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Cover photo courtesy of Stuart Bendelow

# *Michigan Golf Architects:*

## Tom Bendelow — Golf's Johnny Appleseed

By Art McCafferty

**T**om Bendelow was a golf architect who impacted golf perhaps more than any golf architect in the United States. He was nicknamed the “Johnny Appleseed” of golf, due to the fact, that he designed at least 480 and, perhaps, as many as a 1000 courses during his lifespan. That would make him the most prolific golf course designer ever— designing more than Donald Ross, more than Jack Nicklaus and more than Robert Trent Jones. However, not many people are aware of his place in the history of the game.

According to his biographer and grandson, Stuart Bendelow, Tom Bendelow was born in

*Photos of Tom Bendelow, pp. 5 & 6  
courtesy of Stuart Bendelow*

Aberdeen, Scotland, on September 2, 1868, to John and Mary Edwards Bendelow. They were local merchants who operated the Bendelow Pie Shop. The young Bendelow began playing the game early in his life and became acquainted with many Scottish golfers who along, with himself, would later have an impact in designing American golf courses,

Bendelow came to America in 1892 and quickly caught on as a reporter for the *New York Herald*. He was a skilled newsman, having held a position at the Aberdeen Free Press in Scotland before he departed.

Bendelow's original forays into the golf design business were a series of two or three hole courses for wealthy and sports minded

American business men in New York, who were enamored with the sport and wanted to play it. He later designed a six-hole layout that provided the basis for the Nassau Country Club. That job was big enough job to draw the attention of others to his work.

“A major element of Bendelow's early golf architect days, was his association with A.G. Spalding and the Spalding Sporting Goods manufacturing company. He was involved in selling balls and clubs, offering instruction, organizing play and designing courses,” said Stuart Bendelow.

Tom Bendelow's “most notable early efforts, and the ones that really propelled him into national prominence were at Van Cortland





## **Notable North American Golf Courses Designed by Tom Bendelow**

**Olympia Fields CC (IL),**  
<http://www.olympiafieldscc.com>

**Medinah CC (IL),** <http://www.medinahcc.org>

**Alleghany CC (PA),** <http://thegolfcourses.net/golfcourses/PA/7833.htm>

**East Lake GC (GA),** <http://www.eastlakegolfclub.com>

**Jefferson Park GC (WA),** <http://www.jeffersonparkgolf.com>

**Dubsdread GC (FL),** <http://www.golftoday-magazine.com/0404Apr/Dubsdread.htm>

**Lake Shore CC (IL),** <http://thegolfcourses.net/golfcourses/IL/9443.htm>

**Big Foot CC (WI),** <http://thegolfcourses.net/golfcourses/WI/2501.htm>

**Tripoli CC (WI),** <http://thegolfcourses.net/golfcourses/WI/2612.htm>

**Dallas CC (TX),** <http://thegolfcourses.net/golfcourses/TX/3572.htm>

**South Shore CC (IL),** [http://cpdgolf.com/location\\_south\\_shore.html](http://cpdgolf.com/location_south_shore.html)

**Rosedale GC (Canada),** [http://www.golfontario.ca/features/top50\\_ratings.shtml](http://www.golfontario.ca/features/top50_ratings.shtml)

**Royal Ottawa GC (Canada),**  
[http://www.golfcourse.com/search/coursedtl\\_ga.cfm?source=GA&courseid=16930](http://www.golfcourse.com/search/coursedtl_ga.cfm?source=GA&courseid=16930)

Park, in the Bronx. Here he redesigned the existing nine holes, added a second nine, supervised the construction and maintenance of the course, directed play (including the introduction of reserved play 'tee'times), orga-

nized tournaments and players associations, and offered instruction. This was the country's first eighteen hole municipal golf course and something of a model for what Tom, and A.G. Spalding, felt should to be replicated across

the United States," said Stuart Bendelow.

Tom Bendelow, then began to work with A.G. Spalding in designing golf courses all over the U.S. He worked with municipal

## **Michigan Golf Courses Designed by Tom Bendelow**

**Albion GClb**  
**Huron Hills Golf Course**  
**Bay City CC**  
**Michigan CC**  
**Birmingham Golf Club**  
**Bloomfield Hills CC**  
**Charlotte CC**  
**Redford CC**  
**Wawonowin Golf Course**  
**Escanaba CC**  
**Flint CC**  
**Grand Beach CC**  
**Atlas Valley CC (Flint Golf Course)**  
**Spring Lake CC**  
**Grand Rapids Elks CC**  
**Highlands CC**  
**Mosanic CC**  
**Park System**  
**Hillsdale Golf & CC**  
**Portage Lake CC**  
**Golf Club**  
**Ella Sharp Park Golf Club**  
**Meadow Heights CC**  
**Big Course**  
**Kalamazoo CC - Short Course**  
**Riverside CC**  
**Manistee Golf & CC**

**New Hotel Course**  
**Mullet Lake Golf & CC**  
**Muskegan CC**  
**Niles Golf Club**  
**Plymouth Rark Golf Course**  
**Northport Point Golf and CC**  
**Owosso Golf Club**  
**Port Huron Golf and CC**  
**Stag Island Golf Club**  
**Gull Lake CC**  
**Red Run Golf Club**  
**Royal Oak Golf Club**  
**Saginaw CC**  
**South Haven Golf Club**  
**Traverse City Golf & CC**  
**White Lake Golf Course**  
**Duck Lake Golf Course**  
**Cascades Golf Course, Cascades Eighteen**  
**Cascades Golf Course, Executive Nine**  
**Green Ridge CC [nle]**  
**Highland Park GC**  
**Kalamazoo CC - Big Course**  
**Ludington Golf Club (Linclon Hills GC)**  
**Marshall CC [nle]**  
**Palisades Park Golf Club [nle]**  
**Rochester Golf Club**  
**Sharp Park GC**

parks and businessmen to provide basic golf course design instruction for courses which were, “inexpensive to build, easy to maintain and which would provide the maximum in playable rounds of golf,” said Bendelow.

Bendelow picked up an enormous amount of work around the Chicago area, which explains the many courses on the Western side of Lake Michigan. Most of the courses in Michigan at that time were built in areas where both boating and train traffic prevailed .

In researching a story a number of years ago for the Michigan Golfer, we discovered that Tom Bendelow actually designed Muskegon Country Club in 1911, not Donald Ross, as Ross claimed in his book, “Golf Has Never Failed Me”. As we continued to research golf architects, the name Tom Bendelow kept coming up.

In our continued quest, we con-

tacted both grandsons, and found Jack living in Montague, Michigan, and Stuart now retired and living at a Del Webb Community at Hilton Head.

Jack had the company of his famous grandfather for 11 years, before he died in 1936. He remembers his grandfather taking him down to fish off of the South Haven pier. He also remembers his grandfather’s summer home at the Palisades in Benton Harbor.

Jack was the golf professional at the Old Channel Trail and worked for Meriam Leeke for a great many years.

Stuart’s research had cooled down from a few years ago, but he still would like to publish a book.

“Well, I have been told that if I want to ‘set the record straight’ about Tom Bendelow, I should get his story into print. My intentions are to gather as much factual evi-

dence as I can to document his life, ideas, work and general contributions to the game of golf in America and then write his biography,” said Bendelow.

To that end, the *Michigan Golfer* has been proactive and put his name in front of a couple of publishers.

When I contacted Stuart Bendelow about Michigan courses, this is what he said, “Art, I currently have identified 55 courses that Tom Bendelow did in Michigan from 1898 to 1929; some no longer exist, some may have relocated and some may still be active. I have not been able to track down all the particulars on each course to date, still a work in progress.” MG

\*Note-Much of the material for this story was taken from an interview with Stuart Bendelow at <http://www.golfclubatlas.com/interview-bendelow.html> MG

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# Mississippi



**By Michael Patrick Shiels**

**M**ichigan golfers and gamers who frequent the state's casinos in Detroit, Traverse City, Mt. Pleasant, Manistee, Petoskey, St. Ignace, and Sault Ste. Marie, are in for an eye-opener if they visit Mississippi - which is now billing itself as "The South's Casino Capital."

*Photos courtesy of the Tunica Convention and Visitor Bureau (TCVB), [www.tunicamiss.com](http://www.tunicamiss.com)*

I visited the "Hospitality State" in late March and, as a well-traveled golfer who has seen his share of casinos as well, it was one hell of an eye-opener for me.

I confess to having a complete ignorance about Mississippi as a tourist destination before I flew to Jackson - the state's capital. My vision of Mississippi was mosquitoes, swamps and the threat of backwoods sheriff's deputies. And I guess I'd been hearing a

thing or two about Biloxi and gambling.

Well I didn't go to Biloxi on the visit in question, but rather I went to a place called Tunica: Tunica County and Historic Downtown Tunica, Mississippi.

Where?

Tunica, pronounced "Toon-eh-kuh."

# *Meanderings*



Okay, but, where?

Tunica is across the river from Arkansas, across the border from Tennessee, and a million miles ahead of Michigan. Logistically speaking, Tunica is 30 minutes south of Memphis, 300 miles southeast of St. Louis, 199 miles north of Jackson, 244 miles west of Huntsville, and 700 miles from Detroit. The Mississippi Delta, along “Old Man River,” is as flat as Olive Oyl, except for what is called the “Tunica Miracle” - nine casino

resorts that loom over the otherwise featureless landscape: Bally’s, Harrah’s, Hollywood, Sam’s Town, Fitzgerald’s, Gold Strike, Horseshoe, Sheraton, and Grand Casino.

In 1990, Tunica was the poorest county in the nation and had the highest unemployment rate in Mississippi. That year, the Mississippi legislature legalized gaming for counties along the Mighty Mississippi River. 14,202 slot machines and 465 table games later, 17,700 new jobs were creat-

ed in Tunica and the county budget grew from \$3.5 million to \$60.2 million. New schools, youth and family recreation facilities, an arena, a RiverPark museum, airport expansion, 30 miles of new roads, new residential developments, and library expansion are just a few of the benefits local residents enjoyed thanks to the \$3 billion invested in Tunica by the casino gaming industry.

What the residents and the visitors can now also enjoy are golf



opportunities as well.

Tunica National Golf and Tennis Club, Cottonwoods Golf Course, and River Bend Links are each moments away from the gaming tables by shuttle or your own car, and due to the treeless terrain, the glamour palaces are always in sight. River Bend Links, closest to Sam's Town, Hollywood and Harrah's - Casino Strip Resorts - enthusiastically embraces the gaming theme - the merchandise in its golf shop is displayed on authentic gaming tables - craps, black jack

and the big wheel. There's even a slot machine with its coin tray overflowing with golf balls. It's five sets of tees, from back to forward, are dubbed "Blackjack," "The Gambler," "High Roller," "Jokers Wild," and "Lady Luck."

Except for the ever-present ponds, a result of having to dig to create mounds from the flat land, River Bend Links embraces a traditional links style with sod-faced bunkers and striped marker poles. River Bend even went so far as to offer the "Strokesaver" yardage

guide "favoured" by so many of the United Kingdom's famous golf clubs. Former PGA of America President Gary Schall presides.

Cottonwoods Golf Course, my personal favorite of the three, is a Hale Irwin-design that does more than look traditional: it plays hard and fast with biscuit-brown fescue and square tees. I love to play the pitch-and-run, and the Cottonwoods design is wise to make it an option with the seemingly ever-present wind painting the open terrain. Three large lakes



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1986 Greg Parker  
1987 Hugh Royer  
1988 Chris DiMarco  
1989 David Sutherland  
1990 Craig Kanada  
1991 Phil Mickelson  
1992 Justin Leonard  
1993 Justin Leonard  
1994 Tiger Woods  
1995 Patrick Lee  
1996 Joel Kribel  
1997 Darryl Green  
1998 Michael Henderson  
1999 Steve Scott  
2000 Michael Kirk  
2001 Bubba Dickerson  
2002 John Klauk  
2003 Chris Botsford

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are present, but they are plainly visible and not as pesky as the 80 bunkers that dot and lurk. Stay and play golf packages at Grand Casino's Veranda Hotel can be had for as low as \$71.50 per-person and top-out at \$124.00.

Tunica National Golf and Tennis Club, basically "Tunica Municipal," is the newest of the bunch, and the most ambitious. A \$12-million, 20,000-square-foot clubhouse presents four indoor clay courts with plans to build an outdoor tennis facility in the works. Practice all you want on Tunica's 360-degree driving range and at the soon-to-open golf academy. The most startling thing about

Tunica National is the price: never more than \$55 for 18 holes with a cart. Former PGA Tour player Mark McCumber designed the golf course, and Bob Wolcott, who played on Tour for a number of years, is General Manager.

Understand that Tunica is growing, and while it does offer golf, tennis, river cruising on the Tunica Queen, antique and outlet shopping, clay shooting, and golf, gaming is the name of the game, but rest easy in the knowledge that gaming is where Tunica excels. The casinos are sparkling clean and jazzy with live entertainment in the Las Vegas-style - not like Michigan's dowdy and tattered downscale gaming

halls. Drinks are free and table limits as low as \$3 can be found. The dining options are thoughtful - from international gourmet elegance to southern casual. Comedy clubs, sports bars, jazz cafes, Jacuzzi rooms, swimming pools, delis, and toe-tapping bands are yours to choose from.

The proximity of Memphis, like Detroit a Northwest Airlines hub, makes air travel to Tunica easy, though a huge amount of Tunica's 15-million annual visitors arrive via car.

For more information, log on to [www.tunicamiss.com](http://www.tunicamiss.com) or phone 1-888-4Tunica. **MG**

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<http://michigangolfer.tv>

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Chuck Kocsis



# A Jewel Repolished

**By: Marc Van Soest**

**T**wenty years ago, *Golf Digest* published its annual list of the “Top 100 Places to Play.” Many readers were surprised to see a sleepy little mid-west town called Grand Haven sneak their local golf club into the

*Photo courtesy of Grand Haven GC: “The completion of a \$3 million clubhouse kicked off a revitalization of Grand Haven Golf Club”*

top 75 of the list. But, the Grand Haven locals knew what was hidden in the woods just West of US 31: a masterpiece of late 1950’s era golf course design. For the next ten years, the accolades continued as *Golf Digest* named Grand Haven Golf Club among its Top 50 Public Courses.

However, recent years have been unkind to the 6789 yard, W. Bruce Mathews design. The expansion of the Michigan golf industry in the late 90s seemed to

bypass Grand Haven in favor of high priced new construction. Green complexes and tee boxes deteriorated as new ownership took the club in a different direction. The focus was to make the course into what was successful at the time: manicured fairways carved out of towering pines.

What resulted was a course whose resources were simply stretched too thin. “Grass was planted in places where it simply won’t grow,” comments Todd



SPRING 2004

# Travelling Golfer

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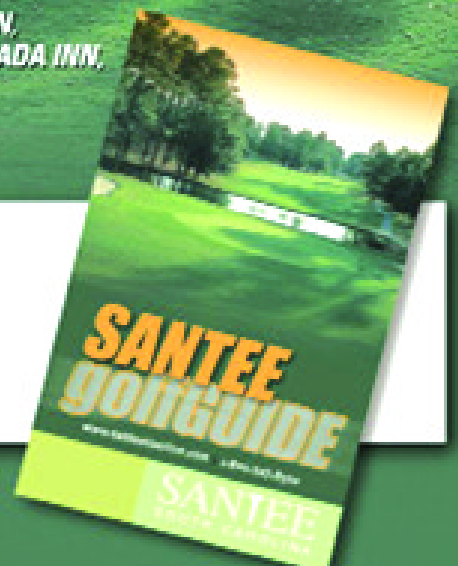
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An Oasis of Recreation





*The challenging par 5, number 3 stands as a testament to the original architecture at Grand Haven.  
Photo courtesy of Grand Haven GC.*

Pentrack, the newly appointed Director of Golf. Due to the close proximity of the property to Lake Michigan, Grand Haven sits on natural sand dunes. This makes greens keeping a challenge unless a solid base of topsoil was added during the initial phases of construction.

“We’re not a Northern Michigan golf course,” comments Pentrack “we can’t try to act like one.” This fresh attitude started in 1997 when the Stillwater, Oklahoma based Rooney Golf Group L.L.C. purchased the golf

course and surrounding property. As Pentrack explains, “on the property they saw a phenomenal golf course. All the things are there for a reawakening.”

The reawakening effort started immediately. Most evident to the public was the scrapping of the circa 1965 clubhouse in favor of a \$3 million state of the art clubhouse and kitchen/banquet facility. Pentrack sums up the Rooney philosophy on course ownership, “We want all of our customers to have a quality experience while they are with us.”

That ideal is not simply a dream out there to be realized at some distant time in the future. From the moment a golfer drives into the newly constructed, 300 spot, classic streetlight lit parking lot, until they finish their post-round cocktail, patrons of Grand Haven feel like they are members at a prestigious club. The staff is friendly and accommodating, the food: top notch, the course: of the highest quality. Yet, the greens fees top out at only \$62 for a weekend round during the peak season of May 28 - September 6.

“There are tons of golf courses out there,” comments Pentrack when asked to explain why Grand Haven will continue to improve, “not many of them are doing it right. We want to do it right.”

The course “does it right” from the first tee. A seemingly benign 426 yard par 4, the hole requires two well hit shots to a sharply back-to-front sloped green. The first green demonstrates that great care must be used on all approach shots at Grand Haven. Balls hit to the wrong side of the hole leave difficult sloping putts over shaped mounds.

ard. This addition, combined with old growth pine on the other side of fairway, significantly tightens any attempt to hit the green in two.

Along the length of ninth is another aspect or the Rooney model. Starting in the mid-400,000s, modern home sites are being developed to make Grand Haven more than just the “local golf course.” Three developments of this type are slowly popping up along the course, gradually shifting it into a golfing community.

The back nine includes a stretch of holes between number 12 and

ways are fair and the course plays at face value: what you see is what you get.

When asked what the future holds, Todd Pentrack gets an intense look in his eye, “We will get this golf course back to its Top 75 ranking.” Further improvements are planned for this season and next. But, the bulk of the work is being done behind the scenes, out of eye sight for patrons. “What we have is a gem in the right setting, it just needs to be polished a bit,” says Pentrack. With the continued backing of the Rooney Group, the formerly tired

## “Grand Haven locals knew what was hidden in the woods just West of US 31: a masterpiece of late 1950’s era golf course design.”

Continuing a stretch of excellent holes is the 550 yard, par 5, third hole. After negotiating a slight dogleg to a blind landing area, the golfer is left with challenging second shot or, tough lay up. Laying up on two of Grand Haven’s par fives is the only option. Due to the age of the course, dogleg’s require the golfer to execute three quality shots.

The newly reworked 493 yard, par 5, ninth hole is a testament to the Rooney group and their vision for Grand Haven. In a testament to the original architecture, the tee boxes and green have been untouched. The fairway has been narrowed to include a water haz-

ard. 17 that will challenge any golfer of any skill level. These holes require the low handicapper to work the ball more off the tee than the rest of the course yet, remain extremely playable for the shorter hitter.

While challenging, Grand Haven is not unattainable for the golfer new to the game. As another statement to the quality of the layout, long carries and low percentage shots do not exist. Balls hit short, but straight, will sit find the fairway. In contrast to newer construction which often requires long carries and accuracy within the boundaries of the fairway, there are no tricks here. The fair-

Grand Haven is going to reawaken, and soon.

*Editor’s Note: In the spring of 2001, we interviewed W. Bruce Matthews III, about his grandfather and namesake, W. Bruce Matthews. You can click on our video and learn out more about him.*

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show16/index.html>

*We also featured W. Bruce Matthews in the Michigan Golfer’s Spring 2004 issue.*  
<http://MICHIGANGOLFER.COM/spring04/spring0304-4.pdf> **MG**

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# The Ryder Cup Captains' Challenge

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By Art McCafferty

The Detroit Golf

Club is hosting the Ryder Cup Captains Challenge on September 15th.

Basically, members of the golfing community who had \$3500 left after payday could play a round with a former Ryder Cup Captain.

According to Lee Woodruff, COO of the DGC, "Jack Burke, Billy Casper, Dow Finsterwall, Raymond Floyd, Dave Stockton, Curtis Strange, Lanny Wadkins, Ben Crenshaw and Tom Kite have all signed on. "We have had no word yet on Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Tom Watson or Lee Trevino, but I am confident that if they commit we will be able to use them!" joked Woodruff.

The Detroit Golf Club has hosted Ryder Cup teams The Ryder



*The Detroit Golf Club*

Cup took a ten-year hiatus during the war. Still, teams were selected in hope that the war would end. In 1941, Bob Jones put together his Challengers team and challenged a Ryder Cup team that had been selected by the P.G.A. Their task was to keep the Ryder Cup name out there and also raise some money for the war effort. Bob Jones Challengers met at the Detroit Golf Club and defeated the P.G.A. Ryder Cup team 8 1/2 by 6 1/2. 18,000 spectators turned out for the two days of play and a substantial amount of money was

raised and given to the USO (United Service Organization.)

Some of the individuals who played in the match included, from the Bob Jones Challengers; Bob Jones, who captained the team, Craig Wood, Ben Hogan, Jimmy Demaret, Gene Sarazen and Ed Dudley. Playing for the P.G.A. Ryder Cup team were

Sam Snead, Bryon Nelson, Ralph Buldahl and Detroit Golf Club's own Horton Smith. Walter Hagen was also on hand as a non-playing honorary captain. *MG*

*Here to give us more information on the event and the course itself is Lee Woodruff, COO of the Detroit Golf Club.*

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2004shows/showdgc/index.html>





# Summer of Championship Golf Ahead

**By Kelly Hill**

If it's time to stow the clubs for a while in favor of watching the game as it is meant to be played, it must be summer in Michigan. The state is blessed with a PGA Tour event, two Champions Tour events, a four-legend, par-3 shootout which this year will feature the reigning Masters champion, one of the most active and best

organized PGA sections in the nation and a true promoter of amateur golf, the Golf Association of Michigan.

So take a short break from your game, find a little shade and watch some of the state's, nation's and world's best players compete around Michigan this summer. Here's a quick look at what you can expect.

## *Buick Open*

Scheduled for July 29 through Aug. 1, the state's only PGA Tour event is hosted by Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club in Grand Blanc. The tournament's purse has been increased to \$4 million this year, with the winner to take home \$720,000. Jim Furyk is the defending champion as, at 21-under for

the tournament, he edged Tiger Woods by two strokes last summer.

### ***Farmers Charity Classic***

Played on half of the Ridge and half of the Valley courses at Egypt Valley Country Club in Ada, this 54-hole Champions Tour event is scheduled for June 4-6, Doug Tewell is the defending champion in this \$1.6 million tournament which, for the first time, will feature the dominating game of Hale Irwin.

Tewell, who lives in Edmond, Okla., and Eamonn Darcy of Ireland finished 54 holes tied at 15-under. They then went three playoff holes before Tewell eventually won with a 14-foot birdie putt.

### ***Ford Senior Players Championship***

This \$2.5 million Champions Tour event is played at the TPC of Michigan, in Dearborn. Craig

Stadler is the defending champion. This year's tournament, and its many related festivities, are scheduled for July 5-11.

### ***Par-3 Shootout***

Reigning Masters champion Phil Mickelson will be among the four legends of the game who are scheduled to play in the annual two-day Par-3 Shootout at Treetops in Gaylord. It is slated



*Arnold Palmer, Fred Couples, Lee Trevino and Phil Mickelson compete at the 2002 Par-3 Shootout.  
Photo Courtesy of Treetops Resort.*

this year for June 28-29 which, unfortunately, conflicts with the first two rounds of the Michigan Open.

A year ago, two days after finishing tied for fourth in the U.S. Senior Open at Inverness Club in Toledo, Fuzzy Zoeller won the Par-3 Shootout. Zoeller won two holes worth \$100,000 apiece in the final round and finished with \$330,000. 2002 winner, Fred Couples finished with \$90,000, as did Lee Trevino, who was shut out in the final round. Mickelson, who was suffering from a sore neck last year, won \$30,000 in the tournament.

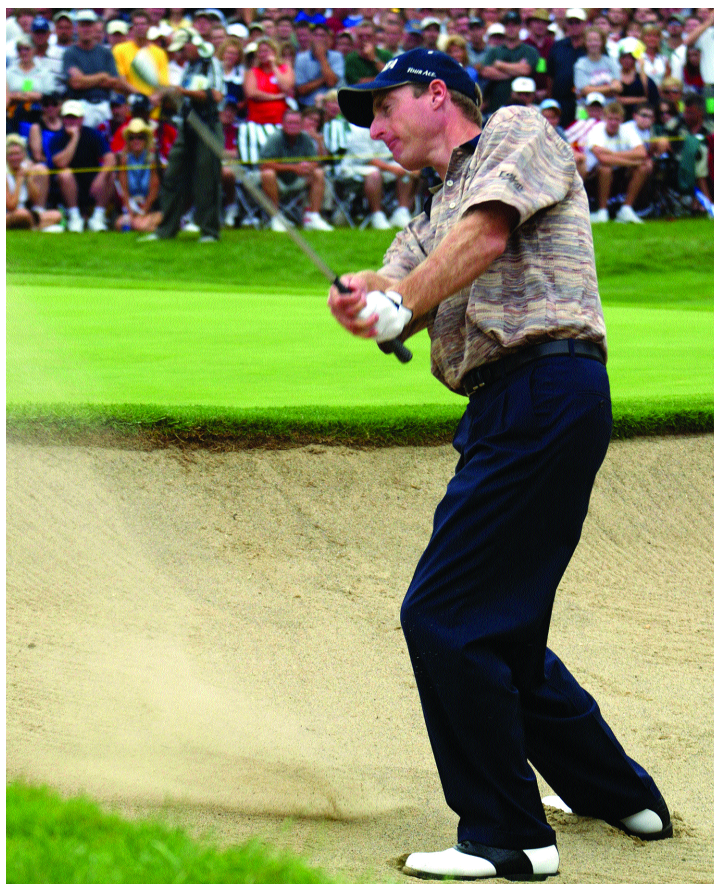
### *Michigan Open*

The Michigan PGA's crown jewel, played late each June on The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, is scheduled this year for June 28 through July 1.

Bob Ackerman of West Bloomfield won last year's Open, when he edged Bryan Snyder of Detroit Golf Club on the first hole of a playoff. The victory was Ackerman's second in the Michigan Open and made him the first player ever to win the Michigan Open and Michigan Senior Open in the same season. He won last year's Michigan Senior Open at Bedford Valley Golf Club in Battle Creek. Ackerman, who owns Bob Ackerman Golf Academy, won the 1975 Michigan Open as an amateur.

### *Michigan PGA Championship*

Shanty Creek in Bellaire is the site of this late-summer champi-



*Jim Furyk won the 2003 Buick Open.  
Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios.*



*Bob Ackerman won the Michigan Open in 2003 after having won the same tournament as an amateur in 1975. Photo by Art McCafferty.*

onship. It is slated this year for Aug. 23-25. One of the best players in the history of Michigan golf, J.R. Roth, is the defending champion.

Roth won his fourth Michigan PGA Championship last year, finishing the 54-hole event at 10-under, five strokes ahead of Robert Pillard and John Traub. Roth, who is the head pro at Knollwood Country Club in West Bloomfield, fired a 1-under 71 on the Cedar River course at Shanty Creek to claim the 10th Michigan major championship of his career.

### ***Tournament of Champions***

You have to have won something to even qualify for this Michigan PGA tournament scheduled this year for July 19-21 on the Alpine and Monument courses at Boyne Mountain.

Recent MSU graduate Stacy Snider, a Grandville native, surprised the field by becoming the first woman ever to win the event, which features pros, amateurs, men, women and juniors.

Playing in only her second tournament as a professional, Snider, who now lives in East Lansing, won the Michigan PGA's Tournament of Champions when she posted a 1-under 71 in the final round. Snider, a former Big Ten champion while at MSU and the 2000 women's state amateur champion, finished one stroke ahead of five-time Michigan Open Champion Scott



***Chris Botsford is the 2003 Western Amateur Champion.***

*Photo by Clarence Solmin/*

Hebert and former Michigan PGA and Open champion Jack Seltzer. She finished 9-under in the 54-hole event and collected the \$17,250 winner's share of the \$100,000 purse.

### ***Michigan Women's Open***

Snider finished fifth in last year's Michigan Women's Open, which was won by Breanne Hall of Kentwood in a playoff with Allison Fouch of Grand Rapids. Former LPGA star Elaine Crosby had won the event the two previ-



ous years. This year's tournament is scheduled for July 26-28 at Crystal Mountain.

### ***Michigan Amateur Championship***

A pair of West Michigan players squared off in last year's finale of the biggest amateur tournament in the state. Presented by the Golf Association of Michigan, the state's amateur championship will celebrate its 93rd playing this summer. It is slated for June 22-26 at Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club.

One of the most grueling events in golf, this tournament features two rounds of stroke play, after which the field is cut to the low 64. Two matches per day are then played, for three days, until the champion is crowned.

Colby Beckstrom of North Muskegon beat A.J. Balulis of Baldwin 5 and 3 in last year's championship match.

### ***Bay Mills Open***

The Bay Mills Open is one of the jewels of the Canadian Tour. Wild Bluff Golf Course at Bay Mills Casino and Resort hosts The Canadian Tour's Players Championship August 23-29 in Brimley, Michigan. High School sensation Michelle Wie almost made the cut in 2003. Defending champion Rodney Butcher took home a \$37,600 check.

### ***Western Amateur Championship***

Point O' Woods Golf and Country Club in Benton, Harbor, Michigan hosts the 102nd Western Amateur Championship July 28-August 1, 2004. Defending champion Chris Botsford is in the com-

pany of previous winners Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods, Tom Weiskopf and Justin Leonard.

Considered the "Masters" of amateur golf, the Western Amateur combines tradition with the competition of the nations' top amateurs. **MG**



***Stacy Snider is the first woman to win the Tournament of Champions.***  
*Photo by Kevin Frisch.*

# SLICE OF LIFE



**By Terry Moore**

**L**et's call this my "Slice of Ache" column. You see, for the past several months, I've been nursing a bad back. And just when I thought I was back to normal (OK, not mentally speaking), I incurred a setback (notice the insidious overuse of the word "back") this spring after a fairly mild session of spreading wood chips in my yard. But permit me to back-up and review some past events and information:

In late January as I worked extra hard to get ahead of office tasks and attend the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando free of worry and the wintry clutches of Michigan, I "strained" my lower back. How did I do it, you ask? No, I wasn't shoveling snow off of my roof. No, I wasn't a mugging victim by a deranged Judo expert. No, I didn't even try to move my Homer Simpson-endorsed Lazyboy with the built-in remote and commode closer to the TV set. Instead, I hurt my back by writing for too long in a bad posture at my computer. I'll address the bad posture (flash-back to grade school: "Sit up straight, Mr. Moore!") matter later but let me tell you first about Orlando.

I suffered in Orlando. Sure, the back pain was bad enough but having to do a "West Dakota" (WD in tournament parlance) on four rounds of Florida golf drove me up the wall. In fact, I flew home two days early after I realized no more golf was in the cards for me. And yes, Dad, I did attend the Merchandise Show. Best product for me: an innovative briefcase by Ogio with an ergonomically designed shoulder strap that lessen the pain on my back.

Once back home, I immediately went to see my most capable and knowledgeable physical therapist, Dan Distin. Dan is a real pro who has helped me (and others) tremendously in previous bad back episodes. Besides, Dan's a golfer so he could feel "my inner pain" after being shut out in Florida. Dan knows too that many golfers suffering back pain harbor many dark thoughts and doubts. Such as: "Will I ever be able to swing freely again and reach the OB stakes?"

Dan and his team of therapists diligently worked on me for several weeks. They also recommended a series of stretches and exercises to strengthen my abdomen and core trunk muscles—key body areas that support the back.

I also visited my family physician who'll go nameless for now in print. He's an excellent doctor with a good sense of humor and

with a special empathy for golfers. ("It's the end of the world for you golfers even if you can't play for one lousy week!") He prescribed and reinforced my extended therapy sessions with Distin while also prescribing an aggressive and sustained use of the pain reliever Ibuprofen. The good doctor explained that in the case of a sprained or strained lower back, it's imperative to lessen the inflammation. In so many words, he said it's often the inflammation that's the root cause of the pain. By dampening the inflammation, one can lower the discomfort and friction between the disks. Or something like that. (Hey, that's why he's not identified. No legal depositions will ever start here.) Suffice to say, the ibuprofen kicked in nicely and did its job.

So through the physical therapy, at-home exercises, and proper dosage of over-the-counter medication while faithfully minding my doctor's instructions, my lower back pain and tightness finally and thankfully subsided. This all occurred, however, over a three or four week period. At the end, I was singing spirituals in gratitude.

With my back on the mend, I even decided to join a "Yoga for Golfer's" class. The catalyst for this decision was a letter I read in The New York Times. It read in part: "As a yoga teacher, I work with students with chronic pain,

and more often than not, the source is clear as day: bad posture. Americans spend hours slumped behind the wheel and computer and stand with their feet turned out, pinching the sacrum; and of course many have an extra load to carry, contributing to the weakening of the back muscles..... Learning to stand and sit up straight is very important.”

So I enrolled in the five-week class which met on Saturdays for two hours. It was very worthwhile and I learned a great deal about the importance of stretching, balance and flexibility. I also learned I’m not as flexible as first thought. As I age, I now realize I

must step up my efforts to be more supple and flexible. It’s common sense for golfers to have a sound body and strong back, especially in the post-fifty era. I was in the grandstands last June at the U.S. Open at Olympia Fields when I witnessed Hale Irwin collapse in utter pain with back spasms. He had to withdraw from the Open and then later had to cancel his long-awaited appearance at the Farmer’s Charity Classic in Grand Rapids. And this happened to one of the best conditioned and seasoned Tour players around. I can now see why this Irwin quote, with its double-edged meaning, finds its way in a very fine book entitled “The

Golfer’s Book of Yoga” by Drew Greenland: “You can talk about strategy all you want, but what really matters is resiliency.”

Yes, resiliency and flexibility and pain-free are very good words. I’m doing my best to keep them in my vocabulary. Rest assured, I’ll bounce back from my recent dumb weekend of landscape labors. I won’t make that mistake next year. Next year, I’ll rely on another word, now in current public disfavor, that’ll guarantee me no back pain while my yard is handsomely strewn with cedar chips.

Outsourcing. *MG*

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## Michigan Golfer Television Show Interviews: Golf Course Architects

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### **Paul Albanese**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/show19/index.html>

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show22/index.html>

### **Steve Forrest**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2002shows/show19/index.html>

### **Ray Hearn**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/show21/index.html>

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show8/index.html>

### **Arthur Hills**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/show13/index.html>

### **Harley Hodge**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/show12/index.html>

### **Mike Husby**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2002shows/show6/index.html>

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show18/index.html>

### **Robert Trent Jones**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show19/index.html>

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show20/index.html>

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show21/index.html>

### **W. Bruce Matthews**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show16/index.html>

### **W. Bruce Matthews III**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show3/index.html>

### **William Newcomb**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show1/index.html>

### **Jack Nicklaus**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/the-bull/index.html>

### **Rick Robbins**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show33/index.html>

### **Charles Scott**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2001shows/show27/index.html>