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Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

Summer 2021, Vol. 25 No. 3

HOLE #15
GRADING PLAN

SITE NOTES
SITE NOTES

NOTES:
• EXISTING CONTOUR INTERVAL: 1'
• PROPOSED CONTOUR INTERVAL: .25'

ARCHITECTS OF THE GAME

DESTINATION: THE PRAIRIE CLUB

12NORTH: TRAPPER'S TURN GETS SHORTY

BUNKER H.P. TIES INTO
PUTTING SURFACE

FILL TO MEETING RIDGE
IN PUTTING SURFACE
CUT TO MEET R.P. PLACEMENT

EXTEND SURFACE FURTHER
TO SET UP BACK SWAMP PW
PLACEMENT

STEP P AND 5/12
SOFTEN CONTINUE SLOPE
INTO LOW COLLECTION AREA
UNRAVEN SLOPE ALONG
ROGE OF PLAY GOLF

LOW DRAINAGE BREATHE POINT
OPEN LEFT SIDE PW PLACE

STRIP AWAY FACE OF
GRASS HOLLOW
FAIRWAY COLLECTION
WIDE LOW HOLLOW

SHIFT INLET
AS NEEDED TO
STEADY FACE OF
SLOPE ALONG GREEN

LOW INTO
SURFACE
H.P.
P.S.
5 HORIZONTAL SLOPE ANG 5/12

PROPOSED SIZE: 5363 s.f.

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Cover: Jacobson Golf Design



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Have we really crowned all four major champions of 2021 already? I know there's been a bit of a schedule change, but I feel like we're moving too fast. Before we know it, Labor Day. The unofficial end of summer. I can't bring myself to think of what's beyond that, so I'm just going to hope that we squeeze every last drop of viable weather out of this rebuild of a year. You call it global warming, I'll call it Indian summer.

My hope is that all of you have been able to take advantage of the greatest city and surrounding area that America has to offer. Maybe you crossed a course off of your bucket list or got a round in with someone you missed seeing. But aside from golf, I hope you did something that made you happy. If you're procrastinating, there's still time!

Looking ahead, we do have a Ryder Cup to look forward to. Our friends to the north up at Whistling Straits will have the spotlight of the golf world upon them. I'm really looking forward to seeing Steve Stricker's approach to pairings and handling the event from the captain's chair. I would pay money to see him pair Bryson and Brooks together and tell them to "figure it out."

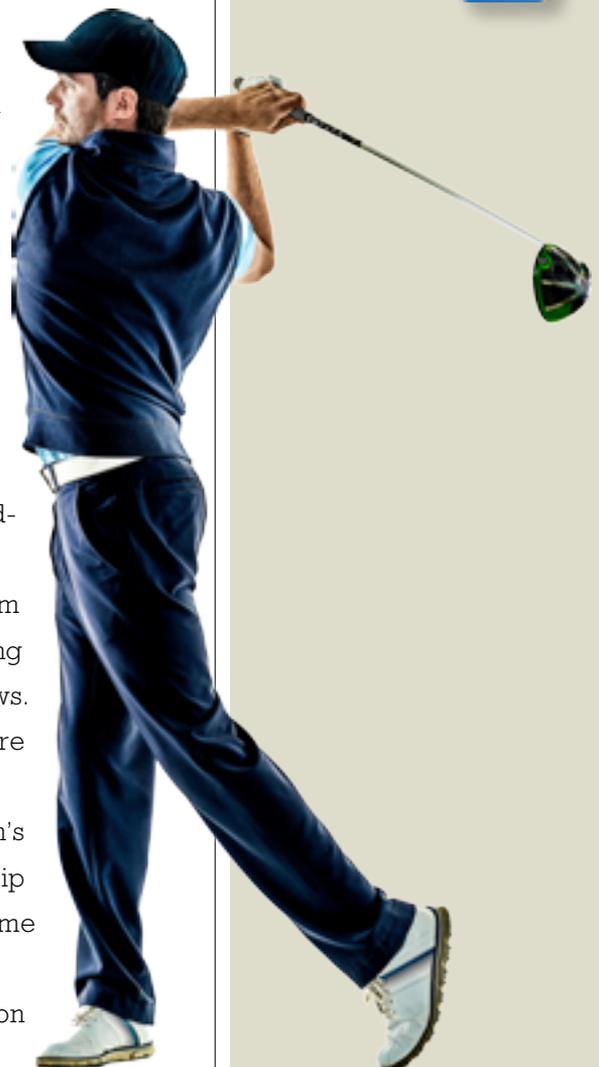
In this issue, we try to figure out the present and future of golf architecture. We polled some of the most respected names in the design game to get their opinions on where the world of course design is headed. It was a fun collaboration that we hope everyone enjoys reading.

Have you ever been to Valentine, Neb.? Didn't think so. Thankfully, Dave Weretka and Dave Lockhart have. Our travel piece this issue features The Prairie Club. Remote, and incredibly pristine. Speaking of Mr. Lockhart, he also takes us to Byron, Ill., in this issue for his latest installment of Links Gems. PrairieView Golf Club and all of its surroundings gets the nod.

Instruction is brought to you by Andrew Ogata from Arrowhead Golf Club. We also have our familiar spots including Sweet Home Chicago, The Good Stuff, and On The Corkscrews. In addition, a special collection of summer products we're calling, "Hot Stuff."

We also have a special feature on 12North, Andy North's exciting new short layout at Trapper's Turn. And don't skip Final Putt this issue, as our friend Joe Aguilar gives us some golf fashion advice.

Enjoy the rest of the season! Don't forget to find us on Twitter or Instagram and let us know what's good.



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THE GOOD STUFF

Todd Mrowice



CBD Fore You and Me

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Cheers to Six Banners

The '85 Bears may still get free drinks, but Scottie Pippen is producing his own. DIGITS is #33's new bourbon, which he enlisted the help of California wine legend Dave Phinney to make. This whiskey is 46% Alc. by Vol. (92-proof), aged five years, and blended by Savage & Cooke Distillery.

\$69.99
savageandcooke.com



Rep Your City

Sub 70 has done an amazing job carving out its place in the golf equipment world. In addition to new club models, 2021 has also brought on an apparel line which, in many pieces, represents the company's Chicagoland pride. The Chicago Flag Mesh Back hat is a great adaptation of the Sub 70 logo with the iconic four stars. Sure to turn heads.

\$25

golfsub70.com



Rangefinder Reinvented

Take most of what you know about laser rangefinders and trash it. Precision Pro reinvents the genre with the new R1 Smart Rangefinder. MySlope pairs with your phone and provides shot details like launch angle, spin, and ball speed. It also provides environmental data such as wind speed and direction in real-time. All while being a rangefinder with GPS distances and crystal-clear optics.

\$319.99

precisionprogolf.com

Look Good, Feel Good, Play Good

BIOM is several generations in with ECCO, and yet, any of their shoes that have those four letters embossed gets better and better. New for 2021, the BIOM H4 has a state-of-the-art outsole called ECCO MTN GRIP to go along with GORE-TEX Technology. Lightweight, incredibly durable, and it has a removable/washable Ortholite inlay sole.

\$200

us.ecco.com



Short Game Venom

Cobra goes a bit "old school" in 2021 with the launch of King Cobra wedges featuring Snakebite grooves. The evolution of the brand included "King" for many years, but these sticks are anything but traditional. Grooves that are 40% sharper and 11% deeper according to the company. Available in seven lofts and traditional or full-face grooves.

\$149

cobragolf.com



Practice Like You Play

Do you grapple with taking what you learned on the range and translating that to the course? Most amateur golfers commonly struggle to be able to implement the necessary skills learned

on the range and use those learned skills on the course. Here are a few ways you can improve your practice routine that make playing golf more enjoyable. In this lesson segment we are going to



talk about how to practice and mentally prepare yourself for the round to come.

First, we need to develop a pre-shot routine to help you mentally envision your shot outcome. Now, each person is going to have a different pre-shot routine, and that's OK. Whether you have one practice swing or are a person that has a trigger to help them start your swing, both are alright. What I like to teach my students comes from a book that every golfer should read at some

point. The book is titled *Every Shot Must Have a Purpose*, written by Pia Nilsson and Lynn Marriot. In this book, Nilsson and Marriot refer to a "think box" and a "play box," and how those boxes help a golfer slow down their thinking and help envision their success.

Picture a large box behind your golf ball and a box that is where you will be executing the shot. The box behind the ball is called the "think box". This box is where you do all your decision making and assessments of the shot before you go and hit it. In the "think box," I like to see the shot shape that is required, determining the wind, and picking the proper club for that yardage. Once you have done all that, then it's time to cross over into the "play box."

The "play box" is designed to help the golfer learn to commit to what he or she has decided on and stick to those decisions. How often do you stand over the ball and question either the club you have in your hand, or are you set up in the right direction? If it is a few times a round, then you are losing valuable shots due to poor commitment and need a solidified pre-shot routine. Once you are in the "play box" the only thing you should be thinking about is ... *nothing*. In the "play box," your job is to trust what you have done to prepare yourself to perform at your best.

While on the range, you can implement your own pre-shot routine. You need to start out by finding a routine that does not take up much time and is repeatable. This routine is going to help you calm your nerves and help with executing your shot. Reading *Every Shot Must Have a Purpose* will help you mentally focus your mind and will allow you to get out of your own way. Remember, that routine needs to be quick and repeatable to be effective.

Here is an example of what I do on the range to help with practicing my pre-shot routine. When I am getting ready for a round, I like to practice my pre-shot routine. First, I determine what it is I am aiming for and the yardage I



need to carry. Second, I pick the club that is going to produce that carry number and pick the shot shape that is needed to yield the desired outcome. Once I have done all that I step into the "play box" and trust that all the decisions I have made in the "think box" are correct. I then commit to those decisions and execute the shot. By practicing your pre-shot routine on the range, it will become easier when you get out to the course. Practice how you play and remember to practice with a purpose. And, be sure to contact your local PGA Professional if you are having any difficulties determining your practice routine.

Andrew Ogata is the Golf Professional at Arrowhead Golf Club.

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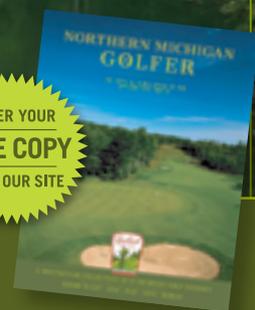
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PURE MICHIGAN



What a View, What a Course!

Back in the “old days,” proponents of Manifest Destiny would advise settlers to, “Go west, young man!” Now that statement holds true for avid golfers once they look to escape Chicago’s hustle and bustle to tee it up at PrairieView Golf Club in the quaint westerly town of Byron, Illinois. Only a stone’s throw from Rockford, this naturally cultivated design blends in seamlessly with gently and strategically effective elevation changes.

William Spear may not be a household name when it comes to golf course architecture, but he did some fine work on this unspoiled countryside that was once a bison (aka buffalo) preserve. Spears’ most popular designs include the highly-rated places you can play such as Randall Oaks in West Dundee along with Amana Colonies

in Iowa. You’re sure to be wide eyed when you see this fun, fair, and occasionally demanding hidden gem. Having opened nearly 30 years ago, there’s no question that this prairie has more than just a view!

The par 5s stand out at PrairieView with frequent risk/reward opportunities. Take, for instance, the back tees on the 565-yard 6th hole. It calls for a straightforward drive framed by medium sized trees on the left side and much taller and thicker trees on the right. The green is well protected by fairly expansive bunkers on the left, with a small pond and some wickedly thick rough on the right. Still, there is an opening in the front of the putting surface (like most greens here) making for an excellent opportunity to grab a birdie or maybe even an eagle.

The par-5 11th may be the signature hole on the layout, with another tree-lined tee shot where the fairway canters to the right bringing some stately oaks into play. From there you can play a smart layup or go for it. You will just want to avoid the humongous oak tree on the left side of the fairway, about 60 yards from the green. The green is perched substantially uphill above the fairway, thus making chipping and putting a dicey encounter.

The slopes play a significant part in your full shot strategy and come into play on the greens as well. You may have a mid-range putt that looks straight or flat but then the natural flow of the land will take your putt in that direction. It’s a good rule of thumb to walk around the putting surfaces to get a feel for how to roll it. Play smart and lag



11th Hole



16th Hole



14th Hole

the ball when necessary; remember there's nothing wrong with two-putts!

Big, open vistas are "par for the course," especially on the more undulating scenic back nine holes. The conditions of the layout were superb when I played, with pure running greens and very few ball marks, plus the tees were clean with barely any divots. The turf was also consistent throughout from the tees, fairways, and to the rough. Throughout the track, beautiful golden fescue lines many holes, giving you a definitive and pleasant line on where you want to hit your orb.

On your drive into the course (and a couple times while you are playing) you can't help but notice a rather large and impressive nuclear plant nearby. The Exelon Byron Generating Station features two cooling towers that overlook the Rock River Valley, producing enough carbon-free electricity to power more than two million homes. Here's to hoping you find some explosive power when you're out there trying to tame the finely sculpted PrairieView.

Adding to this gem of a course is the new PrairieFire Grill, complete with a temperature controlled Toptracer Range. This is a happening spot in the area with tasty food (locals swear by the Bison burger), cold craft brews, and a range where your shots are tracked digitally just like tour players on TV.

PrairieView Golf Club is a treasure that won't rough up you, or your wallet, coming in at just \$38 on weekdays and \$50 on the weekends with an electric cart. And get this: you can walk the layout too for an astonishing \$22 on weekdays and \$34 on weekends. I have to agree with their website statement; it certainly does play like a country club and costs like a muni. You will find this true hidden gem just a little over an hour of hassle-free driving from cities like Schaumburg or Naperville. Come out and see why PrairieView is a course with much more than just a view!

PrairieView Golf Club
www.prairieviewgolf.com
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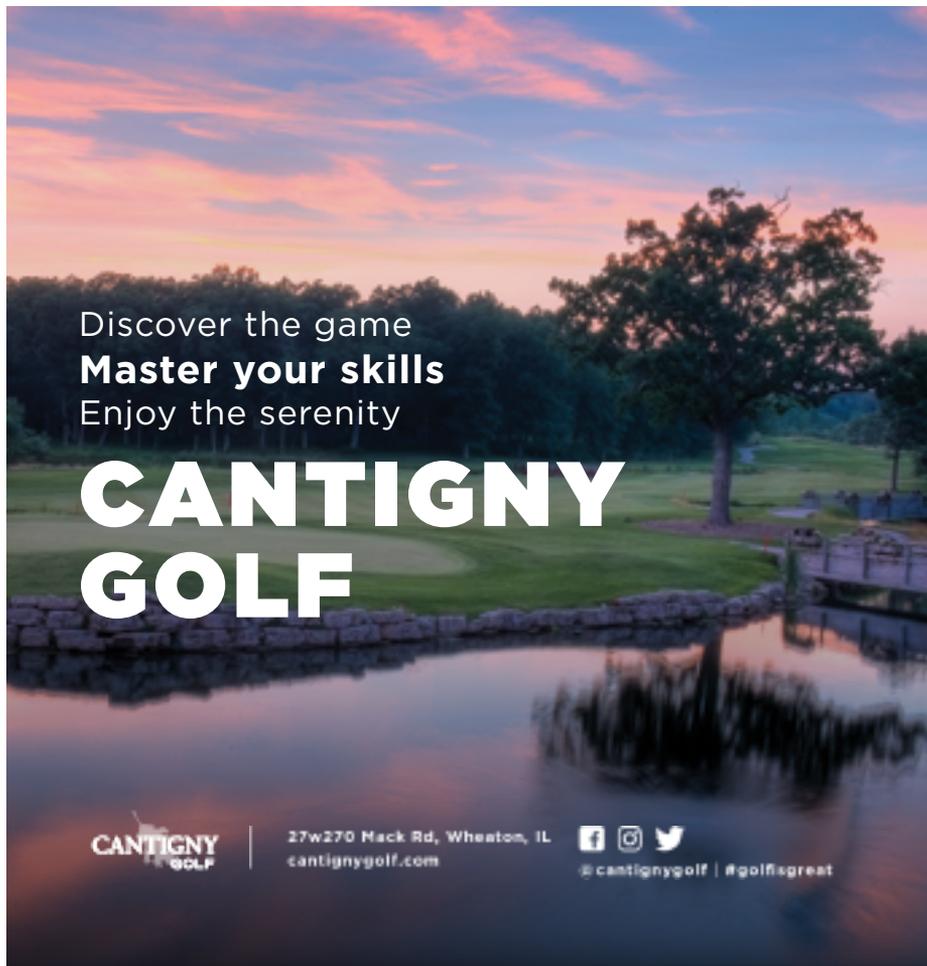


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Sweet Home Chicago

Nowlin Claims Illinois Women's Open Crown

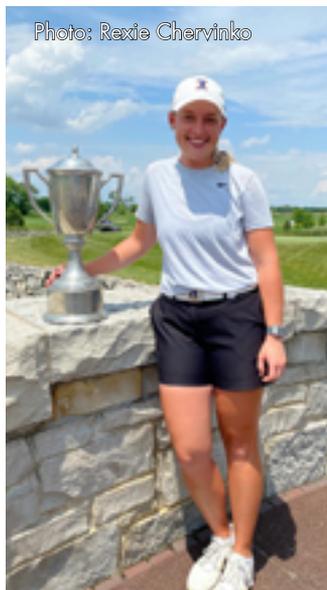


Photo: Raxie Chervinko

Recent University of Illinois graduate Tristyn Nowlin claimed the 26th Annual Phil Kolin Illinois Women's Open. The event was held at Mistwood Golf Club and concluded on July 7th. Nowlin fired rounds of 69, 69, and 70 (-8 total) to finish two shots clear of the field. It was the second win in as many weeks for the Richmond, Ky., native as she also claimed the Michigan PGA Women's Open. Both the Michigan and Illinois events were Nowlin's second and third professional events respectively. She also took

sixth at the Kentucky Open.

On another local note from the Illinois Women's Open, University of Illinois senior standout Crystal Wang finished in solo third after rounds of 69, 75, and 68 (-4). That was good enough to also award her low amateur for the event.

Chicago Park District Events Still to Come



The Chicago Park District still has two great events left on its calendar for 2021. The 93rd Midwest Amateur Championship takes place at Sydney R. Marovitz Golf Course Saturday, August 28th and Sunday, August 29th. This event is 36 holes of stroke play, and the field is limited to 48 participants. Entry is \$165 and includes green fees, prize fund, tee gifts, and daily lunch.

The 25th International Championship is being held at Robert A. Black Golf Course Saturday, September 25th- Sunday, September 26th. This event is 36 holes of a modified stableford format and the field is limited to 52

participants. Entry is \$110 and also includes green fees, prize fund, tee gifts, and daily lunch.

Chicago Park District golf facilities also include Columbus Park Golf Course, Jackson Park Golf Course, (Anna & Frederick) Douglass Park, Marquette Park Golf Course, South Shore Golf Course, and Diversey Driving Range.

For more information visit cpdgolf.com.

First Tee Opens New Home

First Tee of Greater Chicago officially cut the ribbon and opened the doors to its new facility at 3701 N. Recreation Dr. on the lakefront. Officially named the KemperSports Clubhouse for Kids, this new building will give First Tee participants a safe place where they can enjoy year-round programming, including a learning center, golf simulator, camps, and after-school programs.



Photo: First Tee

Prior to the building being built, a permanent home did not exist for the chapter. The building and clocktower are the former clubhouse for the Sydney R. Marovitz course and had been left vacant for many years. Phase Two of the project is slated to finish next year with an outdoor putting green and short-game area which was designed with the help of Luke Donald.

For more information on the First Tee visit firstteegreat-erchicago.org.

Eagle Ridge Makes a Flip



Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa made a slight change to its layout on The General, which is renowned as one of the state's best courses. The front and back nines have been flipped, making for a more challenging opening tee shot on the "new" No. 1, and a challenging finish with great backdrop on "new" No. 18. This was first reported by Kiel Christianson @GolfWriterKiel on Twitter.

PXG to Open Second Chicagoland Location



Parsons Xtreme Golf (PXG) is expanding its retail footprint here in the Chicago area. A second fitting location is slated to open in November, this one in Oakbrook. A tactical move to accommodate consumers in the western suburbs,

with their original location being in the northern suburb of Northbrook.

PXG was founded by American entrepreneur and philanthropist Bob Parsons. The current lineup of PXG clubs include the new GEN4 irons and woods along with its 0211 models. Those in addition to a new and expanded apparel lineup.

For more information visit pxg.com.

Deerpath Golf Course is Going Big



Deerpath Golf Course in Lake Forest is breaking ground on a massive project. What will be named The Lawn is anything but your backyard. This 30,000 square foot putting and chipping green will be open to the public when completed, and is aimed at having a family-friendly atmosphere.

Inspired by the public-access Ladies' Putting Course in St. Andrews, Scotland, this free, world-class bentgrass putting and chipping experience will include an 18-hole putting course, and will be surrounded by a 15-foot fairway chipping surface and synthetic practice tee stations.



For more information on Deerpath Golf course visit deerpathgolf.com.

Youth on Course Partners with TaylorMade

Youth on Course and TaylorMade announced a new partnership and the creation of The DRIVE Club. The initiative highlights a special subset of the Youth on Course membership where players earn benefits based on their commitment to play. DRIVE is an acronym for Diversity, Respect, Inclusion, Voice, Equity.



The partnership aims to inspire its members through camaraderie and an all-encompassing team-like atmosphere. The 55 members of the DRIVE Club, who reside in select markets for phase one of the initiative, will have access to play Youth on Course partner facilities for just \$1 starting immediately. Club members can also earn

TaylorMade equipment and gear simply by committing to play the game.

Youth on Course is a non-profit that aims to help young people grow and succeed both on and off the course by providing opportunities to play, learn, grow, and build relationships through affordable, inclusive access to play. For more information or for a complete list of staff professionals in the Chicago area participating in The DRIVE Club, visit youthoncourse.org.

KemperSports Joins "Make Golf Your Thing"



Northbrook-based KemperSports has signed on as the first golf course management company to join the golf industry's latest initiative, Make Golf Your

Thing. Designed to grow and diversify the sport by inviting people from all backgrounds and skill levels to engage with the game of golf in their own way, Make Golf Your Thing has heavy support. KemperSports joins the PGA TOUR, PGA of America, Titleist, Callaway, and more to accomplish the mission.



"As a new player myself, I know how important a welcoming environment is to feel comfortable and confident on the course. And I'm not alone. Our KemperSports Golfer Insights Survey, representing thousands of players, confirmed that the 'fun factor' is important to new golfers, with more than 40 percent confirming that golf social events or activities would motivate them to play more rounds in 2021," said Kristine Rose, senior vice president of marketing at KemperSports. "This goes to show that the golf industry is changing, and the 'new golfer' is taking a more social, casual approach to the game. As a golf course management company, it's crucial for us to not only understand these changes, but to help our clients and properties play a role in this exciting next chapter for golf."

For more information visit makegolfyourthing.org.

Jeray Headed to U.S. Senior Women's Open



Photo: Nicole Jeray

Mistwood Golf Club's Nicole Jeray posted a round of 74 (+1) at Midlothian Country Club on July 13th. Her performance at that qualifier sends her to the 3rd U.S. Senior Women's Open which is being held July 29 to August 1 at Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield, Conn. Jeray has nearly 20 years as an LPGA Tour Professional.

The game of golf is continually redefined beyond its original principles. With advancements in technology, seemingly every aspect of the game is touched by change, none more so than equipment. In recent years, the argument has been made that golf balls need to be “rolled back” and further restrictions need to be placed on driver faces. The idea that touring professionals can take drastic lines on what are incredibly challenging holes doesn’t sit well with some purists, while others embrace the chaos.

If there’s one group of industry professionals that have had to pivot, re-think, and go back to the drawing board more than anyone else over the past decade plus, it’s golf course designers. The architects of the game we love. We all have our favorites, the ones we laud, possibly related to that career-best score. On the other side, we all have the ones we renounce, the castigated, not at all related to that round that up-ticked your handicap.

We decided now was a great time to catch up with some of the brightest minds in golf architecture, and to get a feel for where the game is at and where it’s heading from their perspectives and their field of expertise. We also wanted to get their thoughts and memories of the legendary Pete Dye, who passed away in January of 2020, and whose life and legacy reached far beyond the golf course.

Architects of the Game

Three of the Most Renowned Course Designers in the World

By
Dave Weretka
Neal Kotlarek
and
Todd Mrowice

Interview



We were honored to chat with:

Clive Clark

Courses: Dumbarnie Links (Scotland)
Belgrade Lakes (Maine)
Indian Wells Resort (California)
Lake Winnepesaukee (New Hampshire)
cliveclarkdesign.com

David Esler

Courses: Black Sheep
Twin Orchard, Elgin CC (redesign)
Park Ridge CC (redesign)
eslergolf.com

Rick Jacobson

Courses: Bowes Creek
Desert Mountain-Renegade (Arizona)
North Shore CC
Sunset Ridge CC
jacobsongolfcoursedesign.com

Greg Martin

Courses: The Preserve at Oak Meadows
Rich Harvest Links
Park Ridge CC (renovation)
Arrowhead (renovation)
martindesigngolf.com

GC: Has your design philosophy changed over the years? What do you describe as the most impactful change in your philosophy from your early designs until present?

Clive Clark: I think some 30-odd years ago, during my early design days, I may have made some of the courses too challenging. Certainly since I have lived here in America for the past 25+ years, experience has taught me that although the courses I have designed

still have an amount of challenge to them, they also work to inspire the club golfer to play well. The fairways and greens within my recent designs tend to ‘collect’ rather than ‘repel.’ I have become more generous with the width of the fairways and ‘whoopitee-doo-da’ greens are definitely *not* in my repertoire! I wish the club golfer to have an enjoyable as well as a scenic experience during their round.

Rick Jacobson: My foundational philosophy has not changed over the years ... “Today’s golf course designer must have the sensitivity of an environmental advocate. The designer must use all available architectural tools to exploit the dynamic relationships between the native landscape and the game of golf. This philosophy allows a golf course to evolve that is aesthetically pleasing, playable, and challenging.” However, the implementation of this 40-year-old philosophy has been massaged

as scientific research has exposed innovative approaches to environmental sensitivity through Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Best Management Practices (BMPs), etc.

David Esler: I don’t believe mine has changed significantly over time. We embraced historic restoration and naturalization thirty years ago and now it’s de rigueur. What has changed and improved over the decades is my ability to execute and understand what is best for a particular client. And actually, that “client” is often the golf course itself or it’s original designer. For example, when we work at a significant property like Chicago Golf, Lake Geneva, or Hinsdale, I feel that we work for the actual course (which will survive us all) as much as for the folks (members) who are the current stewards of that course. Having that long-term perspective and also the ability to actually build and shape via our Vintage Golf Construction, LLC lends itself to

permanent solutions and allows creative continuity within even tight budgets.

GC: *Who do you see currently that can carry the torch for the next generation of architects?*

Greg Martin: The current state of golf architecture has been evolving for 20 years. Tom Doak, Bill Coore, Ben Crenshaw, and Gil Hanse have been leading the way with minimalist design targeting sand-based sites. What was once cutting-edge becomes acceptable and soon becomes commonplace. Some recent architectural influences will soon disappear, but sand-based golf will never go out of style.

Those architects have been around a while and have influenced the game and industry. There are many younger architects, like Shawn Smith at Hills, Forrest, Smith or Jay Blasi in California that are doing some great things.

Jacobson: I don’t believe any individual exists that can carry the torch for the next generation, but I see a collective group of young architects that have the ability to utilize classic “Golden Age” architectural characteristics in course designs that respond to modern-day technological advances in golf equipment. This group of young architects are at the forefront of strategic design that is environmentally sensitive, sustainable, and fun to play for the golfing population.

Esler: I don’t see anyone in particular, but the profile for success is the same as it’s always been, but with a little twist. Of course, that person needs to be technically sound, and extremely creative as well as tenacious; it’s a highly competitive field. The twist is that it really helps to be able to construct or at least shape your own design work. That added skill just expands a designer’s opportunities to work during a period like now when not a lot of new courses are being built.

GC: *Looking at the next three to five years, where do you see the landscape of golf architecture going? I.e International, short courses,*



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previous design rework, etc.

Clark: Clearly renovation or remodel work is going to be the most dominant area for golf course architects going forward. To develop a brand new golf facility, there has to exist an outstanding location with a very special golf course in order to form a successful business model. For example, I was fortunate to be able to start the development at Dumbarnie Links in Fife (Scotland). The property is close by to St. Andrews, which is a highly proven area for attracting golfers from around the world, and the 345-acre site right on the water allowed me to design a sandy links golf course. OK – we had to move quite a bit of dirt to create around 600 natural-looking sand dunes, but the result has proven to be extremely successful. Links are the original form of golf, but it is very rare to find a well-located site where it is possible to obtain permitting. Consequently, there are less than 300 genuine links in the entire world. And out of that 300, probably only 40 or so are true pedigree and top class.

Martin: While a number of golf courses have closed in the past few years, new courses are springing up everywhere. And renovation is in high-gear. New course development focus has been on the sand-based courses in remote locations. However, par 3 courses, putting and chipping courses, nine-hole courses, reversible courses, and a host of unique facilities have been developed to accommodate changing expectations and desires toward the game. The changes of the last 30 years have yielded a few insights about what is coming.

1. Golf is better on sand. Golfers are learning that and discerning golfers are seeking facilities with firmer and faster conditions.

2. Younger golfers want flexibility in how they consume the game – including price, payment options, availability, accessibility, protocols, and authenticity.

3. Golfers of all ages and abilities will demand flexibility and options for play.

Esler: I do see a lot more variety

in what defines a round of golf or a “golf experience;” par-3 courses, putting courses, even simulators. Not just 18 hole rounds. Golf operators and developers are increasingly embracing the “Fun, Food, Beverage & Bands(music and entertainment)” connections with golf, over golf’s more formal persona.

Jacobson: I see the landscape of golf course architecture continuing with a significant amount of existing golf course renovation and restoration. In addition,

I see existing courses being repurposed and/or providing a multi-functional use such as golf course amenity/stormwater management facility. A brief cursory review of the PGA and LPGA scoreboard this weekend will give golfers a clear understanding of the international reach that golf has and will continue to expand in the future. I believe that alternative/short courses will continue to be developed to expand the market for entry-level golfers.

continued on page 28

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Keep a Cool Head

If there's a hat that's going to keep you cool this summer, it's definitely made by Mission. The Vented Cooling Performance Hat gives you the look of a traditional hat but with some amazing technology. After you wet it, wring it, and wave it, you'll have a hat that's 30 degrees below body temp. Chemical-free, washable, UPF 50, and laser-perforated panels.

\$24.99 mission.com



A Bag Worth Packing

A shag bag and frosty beverages. What an uncommon marriage, but hey, it works. The Jones Ranger Shag Bag & Cooler is your traditional shag bag at face value, but this vinyl beauty is fully insulated and lined on the inside. So after you've emptied six dozen golf balls the bag can accommodate six cold ones with ice. Available in 5 colors.

\$50 jonessportsco.com

Protect Those Peepers

A versatile pair of shades that can go from the course to the barbeque are a summer essential. Henrik Stenson wears his own branded Iceman 3.0 model on the course, and presumably to barbecues. The signature pair from the 2016 British Open champ, these sunglasses are made from a lightweight polymer with an anti-scratch and anti reflective coating.

\$169.95 henrikstensoneyewearus.com



Life's a Beach

The reigning PGA Champion loves his coffee, hitting bombs, and a little side action. And with Phil Mickelson's big win at Kiawah comes the Kiawah Breeze Stripe polo from Mizzen+Main. Superior fabric with quick-dry properties, this shirt is soft and UPF 30+. Like all models, Phil's signature "jump" logo on the collar is the chef's kiss on this summer thread.

\$78 mizzenandmain.com

Cool Those Dogs

Do you ditch your heavier golf shoes on hot days? Maybe it's your tube socks that are the issue. Thankfully, Swiftwick is here to help. The Flite XT sock is loaded with amazing features (get it?). GripDry Fiber prevents your foot from slipping in your shoe and wicks moisture away. AnkleLock Technology offers extra support when making lateral movements. All leading to a more comfortable day on the course.

\$15.99 swiftwick.com



2021 SUMMER HOT STUFF

Todd Mrowice



Slide Away

You bring yourself to the golf course, so why shouldn't you be able to feel like you can bring the course home? Reef found a way with the Mulligan Slide. With a faux grass footbed, golf ball heel pad, and a built-in tee, these slides are lightweight and have a durable foam outsole for cushy comfort. Fun meets functional, with an added dose of fun.

\$45 reef.com



Barrel of Fun

Your cocktail has never looked so cool, or tasted so cool for that matter. Orca has taken the traditional whiskey barrel look and made it out of 18/8 premium stainless steel. Double-walled and vacuum sealed, this 12oz barrel looks great by the pool or in the golf cart. It has a spill-proof screw top lid just in case you've had one too many. Not to mention dishwasher safe!

\$24.99 orcacoolers.com.



Your Epidermis is Showing

Protecting your skin is no joke, and Sparms offers traditional sun sleeves for your arms. Taking it a step further, their Sun Protection Shoulder Wrap is ideal for golf swings because it won't slip off, even when you're going for a par 5 in two. UPF 50+ and made from a cooling lightweight material, you'll forget you're even wearing them.

\$39.99 sparmsamerica.com





12North: The Icing on the Cake at Trappers Turn

In 2007, two-time U.S. Open champion and ESPN golf analyst Andy North lamented the slowdown of new golf course construction across the country. "With only a few new courses being built in America these days," he said in an interview, "I assume my work as a golf course designer is over."

While the construction boom era of the 1980s and 1990s when golf was wildly expanding across the Midwest are long gone, North's side gig as an architect has now been joyfully revived. On July 20th, his newest work called "12North" was unveiled to the public at Trappers Turn Golf Club in Wisconsin Dells. The par-3 course is located over 15 acres of dramatic landscape that features elevation changes and exposed sandstone. Trappers Turn is home to three acclaimed championship 9-hole courses designed in the early 1990s by North and Roger Packard. According to Director of Golf Patrick Steffes, 12North was a natural addition to the property. "What's the first thing golfers want to do when they finish playing a round?" he asked, rhetorically. "Play more golf! So we thought placing a par-3 course on a great parcel of land next to our other courses



would provide our guests another reason to visit Trappers Turn."

Those familiar with the Trappers Turn golf courses know that the marquee attractions on each nine are the par 3s, most of which feature outstanding views from elevated tees directed toward large greens protected by sand and mature trees. Expect more of the same on 12North, but offering 12 one-shot opportunities across the course. The holes stretch from a diminutive 54 yards up to 114 yards. But those yardages are relative to the

players' preferences as there are no formal tee markers on 12North; rather, there are suggested areas that can be overridden by the inclination of the players. "We encourage guests to tee up wherever they are comfortable," said Steffes. Even the grouping size is relative as eightsomes are encouraged to increase competition and fun. "Golfers like to challenge each other," Steffes said. "If three, six, or eight players are in a group, they should all have the chance to play all together on 12North."



Wisconsin resident Andy North worked with Craig Haltom of Oliphant Golf to design the course. Why 12 holes? "Because that's how many fit properly into the 15 acres of space we had available," said Steffes with a laugh. In addition to 12North, Oliphant Golf designed and built a one-acre practice putting green, available free-of-charge to all guests who pay green fees. The majority of this practice surface will be devoted to a 12-hole putting course featuring massive contours reminiscent of the greens on The Club at Lac La Belle, designed by Haltom.

While most of the holes on 12North can be reached by wedge, most are accessible to bump-and-run shots and can even be played from tee to green using a putter. The finishing hole is the longest of the 12, and incorporates a large bunker.

"The entire emphasis of 12North is on fun," said Steffes. "The new course serves up 12 holes of challenge, great views, and lots of enjoyment."

The three championship nines at Trappers Turn were built in three separate environments. The Arbor Course borders a state park and features rolling hills and great panoramas of the Dells' countryside. The 1st and 9th holes of the Lake Course parallel Mystic Lake and take players on a roller coaster ride up, down, and alongside extreme elevations. The Canyon nine was built on the most extreme acreage of the property, and is highlighted by the par-3 No. 7 which begins from an elevated tee and ends up in a canyon surrounded by trees.

Trappers Turn is owned by Kalahari Resorts, which is widely recognized as the premier indoor/outdoor waterpark facility in the Wisconsin Dells area. The complex features 760 guest rooms/suites, fine dining and a 125,000 sq. ft. indoor waterpark. A stay-and-play package offered by the resort includes two vouchers for 18 holes at Trappers Turn, an overnight room or suite in the resort, waterpark admission, complimentary admission to Timbavati Wildlife Park, and other perks.

Known for generations as a summer tourism capital, the Wisconsin Dells area has over the years evolved into an impressive

golf destination. Along with Trappers Turn, the area's course selection includes the breath-taking Wild Rock Golf Club designed by Michael Hurdzan and Dana Fry; the Golf Course at Northern Bay which features replica holes of Augusta National and TPC

Sawgrass, and two championship courses at Devil's Head Resort in Merrimac.

For more information on 12North and Trappers Turn Golf Club, visit trappers-turn.com.

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Green Star Award
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Renovation of the Year
– *Golf Inc.*

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The Prairie Club: Remote Meets Renowned

There's nothing quite like pure destination golf. Places that aim for your heart along with your mind. Where tourist attractions aren't even on the radar, but a four-hour sensory journey is.

Remote golf destinations have never come without doubters. It started with Bandon Dunes in Oregon, then it was Streamsong down in Florida, and more recently, Sand Valley in Wisconsin. All of which are now regarded as golf "meccas" built upon mounds of sand. It worked out pretty well for the aforementioned courses, and we think The Prairie Club in Valentine, Neb., is more than deserving of the cachet that this masterpiece has been receiving since its inception in 2010.

How would you describe the Grand Canyon to someone that hasn't had the opportunity to experience it firsthand? You just can't paint a vivid enough picture to capture the vastness and beauty of what is before your eyes. This is what it was like the first time we saw the Sandhills, Neb., area a decade ago. We've all heard about the famed Sand Hills Golf Club, which is among the top private courses in the country. The Prairie Club is situated on the same terrain about two hours north. In fact, part of the experience is getting to the destination. With all the anticipation building mile after mile, you're left to wonder, "Will the resort live up to the hype?" and "Will the picture I painted in my mind's eye match what's going to be in front of me?"

Spoiler alert: Yes to both.

You may have taken some golf trips to popular places like Florida or Arizona, and perhaps even across the pond to experience links golf in the British Isles. Truthfully, The Prairie Club is so unique that you have to see it to believe it, even for the experienced golf traveler.

For starters, there is the spectacular Dunes Course designed by PGA Tour legend Tom Lehman along with architect Chris Brands. It's raw, natural, and wild. This par 73 can be stretched out to over 8,000 yards of fescue and Colonial bentgrass. The greens are enormous, averaging 14,000 square feet. The fairways are 58 yards wide on average. And yet, you still need

to navigate the bunkers that strategically dot the landing areas.

The par-4 5th hole is a treat. Driving the green on this short hole takes absolute perfection. Best bet is to play your tee ball to the left side of the fairway to have the best opportunity at a birdie. The 8th hole, also a par 4, is the No. 1 handicap, and takes a few times to play to really get the right line on your drive and approach. The hillside on the left can block your view of the green

, but strike your shot with confidence and be prepared to accept your fate.

Ready for some peace and serenity? The other championship course is the Pines Course, designed by former tour player and Aussie Graham Marsh. This layout has a bit of everything, with stately Ponderosa pine trees, prairie links-style holes, and dramatic scenery along the rocky outcroppings of the Snake River canyon rim. The 9th hole is a beautiful risk/reward test that typically



The Dunes #2 Fairway



The Pines #2

plays downwind. Tempting for a hole that maxes out around 315 yards. Don't try to be a hero as a driver is not always the play here. Some of the locals play the tee shot down the No. 8 fairway, and this allows their approach to have more green to work with, depending on pin placement. We left licking our wounds.

As if two championship courses aren't enough, there's the Horse Course. A 10-hole, fun bet-settling, par-3 layout

by one of the games hottest architects in Gil Hanse with help from well-known golf guru Geoff Shackelford. Here, you can play alone or with a group. Eightsomes are welcomed! This par-3 design has all of the elements of the Links and Dunes courses, just a bit of a downsized version. The idea here is to play like a basketball game of H-O-R-S-E. There are no tee boxes, no set order, just grab a few clubs and go. And yes, feel free to bring your

favorite adult beverage with you while you try your luck on this cool concept.

There are many long views at The Prairie Club that bring to mind that classic song from The Who, "I Can See for Miles!" Looking in all directions you can see thousands upon thousands of acres unfolding in front of you. Quite a refreshing sight for those that have been locked up and working remotely for the past year plus. The sandy soil drains so well you don't have to worry about plugged lies or mud balls. Like the finest links courses in the world, fescue grasses abound; your ball *will* roll. Firm and fast conditions are the norm here with Stimpmeter averages of 11 on the Dunes Course.

Overall, golf-wise, it's a minimalist approach by working with what the land gives you. There was no real earth moving or anything forced upon the terrain. It's real, it's natural, and above all it's fun, fun, fun!

The best thing about the resort is that once you arrive, you don't need to leave. Lodging options include lodge rooms, cabins, and the quaint and comfortable bunkhouse. There are various golf packages available and all of them include unlimited play. We've heard of golf "junkies" playing upwards of 90 holes a day during the summer solstice season.

Destination golf is truly a wonderful thing to experience. After all, isn't anything worth doing worth doing well? You can drive here like we did our first time, or if you do a fly/drive, Rapid City, S. D., is your best bet at a little over three hours away, with Omaha and Denver International around five-hour drives.

Don't just take our word for it, listen to what the course rating experts say about The Prairie Club. On the prestigious *Golfweek* course rating list, the Dunes Course places 38th. The Pines Course ranks 88th on *Golf Digest's* public course list. Heady stuff for this one-of-a-kind golf experience. The website states that their mission is, "The creation of unforgettable experiences that touch the soul of all who journey here." Mission accomplished.

For more information visit theprairieclub.com.



The Horse #1 and #2

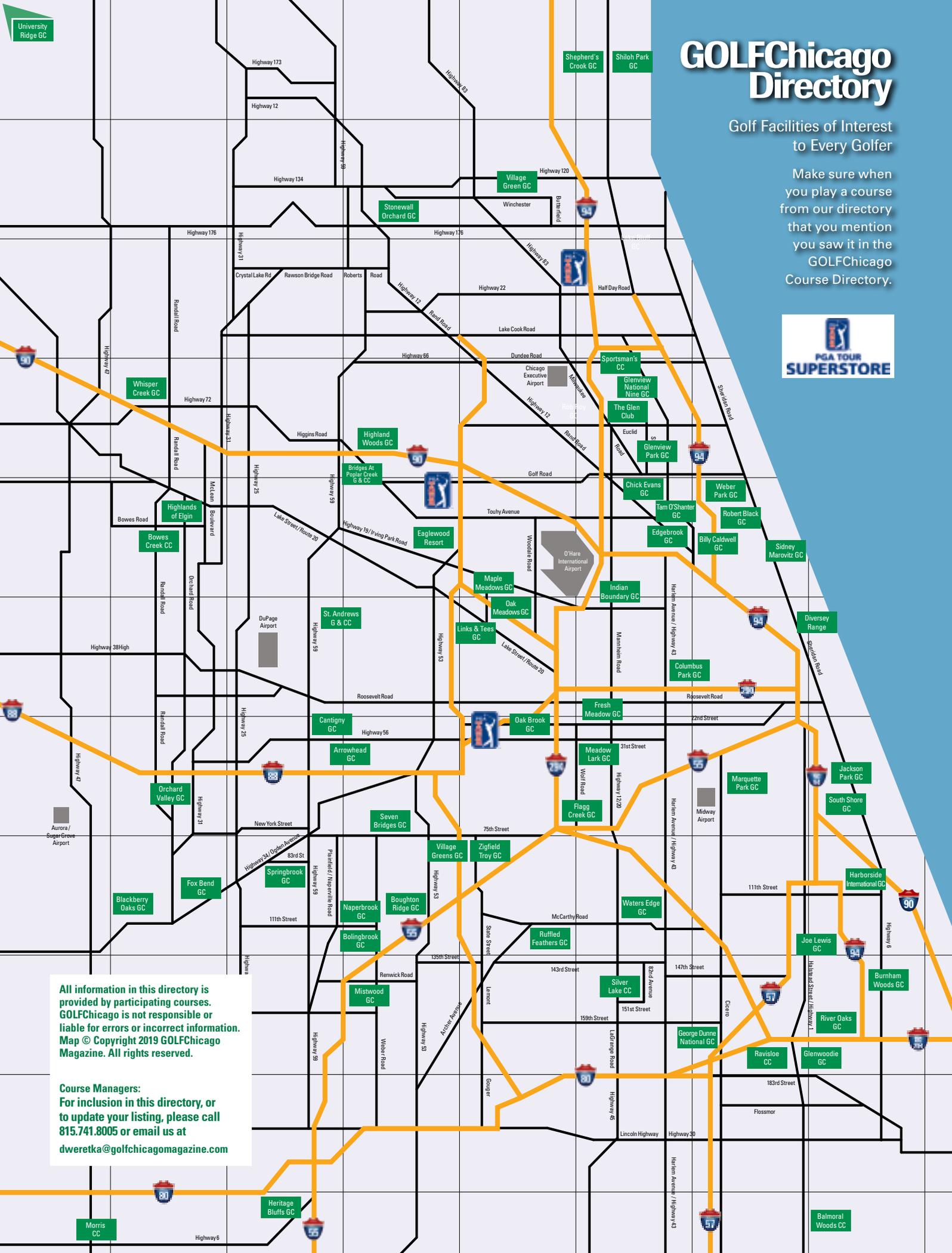


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Arrowhead

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.



Balmoral Woods Golf Club

708-672-7448
26732 S. Balmoral Woods Dr.
Crete, IL 60417
www.balmoralwoods.com

A fun public golf course on IL-394 in Crete 40 minutes south of Chicago. The 18-hole course with a driving range is spread out over undulating terrain and features a number of holes with mature oak trees. It's the annual home to the Will County Amateur in the Spring. A "must play" course on the south side and a great venue for your next event or function. Book tee times online or check out other information about the property at www.balmoralwoods.com.



Blackberry Oaks Golf Course

630-553-7170
2245 Kennedy Rd.
Bristol, IL 60512
www.blackberryoaks.com

Located just 40 minutes west of Chicago, Blackberry Oaks Golf Course was built to blend and enhance the natural assets of the property, such as Blackberry Creek, the wetlands, the prairie lands and mature oak groves. Blackberry Oaks is a true "Link with Nature." Blackberry Oaks Golf Course features 18 holes of golf, a practice range, an exceptional junior golf academy and a fantastic restaurant. Please visit www.blackberryoaks.com to learn more and to reserve a tee time.

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The Bluffs Public Golf Club

815-467-7888
24355 W. Bluff Rd.
Channahon, IL 60410
heritagebluffs.com

18 Holes: Par 72
Yardage: 5,035 - 7,171
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847-214-5880
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Elgin, Illinois 60124
bowescreekcc.com

Ranked as *Golfweek's* Best Courses You Can Play, Bowes Creek Country Club gives you every option to play your ideal round of golf. Along with annual memberships, we offer a "member for a day" pass, allowing you the privilege to play unlimited golf with cart as well as full use of the practice facility. If playing a quick round of nine or eighteen holes suits your game better, we offer that as well. Bowes Creek provides the public golfer a private-club experience, without an annual membership.



Cantigny Golf

630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Rd.
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cantignygolf.com

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- 2020 GRAA Top 50 Public Range in the Nation



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630-616-8424
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DuPageGolf.com

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The Preserve at Oak Meadows

630-595-0071
900 N. Wood Dale Rd.
Addison, IL 60101
DuPageGolf.com

After extensive renovations, the 288-acre The Preserve at Oak Meadows is a new world-class 18-hole course, practice facility, and environmental haven—designed by golf architect Greg Martin.

- *Golf Digest* Green Star Award Winner

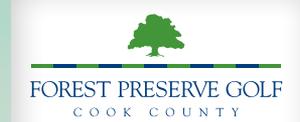
- *Golf Inc.* Renovation of the Year

- *Golf Digest* Best Courses You Can Play

- ASGCA Design Excellence Award

The Preserve's location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294 and Route 83.

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353 N River Rd.
Des Plaines, IL 60016
www.dpparks.org

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Chicagoland's only fully-lighted 9-hole course is open late year-round. The 80-bay lighted and heated Driving Range is one of the Top 50 Ranges in the country: automatic ball tee-up, 300-yard outdoor landing area, plus 11 grass tees. The 1-1/2 acre Short Game Area features three sand bunkers and multiple putting greens; you can practice chip shots from up to 60 yards out. Unlimited Memberships are available for the Course and Short Game, and the Driving Range. Restaurant, Sports Bar, Pro Shop, and GolfTec Lessons.



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The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950
875 Sports Way
Elgin, IL 60123
highlandsofelgin.com

The Highlands of Elgin has become a premier destination for thousands of golfers throughout the region. Nine new holes reclaim an old stone quarry, and take maximum advantage of the unique and dramatic landforms that were left behind, including a twelve-acre quarry lake. 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. The prairie-style clubhouse features an expanded golf shop, locker rooms, event rooms and a full-scale food and beverage operation.



Klein Creek Golf Club

630-690-0101
1N333 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Winfield, IL 60190
kleincreek.com

Klein Creek Golf Club is an 18 hole public golf course located one mile south of North Avenue and easily accessible from I-355. Designed by Dick Nugent, the layout features an open design in which water is present on 15 holes. Trees frame the layout's gentle doglegs, and tall prairie grasses border the fairways. Contoured mounding frames the fairways and greens, allowing a variety of approach options and great risk-reward opportunities.



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 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.



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Schaumburg, 60173
295 Center Dr. Vernon Hills, 60061

PGA TOUR Superstore carries the largest selection of golf clubs, clothing, footwear, and accessories for your game. With the most advanced technology for club fitting, we also offer the Fitting Van Experience which is a TOUR caliber assessment. With three Chicagoland locations, come see why nothing compares to PGA TOUR Superstore.



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. The facility features a challenging, parkland-style championship course, a practice facility with a one-acre turf practice tee, a large practice putting green, and two short-game practice greens with bunkers. Golfers of all skill levels return time and again to play. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the expansive patio with great views of the course. Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and more.



Stonewall Orchard

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



Tam O'Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

847-965-2344
6700 W. Howard St.
Niles, IL 60714
golftam.com

One of the most important courses in popularizing the game of golf in America is located right here in Niles, Illinois. In 1953, Tam O'Shanter Country Club hosted the first-ever nationally televised golf tournament.

Today, a public 9-hole par-33 course remains, maintained with the goal of providing playing conditions reminiscent of those Hogan, Palmer, and Nicklaus enjoyed years ago. Swing out for a scenic round and walk in the footsteps of legends at Tam O'Shanter!

Year-round instruction available!



Water's Edge Golf Course

708-671-1032
7205 W. 115th St.
Worth, IL 60482
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



Weber Park Golf Course

847-674-1500, ext. 3600
skokieparks.org

9 Holes: Par 27
Yardage: 1,095

Located just twenty minutes north of Chicago on I-94, all ages will enjoy Skokie's Weber Park Golf Course. This 9-hole, par-3 golf course features bent grass greens, beautiful landscaping, and is ideal for learning to play golf, working on your short game, or gathering a few friends for a fun round of FootGolf.

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EST. 1993

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(815) 467-7888

HeritageBluffs.com

Architects

continued from page 17

These facilities are market sensitive and can provide for excellent additional facilities. Golf

courses are living components within our environment and change over time. Therefore, courses that we designed 20 to 30 years ago need a comprehensive review of strategy vs. current technology, golf course infrastructure, functionality, and golf course feature condition. This golf course "life cycle" leads to the restoration and renovation of existing facilities that we designed in the past.

GC: Pete Dye, a true golf legend, died last year. Do you have any personal stories or thoughts that resonate with you regarding

Clark: I was playing in a Pro-Am with my partners at 'The Teeth of the Dog' in the Dominican Republic. We reached the second par 3 on the front nine, which abuts the ocean. At the same time that we arrived at the green, a man fully attired in a snorkelling outfit appeared out of the water. He was an amiable, chatty sort of individual and one of my partners asked him if he was a golfer. He removed his goggles and lo and behold ... It was Pete Dye himself! He was, of course, the designer of 'The Teeth of the Dog.'

Jacobsen: Our 1996 ASGCA Annual Meeting returned to Pinehurst, N.C. (site of the ASGCA inaugural meeting in 1947). During one of our breaks I took my wife and three boys on a walk through the historic Village of Pinehurst and came upon a quintessential ice cream shop. Who was standing out front but Pete Dye. When he caught us out of the corner of his eye as he was indulging in an ice cream cone (with ice cream dripping down his arm) he looked like a kid who just got caught with his hand in the cookie jar. He said "whatever you do, just don't tell Alice that you saw me ... she would kill me." We all got a good laugh!

He was an incredible storyteller that a person could listen to for hours. You could hear the same story for the third time and it would be just as funny as the first time you heard it! Whether you are a fan of his designs or not, it is undeniable that he was incredibly creative and innovative. Pete's "outside the box" approach to design challenged traditional design methodology and inspired our profession to be more imaginative. A tremendous legacy for not only golf course architects but also the golfers that enjoy the courses that he designed around the world.

How To Be Better Informed About Wine

First, drink more wine! Now, this isn't a call for overconsumption, but rather for broadening your wine horizons. If you gravitate towards Cabernet Sauvignon, try some Merlots. If you like Chardonnay, try Pinot Grigio. If you mostly drink wines from the U.S., sample some from Europe. At a more basic level, if you usually drink reds, include some whites, or the other way around. And definitely dive into some Rosés! You get the idea.

Rely on wine professionals. These can include salespersons at your local wine shop as well as sommeliers at high-end restaurants. Don't be intimidated that these people know more about wine than you do. Of course they do, that's their job. Their job is also to sell you something you might like rather than make you feel ignorant. Feel free to provide as much information as possible, like "I don't like sweet wine." "I only drink sweet wine." "I prefer wines from Hungary." (Hey, it could happen.) "I like the idea of organic wines, but can't seem to find any."

And, never, never feel embarrassed about price. Any time you are dealing with a wine seller, don't hesitate to tell them, "I don't want to go above X dollars for this purchase." If the seller can't respect that, go elsewhere.

Host a wine tasting party. Invite six to eight friends for the party. Each person should bring a bottle of wine made from the same variety, and all the bottles should be roughly in the same price range, which you can specify in the invitation, like \$20 to \$25. (If you have a wealthy friend, it can be amusing to have that person bring a "ringer," a bottle that costs four or five times what was called for in the invitation. This can be a good way to reveal that price and quality are not necessarily in lock step.) When people arrive, wrap the bottles with just the neck exposed and write a number on each one. Give everyone a piece of paper, a pen, a wine glass, a glass of water, perhaps some bread sticks, and start tasting the wines one at a time. I suggest going with pours of no more than one or two ounces for the tasting session, much like you would get at a winery's tasting room.

Follow the six esses: *see* the color of the wine, *swirl* it in your glass, *smell* it, *sip* a little, *swish* it around in your mouth, and then *swallow*. Taste through all the wines, write down your impressions of each one, and then talk about them as a group and hear what people liked and didn't like. Once you've tasted all the wines, take them out of their wrapping, and next to the notes you made about that wine, write down the vintage year, the winery, where it was made, and how much the bottle cost. If you hold on to these notes, they can be the foundation of your wine education, a growing ability to remember what style of wine you like, along with what wineries you think make good wine..

Consider an online wine club. Here are some examples: www.firstleaf.club; wineinsiders.com; www.winc.com; www.wsjwine.com; www.goldmedalwineclub.com. Nearly all of these clubs offer a first case at a loss-leader price, with the wines often costing about \$10 per bottle. You will be exposed to wines and producers you never heard of, from all around the world. I think the best plan is to buy that first case, try the wines, and then cancel and move on to another club. If you do this, say, once every three months for a year, you will have tried 48 new wines and expanded your palate for the better.

Almost every U.S. winery has a club of their own, as well. These usually ship two or three bottles on a monthly or quarterly basis. But, I suggest you hold off on these until you have focused your tastes on what you really like. I myself have been a member of Cline, Clos Pegase, Keenan, and Truchard for years.

There are plenty of wine courses, catering to every level. As a way to increase your wine knowledge, these can range from easy and nearly effortless, to a



smhawk@winervana.com

real commitment of both time and money. It all depends on what suits you. Here are just a few: Wine Folly; World of Wine: From Grape to Glass; Introduction to Wine and Winemaking from U. C. Davis; The Great Courses; and, there are thousands of wine-related videos on YouTube.

Finally, there is self-education through reading. There is a wealth of resources both in print and online, such as at winervana.com. One of the books I rely on is *The New Wine Lover's Companion* by Ron Herbst. Jon Bonné's *The New Wine Rules* is great for demystification. Hugh Johnson and Jancis Robinson's *The World Atlas of Wine* is just that, a comprehensive overview of wine places, terroir if you will. Kevin Zraly's *Windows on the World Complete Wine Course* is highly regarded. And Robert Parker's *Wine Buyer's Guide*, although definitive, is like drinking from a fire hose. (Parker retired in 2019, so his seventh edition from 2008 is likely to be the last.)

There are magazines too, of course, such as *Wine Spectator*, *Wine Enthusiast*, *Decanter*, and *Imbibe*. But frankly, these can be overwhelming for the casual wine drinker, especially the first two. I read them occasionally, but don't subscribe, and find their numerical rating systems capricious and rather unhelpful.

Drink more wine!



Fashion's "Rues of Golf"

Don't be like Dusty.

On a bonus day of golf in Chicago featuring a welcomed temperature spike but soggy fairways and muddy rough due to a December mixture of sleet and snow, Dusty arrives at the local muni, bag on shoulder. Ol' Dusty is sporting his usual tan khakis and soft-spike FootJoys that were once sparkling white.

Tan. And white.

Yo, bud. Everybody is skipping down the fairway to their Titleist knowing it's lift, clean, and place. Mud will hunt you, find you, lather your ball and, worse, riddle your pants with soily pellets.

Predictably, Dusty slips while navigating a slick slope off the second green and tumbles hard. He avoids a broken leg or sprained ankle, but his tan khakis have taken a massive hit. Hunter green-colored streaks on his back pockets. Chocolate-colored splotches up and down the hemlines of his trousers. Not even Tide is taking a crack at cleaning this explosion of grass and soil.

As we golfers enjoy a summer of, hopefully, many rounds, we should know fashion's "Rues of Golf" as well as we know the Rules of Golf. Unless we're experiencing a drought, save the khakis for the office or Dusty Junior's junior high band concert. In Chicago, we wear shorts on the golf course from May to September. Burly guys start in March. Which doesn't mean you can show up on the first tee wearing cargo shorts. Save those for yard work or washing the car.

Every golfer, from your local PGA professional to the 25-handicapper, should own a minimum of two pairs of golf shoes: black and either white or light gray. Black is going to be your go-to pair. For those hot summer days, go with your light-colored pair.

Golf hats ... where do we start?

We get it that you love your White Sox, Cubs, Bears, Bulls and Blackhawks. But, please Mr. Fan Boy, don't ever wear one of their caps while playing 18 or even 9. The exception would be those White Sox or Cubs fitted Titleist caps. If you can afford to play 18 with a cart, you can spend \$25 for a stylish golf cap, available at all pro shops and even Wal-Mart. Visors are permissible, but if you choose one with one of those Donald Duck bills (see Bubba Watson), you're living in the wrong decade. All crumpled or sweat-stained caps should be deposited in a trash can. Yes, hats have shelf lives.

White tube socks are strictly forbidden, including at mini-golf courses, even if hidden by trousers. Don't even bother scrunching them below the

calf. You're not a soccer player. If you're not wearing ankle-high socks (black with black shoes, matching color of your white or gray pair or shorts), you have bigger problems than the sleeve of X-outs you lost on the front nine.

Finally, be mindful of your physique. If you're built like Tiger, Bryson, Brooks, or Rickie, you can go crazy with bright colors and tight-fitting shirts and pull it all together with a white belt.

Note to big guys: Avoid horizontal stripes. Just because they look great on a store mannequin doesn't mean you too can pull it off.

If every year you're looking more like John Daly, keep it simple. Wear lots of black, navy and gray. Mud will not be your enemy.

Enjoy this wonderful game. Just remember to be smart with your shot selection and, more importantly, your wardrobe.

Joe Aguilar has covered professional and high school sports in the Chicago area for 30 years. He owns seven pairs of golf shoes, too many Media Day caps, and not a single pair of khakis.



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