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**GOLFChicago**

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**OPENING SHOT****DAVE  
AND  
TIM****Remember Ladies' Day?**

Baseball club owners, trying to attract the fair sex to their ball parks, came up with the idea of free admission for women, starting with the New York Gothams in 1883. Those of us of a certain age can recall Jack Brickhouse touting Ladies' Day each upcoming Tuesday at Wrigley Field summer after summer.

With fairways empty more and more often, especially on weekdays, isn't it time for a Ladies' Day in golf?

Consider June and July Ladies' Months for golf in the Chicago area. The Women's Western Amateur at River Forest Country Club from June 12-17, the KMPG Women's PGA Championship at Olympia Fields Country Club from June 29-July 2, and the Illinois Women's Open at Mistwood Golf Club from July 17-19 is something of a triple crown.

All three are attractive events for spectators, and important for competitors. The Women's Western Am is an early indicator of success on the national scene. The Women's PGA is the second major for the season for the distaff set. And the IWO, while not restricted to Illinoisans, is the top tournament in the state for the ladies.

*"I can't be sure, officer. All I know is one of them came out of nowhere and stole my favorite golf ball."*

Thus, this issue concentrates on women's golf, featuring a preview of the Women's PGA and the key holes at Olympia Fields, and, farther afield, the choice courses for women in the area, the latter written by Neal Kotlarek, having returned from the wilderness of Wisconsin.

There's more: Todd Mrowice ventured to the Quad Cities to delve into the community-wide charity success that is the John Deere Classic; plus all the usual departments, including a report on the NCAA Championships at Rich Harvest Farms in Sweet Home Chicago.

Kindly turn the page, ladies. Guys, you too.

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## THE GOOD STUFF

Compiled by Greg Jourdan

### Bombs Away

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AUTHOR OF FINAL ROUNDS

The premise for James Dodson's latest title,

*The Range Bucket List*, is interesting and endearing. Dodson uncovered his teenage "Things to Do in Golf" list. Each item on his boyhood list is a chapter of the author's life as a journalist. Beyond reflection, *The Range Bucket List* reveals encounters with Arnold Palmer, fascinating characters in Scotland, and a special covert golf trip into Fidel Castro's Cuba.

Dodson's trip back to that adolescent list is an adventure for readers, especially golfers who like to chew on a dram of scotch as they hunker down for a tale that is spun by one of the game's best storytellers.

\$27 ISBN: 9781476746715



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Ping's PLD2 limited-edition putters merge a highly stable design with vivid graphics. The Camo Ketsch Realtree Xtra and the Camo Ketsch Muddy Girl (shown) models employ a milled 6061 aluminum head with multi-colored camo graphics that include a distinctive alignment aid that takes the guessing out of putting. While on the hunt for birdies, the low center of gravity promotes a faster forward roll to get the ball to the hole. The PLD2 Camo Ketsch Realtree Xtra and Camo Ketsch Muddy Girl putters are available from Ping and Ping Authorized golf shops.

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\$59.99 [www.rollinggolf.com](http://www.rollinggolf.com)



### Be Like Bryson

The PGA Tour's Bryson DeChambeau has his own bravura. His on-course fashion sense has mass appeal for seasoned golfers who do not embrace some of today's bolder apparel options. Puma Golf's Heritage Collection brings classic designs back onto the fairways. Puma's Ignite Spikeless Sport shoe is pure comfort with a blend of performance mesh and premium leather. This shoe will have you walking on a foam cloud, yet the Grip Zone Traction provides stability from any billy goat lie you may encounter. Top off your Heritage Collection ensemble with the Tour Driver Cap. The stylish lid is eternally en vogue as long as you wear it facing forward – don't be that guy who turns it backwards.

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# Do Simple Things Simply

**B**efore the pressure of having to put your mid-season short game form to the test, it might be worthwhile to remind yourself to Do Simple Things Simply. Repeat after me; when I can putt the ball I will putt the ball, when I can't putt the ball I will chip, and only when I can't putt or chip will I attempt a pitch shot.

The person you're going to beat this weekend stopped reading after the previous sentence, and is now looking on another page for a coupon for a new lob wedge and mumbling "my grooves must be worn." Let him keep hitting those pitch shots from two yards off the green with thirty feet of putting surface to work with. His pitches are going to be followed by another pitch. You know there is a more simple way

that is dependable. Your chips are going to be followed by putts.

If you're like me, golf can sometimes seem as hard as hitting a piñata blindfolded. So, the method we employ to make strokes is clearly important. However, I often see players using stances, ball positions, and handle positions that don't look at all like they are intended to achieve the objectives.

Golf has two simple truths that apply here: 1) the bottom of the club must get to the bottom of the ball, and 2) the clubface must be pointed in the direction we intend the ball to travel. The absence of these two factors makes for a long day on the links. When they are executed, the ball rolls or flies easily and we see the ball actually going in the direction we intended. Most players have little

difficulty performing these tasks with a putter. Ask yourself, when was the last time you shanked or topped a putt?

I propose you make simple shots simple by using a putting set-up and stroke for chipping around the green. In Figure 1, junior golfer Michael Gentile is holding a putter and an 8 iron. As you can see, the 8 iron is longer and has a significantly different shaft angle than the putter. In Figures 2 and 3, Michael is addressing the ball with his 8 iron just like it was his putter. In order to do that he needs to choke down on the 8 iron and change the shaft angle. He will also put the leading edge of the club in the center of his stance (like his putter) and use his putting grip. You will notice that the sole of the club is up on the toe. This is exactly what you

want here, because the toe of the club will cut through the turf more easily. From this set-up position you will use a putting stroke to brush the turf and the ball will come out nicely. Remember, this is a putting stroke. So, no wrist hinge, no weight shift, and no hip turn. Keep it simple.

Putting with a lofted club is the simplest way to chip balls around the green. This shot is best suited for short shots with no obstacles to fly over and some putting surface to allow for roll. Please experiment using your 9 iron, pitching wedge, and gap wedge. The higher lofted clubs should produce less roll once the ball has found the green. This method will create a foundation for the rest of your short game. Use it often. Good luck.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3

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## INSTRUCTION

JOHN ESPOSITO



# Take Fear Out Of Your Game

I've often thought, how can I help my students achieve success with their games? Sure I can improve their technique and that's a start, but there's quite often something missing beyond that. That "something" I'm referring to is the fear factor. Fear has a way of taking an athletic person who plays most sports with confidence and rhythm, but when it comes to golf turns them into a player who swings with a total loss of balance, too much tension, and as much rhythm as the person dancing with two left feet.

Let's talk about some of the causes of this fear and increased frustration. First off, many golfers arrive at the course with hardly any time to spend getting properly warmed up. They arrive at just about their tee time and rush to get checked in, then head out to the first tee. They'll take a couple of practice

swings and off they go. They will then play at least five or six holes before any semblance of rhythm shows up, and at that point a third of their holes have already been played. When your golf ball is going every which way, that lack of proficiency leads to an erosion of confidence. That is not the recipe for success!

How about arriving at the course a minimum of 30 minutes before your tee time. Begin with stretching a bit to get those muscles warmed up. Then head out to the short game area to get some feel in your hands. After you have worked on a variety of short shots: chipping, pitching and sand, head over to the putting green to get the feel of the speed of the greens. Remember, 65 percent of your score is from 100 yards and in. You can then proceed to the range to hit your full shots starting with your short irons and working yourself

up to your driver. It amazes me how many people start hitting the driver right away. No professional golfer would ever warm up like that and neither should you.

Regain the enjoyment of your game by learning to become better at time management. Allowing enough time to get ready and prepare for the next 4.5 hours spent on the course will permit a more relaxed start to your round. This will most assuredly lead to better scores and enjoyment. Should you find after you continue to prepare properly for your rounds that there's some swing flaws you need to work on, that's when you go see your PGA professional to get those kinks worked out. Until then, give this new approach a try ... you won't be disappointed!

John Esposito is the director of instruction at Bowes Creek Country Club.



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# Sweet Home Chicago



## Wildcats Fall Short In NCAA Women's Championship

A year ago, Northwestern's women's golf team came up a stroke short of the match-play portion of the NCAA Championship.

That stuck with the Wildcats all year, and this time, despite one more setback between then and the NCAAs, they did it – and almost won it all.

Northwestern dropped the championship match to Arizona State, 3.5-1.5, at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove on May 24, collecting the runner-up trophy and more attention than any women's golf team in school history.

And they loved it.

"We all feel pretty blessed to be here," senior Kacie Komoto said after entering the press trailer and discovering there would be a full-blown news conference, complete with microphones, lights, nameplates and – drum roll, please – cups of water.

"They gave us water!" a couple of players giggled.

No longer would there be anonymity for Northwestern women's golf. The Wildcats earned the spotlight, first by win-



Northwestern's players, led by senior Kacie Komoto, with the runner-up trophy, and with head coach Emily Fletcher (right) celebrate their second-place finish in the NCAA Championship at Rich Harvest Farms. (Tim Cronin)



ning the stroke-play competition – which would have meant the title in the era before match play was added – then by knocking off Kent State in the quarterfinals and Southern California in the semifinals, the latter in a storm-delayed rally hours before facing the Sun Devils in the final.

The motivation all went back to last year, and then to the Big Ten tournament, where a 10-stroke lead disappeared and the Wildcats were forced to share first with Michigan State.

"This group believed it was going to win the Big Ten championship this year," Wildcats coach Emily Fletcher said. "After we didn't, we said, 'We can be better. We learned something about ourselves at the Big Ten. And we decided we weren't going to feel sorry about ourselves."

Taking the stroke play with a total of 33-over 897 was the start. Fletcher thought it possible at the start of the year, but getting it done was another thing.

"This is pretty special, amazing," Fletcher said. "I thought, returning all five players, we had the best lineup, one to five, all year. We finally got all five players going at the same time, and that's the difference, really."

Komoto was the only Wildcat to win her match in the finals, beating Sophie Zeeb, 3 and 1, but everyone lifted hard to get there, including Sarah Cho, Hannah Kim, Janet Mao, and Stephanie Lau. Mao paced the rally against USC in the semi, beating opponent Gabriella Then with a par on the 19th hole to lock up the finals berth.

"There was not a doubt in my mind when I stood over that putt," Mao said.

And there is little doubt that Northwestern now belongs in the top rank of women's college golf.

## Illinois Men Derailed In NCAA Semifinal

Mike Small can be excused for feeling a bit like Sisyphus these days.

Time after time, Small has brought an Illinois team to the NCAA Championship.

Oklahoma's trophy-kissing players are surrounded by their fans on Rich Harvest Farms' 17th green after Brad Dalke beat Oregon's Sulman Raza to lock up the NCAA title in the final match. (Tim Cronin)

Time after time, he's gone away with nothing but memories of what might have been – or, in one case, a second-place trophy, which in itself is a reminder of what might have been, mocking you from the trophy case.

This time, the fifth time in succession and sixth time in seven years, a top-five finish, but once again not the top finish he and his team were looking for. If it pained Small, who has built a powerhouse within the Big Ten and was once again the only squad of the final eight in to represent the north half of the United States, he did his best not to show it.

"Do we all want to win? Yeah, we do," Small said after Oklahoma had scored a 3.5-1.5 victory in the May 30 semifinal at Rich Harvest Farms, "but I'm good with it, I really am. But I told the guys the fun is the ride, the journey. It really is. To get this close, it is tough not to win, but I'm not going to get hung up on that. I'm going to take away being in Chicago, the fans, the way they treated other teams, the way they treated our guys, the response our fans got from Golf Channel and worldwide is really cool. They were awesome. There's never been consistent crowds like this at the national championship. That speaks volumes for Illini Nation and golf."

"We would have loved to have given them a win, but this was a young team that overachieved. We really did."

It appeared all five of the achievers would be back next year, until sophomore Edoardo Lipparelli revealed that he's turning pro, returning to Italy, and hoping for exemptions on the European Challenge Tour until the European Tour qualifying tournament. But Dylan Meyer and Nick Hardy, Illinois' 1-2 punch, will return. Meyer rebounded from a so-so NCAA sectional at Purdue, coming days after he was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis (for which he'll have to take treatments the rest of his life) to lead the Fighting Illini emotionally and in fist pumps, with Hardy the 1A to Meyer's 1.

Emotion coupled with shotmaking and putts falling in a timely fashion is how the Illini came back on the back nine to beat USC. Hardy and freshman

## Down Memory Lane

### How The Women's Tour Began

Women's professional golf, being celebrated at Olympia Fields at the end of June, didn't start with the LPGA.

It started almost accidentally with the Chicago-headquartered Women's Western Golf Association.

Those hardy few female pros either held down a place in a pro shop or gave lessons and hoped for a few dollars from exhibitions. There was not only no professional tour, there was nobody planning to start one. There was only the Women's Western Open to play in. And in 1935, two of them would.

Babe Zaharias and Helen Hicks – the most famous female athlete of them all and a real estate salesperson eager to get back to golf – were the pair. Zaharias had been

ruled a professional by the USGA for playing basketball and baseball for money. Hicks was lured to the pro ranks – as a "businesswomen golfer" in the dainty prose of the era – by Wilson boss L.B. Icely, who was trying to sell golf equipment to women as well as men.

Neither made it to the match-play final at Sunset Ridge in 1935, but Hicks would win in 1937 and the Babe would score four victories, three as a reinstated amateur and in 1950 as a professional.

Hicks won a laurel, and a hearty handshake, for beating Bea Barrett in the 1937 final match at Beverly Country Club. There wasn't prize money until 1941, a fat \$100 going to winner Patty Berg. Zaharias collected \$500 for knocking off Peggy Kirk at Cherry Hills outside of Denver. That was not a lot of money for winning a golf title even in 1950, but it was a start, and a hint of what would come more than a generation later. Women's professional golf, thanks to the WWGA, had a foot in the game.

– Tim Cronin

Babe Didrikson Zaharias with the U.S. Women's Amateur trophy in 1946.



Giovanni Tadiotto, like Lipparelli from Italy, turned around their matches and scored points, plus a halve from Meyer. Only freshman Michael Feagles was beaten.

But the Illini ran out of gas, especially mentally, in the semifinal that afternoon. Said Tadiotto of his match against Max McGreevy, "I gave out a lot of gifts. Too much stuff like three-putts. In a national championship, you can't give out gifts."

Both Tadiotto and Feagles met their end on the par-4 17th, making double-boogey. Hundreds of Illinois fans – galleries for the two weeks of championship play totaled 16,425, unheard of in college golf – went home disappointed.

"It's tough it ended this way," Lipparelli said of both the tournament and his Illini career. "I hoped this would end on a higher note."

And with that hole in the trophy case filled. Maybe next year, when Bryan Baumgarten has a shot at a full-time role.

#### Golf.Give.Gala. Golf Outing

Superstar athletes Michael Phelps (left) and Jason Day helped earn over \$500,000 for worthy charities at the Golf.Give.Gala. golf outing held at Saint Charles C.C. on May 22nd. Sponsored by ALE Solutions, the nation's largest provider of temporary housing for families displaced by natural disasters, the event benefited the Jason Day Brighter Days Foundation and the Michael Phelps Foundation.

#### Horton Smith

Only Tiger Woods won more quickly and more often upon joining the pro circuit than Horton Smith, the "Joplin Ghost." He won 13 times on Tour while connected to Oak Park Country Club, and was made an honorary member of the club. Smith's career total of 28 individual tournament wins and four more in team play rank him 15th in PGA Tour history.

At 22, Smith won seven times in five months, was put on the Ryder Cup team in 1929, and captured 13 titles worldwide before the spring of 1930. Smith, the only player to beat Bobby Jones in the year of Jones' Grand Slam, is best known for winning the first and third Masters Tournaments, triumphs that came after he recovered from a broken arm and while he was the professional at Oak Park.

Deeply involved in PGA of America business, Smith served as president in 1952-54, during which time the Tour began a long, slow move toward racial integration. He also pushed for continuing education by professionals.



#### Gary Hallberg

A two-time winner of both the Illinois Amateur (1978-79) and Illinois Open (1977-82), Berwyn's Gary Hallberg flashed onto the leader board with a victory in the 1976 Western Junior. Success followed success nationally: a Walker Cup berth in 1977, back-to-back wins in the North and South

Amateur, the 1979 NCAA title, and the first four-time first-team All-American in golf while at Wake Forest.

Locally, he studded his amateur career with the 1977 Illinois Open victory and also had a 4-0 record in the Radix Cup, with membership on the second and third amateur teams to win. Hallberg scored three victories on the PGA Tour, losing twice in sudden-death playoffs, and has one Champions Tour victory to date.

#### Gary Groh

Gary Groh was 30 when he won the 1975 Hawaiian Open in his fifth season on the PGA Tour. But his decision to find a club job and reserve his competitive golf for Mondays led to a longtime position at Bob O' Link C.C. in Highland Park.

He quickly commenced a remarkable run of success on the Illinois PGA circuit. Groh won the 1994 Illinois Open and four Illinois PGA Championships, the last in 2002, when he was 57. He won 15 Illinois Senior majors from 1995 through 2004. In the Radix Cup, he had

a 10-3-2 record and was undefeated from 1986 through 1999.

"This was by far the hardest selection that the committee has experienced since I've been on the committee," said selection committee chairman Tim Cronin. "We had 12 great candidates and unfortunately we were only able to get three over the finish line. Any of the dozen

would have made great inductees, but we have a wonderful and distinguished class with the three inductees."

The Hall of Fame Selection Committee consists of representatives from the Allied Golf Associations, (Illinois PGA, Chicago District Golf Association, Illinois Junior Golf Association, Western Golf Association, and Midwest Association of Golf Course Superintendents), Hall of Fame Veterans, local media, and at-large appointments.

#### Women's Western GA, Western GA To Oversee WWGA Championships

The Western Golf Association and the Women's Western Golf Association are forming a new partnership in which the WGA will assist in managing WWGA championships beginning August 1.

The new agreement also provides for the WGA to help guide the Women's Western Golf Foundation, which was founded by the WWGA in 1971 and has awarded more than \$3.5 million in scholarships to more than 690 young women from across the country.

The history of connections between the two organizations dates back more than 116 years, as the WGA was the initial sponsor of the Western Women's Amateur in 1901. The women organized their own association in 1903, creating the Women's Western Golf Association. In 2011, the WGA agreed to provide administrative support to WWGA championships beginning in 2012.

As part of the new five-year agreement, the WGA will help stage and promote the WWGA's Women's Western Amateur Championship and the Women's Western Junior Championship and secure host sites for the events.

The 117th Women's Western Amateur Championship was played June 12-17 at River Forest Country Club in Elmhurst, while the 91st Women's Junior Championship will be held July 10-14 at Dubuque Golf and Country Club in Dubuque, Iowa.

"The history between these two golf associations goes back to the beginnings of the Women's Western Golf Association. We have had a great relationship with the Western Golf Association through the

years," said WWGA president Frances Fleckenstein. "After forming our partnership again in 2011, we now look forward to taking the next step to having their full support, which will be beneficial to both our organizations."

WGA Chairman David Robinson said the partnership is a perfect fit for the two historic organizations.

"We're excited to be deepening our relationship with the WWGA, which has done so much in the Midwest and across the country for women's golf," said Robinson. "It is an organiza-

tion whose values and storied history of championships and scholarships are very much aligned with our own."

The two organizations also jointly sponsor a Women's Western Evans Scholar, awarding a four-year tuition and housing college scholarship to a female caddie who excels academically, has an outstanding caddie record, and demonstrates financial need. The current Women's Western Evans Scholar is Hannah Gillespie, who is completing her freshman year at the University of Notre Dame.

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The Chicago area's commitment to women's golf will be spectacularly affirmed as June turns into July, when the best female golfers in the world take on Olympia Fields Country Club at the KPMG Women's PGA Championship. In fact, 2017 may one day be considered a watershed year for area women's golf, as the country's best college players took on Rich Harvest Farms at the NCAA Women's Championship and the best amateurs in the country, including many of those collegians, teed off in the 117th Women's Western Amateur at River Forest Country Club.

The stages for these three major events serve as a reminder that there is no one particular style or length of course suited to women. Rich Harvest Farms is a long, mostly wide-open layout that places a premium on accuracy to large, rolling and fast greens. River Forest serves

up tree-lined holes from No. 1 to 18 to mandate precision-placed tee shots. Olympia Fields Country Club is, interestingly enough, a hybrid of these other two courses as trees line many fairways yet fronting bunkers on most greens make the course play much longer as long, lofted approach shots are needed to reach flagsticks.

The Chicago area has made major strides in accommodating women golfers over the past decade for a variety of reasons. With trends showing less demand from older men and millennials, female participation in the sport has trended upwards based upon a number of factors, including more exposure to women's golf on cable TV, the popularity of golf at the 2016 Rio Olympics, and greater emphasis on individual sports at the high

school and college levels. It should be obvious to all by now that women's golf isn't about red tees placed 50 yards in front of the men's tees. Joanne Klatten leads the LPGA Tour with an average driving distance of 277 yards, followed closely by Lexi Thompson and Brittany Lincicome at 274 yards. Length, of course, doesn't always translate to wins, as Ariya Jutanugarn, fighting with Lydia Ko for the No. 1 ranking, is a mere 5-foot-7 and ranks only 36th in driving distance. But Jutanugarn ranks 1st in sub-par holes and birdies and 8<sup>th</sup> in scoring average.

While there might not be one type of golf hole in Chicagoland that serves as a prototype for women's golf, there are an array of courses across the area that focus on women by offer-

ing leagues, tournaments, and special programs. Here are the four leaders.

#### **Mistwood Golf Club, Romeoville**

Perennial home to the Phil Kosin Illinois Women's Open sponsored by BMO Harris Bank, Mistwood G.C. caters to virtually every type of player due to the property's multiple tee options, large greens, impeccable conditions, amazing practice facility, and wide fairways. This year's Open tees off July 17 for a three-day run with an expected field of over 50 of the best women players across the state and region.

The signature hole on the course is the 335-yard (from the blue tees) No. 12. Appropriately nicknamed "Deep Pot," the hole features an

# Women Have a Home in Area Golf

By Neal Kotalrek

imposing sod-stacked pot bunker that lurks in front of a large green. Hit your approach shot over or around that bunker or confront an intimidating sand shot that must be elevated over 10 feet over the bunker's lip.

For reservations and tee times, visit [www.mistwoodgolf.net](http://www.mistwoodgolf.net).

### Pine Meadow Golf Club, Libertyville

Host to the Illinois Women's Amateur Championship June 19–22, and the club's own Women's Shootout on September 18, this 5,484-yard layout (from the women's tournament tees) serves up a vast variety of hole types, including the always challenging 352-yard dogleg third hole. It starts with a tee shot along the ominous Lake Cooke on the left and then angles toward a narrow green protected on both sides by yawning sand bunkers.

Pine Meadows was named America's best new public golf course in 1986 by *Golf Digest*, and was designed by Joe Lee and Rocky Roquemore. Operated by the legendary Jemsek Golf group, the property is highlighted by an amazing Golf Learning Center that includes target greens, sand bunkers and multiple practice greens. The club is also home to the Executive Women's Golf Association – Chicago Chapter, a 9-hole league with Tuesday evening tee times beginning at 5 p.m. The first session of the league began in May. The second session begins in July. For more information, contact Judie at (847) 226-6520 or e-mail: [pinemeadows@ewgachicago.org](mailto:pinemeadows@ewgachicago.org). The Executive Women's Golf Association – Chicago website is: [www.ewgachicago.org](http://www.ewgachicago.org).

### Ravisloe Golf Club, Homewood

Formerly one of Chicagoland's elite South Side country clubs, this historic layout was designed by James Foulis in 1901 and received a renovation by none other than Donald Ross beginning in 1915. In 2009, renowned veterinary surgeon Claude Gendreau rescued the property from foreclosure and sunk millions of dollars to restore both the course and the clubhouse.

The course is characterized by gently rolling hills, tree-lined fairways and large sand bunkers around most greens. It plays to 5,243 yards from the women's tees. The 103-yard No. 15 is a classic par-3 that calls for a tee shot over a small creek directed toward a circular green virtually surrounded by sand with three small bunkers on the left side, one long bunker on the right side and two others short and to the right. Ladies Day Thursdays at Ravisloe include special rates of \$35 walking and \$41 riding. For more information, visit [www.ravisloe.com](http://www.ravisloe.com).

### Harborside International, Chicago

Perhaps the greatest golf engineering project in the history of Illinois golf, this 36-hole complex was a landfill of inorganic waste and construction materials in the early 1990s. The Illinois International Port District enlisted architects Dick and Tim Nugent to use their wizardly skills to design the Port and Starboard courses, both still considered among the top 20 layouts in the state. The necessarily treeless landscape creates a Scottish links feel to both courses with fescue-covered mounds protecting most fairways and adding to that seaside ambiance.

The Port Course plays to 5,977 from the regular tees and 5,164 yards from the forward tees. Its signature hole (and the entire complex's signature hole, for that matter) is the playful 134-yard No. 15. Wonder why it is called "Anchor Hole" on the scorecard? Look out from the tee of this par-3 and you'll be rewarded with the answer. A swirl of sand bunkers surround a grassy patch of land just short of the green that, indeed, is shaped precisely like a ship's anchor. The green itself is fascinating as its middle section curves around the tip of the anchor to create the shape of an arched eyebrow.

Harborside International features a 9-hole Ladies League played Tuesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. Play rotates between the Port and Starboard courses. Complimentary lesson clinics are provided weekly, with weekly and season prizes awarded. For more information and tee times, visit: [www.harborstadegolf.com](http://www.harborstadegolf.com).



The famed anchor in a bunker on Harborside International Port's 15th hole is a nifty sight from the air, but best avoided when playing. (Courtesy Harborside International)



Everywhere you turn at Pine Meadow, there's another scenic sight. (Courtesy Pine Meadow)

# Women's PGA: More Than Major

By Tim Cronin



T

here's a reason the PGA of America selected Olympia Fields Country Club to host the KMPG Women's PGA Championship. It's big enough to host something that's more than a major championship.

The golf – the second women's major of the year – will be in the spotlight beginning June 29, when the first round is played. But before then, several sideshows that are unique to the week will take place.

The biggest is a business conference that could have been held anywhere but is taking place at Olympia Fields at KMPG's behest: a women's leadership summit featuring big names in

economics, politics and sports.

"We ask CEOs in their organization to identify two women who are just steps away from the [corporate] suite," said KMPG U.S. chairman Lynne Doughtie of a gathering which began when the PGA of America took over management of the LPGA Championship from the LPGA in 2014 and convinced KMPG to become the title sponsor. "They become part of this summit, and they are inspired by what's going on around them with golf, but it's also a year-long program. And this year, they are going to have another great lineup of incredible speakers."

Those include former U.S. Secretary of State (and current

Augusta National member) Condoleezza Rice, IBM chairman Ginni Rometty, and Olympics notables Lindsay Vonn and Michelle Kwan.

"It's really cool to have the Olympians there talking to women in business, as well as the players and the things that they have had to overcome," Doughtie said. "There's application for all of us to learn and be inspired by that."

Proceeds from the summit go to fund college scholarships through a Future Leaders initiative. The recipients, high school girls who have passed muster though a rigorous qualifying process, will also be on hand.

The reason for all the extra-curricular activity? The orga-



Former U.S. Secretary of State (and current Augusta National member) Condoleezza Rice



L to R: LPGA commissioner Mike Whan, KPMG U.S. chairman Lynne Doughtie, defending champion Brooke Henderson, Stacey Lewis and PGA of America Paul Levy



nizers believe it's one more way, however subtle, to increase interest in golf.

"It fits very much our mission of growing the game of golf, and also the excitement we see in junior golf," PGA of America president Paul Levy said. "Junior golf in America the last five years has grown over half a million and the largest part of growth in that segment is young girls."

As for the golf, this will be the first women's championship on Olympia's fabled North Course since the 1933 Women's Western Open, which was won by Olympia member June Beebe. An outsider will win this time, plus cash a

\$525,000 check, but who?

Among the contenders, these four stand out:

- Brooke Henderson, the Canadian who knocked off Lydia Ko on the first hole of sudden-death at Sahalee last year, could repeat, though her game is a bit off last year's form.

- Ko, the New Zealander who hasn't won since last July and recently surrendered the No. 1 spot in the women's rankings, has been playing better and is due.

- Lexi Thompson, the American whose misplayed ball in the third round of the ANA Inspiration – the year's first major – brought about a four-stroke penalty late in

the final round, and who has won since, will have plenty to prove.

- Ariya Jutanugarn, the Thai who recently supplanted Ko as No. 1 and was one stroke out of last year's playoff, has an extra incentive. She won the 2011 U.S. Girls Junior on Olympia's South Course, so could become the first player since Walter Hagen to win titles on both North and South (a Western Open and a PGA on what were then known as No. 4 and No. 1, respectively).

"We're going to have the best female golfers from all over the world that have taken their whole lives to make it to this level, and really what they want is they

want to play in a forum where the best are going to play each other week-in and week-out," said LPGA Commissioner Mike Whan.

"And they have all got individual stories, whether you grew up in South America, North America, Asia, Europe, to get here is an unbelievable venture. Last year we had 41 different countries playing in Q-School trying to make it to the LPGA. What's happening in women's golf right now is unbelievably exciting because it's borderless. Doesn't matter where you grew up. You can have this dream.

"There's probably already somebody who has shown you can make it here. But if you come

out here and watch the KPMG Women's PGA Championship, you're going to see the best female athletes from all over the world. You're going to see some incredible youth. You're going to see players that can't rent a car yet but can win this tournament. You're going to see players that have actually won this tournament before and are still playing. You're going to see players from countries all over the globe. You'll see flags from all over the world.

"We create an Olympic experience every week."

A bevy of U.S. fan favorites, including Cristie Kerr, Michelle Wie, Stacy Lewis, and Paula

Creamer will also be on hand, along with the international contingent that makes the LPGA circuit unique in the game. Only on the women's tour can someone from the Republic of China – a.k.a. Taiwan – like Candie Kung, tee it up in the same group with Shanshan Feng from the mainland People's Republic of China, to say nothing of the Korean wing of the series, including ANA Inspiration winner So Yeon Ryu and multi-major winner Inbee Park.

They'll be playing on – and sometimes against – a course that has challenged the best for over 90 years, and seen everyone from Walter Hagen to Sam Snead to



June Beebe (by then, June Beebe Atwood) in front of the Olympia Fields clubhouse in 1935.



With the trophy after winning the 2011 U.S. Girls Junior at Olympia Fields. (Courtesy Olympia Fields Country Club)



Julius Mason quizzes Brooke Henderson and Stacy Lewis



Mason, Paul Levy, Lynne Doughtie and Mike Whan take questions



The original LPGA Championship trophy, still awarded to the champion



Jack Nicklaus to Jim Furyk come out on top.

It's a course that demands precision off the tee, accuracy with approaches, a sterling short game, and perfect touch with the putter. Rare is the flat green, rarer still is a straight putt. The patient player who can roll with the punches and roll the ball as well is the player who will succeed.

The move of the LPGA to partner with the PGA of America for a major championship that would change the name of the event was looked upon with a raised eyebrow by many in golf when the decision was announced.

Three-time winner Patty

Sheehan tweeted almost immediately, "Diminish the LPGA to uplift PGA," and called the renaming to Women's PGA "a slap in the face."

Others, including LPGA legend and 1990 winner Beth Daniel, also objected, but the change, which included an increase in the purse and a better television deal, seems to have taken the LPGA Championship to a higher plane, no matter what the name.

For one thing, the courses are better. Westchester and Sahalee hosted the first two years of the new deal, Olympia Fields North this year, Kemper Lakes in Hawthorn Woods next year, and Hazeltine Na-

tional near the Twin Cities in 2019. That's a major championship lineup, and worlds apart from playing at the Jack Nicklaus Sports Center, next to an amusement park near Cincinnati, as the LPGA Championship was anchored for most of the 1980s. There seemed to be a roller coaster around every corner.

Now, it's the courses that provide the thrill ride.

"When you're talking about this major, you're talking about 1955 to today," said Whan, the Chicago Heights native whose idea it was and who made it happen in conjunction with PGA of America CEO Pete Bevacqua. "When we first got together and started

talking about this idea, we knew we had to understand, respect and embrace the past while we elevated this to a new level, because you know, when you look on the trophy up there, you're going to see names like Whitworth and Rawls and Lopez and Sorenstam and the names just go on and on. It's a Who's Who of women's golf.

"This is major in terms of what goes on on the golf course. It's major in terms of NBC and Golf Channel coverage. It's major in terms of the size, purse, Rolex Ranking points, and all the things that will change the lives of female athletes that are among the best 156 in the world. But it's ma-

jer in terms of women pursuing their career in business. It's major in terms of young women getting the opportunity to go to college.

"And so yes, it's a major championship, but I just always call this the major because it's major in so many other ways, and I think when we first talked about doing this, when we got together with the PGA of America, we were talking about a major championship. When we met [KMPG officials], they turned it into a major event, and I think that's really been pretty special. That's why we're so proud of this thing because our vision wasn't as good as theirs, and when you really are on

to something is when somebody takes your idea and takes it to the next level.

"So I hope that both players that have won this tournament from 1955 to today realize that what we have done is taken it up a notch, I've said this many times, if you meet the founders of the LPGA, at least when they are talking to me, and I'm pretty sure when they are talking to the Stacys and Brookes of the world, they generally ask us to do one thing, and that's leave the game better for the next generation of women."

That's something Olympia Fields can handle.



Brooke Henderson during an Olympia Fields practice round



Brooke Henderson hoisting the championship trophy last year



The championship trophy on the 10th green, with the famed clock tower in the background

# Olympia Fields' Four Swing Holes

Text and photos by  
Tim Cronin

K

MPG Women's PGA Championship viewers with good memories will be familiar with the North Course of Olympia Fields Country Club. The course will use the same configuration as was used in the 2003 U.S. Open and 2015 U.S. Amateur, with the first and 10th holes the same as for the members, and the remainder of the front and back nines flipped to afford more room for spectators, especially on the final holes.

What doesn't change is the degree of difficulty. The course, from a design by Willie Park Jr., opened in 1925 and has hardly been changed, aside from added length.

Said Park when he came up with the design, "I have examined thousands of places adaptable for an ideal golf course, both in Europe and America. I have never seen a more natural setting for a championship course.

I am satisfied now that your No. 4 course is the equal of any golf course I have ever seen and I know of none that is superior, either in beauty or natural terrain."

If anything, the course is more like Park's creation than it was when Jim Furyk was winning the U.S. Open. Since then, and in advance of the U.S. Amateur, consulting architect Mark Mungeum and club officials went back to aerial photos and found several bunkers, including centerline bunkers on the tournament's 14th and 17th holes, that had been turfed over in a modernization effort prior to the 1961 PGA. When a backhoe dug into the turf, the original sand was still there.

There's both opportunity for heroics and trouble on every hole. Here are four that could, by virtue of their design and place in the batting order, make a difference in who wins or loses.

## No. 1 • Par 5 • 525 yards

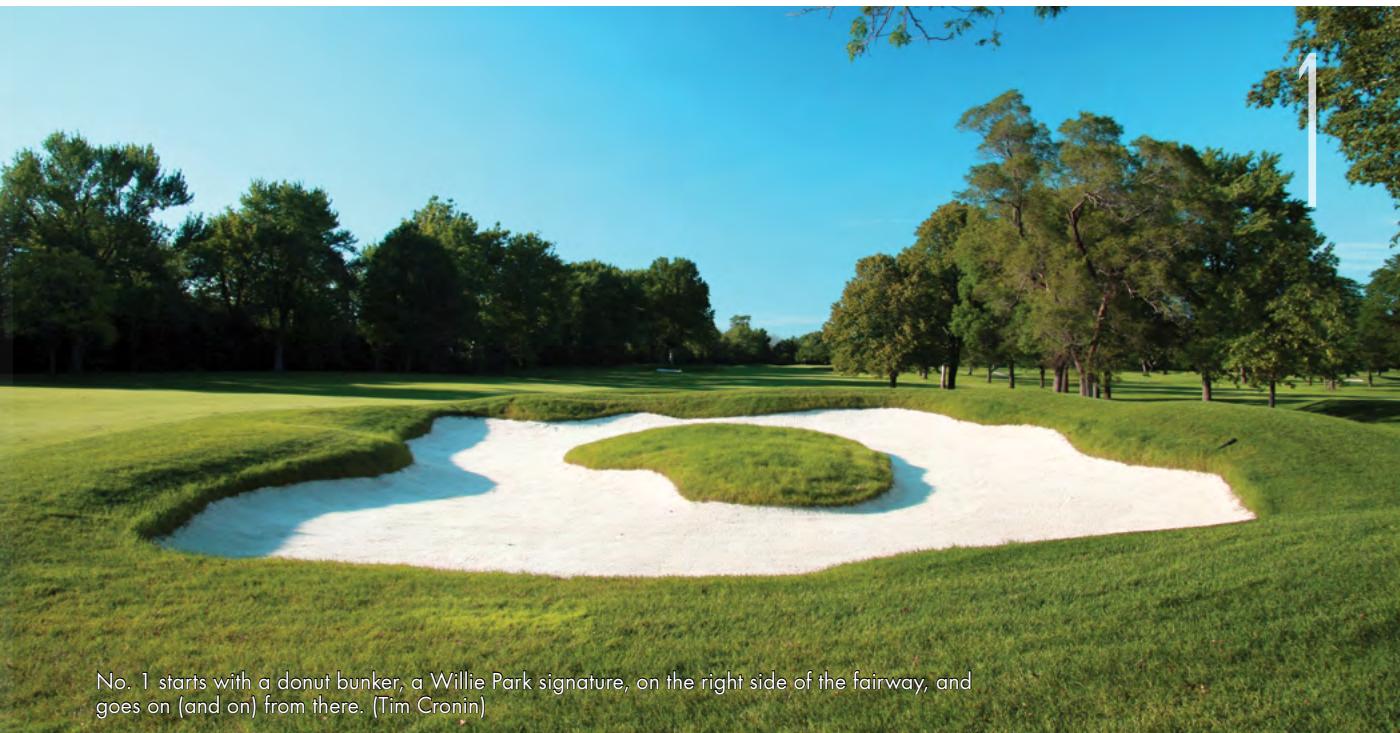
The opening hole on North can be hard or impossibly hard, depending on the tee selected. Go all the way back, and feel free to buy a Metra ticket, so close is the back tee to the tunnel under the railroad. Just stay out of the donut bunker on the right, a Willie Park Jr. trademark.

A solid uphill second leaves a pitch to a green with enough movement to demand attention. Par is a great score on a great opening hole.

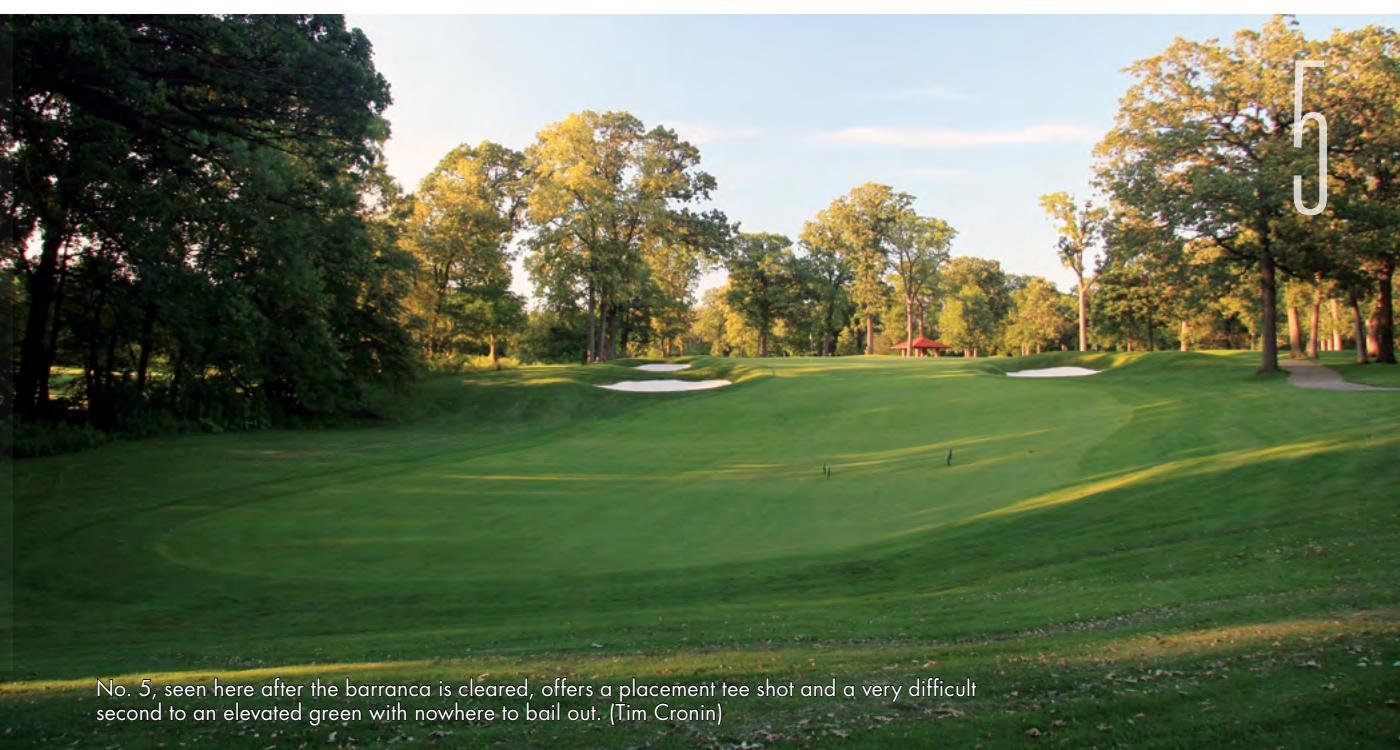
## No. 5 • Par 4 • 420 yards

A fabled hole, with good reason. The 5th (usually the member 14th) has caused many heartbreaks over the years. It's just a hard hole, starting with the tee shot from the elevated tee to the fairway in the valley some 30 feet below. Miss left, and trees are the problem. Miss right, and Butterfield Creek might bring a headache.

From the fairway, the goal is just to clear the creek and barranca for some. The favored can go for the canted green, which is well beyond the creek at the top of the rise, but with a false front from which balls have been known to roll 30 yards away.



No. 1 starts with a donut bunker, a Willie Park signature, on the right side of the fairway, and goes on (and on) from there. (Tim Cronin)



No. 5, seen here after the barranca is cleared, offers a placement tee shot and a very difficult second to an elevated green with nowhere to bail out. (Tim Cronin)

### No. 12 • Par 4 • 409 yards

An All-American hole that has seen many great moments, most recently Bryson DeChambeau's closing out Derek Bard on the 30th hole of the championship match to win the 2015 U.S. Amateur.

The tee shot must find the lower fairway, preferably on the left side. Then the challenge is to hit the tilted green about 20 feet above you and stay below the hole.

June Beebe did so in 1933 en route to the Women's Western Open crown; Jerry Barber missed the green, but pitched in to save par in the final round of the 1961 PGA.

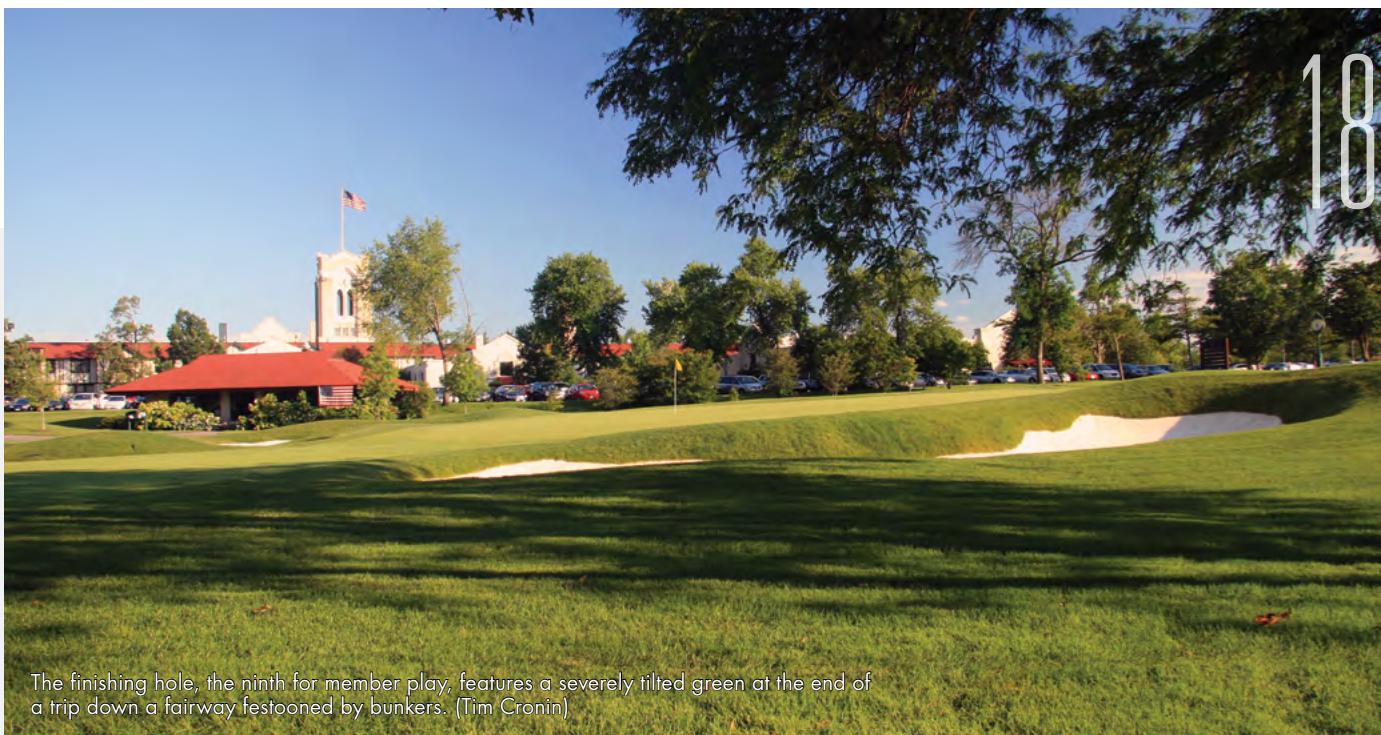


No. 12 is usually the third hole, and offers a dramatic tee shot over the cliff to a fairway misaligned with the upper fairway, and a second shot to a cliffs' edge green. (Tim Cronin)

### No. 18 • Par 5 • 472 yards

The severity of the tilt in the ninth green is generally felt more than seen. From the fairway, the green at the end of the front nine looks welcoming, almost benign compared to the deep bunkers surrounding it. But it's a fooler. Staying below the hole, and as close to the fall line as possible, is a must, so severe is the slope.

It was on this green in 1961 that Barber ran down his 60-footer to tie Don January and force a playoff in the PGA Championship, which he won.



The finishing hole, the ninth for member play, features a severely tilted green at the end of a trip down a fairway festooned by bunkers. (Tim Cronin)



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# The Homestead Is A World Apart

By Alice Scott and Danny Scott



**H**ail to the chiefs, starting with the Algonquins then George Washington who awarded Capt. Bullitt 300 acres in Hot Springs, Va., after the French and Indian War. The Homestead opened on this land in 1776, and has hosted 23 presidents since. At 10 a.m. in the lobby, join the magical history tour for lots of trivia and stories. Beforehand, you might meet staff member Wilson in the Main Dining Room, warmly welcoming guests to the heartiest of breakfast buffets for only 60 years. He says he doesn't usually tell people that, but they might notice him on the "55-plus" wall, commemorat-

ing employees who have served for that amount of time. Service throughout the Homestead is tried and true, deploying southern hospitality by 1,000 employees, 80 of whom have worked there for over 30 years.

Stately, nostalgic, historic and charming are just a few words to describe two of the most iconic golf courses in America. These picturesque Homestead courses snuggle against the Allegheny Mountains. The Old Course, a favorite of many past presidents, is a journey of elevated fairways and evergreen valleys. Clouds and fog hug the mountain range with illuminating sunshine

between that highlights the resort's magnificent architecture and style. From many points on the course the massive tower of the Homestead is seen jutting into the Virginia sky, signaling this is the place to be. 'Expansive' is not an adequate word to describe the lodge, grounds, and resort offerings. Even the woodchucks on course are longer than normal.

The Cascades is rated the No. 1 course in Virginia. A stone monument at the start highlights Sam Snead's saying, "If you can play the Cascades, you can play anywhere." The difficulty lies in blind tee shots over severely sloping fairways





The Old Course Hole 2



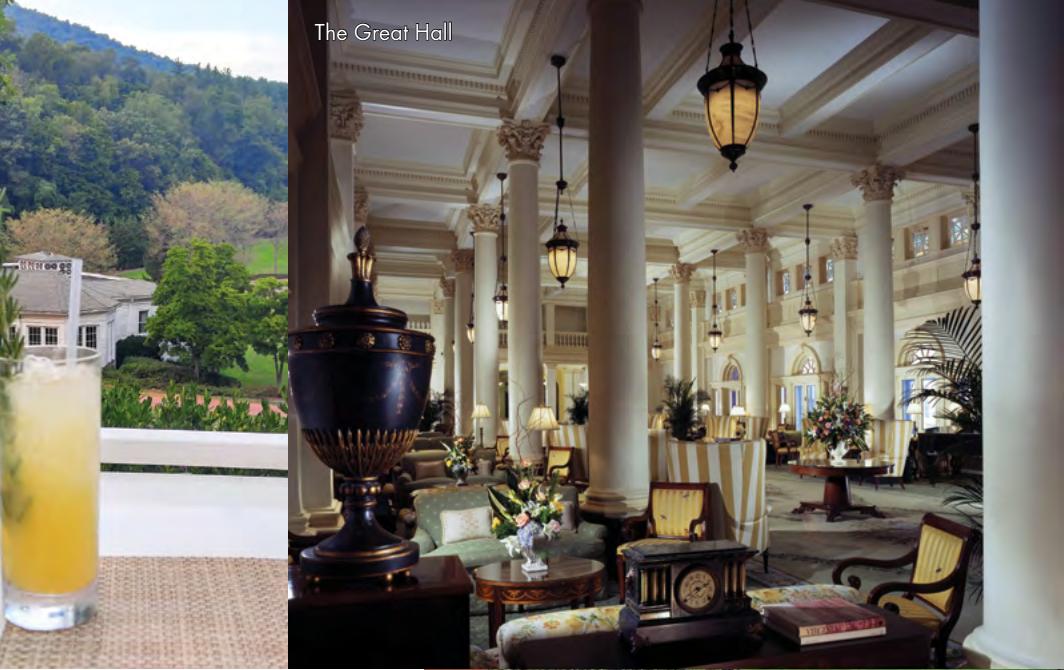
The Old Course Hole 17



Indoor Pool



Jefferson's Patio



The Great Hall

leading to fast greens along babbling brooks and mountain streams. Lower level cascades naturally fall throughout, if the area is not suffering through a drought. If waterfalls meet your fancy, sign up for the optional three-hour tour of Cascades Gorges in the afternoon, but don't try to go on your own as it is guarded private property and trespassers will be fined. However, the concierge can direct you to a public viewing spot of the 84-foot waterfalls.

The Allegheny Springs at the Omni Homestead delivers a water fix for the whole family, complete with swimming pool, whirlpool, lazy

river, water slides, and even a sandy beach and food service. In winter it converts to a skating party. In separate buildings for men and women, the Jefferson Pools provide soaking opportunities in the naturally heated hot springs water.

Adults might make a day of the Spa Garden, where registered guests and members are admitted on a daily limited basis to enjoy this outdoor healing hot springs pool, the cold shoulder plunge shower or the River Reflexology Walk. Tiny stones are patterned to soothe the 15 thousand nerves in your feet. Who knew there were that many? Sign up at the

spa desk for this separately priced or packaged amenity.

Enter the Aqua Thermal Spa inside to alternate between hot and cool therapies. Relax in radiant-heated loungers in front of a scenic waterfall on screen or in the Herbal Cocoon room's heated niche below a starlit ceiling, or in the Aromatic Steam room with essential oils and colored lights. Cooling after exposure to heat happens in The Chill, a cold cabin where you inhale the crisp vapor and apply flaked ice directly to your skin, or at the Experiential Showers, which mimic by choice an Arctic Mist, Atlantic, or Caribbean Storm. Relax,





The Cascades Hole 15



The Cascades Hole 16



Allegheny Springs Slides



Cascades Gorge



Allegheny Springs Pool



rinse and repeat at the Aqua Thermal Spa, which is complimentary with paid therapeutic services that are plentiful to choose from and all very satisfying from facials to full massages. However you spa, make it a whole day and you will say, "Ah," at the Omni.

In the old days, Virginia taverns were abuzz about politics. Today, the Sam Snead Tavern still serves as that venue on the town corner, a short walk from the resort. The resort fire pit is another spot where debates might begin. Fireside s'mores kits are as calming as the flames and last more than a night. This is where you meet other guests like John, a retired

doctor from Knoxville, and his wife Beverly, mother of three. Strangers compare notes on places they've been and what to do here, like hitching a hayride up to the ski slope for more s'mores there.

Exquisite cuisine is served on the patio high above the pit or inside at Jefferson's Restaurant. Begin toasting with a White Water Hound or Virginia Manhattan. Local rack of lamb and spicy shrimp grits are prime entrees. In the evening, the main dining room requires jackets, a salute to the elegant days of yore.

For shoppers, on property the Sparrow's Nest sells artisan gifts, jewel-

ry, pottery, paintings, and homespun fabric art. Leading to the main dining room, the grand shopping hall has something for all within the resort.

Hike, bike or hop on a horse at the equestrian center. Play a board game in a cozy corner inside, golf, or ski but no matter what you do, enjoy the wooded scenery, fresh air, and hot springs – the town's namesake – as well as the well being, well healing reason for early settlers to visit. Today, the nostalgia might have you thinking in terms of thee and thou. You can't believe it 'till thine eyes hath seen it. Check for seasonal activity hours at [www.theomnihomestead.com](http://www.theomnihomestead.com).



# Charity Begins At Home: How The Deere Does It

**W**hen it comes to putting on a PGA Tour event, nowhere does it quite like ... the Quad Cities?

That's right. While California brings the celebrities and the Florida swing is the backyard to many touring professionals, the John Deere Classic at TPC Deere Run is the tournament that packs the most punch, especially when it comes to making a difference.

Greater Chicagoland, unfortunately, is not on the map for a yearly stop on the PGA Tour. What many gallery-goers have figured out, however, is that Silvis, Ill., is an easy and breezy drive down Interstate 88 and Illinois 5 with the bonus of seeing some of the world's best players compete just before The Open Championship. What patrons may not know is just how far their contributions go when attending the John Deere Classic. Also, how great the contribution is from the title sponsor as well as the gentlemen competing inside the ropes.

Since its founding is 1971, the tournament has raised over \$81 million for charity, most of which has come since John Deere signed on in 1998. In 2016 alone, \$10.54 million was raised for 491 charities, ranking it first on the PGA Tour in per capita contributions at \$28.10 for each of the 375,000 residents of the Quad City area. Think about that for second. Isn't this a "small market"? They should have no business being in the top three overall in charity producers. Actions speak louder than words, I guess. The PGA Tour brass took notice and awarded the John Deere Classic the 2016 Tournament of the Year, also receiving an award for Most Engaged Community.

"The Tournament of the Year Award represents the great work of the John Deere Classic board of directors and staff; of our 1,700 incredible volunteers; our 491 participating charities; and our steadfast and supportive title sponsor, John Deere, whose commitment to corporate citizenship is a core principle of the company," tournament director Clair Peterson said.



That's a lot of birdies for charity.

The event will have Moore back July 10-16 to defend his title against another strong field.

"The John Deere Classic is honored to have Ryan Moore back to defend his title," said Peterson. "Since turning pro, Ryan has had a tremendous career, and last year he took it to the next level. We're very happy to have Ryan as a member of the John Deere Classic family."

With his victory last year, Moore earned the final captain's pick for the victorious U.S. Ryder Cup team.

"They've done a phenomenal job of making it a fun week, a family week, and

so where exactly does all of this loot come from? The same way you collect on your skins. Birdies. To be exact, Birdies for Charity, which is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization. The Birdies program consists of individual charity pledges based on the number of birdies recorded in the tournament as well as lump sum donations to specific charities. In addition, there is a Bonus Fund consisting of tournament profits, as well as a \$325,000 matching donation from the John Deere Foundation. The Bonus Fund is distributed proportionately to each charity, with a minimum five percent guarantee. For the last four years, the Bonus Fund has provided a 10 percent bonus. If you're wondering how the tournament is nearing 500 charities, that's easy. Any 501(C)3 can apply on the Birdies for Charity website to be a part of the beneficiaries.

In recent years, the John Deere Classic has benefited tremendously from having quality human beings hoisting their trophy on Sunday. Many local folks will remember Steve Stricker's three-peat from 2009-2011, the only player to do so in tournament history. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, native Zach Johnson won the event in 2012. Jordan Spieth has also won twice. 2016 was no exception when Ryan Moore closed out the rest of the field, tallying a final score of 22-under par.

really just a great event," said Moore, a husband and father of two. "You get great crowds out there. It's a fun week, and it was nice to finally win at a place where I've had some success."

As previously mentioned, some of the California tournament stops bring the celebrity power, Pebble Beach being the best-known, of course. Knowing their market, the John Deere Classic producers understand how to draw a crowd. On Wed., July 12, country music star Cole Swindell will perform a charity concert at the Waterfront Convention Center in Bettendorf, Iowa. Tickets are \$100 (includes beer and wine), with proceeds going to support the tournament's goal of delivering those bonus dollars to Birdies for Charity. For those interested in purchasing tickets please call (309) 762-4653.

If you didn't realize just how much of an impact the John Deere Classic has on charities and the Quad Cities community, consider yourself educated. Now, take a drive to Silvis and help add to the cause.

Tickets are available at [www.johndeereclassic.com](http://www.johndeereclassic.com) or by calling (309) 762-4653.



# Drink Up! Water, That Is.

**W**ater has a bigger effect on your golf game than a devilish cape hole that can swallow a sleeve of balls. When your body is deprived of the water it requires, there are dramatic changes. These changes will not only hurt your scorecard, they can cause serious medical emergencies.

Your body is about 65 percent water and you need to maintain this level to perform optimally. When you do not give your body the fluid it requires, focus and performance can be lost quicker than a new Titleist on a water hole.

Fluid loss of one to three percent can have a negative impact on your body by causing symptoms including fatigue, headaches, decreased ability to concentrate, and decreased endurance. When these symptoms occur, you are already significantly dehydrated, and it will take time to restore normal fluid levels. If your fluid levels drop below this level, then more extreme symptoms may occur, including cramps, heat exhaustion, vomiting, headaches, dizziness, and weakness.

The best way to deal with dehydration is to avoid becoming dehydrated. When

you are thirsty, dehydration is already setting in and it will take several hours to recover. There is no shortcut to restoring your body's fluid levels.

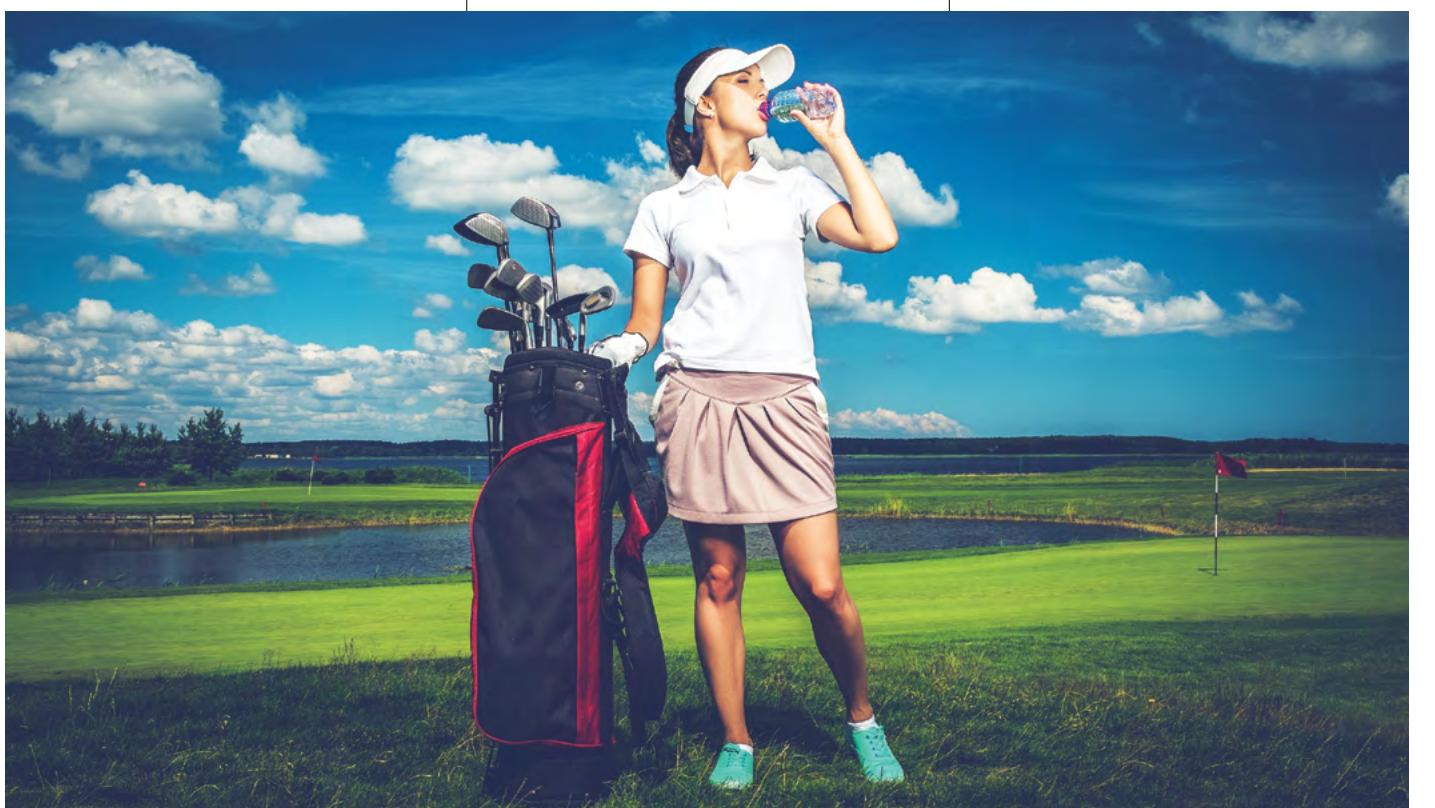
Proactively drinking fluids is the best way to prevent dehydration.

The advice given for years was to drink six to eight, 8-ounce glasses of water a day. There is some discussion about the accuracy of this, but it is a good start. Very few people will need less, so if you are drinking this amount and are still thirsty, then more fluid is needed, but in small frequent amounts.

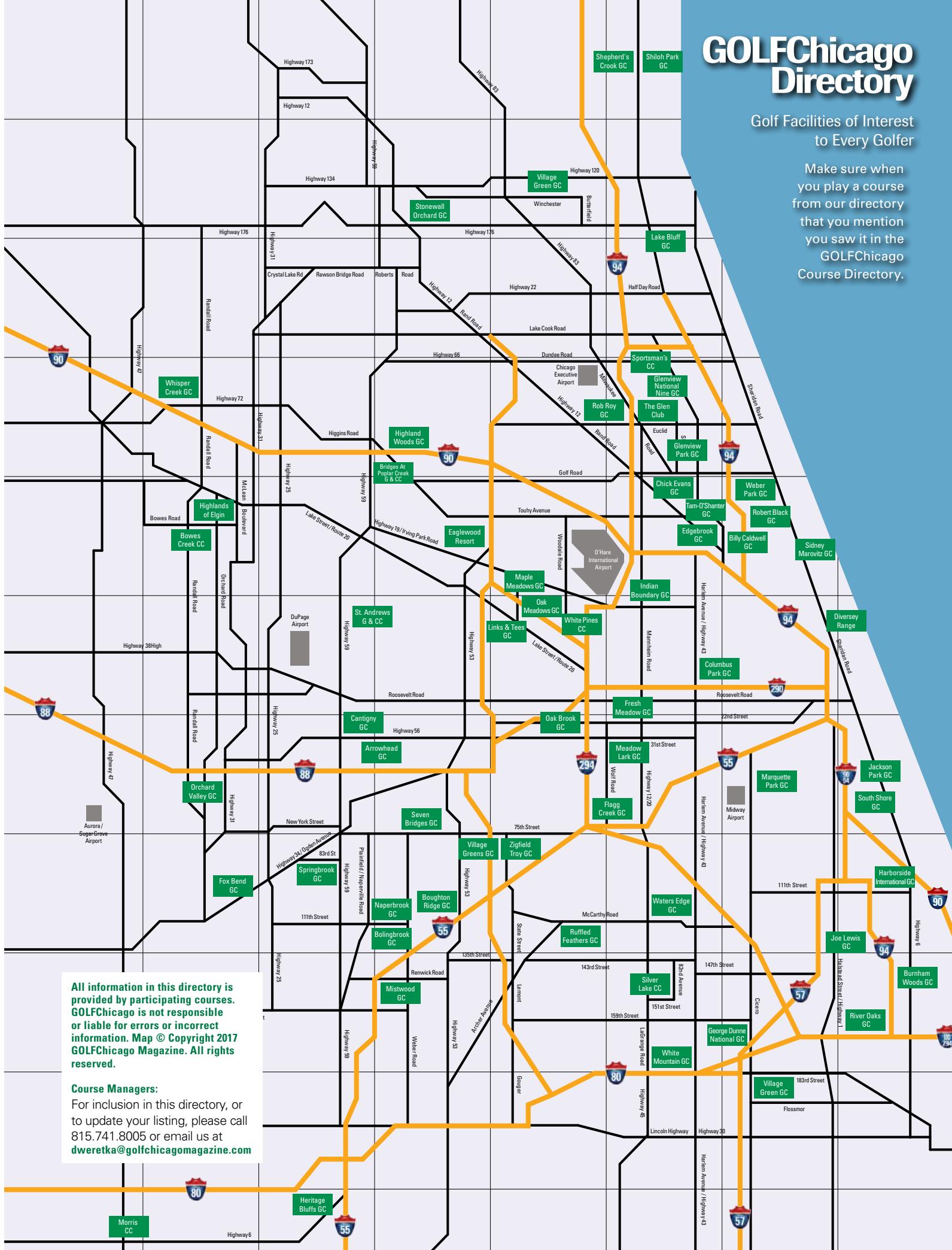
As the temperatures and humidity rise, you will also need more fluid per day. If it is hot, humid, or you are more active, such as walking a golf course in mid-summer, then you need to act before you hit the first tee box. Because golf is a moderately strenuous activity, you must begin drinking fluids before

your round. Two hours prior to golf, be sure to drink 12- to 16-ounces of non-caffeinated and non-alcoholic fluids. Pre-round hydration will give your body a chance to absorb fluid.

At the first tee, open your first bottle of water and sip regularly. Ideally, you should



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



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#### **Course Managers:**

For inclusion in this directory, or  
to update your listing, please call  
815.741.8005 or email us at  
[dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com](mailto:dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com)



**Arrowhead**  
630-653-5800  
26W151 Butterfield Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60189  
[arrowheadgolfclub.org](http://arrowheadgolfclub.org)

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

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



**Bolingbrook Golf Club**  
630-771-9400  
2001 Rodeo Dr.  
Bolingbrook, IL 60490  
[bolingbrookgolfclub.com](http://bolingbrookgolfclub.com)

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

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



**Bowes Creek Country Club**  
847-214-5880  
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.  
Elgin, Illinois 60124  
[bowescreekcc.com](http://bowescreekcc.com)  
[bowescreekcountryclub.com](http://bowescreekcountryclub.com)

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



**Cantigny Golf**  
630-668-8463  
27w270 Mack Rd.  
Wheaton, IL 60189  
[cantignygolf.com](http://cantignygolf.com)

Designed by Roger Packard, Cantigny is both challenging and breathtakingly scenic,

Cantigny Golf's Red Oak Club loyalty program rewards customers with free golf and other benefits.

The Young Executive Program offers reduced green fees for golfers 39 and under.

The Red Oak Club and Young Executive Program are each free to join.

Cantigny's 27 holes are ideal for outings ranging from 16 to 220 golfers. The course employs a full-time golf-event coordinator to ensure an exceptional experience for planners and guests.



**Forest Preserve Golf Courses | Cook County**  
800-460-0010  
[forestpreservegolf.com](http://forestpreservegolf.com)

Affordable GOLF. Friendly SERVICE. Fantastic EXPERIENCE.

Forest Preserve Golf offers something for every golfer. PLUS ... save EVERY DAY with the FPG Golf and Rewards Card!

- Billy Caldwell: 9 Holes
- Burnham Woods: 18 Holes
- Chick Evans: 18 Holes
- Edgebrook: 18 Holes
- George Dunne National: 18 Holes
- Harry Semrow: Driving Range & Mini Golf
- Highland Woods: 18 Holes
- Indian Boundary: 18 Holes
- Joe Louis: 18 Holes
- Meadowlark: 9 Holes
- River Oaks: 18 Holes



**Fox Bend Golf Course**  
630-554-3939  
3516 Route 34  
Oswego, IL 60543  
[www.foxbendgolfcourse.com](http://www.foxbendgolfcourse.com)

Fox Bend is Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course. This 18-hole, par-72 course boasts plush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. With 34 well-positioned bunkers and water coming into play on 11 holes, the course tests skills of all levels. USFGA FootGolf is also available on select days. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the deck overlooking the scenic course at Pearce's restaurant, or book the Pavilion for your next outing or special event.

Take advantage of tee time specials and book online.



**The Glen Club**  
847-724-7272  
2901 W. Lake Ave.  
Glenview, IL 60026  
[theglenclub.com](http://theglenclub.com)

Chicago's finest semi-private golf experience.

The Glen Club is a stunning Tom Fazio designed championship course located on the former site of the historic Glenview Naval Air Station. In the heart of a 195-acre refuge, The Glen Club features rolling terrain, dramatic elevation changes, tranquil lakes, and striking vistas.

Enjoy the grand 48,000 square-foot clubhouse, superb dining, 21 overnight guest rooms, a grand ballroom, and the finest in corporate amenities and membership.



**Glenview Park Golf Club**  
847-724-0250  
Shermer Rd.  
Glenview, IL 60025  
[golfglenview.com](http://golfglenview.com)

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

*Golf Inc* magazine voted the Glenview Park Golf Club the Best Renovation of the Year in 2016. Come out to see what everyone is talking about. Host of the USGA - 2017 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier.



**Chicago Park District Golf**

312-245-0909  
[cpdgolf.com](http://cpdgolf.com)

Great Golf in the Heart of the City.

With six courses, three driving ranges, and two miniature golf courses, there's golf enjoyment for the whole family.

PLUS...save EVERY DAY, secure early tee time access and more with the CPD Players Advantage Card!

- Robert A. Black: 9 Holes
  - Sydney R. Marovitz: 9 Holes
  - Jackson Park: 18 Holes
  - Columbus Park: 9 Holes
  - Marquette Park: 9 Holes
  - South Shore: 9 Holes
  - Diversey Range
- The only double-deck range in Chicago.



**Green Meadows Golf Club**

630-810-5330  
18 W. 201 W. 63rd St.  
Westmont, IL 60559  
[DuPageGolf.com](http://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 only on [www.DuPageGolf.com](http://www.DuPageGolf.com).



**Maple Meadows Golf Club**

630-616-8424  
272 Addison Rd.  
Wood Dale, IL 60191  
[DuPageGolf.com](http://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.

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



**The Preserve at Oak Meadows**

630-595-0071  
900 N. Wood Dale Rd.  
Addison, IL 60101  
[DuPageGolf.com](http://DuPageGolf.com)

COMING THIS SUMMER – After two years of extensive renovation, the 288-acre The Preserve at Oak Meadows will reopen this summer as a new world-class 18-hole course and practice facility.

This transformation, designed by Golf Course Architect Greg Martin, took 27 flood prone, 1920s' era golf holes, and produced a 288-acre environmental haven that is best described as a "golf preserve."

For updates and previews visit [DuPageGolf.com](http://DuPageGolf.com).



**Glenview Prairie Club**

847-657-1637  
2800 W. Lake Ave.  
Glenview, IL 60026  
[golfglenview.com](http://golfglenview.com)

- Meticulous conditions like no other 9-hole course
- Affordable Rates.
- 4 sets of tees to meet all skill levels
- 90 minute pace of play for a quick 9
- Challenging, fun, and enjoyable for all.

After your round stop in for a cold beverage in our beautiful clubhouse setting overlooking the 9th green. Craft Beers, Fine Wines sport and soft drinks available.

Make Glenview Prairie Club your home club for a premier 9-hole experience!



**Golf Center Des Plaines**

847-803-GOLF  
[GolfCenterDesPlaines.com](http://GolfCenterDesPlaines.com)

9 Holes: Par 27

Yardage: 80 - 210

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



**Harborside International G.C.**

312-782-7837  
11001 S. Doty Ave. East  
Chicago, IL 60628  
[harborsidegolf.com](http://harborsidegolf.com)

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

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

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



**Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club**

815-467-7888  
24355 W. Bluff Rd.  
Channahon, IL 60410  
[heritagebluffs.com](http://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.



### The Highlands of Elgin

847-931-5950  
875 Sports Way  
Elgin, IL 60123  
[highlandsofelin.com](http://highlandsofelin.com)

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



### Lake Bluff Golf Club

847-234-6771  
355 W Washington Ave.  
Lake Bluff, IL 60044  
[lakebluffgolfclub.com](http://lakebluffgolfclub.com)

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

The club hosted the 44th Annual Lake County Amateur.



### Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333  
1700 W. Renwick Rd.  
Romeoville, IL 60446  
[mistwoodgc.com](http://mistwoodgc.com)

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

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

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



### Mt. Prospect Golf Club

847-259-4200  
600 See Gwun Ave.  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056  
[golfmtprospect.com](http://golfmtprospect.com)

The newly restored Mt. Prospect GC will take you back to a style of architecture made famous by names like Raynor, MacDonald, and Ross, with low square tee boxes, strategic cross bunkers, and challenging plateau greens, all in our quiet parkland setting. The redesign features most of the original routing, plus five new holes and historic "template holes" with names like Redan, Eden and Punchbowl.

Mt. Prospect is the closest thing to the conditions and feel of an old private club, with a daily fee rate. Come back to a new 90-year-old classic.



### Springbrook Golf Course

630-848-5060  
2220 W. 83rd St.  
Naperville, IL 60564  
[golfnapererville.org](http://golfnapererville.org)

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



### Stonewall Orchard

25675 West Highway 60  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
847-740-4890  
[stonewallorchard.com](http://stonewallorchard.com)

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

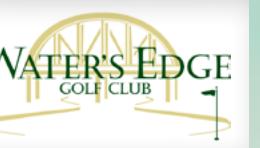


### Tam-O'Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

6700 West Howard Street  
Niles, IL 60714  
847-965-2344  
[niles-parks.org](http://niles-parks.org)

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

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



### Water's Edge Golf Course

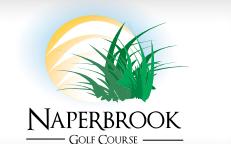
7205 West 115th St.  
Worth, IL 60482  
708-671-1032  
[watersedgegolf.com](http://watersedgegolf.com)

Rated Best Places To Play By *Golf Digest*.

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

PLUS...a program for everyone!

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



### Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215  
22204 W. 111th St./  
Hassett Blvd.  
Plainfield, IL 60585  
[golfnapererville.org](http://golfnapererville.org)

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



### Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500  
2411 W. Illinois Ave.  
Aurora, IL 60506  
[orchardvalleygolf.com](http://orchardvalleygolf.com)

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

- PLUS...a program for everyone!
- **SAVE** on every round with the OV Rewards PLUS program.
  - **UNLIMITED** twilight golf and range with the PPP card.
  - Annual Memberships and MORE!



### Rob Roy Golf Course

847-253-4544  
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.  
Prospect Heights, IL 60070  
[robroygc.com](http://robroygc.com)

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



### St. Andrews Golf & Country Club

2241 Route 59  
West Chicago, IL 60185  
630-231-3100  
[standrewsgc.com](http://standrewsgc.com)

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



### Weber Park Golf Course

847-674-1500, ext. 3600  
[skokieparks.org](http://skokieparks.org)  
9 Holes: Par 27  
Yardage: 1,095

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



### Whisper Creek Golf Course

12840 Del Webb Blvd.  
Huntley, IL 60142  
847-515-7680  
[whispercreekgolf.com](http://whispercreekgolf.com)

- Learn. Practice. Play.
- Executive course offering 9 holes of competitive golf
  - Practice Range with artificial and grass hitting stations, and heated, covered stalls
  - Mini Golf park offering 18 holes
  - Professional instruction for all levels and abilities
  - Fully stocked golf shop
  - Party room perfect for events, fundraisers and more!



### White Mountain Golf Park

9901 179th St.  
Tinley Park, IL 60477  
708-478-4653  
[whitemountaingolfpark.com](http://whitemountaingolfpark.com)

East Course 18 Holes:  
Par 70  
Yardage: 5,150 - 6,371  
West Course 18 Holes:  
Par 72  
Yardage: 5,751 - 6,624  
Located minutes of O'Hare, White Pines feels like you are getting "away from it all."



### White Pines Golf Club & Banquets

500 W. Jefferson St.  
Bensenville, IL 60106  
630-766-0304  
[whitepinesgolf.com](http://whitepinesgolf.com)

Open year round and situated on over 240 acres, the club has been a favorite among Chicago golfers since 1928. The Clubhouse offers a fully-stocked golf shop, an elegant banquet facility, and 37 Bar & Grill which offers patio dining. Call for senior and youth rates and specials.





## Four New Courses To Seek Out

**W**hile most everyone likes new things, golfers stand alone in their desire for the latest innovation in equipment, the trendiest attire and, in particular, the newest area golf courses.

It goes without saying that new course construction has experienced some rough patches over the past ten years. Indeed, I can name far more course closings over recent years than I can course openings. Thankfully, this losing streak didn't last nearly as long as the World Series drought that the Chicago Cubs finally overcame last November. In fact, area golfers were treated to three outstanding new courses in 2016 with still another fantastic layout opening in the Chicago area later this summer.

For nearly 100 years, Oak Meadows Golf Course in Addison was a classic course beloved by players across the western suburbs. Like many older properties built along active waterways, the course would on occasion be overwhelmed by the fast-rising waters of Salt Creek following large storms. Credit the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County for making the bold move to hire local golf architect Greg Martin to not just create better flood control areas on the golf course but to basically reinvent the property to become The Preserve at Oak Meadows. The layout was built over a dramatic 288-acre parcel of land that incorporates the footprints of both the former Oak Meadows course, as well as the east nine of the neighboring Maple Meadows Golf Course, immediately north of Oak Meadows. Elevation changes and sweeping views will give players a look that is pretty uncommon in these parts. I can't wait to tee it up here!

Over in the Mitten, specifically that area of lower Michigan located between Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, rests the highly popular Gull Lake Golf Resort. The Scott family, the resort owners, purchased a former apple orchard adjacent to its Stonehedge courses and hired the acclaimed design team from Renaissance Golf to create the breathtaking Stoatin Brae which, I'm told, means "grand view."

To that point, there are certainly some dynamic vistas on the layout along with a lot of interesting design elements. The track is pure fun with a nice amount of challenge, but won't beat you up. Stoatin Brae also serves as an excellent complement to the other five Gull Lake properties which feature soft hills and tree-lined fairways.

Up to the north in Michigan, in Roscommon, east of Traverse City, is one of the most fascinating

courses you can play. Let me amend that comment: what's most fascinating about The Loop at Forest Dunes is that it's two of the most fascinating courses you can play. Ingenious designer Tom Doak (who, not incidentally, is president of the aforementioned Renaissance Design that built Stoatin Brae) constructed two distinct layouts on a single property by using the same 18 greens. Doak states that he had this idea in the back of his head for many years.

Perhaps it came to him back in his youth when he caddied at the famous Old Course at St. Andrews, which also can be played backwards. Know that The Loop is a two-day experience: on Day 1, you play clockwise on the Black Course; on Day 2, you play counterclockwise over the Red Course for a remarkable and creative experience. It's fun, fair, and definitely unique with some challenging greens, a Doak signature.

You may have heard of Forest Dunes Golf Club, which started in 2002. The Tom Weiskopf layout is must-play and routinely places inside the top 100 courses you can play in America. With these two (or should I say three?) courses, it's well-worth the trek to go here and tee it up.

In the Land of Cheese, about a four-hour drive from Chicago lies a huge parcel of land and sand that is home to the new Sand Valley Golf Resort. This "nearly" undiscovered compelling property is where the revered architecture team of Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw carved out a magical 18 holes that opened last fall. Massive sand dunes and awe-inspiring views make this a pure joy to play. The wide fairways give everyone a chance and the array of green sites make the course friendly to the player and the eye.

Owner Mike Keiser, the man who built Bandon Dunes in Oregon – a bucket list for golfers around the planet – seems to be accomplishing the same thing in Nekoosa, despite the handicap of not having an ocean to work with. Plus, the natural unspoiled land is walking only, which even makes the course good for your health. This could be the Bandon of the Midwest, as at least four more tracks are on the design horizon. This fall, the second course at Sand Valley, the David McLay Kidd-designed Mammoth Dunes, is scheduled to debut.

If you like new as much as I do, you will truly enjoy the new golf experiences available at The Preserve at Oak Meadows, Stoatin Brae, The Loop, and Sand Valley. Book a tee time now before your friends beat you to the punch and the first tee!

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