

# GOLFChicago



Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

April 2015, Vol. 19 No. 2

## The PGA Championship Returns to Kohler

**Legendary Lee Trevino**

**Mom's Day Gift Guide**

**Beyond Bunkers**

**Dave Pelz: Short Game Advisor**

**Journey To Better with Carl Rabito**

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## NOTES FROM GREG AND DAVE

With each new golf season, we are anxious to knock the rust off our golf swings. We both know that if we would like to see more consistent score-cards, we need a few golf lessons. However, we feel like caged tigers; we just want to bash a few buckets of range balls with a driver. This will ease our cabin fever. After all, April is the cruelest of months, and swinging out of your shoes at the driving range is an excellent activity to release tension. If we can hit the ball with a square clubface, then we will forget about tilling the flowerbeds, getting the pool ready, and cleaning out the garage.

All it takes is one, hurried ball-bashing session to ingrain the bad habits you fought last season. This season, our local driving ranges will be selling fewer buckets of balls to us. We have vowed to begin the season around the putting green. We will be pitching, putting, chipping, and bumping the ball around the



*"Lucky for you I just ate. By the way, there's a set of clubs sitting over there, if you're interested."*

green. Yep, this is a game of inches, so the back of the range is safe until we can get a handle on our wedges. As for a lesson from one of our local teaching professionals, we may even surprise ourselves and pay an expert to guide us with our short sticks. How many *bad* rounds will you play before you lose hope and apply

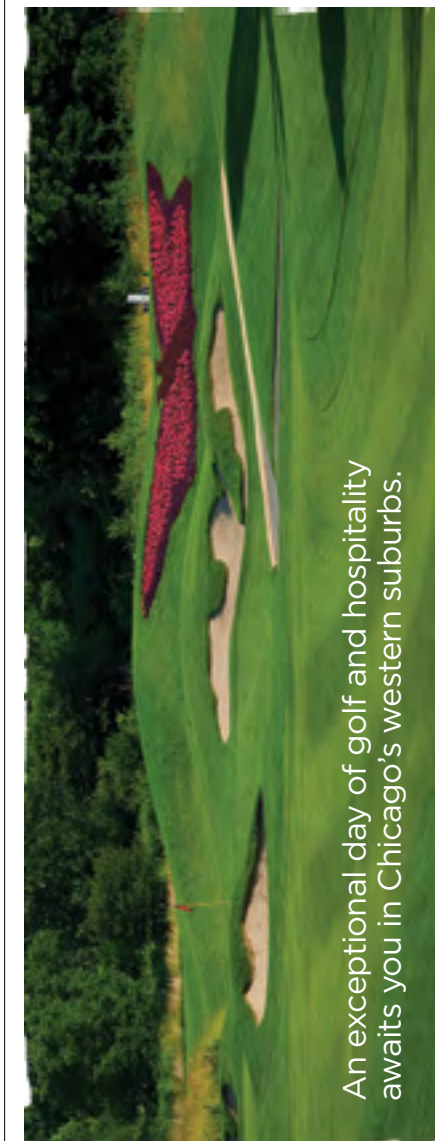
duct tape to a fundamentally flawed swing? The fix is simple math: green fee + cart fee + 10 lost balls = cash down the drain.

Now is the perfect time to take a few lessons and develop habits that ensure solid, consistent contact with each swing. Call your local PGA professional and schedule a few lessons. Even a single lesson will be fruitful. And truth be told, these are the only people who want to see your golf game improve. Your buddies may laugh, but they enjoy being on the receiving end when the bets are paid at the 19th hole.

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**Swag Bag**

San Francisco-based Molhimawk has answered the call to fun with their exciting golf bags. Along with its own custom designs, Molhimawk is a licensee of Loudmouth Golf. The company offers some of Loudmouth's most popular patterns, such as Jolly Roger (shown), Black Shagadelic, Paintballs, and Disco Balls.

The Swag Bag weighs 5 lbs., and the four-point shoulder harness is one of the most comfortable we have ever slung on our backs. The pockets are plentiful and include a cooler pouch. These bags are the real deal in performance and price-point. Molhimawk's original designs stand bags are just over \$100 (which may be the best deal in golf), and the Loudmouth bags are priced well below most stand bags on the market. Go out and have some fun...with a Molhimawk bag across your shoulders.

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FootJoy's HyperFlex golf shoe is a revolutionary design that introduces a new material to golf shoes. The FlexGrid 2.0 is extremely light weight and stabilizes a golfer's feet with a mesh exoskeleton that provides superior lateral support. HyperFlex is essentially a waterproof athletic shoe, but FootJoy's FTF 2.0 foam provides a platform that gives golfers support and comfort throughout the golf swing, and comfort during an entire round.

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**Let it Fly**

Cobra's new Fly-Z driver series lives up to the company's reputation for producing the longest drivers on the market.

The trio of Fly-Z drivers will satisfy just about every golfing demographic. The Fly-Z XL (\$279) is an offset big stick that is ideal for beginners, ladies, and any other golfer who has difficulty squaring the clubface at impact. Our favorite, the Fly-Z (\$329) features Cobra's MyFly adjustable hosel and the Speed Channel, which is located on the face. This driver delivers a solid "tink" at impact—there is no question it is a Cobra driver when you hit it. The Fly-Z+ (\$399) has a weight system that allows golfers to "flip" the clubhead's center of gravity by moving the weighed disc to either the front or back weight port.

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\$34.95 (1 dozen) \$24.95 (5 dozen) [www.vicegolf.com](http://www.vicegolf.com)



# The Rank on Ratings

“Moneyball”—how some baseball players are evaluated and valued—is an idea that has some merit in the golf course industry. Like home-run hitters of the 80s and 90s, golf course development went for broke. Big impact, big fan appeal, and big results. Unfortunately, those were the result of short-sighted owners and bulked up players. The game of baseball is far too nuanced for this type of high-light-reel type of evaluation. Billy Beane, General Manager of the Oakland Athletics who coined the term “Moneyball,” reinvented how baseball players were evaluated, placing heavy value for “on-base percentage” and discounting more typical measurements like home runs and batting average. Skeptical baseball insiders were quick to dismiss Beane’s concepts.

Billy Beane’s approach has not produced the ultimate prize in Oakland, but this paradigm has benefited small-market baseball teams and produced championships in Boston. This vision sees the whole team as greater than the sum of the individual parts.

Likewise, golf needs a similar reinvention for course valuation. Value on length, the power game, yardage, and big eye-appeal is equally narrow minded. Golf courses that supply interest, intrigue, strategy, charm,

and value will win the game. Specifically, golf courses that are operationally efficient, maintainable, and engaging to a golfer will be sustainable, and they will be successful. Those metrics have nothing to do with length, signature, or difficulty.

Current ratings and rankings are intended to provide specific measures, standards that provide comparison. Like baseball, golf is far too nuanced to have these superficial metrics that do not adequately measure golf’s appeal to golfers. Why do we place such import on yardage and difficulty? No one would attempt to assess the value of a restaurant based upon how many tables are provided or how many choices there are on the menu.

The pursuit of higher ratings and quicker public acceptance has accelerated the race for yardage, challenge, higher maintenance expense, and artificial beauty, all of which cost money and increase time of play. These basic measuring devices seem antiquated and, more succinctly, these devices have created an unsustainable industry. These standards are inadequate in determining the most insightful course designs or the best golf. Golfers and the industry have taken these rankings and rating systems as

## BEYOND BUNKERS

Greg Martin

doctrine. They are not. These rankings do little for the industry, and less for golfers.

Just as the establishment of baseball was skeptical of Beane’s new thinking, golf remains ‘stuck.’ Golf will not survive without a similar approach to small and big market thinking. Quick appeal has reduced golf to a linear measurement.

Golf course value should be measured using the following new metrics:

*Is it Meaningful?* Max Behr said, “The object of golf architecture is to give an intelligent purpose to the striking of a golf ball.” Is the golf course an evocative, uplifting, and engaging golf experience? Does it provide memorable and distinct golf holes? Is it playable, challenging, and strategic? Does it make you think...and tempt you to execute a variety of shots? And maybe most importantly, is it *fun*?

*Does it Have Value?* Recreationally, culturally, environmentally, or historically? A golf course can provide value in a variety of ways. Historic golf courses carry weight. But so do golf courses that provide unique opportunities to youth or provide significant environmental benefit.

*Is it Authentic?* If the golf course is true to the site conditions or creates an

authentic appeal, then its value is high. Stanley Thompson said, “Strive to retain as much of the natural ground formation as possible. The most beautiful courses are the ones that hew the most closely to nature.” Do the landforms and landscape treatments highlight and utilize the surrounding landscape? Does it belong in that landscape? Is it beautiful and enriching? But even heavily-constructed sites have authentic value, including Chambers Bay or Whistling Straits. These golf courses have had significant construction, but each are authentic and relate to the surroundings in a unique and genuine manner.

If the answer to these questions is yes more often than not, you can a wonderful golf course. If the answer is yes to all of the above, you are walking on hallowed ground.

Where do we go from here? Let’s start by stopping the ratings system and move forward by understanding the value of golf in a more personal light. Golf should be an encounter between the golfer and the golf course, not a prize, trophy, or badge. The value of a golf course should be based upon its unique ability to engage us with meaning, value, and authenticity.



Contrary to most rating systems, Augusta National should not set the bar for the courses we play



Whether you’re playing the front nine or the back, looking for the challenges of professionally designed courses or trying your hand at the more relaxed atmosphere of a local favorite, the tee time is always set.

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# National Treasure The American Club

By Greg Jourdan

What began in 1918 as housing for immigrant workers has evolved into an American resort paragon in Wisconsin's cozy Kohler community. The American Club's Tudor-styled hotel and four Top 100 golf courses are the epitome of the better life. Whether it is a stay at the hotel or a round of golf, your time in Kohler at the American Club is a deserved respite. Time at the resort is an affirmation that you have life's priorities in line and appreciate the finest that life has to offer. In August, the resort will become the world's stage for this year's fourth major championship when the best players in the world will try to tame The Straits course in search of the 97th PGA Championship.

13,126 truckloads of sand and Dye's genius transformed the former air strip into what has become a rapturous playground for golfers.

River Course at Blackwolf Run: Hole 14 'Blind Alley,' Swan Lake, and Club House

Straits Course at Whistling Straits: Hole 17, Pinched Nerve

Kohler Design Center



Our memories of the 2010 PGA Championship are probably about a gambler taking a risk on the third playoff hole, and a club grounding that cost a young gun his first major. The answer to the inevitable trivia question will be ‘a man named Bubba’ and ‘a kid named Dustin,’ but the eventual champion in 2010 was Martin Kaymer. Kaymer played brilliantly and hoisted the Wanamaker trophy for his first major championship.

In true Major fashion, the 2010 Championship was contested on a course that is hallowed ground. Whistling Straits is an old soul. Herb Kohler unveiled the artistic, Pete Dye design in 2000. Even 15 years ago, The Straits course was revered by the resort’s guests and PGA Tour members alike. Now that the PGA Championship returns for a third run on the two-mile stretch of Lake Michigan’s coastline, the country will once again view Whistling Straits as a brilliant platform for drama, and one of the game’s greatest stages.

On Sunday August 16<sup>th</sup>, the networks will most likely need to extend their television coverage, because both the 2004 and the 2010 PGA Championships ended in playoffs. In 2004, Vijay Singh triumphed after three additional holes, while the aforementioned Kaymer was the patient victor in 2010. The Straits course has hosted three majors, including the 2007 U.S.

Senior Open, which proves that Pete Dye met the challenge from Herb Kohler when he was hired to construct Kohler’s third course at The American Club. Kohler told Dye to, “Make it look like Ireland.” 13,126 truckloads of sand and Dye’s genius transformed a former air strip into what has become a rapturous playground for golfers.

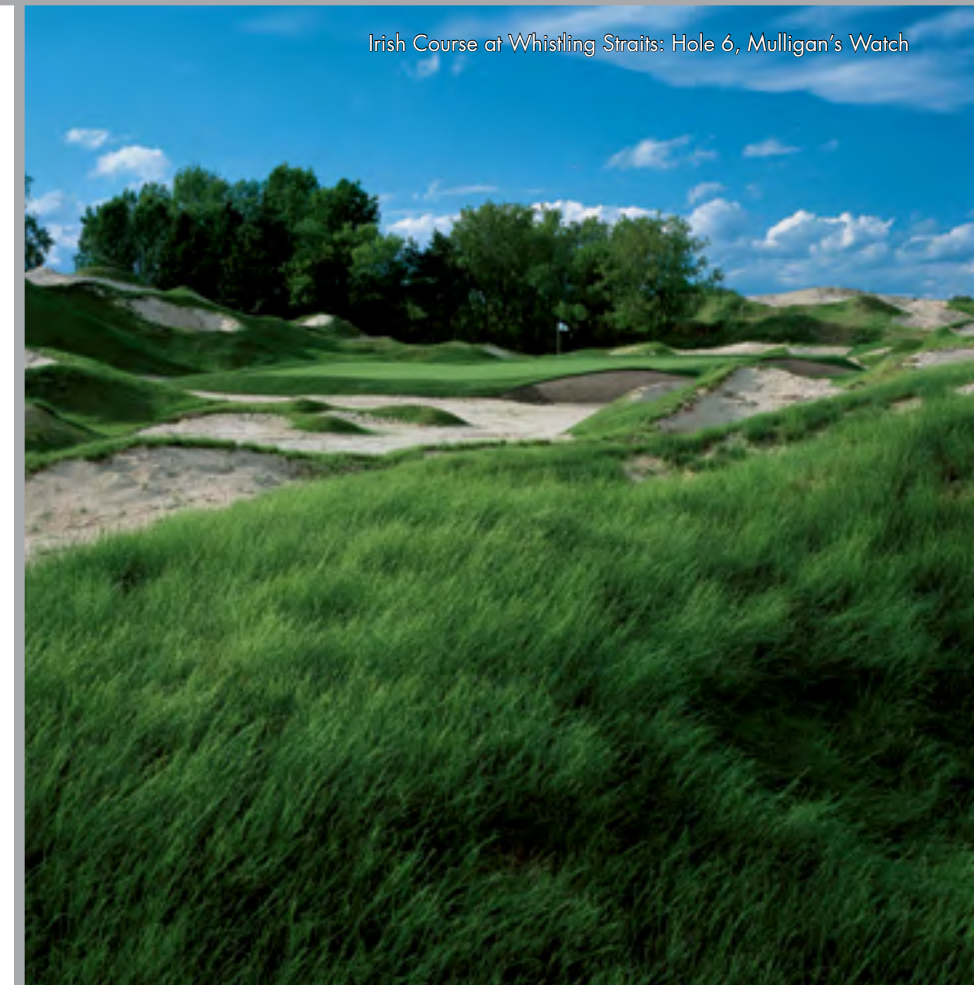
“There is no more challenging and dramatic a venue in Major Championship golf than Whistling Straits,” said David Kohler, General Chair of the 2015 PGA Championship and President/COO of Kohler Co. “We are committed to executing an event of exceptional caliber. My father Herb Kohler, along with Pete Dye, who built the course together, really could accept nothing less.” The Straits course will host the Championship from August 13 to 16; moreover, Whistling Straits will be the battle ground for the 2020 Ryder Cup. The cozy community can handle the infrastructure of a major championship and accommodate one of golf’s greatest spectator events. But unlike Augusta National, Merion, and Shinnecock Hills, *you* can play The Straits, which makes this venue a National Treasure for all golfers.

In addition to The Straits Course, Whistling Straits also offers the Irish Course, which is the second highest-ranked course at the resort. Darien, Illinois, native Mike O’Reilly, head professional at Whistling Straits, has insights to help his fellow Chicagoans enjoy their experience along the lake. “The courses at Whistling Straits are fair and enjoyable, but they can be very visually intimidating,” shared O’Reilly, adding, “Many guests who play the Irish Course for the first time are blown away by the beauty and challenge of the course.” While the Irish course offers incredible views of Lake Michigan, it does not have any holes that run along the coastline. Despite this element, Dye’s green complexes and bunkering will leave you convinced that you have been transported to the Emerald Isle.

The golf courses at Blackwolf Run are equally impressive, yet more aligned to the natural topography of the glacier-formed region. If Whistling Straits is that date who was out of your league, then Blackwolf Run is the one that you marry. The River and Meadow Valleys courses hosted two U.S. Women’s Opens (1998 and 2012) and present golfers with an unparalleled experience.

For empty nesters, a trip to Kohler is your reward for those insane trips with the kids to waterparks and theme parks. You deserve this experience! Whether it is a couples’ getaway, or the regular foursome, The American Club’s Dye-Abolical Golf Package promises to top your bucket list for golf experiences.

Irish Course at Whistling Straits: Hole 6, Mulligan’s Watch



Straits Course at Whistling Straits: Hole 12, Pop Up



River Course at Blackwolf Run: Hole 1, Snake



The Dye-Abolical Golf Package includes a round of golf at each of the resort's courses (caddie fees included at Whistling Straits and the Irish Course), complimentary re-play rounds at the Irish and Meadows courses, three nights lodging, a half-hour golf lesson with video analysis, and a plethora of pampering opportunities.

The package offers lodging at one of three facilities. The American Club's Tudor-style hotel will pamper guests with perfectly appointed suites, exquisite charm, and a warm, personal service that sets the bar for resort expectations. Each suite offers luxurious comfort and the fantastic Kohler Co. fixtures that create a phenomenal showering experience. Yes, the bathrooms are that nice. From the moment you check in, there is no doubt that you are experiencing *Forbes'* only Five-Star and AAA 5-Diamond-rated resort in the Midwest.

Two more options for lodging during your Dye-Abolical getaway are equally comfortable, yet they offer distinct amenities. The Inn on Lakewood is set next to a picturesque lake and offers a beach and a putting green. The Inn offers modern, boutique-style rooms, and the Kohler experience is in full force throughout. Guests will enjoy a sensational shower session in well-appointed rooms with round-the-clock service. The third lodging option is at the exclusive Sandhill Cabin. Sandhill is a 2,000 square foot cabin that is isolated on 350 acres 10 miles from the American Club in Kohler. While Sandhill is secluded, the amenities are impeccable for even the most discerning guests. If you are seeking the calm and comfort of friends in a once-in-a-lifetime setting, Sandhill cannot be described as anything less than a refuge, insulated by nature, that affirms you are inaccessible to the hassles of the rest of the world.

To book your Dye-Abolical Retreat at the American Club, simply call 855- 444-2838 to get the ball rolling toward an amazing sabbatical on four of the world's finest courses while resting your head at one of our nation's premier resorts.

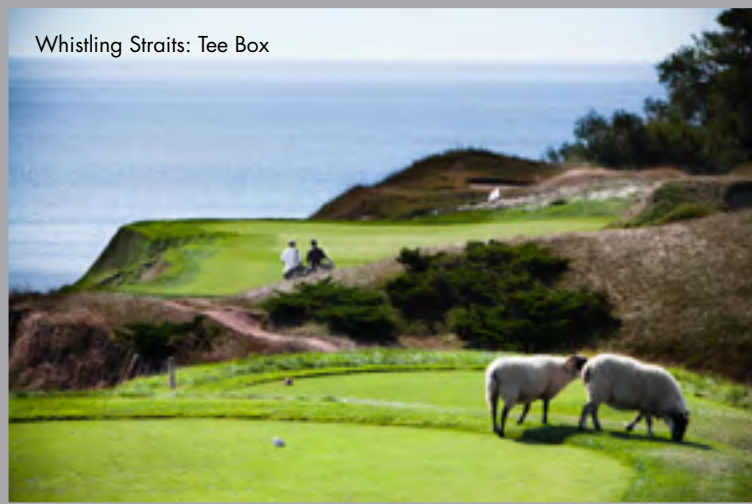
Before departing Kohler for you return to reality, be sure to take a bite of Kohler home. Available in most of the shops are the world-renowned Terrapins. Crafted at Kohler Original Recipe Chocolates, Terrapins, much like the entire Kohler experience, redefine your sense of how good things can be. These treats are to turtles as Garrett is to popcorn.

Begin your holiday from the hectic by visiting [www.GolfKohler.com](http://www.GolfKohler.com). Single-day tickets and tournament packages for the 2015 PGA Championship are available at [www.pgachampionship.com](http://www.pgachampionship.com).

Straits Course at Whistling Straits: Hole 3, O'Man



Whistling Straits: Tee Box



PGA Whistling Straits



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# SWEET HOME CHICAGO

## GOLFChicago Wire

### Freedom Golf Association Recognized by Daily Herald

Over the past two years, the Freedom Golf Association in Burr Ridge has provided golf training to over 800 participants with physical, cognitive, or special needs. The program's success was recognized on March 25<sup>th</sup> when the *Daily Herald Business Ledger* awarded the FGA with its Annual Award for Business Excellence in the notable not-for-profit organizations category.

"I can't tell you how honored I am to receive this award," said Edmund Q. Sylvester, founder of the FGA. Sylvester is a director of the Western Golf Association, a member of the United States Senior Golf Association, and a triple amputee. The FGA works to assist those with limitations in any form find a sense of joy and freedom through golf. The organization also provides leadership and collaboration with national organizations on how to start or expand rehabilitation programs.

### PGA Junior Leagues Set to Begin

Boys and girls ages 13 and under now have a new home for golf with the PGA Junior League. PGA JLG features team vs. team competitions in organized leagues, which provides a less stressful scramble format instead of stroke-play competition. PGA JLG incorporates a "Little League" approach to the game where all participants get a chance to play. With an emphasis on sportsmanship and team building, PGA JLG is aiming to change the way youth golf is approached, taught, and socialized.

Individual scoring is also eliminated from PGA JLG and is replaced with a two-player scramble format allowing for everyone to feel "part of the team." Strong play is rewarded, however, players of all skill levels are welcome and will contribute to the outcome and success of their team.

Competition consists of four nine-hole matches with each 9 being broken down into three three-hole segments that are called "flags." Flag stickers are awarded to players when they capture a 3-hole point for their team. This competition continues throughout the entire season and is displayed on each player's bag tags.

Did we mention that everyone gets a jersey? All players and teams receive numbered jerseys just like in other youth sports, making everyone a part of their PGA JLG team. With over 70 courses in Illinois offering this program, it's easy to get your child involved. Visit [www.pgajlg.com](http://www.pgajlg.com) for more info.

### Arlington Lakes GC Renovation

Arlington Lakes Golf Course is getting a facelift in 2015. A staple course in the Chicago area since 1979, the course renovations will be the first since opening its doors. With an anticipated completion date of early July 2016, Arlington Lakes is aiming to improve their patrons' overall experience. Included in the plans

are seven greens being reshaped and expanding putting surfaces, rebuilding all tee boxes, eliminating all unnecessary bunkers, proving sand quality, and adding a new junior/family tee to every hole to promote new golfer development. After your round you'll be able to enjoy an expanded patio area. Looking forward to seeing the new and improved Arlington Lakes in 2016!

### Crain Joins Cantigny Teaching Staff

Cantigny Golf has added Gay Crain to its professional teaching staff. She joins a comprehensive golf performance team at the Cantigny Golf Academy. Crain will conduct private and group lessons at Cantigny, and lead the Academy's VISION54 coaching clinics, a new program for 2015. VISION54 focuses on essential practice and playing skills designed to help golfers play better and enjoy the game.

Crain also will captain the PGA Jr. League, another first-year program at Cantigny Golf. The league, for boys and girls ages 8 to 13, features team vs. team competitions at the Cantigny Youth Links beginning this summer.

"Gay is a valuable addition to our professional staff," said Connie DeMattia, Cantigny's PGA director of instruction. "She has a passion for the game that translates well to coaching and instruction. I think Cantigny golfers of all ages will benefit from her innovative methods and positivity."

Crain developed her game as a member of the Chicago Women's District Golf Association from 2007 to 2014. She attended Annika Sorenstam's ANNKA Academy in 2009 and completed VISION54 training in 2014. Crain is the reigning club champion at Boulder Ridge Country Club in Lake in the Hills, Illinois, and in 2014 served as assistant girls' golf coach at Prairie Ridge High School in Crystal Lake. A native of Des Plaines, Crain graduated from Michigan State University and earned a master's degree in business from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management.

Cantigny Golf Academy is located at 27w270 Mack Road in Wheaton. For more information visit [www.cantignygolf.com](http://www.cantignygolf.com).

### Women in Golf Program

Chicagoland Golf Academy is offering lessons for everyone to get involved in the game. Their Women In Golf program gives women an opportunity to learn the game alongside other women while having fun and seeing their games grow. With four lesson levels to choose from based on your current experience with the game, Women In Golf offers weekly class sessions and on-course playing lessons as you progress. Similarly, Golf Fore Men is a program designed to get men involved in the game or building on your current handicap. Golf Fore Kids is offered

for youth golfers age 8 to 17. For more information visit [www.chicagolandgolfacademy.com](http://www.chicagolandgolfacademy.com).

### New Golfsmith in the Loop

Golfsmith is set to open their new location in Chicago's South Loop in April. Located at 627 W. Roosevelt Road the store will be 14,000 sq. ft. of the latest equipment, clothing, accessories, and everything else you could ever want for your game.

### The First Tee Program Expands at Area Clubs

The First Tee of Greater Chicago has announced new partnerships with Countryside Golf Club and Renwood Golf Course. Beginning this month, the program will bring comprehensive golf skills to young people ages 7 through 17. Along with golf skills, the program teaches core values such as honesty, respect and perseverance.

Located in Mundelein, Countryside G.C. is one of three courses operated by the Lake County Forest Preserve District and offers two 18-hole courses. Renwood G.C. is an 18-hole public course located in Round Lake Beach and is operated by the Round Lake Area Park District.

"Establishing partnerships with these two new clubs enables us to expand our reach and impact more youth in Lake County," says Lisa Quinn, Executive Director of The First Tee of Greater Chicago. "Our program has made a positive, life-changing impact on thousands of children throughout the Chicago metropolitan area."

The First Tee is an international youth development initiative of the World Golf Foundation and is supported by the leading organizations in golf.

### Mount Prospect Golf Club Targets August 1st Opening

New greens, tees, and bunkers along with a state-of-the-art irrigation system will greet golfers who return to the new and improved Mt. Prospect G.C. in late summer. The classic features of the course, opened in 1927 as a private club, were restored and enhanced by acclaimed local architects Esler Golf Design. The northwest Chicago gem was originally slated to reopen in June or July but construction was hampered by heavy rains last summer. The total project, which includes a new driving range and short-game area, is expected to cost \$7.1 million.

Headed by David Esler, Esler Golf Design has previously performed similar renovation work with spectacular results at other local courses including Ravisloe Country Club, Geneva Golf Club, and Glenview Golf Club. Construction photos and aerial footage of the Mount Prospect G.C. project are available online at: <https://mppd.org/facility/golf>.

## Down Memory Lane

### When Casper Bid Tam Adieu

For most of a quarter-century, the greats of the golf world gathered at the corner of Howard and Caldwell avenues in Niles to do battle with each other over the leafy acreage of Tam O'Shanter Country Club.

The last of those gatherings came a half-century ago, when the Western Open was staged at Tam for a second straight year, some three years after club owner George S. May, the visionary who ushered the game into the big-money and television eras, had died.

Most of the course would become an industrial park—there's a short nine left for commoners to cavort on—but before the bulldozers rolled in, Billy Casper barged into the winner's circle in Tam's finale.

He'd opened with a 1-under 70 and was four strokes and 22 places behind leader Rex Baxter after the first round, but a Friday 66 moved him into third, and the race was on. Baxter faded, defending champion Chi Chi Rodriguez fired and fell back, amateur Jim Weichers made a bid to match Chick Evans' triumph of 1910 but fell short, and Tony Lema almost had writers tasting Champagne in the press room with four rounds in the 60s. Eventually, it was Casper's role to catch and pass 54-hole co-leaders Al Geiberger and Jack McGowan.

Casper, who hit 59 greens in regulation over four rounds, surged along with Rodriguez on Sunday. Casper, out ahead of the others, eagled the par-4 fifth hole by driving the green, 305 yards distant from the tee, then dropping an eight-footer for a deuce. He was out in 6-under 30, in in 1-under 34 for 64 and 14-under 270, then found a perch to watch Chi Chi, Geiberger, and McGowan finish.

There were no dramatics on the level of Lew Worsham's pitch-in eagle at Tam's last hole, the shot that knocked Chandler Harper into second place in the 1953 World Championship. Rodriguez's eagle bid bounced to the back of the green, and he settled for a 65. Geiberger was out of contention, and McGowan left his eagle approach in the fringe and settled for par and a tie with Rodriguez, two in arrears.

For Casper, it was the beginning of a regular friendship with the WGA's J.K. Wadley Trophy. He would mount a successful

defense at Medinah in 1966, and win two more Westerns at Midlothian in 1969 and 1973. But the last hurrah at Tam was something to remember.

—Tim Cronin





Designed to match the comfort and performance of New Balance's Minimus®, their popular, low-profile running shoe, the NBG1001 golf shoe (\$89.95) will earn brownie points from mom. At just 6.7 ounces, this light-weight gem will provide the style and traction mom desires from a golf shoe.  
[www.newbalance.com](http://www.newbalance.com)



Datrek's Lite Rider Cart Bag (\$159.95) is the ideal bag for that mom with OCD issues. The pockets are purposeful and plentiful. Unlike her suitcase, the Lite Rider has more room than she will need. Bonus features include a huge cooler pocket, dual-lift handles, and this bag weighs less than 4.7 lbs.  
[www.datrek.com](http://www.datrek.com)



For the mother that loves to play golf, this graceful Sterling Silver Heart and Club Pendant is the perfect gift! Pendant includes a 2mm CZ, packaged in a black velour box (\$94). Also available in 10- and 14-karat gold. Purchase by emailing [info@mdemille.com](mailto:info@mdemille.com) or call 800-350-5050.  
[www.mdemille.com](http://www.mdemille.com)

Flowers? Day at the spa? Cake? No! Wine? Yes! Especially if it is the Black Stallion Estate Winery 2010 "Transcendent" Cabernet Sauvignon (\$135). This is Black Stallion's top-rack wine, a Napa Valley Cabernet blended with 11% Merlot (the mix aka meritage). This inaugural reserve release features rich flavors of berries, mocha, and gentle spices. The tannins are silky and elegant, with a long, lingering finish. Drink now, or cellar for up to ten years.  
[www.blackstallionwinery.com](http://www.blackstallionwinery.com)

# Love Your Mother

Mom's Day gifts that will keep her smiling throughout the golf season



Cobra's Women's Fly-Z XL irons are the perfect blend of beauty and forgiveness, which may sound a lot like how you would describe mom. Available in an eight-piece iron set (\$599) or the Iron/Hybrid Combo set (\$699).  
[www.cobragolf.com](http://www.cobragolf.com)

Mom will know every inch of the course with a new TomTom Golfer watch (\$249.99). She'll also appreciate the quiet from her hubby, who is usually annoying her with his advice. With exacting yardages to greens, bunkers, and hazards, mom mom will love her TomTom.  
[www.tomtom.com](http://www.tomtom.com)



The 2015 Antigua women's line combines trim details and flirty necklines with soft and stretchy fabrics, in multiple textures and contents that give a fresh feel to the product. This includes Zoom, a sleeveless mini-stripe polo that blends polyester/cotton/spandex jersey plus a cut-out at the placket that reveals some skin.  
[www.shopantigua.com](http://www.shopantigua.com)



Strolling down a tight, palm-tree-lined fairway, shoulder to shoulder with a young woman, who could pass as a runway model, may seem like a dream scenario. However, this scene is how golf is played in the Philippines. The model is actually my umbrella girl, and she is part of the pampered experience that Manila's Valley Golf and Country Club offers. It's my fifth different course in as many days, and, as I look back, this particular round served as culmination of everything I've experienced during my golf journey to the Philippines.

Standing on the tee of yet another impossibly beautiful, ultra-tropical hole at Valley Golf, my umbrella girl is now multi-tasking—that is, holding the umbrella to protect me from the 90-degree heat while using her other hand to create a breeze on my back with a pink polka-dotted Japanese fan. Apparently, my umbrella girl is also my fan girl.

After making yet another 10-foot putt for par, thanks to the keen read by my other new female friend that day who serves as my caddie (she drives the cart, pulls clubs, and, by day's end, probably has run a 5K chasing after us), I come to the following realization: it really is 'More Fun in the Philippines,' as my hosts with the Association of Inbound Golf and Tourism have been touting all week.

A five-day trip last October to a country which lays claim to some of the best beaches in the world, friendly locals, typhoon-like thunderstorms, and mind-numbing traffic delivered exactly what I had hoped to find: great golf, great people, and delicious cuisine.

If you can get past the traffic that makes Manila seem more like Mumbai, you'll find that the Philippines can be a worthy off-the-beaten-path golf destination, although getting there is a journey in itself. My 17-hour flight took me from O'Hare to Manila, with a brief layover in Tokyo. The Philippines are 13 hours ahead, so plan to lose a day when departing and gain a day upon your return. Fly Japan Airlines or Cathay Pacific and you'll quickly realize why they are among the best in the business; both airlines present food and services worthy of any AAA Five Diamond Resort, even in economy class.

Golf in the Philippines is reserved for the wealthy. Most clubs are either 100% private or semi-private, although accessible for tourists with a phone call, or booking through a tour operator. My group included a wonderful mashup of writers from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Korea, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and Japan.

My week in paradise consisted of six courses in six days and not one of the courses disappointed me. I was challenged at each layout, and I felt undeserving of the overwhelming hospitality that was extended to each golfer. Unlike the U.S., most Asian courses supply you with a caddie. In the Philippines, they tend to be female, between the ages of 20 and 50, and wear bright-colored uniforms and have warm, friendly smiles. An average caddy tip is 500 Philippine pesos (about \$11), but a \$20 U.S. bill will be greeted with much delight and appreciation from these hard-working women. Treat them nice and by end of the day, you'll have made a new friend in the faraway land.

A caddie's life outside the course is anything but easy, so when you can give them an extra gift such as chocolates, a brand new Pro V1, or in my case, a small cooler bag to hold a bottle of water or Gatorade, their appreciation is genuine. My umbrella girl at Valley Golf was a 28-year-old single mother living with her parents and two young children. She wakes at 4:00 AM five days a week and travels an hour and a half each

# 17 Hours to Paradise

## How I Fell In Love With Golf In The Philippines

By Dave Silbar



Mt. Malayara 9th Fairway



Mt. Malayara 18th Hole

I was challenged at each layout, and I felt undeserving of the overwhelming hospitality that was extended to each golfer.



Fairways and Bluewater



Jeepneys

way on sardine-packed public transportation to the course.

Besides people, if there's one thing Manila has it's a plethora of Jeepneys—the public transport that is a symbol of the Philippines. Each Jeepney seems unique. Modeled on the American army jeep after World War II, they can be highly polished silver steel, or festooned with colorful signs and paint jobs. Commuters cram shoulder-to-shoulder inside under the low-slung roof, or hang on to the back outside. According to my hosts, Jeepneys are an endangered species due to their gas-guzzling tendencies and poor seating arrangements (you sit along the walls). It would be sad to see them go, though. To Western eyes, they are part of the charm of a country trying to carve out its own tourism niche.

The Philippines is not on the list of the Ten Most-Visited Asian countries, a list dominated by China, Malaysia, Thailand, South Korea, and Singapore. Closest neighbor Taiwan is at No 8, ahead of Vietnam and India. As tourists fall hard for the charms of mainland Asia, the Philippines is trying to catch more overseas eyes with its longtime, aforementioned "It's More Fun in the Philippines" campaign. It's also chasing golf tourism, with its golf clubs, tour companies, and hotel chains working together in that pursuit.

My first round was at South Forbes Golf City, a short, mountainous course about 90 minutes south of Manila. Our host and the director of golf, Eugene Dimaano, was quick to offer a free shirt to anyone who didn't lose a golf ball, as the last time that happened was seven years ago. From the get-go, it wasn't hard to figure out why. The elevation changes on South Forbes are akin to a rollercoaster, with tight winding fairways and five straight par 3s that complete Mr. Toad's Wild Ride, which is what local call the front nine. My lone lost ball came on the fourth hole, a short downhill par 4 that doglegs to the right with mountain terrain lining both sides of a narrow fairway.

Torrential rain can come on suddenly in the Philippines, and the thunderstorms are something to behold. With that in mind, I asked the staff at Manila's outdoor penthouse Bayleaf Intramuros restaurant what they did should it rain, as it briefly seemed to most days. Would I get a replacement meal? Seconds later the first watery splat arrived. Then another, and another.

continued on page 35

Eagle Ridge Norman Course



Fairways and Bluewater



Eagle Ridge Dye Course



Eagle Ridge Aoki Course

With major elevation changes, sweeping island and ocean views, a waterfall, and pristine lakes, this is one course that seems to have it all.

# Swinging Saluki-Style

Carbondale is *The Down State* Destination for Golf

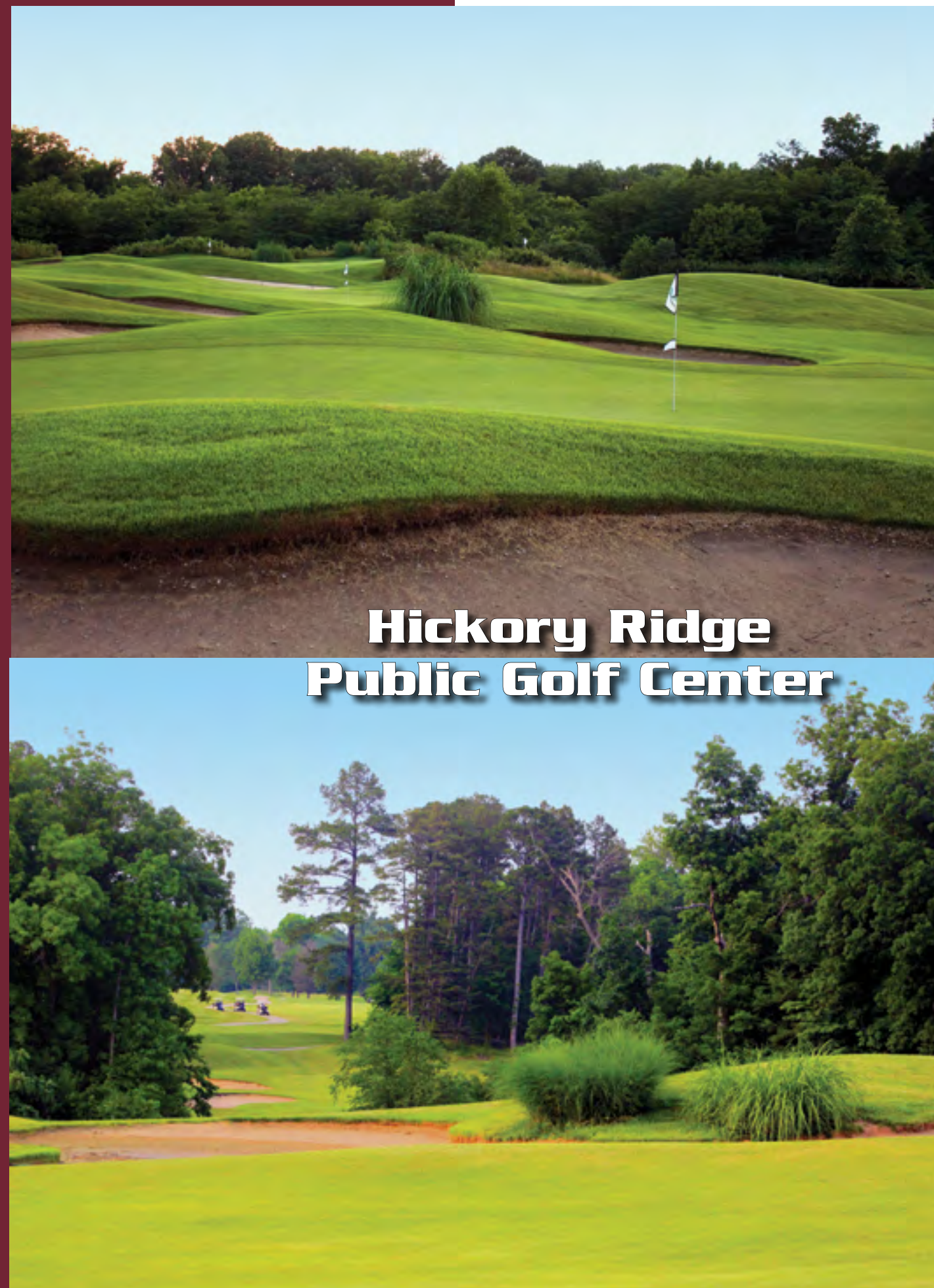
By Neal Kotlarek

Chicagoans tend to be creatures of habit. When it's summertime, we head north to the family cabin in Rhinelander, Hayward, Tomahawk or some other rural Wisconsin town. When it's wintertime, we'll book a flight out to Scottsdale, Vegas, or Tampa for some fun in the sun. Early springtime and late fall present a different challenge all together. It may be too cool to take in a baseball game and too damp to schedule a tee time. What to do?

Many area golfers have resolved the seasonal transition problem by hopping in their cars and heading Down State. Not too far south, mind you. But just far enough south on I-57 to locate mild temperatures and golf courses in great condition for most of the year. Mention Carbondale to a sports fan and they'll immediately think of Southern Illinois University and its proud Saluki football and basketball programs. Indeed, the school is celebrated across this city of 26,000. If you ever get lost looking for the university, just follow the massive Saluki paw prints painted on the streets leading toward the football stadium.

Over the past few decades, Carbondale has worked hard to expand its scope from college community to a vacation destination. Micro-breweries have popped up around the city and tours are available for the area's multiple wineries including Von Jakob Vineyard and Bluff's Vineyard and Winery. Where one can find cold beer and fine wine, of course, one tends to also find golfers and golf courses. And, indeed, golfers are flocking to courses in and around Carbondale which provide outstanding quality, great conditioning, and highly affordable green fees.

Over the past few decades, Carbondale has worked hard to expand its scope from college community to a vacation destination.



## Hickory Ridge Public Golf Center

**D**esigned by William J. Spear, this 6,863-yard course was opened in 1993 and is managed by the Carbondale Park District. Hilly terrain, dense forests and sprawling sand bunkers give the layout distinctive character. Four sets of tees cater to golfers of all handicap levels.

The 420-yard 1st hole is a dogleg left that introduces players to hilly topography that makes Hickory Ridge a joy to play. While the tee shot landing area is flat, the green is located far below your feet and is protected by sand and mature trees. A mid-iron hit short of the green is far preferable than anything hit long or to the left.

The signature hole on the front nine—and over the entire 18, truth be told—is the 406-yard No. 7. The par 4 calls for a challenging approach shot to a green protected in the front and left side by water. Push the ball too far to the right on this hole and you're faced with a delicate chip shot to a fast green. A par on this hole feels a lot like a birdie.

The back nine is highlighted by two very difficult holes. The 529-yard No. 15 is tightened by a terraced fairway on the second shot, while the approach shot is pinched by trees. The 417-yard No. 16 serves up a tight, tree-lined landing area heading toward a putting surface made even more difficult to reach by trees.

Along with its outstanding golf course, Hickory Ridge has excellent practice facilities which are used regularly by both the SIU men's and women's teams. The course hosted the annual women's Saluki Invitational in late March, pitting over a dozen top collegiate teams against one another in this annual two-day tournament. [www.hickoryridgegolf.org](http://www.hickoryridgegolf.org).



## Crab Orchard Golf Club



Golfers looking for classic course design and impeccable conditioning served up with a dash of friendly service must book a tee time at this fun-filled 6,420-yard property. The greens are as smooth as a pool table and the fairways are perfectly manicured. The course was built in 1959 and is an example of traditional parkland design. Most greens can be seen from off the tee and holes are protected on both sides by stands of mature trees. My favorite hole on the front nine is the 526-yard No. 5. This par 5 calls for a good drive and a precisely hit second shot just short of water bisecting the fairway. A short-iron over the water to an unprotected green should leave a decent chance at birdie.

The 313-yard No. 17 may be the most interesting hole on the course. A creek bisects the fairway about 170 yards off the tee. While the club's website warns golfers not to gamble, better players can easily carry the water to set up a short pitch shot to the green tucked on the right side of the fairway. [www.craborchardgolfclub.com](http://www.craborchardgolfclub.com).

Located in nearby Marion, the delightful Kokopelli Golf Club was designed by Steve Smyers and features rolling hills and dramatic vistas from hole 1 to hole 18. Opened in 1997, the course was in 2014 ranked by *Golfweek* magazine as one of America's "Best Places You Can Play." Reached by phone in late March, head golf professional Jessie Barge was proud to state that the course entered the 2015 season in outstanding shape following a difficult 2014 when ice storms damaged many

fairways. "We replanted with three types of grasses to make sure that the course would return to top shape," Barge said.

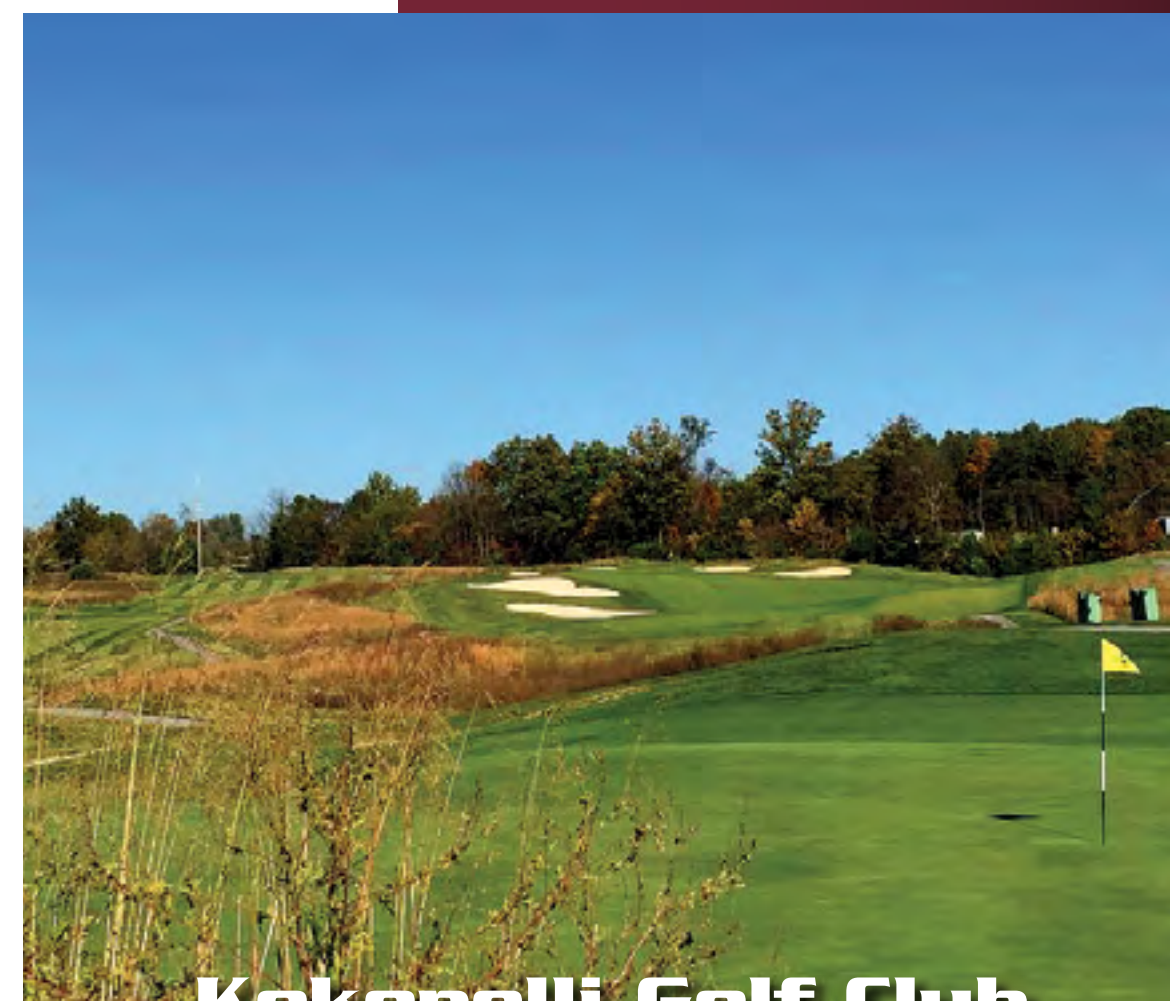
Once used as a coal strip-mine, the 176-acre property features a rolling topography, 92 sand bunkers and large, smooth greens. The final three holes on the course are as good as any you'll find in the state. The uphill hole 16 is a 444-yard dogleg left that plays slightly shorter from its elevated tee. A good tee shot leaves a mid-iron second shot to a putting surface protected front, left, and right by sand bunkers.

Hole 17, a par 3, is protected by three large bunkers to the left, right and behind the green. There are two more bunkers to the front right. Take a par here to finish your round in style.

The majestic hole 18 is a long par 5 calling for an uphill tee shot avoiding three devious fairway bunkers on the right side of the landing area. A good second shot leaves a mid-iron approach to a wide open green.

Don't leave the property without enjoying a cold beverage and dinner at Kokopelli's spacious and grand clubhouse which features a full-service restaurant as well as sports bar and grill. [www.kokopelligolf.com](http://www.kokopelligolf.com).

Sold yet on planning a golf trip to the Carbondale area? Play and stay packages are available through the Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau. Beyond great deals on golf and hotels, the bureau can also offer recommendations on the area's acclaimed microbreweries and wineries. [www.carbondaletourism.org](http://www.carbondaletourism.org).



## Kokopelli Golf Club



# Outside the Box

The game of golf has been labeled many things since its inception in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. It has been known as a game for the wealthy, the proper folk, the businessman, and of course, had a stigma for being a predominantly Caucasian sport. Then, in 1960, a Mexican American named Lee Trevino turned professional and dismantled everyone's thoughts on the game in about ten seconds flat.

In our current era of "me" athletes, millions of corporate dollars, and "I'm just here, so I won't get fined." it's important to remember the individuals who broke down those walls between athletes and fans. The professionals who allowed themselves to be vulnerable and interact with you and me after we've paid hard-earned money to be entertained by them. Lee Trevino did more for the game than he will ever be credited for. Nobody (still to this day) has the ability to chat up a gallery like Trevino. But his quick wit and infectious joy weren't the only things that allowed Trevino to sustain a career that spanned forty-plus years; he was a pretty good player too.

## Lee Trevino Changed the Game

By Todd Mrowice

89 professional wins between the PGA Tour, Champions Tour, and international play places Trevino among the greatest to ever step foot on a golf course. A good chunk of those victories came on the biggest of stages, major championships. Trevino won the U.S. Open in 1968 and

'71, The Open Championship in 1971 and '72, and the PGA Championship in 1974 and '84. Of his six majors, Jack Nicklaus was the runner-up in four.

Trevino also made noise as a six-time member of the U.S. Ryder Cup squad with team victories in 1971, '73, '75, '79, and '81. He

also captained the 1985 team. Certainly one of the hot button topics in the game today, Trevino doesn't mince words when talking about the recent history surrounding the U.S. teams.

"You can't win a Ryder Cup if your top guys don't have a good record at that competition," said



Trevino. "You should always have three or four good 'guns' on every team, your top guys. So that tells you that who you think your top guys are... I don't need to tell you who those guys are, you know. The other thing I have a problem with is guys who don't want to play with other guys. You're a

team! You stand on the same side and you go get it done."

Don't confuse Trevino's opinions as being an "old timer" though. At 75-years-young he shows that he is still very much tuned into the game, its players, and all that surrounds golf. Trevino surely would be a

corporate goldmine if he were a rising star today, but he is happy for today's touring pros.

"Old school was that you played golf to make enough money to pay the taxes from what you made off of the course. We didn't make a lot of money on the course, we made money coming to events like [the Chicago] golf show or playing in a par 3 with twenty foursomes at a golf outing," said Trevino. "The top pros today will never know what that's like, but that's not their fault. They don't need to make that extra money because there's so much of it available to them on the course. I've always felt that golfers deserve the opportunity to make as much as top athletes from other sports, and now they can."

Running parallel with recent struggles for Tiger Woods have been questions of the state of golf. A decline in revenue surrounding professional tours, in addition to equipment sales, and course closings have many wondering how the game will fair without Tiger hunting victories on Sundays.

"No one individual is bigger than the game," said Trevino. "Everyone thought when Jack Nicklaus retired that the tour was dead. And then comes along Tom Watson, Lanny Wadkins, and Tom Kite. The needle didn't move the same way, but it didn't die. There are too many young people playing this game to not have someone up next."

So if not Tiger, who is the person that can carry the tour today?

"I love Bubba Watson. I think he's great. The only question I have though is if he really wants it? He's oozing with talent and can do anything in the world with a golf ball," said



Trevino. "Rory McIlroy we don't know that well. He has a business approach to the game and you can tell he wants it. He's the No. 1 golfer in the world, but I hope he remembers someone is always practicing while you're sleeping."

While in town for the Chicago Golf Show, Lee Trevino recalled how Chicago provided him with one of the scariest and most memorable moments in his life. In 1975 the U.S. Open and Western Open were hosted in back-to-back weeks between

Medinah and Butler National. At Medinah, it began to rain during one of the rounds of the U.S. Open and tournament officials encouraged Trevino to get off of the course due to the threat of lightning. In typical Lee Trevino fashion, he told the officials that

if the 12,000 people in the gallery couldn't go inside, neither would he. Trevino went on to joke that if there was lightning, then he would hold up a 1-iron, "Because God couldn't even hit a 1-iron."

The following week at the



Western Open it began to rain again. Trevino found himself sitting on his golf bag at the 13<sup>th</sup> hole when a bolt of lightning hit right beside him, throwing him a few feet away.

"If I wasn't a believer in fate before then, I sure was from then

on," said Trevino.

While it might not be commonplace to find a professional golfer as entertaining as Lee Trevino, his stamp on the PGA Tour and the game overall is indelible. His talent alone was enough to bring in droves of fans to watch

him, but they wouldn't have had nearly as much fun just watching him hit his sweet power fade for 18 holes. Here's to hoping that the next generations of professional golfers study Trevino and how he has balanced his physical and "vocal" talents.



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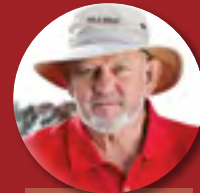




# Outsmart That Downhill Lie

## INSTRUCTION

SHORT  
GAME  
ADVISOR



Dave Pelz



It's not difficult to hit shots solidly from downhill lies. The pros do it all the time. But you can't hit them using your normal swing arc, with your upper body vertically balanced relative to the slope. It just won't work.

Your upper body and shoulders must be oriented perpendicular to the ground, just like when you hit balls from a level lie. Once you make this adjustment, your normal swing will work. To do this, address the downhill shot as you normally would then move your left foot 12 inches down the hill toward your target. This will automatically move your hands ahead of the ball and establish your ball position well back in your stance (where it should be for this shot). This set up puts 80 percent of your weight on your forward leg and you'll really feel it in your knee, so be prepared. If you have knee pain or problems, be very careful!

Using your left leg as a brace to stop you from losing your balance, turn your upper body (spine) toward the target. This will automatically tilt your shoulders to mimic the downslope.

With your normal swing the club head should now contact the ball before it hits the ground, without any hand or wrist manipulation. If you don't make this adjustment, expect to hit downhill shots fat. This shot will put a lot of weight on your left leg and likely cause you to lose balance shortly after impact. To keep from falling, you'll have to learn to "walk through" your downhill shots after impact.

To pull the shot off successfully, just stay down and through the shot until after impact. Notice that my head and shoulders stay with the slope of the terrain well through the sequence shown in the lower image. The full follow through and "step-through" will help you immensely on downhill shots. Once you start to see the ball get up and on to the green a few times, you'll start to find these "tricky" lies a lot more fun. Try this technique and let me know how it works for you by e-mailing me at [askpelz@pelzgolf.com](mailto:askpelz@pelzgolf.com).



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# Stay Connected

The weather has finally turned and a new golf season is upon us! The start to every golfing season begins with some much needed outdoor practice. Every season at the Bolingbrook Driving Range and Rabito Golf Academy we see golfers working on tips or drills they may have seen on TV during the winter months. A commonly seen drill is hitting balls with a towel under the arms. Golfers frequently hear that the arms and body must stay connected in the backswing. This thought leads to right-handed golfers locking and pinning the left arm against their chest in the setup. Also, in an effort to stay connected, this is why we see golfers practicing with the towel under their arms. This practice drill is exactly what we do *not* want.

There's a great misunderstanding concerning "connection" in the golf swing. Instead of thinking the arms and body must be connected, think the arms must work in tandem with the body in the swing. In order to do that, one must maintain the swing width throughout the swing. Swing width is defined as the distance between the elbows and the armpits, not the hands and armpits. If the right elbow is closer to the ribs at the top of the backswing than it was at address, the swing width is destroyed. The proper swing width mandates that the right forearm be parallel to the spine angle at the top of the backswing while the forearms create an equilateral triangle. Because the right shoulder has only so much external rotation, the tremendous advantage of this position is that it allows the club shaft to shallow out on the downswing by itself. On the other hand, if the right elbow is tucked and pointing at the ground at the top of the backswing, the shoulder cannot rotate much further back than it already is and the club shaft cannot shallow out on its own. This forces the golfer to shallow out their body in order to get back to impact, which causes the right shoulder to dip towards the ground and the hips to spin out or open. This leads to all sorts of errant shots including fat, thin, and topped shots.

Start this golf season out with some better thoughts and it will lead to better shots, lower scores, and much more enjoyment. To learn more about Rabito Golf and The Bolingbrook Golf Club "Journey to Better" Game Improvement Guarantee, visit [www.bolingbrookgolfclub.com/journeytobetter](http://www.bolingbrookgolfclub.com/journeytobetter).



Incorrect backswing: right elbow tucked



Correct top of backswing: right forearm parallel to spine angle



Incorrect impact: body shallows club and right shoulder dips to ground



Correct impact: club shallows by itself on downswing allowing you to move forward to impact

## INSTRUCTION

### JOURNEY TO BETTER



Carl Rabito



### 17 Hours to Paradise

continued from page 23

We retreated indoors and indeed got replacement meals. It was a shame we had to head inside, as the view from the roof deck across the skyline was spectacular. Hundreds of feet below were the stone walls, churches, palaces, and courtyards of old Manila, with rows of car lights weaving by and the sounds of the city for once muted. By way of compensation, Bayleaf owner Beth Dar plucked three of her staff from around the table and had them sing acapella while we finished our dinner. Filipinos love singing, and suddenly being thrust into the limelight couldn't have come more naturally.

In contrast to Bayleaf, Ang Bistro Sa Remedios—specializing in authentic Filipino food—was at street level, dishing up local specialties in the heart of the old district, surrounded by boutiques, bars, discos, and novelty stores. As we ate local dishes with names like Dinuguan at Puto, Taba ng Talangka, Pancit Palabok, and Crispy Pata (pork knuckle), the band played a Philippines hit about a homesick Filipino living overseas—more than 10 million do—lamenting being so far from Manila. At the time, we joked that he must love traffic.

If there is one star that steals the show, it's the Fairways and Bluewater Resort and Golf Club located on the island of Boracay. A 45-minute plane flight from Manila, this could be an ideal place to spend your entire vacation. With white sand beaches and impossibly clear blue waters, Boracay was voted the "world's best island" by *Travel + Leisure* magazine in 2012, ahead of Bali, Galapagos, and Maui. As solid as any AAA Four Diamond resort in the U.S., Fairways and Bluewater is far and away the nicest resort on an island known worldwide. With numerous activities offered inside this gated resort community, Fairways and Bluewater lays claim to the island's only golf course, and it's spectacular. With major elevation changes, sweeping island and ocean views, waterfalls and pristine lakes, this is one course that seems to have it all. Even a downpour on the first hole did not come without a memory as my new friend from Malaysia and I waited out the storm from behind a waterfall that was behind the first green.

Another of the week's biggest standouts was Mount Malarayat. The challenging 27-hole championship layout offers magnificent mountainous scenery on every hole and was designed by the California-based J. Michael Poellet Design Group. The par-5, seventh hole has a spot as one of the top 500 golf holes in the world by *Golf* magazine, while *Asian Golf* magazine named Mount

Malarayat the best course in the Philippines in 2009.

Severe, multi-tiered greens are a major feature of the Mount Malarayat golf course. These are double and triple tiers. Sometimes the tiers work sideways rather than head on. No. 7 on the Makulot course is among the country's most famed holes, featuring a downhill drive to a well-bunkered fairway that tilts left to right. Once you round the gentle corner framed by brown rushes, an impressive lake and green complex come into view.

Overall, golf in the Philippines is a treat—a virtual oasis of calm. The clubhouses are large and ornate, with palatial

facilities, attentive staff, and terrific 19<sup>th</sup> hole atmospheres. Beautifully designed by some of the world's finest golf architects, the courses were both fair and challenging, with reasonable green fees—the most expensive was around \$120 U.S. One of the most outstanding is Mount Malarayat, just \$63 for a weekday tourist and optional cart less than \$30.

After experiencing all things golf in the Philippines, I want to conquer more golf in this hemisphere. Needless to say, my fond memories of golf in the Philippines was beyond 'fun' and closer to a life-defining experience for this dyed-in-the-wool travelling golfer.



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PURGATORY GOLF CLUB - NOBLESVILLE, INDIANA  
JUST NORTH OF INDY



# Let's Get It Started

One of the reasons the players on the PGA and LPGA Tours are so consistent is that they have built their core muscles to repeat that buttery swing. Not only are these guys and girls good with a golf club in their hands, they spend a lot of time in the fitness trailer. The results of their 'workouts' are pay checks that could be over a million dollars.

Eighty percent of American adults do not exercise at the recommended weekly level. Unfortunately, this increases the risk of health problems for many people. If you are exercising at a higher rate than the average American, then keep pushing yourself and feel free to brag about your dedication to a longer, healthier life. If you are among the majority, then now is a good time to start. Adding simple activities such as brisk walking 30 minutes a day and basic strengthening exercises three days a week will decrease many of the health risks associated with a sedentary lifestyle.

This month I have a few basic exercises you can easily add to your daily routine that will limit your chance of injury, and probably improve your golf game.

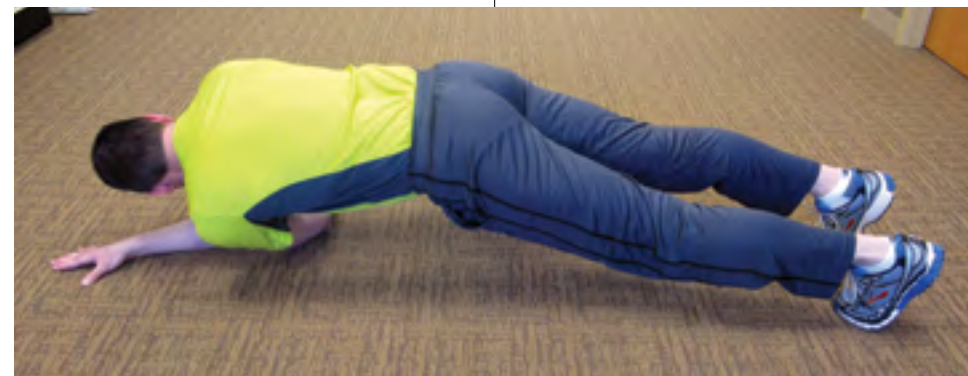
The plank exercise is a great exercise for strengthening your core muscles. It engages muscles from the shoulders to the feet while keeping your spine in the position needed for a proper golf swing. This exercise is performed face down while propped up on your elbows and toes (picture 1). During the exercise maintain a straight line from head to heels. Just like the golf swing, maintaining proper spine position is essential. Hold each repetition for 10 seconds for 5 to 10 repetitions. As your strength increases you can hold the plank position up to 30 seconds. When you feel comfortable with the basic plank exercise, there are many variations that will strengthen your core muscles even more.

Trunk rotation during your golf swing is essential for accuracy and distance. A progression of the plank exercise will improve your trunk flexibility and engage the core muscles for improved stability. Begin in the plank position. As you are holding the position, reach with your left arm under the right arm (picture 2) and rotate your trunk to the right as far as you can while reaching with the left hand. Then rotate back to the left as you reach out with your left arm towards

the ceiling (picture 3). Do five repetitions with your left arm and then repeat with your right arm. For an added challenge add a light hand-weight that you can control for ten repetitions.

For those of you who already have a regular fitness program, you are probably already noticing the benefits to your health and your golf game. Note to couch potatoes: one of the

reasons your friends are always talking about their 'workouts' is probably because they feel great—physically and emotionally. If you are not performing physical activity regularly, then this is the best season to start. In future editions, we will share several exercises that can be added to your fitness program. Add these into your daily routine and you may not be ready for the Tour, but you'll feel like a million bucks.



## THE FITNESS EDGE

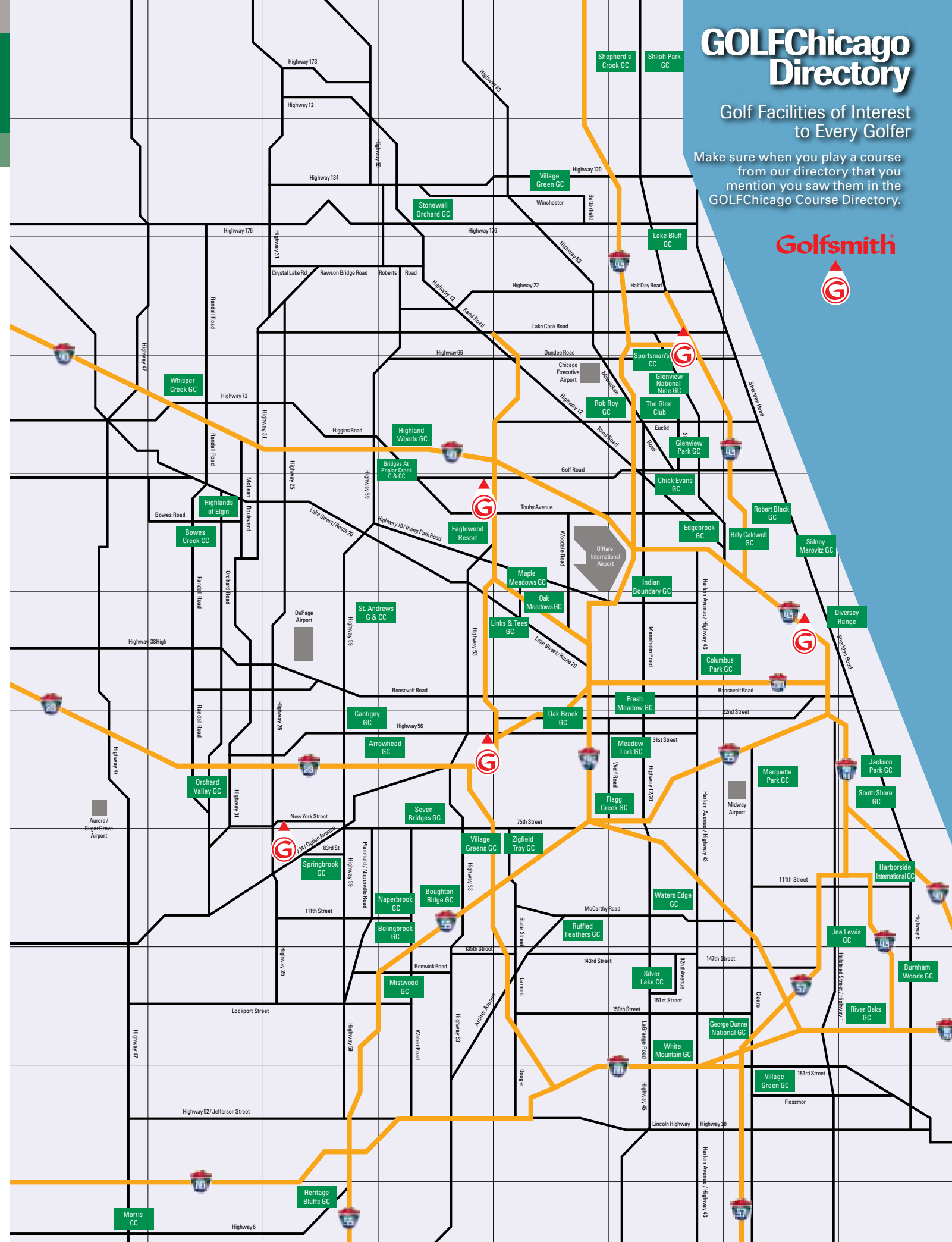
Brad Jourdan

# GOLFChicago Directory

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

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

Golfsmith





### 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. Players are enjoying new bunker renovations and enhancements to the West, East and South Courses. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons available.



### Bolingbrook Golf Club

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

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  
[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 want to play that day because you are... Member for that Day!



### Cantigny Golf

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

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

The Red Oak Club rewards program is new for 2015 and free to join.

The Cantigny Golf Academy is a prime practice and learning center. Junior golfers thrive at the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links.

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.



### Golfsmith

5 Chicagoland Locations  
[golfsmith.com](http://golfsmith.com)  
Fox Valley 60504  
630-585-0872

Highland Park 60035  
847-579-0219

Lincoln Park 60614  
773-281-1494

Downers Grove 60515  
630-495-4880

Schaumburg 60173  
847-969-0347

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If for any reason you are not satisfied within the first 30 days after your club purchase, return your clubs to Golfsmith and receive a credit of up to 90% of the original purchase price toward your next club purchase.



### The Highlands of Elgin

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

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



### 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.



### 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. Lake Bluff Golf Club takes great pride in the immaculately conditioned bent grass fairways and greens. The club anxiously awaits hosting the 42nd Annual Lake County Amateur this Fall 27 and 28.



### 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



### 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



### The Glen Club

847-724-7272  
2901 West 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 sq. ft. clubhouse, superb dining, 21 overnight guest rooms, a grand ballroom, and the finest in corporate amenities and Membership.



### golfTec

10 Chicagoland Locations  
[golftec.com](http://golftec.com)  
Chicago - Halsted Row  
773-755-4653

Chicago - Lincoln Park  
773-871-4653

Deerfield 60015  
224-330-4020

Des Plaines 60016  
847-299-5431

Downers Grove 60515  
630-932-4653

Fox Valley 60505  
630-723-5215

Naperville 60563  
630-579-9390

Oakbrook Terrace 60181  
630-396-2020

Schaumburg 60173  
847-517-1845

Vernon Hills 60061  
847-327-0605



### Mistwood Golf Club

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

Mistwood Golf Club, with its recent multi-million dollar renovations and new state of the art golf-learning center, has become one of the premier golf experiences in the Chicagoland area. Mistwood, host of the Illinois Women's Open, features new Scottish style stacked sod-wall bunkers, which are not something seen in traditional American golf. Other amenities include a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, and wonderful dining.

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



### Oak Brook Golf Club

630-368-6400  
[oak-brook.org/recreation](http://oak-brook.org/recreation)  
18 Holes – Par 72  
Yardage: 5341 - 6541

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



### Orchard Valley Golf Course

2411 West Illinois Avenue  
Aurora, IL 60506  
630-907-0500  
[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, waterfalls 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

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

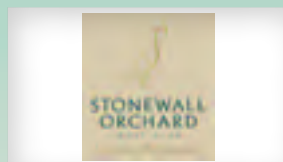




### St. Andrews Golf & Country Club

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.



### Stonewall Orchard

25675 W 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 Grayslake has served as Final Stage Qualifying site for the U.S. Open and currently sits on rotation with Olympia Fields and Medinah Country Club as host site for the Illinois PGA Section Championship held every Fall.

To learn more, visit [stonewallorchard.com](http://stonewallorchard.com) or call 847-740-4890.



### Water's Edge Golf Course

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

Best Places To Play By *Golf Digest*.

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

PLUS...a program for everyone!

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



### Whisper Creek Golf Course

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

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!

### Hamilton County Golf

Indiana's Premier Golf Destination!  
[indianaspremiergolf.com](http://indianaspremiergolf.com)

### Kids Golf Foundation of Illinois

Golf Changes Kids' Lives  
630-466-0913  
P.O. Box 610  
Sugar Grove, IL 60554  
[kidsgolffoundation.org](http://kidsgolffoundation.org)

### Links & Tees Golf Facility

630-458-2660  
Addison, IL 60101  
Recognized in 2011 by *Golf Range* magazine as one of the top 100 learning facilities in North America.  
[addisonparks.org](http://addisonparks.org)

### Maple Meadows Golf Club

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

West 18 - Par 70  
Yardage: 6,438 - 5,339 yds.  
Weekday: \$32 walk  
\$49 ride  
Weekend: \$41 walk  
\$58 ride

\*Frequent specials on course website

East 9 - Par 34  
Yardage: 2,815 - 2,427 yds.  
Rate: \$16 walk / \$25 ride  
Discount Program: Yes  
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes  
Twilight Rates: Yes  
Banquets/Outings: Yes

### Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215  
22204 W. Hassert Boulevard  
Plainfield, IL 60585  
[golfnaperville.org](http://golfnaperville.org)

Par 72  
Yardage: 6677  
Weekday: \$39.50  
Weekend: \$49.50  
Mid-day Rates: Yes  
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes  
Super Twilight Rates: Yes  
Banquets/Outings: Yes

#### 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)



### White Mountain Golf Park

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

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



### White Pines Golf Club & Banquets

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

36-hole championship course situated on over 240 acres, has been a favorite among Chicago area golfers since 1928. Ten minutes from O'Hare International Airport, White Pines in Bensenville is a perfect choice for anyone looking for a challenging game of golf any time of the year.

White Pines Golf Club offers a superb setting, sure to make you feel like you are "away from it all."

### Arlington Lakes Golf Club

847-577-3030  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

### Blackberry Oaks

630-553-7170  
Bristol, IL 60512  
[blackberryoaks.com](http://blackberryoaks.com)

### Bonnie Brook GC

847-360-4735  
2800 N. Lewis Ave.  
Waukegan, IL 60087  
[waukegangolf.org](http://waukegangolf.org)

### Boughton Ridge

630-739-4100  
Bolingbrook, IL 60440

### Eaglewood Resort and Spa

630-773-3510  
1401 Nordic Rd.  
Itasca, IL 60143  
[eaglewoodresort.com](http://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

### Fox Bend Golf Course

630-554-3939  
3516 Route 34  
Oswego, IL 60543  
[foxbendgolfcourse.com](http://foxbendgolfcourse.com)

Par 72  
Yardage: 6,890 - 5,325  
Weekday: \$38 walk  
\$54 ride  
Weekend: \$43 walk  
\$59 ride

Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes  
Twilight Rates: Yes  
Banquets/Outings: Yes  
Resident rates available

### Green Meadows Golf Club

630-810-5330  
18 W 201 West 63rd Street  
Westmont, IL 60559  
[DuPageGolf.com](http://DuPageGolf.com)

Par 30  
Yardage: 1,888 - 1,545 yds.  
Weekday: \$14 walk  
\$22 ride  
Weekend: \$16 walk  
\$24 ride

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

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### Oak Meadows Golf Club

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

Par 71  
Yardage: 6,718 - 5,628 yds.  
Weekday: \$32 walk  
\$49 ride  
Weekend: \$41 walk  
\$58 ride

### Sentry World

866-479-6753  
Stevens Point, WI 54481  
Par 72  
6,951 yards  
[sentryworld.com](http://sentryworld.com)

### Shepherd's Crook

847-872-2080  
351 N. Green Bay Rd.  
Zion, IL 60099  
[shepherdscrook.org](http://shepherdscrook.org)

**Shiloh Park**  
847-746-5500  
23rd and Bethesda Blvd.  
Zion, IL 60099  
[shilohparkgolf.com](http://shilohparkgolf.com)

### Springbrook Golf Course

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

Par 72  
Yardage: 6,896  
Weekday: \$41.50  
Weekend: \$51.50  
Mid-day Rates: Yes  
Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes  
Super Twilight Rates: Yes  
Banquets/Outings: Yes

### Western Golf Association / Evans Scholars Foundation

[westerngolfassociation.com](http://westerngolfassociation.com)

### Zigfield Troy Par 3

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

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# The Squeeze Tees Off

ON THE BIG SCREEN

Neal Kotlarek

Golf is to gambling like Abbott is to Costello, like peanut butter is to jelly, and like pretzels are to cold beer. It is hard to believe that it took until 2015 before a major motion picture focused on this unbeatable combination.

The characters in the movie *The Squeeze* were drawn with broad brush strokes. Riverboat, as played by veteran actor Christopher McDonald, is a professional gambler with an amazing ability to win bets. Jimmy Diamonds (Michael Nouri) is a well-moneyed counterpart to Riverboat but appears to have a penchant to losing bets. Riverboat smells “cash money” one day when he drives past a rural Texas town celebrating the amazing skills of local golfer Augie, played winningly by Jeremy Sumpter (who in real life carries a +1 handicap index). Eventually and inevitably, Riverboat and Jimmy Diamonds put everything on the line in a match between Augie and reigning “U.S. Amateur champion” Aaron Bolt.

While the entire movie leads to this clash between Riverboat, Diamonds, Augie and Aaron, we first get to understand a little bit about how Riverboat, Diamonds and Augie find themselves all together on a Las Vegas golf course. It turns out that Augie desperately needs his own “cash money” to take care of his sister, his mom, and gorgeous girlfriend Natalie (played by Jillian Murray). Augie appears to have a promising future as an amateur or pro as he owns all the shots—from soaring tee shots to remarkable accuracy on the green to creative trick shots off the base of a tree and toward the flagstick. Natalie is Augie’s biggest fan until Riverboat and his girlfriend Jessie come onto the scene. While Augie does his best to resist the temptation of easy money, he is eventually lured into becoming a golf hustler by the devilishly persuasive Riverboat.

Director and screenwriter Terry Jastrow works hard to make the golf thrilling and realistic while spinning his yarn. While golf is the focus of the story, the real art involved was creating characters that create empathy or emotion. Jastrow mostly succeeds at this task as the moviegoer quickly falls in love with happy-go-lucky Augie and his street-smart girlfriend. While it is hard to like anything about Riverboat and Jimmy Diamonds, we can’t help but appreciate the guts it takes to put down \$450,000 on a poker bet or \$1 million on a golf match.

As with most sports movies, real golfers can’t help but wince when they notice impracticalities like the two gamblers wearing pressed suits and street shoes while walking with their players on the golf course. Or seeing a U.S. Open Amateur champion getting flustered by a beautiful girl to the point where he dunks a shot in the water on a short par 3. Or when Augie

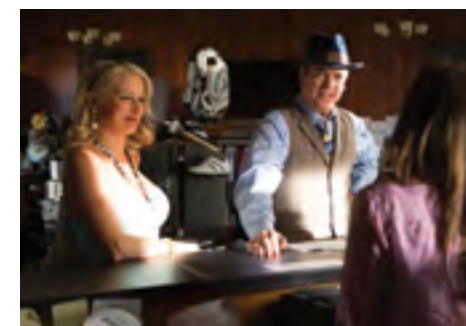
rings up a hole-in-one during the first match of his new career as a hustler (what were the odds?!?!?).

Those off-kilter moments aside, the movie is a lot of fun and a worthwhile view. Jastrow knows his way around a golf course as he produced or directed 62 major golf championships for ABC Sports. He also attended the University of Houston on a golf scholarship back in the days when that college possessed one of the top golf programs in the country.

Interestingly, my favorite scenes in the movie have more to do with story-telling than

they do with golf. Sumpter and Murray make for an attractive couple whose relationship draws sparks. We want Augie to stay away from Riverboat once threatened by Natalie who warns: “You walk this path and you walk it without me.” The naïve Augie though doesn’t see how he can lose. “All I gotta do is play golf?” he asks Riverboat. He gets the answer he wants. “All you gotta do is play golf,” the gambler assures him. Of course, nothing in life is quite that simple as Augie finds out long after the golf car has left the barn.

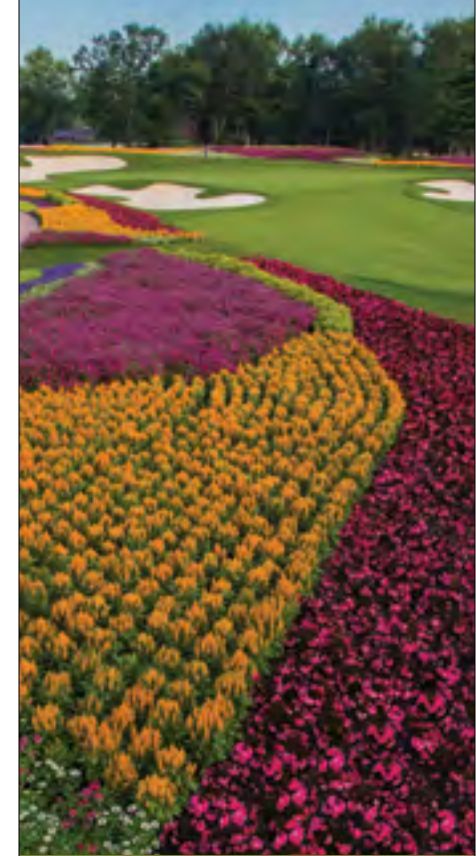
GOLFChicago rating: THREE STARS.



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# Golf's Greatest Generation

Men in Green  
By Michael Bamberger  
260 pages  
\$27.00  
ISBN: 9781476743820  
www.simonandschuster.com

**M**en in Green began as many great ideas have in the past. The author is seated alone in a restaurant, and he begins to scribble an idea on a paper tablecloth. Michael Bamberger then proceeded to compose a list of nine "Living Legends" and nine "Secret Legends." These individuals are the theme for *Men in Green*.

Bamberger's vision quest paints a portrait of golf's greatest generation; moreover, his secret legends, mostly unknown people he encountered on the Tours, are the freshest layers within the book. Included is a snapshot of a man called Golf Ball, Dolphus Hull. He is an iconic caddie who worked with Lee Elder,

Calvin Peete, and Raymond Floyd. Peete and Floyd share on-course stories about their relationship with Golf Ball, and this chapter includes a nostalgic visit Bamberger made to an ailing Golf Ball.

Michael Bamberger has been on *Sports Illustrated's* staff since 1995. His gig with our nation's premier sports publication ensures readers that Bamberger can tell an interesting story. *Men in Green* is a candid picture of the PGA Tour before the woods changed to titanium and winner's paychecks included a second comma. Inspired by Roger Kahn's baseball classic, *The Boys of Summer*, Bamberger hits it out of the ball park with his tales from the greatest players and interesting people who surrounded the PGA Tour in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. *Men in Green* is packed with first-person stories and forthright reflections. If you are a fan of professional golf, then *Men in Green* should be atop your To Do list.



## ON THE SHELF

Between the Covers

# I Took a Trip Down to La Merika

**T**here is a theory among some historians that America was discovered decades, or even centuries, before Christopher Columbus by a little-known explorer named Henry Sinclair, who may have been a member of the Knights Templar. In Templar symbolism 'Merica' is a western star toward which their ships would sail, or mounted knights would ride. It is suggested that the name La Merika (The Star) is what led to the naming of the continent America, rather than after Amerigo Vespucci, an Italian explorer who is credited with describing the New World.

The theory is based on old graveyards in Nova Scotia containing grave stones which incorporate Templar devices such as Crusader Crosses and other Masonic symbols. Although there is no surviving evidence, Sinclair may have traveled to Greenland, and perhaps as far south as present-day Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Coincidentally, the sails of Columbus' ships were emblazoned with the Templar Cross, which was then an emblem of Spain. La Merika the wine is part of the extensive Delicato Family Vineyards portfolio. Family-owned and operated since the company's founding in 1924, the third generation of the Indelicato family now control properties throughout California, but they are especially interested in the Central Coast.

I am a big fan of the Central Coast AVA, a huge viticultural area encompassing vineyards from Los Angeles to San Francisco. A wide variety of wines are produced there, and many of them are high quality and of exceptional value.

The Central Coast has one of the longest growing seasons in the world, and is influenced by proximity to the Pacific. Warm sunny days are tempered by cool, afternoon ocean breezes. The extended growing season allows for full fruit development, and, because ripening occurs at an easy pace, rich, full flavors balanced with bright acidity can emerge.

2013 Chardonnay \$13  
This wine pours nearly colorless, and then follows with aromas of citrus, honey, and green apple on the nose. Although it saw some oak, that's barely in evidence. There are plenty of flavors of lemon/lime and grapefruit. The wine features a medium body, augmented by zippy acidity, recessive Double Bogey █ Bogey ███ Par ████ Birdie █████ Eagle ██████ All prices are estimated.

tannins, and a crisp finish. Nothing buttery or over-oaked here.

Summer's nearly here, so consider matching this up with Grilled Bacon-Wrapped Trout with Green Onion Sauce, Southern Pan-Fried Chicken, or Salmon Croquettes. █ █ █ █  
2012 Cabernet Sauvignon \$15  
This Cab shows a classic inky purple in the glass. The nose features ripe plum and brown spices. On the palate, there are flavors of blackberry and black cherry plus some dark chocolate or cocoa. The tannins rather than fruit are forward here. It ends with a medium-long finish. To get the full effect, plan on letting this breathe for an hour or so. This wine spent five months in French and American oak.

This big wine can stand up to robust foods like Country Captain with Crispy Thin Onion Rings, Baked Pork Chops with Cranberries, or Garlic Braised Shoulder Lamb Chops with Butter Beans and Tomatoes. █ █ █ █ █

## ON THE CORKSCREWS

Stephen Hawk



leo849@comcast.net

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# The Things We Carry

Since Neanderthals scrawled in blood on cave walls, we have been defined and connected by our stories. And every story has included the core elements of conflict, setting, character, plot line, and theme. I'm an English teacher by trade, so I tend to look at the world through a narrative lens.

The following chronicles the story of eight 30 to 40-something men—ranging from wildly successful to hopelessly deprived—and their descent upon a California retirement community to escape the soul-killing winter for a “healthy” golf competition. Format: half Ryder Cup, half I’m-still-not-sure-how-I-lost. Below is the study guide. You will be tested on this.

## Setting

Palm Desert, California, Super Bowl Weekend, 2015; headquarters is a seven-bedroom McMansion equipped with pool, putting green, nine flatscreens, and a \$4,000 massage chair; the fridge is jammed with 100 bottles of Stella Artois, 80 eggs, and a vat of pickles.

## Characters

To preserve identities—and marriages—I will use aliases. To be fair though, this is what we actually call each other.

## Julie

Named after the cruise director from *The Love Boat* for assuming the thankless job of coordinating the trip. He is also known as “Greek Tragedy” for shooting a pair of 79s and earning no points.

## Keyser Söze

Named after the enigma from *The Usual Suspects*; his refrain to our citing the official rules of golf: “You guys and all your rules...”; prefers Crown and Coke over coffee as a morning jumpstart.

## Digital

Only drinks alcohol if his round is shot; most offended by players not knowing where they lie. During a pivotal match with Söze, “What do you lie, partner? Söze looks back down the fairway wistfully, “One..two...three..four...five...six...” Digital, “Nevermind.”

## The Yeti

Large and lumbering, whose swing resembles an epileptic baboon swatting mosquitos, hence also known as “The Yeti Project;” only 23-handicapper with the game acumen of a Tour caddy; laying seven, 80 yards out on a par 4, “What do you like? Cut 48 or draw 52?”

## Purple

Tour pro wardrobe, toddler mental game; excuses are as abundant as matching belts: after blade yank from 130: “Damn it, did you hear that chicken chuckwagon me in my backswing?”

## Pastor Frank

Protects his “flock” as the resident chauffeur, which resembles a church van except that it teems with alco-

hol, cigarettes, painkillers, and malcontents. He is our spiritual guide—I read his lips a few times, “May God have mercy on their souls.”

## Rockefeller

Bet his wife they would have a boy when the ultrasound officially determined a girl: “Double or nothing;” after a full day of intense gambling on the course, demands action in shuffleboard, Donkey Kong, and backgammon.

## Rising Action

The Yeti asks Julie to “leave the pin in” because he’s “gonna miss” a 45-foot putt, to which Julie responds “No.” Yeti proceeds to drain a 45-foot snake for birdie and a half. Later, Purple nearly dies choking on a Safeway jalapeno popper, then nonchalantly quips, “you can’t get those at Kroger.”

## Climax

To end the Superbowl, Pete Carroll snubs Beast Mode for a quick slant; concurrently, Purple, gulping sake, exclaims obstinately, “I’ve got the dinner under control!” as the grill, directly behind him, loaded with eight ribeyes, erupts in flames, jeopardizing our \$2000 deposit for the third time.

## Falling Action

Yeti falls into a deep shab-sleep in the massage chair again.

## Denouement

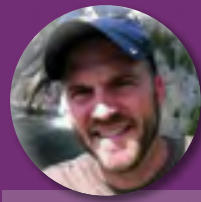
Pastor Frank, the winner with a 19-index, returns the van to Enterprise full of empty beer cans, a bottle of Crown, a bag of eggs, and a jar of pickles. Rockefeller: “If they’re industrious enough, they’ll find some full Stellas.”

## Theme

I’m teaching Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried* to my high school juniors. It’s an examination of war, of boyhood and brotherhood, of love and loss, but most importantly, of the power of story. O’Brien contemplates the space between what we remember, what actually happened, what could have happened, and how we are shaped by the blurred lines between: “Stories are for joining the past to the future...for those late hours in the night when you can’t remember how you got from where you were to where you are. Stories are for eternity...”

While it would be disingenuous to suggest that a Guys Golf Weekend is analogous to a Vietnam tour, the game of golf—like war—provides the ideal framework for a good story. It’s full of drama (Purple’s jalapeno-driven brush with death), tragedy (Julie’s stellar play earning him no points), comedy (The Yeti saying or doing almost anything), and even Providence (the Pastor’s improbable win). And so perhaps this is why we’re so drawn to the game—in my case it’s obvious that I’m a sucker for character pieces—because we know every time tee pierces ground, a great story awaits.

## AGAINST THE GRAIN



Rory Hughes

DESERT MOUNTAIN TEMPERATURES		
Month	Avg. High	Avg. Low
January	62 F	41 F
February	65 F	43 F
March	70 F	46 F
April	79 F	52 F
May	88 F	60 F
June	97 F	70 F
July	98 F	76 F
August	97 F	74 F
September	94 F	70 F
October	83 F	59 F
November	70 F	47 F
December	62 F	40 F

While it would be disingenuous to suggest that a Guys Golf Weekend is analogous to a Vietnam tour, the game of golf—like war—provides the ideal framework for a good story.

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