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Chicago's Premier Multimedia Golf Source & Authority

March 2018, Vol. 22 No. 1

GOLFCHICAGO BUCKET LIST

INSIDE THE GOLF EXPO

A VISIT TO STOATIN BRAE

Dave Pelz' Short Game Advisor

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Callaway Epic #3-15	108.4	155.6	3,241.0	271.5
TaylorMade M2 #3-15	107.2	155.7	3,682.5	261.7
TaylorMade M1 #3-15	108.5	155.9	3,012.7	276.9

Test performed May 9, 2017 at Golf Laboratories. All clubs tested were 15-degree #3 woods. Test time 7:55am. Test conditions: 60° F, cloudy and cool, humidity 76%. Stock shafts used on clubs: CBX - Project X Hzrdus S | Epic - Project X Hzrdus S | M2 - Reax 65 S | M1 - Kuro Kage 70FW S

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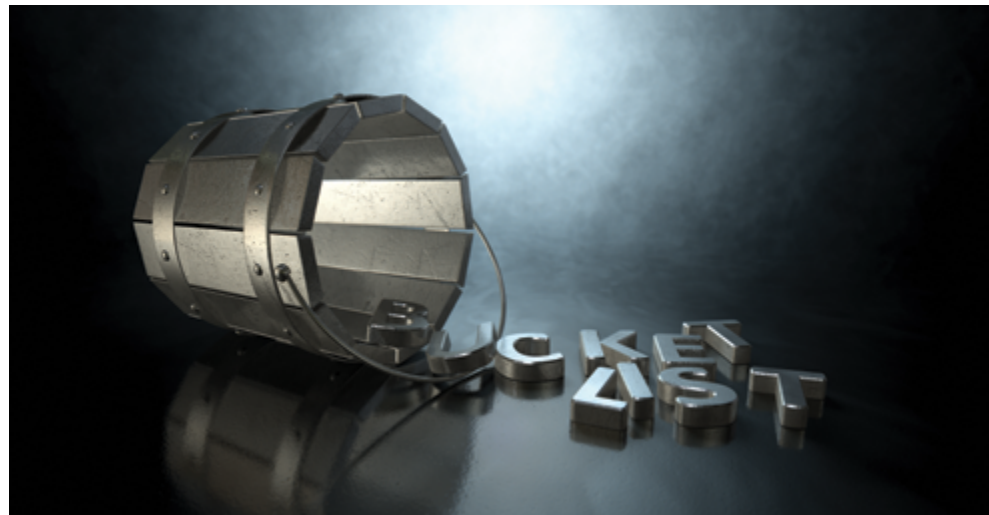
Combo-brazing a Beta Ti cup face to a hypersteel body, the engine of the CBX fairway wood and hybrid is this combination of superior multi-materials and construction. As a result of this superior engineering, the CBX is a spin-killing distance machine - and the proof is in the numbers.

EXOTICS
BY TOUR EDGE

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OPENING SHOT

DAVE
AND
TIM

Welcome! This is the 22nd season for GOLFChicago, and perhaps at least that many for you as a devotee of the links. If you're a regular reader, thank you for continuing to pick up the only independently-produced magazine covering the game of a lifetime in the area. If you're new to us, thanks for taking a chance. GOLFChicago is free for the asking, both in print and on the web – click on www.golfchicagomagazine.com – but we hope to give you your money's worth regardless.

This issue, for instance, features a words-and-photos representation of what all of us have – a bucket list for life. In this case, it's all golf in its many iterations, here, there and elsewhere. How many things on our staff's list are also on yours?

We also feature a look at what to look forward to in 2018. Not so much in equipment – that's Todd Mrowice's bailiwick beginning this issue, as he bring a



"I don't care how much you love your new clubs! They're not staying in our bed."

dash of his Tech Talk expertise to The Good Stuff – but in everything else. And there's plenty. In these pages, you will also find a nod to your friendly neighborhood PGA professional, authored by Neal Kotlarek. He – or she –

might be but a few feet away as you grab this issue in the pro shop. Those of us who tee it up are the heartbeat of the game, but the pro is the connection to it. That's one reason we feature some instruction from top-name professionals from here and beyond in each issue. And it is here that we invoke the truism that as good as the instruction in these pages is, it's even better if you seek out a professional for a close look at your swing.

Neal, whose car has more miles on it than a \$3,000 claimer, also contributes a feature on Stoatin Brae, which is not across the pond, as the name might imply. Or is it? It is if the pond is Lake Michigan, for the links-style course occupies some choice bluffland in south central Michigan.

This should be a big year. Hang around!

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Founder: Bill Daniels
Publisher: Dave Weretka
Editor: Tim Cronin
Art Director: Stephen Hawk

Senior Writers: Neal Kotlarek and Todd Mrowice

Instructional Staff: Scott Hogan, Andy Mickelson, Dave Pelz, Andrew Ogata, John Platt, and Carl Rabito

Editorial Contributors: Stephen Hawk, Rory Hughes, Dave Lockhart, Greg Martin, and John Morrissett

Photography: GOLFChicago Staff 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:
Tim Cronin
tcronin@golfchicagomagazine.com
PO Box 541
Worth, IL 60482

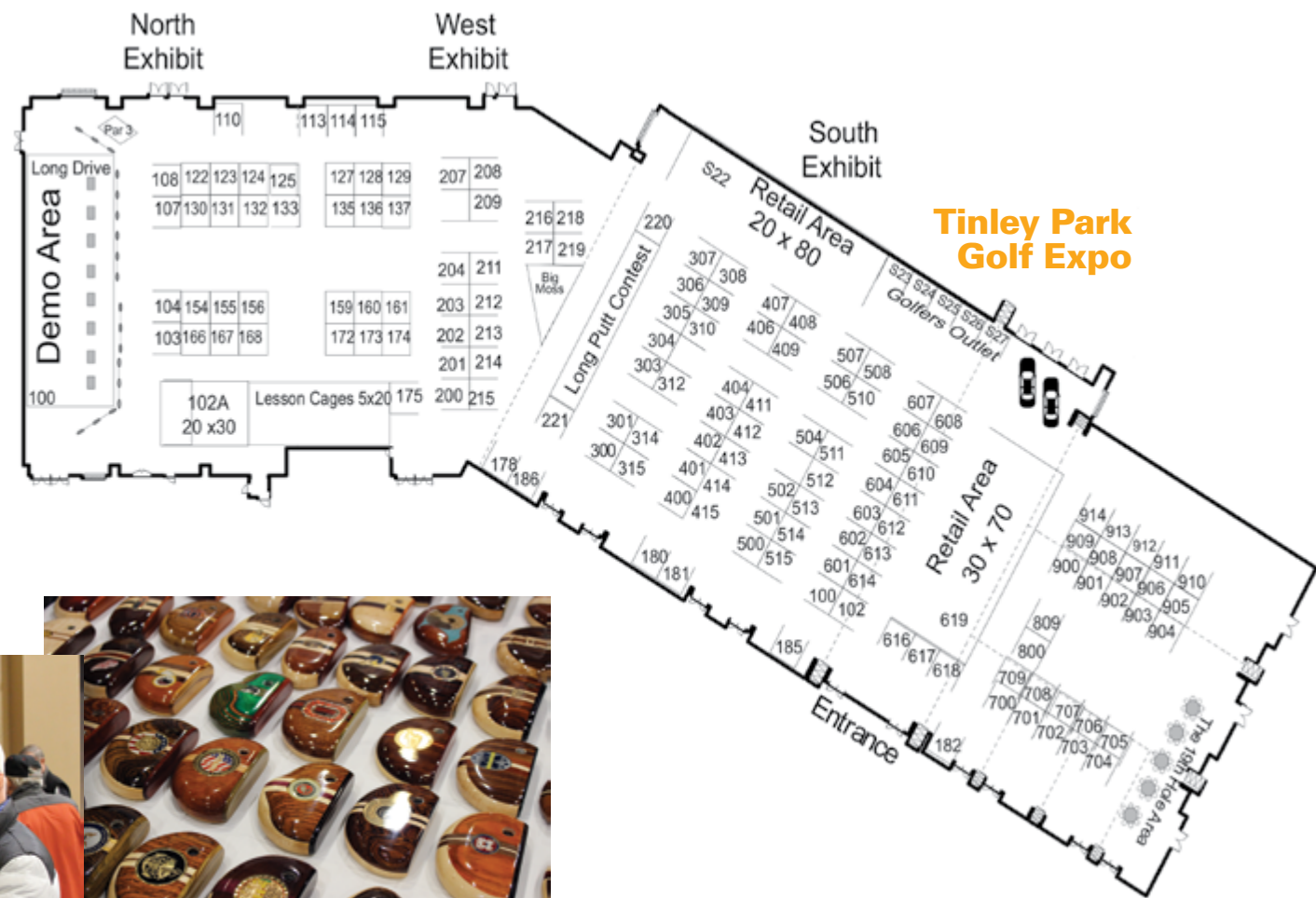
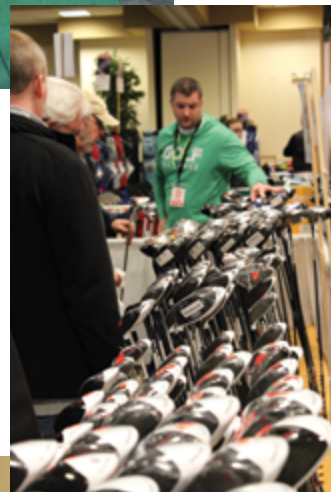
Business Offices
3701 Juniper Avenue
Joliet, IL 60431
815-741-8005
dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com

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GOLFChicago



Tinley Park Golf Expo

Congratulations! You have made it in from the cold, from the inclemency of winter's harsh breath to the warmth of golf season.

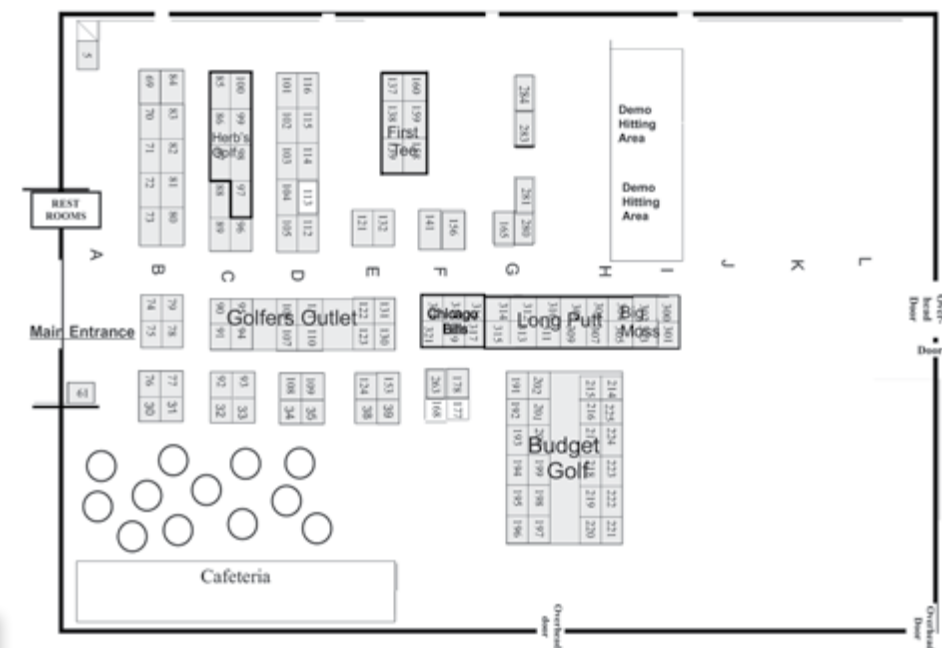
It is the season that never ends – in our minds, at least. If you are like us – and you must be, because here you are – golf is a game to not only play, and to watch, but to think about, to tinker with, to soak in.

You can do that here, whether you've picked up our first issue of the year in Grayslake or Tinley Park. In either spot, you can get your hands on the newest golf clubs and take a swing or two, browse the isles and pick up brochures from golf destinations, roll a long putt, and even buy something old or new in the sales area. You can even get a mini-lesson from an Illinois PGA professional.

With so much to see and do, the Expo is an excellent indoor retreat for golfers and their families to experience," Expo co-owner Joe Copeland said. "Come for an hour or stay for the whole day. There's plenty of helpful and fun people to meet."

The Tinley Park Golf Expo is open Friday, Feb. 9 from noon to 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 10 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Northern Illinois Golf Expo is open Friday, Feb. 16 from noon to 6 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 17 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 18 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Northern Illinois Golf Expo

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From left to right: Stacy Paluscio, Courtney Olson, Darcy Whalen

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DARCY WHALEN

480-861-6237



Stacy Paluscio, Courtney Olson & Darcy Whalen have made a career of selling homes within the Boulders community and promoting the Boulders lifestyle. A true landmark property, generations have been drawn to the peace and serenity of the Boulders Resort community. Surrounded by majestic mountains and dramatic rock formations, the Sonoran desert makes a stunning backdrop to this special enclave. Buyers are captivated by the welcoming neighborhood feel, the two Jay Morrish-designed championship golf courses, six tennis courts, world-renowned resort along with The Boulders Spa, fine dining and retail.

Chic and sophisticated homes accommodate a wide range of price points and aesthetics, ranging in size from 2,000 square-foot patio homes to 6,000+ square-foot custom homes with prices ranging from the low \$500K's to over \$3M. Built to showcase desert surroundings, the Boulders community features ample opportunities to walk, bike and hike desert pathways. Stacy, Courtney & Darcy are dedicated, full time professionals with a wealth of knowledge and can speak to the numerous merits of the Boulders lifestyle.

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www.livecarefree.com

www.facebook.com/BouldersRealEstate

Aiding The Search For The Perfect Putt

Why don't we, as a golf community, work on our putting more? Because it's boring, that's why. Your days of mind-numbing misreads can end, however, with the PuttOUT training aid. Designed to help you in pressure putt situations, PuttOUT has a scientifically shaped parabolic ramp which will only hold "made putts" in a micro-target (and it has to be perfect). Each made putt is returned to the player the same distance it would have gone past the hole had it missed.

\$29.99 puttout.golf



Rightys Can Wear These Also

G/FORE is gaining a lot of traction on every professional tour. From unique threads to color-popping gloves, the golf spinoff from parent company Mossimo is stylin'. Worn by Bubba Watson and a fairly popular "Lefty", G/FORE's Gallivanter shoe lineup is a staple with an athletic fit and premium waterproof leather. The IV.O version has an ultra lightweight sole and padded interior.

\$185 gfore.com

A Melding From Titleist

Like the forgiveness of the Titleist AP1 irons, but love the sleekness of the AP2? Well, you're in luck. Titleist has successfully mated its two most popular irons and created the lovechild that is the AP3. Titleist claims the AP3 to be its longest and fastest player's iron ever. Hollow-blade construction along with L-Face inserts combine for optimum launch and shotstopping spin. Stock shafts are True Temper AMT Black, available in 3-W.

\$185/club (steel), \$210/club (graphite) titleist.com



Will This Putter Be The Magic Wand?

Odyssey is widely known as the "No. 1 Putter in Golf" with a slew of designs and a lot of men and women on TV with one in their bags. New for 2018, Odyssey is rolling out their line of O-Works putters which includes the Marxman. A toe hang mallet and available in black or a boisterous red, the Marxman is complete with a chunky sightline. The face on all O-Works putters is co-molded into Odyssey's flagship White Hot insert. Get yourself some big red and start collecting those skins!

\$199.99 www.odysseygolf.com



Drivers Get Ever More High-Tech

Cobra Golf seems to enjoy trying new things. With its F7 line, Cobra became the first manufacturer to build a swing analyzer into the grip of every driver. Now, with Cobra's KING F8 lineup, you can find golf's first CNC precision-milled titanium driver face. Cobra boasts that the F8 is thinner, hotter, and more precise. With two adjustable CG settings, the KING F8 has stock shaft options of MRC Tensei CK Blue, Aldila NV 2KXV Blue, or 2KXV Green.

\$399 cobragolf.com



A Chip Off The Old Beanbag

Polish sausage? Check. Beverages? Check. Tickets? Check. Just when you thought you had everything for your weekend tailgate, a new necessity arrives in Beer Pong Golf. Pretty self explanatory. Your cherished college pastime meets the game you hate to love, with a hint of corn hole. The Beer Pong boards can be customized with your favorite team and are available to order in singles or doubles, with different options to choose from. Please chip responsibly.

\$119 and up www.bp.golf



Papa's Got A Brand New Bag

Who doesn't love something a little retro with a modern twist? Stitch, the company that brought back leather head covers a few years ago, has now resurrected smaller, single strap, single divider golf bags with their SL1. It has the convenience of a stand bag and weighs only 57 ounces. Made from Touring Fabric (similar to the head covers), the SL1 is durable, fully waterproof, and can even be personalized with your initials. Available in carbon white, brushed forest green, brushed navy, and brushed black.

\$328 stitchgolf.com



Sweet Home Chicago

If You Want To Join A Private Club – Or Buy One – This Is Your Time

The improvement in the economy hasn't carried completely over to golf. Most public courses are doing better than a few years ago, but many private clubs no longer have waiting lists.

Some private layouts have eliminated initiation fees, the one-time charges that signified one was a member and now had the right to play anytime – plus pay the monthly dues, and the food-and-beverage minimum, and the other fees that are often tacked on to a membership.



Some now allow limited public play on weekdays, the idea to bring in some revenue and showcase the facility to potential members. The counter-argument is obvious: If you can play there already, why join?

Then there's the high-end alternative: buying. Antioch Golf Course, Balmoral Woods in Crete and the Course at Aberdeen in Valparaiso, Ind., a trio of quality public courses, were sold in the last year, and now a notable private club is for sale: Calumet Country Club in Homewood.

It's not every day a Donald Ross-designed course, albeit one extensively rebuilt in the Ross style after the Tri-State Tollway played through, comes on the market. But on the market it is, even after an infusion of new members – joining in the no-initiation era – arrived.

Calumet hosted the Illinois Amateur last year, and boasts a number of fine players, but not enough members to keep the club, which includes a 30,000-foot clubhouse and a pool, in great financial shape. The club's tax return for 2015-16 showed a net loss of about \$367,000 and liabilities exceeding assets by just over \$2 million, continuing a trend. (Tax returns for non-profit entities, including country clubs, are public, not private.)

Calumet, covering 128 acres, was for sale a few years ago, until Cook County said it would be retroactively reassessed at other than open land if it was sold for development. This time, the equity members, according to the summary posted by Links Capital Advisors, want "to recapitalize their investment and can be creative that will allow them to continue to enjoy playing at Calumet."

Three Legends We Lost Over The Winter

Our golf community had a difficult late fall and winter. Three key people in the growth of the game, and friends to many, died. Roger Packard and Jim Nugent designed many of the playing fields Chicago-area golfers, and others worldwide, cavort on. Carol McCue was a longtime leader of the association that brings golfers of all kinds together.



Packard, 70, the son of fellow architect Larry Packard, died Oct. 14 in Palm Harbor, Fla., near the Innisbrook resort where he first assisted his father. He had been fighting esophageal cancer.

His solo designs include Cantigny Golf's 27 holes in Winfield, the multi-course Eagle Ridge

Resort in Galena – the final course, the General, designed in conjunction with Andy North, as was Prairie Vista in Bloomington.

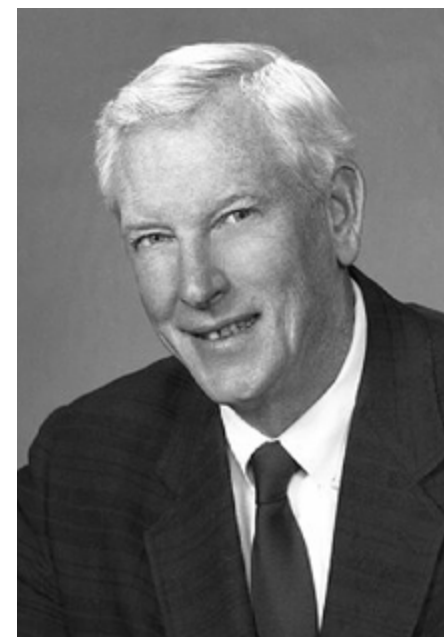
Packard was quick to see mainland China as a lucrative outlet for his work and was there almost exclusively after the Great Recession. He spent about 15 years there.

"There really isn't any draw for me right now to come back to the States," Packard said several years ago. "I think I've turned Chinese."

He also worked on renovations of his father's courses, including Innisbrook and Chaska Golf Club in Appleton, Wis., keeping the changes in tune with Larry Packard's vision.

Nugent, 86, died Jan. 1 in Sun Lakes, Ariz. He had been in declining health.

First working for Robert Bruce Harris, then with two-decade business partner Ken Killian, and finally on his own with son Tim under his wing, Nugent was a prolific archi-



tect. He and Killian created gems including Kemper Lakes Golf Course in Kildeer and Dunne National Golf Course in Oak Forest.

On his own, Nugent's creations include the 36-hole Harborside International Golf Center on Chicago's south side, Mike Keiser's private Dunes Club in New Buffalo, Mich., which many regard as the best nine-hole course in the world, and Koolau Golf Course in Hawaii, a mountainside layout built in part on lava beds.

He also was a leader in renovation projects, sometimes just a hole or two, sometimes the entire course.

Diligent and creative – his Golf Club of Illinois in Algonquin was a faux-links course before they were in vogue – he was also a mentor to many, including Jeff Brauer, Bob Lohmann (both of whom, like Killian, followed Nugent as a president of the American Society of Golf Course architects), and the late Bruce Borland, lost in the jet crash that also killed Payne Stewart, who won the 1989 PGA at Kemper Lakes.

"He was a great mentor, and I always said Dick was the professional equivalent of my own father," Brauer said. "He was a teacher, and I learned nearly all I know about golf course architecture from him. Certainly, no one was better technically. I still find myself quoting him to employees, and in many respects, still run the office the way he did."

"One of my favorite Dick Nugent quotes was 'There are only two

Down Memory Lane

That Daring Young Man In His Flying Machine

There was a short time about a century ago when Walter C. Crowds was the man to beat in the Chicago area. A contender for the prep title while at Hyde Park High School, he won three straight Cook County Amateur titles from 1914 to 1916, the last while a young member at Olympia Fields Country Club.

He would capture seven club championships at Olympia, beginning with the first one in 1917.

But there was almost no second title, much less any beyond, for Crowds' service in World War I featured at least one death-defying act, even though he never served overseas.

Crowds had enrolled in the Army Air Corps after the U.S. entered the war, went through aviation school in Champaign, and was assigned to Love Field in Dallas for seasoning.

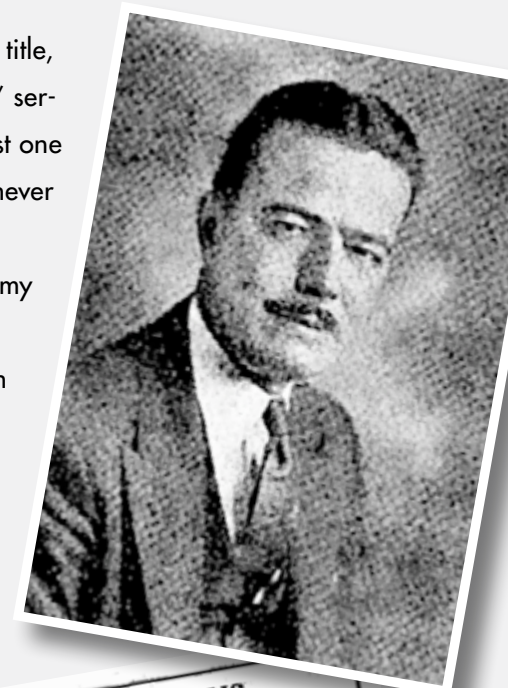
All went well until February 1918, when he suffered a serious concussion. He was practicing stalls to dive past enemy aircraft when pulling out of the dive caused another stall, and the plane ended up in the only tree on the airfield.

"I never had much use for a tree on a golf course, but now I like them all, whether hard or soft wood," Crowds quipped.

That, at least, was the story he told the *Chicago Tribune*. A Brooklyn paper reported that Crowds had performed a safe landing, but unbuckled his seat belt too quickly, and when his still-moving plane hit a rock, he was bounced out of the cockpit, landing on his head.

Whichever it was, he returned to score his commission and served the rest of the war without incident. The only instance of Crowds flying poorly after that was the occasional drive. But the memory may be why Crowds, an insurance salesman, had the slogan "Land – Sky – Sea" in his ads.

– Tim Cronin



instances to avoid sharp doglegs – where there are trees and where there aren't.' Regarding design presentations, he would say, 'When you think you are ready, rehearse again.' He had a way of making things memorable."

McCue, 94, died Dec. 19 in Chicago, likewise after a long struggle. Decades ago given the affectionate nickname "The First Lady of Chicago Golf," she had arrived at the CDGA office as a 19-year-old when the group called the Royal Typewriter School placement service in need of a secretary after the death of Joe Davis

in April 1942, barely two months before it hosted, in conjunction with the USGA and PGA of America, the Hale America National Open.

Davis was the first executive secretary. McCue, found to be innovative and thus indispensable, would become the second, the title later changed to executive director. There have been only two since, Dennis Davenport succeeding her, followed by current boss Robert Markionni.

McCue's ability to get things done helped the CDGA become the pioneer in computerizing handicaps.



Her acquaintance with Bobby Jones and Cliff Roberts brought forth the long-running Masters charter for CDGA members, and that spun off into golf-trip charters around the world. She also helped the CDGA go from a group of only private clubs to one welcoming all golfers, public and private. Beyond Chicago, her idea for sharing good ideas led to the creation of the International Association of Golf Administrators. She was the first president.

"She was the gold standard for golf administrators, a great boss, mentor and friend," Davenport said.

Former Wisconsin State Golf Association executive director Gene Haas said, "For those of us who have spent a lifetime in the game of golf Carol McCue is our 'Legendary Leader.' She created the paths for all of us who followed. We're indebted to her leadership, and the game wouldn't be the same today if it had not been for her passion and dedication to overseeing its growth. I'm sure if heaven decides to host an Open championship, Carol will be in charge."

Especially if the barkeep above can make a Beefeater gin martini straight up.

Hole Outs

Winfield's Kevin Strelman has renewed with Wilson Golf with which he's been affiliated since 2011, for two more years. ... Jeremy Bilecki's 69 beat a field of frozen competitors in Cog Hill's Eskimo Open.

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DESTINATIONS

Boulders Resort Rocks

Few golf resorts in the world can match the extraordinary natural setting of the Boulders Resort & Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona. Twelve million years ago, a geologic eruption left a series of rock formations that gives this legendary Resort its distinctive look.

The two championship Jay Morrish-designed golf courses blend perfectly and each course offers unmatched bounty of magnificent desert panoramas in the shadow of the unspoiled 12-million-year-old boulder formations. The North Course is par 72 with five sets of tees measuring in distance and slope 6811 yards/137 slope. The South Course is par 72 with five sets of tees measuring in distance and slope 6726 yards/140 slope. A three-story high boulder on the seventh hole of the South Course sits precariously atop a tiny one, just an arm's length from golfers on the tee, while giant saguaro cacti stand like guardians. Indigenous plants like palo verde, mesquite trees, and varieties of cactus with vibrant flowering colors, add to the eye-popping setting throughout the resort's 1,300 acres.

The resort's signature hole is No. 5 South, where the green is carved from a dramatic rock outcropping, make it one of the most photographed holes in the country. It plays right up to the backdrop of a dazzling spectacle called the Boulder Pile, a massive group of rocks dotted with tall saguaros.

Don't be surprised to see spectators on the golf course. No, not gallery-type spectators, these are wildlife—quail, bunnies, roadrunners, now and then a friendly bobcat or coyote—that make their homes in the desert. As you can imagine, the Boulders has received dozens of awards and such recognition is proudly accepted and appreciated.

The Boulders Golf Academy offers private, one-on-one instruction with talented PGA and LPGA instructors. Customized golf events include glow night putting competitions, Dine & Dash programs, and more.

Guests at the Boulders Resort embrace the peaceful environment where you feel like you are a million-miles-from everywhere—at a place where you can relax in "splendid seclusion." There are no children's programs so just imagine—four splash-free swimming pools. And the staff makes you feel special with their desire to provide unsurpassed, often unexpected, service.

The recent multi-million dollar resort-wide renovations include newly designed private Casita accommodations with luxurious bedding, wood-burning fireplaces (a rarity at Arizona resorts) and private patios all with its own extraordinary panoramic views. Or, one-three bedroom Villas offer the space and exclusivity of a grand vacation home as guests enjoy the comforts of a beautifully styled kitchen, fireplaces, and doorstep parking with private entrances.

The Boulders Tennis Garden offers eight premier cushion and asphalt courts-- even pickleball—not to mention even more exquisite views. If you want to take your game up a notch, tennis professionals conduct private instruction and clinics.

The 33,000-square foot Spa oasis is a quiet sanctuary with great attention to personal service and therapeutic treatments, such as massage and soothing baths for healing and wellness. There is a labyrinth; a fitness center; movement studio; couple's massage suites; a yoga studio; tea room; full-service salon and a Spa Café.

But, guests come to the Boulders Resort for more than just golf and spa pleasures. In addition to an endless array of first-class amenities, there are five onsite restaurants and a stunning new Discovery Lounge. If you are anxious to learn about the region and enjoy outdoor activities, you can go hiking or mountain biking on nearby trails over rolling desert terrain. For thrill seekers, guests can climb the face of a 75-foot granite boulder. Nighttime is ideal for stargazing from your private patio or with a professional astronomer to observe the magnificent stars in the Arizona sky from a fairway. The concierge staff can also arrange hot-air ballooning, horseback rides, desert jeep tours, and Grand Canyon excursions. Nearby shopping in the town of Cave Creek welcomes you to the amusing Wild West.

The Boulders also just unveiled a new, beautifully appointed clubhouse to further elevate the experience for golfers and club members. Other renovations include new club restaurants, pro shop, swimming pool, and members lounge--all set amidst the most stunning natural landscape in the area. There is also a practice facility/driving range; complimentary bag storage; club rentals and a Callaway Golf Club custom fitting service.

For those that want to be a part of this prestigious golf community and enjoy all the amenities of this world-class resort, Boulders Golf Memberships are available for purchase. For more information call (480) 488-7312.

The Boulders Resort & Spa 480-488-9009 or visit www.theboulders.com.



Take Desert Golf to the Next Level

Limited Golf Memberships are Now Available at One of the Finest Golf Resorts in the World. Pure playing conditions on two world-class golf courses/Five Restaurants & Lounges/Luxurious new clubhouse facility, private locker rooms and club restaurants overlooking the 18th hole of both Jay Morrish-designed courses/Tennis Gardens/33,000 sq. ft. Spa & Fitness Facility/Private Hiking & Biking Trails/Four Resort Swimming Pools/ Exclusive members-only events/Luxury Resort Experience.



For more information contact **Brandon Christensen**
480.488.7312 | theboulders.com





Use This Easy, Familiar Swing for Better Sand Shots

Have you heard people say you have to make a choppy V-shaped swing to hit a good sand shot? Don't do it. Let me tell you an easier and more reliable way. Pros use the same swing in the sand as they do out of grass. Picture a shot sitting up in light rough. Take your 60-degree lob wedge and position the ball directly in the center of your stance. You want the club to hit the ball, then make a divot. The bottom of your swing arc, as you move your weight forward in the swing, is just ahead of the center of your stance.

I want to contact the ball first and fly it about 50 yards from this light-rough lie, so I take the club back to the 9 o'clock position – the backswing stops parallel to the ground – and make a smooth swing to a full finish. Positioning the ball in the center of my stance has allowed me to catch the ball clean so it flies a reliable distance.

Now, let's move into the sand and take the same set-up position. This time, you'll flare your front toe and position the ball in your stance so it is even with the heel

of your lead foot. This is a forward ball position. Now, rotate the club face open so the club doesn't dig when you impact the sand. You're now ready to make the same swing in the sand as you did from light rough. The exact same swing, but you're hitting the sand first this time instead of the ball. Remember, from that lie in light rough, the ball flew 50 yards. This time, we're getting about a 10-yard flight from

the sand with the same 9 o'clock position and smooth acceleration to a full finish.

You don't need a special, complicated swing in the sand. If you just practice placing the ball forward and opening the club face, you can use that same reliable lob-wedge swing you use from light rough. Try this shot. Practice it a little bit and you'll see your sand shots flying right toward the hole.



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Add Consistency to Your Short Game

I'm all about keeping things simple in my approach to hitting these critical chips and pitches around the green. Let's break it up into two parts, The Setup and The Swing.

The Setup

1: My feet point slightly open to target as illustrated by the left alignment stick. This alignment accomplishes a number of things, but most importantly allows me to more easily keep my weight moving left towards the target through and after impact. The width of my stance is very narrow because I want to discourage lateral movement of my lower body when making the backswing (photo 1).

2: The pressure or weight distribution in my feet is favoring my front (left) foot to target, about 60-40. Notice I am not manipulating my body to get into this address position, I'm just shifting the pressure in my feet towards my front foot. This part of the setup is most critical to having success in pitching and chipping. We are going to keep this 60-40 pressure throughout the backswing and into impact (photo 2).

3: The hands are neutral or slightly ahead of the golf ball. The loft and bounce angle of the club should be presented as intended and not manipulated too drastically.

The Swing

The most important thing to remember in swinging the club is we are going to keep the speed of the backswing and forward swing constant. The club going back should not be slower than the club coming through impact or vice versa. This will give us the best chance of hitting the ball solidly each and every time. In my opinion, the inconsistency of swing speed is the No. 1 reason players are inconsistent with these shots. A great tip I use a lot is from Tom Watson, who described the pitching and chipping action (or speed) as a piston in an engine. Equal thrust back and through.

1: The easiest way to ensure a constant speed is an equal length swing both back and through. In this example I'm hitting a 10-yard pitch with a 60 degree and have determined that the length of my swing needed to be

about hip high. I would advocate changing clubs if a larger swing is required to achieve a certain distance, which will require some practice (photos 3 and 4).

2: As you come through impact let, rather than force, your foot pressure continue forward with momentum into your front foot along with body rotation into the finish of the swing. Again the finish for this swing is only hip high.



Photo 1



Photo 2

Doing these things well will result in consistent results time and time again.

For more information on this or to set up an appointment visit us on the web at mpcgolf.com or at McQ's Golf Dome in Bolingbrook over these winter months.

Andy Mickelson is the Director of Golf at Mistwood Golf Club & McQ's Golf Dome.



Photo 3



Photo 4

Central Missouri's LAKE OF THE OZARKS GOLF TRAIL

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You've done this in your head, we're sure, and perhaps on paper as well. Maybe not concerning golf, but about life.

We write of the bucket list. That which must be accomplished before said bucket is kicked and lilies replace roses on the gift list of those who favor you.

Our Neal Kotlarek, the staff leader in whimsy, suggested that his fellow GOLFChicago denizens come up with their individual bucket lists concerning golf.

So it was suggested. So it now is done, the individual lists herewith combined into a big bucket, like the one that costs \$9 at your local range. No long drives are required – which means the Pine Valley-Pebble

Beach-Augusta National long weekend all dream of is not on the list.

As it was his idea, we start with Neal's first selection, the point on our local compass where golf has been played almost continuously since the game took root here.

1. Play Downers Grove Golf Course.

Much of this oft-remodeled property is the site of the original Chicago Golf Club, laid out in 1893 by Charles Blair Macdonald.

Much has also been realigned, but the last renovation found century-old golf balls buried about.

2. Then stop by Forest Park in Lake Forest, between Deerpath Rd. and Spring Lane.

There and the adjacent Fairlawn Estate held the first true Macdonald creation, all seven holes of it, where golf caught on from April of 1892 forward. Plop down a ball and flip a wedge. You'll feel the spirit of the game – or hear a policeman's whistle.



3. Finally, go farther back in the GOLFChicago time machine by visiting Douglas Memorial Park in Chicago on 35th St.,

east of Cottage Grove Ave. That's more or less where Macdonald and Scottish pal Robert Burgess hit golf balls when it was the deactivated Camp Douglas – in August of 1875. The statue honors Stephen Douglas – he went 1-1 with Lincoln in political match play – and Douglas' tomb is below, but for some, it symbolizes the first place a golf ball was struck in our town.

4. Now, come back to the present day and your favorite course,

and thank the course superintendent for all the effort that he and his crew put into making it your paradise, from mowing the greens to trimming the rough to repairing ball marks a group the day before failed to fix.

5. While you're there, line up a lesson with your pro.

Virtually every golf course with a driving range offers group and individual lessons. Many have high-tech equipment, such as Trackman, that can gauge your swing speed and even tell you which golf ball brand fits your game.

6. Then take it a step further. More strokes are taken – and wasted – within 100 yards of the hole than anywhere else. So clean up your game. Enroll in a Dave Pelz short-game school at Cog Hill in Palos Park. A proven game-changer, the clinics run from one to three days.

7. Then practice. Cog's practice facility is excellent, and nearby Mistwood Golf Club's facility, a few miles

southwest in Romeoville, is even better. For one thing, it includes a restaurant scant feet from the practice tees. You can nosh and hit simultaneously.

8. Oh, and by the way, if it's suggested you need new clubs, as in your pals suggesting your irons were made during the Industrial Revolution, get fitted for them.

Your swing speed and path can now be accounted for in what you wield. True Spec Golf / Movement3 Golf in Highland Park, GolfTec, Cool Clubs and Mistwood's Golf Performance Center (and McQ's in the winter) are among the experts in the area.

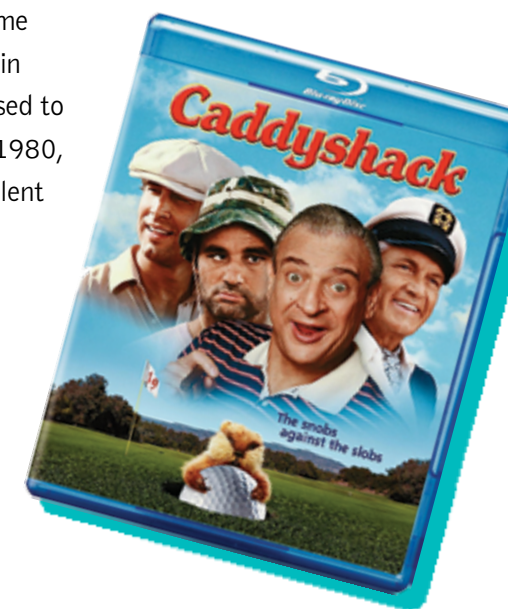
9. Go high-tech. Go with some pals to Topgolf – there are locations in Wood Dale and Naperville – and walk into golf's version of a video game. Grab some suds and bet on who'll score best.

10. Combine high-tech and something more conventional by renting time on a golf simulator.

In the dead of winter – and we're not far from that – you can tee it up at Pebble Beach without the \$550 green fee and night at The Lodge. Sorry, no fog or Bill Murray playing through. The Golfzon simulators in the White Pines Golf Dome are especially effective.

11. Did someone mention

Bill Murray? His name reminds us of a certain motion picture, released to moderate success in 1980, but now golf's equivalent of "Casablanca." It's "Caddyshack," of course, with Murray, Chevy Chase, Ted Knight and Rodney Dangerfield cavorting through 99 minutes of links



hijinks. Don't wait for the next cable airing. Splurge and buy the Blu-ray – bowl of soup not included – and, like Carl Spackler on his deathbed, you will have total consciousness going for you. Which is nice.

12. Fast-forward to where you've watched it several times.

Now, rattle off Spackler's full Dalai Lama speech – "Big hitter, the Lama; long" – to your group. Done properly, or even improperly, they should be convulsed. And you'll win the next hole, while Lou keeps losing at the track.

13. For the full Murray, network until you can find someone who can get you on Indian Hill Club in Winnetka.

That's the peach of a Donald Ross course where the Murray brothers caddied. And yes, all those movie characters were based on Indian Hillers, and there really was a real-life Havercamp couple at the club. They invented slow play.

14. If you can't get on Indian Hill – and you probably can't

– mosey down the lakefront until you get to Lake Shore Drive and Addison St. You have found Waveland – only the stuffy call it Marovitz – Chicago's nine-hole answer to Pebble Beach. This 1930s Joe Roseman-designed gem offers beautiful views for a few bucks. But reserve a tee time ahead because this place fills up almost every day, even when a lake chill cuts you to the bone. It must be the views of downtown.

15. Speaking of cold, you've not been cold until you've played in an Eskimo Open at Cog Hill on a frigid January day.

This annual exercise in frostbite was invented by Joe Jemsek in 1963. The idea was to play Glenwoodie, which he then leased, in the morning, and then watch the Bears and Giants in the NFL title game at sold-out Wrigley Field on NBC's South Bend outlet, as Channel 5 was blacked out (ask your grandparents). It was so cold the signal didn't come through, but the golf was played anyway. The beer was cold too.

16. Want to keep warm while you practice? Step into a golf dome. White Pines' dome is the granddaddy of them in town, and still the biggest, but McQ's in Bolingbrook is nearly as deep and



takes amenities to the nth degree. There's excellent food in the sports bar, and it's connected to an OTB center, where you might just run into Lou, trying to make his money back by betting on the seventh at Del Mar.

17. Is the weather just too stinkaroo to go out? Curl up with a good golf book after your nightly viewing of "Caddyshack." Here are five we like, all of which are easy to find on Amazon or eBay:

a. Dead Solid Perfect by Dan Jenkins. The irreverent master weaves the atmosphere of the 1970s tour with the tales of Kenny Puckett, only slightly removed from reality.

b. How To Play Your Best Golf All The Time by Tommy Armour. Perhaps the most timeless instructional book, written by the multi-major champion in 1953 and still spot-on, as in this bit of advice: "Play the shot you've got the greatest chance of playing well, and play the shot that makes the next shot easy."

c. Golf Has Never Failed Me by Donald Ross. A collection of short essays and great thoughts by the esteemed architect, the manuscript rescued from near-oblivion in 1996. With a nice selection of diagrams and photos.

d. On The Tour with Harry Sprague by Herbert Warren Wind. The legendary scribe turns humorist, collecting letters from the barely-literate fictional pro to his sponsor regarding his success and lack thereof on the circuit circa 1960.

e. King of Clubs: The Great Golf Marathon of 1938 by Jim Ducibella, who brought to life the story of Olympia Fields' J. Smith Ferebee, a member who would bet anyone on anything, including playing golf across the country. It has to be read to be disbelieved.

18. Plunk two bottles of sun screen in different areas of your golf bag before the season starts. That

way, you'll stay protected all season. And wear a hat!

19. That advice is doubly important if you decide, as you should, to play all 36 holes at Harborside International in a single day.

One of the country's best urban golf complexes, both the Port and the Starboard were concocted by area designer Dick Nugent on a near-treeless slag heap dumped into Lake Calumet that was once thought to have zero value as a recreational property. Cool fact: The Starboard Course, which opened in 1996, is partially built on the rubble of Chicago Stadium, the grand ice palace knocked down the year before.

20. Speaking of the Stadium, think like Bobby Hull: commit to not leaving a single approach shot short of the flagstick over an entire 18 holes. You might face a few tricky downhill putts over the 18 holes, but you'll be amazed at how many times you under-club during a round.

21. Play The Preserve at Oak Meadows in Addison, which reopened late last year. Then walk the trails around the property that connect you with the wildlife and the environment that will benefit both flora and fauna and everyone's basement south along Salt Creek.

22. Indulge yourself with a trip to Lawsonia, the Wisconsin getaway that features the William Langford-designed Links. He and associate Theodore Moreau created a wonderful course that was recently restored and is more compelling than ever. In the burgeoning world of amazing Wisconsin





golf (SentryWorld, Blackwolf Run, Whistling Straits, Erin Hills, Sand Valley), this is the original, and the least expensive.

23. Closer to home, and on the other side of Chicago, there's a hidden Langford and Moreau gem: Kankakee Elks in Aroma Park. Virtually untouched since its 1926 opening, you'll find cop bunkers, a volcano par 3, and other delights. Play it.

24. Here's another double-play combination: Jackson Park and South Shore, a pair of Chicago Park District layouts on and near the lakefront designed by Tom Bendelow in 1905 and 1906, respectively. Both are threatened by the potential construction of an 18-hole layout that could cost tens of millions under the guise of revitalizing the park. That plan has hit roadblocks, but Chicago being Chicago, might yet happen. So play the Bendelow twins while you can.

25. Grab and read a copy of the *Rules of Golf*, that longtime best-seller, and you may be the only one in your foursome who has. Stuff it in your bag for luck. Extra credit: Order a copy of the Decisions on the Rules of Golf, a nifty spiral-bound tome with more arcane situations than you could imagine, and read that. You then might be the only one at your course, aside from your pro, knowing you have multiple options for dropping your ball in some cases. And that could save you a stroke.

26. Eschew a cart where you normally ride. Walk the course, carrying your bag or using a trolley. You'll see the course in a different way, and might even

score better.

27. Don't want to lug your bag? If you can, use a caddie. A handful of public courses – including the fun Cantigny complex in Wheaton – have caddie programs, and the better ones will help your game. Plus, the \$50 or so you pay the lad or lass will be well worth it. And at Cantigny, you might find yourself playing out of the famed Dick Tracy bunker, designed to pay homage to Cantigny founder and famed *Chicago Tribune* publisher Col. Robert McCormick.

28. While you're feeling charitable, give a thought to donating to the Evans Scholars Foundation. As Chick Evans and his mom hoped, you'll be helping a caddie with smarts and the desire to go to college but from a family unable to fund it. Over 900 such caddies are in colleges in the Midwest and Pacific Northwest as you read this. For more, see the Western Golf Association's website: www.wgaesf.org.

29. Regarding Western Golf, with the BMW Championship in Philadelphia this year, the WGA's big area show is the hidden gem of championship golf: the Western Amateur. It's at Sunset Ridge Country Club in Northfield from July 31 to August 4. This is the PGA Tour five years in advance. Pick a favorite during stroke play qualifying and follow him during match play.

30. Many a former amateur star not yet on the big circuit plays the Web.com Tour, and that's back in town from June 7-10 with the Rust-Oleum Championship at Ivanhoe Club in the north suburbs. Last year, the winner and runner-up played and made the cut in the following week's U.S. Open.

31. It's a big tournament year here, with the weekend of July 12-15 the biggest of all. The fixture is the John Deere Classic, which brings the PGA Tour to the Quad Cities for the 48th year, and to TPC Deere Run for the 21st time. But there's more!

32. The same week, in its first Chicago-area visit, the Senior Players Championship shows up at Exmoor Country Club in Highland Park, a rare visit by the professionals to that classic, and the first 50-plus major in our town since the 1997 U.S. Senior Open. But there's more!

33. Like the first two, July 12-15 offers the unique chance to see something that's never happened anywhere at a course that's stood the test of time:

The inaugural U.S. Senior Women's Open, at no less than Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton. The USGA, after years of prodding, has added a senior professional championship for ladies 50 and up, and to make sure the world takes note, convinced the ultra-private membership at Chicago Golf to host it. The Charles Blair Macdonald and Seth Raynor course – with a new tee on the first hole – will be a splendid test for the field, and someone's going to be the first to lift a brand new trophy. This one is a can't miss, at least for one round, if only to stroll the famous grounds.

34. The younger set on the distaff side, last seen in these parts at Olympia Fields, will reassemble at Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Kildeer, where the KPMG Women's PGA Championship is played from June 28-July 1, with Danielle Kang the defending champion.

35. Watching all that golf will make you eager to play more. The sternest public test in the Chicago area remains Dubsdread, the jewel of Cog Hill and the Jemsek Golf crown. But pick the right tees, or they'll be hanging



a lantern outside the 2-4 Building to guide you home.

36. Did you make everything on Dubs? Didn't think so. Just as fitted clubs can improve your game, so can a fitted putter. Bettinardi Golf in Tinley Park, the maker of custom putters, has a fitting center, "Studio B," in its factory where within 45 minutes to an hour, a putter can be fitted to your stroke.

37. The opposite of Dubsdread are the area's several short courses. Double up one day in the north suburbs. Start at Canal Shores in Evanston-Wilmette, where uber-volunteer Jason Way has led a revitalization of the property, and play 18 holes in a true community setting. (Sorry, a honking horn is a rub of the green.) Then drive to the Golf Center Des Plaines and play nine more – under the lights, no less. Bring bug spray!

38. On that trip, go retro. Dig through the garage and find your old set of clubs, and use those. Remember how hard they were to hit, and how fulfilling it was when you smacked a good one? Bonus points if you have persimmon woods. The 3-wood will do at Canal Shores, and won't be needed at Des Plaines.

39. Volunteer to be part of Way's course improvement corps at Canal Shores. You might find yourself digging a bunker or clearing decades-old brush along the North Shore Channel. Ask at the clubhouse.

40. One more thing. Next time you play, thank the starter at your course. Usually, all he gets is grief.

A Guide To Golf Under Roof (And Not)

It's hard to believe but it's almost time to tuck the ski boots and snow shovels away and haul the golf bag out from the sports closet. Wise players know the best ways to keep one's handicap intact entering the new season are regular sessions at indoor and heated outdoor training venues.

Practice centers across Chicagoland have taken amazing strides over the years in persuading golfers to keep their clubs in the trunk year 'round. Beyond making it comfortable to swing either through heat lamps or indoor hitting ramps, many of these facilities have added excellent food and sports bars into the equation.

Following are some of the best year 'round golf practice centers in the Chicago area:

Buffalo Grove Golf Dome

801 McHenry Road
Buffalo Grove
(847) 353-7575
www.bgparcs.org
This 75-yard long indoor driving range features a putting green and chipping green with multiple bunkers. Individual and group instruction available from a staff of golf professionals.

Diversey Driving Range

141 W. Diversey Street
Chicago
(312) 742-7929
www.diversey.cpdgolf.com
While not technically an indoor driving range, this popular lakefront facility is open year 'round and features lighted, heated mat areas and target greens. As a bonus, the upper deck area provides an amazing view of downtown Chicago and Lake Michigan.

Golf Center Des Plaines

853 N. River Road
Des Plaines
(847) 803-4653
www.dpparks.org
Operated by the Des Plaines Park District, this 1.5-acre facility is perennially ranked among the top 50 stand-alone driving ranges in America. Eighty lighted and

heated hitting stations are spread over three tiers. Golf lessons, instruction and custom club fitting are available through certified GolfTEC personal coaches. Adjacent to the golf range, Café Casa serves up great food and beverages in a sports bar setting.

Green Garden Golf Dome

9511 W. Manhattan-Monee Rd.
Frankfort
(815) 469-3350
www.greengardenc.com/golf-dome
This two-level fully heated dome at Green Garden Country Club in the far south suburbs features 42 hitting stations and a separate chipping and putting area. Lessons are provided under the direction

of PGA professional Randy Wexter. Look for coupons on the facility's website that provide combo packages including a bucket of balls with breakfast, lunch or dinner. The adjacent 45-hole Green Garden courses are open year 'round.

Links & Tees Golf Indoor Golf Dome

900 W. Lake St.
Addison
(630) 223-7275
www.addisonparcs.org
Professional instruction and a league for two-person teams are among the amenities of this facility ranked among the nation's top 50 stand-alone ranges of 2017 by the Golf Range Association of America.

McQ's Golf Dome

30 N. Bolingbrook Drive
Bolingbrook
(630) 739-7600
www.mcqsdome.com
Just as Mistwood Golf Club in Romeoville has redefined the Chicago public golf experience over the past few years, its sister property, McQ's Sports Dome in Bolingbrook, has developed a winning formula to complement a great heated practice golf facility with excellent food, entertainment and service. The sports dome is 60,000 square feet and features 50 hitting stations, two 900-square foot putting greens, and a short game area with a bunker. Led by 2011 PGA Illinois Teacher of the Year John Platt, the dome offers golf instruction to players of all ages. Swing

technology available includes Trackman swing and ball analysis; SamPutt Lab and custom club fitting.

Attached to the dome is one of the southwest suburbs' premier entertainment and dining establishments. Slow-cooked ribs, burgers and beverages are served in an outstanding sports bar setting that also serves as home for a Club Hawthorne Off-Track Betting parlor.

Skokie Sports Center

3459 Oakton Street
Skokie
(847) 674-1500, Ext. 3100
www.skokieparcs.org
Perennially rated among the top 50 golf ranges in America by the Golf Range

Association of America and Golf Range magazine, the sports park offers a two-tier 40-station range with automated tee system with adjustable tees. Amenities include heated stalls, target greens, distance markers and instruction. Hours of operation through February are Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Check for expanded hours in March and April.

Topgolf

699 W. Thorndale Ave.
Wood Dale
(630) 595-4653
and
3211 Odyssey Ct.
Naperville
(630) 596-1000
www.topgolf.com
Open year 'round, both of these complexes emphasize fun and great food along with golf practice. The ranges feature micro-chip-implanted golf balls which allow players to earn points by successfully hitting target greens or tee shot areas. Combine this state-of-the-art practice facility with great food and a dazzling sports bar and you have the hottest concept in golf practice. Hitting bays are covered, lighted and climate-controlled. Clinics and individual lessons feature slow-motion video analysis.

White Pines Golf Dome

500 W. Jefferson St.
 Bensenville
(630) 766-0304
www.whitepinesgolfdome.com
Long considered the gold standard in Chicago indoor golf practice facilities, this 100-yard wide by 100-yard long heated complex features 48 hitting stations on two levels, five target greens, a 45-foot long contoured putting green and five state-of-the-art GOLFZON virtual golf simulators. Owned and operated by renowned Northbrook sports management firm KemperSports, the dome offers individual and group instruction led by 2006 Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year Chuck Lynch. The dome holds demo days and events on a regular basis, and also serves up sandwiches and cold beverages.



Stoatin Brae Serves Up Heavenly View



While 2017 might not have been a great year for Bears fans or White House press secretaries, traveling golfers across the Midwest should all agree that it was a truly remarkable season for new courses to challenge. Indeed, not since the golf boom era of the late 1990s have we seen more new courses pop up across Wisconsin, Northern Michigan and Chicagoland. Not only were these new additions to the golfing landscape of the region, all three were spectacular properties built by the likes of Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore (Sand Valley in Nekoosa, Wis.), Tom Doak (The Loop in Roscommon, Mich.) and Greg Martin (The Preserve at Oak Meadows in Addison).

Somewhat overlooked in all of this design excitement was the stunning unveiling of Stoatin Brae at Gull Lake View Golf & Resort, east-northeast of Kalamazoo, Mich. A little over two years ago, Bill Johnson and Jon Scott peeked over an old wire fence that lined the tee of the resort's Stonehedge South Golf Course and arrived at a mutual conclusion: There, beneath the wild grasses and weeds and wildflowers, rested a parcel of spectacular, flowing and verdant land that was destined to become a golf course.

The two men knew a thing or two about golf architecture. Johnson had been head professional at the complex since 1988. Scott had been president of the resort since 1993 and was a member of the family that has owned and operated the complex, centered on Augusta, roughly between Kalamazoo and Battle Creek, since 1965. Despite the fact that few new golf courses anywhere in the country have been built over the past decade, Johnson and Scott had very few apprehensions about tackling the project or taking on the time and financial investment the project demanded.

"We'd been talking for a while about adding a sixth course at the resort," Scott explained. "So when we took a closer look at the property and recognized how its location next to our other courses worked in our favor, the only question left in our minds was how quickly we could buy the land and locate the right architects to build the course."

While Scott had the background and necessary skills to perform the design work himself, the natural flow of the land seemed like a natural philosophical fit for Traverse City's Renaissance Design. The firm, founded by lead designer Doak, had developed an outstanding reputation over the years with acclaimed projects at Bandon Dunes in Oregon, Cape Kidnappers in New Zealand and Dismal River Club in Nebraska. Doak had previously committed himself to building the aforementioned The Loop golf course at Forest Dunes, but was intrigued.

"I saw that Jon was thoughtful and committed to doing something good," Doak said. "The project was in-state and we are always interested in stuff close to home. So I was already thinking about having [principal company designers Eric Iverson, Brian Schneider, Don Placek and Brian Slawnik] do the job on their own."

Scott quickly embraced the vision presented him by the team.

"We all agreed that the land would stay pretty much exactly the way nature shaped it," Scott said. The mission presented to the Renaissance team was simple: Build an

18-hole course that moved as little land as possible while ensuring that maintenance costs would allow for a finished course affordable to the thousands of golfers who've been the bread-and-butter of the resort for over half a century.

Opened for its first full season last April, Stoatin Brae – Gaelic for "grand hill" – is a wonder to behold. Holes weave atop and below a long ridge that provides remarkable views of the Kalamazoo River Valley. Complementing the topography are thoughtful design elements across the course including unimpeded landing areas in front and around greens on long par 4s and greens on short par 3s that are fiercely protected by sprawling bunkers.

"I believe that we've built something very different ... and different than anything we've done before," Slawnik said of the design team. "We were entrusted with a very good piece of land and really tried to leave it alone as much as possible. Putting a golf course on that site will draw golfers to a really cool part of Southwest Michigan."

The property's treeless landscape and high elevation ensure the course plays

differently each day dependent on wind direction. Offsetting at least some of the difficulty are a wide variety of tee lengths ranging from 6,742 yards from the gold tees to 6,261 yards from the blacks and 4,943 yards from blues.

The Stoatin Brae journey begins from high atop the ridge, meant to energize players with a fast and unabated start. The 355-yard No. 1 serves up a wide-open fairway directed toward a huge, wide-open green. While intimidating in length, the 218-yard No. 2 is nowhere near as difficult as it sounds, as no bunkers rest in waiting to snatch errant tee shots.

Even the 435-yard third hole seems to apologize for its length by offering a tee shot landing area shared with the landing area of the 16th hole. So don't be afraid to wail away toward the right with your driver to set up a delicate approach shot to a small green protected on both sides by sand.

Following a long par 5 that places golfers smack dab in the middle of the course, make sure to visit the halfway house

continued on page 39



A Launch Monitor For The Rest Of Us

Several misconceptions exist when the average player looks into purchasing a launch monitor. For starters, they don't all cost as much as several mortgage payments. Additionally, you don't have to be a touring pro to get something out of owning a launch monitor.

The folks at FlightScope are out to prove that anyone can benefit from their

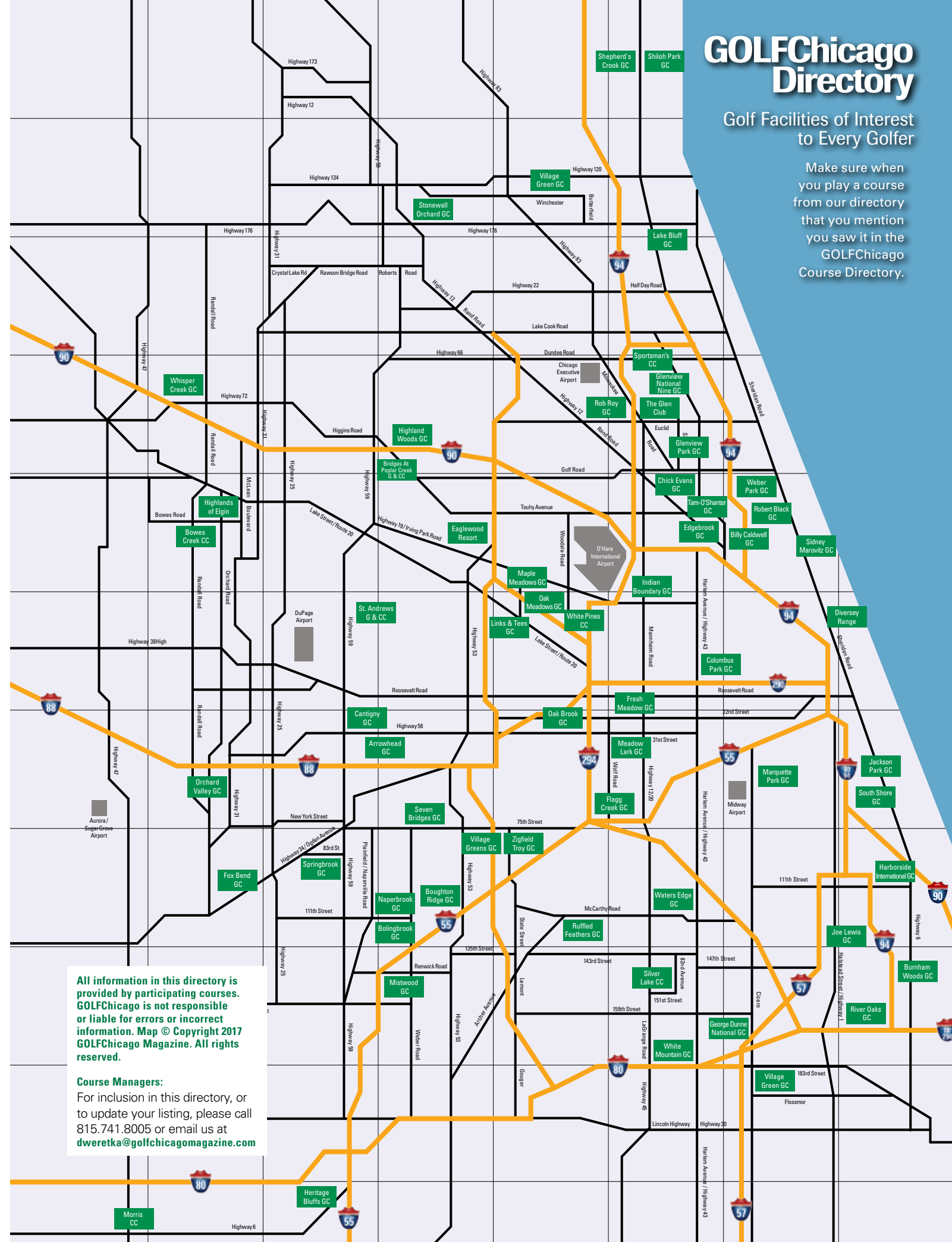
pocket-sized Mevo launch monitor. The Mevo unit sets up like many similar devices, on the ground and in the direction of your takeaway. The head tracking crunches numbers that will spit out your club head speed, ball speed, smash factor, launch angle, spin, carry yards, peak height, and flight time. In other words, this little unit packs a punch.

Mevo also offers three different modes; Indoor, Outdoor, and Chipping (shots under 50 yards). So how exactly do you access all of this juicy information? By downloading the Mevo app on your smartphone, of

course. Using the Mevo app allows you to track your data and understand which areas of your swing need some work. The data is also broken down by club, which comes in handy if you're in the market for new sticks and want to see what performs the best.

You are also able to record videos of your swing and draw lines for your spine angle, club angle, etc., the same things you'll see in a lesson with an instructor. I've always had an affinity for new technology around the game of golf and I can honestly say that the FlightScope Mevo is among the best products I've seen as far as what it delivers and what price it delivers it at. Quite possibly the best deal in golf at \$500.

Learn more at www.flightscopemevo.com.



GOLFChicago Directory

Golf Facilities of Interest to Every Golfer

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

All information in this directory is provided by participating courses. GOLFChicago is not responsible or liable for errors or incorrect information. Map © Copyright 2017 GOLFChicago Magazine. All rights reserved.
Course Managers:
For inclusion in this directory, or to update your listing, please call 815.741.8005 or email us at dweretka@golfchicagomagazine.com



Arrowhead
630-653-5800
26W151 Butterfield Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
arrowheadgolfclub.org
Arrowhead Golf Club is recognized for its beautifully maintained course and inviting atmosphere. Arrowhead is a public course which offers impeccable golfing conditions at affordable rates on three separate par 72 18-hole layouts surrounded by forest preserve. The West, East, and South Courses feature new bunker renovations and enhancements. The practice area includes a lighted driving range, putting green, and chipping green. Group and individual golf lessons are available.



Bolingbrook Golf Club
630-771-9400
2001 Rodeo Dr.
Bolingbrook, IL 60490
bolingbrookgolfclub.com
Bolingbrook Golf Club features a championship golf course designed by Arthur Hills and Steve Forrest, an exceptional practice facility with a learning academy, state-of-the-art GPS-equipped golf carts, and a 76,000 square-foot clubhouse with men's and women's locker rooms, lounges, two full-service restaurants, and full banquet facilities. Memberships are available. Bolingbrook Golf Club was named #28 in the 2010 *Golf World* Readers' Choice Awards for best public course in the country; named to the 2009 *Golfweek* Best Courses You Can Play list; and received 4½ stars from *Golf Digest*.



Bowes Creek Country Club
847-214-5880
1250 Bowes Creek Blvd.
Elgin, Illinois 60124
bowescreekcc.com
bowescreekcountryclub.com
Here at Bowes Creek Country Club, our patrons are not treated like an everyday customer. You can buy a membership for the year or you can pay to be a Member for a Day! Instead of standard green fees, we offer a daily membership. The Member for a Day Fee will allow you to play unlimited golf with cart, and allow you full use of the practice facility. There will be no limit to the amount of golf you can play that day because you are ... Member for that Day!



Cantigny Golf
630-668-8463
27w270 Mack Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60189
cantignygolf.com
Designed by Roger Packard, Cantigny is both challenging and breathtakingly scenic. Cantigny Golf's Red Oak Club loyalty program rewards customers with free golf and other benefits. The Young Executive Program offers reduced green fees for golfers 39 and under. The Red Oak Club and Young Executive Program are each free to join. Cantigny's 27 holes are ideal for outings ranging from 16 to 220 golfers. The course employs a full-time golf-event coordinator to ensure an exceptional experience for planners and guests. NEW for 2018: The Woodside Pavilion for weddings and golf outings!



Forest Preserve Golf Courses | Cook County
800-460-0010
forestpreservegolf.com
Affordable GOLF. Friendly SERVICE. Fantastic EXPERIENCE.
Forest Preserve Golf offers something for every golfer. PLUS ... save EVERY DAY with the FPG Golf and Rewards Card!
• Billy Caldwell: 9 Holes
• Burnham Woods: 18 Holes
• Chick Evans: 18 Holes
• Edgebrook: 18 Holes
• George Dunne National: 18 Holes
• Harry Semrow: Driving Range & Mini Golf
• Highland Woods: 18 Holes
• Indian Boundary: 18 Holes
• Joe Louis: 18 Holes
• Meadowlark: 9 Holes
• River Oaks: 18 Holes



Fox Bend Golf Course
630-554-3939
3516 Route 34
Oswego, IL 60543
www.foxbendgolfcourse.com
Fox Bend is Oswego's own welcoming and challenging public course. This 18-hole, par-72 course boasts lush fairways, mature trees, and challenging greens. With 34 well-positioned bunkers and water coming into play on 11 holes, the course tests skills of all levels. USFGA FootGolf is also available on select days. Enjoy a drink or dinner on the deck overlooking the scenic course at Pearce's restaurant, or book the Pavilion for your next outing or special event. Take advantage of tee time specials and book online.



The Glen Club
847-724-7272
2901 W. Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026
theglenclub.com
Chicago's finest semi-private golf experience. The Glen Club is a stunning Tom Fazio designed championship course located on the former site of the historic Glenview Naval Air Station. In the heart of a 195-acre refuge, The Glen Club features rolling terrain, dramatic elevation changes, tranquil lakes, and striking vistas. Enjoy the grand 48,000 square-foot clubhouse, superb dining, 21 overnight guest rooms, a grand ballroom, and the finest in corporate amenities and membership.



Glenview Park Golf Club
847-724-0250
Shermer Rd.
Glenview, IL 60025
golfglenview.com
Experience pure golfing enjoyment at the Glenview Park Golf Club. After a complete renovation in 2014-2015, the course has re-opened to rave reviews. Bent grass from tee to green, rolling fairways, and meticulous landscapes await you on this 18-hole, 6,133 yard par-70 course. The Glenview Park Golf Club offers the amenities of a private club, but is open to the public and close to home. *Golf Inc* magazine voted the Glenview Park Golf Club the Best Renovation of the Year in 2016. Come out to see what everyone is talking about. Host of the USGA - 2017 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Qualifier.



Chicago Park District Golf
312-245-0909
cpdgolf.com
Great Golf in the Heart of the City.
With six courses, three driving ranges, and two miniature golf courses, there's golf enjoyment for the whole family.
PLUS...save EVERY DAY, secure early tee time access and more with the CPD Players Advantage Card!
• Robert A. Black: 9 Holes
• Sydney R. Marovitz: 9 Holes
• Jackson Park: 18 Holes
• Columbus Park: 9 Holes
• Marquette Park: 9 Holes
• South Shore: 9 Holes
• Diversey Range
The only double-deck range in Chicago.



Green Meadows Golf Club
630-810-5330
18 W. 201 W. 63rd St.
Westmont, IL 60559
DuPageGolf.com
Green Meadows is a fun nine-hole gem that offers quality conditions in a traditional parkland setting. Featuring three par 4s and six par 3s, the Green Meadows layout is the perfect blend of challenge, enjoyment, and value for all skill levels!
Senior discounts are available every day, and DuPage Golf Discount Card Holders save on every round.
Look for Green Meadows behind the Westmont water tower on 63rd St.
Find our best specials and promotions only on www.DuPageGolf.com.



Maple Meadows Golf Club
630-616-8424
272 Addison Rd.
Wood Dale, IL 60191
DuPageGolf.com
Maple Meadow's Championship "West 18" features a modern prairie design, and is honored to be a qualifying site for the Illinois Open and the host course for the DuPage Junior Classic.
Choose from four sets of tees and enjoy immaculate bent grass fairways and greens.
Maple Meadows' convenient location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83.
Find our best specials and promotions only on www.DuPageGolf.com.



The Preserve at Oak Meadows
630-595-0071
900 N. Wood Dale Rd.
Addison, IL 60101
DuPageGolf.com
COMING THIS SUMMER – After two years of extensive renovation, the 288-acre The Preserve at Oak Meadows will reopen this summer as a new world-class 18-hole course and practice facility.
This transformation, designed by Golf Course Architect Greg Martin, took 27 flood prone, 1920s' era golf holes, and produced a 288-acre environmental haven that is best described as a "golf preserve."
The Preserve's convenient location features easy access from O'Hare, I-290, I-355, I-294, and Route 83.
For updates and previews visit DuPageGolf.com.



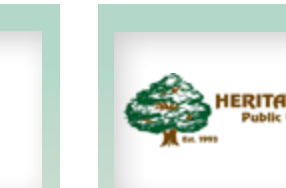
Glenview Prairie Club
847-657-1637
2800 W. Lake Ave.
Glenview, IL 60026
golfglenview.com
• Meticulous conditions like no other 9-hole course
• Affordable Rates.
• 4 sets of tees to meet all skill levels
• 90 minute pace of play for a quick 9
• Challenging, fun, and enjoyable for all.
After your round stop in for a cold beverage in our beautiful clubhouse setting overlooking the 9th green. Craft Beers, Fine Wines sport and soft drinks available.
Make Glenview Prairie Club your home club for a premier 9-hole experience!



Golf Center Des Plaines
847-803-GOLF
GolfCenterDesPlaines.com
9 Holes: Par 27
Yardage: 80 - 210
Chicagoland's only fully-lighted 9-hole course is open late year-round, and until midnight Fall-Fall. The 80-bay lighted & heated Driving Range is one of the Top 50 Ranges in the country: automatic ball tee-up, 300-yard outdoor landing area, plus 11 grass tees. The 1-1/2 acre Short Game Area features three sand bunkers and multiple putting greens; you can practice chip shots from up to 60 yards out. Unlimited Memberships are available for the Course and Short Game, and the Driving Range. Restaurant, Sports Bar, Pro Shop, and GolfTec Lessons.



Harborside International G.C.
312-782-7837
11001 S. Doty Ave. East
Chicago, IL 60628
harborsidegolf.com
Located just south of the loop in the City of Chicago, Harborside features two championship-style links courses designed by renowned architect Dick Nugent.
Harborside is home to Chicago's largest practice facility, a prairie-style clubhouse, and The Pier at Harborside restaurant.
Harborside's Port and Starboard courses rank annually among the Midwest's list of best courses you can play.



Heritage Bluffs Public Golf Club
815-467-7888
24355 W. Bluff Rd.
Channahon, IL. 60410
heritagebluffs.com
18 Holes: Par 72
Yardage: 5,035- 7,171
Located near the intersection of Interstates 80 and 55 just south of Joliet, Heritage Bluffs is the pride of the Channahon Park District. The tranquil surroundings make a day playing golf fun and relaxing.
Along with our award-winning course we also feature a large all-grass practice range along with a large putting green and a separate chipping green and bunker. After your round you can relax in our Grille Room or out on the patio, enjoying a full menu of delicious food and beverage choices.





The Highlands of Elgin

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



Lake Bluff Golf Club

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

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

The club hosted the 44th Annual Lake County Amateur.



Mistwood Golf Club

815-254-3333
1700 W. Renwick Rd.
Romeoville, IL 60446
mistwoodgc.com

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."



Mt. Prospect Golf Club

847-259-4200
600 See Gwun Ave.
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056
golfmtprospect.com

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

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



Springbrook Golf Course

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

Springbrook Golf Course commands some of the finest views of Naperville's open space and trails. The facility features a challenging, parkland-style championship course, a recently renovated practice facility with a one-acre turf practice tee, a large practice putting green, and two short-game practice greens with bunkers. Golfers of all skill levels return time and again to play. Enjoy post-game refreshments on the expansive patio with great views of the course. Springbrook also offers lessons, outings, a well-stocked golf shop, and more.



Stonewall Orchard

25675 West Highway 60
Grayslake, IL 60030
847-740-4890
stonewallorchard.com

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



Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course & Learning Center

6700 West Howard Street
Niles, IL 60714
847-965-2344
niles-parks.org

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

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

Instructional programming available year-round!



Water's Edge Golf Course

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

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

PLUS...a program for everyone!

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



Naperbrook Golf Course

630-378-4215
22204 W. 111th St./
Hassert Blvd.
Plainfield, IL 60585
golfnaperville.org

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



Orchard Valley Golf Course

630-907-0500
2411 W. Illinois Ave.
Aurora, IL 60506
orchardvalleygolf.com

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

PLUS...a program for everyone!

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



Rob Roy Golf Course

847-253-4544
505 E. Camp McDonald Rd.
Prospect Heights, IL 60070
robroygc.com

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

36 Holes:
Course #1: par 71, 5116-6920 yards
Course #2: par 72, 5341-6818 yards
Since 1926, golfers have sought out St. Andrews for its two championship courses. With its vast rolling terrain and mature trees, St. Andrews offers a high-quality golf experience for players, golf outings, leagues, and permanent tee-times. Guests will also enjoy the award-winning 32-acre Practice Center with premium range balls and 10 heated, sheltered hitting bays. Other amenities: golf carts with GPS, J.J.'s Bar & Grill, exquisite lakeside ceremony site, and live entertainment.



Weber Park Golf Course

847-674-1500, ext. 3600
skokieparks.org
9 Holes: Par 27
Yardage: 1,095

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



Whisper Creek Golf Course

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

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!



White Mountain Golf Park

9901 179th St.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
630-766-0304
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

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

East Course 18 Holes: Par 70
Yardage: 5,150 - 6,371
West Course 18 Holes: Par 72
Yardage: 5,751 - 6,624

Located minutes of O'Hare, White Pines feels like you are getting "away from it all."

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



Pros Beyond Golf

We are all familiar with the stereotype of a golf professional: bronzed skin, snazzy clothes, confidence of a fighter pilot and owner of a golf swing the rest of us mere mortals would kill for.

While the stereotype might fit on many levels, anyone who's spent even a few hours hanging around a clubhouse or at a practice range knows that a club pro's job can be shockingly complex. Many pros, for instance, have little time to hit balls or play on a regular basis due to the responsibilities of the job. Even as some pros play to scratch handicaps, others

focus their attention on running the pro shop, scheduling club events, meeting with vendors and managing their staffs.

If there is a single thread that unites virtually every golf professional in greater Chicago, it is a shared commitment to promote and grow the game both internally at the clubs they represent and externally through a wide variety of programs and events organized at golf courses, practice facilities and school gymnasiums across the metropolitan area.

One of the most remarkable youth programs anywhere in the country takes

place in the near northwest suburbs in Des Plaines. Originated in 1994, the Maryville Golf Academy has partnered with the section to introduce the game to children and adolescents from troubled families who grow up as far from golf, or any leisure-time activity, as can be.

"The entire concept of the program is to teach skills to kids so they can be productive members of society," said PGA professional Juan Espejo, director of the program.

Working from a cozy corner of the complex's gymnasium, Espejo has built a sophisticated practice facility complete with a Trackman swing monitor, practice green (made with state-of-the-art turf) and chipping area.

"We teach golf here," Espejo said, "but the message we convey while we're teaching golf is about values, life choices and respect for others. Isn't it amazing how closely the game of golf mirrors the game of life? There are rules that must be followed. And the job of enforcing the rules of conduct fall on the individual's conscience."

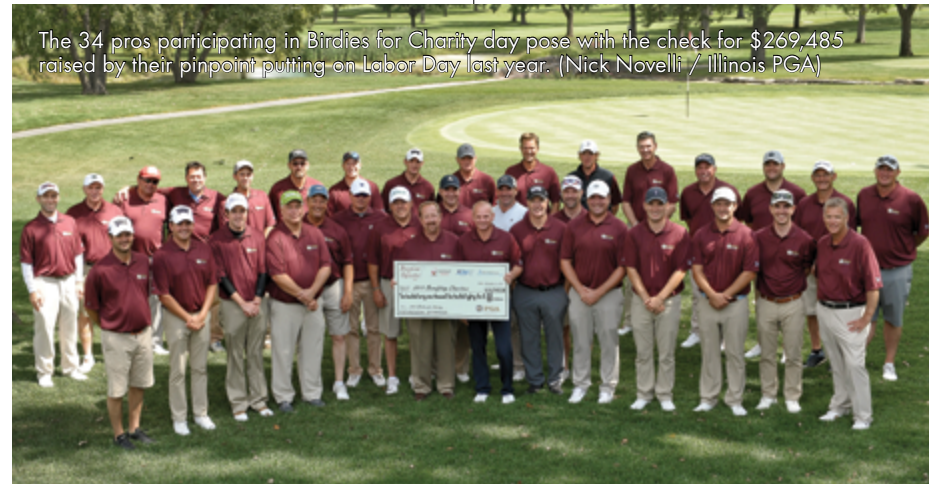
The Maryville Golf Academy program extends beyond just learning how to hit a golf ball. Espejo also teaches interested students how to caddy. Once trained, the caddies find work at a number of area country clubs. According to Greg Kunkel, caddiemaster at Sunset Ridge Country Club in Northfield, a number of Maryville caddies who spend summers working at the club will be under consideration for Evans scholarships in coming years.

"The caddies from Juan's program come to the club ready to work and many of them have top grades in school," Kunkel said.

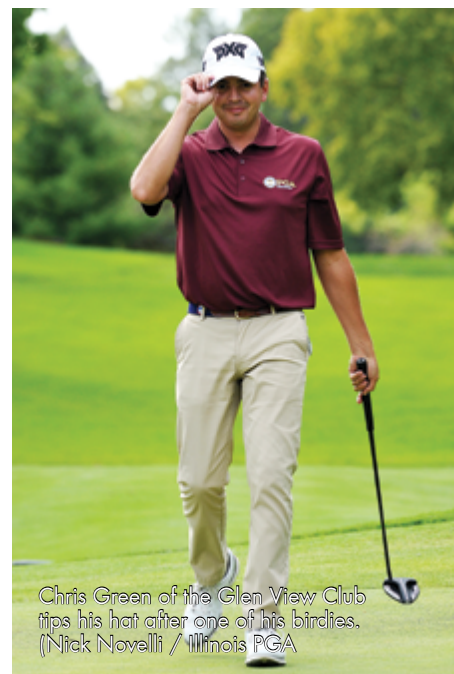
Across the city in the western suburb of Wheaton, a number of PGA professionals donate their time teaching golf as therapy to adults and juniors with disabilities. Patients from Marianjoy Hospital who suffer from strokes, spinal cord, brain injuries and neuromuscular disorders visit Cantigny Golf to assist in their recovery.

"Golf adds to the quality of life of disabled people," said Ed Stephenson, executive director of the DuPage County

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The 34 pros participating in Birdies for Charity day pose with the check for \$269,485 raised by their pinpoint putting on Labor Day last year. (Nick Novelli / Illinois PGA)



Chris Green of the Glen View Club tips his hat after one of his birdies. (Nick Novelli / Illinois PGA)



River Forest head professional Chris Gumbach after chipping in for a birdie in the Birdies for Charity day at his home club. (Nick Novelli / Illinois PGA)

Destinations

continued from page 31

prior to teeing off on No. 10 if for no other reason than to appreciate its architecture. Don't be embarrassed if you have trouble locating the small building as it is literally located within a berm. "We didn't think it was right to spoil the natural views across the entire property with a building," Scott said. "So we decided to make the snack shop as unobtrusive as possible."

The first three holes following the break serve up birdie possibilities. The 333-yard No. 10 offers an open tee shot landing area to a green protected on the right side by two bunkers. The 157-yard 11th hole is one of three short par 3s on the back nine. While three bunkers rest between the tee and green, the right side of the putting surface is wide open to provide a bail-out area. The 379-yard No. 12 is made significantly shorter by the open nature of the green which has no bunkers or water hazards to swallow up approach shots.

The 547-yard finishing hole is as challenging as it is scenic. While relatively flat, the hole is protected along the right side of the fairway by a sea of wildflowers planted by the previous owner of the apple orchard. Fairway bunkers and a massive bunker in front of the green place a premium on accuracy throughout the par 5.

Continue to enjoy the terrific views of the Kalamazoo River Valley following your round by grabbing a cold beverage and a sandwich at the Stoatin Brae's Blue Stem restaurant. Note that some of the items on the menu include traditional Scottish ingredients including leeks, cabbage and caraway seeds to incorporate the British Isle feel of the entire property.

"The best views of the valley can be enjoyed on the 19th hole," Johnson said. "We wanted our guests to enjoy the special Stoatin Brae experience from the moment they tee off until the moment they depart."

"We think," he added, "that while they're enjoying a craft beer or last bite of a sandwich, they'll be planning their next visit back to Stoatin Brae and Gull Lake View Golf Club & Resort."

IF YOU GO

Stoatin Brae, 15579 E. Augusta Dr., Augusta, Mich., is a 2 hour 37 minute drive from downtown Chicago. There are numerous hotels in the area, including the associated Gull Lake View Resort. For information: www.gulllakeview.com, (269) 220-3976.

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A Refined Definition Of A Golfer

Merriam-Webster defines golf as “an outdoor game in which a player using special clubs attempts to sink a ball with as few strokes as possible into each of the 9 or 18 successive holes on a course.” It defines golfer as “a person who plays golf.”

Scour the websites of the governing bodies and you will not find a definition of a golfer.

As someone who’s played or worked in the game for over 30 years, including a former career where I led junior golf development programs at The First Tee and the Chicago Public Schools, and who currently serves as a mentor to many close friends who are late adopters of the game, I find these definitions, or lack thereof, to be inadequate.

The general narrative in the industry over the past several years is that golf numbers are declining because it takes too much time, it’s too difficult, and it’s too expensive. These declining numbers aren’t good for anyone in the industry, so the governing bodies are promoting initiatives such as the PGA’s “Play Golf America” campaign and the USGA’s “Play 9” program in an attempt to expand the market. I’m purposely excluding The First Tee, which is separate from this issue.

The National Golf Foundation went so far as to expand their definition of what golf participation means. “Green-grass golf participation remains an essential measure of golf’s vitality, and we will continue to measure and report on it the way we always have,” NGF president and CEO Joe Beditz said in the report. “But we decided it was time to add off-course participation in order to track the dynamic growth we have seen there, and which we believe will continue.”

The NGF measures the health of the game from an economic perspective. They basically ask how many golfers were there and how much they spent in a given year.

Anyone who’s been to Topgolf understands why it’s in the NGF’s interest to add off-course participation to their annual report. Good for Topgolf and their patrons. I’ve got nothing against it. It’s a fun experience. But to label someone who comes to Topgolf once or twice a year a “golfer” is at best inaccurate, at worst disingenuous. Taking all these definitions as a whole, if you’re a living person who graces any golf establishment (course, driving range, simulator, Topgolf) with your presence and take a few swings, then you’re a golfer.

That story works for those perpetuating their narrative, but it doesn’t work for me. Golf is difficult. Golf takes a lot of time to play. While golf can be

expensive, there are affordable ways to gain access, as evidenced by programs led by the great local hero Juan Espejo of Maryville Golf Academy, or affordable rates offered at many courses in and around Chicagoland. For the long-term health of the game, I believe we cannot understate what it takes to become a golfer in its purest form. While it’s a difficult journey to become a golfer, once you’ve become one, playing the game becomes that much more gratifying. That’s the point! As the late, great Arnold Palmer said, “the most rewarding things you do in life are often the ones that look like they cannot be done.”

In the spirit of Arnie’s message and in response to a misguided approach that focuses on economics and participation numbers as key measurements of the health of the game, I’ve decided to create a new definition for those aspiring to become golfers the old-fashioned way, for those who understand that becoming a golfer requires time, effort, and commitment, for those who value the concept of delayed gratification. It has little to do with economics.

Becoming a golfer goes far beyond shooting low scores. Golfers understand the object of the game and play golf with that objective in mind at all times. Golfers understand how to balance focusing on their own game while also respecting their playing partners. Golfers prefer to walk. Golfers are honest with themselves about the limitations of their ability. Golfers don’t make excuses. Golfers are ready to go when it’s their turn.

My philosophy on the game has brought me to this definition of a golfer: One who is able to walk 18 holes of golf at the appropriate pace of play with a sustained mental focus on the object of the game, who understands and adheres to the basic rules and etiquette principles of the game, who comes to the golf course prepared with the appropriate golf equipment, attire, and additional materials required to play, and who competes with honesty, integrity, sound judgment, and sportsmanship.

It’s not easy to become a golfer. The great truths of golf that many in the industry are attempting to hide from in the interest of perpetuating their narrative are short sighted. Let’s accept these truths as integral to the greatness of the game and be honest with ourselves and those aspiring to become golfers. Let’s redefine what it means to be a golfer with a definition that has nothing to do with economics or participation numbers and everything to do with personal development and adherence to the values that make the game great.

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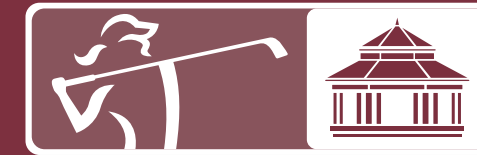
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