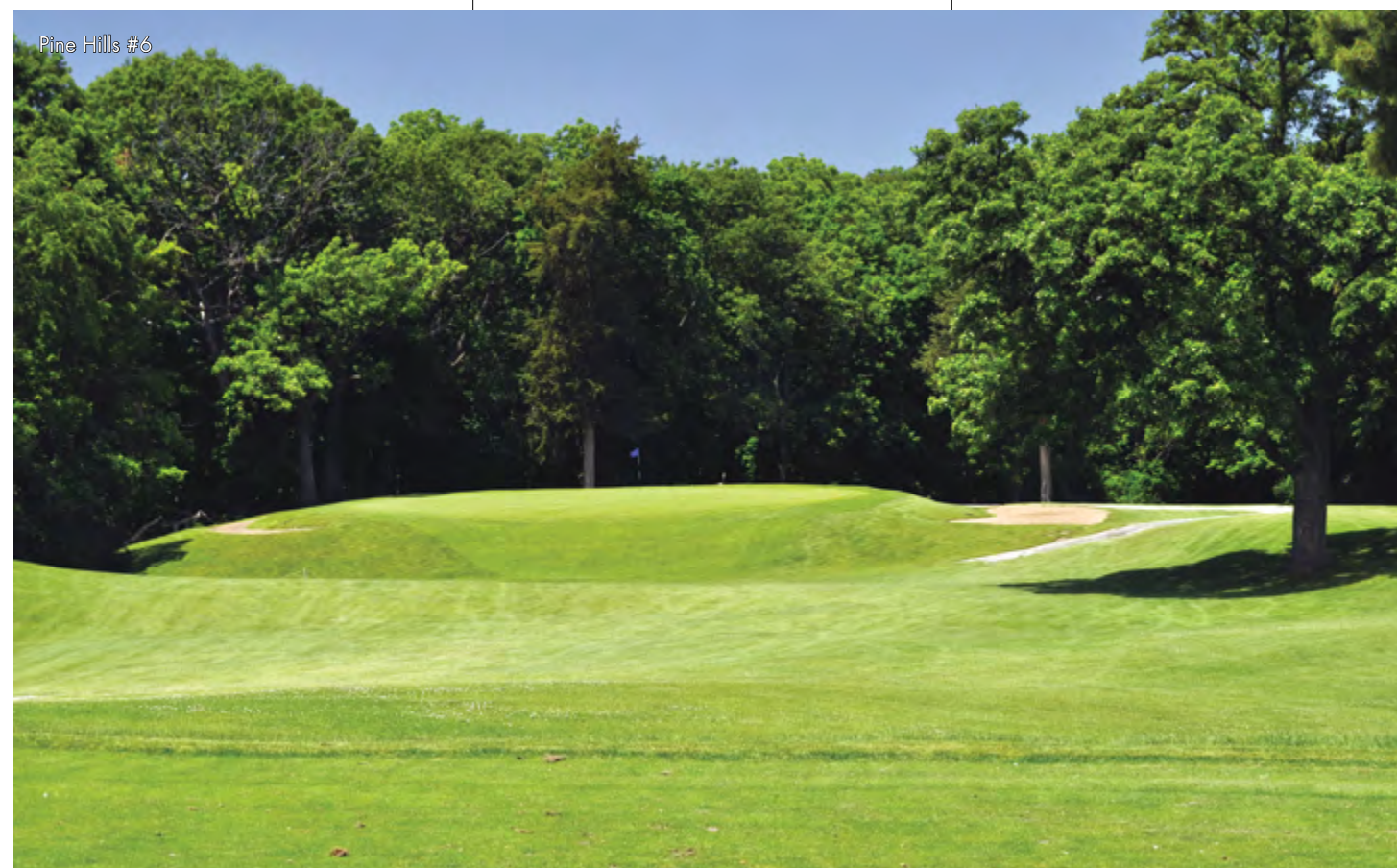
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SWEET HOME CHICAGO

Spotlight

Cantigny Adds Young Executive Program

Most “grow the game” programs encourage kids to join the game of golf. Cantigny Golf has always been a forward-thinking operation with a tremendously successful youth golf program that provides instruction to more than 1,400 students per year. Along with the Cantigny

world.

Cantigny’s focus in recent years has been to build its golfing community. “The professional staff at Cantigny works to break down barriers for women’s golf,” head professional Patrick Lynch explains, “Cantigny staffers will be the first to tell you that men play slower. Our Young Executive Program is yet another building block at

financial commitment.

From competitive events, such as the spring classic and club championship, to social events, such as the Couples Nine & Dines and Friday evening leagues, young executives have every opportunity to build relationships and become part of Cantigny’s unique community. As the Young Executive participation

Executive Program is available to players who are age 35 and under. With over 70 members already enrolled, the program is catching on. “Cantigny Golf is one of the best run public golf courses in the state and now that they have started the young executive program, it’s a place I can call home,” Young Executive member Greg Denman shares. “I have been taking full advantage of the perks of the program which enables me to play more golf at a reduced rate. In the process, I’ve met a lot of great guys, which would not have happened at this stage in my career if it weren’t for this program.”

Registration also includes the benefits of the Red Oak Club, a loyalty-reward program. Benefits of the Young Executive program are \$75 (18 hole) and \$40 (9 hole) rounds, including cart, with some time restrictions on 18-hole rounds.

Since opening and being voted *Golf Digest’s* “Best New Public Course” in 1989, Cantigny continues to be one of Chicagoland’s top-rated courses, and has played host to numerous amateur and professional tournaments, including four Illinois State Amateurs, two Chicago Opens, a Western Junior Amateur (2006), and most notably the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship in 2007.

For more information, call 630-260-8197 or visit www.cantignygolf.com.

GOLFChicago Wire

Deere Adds Young Guns

If golf had a draft like football and basketball, 2016 might be considered one of the best years for college stars advancing to the pros. And the John Deere Classic will have six of the best in the field for the August 11 - 14 renewal at TPC Deere Run in Silvis.

In order of their amateur ranking entering the NCAA Championship, the select six brought in by tournament director Clair Peterson are:

Jon Rahm, the No. 1 amateur from Spain who concluded his Arizona State career with the Ben Hogan player of the year award. He’s already made an impact on the pro circuit, finishing in a tie for fifth at the Phoenix Open and a tie for 10th at the Mayakoba Championship.

Beau Hossler, a Californian who starred for Texas for four years. His No. 2 ranking was built on both play for the Longhorns and on the amateur circuit, including his 2014 Western Amateur victory at Beverly Country Club.

Aaron Wise, who turned pro after leading the Oregon Ducks to the NCAA team title as a sophomore by dropping more long putts in a college finale than anyone could remember. Ranked No. 3, he also won the NCAA individual crown to go with a Pacific Amateur title and the runner-up spot in last year’s Western Amateur at Rich Harvest Farms.

Lee McCoy, a Georgia Bulldog whose nickname

could be “The Real” after placing fifth in the Valspar Championship and winning the Southeastern Conference title. The fourth-ranked McCoy finished tied for 69th at last year’s Deere, went deep into last year’s U.S. Amateur at Olympia Fields and was fourth-ranked before turning pro.

Jordan Niebrugge, the Mequon, Wisconsin, native who was the low amateur in last year’s British Open. Ranked No. 8, he ran off with the U.S. Public Links, Wisconsin Amateur and Western Amateur in 2013 and tied for 27th in the 2014 Deere.

Charlie Danielson, the Illinois grad who ranked No. 11 entering the NCAA season after helping lead the Fighting Illini to a seventh Big Ten title in eight years. He was second individually, and made the cut in this year’s Northern Trust Open at Riviera.

“Part of the John Deere Classic’s mission is to provide promising young players with opportunities to compete early in their careers against the best players in the world – the established PGA Tour veterans who play here every year,” Peterson said. “A number of those young players – including the likes of Jordan Spieth and Jason Day – have told us the experience they gained at the John Deere Classic helped them immensely to advance in their professional careers.”

Spieth won in 2013, on his

second exemption, and again last year. He’s been given a pass from defending this year to represent the U.S. in the Olympics, which will be the same week as the Deere.

Glencoe’s Hickey among AJGA Leadership Finalists

Margaret Hickey of Glencoe was named one of 15 finalists for the 2016 USGA-AJGA Presidents’ Leadership Award for her charitable work off the course.

Hickey, part of the AJGA’s Class of 2017, raised more than \$2,200 for the Leadership Links Birdies for Charity program through donations and pledges from family and friends. The money was ticketed for Misericordia Home, which helps developmentally disabled children and adults live better lives. Hickey, a student at Loyola Academy, also helped start a volunteer group at school to benefit Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago. A dance marathon she and her classmates promoted raised over \$36,000.

The USGA-AJGA Leadership award was created in 2005, and is awarded to a boy and girl from the AJGA ranks each

year who demonstrate leadership, character, and community service.

Greg Martin at Helm of Architect’s Group

A man who has moved a lot of dirt now wields a gavel.

Greg Martin took office as president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects in late April. Head of Martin Design Associates for 25 years, the Batavia resident got his start in the business with William James Spear, and opened his own office in 1991.



Greg Martin

The ASGCA’s Design Excellence Recognition Program was Martin’s idea. Proposed in 2012 and implemented soon after, it puts a spotlight on best practices within the profession. “Design Excellence is



Youth Links, a course built just for kids, Cantigny also boasts a very successful caddie program with 130 loopers and 12 Evans Scholars. However, Cantigny Golf also wants to cultivate young adults in the business

Cantigny to ensure the health of the game going forward.”

The club’s Young Executive Program fills a void for 20- and 30-somethings to join the fun and benefits of a club membership without the long-term

is growing, Cantigny is beginning to develop events specific to the group, such as the July 18th Golf and Brew, which is an 18-hole scramble followed by a craft beer sampling.

Cantigny’s Young

about problem-solving,” Martin said. “Every golf course architect needs to address the unique challenges of a project to better the game. Ultimately, the course and the game will benefit.”

Martin has always been a fan of classic parkland layouts, and his designs lean in that direction. They include Coyote Run in Flossmoor, Carillon’s 27 holes in Plainfield, and Whitetail Ridge in Yorkville, along with fun-to-play nine-holers Flagg Creek in La Grange and High Point in Essex. Martin was also involved with the expansion of Rich Harvest Links to 18 holes and with several renovations of area courses, including Wilmette Golf Club, River Forest Country Club and the in-progress revitalization of Oak Meadows in Wood Dale.

Now, along with his own business, for the next year he takes the point on advancing architectural and environmental issues of the membership to outsiders.

“I am intrigued by what inspires our membership,” said Martin, whose degree from Iowa State was in landscape architecture. “While we are moving past the recent economic challenges, there will be aftershocks. It is a new world and the landscape has shifted. But the well-developed skills of ASGCA members are unique. Each in our own way adds value to the game, provides adventure for golfers and, most importantly, benefits our communities.

“You cannot grow without well-established roots. The health of anything depends on the depth of the roots. The game of golf needs healthier roots that translates to a more viable golf industry.”

Platt Captures IPGA Senior Match Play

John Platt is best known as a teacher of some of the best junior players in the Chicago area, a plaudit well deserved. But Platt, who hangs his shingle at Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville, is more than that. He can also play a little.



John Platt

On May 25, he proved that again, rallying with four birdies on the last four holes to score a 1-up victory over Craig Carney of Bull Valley Golf Club to win the Illinois PGA Senior Match Play title at Shoreacres in Lake Bluff.

A see-saw match that saw only three holes halved came down to the last seven. Carney, 53, played them in 1-under. Platt, 54, played them in 3-under.

Platt also rallied from a 2-down deficit. Carney won the par-3 12th with a birdie, then the 13th when Platt bogeyed. But Carney’s bogey of the 14th drew Platt within one hole.

Now came the fireworks. Platt birdied the par-5 15th and lost the hole when Carney reached the green of the 463-yard hole in two and sank the eagle putt. Carney was 2-up with four to play. But Platt birdied the par-4 16th

and par-4 17th to square the match, then birdied the home hole, which Carney could not match, to grab the title.

Platt had lost to Carney in last year’s round of 16, and beat Doug Bauman of Biltmore Country Club, the two-time defending champion, 4 and 3, to advance to the title match. Carney knocked off three-time Senior Match Play winner Jim Sobb, 1-up, to advance.

Cantigny has a Vision

When Annika Sorenstam was dominating the LPGA tour, she often spoke of “Vision 54,” the idea someone could birdie every hole.

Now, it’s VISION54 and a golf training program you can take at Cantigny Golf in Wheaton. Teaching professional Gay Crain, a graduate of the Annika Academy, teaches it in a series of four one-hour sessions. New series begin in June and August.

“Golf is meant to be enjoyed,” Crain said. “VISION54 embraces that and shows us how to get out of our own way, play better, and start having more fun on the golf course. VISION54 principles can help you become your own best coach where it matters most, on the golf course. A big part of this is mental, and learning how to nurture positive emotions when you play.”

Crain’s program has expanded since last year, her first at Cantigny Golf Academy. The four-hour basic course, which covers eight essential playing skills, can be supplemented with three

follow-up courses on specific skills if the student is curious.

Cantigny director of instruction Connie DeMattia endorses the program’s concepts.

“The Academy is a comprehensive training center and that includes the mental and game management side of golf,” DeMattia said. “VISION54 is for all golfers and anyone taking the class will love Gay’s enthusiasm and personal coaching skills.”

The cost is \$160. Each class is limited to five golfers age 14 and older. For more information, visit www.CantignyGolf.com or call the Academy at 630-260-8199.

Carporelli Honored at Beverly Country Club

Beloved Pro Emeritus Dick Carparelli, 99 years of age, is now in his 70th year at Beverly Country Club. Think about that for a moment. 70 years is a lot of time.



Sam Snead (L) and Dick Carparelli (R)

Seventy years ago, in 1946, this country had just emerged from the Second World War. Being the kind of American he is, Dick served in the Air Force in that conflict and then came to Chicago to join the professional staff here at Beverly, which was headed by his uncle, Charley Penna.

In the meantime, we had the 1950s, with We Like Ike, the Cold War, and the beginnings of rock and roll. Then the 60s with the war in Vietnam and all of that turbulence, the assassinations, the race riots across America, the Beatles and Rolling Stones, the peace and love generation. The 70s saw the rise and fall of both Richard Nixon and Jimmy Carter.

Then the 80s with Reagan telling our Russian adversary to “tear down that wall,” and the first Bush leads us to the Clinton years and a second Bush presidency. We move to the new millennium, 9/11, Iraq, Afghanistan, and a global recession. Then in 2008, an African-American man who lived on the South Side of Chicago is elected president and we move into the following years with economic struggles and international terrorism seemingly dominating the landscape.

Sports-wise in Chicago, since 1946, by my reckoning, the Blackhawks won four Stanley Cups, the Bears have been in two Super Bowls, winning one, and the Sox have been in two World Series, winning one, and the Bulls won six NBA Championships. The Cubs were in the World Series the year before Carp got here but haven’t been back since.

For each of those seventy years, Dick Carparelli stayed the course. He came to work every day. He knew Chick Evans, Ben Hogan, Gene Sarazen, Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer, Julius Boros, and Jack Nicklaus. He gave lessons to thousands of local golfers and many visiting celebrities including Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Jack Nicholson, and Bill Murray. He stayed married, raised a family, kept his job and helped change the lives of countless people.

In 1946, the year Dick came to Beverly, the movie, “It’s a Wonderful Life,” was released. In it, the guardian angel Clarence is trying to convince George Bailey out of his horrible depression. When George says he wishes he’d “never been born”, Clarence counsels him, “Each man’s life touches so many other lives, when he isn’t there he leaves an awful hole.” Clarence then recounts the impact that George had made on so many lives.

Dick is Beverly Country Club’s George Bailey. —Terry Lavin, BCC member

Ageless John Pianowski

John Pianowski could win real money at carnivals.

Nobody would ever guess he’s 96 years old. Maybe 66, but not many years more.

A powerful pitcher in his youth – he was playing semi-pro baseball in eighth grade, back when Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, whom he met, ruled baseball – John was eventually coaxed into golf by his boss, talented golfer George Victor, and discovered the game of a lifetime.

In his case, that means playing for some 75 years.

“We played at Maywood Golf Club,” he said, recalling a Tom Bendelow design at Mannheim and Harrison that in the 1950s became the Hillside Shopping Center.

Name another sport where you can win a club championship – senior division, but still – at the tender age of 84? John did so at River Forest.

Oh, and he shot his age to do so. He can still beat his age, or half of it, when playing nine.

“I love the game,” Pianowski said. “With both my wives, I said, ‘If you want to see me on weekends, you have to play golf.’ ” They did.

A member at Elmhurst Country Club until Du Page County’s forest preserve district took it over, he then followed nearly two dozen members to River Forest.

“My first nine holes, I shot 36 and thought, ‘This is an easy course,’” Pianowski recalled. “Then I played it again and it was not that easy.”

But he soon assumed a spot on River Forest’s senior team, representing the club in the local circuit, and contending annually in the senior championship.

Along with his win, he was runner-up in 2005, at 85, and says it was only because that year someone decided that handicaps would be used to make it a net championship, and he gave away 12 strokes a round for four rounds.

That battle for the senior crown was generally the only time he played River Forest from the senior tees. Too short for him.

Pianowski plays nine more often than 18 these days, and can regularly be seen on the fairways at Pinecrest in McHenry County, but one of his favorite haunts is the annual age-group tournament at Silver Lake in Orland Park.

Teaming with three other nonagenarians, Pianowski is almost guaranteed to be on a winning team before he tees off.

“They have different tees for different age groups,” he said. “I asked where the tees are if you’re 92, and they said, ‘Tee off anywhere you want!’ ”

There were also adventures in Las Vegas, including back-to-back wins in the Gold Cup at the Desert Inn, where a group of Chicagoans gathered for golf while the snow flew back home.

John may be 96, but he has a youthful outlook. He instantly named Pete Dye’s Players Course at TPC Sawgrass as the best course he’s played, and Kiawah Island’s Ocean Course as the most difficult.

All this great golf came with only one lesson along the way. A short period off his game prompted him to go to a teacher in Oak Brook and find out why fairways were no longer his friend. A few swings and it was discovered his right hand was out of position at the top of the swing. That corrected, he’s never been back.

He had one lesson in 75 years? There’s another record that won’t be broken.

—By Tim Cronin



John Pianowski

Suite Lessons at Golf 312

One of the things I love writing about is anything that is new, innovative, and local, especially when it revolves around golf. I have had the chance to feature numerous places that fall into that category, but nowhere quite like Golf 312. The golf lesson facility, located in the Ravenswood neighborhood, is all about accessibility for city residents. We all live busy lives, so taking time out of your day to trek to the outskirts of the city for golf lessons at a course can be a drag. Chris Beedy, owner of Golf 312, does not want you inconvenienced, so he opened up his Chi-town suite where city and suburban patrons are welcome.

GOLFChicago: Give us your local and golf credentials.

Chris Beedy: I grew up in Prospect Heights where I started golfing at a young age. I played competitively throughout high school and then went onto study at Florida Gulf Coast University as part of their Professional Golf Management Program. Upon completion of the PGM program, I received a bachelor's degree in Resort Hospitality Management/Golf Management and became PGA Certified. I've been a PGA Teaching Professional for a little over four years.

GC: How did you come up with the idea for Golf 312?

CB: I've always loved the game of golf, but since moving to Chicago I haven't been able to do as much playing as I'd like. I felt that there were a lot of city folk in similar shoes that don't have a "go to" golf facility to take lessons, practice, and improve their game. Golf 312 breaks that barrier.

GC: What services do you offer?

CB: Golf 312 provides lessons along with practice sessions. Each lesson involves video, where students can see what they're doing in their golf swing. After each lesson, students are given a lesson recap, where they will see video along with notes of what we worked on and how they are going to practice.

GC: What's your approach to teaching?

CB: It starts with finding out what that player/student is looking to get out of the game of golf. Once specific goals are identified, a tailored game plan is developed, so the individual knows how we're going to get to their goal. My mission is to find the most effective way for that person to swing a club

so that they're playing better and enjoying the game more. I am a firm believer that learning a new skill is a process. The process can be broken down into three stages. 1.) Understanding, 2.) Developing, 3.) Trusting.

GC: The average golfer that comes to you needs improvement in what area?

CB: "Lack of consistency" is the term I hear the most. It's then a matter of finding out what is causing them to be so inconsistent.



PROFILES

Todd Mrowice

Golf 312 offers 60-minute sessions as part of their lesson program, where you can purchase a single session all the way up to 15 sessions. There is also a 30- or 60-minute practice rate (\$25 or \$35) available for drop-ins.

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Your Sand Play Checklist

Think if most golfers knew a few basic fundamentals about sand play, they would be a lot more comfortable and proficient in greenside bunkers.

To produce a good bunker shot, you must not play the ball back in your stance or hit shots with a square clubface, and you shouldn't create a special swing just to use in the sand.

The same basic swing you use successfully from a grass wedge-shot lie will work wonderfully from sand if you follow three principles:

Position the ball four to five inches forward of normal in your stance and

A: Lay the face of your wedge open

B: Use your normal wedge swing aggressively (accelerating through impact)

On a lie in the grass, the arc of your normal wedge swing makes contact with the ball at the center of your stance and then bottoms out about four inches forward of that (as it creates a divot). You should position your ball in the sand four to five inches forward of where you normally play it in the grass. This will allow your wedge to naturally enter the sand well behind the ball, exactly where it normally contacts the ball in grass. If you have laid the face of your wedge open-- so the club's sole is exposed to the sand before the leading edge-- the club head will bounce off the sand, sliding under and past the ball to blast it out of the sand.

These are my rules for blasting from good lies in the sand:

Align your feet, body, and swing-line left (about three steps) of the flagstick.

Play the ball forward in your stance, opposite your left instep (relative to your swing-line).

Open your club face 45° while keeping your hands in their normal grip position.

Make your normal wedge swing from grass: a three-quarter backswing to a full follow through.

Maintain the same wrist cock and swing rhythm as your normal three-quarter wedge swing.

Produce a sand divot that is shallow and long (your club head scoots under and past the ball).

Accelerate the clubhead through impact, so that it initially travels twice as far as the ball.

Try these methods and you'll love hitting shots from greenside sand traps!



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Learn How to Practice

INSTRUCTION

FINDING PAR



John Esposito

Is your golf game where it needs to be? How much time do you spend practicing in order to shoot better scores? If you're like most golfers, the answer is most likely, not enough.

Wouldn't the game be more enjoyable if you were shooting ten strokes better? Of course it would.

As a PGA Professional who has dedicated over 30 years to helping others with their games, I see the practice habits of my students and thousands of golfers on the driving range. I can say with confidence that most people do not have the foggiest notion of how to properly practice.

Tell me if this sounds familiar: you have a 1:00 PM tee time and you get to the course about 20 minutes early-. You check in, then head down to the range, grab the driver, and hit a few balls in an attempt to get ready for your round. You then head to the putting green to roll a few putts, and it is off to the first tee. Sadly, this is the extent of most golfers practice sessions.

If you only have time for one practice session a week, then make it worthwhile. I would like to share some insight into what would constitute a valuable practice session. First, go to your practice facility with nothing on your agenda other than golf. That means no rushing because you have to be somewhere in 45 minutes. Secondly, bring with you a couple of alignment sticks. These sticks can help you with ball position and alignment. You can purchase the sticks at your local hardware store for just a few dollars each. Thirdly, after you have properly warmed up, focus on an area of your game that has been causing you trouble on the course.

When you start your practice session, begin with chipping and pitching. These shots will allow you to regain the feel for distance control. As the session progresses, that "softness" and rhythm will transfer into your long game. As you move on to longer clubs, move your alignment sticks to start a fresh line of divots (photo 1). Remember to place your next shot on the back of your divot and work back from there. Practicing like this allows you to check that your divot path is square to the target and it helps you with alignment. Key point: your feet, knees, and hips are parallel left of your target at address (photo 2).

John Esposito is the Director of Instruction at Bowes Creek Country Club.



Photo 1



Photo 2

UL International Crown

continued from page 13

While the final teams are not determined until mid-June, you can expect top players teeing-up such as Inbee Park, Sei Young Kim (Republic of Korea), Lexi Thompson and Stacy Lewis (U.S), and Minjee Lee (Australia) rounding out the top-32.

Oddly enough, world No. 1 Lydia Ko will not be competing. The 18-year old phenom finds herself without any additional golfers from New Zealand that will land in the qualifying rankings.

What to Watch for in 2016

The Republic of Korea stands as the favorite heading into the 2016 International Crown. Led by Park and Kim, rankings should also land In Gee Chu and Ha-Na Jang on the team. If Korea starts off strong, then they may be the immovable object heading into the weekend.

The United States is surely looking to capitalize on having home field advantage. With Thompson and Lewis leading the charge it could also be Gerina Piller and Cristie Kerr wearing red, white, and blue in July. All four were ranked in the top-20 in the world heading into June.

The Course

If you've never played Merit Club, get in line. The private club located in Gurnee was ranked No. 17 in Illinois by *Golf Digest* for 2015/2016. The course is no stranger to professional events, as it hosted the U.S. Women's Open in 2000 (won by Karrie Webb). Merit Club was founded in 1992 by Bert Getz Sr., and the course architect was Bob Lohmann (Canyata, Jefferson City CC, Midlothian CC).

The layout for the UL International Crown will be 6,613 yards, par 72. Water comes into play on eight holes and the course is heralded for having a very natural state, unaffected by the busy surrounding suburbs.

Tickets and Information

You can purchase tickets for the UL International Crown on the event website, www.ulcrown.com, in addition to finding out more "know before you go" specifics.

You can score practice round tickets (Tuesday or Wednesday) for a mere \$20/day. Competition days (Thursday-Sunday) run \$30/day. You can also purchase passes for the entire week in addition to International Pavilion tickets to get some VIP treatment.

The UL International Crown is only weeks away, and Chicago is ready to have all golfing eyes focused here. A challenge we're getting pretty darn good at.

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The GOLFCChicago Interview

Stan Utley, a PGA Tour veteran, began his instruction by sharing his short game expertise with fellow Tour members. While playing on the Tour, he worked with Bill Haas, Sergio Garcia, and a host of other great PGA Tour and LPGA players.

Stan, who possesses the PGA Tour record of fewest putts in nine holes (6), is still active on the Champions Tour. Conducting clinics across the country, Stan is getting his game ready for the Champions Tour's American Family Insurance tournament in Madison, Wisconsin. Stan has penned four instruction books, and is ranked 14th as one of *Golf Digest's* "America's 50 Greatest Teachers."

Stan's the Man

by Greg Jourdan



GOLFCChicago: *What brings you to Chicago?*

Stan Utley: I'm just teaching golf. I have some folks from here who are interested in getting better. I am in the middle of a big summer run of here, then there, so I had a couple of days to stop in Chicago and work with a few friends at Chicago clubs.

GC: *Do you have a favorite course in Chicago?*

SU: Chicago Golf. Is it fair to pick a course that most people can't play? One of my best friends is a member. It's an incredible place. Chicago has massive great golf. It's impossible for me to name the best course here. Golf is endlessly great in Chicago; just look at North Shore, Medinah, Olympia Fields, and Butler. I played in a qualifier at Deerfield—that is a muni and it is amazing. There is no shortage of golf in Chicago.

GC: *There are volumes of instructional books that refer to golf as a science. Why do you call it "the art of golf?"*

SU: It is both an art and science. People try to pin me down with that question. I also hear, "What is the difference between a chip and a pitch shot?" I view it as they are all golf shots. In golf, my job is to move the ball to a new location that allows me to score. I think that to do that well, you need to be very creative. That is where I use the word 'art.' It is a creative effort to say that based on this lie, and based on this terrain, I need to land a shot, roll it, and stop the ball next to the hole. The best players are very creative. These players see the shot in their mind.

The science is there is a lot of technique in the short game and making solid contact. It is two-fold. When you see the picture and make solid contact, then the game gets easier. When you make solid contact and can't dream up the shot, you will have trouble being successful.

GC: *Do you get many late night calls from touring professionals?*

SU: Most of the players send me a video to see if I see something in their swing. I do the same thing with my game. We look and see what is going on. I got a video today from a mini tour player. It is usually right there and much easier to fix if I can see it.

GC: *When Tour members seek your counsel, is there a commonality in their frustrations?*

SU: The higher-level players are very aware if they are hitting it solid or not. With putting, a commonality is that they seek help when they are not making solid contact. I look to see if the pressure is being applied with the putter head. Is it

impacting the ball squarely, or is it a sideways glancing blow? It drives great players nuts when they do not hit the ball solid, particularly with the putter.

GC: *Is there a commonality with recreational players and competitive golfers?*

SU: Both types of players have issues if they don't let the clubhead swing freely; me included. When we mess up a chip shot, we're usually over-accelerating the handle. The handle is not the end that needs to go fast—ever.

GC: *On the PGA Tour, which players have a short game that we should emulate?*

SU: It's not bad to watch the number one player in the world. Jason Day's putting stroke is amazing. I think Ricky Fowler looks amazing putting and chipping. He is free with both clubs. He lets the clubhead move freely. If you watch Ricky when he is putting; he's not rigid and his shoulders are free.

GC: *With so many styles of putting,*

i.e., the claw and left-hand low, when is it time for a recreational golfer to try a new style?

SU: Personally, I think the putter should swing the same no matter how you hold it. Jordan Spieth is left-hand low, and I think we swing it the same way. People change grips and hope it will change their stroke. Swinging the putter head on plane and keeping the face square to the path should not change.

GC: *We have attended one of your day camps and seen the results in our games. What is your goal when you have a group of amateur or recreational golfers?*

SU: Most people who come to me are having trouble making solid contact. Therefore, they may be picturing a skulled shot instead of the creative shot we talked about. I begin with the technique to make solid contact. Once they are hitting it solid, we work on being creative. Their vision changes from skulled pitches to hitting low runners and high soft shots. That

is when golfers become artful and creative with their shots.

GC: *Do you have a practice tip for our readers?*

SU: I have 30, but here is one that all golfers can do on their own. Golf is really hard to aim because we are standing sideways and trying to hit the ball in a different direction. Take two of those snowplow-aiming rods to the putting green. Whether it is a straight putt or a breaking putt, point the rods in the direction you need to start the ball. I'm not saying that the stroke is straight; you should have an intended line to start it. Put these two rods on either side of the ball—a little wider than the putter head. When you set up to the ball, you should set your shoulders up parallel to those rods. Place the putter in between the rods. Then you stroke your putt. This way you know that you are setting up properly to each putt. If people did this, then they would have a chance at making more putts.

Assistance with Distance

If you are in the market for some distance assistance on the course, then it can be a bit mind numbing to stand in front of the GPS/range finder section at your local golf retailer. There are handheld GPS units, watches, laser shooters, and even devices that talk to you. All the while you just want to know which option is best for you and how much cash you will have leftover to actually go out and use the darn thing.

Precision Pro Golf is introducing products that are not only accurate, but they are affordable. The Cincinnati-based company is the maker of this month's tech spotlight product, the Nexus Laser Rangefinder.

I've tried other laser rangefinders in the past and find that, in general, these types of devices are going to be the most accurate. This is mainly because you shoot to an exact point, as opposed to relying on the mother ship in space to locate you. After using the Nexus for a couple of rounds, the main attraction for me was that I thought it should cost a lot more than it does. With a price tag of \$199.95, it performs as well, if not better, than laser rangefinders that are north of \$300.

Out of the box, you'll notice that Precision Pro did not skimp on the design. A high-quality and lightweight unit, the Nexus also has a no-slip grip. This grip is perfect for those humid summer months in Chicago. A matching carrying case with magnetic closure and carabiner are also included.

On the course, I found the Nexus to be extremely accurate. I compared it to the cart GPS at the course I was playing and found it to be up to seven yards more accurate. I used it off the tee to check the distance of fairway bunkers and on par 5s in order to clear hazards. Precision Pro notes that the Nexus can shoot up to 400 yards away, which I actually put to the test when trying to determine if the beverage cart or clubhouse was closer to my location (winner: beverage cart, 367 yards).

The Nexus Laser Rangefinder also has Advanced Target Lock. With an extra click of a button, the unit will lock into the target and eliminate all other background objects. This function works well on blustery days when you have trees moving behind the green or if the group in front of you is still walking off the green.

I find one of the most useful functions to be the Dynamic Scanning Technology (DST). By clicking the "mode" button, you are able to move from target to target with the display constantly reading your sightline. In particular, I found myself teeing off to a split fairway. This option allowed me to determine

my distance to both pieces of land without having to click the button multiple times.

Overall, I have found the Precision Pro Nexus (precisionprogolf.com) to be a device that delivers much more than its price tag would suggest. If you are looking for accuracy, you will not get much closer.



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"One of Chicago's top public courses you can play"—Golf Digest

"One of America's best public courses"—Zagat Guide to Golf

Luxury, History, and Championship Golf Thrive at French Lick Springs Resort

By Neal Kotlarek

A stunning number of historic events impacted America in 1845. Writer Edgar Allan Poe published *The Raven*. Florida was admitted as the 27th state. President John Tyler signed a bill authorizing the annexation of the Republic of Texas. The game of baseball was referenced for the first time in a daily newspaper. And the United States Naval Academy opened its doors to 50 midshipmen students.

All of this feverish activity, of course, begged for the construction of a Midwest hideaway dedicated to the art of relaxation. At least that was the thinking of Dr. William Bowles some 171 years ago when he combined the healing powers of mineral water with the lure of an elegant hideaway nestled in Southern Indiana. By all accounts, guests flocked to the good doctor's French Lick Springs Hotel for not only the miraculous waters but also for the beauty and tranquility of this tiny community located within a 200,000-acre parcel of hills and trees known today as the Hoosier National Forest.



Many owners and a century-and-a-half later, guests still flock to this former French trading post. However, the lure of therapeutic waters has now been surpassed by the twin temptations of gambling and championship golf. And even as a version of the original French Lick Springs Hotel continues to thrive, that complex is today partnered with the nearby West Baden Springs Hotel to deliver a quintessential golf vacation experience complete with spas, hiking trails, carriage rides, swimming pools, and bike rentals. The combined properties are known as French Lick Resort, featuring AAA Four-Diamond accommodations and winner of the 2015 *USA Today* poll for Best Historic Hotel in America.

Golf has been a centerpiece attraction at the resort since 1917. Legendary designer Donald Ross built 18 holes over 60 acres of rugged land and appropriately named it the Hill Course. Seven years after its opening, Water Hagen beat Englishman James Barnes to capture the PGA Championship. Characterized by undulating terrain and deviously placed flat-bottomed sand bunkers surrounded by dense forests, the 7,030-yard Donald Ross Course received a \$5 million restoration

in collaboration with the Donald Ross Society in 2005. Impeccable conditioning and generous fairways make the course delightful for players of all handicap levels. The 151-yard No. 15 is the layout's signature par 3. The view from the tee features wild grasses and trees of all sizes that protect the hole's perimeter. Six sprawling sand bunkers surround the square-shaped rolling putting surface.

While the Donald Ross Course has long ranked among Indiana's top golf properties, the construction of the Pete Dye Course in

2009 made French Lick Resort a world-class golf destination. Built through and around the hilltops of the Hoosier National Forest, the course stretches to a robust 8,102 yards from the back tees, but it can be played as 6,115 yards from the white tees and 5,151 yards from the reds. Mammoth bunkers, undulating greens, and elevated fairways create drama and challenge from No. 1 to No. 18. Dave Harner, PGA Director of Operations at the resort, says that golfers are always amazed at the size, scale, and topography of

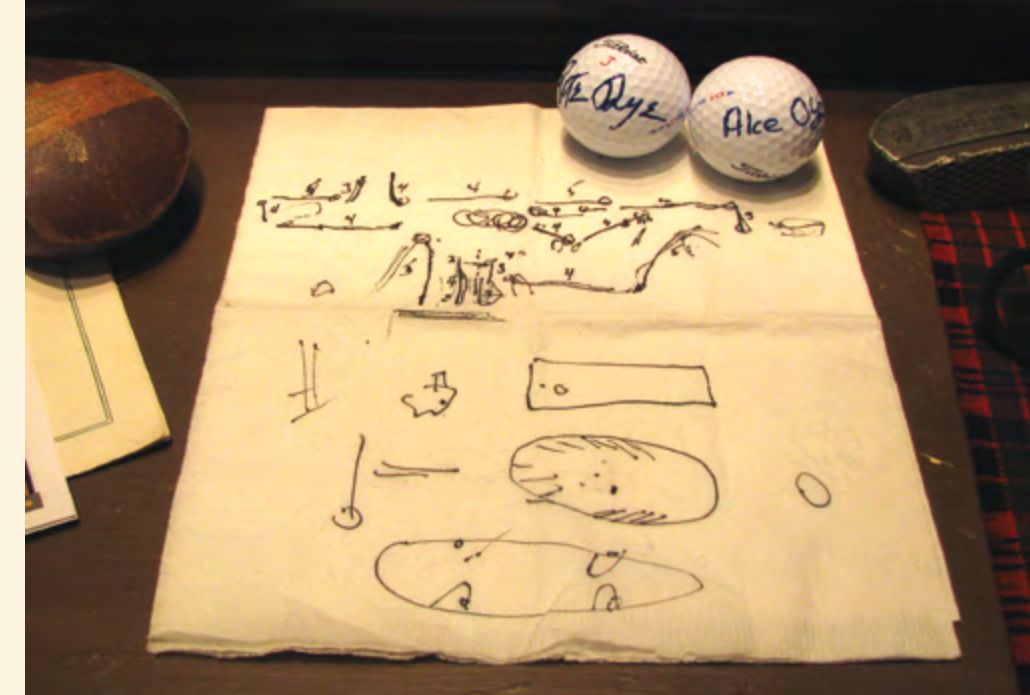
the property. "When you see the course on TV or here in person," he says, "It's hard to imagine that this particular piece of land is in Indiana. Most people associate Indiana with flat terrain and lots of cornfields. This course is high on a ridgeline and plays along ridges where you can see for 20 or 30 miles. It's very hilly. If you hit it off the fairway, you're going to have a very awkward shot back."

Golfweek magazine ranks the Pete Dye Course among the country's top 27 resort courses. *Golf Digest* magazine contends that it is one of

the 17 greatest public courses in the U.S. Colin Montgomerie, who won the 2015 Senior PGA Championship on the Pete Dye Course, called it "one of the iconic golf courses" in America.

Truth is that the Pete Dye Course must be played to be believed. Legend has it that when Dye originally walked the proposed site for the course, he concluded that the terrain was too rugged and the slopes were too severe to build 18 holes on the land. Not long after making the declaration, Dye returned to the property with a topographical map of the area and preliminary drawings sketched

continued on page 44



Drink Up

I am the father of two daughters, and like many fathers I had hopes of spending time on the golf course with them. But it did not take long to figure out that golf was not their sport, and instead they became runners. Our dinner table was filled with conversations on running shoes, training regimens, loading up on carbohydrates, and the quest to stay hydrated. They rarely worried about the length of a run or the pain of pushing themselves to the limit, rather were they properly hydrated to perform their best.

There is a misconception that proper hydration is only important for high intensity activities, which may explain some of the reason many golfers choose fluids such as soda, beer, and tea when the beverage cart comes around. Golfing is a strenuous sport and if you walk a course the energy expenditure and fluid loss is even more significant. Your body is approximately 60% water, and a two or three percent loss in fluid can lead to fatigue, a significant decline in golf performance, and increased risk of injury.

Consistent fluid intake is important and should be done prior to the round, through-

out the round, and immediately following. Chugging an entire glass of water does not allow for optimal absorption by your body, so a few hours prior to a round sip eight ounces of water. During the round sip two to three ounces every 15 minutes to maintain your hydration. A rough guide is to drink fluid at every tee box. Keep in mind that on hot humid days, or if you sweat a lot, you will need to drink more. At the end of the round drink another four to six ounces of fluid before you go to the 19th hole.

In general, water is adequate to maintain proper hydration, assuming that you are maintaining a reasonably healthy diet and are not significantly dehydrated. Many courses will supply water so you can also save a little money along the way. But for those looking for a little flavor to their drink there are many energy drinks on the market.

Energy drinks are available on most golf courses and are a good source of fluid to avoid dehydration, especially on hot humid days when you lose electrolytes quickly. Sports drinks such as Gatorade and Vitaminwater contain sources of quick energy in addition to electrolytes such

as sodium and potassium. Because many of them contain high levels of sugars read the labels to see what is best for you, especially if you have a health condition such as diabetes. Fitness waters, such as Propel, are also a good source of electrolytes without sugars and are effective for preventing dehydration.

Whether you choose water or an energy drink, keep in mind that staying properly hydrated during your daily routine is essential. Many people are in a constant state of mild to moderate dehydration because they do not drink enough during the day. There are several ways to check if you are dehydrated, and the easiest way is do you feel thirsty. To avoid dehydration, simply drink small amounts of water throughout the day. The trick is to drink before you are thirsty. Once you are thirsty, the dehydration process has already begun. The recommended amount of fluid varies slightly, but in general men are suggested to have 13 to 15 cups a day and women 9 to 11 cups a day. This includes all non-caffeinated and non-alcoholic drinks along with the water that is in food such as fruits and vegetables.

There are more glamorous options to improve your golf game than keeping yourself hydrated, but there may not be one that is more essential. Golf well!

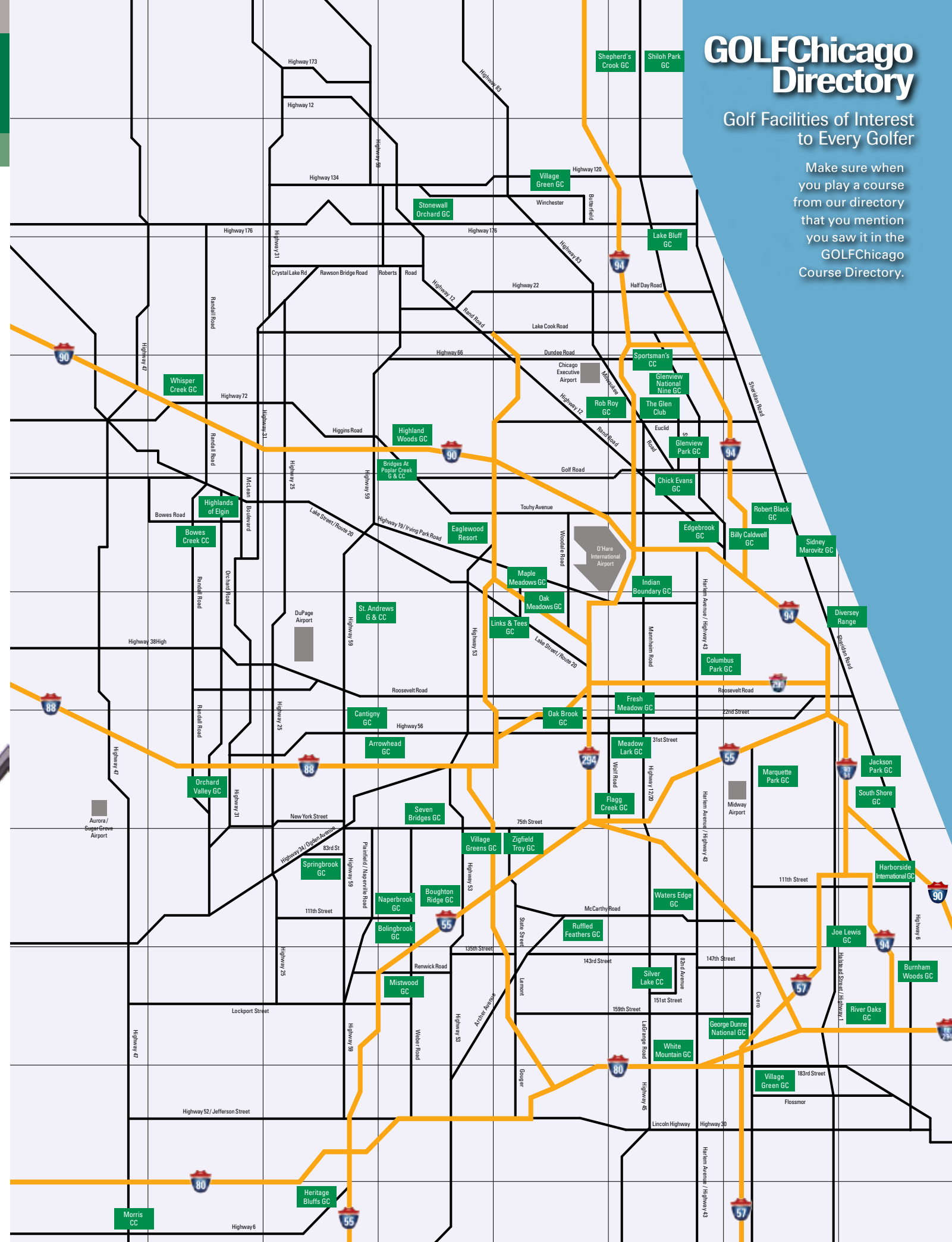
THE FITNESS EDGE

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Arrowhead

630-653-5800
26W151 Butterfield Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189

arrowheadgolfclub.org

Arrowhead Golf Club is recognized for its beautifully maintained course and inviting atmosphere.

Arrowhead is a public course which offers impeccable golfing conditions at affordable rates on three separate par 72 18-hole layouts surrounded by forest preserve. The West, East, and South Courses feature new bunker renovations and enhancements. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green, and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons are available.



Bolingbrook Golf Club

630-771-9400
2001 Rodeo Dr.
Bolingbrook, IL 60490

bolingbrookgolfclub.com

Bolingbrook Golf Club features a championship golf course designed by Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest, an exceptional practice facility with a learning academy, state-of-the-art GPS-equipped golf carts, and a 76,000 square-foot clubhouse with men's and women's locker rooms, lounges, two full-service restaurants, and full banquet facilities. Memberships are available.

Bolingbrook Golf Club was named #28 in the 2010 *Golf World* Readers' Choice Awards for best public course in the country; named to the 2009 *Golfweek* Best Courses You Can Play list; and received 4½ stars from *Golf Digest*.



Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.
Elgin, Illinois 60124

bowescreekcc.com
bowescreekcountryclub.com

Here at Bowes Creek Country Club, our patrons are not treated like an everyday customer. You can buy a membership for the year or you can pay to be a Member for a Day! Instead of standard green fees, we offer a daily membership. The Member for a Day Fee will allow you to play unlimited golf with cart, and allow you full use of the practice facility. There will be no limit to the amount of golf you can play that day because you are ... Member for that Day!



Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189

cantignygolf.com

Designed by Roger Packard, Cantigny is both challenging and breathtakingly scenic. Cantigny Golf's Red Oak Club loyalty program rewards customers with free golf and other benefits. New for 2016 is the Young Executive Program with reduced green fees for golfers 35 and under. The Red Oak Club and Young Executive Program are each free to join.

Cantigny's 27 holes are ideal for outings ranging from 16 to 220 golfers.

The course employs a full-time golf-event coordinator to ensure an exceptional experience for planners and guests.



Glenview Prairie Club

847-657-1637
2800 W. Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026

golfglenview.com

Glenview Prairie Club features golf course conditions like no other nine-hole course around. Meticulously maintained yet very affordable. The Glenview Prairie Club offers four sets of tees to challenge every golfer, and a 90-minute pace of play for those quick rounds. The course is fun and enjoyable for new and seasoned golfers alike.



golfTEC

10 Chicagoland Locations
golftec.com

Chicago - Halsted Row
773-755-4653

Chicago - Lincoln Park
773-871-4653

Deerfield 60015
224-330-4020

Des Plaines 60016
847-299-5431

Downers Grove 60515
630-932-4653

Fox Valley 60505
630-723-5215

Naperville 60563
630-579-9390

Oakbrook Terrace 60181
630-396-2020

Schaumburg 60173
847-517-1845

Vernon Hills 60061
847-327-0605



Harborside International G.C.

312-782-7837
11001 S. Doty Ave. East
Chicago, IL 60628

harborsidegolf.com

Located just south of the loop in the City of Chicago, Harborside features two championship-style links courses designed by renowned architect Dick Nugent.

Harborside is home to Chicago's largest practice facility, a prairie-style clubhouse, and The Pier at Harborside restaurant.

Harborside's Port and Starboard courses rank annually among the Midwest's list of best courses you can play.



The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950
875 Sports Way
Elgin, IL 60123

highlandsofelgin.com

The new Quarry nine and the Original nine holes flow over beautiful rolling terrain, creating a diverse collection of holes. The new nine holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and are routed to take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind. Four holes hug the top of the bluff thirty to forty feet above the water, providing golfers with incredible views and numerous shot options on each hole.



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- Highland Woods: 18 Holes
- Indian Boundary: 18 Holes
- Joe Louis: 18 Holes
- Meadowlark: 9 Holes
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Glenview, IL 60026
theglenclub.com

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Glenview Park Golf Club

847-724-0250
Shermer Rd.
Glenview, IL 60025
golfglenview.com

Experience pure golfing enjoyment at the Glenview Park Golf Club. After a complete renovation in 2014-2015, the course has re-opened to rave reviews. Bent grass from tee to green, rolling fairways, and meticulous landscapes await you on this 18-hole, 6,133 yard par-70 course. The Glenview Park Golf Club offers the amenities of a private club, but is open to the public and close to home.



Lake Bluff Golf Club

847-234-6771
355 W Washington Ave.
Lake Bluff, IL 60044
lakebluffgolfclub.com

Located on the scenic North Shore of Chicago, Lake Bluff Golf Club offers a beautiful and challenging layout in a traditional parkland setting. The course measures 6,589 yards from the back tees and offers three additional sets of tees to accommodate all skill levels. Lake Bluff Golf Club takes great pride in the immaculately conditioned bentgrass fairways and greens. Other amenities include a full-service golf shop, private and group instruction, and an exceptional dining experience at the new Hel's Kitchen.

The club hosted the 44th Annual Lake County Amateur.



Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333
1700 W. Renwick Rd.
Romeoville, IL 60446
mistwoodgc.com

Mistwood Golf Club, with its recent multi-million dollar renovations and new state of the art golf-learning center, has become one of the premier golf experiences in the Chicagoland area

Mistwood, host of the Illinois Women's Open, features new Scottish-style stacked sod-wall bunkers, which are not something seen in traditional American golf. Other amenities include a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, and wonderful dining.

- *Golf Magazine's* "2013 Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play"
- Golf Range Association of America "2013 Top 50 Golf Ranges."



Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215
22204 W. 111th St./
Hassert Blvd.
Plainfield, IL 60585
golfnaperville.org

Located in Plainfield, scenic Naperbrook Golf Course is a "links style" course that features rolling hills, native prairie grasses, and wide fairways. Challenges in the way of ponds, a double green, and hidden bunkers await golfers of all levels. Additional amenities include a ten-acre driving range, separate lesson tee, and practice putting greens. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio; Naperbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and much more.



Oak Brook Golf Club

630-368-6400
oak-brook.org/recreation

18 Holes - Par 72
Yardage: 5341 - 6541
The Oak Brook Golf Club is a classic playing experience with a superb blend of challenges where every hole requires solid shot-making from tee to green. The par 4s will utilize every club in the bag; the par 3s are a devilish balance of risk and reward; and the par 5s offer multiple playing strategies from conservative to bold ... and all on manicured greens and fairways. The course features a well-stocked pro shop, delightful grill and outdoor patio, men's and women's locker rooms, expansive all-grass driving range with three chipping and putting greens, and six PGA teaching professionals.



Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500
2411 W. Illinois Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506
orchardvalleygolf.com

6th Best Public Course in Illinois by *GOLF Magazine*. One of Chicagoland's best public courses, *Golf Digest* ranks Orchard Valley 4½ Stars! A true championship layout featuring wetlands, lakes, roughs, water hazards, marshes, and more.

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Rob Roy Golf Course

847-253-4544
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
robroygc.com

Winding through 51 acres, the beautiful 9-hole Rob Roy Golf Course will challenge golfers at any skill level. The 3,022-yard course is narrow and tree-lined, requiring accuracy with water, sand traps, and other strategically-placed obstacles around the course. Rob Roy also includes a lighted driving range with 52 hitting stations. Bring the whole family for mini golf, and grab lunch overlooking the course at the 10th Hole Bar & Grille. There is something for everyone at Rob Roy!



St. Andrews Golf & Country Club

2241 Route 59
West Chicago, IL 60185
630-231-3100
standrewsgc.com

36 Holes:
Course #1: par 71, 5116-6920 yards
Course #2: par 72, 5341-6818 yards
Located 30 miles west of Chicago in West Chicago. Since 1926, Chicago-area golfers have sought out St. Andrews for its two championship courses and top-ranked Practice Center. With its vast rolling terrain, mature trees, and historic setting, St. Andrews offers quality facilities for discerning golfers, golf outings, and leagues, as well as permanent tee times. Guests will also enjoy premium range balls, motor carts with tablet GPS, and selections from J.J.'s Bar & Grill.



Silver Lake Golf Course

14700 82nd Avenue
Orland Park, IL 60462
708-349-6940 x4
www.silverlakecc.com

Silver Lake Golf Course is the premiere public golf course of the Chicago southland. Family owned and operated since 1927, the course features 36 championship-golf holes, a natural-grass driving range, and a dedicated short-game area. Silver Lake GC is also home to the award-winning "Rolling Hills," named Chicago's #1 Sporty 9 for almost two-decades.

Arlington Lakes Golf Club
847-577-3030
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

Blackberry Oaks
630-553-7170
Bristol, IL 60512
blackberryoaks.com

Bonnie Brook GC
847-360-4735
2800 N. Lewis Ave.
Waukegan, IL 60087
waukegangolf.org

Boughton Ridge
630-739-4100
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

Green Meadows Golf Club
630-810-5330
18 W. 201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont, IL 60559
DuPageGolf.com
Par 30
Yardage: 1,888 - 1,545 yds.
Weekday: \$14 walk \$22 ride
Weekend: \$16 walk \$24 ride
*Frequent specials on course website
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: No
Banquets/Outings: No

Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois
Golf Changes Kids' Lives
630-466-0913
P.O. Box 610
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
kidsgolffoundation.org

Links & Tees Golf Facility
630-458-2660
Addison, IL 60101
Recognized in 2011 by *Golf Range* magazine as one of the Top 100 Learning Facilities in North America.
addisonparks.org

Maple Meadows Golf Club
630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
DuPageGolf.com
West 18 - Par 70
Yardage: 6,438 - 5,339 yds.
Weekday: \$32 walk/\$49 ride
Weekend: \$41 walk/\$58 ride
*Frequent specials on course website
East 9 - Par 34
Yardage: 2,815 - 2,427 yds.
Rate: \$16 walk / \$25 ride
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: Yes

Oak Meadows Golf Club
630-595-0071
900 N. Wood Dale Rd.
Addison, IL 60101
DuPageGolf.com
Par 71
Yardage: 6,718 - 5,628 yds.
Weekday: \$32 walk/\$49 ride
Weekend: \$41 walk/\$58 ride
*Frequent specials on course website
Discount Program: Yes
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes
Twilight Rates: Yes
Banquets/Outings: No

Sentry World
866-479-6753
Stevens Point, WI 54481
18 holes
Par 72
6,951 yards
sentryworld.com

Shepherd's Crook
847-872-2080
351 N. Green Bay Rd.
Zion, IL 60099
shepherdcrook.org

Shiloh Park
847-746-5500
23rd and Bethesda Blvd.
Zion, IL 60099
shilohparkgolf.com

Western Golf Association / Evans Scholars Foundation
westerngolfassociation.com

Zigfield Troy Par 3
630-985-9860
1535 W. 75th Street
Woodridge, IL 60517w

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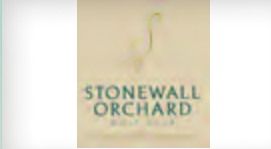
Course Managers:
For inclusion in this directory, or to update your listing, please call 815.741.8005 or email us at dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com



Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060
2220 W. 83rd St.
Naperville, IL 60564
golfnaperville.org

Springbrook Golf Course commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. Built in 1974, the facility features a challenging 18 holes, 28-stall natural turf driving range, two practice putting greens, and a short-game practice green with bunkers. Golfers of all skill levels return time and again to play. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio; Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop and much more.



Stonewall Orchard

25675 W Highway 60
Grayslake, IL 60030
847-740-4890
stonewallorchard.com

Cutting through hundred-year old oak and pine trees, Stonewall Orchard Golf Club has quickly become one of Chicago's most prolific public golf courses. Since opening in 1999, The Arthur Hills-designed gem located in northwest suburban Grayslake has served as Final Stage Qualifying site for the U.S. Open and currently sits in rotation with Olympia Fields and Medinah Country Club as host site for the Illinois PGA Section Championship held every June/July.



Water's Edge Golf Course

7205 West 115th Street
Worth, IL 60482
708-671-1032
watersedgegolf.com

Rated Best Places To Play By *Golf Digest*. Water's Edge is Chicago's south side destination course. This championship 18-hole golf course offers bent grass greens and fairways, and a complete day/night practice and range facility, along with The Edge Bar & Grill for great meals and daily specials.

PLUS...a program for everyone!

- SAVE on every round with the Edge PLUS Pass
- UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the Edge Practice Club



Whisper Creek Golf Course

12840 Del Webb Boulevard
Huntley, IL 60142
847-515-7680
whispercreekgolf.com

Luxury Golf at a Whisper of a Price! Whisper Creek Golf Club is a fair test for a gamut of golfers. From beginners to scratch golfers, anyone who appreciates a day on the course will come away feeling rewarded by a round at Whisper Creek.

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White Mountain Golf Park

9901 179th Street
Tinley Park, IL 60477
708-478-4653
whitemountaingolfpark.com

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French Lick Springs Resort

continued from page 37

on a paper napkin. He said he would build a course on the property “whether they want me to or not.”

The resulting course showcases dramatic holes from start to finish. Features include three man-made lakes, panoramic vistas that stretch for 40 miles in the distance, “volcano” bunkers, and dramatic elevation changes across the property. The 383-yard No. 15 features wild grasses in front of the tee, a long bowling lane-like sand bunker stretching along the entire left side of the fairway, huge directional sand bunkers on the right side of the landing area, and a fairway with more drama than an entire episode of “Game of Thrones.” A punch-bowl green features a bail-out area on the right side along with a pair of evil sand bunkers protecting the left side.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Pete Dye Course will play host to the Legends Championship August 19 – 20. Featuring some of the LPGA Tour’s great champions including Juli Inkster, Laura Davies, and Michelle McGann, the tournament raises awareness and money for Riley Children’s Foundation, which supports seriously ill and injured children.

Two other golf courses complete the French Lick Resort property: the Tom Bendelow-designed Valley Links nine-hole course, built in 1907 and today serves as a family-friendly course. Sultan’s Run, a championship course designed by Pete Dye disciple Tim Liddy, is located 25 miles away from French Lick in Jasper.

While golf is a major attraction at the resort, be sure to experience the other entertainment options available, including spas, elegant restaurants, a casino, horseback riding, and the “Eighth Wonder of the World,” the West Baden Springs Hotel with 243 luxury guest rooms and an atrium that spans 200 feet. The hotel is considered a national historic landmark and is perennially listed as the No. 1 hotel in Indiana by *U.S. News & World Report*.

Built in 1855 to capitalize on the abundance of mineral springs in the area, West Baden Springs Hotel was fashioned after one of Europe’s great mineral spas, Baden Baden. When the original hotel was destroyed by a fire in 1901, owner Lee W. Sinclair became determined to build the hotel of his dreams. He unveiled a design complete with a 200-foot atrium and a fireplace that burned 14-foot

logs. The hotel had its ups and downs over the decades, and was closed in 1989 for safety reasons. In 1994, the property was sold to Minnesota Investment Partners for \$500,000. The COOK Group, a global medical device manufacturing company headquartered in Bloomington, Indiana, proceeded to inject millions of dollars into the hotel with a goal of restoring its grandeur. The result exceeds all expectations. Your first step in the aforementioned atrium literally takes one’s breath away.

The French Lick Hotel’s featured attraction is its 51,000-square-foot gaming facility, which features slots, blackjack, roulette, craps, Ultimate Texas Hold’em, and other table games.

Both hotels offer outstanding spas. The Spa at West Baden Springs Hotel encompasses 28,000-square-feet and resides in a two-level natatorium layout. Services include massages, all-natural facials, cleansing scrubs, a fitness center, and an indoor lap pool.

The legacy created by Dr. Bowles 171 years ago has evolved into one of the country’s premier resort destinations. For reservations and more information, visit the property’s website: www.frenchlick.com.

This Is the House That Jack Built

Jack Nicklaus needs no introduction, of course. The Golden Bear is the winner of 18 major golf championships, a golf course designer, a tournament manager, a golf equipment manufacturer, a product endorser, an author, and a philanthropist.

Jack and Barbara Nicklaus founded the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation in 2004, which provides valuable programs and services to more than 4,000 hospitalized children and their families, free of charge, through Child Life programs, the Pediatric Oncology Support Team, and the Safe Kids program.

Collaborating with pediatric hospitals across the country, the Foundation has grown to support innovative programs focused on the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of a host of childhood illnesses.

Expanding on that mission, the Nicklaus’s have partnered with the Terlato family, producer of Jack Nicklaus Wines (see *GOLFChicago*, August 2012), to create the Jack’s House Foundation. In addition to lending support to the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation, the Jack’s House Foundation also helps fund Judi’s House, a Denver-area organization devoted solely to supporting grieving children and their families, and the Sepsis Alliance, helping to save lives by raising awareness of sepsis as a medical emergency.

“When Barbara and I started the Nicklaus Children’s Health Care Foundation, we wanted to help provide world-class medical care to those who need it,” Jack Nicklaus said. “This newest partnership with Terlato Wines helps us expand that vision, reaching even more people, with great wines for a great cause.” Ten percent of the net sales from every bottle purchased is donated to the Jack’s House Foundation.

Both of this month’s wines are made by 2Sons Winery of Sonoma.

2014 Jack’s House Chardonnay \$15 This is a golden-hued, easy-drinking summer sipper. Made of 100% chardonnay, the wine was aged *sur lie*, which is to say, ‘on the lees,’ a common practice for chardonnay. Lees is the coarse sediment (mainly dead yeast cells and small grape particles) that accumulate during fermentation and aging, which in this case was entirely in stainless steel.

The wine has a delicate nose, is very dry, and features suggestions of green apple, peach, and lime pith on the tongue. The finish is quite short.

This would pair nicely with Salmon Pâté, Rolled Sole Fillets in Vermouth Sauce, or Spaghetti with Mussels, Sicilian Style. 2013 Jack’s House Cabernet Sauvignon \$15 This ruby-colored wine is more transparent than most Cabernet Sauvignons. The nose reveals typical aromas of dark stone fruits, while the flavors are tart cherry, plum, cocoa, and a hint of coffee. The tannins and acid are there, but well-integrated and balanced. After fermentation, the wine was aged for 21 months in 50% new French oak barrels.

Enjoy this vino with Chicken Gumbo, Beef Rolls Stuffed with Pork and Dill Pickles, or Lamb Chops with Four Garlic Sauces.

ON THE CORKSCREWS

Stephen Hawk



leo849@comcast.net

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Know Thyself

Religion: 1: the belief in and worship of a super-human controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.

2: a pursuit or interest to which someone ascribes supreme importance.

So when Karl Marx said, "Religion is the opiate of the people," he was referring to #1. But when my buddy says, "I eat spinach salads every day for lunch religiously," he is referring to #2.

What about when we say, "NFL football is a religion"? Are we just "pursuing" an "interest" of "supreme importance" when we sit down for three and a half hours to watch grown men concuss each other? Or are we actually "worshipping" them? As a Lions fan, I suppose it is not religion, but sadomasochism.

Like many other sports, golf is a domain where the lines between these definitions blur. Indeed, to some it is just an interest or hobby. To others, it is the center of a spiritual journey. Case in point: one of the reasons my wife and I have not found a church for my son's baptism is because Sunday morning is the only time I can play.

But like all religions, golf has different sects and varying degrees of devotion. Indeed, the world's bloodiest conflicts, from the Crusades to ISIS—have been a result of religion. Read the following profiles carefully to determine which best describes you and how to survive any foursome without bloodshed.

The Atheist

Also known as The Hater, The Atheist sees no value in golf—the same way I see monster truck racing. He can't understand how anyone can be passionate about something so trivial. Mark Cuban is an atheist, and yes, I only know that because I saw him pass on Caddy Girls on "Shark Tank." If you end up in a foursome with The Atheist, either ignore him or antagonize him. Anything in-between will result in a death march.

The Agnostic

He has a hobby that he realizes others might find trivial—maybe collecting coins or playing video games—so he empathizes with golfers. He thinks "I'm not really into that, but I guess I can understand why someone might like to play." With enough evangelism, The Agnostic can be swayed, although if he spends too much time with The Atheist there is little hope for redemption. If you encounter him on the course, say little and listen a lot. He might sell himself on the game.

The Major Holidays Only

Maybe the worst of the bunch, because he doesn't seem to care too much, thus when he does play he'll say, "I never play," which pisses everyone off whether he plays well or not. He also tends to be the one to borrow your golf glove or step in your line or commit some other

transgression because he's so out of practice. If he played just a little more he might be a positive member of your group; if he played a little less he might just give the game up completely. Should you join up with him, cajole him toward the latter so that I never have to deal with him.

The Devout

The Devout truly loves the game and wants to protect its purity. He plays ready golf everywhere but on the green, keeps pace, and can fit into any group of any level. He also can be judgmental of the Major Holidays Only crowd, especially when he loses to them. The Devout has trouble playing fewer than 18 holes, always keeps score, and when faced with a room full of atheists, would rather talk politics. Seek out opportunities to play with The Devout; he will make you appreciate the game more.

The Born-again

Typically in his 50s, The Born-again was once Devout, but effectively retired when he started a family. Now he's back and reminisces about his pre-offspring days. Whether they were actually better remains in question. He likes to remind you how much harder the course used to be, how much easier the game has gotten with the new equipment, and so on. While the nostalgia can be tiresome, he offers hope for The Devout who has small children and a rising index.

The Zealot

The Zealot must be viewed as a terrorist. You might hear him say "It's March 1st and I've already played 37 times." or "You guys wanna duck out early from work and watch the first round of the Buy.com?" He gets antsy if he doesn't play every couple days, and typically has a hard time with any leisure activity besides golf. Marital problems are commonplace with The Zealot. He will "sneak in a quick 18" before his kid's birthday party, then show up late bragging about shooting a 74, oblivious to his wife's death stares. The Zealot develops a tick when there's a hint of sun and he's not on the course. Like The Atheist, his extreme position makes him hard to get along with. Should you join up with a zealot on the course, stare straight ahead and say as little as possible in case he invites you to play in his company scramble.

As the world at large struggles with religious conflict, let the golf course be a place where acceptance is the norm. Remember that whatever the religious bent of your playing partner, he is pursuing the same goal of inner peace. Practice empathy and tolerance. Resist judgment and malice.

Nevertheless, if you can, pray for a cancellation and play alone.

AGAINST THE GRAIN



Rory Hughes

Like many other sports, golf is a domain where the lines between these definitions blur. Indeed, to some it is just an interest or hobby. To others, it is the center of a spiritual journey.

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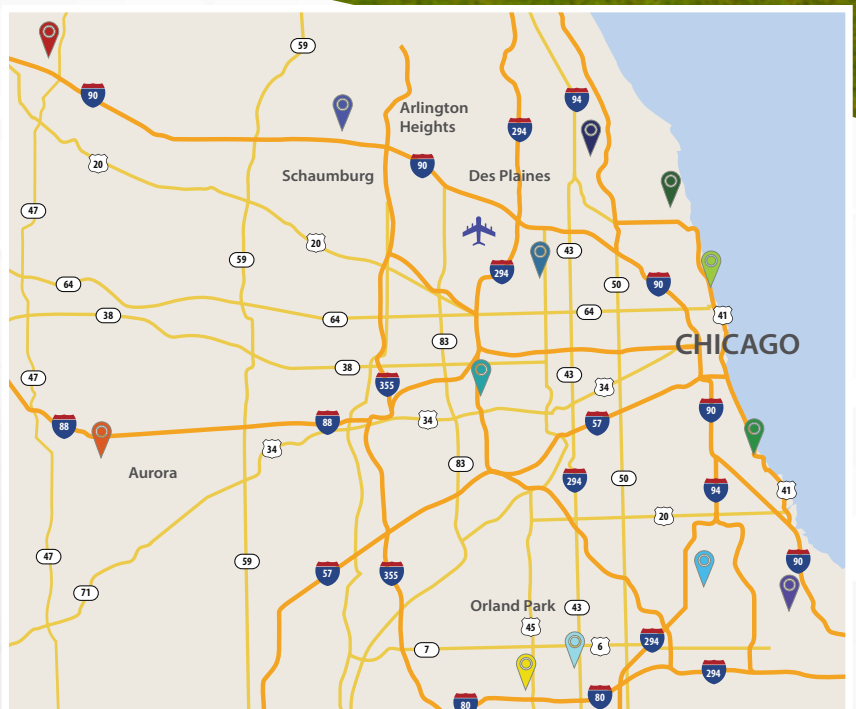
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