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Golf Show 2023, Vol. 27 No. 1

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GOLF SHOW ISSUE

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OPENING SHOT

Dave Silbar

Watching professional golf being played in Hawaii in January, with temperatures here in Chicago hovering near 50 degrees makes the winter feel that much shorter.

The other sure sign that golf season is right around the corner: the return of the always popular Tinley Park Golf Expo at the Tinley Park Convention Center featuring aisles upon aisles of golf purveyors promoting their products, and resorts from near and afar lobbying for our hard-earned dollars to enjoy the sport we can't seem to live without.

It's the same reason why everyone here at GOLFChicago spends so much of our time tracking down human interest, equipment, and travel stories plus so much more that our readers want to be informed need about.

We kick off the year with this blockbuster issue featuring three distinctive golfing destinations. Writers wvshare their travels to Northern Michigan's Mackinac Island and down south, where Alabama Golf is waiting to tempt us with great courses at affordable prices. The GOLFChicago staff then share their experiences golfing in the great Northwest while introducing us to Oregon's finest courses.

Master teaching professional T.J. Sullivan of GOLFTEC shares two great drills when it comes to making solid contact, while a new writer to the GOLFChicago team, acclaimed sportswriter Diane Pucin, shares her views on the current state of professional golf.

We dive further into the golf simulator craze, highlighted by the success enjoyed by Oak Brook-based Game of Irons, while writer Joe Aguilar introduces us to an amateur golf tour that is less about ball striking and gives you just as good a chance to be crowned champion as anyone else.

And as always, our Good Stuff department provides an expanded look on the latest and greatest equipment, gadgets, training aids, apparel and much more.

So grab your 7-iron, your favorite beverage and kick back with the Golf Show edition 2023 of GOLFChicago Magazine. Here's hoping that spring arrives early.

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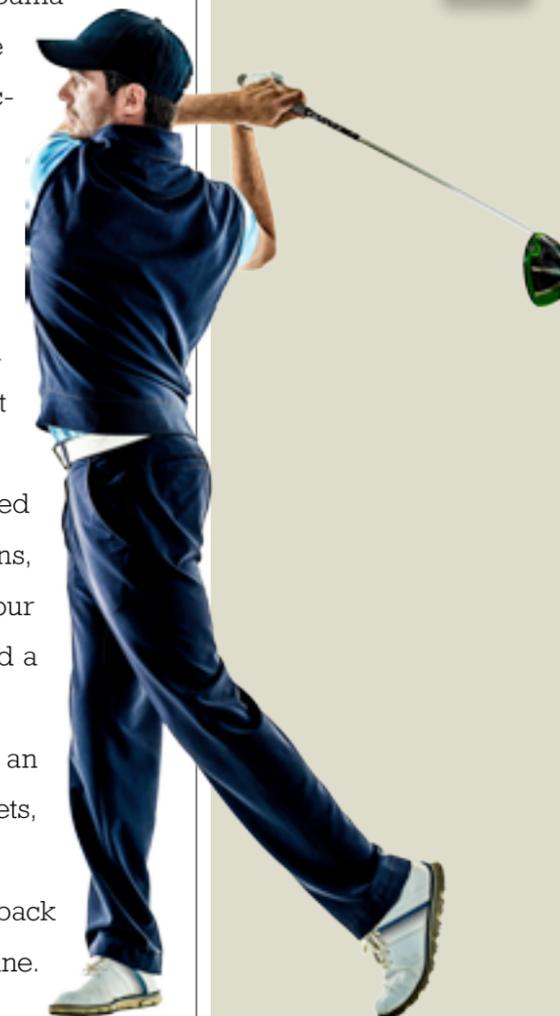
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THE GOOD STUFF



2Thumb Grip

2Thumb Grip, The Original Flat Top Grip since 2004, strives to make putting easier for golfers of all levels. They produce a range of ergonomically designed putter grips that aid grip alignment, help prevent grip twist, and ensure an easily repeatable stroke. 2Thumb is an incredibly versatile grip that will accommodate all of today's gripping styles, from Conventional, Claw, Left Hand Low, Prayer etc. At 2Thumb, they believe that putting is the single most important skill in golf and it's their passion. The connection point or contact area between the player and the putter is where the innovative and patented designs make a real difference to players of all levels.

usa.twothumbgrip.com

Sock it to Me

Whiskers is famous for its premium, colorful golf-specific shoelaces worn by scores of PGA and LPGA Tour, and countless amateur players, to add subtle pop to their shoes. As an encore, the company recently introduced 12 golf sock styles: solids are white, black, red, and navy while patterns attractively showcase either thin stripes or wide panels neatly alternating colors. Whiskers golf socks promote the perfect amount of compression for snug fits and no slips: vetted mesh to allow hot air to escape for optimal breathability; and luxe, durable fabrics for ultimate comfort without bumpy and rubbing annoyances.

www.whiskerslaces.com \$18/pair



Fits Like a Glove, Even When Wet

The Clinch Tactile Glove from Clinch Golf is an all-weather modern performance golf glove designed to perform year-round. Golfers whose grip is affected by moisture, whether from rain or sweat will appreciate the glove's superior fit and grip in all weather conditions. The glove's modern design and innovative CrushGroove fabric enable the glove to grip when wet, breathe, and last up to twice as long as regular golf gloves. Additionally, the gloves are machine washable and phone-friendly. The glove comes in three colors.

www.clinchgolf.com \$25



Hold Me Up

Arcade belts are made with functionality first of mind. These belts are made with four-way stretch, and you will love the comfort on the links and off.

Whatever your day brings you, rest assured this belt is durable and backed by a lifetime guarantee. Made from recycled yarn they are environmentally conscious and we applaud that. Free shipping and returns. What other incentive do you need?

www.arcadebelts.com \$31.95



Looking Good on the Course

Since early 2021, LOHLA SPORT's premium ladies' golf-lifestyle apparel has created a "Golfleisure" phenomenon akin to Lululemon's "Athleisure" craze. Comfortable, chic, and playful describe the upscale brand's tops, bottoms, skorts, outerwear, and accessories which seamlessly transition from the course to the office and social settings. Available in XXS to XXL, cuts are flattering yet not overtly sexy, made of fine-quality fabrics sourced worldwide and optimize athletic movements. Among the most popular styles are The Very Pant and The Golf Fitness Pull-On Pant. As the brand's global ambassador, Annika Sorenstam exclusively wears LOHLA SPORT.

www.lohlasport.com

A Headcover You Can Be Proud Of

Beaverton, Oregon, based SEAMUS Golf meticulously handcrafts artisan golf accessories, including their signature golf headcovers made from the finest materials including wool, leather, and waxed canvas.

The headcovers come in an array of striking patterns and feature a soft-fleece lining. The headcovers can also be personalized with a custom leather label.

www.seamusgolf.com \$65 and up.



THE GOOD STUFF

Sunday Golf Bags

Let's face it: with shorter courses and par-3 tracks popping up all over the country you don't need your normal overweight golf bag. The folks at Sunday Golf have come with a bevy of lightweight functional options with their Sunday Golf Bags.

I'm sure many of you remember the old Sunday bags from back in the day that you had to place on the turf, or rest up against a bench. Well, these sturdy numbers are stand bags that are way more stylish complete with dual straps and an insulated pouch to keep your drinks cold.

Naturally you can use these smart bags on the real course as well, with options that carry anywhere from 7 to 12 clubs. Plus, they also come in a multitude of different colors and designs. So lighten your load and enjoy your walk with one of Sunday Golf Bag. Available in three different models: Loma, Loma XL, and El Camino.

sundaygolf.com



Know Your Distance, from Anywhere on the Course

The latest GPS watch from Bushnell, ION ELITE, offers slope compensated distances ... Hallelujah!

Don't ask how ... just say thank you. This latest offering includes a color touchscreen display, stat tracking, score keeping and hazard/layout yardages. Very helpful on blind shots or virgin trips to new tracks. Dynamic green mapping from your line of play. Touch screen allows you to move the flag position on the green as needed. The slim and lightweight design will make you forget you have this round-enhancing device on your wrist. The battery life is superior to others that we've tested which really offers peace of mind.

\$199.99



Revolve Golf Bags

The all-purpose design of the Revolve Golf Bag allows you to use it in one of three different ways on the course: 1) with wheels attached as a push or pull cart; 2) as a standard carry/stand bag; 3) as a standard cart bag strapped on to the back of a motorized golf cart. Now you can ditch that heavy, awkward, and unreasonably large pushcart and just carry this one bag to the course. The wheels are easy to attach or detach and pop on or off with the simple press of a button. With the Revolve All-In-One Golf Bag you'll be able to go from walking to riding in just a matter of seconds. The durable telescoping handle pulls out when you're wheeling it around or conveniently stores away in a zippered pocket when you're carrying it as a stand bag or have it strapped on the back of a golf cart. The Revolve All-In-One Tour Edition Golf Bag is available in three different colors: Black/Grey, Blue/Grey, and Yellow/Grey.

www.revolvegolf.com



Nexbelt

With over 40 players now wearing Nexbelt on the professional golf tours, it's considered "The Fastest Growing Belt in Golf". Its team of staff professionals includes tour players Jim Furyk, Kevin Na, Marc Leishman, and many more. Nexbelt, The Original Belt with No Holes, is known for its innovative ratchet-style technology and providing golfers with maximum comfort and minimal adjusting. The unique ratcheting system called PreciseFit allows the wearer to adjust the belt in 1/4 inch increments, providing the golfer with the best fit, feel, and fashion available. Belts fit up to a 45" waist and are cut to fit so you don't even have to know a person's waist size when ordering one as a gift!

www.nexbelt.com



Titleist Impresses with TSR Line of Drivers

The TSR2 is for the player who is looking for a little more forgiveness off the face. The new aerodynamic "boat tail" shape design has reduced one more point of drag on the sole. This allows the ball to get in the air faster and travel farther quicker. The TSR3 is where nearly all of Titleist's PGA Tour players have gravitated. GOLFChicago staffers have tested the drivers and are finding an extra 10% on their drives. The TSR3 model features the SureFit Adjustable CG Track System, a sliding track across the rear of the clubhead that allows players to customize their CG/weight position. The TSR4 is designed for ultra-high-speed players who are in special need of lower spin.

Stock shaft drivers: \$599. Premium shafted drivers: \$799.

www.titleist.com

Bettinardi Builds on the Queen B Putter Line

Building on its popularity, Tinley Park-based Bettinardi Golf recently debuted its 2023-24 Queen B Series putter, continuing its sought-after style of glamorous finishes, elegant contours, and heavier head weights. The new Queen B Series includes four models that continue to push the boundaries of tradition while maintaining the line's aesthetic charm. The entire series is crafted using 303 Stainless Steel, which is the preferred metal of Bettinardi Tour staffers worldwide due to its durable nature and solid feel. The Queen B line also features an all-new Caramel Copper PVD finish, which not only accentuates the classic beauty of each model but ultimately optimizes visual cues on the greens to give a confidence-inspiring appearance at every crucial putt.

The Queen B line debuts Bettinardi Golf's new Mini Honeycomb face milling. According to the manufacturer, this newly developed face utilizes an 8% smaller machine tool in order to provide the softest Honeycomb™ face to date while showcasing the beauty of the classic design. Pricing varies.

www.bettinardi.com





Two of the Best Drills You've Never Seen Before

Bruise the Ground with Short Game Shots (1A & 1B).

So many beginner golfers have a low point control problem, and one of the best ways to get them to hit the ground (without digging) is to 'bruise' the ground when they hit short shots. This may involve keeping the arms straight or slightly hinging the club, but finding a way to have a new golfer become comfortable with hitting the ground is an invaluable lesson. This will also help from keeping your elbows from separating, one of the greatest differentiators between professional golfers and amateurs. As soon as the lead wrist begins to extend (rather than flex), your lead elbow will automatically get into that poor 'chicken wing' position and

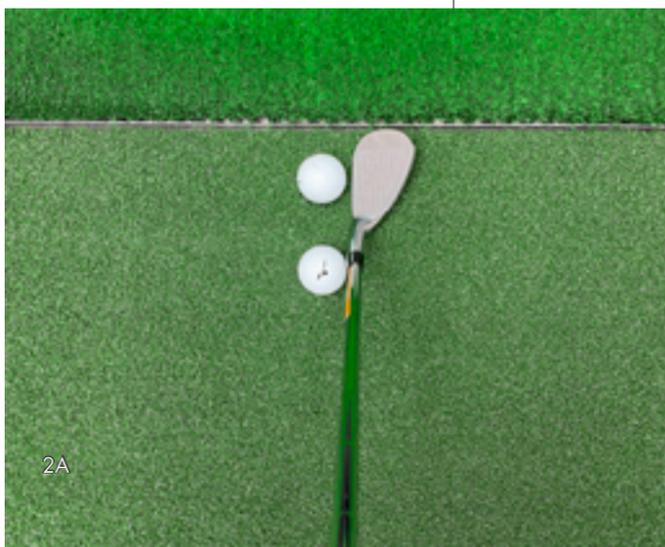
will result in inconsistent contact and ball flight.

Hit the Inside Ball (2A & 2B).

This is a concept that many of my students struggle with. Many players have a tendency to associate good contact with the heel of the club. This contact can (at times) feel good, but is dangerously close to the hosel of the club, and no one likes to hit it there. This drill is designed to get someone to miss the ball they intend to hit. Take two golf balls and set them up next to each other perpendicular to your target. Address the ball farther away from you and take small, slow swings trying to hit the inside ball. This will develop the necessary move to avoid that heel contact. Heel shots usually result in a player getting too

close to the ball from where they were at address. The motion you want to achieve is having the center of your pelvis to be out over your heels as you make contact with the ball. Another thought is having your toes slightly off the ground to keep your pelvis from thrusting toward the ball.

TJ Sullivan is a PGA Master Professional in Teaching and Coaching. He recently made the 2020/21 Golf Digest Best Young Teachers and 2019/20 as well as 2022/23 Golf Digest Best Teachers in the State lists. He is a four time Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year Nominee and has taught over 30,000 lessons in 15 years with GOLFTEC. He also is a six time Outstanding Achievement in Instruction Award winner and a Coastal Carolina University PGM Alumnus.



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WWW.GOLFSUMMERLIN.COM

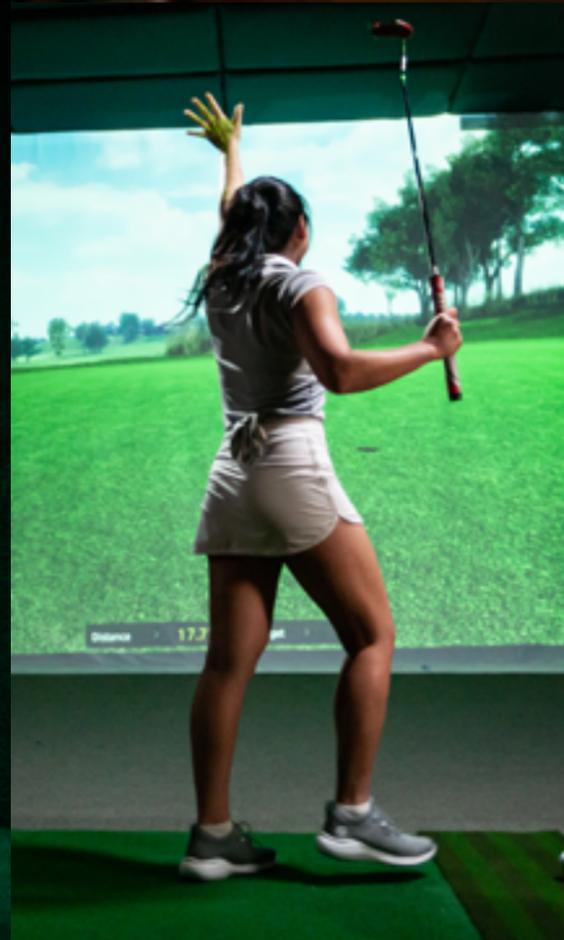


Way back in the late 1970s, indoor golf experienced a technology surge when simulated golf courses were projected using a slide projector and movie screen to emulate a real golf course experience. Fast forward nearly 50 years and make a right turn into the Oak Brook Promenade parking lot of the Game of Irons indoor golf center, and you are immediately blown away by the size and scope of this next-generation entertainment experience. Completely unlike the basement operations of the past, Game of Irons is located in a two-story, 18,300 sq. ft. space featuring 16 simulator bays. And the bays themselves are wide enough to provide plenty of room for as many as six to eat, drink, be merry and hit golf balls.

“Our goal was to exceed the expectations of our guests,” said president Jin Park in a December interview. “Before we built Game of Irons, we looked at the indoor golf marketplace and tried to improve every aspect of the simulator golf experience.” That starts with the quantity of simulated golf courses available to be played—200—and extends through the exceptionally crisp images of each golf course depicted on the screens, and even goes multiple steps further on how balls are automatically dispensed on the tees. Even the hitting surfaces are special as three different surfaces emulate actual conditions on tees, fairways, rough, and sand. And just when you think the center’s Golfzon simulator technology is as good as it gets, the platform

Oak Brook’s Game of Irons Takes Indoor Golf to a New Level

GAME OF IRONS



upon which you address the ball swivels to emulate uphill, downhill, and sidehill lies. “We use Golfzon technology that is used widely across South Korea but relatively unknown in the U.S.,” said Park. “One of the neatest aspects of this system are the hydraulic lifts which allow a player to have a true golf experience, complete with challenging ball positions that a player confronts on a golf course. A skilled golfer wants to work on every aspect of his or her game during the off-season. So practicing sidehill, uphill, and downhill lie shots can be a great learning tool.”

Hitting bays are charged by the hour instead of per participant. That means a group of four, five or six can divvy up the cost for a highly affordable golf session. Parties and corporate events are available in packages that incorporate golf, beverages, and food. The complex also offers various leagues which schedule sessions at specific times each week.

A recent visit to the entertainment complex showed the different ways golfers take advantage of the Game of Irons technology. In one hitting bay, three players took turns taking on Pebble Beach Golf Links, the most popular simulator course. Participants cheered each other on as they lofted short-iron shots toward the famous 7th hole par 3 with a green perched above on the cliffs of Monterey Bay.

A few bays away from the Pebble Beach group, a mom and her two kids took

continued on page 39

Elevation Golf

Located in Burr Ridge, Elevation Golf offers golf simulators, instruction and a ton of technology. The simulators are available for rental and golf instruction, and TPI golf fitness training is also available. Technology used includes Boditrak, which focuses on the interaction between an athlete and the ground. This technology provides real-time data and a Boditrak Mat to measure the interaction between the golfer and the ground. Foresight's GCQuad delivers four high speed, high

www.elevationus.com

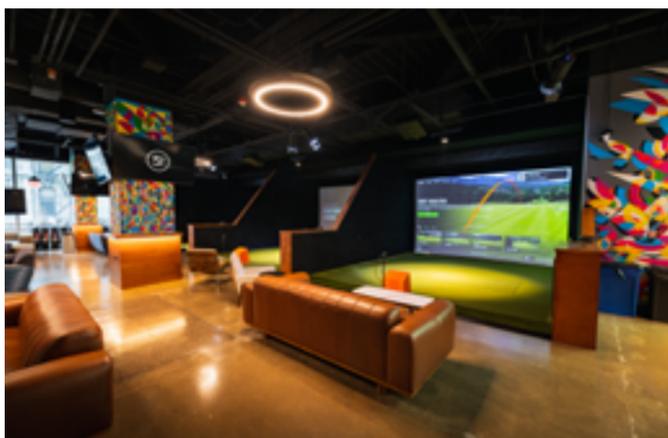
810 Village Center Drive

Burr Ridge, IL

(847) 652-3293

Five Iron Golf

Five Iron Golf, the nation's leading indoor golf and entertainment experience is now open at Block 37 in The Loop. Joining the popular River North location, each Five Iron features the good vibes of golf, neon lights, and colorful graffiti centered around TrackMan simulators, word-class instruction, custom club fitting, and a full bar and



resolution cameras for unprecedented image clarity with each and every shot. Swinguru Pro is a revolutionary solution for coaches and players who want to elevate the game to the elite level. Simply take a swing and Swinguru Pro automatically and instantaneously provides you with an in-depth swing analysis in both 2D and 3D. For putting, Blast Golf sensor captures your swing and stroke metrics, helps you analyze your data, and provides drills to improve your game. By knowing your metrics, you will make more putts and strike the ball more consistently.

restaurant — making it a one-of-a-kind experience for golfers and non-golfers alike.

Opened in 2019, Five Iron River North features 12 custom-built simulators with both Full Swing and TrackMan technologies. For the avid golfer, Five Iron provides a non-contractual membership option including complimentary off-peak hitting, bag storage, and steep discounts on peak rentals, lessons, leagues, club fitting, food, and at the bar. From hackers to more accomplished players, Five Iron guests benefit from actionable data and real-time camera feedback whether in a lesson, on the range, or off

Simulator and Instruction Round-Up

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the first tee at Pebble Beach. To supplement Five Iron's offerings, The Fitting Lab provides custom club-fitting, equipment, and repairs.

New to the city, Five Iron The Loop opened in December 2021 at Block 37 with 11 TrackMan simulators, PuttView technology and an expansive bar welcoming tourists, commuters and all types of events from corporate gatherings to bachelor parties. Both locations host league nights on Mondays and Tuesdays where teams of four play and enjoy drink specials for a seven-week season competing against teams across the country for the national title and grand prize of a golf trip to Reynolds Resort.

www.fiveirongolf.com

609 North Dearborn

Chicago, Illinois

(312) 872-4988

Game of Irons

Located in Oak Brook, Game of Irons is one of the area's largest indoor virtual golf facilities, with 16 hitting bays and more than 18,000 sq. ft. of space. Utilizing technology powered by Golfzon, it's owners believe there is "absolutely nothing like hitting on a Game of Irons simulator in the market today." Three distinct playing surfaces (fairway, rough, and bunker) provide for an unparalleled realistic feel. Utilizing four high tech camera sensors, every single



shot is captured seamlessly with 99% accuracy for ball flight and trajectory. One of the coolest features: for a true 4D experience, the patented hydraulic floor swing plate automatically moves to match the contours and lies of over 200 world-famous courses. Saving your back for a more important job (swinging the club), an auto-tee automatically tees up a golf ball for you every time. Players can track ball flight and other key data points stored directly on the cloud and accessible via the Game of Irons app. Game of Irons is open to the public with no membership required.

www.gameofirons.com

3041 Butterfield Rd.

Suite 104

Oak Brook, IL

630-303-9454



The Golf Practice

The Golf Practice is a massive, 13,000 square foot golf academy/indoor training and practice facility that opened in 2011. It currently features four Trackman bays with an additional four bays planned for 2022. The Golf Practice has a full lineup of coaches

both for the mechanical and mental conditioning part of the game. It features two full green complexes, realistic playing surfaces featuring drop-and-stop action, smooth transitions of multi-level greens, rolling mounds, deep flashed bunker faces, and multi-shot locations and playability.

Programs include both junior and adults training and a wide array of high school prep and summer programming.

www.thegolfpractice.com

1546 Old Deerfield Rd

Highland Park IL 60035

847.850.0956

The Haven Indoor Golf

The Haven Indoor Golf in Palos Heights features true-to-life golf simulators with professional-grade launch monitors

in four separate golfing bays. Choose your golf destination from over 50 world-class courses including The Old Course, Pebble Beach and many more. www.thehavenindoorgolf.com 12317 South Harlem Avenue Palos Heights, IL (708) 671-8052



Indoor Golf Links of America

In business for nearly three decades, the Links considers itself the original home of indoor golf in Chicagoland. Indoor Golf Links of America is one of the largest facilities in the area, boasting 15 golf simulators with 100 golf course offerings. General Manager Melinde Golden reports their 18 hole league is growing every year and this year holds the record with over 500 members. "People call us the *Cheers* of indoor golf. We know your name and will always have a nice cold drink ready for you when you walk through our door," shared Golden.

indoorgolfinks.org

16356 104th Avenue

Orland Park IL 60467

(708) 403-4040



Louis Sauer Golf

Currently available only to its students, Louis Sauer Golf in Northbrook features state-of-the-art golf technology within a 3,000 square foot indoor facility that includes two Trackman ball-flight analysis bays, three Foresight simulator bays and SAM PuttLab. Private and group instruction are available as well as practice memberships.

As one of the country's top instructors, Louis has provided instruction to some of the area's most notable golfers, including High Park High School grad and two-time Miami University Athlete of the year Patrick Flavin, who played the last two years on the Korn Ferry Tour and finished T-17 at the PGA Tour's Bermuda Championship. In 2021, Louis and his team of teaching professionals taught several high schoolers who played for state champions Glenbrook North and St. Ignatius High Schools.

www.louissauergolf.com

600 Waukegan Rd #120

Northbrook, IL 60062

(847) 431-2609

Play 18 Chicago

Centrally located in the heart of the Loop, Play18 Chicago

provides the latest in golf technology advancements, including PGA Tour Simulators and personal driving bays paired with luxury amenities like a spacious locker-room, full bar, and lounge. The product of over two decades of research and development, the PGA Tour Simulator is fully loaded with Immersive Play Technology- allowing you to play over 50 of the world's greatest courses without ever leaving the Loop.

www.play18chicago.com
17 North Wabash Avenue
Chicago, IL 60602
(312) 251-0540

Schaumburg Golf Club

The Club's Golf Learning Center features three state-of-the-art aboutGOLF simulator bays. Located in the Club's lower level, simulators are available for rounds of golf, practice, lessons, and club fittings. Food and beverage service is available from Chandler's Chophouse. The simulators are powered by 3Trak®, aboutGOLF's three-dimensional, high-speed camera and tracking system. The system quickly analyzes ball and club data to replicate the shot in the simulator. Schaumburg's simulators give golfers an opportunity to play more than 40 world-class courses, including Pebble Beach and TPC Sawgrass. Each simulator accommodates up to four golfers at a time.

For those taking lessons, swing analysis tools, including multi-angle video recording and a weight measurement system, are a great amenity.

For further swing refinement, simulators also may be used for practice. Each simulator has 18 driving range options.
www.schaumburggolf.com
401 N Roselle Rd
Schaumburg, IL 60194
847-885-9000

The Shack Indoor Golf Club

The Shack is an interactive facility designed for year-round, all-weather, day-or-night golf play and sports action. The Shack Indoor Golf Club offers full swing simulation bays featuring Trackman technology and offering over 100 cham-



pionship courses. Featuring domestic and imported beers, premium spirits, and food, Shack Indoor Golf Club offers half hour and hourly simulator time and monthly memberships.

www.thesackgolfclub.com
1717 Chestnut Avenue
Glenview, IL 60025
(847) 904-2905

WJ Golf

WJ Golf is an indoor golf facility located in northwest suburban Buffalo Grove that has a great back story. The facility offers state of the art simulators for swing analysis and true golf play with changing turfs to simulate bunker shots and rough shots. In house instructors include Jen Kim as well as instruction by *Golf Digest* Top 50 coach Todd Sones, who operates in season at nearby White Deer Run GC in Vernon Hills.

This spring, WJ Golf will partner with The Arboretum

Golf Club to provide eight new world-class simulators and a fresh new food and beverage concept. The program will operate year-round and is an entire family experience.

Two young entrepreneurs who love the game of golf traveled the world to find the best technology and accuracy for their indoor golf

simulator business. One of the owners who has over 12 years in technology and the other with 7 years in sales and customer service found the right technology for their business. With over 15 years of research and development, WJ Golf simulators are the result of impressive engineering designed to re-create ball flight to within 99% accuracy and deliver insights on your game. The simulator's camera system, impact sensors, and advanced software provide world-class accuracy and a fun experience for guests. All of this is delivered in a

fully automated experience that will change the turf to reflect your lie and tee the ball up for each shot to ensure that all your energy can be put into improving your game.

www.wjsports.net
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Cutting Edge Golf Products to Improve Your Game

What began as a golftee.com company, Zero Friction has now evolved to one of the fastest growing golf companies in the country. The Oakbrook Terrace based company offers golfers a variety of colored gloves, balls, and tees as well as golf bags and range finders.



ZERO FRICTION™

Zero Friction's growth is a result of its innovative product philosophy. The company's products aren't your run-of-the-mill variety. Instead, nearly every new product is ground-breaking, unique to its segment.

GLOVES

One afternoon, Zero Friction Founder and President John Iacono (shown above) went shopping for a new golf glove. He wanted a black glove, but to his surprise, he could only find white gloves on the shelves. Then and there he decided to design his own



COMPRESSION-FIT TECHNOLOGY



glove line, which would offer a variety of styles and bright colors. The company took it one step further. Zero Friction's synthetic Performance and Cabretta leather golf gloves take the guesswork out of finding the perfect size. Unlike any other golf glove, Zero Friction uses its patented, one size compression-fit technology to deliver

outstanding precision, flexibility and comfort to every golfer that puts one on.

Each glove becomes a custom fit to all hand sizes. The line includes a variety of cool colors for men, ladies and juniors. The key point here is that retail outlets can now offer gloves in a variety of colors without having to provide a variety of sizes.

"This is a huge inventory benefit for golf shops," said Iacono.

In addition, the company manufactures the TheraTec glove, which was medically designed to prevent wrist injuries; the CopperFlex to soothe arthritic hands; the UltraFeel which is padded; the UltraTAC which has a silicone grip system, and the ZF Storm, an all-weather glove for rain and cold. All gloves offer a universal fit.

GOLF BALLS

With a bright glove on hand, many began asking for bright golf balls to match, and the Spectra golf ball offers just that. This two-piece, matte-finish distance ball offers high launch and longer roll off the tee.



For the golfer who wants a more traditional white ball, Zero Friction offers the ZF Distance 312 Golf Balls, ZF Tour Spin



Golf Balls, and the new ZF B-52 Bomber Golf Balls. And, releasing in spring will be the Stryker, Eco Z Renewable Golf Ball as well as Victory, a four-piece Surlyn covered ball.

"The goal was to build a high-quality distance ball in a value pack so we sell the B-52 in a 15-ball package," Iacono. "To sum it up, more distance and more balls for a reasonable price."

GOLF TEES

The TurfTee is another new product for Zero Friction. It's a golf tee and divot repair tool in one. The tee features a "fork" at the bottom to properly repair a divot mark on a putting green.

Want a colored tee to match your glove and ball? Of course, that's available too. Available in a variety of cool colors and lengths, golfers will be amazed at the difference a golf tee can make in his game.



GOLF BAGS

More recently, the company has begun producing golf bags. In addition to its line of stand bags, pencil bags, air lite, and cart bags, Zero Friction produced two unique bags for the golfer who wants it all.



The Wheel Pro Pushcart Golf Bag is a three-in-one, multi-functional golf bag. The design allows you to use the bag three ways; 1) push or pull cart, 2) carry stand bag, or 3) with use on a motor cart. What makes the bag even more unique is that it offers you the ability to easily



remove the wheels and store them within the provided nylon bag for cleanliness. When you are ready to use the wheels again you can easily, within seconds, place them back on the bag.

Unveiled at the 2023 PGA show in January, Zero Friction launched the Wheel Pro STRIDE golf bag/trolley, a first of its kind light-weight, autonomous electric golf bag packed with tons of features for today's golfer.

"It is like having your own private caddy that can essentially travel anywhere in the world with you," said Iacono. "Everything you need is included on the STRIDE bag, and it even follows you around the golf course."

Weighing 35 pounds, STRIDE includes a remote control using Smart Follow Technology, and a built-in intelligent gyroscopic control system for stability, speed control, and soft start. The bag is able to handle all terrain including steep uphill slopes and tall grass. The wheels can be removed in seconds and fits nicely on the back of a motor cart making Stride a "Walk or Ride" bag/trolley.

Other features include: a battery life of 36 to 45 holes, average speed of 3 mph (max. 5 mph), an autobrake system and a smart gearbox. Plus, the STRIDE bag has plenty of room, including 14 club dividers, two waterproof pockets, two towel/acces-



STRIDE YOUR PERSONAL CADDIE

Zero Friction products are available at many golf clubs around the world, PGA Tour Store Superstores, Edwin Watts, Roger Dunn Golf Shops, Dunham's Sports, Academy, Amazon, Walmart, and ZeroFriction.com.

sory rings, one umbrella holder, and a built-in cooler which can hold up to six cans; as well as two invisible magnets to secure your rangefinder and Bluetooth speaker.

The bag is available in black or gray. The quick release 10-inch all terrain wheels allow easy storage. There is a custom travel bag available as well.

WHERE TO SHOP

"We continue to grow and evolve," said Iacono.

"We have some popular products like our performance tees and universal fit golf gloves that have stood the test of time. But our goal is to continue bringing new and innovative, high-quality products to the golfers."

N

Now that Chicago and the rest of the Midwest head toward indoor golf ranges for the winter months, we are looking for destinations that will provide warmer temperatures and great golf. The usual suspects in these searches are the states of Florida, Arizona and California. Alas, that list tends to involve the challenges of long travel times, tough-to-acquire tee times, and pricey green fees.

Over the past decade or so, more and more Midwest golfers have discovered that the great state of Alabama has very quickly become an attractive year-round destination for even more reasons than those listed above. Besides a temperate climate during much of the winter, the Yellowhammer State (also known as the "Heart of Dixie") serves up great Southern hospitality, affordable green fees, and some of the country's premier championship golf courses. And along the gulf coast of the state, all of those attributes are combined with 32 miles of pristine beaches and gentle gulf winds.

Golf on the gulf is available in the entire spectrum of design features and topography. Located on the western peninsula of the gulf shores, **Kiva Dunes** is widely considered as one of the top public golf courses in the state. Designed by 1976 US Open champion Jerry Pate, the 7,100 yard course features wide fairways, sand blow-outs, waste bunkers, large greens, and swaths of untouched vegetation. While water hazards reside on 13 of the 18 holes, many of them are easily avoided with good course management. Indeed, the prevailing winds are often the dominant obstacle on every hole as they dictate club selection. The 465-yard No. 4 best illustrates the role of these winds. Downwind, the par 4 can be played using a driver and a mid-iron. But when the hole plays into the wind, it must be confronted with two woods or played as a par 5.

Designer Pate calls the 175-yard No. 13, his "Redan" hole. Redan means fortress, and the green on this par 3 is protected by six bunkers and water. Make par on this hole and you have something to brag about to your pals after the round.



Peninsula Golf and Racquet Club: Lakes Course Hole #8



Peninsula Golf and Racquet Club: Marsh Course Hole #4



Peninsula Golf and Racquet Club: Cypress Course Hole #4

Golf on the Gulf!

Alabama's Gulf Shores Area is a Sweet Home to Great Golf

by Dave Weretka with Neal Kotlarek



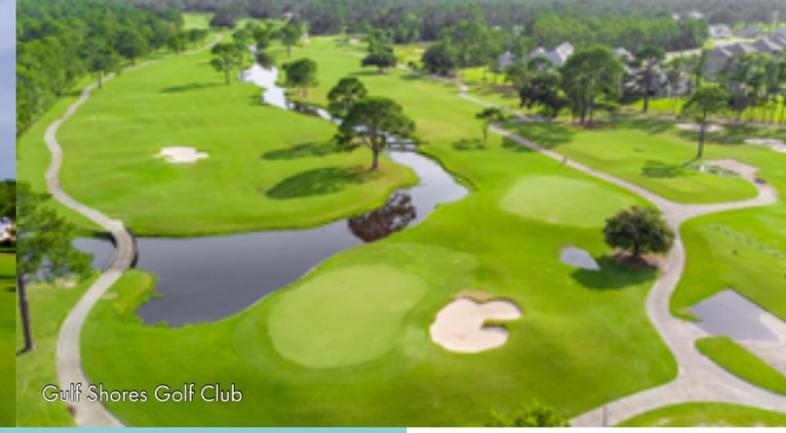
Gulf Shores Golf Club: Hole #1



Gulf Shores Golf Club: Hole #3



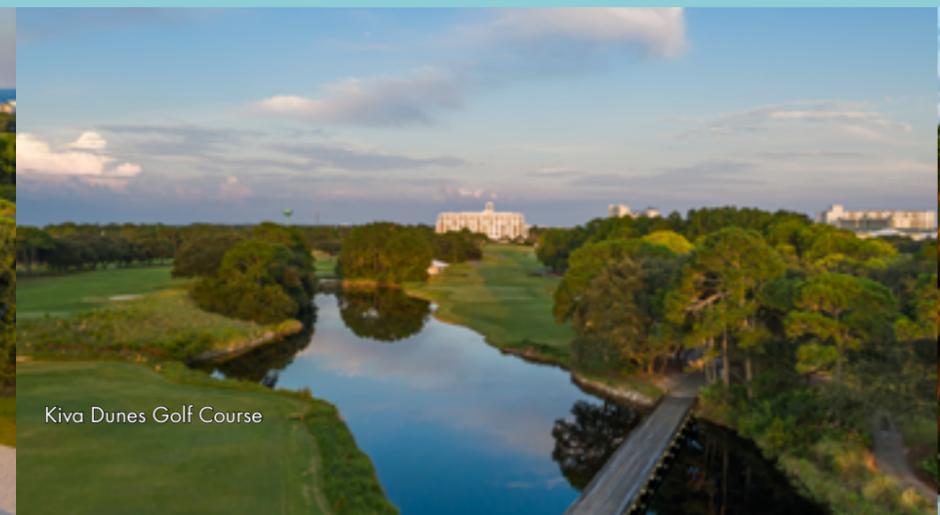
Gulf Shores Golf Club: Hole #7



Gulf Shores Golf Club



Kiva Dunes Golf Course: Hole #6



Kiva Dunes Golf Course



Kiva Dunes Golf Course: Hole #9



Craft Farms:Cotton Creek Hole #18



Craft Farms:Cotton Creek Hole #6



Craft Farms:Cotton Creek Hole #18



Craft Farms Clubhouse

Along with its outstanding golf course, Kiva Dunes offers elegant accommodations with vacation rental houses and condos. Two restaurants, four swimming pools, a beach club, and a private beach give you plenty to do along with golf.

Peninsula Golf and Racquet Club rests next to the Bon Secour Wildlife Preserve and is a 27-hole complex that serves up three distinct nine-hole courses positioned over 800 acres of diverse property. Its primary characteristics include large greens and fairways lined by live oaks, cypress trees, and natural vegetation. Along with challenging holes alongside and across wetlands, the Marsh course is a virtual paradise of wildlife sightings oftentimes including eagles, alligators, and indigenous birds. The Lakes course features undulating greens and water deviously positioned on all nine holes. The Cypress course is



Craft Farms:Cotton Creek Hole #13

highlighted by the 600-yard No. 8. A long tee shot to a landing area protected by water sets up a tricky second shot that must provide a proper angle to a rolling green protected by bunkers.

Golf Shores Golf Club was lengthened and renovated in the early 2000s by the father-son team of Jay and Carter Morrish. The course features sharp doglegs, huge bunkers, and a few water hazards to keep golfers honest. The complex prides itself as being a preserve for various wildlife, including alligators and a variety of birds.

Craft Farms Golf Resort serves up two Arnold Palmer-designed championship courses built five years apart. The Cypress Bend course plays to 6,843 yards from the pro tees, yet five different sets of tees allow players of all different handicap levels to enjoy this true risk/reward property. Its sister course Cotton Creek features the short but difficult No.

6, a dogleg tightened by water that protects the right side of the landing area. From there, the approach shot must cross the lake and somehow avoid a watery grave short of the green and four bunkers surrounding the green. Good luck!

No round at the resort is complete without a cold beverage enjoyed at the Craft Farms Bar & Grill. Located just behind the 18th green of the Cotton Creek course, the facility serves up great sandwiches, micro brews, and outstanding views of the golf course.

In addition to great golf, the food along the coast is second to none. Fresh fish and seafood await upon completion of your round.

Lulu's in Gulf Shores offers open-air seating with coastal cuisine. Make sure to stay around for their live music. Lucy Buffett is Jimmy's sister so you know the music will have you in a good mood.

Sassy Bass Cookout Tiki serves up some large-batch tropical cocktails which hit the spot after a warm day on the links.

Flor-Bama Yacht Club offers fresh Gulf seafood and a laid back vibe which is so welcoming.

Some of the best fresh seafood can be found at Big Fish. Hands down serving the best red snapper on the coast. Fine dining awaits here, including an outdoor patio to unwind.

Don't forget to get out on the water with a sunset cruise or take in the Blue Angels as they practice during the day and are sure to do a fly over. Sail Wild Hearts can take care of all your water needs.

While Stay & Play packages are available at numerous properties, including Kiva Dunes, our group elected to enjoy the terrific Lodge at Gulf State Park. This Hilton hotel is located within a 6,150-acre park and provides 350 rooms, many with an amazing gulf view, including 20 suites. Along with groomed hiking trails throughout the park and a beach, the lodge incorporates various dining options and a coffee bar. The park itself also provides bike rentals and fishing.

For more information on the golf and accommodations options available at Gulf Shores, visit the Gulf Shores website: www.gulfshores.com It is highly recommended you book your 2023 visit this winter to secure preferred dates.



AMATEUR PUTTING TOUR

Compete Locally, Advance Nationally

By Joe Aguilar

When the entrepreneurial-minded co-founders of the Amateur Putting Tour (APT) mapped a plan that included providing ‘an advancement pathway to a great golf experience, through competitive putting,’ they didn’t know they would ace their inaugural national championship.

The emotions of it all were spontaneous, storybook, and sprinkled with sadness.

The same composure that Mark Duckett showed with his Scotty Cameron putter at Pinehurst Resort and Country Club cracked when talking about his victory performance in November on the Thistle Dhu putting course. He teared up.

How could Duckett, 62 and a recently retired security professional, not? The only thing missing that day, after all, was his wife, Shannon.

Pinehurst was where Duckett and his father, Frank, the man who introduced him to the game of golf when he was in junior high, had one heck of a time in 2014. They served as volunteer USGA marshals as the USGA contested its men’s and women’s national championships on back-to-back weeks. Father and son

enjoyed father-and-son time, spending all day working while watching the best golfers in the world, then getting a break from the hot summer sun with a visit to the local Irish pub, Dugan’s.

“Pinehurst is a place I’m very fond of, it has some good memories for me,” says Duckett, a resident of Leesburg, Virginia, about a six-hour drive from Pinehurst.

Duckett was going to bring Shannon to Pinehurst one day. He was going to show her around the village, putt around on the green with her and, absolutely, he was going to take his Irish American wife to Dugan’s.

But life hit and Shannon Quinn was diagnosed with ALS. Just 53, she succumbed last April.

“She kept her good Irish maiden name,” Duckett says. “Just a wonderful person, beautiful lady ... a big hole [in my life].”

More emotions rolled in that November day for Duckett when he thought about the soil he was standing on after his tournament win, which included him prevailing on a second playoff hole after he and another competitor tied through nine regulation holes. Duckett’s favorite

golfer growing up was fellow Missourian Payne Stewart. Duckett met him once.

Stewart won the U.S. Open at Pinehurst in 1999, memorably holing a 15-foot putt on the 72nd hole to beat Phil Mickelson by one stroke, then died four months later in an airplane accident at age 42. Standing a chip shot from Pinehurst No. 2’s 18th green is a statue of Stewart striking his memorable pose on one leg with a pumped fist after his winning putt. Duckett playfully replicated the pose next to the statue for photographers following his victory.

“Not that mine was anywhere on the same scale as Payne Stewart,” Duckett says of his championship.

So how are we doing with the whole ‘great golf experience,’ Amateur Putting Tour?

Not every APT national championship experience promises to be as sentimental and heart-lifting as its first, but Nick Guild and Kevin Monaghan have confidence in what they established in 2021. The two Virginia residents planned their putting tour idea while putting balls during the COVID-19 pandemic. They would roll out their first tournaments in 2022.

comes in, sets up its “course” and is out in a few hours.

That was the situation afforded Duckett and his fellow members of River Creek Club in Leesburg. Duckett’s championship at Pinehurst came with a check for \$1,000 and a gold-plated Bettinardi putter trophy.

“What we discovered [during the concept process] was that our participants in the golf community are asking for more access to great golf experiences,” Guild says. “And if you can compete locally and advance nationally to a great place like Pinehurst, that fits the bill for a lot of people.”

Not everyone can win a long-drive or club championship, but anyone can swing a flatstick and drop golf balls in a cup. While the APT may appeal more to serious golfers than casual players, Guild says tournament participants have ranged in age from 10 to 80. Duckett says a 10-year-old boy from California ‘did very well’ at Pinehurst.

Guild says he and Monaghan have befriended a group of gentlemen in their 80s in Pinehurst and regularly get putting tips from them when they visit. “Truly a great part of the APT is having friends across the country, all ages and all levels,” Guild says. “Our format allows people to practice with purpose, under pressure. You got to compete.”

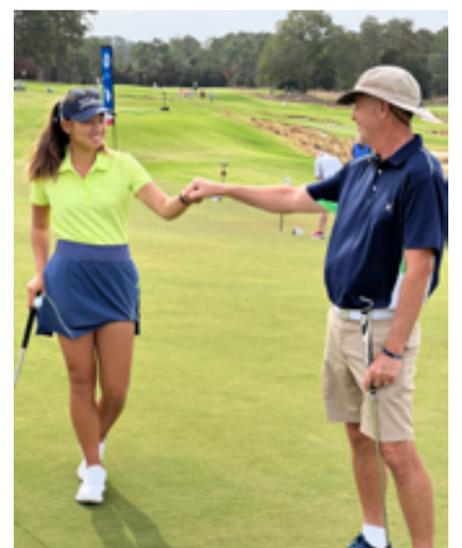
This isn’t putt-putt golf, mind you. No windmills, clown faces, or roller coasters to navigate. No putting on all-weather carpet, either.

“That’s what I like about the Amateur Putting Tour,” Duckett says. “You’re putting on real grass, on real greens, with the undulations and things like that.”

For Duckett, there’s only one negative that comes with being a national putting champ. “Everyone at my club expects me to one-putt now,” he says with a laugh.

“The initial vision and premise has met expectations,” Guild says. “It’s confirming the appetite for a playing format built around solely putting, to assist in driving engagement and better performance via improved confidence to the course.”

Any interested players and courses can get in touch with the APT by following it on Facebook or visiting www.amputt.com. Direct correspondence can be sent to info@amputt.com.



The allure of our country's 33rd state has always involved being outside and having 'only in the Great Northwest' active adventures. Sounds like a pretty cool place to play golf too, doesn't it? While Bandon Dunes Oregon's coastline helped put The Beaver State on the golf radar, there is an abundance of other captivating courses for all to experience. The Central Oregon area is golf-rich with plenty of opportunities to enjoy the game on an extensive variety of terrific terrains.

SunRiver Resort is a four-season luxury haven that places families at the forefront. Arriving on a weekend this past summer, we were pleasantly surprised to see more families enjoying the outdoors together like no place we've seen before. Bikes were scattered across the lawn area as the guests were waiting for some live music to commence. The only place I've seen more bikes in use was on Mackinac Island in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. This all-encompassing resort offers over 40 miles of walking/biking trails. An outdoor wedding was taking place at one of the venues on the property on a gorgeous sun-drenched day. Private jets were landing and taking off at the nearby airstrip all day long while we were enjoying the heathland-style Meadows course. Several of the golf holes flow along the banks of the Deschutes River and provide a real serene feel. Think of Kohler's Blackwolf Run but on steroids.

Views of Mt. Bachelor (elevation 9,068 feet) can be seen from the property at SunRiver Resort. The Cascade Range offers a perfect backdrop to several of the area courses.

Once you are on property you never have to leave. Vacation rentals are available for groups from as small as two to larger homes that can host 16. Whatever the size of your party or budget needs, you have plenty of options on site to enjoy a hassle free getaway. Check out what's available for your group at benningtonproperties.com.

SunRiver resort was named "Best Golf Resort in the Pacific Northwest" by *Golf Digest* in 2020.

Gray's Trail is an 18-hole putting course. Another great way to connect with nature and the family in a relaxed setting. Running short on time try the Caldera Links, a 9 hole par-3 course.

The Woodlands course is a Robert Trent Jones Jr. masterpiece that winds through dense forests of pines and lava rock. Crosswater is a private course that offers playing privileges for resort guests. This heathland design plays along the Deschutes and Little Deschutes rivers and you have to navigate crossing them on multiple occasions during your round. All the resort courses are in



Pronghorn



Pronghorn



Pronghorn

GOLF GREATNESS IN CENTRAL OREGON

By Dave Weretka and Dave Lockhart

impeccable shape and a true test of all skill levels. <https://www.sunriverresort.com/>

If you are a craft beer lover, then the Bend area will certainly quench your thirst. See what we did there? There are over 30 breweries and is home to the well known Deschutes Brewing.

Pronghorn Golf Resort is the creme de la creme when it comes to teeing it up in beautiful Bend, Oregon, and is one of the most incredible locations for a golf resort. The facility includes a public Tom Fazio course and a private Jack Nicklaus course. Both offer stunning views of the Cascade Mountains. The attention to detail is impeccable with this wall-to-wall turf playground. Lava formations, waterfalls, and steep canyons are eye candy to this top tier resort. Various stay/play options are available. Sit back, relax and repeat. pronghornresort.com/gallery/golf

Tetherow is undoubtedly the most polarizing course in Central Oregon and the Bend area. Golfers are on both ends of the spectrum on their thoughts after tackling this creative linksy track.

The course plays firm and fast just how we like it, but it doesn't play like your typical resort course. It offers friendly fescue throughout the layout and was in perfect shape when we took it on. This is definitely a course that you need to play a few times to learn the best lines of play with your tee ball. The tees are mainly elevated but landing areas are sometimes obscure and hidden by rolling grass lumps and humps. It does take some swings to adjust to the conditions that we are not accustomed to here in the Midwest.

The real challenge comes on the multi-tiered greens. This course was in the DMK 1 (David McLay Kidd, architect of Bandon Dunes) era of design thought. Kidd has since learned that harder isn't always better. The DMK 2 version (Mammoth Dunes) that we see with his current designs are more enjoyable and less penal.

The green complexes are chock full of heavy contours and deep swales, giving golfers the same type of experiences of the pros when they play treacherous surfaces



Huntington Lodge

like Augusta National and Pinehurst #2. For some reason the term 'potato chip greens' seems to come to mind here. Players will frequently be forced to execute bump and runs from tight turf areas surrounding many of the green complexes here. You are sure to face some short game challenges that will test your nerves as well as your skills.

Hole #6 is a creative and thought-provoking short par 4 with several lines of play from the tee box. The lower fairway offers more risk, but a shorter second shot with better sightlines to the green.

Overall the layout has a variety of different holes that feature generous fairways and views that are truly stunning. It's easy to see why Tetherow is highly ranked and on many must play lists. tetherow.com

It's never too early to start booking your 2023 visit. Visit visitcentraloregon.com for more ideas during your stay at this outdoor lovers paradise.

If you have some extra time budgeted into your trip then we highly recommend driving a few hours east of Bend to **Silvies Valley Ranch** in the tiny town of Seneca. This is where golf meets the wild, wild west! Oregon-based architect Dan Hixson designed two of the top public-access courses in the state, ironically on the exact same piece of property.

What results is a reversible course that is different every day, and named after local legends. One day it's the Hankins and the next it's the Braddock. What is truly an engineering marvel is that these designs are totally different. When you play the new course on the second day you will spend a fair amount of time looking around seeing if you can identify yesterday's course. Hixson is part magician, part genius carving out these mountainous, yet links-like courses. With a number of elevated tees and higher elevations you very well may hit the longest drive of your life. Seriously, 300 to 400-yard drives are not out of the realm for many players.

You can also enjoy one of the most unique experiences you will find in our sport—goat caddies. Yes, you read that correctly. These friendly animals will carry your specially designed (less than 14 clubs) golf bag over the enjoyable nine-hole Chief Egan course. They add a peaceful element that will be memorable for years to come (bonus point: they won't give you any flak over a bad shot like a normal caddy might do).

In addition, they have a seven-hole McVeigh course which serves as the most rugged and extreme course on the property. To entice golfers, they offer free beer in a cooler up on the 4th tee. It's a welcome respite during this course that is more of a hike than a walk. Just outside of the main lodge sits Claire's, an 18-hole reversible putting course over the stunning backdrop of this serene valley.

Silvies is an Eco-Resort that also features log cabins, a full spa and exceptional food options inspired by this working ranch. We are fairly certain that you have never been to a golf resort like this before! www.silvies.us



Crosswater



Crosswater



Tetherow



Tetherow

THIS IS Alabama

Award-winning dining, a booming craft beer scene, luxurious resorts, and exceptional year-round golf on courses along the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail await you in Alabama. Plus, with Jerry Pate's Kiva Dunes and Arnold Palmer's Craft Farms in Gulf Shores, from the Mountain Lakes to the Gulf Coast, you can take it all in.

All INTERSTATE travel and DIRECT FLIGHTS from Chicago to Birmingham, Huntsville and Pensacola/Gulf Shores

Sweet Home
Alabama

www.GolfAlabama.org



Kiva Dunes Golf & Beach Resort, Gulf Shores

Your New Winter Escape. Introducing Sand Valley Pursuits.



When Michael and Chris Keiser opened Sand Valley in 2016, they borrowed a simple philosophy that their father had used at his game-changing Bandon Dunes Golf Resort: that a deep sense was essential to the guest experience. At Sand Valley, that meant heaving dunes, pine forests, glassy lakes and, unlike its forebear on the cliffs above the Pacific, true winter.

Sand Valley and its world-ranked golf courses are indeed an inspiring playground in spring, summer and fall. But for those who know, winter may be the most magical season of all. Scandinavians have a word for the mood of coziness and

conviviality that people share in the dark and colder season: hygge. A welcoming fire while snow falls in the Wisconsin wilderness. The slice of blades against the pond ice. The warmth of gathering in a warm lodge for dinner and conversation.

Winter is a time for recharging, and Sand Valley has a full winter schedule of healthy and rejuvenating events and activities – Sand Valley Pursuits.

Starting November 24th, Sand Valley will officially begin its season of special events and the holiday spirit will be in full effect. Whether you want to celebrate Thanksgiving with loved ones or ring in the New Year, you'll enjoy the warm, welcome glow of Sand Valley's main lodge, fully decorated for the holidays, chef-driven menus, and endless opportunities to explore the outdoors. This is a great time to start a new holiday tradition!

Step into 2023 with a renewed attitude and fresh approach to your mental and physical health by participating in Sand Valley's Wim Hof Weekend. Guests will be

treated to a myriad of wellness-themed activities and culinary experiences to refocus and restore the body and mind. The Wim Hof Method, is a simple, yet powerful method, based on the foundation of three pillars: Breathwork, Cold Exposure, and Mindset. Lead by certified instructors James Stewart and Jesse Coomer, the Wim Hof Method will provide stress reduction, a strengthened immune system, better sleep, more energy, and faster recovery.

In partnership with Visit Rome, Sand Valley provides the opportunity to celebrate the fun of wintery weather among 12,000 snow-covered acres of landscape. The Snow Valley Weekend includes a plethora of snow-based outdoor activities including Ice Skating, Pond Hockey, Snowshoeing, Nordic Skiing, Sledding/Tubing, and even a full children's itinerary!

In what has quickly become a fan-favorite event, Sand Valley, together with Visit Rome, is proud to be host to the Sand County Classic – a pond hockey tournament like no other. Players will be

surrounded by a natural amphitheater of snow-covered sand dunes and towering red pines as they take the ice. Participants and guests will have access to an inviting hospitality suite overlooking the lake with soul-warming snacks and beverages from the resort's culinary team.

After a Valentine's Celebration Weekend and a second Wim Hof Weekend, Sand Valley's event season closes on a high with its annual Brews & Brats Festival. Guests will enjoy this Winter Season spectacular featuring a "Tap Takeover" representing all our participating breweries, craft beer tastings, your favorite comfort foods, live music, games, raffles, and fun outdoor activities for the whole family.

There's so much more to winter at Sand Valley than simply waiting on spring. Discover the sublime beauty of the frosty landscape, the comforting flicker of flame and conversation and invigorating winter events and activities. Enjoy hygge, Sand Valley style, with the Sand Valley Pursuits calendar. www.sandvalley.com

Welcome back to the Tinley Park Golf Show! We're excited to welcome golfers to a show packed with the latest in equipment and golf goodies as well as golfing destinations and deals from across the Midwest.

More people are playing than ever before, and not just on courses but inside domes and virtual golf facilities across Chicagoland. We feel that the Tinley Park Golf Show couldn't have landed at a better time.

Golf Show Hours February 3-5:
Friday 12-7 \$10
Saturday 10-5 \$15
Sunday 11-4 \$15

The show will be held at the Tinley Park Convention Center, located just off I-80 and Harlem Ave. As always, parking will be FREE. Visit www.tinleyparkconventioncenter.net for tickets and more information.

We can't wait to have you stroll through our vendor aisles to see the latest equipment and destinations for your next golf getaway. The show will once again offer a driving range to hit the latest offerings from leading manufacturers such as Callaway, Cobra, Cleveland, TaylorMade, Tour Edge, and Wilson.

While you are here, test your skills at our Longest Drive and Longest Putt competitions.

"We've been exhibiting since the first year of the show, and there's no better place

to be to beat the winter doldrums than the Tinley Park Golf Show," said Jim Darin from Pre-Driven Golf Balls.

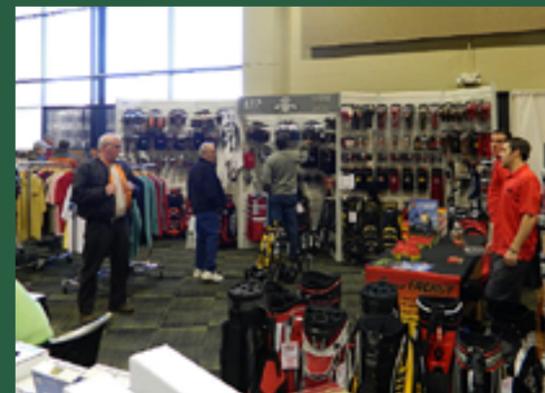
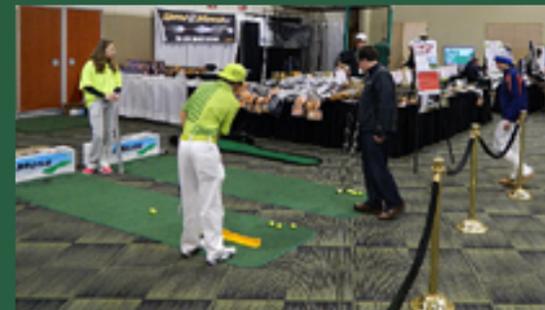
EXHIBITORS

Western Golf Association/	
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J & M Golf Inc.	519
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Chicago Bills Golf	107-108-133
Palos Golf	103-154-168
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TINLEY PARK GOLF SHOW

FEBRUARY 3-5, 2023



★ **SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS** ★

Mackinac Island Golf Serves Up Timeless Fun

by Dave Weretka and Neal Kotlarek



A whole slew of popular Hollywood movies involve time travel. The plots of these flicks are almost always the same: A guy develops a machine that somehow allows him to zap backwards to another era where presumably he will try to undo some event that changed the course of history. Inevitably, that attempt is fraught with challenges. In most of these flicks, our hero discovers that any attempt to undo history creates chaos and mayhem.

Fortunately for visitors to Northern Michigan's Mackinac Island, the trip to another era involves not a time machine but a 20-minute ferry ride. But once your boat pulls up to the island dock, time does come to a standstill as you behold a charming village where there are no skyscrapers, no cars, and no neon-lit signs. Indeed, the loudest noise you can hear is the clop-clop-clopping of horses toting guests and wares across the idyllic downtown in carriages.

While now a resort destination, the four-square-mile Mackinac (pronounced mack-in-naw) Island is without a doubt

the most popular of the 35,000 islands on the Great Lakes. It was established as America's second national park after Yellowstone. The island also played an integral role in two wars. The first land claimed by the British during the War of 1812 was the island, which wasn't returned to the United States until 1815. In 1861, troops from the North left the fort to support the Civil War but eventually used it to hold a number of Confederate troops in 1862. Fort Mackinac was activated again in 1867 and eventually closed in the late 1890s. Some of the walls of buildings used to house soldiers during those final years are maintained to this day as the fort remains a primary tourist attraction.

In a fascinating coincidence, golf arrived at Mackinac Island only a few years after the fort shut down. Scottish golf pro and clubmaker Alex Smith designed Wawashkamo Golf Course in 1898. The 9-hole links course plays to 18 from two sets of tees and remains almost completely intact from its origins. The links-style course features large swathes of treeless, open fair-

ways protected by thick rough. While only 3,000 yards long, the course serves up tiny greens, one of which is partially encircled by a “circus-ring” tuft of rough that can swallow up balls. The land upon which Wawashkamo (“walk a crooked trail” in the Chippewa tongue) rests was once the battleground of the War of 1814 when the American forces failed to wrest back control of the island from the Brits. Ten soldiers from that engagement remain buried between the 5th and 8th holes.

The island’s primary golf course attraction is **The Jewel at Grand Hotel**, a unique 18-hole layout with an intriguing routing. Its name is a tribute to the island’s long-held reputation as “The Crown Jewel of Michigan.” The front “Grand” nine was constructed in 1901 and features outstanding views of the fort, the governor’s mansion, Round Island, and the Straits of Mackinac. The course was renovated in 1987 and is highlighted by No. 7, a par 3 that provides a spectacular view of the straits. The hole begins from an elevated tee and ends on a green tightened by bunkers and water.

The ensuing nine holes may be as memorable for the journey to reach the 10th tee as it is for the course, itself. Located 1.5 miles away from its counterpart, the Woods Nine is made accessible by a horse-drawn carriage ride into a hilly, forested area that is completely different in look, topography, and playability from the Grand Nine. Designed by legendary (and recently deceased) Michigan architect Jerry Matthews, the 3,040-yard course winds through and around majestic forested land. While positioned in the center of the island, the

nine nevertheless offers great views of the Mackinac Bridge and the Upper Peninsula. The nine is highlighted by No. 15, at 552 yards the longest hole on the island. From a tee tucked away in the forest, this slight dogleg left is lined by trees all the way to its slightly elevated green.

The Jewel golf course is only one amenity offered by the hallowed Grand Hotel, one of the premier resort facilities in the Midwest. Opened in 1887, the complex boasts 388 rooms, each distinctive from one another with different themes, colors, and arrangements. Some of the continuing hotel traditions include afternoon tea parties, dressing up for dinner in a jacket and tie, and nightly dancing to the sounds of the Grand Hotel Orchestra. The Woods Restaurant was recently recognized as the No. 3 hotel restaurant in the country. In total, the Grand Hotel serves up 14 bars and dining options. Even the hotel’s porch is epic as it’s promoted as the “world’s largest” and is a must location for photos memorializing your stay.

The hotel’s Wood Activity Center serves up a wide variety of amenities, including bike rentals for touring the island, a nature center, pickleball courts and The Gem—an 18-hole miniature golf course. Even the hotel pool enjoys a legacy. Complete with cabanas, a zero-depth entry area and water slides for the kids, the Esther Williams Swimming Pool was named after the actress and competitive swimmer who starred in the 1947 movie *This Time For Keeps* filmed on property.

Make sure to allow time during your stay to tour parts of the island, either on foot, via horse carriage, or

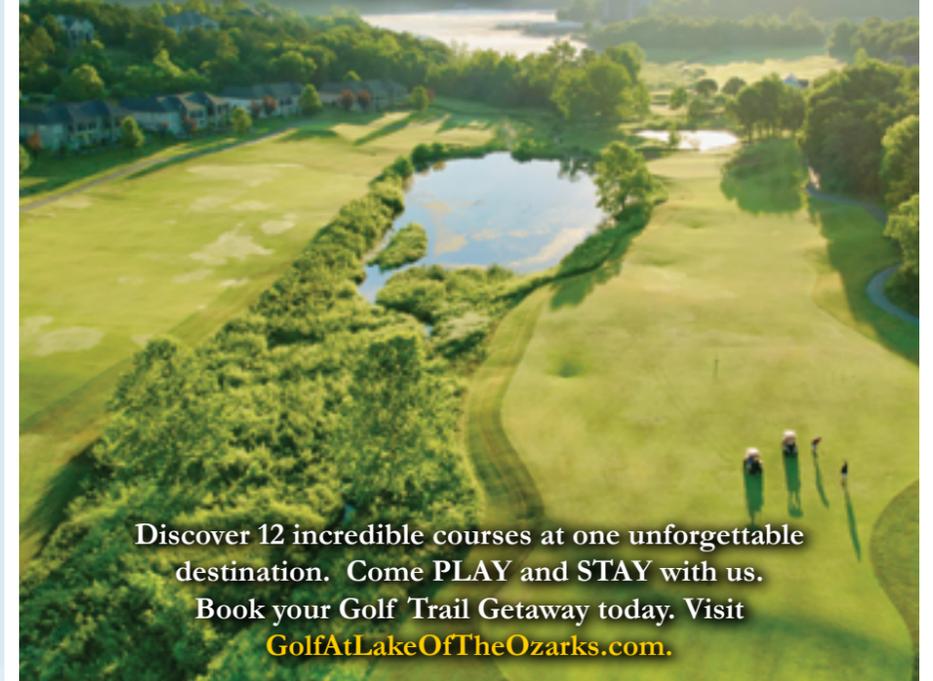
bicycle. Over 17 miles of trails provide guests access to secluded areas with all pathways eventually leading to the bustling cafes, art galleries, and gift stores of the downtown area. While I prefer the maple chocolate peanut clusters at the famous Doug Murdick’s Fudge Shop, others may opt for the maple walnut fudge or perhaps even the pretzels dipped in white chocolate.

When your island visit eventually concludes, the ferry ride back to the mainland in Mackinaw (curiously pronounced the same as Mackinack!) City provides fantastic view of the island and the 26,372-ft. long Mackinac Bridge, acclaimed as the fifth longest suspension bridge in the world.

While time might stand still on Mackinac Island, there will always be time to schedule a return trip for even more fun, more adventure, and great golf memories.

For more information and a trip planner to Mackinac Island, visit www.mackinacisland.org and www.grandhotel.com.

Central Missouri's
**LAKE OF THE OZARKS
GOLF TRAIL**
Where one great course leads to another



Discover 12 incredible courses at one unforgettable destination. Come **PLAY** and **STAY** with us. Book your Golf Trail Getaway today. Visit GolfAtLakeOfTheOzarks.com.



Located right off of Interstate 55 in Channahon, IL, The Bluffs, also known as Heritage Bluffs Golf Club, offers both a challenge and composure across its rolling acres. With scenic beauty unlike most Chicago-area courses, The Bluffs is a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary and has received a 4-Star rating from Golf Digest magazine.

In addition to an award-winning course The Bluffs also features a large all-grass practice range, putting green, separate chipping green and bunker, and a newly renovated clubhouse.

The clubhouse is open 7 days a week and features a full dining room and bar as well as indoor golf simulators during the winter months for year round fun!





Sweet Home Chicago

Downers Grove Golf Club Opens as Belmont Golf Club this Spring

In celebration of its 131st season, the Downers Grove Golf Club has been renamed the Belmont Golf Club to honor the history of this legendary course. In 1892, Charles Blair Macdonald, the grandfather of American golf, designed the first nine holes west of the Allegheny Mountains in Downers Grove, at Belmont Road. At this original site of the Chicago Golf Club, Macdonald designed nine more holes for the course in 1893, making it the first 18-hole course in the United States. By 1895, Chicago Golf Club members decided to build a new 18-hole golf course near Wheaton, Illinois, and left the Belmont location.

The 18 holes in Downers Grove are most famously known throughout golf history as Belmont Golf Club, one of the original courses of the Western Golf Association founded in 1899. The current layout of the course features six holes that have had very minor changes to them dating back to the late 1800s. These holes are referred to as the "Original Six" and include holes number 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 9.



In celebration of the renaming of the course, a tournament and celebration will be held on Saturday, May 20. The event will include a team tournament followed by a dinner celebration to highlight the history of the course and the improvements the Park District has made over the years. A \$50 fee per person includes green fees, carts, prizes, and dinner. To register your team for the tournament call (630) 963-1306.

IPGA Foundation Birdies for Charity Raises Record \$600,000

The Illinois PGA Foundation recently announced that its 2022 'Birdies for Charity' fundraiser held at River Forest Country

Club raised \$608,000, bringing the 12-year total amount raised to \$3.33 million. Last year's event also marked a new record for money raised, eclipsing the previous record amount by more than \$200,000. Illinois PGA Professionals teamed up to make 1,268 birdies and raised funds to benefit children's charities including the Ann Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, JDRF Illinois Chapter, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana, OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois in Peoria, Hospital Sister Health System of Illinois, and the Illinois PGA Foundation. The total funds raised from each event will be divided equally among the corresponding charities for each of the Section and Chapter events.

Bettinardi Announces New Studio B Oak Brook Location

Tinley Park-based Bettinardi Golf recently announced they will be moving their Studio B location (currently in Tinley Park) to Oak Brook. The new 6,800 sq ft. location is expected to open in mid-2023 and will include a large boutique shopping space, two private putter fitting bays, custom wedge fittings, The Hive, as well as ample space for events and workshops.

With this new brick-and-mortar concept, Bettinardi Golf is looking to expand the current Studio B experience to include more space and availability with their fitters, a more intimate customization process, historical products highlighting their rich 25-year history, and an even larger shopping selection. The new storefront is slated to host future high-profile events and be the go-to hub for putter and wedge fittings in the Chicagoland area.

Springbrook Nearing Completion on Major Renovation Project

Springbrook Golf Course in Naperville has been undergoing a \$3.5 million dollar renovation that started late last summer. This project, which has been in planning since 2018, will see updates and renovations to several features on the nearly 50-year-old golf course. Greg Martin is the course architect chosen to complete the renovation design, and Wadsworth Golf Construction is the contractor responsible for completing the renovation work.

Key features of the renovation include a complete rebuild of all tees, adding additional space that will provide a smooth, level surface with superior drainage; complete rebuild of all bunkers, adjusting size and placement to improve course playability and strategy; and new collection areas and mounding added to green surrounds, adding risk/reward for approach shots.

Additionally, the Nos. 11 and 15 greenside ponds will be reconstructed, changing the size and shape of the ponds; new bridges will be added on holes 9 and 10. The steel bridge and concrete bridge on No. 9 will be removed, with a new span added on the west side of the fairway for cart traffic. A walking-only bridge will replace the current steel span, removing the bridge and path from the line of play. No. 10 will have a new bridge on the east side of the fairway, moving cart traffic away from the landing area. As on No. 9, the existing bridge on No. 10 will be walking only. Additional new drainage will be installed, linking into the main lines installed this past fall.

Game of Irons

continued from page 13

turns hitting balls into a screen showing a simulation of a target with various point totals awarded for accuracy.

Next to them stood two golfers using the "driving range" simulator feature which provides targets for each club used and instantly gives feedback on distance and accuracy.

In a bay on the second story of the complex, six players took on the famous St. Andrews Old Course in between sips on microbeers and bites of various appetizers available on the dining menu.

"We take a lot of pride in the quality of the food we offer," said Park. "We are constantly updating the menu to provide delicious and unique items to complement the favorites including gourmet burgers and tacos." Menu specialties include Chimichurri Meatballs, Ahi Tuna Bites and BBQ Chicken Flatbread. Along with the aforementioned microbrews, the 7-Iron Bar serves up drink specialties including a Prickly Pear Margarita and a



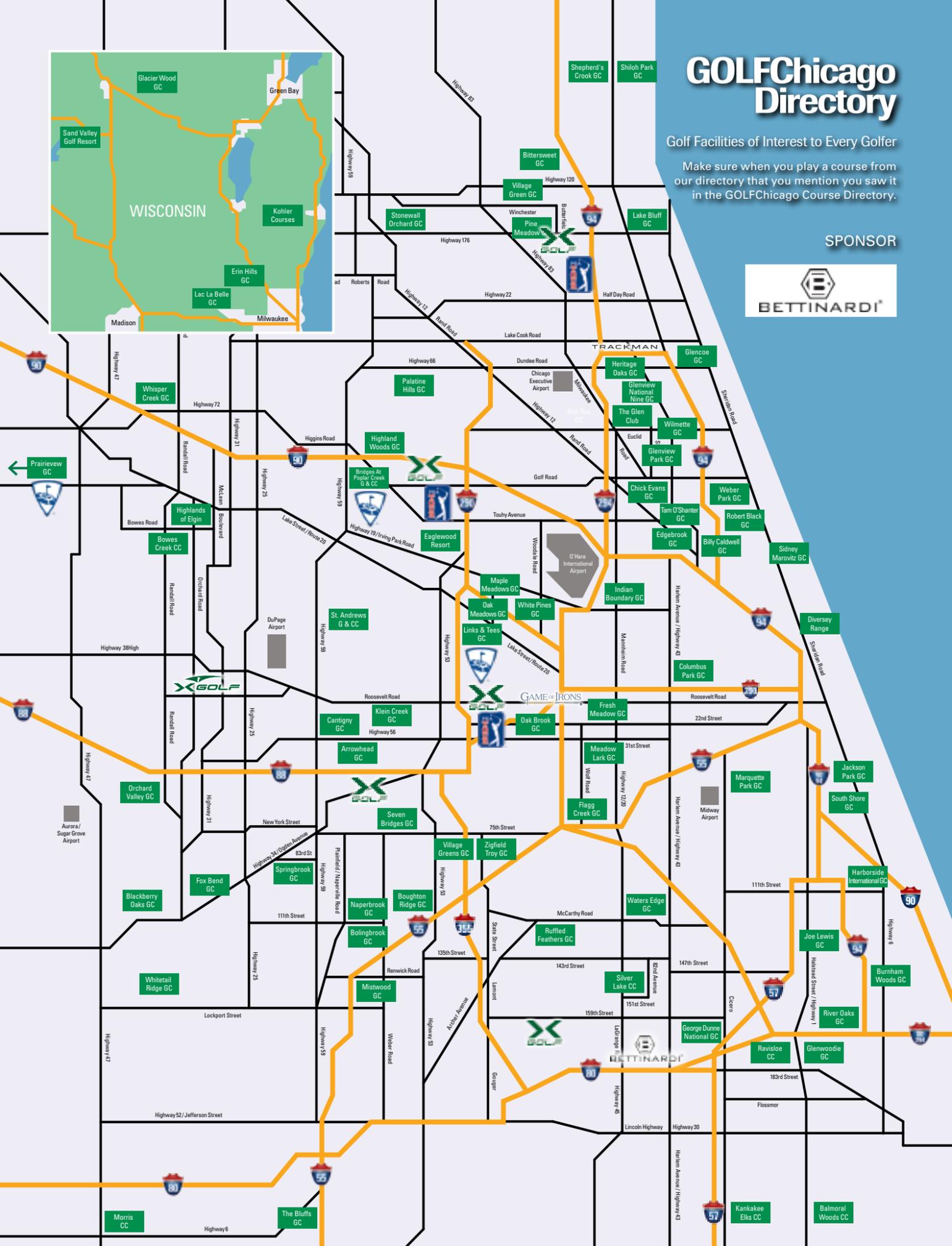
Pineapple Bliss cocktail made with Plantation 3 Star Rum.

Don't want to carry your clubs in the car on a wintery day? Game of Irons offers free-of-charge loaner clubs manufactured by ultra-high end brand PXG. "We think it's a great touch to provide guests the option to use one of the marketplace's premier brands during their experience with us," said Park. Individualized lessons taught by certified professionals are available either per session or in packages. Besides the skilled instruction, the Golfzon technology records distances, swing speeds, and spin rates to provide important data points for improvement. This technology is also used for custom club fitting. A room dedicated to club-fitting is expected to open at the complex in coming weeks.

No visit is complete without a photo opportunity at the Game of Irons' iconic throne. Built from hundreds of classic golf clubs that have been aged and welded together, this one-of-a-kind chair sits proudly near the entrance under a spotlight. "We want guests to feel like a king or queen when they visit Game of Irons," said Park. "It only seemed appropriate to make guests a throne to remind them that we treat everyone royally! And we hope they keep those photos stored on their phones as a reminder to schedule a return visit!"

For more information or to book a hitting bay, contact Game of Irons through their website: www.gameofirons.com.





GOLFChicago Directory

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

Make sure when you play a course from our directory that you mention you saw it in the GOLFChicago Course Directory.

SPONSOR



Abbey Springs

262-275-6113
One Country Club Dr.
Fontana, WI 53125
abbeysprings.org

Abbey Springs has been rated 4.5 Stars by *Golf Digest*. With spectacular views of Geneva Lake, Abbey Springs underwent a major green renovation in 2021, featuring state of the art "007 bent grass on all greens. Make your reservation at the web site above.



Arrowhead Golf Club

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
balmoralwoods.com

Balmoral Woods offers a demanding, superbly conditioned, magnificent round of golf. Laid out over 280 acres of wooded, rolling hills, the course will test the skill of golfers with its 6700-yard, 72.6 rated, 133-slope layout. It is a public 18-hole golf course, has hosted many local and state events and tournaments, and is the annual home of the Will County Amateur Championship. Check out our website for new rates, reservations, and more information. Follow us on Instagram for the latest updates and events.



Belmont Golf Club

630-963-1306
2420 Haddow Ave.
Downers Grove, IL 60515
belmontgolfclub.org

The historic Belmont Golf Club is a scenic 9-hole par 36 course featuring mature trees, natural areas, elevation and water hazards. A driving range with 24 hitting stations, a practice putting green, sand trap, and chipping area includes a 10-station covered shelter.



Bettinardi Golf

708-802-7400
Studio B
7800 Graphics Drive
Tinley Park, IL 60477
bettinardi.com/pages/studio-b-putter-fitting

Studio B is Bettinardi Golf's high-tech putter fitting facility located above the factory floor. During your one-hour fitting, our certified fitter will assess your stroke and determine what Bettinardi putter, length, loft, and lie would be best suited for your stroke.



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
Located near the intersection of Interstates 80 and 55 just south of Joliet, Heritage Bluffs is the pride of the Channahon Park District. The tranquil surroundings make a day playing golf fun and relaxing.

Along with our award-winning course we also feature a large all-grass practice range, along with a large putting green and a separate chipping green and bunker. After your round you can relax in our Grille Room or out on the patio, enjoying a full menu of delicious food and beverage choices.



Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.
Elgin, IL 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.
Wheaton, IL 60189
cantignygolf.com

Designed by Roger Packard, and five-time host of the Illinois State Amateur, Cantigny features 27 challenging holes on beautiful, rolling terrain covering 300 acres. Cantigny Golf Academy offers junior clinics, private lessons, club fitting, grass practice tees, and climate-controlled hitting bays. Cantigny Youth Links is a 9-hole, par-3 course for ages 8 to 15.

- 2021 awards:
- Best in State: *Golf Digest*
 - GRAA Top 50 Public Range in the Nation
 - NGOAA Player Development Award





Cog Hill Golf & Country Club

866-264-4455
12294 Archer Ave.
Palos Park, IL 60439
coghillgolf.com

Cog Hill Golf & Country Club, a Jemsek Golf Facility, is a historic 72-hole public golf facility located 30 miles southwest of Chicago. The year-round facility includes a driving range equipped with lights and heated Toptracer stalls, two golf shops, patio dining, and a pavilion for events, along with a 280-seat banquet hall.

- Rated in "America's 100 Greatest Public Golf Courses" by *Golf Digest*
- 2020 GRAA Top 50 Public Range in the Nation



Green Meadows Golf Club

630-810-5330
18 W. 201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont, IL 60559
dupagegolf.com

Green Meadows is a fun nine-hole gem that offers quality conditions in a traditional parkland setting.

Featuring three par 4s and six par 3s, the Green Meadows layout is the perfect blend of challenge, enjoyment, and value for all skill levels!

Senior discounts are available every day, and DuPage Golf Discount Card holders save on every round.

Look for Green Meadows behind the Westmont water tower on 63rd St.

Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPageGolf.com.



Maple Meadows Golf Club

630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
dupagegolf.com

Maple Meadow's Championship "West 18" features a modern prairie design, and is honored to be a qualifying site for the Illinois Open and the host course for the DuPage Junior Classic.

Choose from four sets of tees and enjoy immaculate bent grass fairways and greens.

Maple Meadows' convenient location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83.

Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPageGolf.com.



The Preserve at Oak Meadows

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

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

- *Golf Digest* Green Star Award
- *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.

Find our best specials and promotions at www.DuPageGolf.com.



Glenwoodie Golf Club

708-758-1212
19301 S State St.
Glenwood, IL 60425
glenwoodiegolf.com

Glenwoodie, just 25 minutes from Chicago, has been a favorite championship course for serious and recreational golfers in Chicago and Northwest Indiana for over 90 years. Consistently ranked in the top 35 public courses, the 18-hole, par-72, 6902-yard course features bent-grass fairways and large rolling greens surrounded by groves of majestic oaks.

- 14,000 sq. ft. Clubhouse and Community Center with fully-stocked Golf Shop
- Full Service Bar and Grille, and Outdoor Patio
- Electric Cart Fleet
- Lighted Practice Range
- PGA Professional Staff



Harborside International Golf Club

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

Harborside International Golf Center, home to the Port & Starboard Courses, is Chicago's home for golf. Located minutes from Chicago's Loop, Harborside offers a premier golf experience in the Chicagoland area. Harborside is the only facility with two of *Golfweek's* "Best Courses You Can Play in Illinois" and is home to an expansive practice facility. Harborside is owned by the Illinois International Port District and managed by KemperSports.



Heritage Oaks Golf Club

847-291-2351
3535 Dundee Rd.
Northbrook, IL 60623
heritageoaksgc.com

Conveniently located between the Edens Expressway and Interstate 294, 30 minutes north of Chicago. Featuring 27 holes of tree-lined golf, a practice range equipped with TrackMan® technology, our golf academy, and indoor golf simulators, Heritage Oaks offers something for everyone. With the elevated Acorn Grill + Terrace overlooking courses certified by the National Audubon Society, Heritage Oaks Golf Club welcomes you for golf, for a meal, or for a timeless experience.



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.



Fox Bend Golf Course

630-554-3939
3516 Route 34
Oswego, IL 60543
foxbendgolfcourse.com

Fox Bend Golf Course, Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course, boasts lush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. This 6,890-yard, par-72 course tests skills of all levels with 34 well-positioned bunkers and water in play on 11 holes. Fox Bend has hosted three Illinois Opens, the 2010 & 2011 USGA Qualifiers, and the 2012, 2015, 2018, 2021, and 2023 Illinois State Amateur Qualifiers. Visit Christina's Pub & Grill before or after your round of golf to enjoy spacious outdoor seating with gorgeous views and American fare done right!



Game of Irons

630-303-9454
3041 Butterfield Rd.
Suite 104
Oak Brook, IL 60523
gameofirons.com

Game of Irons is Chicagoland's most exciting virtual golf experience! Be transported to over 200 world-famous courses in the comfort of a premium indoor facility with 16 hitting bays in over 18,000 sq. ft. - perfect for corporate events, parties, and club meetings. We offer a full bar with craft cocktails and amazing food. We invite you to try out our #1 rated simulators with moving floors that adjust to the course contours, auto ball tee and multiple turf types (fairway, rough and bunker).



Glacier Wood Golf Club

715-445-3831
604 Water St.
Iola, WI 54945
glacierwoodiola.com

Glacier Wood Golf Club is an 18-hole public facility centrally located in the state, two hours north of Madison. Ranked as the #2 golf course in the state of Wisconsin through Golfpass.com, as well as #17 in the nation for value, Glacier Wood Golf Club is worth the drive. With four sets of tees, the golf course is fair for players of all skill levels, and offers a driving range equipped with four target greens and a 19,000 sq. ft. natural grass hitting area, as well as two practice greens used for putting and chipping. With tree-lined fairways, undulating green complexes, and a wide array of natural wildlife, Glacier Wood Golf Club is a must play.



Glencoe Golf Club

847-835-0250
621 Westley Rd.
Glencoe, IL 60022
glencoeclub.com

The Glencoe Golf Club features an 18-hole, par -72 course located 30 minutes from Chicago on the beautiful North Shore. The course is an Audubon Certified, tree-lined classic that offers a great escape from the city. The GGC boasts finely manicured greens, a new cart fleet with GPS, an all-grass tee practice range, and beverage cart service.

- Best greens on the North Shore
- Full-service restaurant with craft beers, specialty cocktails and outdoor seating
- Senior Discount Program, Monday - Thursday, NO residency restrictions, 60 and up.



Kankakee Elks Country Club

815-937-9547
2283 Bittersweet Dr.
Saint Anne, IL 60964
elksclub627.com

The Kankakee Elks Country Club is an 18-hole par-72 course. It is one of Illinois' premier Langford @ Moreau design courses, featuring some of the best green complexes in Illinois, 40 miles south of Chicago along the beautiful Kankakee River with very affordable rates.

Chose from one of our four tees to accommodate all levels of play.

Driving range, chipping area, and putting green with newly remodeled bar and snack shop.



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.



The Club at Lac La Belle

262-567-7833
6996 Pennsylvania St.
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
clubatlaclabelle.com

The newly renovated Club at Lac La Belle is now open for public play! If the club's original founders and its legendary Scottish golf professionals were alive today, our hope is that they would recognize our new course as fun "sporting" golf, which was a fundamental part of the game in 1896. We invite you to come see why Lac La Belle is the birthplace of the Wisconsin Golf Trail



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 recently updated and expanded practice area featuring a one-acre turf range tee, large practice green, and practice bunker. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the picturesque patio. Naperbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and much more.





Pine Meadow Golf Club

847-566-4653
1 Pine Meadow Ln.
Mundelein, IL 60060
pinemeadowgc.com

Pine Meadow Golf Club is known for our beautiful 220 acres of fairways, greens, pine trees, and meadow areas.

Golfers of all abilities and ages enjoy the serene setting and fun playable design of the "Pine."

The Pine, due to its challenging design, has been host to all types of competitive events ranging from PGA Jr. League, to Men's and Women's State Ams, to Illinois PGA Championships. This is truly a golf facility for everyone.



Wilmette Golf Club

630-208-7600
2325 Longest Dr.
West Chicago, IL 60185
prairielanding.com

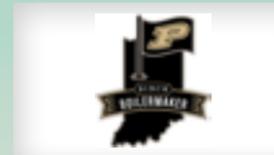
Prairie Landing Golf Course is a prairie links style 18-hole course designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr. The course has been rated 4.5 Stars by *Golf Digest* for "Best Places to Play." Prairie Landing Golf Club prides itself on offering the quintessential golf experience of the Chicagoland Area.



PrairieView Golf Club

815-234-4653
6734 N. German Church Rd.
Byron, IL 61010
prairieviewgolf.com

Recognized by many suburban golfers as a hidden gem, PrairieView Golf Club boasts beautiful views of restored dolomite prairie land that is well worth a short drive west out to Bryon, Ill. (south of Rockford). With challenging greens, dramatic bunkering, and supreme conditioning, the course will test the skills and nerves of every golfer. PrairieView is also home to PrairieFire Golf & Grill, a year-round Toptracer Range® with heated bays, lounge seating, and great food and drink selections.



Ackerman-Allen Course

765-494-3139
West Lafayette, IN
purduegolf.com

The Ackerman-Allen Course, a Pete Dye design, is an 18-hole, parkland-style, par-72 championship golf course featuring large bent-grass greens, fairways and tees. The layout presents a challenge for golfers of all abilities with rolling hills, tree-lined fairways, white sand bunkers, and minimal water hazards. Ackerman-Allen offers five sets of tees with the championship tees playing over 7,500 yards and the forward tees playing at 5,300 yards.



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. 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!



White Pines Golf Club

630-766-0304
500 W. Jefferson
Bensenville, IL 60106
whitepinesgolf.com

The White Pines Golf Club's two 18-hole championship courses, situated on more than 260 acres, have been a favorite among Chicago area golfers since 1928.

The public course, owned and operated by the Bensenville Park District, is an excellent choice for players of all skill levels. Whether it's an evening at the lighted driving range, a casual round with friends, an outing or special event, White Pines Golf Club offers the perfect setting to get "away from it all." Enjoy food and drink at 37 Bar & Grill. Take advantage of Monday-Thursday tee time specials and book online.



Whitetail Ridge Golf Club

630-882-8988
7671 Clubhouse Dr.
Yorkville, IL 60560
whitetailridgegc.com

Experience a "tail" of two Nines at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club. Our Front Nine flows through a beautiful valley featuring a creek that splits through its relatively flat landscape. Our Back Nine begins on #10 with a climb up the slopes and follows the rolling hills into some towering trees. Finish your day in The Per-simmon Room. This newly renovated space features an indoor/outdoor dining area with shareable dishes, scratch-made entrees, an extensive list of bourbons and whiskey, and the most spectacular sunsets around!



Wilmette Golf Club

847-256-9777
3900 Fairway Dr.
Wilmette, IL 60091
golfwilmette.com

Wilmette Golf Club is the closest 18-hole facility north of Chicago. This par-70 course will test all skill levels with the purest greens on the North Shore. A 30-station driving range and large putting green are available for working on your game. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the patio overlooking the 18th green at The Lawn. Contact us directly to book your next outing or special event. Take advantage of tee time specials by booking online at golfwilmette.com.



Kampen-Cosler Course

765-494-3139
West Lafayette, IN
purduegolf.com

The Kampen-Cosler Course, a Pete Dye design, is an 18-hole, links-style, par-72 championship course features large bent-grass greens, fairways, and tees. The layout is a challenge for golfers of all abilities with vast sand bunkers, native grasslands, ponds, and a natural celery bog. There are five sets of tees with the championship tees playing over 7,400 yards and the forward tees at 5,300 yards.

Kampen-Cosler, one of the top collegiate courses in the nation, has been awarded 4.5 stars on *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play." It receives high marks as one of the most difficult golf courses in Indiana.



Sand Valley

888-398-8671
1697 Leopold Way
Nekoosa, WI 54457
sandvalley.com

Sand Valley is known for its three award-winning golf courses, Sand Valley, Mammoth Dunes, and the Sandbox, which were modeled after the great heathland courses of London. Enjoy dramatic views, a magnitude of strategic playing options, modern lodging, and a culinary experience to match.



Springbrook Golf Course

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

Springbrook GC commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. This 18-hole parkland-style championship course was renovated in 2022, and is expected to re-open in mid-year of 2023 with exciting updates including new tees and bunkers. Work on your swing at the one-acre turf practice tee, or fine tune your short game at the large practice putting green or two short-game practice greens with bunkers. 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 Golf Club

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.



X-Golf Kildeer

847-847-1723
20771 N Rand Rd Suite I-4,
Kildeer, IL 60047
xgolfkildeer.com

XGolf Kildeer offers an upscale indoor golf experience. State-of-the-art golf simulators, full bar, private and semi-private rooms, and wide open floor plan!



X-Golf Libertyville

224-504-2940
1177 S. Milwaukee Ave.
Libertyville, IL 60048
xgolf-libertyville.com

We spent 15 years engineering, learning from golf experts, and creating a simulator of unparalleled accuracy. The result? A completely new experience that lets golfers play on the world's top courses, compete in a wide variety of game formats, and of course – enjoy some of the best golf they've ever played in a high-energy indoor entertainment facility.

Whether a tee time or PGA Professional lesson, X-Golf has it all: a full bar with beer and cocktails, shareable appetizers, and courses designed for all ages and levels from amateurs to professionals.



X-Golf Orland Park

708-966-0486
15876 S. LaGrange Rd.
Orland Park, IL 60462
xgolforlandpark.com

We offer eight state-of-the-art simulators which are designed for golfers at all stages of their game. Whether you want to sharpen your game to gain that competitive edge or are just starting out and want to learn new skills without battling the outdoors, this is the place for you. The simulators can give you data about your swing and ball striking to improve your game and along with that, we can help you take your game to the next level by having a PGA qualified professional on our team.



X-Golf Schaumburg

847-380-1848
1100 American Ln.
Schaumburg, IL 60173
xgolf-schaumburg.com

We spent 15 years engineering, learning from golf experts, and creating a simulator of unparalleled accuracy. The result? A completely new experience that lets golfers play on the world's top courses, compete in a wide variety of game formats, and of course – enjoy some of the best golf they've ever played in a high-energy indoor entertainment facility.

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Start of the Season Brings Back Memories of My Dad

It is winter, but the new golf season is about to begin. That makes me happy but nostalgic, and rekindles the ache of missing my parents, my dad especially.

Our family belonged to Glen Flora Country Club in Waukegan, and it was there most every Saturday and Sunday that you would find my dad taking his compact swing, with that ever-present cigar in his mouth – for a long time until he grumpily gave in to the idea that smoking them was bad for his health. Sometimes, I think, his ball climbed through a cloud of ashes. Oh, and he also used an extra-long tee that would be specially ordered for him. I don't think I ever asked why. I wish I had.

For four years, while I worked at the *Los Angeles Times*, I was tasked with covering the PGA's West Coast swing. It was silly and sad at this time when newspapers began constricting, that the *Times* eliminated the position of full-time golf writer, but it benefited me. For who couldn't enjoy a stroll around the desert out by La Quinta, a walk around the North and South courses at La Jolla, a drive up the coast to Pebble Beach, a trip to the wild Waste Management scene in Scottsdale, all to finish at historic Riviera to make that steep climb up the 18th to the historic clubhouse, winded and a little sunburnt and thinking it was an appropriate way to end that slice of time.

Those courses felt familiar because, growing up, our TV was always tuned to golf on the weekends. Dad traveled a lot . . . he was in sales for a long time . . . and he had managed to play most of those courses. He even managed to play once at the mysterious and very private Pine Valley in New Jersey, and Merion Country Club in Philadelphia, where I had also spent time.

So, after the fourth round of these tournaments, after finishing the interviews but before I started writing, I would often call home and discuss what had unfolded. Dad might analyze shots. Mom, who always loved Arnold Palmer and not so much Jack Nicklaus because, she said, "Jack wastes so much

time with those gyrations," loved to hear nuggets of gossip and it was, momentarily, like being back home.

As Dad became ill, our conversations became shorter but when golf was on, he perked up. I had gone home to visit one weekend during Jordan Spieth's dramatic breakout season. As much of the golf world seemed ready to embrace Spieth as the next big thing to try to fill the void that Tiger Woods had left, I asked dad what he thought. "I don't think so," he said. "That swing won't hold up and those putts aren't going to fall forever." Good analysis, dad.

My one regret during my abbreviated golf-writing time was that I never got into the gates at Augusta National. Closest I came was standing on a traffic median chronicling the Martha Burk crusade to get the club to admit women in 2002. This may make me a bad feminist, but I longed to walk that course because it was a dream of Dad's not to get to play Augusta necessarily, but to at least be in the gallery.

He paid not much attention to Burk or her crusade. He just wanted to see the golf. I don't think he would have much cared about all the hubbub about the LIV Tour either. I suspect those golfers who abandoned the PGA Tour would just have become invisible to dad.

At the end of the West Coast swing, I went back to covering college basketball. It was NCAA tournament time. Dad liked talking college basketball, too, but it was not quite as special. During the golf I could close my eyes and feel as if I was walking hand-in-hand with dad.

Miss you buddy.

Diane Pucin, a Waukegan High and Marquette grad, covered seven Olympics, three Tours de France, all four tennis majors annually, innumerable Final Fours, Villanova and UCLA college basketball, and a pair of World Series and a Super Bowl for the Philadelphia Inquirer and Los Angeles Times.



Who couldn't enjoy a stroll around the desert out by La Quinta, a walk around the North and South courses at La Jolla, a drive up the coast to Pebble Beach, a trip to the wild Waste Management scene in Scottsdale, all to finish at historic Riviera.



The **Golfweek Amateur Tour** is the oldest and largest amateur golf tour in the country! Play is open to all ages and skill levels. The flighted competition is



structured so you're only playing against equally skilled players. You can choose to play any amount of tournaments across the country.

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