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**Beyond Bunkers** 

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# April 2012 Onten Vol. 16 No. 2

## Features

Wishing Upon a Star Shooting Star Golf Club at Jackson Hole, Wyoming

**Benton Harbor Hosts a Major** Senior PGA Championship at The Golf Club at Harbor Shores



Shooting Star Golf Club

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GolfChicago Magazine is published 7 times per year: March through September.



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he magazine you are holding may be the most difficult April issue we 📕 have produced in our publication's history. Fortunately, this has nothing to do illness, family emergencies, or technology crashing. The reason can be found on our ankles. We are both sporting a golfer's tan. In the past, the lag between the Chicago Golf Show and our April issue involved braving three-season weather potential on the course, so office time was never really compromised. However, Summer 2012 came two months early, so we found ourselves wearing shorts and sneaking out to the course. For a week and a half stretch, Chicagoland had warmer temperatures than Southern California and Phoenix. Our catch phrase for that warm spell was "destination Chicago." Sunscreen in March is a beautiful thing.

With fuel prices threatening to surpass the cost of a price of a small bucket of golf balls, "destination Chicago" may be where many families spend their



in Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana. Beginning in our June issue, we will provide suggestions for stay-cations with activities for the entire family.

On a final note, this month's feature is a bit of a pipe dream for most of us. Shooting Star Golf Club in Jackson, Wyoming, is a private club that most of our readers will never get a chance to play, but we know that golfers love to see what is out there, which is why Augusta National always ranks as our country's favorite course. Just because 99.9% of golfers will never play it doesn't mean we cannot appreciate the course. We hope you enjoy our feature/photo essay on Shooting Star. If you make the right wish on a heavenly body sliding across the sky...you may find yourself at the base of the Teton Mountains with a 7-iron in your hand.

summer vacations. We have it better than most. though. If you are looking for the best public golf in the country—it is here! Simply toss a dart at a road map of Northern Illinois and you'll be near a quality course. Even if your aim is a little off, it is a short drive to premier destinations





# Unnecessarily Well Made

You don't get to be Scotland's favorite single malt by being 'quite' well made.



## The Good Stuff

New Products

## Zoom Zoom

Step for step, round to round, Nike's Zoom Advance could be the most comfortable aolf shoe on the market. The Zoom cushioning system is ideal for walkers and 36-hole-a-day fanatics. Gone are the days of ripping off your golf shoes to let your dogs breathe; this shoe is geared for all-day comfort.

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24 oz. Bottle is dishwasher and freezer safe, so maintenance is a breeze. Each bottle, like all TERVIS® products, has a lifetime guarantee. This is a bottle that could outlast your relationship with your putter, your job, or even your playing partners. \$20 www.tervis.com

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is long, but more importantly, it is straight. With a 26-gram Winn grip, 40-gram Tour AD shaft, and a 271-gram clubhead, players can achieve their maximum clubhead speed. Moreover, if your ball flight tends to veer right, the super-light weight will help you square the face at impact.

Don't let the price scare you from testing this elite driver. Exotics remains the only driver sold in America that applies combo brazing, an expensive welding process, to its clubs. If you want to go long, and straighter, from the tee box, then swing the super-ultra-light XCG-5.

\$329.99 www.touredge.com

## **Trolley Ready**

As we all try to be a little greener on the course, we see more and more golfers are pushing performance carts in lieu of renting a golf car for 18 holes. If you are among the ranks that push a trolley, then you have experienced the difficulties a stand bag presents. Sun Mountain answers that problem with the Sync golf bag. Designed for speed and push carts, Sync has a specially molded bottom to rest at an efficient angle. Each Sync bag also has ten forward-facing pockets for easy access. And, at just over six pounds, this bag is lighter than just about any other cart bag on the market. \$200 www.sunmountain.com



# 

# **Lofty Expectations: High and Soft**



**S** tudents in our Dave Pelz Scoring Game Schools ask all the time how to hit high, soft shots. The easiest solution is to put a lob wedge in your bag and practice using it, so you're ready for situations that call for the ball to travel high and land soft.

Take this common scenario, for example: Your ball sits 40 yards from the pin and you have to carry a bunker with only a few yards of green to work with. You need the right tool for the job—a lob wedge—to hit the ball high to carry the trouble while still landing it softly enough to stop near the hole.

It's a myth that lob wedges are only for good players. Truth is, anyone who wants to score better and routinely faces shots over obstacles to tight pins needs a lob wedge. In today's game, green complexes are more demanding, and we see so many fast, sloping greens, it's important to be able to stop your shots near the hole. Think of it this way: the more greens you miss, the more you need a lob wedge.

What is important to understand about hitting a lob wedge is that you must not decelerate during the downswing. This causes your hands to lag behind the clubhead at impact. If you hands are even or ahead of the ball at impact, you'll find that high, soft shots are easier to hit with the lob wedge than with any other club.

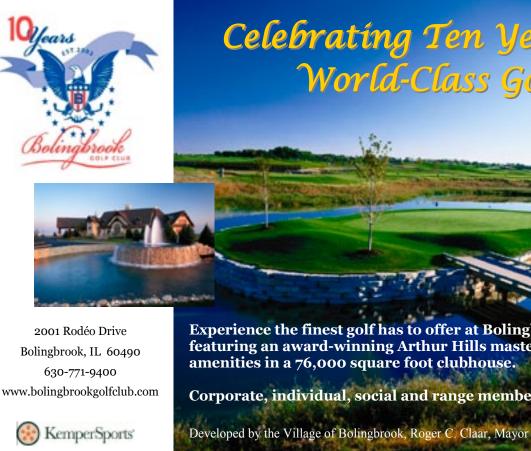
The technique for the basic 40-yard lob wedge shot is pretty simple. Start with the ball in the middle of your stance and take a three-quarter-length backswing (with your arms pointing in the "nine o'clock" position). If you play right-handed, let your left hand lead the club to the ball and accelerate through the impact zone as you shift forward to a full finish with your weight on your front leg. There's no need to open the clubface until you're comfortable playing a variety of shots with the lob wedge. The loft of the club will do the work for you. It's easier to hit the ball solidly and straight with a square clubface.

Many golfers are putting a 64-degree wedge in the bag to combat the severe hazards, slopes, speeds, and elevations found on today's modern golf course designs. The

only real "trick" to hitting these clubs is starting with a square club face and accelerating through the shot to a full finish. Knowing when to use these clubs is also important. Next time you need a quick, soft landing, reach for a more lofted wedge and swing with

a square clubface instead of opening the face of a less-lofted wedge. See which method is easier and yields the best results. I think you'll soon be a convert to the lofted and extralofted wedges designed to give golfers extra weapons around the greens.





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# **Magic is Not Obvious**



Golf course architects come in many shapes and sizes, from different places and with different perspectives. Golf course architecture should be a reflection of the wonderful variety this game provides. The game of golf is played on distinct and unique playing fields, and architectural variety is what makes the game so grand.

This is nothing new. Golden age architects Bell, Tillinghast, Ross, and McKenzie each had a unique style and offered varying perspective. But their success was based upon some simple ideas about golf and golfers.

Architectural perspectives still come in different shapes and sizes. I have the greatest admiration for Pete Dye. He has created some of the most extraordinary golf courses of the modern era. His "dye-abolical" efforts have been examined, dissected, and detailed. The professional player is harassed and the average golfer besieged.

Some of his more distinctive designs were those that offered an extraordinary level of intimidation. From all angles, there was much to observe, much to understand, and a lot to digest. Beautiful and engaging, courses like TPC Sawgrass, Whistling Straits, and PGA West are oddly harmonious, while simultaneously menacing-bombarding every golfer with continued dread.

Interestingly, all types of golfers have had great rounds on these golf courses. Just the other day, a professional posted a 64 at TPC Sawgrass, even with a double bogey. He played as if wearing blinders, never seeing the trouble or allowing that trouble to affect his play. When I played there, I began my round with a series of pars, a bogey, and a birdie. I was at even par after eight holes. On the ninth hole, I made a mistake. After that blunder, I was a

terrified golfer—overwhelmed for the next ten holes.

Dyes designs are equal parts strategy, heroism, and pressure. Play the right shot to the right spot and you can play well: do not let the massive bunkers, steep grades, or insidious hazards affect your play. Play the wrong shot, or play to the wrong spot, and you will be penalized. Simple, right? But once you make a mistake, the blinders are off. You will see everything and it will interfere with clear thinking. Only the most talented, thoughtful golfers can recover. This is the genius of Pete Dye.

I am a admirer of Pete Dye, but my design philosophies come from the opposite direction. My instincts as an architect are to allow the golfer to 'play away' with little care, and a wide berth, but generate subtleties and surprises that offer enticing challenges and goading the golfer to get careless. Each shot is presented with challenges, some easier than others, and each providing subtle demands requiring attention, or even recovery.

These same philosophies are inherent in the designs of Perry Maxwell. He managed to create some wonderful golf courses that adhere to strategic principles while providing a simply beautiful challenge. It is both fair and tough. The Maxwell Rolls are the most notable aspect of his courses. The greens are filled with pitches and curves, rolls, and ridges. Yet, even with these heavily contoured greens there is subtlety and nuance to his designs; there is charm and timelessness that is revealed slowly and evenly. The course grows as a friendship, with characteristics that are at the same time polite and puzzling. There is a magic to these golf courses. The challenges are not obvious, but they certainly exist. That magic is charming.

Every golfer should expect to read a golf course...to take the clues from the architect and determine how the hole should be played. Pete Dye offers lots of clues and overwhelms the senses. Perry Maxwell provides few clues, but with equally destructive results.

Like magic, good golf course architecture does not have to be obvious. It can be obvious and menacing, or it can be subtle, simple, and simultaneously captivating.



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# TETON TITAN RISING

SHOOTING Star golf Club in Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Hole 1

By Greg Jourdan and Neal Kotlarek Mention Jackson Hole to a roomful of skiers and their eyes will glisten while their mouths go dry. Indeed, this resort at the base of the Teton Mountains is considered by many to be the gold standard in ski properties across the United States. But when the snow melts and the ski lifts shut down for the season, it's generally assumed that this resort community is left with nothing better to do then plan for the next winter. Then came a Shooting Star...

Tention Jackson Hole to a room





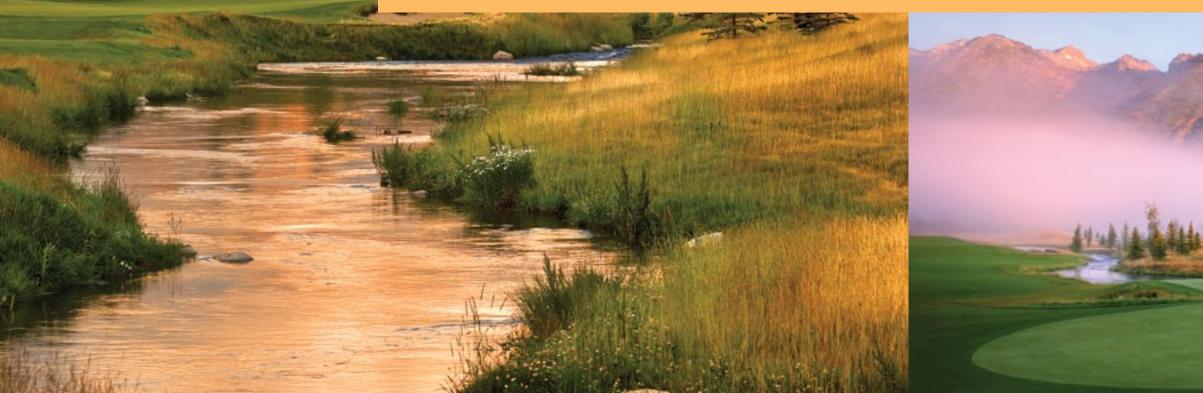


the stars makes me dream." Vincent van Gogh

The Snake River Valley in Wyoming has a storied history on the western frontier. Fur trappers and hunters dipped between the ranges of what is now Grand Teton National Park to pluck the finest furs. Locals credit "Davey" Jackson, an 1820s fur trapper, as Jackson Hole's namesake. With the advent of the Model T, easterners motored into the western mountains, and Jackson Hole began to attract the elite of American society. In fact, it was John D. Rockefeller Jr., who spearheaded the preservation of the national park as he purchased and preserved thousands of acres of breathtaking forested land. In 1929, Stanley Rogers Resor, president of J. Walter Thompson Company – one of the nations most successful advertising and marketing

acreage when his son shared his experiences following a summer vacation with friends. By the 1930s, the Resor family relocated to Jackson Hole and began a highly successful cattle business, eventually becoming the second largest landowner in the region after the Rockefellers. Well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this area on the southern edge of Grand Teton National Park was a honey hole of beaver, elk, and other big game.

Today, Jackson Hole tops the state's cost of living charts yet, unlike Yellowstone and the Grand Canyon, the community remains as true to its western roots as a modern destination can hope to be. While the Rockefellers ushered in the elite of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Resor family is welcoming a new generation of success stories at their private, ultra-exclusive Shooting Star Golf Club, an

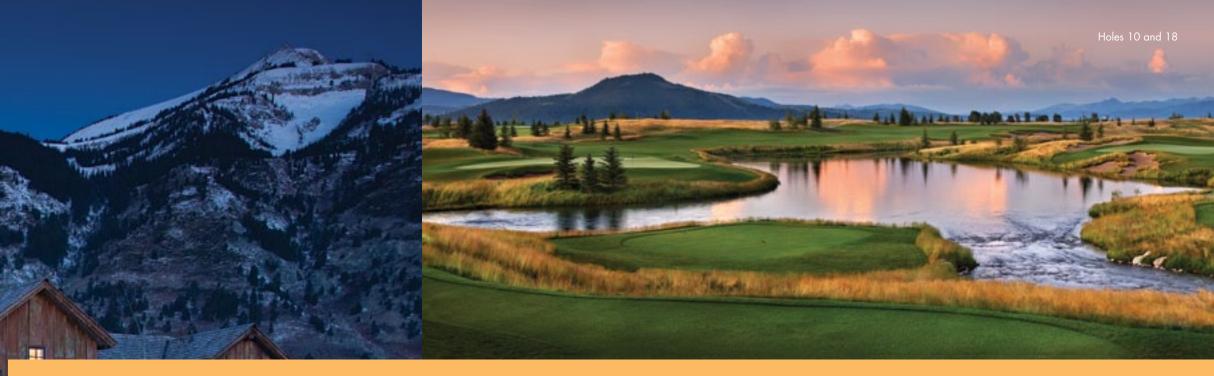


About ten years ago, the Resor family elected to initiate a real estate development to complement their cattle ranch, which is currently the largest in Jackson Hole. With over 1,300 acres of open space, Rogers Resor's grandson, John, put a plan into action to hire golf course architect Tom Fazio, a man renowned for creating sublime courses around the world. "Tom is the perfect guy because he realized right away that what we wanted to do was a little different than your typical golf course," Resor shares. "We didn't want to see homes from the course, so when you play this course, only three holes yield a glimpse of golf cabins and a few single family homes."

At Resor's request, each hole was to be one of 18 chapters that provide an isolated golfing experience. While Fazio had free reign, Resor did have a few parameters,







and he is pleased with the results. "Each hole has its own separate environment, and you can't see golfers on adjoining holes because there are embankments that create that special environment." The course is surrounded by mountain ranges. And unlike other courses in the area, Shooting Star rests at the near foothills.

Fazio's efforts went beyond plotting golf holes on a topographical map. "We moved over two million cubic yards of dirt to create a special environment," Resor explains. "The golf course looks like it has been here for 30 years because we planted mature trees." Details that ensured Shooting Star's authentic-looking terrain were essential to Resor's vision for the family-owned and family-managed club. "Tom studied the streams that were just north of here, and he recreated those streams so they looked like true mountain streams running through the golf course," shared Resor.

The finished product has already earned Shooting Star a top-25 ranking on *Golf Week*'s annual Best Modern Golf Courses. Unlike many courses in Jackson Hole, Shooting Star provides elevation changes within the course. "Tom wanted to create a lot of dramatic change in elevation because the mountains are so big, and they come out of the ground so quickly that the scale of the golf course had to fit the mountains," commented Resor.

Fazio calls the property for Shooting Star "one of a kind." Anyone doubting those words needs only stand on the 1<sup>st</sup> tee and look around in each direction to feel reassured. The 392-yard No. 1 may be a modest hole in length and design, but each step from tee to green brings one closer to the mountain range and provides grand views. While an imposing course length-wise at 7,500





yards, the layout actually plays far shorter due to the thin air. Jackson Hole resides 6,200 feet above sea level, thus allowing the ball to soar in a way it doesn't in Chicago, which is only 735 feet above sea level. The extra distance gained is just the beginning of enhancing experiences at Shooting Star.

It is fair to say that the success of one's front nine rides on how well one negotiates the two heroic par 3s. No. 2 is 199 yards from the back tees and plays slightly longer due to a large bunker that protects the entire right side of the putting surface. Fortunately, the left side of the green is unprotected, thus providing a bailout area off the tee.

The 256-yard No. 6 introduces the player to both Hogback Mountain, that rises proudly behind the green and Fish Creek, which meanders ominously across the front side of the putting surface. As he did on No. 2, Fazio offers a bail out area to allow errant tee shots to avoid the



hazard. But if the flagstick on this par 3 is on the left side of the monstrous green, a shot short and to the right will require a half-wedge approach to reach the flagstick.

The front nine finishes in grand fashion as No. 9 is downwind and plays into the Teton Mountains. A lake supports the entire left side of the fairway. Evebrowed yawning bunkers guard the right side. The rough to the right of the fairway is mounded to kick back errant shots. The green of this par 5 is elevated and well protected. Regardless, the hole offers birdie possibilities as a good tee shot and a decent second shot should leave only a wedge shot final approach to the flagstick.

The best two holes on the back nine are Nos. 11 and 15. Bunkers are strategically located to pinch the landing zone of the 548-yard par-5 11<sup>th</sup> hole. Steer your ball down the left side of the hole so as to attack this green from a good angle on your final approach. The green is narrow and will feed toward the creek.

No. 15 is a long sweeping par-5 cape hole that is guarded down the left with a 20-acre lake. Plenty of room to the right side of the fairway, but the closer you play to the lake, the shorter you make the hole. Don't be too bold on the second shot as the hole stretches 644 yards from the championship tees and is a three-shooter regardless of elevation juice. Patience is rewarded with par.

Any golf course resting at the foothills of a mountain range is special. A golf course designed by one of the game's master architects placed on the foothills of one of America's most dramatic landscapes makes Shooting Star Golf Club extraordinary.

For more information about the course, membership, and real estate, visit www.shootingstarjh.com.





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## **Chicago Highlands Golf Club Continues To Soar Above** Chicago

Chicagoland golfers who have driven past the Cermak Road exit of I-294 west of the city can't help but notice that another phase of Westchester's Chicago Highlands Club is getting closer to completion. Huge berms that tower above the course and the interstate are being shaped into position for seeding, shared Tom Healy, one of the club's founders. "The membership is really excited about how things are shaping up entering the new season," Healy reported. "The golf course made it through the winter in excellent shape and the mild winter allowed us to move forward on a number of projects."

Touted as the first family country club to be built in Chicago's western suburbs in over 80 years, the 270-acre complex features an acclaimed 7,528-yard course designed by Arthur Hills. Along with a huge double-ended grass practice range, club amenities include three practice holes and a swimming pool complex completed last summer. Future plans include a spa and fitness facilities, tennis and paddle tennis courts, an outdoor ice skating rink, and an expansive clubhouse complete with bowling alleys.

Chicago Highlands is a private, invitation-only family club. For membership information, visit the club's website at www. chicagohighlands.com.

Don't play too much golf. Two rounds a day are plenty. -Harry Vardon



## License Plate Celebrates Upcoming Ryder Cup Matches

The Illinois Secretary of State and the Illinois PGA Foundation have announced a limited-run special event license plate commemorating the 39th Ryder Cup Matches scheduled September 25 – 30th at Medinah Country Club. The license plate will be valid for Illinois drivers from August 2 – September 30th. Out-of-state golf enthusiasts may order the plate as a souvenir. Proceeds from the project will benefit the Illinois PGA Foundation's youth golf initiatives. Visit www.ipga.com to view the 2012 Ryder Cup plate deign and download the application for purchase. Price is \$80 with a reduced price of \$40 for Illinois drivers who currently own a vehicle registered with the Support Youth Golf License Plate.



Golf appeals to the idiot in us and the child. Just how childlike golf players become is proven by their frequent inability to count past five. —John Updike



## **GOLFChicago Challenge on facebook**

This Illinois course is far off the beaten cart path. Be the first to correctly name the golf club in the picture and win an Artic Zero sample package. Contest begins April 16 – if you post your answer before 4/16/12, you will not be eligible for the prize. "Like" GOLFChicago Magazine on facebook to be eligible.



## Irish Eyes Smiling on Big Break's Murphy

Only a few weeks after appearing as a special guest at the Chicago Golf Show, Ireland's Mark Murphy finished in a five-way tie for 52nd place at the Trophee Hassan II golf tournament in Morocco. His 1-under-par total score of 287 earned him \$7,295 and placed him the in the top 1,500 in Official World Rankings.

Fans of the Golf Channel's Big Break Ireland TV series will recall that Murphy was the event's 2011 champion after defeating Canadian Julien Trudeau in a playoff. Along with \$50,000 cash and other prizes, the Kerry native received an exemption to the Morocco tournament. He was the first Big Break winner to make the cut after receiving an exemption. His second exemption will be for the Irish Open, June 28 – July 1 at Royal Portrush.



## Arrowhead GC To Host April Clinics and Outing

Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton will host a pair of golf clinics on Saturday, April 14 and Saturday, April 21. Both managed by Illinois PGA professionals Billy Klemz and Bruce Stoller, the clinics will focus on various facets of the game. The first clinic on April 14th (10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.) will cover wedges, putters and bunker play. The second clinic on April 21st (10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.) will feature instruction on the full swing using drivers and irons. Two-hour demos will follow each clinic. Call for more information: 630-653-5800. The golf complex will also host an 18-hole outing on Sunday, April 22nd. The \$100 entry fee includes 18 holes of golf, cart, prizes, and lunch. A maximum of 72 players will participate. Roll call and pairings start at 7 a.m. Sign up deadline is before Sunday, April 15th at 5:00 p.m. in the pro shop. Registration forms are available at www.

arrowheadgolfclub.org.

## Bolingbrook G.C. To Host Demo Days in April and May

The driving range and golf academy at Bolingbrook Golf Club will host two large, multi-vendor demo days this April. On Saturday, April 21, golf clubs from premier manufacturers Nike, Taylor Made, Callaway, Wilson, Adams, Cleveland, and Mizuno will be featured from 1:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, May 23rd, clubs from premier manufacturers Titleist, Ping, Taylor Made, Cleveland, Mizuno, and Nike will be featured from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Along with those two events, the club is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this season. During the week of May 21 and through Memorial Day, May 28th, the club will offer \$10 off all regular green fees and \$5 off all junior and senior green fees in the 10:00 a.m. hour (10:00 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.) every day.

For more information on these events, contact Bolingbrook Golf Club via the Web at www.bolingbrookgolfclub.com.

## 2012 Chicago Golf Show Shatters Records

A record 16,700 people attended the Chicago Golf Show at the Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont the weekend of February 24 - 26. In addition to the record number of attendees, a record 187 companies bought a record number of exhibit booths, with booth sales increasing 25 percent over 2011.

"Golfers have come to realize that if they attend the Chicago Golf Show, they will be enjoying the most complete golf show around," show owner Tom Corcoran said. "With our speakers, wholesalers, golf courses, travel destinations, new products, free golf, free lessons from Illinois PGA pros, and long drive and putting contests, there is something for everyone."

Corcoran, who has been running the three-day consumer show since 1997, attributes the show's success to their free golf promotion, increased golf wholesalers, celebrity appearances, and a comprehensive marketing campaign across multiple platforms.

The Chicago Golf Show is the nation's oldest consumer golf show and one of the largest. The show typically attracts 12,000-15,000 visitors each year. Follow the Chicago Golf Show on social media at http://www. facebook.com/ChicagoGolfShow and https://twitter.com/chicagogolfshow.

continued on page 28

# NSTRUCTIO

# Start the Season, and Your Swing, the Right Way

**A** nother season is upon us, and for Chicago golf that means one of two things: either you get to start your game over, or you get to take all those tips you pieced together from the winter magazines and "experiment" at the range. If you want this season to be great, then it starts with the proper setup.

One of the first questions we ask our students at the Rabito Academy at Bolingbrook Golf Club is, "Where do you bend from?" It's surprisingly rare to hear a correct answer the first time. "I bend from my waist," "I bend from my lower back," "I bend over from my knees." We set up to provide both balance and range of motion. To get both of these, we bend from the hip joints.

Let's start with your stance. Set your feet with your heels hip-width apart and your toes flared out slightly. Your legs-ankles, knees, and hips—are now vertically aligned to let your hips find their range of motion, which we'll discuss in future articles.

One solid way to make sure you're bending from your hip joints is to place a club behind your back until it is touching your head and tailbone [photo 1]. Bend from your hip joints. If you bend forward properly, then the club will keep the same contact with your head and tailbone as when you were standing upright [photo 2]. When you address a ball, another thing you will notice is that your beltline is now on the same angle as your club shaft. (Observe a player with a hunched appearance sometime, and you'll notice how his belt remains fairly parallel to the ground.)

A true bend, or hinging, from the hip joints allows the proper movement of your spine and hips in the swing, giving you access to your full range of motion. This hip-joint hinge applies to every setup in golf-full swing, short game, and putting.

Now that you have correct posture in your setup, your arms will hang vertically from your shoulders. This is where you will grip every club, and the length of the club will dictate how far you stand from the ball.

Come out and visit the Rabito Golf Academy at Bolingbrook. We offer private, semi-private, and clinic instruction for all ages to help you get your game on track!





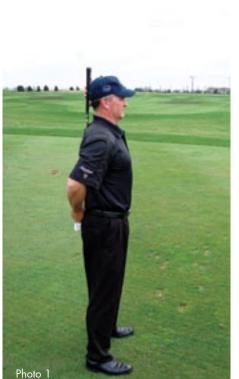
**Carl Rabito** 

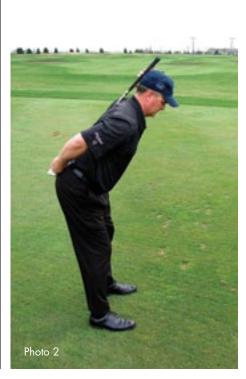
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## 22 GolfChicagoMagazine.com



• Premium Levy Restaurant buffet • Open bar • In-seat menu and wait service











Harbor Shores Hole 2

Harbor Shores Hole 8

With the national spotlight approaching in May, Harbor Shores will springboard from a community's revitalization project to a major golf venue.

# Major News From Benton Harbor

# 73rd Senior PGA Championship at The Golf Club at Harbor Shores

By Greg Jourdan and Neal Kotlarek

In just under eight weeks, Michigan will host her first Senior PGA Championship May 24 – 27. During those five days, professional golf's world stage will be located on a parcel of land that only four years ago was an industrial wasteland. The 73rd Senior PGA Championship presented by KitchenAid will be played at the spectacularly dramatic Golf Club at Harbor Shores. To grasp the turnaround that Benton Harbor has experienced to its fullest extent, every player, gallery member, and TV viewer should know at least some of the backstory as to

how all of this happened.

Rewind to the 1970s. Benton Harbor's once stable industrial backbone began a mass exodus and with it went jobs that had been passed on from one generation of worker to another. By the 1980s, the community's spine was but a memory and residents began a 20-year crawl back to sustainability. The revitalization effort was spearheaded by The Harbor Shores Development, a nonprofit initiative with a goal of establishing roots that could awaken the community and improve its infrastructure while at the same time

creating opportunities for new business and residents. A co-op of organizations, businesses, and the local government pumped a \$60 million investment into Benton Harbor. This year's 73rd and 2014's 75th Senior PGA Championship may be the events that spark interest in other ventures to establish the community as a destination.

ALC: NO. OF ALC: NO.

## **The Players**

The field for the 73rd Senior PGA will be a celebration of golf greats, including 2011 champion Tom Watson, and former Masters champions



Fred Couples and Bernhard Langer. Tournament attendees can also expect to see other former stars of the PGA Tour, as well as three players with Illinois roots— Chip Beck, Jeff Sluman, and Marion, Illinois, professional Mark Faulkner.

As Chicagoans know first hand, the combatants for the championship trophy should expect to battle any number of weather conditions. Surely, five-time British Open champion Tom Watson would love to see Mother Nature toss a few curve balls at the field. "I'm hoping," he said in a press conference announcing the event, "that we'll have good weather there—meaning that it's going to blow about 25 miles an hour and be about 55 degrees—which is Watson weather," he said with a smile. Just 90 minutes from Chicago, next month's major in Benton Harbor is a tournament every golf fan should attend to witness both the players' skills as well as the renaissance of Benton Harbor.

## The Course

While tradition has been the bedrock for major championship golf, the Jack



Nicklaus-signature course at Harbor Shores is a testament to a new vision by the PGA of America. "I think it is great that the PGA recognizes that there are some great old golf courses, but there are also some really good new golf courses," Nicklaus commented. With the national spotlight approaching in May, Harbor Shores will springboard from a community's revitalization project to a major golf venue. Nicklaus added, "It is hard for me to believe that new golf courses are not equally as good, or better, than old golf courses."

## Where to Eat

The ripple effect of the Harbor Shores development initiative has created an arts district along Territorial Road and Main Street. The newly revamped Library Pub and Eatery [190 Territorial Road] is just a pitch and a putt from the course and provides an upscale tavern menu. A meal here also provides visitors a chance to stroll the galleries of a budding art community and the birth of a new era in Benton Harbor.

If you like to eat where the locals dine, then Benton

Harbor's North Shore Inn [107 Higman Park Road] is the spot for the best burgers. From the street, you may think the building is abandoned, and truthfully, the interior is not much better. However, North Shore, located just across the street from the back nine of the club, serves one of the most delicious burgers you'll ever experience.

On the opposite end of the ambiance spectrum, The Boulevard Inn's The Bistro on the Boulevard [521 Lake Boulevard] in downtown St. Joseph is an elegant experience with exquisite French cuisine. You'll need to change out of your shorts and golf shirt, but after a day of hiking in the gallery a great piece of beef is worth the wardrobe change.

## Where to Play

Golfers planning on spending more than a day watching the Senior PGA Championship in person are encouraged to extend their visit even longer by taking in one or more of the outstanding golf courses across southwestern Michigan and not far from Benton Harbor. Hawkshead Golf Club in South Haven [www. hawksheadlinks.com] ranks among the proudest achievements of Arthur Hills' career due in part to the natural flow of the sand dunes upon which the course was built. At 6,984 yards, the course provides plenty of challenge to go with the sweeping landscapes. Hills left untouched huge sand waste areas across much of the course. some of which must be traversed with heroic carries to the green. The 396-yard,

tenth hole might not be the property's signature hole, but it may be the most interesting one. A precise tee shot sets up a mid-iron approach on this dogleg left par 4. A large waste area, which cuts across the fairway, must be traversed to reach the green. Hawkshead also has lodging and a fantastic restaurant on site!

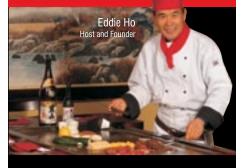
A pair of sister courses are the marquee golf attractions in the Saugatuck/Douglas area. Perennially ranked among the top 25 courses in Michigan, Ravines Golf

Course [www.ravinesgolfclub.com] was designed by Arnold Palmer and features, of course, several wide ravines that cross holes. Scenic and impeccably maintained, the layout has wide fairways and generous landing areas to thus allow errant hitters plenty of room for mistakes. A huge renovation project has vastly improved the look and playability of the 6,531-yard Clearbrook Golf Club [www. clearbrookgolfclub.com] that opened in 1926. Mature trees grace this elegant course that offers extremely affordable green fees.

The 73rd Senior PGA Championship will not be the test to see if Benton Harbor is major-ready; this championship is the reward for a community that rolled the dice and beat the odds.

Single day tickets to the 73rd Senior PGA Championship are \$50 for single day passes, and a week pass is \$150. For more ticket information visit www.pga.com/seniorpga or call 800-PGA-GOLF. For more information about Southwest Michigan and lodging options, go to www. swmichigan.org.

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## **Sweet Home Chicago**

continued from page 21



## **Glenview's Glen Club to Host DKI Charity Outing in May**

DKI, North America's largest disaster restoration contracting organization, will hold its second annual charity golf outing, titled "18 Holes For Hope," on Tuesday, May 22nd. The event will take place at The Glen Club, one of Chicagoland's premier golf courses located in the north suburb of Glenview

Proceeds from the event will benefit Citizen Voice's "Safely Out" program, developed with technical assistance from the Red Cross Sierra Chapter and designed to ensure vulnerable citizens-specifically the disabled, young children. and frail seniors—are protected during a disaster.

For registration and more information, visit www.18holesforhope.com.

Swinging at daisies is like playing electric guitar with a tennis racket: if it were that easy, we could all be Jerry Garcia. The ball changes everything. --Michael Bamberger





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## **Baresel Joins Acclaimed Cantigny Golf Academv**

The renowned Cantigny Golf Academy in Wheaton continues to diversify and expand. Greg Baresel, 27, joined the staff in March and was immediately named as lead instructor of the PGA Tour Academy Junior Camps at the complex. The academy is headed by Director of Instruction Connie DeMattia, and also maintains a golf fitness expert, a master clubfitter, and a sports/golf psychologist.

"Greg is a great addition to our professional team at the Academy," says DeMattia. "His knowledge of the golf swing and manner of communication are outstanding."

Baresel, known for his individualized instruction for beginners and experienced golfers alike, has a knack for motivating his students and for making a demanding game seem less complicated. "The key to consistency is having the body produce the most efficient swing that it can," said Baresel. "But every player has a unique range of motion, and there is no perfect way to swing a golf club. I try to maximize a player's ability to achieve their best performance on the golf course."

For more information on the Cantigny Golf Academy, visit www.cantignygolf/ academy.



I don't like to watch golf on television because I can't stand people who whisper. –David Brennei



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# **INSTRUCTIO**

# **Toss it Toward** the Cup



**G** reat short games require great imagina-tions. To execute any shot, you must imagine it first. We ask our students to imagine three things: trajectory, landing target, and roll out to the hole. Begin any shot around the green by walking up to the green and surveying the landing area. Once you pick your landing spot, pace it off back to the ball. If you are carrying the ball between 5 and 25 paces, it is a toss shot.

The basic mechanics of the toss shot are crucial. A player must set up to the ball in a good posture (tilted forward from the hips) and standing to the handle with a narrow stance [photo 1].

Once a player is in a good set up position, the toss shot is performed just like it sounds, tossing the ball sideways underneath the body and toward the target. The arms need to swing straight back and forth toward the target. The player's weight needs to remain stationary (single pivot point) in the backswing [photo 2]. In the downswing,

the club head, hands, and body's center need to match up at impact so that they form a straight line. At the finish, the player should have pivoted around the forward leg. One of the primary mistakes players make is to fall back onto the back leg in an effort to "scoop" the ball up onto the green. It is imperative in order to strike the ball on a descending approach that the player swings the club head down to the ball while pivoting over the left leg.

After you understand the basic motion of the toss shot, you can learn to control the trajectory. First, choose the right club. Every player should carry a sand wedge (54° to 56°) and a lob wedge (58° to 60°). For a high toss, use the lob wedge. For low toss, use a sand wedge. Next, set the shaft in relation to the target. For the high toss set the shaft perpendicular to the ground (neutral). For the low toss set the shaft toward the target.

Once the shaft is set, "stand to the handle", which means the handle of the

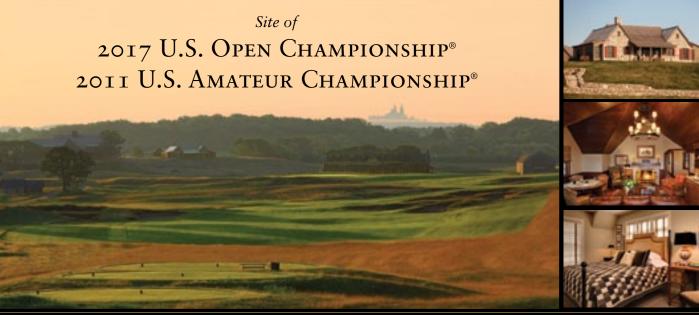
club should point at the center of your body with your spine perpendicular to the ground. The most common cause of skulled or fat shots is tilting back in the set up or in the swing.

When you are set up properly to hit a high or a low toss, the next key is in the takeaway. For a high toss, the clubface should be rotated open (toe up) and the club head should be kept outside of the hands as it swings back. For a low toss the club head should be kept slightly closed (facing the ball) and swung lower and more to the inside.

As soon as you have learned the proper set up and motion of the toss shot, you will be able to control your trajectory around the green giving you the best opportunity to get closer to the hole and convert your ups and downs.

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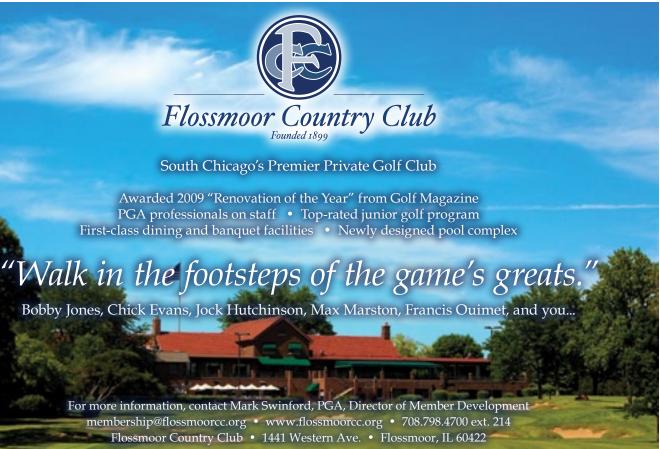


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# **TGA Positioned to Grow** the Game in Chicago

GA Premier Junior Golf, an innovative **L** youth sports franchise firm that grows golf and makes it accessible through a unique school-based teaching curriculum, is positioning itself to expand in the Chicago area. The area's first successful franchise launched in 2010 in nearby McHenry County and more are in development to open in the near future.

TGA is making a significant impact on growing the game of golf nationwide through its five-level after-school enrichment classes. They are offered in 23 states for 165,000 kindergarten through 8th grade students in 2,500 schools.

Statistics show that youth that are engaged in afterschool activities perform better in the classroom, become more acclimated in society, and have a greater chance to succeed in life. Each session runs five to ten weeks, depending on the school's time frame, and students use the almostGOLFW<sup>™</sup> ball, so they can see the trajectory of a "real" ball but also stay safe.

What sets TGA apart from other traditional junior golf programs is the unique teaching curriculum developed by PhDs in Child and Curriculum Development, along with PGA and LPGA golf professionals that incorporate math, English, science, and history with a character development initiative. The programs are also adaptable to any sized space and are conducted anywhere on school campuses, including fields, gymnasiums, multi-purpose rooms, cafeterias, parking lots, hallways, and classrooms.

Founder and CEO Joshua Jacobs, a graduate of Emory University where he was a member of the golf team, started TGA as an overnight golf camp for kids that morphed into the concept of introducing children of all backgrounds to the game through schools.

"I have always believed that the best way to grow the game of golf was to bring it directly to the schools and provide a consistent and accessible program for the future of golf, which is what we have created at TGA."

Jacobs launched the first golf enrichment programs at six Los Angeles schools in the fall of 2003. TGA's focus on providing children with an opportunity to learn golf through



a full service program that is fun and costeffective received an overwhelmingly positive response from schools, parents, and students.

As word spread about TGA's program, more and more inquiries from people around the country expressed their interest in the organization. In 2007, after four years of growing, honing, and improving the program locally, TGA began offering geographically exclusive franchises.

TGA decided to franchise their unique business model because of the lack of business ownership opportunities within the golf industry for entrepreneurs and golf professionals. TGA provides a full-service program and business solution for anybody with a passion for golf, kids, and their community. As a result, the franchise business has become an award-winning, low-cost franchise business opportunity for self-starters.

Sherman Leland, a multiple TGA franchise owner in the San Francisco area and a veteran franchise business owner, believes TGA has developed an excellent, affordable business ownership opportunity.

"I have been a multiple franchise owner with TGA for three years and in the franchise business for over 5 years. The positive growth from the early stages of TGA is only due to the great programs that each franchise runs and the dedication of the founders to really go beyond their own capabilities to build a wonderful company," Leland said. "The business model is very successful, even during these tough economic times."

Entrepreneur Magazine selected the fastgrowing youth sports company in 2010 among its "Top 10 Best Franchise Deals" based on total startup costs. The company is also known for being one of the nation's top children's health and fitness franchises.

PGA professionals, entrepreneurs, and even golf course owners looking to grow their future business would be smart to consider a TGA franchise. This one-of-a-kind model has become a successful initiative that is changing the landscape of how sports industries such as golf can increase growth and participation while positively impacting kids and engaging families in their communities.

This includes the PGA of America, who recently appointed Jacobs to be a key member of Golf 2.0's strategic initiative team. The PGA Sections in the nine target markets of Golf 2.0 are working with TGA to responsibly grow golf; one of the nine markets is the Chicago area.

TGA is making golf affordable and accessible to the masses directly through physical education and afterschool enrichment programs at elementary and middle schools, childcare centers, and communitybased organizations. The organization is also dedicated to transitioning students to over 200 golf course partners nationwide through camps, clinics, and private lessons.

Local PGA professional Shawn Chisamore, a native of Illinois and franchise owner in McHenry and Walworth counties near Chicago, is excited to combine his 15-year PGA background teaching the game and working with youth.

"As a PGA member, it is our mission to grow the game of golf and it must start with the youth of today. TGA Premier Junior Golf provides the perfect opportunity for PGA professionals and business people to operate their own business, while teaching kids the game and the life lessons associated with it, as well as making the game more prosperous for the future."

Steve Tanner, COO of TGA Premier Junior Golf who oversees franchise development across the country, sees Chicago as a fast-growing market for the TGA model.

"Given Chicago's large golfing community, TGA's success in other cold-climate areas, and my experience as a native Chicagoan, we view the greater Chicago area as a fantastic market for TGA. There are likely six to ten viable territories in the region that we're actively seeking to develop with local entrepreneurs who are passionate about enriching kids' lives through our sustainable business models."

TGA's Midwest territories currently include McHenry and Walworth counties near Chicago, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Cleveland, Akron, Ann Arbor, and Detroit.

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# **NIU Golf: A Family Affair**

**S**ome might wonder what would com-pel a golfer to pursue college golf in a cold-weather climate when her sport is definitely a warm weather activity. For most of the women of the Northern Illinois University's golf team, the reason is pretty simple—they wanted to play for a team that was close to home. For others, it has become a family tradition.

The entire team is comprised of ladies from Illinois or Wisconsin, so being closer to home factored into the decision-making process. Current freshman Taylor Ellett's mom, Sue Sisler, played on head coach Pam Tyska's very first team 26 years ago. This has even deeper meaning now as Tyska has announced she is leaving NIU this spring to pursue other opportunities in the golf industry. It's a fitting end that Tyska will spend her last season at NIU coaching the daughter of a player from her first year with the Huskies.

For freshman Casey LaBarbera of Marinette, Wisconsin, opting to play at NIU is a family affair. LaBarbera was born in DeKalb, both of her parents played golf at NIU, and one of her current teammates is cousin Allie Parthie. Parthie, a junior, states "my aunt, Casey's Mom, was my high school golf coach and she had played golf at NIU

so she recommended I check it out on one of my recruiting trips. We stopped here and from the very beginning it just felt right." LaBarbera adds, "I felt like I'd really fit in here and I just clicked with everyone. It's been that way since I arrived on campus as a freshman."

Senior Kelsie Passolt was recruited to play for a college in South Carolina. Passolt shares, "I visited the school in South Carolina and the facilities were amazing and everything looked good on paper. When I came to NIU, I just knew right away that this was the team I wanted to compete with and I've enjoyed every year here. All in all, it's been an amazing experience at NIU, very rewarding both in golf and academics."

Freshman Taylor Ellett of Hampshire, Illinois, chose NIU partially because it is close to home and because of the strong family ties she has with the university. Her mother and grandparents attended NIU and they passed along good feelings about the school and the golf program.

Senior Carissa Burdi stated, "On my recruiting trip, Coach Tyska took us around and I knew right away that this was the place for me. During my years at NIU, I've made such great friendships and met so many new people that I wouldn't have met if I weren't in sports. My decision to come here was absolutely the right choice. I don't feel like I've missed out on anything at all by playing golf for a cold-weather school."

Senior Katie Kuhn from Clarendon Hills, Illinois, spent her freshman year at a school in Florida and said "being down there is great because obviously you can play golf all year, but it just wasn't what I was looking for. My Dad is a Northern alum and has good memories of his time here. And even though we play a warm-weather sport, we make it work, and we're all used to it because we grew up here. It's also been great representing Hinsdale Central High School which is Coach Tyska's alma mater, and I believe I'm the first alumna of coach's high school to make the team here at NIU!"

For the entire team, opting to play golf in a cold-weather state had little impact on their decision on where to play their college golf. Some are continuing the family tradition, others like being close to home, and some based their decision on being able to play for the heart and soul of NIU Women's Golf for the past 26 years, Coach Pam Tyska. Playing in the cold just doesn't seem to matter when you have a warm feeling inside.



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18 holes Yardage: 7104 - 4931 yds. Rating/Slope 73.8/135 - 68.2/116

Mon - Th: \$98, includes cart with GPS and range balls Fri - Sun: \$110, includes cart with GPS and range balls Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Practice Facilities: Yes Banquet/Outings: Yes

Located just forty minutes southwest of Chicago, Bolingbrook Golf Club combines the elements of a world-class facility and championship golf. Bolingbrook Golf Club features an Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest designed championship golf course, 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 Boulevard Elgin, Illinois 60124 www.bowescreekcountryclub. com

18 Championship Golf Holes Yardage: 6794 - 4756 vds.

Rating/Slope: 73.2/142 - 68.1/121

Member for a Day Rates allows unlimited play for the day Mon - Th: \$79 / golf, cart, and range Fri - Sun: \$98 / golf, cart, and range Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Practice Facility: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Banquet/Outings: Yes

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 want to play that day because you are... Member for that Day! A Rick Jacobson Designed golf course, it is everything you want in a golf course. "We tried to give the course a rustic look and used big, sweeping bunkers with fingers of grass drifting into the sand and fescue grasses as lips on the bunker faces." Jacobson said.



## Cantigny Golf 630-668-8463 27w270 Mack Road Wheaton, IL 60189 www.cantignygolf.com

27 holes Yardage per 18: 7,055 - 5,183 Rating/Slope: 74.2/140 - 70.4/122

Mon - Th: \$85 walking Fri - Sun: \$95 walking Cart: \$20 (7 days) Caddie: \$20 per person plus tip Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight rates: No Practice Facility: Yes Banquet/Outings: Yes

Cantigny was named "Best New Public Course in America" by Golf Digest in 1989, and since then has been a "Top 100 Public Course." It has hosted numerous championships, including three Illinois State Amateurs and the 2007 U.S. Amateur Public Links. Designed on spectacular terrain by Roger Packard, the course's beauty will take your breath away. The impressive Cantigny Golf Academy opened in 2008, and junior golfers thrive at the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links. Great golf and excellent

food go together at Cantigny. As an incentive to sample the cuisine, golfers in 2012 will receive a \$10 voucher good for same-day redemption at Fareways Grill inside the clubhouse. You'll get a voucher when you play 18 holes at the regular rate during non-peak times— Monday through Thursday all day and Saturday/ Sunday afternoons.



## Chicago Park District Golf

312-245-0909 www.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 no matter where you live or work in the city. Play Your Favorite CPD course today!

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

Robert A. Black – 9 Holes 2045 W. Pratt Boulevard

Sydney R. Marovitz – 9 Holes 3600 N. Recreation Drive (Lake Shore Drive)

Jackson Park – 18 Holes 6401 S. Richards Drive

Columbus Park – 9 Holes 5701 W. Jackson Boulevard

Marquette Park 6700 S. Kedzie Avenue

South Shore 7059 South Shore Drive

Diversey Range 141 W. Diversey Parkway



## **Flossmoor Country Club**

708.798.4700 1441 Western Avenue Flossmoor, IL 60422 www.flossmoorcc.org

"South Chicago's Premier Private Golf Club" Founded 1899

Golf Course Architect Herbert J. Tweedie, 1899 Redesigned by: Raymond Hearn, 2009

Yardage, Rating/Slope 7136, 75.5/144 6764, 73.7/138 6437, 72.2/134 6112, 70.6/130 5503, 72.9/133

Member Amenities

- PGA Professionals On Staff
- Newly Designed Pool Complex
- Meeting & Banquet Rooms up to 300
- Top-rated Jr. Golf Program
- Tennis Programs For All Ages
- Excellent Dining Experience

Flossmoor Country Club provides golfing enjoyment, competition and family entertainment in the south suburbs of Chicago. In 1899, Flossmoor Country Club was founded and is now one of the oldest existing clubs in the Midwest and home to a classic style, world-class golf course. With rich history and traditions, the "Flossmoor Experience" emanates through various member golf tournaments and social events culminating in the finest club experience Chicago has to offer.



## Forest Preserve Golf Courses | Cook County

800-460-0010 www.forestpreservegolf. com

Affordable GOLF. Friendly SERVICE. Fantastic EXPERIENCE.

Forest Preserve Golf offers something for every golfer. With ten courses, four driving ranges, and a miniature golf course, you are sure to find a place to call your home course.

PLUS...save EVERY DAY with the NEWLY revised FPG Golf and Rewards Card!

Billy Caldwell – 9 Holes 6150 Caldwell Avenue

Burnham Woods – 18 Holes 14201 S Burnham Avenue

Chick Evans – 18 Holes 6145 Golf Road

Edgebrook – 18 Holes 6100 N Central Avenue

George Dunne National - 18 Holes 16310 S Central Avenue

Harry Semrow – Driving Range & Mini Golf 1150 E Golf Road

Highland Woods – 18 Holes 2775 Ela Road

Indian Boundary – 18 Holes 8600 W Forest Preserve Avenue

Joe Louis – 18 Holes 13100 S Halsted Street

Meadowlark – 9 Holes 11599 31st St

**River Oaks – 18 Holes** 1 Park Avenue



The Glen Club 847-724-7272 2901 West Lake Ave. Glenview, II 60026 www.theglenclub.com

Offering a unique blend of membership and daily fee play.

2012 Green Fees range from \$100 - \$180. General public April reserve starting times seven days in advance. Practice range is included in green fee. Carts: \$23 Caddies are available upon request.

Renowned golf course architect Tom Fazio brilliantly transformed the once-flat runways of the Glenview Naval Air station into a nationally acclaimed 18-hole layout, featuring dramatic elevation changes, meandering lakes, and running streams. Following its debut in 2001, The Glen Club was thrust into the national spotlight earning recognition from Golf Magazine, Golf Digest and Sports Illustrated. The Glen Club has hosted numerous professional and elite amateur events and is the home course for Northwestern University's men's and women's golf teams.

A *Golf Magazine* Top 100 You Can Play in the United States. *Golf Digest* Best places to Play 4.5 Stars. Home of The Illinois Golf Hall of Fame. Member Great Golf Resorts of the World. Stay in one of our finely appointed overnight rooms.



Glencoe Golf Club 847-835 -0250 621 Westley Road Glencoe, IL 60022 www.glencoegolfclub.com

Weekday Fees Early bird: \$30.00 Prime: \$41.00 Twilight: \$27.00 Super Twilight: \$22.00 Weekend Fees Prime: \$49.00 Twilight: \$32.00 Super Twilight: \$22.00

Sr./Jr. DiscountsGrass Tee RangeOutings Available

Par 72, Yardage 6,539 Rating / Slope Blue: 71.6/130 White: 70.3/127 Red: 72.8/127

The Glencoe Golf Club, known for excellent course conditions and lightning fast greens, features tree-lined fairways, native prairie grass corridors, and several water features throughout the property. A great escape from the sights and sounds of the city, located only 20 minutes north of Chicago.

UPCOMING EVENTS • Glencoe Open-36-Hole Tournament • Senior Championship • Night Golf - Glow Ball • Hard Course Day / Chili Open

Please visit our website for details.



## Glenview Park Golf Club

847-724-0250 800 Shermer Road Glenview, IL 60025 www.golfglenview.com

18 holes Par 70 6,133 yards

Mon - Th: 18 holes \$39 Mon - Th Twilight: 9 holes \$24 Mon - Th: Super Twilight: (after 5 pm) \$20 Fri - Sun: \$48 Fri - Sun Twiliaht: 9 holes \$30 Fri – Sun/Holidays Super Twiliaht: (after 5 pm) \$20 Cart Fees: 9 holes \$10/rider 18 holes \$16/rider Twilight \$13/rider Tee Time Specials available at www. golfglenview.com

Experience pure golfing eniovment at the Glenview Park Golf Club. Beautifully landscaped with an extensive variety of trees, shrubs, and flowers, this 18-hole. 6,133-yard, par-70 course features a choice of three bent grass tee boxes on every hole. The Glenview Park Golf Club offers the amenities of a private club but is open to the public and close to home. Since 1955, when the Glenview Park District purchased the Chesterfield Golf Course and began operating it as the Glenview Park Golf Club, the course has been continually upgraded and improved to add to your golfing enjoyment.



## The Highlands of Elgin

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

18 Championship Golf Holes Yardage: 6510 - 5568 yds. Rating/Slope: 71.6/128 - 66.8/116

Mon - Fri: \$35 walk / \$54 ride Weekends / Holidays: \$43 walk / \$62 ride Jr./Sr. Rates: Weekdays Only Practice Facility: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Banquet/Outings: Yes

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.

The prairie-style clubhouse with stunning golf course views is now open. The clubhouse features event rooms with expansive ceilings, full-scale food and beverage operations, locker rooms, and an expanded golf shop. The facility also features a lighted practice facility offering bent grass tees, 30 hitting stations, short game area, and a 9,000 sq. ft. putting green.



## Harborside International G.C. 312-782-7837 11001 S. Doty Ave. East, Chicago, IL 60628 www.harborsideinternational. com harborside3@aol.com

36 holes Port Course Yardage: 7,164 - 5,164 yds. Rating/Slope: 75.1/132 - 70.4/123 Starboard Course Yardage 7,166 - 5,110 yds. Rating/Slope: 75.0/132 - 70.5/120

Mon - Thu: \$82 includes cart & range balls Fri - Sun: \$95 includes cart & range balls Twilight Rates: Yes Practice Facilities: Yes, 57-acre Banquet/Outings: Yes, Phil Stefani's

Located just 16 minutes from Downtown Chicago, directly on I-94, Harborside is the home of the PORT & STARBOARD Courses designed by Dick Nugent in the links tradition of windswept Scottish and Irish seaside courses. Ranked by *Golfweek*'s 2010 "Best Courses You Can Play" Starboard #11 & Port #12 in Illinois and also the host of the Champions Tour in 2002. Ammenities include a 24,000 sq. ft. Prairie Style Clubhouse with food and banquets by the Phil Stefani Restaurant Group and a 57-acre practice facility. Harborside is truly "Chicago's Course."



## Lake Bluff Golf Club

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

18 holes Yardage: 6589 yds – 4969 yds. Rating/Slope: 71.3/124 - 67.0/114

Mon - Fri: \$39 walking Sat – Sun: \$49 walking Cart fees: \$18 (Mon – Sun) Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Practice facilities: Yes Banquet/Outings: Yes

Lake Bluff Golf Club was established in 1968 and in its 44-year history the course has become a "must-play" destination for golfers. Located on the scenic North Shore of Chicago, the golf course is one of only a few public facilities offering private club caliber amenities.

Lake Bluff Golf Club takes pride in the conditioning and playability of the course with features such as a million dollar state-of-the art irrigation system. The professionally stocked Pro Shop and the Village Grill, which serves delicious food and a wide selection of beverages, are a couple of the superior amenities available to guests of the club.

Tee times specials are available exclusively through the club's website.



## **Mistwood Golf Club**

815-254-3333 1700 W. Renwick Rd. Romeoville, IL 60446 www.mistwoodgolf.net info@mistwoodgolf.net

Home of the Illinois Women's Open Rated 4½ stars by *Golf Digest* Yardage: 6,768 - 5,231 yds. Rating/Slope: 72.2/137 - 69.8/126

Mon - Th: \$35 - \$41 walking Fri - Sun: \$42 - \$61 walking Cart Fee: \$18 Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Practice Facilities: Yes Banquet/Outings: Yes IPGA Pro: Visanu Tongwarin

Centered around a beautiful 67-acre lake, Mistwood is designed to challenge and reward golfers of every level. From the moment you arrive at Mistwood you will relish a classic golf experience including impeccable split fairways, highly-manicured and terraced greens, and an expert and attentive staff. Designed by Ray Hearn, Mistwood hosts the prestigious Illinois Women's Open and proudly features the five best finishing holes in the state. Other amenities include an 18-acre practice facility, a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, and a spectacular restaurant offering a versatile menu.

Driving Directions to Club: Exit I-55 at Weber Rd and proceed south 4 miles to Renwick Rd. Turn right. Club is one mile on the right. Only 40 minutes from downtown!



## Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500 2411 West Illinois Avenue Aurora, IL 60506 www.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, waterfalls, and more.

- Excellent course conditions and guest service
- 6,750 yards from the tips, yet enjoyable for all skill levels
- Conveniently located minutes off I-88 & a short drive from the western suburbs
- Visit Orchard's Bar & Grill for fantastic food & drink specials

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!



## Seven Bridges Golf Club

630-964-7777 One Mulligan Dr. Woodridge, IL 60517 www.sevenbridges.com

18 holes Yardage: 7111- 5262 yds. Rating/Slope: 74.6/144 - 68.5/130

Spring Rates: \$42 - \$75 Summer Rates: \$48 - \$107 All Rates include golf cart equipped with GPS Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Practice Facilities: Yes Putting and Chipping Green & Hitting Bay Banquet/Outings: Yes

Seven Bridges Golf Club, conveniently located in Woodridge, Illinois, enjoys a reputation for being one of the most innovative golf courses in the market. Depending on tee placement, Seven Bridges provides a setting in which golfers of all levels have to rely on their own guile to make the right shot-making decisions. A scenic, perfectly-groomed course, this Dick Nugent design has matured and grown into its well deserved reputation as a challenging yet rewarding test of your game.

Seven Bridges has been awarded 4 stars by *Golf Digest* and is the former host of the Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic.

Seven Bridges offers a variety of programs to suit your golfing needs: • Golf Pass Program

- Twilight Club
- Permanent Tee Times
- Corporate Memberships



## Silver Lake Country Club

708-349-6940 ext.4 14700 S. 82nd Avenue Orland Park, IL 60462 www.silverlakecc.com

North Course: 6,826 yds South Course: 6,310 yds Rolling Hills: Executive 9

18-Hole Rates: Weekdays: \$18 - \$37 Weekends: \$22 - \$45 Carts: \$10 - \$16 Jr./Sr. Rate: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Midday Rates: Weekends Banquets/Outings: Yes Dir. of Golf: Bert Coghill

A Chicago Golf Tradition Since 1927. For four generations, the Coghill family has provided the finest golf experience in southwest Chicagoland. 45 holes spread over three courses. The North Course features long par 4s, water hazards and well-trapped greens. The South Course plays long par 5s, tricky par 3s, eight water holes, and large greens. Rolling Hills, voted #1 9-hole course by Chicagoland golfers, is ideal for casual and junior golfers.

\*\*NEW UPGRADES for 2012! New Tee Time Intervals for Improved Pace of Play, Renovated Sand Traps, More Permanent Tee Times. Pro Shop Updates, Online Tee Times and a Golfer Awards Program. Join our Birthday Club for a FREE Round (when vou bring a foursome). Visit our *new* website and book your tee times online for hassle-free reservations.



## Stonewall Orchard 847-740-4890 25675 W Highway 60 Grayslake, IL 60030-9629 www.stonewallorchard. com info@StonewallOrchard.

com 18 holes

Yardage: 7074 – 5375 yds. Rating/Slope: 74.7/148 - 71.7/130

Mon - Th: \$70 walking Fri – Sun: \$77 walking Cart fees: \$14 (Mon – Th) \$18 (Fri – Sun) Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Practice Facilities: Yes Banquet/Outings: Yes

A Final Stage Qualifying site for the 2009 U.S. Open and host of the Illinois Section PGA Championship, the Arthur Hills-designed Stonewall Orchard Golf Club features 65,000 mature pine and oak trees, rolling fairways, tranguil wetlands and native wildlife across 18 brilliant holes. Consistently ranked as one the top courses in Illinois, Stonewall Orchard's pure greens and perfectly manicured fairways make this a must-play for Chicago's golf aficionados.



## Water's Edge Golf Course

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

Best Places To Play By *Golf Digest* 

Water's Edge is Chicago's south side destination course. This championship 18hole golf course with bent grass greens and fairways offers: •Superior course conditions and friendly

- service
  6,400+ yards of golfing excellence, yet playable by all levels
- •Complete day/night practice & range facility
- •Visit 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. Much MORE!



## Whisper Creek Golf Course

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

Luxury Golf at a Whisper of a Price!

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

- 7,000+ yards from the
- tips; yet playable by all levels
- 5-star experience and service with a smile
- 20 minutes west of Schaumburg — an easy commute from anywhere in the Chicago area.

PLUS...a program for everyone! SAVE on every round with the Whisper Rewards PLUS program UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the PDP card. Annual Memberships and MORE!



## White Mountain Golf Park

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

Learn. Practice. Play.

- Executive course offering 9 holes of competitive golf: surprising terrain and sloping greens make this layout fun for anyone — whether you're an experienced professional or a beginner
- Practice Range with 35 artificial hitting stations, over 13,000 square feet of grass hitting stations, and heated, covered stalls
- Mini Golf park offering 18 holes, including water features, elevation changes, and playful layouts
- Professional instruction for all levels and abilities
- Fully stocked golf shop featuring the latest in golf apparel, equipment, and accessories
- Party room perfect for events, fundraisers and more!

PLUS...earn FREE stuff with the Playback Rewards program – join TODAY!

All information in this directory is provided by participating courses. GOLFChicago is not responsible or liable for errors or incorrect information. Map © Copyright 2012 GOLFChicago Magazine. All rights reserved.

## Arrowhead

630-653-5800 26 W. 151 Butterfield Rd Wheaton, IL 60189 www.arrowheadgolfclub.org Par 71 27 Hole Golf Course South/East 72/132 Yardage: 6734 South/West 72/132 Yardage: 6692 West/East 72/131 Yardage: 6637 Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Banquets/Outings: Yes Restaurant/Bar: Yes

## **Blackberry Oaks**

630-553-7170 Bristol

## **Boughton Ridge**

630-739-4100 Bolingbrook

## Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club

The Grill at Poplar Creek: 847-781-3664 Banquet: 847-884-0219 Tee Times: 847-781-3681 Driving Range: 847-781-3653 Fax: 847-310-3621 1400 Poplar Creek Drive Hoffman Estates, IL 60169 www.poplarcreekcc.com

## **Bristol Oaks Golf Club**

262-857-2302 16801 75th St. Bristol, WI 53104 www.bristoloaks.com

## The Bull

800-5THEBULL Sheyboygan Aprils, WI

## Central Missouri's Lake of the Ozarks

800-490-8474 www.GolfAtLakeOfTheOzarks. com

## **Coyote Run Golf Course**

708-957-8700 800 Kedzie Flossmoor IL 60422 Coyoterungolf.com Par 71 Yardage: 6,478 Weekday: \$50 w/cart Weekend: \$60 w/cart Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes, \$31 w/ cart, Mon.-Thu. only Twilight Rates: Yes Banquets/Outings: Yes

## Dave Pelz Scoring Game School 800-735-9868

www.pelzgolf.com

## Eaglewood Resort and Spa

630-773-3510 1401 Nordic Rd. Itasca, IL. 60143 www.eaglewoodresort.com Par 72 Yardage 6,015 - 5,410 yds. Weekday: \$39.00 w/cart (Spring Rate) Weekend: \$45.00 w/cart (Spring Rate) Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Banquets/Outings: Yes

## Executive Womens' Golf Association (EWGA)

866-210-5306 www.ewgachicago.org

# The First Tee of Aurora & Fox Valley

630-499-0680 1001 Hill Avenue Aurora, IL 60505 www.thefirstteeaurora.org

## The First Tee of Greater Chicago

773-885-8258 2901 W. Lake Avenue, Suite A Glenview, IL 60025 www.thefirstteegreaterchicago. org

## The First Tee of Hammond

219-228-2528 901 129th Street Hammond, IN 46320 www.thefirstteehammond.org

## Flagg Creek Golf Course

708-246-3336 6939 S. Wolf Road Countryside, IL 60525 www.flaggcreekgolfcourse.org Par 33 Yardage: 2493 – 1865 Weekday: \$18 (res. rate) Weekend: \$20 (res. rate) Cart Fee: \$16 Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Banquets/Outings: Yes

## **GOLFChicago Magazine**

815-741-8005 www.GolfChicagoMagazine. com

## Glenview National 9 Golf Club

847 657-1637 2800 West Lake Avenue Glenview, IL 60026 www.golfglenview.com Email: glenviewnational9@ glenviewparks.org

9 holes 2,000 yards Par 31 Green Fees (per 9 holes) Mon – Thu: \$16 Fri – Sun/Holidays: \$18 Juniors play free\* Mon – Thu when accompanied by a paid adult. \*Up to three juniors

Grand Geneva Resort and Spa 262-248-8811

Lake Geneva, WI 53147

## Green Meadows Golf Club

630-810-5330 18 W 201 West 63rd Street Westmont, IL 60559 www.DuPageGolf.com Par 30 Yardage: 1,888 - 1,545 yds. Weekday: \$14 walk / \$22 ride Weekend: \$16 walk / \$24 ride

\*Frequent specials on course Web site Discount Program: Yes Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: No Banquets/Outings: No

## Hamilton County Golf

Indiana's Premier Golf Destination! Home of the 2012 BMW Championship September 3-9 at Crooked Stick Golf Club www.indianaspremiergolf.com

## **Illinois Golf Hall of Fame**

847-729-5700 ext. 104 2901 W. Lake Avenue, Suite A Glenview, IL 60025 www.illinoisgolfhof.org

## **Illinois Junior Golf**

Association (IJGA) 630-257-9806 11855 Archer Avenue Suite 200 Lemont, IL 60439

## Illinois PGA

847-729-5700 www.ipga.com

## **Indian Oaks Country Club**

815-824-2282 Shabbona, IL 9 Holes 3,379 yards www.indianoakscc.com

## Jacobson Golf Course

Design, INC. 847-918-1361 1590 S. Milwaukee Ave. Suite 101 Libertyville, IL 60048 www. jacobsongolfcoursedesign.com

## Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois

Golf Changes Kids' Lives 630-466-0913 P.O. Box 610 Sugar Grove, IL 60554 www.kidsgolffoundation.org Email: info@kidsgolffoundation. org

## **Kinetic Performance**

Center 847-532-4234 www. kineticperformancecenter.com

## **Links & Tees Golf Facility**

630-458-2660 Addison, IL Recognized in 2011 by *Golf Range Magazine* as one of the top 100 learning facilities in North America. www.addisonparks.org

## Maple Meadows Golf Club

630-616-8424 272 Addison Rd. Wood Dale, IL 60191 www.DuPageGolf.com West 18 - Par 70 Yardage: 6,438 - 5,339 yds. Weekday: \$27 walk / \$44 ride Weekend: \$35 walk / \$52 ride \*Frequent specials on course website East 9 – Par 34 Yardage: 2,815 - 2,427 vds. Rate: \$14 walk / \$23 ride Discount Program: Yes Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes

Banquets/Outings: Yes

## Martin Design Partnership, Ltd.

Golf Course Architecture and Design 630-482-2532 335 N. River Street Suite 201 Batavia, IL 60510 www.mdpltd.com

## Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215 22204 W. Hassert Boulevard Plainfield, IL 60585 www.naperbrookgolfcourse.org Par 72 Yardage: 6677 Weekday: \$38 Weekend: \$48 Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Banquets/Outings: Yes

## **Oak Brook Golf Club**

630-368-6400 2606 York Road Oak Brook, IL 60523 www.oak-brook.org/recreation Par 72 Yardage 6541 - 5341 yds Weekday: \$65.00 w/cart Weekend: \$69.00 w/cart Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Banquets/Outings: Yes

## **Oak Meadows Golf Club**

630-595-0071 900 N. Wood Dale Road Addison, IL 60101 www.DuPageGolf.com Par 71 Yardage: 6,718 - 5,628 yds. Weekday: \$32 walk / \$49 ride Weekend: \$40 walk / \$57 ride \*Frequent specials on course Web site Discount Program: Yes Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Banquets/Outings: No

## Scoring Zone Golf Schools

847-549-8678 White Deer Run Golf Club Vernon Hills, IL 60061 www.toddsonees.com

## **Course Managers:**

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

## SentryWorld

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

## Shepherd's Crook

847-872-2080 351 N. Green Bay Rd. Zion, IL 60099 www.shepherdscrook.org

## Shiloh Park

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

## **Springbrook Golf Course**

630-848-5060 2220 W. 83rd Street Naperville, IL 60564 www.springbrookgolfcourse.org Par 72 Yardage: 6,896 Weekday: \$40.00 Weekend: \$50.00 Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Banquets/Outings: Yes

## **Village Greens**

630-985-3610 Woodridge

## Western Golf Association / Evans Scholars Foundation

www.westerngolfassociation. com

## White Pines Dome

630-776-0304, ext. 5 Bensenville, IL www.whitepinesdome.som

## **Zigfield Troy Par 3**

630-985-9860 1535 W. 75th Street Woodridge, IL 60517 Leo McNeal

## **A Landmark Opinion**

Since its founding in 1974 by Damaris Deere Ford, great-great granddaughter of John Deere, Landmark Vineyards has called Sonoma County home. Originally located in Windsor, California, in 1989 Landmark moved to the heart of Sonoma valley to escape the encroaching urbanization to the north.

In 1991, Landmark decided to focus primarily on Chardonnay. This effort was reinforced in 1993 when they retained the highly-regarded winemaker and consulting enologist Helen Turley, who has also worked for wineries such as Pahlmeyer, Bryant Family Vineyard, Colgin, and Blankiet. Turley is credited for being one of the first people in the early 1990s to see Sonoma's potential for world-class wines, particularly Chardonnay. The work came together nicely in 1997, when Landmark's 1995 Overlook Chardonnay landed a spot on the *Wine Spectator*'s Top

100 List, the first of seven such appearances. Landmark sources its Chardonnay fruit from a variety of growers in Sonoma valley, allowing them to take advantage of a dozen microclimates and growing conditions. Landmark also maintains a modest 11-acre organically-farmed estate vineyard, planted to traditional Chateauneuf du Pape varietals—Grenache, Syrah, Mourvedre, Counoise, and Viognier.

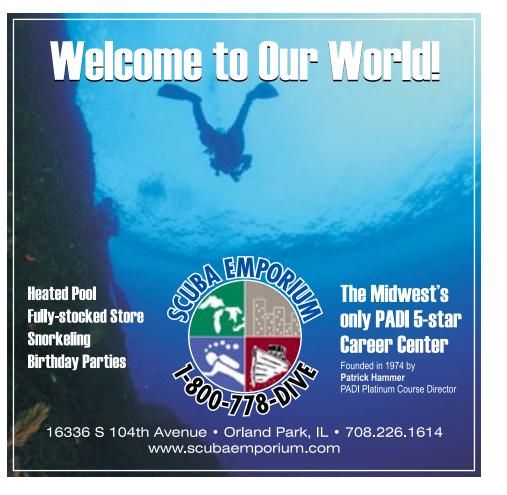
2010 Overlook Chardonnay \$25 After harvest and pressing, the juice for this wine is racked into French oak barrels. There, indigenous yeasts carry out the primary fermentation. This traditional practice allows a medley of yeast species to each contribute its own unique flavor components to the wine. Next comes a second malo-lactic fermentation. The wine then spends eight to ten months in barrel *sur lees*, after which it is finally blended.

In the glass, this wine is a pale gold tinged with green. The nose offers aromas of grapefruit and preserved lemon. The citrus theme continues on the palate, abetted by good acidity and just enough oak to temper and mellow the flavors.

Serve this up with Chicken Breasts with Artichokes and Mustard Sauce, or Sea Bass with Gingered Broth. 2010 Grand Detour Pinot Noir \$40 This Pinot Noir shows that Landmark has a way with reds as well as whites. Grand Detour is sourced from five vineyards in the cool-climate Sonoma Coast appellation. The climate of this region allows the wine to mature at a leisurely pace to improve stucture and develop tannins.

This wine is medium brick in color, with a nose of wild strawberries and plums. The taste follows through with plum and other stone fruits. There is plenty of body (especially for a pinot noir) supported by tart tannins.

Salmon en Papillote would be a classic pairing with this wine. Also consider Veal Scallopine with Lemon and Capers or Roasted Pork Loin with Apricot-Armagnac Compote.





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Jim Owczarski on the PGA Tour

# Can the Giant Killer Take a Major Step?

**A**t 5-feet, 8-inches and 145 pounds, Mark Wilson doesn't fit the look of golf anymore. For that modern era power physique, we start with Tiger Woods, then move to Rory McIlroy, Camilo Villegas, and Dustin Johnson.

The game is trending younger, stronger, and longer. The 37-year-old Elmhurst resident knows he's not any of that.

Yet in the last 16 months Wilson has three wins on the PGA Tour and four other top-10 finishes, a stretch of play that easily exceeds that of not only Woods and Villegas, but Sergio Garcia and Paul Casey. The win total trumps Johnson, Brandt Snedeker, and Nick Watney.

After a third-place finish in the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship, in which he was dubbed the "giant killer" for knocking off low seeds Lee Westwood, Bo Van Pelt, and Johnson, Wilson rose to No. 25 in the world and sixth on the United States Ryder Cup points list. It's a stat line that paints him as one of the best golfers on the planet. As we head into the first major of the season in Augusta however, it's hard to place him among the favorites. Believe it or not, he's only going to be making his seventh career start in a major championship, and as recently as 2010 he didn't play in any majors.

And yet, here he is.

"I just keep plugging along and see what I can do," Wilson said prior to his defense of his Waste Management Open title in February. "I feel good about things. I'm not trying to reinvent the wheel every week like I was when I was 30 years old. There was always a new swing thought, a new putting thought, a new chipping thought. Let's go try that this week and see how it works. I don't do that anymore, I just do the same things over and over again."

Maybe that's why Wilson may be a major factor this year and become a Ryder Cup hero at Medinah Country Club.

His first full year on tour was 2003, and he often found himself grinding away for perfection on the range at Cog Hill. In an imperfect game, such pursuit can be debilitating—especially when you add the pressure of keeping your card.

"I've got a better perspective than I did back maybe in the beginning of my professional career," he said at the Match Play. "I think maybe I'm a little more comfortable because actually I am financially a little more comfortable than I was back when I was just starting out, and you really just are playing for rent money and all that kind of stuff. I can now focus more on victories and making Ryder Cup teams and stuff like that, not worrying about paying the rent."

During this incredible stretch of play, Wilson has often credited his faith, family, and his work with mental game guru Bob Rotella in helping him get to the level of a multiple PGA Tour winner.

There is always another level in this game, so when you start piling up victories and climb the world rankings, focus turns to golf's only true measuring sticks: the majors.

"The majors this year should be a little bit different," he said at the Waste Management Open. "I mean, the Masters already, last year we had everybody in my family coming, and now I think my dad is the only one coming this year, and so that just makes it easier in that sense, too. And I've realized that, once again, it's just golf, and it's hyped because yeah, those are the ones that everyone remembers...But at the same time I just have to treat them like another golf tournament."

One course Wilson should get to learn quickly however is one you would think he would know: Medinah. He admitted in early March he's never played No. 3, though he has been on the grounds as a spectator. Wilson cherishes his off time and says if he does play when he's at home-a big if-it's at Cog Hill or Butler National. With the Ryder Cup quickly approaching—and his chances for making Davis Love III's team increasing—he's hoping to get over to the historic club, even if it might take some convincing. "I'm sure they'd let me on if I called," he said. "I don't know if they've heard of me, though, either. No one's heard of me. When I call up I can't just say my name like I'm sure Phil and Tiger can, I add on I'm Mark Wilson, a PGA player. Maybe they'll be looking me up on the computer when I'm on the phone to see if it's legit."

That's the question heading into this year's major season: is he legit? He's a good guy, a very good player, and we root for him, but what is he? Is he a top-25 player? Is he a Ryder Cupper? Can he break the threshold from PGA Tour winner into major championship contender?

We'll find out if Wilson can join the elite ranks, beginning at Augusta.

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