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July 2012, Vol. 16 No. 5

Exclusive Webb Simpson Interview

Sod-Faced Mistwood Unveiled

Beyond Bunkers with Greg Martin Dave Pelz: Short Game Guru Full Swing with Carl Rabito

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#### Features

**Mistwood Golf Club: A New Look** By Neal Kotlarek

#### **Exclusive Interview with** Webb Simpson, U.S. Open Champion Bv Dave Weretka



Webb Simpson Dials in His Short Game

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Founder: Bill Daniels **Publisher: Dave Weretka Editor: Greg Jourdan** 

#### Art Director: Stephen Hawk Anderson Young & Associates

Senior Writers: Neal Kotlarek and Jim Owczarski Editorial Assistant: E. Powell Instructional Staff: Dave Pelz, Carl Rabito, and Todd Sones Contributors: Erik Allie, Leo McNeal, Rory Hughes, Greg Martin, Todd Mrowice, Larry Nestor, and Sheri Warren Photography: Greg Jourdan and Group 27

Advertising and Marketing inquiries should be directed to: Dave Weretka 815-741-8005 dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com

Editorial inquiries should be directed to: Greg Jourdan gjourdan@golfchicagomagazine.com

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#### **Business Offices**

3701 Juniper Avenue Joliet, IL 60431 815-741-8005 Fax: 815-741-8112 dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com

#### **Editorial Offices**

490 Meadow Lane Hinckley, IL 60520 815-741-8005 Fax: 815-741-8112 gjourdan@golfchicagomagazine.com

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**T**t looks like we are going to have a hot and spicy July for golfers. The tempera-Lures are nearing uncomfortable triple digits and most of us have a little extra time since our browning yards do not require mowing. Play golf in this heat? Are we crazy? Yes and maybe. Since sunscreen, hats, and sunglasses have become required equipment for most golfers, the heat can be beat with proper hydration. Remember, when you feel thirsty, you are already dehydrated. When you are playing in excessive heat, a hydration program is essential to survive the round. Your program should begin before you reach the course. Be sure to drink 20 ounces of water an hour before you play. Since you can never be too hydrated, try to drink at least eight ounces each hole. Forget about cracking cans of beer, or even pouring caffeinated beverages down your gullet. Alcohol and caffeine are performance-draining drinks that will only lead you toward dehydration. Take a break in the shade when you can find it and go out and play safe golf in the heat.



your favorite courses. After reading Greq's column you will have a better understanding of why you like certain holes, or why some courses leave a bad taste in your mouth.

#### Join Us at Arrowhead

GOLFChicago's premier Major Monday golf tournament is Monday, July 16 [1:00 pm] at Arrowhead Golf Club in Wheaton. Our post-Open Championship outing will be a four-person scramble, which never fails to produce a fun experience. Grab your buddies and register at www.golfchicagomagazine.com. Expect great prizes, pourings by Moet brands, and some unique on-course challenges. Our second event, following the PGA Championship, will be at Highland Park Country Club on August 13 [9:30 am]. Bring your 'A' game and you may find your picture in our Sweet Home Chicago department. You could be a star!

# **Notes from Greg and Dave**



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In this issue, our **Beyond Bunkers** department shares Greg Martin's thoughts on the anatomy of a golf course. We love Greg's design work; moreover, he is one of the premier golf course architects who place a premium on creating fun tracks for the masses. There is a psychology in designing great courses. Think of

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# **Watch Your Mouth**

ut of necessity, the Rules of Golf are generally black and white, with little room for debate as to whether a certain act has breached a Rule. Once the facts are determined, the ruling is often straightforward (e.g., if a player did in fact ground his club before his bunker shot, he was in breach of the Rules).

The Advice Rule (8-1) can be a touchier situation, though, as some questions or statements can be borderline breaches. A player may give advice only to his partner and may not ask for advice from anyone other than his partner or either of their caddies. The Rules of Golf define advice as "any counsel or suggestion that could influence a player in determining his play, the choice of a club, or the method of making a stroke." Let's review some of the details:

• Players may exchange distance information, whether from a fixed object such as a bunker or from a player's ball.

- · Players may not exchange club selection information prior to a stroke but may do so after the stroke (e.g., on a par 3 where both players came up short, they may ask each other what club they played on their way to the green).
- Caddies of fellow-competitors may not exchange club selection information;
- Exchanging swing tips is a no-no (and even Tom Watson was penalized for doing so in a PGA Tour event).
- Players may exchange Rules information (e.g., one player may help another player figure out how to take relief in a certain situation);
- Players may exchange public information about the course (e.g., where the hole is on the green).
- A player may not suggest a course of action to a fellow competitor (e.g., "You should deem that ball unplayable.").
- A player may look into his fellow-competitor's bag to determine which club the

fellow competitor is using, but he may not, for example, remove a towel covering the clubs to make this determination.

- The Advice Rule does not apply during a suspension of play (e.g., while the players are sitting out a thunderstorm, they may exchange advice).
- Teammates playing together in a team competition that is based on individual scores (as is the case in most high school and collegiate competitions) are not partners and therefore may not exchange advice.
- A coach or team captain may give advice to players on his team in a team competition only when there is a condition of competition allowing him to do so.

Given the above, it should therefore come as no surprise that sometimes referees will intentionally position themselves out of earshot of the players.







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# INSTRUCTIO





**S**ooner or later, you'll face a shot where you must carry a bunker to a sloping green with very little room between the hazard and the pin. Only one shot can save your score here: the flop. Start out by using your most lofted wedge; aim left of the target and open the clubface. Play the ball in the middle of your stance, not forward as some people suggest. Moving the ball up only increases the likelihood that you'll hit the ground before the ball.

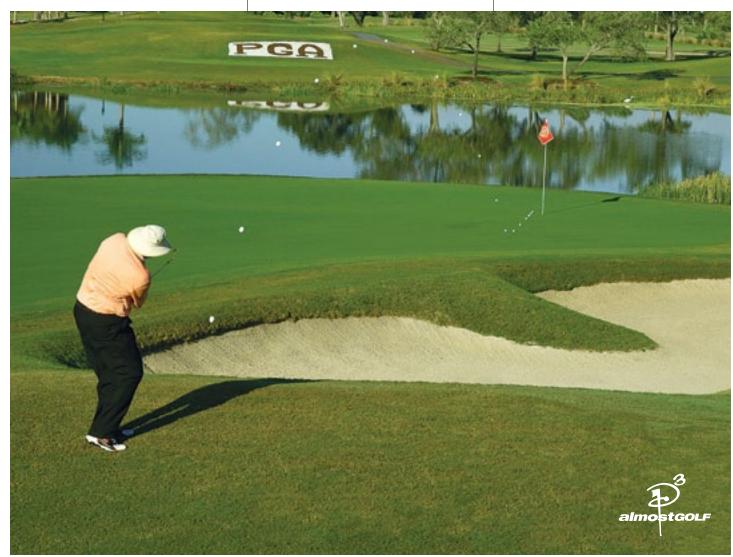
Once you're set, simply make the same wedge swing you'd use in a bunker. Keep the clubface open, slide it under the ball and swing to a full finish. The combination of an open clubface and a high finish gives the shot the high, soft trajectory it needs to carry the bunker but keep the ball from running too far down the slope. When we snapped this photo, I landed the ball two feet short of the pin and stopped it just two feet past the hole. Perfect.

I don't want to say that the flop is easy even though you hit it like a bunker shot, you don't have the margin of error you'd typically get in the sand. With a little practice, however, it's a spectacular shot that's attainable for all golfers.

The flop shot requires a three-quarter backswing and a full finish. It works with any one of your wedges, and I suggest you practice this shot with each of them.

Warning: If you practice this shot with a real ball, a poor swing can produce potentially harmful results. However, if you use an almostGOLF ball, you can practice in your own backyard and minimize the risk (these spheres fly a third of the distance of real balls while giving you a realistic launch and flight, but because they're lighter, they can't injure anyone).

Check out www.almostgolf.com to learn more about the ball that will help you have more meaningful practice in your backyard.



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# **Fade To Glory**



ast issue we showed you how to draw Left the golf ball—I hope you continue to practice and add the draw to your arsenal. Now, I would like to teach you how to fade the golf ball. Most golfers bend their shots left-to-right; however, more often than not, this ball flight is a distance-chewing slice. Learning to control a fade will enable you to attack tighter hole locations and take advantage of doglegs, too.

In order to control the golf ball, the first key is to swing the club on plane. Keeping it simple, swinging on plane means the shaft of the club is pointing at the golf ball during the swing once it hinges up and then again as it swings down.

There are two basic keys to swinging the club on plane. The first is to set up in proper

posture, tilted forward from the hips with the arms hanging under the body, knees flexed and weight favoring the balls of the feet. The second is to grip the club so that the club can be hinged properly during the backswing.

Once a player has relatively good command of their swing plane, they can then learn to work their golf ball with some control.

Obviously, the setup for a controlled fade is the opposite of a draw. Play the ball forward and open your stance to the target line. Like the draw, make sure your shoulders remain square or parallel to the intended target line. With 6-iron down to wedges, it helps to open the face and weaken the grip. For longer clubs, 5-iron through hybrids, simply use a slightly weaker grip with no adjustment to the clubface. Fairway woods and driver need

no adjustment in grip or clubface. The only adjustments should be your stance and ball position. The reason the player has to work harder to curve the ball with the shorter clubs is that more loft imparts backspin while clubs with less loft impart sidespin.

Once a player has set up properly, he should hold off on releasing the forearms or keep the toe from closing over through impact. My advice to players is to experiment with this shot on the range in practice before ever trying to hit a controlled fade on the course. It's always good advice to play shots on the course you know how to hit and that you have practiced.

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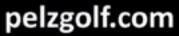






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# INSTRUCTIO

# How to Start the **Down Swing**



We have talked a lot in past articles about impact. It is always very important to build your swing around your concept of impact. However you perceive impact, rest assured you will create swing mechanics to fulfill that ambition. In order to trap, compress, and make the most solid contact possible, the clubface must contact the ball before hitting the ground. This is why every divot needs to be ahead or in front (target side) of the golf ball. To achieve this impact position, it is important to understand the purpose and how the transition works.

The purpose of the transition is to establish a new fixed point to turn around. The right leg is the fixed point of the back swing. The chest turns around the right leg, then the left hip completes the backswing by turning around the right leg. On the transition, the left hip and leg get in line with the left ankle and foot creating the new fixed point to move around on the down swing.

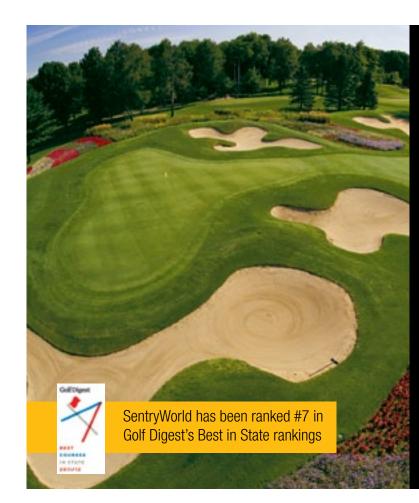
This is a clean simple way to get to your left side on the down swing. Imagine your right leg is in a bracket, a brace inside and outside on your thigh. On the back swing your thigh should stay in the bracket. The first move on the transition is to get the right leg completely out of the bracket by moving towards the target. By doing this it will transfer the weight to the left side and moves the club into a position to strike down and compress the ball. From this point, the right hip and club shaft release into the ball at the same time. This ensures the power from your body and the speed of your wrists collides with the ball at the same time. This is a sequence practically all Tour players possess.













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# The Anatomy of a Scorecard

Rolf course is more than a collection of 18 individual holes, but rather a sequence of 18 holes perceived as a single entity. Great courses have rhythm and tempo, an ebb and flow that transitions golfers from comfort to challenge. The best golf courses and finest golf experiences are the result of such continuity, which affects the pace, the enjoyment, and the emotional response of the golfer. A memorable golf course will have a beginning, a middle, and a conclusion just like an interesting story. Memorable golf experiences are also produced from spectacular sites and remarkable routings that offer golfers a variety of par 3s, par 4s, and par 5s.

#### Par 3s Provide Drama, Excitement

The one-shot hole is often confused with an easy hole. Nothing could be further from the truth. One-shot holes are more often the most diabolical and penal tests on the course specifically *because* of their reduced length. Often located in the most challenging regions of a site due to dimension, topography, vegetation, or panorama, par 3s are constructed to command attention. Therefore, much of a golf course's character can be traced to the strength and variety of its par 3s.

Par 3s often are located on the best or most unique landscape features of a property: on cliffs, along peninsulas and against rock outcrops. Each of these offers spectacular views and distracting features. These hazards are often placed closer to the green setting, resulting in greater forced carries from the tee.

The short one-shot hole can offer more drama and extract more trepidation. The 17<sup>th</sup> at TPC Sawgrass is a perfect example. While seemingly simple and short (125-140 yards), the drama and expanse of the water hazard demands execution. A large, daunting feature can cause the target to shrink. The backdrop of a 107-yard hole at Pebble Beach is enough to invoke confusion. The spectacular setting at Augusta #12 or the disastrous deep bunkers at Troon #8 compel the golfer to hear voices.

The long par 3 often requires more room in the design elements—more space for the green, for bailout play, and for recovery shots.



The par 3 16<sup>th</sup> at Cypress Point is a demanding 241 yards with a full carry, surrounded by the Pacific Ocean. To the left lies plenty of area for bailout, requiring a challenging recovery. This scenic par 3 is a gamble testing the mettle of any golfer; however, this one-shot hole may be the most thrilling shot in all of golf.

#### **Par 4s Emphasize Strategy**

The par 4 is the foundation for any golf course routing. The 'two-shot' hole allows a wide range of possibilities from reachable to impossible: pars and birdies, to bogies or the dreaded scorecard "x." The USGA has stretched par 4s to over 500 yards for our national championship, but some of the best par 4s are the reachable holes that tempt the golfer to play a shot out of his comfort zone. Quite simply, the best par 4s are those that expose your strengths and weaknesses. The reachable, short par 4 provides many options. Short par 4s can tempt the player to drive the green or expose weaknesses in the short game. The short 4 provides greater emphasis on strategy, ball placement, and shot-shaping. The approach to the green is usually very distinguished. One of the best par 4s played on the PGA Tour is the wonderfully strategic 300-yard tenth hole at Riviera Country Club. This is one of the most popular holes on the PGA Tour, yet it plays significantly shorter than most par 4s at your local course.

Great holes always have some level of risk and reward. The 18<sup>th</sup> at the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass is a great example of a solid and long par 4, filled with risks and rewards. Risks can be offered at the tee, on the approach, or around the green. Considered a 'cape hole,' this 'heroic' par 4 is a gambler's hole that requires bold decisionmaking. Solid drives must challenge the water to the left, and if executed are offered a much simpler and shorter approach. Steering away from trouble complicates the next shot. Numerous lines of play such as these are the basis for all solid golf course design strategy.

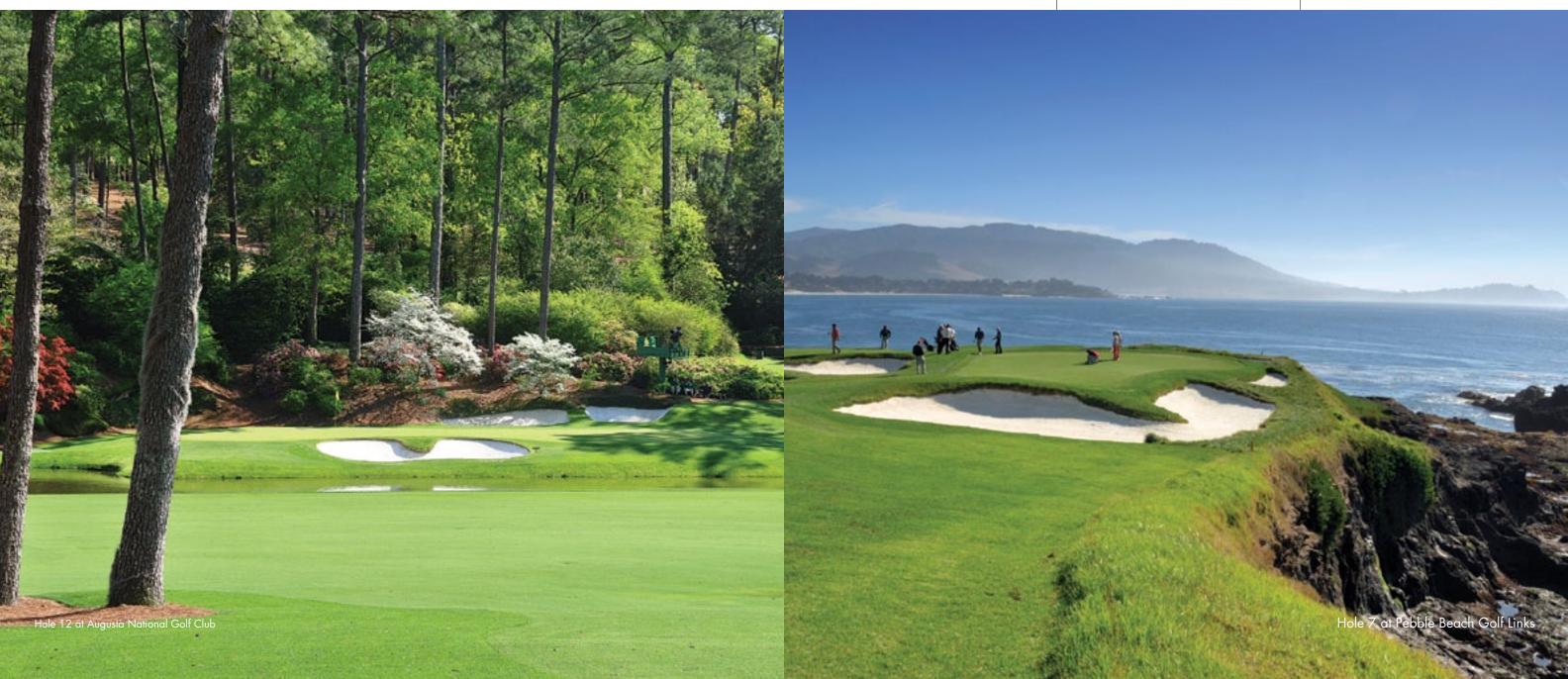
Long par 4s will expose the better player who is capable of long tee shots and is at ease playing long irons; therefore, the long par 4 can harm the shorter hitter. A long two-shot hole is needed to compliment the routing plan and provide options for hazard placement. Just as the weaker golfer welcomes the short hole, the better and longer hitting golfer is euphoric over a long par 4. The long 4 tends to challenge the best golfers and distinguish their game. These long holes usually always have large greens and openings to 'run a shot' or play short of the green.

#### **Par 5s Serve Up Diversity**

All great golf holes provide options and enticement. The best golf holes tap into a gambler's spirit and arouse the greatest temptations. This is particularly true with the best par five holes—those that if the shot is executed, rewards are gained, and if the shot is wayward, then punishment is severe.

The pure and true par 5 requires three ample shots to reach the green. This type of hole demands a solid drive from the tee, a reasonably placed second shot with a long iron or fairway wood, and then an approach to the green with a short iron. Dependent upon the hole locations, green shape, and topography, the first and second shots become strategic, to allow the best vantage for an approach shot. These initial shots are where many golfers lose the battle with a par 5. The shorter, risk-reward par 5 is fun to play and to design. Architects will present the golfer with more decisions and strategic options that are not solely reliant upon length alone to determine skill. The risk-reward par 5 [or 2½ shot hole] often requires a more deft approach shot to a tightly-secured green to discourage a long and risky second shot approach. The par 5s at Augusta National were conceived to tempt the golfer to play to the green on the second shot, but require exacting skill to a specified area. If missed, the shot will be repelled, often into positions that do not allow for easy recovery.

The attractiveness of a par 5 is the numerous strategic options for each shot. The best are those that provide the greatest options for play with distinct risks and rewards. For the better golfer, a birdie or better can be gained with solid management, courage, and bold



shot-making. For the bold player, the golfer is offered multiple options, each providing rewards and penalties depending upon his shot-making skills.

The par 5 needs to provide ample difficulty for the better golfer, while allowing suitable latitude for the less able golfer. Tee shots are often generous, providing ample area for any golfer to play away, with nuanced approach and lay-up angles. The better golfer is offered an advantage if he tests hazards and gains yardage.

All golf courses are constructed with many of the above in mind. But the best courses have a bit of each and are assembled into a family of holes with continuity, comprising unique experiences from one hole to another. If done well, the routing exposes the best of the landscape while presenting the golfer with variety, beauty, strategy, and challenge.

# New Look Mistwood **A Premier** Experience

# **By Neal Kotlarek**

Don't believe for a moment that F. Scott Fitzgerald knew what he was talking about when he asserted that "there are no second acts in American lives." In just the past 12 months alone, architect Ray Hearn has proven the author's premise wrong not just once, but twice.

The beauty and challenge of those bunkers take players on a journey across the pond to the great seaside links of Ireland and Scotland.

year ago, Hearn completed his renovation of the remarkable Island Hills Golf Club This centreville, Michigan, which he originally designed in 1998. This spring, Hearn completed extensive renovations on Mistwood Golf Course in Romeoville, which he originally designed 15 years ago. Already considered by most Chicago area golfers to be among the state's top 10 publiclyaccessible courses, the new version is longer, more dynamic, more attractive and—simply put—better. "I've been blessed," Hearn admitted in an interview days before the course's grand re-opening in

mid-June. "To be provided a chance by [owner] Jim McWethy to upgrade the course, lengthen it, address some drainage issues, and make it more appealing is a designer's dream come true," he added.

Fact is that the entire project—with a budget of \$6 million when finished—was far more than a renovation. Beyond stretching the course from a relatively modest 6,701 yards to 7,028 yards, Hearn gave it a unique new look with the addition of 19 stacked sod-wall bunkers that both add drama to the playing experience and utterly transform Mistwood's aesthetics. "Even though the term 'links' specifically references the linking of land to a large body of water," Hearn said, "lots of players at the club have stated that Mistwood had a 'links-style feel" to it. So we thought it would enhance the experience if bunkers that reflected that feel were added."

The beauty and challenge of those bunkers take players on a journey across the pond to the great seaside links of Ireland and Scotland. The star attraction of this grouping proudly lurks in front of the 12th hole green. "That bunker defines the hole," Hearn stated. And indeed, the par-4 would parallel countless other such dogleg right holes without this stunning obstacle—a pit over 10 feet deep that calls upon its victims to hit arguably the most creative blast shot in all of Illinois golf.

Hearn said that McWethy's eye for detail makes the aforementioned bunker shot far easier to execute than it would first appear. "Jim wanted sand in these bunkers that allows a club to glide through instead of getting stuck," he said. "Lots of top private clubs use Waupaca Steep Face sand because it eliminates fried egg shots and doesn't blow around on windy days. It's used at Mistwood to make bunker shots a little less formidable."



The work that Ray did incorporating the sod bunkers and the improvements he made to each hole are spectacular.



While some of the new bunkers add additional drama and force long hitters to think twice before whaling away with their drivers, others frame fairways or serve as directional beacons off the tees. The end result is not just pleasing to the eye; these bunkers somehow look as if they belonged on the property all along.

One other obvious aesthetic improvement was still in process as the course re-opened. McWethy and Hearn toured three quarries to locate the sparkling white Lannon stone that will be used to construct two bridges and dry-stacked retaining walls on parts of the estate's two expanded lakes. The end result will make Mistwood look as stately and elegant as any publicly accessible facility in the Midwest.

A view from the first tee quickly displays the extent of the course renovations. Players are given the option of hitting a tee shot to the left side of the fairway over a burn that bisects the landing area on a sharp diagonal, or play short to the right side to avoid the hazard. This theme of multiple routes is repeated across the front nine with bisected fairways providing different avenues to the flagstick on two other holes.

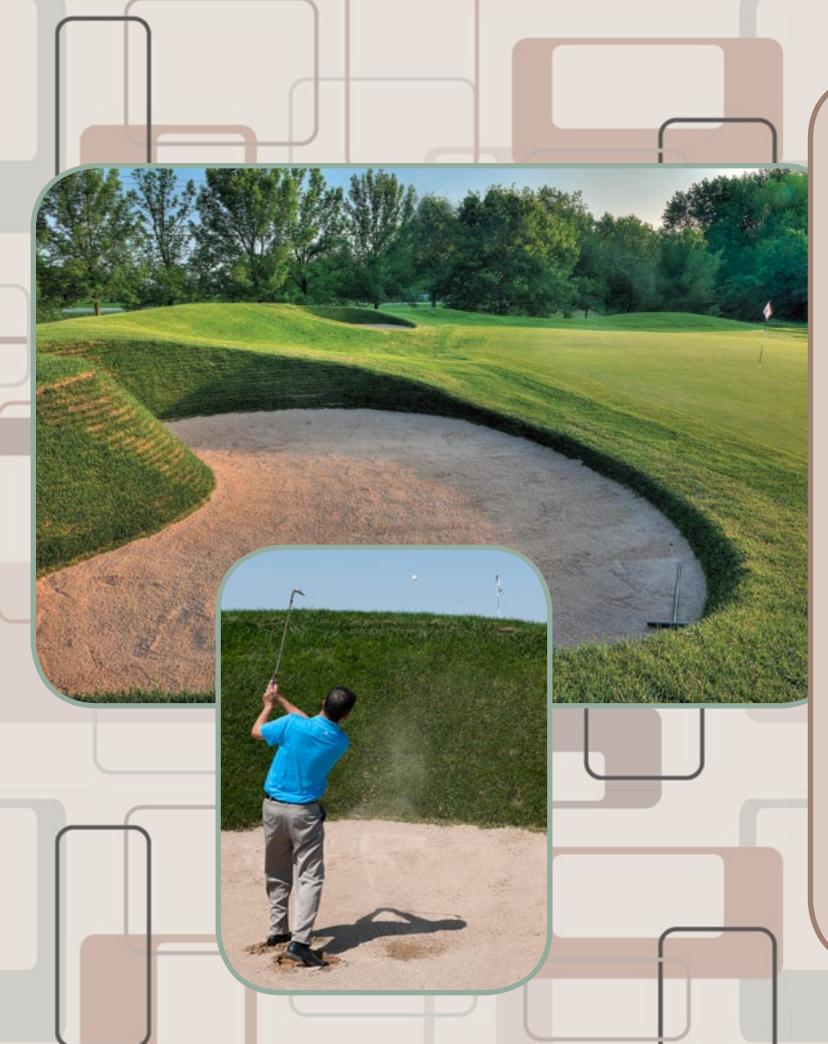
The short par-4 No. 2 introduces players to the course's stacked sod-faced bunkers. Previously a relatively open dogleg left, the hole is now much tighter as two deep bunkers reside in the middle of the fairway between the green and the landing area. While neither hazard is in play on the approach shot, both serve to guard against any possibility of reaching this green off the tee.

Highlighting the front nine is the 566-yard par-5 nicknamed "Royal Split," as two fairways provide multiple routes to the hole. Play left and you avoid water that runs from tee to green. Yet that route provides additional peril as a long approach shot to a well-protected green puts the lake to the right side of the putting surface in play.

The aforementioned No. 12 serves as an excellent example of the extensive remodeling performed on the course. While a lake previously snaked along the left side of this fairway, that same body of water has now been expanded to weave across this fairway and protect the right side of the landing area as well as the left side. While players have been forewarned about the bunker in front of this green, two other shallower stacked sod-faced bunkers also protect the left side of the tee shot's landing area.

The 527-yard No. 18 is like the grand finale of a fireworks display. While only one new bunker was added to this well-protected par-5, all of the former bunkers have been provided a face-lift and two of the greenside bunkers were made into stacked sod-faced bunkers. Once a formality, a par on this hole is now a triumph.

According to Dan Phillips, Director of Golf and Instruction at Mistwood, early reviews by both longtime members and the general public have been virtually unanimous in heaping praise on the new-look layout. "I'm sure that a number of members who loved the original Mistwood were originally a bit skeptical of all of the construction being done to their golf course," he said. "But now that the majority of the work is completed, they can truly appreciate Jim's commitment to excellence and Ray's creative vision.



"Simply put," Phillips said, "everyone raves about the changes. and they now understand why we put all of this effort into making Mistwood better than it's ever been."

Owner McWethy seconded Phillips' comments. "I couldn't be happier with how everything has come together on this project and believe we now have one of the top and most unique golf experiences in the Chicago area," said McWethy. "The work that Ray did incorporating the sod bunkers and the improvements he made to each hole are spectacular."

The course renovations are in fact only phase one of a three-phase project envision by McWethy, who also owns the Bolingbrook Sports Dome. The next phase calls for the construction of a state-of-the-art learning center complete with practice green, indoor and outdoor hitting bays, simulators, and swing analysis equipment. The property has always had a strong teaching program led by Phillips, PGA General Manager Andy Krajewski, head PGA professional Visanu Tongwarin, and assistant PGA professional Chris Ioriatti.

Phase 3 will see the construction of a 32,000-square-foot clubhouse with Scottish castle accents that will feature dining and banquet facilities among other amenities.

While the completion of the project will culminate a project that started in earnest just last August. the property centerpiece will remain the golf course. "Anyone who liked the old Mistwood has to come back and play the new Mistwood," Hearn stated. "It's not just a great test of skills anymore," he asserted. "It's now a great golf experience."

Mistwood will very quickly test the skills of the state's best women golfers when it hosts the Phil Kosin Illinois Women's Open July 25 – 27. Organizers expect this 54-hole state championship to draw over 100 of the Midwest's premier amateurs and professionals to the event that is celebrating its 18th year.

For tee times and more information on Mistwood Golf Course, visit the property's website at www.mistwoodgolf.net or call 815-254-3333.

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# The GOLFChicago Interview

🕻 all it a comeback. Webb Simpson trailed the leaders by six shots after he signed his scorecard Friday, but his pair of 68s over the weekend of the 112th U.S. **Open earned him a place in golf** history as a major champion. This performance by the newest member of the major club should not be confused with the where-did-that-come-from victories of Todd Hamilton and Ben Curtis. Both of these Americans shocked the world with Open Championship victories on the other side of the pond; however, Simpson's U.S. Open victory was hardly a surprise. His two victories in 2011 put him on the radar. His stick-to-itiveness at saving par at The Olympic Club should make him a major contender for years to come.

The leader in the clubhouse is hardly a stiff-necked grinder. His faith, family, and sense of humor will position him for another major title. Simpson, a Wake Forest alum and Arnold Palmer Scholarship recipient, is good for the game on and off the course.

GC: It looks like we will be seeing you in September at Medinah. Have you had a chance to play the course? Simpson: I'm not on the team yet, but if I were fortunate enough to make it, the Ryder Cup would be the thrill of a lifetime. I have not had a chance to play Medinah. I've watched the tournaments that have been held there, but I'm looking forward to the opportunity if I

# Simpson's eblatches A Major A talk with 112th U.S. Open Champion Webb Simpson by Dave Weretka

qualify for the team. Medinah is going to be a great setting for these matches.

GC: Whom would you like to face in the individual matches if you make the team?

Simpson: They are all great players and I would look forward to competing against any of them. I can't name anyone specific, but would love to represent the U.S.

GC: Did you feel less pressure on Sunday in the final group? Simpson: I just went out and played. The result would be the result. I just went out and tried to grind par to the end. It wasn't the ideal situation. I would have preferred to be closer than four shots behind at the beginning of play. I would say there was less pressure on me being where I was, but nonetheless, that was extreme pressure.

GC: Take us through your thoughts as you watched in the locker room with Dowd while McDowell was lining up his putt on the 18th green.

Simpson: I've never been in that situation [before]. It was very hard to watch and you had to prepare yourself for both outcomes: winning or heading to a playoff. I was numb.

GC: What does winning the Open do for your confidence

Simpson: Everything is a process. You try to learn from your successes and your failures. It will certainly help with my confidence when I'm in that situation again in the future.

GC Which Americans are ready to win their first Major?



I've never been in that situation... I was numb. Simpson: Ricky Fowler, Bill Haas, Dustin Johnson, and Brent Snedeker just to name a few. There are so many—I really don't want to exclude anyone. There are a lot of guys playing well.

#### GC: How do you spend your down time?

Simpson: Because I travel so much I really don't like to travel when I'm not playing. I really just enjoy relaxing with family and friends and just hanging out.

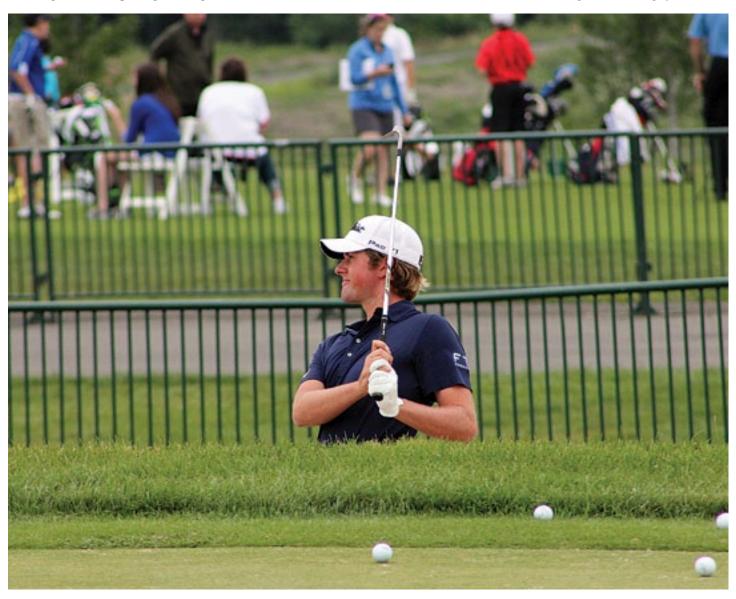
GC: As a man of faith, is there a Bible verse that helped you during the U.S. Open?

Simpson: II Corinthians 12:9-10 [My grace is sufficient for you.] I was thinking about this passage during

# l just went out and tried to grind par to the end. It wasn't the ideal situation.

the final round and it really gave me a peace as I was working my way through the back nine.

GC: Tell us about the Youth For Christ Golf Challenge and how it has evolved? Simpson: The YFCC is not just a golf tournament, but also a challenge. It challenges every golfer in his game and his faith. This challenge of faith is evident in our theme verse, Titus 3:3-7. [At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth



and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become *heirs having the hope of eternal life.*] We challenge every golfer to examine this passage and understand the truth it holds for their life. Through Jesus Christ we have a great hope and our prayer is to be able to show all 84 golfers the hope that I have found. We moved the date this year to the fall. We invite you to join us November 16-18, 2012, at Mid Pines Inn and Golf Club for a challenge that is unlike any other tournament.

GC: Tell us more about the Chase Sapphire events that you are holding this year—including a Chicago stop. Simpson: Chase Sapphire offers card members the opportunity to spend a day with me for a walking clinic, play a round of golf, receive personalized swing analysis, and challenge me in a closest-to-the-pin competition. The Card Member Experience package include a shoulder-to-shoulder walking clinic with me, personalized swing analysis, and a round of golf at one of the country's most prestigious courses, Olympia Fields. This experience is available by redeeming a number of your reward points.

GC: If you were commissioner for a day, what would you change? Simpson: I think Tim Finchem has done an incredible job. Our purses are unmatched in any sport. It's hard to pinpoint one thing that I would change. I'm very positive about everything that goes on with our Tour. I'll leave that to some of our other critics.

GC: Who is the funniest player on Tour and which players are you closest to? Simpson: Bubba Watson hands down. He is hilarious and comes up with some creative stuff. I am closest to Bubba Watson, Jonathan Byrd, Scott Stallings, and Zack Johnson.



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# **Rollin' on the Rock River**

Tust under 90 miles west of Chicago and along the Rock River, Byron, Illinois, is best known for the nuclear generating station whose cooling stacks rise over 495 feet and are visible as far east as DeKalb. While the power plant supplies electricity to over two million homes and the city of Chicago, Byron's greatest asset for golfers is the stunning PrairieView Golf Club.

The James Spear design is a perfect balance of prairie and parkland golf. Newcomers will quickly realize that this course is geared for enjoyment. While PrairieView hosts collegiate competitions and is a regular site for IHSA regional and sectional tournaments, the heart of this course beats with excitement for golfers of all skill levels. If PrairieView were located 30 miles east, then you would need to stand in line to get a tee time. Bits of the course are reminiscent of Thunderhawk GC [Zion] and elevations are on par with Big Run GC [Lockport]. While it is very difficult and subjective to rank the 'best courses' across the Land of Lincoln, PrairieView will be among your favorites.

The front loop is a gentle introduction that progresses in difficulty with each hole. In fact, when the course shows her teeth on hole 6, a 559-yarder with narrow landing areas through the green, you may be en route to your best round of the season. Hole 7 is a dogleg left that plays light of her 465 yardage, but the downhill approach plays to a well-protected green. If your scorecard is still unblemished, the journey back to the clubhouse could be pleasant with a negotiable par 3, then a birdie opportunity at hole 9. You'll need this confidence when you tee it up to begin the second nine at PrairieView.

Be forewarned, the back nine is a brute. This is the original loop at PrairieView. My experience is that it plays four to five strokes more difficult than the first nine holes. You are about to face a robust test, but it is a fantastic ride over PrairieView's best topography. Hole 10 is an uphill monster at 444 yards. If the wind is in your face, take a bogey and prepare for the toughest hole on the course. Hole 11 is a serpentine three-shooter that requires exacting precision from the tee. The big stick is not a wise club with hardwoods lining the right side of the fairway and a devilish fairway bunker on the left side; both spell bogey if your drive misses the fairway. The uphill green has a narrow approach through a chute of trees, so old man par is only a reality if you nestle your second shot at the base of the rise.

The par 3s on the back are not pushovers. The 13th hole presents an infinity green with Byron and the Rock River valley in the background. Steve Murray, PGA professional and the club's manager, shares, "This is probably the best vantage point on the course. This is our most underrated par 3. You never have a flat putt and it is difficult to hold the green. There are a lot of bogeys on this hole." Golfers are exposed to the elements on the tee, and a hiccup on the tee sets the tone for a tourniquet strategy to get into the clubhouse with your ego intact. Don't expect to make up any strokes on the par 5s, either. Murray adds, "The par 5s on the back are very difficult. It is really easy to put up a big number on these holes." The aforementioned 11th hole is a game-changer; moreover, the par 5 at 15 is another uphill marathon that plays to an elevated postage stamp of a green. The back nine may be exhausting from the tiger grass, but it is a fair test if you play the appropriate tees.

The final hole is a downhill par 4 that plays 30 to 40 yards shy of her 443 yards. Tee it high and swing out of your soft spikes. You cannot lose a ball on either side of the fairway. so everyone is in on the last bet. You'll want to play PrairieView again, so consider a 36-hole day along the Rock River.

PrairieView is a healthy road trip from Chicagoland; nevertheless, it is an experience not to be missed. Murray understands his course is off the beaten cart path for Chicagoans, but no one enjoys a good deal like a golfer, "When people from Chicago and the suburbs visit us we always hear about the value for a round. It is a great course that is always in fine condition. You'll never pay more that \$49. And that is on a weekend with a cart." The green fees are best buys, and you'll thank us for introducing you to one of your new favorite courses. PrairieView Golf Club is challenging, but perhaps more importantly, it is fun. And a golf course cannot fake fun.

#### PrairieView Golf Club

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#### Sunset Valley To Host North Shore Amateur Tourney

The North Shore Amateur golf tournament will be held at Sunset Valley Golf Course in Highland Park on July 21 and 22. Participants will have two division options: scratch (players with handicap indexes of 6.4 or less) and handicap (players with indexes of 15.9 or less).

Sunset Valley Golf Course was the home of the first North Shore Amateur golf tournament in 1956. Since that time, the competition has been an annual tradition that continues to attract top local amateurs. Remo Crovetti, an accomplished local player, won the first event in 1956. Other notable players of the event have included Hank Haney, Luke Donald and Joel Hirsch.

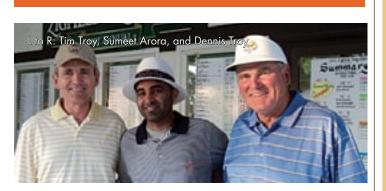
Applications for this year's event are available online at www. sunsetvalleygolfcourse.org. Call 847-432-7140 for more information.

#### **Broken Arrow To Host Arghe Isle Cup Event**

The amateur Windy City Golf League will host its season championship, called the 2012 Spring Arghe Isle Cup Tournament, on Sunday July 15th at Broken Arrow Golf Club in Lockport. Non-member guests are invited to play with league members in the event. Green fees with cart, post-round dinner, and prizes are included with the \$105 per golfer entrance fee.

For more information, contact Jason Rotter at 312-061-2912 or e-mail events@windycitygolfleague.com.

#### Golf is tiddlywinks played while standing up and wearing a hat.—*Florence King*



#### Arora Conquers Field To Take Zigfield Open Title

After finishing second place four times in previous Zigfield Troy Opens, Sumeet Arora finally took the tournament's title in record fashion. He fired a course-record tying 7-under-par 47 over 36 holes on the par-3 Woodridge course to capture the title. In his opening round, Arora had tied another course record by finishing at 6-under-par for nine holes, including a hole-in-one on the 86-yard No. 9.

After faltering slightly to sink into a tie for the lead with five holes to play over his second round, Arora pulled away from challengers Chris Daly and Rick Grassel with birdies on his 15th and 16th holes.

The 105 entrants in this year's event was the largest Zigfield Troy field in over a decade. Seventy-four players competed in the open division of the event.



#### **GOLFChicago Challenge on facebook**

Does this hole look familiar? If you are the first to correctly identify the golf course pictured below, you will win a \$25 Golfsmith Gift Card.

'Like' GOLFChicago Magazine on www.facebook.com, then post your answer after July 18. Earlier entries will be not be eligible for the prize.

#### **Elburn Outing To Benefit Pediatric Oncology Research**

Hughes Creek Golf Club in Elburn will play host to this year's "Clubs To Cure Kids" Golf Outing on Thursday, August 9th with a noon shotgun start. Over just the past three years, this annual event has provided over \$50,000 in donations to Children's Memorial Hospital earmarked for pediatric cancer research. Ten percent of funds earned from this year's event are committed specifically for galactosemia research.

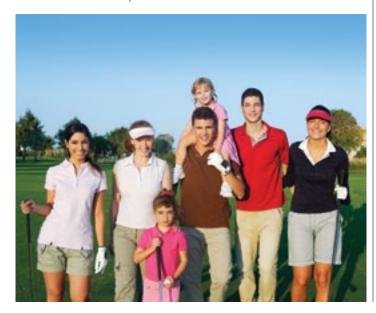
The \$100 per golfer registration fee for this worthy event is due July 15th. Assuming openings remain afterwards, the fee climbs to \$125. Along with golf and cart, the fee pays for lunch, dinner party, and on-course beverages. The party itinerary features raffles and a silent auction. For questions or more information, contact Tony Harris at 630-330-6898 or e-mail tonyaharris98@gmail.com.

The approach putt is an all-important shot—finishing near the hole it spares the player all the holing-out anxieties and jerky snatches. -Robert Harris

#### Family Golf Celebrated By PGA Across America

PGA and LPGA professionals across the country are celebrating Let's face facts; over time most baby boomers have replaced their July as Family Golf Month by offering affordable and no-cost childhood fear of clowns with an even deeper fear of robots. programs at over 2,000 participating clubs, resorts and courses. Who, after all, doesn't get night sweats just contemplating the Some of the programs being offered are Family Golf Clinics, inevitable day when robots take over our jobs, then our homes, Family Play Days, Get Golf Ready For Families and Kids Play Free then the world? programs. During the week of July 9th, the PGA is teaming up with PGA professional Scot W.R. Nei has, for at least the time the National Golf Course Owners Association to promote Take being, found a way to control robots for the good of mankind. Or, Your Daughter to the Course Week. Among participating public more to the point, for the good of golfers' handicaps. Nei, who is courses and facilities in the Chicagoland area are: Chick Evans Golf president and CEO of TourBound Golf Academy at 17 Wabash Course, Morton Grove; Columbus Park, Chicago; Dick's Sporting Avenue just west of Millennium Park in downtown Chicago, Goods, Chicago; Edgebrook Golf Course, Chicago; Golf Center purchased a robotic swing trainer last March and finds it to be Des Plaines; GolfTEC facilities around the metro area; Maple an incredibly effective device in improving and correcting his Meadows Golf Course, Wood Dale; and Indian Boundary Golf students' swings. "We've had LPGA pros and 20-handicappers all Course, Chicago. raving at how their games improved immediately after working For details and more information on the programs being with the robot for only a single session," says Nei.

offered, visit www.PlayGolfAmerica.com.





#### Nei, Robot Winning Combination At TourBound Golf Academy

"We feel strongly that the robot is the most advanced golf swing teaching tool in the industry," Nei adds. "We can program the robot to swing your golf club as if you're a touring pro." TourBound Golf Academy offers year 'round private lessons in both indoor and outdoor training environments. The school is located at the Play 18 indoor golf facility just above the Tilted Kilt restaurant in the Loop. Along with the golf school, Tour 18 provides PGA Tour Simulators, personal driving bays, and luxury amenities, including locker rooms, a full bar and lounge complete with flat-screen TVs.

For more information on TourBound Golf Academy and Play 18, visit their websites www.tourboundgolfacademy.com and www.play18chicago.com.

GOLF IS A WONDERFUL EXERCISE. YOU CAN STAND ON YOUR FEET FOR HOURS WATCHING SOMEBODY PUTT. -WILL ROGERS

#### **GOLFChicago and Golfsmith Launch Major Mondays Scrambles**

Mark your calendars for Monday, July 16th and Monday, August 13th. While the world's best players lick their wounds following the British Open Championship and the PGA Championship, respectively, Chicago area golfers can head to a great local golf course the day after these championships. Called "Major Mondays," the events are played in fourperson scramble formats. Players who can't locate a threesome should fear not as singles and twosomes will be paired up.

The July 16 event will be played on the meticulously groomed fairways of Arrowhead Golf Course in Wheaton at 1 p.m. The August 13 event will be played at the elegant and stately Highland Park Country Club on Chicago's North Shore at 9:30 a.m. A day of fun, competition, prizes, and pourings of Moet brand products are just part of the festivities.

Sex and golf are the two things you can enjoy even if you're not good at them. — Kevin Costner



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#### **DL3 Selects Assistants for Ryder Cup**

U.S. Ryder Cup team captain Davis Love III named Fred Couples and Mike Hulbert as assistants for the 2012 United States Ryder Cup Team. Love also announced the order of play for each of the two days of team matches, with foursomes (alternate shot) as the format for each morning session, followed by four-ball (best ball) in the afternoon.

"Success for any team in a Ryder Cup begins with a strong support staff, giving encouragement to players at the right time in the greatest event in golf," said Love. "Fred and Mike are my trusted friends, guys that I have played a lot of golf with, and two guys that other players like to be around and work with. We will face great challenges this September and I'm very pleased that they have agreed to join me."

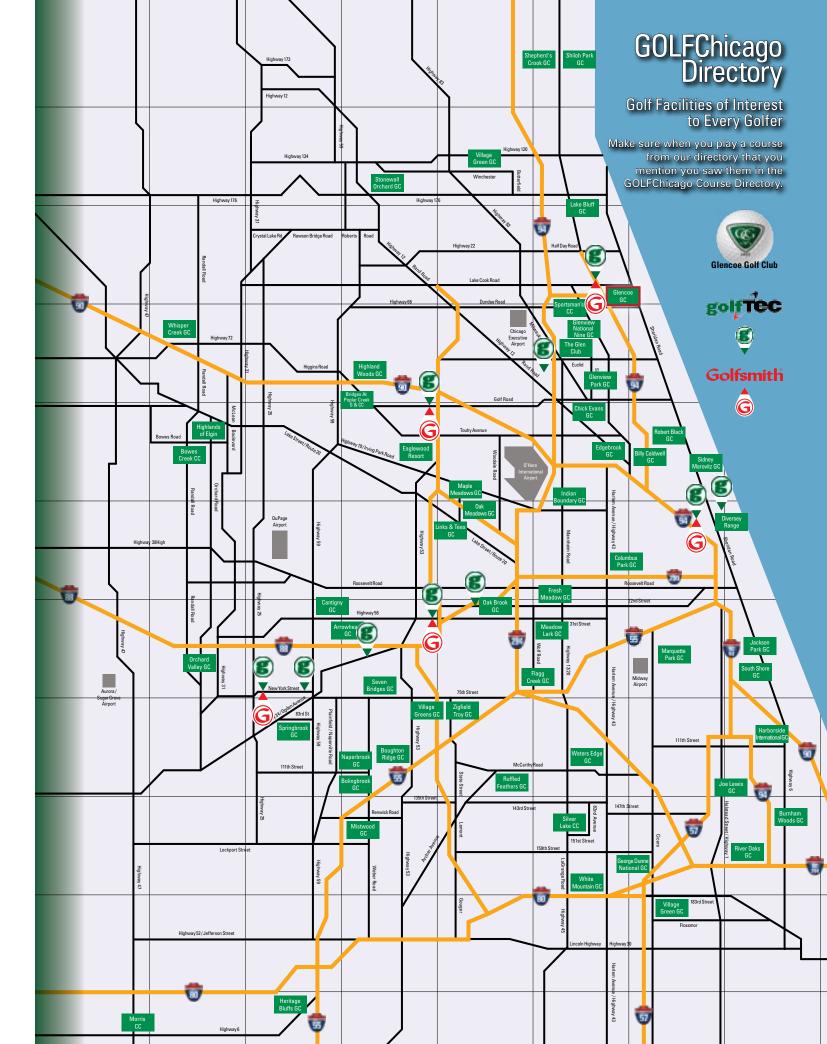
Couples and Hulbert will serve September 28-30, as the U.S. hosts Europe in the 39th Ryder Cup at Medinah Country Club.

#### Family Golf At Cog Hill

Cog Hill Golf and Country Club is offering four programs in July for families to enjoy the game together.

- July 1 31: Take Your Children To The Range. Children 17 years old and younger will receive a junior bucket of balls when an adult purchases one regular size bucket of balls.
- July 2 8: Take Your Child To The Course Week. Children 17 years old and younger will receive a free green fee when accompanied by a paying adult on Course No. 1.
- July 9 15: Take Your Daughter To The Course Week. Girls 17 years old and younger will receive a free green fee when accompanied by a paying adult on Courses No. 1 and 3.
- July August: Family Golf. Bring the family to play nine holes on Sunday afternoon for \$10 per person (includes a cart and snack for the kids). There are two sets of yardages for family golf on Course No. 1. Tee times start at 5:15 p.m. and reservations can be made six days in advance at 866-COG-HILL ext. 301. At least one child, 17 years and under, must accompany an adult.

For information on Family Golf Programs visit www.coghillgolf.com.





Bittersweet Golf Club 847-855-9031 875 Almond Road Gurnee, IL 60031 www.bittersweetgolf.com

In Season Rates: Monday - Friday Early Bird: 6 - 8 am: \$35 with a cart and range balls Prime: 8 am - 2:30pm: \$39 including cart Twilight: \$29 with cart Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Banquets/Outings: Up to 144 Players

Weekend and Holidays 5 - 10 am: \$59 Cart, \$49 Walking 10 am - 12 pm: \$49 Cart, \$39 Walking 12 - 2:30 pm \$39 Cart, \$29 Walking After 2:30: \$29 Cart, \$24 Walking

18 Championship Golf Holes Par 72 Yardage: 4952 - 6751 Rating/Slope 70.0/121 - 73.3/135 Premier Practice Facility with PGA instruction Lighted grass tee driving range

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#### **Bolingbrook Golf Club**

630-771-9400 2001 Rodeo Drive Bolingbrook, IL 60490 www.bolingbrookgolfclub. com

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

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

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

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



#### Bowes Creek Country Club

847-214-5880 1250 Bowes Creek Boulevard Elgin, Illinois 60124 www.bowescreekcountryclub. com

18 Championship Golf Holes Yardage: 6794 - 4756 Rating/Slope:

73.2/142 - 68.1/121 Member for a Day Rates allows unlimited play for the day Mon - Th: \$79 / golf, cart, and range Fri - Sun: \$98 / golf, cart, and range Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Practice Facility: Yes

Twilight Rates: Yes

Banquet/Outings: Yes

Here at Bowes Creek Country Club, our patrons are not treated like an everyday customer. You can buy a membership for the year or you can pay to be a Member for a Day! Instead of standard green fees, we offer a daily membership. The Member for a Day Fee will allow you to play unlimited golf with cart and allow you full use of the practice facility. There will be no limit to the amount of golf you want to play that day because you are... Member for that Day! A Rick Jacobson Designed golf course, it is everything you want in a golf course. "We tried to give the course a rustic look and used big, sweeping bunkers with fingers of grass drifting into the sand and fescue grasses as lips on the bunker faces." Jacobson said.



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

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

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

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

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



#### Chicago Park District Golf

312-245-0909 www.cpdgolf.com

Great Golf in the Heart of the City

With six courses, three driving ranges, and two miniature golf courses there's golf enjoyment for the whole family no matter where you live or work in the city. Play Your Favorite CPD course today!

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

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

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

Jackson Park – 18 Holes 6401 S. Richards Drive

Columbus Park – 9 Holes 5701 W. Jackson Boulevard

Marquette Park 6700 S. Kedzie Avenue

South Shore 7059 South Shore Drive

**Diversey Range** 141 W. Diversey Parkway



#### **Flossmoor Country Club**

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

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

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

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

Member Amenities • PGA Professionals On

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

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



#### Forest Preserve Golf Courses | Cook County

800-460-0010 www.forestpreservegolf. com

Affordable GOLF. Friendly SERVICE. Fantastic EXPERIENCE.

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

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

Billy Caldwell – 9 Holes 6150 Caldwell Avenue

Burnham Woods – 18 Holes 14201 S Burnham Avenue

Chick Evans – 18 Holes 6145 Golf Road

Edgebrook – 18 Holes 6100 N Central Avenue

George Dunne National - 18 Holes 16310 S Central Avenue

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

Highland Woods – 18 Holes 2775 Ela Road

Indian Boundary – 18 Holes 8600 W Forest Preserve Avenue

Joe Louis – 18 Holes 13100 S Halsted Street

Meadowlark – 9 Holes 11599 31st St

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



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

Offering a unique blend of membership and daily fee play.

2012 Green Fees range from \$105 - \$185. General public may reserve starting times seven days in advance. Practice range is included in green fee. Carts: \$24 Caddies are available upon request.

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

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



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

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

Weekday Fees Early bird: \$30.00 Prime: \$ 41.00 Twilight: \$ 28.00 Super Twilight: \$ 23.00 Weekend Fees Prime: \$ 49.00 Twilight: \$ 32.00 Super Twilight: \$ 23.00

Sr./Jr. Discounts
Grass Tee Range
Outings Available

The Glencoe Golf Club, known for excellent course conditions and lightning-fast greens, is a great escape from the sights and sounds of the city, located only 20 minutes north of Chicago, just off the Edens Expressway. The Golf Academy will now be featuring two of the area's best players to share their formula for success through private lessons, clinics, and summer camps. Bill Sakas and Travis Johns have both competed with impressive results in the professional ranks and bring that knowledge to their teaching. Learn the basics or improve your competitive edge with experienced instructors who back up their knowledge with tournament golf experience.



#### Glenview Park Golf Club

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

18 holes Par 70 Yardage: 6,133

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

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



**golfTec** 10 Chicagoland Locations www.golftec.com

Chicago - Halsted Row 60657 2847 N. Halsted Road 773-755-4653

Chicago - Lincoln Park 60614 2782 N. Clybourn Ave. Building C 773-871-4653

Deerfield 60015 360 S. Waukegan Suite B-2 224-330-4020

Des Plaines 60016 353 N. River Road 847-299-5431

Downers Grove 60515 2020 Butterfield Road 630-932-4653

Fox Valley 60505 4302 E. New York Street 630-723-5215

Naperville 60563 1163 E. Ogden Avenue Suite 401 630-579-9390

Oakbrook Terrace 60181 18W100 22nd Street Suite 101B 630-396-2020

Schaumburg 60173 905 E. Golf Road 847-517-1845

Vernon Hills 60061 701 N. Milwaukee Ave. Suite 116 847-327-0605

# Golfsmith

**Golfsmith** 5 Chicagoland Locations www.golfsmith.com

Aurora - Fox Valley 60504 Yorkshire Plaza 4302 East New York Street 630-585-0872

Chicago - Highland Park 60035 135 Skokie Valley Road 847-579-0219

Chicago - Lincoln Park 60614 2782 N. Clybourn Avenue Bldg. C 773-281-1494

Downers Grove 60515 2020 Butterfield Road 630-495-4880

Schaumburg 60173 905 E. Golf Road 847-969-0347

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#### The Highlands of Elgin

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

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

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

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

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



#### Harborside International G.C.

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

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

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

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



#### Lake Bluff Golf Club

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Yardage: 6,768 - 5,231 Rating/Slope: 72.2/137 - 69.8/126

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

Home of the Illinois Women's Open Rated 4½ stars by *Golf Digest* 

Centered around a beautiful 67-acre lake. Mistwood is designed to challenge and reward golfers of every level. From the moment you arrive at Mistwood you will relish a classic golf experience including impeccable split fairways, highly-manicured and terraced greens, and an expert and attentive staff. Designed by Ray Hearn, Mistwood hosts the prestigious Illinois Women's Open and proudly features the five best finishing holes in the state. Other amenities include an 18-acre practice facility, a full-service pro shop, golf instruction, and a spectacular restaurant offering a versatile menu. Driving Directions to Club: Exit I-55 at Weber Rd and proceed south



#### Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500 2411 West Illinois Avenue Aurora, IL 60506 www.orchardvalleygolf.com

6th Best Public Course in Illinois by *GOLF Magazine* 

One of Chicagoland's best public courses, *Golf Digest* ranks Orchard Valley 4½ Stars! A true championship layout featuring wetlands, lakes, roughs, water hazards, waterfalls, and more.

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

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



#### Seven Bridges Golf Club

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

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

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

Seven Bridges Golf Club, conveniently located in Woodridge, Illinois, enjoys a reputation for being one of the most innovative golf courses in the market. Depending on tee placement, Seven Bridges provides a setting in which golfers of all levels have to rely on their own guile to make the right shot-making decisions. A scenic, perfectly-groomed course, this Dick Nugent design has matured and grown into its well deserved reputation as a challenging yet rewarding test of your game. Seven Bridges has been awarded 4 stars by Golf *Digest* and is the former host of the Michael Jordan Celebrity Golf Classic.

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

- Twilight Club
- Permanent Tee Times
- Corporate Memberships



#### **Stonewall Orchard**

847-740-4890 25675 W Highway 60 Grayslake, IL 60030-9629 www.stonewallorchard. com

info@StonewallOrchard. com

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

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

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



#### Water's Edge Golf Course

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

Best Places To Play By *Golf Digest* 

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

- service •6,400+ yards of golfing excellence, yet playable by all levels
- Complete day/night practice & range facility
  Visit The Edge Bar & Grill for great meals and daily specials

PLUS...a program for everyone! SAVE on every round with the Edge PLUS Pass UNLIMITED twilight golf and range with the Edge Practice Club. Much MORE!



#### Whisper Creek Golf Course

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

Luxury Golf at a Whisper of a Price!

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

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

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

mile on the right. Only 40

minutes from downtown!

4 miles to Renwick Rd.

Turn right. Club is one



#### White Mountain Golf Park

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

Learn. Practice. Play.

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

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

#### Arrowhead

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

#### **Blackberry Oaks**

630-553-7170 Bristol

#### **Bonnie Brook GC**

847-360-4735 2800 N. Lewis Ave. Waukegan, IL 60087 www.waukegangolf.org

#### **Boughton Ridge**

630-739-4100 Bolingbrook

#### Bridges of Poplar Creek Country Club

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

#### **Bristol Oaks Golf Club**

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

#### The Bull

800-5THEBULL Sheyboygan Mays, WI

#### **Coyote Run Golf Course**

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

#### **Eaglewood Resort** and Spa

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

#### **The First Tee of Aurora** & Fox Valley

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

#### The First Tee of **Greater Chicago**

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

#### Flagg Creek Golf Course

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

#### **Glenview National 9 Golf Club**

847 657-1637 2800 West Lake Avenue Glenview, IL 60026 www.aolfalenview.com Email: glenviewnational9@ glenviewparks.org 9 holes 2,000 yards Par 31 Green Fees (per 9 holes) Mon – Thu: \$16 Fri – Sun/Holidays: \$18 Juniors play free\* Mon -Thu when accompanied by a paid adult. \*Up to three juniors

#### **Grand Geneva Resort** and Spa

262-248-8811 Lake Geneva, WI 53147

#### **Green Meadows**

**Golf Club** 630-810-5330 18 W 201 West 63rd Street Westmont, IL 60559 www.DuPageGolf.com Par 30 Yardage: 1,888 - 1,545 yds. Weekday: \$14 walk / \$22 ride Weekend: \$16 walk / \$24 ride \*Frequent specials on course website Discount Program: Yes Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: No Banquets/Outings: No

#### **Hamilton County Golf**

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

#### **Indian Oaks Country Club**

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

#### **Kids Golf Foundation** of Illinois

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

#### Links & Tees Golf Facility

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

**Course Managers:** 

#### **Maple Meadows**

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

#### **Martin Design** Partnership, Ltd.

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

#### **Naperbrook Golf Course**

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

#### **Oak Brook Golf Club**

Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes

For inclusion in this directory, or to update your

listing, please call 815.741.8005 or email us at

dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com.

Twilight Rates: Yes

Banquets/Outings: Yes

630-368-6400 2606 York Road Oak Brook, IL 60523 www.oak-brook.org/recreation Par 72 Yardage 6541 - 5341 vds Weekday: \$65.00 w/cart Weekend: \$69.00 w/cart

630-595-0071 900 N. Wood Dale Road

**Oak Meadows Golf Club** 

Addison, IL 60101 www.DuPageGolf.com Par 71 Yardage: 6,718 - 5,628 yds. Weekday: \$32 walk / \$49 ride Weekend: \$40 walk / \$57 ride \*Frequent specials on

course website Discount Program: Yes Jr./Sr. Rates: Yes Twilight Rates: Yes Banquets/Outings: No

#### **SentryWorld**

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

#### Shepherd's Crook

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

#### **Shiloh Park**

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

#### **Springbrook Golf Course**

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

**Village Greens** 630-985-3610 Woodridge

Western Golf Association / Evans Scholars Foundation www.westerngolfassociation. com

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

**Zigfield Troy Par 3** 630-985-9860 1535 W. 75th Street Woodridge, IL 60517





# Golf Chicago and Glenmorangie Single Malt Scotch Whisky invite you to Reveal your Best Game in the Club Team Championship

Players with a 5 or less handicap are invited to play. Prizes to be announced at GolfChicagoMagazine.com. Please visit website for complete rules.



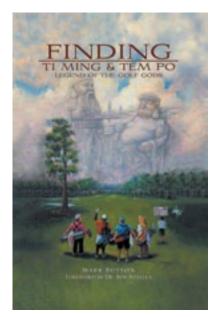


#### Monday, September 17th, 2012 Black Sheep Golf Club - Sugar Grove, Illinois.

RSVP: Please contact the Golf Professional at your private club for more information about participating. Field is limited.

#### **On The Shelf**

## **Play in the Now and Zen**



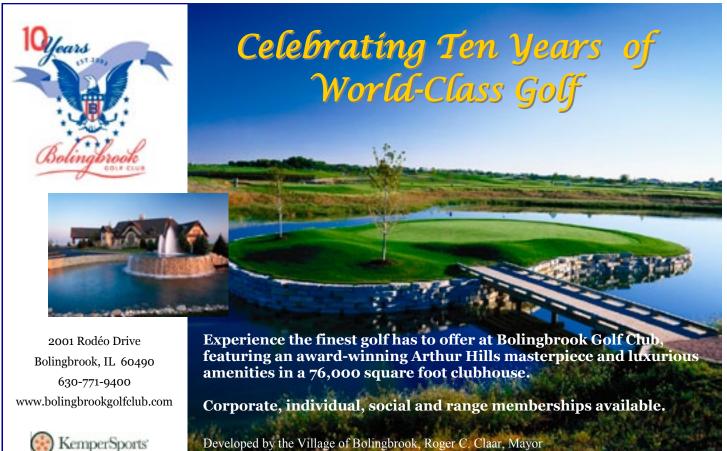
Finding Ti Ming & Tem Po By Mark Button \$16.95 193 pages ISBN: 978-1-4685-0150-6 www.timingandtempo.com

Sometimes what appears to be a small bird, in fact turns out to be a great eagle.—Ti Ming

**V**our child can be a few feet from you, yet she is texting or checking her phone instead of participating in the moment. Finding Ti Ming & Tem Po teaches young readers to focus on the task at hand. Author Mark Button sends readers on a journey that teaches the core values for golf...and life. These morals are taught in most junior golf programs; however, Button uses a couple of endearing Zen icons to communicate the noble truths of the golf swing and reminds us to be kind, on or off the course.

The tale begins with Jack, an adolescent, finding two wooden Zen-like statues that teach him golf in his dreams. Cleverly named Ti Ming and Tem Po, this twosome represents the golf gods. Jack loses Ti Ming and Tem Po, but their lessons stick with him, and others they encounter, throughout life. The gods teach good-natured Jack, a cocky tomboy named Anna, and an unlikely trio of friends success with golf and Golden Rule wisdom. More importantly, perhaps, the golf gods teach the students about remaining in the present and playing the game one shot at a time.

Finding Ti Ming & Tem Po is a must read for all junior golfers. Moms and dads should join their kids and talk about Finding Ti Ming & *Tem Po* during a family book club night.



Developed by the Village of Bolingbrook, Roger C. Claar, Mayor

## **An Ernest Effort from Els**

**7** elcome to another installment in our series on golfers' wine projects, this time Theodore Ernest "Ernie" Els, known as "The Big Easy" due to his imposing physical stature along with his fluid, seemingly effortless golf swing.

Els launched his winery in 1999 in Stellenbosch, South Africa [predictably]. With award-winning winemaker Louis Strydom at the helm, they produced the maiden 2000 vintage of Ernie Els, a 'classic' Bordeaux blend. This impressive facility is now home to eight different Els selections.

Wines of varying quality have been made in South Africa for over 350 years. Stellenbosch, in the country's southwestern Coastal Region, is one of the oldest and most highly regarded growing districts. It is similar to a Mediterranean climate, with an average rainfall of around 25 inches per year. The soils largely consist of clay, with the deeper soils having a considerable amount of granite, just the sort of difficult land that quality grape vines prefer. The majority of the vineyards at Ernie Els Wines are north-facing with the rows running in an east-west direction, resulting in the optimal utilization of sunlight. In summer, the vineyards' close proximity to the Atlantic Ocean provides cool sea breezes that moderate temperatures, extending the ripening period. \$16

#### 2011 Big Easy White

Yes, Els rather cheekily labeled these wines after his nickname. Although not identified as such, this wine is 100% Chenin Blanc, with no oak aging whatsoever. The wine is pale gold, and the nose is delicately perfumed. The prominent flavor is grapefruit, with a hint of almond and spice. There is plenty of acid, complementing the grapefruit flavor profile, with the finish featuring some of grapefruit's bitterness, as well.

Match this wine with New Orleans-style Barbecued Shrimp, Chicken Clemenceau, or Cheese Soufflé.

#### 2010 Big Easy Red

This red blend is 60% Shiraz and 20% Cabernet Sauvignon, with the balance Mouvedre, Grenache, Cinsaut, and Viognier

\$20

(with the exception of the Cab, this is also a typical Bordeaux blend). It is dark purple in the glass, with a rather boozy nose. It was barrel aged for 12 months in 80% French and 20% American oak.

The palate is dense and full bodied, with plenty of tannins. Earthy flavors of black cherries, coffee, and chocolate predominate, and are smoothly integrated. A hint of cocoa on the finish delivers a slight bitterness that is less welcome than it is in the Big Easy White.

Serve this red with Steak and Truffled Mashed Potatoes, Grilled Chicken wth Watermelon Relish, or Garlic Pork Roast. Your questions, comments, and suggestions about this column, wines, or spirts are always welcome. Feel free to drop me an email at leo849@mchsi.com.







leo849@mchsi.com

It's a unique

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Jim Owczarski on the PGA Tour

# **Stricker Continues to Search for a Major**

Webb Simpson may not have been able to hoist the U.S. Open trophy much higher than the length of his putter, but the 26-year-old was able to do so because unlike so many of his peers, he was able to put together back-to-back rounds in the 60s on the weekend at The Olympic Club.

Further down the leaderboard was one of the dozen or so other "favorites" in the field, University of Illinois alumnus Steve Stricker. The 45-year-old Wisconsin native tied for 15th on one of his favorite golf courses and site of his fourth-place finish behind Lee Janzen in 1998.

Stricker nearly shot himself out of the tournament in the opening round with a 78, but rallied with a second round 68. Unlike Simpson however, he couldn't keep the momentum going with a third-round 73 before closing with a 69.

Always self-aware, Stricker knows his major championship window is closing, but so far in 2012 he has yet to put four rounds together when it matters most. "I realize where I'm at," he said during the John Deere Classic media day last month. "I also realize I've

played some great golf over the last five, six years, won a lot of tournaments. That gives me the confidence that I could still do it."

Stricker heads into the John Deere Classic—Illinois' only PGA Tour stop in 2012—looking to complete the "Stricker Slam" by winning his fourth consecutive JDC championship. Only Young Tom Morris, Gene Sarazen, Walter Hagen, and Tiger Woods (twice) have accomplished the feat in the history of the sport.

"It's a unique opportunity," he said. "It's hard to do. It's hard to repeat, let alone win for the third time, I guess. But I've had some special moments here. I look forward to trying. It's going to be difficult as ever, believe me. Just to win a golf tournament is hard, let alone four times in a row. But I'm excited about the challenge, excited about the opportunity to try to do it. It would be a lot of fun. The anticipation for me obviously is there already. I think about it; I thought about it at the beginning of the year."

The problem for Stricker is he hasn't been playing consistent golf since his season-opening win at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions in January. The second round of the U.S. Open was the first time he broke 70 in nearly two months, when he tied for sixth at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans at the end of April. He insists he's healthy and that the neck injury he suffered in 2011 that caused weakness in his left arm has not affected his game this year. Instead, it's his head, which in turn is affecting the best part of his game – putting.

"I don't think my focus is entirely there to tell you the truth," he admitted. "I've been kind of daydreaming at times, not really 100% focused in on what I've got to do. So I think that's part to do with it, too. You know, putting for me has always been about focus and getting into it and realizing what you're doing, and I'm trying to retrain myself again and try to figure out what I am doing up there."

He says he's aware that as golfers age, the putting nerves tend to fray a bit guicker, which has led him to do some tinkering during practice rounds. You won't see him join Simpson and PGA Champion Keegan Bradley with the belly putter, but he's not opposed to tinkering.

"I fart around at home, do Matt Kuchar's putting style, how he anchors them on his forearm," he said. "You know, you got to try to take advantage of the rules a little bit. They offer different ways of putting, some that I'm not totally up for. Now here I am thinking about them. I'm not thinking about a long putter, but maybe different styles or a different putter, just to get a different look down there to change things up. But I haven't changed putters for, I don't know, 10 or 11 years probably. But it's kind of a mental thing right now a little bit. But once you start to see a few go in, you know, your optimism can change in a hurry."

Stricker hopes a return to TPC Deere Run, site of some of his most memorable putts and moments over the last four years, will help recapture that spark and focus. It's a road the two-time PGA Tour Comeback Player of the Year has navigated before.

"It's the nature of the game," he said. "You have these little bumps in the road, and it's all about getting through them, and usually when you come out of things like that you learn more about yourself, learn more about your game, and come out a better player." • The U.S. Women's Open returns to Blackwolf Run in Kohler, Wisconsin, the first week of July, 14 years after Se Ri Pak's momentous playoff victory over American amateur Jenny Chuasiriporn.

Ashley Armstrong will love to find out if any pixie dust remains on the course from Chuasiriporn's run as a Duke University senior-to-be. Armstrong, a University of Notre Dame sophomore-to-be, has made the field despite being a sixth alternate.

"I've honestly never been in this situation, so the way I'm going to handle it is preparing, pretending like I have a tournament that week but not really getting my hopes up," said the 19-year-old Flossmoor resident who plays out of Flossmoor Country Club.

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