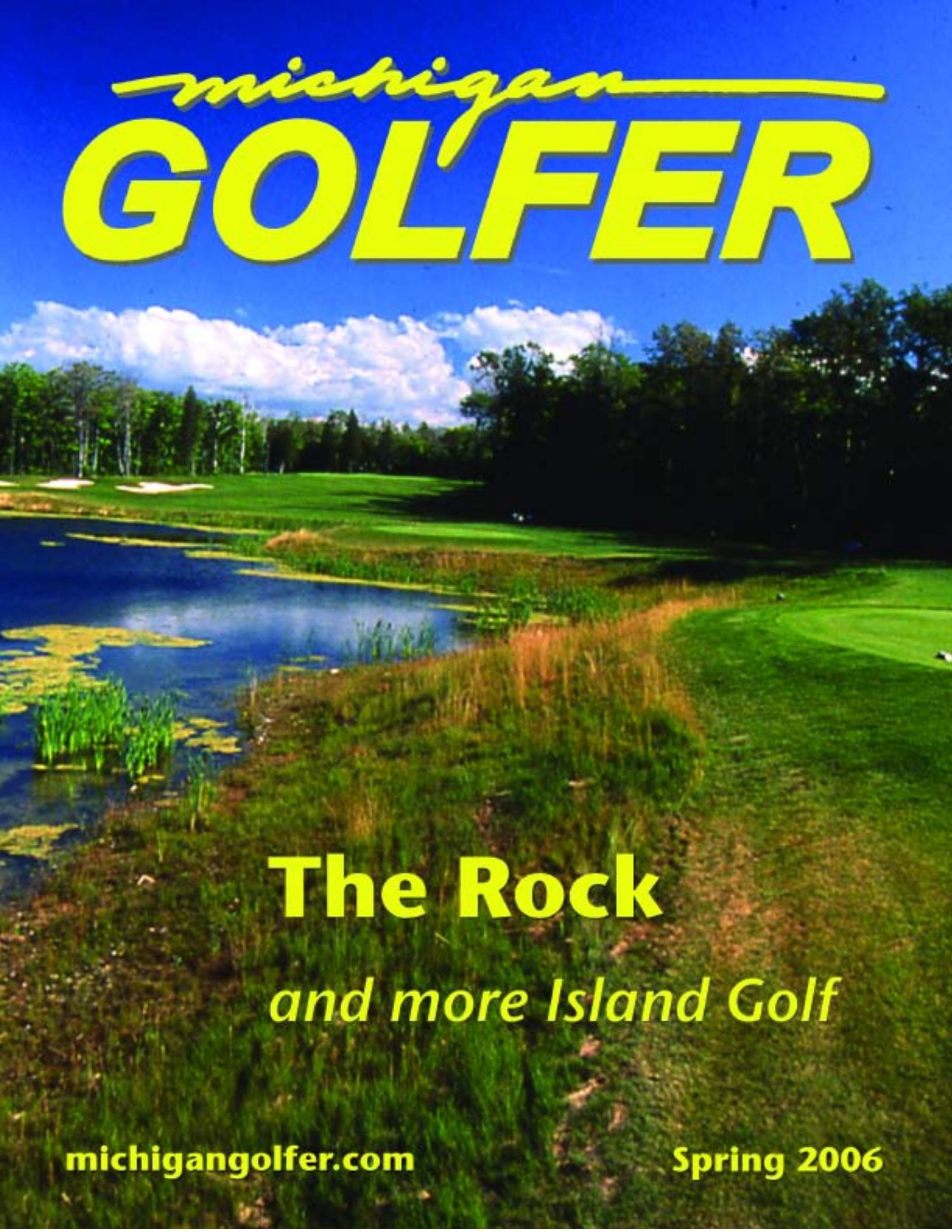


*michigan*

# GOLFER



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*and more Island Golf*

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*Cover: The Rock, Drummond Island. Photo courtesy of The Rock.*

# Destination: Island Golf



Photo by Art McCafferty

This century-old club is still basically untouched.

by Art McCafferty

*"No man or woman is an island. To exist just for yourself is meaningless. You can achieve the most satisfaction when you feel related to some greater purpose in life, something greater than yourself."*

-- Denis Waitley

**A**h... island golf; it just does not get any better. Okay, mountain golf is pretty good and yes, there is something to be said about prairie golf. When playing island golf in Michigan you need to think not only about green and cart fees but you also need to set aside a couple of bucks for ferry fees.

And now, the Top 10 Island courses . . .

## The Rock-Drummond Island

The Rock has long been one of the celebrated courses in the Midwest. It is a spectacular course in a setting that is far from the madding crowd. Harry Bowers, course architect who mentored with Robert Trent Jones, feels it is the greatest course he has designed. There is a reason for calling it The Rock. "People do not realize what an undertaking that was. All of that blasting, the tremendous amounts of dirt we had to bring in and then seeding it all in one year, was such an awesome task that I am still amazed at what we did. Those Drummond Island people were great workers."

<http://www.drummondisland.com>

## Drummond Island GC

Drummond Island GC was built in 1963 and was designed by Jerold R. Gabel. This is a sleepy little course for island locals and was the only game in town before Tom Monaghan built The Rock for his Domino Pizza and Detroit Tiger families. The island is accessed by a short ferry ride from Detour.

## Beaver Island Golf Course

Matt Melville designed the course in 1963 and called it a "Wee bit of Scotland on the Emerald Isle." Beaver Island golf is another step back in time for busy golfers. Of the millions of Michigan golf rounds each year, only about 5,000 of them are at Beaver Island. For openers, it is a little tough to get to. You have to take the Beaver Island Ferry at Charlevoix. The cost is \$37 round trip and the departures to the Island are usually twice a day. Our ferry took off at 8:30 and arrived two hours later. Our return was at 5:30 with our arrival at Charlevoix at 7:40. You can stay overnight, with rates from \$65-115. Your round is quite affordable and at times has a very laid back billing procedure. When I was there about five years ago, they had a coffee can that you dropped your money into. We later found the owner, John Works, on the course and he was good enough to drive us back into town.

<http://www.beaverislandgolf.com/>

## Wawashkamo Golf Club

Wawashkamo Golf Club, listed by Golf Magazine as one of the top 10 nine-hole courses in the world, is also the first nine-hole course designated as a Historic Golf Landmark by *Golf Digest*. U.S. Open Champion and Scotsman, Alex Smith built the course in 1898. Wawashkamo was named after an utterance of Chippewa Chief Eagle Eye, who observed that the golfers on the course "wawash-kamo" walk a crooked path. Well, that part hasn't changed and really not much else at the course has changed either.

## Top 10 Michigan Island Golf Courses

The Rock GC at Drummond Island

Drummond Island GC - Drummond Island

Beaver Island GC - Beaver Island

The Jewel and Woods at the Grand Hotel - Mackinac Island

Wawashkamo GC - Mackinac Island

Grosse Ile Golf & County Club

Middle Channel Golf & Country - Harsens Island

Belle Isle GC - Detroit

West Shore Golf and Country Club - Grosse Isle

Iyopawa Island GC at Coldwater

The course is still cut by horse-drawn mowers, much of the watering system comes from the clouds that pass by the island, and the course still allows golfers the opportunity to use sand tees. The rough is rough, and wayward shots will have you reaching into your bag for a new ball. The postage-sized greens demand accurate approaches, not any different from decades past. To get a more comprehensive story on this famed golf

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### The Woodscourse is yet another classic Jerry Matthews design.

course you need to read, "Walk a Crooked Trail - A Centennial History of Wawashkamo Golf Club" by Frank Straus and Brian Leigh Dunnigan  
<http://www.wawashkamo.com/>

### **The Jewel and The Woods at The Grand Hotel**

Grand Hotel is home to two picturesque nine-hole golf courses known together as the Jewel. Built in 1901, the Grand Nine is adjacent to the hotel and overlooks the Straits of Mackinac. Architect Jerry Matthews redesigned the course in 1987. The holes are fairly short with three sets of tees: blue at 2,405 yards, white at 2,258 yards

and red at 2,053 yards with a par of 33. The back nine is called Woods Nine and was designed by Jerry Matthews in 1994. This modern course features bent grass tees, greens and fairways. The holes are longer with three sets of tees: blue at 3,040, white at 2,645 red at 2,159 with a par of 34. Traversing into the interior of the Island, the Woods nine feels like a golfer's private escape in the woods while the Grand nine feels like the ultimate executive course.  
<http://www.grandhotel.com>

### **Middle Channel Golf & Country-Harsen's Island**

The Champion Auto Ferry runs every 20 minutes during the sum-

mer from 6:00 AM to midnight. It is a short trip and will only cost you half a sawbuck. If you have the bucks you could also fly to Harsen's Island for your golf holiday. The 18-hole course, built in the 1920's has not changed very much. It plays to 6100 yards and has two sets of tees.  
<http://www.harsensisland.net>

### **Belle Isle Golf Course-Detroit**

Belle Isle Golf Facilities are composed of two entities; Belle Isle Golf Course at Riverbank and Oakview built in 1922, and The Belle Isle Practice Facility and Driving Range on Riverbank across from the Nature Center.

The course is an executive 9-hole course with 7 holes at par three - distances ranging from 130 to 160 yards. Two holes par at 4 with longer distances - 290 yards and 300 yards. The practice facility was built by Rick Smith and was part of the First Tee movement.

### **Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club -Grosse Isle**

Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club was incorporated in 1919 giving it a long and rich history on the island. The course is located in the center of the island on over 300 acres of land. It is one of a number of Donald Ross courses built in Michigan. The concept of a club invitational was born at the club in 1937 as a fundraiser and it has been going ever since. The course has hosted a number of prestige tournaments, the 66th Western Amateur being one of them. They also held the 93rd Michigan Amateur with the champion being recent Grosse Ile High School, Jeff Cozzort.  
<http://www.gigcc.com/>

### **West Shore Golf and Country Club-Grosse Isle**

According to the information on their website, the original golf course was designed by George B. Ferry, golf architect, in 1908 and was named Island Country Club. It was the first private golf club established on Grosse Ile on what was originally known as the Fox Farms property. A flagpole, donated by Mr. Charles E. Haisley on July 4, 1928 for W.M. Lacy, still remains as a reminder of the original golf club

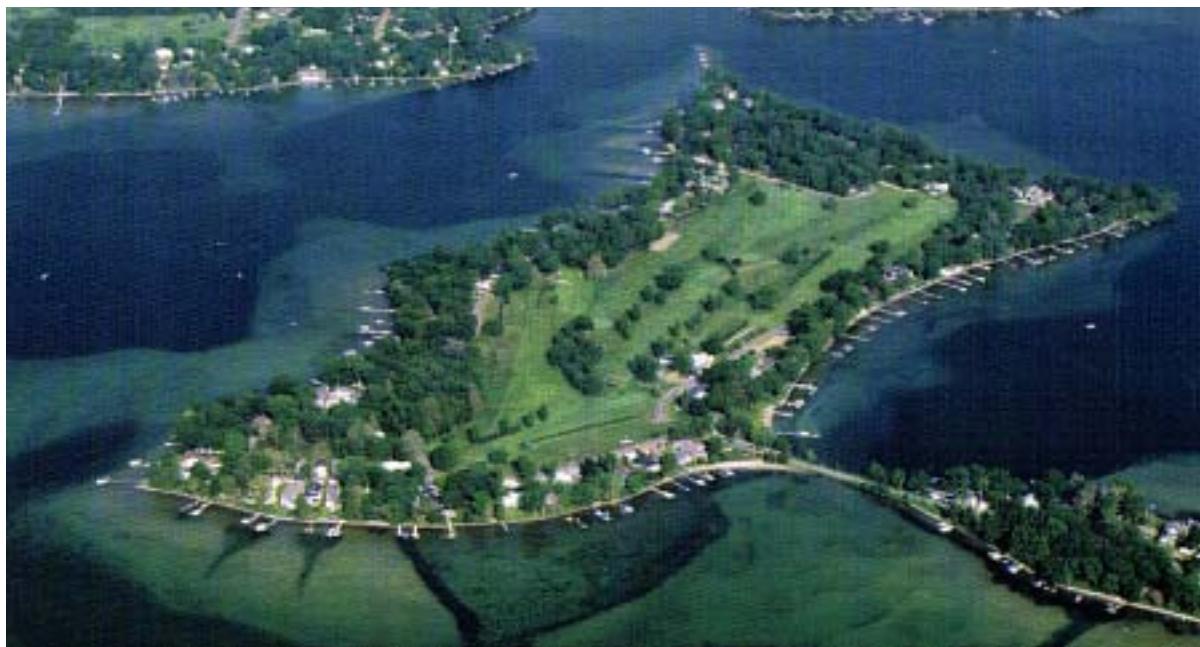
During the ensuing years the property was purchased by William R. Stadler, renamed West Shore Golf & Country Club, and leased to the members. During World War II the course was closed, but used as a training camp for the Detroit Lions football team. The Golf Association of Michigan held their 57th annual Amateur Championship at West Shore in 1975. West Shore was once again the scene of the same

event in 1981. West Shore hosted the USGA 1986 U.S. Amateur Public links Sectional Qualifying Rounds, and in July 1987, hosted the U.S. Junior Amateur Championship regional. West Shore Golf & Country Club in conjunction with Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club, co-hosted the 1989 Michigan PGA Professional Championship, held Monday the 15th of May, 1989.

<http://www.westshoregolfcc.com/history.html>

### **Dan Tribble's Iyopawa Island Golf Course**

It appears Dan Tribble is a man who has it all or at least a person that owns his own island golf. At Iyopawa the golfers find themselves in a casual atmosphere at all levels of play. The course is located on a unique site of 36 rolling acres on beautiful Coldwater Lake's Island. Actually, it is set on a peninsula, but that is the name they give it.  
<http://www.iyopawaisland.com/>



Iyopawa Island



Photo by Resort and Golf Marketing

The Heather's famous 18th hole with its watery grave was actually designed by Everett Kircher.

# The Heather at Boyne Highlands

By Jack Berry

**W**hat would Northern Michigan be today without Everett Kircher and Robert Trent Jones, the Odd Couple that triggered the sleepy north country into becoming the midwest's summer golf playground?

It was the middle 1960s and Jones was the No. 1 golf course architect in the fast-growing business. His toughening of Oakland Hills Country Club for the 1951 United States Open made Jones the top gun and in demand by everyone who wanted a challenging golf course that everyone would talk about and want to play. Jones

designed big, muscular golf courses like the Dunes Golf & Beach Club in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and Point O'Woods in Benton Harbor, Mich.

Kircher wanted the best and he got him. But Jones didn't know as much about Kircher as Kircher knew about him. Jones didn't know that Kircher was a hands-on,

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### The Heather course, Boyne Highlands

no-nonsense builder, a man with vision, a man who knew what he wanted and knew how to get it, a man who knew machinery, a man who knew his land.

Kircher wanted a golf course to retain key employees from the ski season and to attract business meetings and conventions in the summer. At the time it was a novel idea for a ski area owner but, as happened often, Kircher's pattern was copied by ski areas from coast to coast.

Kircher got involved in building what he'd name the Heather, whereas Jones was accustomed to clients who stood back respectfully as he worked his magic.

"They were both opinionated

and Everett reminded him that he owned the property," a longtime Boyne employee said.

Kircher's greatest contribution was the hole everyone talks about—the downhill, par 4 18th, that devil with the water in front of the green, such an expanse it seems like one of the Great Lakes. Well, maybe not that big but definitely intimidating because there really is no safe way around it. There's a road on the right and on the left a strip of grass that seems no wider than a Band-Aid. Jones left before the 18th was grown in and Kircher felt the hole lacked pizzazz, a fitting climax for a big, tough golf course. So he directed a huge hole be dug in

front of the green and filled with water. Fittingly, a water-guarded 18th green now is the signature of every Boyne course—the Alpine and Monument at Boyne Mountain and the Donald Ross, Moor and Arthur Hills that are the Heather's teammates at Boyne Highlands. The water is 152 yards from edge to edge and you're playing from a downhill lie. The result is predictable and entertaining to everyone enjoying a post-round beverage at the snack shop behind the green: Splash! Invariably followed by: Splash!

"The average is two balls per player," said Boyne's Director of Golf, Bernie Friedrich. "Thirty to 40,000 balls are retrieved from the

pond every year."

It's ironic that Jones didn't come up with the pond on the 18th since water was one of his hallmarks. He put the water in on the par 3 16th at the Augusta National Golf Club and his redesign of Baltusrol Country Club in Springfield, N.J., included water in front of the par 3 fourth hole. When members said it was too hard, Jones, playing the inaugural round after the redesign, made a hole-in-one. That stopped the criticism.

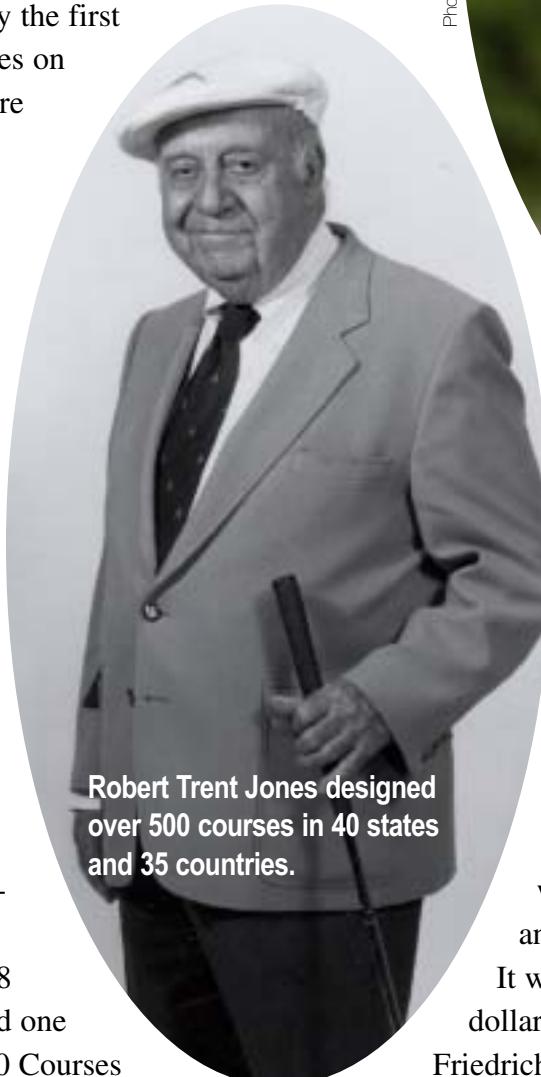
And Jones made lavish use of water elsewhere on the Heather—only the first and eighth holes on the first nine are waterless. The par 5 fifth winds around a lake and wetland and is a classic risk/reward hole. The par 3 fourth and sixth are all carry as is the par 3 12th on the second nine.

The Heather has aged beautifully since it opened in 1968 and was named one of the Best 100 Courses in America by *Golf Digest*. This year, in time for the State Pro-

Am Championship, June 5-6, and the 95th Michigan Amateur, June 20-24, there will be sparkling white PGA Tour-type sand in the bunkers.

"The only complaint we've had was stones in the

Photo courtesy of Boyne USA



**Robert Trent Jones designed over 500 courses in 40 states and 35 countries.**

bunkers," Friedrich said of the area's indigenous sand that's been used. "We've completely redone the bunkers with drainage

and the new sand.

It was a half-million dollar project."

Friedrich said new back tees on the fifth, ninth and 14th holes are an answer to today's

big hitters.

"The fifth tee is back 45 yards, in the middle of the runway," Friedrich said, laughing. "The new tee on nine will bring the water into play."

The par 4 14th is another Kircher touch.

Under the Jones plan, it was bunkerless and Kircher dug a nice big bunker right in front to make the shortish straight-away hole challenging.

"The Heather is a great course that's going to challenge the best players to play their best game," Golf Association of Michigan executive director David Graham said. "This is the second time the Amateur's been played on the Heather in eight years and it's a fantastic venue. Boyne has such a great history and tradition—they opened up northern Michigan golf and they know how to put on tournaments."

The GAM obviously likes Boyne Highlands—the 24th Michigan Men's Mid-Amateur Championship will be played on the Donald Ross and Arthur Hills courses Aug. 31-Sept. 1.



**Everett Kircher was more than a passive observer of golf course architecture.**



# Villegas: The PGA Tour's Colorful Colombian

Photo by Clarence Sommin

Camilo Villegas played in the 2003 Western Amateur, Point O'Woods Golf and Country Club

**By Kelly Hill**

*Managing Editor*

**W**hile Tiger Woods wears red on Sunday's Camilo Villegas prefers orange.

Orange may not be the colorful Colombian's color of choice every Sunday, but it was his color during the final round of the PGA Tour's Ford Championship at Doral, early this season.

Villegas, 24, a native of infamous Medellin, Colombia, who thrice played in the Western Amateur Championship at Point O'

Woods Golf and Country Club in Benton Harbor, wore orange shoes and an orange belt in honor of his alma mater, the University of Florida. Villegas, who still lives in Gainesville, graduated from Florida with a degree in business in 2004. That is the same year he turned professional. During his playing career in Gainesville, Villegas was named a second-team All-American in 2002 and a first-team All-American in 2003.

Villegas' Gators-orange duds could not propel him to victory at Doral, but he did finish second, by one stroke, to Tiger Woods.

Villegas shot a 19-under 269 and finished tied with David Toms for second. Villegas also earned \$484,000 for his efforts.

"We are talking about the best player in the world here," Villegas told PGATOUR.com senior editor Joe Wojciechowski. "I never thought about that I have Tiger up there. I can't control what they do so I was trying to focus on myself. And I'm proud of the way I handled myself this week."

Villegas' runner-up finish at Doral was his second of the season as he also finished second in the

FBR Open, played on the par-71 TPC of Scottsdale. J.B Holmes won the \$5.2 million tournament, but Villegas collected \$312,000 when he finished tied for second with J.J. Henry, Steve Lowery, Ryan Palmer and Scott Verplank.

Following his second second of the season, Villegas was ranked No. 13 on the PGA Tour money list, having earned more than \$850,000 this season.

While a student at the University of Florida, Villegas, who stands just 5-foot-9 and who weighs just 142 pounds, played three times in the Western Amateur Championship at the Robert Trent Jones-designed Point O' Woods course in Benton Harbor. In 2002, Villegas shared the Western Amateur Championship's medalist honors with Kevin Stadler. That also was the year in which Villegas enjoyed his best performance in the Western Amateur Championship. He advanced to the Sweet 16, before being eliminated by Brady Stockton, 5 and 3.

The 104th playing of the Western Amateur Championship is scheduled for late July at Point O'Woods Golf and Country Club in Benton Harbor.

A lover of music and a with a flair of style, Villegas obviously is enjoying his career on the PGA Tour.

"I think I've learned to like big crowds," Villegas told PGATOUR.com's Wojciechowski. "I played with Michelle Wie in Hawaii and that felt great." **MG**

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# Tournament Action to Take Few Breaks This Summer

By Kelly Hill

Managing Editor

**B**eginning on Tuesday, June 20, and continuing through Sunday, Aug. 6, seven weeks of championship golf in Michigan will be interrupted this summer only by Fourth of July week.

Take a couple of weeks off after the Buick Open concludes Aug. 6, but be prepared when the Michigan PGA Championship takes to a new venue later in August.

## Michigan Amateur Championship - Heather Course, Boyne Highlands

Michigan's summer of championship golf will open Tuesday, June 20 when the 95th Michigan Amateur Championship is hosted by the Heather Course at Boyne Highlands.

Traverse City resident Christian Vozza, who was 22 years old last summer, survived successive bogeys at the onset of the championship match to eventually beat Patrick Wilkes-Krier of Ann Arbor, 5 and 4, to claim the 94th state amateur championship at Muskegon Country Club.

In one of the state's most grueling tests of tournament golf, two rounds of stroke play cuts the amateur field to the low 64, after which two matches are played each

day until the state amateur champ is crowned.

The tourney is slated to end Saturday, June 24.

## Michigan Open - The Bear, Grand Traverse Resort and Spa

Only two days later, the 89th Michigan Open will open at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Acme. Michael Harris, a 27-year-old touring pro from Troy won last year's event with a record 20-under 268. He posted rounds of 67-67-65-69-268, to finish six strokes ahead of Muskegon resident Colby Beckstrom, who was playing in his first professional tournament.

The four-round Open is scheduled to run through Thursday, June 29.

**M**ichigan's summer of championship golf will now take a short intermission while the country celebrates its birthday.

## Michigan Women's Amateur Championship - Barton Hills CC

The championship schedule will resume on Monday, July 10, when the 90th Michigan Women's Amateur Championship is contest-

ed at Barton Hills Country Club.

Mandi McConnell, who is a junior at Michigan State, defeated Western Michigan University sophomore Laura Bavaird 6 and 5 in last year's championship match at Radrick Farms Golf Club in Ann Arbor.

**H**ere is where the scheduling of Michigan's summer of championships gets a little complicated and a few choices may need to be made.

## Ford Senior Players Championship, PTC of Michigan, Dearborn

The final matches of the Michigan Women's Amateur Championship are scheduled for Friday, July 14, but the Ford Seniors Players Championship is scheduled to open play on Thursday, July 13. The \$2.5 million Ford Seniors Players Championship, which is played at the TPC of Michigan in Dearborn, is the state's only Champions Tour event.

It was won last year by Peter Jacobsen, who fired a 6-under 66 in the final round to claim the second major championship of his career on the Champions Tour. Jacobsen finished one stroke ahead of Hale Irwin and three ahead of Tom Watson.



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## **Michigan Women's Open, Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville**

While the Ford Senior Players Championship is slated to end on Sunday, July 16, the Michigan Women's Open is scheduled to open play on Monday, July 17, at Crystal Mountain Resort on Thompsonville.

Kelly Cavanaugh, a 22-year-old from Palos Verdes, California, made last year's Women's Open, the 12th playing of the tournament, her first professional victory. The touring professional, who confessed to not having won any tournament since playing junior golf, shot a final-round 68 on Crystal's 6,150-yard Mountain Ridge Course.

The final round of the Women's Open is slated for Wednesday, July 19.

## **Michigan PGA's Tournament of Champions - Boyne Mountain Resort**

The following Monday, July 24, the Michigan PGA's Tournament of Champions is scheduled to tee off at Boyne Mountain Resort.

Harris also is the defending champion in the tournament played on the resort's Alpine and Monument courses. Harris won his



Photo by Crystal Mountain Resort

**Crystal Mountain Resort's Mountain Ridge, Hole No. 8**

third Tournament of Champions last year, on a second playoff hole with Scott Hebert. Harris finished the event's 54 holes tied with Hebert, who is an assistant pro at Sunnybrook Country Club in Jenison, at 11-under par.

Harris, who also won the T of C in 2000 and 2002, won last year's title when Hebert three-putted the second playoff hole.

## **Buick Open, Warwick Hills, Grand Blanc**

The Tournament of Champions,

which is slated to end on Wednesday, July 26, will be followed by the Buick Open, which is scheduled for August 3-6 at Warwick Hills in Grand Blanc.

Vijay Singh is the defending champion of the \$4.8 million tournament which is Michigan's only PGA Tour stop.

## **Michigan PGA Championship, Eagle Eye Golf Club, Hawk Hollow**

When the Buick Open champion is crowned on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 6, Michigan golf enthusiasts will have a two-week respite from championship golf in the state, before the Michigan PGA Championship tees up on Monday, August 28.

Played at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire the past few years, the Michigan major has been shifted to Eagle Eye Golf Club at Hawk Hollow.

John DalCorobbo, the Director of Golf Instruction at MSU's Forest Akers Golf Club, fired a 7-under 65 in last year's final round to finished 11-under, four strokes ahead of Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club pro Jordan Young. **MG**

# Book Reviews

By Art McCafferty

## Match Made in Heaven

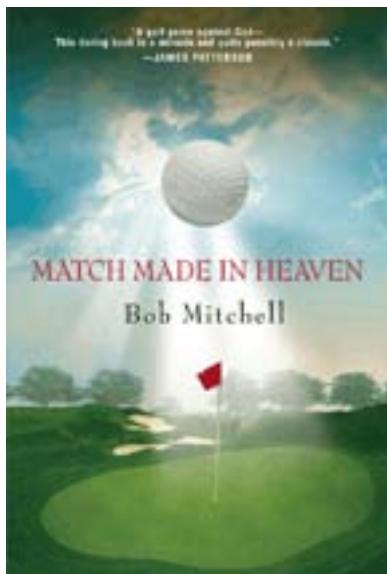
By Bob Mitchell

I confess, this book was not normally one I would pick up, but the high praise it got from early reviews, Bob Costas, Tim Finchem and Jim Nantz are pretty powerful to have on your back cover.

The hook to the book is that the main character of the story, Elliott Goodman (of course) suffers a heart attack and gets a chance to get to save his life with a final game of golf against 18 players that God (there is a character named Dog) has selected. Some of the foes that find Elliott on various tees include Leonardo da Vinci, W.C. Fields, Moses, John Lennon, Freud, Poe, Socrates, Joan of Arc, Babe Didrikson Zaharias, Marilyn Monroe, Picasso, Lincoln, Beethoven, Shakespeare, Babe Ruth, Columbus, Gandhi, and Ben Hogan.

The ending is a bit like the ending of the famous "Incident at Owl Creek Bridge". It keeps you thinking all the way through the match. An interesting read and one that is certainly different. To borrow a Bob Costas quote, "An engaging and often hilarious account of a star-studded round, but here's my question: What's W.C. Fields doing playing the second hole, when you'd expect to find him on the 19th?"

The book is published by Kensington Books and will be available May 2 .  
<http://kensingtonbooks.com>



## The King of Swings: Johnny Goodman, the Last Amateur to Beat the Pros at Their Own Game

By Michael Blaine

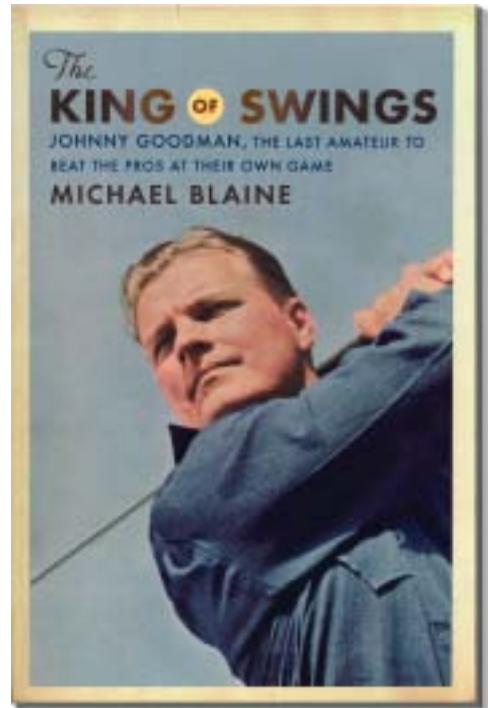
In 1933, amateur John Goodman won the U.S. Open, the last time an amateur has done that. Michael Blaine has captured the magic of that moment, while weaving in comparative histories of Walter Hagen, Bobby Jones and O.B.

Keeler. Goodman also beat Jones at the first Pebble Beach golf tournament in 1929 and also participated in a Walker Cup.

As the book jacket information revealed, this story is much in the vein of *The Cinderella Man* and *The Greatest Game Ever Played*, in that it traces the humble beginnings of an individual as he makes his way into American history.

I found it an exciting read and thoroughly enjoyed Goodman's reflections on "The Haig", Jones and the great golfers of the day.

The book will be published by Houghton Mifflin Company and will be available on June 5th of this year.  
<http://houghtonmifflinbooks.com> MG



# SLICE OF LIFE



**By Terry Moore**

This is the time of year when people learn I'm going to the Masters again. So, to save some time let me get a head start on answering the most frequently asked questions about the Masters and what it means to me:

**When was your first Masters and what do you most remember about it?** I first attended the Masters in 1978 which was won by Gary Player. Somehow my Dad obtained practice round tickets through a business contact. My Dad brought his camera and I remember him taking pictures of the eventual champion (who won his next two events) as well as a photo of me with Masters member (and ABC-TV College football analyst) Frank Broyles. What struck me the most about Augusta National was its beautifully rolling topography. Television gives you little idea of how hilly and undulating the course really is.

**What year did you first cover the Masters for Michigan Golfer?** That was in 1984, the year Ben Crenshaw won his first Masters. I

was a nervous rookie Editor and writer but Jack Berry was nice enough to show me the ropes. The Press room was the sorely outdated and now thankfully departed Quonset hut which squeezed in the writers like cigarettes in a pack. And oh yes, it seemed everyone was smoking and typing away back then. I stayed with some guys from Grand Rapids who rented a large home and who were able to obtain tournament badges. It was a grand week.

**What's your routine for covering the Masters?** I like to go out on the course as soon as I can. There's not a more beautiful spot in the world in April than at the Masters when it's in full bloom in beautiful weather. I walk the course, try to notice the subtle changes and new amenities and let it all soak in. Early in the week I sit in on the player interviews to get a feel and a sense of how they see the course and their prospects. And I never miss the Chairman's state-of-the tournament press meeting held on Wednesday. The year of the Hootie-Martha showdown it was a riveting session.

**How do you follow the action out on the course?** Depends on the weather and whom I'm with but I usually check out certain favorite vantage spots on each nine. I'll walk some holes and follow a few groups but then I like to sit in a shady part of a grandstand and watch the action flow by. I like the grandstands on holes # 3, # 5 and # 8. But I also like to watch the put-



**Gary Player won the 1961, 1974 and 1978 Masters.**

ting on # 6. Last year, I watched Tiger play a remarkable shot with his wedge while on this undulating treacherous green in order to spin his ball and check it near the cup which was falling away from him. To me that shot epitomized not only Tiger's phenomenal talents but also the fierce and ungodly pace of the greens.

**What about the back nine?** Well, all first-time visitors to the Masters are blown away by the beauty found on the back nine. It begins with the huge fairway bunker on # 10 with its blinding white sand (actually it's called feldspar which is a quartz byproduct) set against the deep green colors of the fairway and shadows from the towering pines. Until they moved it due to the lengthening of the 14th tee, the grandstand near the 13th green afforded wonderful viewing of this

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dramatic golf hole. For several years, it was also the favorite spot for Alister Cooke, the noted writer and longtime host of PBS Masterpiece Theatre. Cooke once said: "The best thing about Eisenhower's Presidency was his Jeffersonian conviction that there should be as little government and as much golf as possible."

**What are your favorite player memories?** Unfortunately, due to family commitments, I wasn't there for the Nicklaus win in 1986 which for many writers is still tops. But for emotion, I would rank Crenshaw's second Masters title in 1995 following the untimely death of his teacher and mentor Harvey Penick. And could there be a better lead quote from a champion than Ben's poignant, "This week Harvey was the 15th club in my bag."

**Okay, have you ever played Augusta National?** Yes, one of the perks of covering the Masters is the opportunity to enter a media lottery every ten years and see if your name is one of 40 lucky media types to play the course on Monday following the event. My name was drawn in 1995. After being instructed to be at the course by 7:30 am, I teed off around 8:30 on the tenth hole. I hit a decent tee shot but absolutely topped my second off a downhill super tight lie. I hit into the "watery grave" on # 12 and again on # 15. I was chopping

at it badly. But I settled down on the front side and made birdie on # 2 and played solidly the rest of the day. Thankfully, I switched my return flight home to Tuesday so I could enjoy the six-hour round without worry about catching a flight. I even had a nice chat with then Masters Chairman Jack Stephens who came out to watch various groups play a few holes. But what's special about playing on Monday is that you have the same pins and virtually the same

assistant pro listened politely and then said something to this effect with stinging diplomacy: "We're happy to have you gentlemen play the course today but your round is officially over."

**What's especially appealing to you about the Masters?** The attention to detail and the sense of decorum always stand out to me. There's no price gouging, the lack of commercial sponsors, the throw-back and manned scoreboards, the patron

picnic areas, well-mannered and knowledgeable galleries, and the delight of absolutely no cell phones.

**Any special memories you'd like to share?** Well, I had the good fortune to strike up an acquaintance with famed golf writer Herb Warren Wind who was always friendly and a consummate gentleman. During the final round of the '88 Masters, we walked a few holes together.

I remember we were behind the 4th tee at the par-three and I used my binoculars to watch eventual Sandy Lyle on the green knock in a long and unlikely birdie putt. I narrated what I saw to Wind and he said with such delight, "Isn't that magnificent?"

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**Ben Crenshaw won the Masters in 1995 and captained the Ryder Cup team at Brookline Country Club in 1999.**

conditions as the last round of the Masters. Few Augusta National guests if not members can make that claim.

**What did you do after you finished playing?** Well, my playing partner and I had lunch outside near the putting green and we felt like kings in this privileged setting. Then we went inside to the pro shop and innocently inquired about playing a few more holes. The



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PGA Merchandise Show  
Tom Doak and Jack Nicklaus Design Sebonack  
Jim and Pat Healey's Golf Trip: 50 States, 10 Provinces and D.C. in 61 Days  
Daly Planet at Niagara Falls  
The 95th Michigan Amateur Championship at Boyne  
The Boynes- Michigan and Ireland  
Upper Peninsula Golf  
Washtenaw Country Club-The Century Club  
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