

GOLF PENNSYLVANIA GOLF NORTHEAST

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Spring 2014

Spring Golf At Last

Destination:

Spring Golf Comes to Jersey Shore
Atlantic City to Host ING

ShopRite LPGA Classic at Seaview

Watson Earns 2nd Masters Jacket
Spieth Shines

Pocono Courses See Changes at Top
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Spring Golf Comes to South Jersey Shore Atlantic City to Host ING Conference



Atlantic City CC Golf Course - Hole #15

By *Mike Kern*

There aren't a whole lot of golf courses that get me truly pumped just thinking about playing them. Atlantic City Country Club has always been one. Even back in the day when it was owned by the Fraser family, before the many recent alterations that have only made it better. There was something about the place that made me feel lucky to be standing on the first tee. I can't explain it. I simply know what I know. And nothing's changed over the years. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that it's always in immaculate shape. Or that the layout is timeless, even with the addition of some new holes.

It used to be private, so it really was a privilege. Then it became open to some public play. I usually got there once a year to play in the annual media day for Ron Jaworski's charity tournament. Which only proves it never hurts to have the right friends in the biz.

Anyway, the facility has just changed hands again, with the news that the historic venue (it opened in 1897) has been purchased by the very capable Ottinger Family Group — which also owns the highly-acclaimed Scotland Run Golf Club in Williamstown and Ballamor G.C. in Egg Harbor Township — from Caesars Entertainment Inc.

"We look forward to carrying on the long traditions of what makes this property one of the most revered courses in the country," said spokesperson Liz Norton-Scanga. "Atlantic City Country Club is truly a gem."

If you've never been to the course, which is situated in Northfield just across the bay from the casinos, then you really owe it to yourself to rectify that. Because it is everything Norton-Scanga says. And if you're a Total Rewards guest, as part of the Caesar's loyalty program you even have access to preferred tee times and discounted pricing with the three courses. The partnership also extends to the hotel side, with Caesar's being the official Atlantic City room provider for those layouts.

The par-70, which measures 6,577 yards with a rating of 72.3 and a 133 slope, is a seaside links. It was designed by John Reid but has had renovations by Willie Park Jr. in 1915, Howard Toomey and William Flynn a decade later and finally by Tom Doak in 1999.

But the signature remains just as it originally was, large sloping green complexes protected by deep bunkers. It features carries over natural marshland waste areas and strategically-placed water. Did we forget to mention the fescue? It's a challenge, especially if the wind is blowing, which is often the case at the South Jersey Shore. Some of the holes on the back nine are particularly indelible, as hazards really come into play as you proceed along the bay. The stretch from 13 to 16 is as good as it gets. It starts with a 550-yard par 5 with bad stuff to the left and right. Next is a short par 4 that doglegs sharply to the right, again with trouble all over the place. But you can have a birdie op with a well-placed drive. Then you get a long par 3 over water where you can't be long either. And that's followed by a 400-yarder that bends to the right with water all down the right side. AC also has two neat short par 3s, Nos. 4 and 12, where you can still make double bogey if you're not careful.



Atlantic City CC Golf Course Sky Line

But the course, as good as it is, is only one part of the AC experience. The clubhouse/dining room is not to be missed. The views are spectacular. You could almost make a day of it without ever hitting a ball and you wouldn't feel like you missed out. Well, at least not too much, because it overlooks the 10th tee and 18th green and that's simply too tempting.

Another great thing about AC? The people never fail to treat you like you're a lifelong member. And that kind of hospitality can go an awfully long way. And I dare you not to buy something with the famous bell logo on it. As the story goes, back in the early 1900s the bell used to ring to let golfers know the last trolley back to Atlantic City was about to leave. How's that for dropping a little knowledge on you?

Speaking of which, this is where the term "birdie" was coined 111 years ago. And apparently "eagle" as well, although no date for that is given. Sam Snead, Walter Hagen and Ben Hogan, among others, have played there. Bob Hope was a regular, first becoming acquainted with the club while working the vaudeville circuit. And Arnold Palmer frequented the place in the early 1950s when he was stationed nearby as an enlisted man in the Coast Guard.

It's hosted seven national championships: the 1901 U.S. Amateur, the 1948 Women's Open (won by the legendary Babe Zaharias), the 1965 Women's Open (won by Carol Mann), the 1967 Women's Senior Amateur, the 1975 Women's Open (won by Sandra Palmer), the inaugural PGA Seniors in 1980 (won by Don January) and most recently the 1997 Women's Mid-Am (won by Carol Semple Thompson). So the list of champions it's produced is impressive. And in 1911, ACCC head pro John McDermott at 19 became the youngest to win the U.S. Open (at Chicago G.C.), a record that still stands. The next year he repeated (at the Country Club of Buffalo). Never underestimate the value of history.

Whatever way you look at it, Atlantic City CC is like a step back in time. Never anything wrong with that. So by all means put it on your wish list the next time you're in the neighborhood. Or even if you're a short drive away. I'm sure it'll get your juices flowing too, if you've got a pulse and appreciate everything a round of golf should be about. And then some.

If ACCC was the only course down there, it would still be worth the effort. Fortunately for us consumers, the options extend well beyond that. Over the years I've made a lot of friends in those parts, and played a lot of great, fun golf. My family has vacationed in Strathmere and now Ocean City my entire life, and as my kids got older I made it a point to always pack the clubs when we went. Good for me. But living in Northeast Philly, I'm also close enough to just make a day of it here and there. Since I have relatives who call Wildwood home, I have a built-in excuse as well. I've never been disappointed, even on those days when my game deserted me. And as I get older, those days seem to occur more often. Funny how that works.

Anyway, the South Jersey shore has become a bona fide destination in the last decade or so, and is marketing itself as such. There's even been an influx of money from the state to help in that regard. And the fact that Jaworski has become an active player in all this now that he has a vested interest since buying Blue Heron Pines only adds to the possibilities.

As part of all that, the *Jersey Shore Golf* continued on page 13



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Karrie Webb 2013 Champion



Stockton Seaview Country Club Hole #9 Bay Course

By Mike Kern

GALLOWAY, NJ -- At 39, LPGA Hall of Famer Karrie Webb might still have a little bit of golf left in her.

Or maybe even a lot.

The Australian has already won twice this season, making her one of only two multiple winners (along with Anna Nordqvist) through the first 10 events on the schedule. And on May 30-June 1 she'll try to become the first to ever repeat at the ShopRite Classic, which she finally won last spring for the first time. With 41 career victories, she was third on the 2014 money list and fifth in the world rankings, the only one from her country in the Top 50.

"It's always been one of my favorite stops, so it's good to be defending champion," Webb, the fifth Hall of Famer to win this title, said at a recent media day at Stockton Seaview Hotel and Golf Club, where she lifted the trophy last year with a final-round comeback on the Bay Course. "I've always liked Donald Ross (designed) golf courses. I won (her second straight) U.S. Open at Pine Needles in North Carolina (in 2001). This tends not to play like a links course. It's a lot greener than they play over in the UK. But I've always played well on those courses as well (having won three British Opens). I like the challenge of trying to be creative.

"You have to realize that even if you only have a 100-yard shot to the green it's one of the hardest you'll ever have. There's a lot of crosswinds. It can make that 5-yard target seem like about 2 yards. And if you miss the green it's very challenging to get up and down. I made some great par saves (on Sunday). To see those putts go in felt really good. It's one of those courses where you can get away with part of your game not being great, but the rest has to be really good ...

"Last year I was actually in early, for an LPGA Board meeting, so I got to spend a little more time here than normal. I noticed that the wall has a list of champions. I've been here for a lot of those players' wins, but I didn't realize how many great players had won this tournament. I made a comment about it. I don't know if that was the inspiration I needed. I'd had some good Sunday rounds that put me into the Top 10, but never had a chance to win. So I enjoyed it very much. It would be great to be the first to go back-to-back."

You think?

Right now, it appears that she has no intention of backing off. She's too much of a competitor. How do you think she got to be who she is in the first place. Skill is certainly a big part of it. But that's not the only thing that separates the good from the greats.

"I don't know what life brings, but I thought if was still out here playing (at this age) I'd be out here because I was playing well," said Webb, the 1996 Rookie of the Year, three-time money winner, two-time Player of the Year and seven-time major winner. "I would have hoped so, but you never know how long (it'll last). Now, it's about having opportunities (to win). You don't always pull them out. But to me, finishing fifth when you have the opportunity is better than starting the (last) day in 30th. That's not a lot of motivation for me any more. That's what keeps me working hard."

She's certainly been around long enough to see the game evolve. And not always for the better. But once, she was a young star. These days she's trying to hold her own against the likes of teenage winners Lydia Ko and Lexi Thompson, who represent the future if not a large chunk of the present. That's given Webb a whole other perspective on where she's been, where she's at and where the rest of the journey

Stockton Seaview Country Club Clubhouse

might take her.

"It's probably more satisfying (now)," she acknowledged. "Obviously in the last 10 or 12 years the female maturation point is way younger than the guys. Lydia Ko just won for the third time on the LPGA, and she's 17. I can't even comprehend that. At 17 I was thinking about turning pro in a couple of years. I wasn't ready to play on the LPGA and win. Lydia was winning at 15. I think 17 and 20 is a huge growth (difference) in a young boy or girl. She's definitely not the norm, but they all come out and they're ready to go.

"I don't really look at their age as motivation to beat them. I like to win. Obviously my body doesn't feel as young as it used to, but I do a lot of things to hopefully not make it feel that way all the time. I've been on tour with the likes of Juli Inkster, who won four majors (after) she was (39). And I think Meg Mallon won the U.S. Open (for the second time in 2004). A lot of attention has been drawn to the younger generation, and it should. They're very talented. But I don't think age really changes who wins.

When I first came out, I came up in an era where working out was optional. And I took the option of not doing it. For me, just practicing and working on my game (was enough). I knew if I worked hard that I would get the results. That worked for a long time. But to keep healthy in this game, to progress as you get older, I had to change. I still work hard, but I have a (physical therapist) travel with me full-time now, just to make sure I can avoid as many injuries as possible, especially silly ones that might occur if someone's not paying attention. (I also use a) sports psychologist, all different things that I didn't do early. I always believed, don't leave a stone unturned. So I'm open to (anything)."

Whatever allows her to continue getting it done. Last year, part of her celebration included a short trip across the route 9 to McGettigan's 19th hole Tavern, a popular stop for the locals/fans. There's always a chance she'll get to buy drinks around once again. It could even become a new tradition. And why not? If nothing else, she knows what it takes when it matters most. Always has.

"If you'd asked me when I was 25 if I was taking my wins for granted, I would have told you I wasn't," said Webb, who carried the Olympic Torch on the eve of the 2000 Sydney Summer Games. "But looking back now, I definitely took what was going on in my life very much for granted, that it was always just going to happen. I try to enjoy the good golf more now. I probably should have done that when I was younger. But I might have rested on my laurels a lot more instead of just pushing."

Interesting observation, but hard to accept. It just doesn't seem like part of her DNA. Then, or now.

TAP-INS: Seaview is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year ... The purse is \$1.5 million ... The tourney will be televised on the Golf Channel ... Practice and Pro-Am rounds are free to all patrons ... ShopRite will offer Price Price Card holders two free daily grounds tickets by showing a valid card at the Main Admission Gate ... Children ages 17 and younger will be admitted free all week ... On Saturday and Sunday Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey members will receive free admission for two by showing their healthcare card ... Anyone who rents a car from Enterprise during that week will get a voucher for two free one-day grounds tickets ... Service personnel including fire, police and military will be admitted free all three days of championship play by showing proper credentials ... A Junior Golf Show will be held Saturday at 2:30 on the driving range ... The Philadelphia Section PGA will be providing complimentary golf lessons in the spectator village during tournament play ... Rothman Institute Orthopaedics will be providing injury prevention and stretching exercises to all patrons in the spectator village ... For a complete list of scheduled events, ticket information or sponsor/volunteer info, visit www.ShopRiteLPGAClassic.com or call 609-798-0222 .

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Watson Earns 2nd Masters Jacket

Youthful Spieth Ties for Second



Adam Scott presents Bubba Watson with his 2nd Masters Green Jacket in Three Years
Photo: Andrew Redington/Getty Images

By Mike Kern

Other than the fact that four-time winner Tiger Woods didn't play for the first time in two decades after undergoing back surgery and three-time champ Phil Mickelson missed the cut for the first time since 1997, the Masters will obviously be remembered most for Waffle House poster-boy Bubba Watson — who'd been having a heckuva season after going through one of those typical first-major hangovers in 2013 — getting his second green jacket in three years. That ties him in the wardrobe department with the likes of Byron Nelson, Ben Hogan, Tom Watson and Seve Ballesteros, which is pretty stout company. And at 35, there's every reason to believe the long-hitting feel-good story from the Florida panhandle might have another one or two of these in him before he's through.

Yet in the long run, folks might look back at this tournament and see it as the first near-major for the fellow who could be one of the game's next household names, 20-year-old Jordan Spieth, who tied for second, three back, with Jonas Blixt, who was trying to become the first Swede to win a men's major. Spieth of course was looking to become the youngest to win a Masters, and the youngest to win any major since 1931. He was also out to become only the second to win the Masters in his first try since 1935. Besides that, there wasn't much on the line.

"It felt like I fought hard," said the Dallas native, the only two-time U.S. Junior Amateur champion other than Tiger. "It could have been a different story. I made it a little easier (for Watson in the final round). I'm hungry. To be honest, it hurts right now. But in the beginning of the week, I wanted to be



Bubba Watson hits his second shot on 7th hole as caddy Ted Scott looks on during final round of 2014 Masters Tournament. Photo: David Cannon/Getty Images

in contention on the back nine on Sunday. That's what happened. I felt very comfortable out there.

"It was so much fun. Even if I didn't show it on the back nine. I was taking it all in. Standing ovations on every green. I can't wait to get back.

"I had adrenaline. I wasn't quite as patient (on Sunday) as I was the first three rounds. I was close. I know it can only improve from this."

You think?

As it was, he was the youngest to ever play in the final twosome of this major. He entered the last 18 holes tied with Watson at 5-under 211, after shooting 71-70-70 the first three days. He would close with a 72, but not before leading by two after seven holes, thanks in part to a birdie out of the front bunker on the par-3 fourth. But he would bogey the par-5 eighth after missing the green way right with his second. From there he hit a bad third and three-putted. Watson, meanwhile, was making birdie to tie. Then, at the par-4 ninth, Spieth missed the green short, the worst thing you can do there, and took another bogey. Rookie mistake? Perhaps. Watson birdied again, for another two-shot swing. And it was never the same, even though Spieth got one back at the par-4 10th when Watson bogeyed. Spieth, who would not make a bird on the final nine, made another faux pas at the tricky par-3 12th when he came up short once more and his ball rolled back into the water. He did manage to save bogey, but the damage was done. When nobody made a move, Watson was able to simply par the last five holes to get the kind of comfortable victory walk you can savor. In 2012 he had to make four straight birds on the final nine of regulation to force a playoff with 2010 British Open champion Louis Oosthuizen, which Watson won with a par on the second hole when he

Spieth at The Masters continued on page 9

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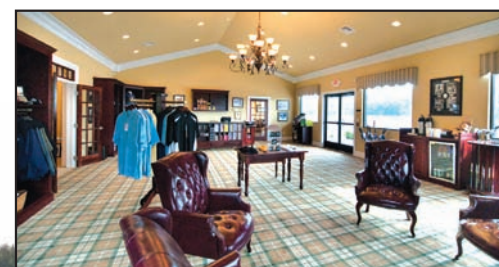
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Bubba Watson (right) greets Jordan Spieth (left) after winning the 2014 The Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club.

Photo: Jack Gruber-USA TODAY Sports



Jordan Spieth watches his tee shot on the 12th hole as Bubba Watson looks on during the final round of the 2014 Masters Tournament at Augusta

Photo: Andrew Redington/Getty Images

Spieth at The Masters from page 7

hooked a wedge some 150 yards onto the green from out of the woods.

For Spieth, history will have to wait.

“I feel like I’m ready to win,” he said. “It’s just a matter of time and maybe a little bit of course knowledge.”

In case you didn’t know it, Spieth has some serious connections to the Lehigh Valley. His parents both went to Saucon Valley High School. His father Shawn then played baseball at Lehigh, while his mother Chris played basketball across town at Moravian. His paternal grandparents still live in Bethlehem. His grandfather Donald Spieth, who played a round a few years ago with Jordan at Saucon Valley Country Club, was among the family members in Augusta for the tournament. So if you’re in that area you never know if maybe you’ll be lucky enough to have a Jordan sighting at some point.

Spieth was trying to do something that Jack Nicklaus, Ballesteros and Tiger had all done before him. In 1963, Nicklaus became the youngest Masters champ. Seventeen years later, Seve became the youngest. And 17 years after that, Tiger took the record lower. That was 17 years ago.

Interestingly, Migueul Angel Jiminez finished fourth, four back. At 50, he was trying to become the oldest to win a major. His third-round 66 was the low score for the week.

Spieth is already too old to become the youngest winner at a U.S. Open, which in June will return to Pinehurst (N.C.) No. 2. He also can’t do that at the British Open or PGA Championship. Yet chances are he’ll be a factor in all four of those majors over the course of his career.

“That was some incredible golf (Watson) played down the stretch to hold it together,” he said. “We’ve played a little together before, and I think we both have respect for each other. I was embracing (the atmosphere). I was looking forward to battling it out.

“We were walking down the fairway talking about anything. It’s just around round to us, and I felt that was going to help us both out and we approached it like that. We were messing with each other just like we always do. Our caddies are really close, so we were joking around about Michael (Greller) rooting for him and Teddy (Scott) rooting for me. It was a good time.”

There will be more ahead. Maybe even this summer. And he will have his moment. Time’s very much in his corner.



Jordan Spieth hits his tee shot on the 8th hole during the final round of the 2014 The Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club.

Photo Credit: Jack Gruber-USA TODAY Sports



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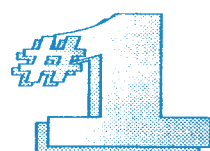
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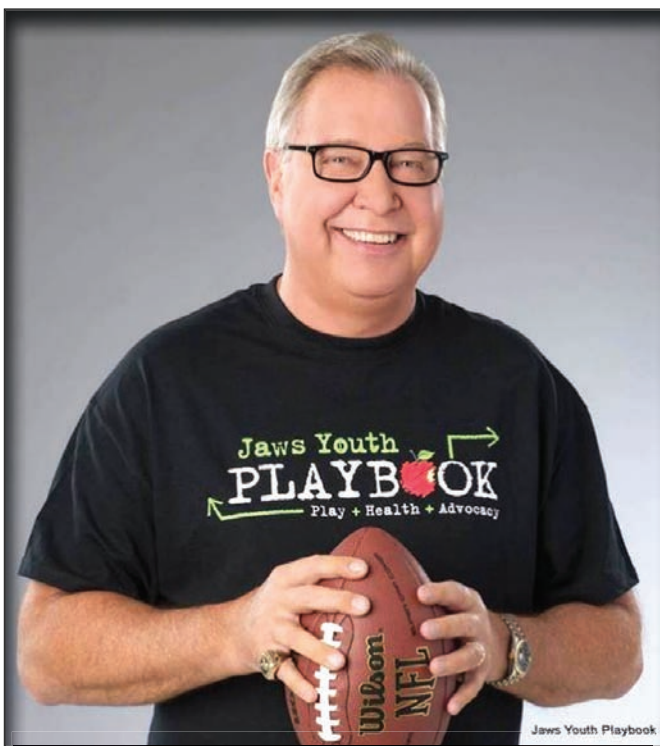
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30th Anniversary of the Ron Jaworski Celebrity Golf Challenge



Ron Jaworski Looks back at Jaws Youth Playbook

By Mike Kern

Has it really been three decades?

Sure has. And our region is obviously so much better off for it. This year will mark the 30th anniversary of the Ron Jaworski Celebrity Golf Challenge to benefit his foundation, Jaws Youth Playbook. The annual event takes place May 19-20 at Atlantic City Country Club, which has been its home for some time now. From humble beginnings, JYP (formerly known as the Jaws Youth Fund) has raised more than \$4 million for the mission statement to improve the overall health and wellness of at-risk youth in Greater Philadelphia. This is the crown jewel of those fundraising efforts. And that's where it all has to start, if you're talking about making a difference. It's a cause that the former Eagles quarterback/current ESPN analyst and his family members have been very passionate about since the inception of their partnership with the United Way of Camden County. More than 100 non-profit groups have been helped in providing services to children from the ages of 7-18.

"While we have experienced much success, there is much more than needs to be done to address the challenges," Jaworski said. "This is an issue of great importance to me personally."

Sometimes, it's about giving back to the community that's become your



Celebrities who attended the 2013 Celebrity Golf Challenge Left to Right: Dr. J, Herm Edwards, Michelle Wie, Ron Jaworski and Super Bowl 2013 MVP, Joe Flacco

home. Try to put a value on that.

As usual, Jaws has a stellar group of celebrities who'll be joining him to raise funds and awareness. The list is headed by 2013 Super Bowl MVP Joe Flacco, a South Jersey native, who's returning for the second straight year. Among the others who are scheduled to be on hand are Ottis Anderson (another Super Bowl MVP), Eagles longsnapper and budding magician Jon Dorenbos, 3-time NBA champion Gerald Henderson, former Birds' punter Sean Landetta, Vince Papale, Brian Propp, Mike Quick, Dave Schultz, Merrill Reese, new Phillies broadcaster Matt Stairs, Hollis Thomas, Tra Thomas, Keller Winslow Sr. and Garo Yepremian, who in case you're too young to remember was the Miami Dolphins kicker who made the most memorable play of the game that concluded his team's unbeaten season back in the early 1970s.

As you can see, Jaws has made a lot of friends through the years. And you can be part of it as well, while supporting something worthwhile. Golf and hospitality opportunities are available. Either call the tourney office at 856-848-4437 or visit www.jawscelebritygolf.com for more information.

Sunday's pairings party, presented by Ketel One vodka, will be held at Harrah's Casino Hotel. That will include a live auction and Bikini Golf Challenge. The Pro-Am is the following day across the bay, followed by an awards dinner immediately after the last putt drops.



Michael Vick (L) mingling with LPGA player Amanda Blumenherst (Center) as both were on hand at the Atlantic City C.C. to support the Jaws Youth Playbook.



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The Blue Heron Golf Club - Hole # 11

Jersey Shore Golf *from page 3*

International Network of Golf even is bringing its **annual spring conference** back to AC for the second time in early June. Never underestimate the kind of influence that exposure like that can provide, as more national leaders in the industry get another chance to see just what Atlantic City has to offer. Resorts, the original casino back in the late 1970s, will serve as the headquarters. And **ACCC, Blue Heron and Seaview** will host the golf and ever-popular Demo Lab. Hopefully will just add to the positive vibes that are being generated with the growth of the Greater Atlantic City Golf Association. I strongly recommend checking out the website for just about any kind of info that can steer you in all the right directions.

If you're a regular you probably have your favorites. I know I've got mine. In no particular order, here's a quick rundown once again. Because you can never really get enough of a good thing.

Since we've already mentioned Blue Heron, let's start there. When Jaws took over, it needed some work. And he had his folks go in and clean out all the stuff like knee-high grass that tended to slow down play without really doing anything to the aesthetics. Now it not only looks a whole lot better, it's more playable. And the difference is noticable. It was always a fun experience. But if anything it's only improved. It has a nice mix of long and short, and if you know anything about Jaws is that's he won't be associated with anything that's not first-class all the way. Never anything wrong with that. And coming from Philly, it's one of the closest courses you can reach. Nice incentive.

Speaking of close, The Vineyards at Renault Winery is also an easy get-to, right off the White Horse Pike (Route 30). In fact, you could probably play both in the same day. This is an Ed Shearon design, and it's terrific in a subtle kind of way, unlike his more dramatic Raven's Claw along Route 422 in the western Philly burbs. But for my money it's just as enticing. Shearon's also the guy who did the renovations at Whitmarsh Valley, so he obviously knows his work. There are some really neat holes, including a short par 4 with two fairways and a par 3 with water in front and a teeing area that keeps bending around to the left so it offers a wide variety of approach angles. And a green with a false front that'll drive you batty when your wedge comes up short. But that's all part of the whatever, and why we keep coming back even when we're ready to break everything but the old dependable 7-iron in half. Maybe the best part about Renault is when you're done you can have a great meal — and I do mean great, as in award-winning — and a tour of the winery. And the hotel is outstanding, if that's your thing. The folks who run the place know all about hospitality. And it shows.

Seaview has two courses, the Bay and the Pines. Both are outstanding. The Bay hosts the annual LPGA Shop-Rite Classic. Facing the bay, the greens are smaller and the wind obviously comes into the equation. Like on the second hole, a long par 4, where you can be hitting anything from an 8-iron to maybe a 5-wood depending on the conditions. And of course the next hole is a par 5 that sometimes plays shorter. All part of the charm. The Pines is totally different. They've removed a whole bunch of trees recently, which made it way better. But it can still eat your lunch is you can't handle the many doglegs. As I've found out, sometimes your best shot here is the chip out of the woods. But if



The Vineyards at Renault Winery Hole # 2

you're on your game it's not so overwhelming that you can't have a good time. And nobody needs to be clobbered over the head for an entire 18. Or 36, for that matter.

Shore Gate, in many ways, might be the toughest course down there. At least if you play it from the wrong set of tees. Yes, I've made that mistake and learned a hard lesson. Head pro Harry Bitner, who's been there from the beginning, is one of the really good guys, which doesn't hurt. He's got a real strong set of par 3s. And the finishing hole, a long par 4, can ruin many a solid rounds. So can the ninth, a par 5 with water all the way down the left side. The wet stuff comes into play early and often, so don't say you weren't warned. The second hole is a sharp dogleg left, where you have to decide how much to chew off. And even if you make the right call, the approach is hardly any bargain. The seventh is eerily similar, with wastland all the way down the right. Shot for shot, Shore Gate will test you as much as any place around. I wouldn't recommend trying it from the tips. But then again, I'm a bogey kind of guy at 56. All you can do is try.

I feel much the same way about Twisted Dune, which also happens to have a very user-friendly pro in Scott Dunn. Again, it can make a difference. This place was built to remind you of playing in Great Britian, and it succeeded. It's pretty much unlike anything else you'll find. Lots of that gorse stuff, if you stray offline. The greens are mostly big, and inviting. But if you miss you can pay the price. Water does come into play. It can be quirky in spots, but for anyone who's been across the pond, that's the name of the game. The closing stretch is particularly riveting. The 16th is a par 3 over a ravine, all carry, with bunkers guarding the green. You can make a big number in a hurry, but I've also had birdie chances. So there. That's followed by a par 4 with another forced carry on the second shot, uphill, to another well-protected putting surface. Really good stuff. And then you close with a mammoth straightaway par 4 that almost plays, at least for blokes like me, like a 41/2. I think I've been on the fringe once in two. And I felt really good about that, even playing from the moved-up tees. Twisted Dune can be a lot of things. None of them are boring. Trust me.

And then there's McCullough's Emerald Links, a place that's grown on me. I didn't think it was all that at first, but I've come to appreciate what they've done there. They've got one of my favorite short par 4s midway through the back side, a dogleg right through trees that is almost drivable for the truly big hitters. For normal folks you can have a half-wedge in. But I've seen

people make double bogey, too. The close of the front nine is daunting in a whole other way. The eighth is a par 4 where even a decent drive leaves you what could be a semi-blind approach. You can seriously do just about anything there, but if you make par you know you've earned it. And the ninth is a memorable par 3 over water of about 170 yards. Last time I was there I actually started on that hole (don't ask, I was catching up with a group and I was late because my vertigo was acting up). I wasn't sure taking the club back, but somehow it ended up OK, which is more than I can usually say. There's a couple of greens that'll leave you shaking your head due to their undulations, especially the first time you play them. But overall it's become my kind of place. And the fact that the award-winning Library III Steakhouse just relocated there is, well, a welcome upgrade. Did we mention the deck expansion? Can't wait to catch a sunset on it.

Remember, spring is a great time to hit the South Jersey shore. Particularly after the winter we had. But for me, any time works. Hope to see you there.



Shore Gate Hole # 12

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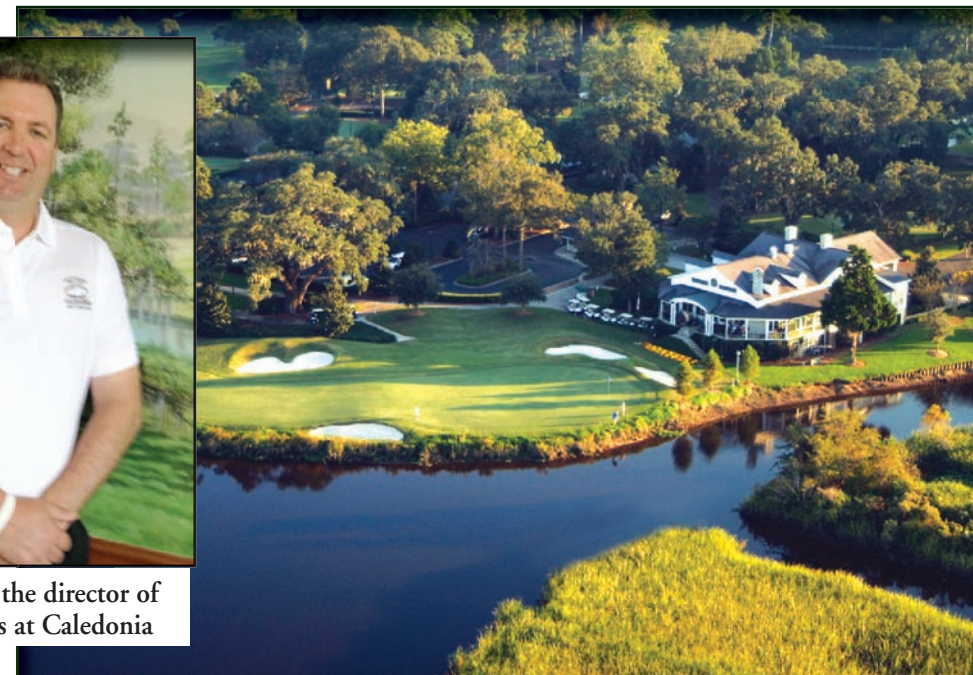
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It's Time to Admit to a 20-Year Love Affair... With Caledonia

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Bob Seganti is the director of golf operations at Caledonia



Caledonia Golf Course - designed by Mike Strantz Hole #6

Caledonia Golf Course Hole #18

By *Tony Leodora*

I can't hide it any more. I must make a public admission.

I have been conducting a 20-year affair with a temptress who has a large legion of other lovers.

How could I resist. Her beauty is beyond explanation. Her allure is sexy and seductive. She has given me an enormous amount of pleasure – for the last 20 years.

And also a fair share of frustration.

But I never get tired of the experience. The passion still burns bright.

My 20-year love affair is with Caledonia Golf and Fish Club – located at the south end of Myrtle Beach's Grand Strand.

It was love at first sight.

I first visited Caledonia just a couple of months after it opened, in January of 1994. The late Mike Strantz, had just finished work on the course – his first solo venture after a number of years working with the design team of acclaimed golf course architect Tom Fazio.

The creative artistry of Strantz had dominated many of Fazio's projects in the late '80s and early '90s – and it was quite evident at Caledonia.

Strantz painted a work of art on the landscape canvas that once was a bustling rice plantation at Caledonia. Amidst the abundant live oaks, draped with Spanish moss, and the scenic low country wetlands, Strantz seemed to concentrate as much on beauty as he did on strategic golf.

Walking the property with Strantz, and talking about his debut solo project, there was a lot of conversation about the merits of Caledonia. He pointed out some of the construction challenges, highlighted the design strengths and commented on the finishing touches – such as ornamental plants and flowers, wooden covered bridges, and the wrought-iron and brick overpasses that allow golfers to manipulate their way through the wetlands.

At one point, Strantz stopped dead in his tracks and gazed out at the impressive landscape. In a comment that seemed more inspired by genuine amazement, instead of a lack of humility, he said, "I think we've got something very special here."

The thousands of golfers who have visited Caledonia over the last 20 years agree. So do the golf course rating panels.

Caledonia has been rated in a number of Top 100 lists – including Golfweek's Top 100 Modern Courses, Golf Magazine's Top 100 You Can Play, and America's 100 Greatest Public Courses by Golf Digest.

Bob Seganti is the director of golf operations at Caledonia – as well as the neighboring sister-course at True Blue. He expanded his duties from True Blue, taking over both jobs after the death of longtime Caledonia Director of Golf and best friend Todd Welden last fall. Seganti is a native of the Philadelphia suburbs, but came to the Pawley's Island area in 1995. And never gave moving away a thought.

"I fell in love with the area right from the start," said Seganti. "And the same thing with the golf courses. Caledonia is just a classic beauty and just an outstanding rout. It's almost a floral garden, with all the feature trees and landscaping. True Blue is like its naughty sister. It is a challenging course that is loved by hardcore golfers."

For 20 years Caledonia has served as one of the leaders with regard to golf excellence in the Myrtle Beach area. People still regard it as the jewel of their annual golf trip. Even if they are staying on the northern end of the Grand Strand, the long drive to Caledonia, on the very southern end, is never too long.

"People never seem to tire of this golf course," Seganti reported. "They come early, they stay late. They sit on the rocking chairs on our back porch and watch the golfers trying to deal with our 18th hole."

While the 18th hole is one of the most memorable tests at Caledonia – because of the demanding tee shot and even tougher second shot to a green that is staunchly protected by water – it is only one in a memorable collection. It has been called "a collection of 18 signature holes." And it's hard to believe it has already been around for 20 years.

"We have a number of special things planned for this 20th anniversary year," said Seganti. "There are some specials we will be running, and some special events we are planning."

It is a year-long birthday celebration for a course that definitely deserves celebrating. And, after the latest rendezvous, there seems to be no reason to break up this 20-year love affair.

Tony Leodora is host of two award-winning shows: the GolfTalk Live radio show (www.golftalklive.net) and the Traveling Golfer television show (www.travelinggolfervideo.com).



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Pocono Golf Courses Will See a Lot of Changes at the Top of the Mountain.



Pocono Manor East Course 18th Hole

By John Zimich

Members and guests playing golf at several of the Pocono Mountain golf courses in 2014 will see a lot of new faces at the pro shops.

Also missing this season will be one of the golf courses that will give way to a new hotel and convention center along with an indoor water park.

Pocono Manor, which celebrated its 100 years of existence in 2012, has closed its West Course and sold some 150 acres to the Kalahari Corporation in Wisconsin. The latter is expected to open the new facilities sometime in 2015.

"Obviously, we won't have two golf courses to work with anymore," said Greg Wall, director of golf at Pocono Manor. "But I understand what our ownership is doing. It's going to be a good marriage between The Inn at Pocono Manor and Kalahari.

"I have a sense that good things are going to happen at our East Course and we'll be seeing a great deal of improvements in the future. I believe the East Course is going to become a jewel."

The historic East Course has played host to many of the pro golfing legends, including Art Wall Jr., Sam Snead and Arnold Palmer.

"We came through the long winter in pretty good shape," said Wall. "Last fall we addressed several areas and the course is looking good."

Wall has been at Pocono Manor for many years and has always promoted and grown the game of golf with the Greg Wall Golf School.

Chris Wegner is the new director of golf at **Great Bear Golf Club** that is affiliated with Shawnee on Delaware. He comes over from Hawk Pointe Golf and Country Club and Architect Country Club in New Jersey after also spending some time at the Lu Lu Country Club near Philadelphia.

"I'm really excited and look forward to working with the Shawnee golfing family," said Wegner.

Born and raised in New Jersey, Wegner's parents had a time share at Shawnee on Delaware and he's familiar with that part of the Poconos.

"Our goal is to increase our membership by bringing value to our members through great service, exclusivity and other amenities. The semi-private model can be very successful.

"We have one great golf course to promote. This is a signature Jack Nicklaus designed one. He was here every step of the way until completion.

"Our connection to Shawnee also is another plus. We have stay and play packages. One can now play two distinctive golf courses with two different experiences."

Wegner's teaching pros at Great Bear include veteran Vince Yanovitch, Kim Kleinle, who comes over from Pinecrest Lake Golf and Country Club, and Greg Kelly.



Pocono Farms Country Club

Great Bear, like Pocono Manor, also came through the harsh winter in great shape with no winter kill. Besides memberships it's open to the public, too.

Howie VanBuskirk, who really has paid his dues in the golfing industry, is the new head golf pro at the beautiful **Mountain Laurel Golf Club**. He goes to Mountain Laurel after serving as an assistant under Greg Wall at Pocono Manor since 2001.

"It's bittersweet leaving Greg," said VanBuskirk. "He's been like a father to me and I learned so much under him. I really paid attention and watched very closely how he got things done. I have always said I wouldn't leave him unless it was a home run job. And after seeing the property with a walk through with club manager Cathy Gower this is the place for me.

"Ironically, my wife, Mary, got the call when I was in China with one of our Pocono Manor members that the head pro job was opening at Mountain Laurel. Richard Conwell was only there for some two weeks when another similar position opened near his hometown in Pittsburgh. I'm excited and looking forward to working at Mountain Laurel."

After graduating from East Stroudsburg High School, VanBuskirk worked as a cart attendant at Fernwood and also was a member of the grounds crew before going to Pocono Manor.

Kyle Monahan is the new head pro at **Pocono Farms Country Club**, another of the topflight courses in the Poconos. The 31-year-old Monahan served as an assistant pro at the Country Club of Scranton for nine years and also has paid his dues.

The Wallenpaupack High School and Methodist College graduate has always been around golf since his father, Mark, is head golf pro at Honesdale Country Club.

"Golf has been in my blood," said the younger Monahan. "I'm certainly excited to be taking on a new role. Dad has been in the golf business for more than 30 years and I learned a lot from him and during my time at the Country Club of Scranton.

"Pocono Farms is a great golf course with its tree-lined fairways and great layout. My goal is to go the membership and provide first class services to our members and guests. The course is looking good and we came through the winter without any major issues."

Another pro shop change occurred when Kleinle left to take a teaching pro job at Great Bear. The new head pro at **Pinecrest Lake Golf and Country Club** is Anthony Santomauro, 39 years of age.

Santomauro was an assistant at Mount Airy for the past four years and prior to that had a four-year assistant at Buck Hill.

"I'm both excited and nervous to being the head pro at Pinecrest," said Santomauro. "I want to increase our memberships and provide a first-class service to the members. We have a great golf course to promote."

A graduate of Pocono Mountain East, Santomauro also graduated from the San Diego Golf Academy in California.

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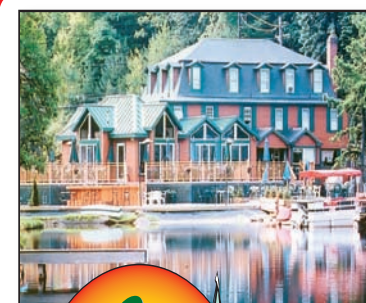
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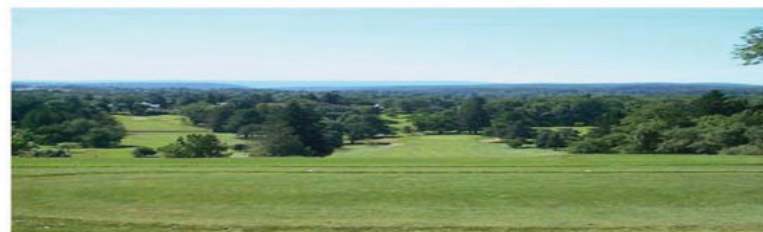
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TaylorMade, has become the driving force behind Hack Golf, a way to play that uses a 15-inch cup, which is nearly four times larger than the one we all know and curse.

PGA Tour players aren't the target for this new idea; it's meant for juniors and new golfers who have little golf experience.

By *MIKE KERN*

It's no secret that golf has a problem. Too many people are leaving the game. And not nearly enough new folks are replacing them. One of the biggest reasons — aside from the obvious cost and time factors — is the level of frustration a high-handicapper can often face. It's not easy out there, no matter how much technology can help.

In an effort to overcome that roadblock, Mark King, the CEO of TaylorMade, has become the driving force behind Hack Golf, a way to play that uses a 15-inch cup, which is nearly four times larger than the one we all know and curse. No word on what the USGA and/or R&A might think, but maybe it's a long overdue move in the proper direction for at least a portion of those who'd like to play more but need something like this to get them motivated.

On a post-Masters trip to Reynolds Plantation — a good-as-it-comes 117-hole facility halfway between Augusta and Atlanta which has a Ritz-Carlton and TaylorMade's east coast state-of-the-art Kingdom training/fitting center — a group of us were introduced to the concept. Sergio Garcia and Justin Rose were on hand for the program, as was PGA of America president Ted Bishop, who's a big supporter. Word is that PGA Tour Commissioner Tim Finchem is also interested in getting behind this, which certainly can't hurt.

It's pretty simple, really. While a purist might cringe, you play to bigger cups that are filled with sand. And it changes the way you play. I mean, you still have to hit the ball to get it near the green, but once you're there everything takes on a different whatever. Even when you're hitting an approach or chipping, you really are trying to make it. So maybe hole-in-ones are not such a once-in-a-lifetime thing. Ditto eagles. Hey, use your imagination. Suddenly, 10-footers become pretty much gimmes. And when you're looking at a 30-footer, it doesn't seem so much of a longshot. If nothing else, it keeps you interested, because you're never really out of it. That doesn't mean you still can't get frustrated. It's just another kind of exasperation, when you miss on the edge. But you can definitely hit your putts harder, since you're not so afraid of going too far past and making it a three-jack. Although I have to admit a few in our group did do that anyway. Hey, it happens. But if the ball finds the cup it will not bounce out no matter how fast it's rolling. You have to like that.

What it is is more fun. And this is coming from a guy who's pretty much a bogey kind of golfer now but still has his moments. It doesn't mean you're going to break the course record,

although Garcia said that after a slow start he shot 6-under on his nine. But the best Rose could do was 3, which he might have done regardless. It probably means you won't take as many doubles or dreaded others, which is always a good thing. At the very least, it creates possibilities. King isn't offering any promises, just the foresight that maybe it can have some kind of an impact. Bishop, who plans to implement it at certain times on one of the nines at his 27-hole course in Indiana, believes people have to be patient and open-minded to it. Which sounds like reasonable-enough advice.

"I think it's cool that we're at a point where we're not afraid to try some things," Bishop said. "Hopefully we'll keep some of those people with the intent that someday they do become (traditional) players."

First, of course, they have to be properly introduced without turning them off. Hence the intent.

King says that more than 100 courses around the country have already inquired about getting the cups. Supposedly the cost won't be a problem, and neither will the process of cutting them into the greens. The best use of the product would seem to be for outings and late-day alternatives. Did somebody say couples events? But if it becomes popular, who knows how many options there legitimately are?

"We're not going to recreate the game and replace the 4 1/2-inch cup," Bishop emphasized. "It's not for the core golfer. But there are other people playing the game for recreational purposes who could care less. If they're having a good time, they might not want to see the 4 1/2-inch hole again. And if that means that person is going to play four or five more rounds a year, that's good for me."

It might be especially enticing to junior and senior players. As Garcia said, it's like having a feeling of "I can make it!" And for those of us who've been there, is there any better feeling?

King, for one, doesn't have to be convinced.

"For too long we've had the same industry people looking at the same problems and coming up with the same solutions," he said. "It's time to open ourselves to new ideas."

"It's not meant to be disrespectful to the traditions. Like moving to the forward tees, it's meant to take away the intimidation factor."

As someone who has learned to gladly move up to those forward tees, I say why not give it a shot. It doesn't have to be for everyone. But it seems like all we've been hearing lately is gloom and doom when it comes to the future growth of the sport. The worst that can happen is it doesn't have the impact that maybe they'd hoped for. But unless they try, we'll never know.

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McNabb/Sheftic	67
Nevatt/Stewart	67
Figueroa/Maack	68
Kiddie/Clark	68
Maurer/Lynch	68
Gibbs/Williamson	69
Kogelman/Little	69
Mack/Allan	69
Dougherty/Hardin	70
Flesher/Bruns	70
Paukovits/Butkus	70
Cerven/Lansinger	71
Delich/Farrow	71
Hillier/Pine	71

TPD Championship

Waynesborough CC - Paoli, PA Par 71

Mark Summerville - Philadelphia CC	F	29
Mark Sheftic - Merion GC	F	26
Stu Ingraham - M Golf Range	F	24
Steve Swartz - Conestoga CC	F	24
Tommy Ellison - Brandywine CC	F	22
Dave Quinn - Links GC	F	22
Tony Perla - Radnor Valley CC	F	22
John Pillar - CC at Woodloch Springs	F	22
Dave McNabb - Applebrook GC	F	20
Dave Fields - Brookside CC	F	20
Eric Kennedy - Overbrook GC	F	20
Tyler Johnson - Talamore Country Club	F	20
Michael Little - Rolling Green GC	F	20
Terry Hertzog - CC of York	F	20
Bryan Kienke - Aronimink GC	F	19
Jeff Kiddie - Aronimink GC	F	18
Ryan Breidegam - Brookside CC	F	18
Jamie Komancheck - RiverCrest GC & Preserve	F	18
Brian Kelly - Bucknell GC	F	18
Kevin Nicholson - Makefield Highlands GC	F	18

Spring Meeting & Pro-Pro Scramble

DuPont CC- DuPont - Rockland, DE

Par 71

TEAM	Round 1	Total
Hennefer/Quinn		62
Edwards/Meyer		63
Brigham/Michaels		64
Maack/Kogelman		64
Guillebeau/Lennon		64
McNabb/Nye		65
Hall/Hall		65
Muldoon/Grossman		65
Carpus/Nuechterlein		65
Bisazza/Perla		66
Flesher/Sheftic		66
Appleget/Steinmetz		66
Cerven/Hillier		67
Pagett/Pine		67
Montafia/Thomas		67
Leeman/Swartz		67
Johnson/Surette		67
McNamee/Napoletano		67
Gray/Shuford		67
Debski/Driscoll		67
Kennedy/Kiddie		68

Spring Meeting & Pro-Pro Scramble

Fieldstone GC - Greenville, DE

Par 71

TEAM	Round 2	Total
Riegel/Solien		64
Maurer/Lynch		64
Farrow/DiMarco		64
Rackley/Summerville		65
Messinger/Doyle		65
Mills/Bewley		66
Cartwright/Gerney		66
Gibson/Harbold		66

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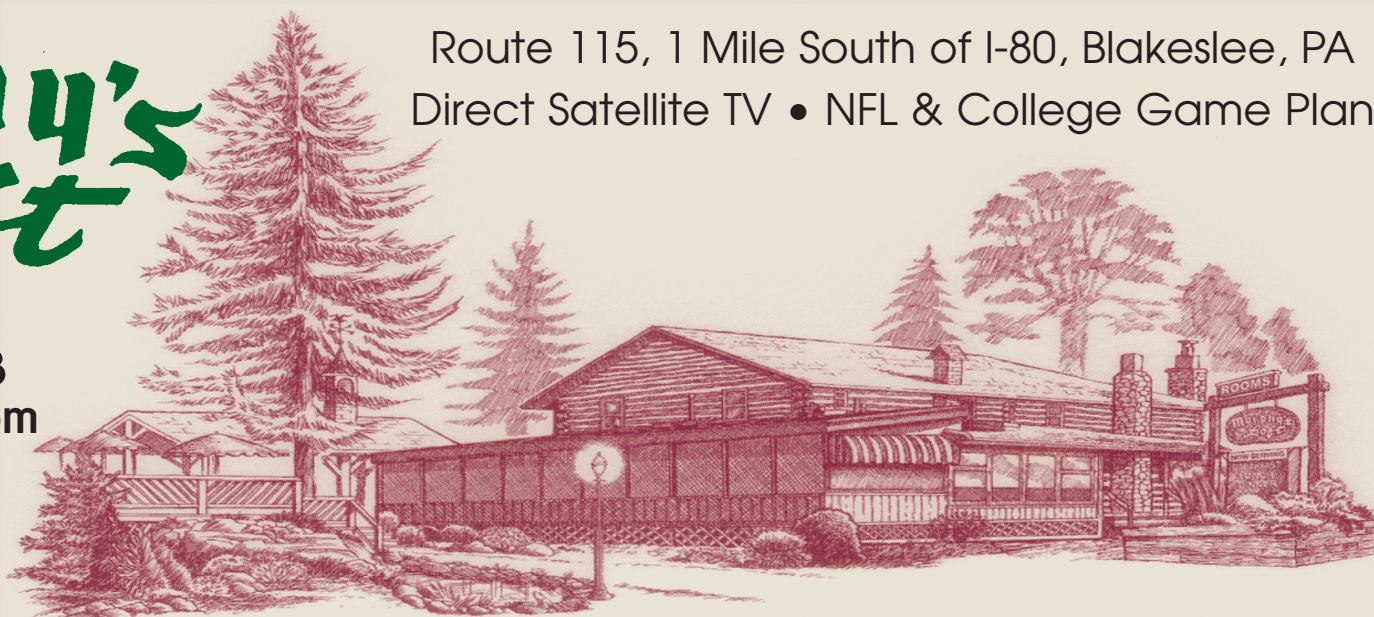
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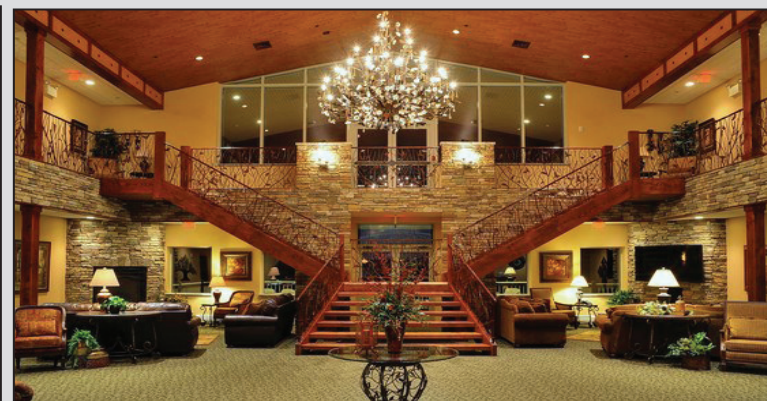


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Southmoore Pro-Am Southmoore GC, PA Par 72

LOW PRO

Terry Hatch – (Hidden Valley)	69
Jim Booros – (Philadelphia PGA)	73
Greg Meyer – (Woodstone)	74

LOW SENIOR PRO

Jim Muschlitz – (Southmoore)	74
Roger Stern – (Wedgewood)	74
Mark Monahan – (Honesdale)	77

LOW AMATEUR

Eric Williams – (Honesdale)	70
Craig Scott – (Huntington Valley)	71
Shane Gunning – (Bethlehem CC)	72

TEAM LOW GROSS

Southmoore – Jim Muschlitz-Kelly Kressler-Dave Opdyke-Mike Zambelli	62
Woodstone – Greg Meyer-Tom Barlock-Matt Fenstermaker-Chris Ortman	63

TEAM LOW NET

Southmoore – Billy Hallman-Justin Bedford-Kate Granahan-Rich Rudolph	57
(PGA) Jim Booros – Gordon Bennett-Steve Domitrowits-Dave Schindler	59
Hidden Valley – Terry Hatch-Bob Deitz-Fred Leshner-Scott Luisavage	59



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The Dave Pelz Short Game Clinics



By Tony Leodora

How many times have you received the advice – from instructors or advanced amateurs: The quickest way to lower your handicap is to practice the short game?

And how many times have you heeded the advice and actually did something about it?

Most probably, nothing was done.

Golfers will go to the driving range and hit balls (mostly banging drivers as a way of releasing aggression) until their hands hurt.

They will go to the putting green and devote hours throughout the season to putting – mostly repeating the same mistakes over and over again.

But, practice the art of pitching and chipping? Not often.

One of the reasons is that there are very few high-quality short game practice facilities available to the general public. The other reason is that most golfers don't know how to improve their short game. They have never found a simple technique that will help them eliminate the skulled pitch, the chunked lob wedge and – worst of all – the chip yips.

Now, both of the main reasons for a lack of short game improvement can be fixed with one move.

The Dave Pelz Short Game Clinics – the most highly regarded one-day comprehensive short game instruction sessions in the country – are coming to **Blue Bell Country Club, in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania.**

On **June 18 through 21** the Dave Pelz-trained team of short game experts will come to Blue Bell Country Club for a series of four one-day clinics. The clinics will focus on putting and wedge play.

To make things more amenable to providing a quick fix to short game woes, the clinics will be held on the four-acre short game practice facility at Blue Bell CC. This haven for short game practice was designed by acclaimed architect Ron Garl and was the first full short game practice facility in the Greater Philadelphia area. Over the past 15 years it has been



acclaimed as one of the best combined venues for short game improvement.

Although Blue Bell CC is a private country club, the clinics are open to anyone who pre-registers.

Pelz, advisor to many top Tour professionals, says, “How you play inside of 100 yards determines how you'll score. My staff will teach you the shots and skills you need to improve your handicap and, more importantly, the methods you need to continue improving.”

The student-to-teacher ratio at each Pelz clinic is 6-to-1, with a maximum class size of 12. Each six-hour clinic, taught by the Pelz-instructed staff, contains a three-hour putting session and a three-hour wedge session. Lunch is included between each session.

“If you want to lower your handicap, improving your short game and putting should be your biggest priority,” explains Pelz. “It's that simple. And Blue Bell CC is the best facility we have found in the Philadelphia area for these clinics.”

The fee for a one-day clinic is \$395 per student. Registration or more information is available at www.pelzgolf.com or by calling 1-800-735-9868.



Tony Leodora is host of two award-winning shows: the GolfTalk Live radio show (www.golftalklive.net) and the Traveling Golfer television show (www.travelinggolfervideo.com).

For more information about the Traveling Golfer show, contact TL Golf Services at 610-279-9220 or go to the website at www.travelinggolfervideo.com.

Traveling
Golfer

Williams & Stephens Capture AGA Ben Marshall Spring Fourball Tournament.



Elmhurst Country Club was the site of the opener of the 2014 Anthracite Golf Association tournament schedule, the Ben Marshall Spring Fourball

Moscow, PA - Elmhurst Country Club was the site of the opener of the 2014 Anthracite Golf Association tournament schedule, the Ben Marshall Spring Fourball. The event featured 80 golfers competing in open and senior divisions.

The team of Eric Williams and Wayne Stephens of Honesdale Golf Club combined for a 5-under par 67 to capture the Open title by three shots .

Finishing tied for second were the teams of Joe Weiscarger and Marty Behm of Wyoming Valley Country Club, and Matt Dougherty, Glenmaura National Golf Club and his partner Matt Sofanelli of Stonehedge Golf Club; both teams carding rounds of 70 on the day.

In the Senior Division, the teams of Tom Gauntlett and Chuck Brand and Carl Stackhouse and Matt Swanson fired solid one-under-par, 71 on an exceptionally cool and windy day to tie for that division's low score..

The Anthracite Golf Association would like to thank everyone who participated.

Top finishers will receive points for the Player of the Year which may qualify them for the year-end Challenge Cup. The top Senior finisher at the end of the season

will receive an invitation to compete in the Senior North-South Amateur in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

Tournament Results

Eric Williams & Wayne Stephens	35-32--67
Joe Weiscarger & Marty Behm	35-35--70
Matt Dougherty & Matt Solfanelli	35-35--70
Frank Osborne & John Zavada	36-35--71
Tim Hinton & Art Brunn Jr.	35-36--71
Mark Bartkowski & Mike Bartkowski	34-37--71
Ken Bolcavage & Curtis Haley	36-35--71
Don Manley & Ryan Manley	36-36--72
Stephen Hudacek & Chas Dennis	35-37--72
Christian Davis & Patrick Mitchell	35-39--74
Mike Peregrim & Robin Bonda	35-39--74
Jim Bedford & Nick Kochis	34-40--74

Senior Division

Chuck Brand & Tom Gauntlett	35-36--71
Carl Stackhouse & Matt Swanson	38-33--71
Bob Andrejko & Steve Mazur	36-36--72
Tom Powell & Tom McCormack Jr.	37-36--73
George Elias & Jim Breck	38-36--74
Barry Westington & Mark Occhipinti	36-38--74
Jeff Charnogursky & Tom Liford	38-37--75
Jerry Tonkin & Jim Berset	38-37--75
Ed Gregorczyk & John Peck	38-38--76
Bob Simons & Irv Williams	39-38--77
Joe Coleman & Len Coleman	39-38--77
Tom Miller & Michael Bryndzia	39-39--78

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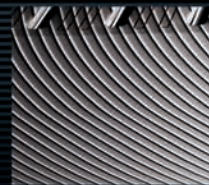
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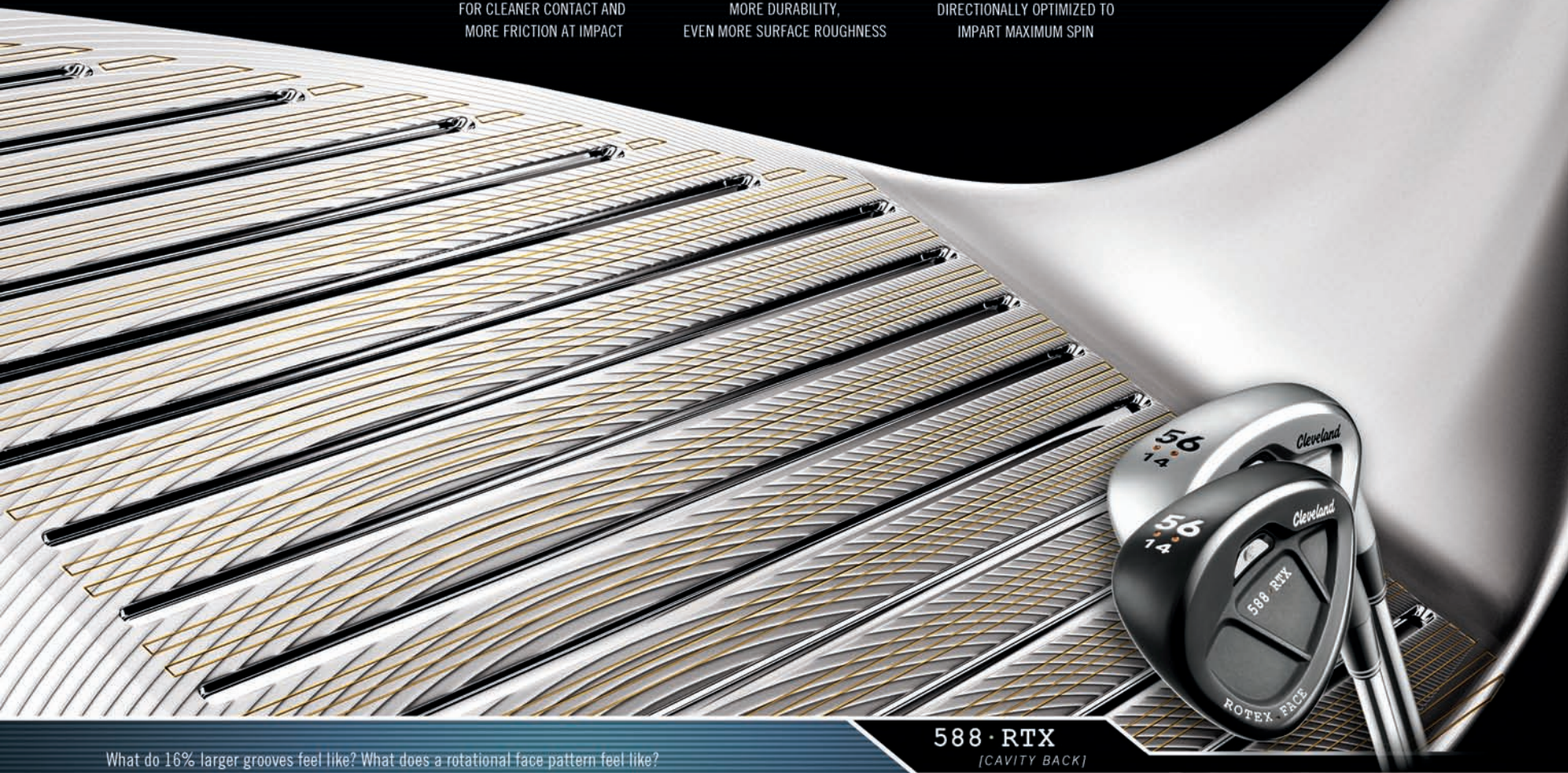


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