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Discovers
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GOLFER

<http://michigangolfer.com>

MICHIGAN GOLFER

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Cover: Melanie Libby, Governor Jennifer Granholm, Jack and Jan Matthias. Photo courtesy of Thunder Bay Resort.

Eagles, Birdies, Elk and Cool

Governor Granholm Discovers Thunder Bay Resort

**By Art McCafferty and
Mike Terrell**

Governor Granholm and her entourage recently rolled into Thunder Bay in their search for Michigan's Hidden Treasures. She was accompanied by travel writers, members of Travel Michigan, her staff and the tremendous energy she brings to these events. Granholm's annual tour is meant to highlight Michigan's great tourism resources. A second message she brings is the call for fitness and a goal to reduce obesity in our state. Therefore, her agenda also includes promoting an active lifestyle. Her family are all runners and they also participate in other sports, golf included.

Jack Matthias his wife Jan, his daughter Melanie and son in law Joe Libby have brought fame and some good fortune to the citizenry of Hillman and other towns and cities on the Sunrise Sde of Michigan. . For three decades they have continued to expand the opportunities for tourists to explore the quieter and more affordable part of our state. Montmorency County is one of the least populated counties in the state, according to Matthias. "Even

though we have four of the top nine golf courses in the state located here in the northeast corner of the Lower Peninsula, we still don't get the recognition we deserve," he said. "This side of the state has always been thought of as the "blue collar" side, and we've had to work to establish our reputation. It's a slower pace of life here, less crowded, fewer people in a hurry. That's what we sell. All the hustle and bustle is on the other side of the state."

Jack, a graduate of the U of M, has been a relentless champion of Michigan tourism and lobbies state government and travel departments for more dollars. Jack received a "Michigan Ambassador" award a number of years ago to reward his focus and energy. They have continued to create reasons for people to visit their resort. They expanded their golf course, began a teaching program, added sleigh and wagon rides to visit elk. When visitors had difficulty-viewing elk, on the rides, they bought and raised their own. They feature wood stove cooked dinners, Murder Mysteries, the selling of antler products, which help, thwart the effects of arthritis. They have worked with three other courses, Elk Ridge, Black Lake and Red

Hawk to develop the Sunrise Challenge, a package where you can stay at Thunder Bay and golf these great golf courses in this area.

Today the resort encompasses over 400 acres with over a mile of Thunder Bay River frontage. In addition to the villas and lodge, which were added in 1991 and 1992, four new chalets were added to the mix three years ago. "We can accommodate 130-150 people comfortably, which is a struggle to keep filled year 'round," he said. "When we first started in this business you could count all the area lodging facilities on one hand, now you would have to take your shoes off."

For more information on Thunder Bay Resort and its various golf packages, call (800) 729-9375 or click on to <http://www.thunderbaygolf.com>.

**Note-You can view the Governor's visit on our Michigan Travel Channel at <http://michigantravel.tv/2004thunderbay/index.html>. Also, see, Mike Terrell's terrific article on Jack Matthias at <http://www.webgolfer.com/aug02/thunderbay.html>*



Thunder Bay's Hole Number 17

The Architects of the Gaylord Golf Mecca

By Paul Bairley

For the past century, the rolling hills, lakes and rivers in the Gaylord area have been a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Hunting and fishing, hiking, boating, skiing and sledding were the common activities that drew tourism dollars.

Photos this page and opposite page: courtesy of Treetops.



Rick Smith



Rick Smith's Signature, Treetops, Hole Number 3



Rick Smith's Threetops, Treetops, Hole Number 1

Now, thanks to the natural splendor of the Gaylord area, and the many golf architects that have incorporated these natural features into stunning course designs, the prevalent recreational game in town is golf, and there's plenty of it. The list of courses that comprise the Gaylord Golf Mecca is staggering – The Natural at Beaver Creek, Black Bear, the Black Forest and Valley Course at Wilderness Valley, Black Lake, Elk Ridge, Fox Run, the four courses at Garland, Gaylord Country Club, Deer Run, The Loon, Marsh Ridge, The Lakes and The Pines courses at Michaywe, The Classic and The Tribute at the Otsego Club, Thunder Bay, and the

Photo opposite page: Natural Golf Architecture



Jerry Matthews



Elkridge Golf Course

four courses at Treetops Resort.

The courses are as diverse as they are many, due in no small part to the personal touches provided by so many renowned golf course architects, such as Robert Trent Jones, Tom Fazio, Jerry Matthews, Tom Doak, Rick Smith, Gary Koch and Mike Husby. One common thread that runs through all of the Gaylord courses is the scenic beauty, featuring panoramic vistas, wetlands, lakes, streams, meadows and deep woods. And seeing this area during the fall color peak will awe you as green hills are converted into a blazing palette of oranges, yellows and reds.

Each course is uniquely different and refreshing, as the architect provides his personal trademark.

Photo opposite page: Kevin Frisch



Mike Husby



The Loon

Let's take a closer look at just a few of the links.

The Tribute – Otsego Club's newest course, the Tribute opened in 2001 to rave reviews and was designated a Top 10 Best New Course by Sports Illustrated Magazine. Designed by Rick Robbins and PGA tour veteran Gary Koch, the course meanders over a sprawling 1,100 acres in the Sturgeon River Valley. Dramatic elevation changes offer 20-mile panoramic views, as the course winds through towering hardwoods, evergreen forests and pristine wetlands. The Tribute's five sets of tees and huge greens make this breathtaking course

Photo opposite page: The Umflex Group



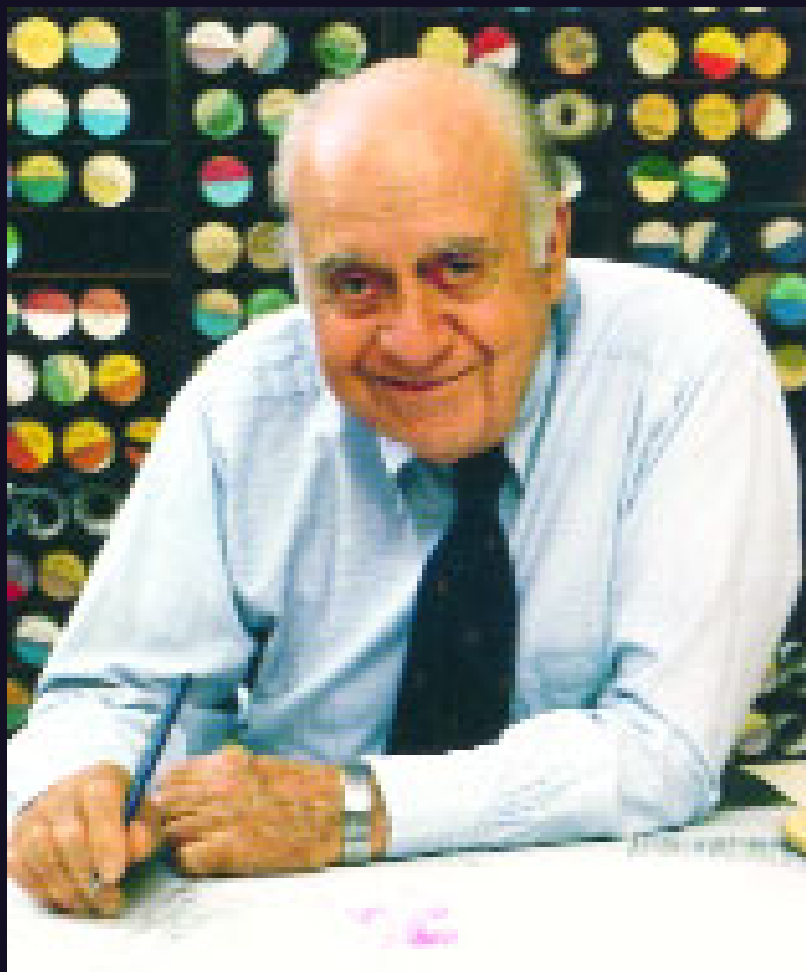
Gary Koch



The Tribute
Otsego Club

playable for any level of golfer.

Treetops Resort – Treetops is one of the areas most popular resorts, and is ranked in the “Top 75 Golf Resorts in America” by Golf Digest. Treetops features four championship courses, including the Rick Smith Signature course and the Tom Fazio Premiere course, both ranked among the “Top 10 Best Courses in Michigan” by Golfweek. The Signature course combines the northern Michigan landscape with the unique features of Irish links courses, and the Premiere course is the state’s only Tom Fazio design. Add to this the Robert Trent Jones Sr. Masterpiece, which opened in 1987 with the highest slope rating in Michigan (it’s sig-



Robert Trent Jones



The Masterpiece, Hole Number 11

Treetops

nature par 3 sixth hole, overlooking the Pigeon River Valley, inspired Jones to coin the name, “Treetops”), and Rick Smith’s Threetops course, which hosts the Tylenol Par 3 Shootout, and you can see why this golf resort is considered one of the nation’s best.

Black Forest – Tom Doak’s brilliant design is one of two courses at Wilderness Valley. Doak is one of the hottest architects in the business, and he pulled out all the stops in creating this traditional layout over 400 acres of forested valleys and meadows. Black Forest’s large, undulating greens are some of the most challenging in Michigan, and its British-style bunkers are works of art. It opened to numerous accolades, including:

Photo opposite page: Kevin Frisch



Tom Doak



Black Forest, Hole Number 1

Top 4 New Public Courses in America – Golf Digest; Top 50 Modern Courses in the United States – Golfweek; Best Public Course in Northern Michigan – Detroit News; and Best Golf Value in Gaylord – Great Lakes Golf Magazine.

There is simply not enough time to review and compare all of the great architects of Gaylord golf – you will simply have to experience their work yourself at any of the 24 Gaylord Golf Mecca member courses, which generate over 347,000 rounds of golf annually over a 6-month period from May to October. For more information, contact the Gaylord Area Convention and Tourism Bureau at www.gaylordgolfmecca.com. **MG**



Tom Fazio



The Premiere, Hole Number 18

Treetops

Vanessa Asks, Rick Responds: The Big Break III -- The Women are Coming



Vanessa Bell

By Vanessa Bell

The Big Break. It is what every athlete is waiting for who has not quite made it into the professional arena. Golf is no different. I think it is extremely hard for an aspiring golf professional to break through mental and physical barriers to earn one of those precious spots in a tour event. The Golf Channel thinks so too. In 2003, the Golf Channel aired its own reality television show, *The Big Break*. The winner received exemptions into four Canadian Tour events giving them the break they have eagerly sought after. In the heightened popularity of reality television shows, *The Big Break* not only appealed to golfers, but to non-golfers too, making it a massive hit.

Consequently, *The Big Break II* contestants have already been chosen and possibly filming under-

way. It's a secret.

Recently, what really caught my attention were rumors of *The Big Break III*; it's for ladies. The winner of this series receives exemptions into four LPGA events. It has to be almost every female professional's dream to compete on the LPGA Tour, and I am no exception. I headed straight to the computer in search of any leads for further information and came back with an application form found on the Golf Channel's website. After much pondering over 44 questions and two essays, I faxed the application. During dinner the next evening, the phone rang. It was the Golf Channel. The result: an audition at 11am the following week in Decatur, Illinois.

The Golf Channel had a section of the range roped off where the auditions were being held. My idea was that they already had a list created of personality types they were looking for. I was not nervous and knew I just had to be myself because I was either going to fit a criteria or I wasn't. Of course talent came into play as well.

The first part of the audition was on the range. I had to shape shots with my driver and 5 iron. It was possible being that there weren't actually any trees to go around or avoid. After that I had to hit a 100 yard pitch, (knocked it to about 6 foot), a 75 yard pitch, (must remember not to leave

myself that yardage out on the course), and a 50 yard pitch, (hit the bottom of the flag). Next, a little flop shot into a basket — missed — but only just.

The second part of the audition was in front of the camera answering a few questions. Luckily, most of them came from the application form so I didn't have to do much stumbling. I think I did fine but why is it that you always think of better things to say after the event? It was fun to be wired up to a microphone and stare into a camera only a couple of feet in front of you trying your best to get that break.

They are looking for ten contestants and have at least three more audition sites. They will have picked the contenders by the end of August. It seems rather a long time away but you never know when you are going to get your big break. **MG**



Rick Smith

Inspiration

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Angels Crossing Golf Club

By Jason Deegan

When the Fox River Paper Company left Vicksburg in the economic downturn of 2001, some locals will tell you the move dashed a community's hopes and dreams. The loss eliminated 250 jobs, and roughly 23 percent of the village's tax base, crippling this bedroom community just southeast of Kalamazoo.

Instead of letting the paper mill's old factory loom over the village like a specter, reminding them of past failures, Bob Thompson and his group of investors saw something different in the property – potential growth, and in essence, a future.

The Angels Crossing Golf Club opened up 18 of its proposed 27 holes on the mill's old irrigation fields in May to symbolize the possible rebirth of Vicksburg.

“There have been a number of

local residents who have put their trust into this project, financially as well as emotionally,” director of golf Mike Hill said. “We have investors who don't even play golf. They believe in what we are trying to do to revive the community.”

The W. Bruce Matthews III design will be affordable, costing less than \$40 for 18 holes (including cart), and playable at 7,169 yards.

Laid out on 350 acres of Michigan's only prairie land overlooking Portage Creek and Barton Lake, Angels Crossings feels expansive and open. And it will stay that way. Most of the 100 home sites and 24 condos of the residential development will be built on the third nine, keeping the original 18 at peace with natural wetlands and prairie grasses.

Matthews revived classic architecture to create a personality that would seem more in line among old-world East Coast designs by Alister Mackenzie and Donald Ross than

Michigan.

“The land has a series of ridges and wetlands,” he said. “It was also gently rolling. It had a diversification of elements that you hope to get on a course.”

Wetlands and hazards dominate the back nine. Several expansive greens are more than 200 feet deep, including the sixth, which is 14,000 square feet.

“Angels Crossing gives a whale of a deal at an efficient cost,” Matthews said.

Angels Crossing Golf Club

3600 East W Avenue

Vicksburg, MI 49097

Phone: 269-649-2700

Website:

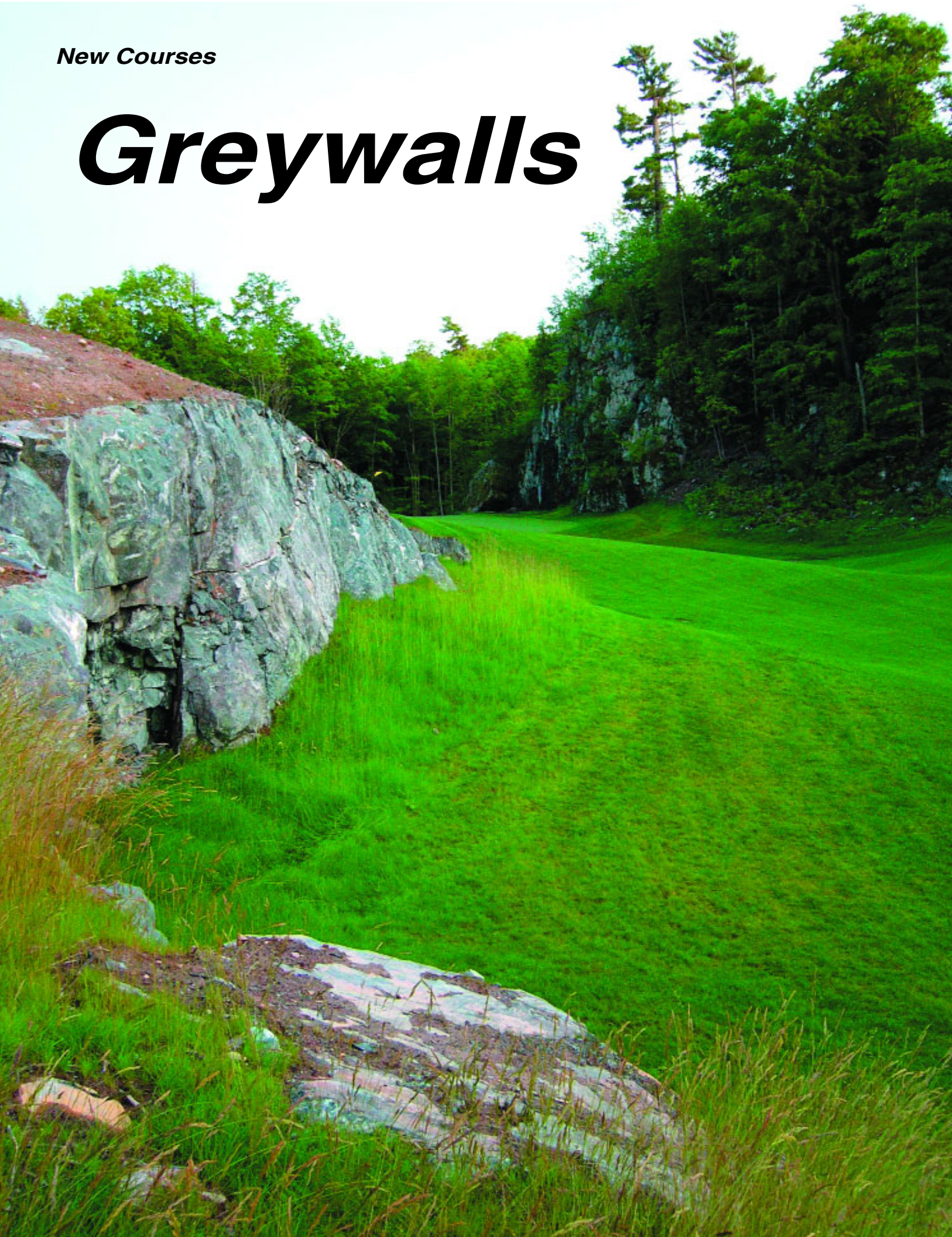
<http://www.golfangelscrossing.com>

**Note, readers should click on to <http://michigangolfer.tv/2004shows/show9/index.html> to see the show with architect Bruce Matthews III and owner Jim Thompson.*



New Courses

Greywalls



By Art McCafferty
Photos by Brian Sleeman

“The ballots need not be sent out, let the writers take a year off, the course of the year in 2004 will be awarded to Greywalls, designed by Mike DeVries.

Fresh off his remarkable work at Pilgrims Run, Diamond Springs and The Kingsley Club in Traverse

City, Mike has been holed up in the north country building what may become the most awe-inspiring

course this state has seen. The course will be soon be

mentioned in the same breath with Bay Harbor, Arcadia Bluff and the Gales for its unique design.”

9/26/2003

Imade that remark last year in Michigan Golf News. Frankly, it is not at all like our publication to make such a bold statement on a golf course.

However, the terrain that Greywalls has been sculpted from is so dramatic, that we felt compelled to make it.

This fall, Greywalls will open to the public and they will be able to make their own judgment.

Mike DeVries, the course designer, is justifiably proud of his work at Greywalls as are the members of the Marquette Country Club who have waited a long time for this to come about...



Photo opposite page: Hole Number 5, Greywalls. Photo above: Hole Number 6.



Hole Number 1, Greycwalls

Brian Sleeman, the Assistant Professional at Greycwalls, took the photos for this article, and we will let him describe what you are seeing.

“Hole 1 is a downhill, dogleg-right par 5 of 583 yards. It had rained most of the day so it was a bit hazy out on the lake, which is still somewhat visible in the water tower area of this photo. You may recall that the most dramatic view of the lake can be seen when looking to the right of the area in this photo. The heather grasses are just now starting to grow to the point of being fairly noticeable, and at full height will be roughly double what they are now. This one reminds me a lot of the Kingsley Club.

Hole 5 is a slightly uphill short par 4 measuring 334 yards. This photo is taken along the rock outcropping that runs along the left side of the fairway for most of the hole. The 70-foot high cliff just off

the right edge of the green is one of the most obvious elements of rock on the course. The 6th tee is around the corner and largely on top of that rock.

Hole 6 is a dramatic par 3 of 182 yards, with a tee shot from cliff to cliff over a chasm and the rock wall visible in the center of this photograph. Shots coming up short or on the false front of this green will roll back and collect in the basin just above the rock ledge short-left of the green, leaving an intimidating pitch straight up an 18-foot rise. The green setting is in a natural rocky bowl.”

The Marquette Golf Club
1075 Grove Street
Marquette, Michigan 49855
(906) 225-0721

Website: <http://marquettegolfclub.com> **MG**

Fire Rock

By Brian Manning

Fire Rock, a new tract, located just outside of London, Ontario, opened this month. "This course is one of a kind in its area, no where else can you find what you'll find here" said Jim Spivak. Fire Rock offers a public championship course designed by Canada's most famous golf architect Tom McBroom. Spivak hopes that Fire Rock will develop into one of Canada's prestigious public courses.

Golfers can golf Fire Rock for \$ 75.00 (CND) per round. Fire

Rock's Jim Spivak, says "There is no other course like this that offers you the world class golf experience that's open to the public, and the chance to golf a course by Tom McBroom for under a \$ 100" Fire Rock was built on the grounds of an abandoned gravel pit, and very little of the topography was changed to create the course itself.

The course design is a blend of the gravel pits natural look, as many of the bunkers and fairways were created using these natural elements including the beautiful Savannah grass, and using the Oxbow river valley to create this

one of a kind course.

"The ability to create such a course, blending the natural elements, and not doing a lot earth moving to create what we have here, is what makes Tom McBroom such a great architect" Spivak said.

Every hole gives you the feel of privacy, as you are secluded by nature, allowing you to enjoy each hole in a private setting. The course is sure to give a world class experience to golfers of all levels, and will attract golfers from all over Ontario, other regions of Canada, and the United States. **MG**

Robert Trent Jones & Point O'Woods

narrated by Greg Johnson

Coming Fall 2004 on Michigan Golfer TV

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The Ryder Cup - 2004
Mid Night at the Ryder Cup
Tom Doak: Michigan's Internationally Known Golf Architect
Jany Matthews: Michigan's Most Prolific Golf Course Architect
"Sp and Chip" - Golfing in Michigan's Wine County



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SLICE OF LIFE



By Terry Moore

In the interest of full disclosure, I will admit that this column is written in haste but not without forethought.

Let me explain. You see, I usually set aside one morning to write my column. And that's tomorrow. But today one of the best and worse things that can happen to a golf writer occurred: I got an invitation to play a terrific golf course and at the cherished first tee-time of the day. And it's tomorrow. So what should I do? Will it be golf or will it be the column? The lady or the tiger? Door number one or door number two? Rationalizing that the Michigan spring has been terrible for my posted rounds to date, I easily conclude that the reality of the game trumps the abstract.

However, I do take my column and its select group of readers ("Hi Dad! Hi Mr. Prison Warden!") seriously. That's why I keep a "24/7 column" in reserve. Being a pack rat of sorts, I retain all sorts of emails, press clippings, and notes that catch my fancy over the course of several months. Sometimes they inspire me to write a column on a single subject. But this time, they serve

the glorious purpose of allowing me to commence a column NOW so I can tee off tomorrow morning. Fellow golfers, can I hear an Amen? Thank you. Allow me to proceed....

The lessons of Pdraig Harrington—I saved an article read in the Irish Independent about Harrington commenting on his junior golf upbringing. At a junior clinic in Ireland in late April, he told the gathering that at 15 years of age and while representing his country, he had only a half-set of golf clubs because he shared a set with his brother. "I had the 4-iron, 6-iron, 8-iron, and wedge," said Harrington. "I had no sand wedge and no lob wedge yet I managed to get in the Ireland Boys Golf Team."

Although not stated in the article, I assumed Pdraig had some woods but still he makes a valid point. Many juniors really don't need a full set of clubs to play the game. In fact, too much parenting, product, and pampering can ruin a young player's natural instinct for and interest in the game.

Harrington went on to say: "Golf should be a bit of fun for children. It's not about having all the latest equipment and the latest driver."

Thinking back to my own golf upbringing, Harrington is right on the money with his remarks. My parents bought me some new, "department store," inexpensive clubs which certainly weren't a

full set. No matter to me because I learned to hit all sorts of half and three-quarter shots with the clubs in my bag. I still recall my trusty ladies woods, called Mor-Flite, that had these gosh-awful aqua-colored grips. Let me confess, those grips caused me all sorts of grief. But growing up with those clubs, I still remember my Dad marveling how I could "lay off" my Mor-Flite three-wood from under 125 yards. Back then in those evergreen years, golf was all feel and instinct and target-centered. Harrington made another salient observation all parents of junior golfers should ponder: kids should learn to play team sports as well as golf. "Golf is a selfish game so it's good for kids to learn to be part of a team first."

Golf equipment: Hey, just because I grew up with a half-set of clubs like Paddy doesn't mean I don't prefer a full set now. Several new clubs have somehow found themselves in my bag this season. Foremost among them are the Adams Ovation stainless steel fairway clubs which I really liked when I tried them out at Demo Day at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando last winter. I'm playing the Ovation three and nine metalwoods this season. Like those aqua-colored grips of my younger days, that nine metalwood (24 degrees of loft) in particular exposes me to some ribbing by my playing partners. A

month ago on a 180 yard, par-three where my playing companions hit an eight-iron, a seven-iron, and a six-iron respectively, I eschewed my five-iron for my more forgiving nine metalwood. Its low center of gravity and low profile clubface really allow me to hit a higher trajectory ball than with my five iron. Call it a concession to my age or to less flexibility in my swing but I no longer have a two, a three or a four-iron

in my bag. Hello three, five, seven and nine metalwoods! But when it comes to winning a skin against my Saturday morning gang, I'm not too proud about the non-macho nature of my equipment. Anyway, as my shot that morning was seeking the flag, one of golf buddies exclaimed in mock play by play commentary, "And now Terry hits a "turned down" nine wood into the cup for an ace!" In fact, I just missed by

a mere inch from holing the shot and instead made a two-footer for a deuce. But let me just state, I would not be embarrassed to have my name in the newspaper for making an ace with this club aptly named Ovation.

And here's the bigger point: Golf should be a bit of fun for adults. It's about having all the latest equipment and the latest nine wood. *MG*

Michigan Golfer

Television Show Interviews:

Golf Course Architects

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

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Harley Hodge

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

Mike Husby

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

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<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>

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2000 "TOP 100 FAIRWAYS" - Golf For Women Magazine

"America's Best 18 Holes, The New Generation" - Golf Digest Magazine 2000

"#3 Best New Upscale Public Course in North America 1998" - Golf Digest Magazine

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