

# NWO GOLF LINKS

September 2015



Cary Campbell and  
Robert J. Regan

Restoring a Ross Classic in Monroe

Cool Golf  
Technology

## Plus:

- Golf Embraces Diversity
- 10 Quick Rules of Golf Etiquette
- Toledo Golf Show Features Tee Time Golf Pass

# What's On Your "Bucket List?"



FRED ALTVATER



“

**So many golf courses! So Little Time!**

~Fred Altvater

**EVERY GOLFER HAS A "Bucket List:"** Pebble Beach, Augusta National, Doral, etc. I was able to scratch two wonderful golf courses off of my "Bucket List" in August.

You know how you occasionally have high expectations about a future event and then it fails to live up to them?

Well Scioto Country Club, the home of Jack Nicklaus, and Crystal Downs in Michigan, both completely lived up to their billing.

Being able to walk Scioto Country Club, envisioning shots that a young Jack Nicklaus would hit as he honed a game that would produce 18 major championships was simply enchanting.

The Scioto clubhouse is a living museum filled with wonderful pictures and artifacts from the considerable amount of history that has occurred over the years.

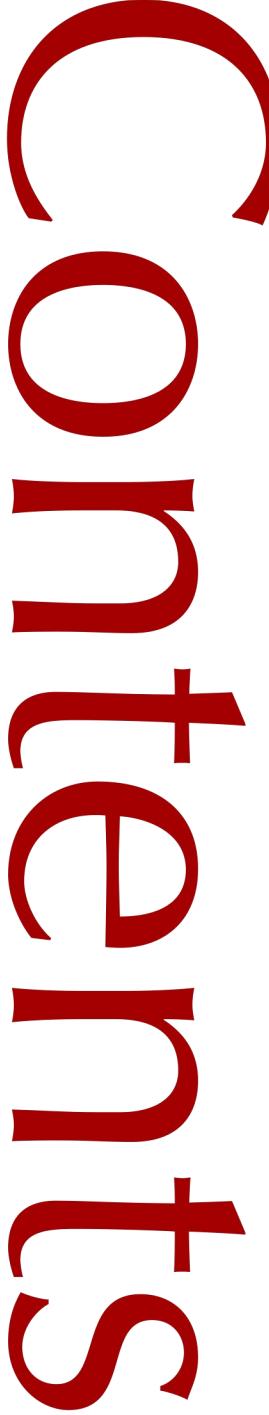
Crystal Downs also greatly exceeded all expectations. It is stunning with views of both Crystal Lake and Lake Michigan. The Alister Mackenzie and Perry Maxwell design is a work of art among the sand dunes of northern Michigan.

One of the great things about being a "Golfaholic" is playing historic, beautiful golf courses, like Scioto and Crystal Downs and enjoying them with other like-minded golfers, who also appreciate their historical significance and ranking in golf's hierarchy.

I hope you get to make some check marks on your Bucket List and I will catch you on the Back 9.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fred Altvater".

**You Might Be A *Golfaholic* if:** You follow every PGA, European Tour, LPGA professional golfer and television golf announcer on Twitter.

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# Restoring A Donald Ross Classic in Monroe

**MONROE, MICHIGAN IS RENOWNED AS BEING THE**  
home of Major General George Armstrong Custer, who  
had a very bad hair day at the Little Big Horn in 1876.  
It is also the world headquarters for La-Z-Boy and sits  
smack dab between Toledo and Detroit.



In 1884, Colonel Ira Rufus Grosvenor, a prominent Civil War hero, built a mansion in Monroe and his family resided there for many years. In 1919, 100 local residents of the town agreed to buy the old mansion, as well as, the surrounding property, and the Monroe Country Club was born. Today the elegant mansion serves as the centerpiece for the Monroe Golf & Country Club.

Since Golf was a leading pastime in the early 1900's, it was decided that a golf course should be constructed on the property to round out the club. Famed golf course architect, Donald Ross was commissioned to design and build the course, which still exists today.



Last March, having fallen on economic hardship, the club was facing bankruptcy and two golf-savvy investors, Cary Campbell and Robert J. Regan, rushed in to purchase the club and save it from an uncertain future.

**Said Campbell,**

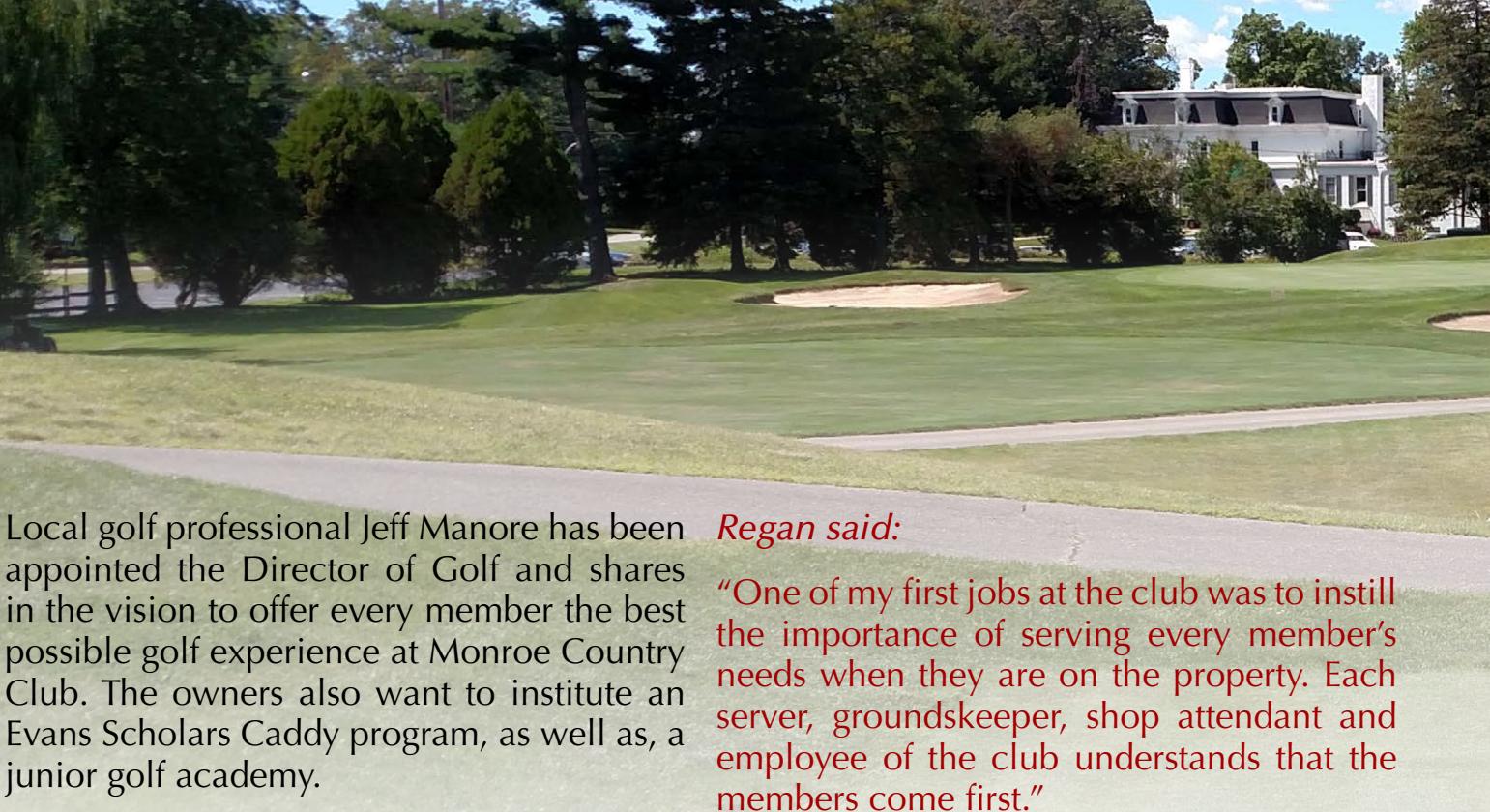
**"It's not every day you get the opportunity to buy a classic Donald Ross design mixed with a historic and beautiful mansion that serves as the clubhouse."**

Although various changes and renovations have been attempted over the years, the course still maintains many features from Ross' original design. It is not a long course at 6,400 yards and plays to a par-71 with a slope rating of 130. It is a classic, however, and the greens, in true Ross fashion, offer the biggest challenge to golfers.

With false fronts and slopes that invite 3 and 4 putts, the greens remain the main feature of the course. Over time, past superintendents have expanded the fringes and shrunk the putting surfaces, which has taken away some of the contours around the edges of the greens. A large part of Phase 1 of Campbell's vision is to completely restore the full width and breadth of the greens and recreate the challenging pin positions that Ross originally designed.

Campbell and Regan have a vision to completely restore the Ross design and return Monroe Golf & Country Club to its prior greatness. They firmly believe in the country club concept and want to reintroduce families to the country club lifestyle.





Local golf professional Jeff Manore has been appointed the Director of Golf and shares in the vision to offer every member the best possible golf experience at Monroe Country Club. The owners also want to institute an Evans Scholars Caddy program, as well as, a junior golf academy.

They have had some experience with the process as Campbell also returned Walnut Hills Country Club in East Lansing to a viable and vibrant club, deeply ingrained in local community activities.

It takes a community to support a project of this dimension and Campbell and Regan are reaching out to corporations and families, as well as, golfers in Monroe, Toledo, and southeast Michigan to help make the club a hub of activity and enjoyment.

They have a completely different view of what a country club should be and are working to bring the entire community together to make Monroe Country Club a family friendly environment.

In that vein, they have hosted various events on the property, from wine tastings to cross country racing. They encourage local golf teams to conduct matches on the course and area swim teams are welcome to hold meets in the Olympic-size pool. They also have ingrained a new attitude of service to the grand old club.

*Regan said:*

**"One of my first jobs at the club was to instill the importance of serving every member's needs when they are on the property. Each server, groundskeeper, shop attendant and employee of the club understands that the members come first."**

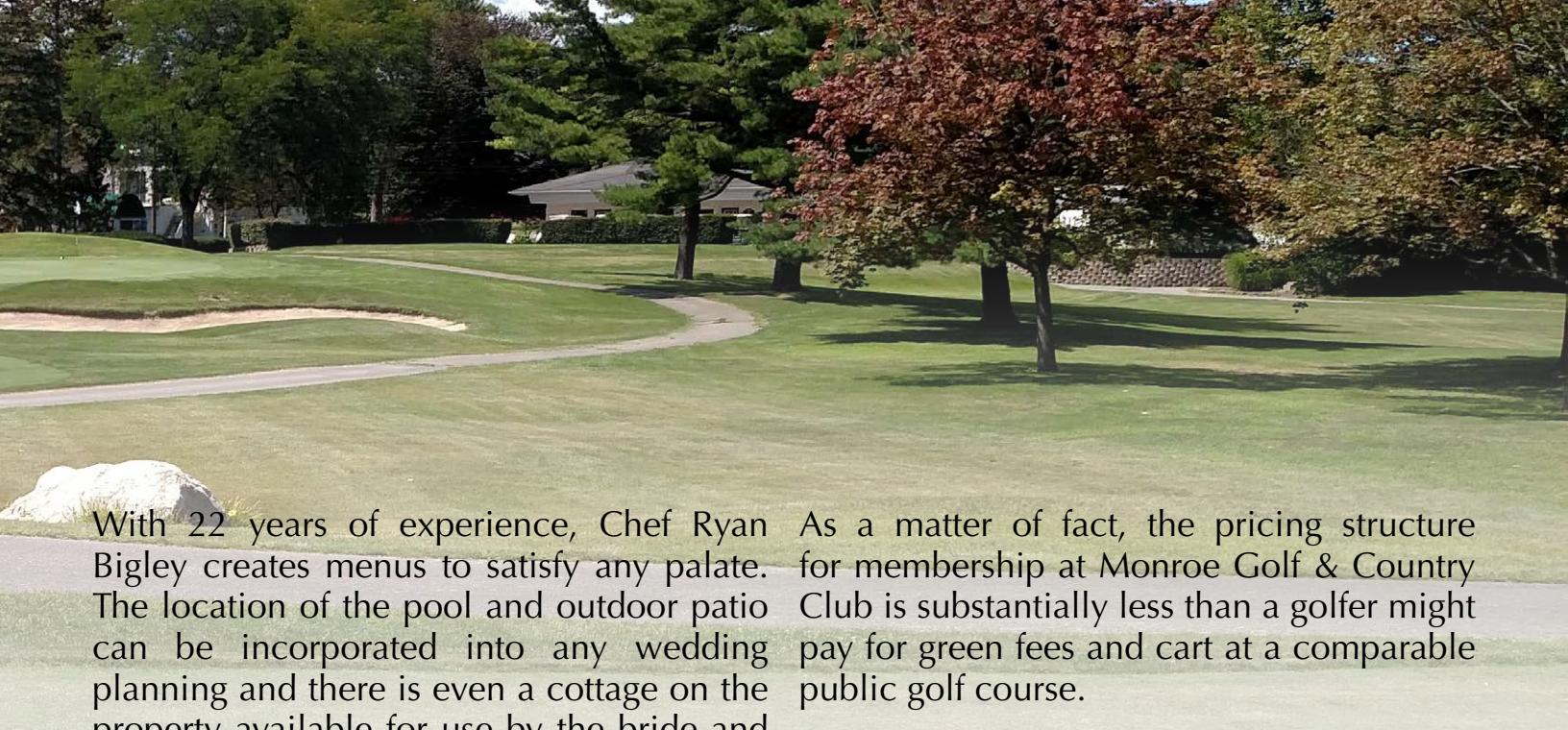
Another huge asset of Monroe Golf & Country Club is the historic and majestic Grosvenor Mansion that serves as the clubhouse for the club.

It also houses the Ross 1919 Grille, which is the perfect spot for a post-round libation, mouth-watering meal or comfortable place to settle up the day's wagers.

Extensive remodeling and updates have already been completed to the interior of the clubhouse and timely pieces of history adorn the walls to add to the overall ambiance.

Jeany Dohm serves as the Events Coordinator for the club and can organize a small intimate affair, a large corporate outing or that all-important wedding to fill any young girl's dream.

On September 27th, Monroe Golf & Country Club will host its first annual Wedding Expo. Vendors and future brides are invited to attend and see for themselves the romantic atmosphere that surrounds the elegant old mansion.



With 22 years of experience, Chef Ryan Bigley creates menus to satisfy any palate. The location of the pool and outdoor patio can be incorporated into any wedding planning and there is even a cottage on the property available for use by the bride and her attendants. Monroe Golf & Country Club can handle any size event with seating up to 250 in the main ballroom or a more intimate group in a private dining room.

Corporate meetings, family reunions, business networking functions or a graduation party are all welcome at the club.

By trying to connect with and promote a family experience, Campbell and Regan understand the constraints of the family budget and Monroe Country Club is not your typical large expense item. They have a variety of membership options that fit any budget.

As a matter of fact, the pricing structure for membership at Monroe Golf & Country Club is substantially less than a golfer might pay for green fees and cart at a comparable public golf course.

In addition, they offer access to the historic clubhouse, restaurant, grill, pool and other amenities that accompany the country club atmosphere.

Even though they are called Monroe Golf & Country Club, the new owners welcome all golf outings, corporate or charitable, to visit their website and consider holding their next event in Monroe: <http://www.mgcc.net/golf-outing-services.html>

I'm sure Colonel Grosvenor never envisioned his stately mansion being used as a center for family events or a memorable golf experience, but we're pretty sure he would approve.



Jeany Dohm



BRIAN RENIUS

# Wagering Tips, What *Type of Golfer Are You?*



There are golfers and then there are GOLFERS. You know who you are.

There are the ones that walk to the tee box in color coordinated clothing, ala Rickie Fowler, with matching bag and looking all professional, with their name neatly stenciled on the bag. They are the golfers that use intimidation as a way to try and scare people into losing before they have even swung a club.

That style of intimidation never works on me. I am a man's man, at 6'5" and north of 340 pounds, but that's not why it doesn't work. It doesn't work, because I learned a long time ago that you should never judge a book by its cover.

I relish the golfers, who have purchased the entire summer wardrobe of Puma, Greg Norman or Ashworth, before the spring golf season even begins.

I enjoy playing golf with those that have monogrammed golf balls and whose belt matches their shoes.

These are the golfers with whom, I like to have the occasional wager. I am not talking thousands of dollars, but I have found that even a minimal bet with golfers like the aforementioned causes them to lose control of their game. The mere mention of money induces sweat to pour down their foreheads, like beads of water dripping off an ice cold beer, in a 90 degree heat wave.

Mentally they envision their victory. How dare this opulent, uncouth and poorly attired, golfer wearing a black belt and white shoes challenge them to a game of golf?!

One dollar a hole is a rather small wager, but to some golfers, the ones referred to above, it is downright scary.

They must not lose! Especially to someone with an unmatched set of clubs and a ketchup-stained shirt, OMG!

This is exactly why I enjoy a small wager on the golf course and throw down the gauntlet at every opportunity. If I lose, I lose a little bit of money, but, if I win, I have proven once again that golf is an awesome game that does not always reward those that bow down to the altar of the retail golf gods.

If I win, I revel in the fact that I beat someone who spent way more money on their clothes, clubs and image than I ever will.

If I am feeling unusually insulting I may even mention that my socks don't match either. Talk about rubbing salt in the wound!

Look for me on the first tee. I'm the guy with a ratty set of clubs and look like I just threw on a few things from the Salvation Army rack.

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## Toledo Country Club and Don Kotnik *Have A Long History of Toledo Golf*

Most believe Ottawa Park Golf Course to be the first course in town, but the Toledo Country Club opened in 1897. Ottawa Park is historically significant as the first public course opened for play west of New York in 1898.

Toledo Country Club purchased 30 acres of land along the Maumee River and decided to construct a nine-hole golf course. Willie Park Jr. was contracted to build the original nine holes, which includes three holes, Nos. 16, 18 and 19 that still lay on the east side of the clubhouse along the river today.

The par-3 No. 17 was added in a later renovation and Park's original 18th became the 19th hole.

Park Jr. was one of the premier golfers of the time. He won the Open Championship in 1887 and again in 1889. He was also the son of Willie Park Sr., who won the very first Open Championship in 1860 and a total of four Opens during his career. Park Jr. was one of the famous Scottish contingent of professional golfers who brought the game to the United States.

Local golf architect Arthur Hills completed a renovation of the Toledo Country Club in 1997.



Perhaps one of the most enduring aspects of the Toledo Country Club is its long relationship with Head Professional, Don Kotnik.

Kotnik grew up in Barbarton, Ohio and attended the University of Toledo on a sports scholarship because it was the only college that would allow him to be a member of both the football and golf teams. After graduation in 1967, he spent a year in Hawaii teaching elementary school in the mornings and practicing golf in the afternoons.

He first found golf at the age of 14, while riding his bike home after a baseball game. He noticed a gentleman hitting shags in a park and stopped to watch. The man let him hit a few 7-irons and sure enough, he hit a shot that made him fall in love with the game.

Kotnik came to Toledo Country Club in 1970 and retired in 2014 after 44 years at the club.

He has always been one of the top golf instructors in the country and was named PGA Golf Professional of the Year in 1993.

Some notable area golfers that worked as assistant's for Kotnik over the years include Perrysburg native and PGA Tour winner, Pat Lindsey, along with, Rick Smith and Greg Fish.

Even though he is officially retired, Kotnik is the Professional Emeritus of Toledo Country Club and still remains active today.

Toledo Country Club and Don Kotnik are examples of the deep roots golf has in this area.

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# The Walking Golfer Society Will Host Two Events in September

THE WALKING GOLFER SOCIETY is a group dedicated to the idea that an integral part of golf involves walking the course. They will host two golf tournaments in southeastern Michigan, September 19-20. Competitors must carry their own bag, use a walking cart or arrange for a caddy.

On Saturday, September 19th they play Orchard Lake Country Club in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Orchard Lakes opened for play in 1927 and was designed by Harry Colt and Charles Hugh Alison.

It is ranked as one of the top six golf courses in Michigan. On a visit to Orchard Lakes last month, Former U.S. Open winner, Lee Janzen said,

“It’s probably the best manicured course I have ever played. It is Augusta-like.”

On Sunday, competitors will play the Dr. Alister MacKenzie designed, University of Michigan Golf Course in Ann Arbor.

U of M Golf Course opened for play in 1930 and provides views of the University of Michigan campus as you trek the tree-lined fairways and beautifully rolling terrain. Both courses are classic designs and revered by true aficionados of the game.

In addition to the promotion of walking while playing golf, the society hosts tournaments throughout the year at some of the most beloved golf locations. This year they held events at Holston Hills and Lookout Mountain in Tennessee and will hold a two-day tournament at Mid-Pines and Pine Needles on October 3-4.



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE GROUP can be found at their website: <http://thewalkinggolfer.com/>

IT IS FREE TO SIGN UP and walk-ability ratings are available for each course. Members also receive email notification for upcoming events.

Register for the events taking place on 9/19-20; get your exercise and play two of the best golf courses in southern Michigan, it's a win-win.

RICHARD TODD

# The Teeing Grounds

**THE SECOND HOLE WAS A SHORT** and straight par-3, wooded on both sides of the fairway, with the back of the green sloping down into a wooded area.

Dick had honors and was standing in the tee box, reading aloud the yardage marker.



*"It's 127 yards from tee to pin (officially known as 'flagstick'). Hmm, that's not gonna work for me. I hit this club 135 yards. Guess I'll just add a couple yards to my shot."*

Dick then took several steps in the opposite direction from the green, placing himself just beyond the tee box. He teed up his ball and stroked a beautiful shot that landed a yard from the hole.

*"And that's how you do it," he stated.*

The only problem was Dick hit from outside the teeing ground, defined as a rectangle two clubs deep in which the tee markers define the front side and its length. The penalty for hitting outside the teeing ground in stroke play is two strokes, and you must correct any error before completing the hole by going back to the teeing ground and re-hitting your shot. Strokes from outside the area do not count. USGA rules#11-1(1). I know golfers that have been playing for decades and still get this rule wrong.

***Learn how to play the game correctly in The Golf Rules series. This story and many others, explain the rules of golf in an entertaining way.***



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# 10 Quick Rules Of

**GOLF IS RENOWNED** as a game for Ladies and Gentlemen. Boorish behavior, not only reflects badly on you, but makes your playing companions uncomfortable and the day less enjoyable.

Here are a few ideas to bear in mind when playing with your favorite foursome or if you happen to get matched up with someone by the starter on the first tee.

## 1 BE POLITE!

Introduce yourself, strike up a conversation and learn a little bit about your playing partners. Don't dominate the conversation, let your new found friends talk. Over the years I have made great friendships with people whom I have happened to become paired.

## 2 NO CELL PHONES ON GOLF COURSE!

With everyone's need to remain in constant contact with family and friends via smart phones, dumb it down for a couple of hours. Turn off the cell phone and escape to the lush confines of your favorite golf course. Isn't that what golf is all about anyway?

## 3 KEEP MOVING!

Speed of play is always a concern at every golf course. You don't have to play on a dead run, just keep moving. Think ahead while you are walking or riding to your next shot. Don't stand for several minutes trying to decide which club to hit or the correct shot to play. Your playing companions and the group behind you will thank you.

## 4 BE AWARE

Be aware of where your playing partners are located and don't get in their line. Don't walk ahead, stand in their eye sight or move during your partner's shot. This also doubles as a safety reminder. I have some old war stories (and scars) that I could relate to you on this topic.

## 5 HELP

Help find wayward golf balls for the allotted 5 minutes. I know some people would rather hunt for golf balls than actually play their next shot, but to keep play moving, help your companions find their lost golf balls that happen to find the deep stuff or bounce off a tree.

## 6 REPAIR DIVOTS CORRECTLY!

There is a reason for that bottle filled with sand on the side of your cart. In a discussion once with a Golf Course Superintendent, he admitted to me that his greatest pet peeve was that golfers tried to replace the dislodged sod rather than just using the sand to refill the hole and move on. Do the greenskeeper and fellow golfers a favor, fill your divots.

## 7 DRESS FOR SUCCESS!

Most golf clubs have a dress code in effect. You don't need to look like you just walked off a GQ or Elle photo shoot, but tank tops, ragged cutoffs, Daisy Dukes and flip flops are not in the category of appropriate golf attire.

# of Golf Etiquette

## 8 SHOW A LITTLE RESPECT!

Loud outbursts of anger or foul language are very annoying to your playing companions and may even be bothersome to others on the course. Remember your bad manners reflect on you first. They will also turn an enjoyable day on the links into a tiresome exercise for others because of your inappropriate behavior.

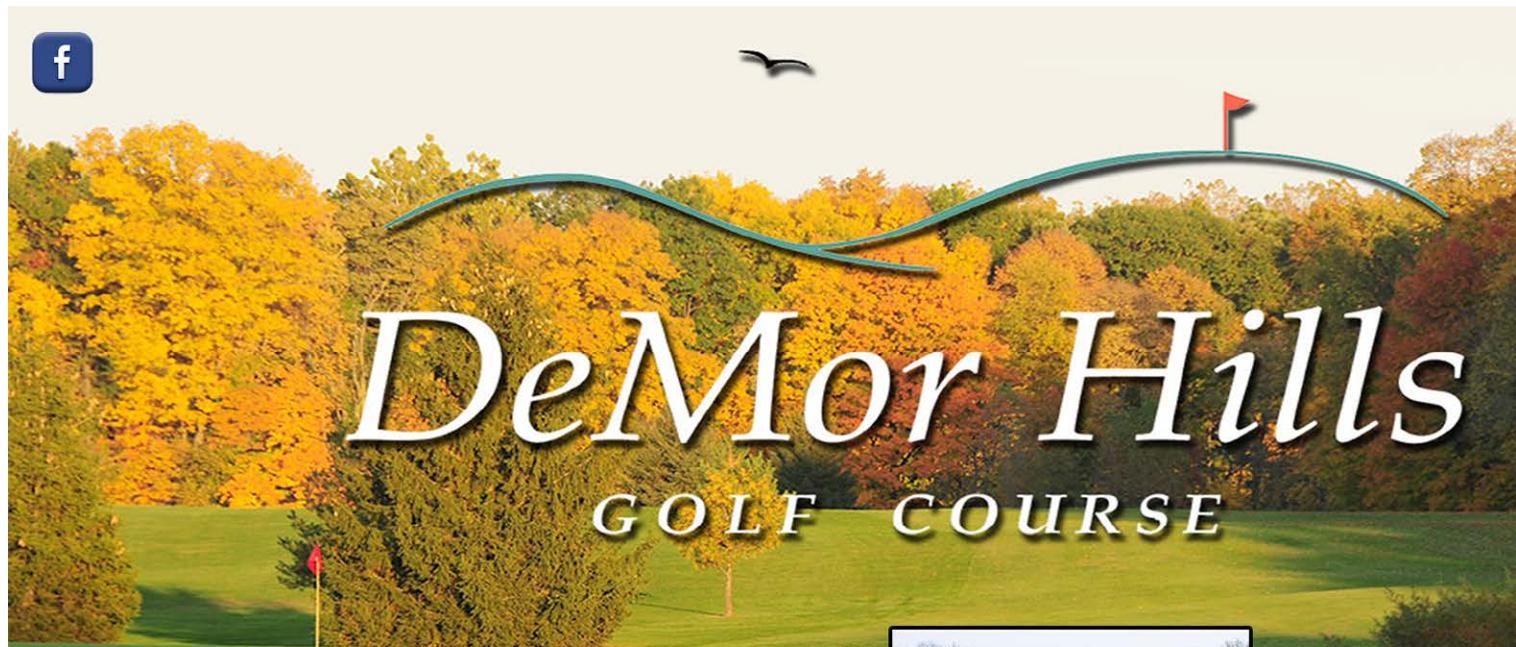
## 9 REPLACE THE FLAGSTICK!

Once a member of my group asked one of the other players if he knew how much a flag stick weighed. The golfer somewhat quizzically answered that he did not. The first golfer then replied, well pick the d\*\*n thing up and put it back in the hole, then you will know. It seemed the particular player had been negligent in taking a turn at replacing the flag stick and simply walked off the green at each hole.

## 10 FINALLY DOFF YOUR CAP

Look your playing companions squarely in the eye and firmly shake his/her hand when the round is over. Don't run off in a huff over a bad round or race to the 19th hole to be the first to order a cold one. Be a Gentleman (or Lady), just once.

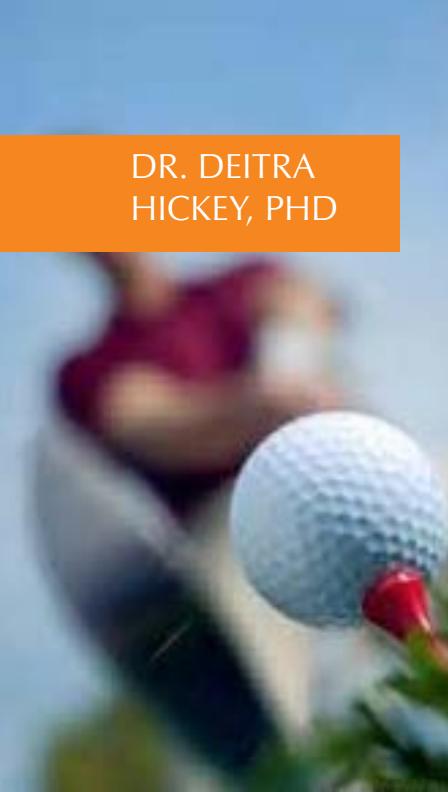
Hope these don't apply to you, but if they do, think about them the next time you go out to play.



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DR. DEITRA  
HICKEY, PhD

“

**When thought chains start, it is suggested to visualize a big stop sign and say the word, “Stop!”**

# KEEP YOUR HEAD UP

## to Keep Your Golf Score Down!

**DO YOU HAVE A BEHAVIOR** on the course that tends to sabotage your play? I don't mean an off drive or an unfocused putt. I mean a lack of perspective with your game. Perspective is a foundation outlook that steers our life on and off of the course and it can have a direct impact with our enjoyment and success of the game.

Let's just say that you miss two short putts on consecutive holes. You may be apt to start beating yourself up and talking down to yourself saying things like, "You idiot! You're terrible! That's the second one in a row. You don't even know how to putt. You need a lesson. Why bother? You'll never improve at putting." etc., etc...

Have you ever heard of the phrase, "negative thought chain"? One negative thought leads to another and another, and pretty soon our minds are running away in a self-loathing, angry, tension built spiral to disappointment! When thought chains start, it is suggested to visualize a big stop sign and say the word, "Stop!" Many people have used this type of method on the course and it has prevented golfers from getting into emotional fits and helps them gain perspective and move on. Most importantly, it curbs the tone of cranky self-talk and criticism.

Now, it is also justified to validate yourself and your frustrations periodically.

We work really hard to be successful at things in life and when our achievements are not measuring up to our expectations, it can be disheartening.

It is quite natural to be upset after a bad shot or an embarrassing round and want to let off some steam. The key is to be aware of the extent of your reactions and keep reactions short-lived and with perspective.

Once this happens, you can actually learn from your mistakes and strive for improvement next time instead of convincing yourself that things will never get better.

This will allow you to do several things-- including staying calm or quickly settling down; figuring out what you need to do differently (it may be to slow down, check alignment, adjust swing mechanics, etc.) and then take new action as soon as possible by applying the fix.

You will find that by keeping your head up throughout a round, you will actually have more fun; appreciate the beauty of the course, enjoy and engage with your company; and feel an overall satisfaction of the game with a renewed competitive spirit.

So next time you're on the course, remember to keep your head up. If your perspective alone doesn't make you smile, the improvement of your game will!

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# Toledo Golf Show

## Features Tee Time Golf Pass

**EACH MONTH NWO GOLF LINKS WILL** feature one of the vendors that can be seen at the annual Toledo Golf Show, held every February. This month we are happy to introduce you to Tee Time Golf Pass.

Tee Time Golf Pass provides golfers with discounted pricing at the best golf courses not only in Ohio and Michigan, but the entire eastern United States. Editions are available that offer discounted greens fees in five regions, Mid-Atlantic, Northeast, Midwest, as well as, Upper & Lower Midwest.

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Tee Time Golf Pass Books make excellent birthday, Father's Day and Christmas Gifts for any GolfaHolic.

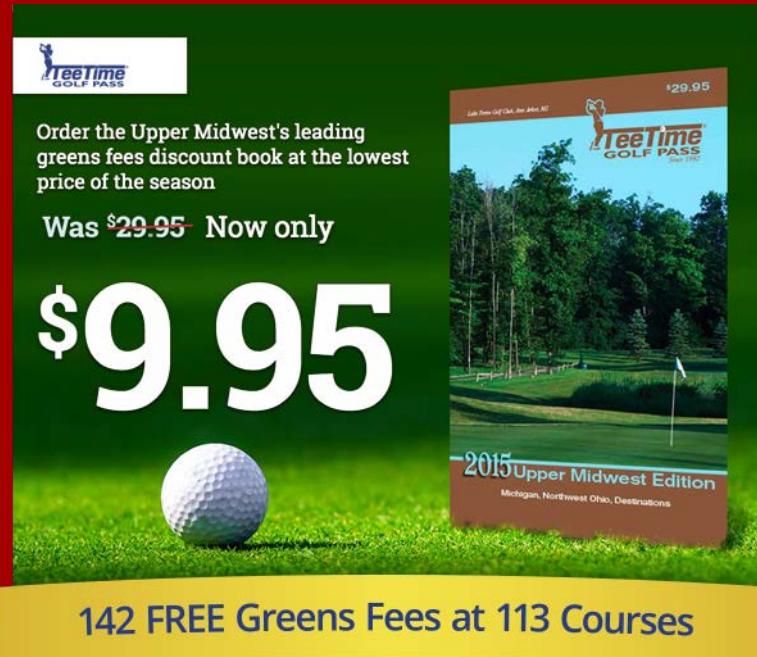
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## Niblicks

By Dean Harris

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# Tiger Woods' Greatest Record!

“

**Whether you are a Tiger Woods' fan or not, you cannot argue with a record that will never be touched.**

**ELDRICK “TIGER” WOODS HAS BEEN THE** author of some pretty amazing records, since joining the PGA Tour in 1996. He has won 79 PGA sanctioned tournaments trailing only the legendary Sam Snead (82) for the most career wins on tour. With 14 major titles, he is second to only Jack Nicklaus (18) for the most major championships won in a career.

This year, Jordan Spieth will surpass Woods' record of \$9,941,563.00 earned in a single season set in 2006, but Woods is still the all-time leading money winner with over \$109.9 million.

He is the only professional golfer ever to win four consecutive major championships (Tiger Slam) by holding the titles of the 2000 U.S. Open, British Open Championship, PGA Championship, and the 2001 Masters. Bobby Jones won the U.S. Open, U.S. Amateur, British Open and British Amateur in 1930, but Jones played his entire career as an amateur.

One of the most impressive records that Tiger set since joining the PGA Tour in 1996 is the 142 consecutive cuts that he made over a seven year period ending in 2006.

Yet with all of these lofty accomplishments, the record that likely will never be broken is the six consecutive years that he held USGA National Championship titles while still an amateur.

In 1991 at the age of 15, he became the youngest player to ever win the U.S. Junior Amateur. He won this title again in 1992 and 1993. Three U.S. Junior Amateur titles in a row is a feat that had never been accomplished and probably will never be accomplished again. Tiger was the best junior golfer in the nation for 3 consecutive years.

Continuing his quest for greatness, in 1994 he won the U.S. Amateur Championship at age 18, and, oh by the way, he was the youngest winner ever.



He won the U.S. Amateur Championship again in 1995 and 1996 for three consecutive U.S. Amateur Championship trophies. There had been back to back winners of the U.S. Amateur before, but never 3 in a row and the USGA has been holding national championships since 1895.

If a young golfer wins one US Amateur he is considered to have had an exceptional golfing career. Tiger Woods was the youngest ever to win the U.S. Amateur and the only person to ever win it 3 years in a row, as well as, the three previous U.S. Junior Amateurs.

Tiger Woods is the owner of the most impressive record in golf history. He held USGA National Championships for 6 consecutive years from 1991 to 1996.

Whether you are a Tiger Woods' fan or not, you cannot argue with a record that will never be touched.



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## TOLEDO METRO: *Toledo Amateur Results*

**TOM YEAGER BIRDIED THE FINAL TWO HOLES** to claim his second Toledo Amateur Championship presented by Jed's last month at Detwiler Golf Course. Yeager led by one shot heading to the fourth and final round over freshman-to-be at Lourdes College, Brandon Hoelzer. Michael Dennis was two behind with Josh Bialecki three shots back.

Bialecki drew even with Yeager after nine holes by firing a three-under-par 33 on the front side. Yeager kept his mind on the task at hand and made saves for par at both Nos. 11 and 12. After Bialecki made bogey at No. 13 and added a double bogey at No. 15, he essentially fell out of contention.

Both Hoelzer and Yeager were tied on the par-3 17th tee. Hoelzer missed a five-foot birdie putt, but Yeager calmly rolled in his three-foot birdie to take a one-shot lead to the 72nd hole.

Hoelzer battled to the end by making a birdie at the last to force Yeager to birdie the par-5 to secure the win.

Yeager found himself 15 feet short of the green after his second, but a poor chip shot left him with a 15-foot putt for birdie and the win. The putt toppled into the hole on its last rotation and gave Yeager his second Toledo Amateur Championship title.

John Zitkovic won the Senior Division and Justin Kruse was the Mid-Amateur champion.

Toledo Metro Golf Association especially wants to thank Mike Govito of Jed's for their sponsorship of this year's event.

The Toledo Metro Golf Association will hold its final event of the 2015 season, the Metro Finale, September 20 at Heatherdowns Country Club. It will feature a 9:00 AM Shotgun start with lunch and meeting to follow play.

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MIKE MAY

# Otter Creek's Other Nine: *The East Course*



**THE 18-HOLE OTTER CREEK GOLF COURSE** in Columbus, Indiana is well known as the home of many Indiana State Amateur golf tournaments. In 1995, Rees Jones designed a third nine-hole layout at Otter Creek to compliment the 18-hole Robert Trent Jones course. The original 18 holes became known as the North and West Courses. The new nine-hole layout, the East Course, is a true treasure of a golf experience. If you only have time to play nine holes on your next trip to Otter Creek, pick the East Course. While many traditionalists favor the North and West Courses which are a pair of dynamic tracks, the East Course has its own special attributes which put it in a class by itself.

The East Course, a par-36, is as good a nine-hole course as you will find anywhere in the U.S. There are two words which best describe the East Course: 'strong' and 'spirited.' Frankly, the East Course deserves another nine holes of a similar design which would make it one of the finest 18-hole golf courses in the Midwest. The setting for golf at the East Course is pure and pristine. It's the kind of place where the robins land on each tee to 'welcome' you to their home, the Par Aides are always filled, the water coolers have plenty of cool, refreshing water and there is no outside noise caused by nearby planes, trains, and automobiles.

On the East Course, there are pastoral sightings of cornfields and country barns, which confirm Otter Creek's peaceful, rural setting. Simply put, this piece of property was destined to be a golf course. Thanks to the creativity of Rees Jones, it is just that.

Like many great courses, you need to play it a few times to realize where to hit the ball and what to avoid. For instance, at the first, try to carry the tee shot far enough to catch the downhill slope in the fairway, which yields a shorter approach. The par-four, dogleg 3rd hole, does not require a driver, as this hole is all about getting in position for the second shot over the water to the green.

When the wind is in your face on the par-4 7th, it becomes a very long, so the best advice is to treat the hole like a par-5 and try to 'birdie' it, but be content with a bogey-five. The par-five 8th looks reachable in two on paper, but the presence of a meandering stream that cuts across the fairway in front of the green causes you to think twice about trying to find the putting surface in two.

The wise golfer will use a driver, six iron, and wedge combination and make a birdie the old fashioned way. As for the left-to-right, uphill, dogleg, par-four 9th, it demands a strong tee shot and at least a long iron to reach the green in regulation.



Beware of any cross breeze which will push or pull any wayward approach shot into the tall grasses that line both sides of this fairway. If your ball lands in those tall strands of grass, it will be most certainly lost, but the fairway is wide enough to be considered fair and not penal.

The East Course at Otter Creek is the type of place which you want to play again, immediately after walking off the 9th green.

After all, any golf course that is classified as a true treasure of a golf experience is worth finding and enjoying. I did and you should, too.

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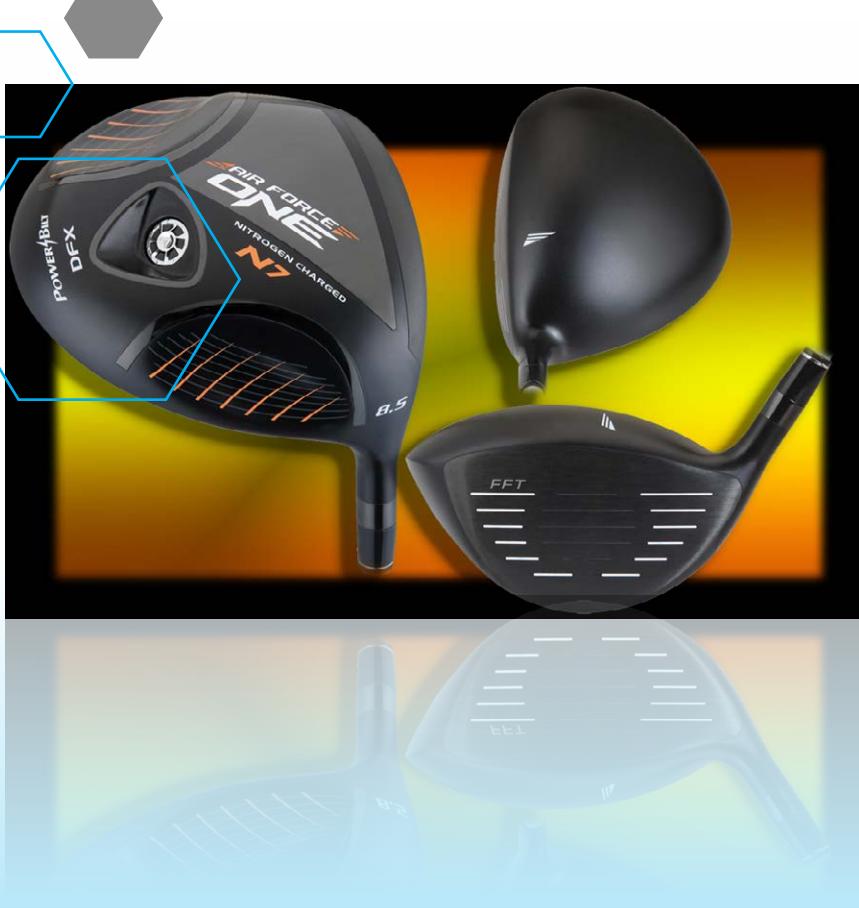
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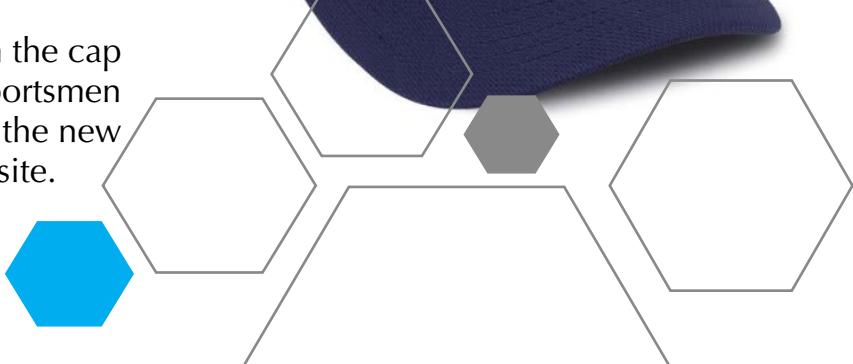
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# Technology



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SANDY EARL

# Staying In The Present Moment Equates To *Better Focus*

**This pattern is called playing “ego golf” and is one of the major reasons that golfers fail to improve.**

## STANDING OVER A PITCH SHOT THE OTHER

day, I thought about the mechanics of the proper swing and then my mind quickly went to: How would I feel if I holed it from the fringe and how wonderful it would be to tell my friends about the shot. As soon as I thought that, I lost all focus, jumped into the ego mindset and subsequently hit a poor shot that left me far from the hole.

Nothing can suck the fun out of a round of golf faster than allowing your ego to rule your game. On the golf course, the average golfer is very quick to attach their self-worth to their score. This inevitably leads to under-performance and frustration. This pattern is called playing “ego golf” and is one of the major reasons that golfers fail to improve.

If, before every shot, you are thinking about how the outcome will affect your score, or whether you will impress or embarrass yourself, you place too much pressure on your ability to execute.

Thinking about future possibilities and how you will look in front of your playing partners, detracts from the present moment, which is entirely where you need to be to play your best golf.

The past is irrelevant, and so is the future. Your focus has to be purely on the shot at hand. Visualize the shot, feel the shot and use your routine to get into “the zone”. Thoughts about score and equating your self-worth with the outcome of a golf shot only creates doubt and a lack of focus on your true objective.

Accept bad shots in the same way you do good ones and just appreciate this great game.

By freeing our mind of our EGO, we become open to new possibilities, not only on the golf course, but in our life as well.

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Jeff Manore, Director of Golf at Monroe Country Club

# Wild Bluff Golf Course Offers Great Golf in the U.P.



**THE SMALL TOWN OF SAULT STE. MARIE** sits on the St. Mary's River that connects Lake Superior with Lake Huron. The rapids caused by the 21-foot drop between the two Great Lakes demanded a system of locks be built, which would accommodate freighter traffic from the upper mid-western states of Wisconsin and Minnesota, as well as, the Canadian provinces.

Native Americans first settled here and the Soo can date its origin to 1668, when a French Jesuit founded a Catholic mission there. The original locks built by the French were destroyed in the War of 1812; the state of Michigan commissioned two locks be completed in 1855. The U.S. Government took over management of the Soo Locks in the 1870's and still oversee their operation today.

Even though it sits at the top of the U.S. and borders Canada, Sault Ste. Marie is a top tourist destination and commercial hub. The Soo locks are the busiest in the world and include the largest lock built in the Western Hemisphere.

The Bay Mills Resort and Casino is owned and operated by the Bay Mills Indian Community. The casino is a joint venture with local tribal members and businessmen from Detroit. It provides entertainment for tourists, a source of employment for local residents and has been a boost to the local economy.

Wanting additional activities for tourists, the Bay Mills Resort added the Wild Bluff Golf Course. Sitting atop a high bluff the 18-hole championship course provides panoramic views of Waiska Bay and Lake Superior as golfers approach the first tee.

The course is always maintained to championship standards and has hosted professional Canadian Tour events in the past. From the back tees, it can be stretched to over 7,000 yards (146 slope) which provides a challenge for the low handicap golfer. Five sets of tees are available to fit golfers of every ability, however. The Red Tees provide a fair course for the shorter hitters at 5,400 yards.





Elevation change and tree lined fairways give the course that true 'Up North' feel, plus bunkering and undulation on the greens make each hole a new challenge.

The elevation change is most noticeable while standing on the 18th tee. A spectacular view of the clubhouse framed by Lake Superior in the background almost makes one forget the 100-foot drop to the fairway below.

Lunch in the Player's Lounge is a delectable delight and offers views of the dramatic 18th hole.

Our group enjoyed the Grilled Vegetable Flatbread, but the menu is full of delicious items to satisfy any palate.

A unique feature of the course is a pair of Red Fox that roam the property and are always looking for a tasty hand-out from golfers intruding on their territory.

Sault Ste. Marie is full of history, provides a gateway to Canada via the American Bridge and is one of the busiest maritime spots in the world. The Wild Bluff Golf Course at Bay Mills Resort & Casino only adds to tourists' enjoyment of the area and compliments any journey to the U.P.



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MARK CROFT

# Golf Embraces Diversity



I HAVE BEEN HOSTING A weekly junior golf clinic for local children every Saturday morning for many years and the joy and enthusiasm they bring to the game reenergizes me every time.

Last Saturday in my weekly junior group I made an observation, which brought a warm smile to my face and peace to my heart.

I don't know why, on this particular Saturday, I took notice, since the usual group of kids with the same enthusiasm, cooperation and respect for each other has been attending the junior clinic every week.

But, on this Saturday for some reason, it caught my attention and a message was revealed to me. Among the junior golfers in attendance were, several Caucasians, Hispanics, an African American, a Native American and one child of Asian descent.

Quite a diverse group for our small town of 90,000 in Yuma, Arizona.

What caught my attention was that they were all there to learn to play golf, have fun as a group and build relationships that hopefully will last a life time. Parents and juniors with one common interest watching each other grow, learn and understand a simple game that can give them joy for a lifetime.

Golf has grown internationally over the past several years. Asians, Europeans, Hispanics and African Americans are all welcome in golf and compete for the highest prizes at every level of golf competition, both amateur and professional alike. This will become even more evident, when golfers from around the world convene next year at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Golfers from every corner of the world will vie for a Gold Medal and be able to meet other like-minded sportsmen from every corner of the globe.

Even though Donald Trump may disagree, Golf is the Greatest Game on Earth and it is for Everybody.

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**They were all there to learn to play golf, have fun as a group and build relationships!**



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# CONTRIBUTORS

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Bryan Renius is a recent convert to golf and tends to put a humorous twist on the game. He resides in Lambertville, Michigan with his wife and three children. <https://www.facebook.com/bryan.renius?ref=ts>

## RICHARD E. TODD



Richard E Todd, author of The Golf Rules series and Short Stories from the Long Links, has been heard on the PGA Tour radio station and seen in On The Green magazine. [www.TheGolfRules.com](http://www.TheGolfRules.com) Richard@TheGolfRules.com .

## MIKE MAY



Mike May is a freelance golf travel writer based in Wellington, Florida. As you would expect, he is a "Golfaholic" focused on beating 'Old Man Par' each time he steps on a golf course. [mmaymarketing@gmail.com](mailto:mmaymarketing@gmail.com)

## SANDY EARL



Sandy Earl has been golfing for over 25 years and has realized the value of incorporating yoga into her training program; for the physical and mental benefits. She recently completed both Levels One and Two of Yoga for Golfers Training with Katherine Roberts. To contact Sandy, email her at [sandyearl\\_rower@hotmail.com](mailto:sandyearl_rower@hotmail.com).... Or at call her at 419-351-7409. [www.sandyearl.com](http://www.sandyearl.com)

## MARK CROFT



Mark Croft is a PGA Class A Professional and long-time resident of Yuma, Arizona. He hosts the "Desert Southwest Golf Talk" radio show on 560 KBLU every Tuesday morning.

## DR. DEITRA HICKEY, PHD



Dr. Deitra Hickey, PhD uses her life experiences to help others find their balance and honor themselves through physical, mental, and emotional wellness. She is the owner of Serenity Health & Wellness Center. For more information about Serenity visit: <http://SerenityHealthMaumee.com>, also watch Dr. Hickey's video series: Serenity Now: A Health & Wellness Perspective

# VIDEOS



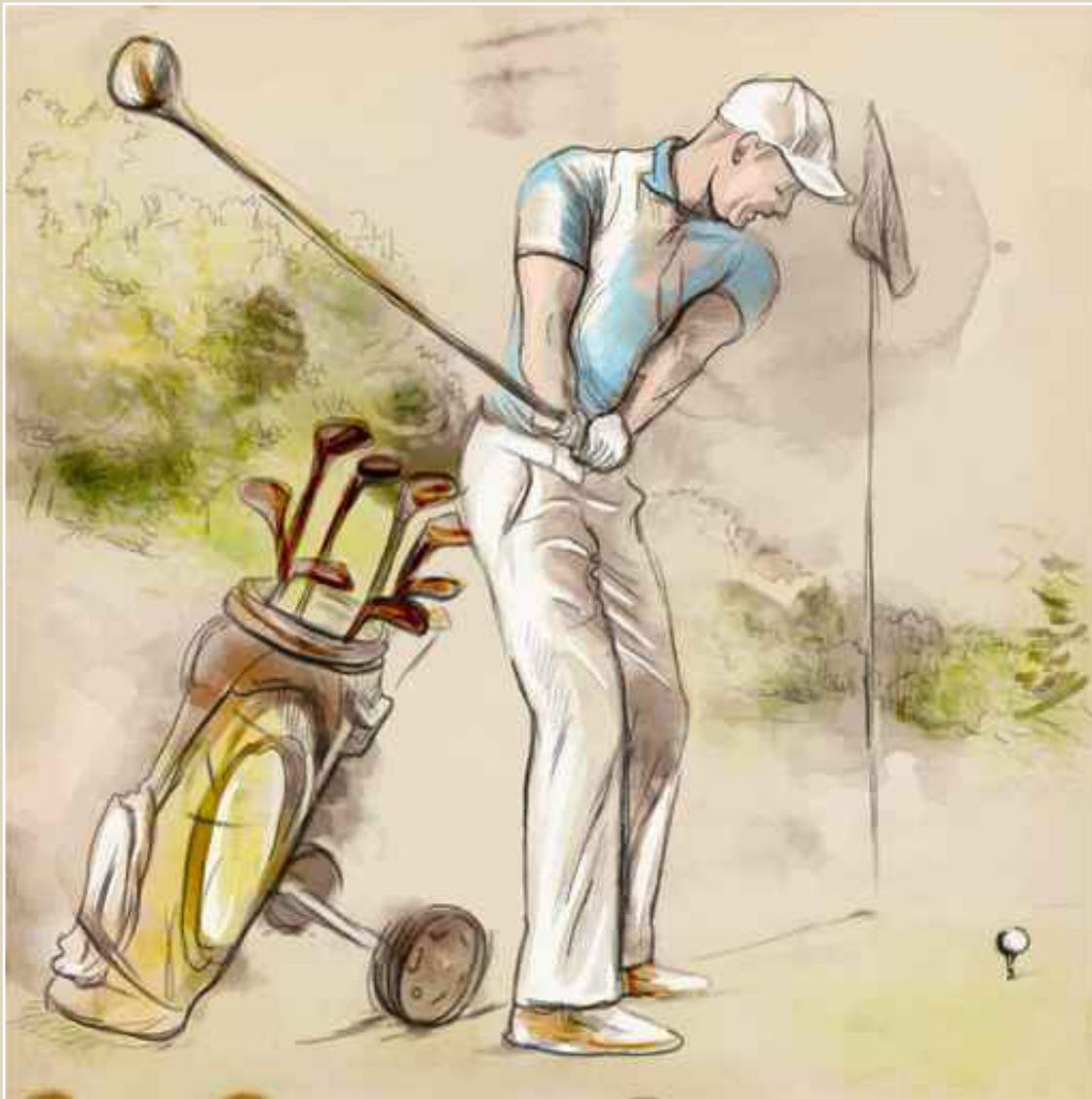
**WATCH AS BILL HAAS** gives ESPN's College Basketball Guru, Jay Bilas a golf lesson, while Gary Williams from Golf Channel's Morning Drive watches.

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If you think you have an awkward golf swing, watch this video that features a Top 10 List of Golfers with unique swings that found a way to win on the PGA Tour.

**Watch now!**





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