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# Ten of the Toughest Golf Courses You Can Play

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SPRING 2003

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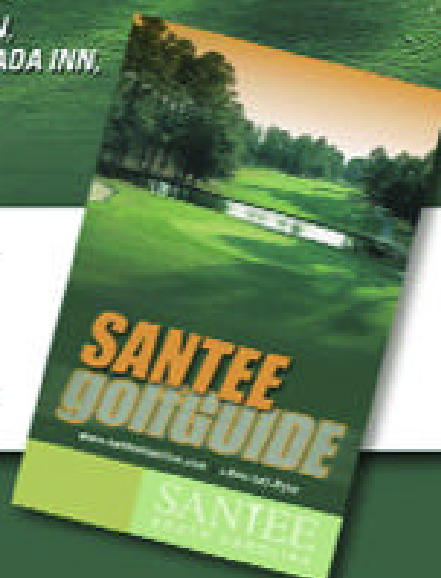
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## Tournaments

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The *Golf Channel* and *Michigan Golfer* covered this zany tournament for the first time this year. MG writer Craig Brass describes the wildest tournament since Alex Karras was roaming the fairways of Torrey Pines.

### Dick Weber Memorial Open, Michaywe GC, Gaylord

Dick Weber was, first of all, an absolutely wonderful person. Secondly, he was one of the masterminds in developing the Gaylord Golf Mecca. This is a tournament of love and respect for one of Michigan's finest golf ambassadors.

## Destinations

### Upper Peninsula Golf

The *Michigan Golfer* visits a number of the courses that are part of the Upper Peninsula Golf Association. Frank Guastella of Red Fox Run is our host for the show.

## "The Haig" Returns — A Series

### The Haig Visits Traverse City

The Haig, in town for "The Haig" Classic Golf Tournament, chats about the time he spent there and the many memories he has of the area. He visits Traverse City Country Club, Grand Traverse Heritage Center and Little Bo's.

### Walter Hagen Returns to Rochester, NY Walter Hagen and Oakland Hills CC

## Now Showing

### The Haig

- "The Haig", Vintage Club Golf Classic, Elmbrook GC, Traverse City
- The Haig Returns to Cadillac
- Walter Hagen and the Ryder Cup
- The Early Days

### Tournaments

- Western Amateur, Point O' Woods, Benton Harbor
- The Fifth Third Bank Michigan Women's Open, Crystal Mountain, 2003
- Detroit Newspapers Michigan Open, The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort, 2002 & 2003
- Bank of Ann Arbor FUTURES Golf Classic, Lake Forest GC, Ann Arbor
- The Bay Mills Open 2003 & 2002
- Arnold Palmer - ESPN Par 3 Shootout
- 2002 Michigan PGA Championship, Shanty Creek
- 2001 GAM Women's Senior Amateur Championship

## Destinations

- Traverse City
- Trumbull County, Niles, Ohio
- Mississippi Golf
- Golfing Ontario
- Sandhills, North Carolina Golf

## Courses, Personalities

- Dave Pelz Opens Short Game School at Homestead
- Indiana Golf Hall of Fame
- Michigan Golf Hall Of Fame
- The Caddies of French Lick
- Grand Geneva Resort and Spa, Wisconsin
- The Bull at Pinehurst Farms - Wisconsin
- Timberstone Golf Course
- The Preserve Golf Course
- Pheasant Run's Newest Nine
- Craig Brass - How to Quit Golf
- Michaywe Pines Golf Course
- The Natural GC at Beaver Creek Resort
- A Tour of Wild Bluff Golf Course
- Quail Chase Golf Club, Louisville, KY
- The Tribute
- Wild Bluff Junior Golf Academy
- The Ryder Cup According to Jack Berry
- Jack Berry Discusses the Majors
- Jack Berry & Detroit Golf

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- An Interview with Dave Richards & Ray Hearn
- A Michigan Golf Architect Family: Harley and Greg Hodges
- Ray Hearn and Paul Albanese
- Robert Trent Jones on Treetops
- Mike Husby: Designing Golf Courses
- An Interview with Ray Hearn
- An Interview with W. Bruce Matthews III
- An Interview with William Newcomb

## Upcoming Shows

### The Golf Architects — A Series

#### Arthur Hills / Steve Forest & Associates

#### Oakland Hills CC, Birmingham

How do you toughen up a course that is about to host a Ryder Cup? Bill Shelton asks that question and more as Art Hills and Steve Forrest discuss Michigan's most legendary course.

#### Fieldstone GC, Auburn Hills

This is one of the great ones in Michigan and it is just coming into its own. Our cameras capture the magic of the course and check out the plans for the new clubhouse.

#### Pheasant Run GC, Canton

Pheasant Run GC is a 27 hole golf community that is the pride of Canton Township.

#### Mike Husby's Loon Golf Course

Mike Husby, architect of The Loon, also has designed Marsh Ridge, Wild Bluff GC, Newberry GC and Indian Lake GC. The Loon is one of the Gaylord Golf Mecca's top courses.

#### The Bear and the Bull

Jack Nicklaus takes us on a tour of his newest course, The Bull at Pinehurst Farms. Owners Dave and Brenda Bachman tour with Jack as he reveals another one of his gems.



Jeff Daniels'  
Comedy Golf Jam

Photo by Carter Sheffline / Frog Prince Studios

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<http://michigangolfer.com>

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ABOUTTHE COVER: Bay Harbor, photo by Dave Richards Golf Photography

# Guest Editor: Jon Maddern



By Jon D. Maddern, CGCS

There has been a lot written and said about technology in golf lately. Especially concerning clubs and balls. Well have you sat back and

thought about the technology that has taken place on the golf course?

Have we forgotten the innovation and emergence of "the soft spike" or the politically correct non-metal spike? "It is just a fad, it won't last, it is too dangerous," were the comments being made, but the bottom line was it made a huge difference in the conditions and maintenance of the most important asset on a golf course and that is the greens. Smooth, true, fast-putting surfaces could be presented to all golfers and maintained. Clubs went to banning metal spikes in a hurry and the industry forced shoe manufactures to switch. Now with these improved conditions if we can get everyone to fix their ball marks what a great game we would have.

The demand used to be having great greens, level grass tees and good fairways. Now we are cutting fairways at what tee heights used to be and some are so low they are at what greens used to be cut at. The quality and vigor of turf in fairways today was unthinkable 15 years ago. To think you would be mowing your fairways with reels used on greens; had you suggested it 20 years ago you would have been considered nuts. Today that is standard.

Having bentgrass fairways for public golf was unheard of not that many years ago. That was only for the country clubs. No one would pay the greens fees needed to have

a course with maintained bentgrass fairways. There were very few bentgrass varieties available; now we have so many it is hard to keep up. All with their own set of positives and negatives. New ones are bred to be cut very low and to give fast putting surfaces, and most courses are built with these grasses used.

And each course competing against its neighbor or up-north versus the metro area for quality of golf course to be played. No such thing existed 20 years ago. A lot of this is due to technology and research,

were run by mechanical clocks that were pretty accurate. Today, with close spacing of sprinkler heads, you get water exactly where it is needed and running with the best of computer programs allow superintendents to get the maximum performance of not only the sprinklers but the pump station. Energy is conserved water kept at levels not even thought of 15 years ago. Today technology has given us the ability to run a sprinkler based on exact timing of a revolution. All of this has improving conditions of turf because the days of single-row

sprinklers are gone. Now we use three rows or more to cover all critical areas in play to give golfers the best turf conditions and playing surface for the maximum enjoyment.

So these are just a few other changes that have taken place when it comes to technology and its effect on golf. Most of what I have discussed here could be added to the argument concerning the increased distance in golf. It is not all in the equipment we use to play the game.

And I didn't even get into sand.

I hope you have a wonderful golfing experience, on behalf of professional of Golf Course Superintendents, who are working each day to provide a course that allows you to enjoy and have fun playing the greatest game in the world. Please assist us by doing your part to leave the course in the same or better shape than you found it and remember the most important part of

golf and its history: Etiquette. **MG**

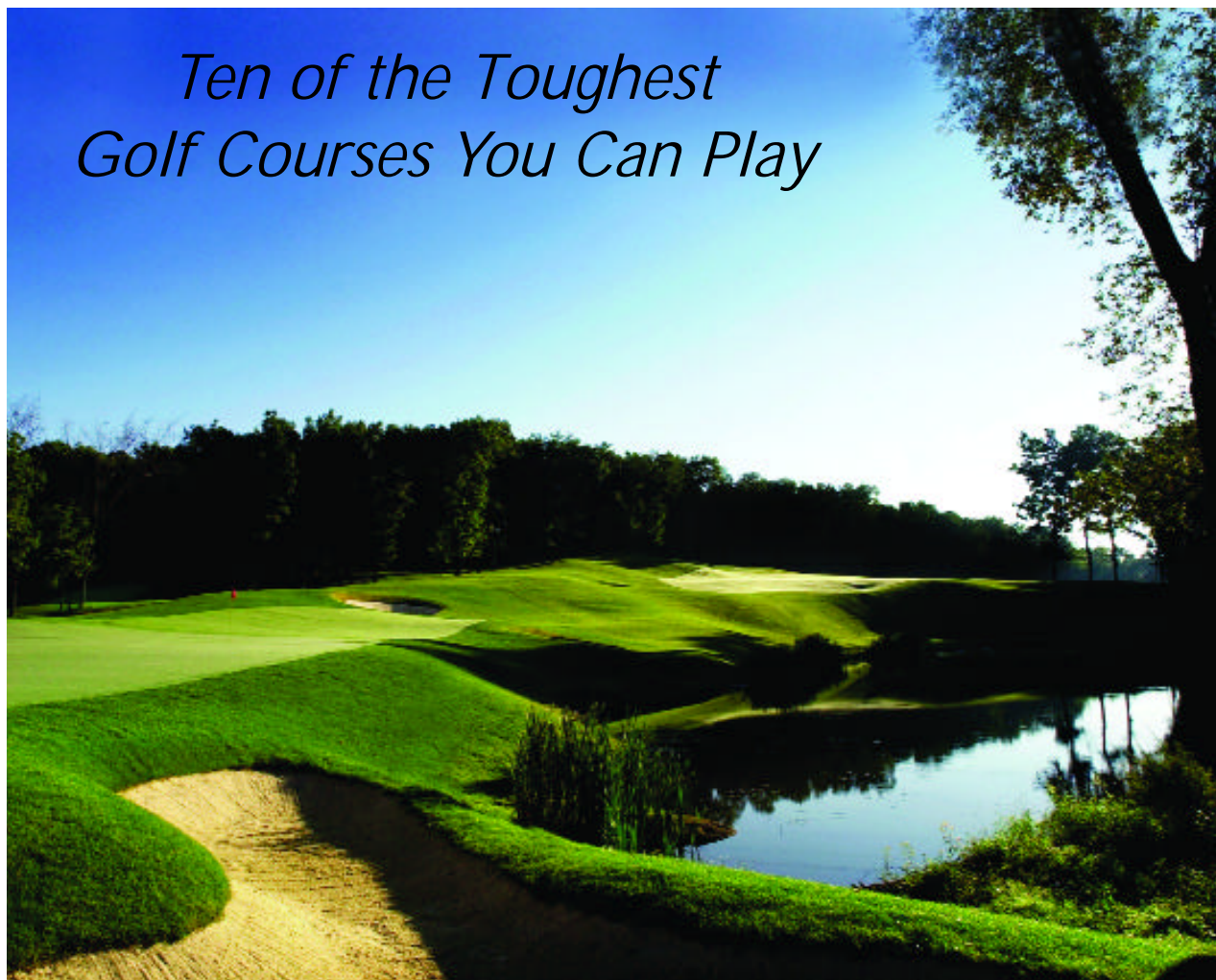


meeting the demands of golfers.

Irrigation systems have changed. The days of having to hire one, two, or more people to start up and move sprinklers around the course per the superintendent's directions, and us relying on them to do this and not fall asleep, or leave early, or not show up, are just about gone. We moved to big sprinklers that

*Jon Maddern is President, Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, and superintendent, Elk Ridge Golf Course, Atlanta, Michigan.*

# Ten of the Toughest Golf Courses You Can Play



## Or (Why Golfers Like a Challenge)

By Brett Marshall

What is it about golfers who have this burning desire to play tough, demanding golf courses no matter what? Why is it, that golfers subjects themselves to such masochistic tendencies?

Michigan is blessed with any number of terrific tests of golf and my charge herein is to produce a list of the Top 10 Toughest Golf Courses. Instead, I chose 10 of the courses in the state that reflect the difficulty that was assigned to this task but ones that also produce a memorable experience for the golfer.

These 10 are not necessarily the "toughest of the tough," but boy would they show up on most everybody's "Want to Play List." In establishing standards for selection, I called a

number of golf experts but Mike Bylen, the highly respected owner of Pine Trace Golf Course and president of the newly acclaimed Shepherd's Hollow Golf Club, provided the best description of what I should be looking for:

"The ultimate goal in a design is to take the natural features of the topography and make it challenging for the best players and make it fair and enjoyable for the higher handicap player," said Bylen. "You try to give players multiple options on every shot."

So, here are 10 "don't miss" tough golf courses that are also memorable.

### Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia

Located along the high bluffs of Lake Michigan, south of Frankfort, this Rick Smith/Warren Henderson design provides stunning views of the lake. The Irish-style

links with massive dunes have incredible elevation changes, including the dramatic, 100-foot drop on the 633-yard, par-5, 15th hole. Back Tee Rating: 75.1, 143 Slope, 7,298 yards.

### Bay Harbor Golf Club, Petoskey

This Arthur Hills beauty overlooks beautiful Little Traverse Bay. Boyne president Stephen Kircher collaborated with Hills on this 27-hole layout that rivals most any links course. Composed of three nines, the Links was the original and has the spectacular 500-yard, par-5, 7th hole that runs along the cliffs of the bay. The Quarry nine is cut from rock and the Preserve was carved out of the forest a little Pebble Beach, a little Black Diamond and a little Augusta National all in one. Back Tee Rating: (Quarry-Preserve) 73.0, Slope Rating 147, 6,752 yards.

*Photo above: Shepherd's Hollow by Brian Walters Golf Photography*

## Black Lake Golf Club, Onaway

Another up north course, this one designed by renowned architect Rees Jones, Black Lake plays 7,046 from the tips at 74.3, 140 rating. The 16th hole, a 422-yard, par-4, requires a drive that avoids a series of bunkers along the right side of the fairway. The green is protected by a right-front bunker and a smaller one to the back and left.

## Elk Ridge Golf Club, Atlanta

Michigan legendary architect, Jerry Matthews, made this course one of his finest. At 7,058 yards, 74.7, 143 slope, Elk Ridge is a test for any level of golfer. The par-3, 184-yard 10th provides one of the great views in northern Michigan. There is a 100-foot drop and the bunker guarding the right side of the green is shaped like a pig – just another normal day at the course owned by Honey Baked Ham.

## The Grande Golf Club, Jackson

You would not expect this topography in south central Michigan, but The Grande lives up to its name. All 7,098 yards, 74.3, 147 slope, this Ray Hearn/Paul Albanese gem is one to look forward to anytime. Options galore face the golfer on the course. The par-5, 8th on the North 9 and the par-4 9th on the South 9 are two you won't soon forget.

*Photo right: Black Lake by the Umlax Group.*

*Photo below: The Quarry, Bay Harbor, courtesy of Golf Marketing Services.*





### Hidden River Golf & Casting Club, Brutus

If the golf course overwhelms you, there's always flyfishing in the Maple River. Bruce Matthews III carved this layout from the wetlands and forest of northern Michigan. At 7,101 yards with a rating of 74.3/140, Hidden River meets the challenge of any golfer. The lengthy 636-yard, par-5, 7th hole snakes its way between two marsh areas to test the accuracy of even the straightest hitters.

### Shepherd's Hollow Golf Club, Clarkston

Another top-notch design in Arthur Hills, legendary career. Bylen said it best, options are the rule of the day, as evidenced by the short 354-yard, par-4, 15th. Drive short of the right-hand fairway bunker and your shot to the green is nearly blind. Drive to the tougher left side and you can see every-

Photo above: Thousand Oaks, by the Umlex Group

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thing on the green. From the tips: 7,236 yards, 76.0, 147.

## Thousand Oaks Golf Club, Grand Rapids

Rees Jones, jewel is 7,043 yards from the back tees with a course/slope rating of 74.3/142. Making par (4) on the 451-yard finishing hole will conclude a memorable day in a beautiful setting of West Michigan. The slightly uphill 18th requires the player to keep the tee shot to the left, opening up an approach shot to a green well-guarded on the right by two bunkers.

## Treetops Resort, Gaylord

The Masterpiece, designed by the late Robert Trent Jones, Sr. in the 1980s, provides a stern but esthetically memorable day of golf. At 7,060 yards from the championship tee, it carries a course rating of 75.5 and a slope of 144. The par-4 11th hole is one of the best, running along a ridge with two fairway bunkers protecting the left side and bunkers guarding left and right of the green as well.

## Tullymore Golf Club, Stanwood

One of the hottest new architects, James Engh of Colorado, brings his touch to



Michigan with the fabulous Tullymore layout. Memorable, challenging, near-perfect conditions will bring the golfer back for more. Try to tackle the 7,110 yards from the tips at a rating of 74.9/148, and you'll know why it is only for the bravest. The test of this course can be explained in the fourth and fifth holes, both par 3s, one at

207 yards and the other at 234 yards from the back tees.

*Brett Marshall is president of Harbor Links Publishing in Dexter. MG*

*Photo above: The Grande, by Brian Walters Golf Photography*

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# Free Time in the Fall?

## October Must-Plays For Any Golfer

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Photo courtesy of the Grand Traverse Resort.

By Marc Van Soest

Ask people to explain what fall in Michigan is all about and one gets the typical responses: school bells, football, color tours, weekends away at a northern bed and breakfast. But rarely, if ever, does one hear "golf." Golf season in our state has somehow been relegated to the summer months. Most people simply play for the last time in early August and put the sticks away until the following June.

Any description of the fall in Michigan should include one other word: golf. For most of us, this is when the best courses in the state become most accessible. Rates drop like lead balloons, the "fudgies" are missing, and the snowbirds are all too cold to get out and play. September, October, and in warmer years, early November give the best golf Michigan has to offer.

Once again leading the pack in Michigan golf is Boyne. Where Boyne pulls ahead of

the competition is in the tremendous variety of golf offered to any golfer. If a golfer wants to treat themselves to a costly trip North to play and stay in the lap of luxury, look no further than Bay Harbor. For the upper end of the Northern Michigan golf, golfers should look no further than Crooked Tree Golf Club. Rates for this challenging, fair, and scenic course dip to \$40 during the day and \$25 after 2 p.m. in October.

By staying at Boyne Highlands, a golfer can take advantage of proximity to the mature favorite of the Boyne landscape, the Heather. This Donald Ross course boasts the best playing conditions in the North, coupled with the rare experience of playing a course in the mature state which its architect envisioned. Tough by any measure, Heather will present a challenge to any golfer, from any set of tees. Due to its mature nature, the Heather appears sculpted from the graceful surrounding north woods of Michigan. But do not be lulled into submission. Well hit shots will be rewarded, while errant balls from the tee or fairway lead readily to double and triple bogeys.

A short drive down US-131 South from the Highlands lands the golfer at Boyne Mountain and its two courses, the Alpine and the Monument. Dedicated to people in the game who have played a significant role in its growth and development, the Monument is an exceptional layout capable of playing to every inch of its 7,061 yards. The fairways are cut to a very narrow 30 yards in some places and will often force the golfer to play from an awkward downhill or sidehill lie to a fast rolling sloping green. Putts roll true at Boyne and anything missed from within fifteen feet is due to a miss hit, not an imperfection in the green. Though often mentioned as superior to the previously mentioned Monument, the Highland's other course, the Alpine's charm lays in its forgiving nature. More open and playable than the tree lined Monument, the Alpine, checking in at 7,045 yards, will welcome the average golfer while keeping the low handicapper interested.

The best way to take advantage of Boyne this fall is by looking into any one of several multi-day packages which allow access to all

*Photo above: Grand Traverse Resort.*

nine courses on the various properties while providing for lodging and in some cases meals. Call (800) GO-BOYNE for more information or visit [www.boyne.com/golf.html](http://www.boyne.com/golf.html) for the latest on rates and packages.

As always, the Gaylord area checks in this fall with several opportunities for excellent golf and beautiful scenery. In addition to perennial favorites, the Otsego Club and Treetops, golfers should not overlook Michaywê and The Natural at Beaver Creek Resort.

Host of the 1991 and 1996 Michigan Amateur Championships, the Pines at Michaywê should become a regular stop on any Gaylord area golf trip. The charm and draw of the Pines is its length. Built relatively early in the Northern Golf Renaissance it checks in at a very manageable 6,835 from the tips. This allows any single digit handicapper an excellent opportunity to play and score extremely well. With the exception of the 564-yard No. 14, every par-5 on the course is reachable with two well hit shots.

The Pines was not built to punish the average golfer, as is the case in much of the North. Instead, wayward shots face well placed bunkers and tightly cut small greens. This feature makes the course present itself well to the high handicapper. Rarely will golfers find themselves in major trouble off the tee or from anywhere on the course.

Though playable, the course's main challenge lies in the smaller size of the greens and their layout. Every green on the course requires exacting reads as minute breaks will often be more pronounced once the ball begins to roll. Nothing should be considered a "gimme," on these challenging greens.

Golf is not the only draw to Michaywê. The resort atmosphere grants ample chances for non-golfing members to enjoy a brisk walk in the Michigan woods. Call (989) 939-8911 or (888) 746-3742 for more details or get on the web at [www.michaywe.com](http://www.michaywe.com) for latest package promotions.

Just three and a half miles west of I-75 on Otsego Lake Drive lies a hidden treat in the finest tradition of woodland golf, The Natural. Scoring well on The Natural is highly attainable for every golfer playing the loop. Shorter hitters should not be intimidated by the length of the 545-yard, par-5, No. 1. Though it requires a long carry for the third shot, the greens and fairway set the precedent for what is to follow: hills and speed.

The Natural is sculpted out of existing terrain left behind with the retreat of the glaciers. Every fairway is a maze of rolling mounds which challenge golfers with demanding sidehill lies for the entire 18 holes. Yet, nothing is unfair about the golf course. All shots are viewable and nothing is hidden, leaving the golfer with only one person to blame should something go wrong in his round.

Any golfer should make use of the yardage cards available from the staff. These written and pictorial descriptions of the holes will aid the golfer in deciding when to lay up and when to make a move at scoring. The only hole on the course where the card will not

*Photo above: The Heather, Boyne Highlands.*



help the golfer is on the 105-yard No. 5. Playing anywhere from 65-120 yards from the back tee this is the only hole which is not up to the scale and scope of the rest of the

course. A par here by anyone should be considered a shot lost to par.

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the leaves fall. For more information, call the "Tee Time Hot Line" at (517) 732-1785 or on the web, visit [www.beavercreekresort.com](http://www.beavercreekresort.com).

Any golfer headed to Traverse City for a Fall outing should never consider bypassing the Grand Traverse Resort. Often thought of as the "Home of the Bear," Grand Traverse harbors another golf course which rivals the Bear in every way, the Wolverine.

It is simply a shame that this course does not get the exposure it deserves on the statewide level. Far more playable than its neighbor, the Wolverine should be played by everyone who has the funding and opportunity. Starting in October, the funding issue is taken care of with rates dropping to \$50 during twilight and \$70 during the day. Though still steep by many standards, consider the \$120 alternative during the summer to find the value.

What separates this loop from anything in the area, including the Bear, is in its playability from any set of tees for any golfer. Each hole allows for recovery from a poorly struck shot and does not penalize anything that is not perfectly hit. Yet to score well, a golfer must execute a variety of shots from a myriad of lies and elevations to lightening fast greens.

The Wolverine shows its teeth in the wind where uninterrupted gusts can make an easy 8-iron from 150 turn into a hard knockdown 5-iron. These drastic changes in club selection and wind speed can make for an adventurous round. Combine this with multilayered greens and the golfer can expect a challenge.

Simply enjoy the challenging front nine and



turn onto the excellent back nine. Though the back has a decidedly different feel than the front, it plays remarkably similar. The openings appear smaller and the fairways are more mounded yet, none of this effects the player focused on hitting fairways and greens. The course presents itself at face value without any tricks or obvious obstacles.

For more information on Grand Traverse Resort, check out their comprehensive website at [www.grandtraverseresort.com](http://www.grandtraverseresort.com). Tee

times, rates, and package deals can also be obtained by calling (231) 938-2100 or (800) 748-0303.

The lower regions of the state should not be overlooked this fall. Though not often thought of as a golf destination, the Lansing area offers some excellent courses for players of all ability levels. At the front of Lansing golf is East Lansing's Timber Ridge Golf Club.

Timber Ridge hangs its hat on a 5-star rating received from *Golf Digest's* "Places to Play" in 1990. Thirteen years ago, there is no doubt that Timber Ridge was a five star course. But in Michigan's current golf rich environment, Timber Ridge is making an effort to keep itself in that spotlight. As of now, Timber Ridge is falling shy of five stars. Starting with the facilities and ending with the staff, Timber Ridge can improve itself in many facets.

Amenities aside, the course itself offers a challenging layout from start to finish, Timber Ridge will test every golfer choosing to tee it up. Playing a very manageable 6,585 from the tips, the difficulty comes off the tee. Well hit shots must be placed with great care on the proper side of sloping fairways to allow good looks at tightly cut, drastically sloping greens.

Golfers should pay the \$4 for a yardage book in the pro shop before tackling the course. Timber Ridge is not a golf course where one can "grip it and rip it." The golfer must methodically pick the right places to attack. With several holes checking in at 420 yards plus, the par fours do not always present these opportunities. Chances for good scoring come on all the par-5s however as all are very reachable from every set of tees.

Overlook the short comings of Timber Ridge and make it a stop on the next trip past Lansing. Look for the \$25 weekday rate as it is a great opportunity to enjoy an quality golf course at a rock bottom price. Check out [www.golftimberidge.com](http://www.golftimberidge.com) for more information or call (517) 339-8000 or (800) 874-3432. **MG**

Photo above: Grandview.

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# Michigan's Golf Car Industry Shows Signs of Revival

By Kelly Hill  
Managing Editor

The golf car industry in Michigan, like much of the golf and golf resort industries, has suffered the effects of recent economic downturns, but according to Cy Davis of Club Car of Michigan, the industry has noticed positive signs of rebounding. "First of all, we never lost any accounts," Davis said during a recent visit to the Michigan PGA Championship at Shanty Creek in Bellaire. "We have had some people who have sat back and said, 'Let's just wait for now,' - as they examine their cash-flow situation."

After miserable weather conditions across the statelast spring, a warm, lengthy autumn would speed the industry's revival. "We are experiencing a level market," said Davis, who also introduced Matt Fender, who is Club Car's sales representative in northern Michigan. "We are looking forward to a good, long fall. What we need are a couple of more months in the fall," Davis said with a smile.

Following a difficult spring season, Davis noticed more positive economic signs during the early months of the summer golf season. "Things are starting to pick up again," Davis said. "The attitude in June and July was much more positive than in the spring, so we are very optimistic."

Club Car's relationships with global positioning systems manufacturer UpLink and the National Golf Course Owners Association, as well as Club Car's IQ System, have made it a leader in the golf car industry.

"The performance of the golf car is incredible," said Fender, who is one of three primary sales representatives in Michigan. Barry Beard handles Club Car sales in central Michigan while Kurt Kraly is the sales representative in the southeast section of the state. "Our alliance with UpLink has been very rewarding for both sides," Davis said of the GPS manufacturer whose systems are installed in various Club Car models.

Chris Sobiek, the general manager of The Golf Club at Thornapple Pointe in Grand Rapids, touts the numerous benefits of the installed GPS systems. "I was a non-believer before I had GPS; now I can't live without it," Sobiek said. "The UpLink golf course management system is the difference maker. I have reduced operating expense and now attract more corporate outings due to the leaderboard capabilities."

Club Car also has developed an alliance with the National Golf Course Owners Association. "That is an alliance that has served us very well," Davis noted. Club Car's IQ System controls a car's speed by means of an on-board computer. "The IQ System is revolutionary to the electric car," Davis said.

"It controls speeds, of acceleration and braking, by computer. It's the 'SmartCar.'" We also have developed the IQ deluxe beverage unit that has four-wheel braking."

E-Z-GO Textron, another of the Big 3 manufacturers of golf cars, announced July 1 that Susan Rutt has been named the company's Vice President of Engineering. Rutt, who was educated at the University of Dayton and California State-Berkeley, brings 24 years of automotive engineering experience to the position. She will be responsible for all current and future product engineering and research and development, according to E-Z-GO Textron president John Garrison. "Susan comes to E-Z-GO with a strong background in product development and will be a valuable addition to our team," Garrison said, "as we bring the next generation of E-Z-GO vehicles to market." **MG**



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# Michigan Celebrates a Championship Summer

By Kelly Hill  
Managing Editor

With a PGA Tour stop, two Champions Tour events and one of the strongest PGA sections in the nation, Michigan is a top stop for championship golf. Here is a brief lookback at those who were crowned champions in the summer of 2003.

## Buick Open

Jim Furyk, who had won PGA Tour event in each of the previous five years, won his second event of the year when he won the Buick Open at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc. Furyk, held off Tiger Woods by shooting a 4-under-par 68 in the final round to win by two strokes. Woods carded a 6-under 66 in the final round.

## Ford Senior Players Championship

Craig Stadler's victory celebration was delayed almost two hours when thunder, lightning, wind and cold rain drops delayed



Jim Furyk wins Buick Open.

play with two holes to play at the TPC of Michigan in Dearborn. Stadler claimed his first win in his fourth event since turning 50 as he putted his way to a 6-under 66 in the final round.

Stadler posted pars on his final two holes to finish with a 17-under 271, three shots better than Tom Watson, Tom Kite and Jim Thorpe. Watson's quest to win for terminally ill caddie Bruce Edwards fell short with a



Craig Stadler claimed his first win on the Champions Tour at the TPC of Michigan.

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closing 69. Edwards has Lou Gehrig's Disease, and the duo have used recent summers success to help raise funds to find a cure.

## Farmers Charity Classic

Doug Tewell and Eamonn Darcy of Ireland finished the 54-hole event tied at 15-under and then went three playoff holes before Tewell eventually won with a 14-foot birdie putt at Egypt Valley Country Club in Ada.

Tewell, who lives in Edmond, Okla., won for the seventh time on the Champions Tour but his first time this year. The tour's first 17 events this year had 17 different winners. Tewell experienced pain in his back two days before the event began but by the opening round had corrected the problem. "This game is so crazy," he said. "When you last expect it is when you play well."

## Michigan Open

Bob Ackerman, 50, of West Bloomfield, won the Michigan Open on The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa when he edged Bryan



Photo by Carter Sharfne / Frog Prince Studios

Doug Tewell won the playoff and the title of the Farmers Charity Classic.

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 this 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.

Ackerman and Snyder, who is an assistant pro at Detroit Golf Club, finished tied at 7-under for the tournament after Ackerman shot a

2-over 74 and Snyder fired a 3-under 69 in the final round. Gary Smithson, the director of golf at Thousand Oaks Golf Club in Grand Rapids, began the final round two strokes behind Ackerman but posted an 83 in the final round. Scott Hebert, who had won the last four Michigan Open titles and five of the last six, finished third at 1-under, six strokes behind Ackerman and Snyder. Andy Matthews of Ada and Stephen Polanski of Livonia shared low amateur honors as they finished tied for sixth, at 2-over.

### Michigan PGA Championship

J.R. Roth won his fourth Michigan PGA Championship, finishing the 54-hole event at 10-under, five strokes ahead of Robert Pillard and John Traub.

Roth, 45, 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.

"It feels great," said Roth, who had a four-stroke lead entering the final round. "On the back nine I think I put it on cruise control even though I told myself not to."

A four-time Michigan PGA Player of the Year, Roth last won this tournament in 2001. "I played a lot better than I scored today, because I missed some birdie putts I could have made," said Roth, who hit 17 greens in regulation in the final round.



Photo by Jennie McCafferty

Bob Ackerman celebrates his Michigan Open title.

### Michigan Women's Open

Breanne Hall of Kentwood went from despair to elation in just two holes at the Michigan Women's Open at Crystal

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Breanne Hall won the Michigan Women's Open.

Photo by Jennie McCaffery.

# USC's Chris Botsford Wins 101st Western Amateur

By Gary Holaway

Chris Botsford, co-captain of the University of Southern California men's golf team, weathered two storms to turn back J.J. Jakovac, a junior at Cal State-Chico, in a battle of Californians in the 101st Western Amateur Championship at Point O' Woods Golf and Country Club in Benton Harbor.

Lightning strikes near the course forced suspension of play on the third hole of the championship match but, after taking a 6-up lead through 10 holes, Botsford watched as Jakovac unleashed his own lightning by winning four of the next five holes. "I knew J.J. had it in him to come back. He's a great player," said Botsford. "I knew he was going to make a run, but I thought if I could just make pars and a few birdies I'd halve some of the holes. I was trying to stick to my game plan and weather the storm."

Jackovac said he was just trying to keep the match close. "I told myself I didn't want to get beat bad, like 6 and 5, or something," he said. "I figured what did I have to lose, so I went all out."

On the front nine, "I didn't putt very well and hit the ball really bad," Jakovac said. "I thought, 'What's going on?' I played great all week and was playing horribly. But he played solid and made the putts. It was a great match. I can't expect to win if I'm 3 over par on the front."

For Botsford, the victory marked a milestone. "I never won a tournament in college, and this is my first major trophy. It hasn't sunk in yet," he said. "When I see my name on that trophy, with names like Tiger's, it will."

Botsford said putting won the championship for him. "I felt really comfortable over the ball this week," he said. "I was seeing the hole well, the ball was rolling well and the cup seemed to get bigger."

Botsford, 22, of Pasadena, Calif., took the lead with a birdie on the par -5, 523-yard second. He quickly moved 4-up by winning the third, fourth and sixth holes with pars, as Jakovac, 21, of Napa, Calif., struggled early to find the game that carried him into the



Photo courtesy of Elmbrook Golf Course.

championship. On the back nine, down 6 holes after 10, Jackovac stormed back to win four of the next five holes and cut Botsford's lead to 2-up with three to play. But that's when Botsford closed the door with a four foot birdie putt on 16 to win the championship, 3 and 2.

In the morning semifinals, Botsford outlasted University of Minnesota standout Justin Smith in 20 holes and Jakovac defeated 2002 Western Amateur runner-up Adam Rubinson, 3 and 2.

Smith rallied from 3-down on the back nine, sinking a 23-foot birdie putt on the par-3, 17th, to pull even. On the first extra

hole, Smith dropped an 18-foot, downhill breaking putt for birdie, but Botsford followed with

a 10-foot birdie to halve the hole. Botsford ended the match on the next hole, No. 2, with a two-putt birdie on the par-5, 523-yard hole, after hitting a 2-iron. Botsford was 8 under-par for the match, while Smith was 6 under-par after 19 holes, yet still lost.

"I played as good as I could, and I still had to play two extra holes," said Botsford. "My hat's off to Justin. He played quite a match."

Smith, 21, of Franklin, Pa., was disappointed in the outcome but pleased with his play throughout the week. "I was able to play well on the best course we play all summer," he said. "It's great to bring you're A-game to this tournament and to go this far. I can't wait to come back next year."

Jackovac topped Rubinson in their semifinal by making his putts. "I made quite a few birdies. I was hitting my irons really well, and I was really putting well," he said.

Rubinson, the top-rated player left in the tournament at No. 6 in the Golfweek amateur rankings, complimented Jakovac on his play. "He hit some great shots and made some great putts," said Rubinson. "We both played so well, so I'm not disappointed. I shot 3-under through 16 holes and got beat. I played great, too, but I didn't make all my putts. I can't be upset with myself. J.J. just played awesome."

*Gary Holaway is Director of Communications, Western Golf Association. MG*

Mountain Resort. After making a double bogey on the final hole of regulation, which erased a two-shot lead, she then made birdie on the same hole in a sudden-death playoff with Allison Fouch of East Grand.

"Oh wow," Hall said. "This is way up there. The highest. I've never done anything quite like this." Hall, a two-time winner on the collegiate circuit, called it an incredible learning experience. "I've never been in that position," she said of both leading by two shots, and also losing it on the last hole. "I thought I had handed it to her. I really felt like I had lost, but on the wayback to the 18th tee (for the playoff) I regrouped. I had a lot of people tell me it wasn't over. I was able to get it back together, and play the hole the right way."

## Michigan Amateur Championship

His short game vaulted North Muskegon native Colby Beckstrom, who is a 20-year-old sophomore at Texas Christian University, to the championship in the 92nd Michigan Amateur.

Beckstrom defeated A.J. Balulis of Baldwin, 5 and 3, in the final match at Belvedere Golf Club in Charlevoix. Beckstrom did it around the greens — the same way he got through his semifinal match against Eric Cowles of Perry. "It was surprising, yes, but that's what I wanted to do and what I came to do," Beckstrom said. "But you don't really expect it. It's exhausting out there, playing as much golf as A.J. and I did." **MG**



# Snider wins Tournament of Champions

By Kelly Thesier

As her five foot putt dropped on the 18th hole to win the Michigan PGA Tournament of Champions, Stacy Snider's emotions went from focused to shocked.

"When I made that last putt, I just had a feeling of disbelief," Snider said. "The first thing that everyone kept asking me was if I knew what I had done." What Snider, 23, had done was accomplish something that no one had before in the tournament's nine year history – become the first woman to win the event.

Snider shot 68-68-71 to win the 54-hole,



Stacy Snider

Photo by Kevin Frisch

next goal. "This win gives me a lot of confidence as I prepare for the LPGA qualifying school in August," Snider said. "To beat some of the best players in Michigan gives me a lot of hope in my chances at Q-school."

Many others believe that Snider's win proves how strong her chances are of qualifying for the LPGA. Stacy Slobodnik-Stoll, Snider's former coach at Michigan State, said that Snider has the capability of making it at the next level. "Stacy has improved so much throughout her career especially when it comes to her course management skills," Slobodnik-Stoll said. "With her win she showed her strong mind and her physical skills that prove that she can go out there and compete."

"For her to win this event is such an awesome representation for women's golf, it put smiles on a lot of faces." One of those faces is Ken Devine, CEO of the Michigan PGA and co-founder of the tournament. "I think it's marvelous to finally have a woman win the tournament that we set up so that it would be an equal playing field," Devine said. "Stacy is a perfect example of the young talent that is so much better than 25 years ago. She is as strong of a female golfer I've seen come out of Michigan since Kelly Robbins and I truly believe that she can make it on the LPGA tour. **MG**

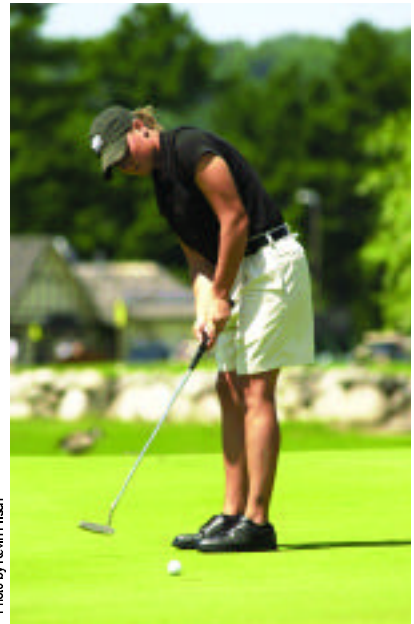


Photo by Kevin Frisch

Stacy Snider makes the five foot putt to win the Michigan PGA Tournament of Champions.

\$100,000 event and beat a mixed field comprised of the winners of sanctioned Michigan golf tournaments including juniors, amateurs, professionals, women, and seniors. Her 9-under 207 total was enough to best five-time Michigan Open Champion and former Nationwide tour player Scott Hebert by one stroke. Also in the field were other former touring professionals such as Tommy Valentine, Eric Booker and LPGA player Elaine Crosby.

"To become the first woman to win the event is an unbelievable feeling," Snider said. "The course was in great shape and I just focused on playing my game."

Snider, an MSU graduate who turned professional two weeks before the tournament, earned a paycheck of \$17,250 for her win. The money and the victory she says will help her on her



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# Outstate I'm Outaheres

By Art McCafferty and Thad Gutowski

**W**ant to get away, and we mean really away for some great golf. The *Michigan Golfer Television Guide to Outstate Golf* begins right here. However, we are supplying just the basics here. You need to go online to get the rest at the links listed below. Or you can go to our *Michigan Golfer Online* issue and just click through our interactive issue.

## Arkansas - Hot Springs

Jay Miller says that they have spent 34 years making sure that your experience will be a pleasant one at Hot Springs Village. They invite Michigan folks to visit them, play the courses and then consider the area as a retirement community. They have nine golf courses and another on the way.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/getaways/hotsprings>  
**Web:** <http://www.hotspringsvillage.com/>

## Indiana

Indiana has a ton of great courses, with Swan Lake in Plymouth, Walnut Creek in Marion, Rock Hollow in Peru, Sultan's Run in Jasper, French Lick Resort and Spa in French Lick and Juday Creek in Granger.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2002shows/show4/index.html>

French Lick Resort and Spa deserves some special consideration here as they are one of the legendary golf courses in America. We have a series on The Caddies of French Lick and feel you will enjoy it.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/show3/index.html>

## Kentucky - Harrodsburg

Theresa Williams was on hand to describe how her grandfather started the resort in 1963. Family owned, it is located about 30 miles SW of Lexington and features 65 lodging units, 27 championship holes and a lighted par 3.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/getaways/brightleafgolf>  
**Web:** <http://www.brightleafgolfresort.com>

## Kentucky - Louisville

Clark Fenimore, owner of Quail Chase GC, knows what golfers want and gives it to them. Quail Chase is one of the top courses in Louisville. They have 27 holes and package with just about everybody in town. This is where Southern hospitality begins.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2002shows/show2/index.html>  
**Web:** <http://quailchase.com> and <http://gotolouisville.com>

## Kentucky - Park City - Diamond Caverns Resort

According to Barry Rich, this is a place for the whole family, as there is a ton of stuff to do. For openers, you can explore some of the great caverns including nearby Mammoth Cave. Lodging includes condos, RV hookups, and a large campground.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/getaways/diamondcaverns>  
**Web:** <http://www.mammothcave.com/dcr-golf.htm>

## Kentucky - Perry Park Golf Resort

Ty Robinett, head golf professional, was enthusiastic about their championship golf course and their brand spanking new 33 room hotel. They are located about an hour south of Cincinnati.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/getaways/perrypark>  
**Web:** <http://www.perryparkgolfresort.com/>

## Mississippi

Mississippi and host of the Michigan Golfer Television Show, Bill Shelton, brings us the best from his state in this visit to some of the great courses in Mississippi.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/show2/index.html>  
**Web:** <http://mississippi.org>

## Nevada - Mesquite

Darryl Edwards representing the golf courses of Mesquite, indicated they have the CasaBlanca Hotel Golf and Spa, the Oasis GC and the Palm GC, all available at attractive package prices. The four adjacent casinos are ready to take your golf course winnings.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/getaways/mesquite>  
**Web:** <http://www.visitmesquite.com/golfing/index.html>

## Nevada - Primm

Tom Doherty of Primm Valley Resorts talks about the two Tom Fazio courses that are some of the best in Nevada and rated 4 1/2 stars by *Golf Digest*. Their two casinos are Buffalo Bill's and Whiskey Pete.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/getaways/primvalley>  
**Web:** [http://www.primmvalleyresorts.com/pages/pv\\_frameset.asp](http://www.primmvalleyresorts.com/pages/pv_frameset.asp)

## North Carolina - Maggie Valley

Theresa Smith of Maggie Valley Resort indicated their course is framed by the Blue Ridge and Great Smoky Mountains. Along with a fine golf course they offer new luxuri-

ous lodging accommodations.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/getaways/maggiervalley>  
**Web:** <http://www.maggiervalleyresort.com/>

## North Carolina - Sandhills

The Sandhills area in North Carolina, home of Pinehurst, was named the third best golf destination in the world, trailing only Scotland and Pebble Beach. Recently our reporter Thad Gutowski visited the Pinehurst area. Join Thad and host, Bill Shelton, as they discuss Pinehurst and Sandhills Golf

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2002shows/show1/index.html>  
**Web:** <http://www.sandhillsgolf.com/>

## Ohio - Trumbull County

Our cameras visit Avalon Lakes, Candywood, Yankee Run and Pine Lake GC as well as some sensational lodging facilities. A short distance drive for some very affordable golf.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/trumbull/index.html>  
**Web:** <http://www.trumbullcountycvb.org/>

## Tennessee - Tazewell

Sally Carter, of Woodlake Golf Club, indicated that their course was one of the best of the lot in 2000, as indicated by *Golf Digest*. They have just the golf packages for you.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/getaways/woodlake>  
**Web:** <http://www.woodlakegolf.com>

## Canada - Ontario

Canadian Golf is represented locally by the fine Crimson Ridge, just north of Sault Ste. Marie, Canada, Monterra Golf at Blue Mountain Resort and Forest Golf and Country Hotel near Sarnia.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/show15/index.html>  
**Web:**

**Crimson Ridge**  
<http://www.golfrimcrest.com>  
**Forest Golf & Country Resort**  
<http://www.xcelo.on.ca/~foregolf>  
**Monterra Golf**  
<http://www.bluemountain.ca>

## Canada - Niagara Region

Robert Warrington of Ultimate Golf Vacations indicated that one of Canada's trendy golf spots right now is Niagara Parks. With Legends on the Niagara and Whirlpool Public Golf Course, the Niagara Region offers championship-caliber golf to its growing list of attractions, including spectacular Horseshoe Falls, Casino Niagara, Botanical Gardens, Shaw Festival Theatre, picturesque wine tour, and

Niagara-on-the-Lake.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/getaways/ugv>

**Web:** <http://www.ugv.net>

### Canada – Muskoka Lakes

The Muskoka Lakes area has close to 20 golf courses, some the best Canada has to offer. Located about 90 minutes north of Toronto, Muskoka lies on the pre-cambrian shield and is bordered on the west by the shores of the Georgian Bay and on the east by Algonquin Park

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/show15/index.html>

**Web:** <http://www.golfmuskoka.com/golfmuskoka/>

### Canada – Quebec

Danny Letsch, of Merit Vacations, feels that the Laurentian Mountains is the place to be for Michigan Golfers - especially the great Tremblant and Gray Rocks Resort and the fantastic Fairmont Le Chateau Montebello GC, designed by legendary Canadian golf architect, Stanley Thompson.

**Video:** <http://michigangolfer.tv/2003shows/getaways/merit>

**Web:** <http://www.merit.ca> **MG**

## Golf Santee

**T**he niche that Golf Santee in South Carolina wants to fill for Michigan golfers is that of a golf destination that offers a variety of quality golf courses and lodging accommodations at affordable prices.

The area boasts some of the best-maintained golf courses in South Carolina. The selection at Golf Santee gives the golf traveler a choice of over 16 of the area's finest courses. Course information on their site includes an amenity list as well as slopes, ratings, and scorecards.

Of particular note is Woodlake Golf Club, new in 2000 and heralded by Golf Digest as one of the America's Best New Courses. It fronts on 34,000-acre Norris Lake.

Or you could play at Beech Creek, which is located on land that used to belong to General Thomas Sumter, the Revolutionary War officer after whom Fort Sumter is named. One of the last skirmishes of the Civil War was also fought at Beech Creek.

Clarendon Golf & Country Club offer many of the amenities that represents Southern hospitality. The club and local area offer tennis courts, a swimming pool

and several ponds where fishing is allowed.

The Foxboro Golf Club is minutes from Interstate Corridors 195 and I26 and only a short distance from Lake Marion.

With water on 14 holes this championship layout has recently been improved with the addition of sand traps on many holes.

Designed by architect Eddie Riccoboni and built in 1979, Lake Marion Golf Club offers a setting akin to the historic Pinehurst area. Well manicured fairways and greens meander through the beautifully forested landscape.

Santee Cooper Country Club has been delighting golfers for more than 30 years. Exceptional conditions and a challenging layout offer up a great experience for golfers of all levels

Legend Oaks Plantation Golf Course offers a traditional style course. It features oak-lined fairways which offers a challenge to both the novice and experienced golfer.

This represents a quick glance at Golf Santee, and again, for more information you can visit their informative golf site at <http://golfsantee.com>. **MG**



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# Walter Hagen and Northern Michigan Had a Love Affair

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By Mike Terrell

Walter Hagen—arguably one of the greatest golfers to ever play the game—never played a competitive round of golf in northern Michigan, but chose that area to live out the last years of his life.

His estate on Long Lake was the only piece of real property that he ever purchased throughout his illustrious career. For a man who could have afforded to live any place he wanted, it said a lot about his passion for northern Michigan.

In honor of the man and his ties to our state, the Grand Traverse Heritage Center hosted “The Haig” Golf Classic—an event

Embracing the so-called “Roaring 1920s,” the Haig—as his many fans affectionately knew him—was flamboyant and cocky. His style was unorthodox, but the resulting wins that he posted placed him atop golf’s leader board for that era and eternity.

During the period from 1914-32 he ruled golf and established records that still stand today. Hagen won 11 major titles during that time period: two U.S. Opens, four British Opens, and five match-play PGA titles—four in a row from 1924-27, which is still a record. He was the first American to win a British Open title. He also won the Western Open five times during that period, and had over 30 other tournament victories in his career.

Having spent his off time relaxing, hunting and fishing in northern Michigan since the 1940s, the Haig was familiar with the area. Legendary stories abound of his time spent there.

„During a typical week in the late 1950s, a friend and hunting companion, Joseph Peck would stop at the Long Lake cottage a couple of evenings, drop off his car, and drive Hagen in his gold Cadillac to his favorite watering hole in downtown Traverse City, a tavern called (E)The Little Bohemian,s (Little Bo,s),% writes Stephen R. Lowe in his book Sir Walter and Mr. Jones, which was published in 2000.

Fred Winowiecki, now 69, was a young

*“You are only here for a short visit. Don’t hurry. Don’t worry, and be sure to smell the flowers along the way.,*

that was played with hickory clubs in vintage attire—at Elmbrook Golf Course on June 20. All proceeds benefited the Heritage Center’s capital campaign.

“This unique event appealed to avid golfers, history buffs and collectors of golfing memorabilia,” said Peg Jonkhoff, capital campaign chairperson. “Men and ladies teams dressed in vintage attire competing with hickory stick clubs in a scramble format that provided an afternoon of fun and appreciation for this royal and ancient sport.”



Only two golfers, the great amateur golfer Bobby Jones and the Golden Bear, Jack Nicklaus, have exceeded Hagen,s record in the majors. Because of his prowess in match play, Hagen was named captain of the first six United States Ryder Cup teams.

The Haig retired from competitive golf at the relatively young age of 47. There was no Senior PGA Tour like we have today, and when he felt he could no longer play to win it was time to quit playing competitively.

Although tournament prize money was a pittance at that time compared to today,s tournaments, Hagen managed to live quite well. He was considered sport’s first millionaire, and, said, “I never wanted to be a millionaire. I just wanted to live like one.”

His Haig Ultra, equipment line, which Wilson Sporting Goods sold, netted him \$100,000 a year in royalties from the late 1950s through the 1960s. Life was good for Hagen.

For years he had lived at the Detroit Athletic Club while traveling around the country and world playing golf matches. When Hagen retired he moved to Cadillac for a brief period where he wrote his own autobiography, which was published in 1954. About the same time he bought 20 acres on the west side of Long Lake where he was to spend the rest of his life.

bartender at Little Bo’s during the 1960s and recalled those days when Hagen would “hold court” at the tavern. “He had a spot reserved in front of the tavern for his Cadillac,” he said. “He loved to play pool, a little cards and talk about the glory days. The patrons loved him, because he would often buy several rounds while telling golf stories.

“Hagen just wanted to get away from the fast lane and enjoy life at a leisurely pace up here. He was very laid back,” recalled Winowiecki. “He would always tell everyone he met at Little Bo’s, ‘You are the greatest.’ He continued to come in right up until the last year of his life.”

Unfortunately Hagen, a heavy smoker all his adult life, was diagnosed with throat cancer in 1965. Barbara Maddy, his nurse over the last couple of years of his life, recalled that despite the illness, he remained upbeat until the very end. “He was a terrible patient. After his third operation here at Munson Hospital, they couldn’t wait to get rid of him, and he wanted to go home to Long Lake. He hated hospitals. I had met him a few years earlier at the Karlin Inn, and when an announcement came over the radio that they were looking for a private nurse for Walter Hagen, I went right over,” she recalled.

“He was a ‘clothes horse,’ and it took him forever to get dressed in the morning.

Everything had to match. He was the Payne Stewart of his time; just like a matinee idol. He liked to watch golf on TV, fish from his pontoon boat or hit golf balls into the lake. The neighborhood kids would dive for them and sell them back to him. Walter was always a gentleman. He loved life, but didn't like off-color jokes. His favorite saying was, "You are only here for a short visit. Don't hurry. Don't worry, and be sure to smell the flowers along the way." He was a great man," she fondly remembered.

Retired physician Don Pike, Hagen's last doctor, recalled his dignity and sense of humor. "He was a great guy and remained upbeat through all his operations over the last few years of his life. He used to joke about me being a lousy golfer. He never gave me a lesson, but he did give me a set of his



Photo courtesy of Elmbrook Golf Course.

"The Haig" (r) joins (l-r) Tom Thornton, Dave Knudsen, Howard Vogel, and Scott Warren at Elmbrook GC's The Haig Golf Classic.

Haig Ultra clubs, which I still have and still play with. We became good friends," Pike, who, now 88, said as he reminisced. "The day before he died (Oct. 5, 1969) he called me to his home to say goodbye. He knew he didn't have much longer. We both broke down and cried as we hugged each other. Even in poor health he made an impression on you. Later that night he passed away."

A testimonial dinner for Hagen, held at the Traverse City Golf and Country Club in 1967, was his final public appearance. Arnold Palmer, Dr. Carry Middlecoff and Al Waltrous were all in attendance, and many dignitaries who weren't able to attend, sent letters. "It was a moving experience. I think it touched the hearts of all those in attendance," Pike recalled.

In *Sir Walter and Mr. Jones*, Lowe writes, "Sir Walter belongs on a short list of athletes, including Babe Ruth, Red Grange and Jack Dempsey, who in the early 20th century established modern professional sports." More than any other golfer, Walter Hagen made professional golf what it has become today. He was the first true touring professional golfer. His legacy will be long remembered. **MG**

## Sip & Chip

By Rick Coates

Do pars and Pinot Noirs really go together? Bill Knopp, Sales Director of the historic Park Place Hotel in Traverse City believe they do. Knopp has created "Sip & Chip" bringing two of northern Michigan's favorite attractions together.

"In the past couple of years we have really seen a huge increase in those interested in visiting the local wineries," said Knopp. "We have also noticed that a lot of those visitors are golfers and they are couples, so we felt it was a natural."

Northern Michigan has been known for its top-rated designer courses from the likes of Nicklaus, Palmer, Trevino, Player and others. Now the region is rivaling Napa Valley and even France for quality wines. Recent major wins at international wine competitions have put the Leelanau and Old Mission Peninsulas on the world wine map.

While beer has been the traditional beverage of choice among golfers, wine is gaining in popularity, especially at the post-round meal.

"Our Sip & Chip package is very flexible in its approach and we are able to customize it for the consumer, but one thing it does include is dinner for two at our Minervas Restaurant and with that dinner we proudly serve a bottle of local wine, from our vast selection," said Knopp. "Another aspect of the package is combing golf with touring the vineyards, again we let the customer create their package by offering a selection of courses and wineries to visit."

Courses include The Leelanau Club at Bahle Farms and The Kings Challenge; both on the Leelanau Peninsula and in the heart of wine country for easy post golf touring or The Crown, High Pointe Golf Club, Mistwood and The Briar are all options. The area boasts 17 wineries to visit as well.

"We are pleased that the Leelanau Peninsula Vintners Association has created a special wine passport that our guests that participate in Sip & Chip will receive," said Knopp. "The passport will offer special savings and gifts at the wineries."

It may have once been bogies and beers, but the trend is changing: wedges and wines are just fine. Northern Michigan is calling, so come and sink some putts and then tour the many area-tasting rooms to enjoy the fruits of the vine. To learn more about the Park Place Hotel "Sip & Chip," package visit their website at [www.park-place-hotel.com](http://www.park-place-hotel.com) or call to book your package at (231) 946-5196.

Package prices vary depending on the season, length of stay and number of courses played. For more information on northern Michigan wines visit [www.lpwines.com](http://www.lpwines.com) or [www.wineriesofoldmission.com](http://www.wineriesofoldmission.com) or call (231) 938-1811.

*Rick Coates writes from his home in Acme. MG*

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By Terry Moore  
Editor Emeritus

really give a hoot. To live up the proceedings, I'm even going to resurrect some honors and awards of which yours truly is the sole judge and jury.

**Most riveting golf telecast**—For my money, it's not Annika Sorenstam's valiant effort at the Colonial or even Ben Curtis' shocking win at the British Open. No, for me it's Hilary Lunke's brilliant display of patient shotmaking, rock-solid course management, and deft short game in her epic U.S. Women's Open win at Pumpkin Ridge. Both the Sunday's final round and Monday's playoff produced incredible drama and pressure. Lunke's clutch 15-foot birdie putt that came just minutes after Angela Stanford's equally amazing 25-foot birdie putt was pure magic. If you love championship golf at its best, a Cinderella story, and a humble worthy champion, then this was the telecast to watch.

# SLICE OF LIFE

As is my custom, I've taken this last column of the season to look back at where I've been in the past year. Only the IRS and my understanding wife

Transcending gender, this event almost made me forget about the USGA's antiquated 18-hole playoff format. Almost.

**Best shot**—Shawn Micheel's 7-iron to the 72nd green at the PGA. (Sorry, but some awards are easy tap-ins.) Micheel's shot brought to mind the distant memory of Jerry Pate's stiffed 5-iron out of the rough on the last hole to win the 1976 U.S. Open at the Atlanta Athletic Club.

**Best golf trip**—Discovering the wild, rugged links courses of western Ireland, all north of Shannon, was a delight. Most of the courses played were designed by the late Eddie Hackett, the Emerald Isle's answer to Donald Ross. Space limitations don't permit me to extol all the many virtues of Hackett's wonderful links. Let me just say, they're authentic, natural, breathtaking, and enchanting. And getting there is half the fun, especially with an able, alert driver. Next time you're planning an Irish golf trip, include Carne (Hackett's masterpiece), Connemara, Enniscrone, Donegal and County Sligo (designed by Allison and Colt.)

**Best Road Sign to Heed**—In Ireland again, it was actually painted on the pave-

ment. It read: SLOW. VERY SLOW. DEAD SLOW. Prudent highway advice and a nifty swing tip to boot.

**Best and Most Deserving Award**—Jack Berry's induction into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame in May. I couldn't be happier and prouder for my good friend and colleague to be so honored. Jack's been the consummate golf writer and reporter and I'm indebted to him in so many ways. Unfortunately, my speech composure tip for him—visualizing actor Adam Sandler (on Jack's worst list) in the audience—failed to do the trick at times. But he gave a heartfelt acceptance speech which all of us will long cherish. Bravo!

**Best Media Day**—in keeping with the excitement of "Seabiscuit," there's a photo finish for first. Hold your tickets. Ladies and gentlemen, there's a dead heat, now confirmed by race officials. Tied as the best media days are the Michigan Amateur Media Day at lovely and venerable Belvedere CC and the Spring Media Day for the 2004 Ryder Cup at storied Oakland Hills CC. For the former, it was the only way I could mentally recover from a disastrous and failing local qualifying round for the Amateur. And for the latter, I gladly suffered through the round even though I threw my back out on the second hole at Oakland Hills. Sometimes for the benefit of others and comp golf, one must soldier on. (For look at all the many fine runner-ups in this category, please visit [www.terysmediadays.net](http://www.terysmediadays.net))

**Best Way to Get to a Major**—Heading to the U.S. Open at Olympia Fields in Illinois, I parked my car miles south of the venue in Richton Park, avoiding skads of traffic and congestion coming from the north and west of Chicago. In Richton Park, I hopped a commuter train for a few stops and was nicely and conveniently dropped off at the entrance of Olympia Fields. Feeling like Bernard Darwin detouring at Royal Lytham & St. Annes, I walked briskly into our National Open and the Merchandise Tent in search of a logo'd bowler.

**Teacher of the Year**—Goes to PGA pro Mike Furyk for guiding his son Jim with the loopy swing and the cross-handed putting grip all the way to the U.S. Open and Buick Open crowns. Mike had the good sense and trust not to mess with Jim's unorthodox knowing it repeated under pressure. Nice note: they are best buddies too.

**Best quote to end this column**—From Tiger Woods exiting Oak Hill after struggling mightily—the guy hit only 20 GIR out of 72!—while finishing 12 over par for the PGA: "I'm so happy I'm done."

See you next year! **MG**

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