



Photo by Jennie McCafferty

Sweetgrass has five bridges on site. Frankly, recycling some of the surplus country bridges have given the course an identity like no other course in Michigan.

Sweetgrass: Destined to be One of U.P.'s Finest

By Art McCafferty

The golf architectural firm of Albanese and Lutzke has great blood lines.

Albanese, Harvard educated, got his training under Matthews and Associates and then partnered up with Ray Hearn, another Matthews alum. Under Matthews,

he worked on Hunters's Ridge, Wyandotte Shores and Timberstone. Under Hearn, he assisted with Moose Ridge, Quail Ridge and Royal Scott.

Lutzke, worked with Pete Dye, on the Ocean Course at Kiawah Island, Whistling Straits,

Barefoot Landing and is now working with Dye on the Dye Course at French Lick Resort and Casino. His first solo work was at Eagle Eye in Bath. In fact, in a real show of professional courtesy, Pete Dye dropped by to give Lutzke support on the Grand Opening.

In order for a golf architect to be invited to join the American Association of Golf Course Architects, they must have completed the equivalent of five 18-hole golf courses. In mid-year, the Albanese & Lutzke firm, will have two courses between them. If they are to reach their personal and professional goals of five apiece or 10 collectively, they will probably have to develop more outstate business.

Sweetgrass is the first course with Albanese as architect of record and it is sweet. Sweetgrass Golf Course is located behind the new 11-story Island Resort and Casino complex in Harris.

The course is scheduled to open this summer and should have no problems with the date, as much of it has grown in already.

Sweetgrass is built on some fairly flat farm land, with only a trace of woods to define some holes. There is a creek that runs through the property that gives the course some additional definition.

Sweetgrass is destined to be one of the Upper Peninsula finest. It will join Wild Bluff, Greywalls, The Rock and Timberstone as the U.P.'s top tracts. **MG**



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Sweetgrass is scheduled to open Summer 2008 and should have no problems with the date, as much of it has grown in already.



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This firepit is an example of Native American themes which are incorporated throughout the course.



**Sweetgrass Golf Club Preview
Island Resort and Casino**

<http://michigangolfer.tv/2007shows/sweetgrass/>