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**GOLFER**

**Sweet, Sweet  
Summertime, Michigan**

*by Jack Berry*

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**Spring 2007**

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### Michigan Golfer

is produced by

**Great Lakes Sports  
Publications, Inc.**

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Michigan Golfer is published online four times a year by Great Lakes Sports Publications, Inc., 3588 Plymouth Rd, #245, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2603.

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Back Issues: May be ordered by sending \$5.00 with your name, address and issue requested to Michigan Golfer, 3588 Plymouth Road, #245, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2603.

*Cover: Painter's light hits Antrim Dells in Atwood, Michigan, on a summer day. Photo by Art McCafferty*



# A-Ga-Ming and “Chick” Harbert

**By Art McCafferty**

**B**y happenstance, I have probably golfed the “Harbert” or now Torch course at A-Ga-Ming more than any other course in the North. Mike Terrell, one of our GLSP stringers and a long time scribe from the area, was also the son-in-

*Photo: A-Ga-Ming Hole No. 1.*

law of owner Bill Siebenthaller. Siebenthaller decided to take the course from nine to 18 and brought in his long time friend and 1954 PGA Champion Chick Harbert. Harbert helped to determine the rerouting of the original nine and to draft plans for the additional nine. They opened up the new 18 in the late 80's, built a new clubhouse and waited for the golfers to come.

The golfers found an unusual course. Hole Number 1, converted from a par 3, was a severe dog leg right over a pond. This was a tough way to start a round and caused backup on the tee. (The hole will revert to a par 3 again next year.) Then there was Hole Number 2 with the chasm and Hole Number 3 with a severe dog leg left. It was kind of an “Amen Corner” start.

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While I had the opportunity to play with Harbert, I was a little too intimidated to talk to him about the auspicious start of his course. Now I wonder if, perhaps, those holes were designed by the original owner Roy Wetmore. Wetmore constructed the front with a great deal of sweat and cheap kid labor. After those “interesting” three holes, the course eased up and became more enjoyable.

Harbert is now joined by Jerry Matthews and Matthews’ latest, Sundance. First of all, what a great name. Sundance fits right in with the breath-taking views you find a A-Ga-Ming. The course is maturing nicely, and will be

Photo: Michigan Golfer archives



**Chick Harbert (left) is pictured here with *Michigan Golfer's* former editor, Terry Moore.**



Photo by Art McCafferty

### Sundance, Hole Number 3

joined by a new clubhouse this year. The course has room for a

Also, the old clubhouse will be renovated and used as both a

hole and give the area a little more room on top. The clubhouse area

## *Sundance fits right in with the breath-taking views you find at A-Ga-Ming.*

variety of good and bad shots and enormous vistas against which to view those shots..

wedding staging area and small conference center. The old driving range will become part of the 1st

features a new driving range. All of this is set for a Spring '08 opening. **MG**



Photo by Art McCafferty

**Sundance, Hole Number 1**

# Michigan Golf Hall of Fame Class of 2007

By Jack Berry

**T**he Michigan Golf Hall of Fame covers the spectrum of the game and the 2007 class reflects it with the induction of players Steve Maddalena and John Lindholm, coach Bruce Fossum, greenkeeper Ted Woehrle, and rules expert Mark Wilson.

**M**addalena grew up in the hotbed of Jackson golf, an area that produced professional stars Dave and Mike Hill. Maddalena elected to remain an amateur after an All-Big Ten career at the University of Michigan and he has been one of the state's best with Michigan Amateur championships in 1980, 1990 and 1995, one of just nine players to accomplish that in the state's oldest championship that dates to 1906.

Maddalena played in six U.S. Amateurs, won the 1989 GAM Championship and the 1988 Horton Smith and 1988 Michigan Medal Play championships. He

owns 13 Country Club of Jackson championships and his 10-under-par 61 at Jackson's Sharp Park in 1982 is the course record.

**L**indholm has excelled both as a "junior" - that's before he reached the senior age - and now as a senior. He won the 1997 Michigan Amateur over collegian Mike Harris who now plays the pro circuits, won the state's premier stroke play doubleheader of the Horton Smith and Michigan Medal Play tournaments in 2003 at the age of 58.

Lindholm, a 13 time club champion including eight times at Flint Golf Club, won the Michigan Senior Amateur in 2004 and 2005 and has reached match play in the U.S. Amateur, Mid-Amateur and Senior Amateur championships. He was second low amateur in the 1997 U.S. Senior Open at Olympia Fields and made the cut in the 2002 British Senior Amateur.

As well as playing, Maddalena and Lindholm have worked for

golf on the volunteer side, Maddalena as a governor of the Western Golf Association and Lindholm as a member of the Golf Association of Michigan board of directors and USGA Sectional Affairs official.

**F**ossum was hired at Michigan State as an assistant basketball coach and director of the Physical Education Department's golf program. It wasn't long before he became head golf coach, a position he held until his retirement in 1990. During his tenure the Spartans played in 11 NCAA championships and his top player, Hall of Famer Lynn Janson, inducted him into the Hall of Fame. The Hall now is a family affair for the Fossums. Bruce's wife, Mary, long-time MSU Women's Coach, was inducted in 2002.

**G**rowing grass came naturally for Woehrle whose father was greenkeeper in Kankakee, Ill. Woehrle has seen

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golf course maintenance change drastically since he graduated from Purdue in 1954 with a four year degree in the new subject. He spent nine years at Beverly Country Club, a Donald Ross course in Chicago, preparing it for two Women's Western Opens and then moved to Oakland Hills where his 24 year career included preparing the course for five men's major championships.

Nine years at The Orchards from the grow-in of the Robert Trent Jones Jr. course and a U.S. Public Links Championship finally signaled retirement for Woehrle, a past president of the Golf Course Superintendents Association. He had

the satisfaction in seeing more than 50 of his assistants "graduate" to head superintendent positions.

**W**ilson's knowledge of the Rules of Golf has taken him to all of the major championships in golf. The Michigan State graduate currently is Chairman of the PGA of America Rules Committee. He is the Chief Rules Official of the PGA and Senior PGA Championships and will be head Rules Official at the 2008 Ryder Cup at Valhalla. He was appointed

Photo: Michigan Golfer archives



**Bruce Fossum, Michigan Golf Hall of Fame Class of 2007, is pictured with Judy Cunningham of Timber Ridge.**

to the PGA Rules Committee in 1990 and has worked every PGA Championship since then. He also has officiated at 11 Masters Tournaments, three British Opens and three U.S. Opens. The Michigan PGA Section has named him seven times winner of the section's Horton Smith Award for his work to improve member education.

The five new members bring the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame membership to 80. The full list is at [www.michigan-golf-foundation.com](http://www.michigan-golf-foundation.com). **MG**

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# Sweet, Sweet Summertime, Michigan

**Jack Berry**

**I**n the words of rocker Bob Seger, it's "sweet, sweet summertime, Michigan summertime."

It's time to lift up our heads and shout about Michigan with all our lakes, four of them veritable oceans, our beaches, our cherries, peaches and sweet corn, our vineyards, our resort towns, and more public courses than any state in the

country, courses that consistently rank not only among the best, but are far better than most with great terrain left by the glaciers eons ago.

And finally, at long last, state government has awakened and is promoting Michigan's enormous recreational facilities with radio and television commercials going into national markets.

I read that 40 states have budget surpluses. Michigan isn't one of them so, more than ever, Michigan must flaunt its riches. Bring in the traveling golfers, the tourists. And not make it a one-time effort. Does Myrtle Beach ever stop promoting?

A recent assignment took me to 19 courses in the Traverse City area and the variety in just that small area is outstanding, excellent

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courses with great views, forested hills as far as the eye can see, views of Grand Traverse Bay, of Torch Lake and Crystal Lake, courses that are fun to play and not an Oakmont monster in the bunch although I have to say that The Chief in Bellaire would test Oakmont members. And don't blame, or credit, Canada even though the designer, John F. Robinson is a Canadian. Robinson is a University of Michigan alumnus who started out working for another Wolverine, Bill Newcomb, and he did ease up on Hawk's Eye.

Despite first visiting Traverse City in the early 1960s, covering 20-plus Michigan Opens at Grand Traverse resort, running the Cherry Festival 15K, up and down Killer

McKinley Hill and running along the parade route, I'd never managed to squeeze in a visit to a winery or to climb Sleeping Bear sand dune. Sleeping Bear is going to have to wait but I did manage to taste the wine and cheese at Black Star Farms on the Leelanau Peninsula. Terrific.

Mentioning fruit of the vine, the choices at Trattoria Stella in the bowels of what once was the state mental hospital will match any place in the state. It's hard to imagine this one-of-a-kind spot but the restaurant, with brick arches separating small dining areas, and adjacent art galleries, are another Michigan plus.

Go all the way up the west coast, from the Indiana border to

the Mackinac Bridge, and there's an attractive small town and village, and golf course, one after the other. The newest course is the Beeches at South Haven where blueberry farmer Larry Bodtke is one of the principals. Designer Bruce Matthews III made sure he left the huge, signature beech tree standing, guarding the left side of the 18th green, and just as distinctive is the red clubhouse with cupola that would beg to be an Edward Hopper painting.

I've known Matthews since he did Bird Creek in the Thumb, then Hidden River at Brutus and Angel's Crossing at Vicksburg and he said he always thinks of me and my dislike of cross hazards. He also thinks of we distance-challenged

seniors and puts tees on the other side of the hazard. Like Angel's Crossing, Matthews has some enormous putting surfaces while converting a corn field into a very playable course with what Matthews calls "a newspaper" par 5 - 670 yards from the way, way back tee. In other words, it's a gimmick and no one should play it. But they do cut the grass on the tee. The blue tee is 580 yards.

My 12-year-old granddaughter's final day in a junior clinic drew me to Pilgrim's Run, north of Grand Rapids. I hadn't been there in a few years and had forgotten how hilly, pretty and well-conditioned it is. You look at it and it says "This is Michigan golf." A beautiful setting. Pilgrim's Run celebrates its 10th birthday this summer. It's a brew of

eight "chefs" - the owner, Robert Van Kampen, invited six friends to each design three holes and superintendent Kris Shumaker routed the holes. Then Mike De Vries designed the green complexes and the unusual "recipe" turned out brilliantly.

**T**he east coast, the Sunrise Side, is less populated than the west and generally is less expensive but with fine golf. There's surprisingly hilly Verona Hills at Bad Axe in the flat Thumb, chicken dinners and golf at Frankenmuth, Huron Breeze at Au Gres, Red Hawk at Tawas, the three courses of Lakewood Shores at Oscoda and White Pine National at Hubbard Lake.

All across the I-94 southern cor-

ridor from Chicago to Detroit there's golf, Angel's Crossing at Vicksburg, Yarrow and the Scotts' Gull Lakeview collection that also includes strong Bedford Valley, home of the Michigan Open in the 1970s, and Eastern Michigan's Eagle Crest, Fox Hills, Salem Hills and Stonebridge in Washtenaw County.

It's good golf all the way up the middle of the state on US-127, Eagle Eye and Hawk Hollow on the north side of Lansing, the Majestic over on US-23 at Hartland, back up US-127 to the Emerald at Maple Creek, the nice collection of courses around Mt. Pleasant, the Pohlcat, Buck's Run, Tullymore and St. Ives, then Grayling and Gaylord with a strong package of courses includ-



Photo courtesy of Treetops

**Treetops, Rick Smith Signature**



Photo by Art McCafferty

### Thunder Bay Golf Club and Resort, Hillman, Michigan

ing the Tom Weiskopf-designed Forest Dunes, Michaywe, the superb courses at Treetops, the Tribute at the Otsego Club and on up to Rees Jones's high-ranked Black Lake.

And despite all the jokes about July 4 being summer in the Upper Peninsula and fall starting July 5, there is good golf above the

bridge. There's Sault Ste. Marie Country Club where, in the 1950s and 1960s when the Red Wings trained in the Soo, General Manager Jack Adams, after the morning practice, would order the team to play golf to strengthen their legs. What a boss!

Mike DeVries's Greystone at Marquette and Jerry Matthews'

Timberstone at Iron Mountain in the western U.P. have drawn raves. Michigan definitely is golf, border to border, both peninsulas, more than 800 public courses. Sweet, sweet summertime, as Seger sang. And, incidentally, Seger recorded that 27 years ago in June at Cobo Arena. The sweet, sweet summertime. **MG**

# Pohlcat: Mid-Michigan's Connection to the PGA Tour

By Kelly Hill, *Managing Editor*

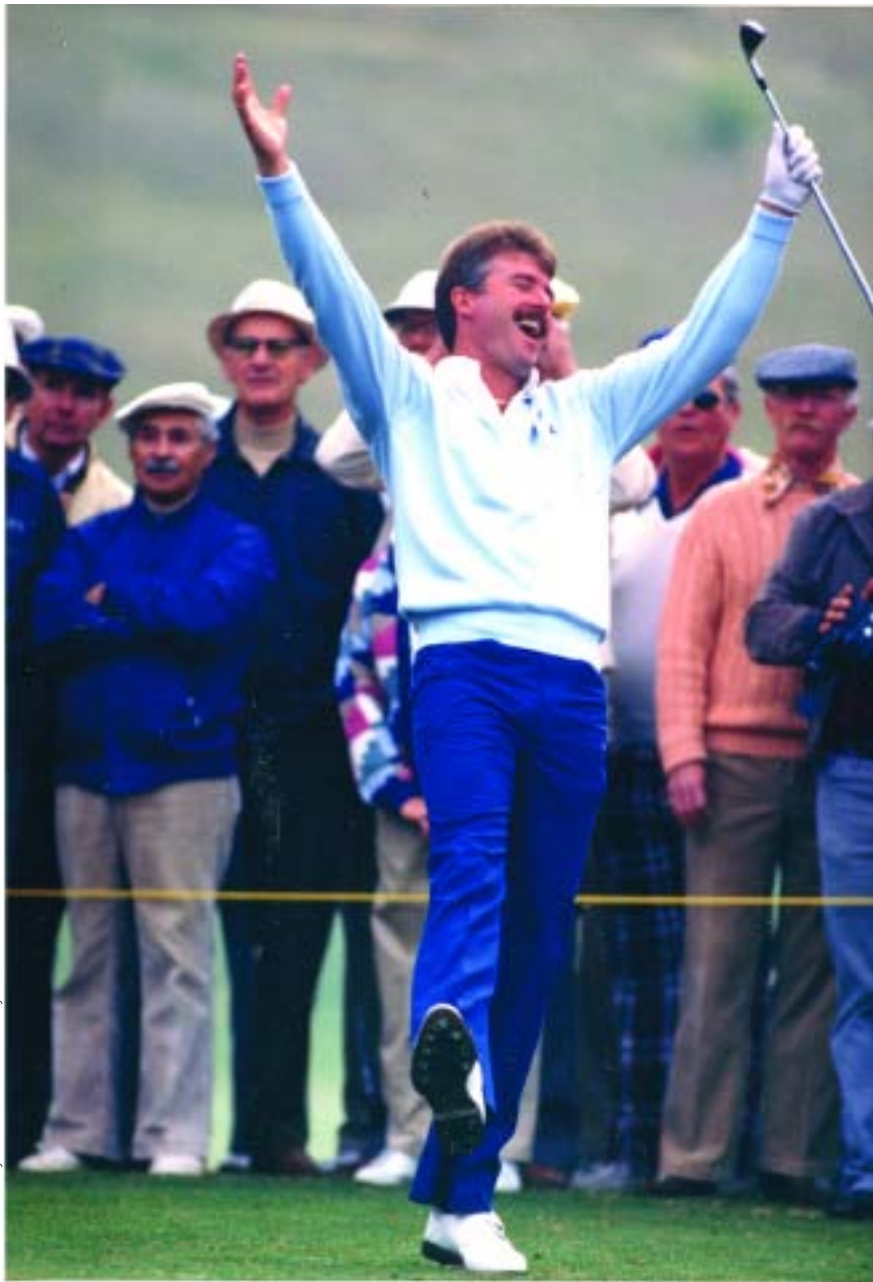


Photo courtesy of La Costa Country Club

**Dan Pohl celebrates a hole in one at La Costa Country Club in California.**

Is there such a thing as a “ho-hum” 67?

Doug LaBelle, 32, who was born in Lansing, lives in Mount Pleasant and who has won almost a half million dollars on the PGA Tour, holds the course record of 67 (5-under) at the PohlCat, Mount Pleasant's championship golf course.

Course owner John Brehm recalled LaBelle's record-setting round: “Doug shot 67 from the tips and he didn't do anything spectacular, like chip in or hole out from the fairway, or make really long putts or anything like that. It was a ho-him 67.”

LaBelle, who turned pro in 1998, often played the PohlCat with Brehm's nephew, Ryan Brehm, who recently concluded his junior year at Michigan State University and who finished second to Greg Davies in last year's Michigan Amateur Championship played on The Heather at Boyne Highlands.

“I kid Ryan about that 67,” John Brehm said. “He is still going for it. Ryan and Doug and I and Doug's dad would play together and Doug's dad and I would play from the whites and Doug and Ryan would go back to the black

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tees and then take two steps back from there. When I see Ryan go back to the blacks and then take two more steps back, I know he is going for that 67, and he wants to do it from back there.”

Ryan Brehm, 21, now lives adjacent to No. 13 at the PohlCat. “Doug was always a pleasure to play with,” Ryan Brehm said. “I probably learned more on the golf course from him than from anyone else. I haven't gotten that course record yet, though,” he added with a laugh. “I have been close a couple of times, but I don't play there as much as I used to do. I'm going to get it someday, though.”

Ryan Brehm's playing career, which he hopes takes him to the

Tour some day, also was inspired by the PohlCat's namesake, Mount Pleasant's most famous professional golfer, Dan Pohl.

“I knew Dan from a pretty young age,” Ryan Brehm said. “I played a lot with his son, Josh. Dan is more of an inspiration to me than anyone else.”

Pohl, 52, was born in Mount Pleasant, attended the University of Arizona in Tucson, and won the Michigan Amateur in 1975 and '77. Pohl turned pro in 1977 and joined the PGA Tour the year after that. He won the Colonial National Invitational and the NEC World Series of Golf in 1986. In '88, he and Hall of Fame quarterback Dan Marino won the Pebble Brach

National Pro-Am Championship. Marino and Fred Couples, who had won the Masters only a month earlier, were on hand for the PohlCat's grand opening in 1992. They were joined by Pohl, Dave Stockton, former NFL player Don Strock and former NBA player Dan Majerle.

“Dan and I played high-school golf together,” John Brehm said. “My family owned the Holiday Inn and other hotels and when we had the idea of building a golf course, we approached Dan about it and he thought it would be a great idea.” Also at that time, in the mid-1980s, John Brehm was teaching a course at CMU and as a class project, students compiled marketing schemes for the proposed golf course. “The



Photo courtesy of Pohlcat Championship Golf Course

Over the bridge to the 2nd green at the Pohlcat.



Photo by Art McCafferty

**Ryan Brehm lines up putt with help from his uncle, John Brehm.**

casino hadn't been built yet, but this was already becoming a good location," Brehm said.

Pohl, whose nickname on the Tour was PohlCat, was one of seven original investors in the golf course project. "Eventually we decided to hire a marketing firm,"

Brehm said. That firm was Stevens, Inc. of Grand Rapids. "They came up with our logo and the slogan: "Stalk the Cat."

The course's grand opening remains legendary in Mount Pleasant. "Fred Couples had won the Masters only two weeks

before the grand opening and even though he had said he'd come, we didn't think he'd be here," Brehm said. "Well, he showed up and we had press everywhere. People around here still talk about that grand opening. It was a super day." **MG**

# Catching Up with Tom Gillis

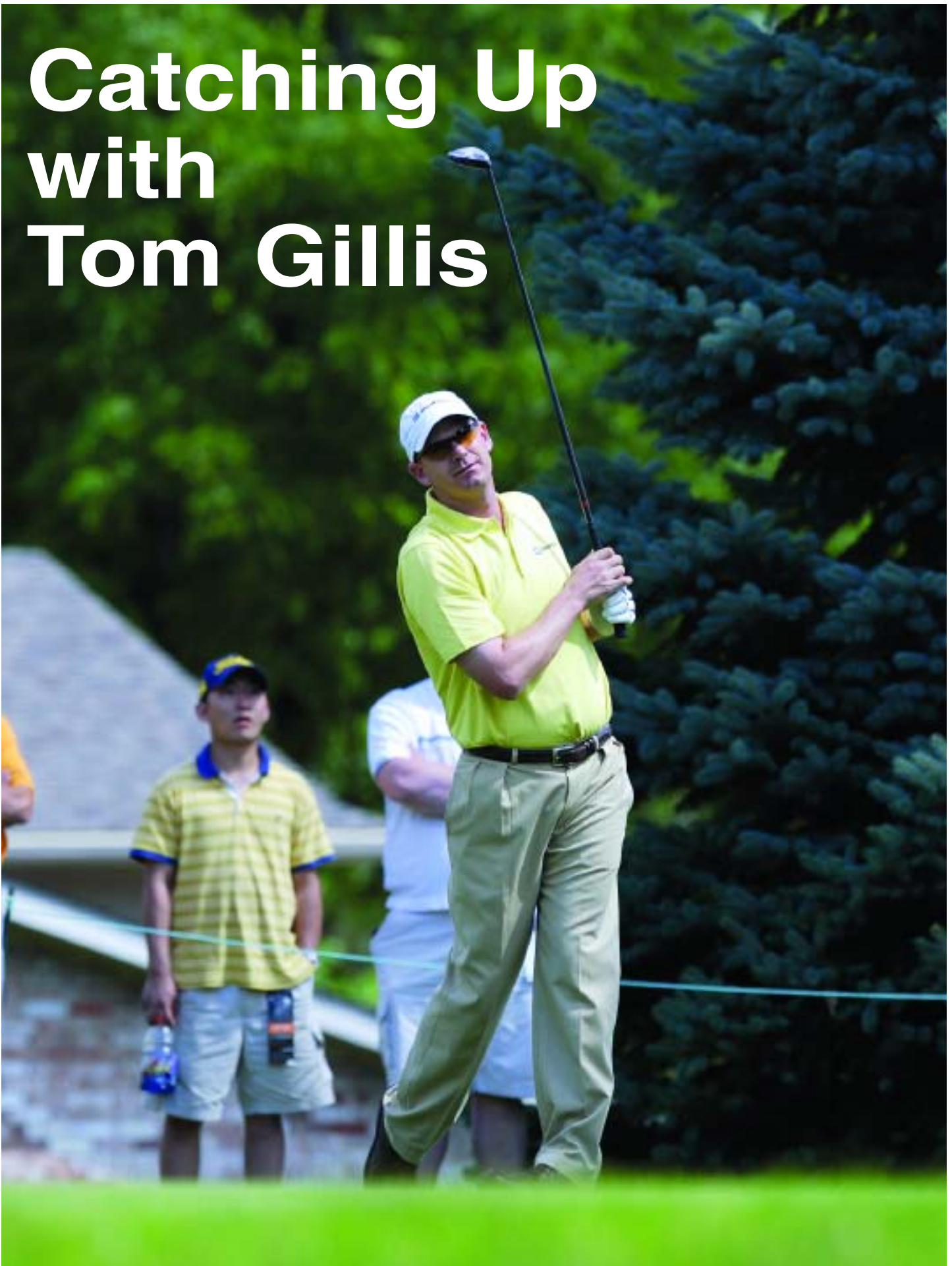


Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios

## By Dave Ruthenberg

Pontiac native Tom Gillis knew from the time that he was 14 years old that he wanted to be a professional golfer but it is likely he never envisioned having to contend with monkeys on a green during a tournament.

Gillis, a 38-year old native of Pontiac who now resides in Lake Orion, is currently playing on the Gateway Tour, “sort of like a Class A minor league of golf to use baseball terminology,” Gillis explained. But it’s been a long, winding road that has landed Gillis on golf’s minor league circuit. “I have been in a slump for about 2 years. It’s mostly between the ears. The Gateway Tour is the best place for me to be right now to regain my confidence.” Gillis hopes to climb his way back to the PGA Tour at some point.

Most people only see the glamorous side of professional golf and can’t appreciate the sacrifices and the emotional ups and downs of the life of a touring golf pro. Gillis is living proof of the level of commitment and perseverance required and even then there is no guarantee of success.

“Playing in the Gateway Tour is a lot like organized gambling,” said Gillis who is making his temporary home in Florida where the tour is based. “You pay a \$1,000 entry fee and essentially the money is pooled. It’s a place where young players try to work their way up to or where guys like me come to get their game back.” Last year the Gateway Tour paid out a total of \$7.2 million over 59 tournaments. The tour also has a West Coast

home in Arizona. Gillis plans to play through the spring in Florida and hopes to make a return engagement to the Buick Open in Grand Blanc.

“I intend to go through the Open qualifying; at least that’s my plan.” Gillis competed in the Buick Open in 2006 but failed to make the cut after two rounds. “It was great to play there. It’s a great course and it was only 35 minutes from home but there were a lot of distractions. People I hadn’t seen in twenty years were asking for tickets. But don’t get me wrong, it was all worthwhile.”

Gillis first became enamored with the game that would turn into his lifelong passion by playing golf with his parents at Oxford Hills in Oakland County and then working at Indianwood Country Club for ten years where his talent was recognized early on. “I was really fortunate as people saw that I could play and really took me under their wing there (at Indianwood). I was treated like a member and could play whenever I wanted.”

He was able to parlay his talents into a spot on the Coastal Carolina collegiate golf team. “Playing in Myrtle Beach, you couldn’t have asked for anything much better,” reminisced Gillis. “Back then though the program was not in good shape but it has really improved and is considered a top ten program now.”

After completing his stint at Coastal Carolina, Gillis returned home and was runner-up in the

1990 Michigan Amateur Open and then a short two years later won the Iowa Waterloo Open, netting a first place purse of \$10,000 but his biggest win would come in the fall of 1993 when Gillis bested Jim Thorpe to claim the \$27,000 first place purse in the Jamaica Open. Gillis also claimed the 1994 Michigan Open title.

After playing in the “mini tours” as Gillis calls them, around the US from 1990-1997, he qualified for a regular spot on the European Tour starting in 1997 and the real adventures started.

The European Tour is really a misnomer as the tour itself extends far beyond Europe, making stops in Asia and Africa as well, leading to some unique experiences for Gillis, who was the only American regular on the European Tour during his last two years on the circuit.

“There were times that I wasn’t sure that the plane was going to make it in safely, some of those places were so remote,” said Gillis. “I remember being on a plane from Swaziland to Johannesburg and just keeping my fingers crossed.” Then there was the time, also in South Africa, that Gillis got to experience a taste of the wild where it seemed monkeys share the course with the players. “You don’t play many places where you actually have a pack of monkeys on the green or following you along the fairways,” Gillis chuckled. “That was strange.”

Gillis has also literally played with his head in the clouds.

“Playing at Deer Island off the

**Photo left: Tom Gillis picked up 11 K for his 2007 Buick finish.**

cost of Portugal we actually had a delay due to rolling clouds. Not rain or storm clouds, just regular clouds. The first tee was so high up and in a valley that you were actually higher than the clouds. When the clouds rolled through play had to be stopped because those on like the second or third tee could not see. You were literally standing in middle of the clouds.”

**G**illis had become a fixture on the European Tour, making a nice living but at home things were falling apart and the long time spent apart eventually cost him his marriage.

He has since remarried and his current wife, Jennifer, has a better understanding of the game and the travel. She and Gillis met while she was an assistant coach for the golf team at Oakland University. “It really helps to have somebody who understands the game and knows the mental toll it can take on you.”

After spending several seasons in Europe, Gillis finally earned a spot on the PGA Tour in 2003 and had one of his best personal years, earning \$600,000 on tour through both winnings and endorsements, and played in the US Open and British Open in 2003. “Earning my card was an incredible feeling of elation,” recalled Gillis.

Gillis last appeared on the PGA



Photo by Dave Ruthenberg

### Tom Gillis

Tour as a regular in 2005 before losing his card which brings us back to his current status on the Gateway Tour. A spot far away from the limelight, where there are no galleries and the players ride in a cart and no caddies are permitted.

The next step for Gillis could potentially be on the Nationwide Tour, which serves as the feeder for the PGA and has really seen an upturn in talent and money payouts over the past 2-3 years.

“I really believe that the talent is deeper now on the Nationwide Tour than in Europe and the money is approaching significant amounts too. I think you will soon see a \$1 million purse on the Nationwide

Tour,” added Gillis. “65% of the players now on the PGA came through the Nationwide Tour and nine out of ten players in the Ryder Cup came from there as well, so the talent is really deep.”

Gillis also notes that today’s younger players are more hell bent on distance than anything else. “Today’s young players really do have a ‘grip it and rip it’ mentality,” says Gillis. The courses being built today are all being built for distance and less for finesse.” Shot making skill has taken a back seat to distance now. The equipment has changed so much too, placing a premium on distance over anything else.” It also means that physical fitness has become more important

than ever as well.

“I spend more time now in the gym than I would have ever imagined. Years ago you didn’t have to worry about being a little out of shape, but now you have to keep up with the young guys who are hitting the big shots.”

Gillis has no regrets in a career that has spanned several continents and earned him over \$1.2 million over the course of his career and plans to turn his current status in the Gateway Tour into a ticket back to the big time.

“I just have to attack it as a professional. I believe I will get back there again.” **MG**



Photo by Art McCafferty

Could 2006 have been the last Par 3 Shootout?

# Where Have All the Tournaments Gone, Long Time Passing?

By Art McCafferty

**W**ith apologies to Pete Seeger, the tournaments that once used to populate the Michigan golf calendar are long time passing.

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios



**Chi Chi Rodriguez plays in the TPC at Dearborn**

Michigan was on top of the golf world in the '80s, '90s and the first part of this century. Hundreds of golf courses were being built, the rust belt of the 70's had given away to a return of the auto industry and Michigan's economy was robust once again.

In that atmosphere, the Grand Rapids based Senior Tour was born, the TPC in Dearborn also welcomed the Seniors, the Futures Tour was held at Mystic Creek, Boulder Point and Lake Forest Golf Club, the Canadian Tour held the Bay Mills Open in Brimley for four years, the LPGA had a great run out at Walnut Creek and the Par-3 Shootout was always a welcomed tournament. Now all are gone.

Michigan had all these tournaments and also hosted the U.S. Open at Oakland Hills, the U.S. Women's Open at Indianwood, the U.S. Publinx at The Orchards,

the U.S. Amateur at Oakland Hills and the Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills.

We have been spoiled.

Our majors now include; the Michigan Amateur, the Michigan Open, the Western Amateur and the Buick Open,

What now?

We all know that everything happens in cycles and that Michigan is going through a down cycle in golf at this time. However, it has been a great ride and one that we can cherish forever. *MG*

Photo by Art McCafferty



**Vanessa Bell, one of the Futures contestants at Lake Forest GC**

**Tiger Woods  
walks a fairway  
at the Buick Open.**

**Next year  
will be  
the 50th year of  
Warwick Hills  
Golf Course.**

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios



**Brian Bateman  
won his first PGA golf  
tournament with a birdie  
on the 18th hole to beat  
a foursome waiting to tee  
it up for a playoff.**

**His 15 under was a high  
score for the Buick.**

**Bateman pocketed a  
check for \$882,000 for  
his effort, an amount that  
moved him from 204 on  
the money list to 59.**

Photo by Carter Sherline / Frog Prince Studios



# Ryan Brehm Wins Michigan Amateur at Red Run

Ryan Brehm gets congratulations from his sister and mother after his Michigan Amateur victory.

He was runner up last year.



Photo by Jennie McCafferty



Photo by Art McCafferty

Red Run CC was in spectacular shape for the 96th Michigan Amateur

# Andrew Ruthowski Wins Michigan Open

Michigan Open  
Champion  
Andrew Ruthowski  
is all smiles.



Photo by Art McCafferty



Grand  
Traverse  
Resort and  
Spa has  
hosted the  
Michigan  
Open on the  
Wolverine and  
the Bear

Photo by Art McCafferty

# Quick Facts

## About Golf Courses

Presented by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

A properly repaired ball mark heals completely in 2-3 days, while an unrepaired ball mark takes 15-20 days to heal properly.?

A typical 18-hole golf course covers approximately 125 - 150 acres of land. The total landmass of golf courses in the United States equals about 1/2 the state of Connecticut.?

A typical 18-hole golf course produces enough oxygen to support 4,000 to 7,000 people.?

Golf courses nationwide combine to filter 13 million tons of dust from the air every year.?

Who is the most important person at a golf facility? According to a 1997 survey of 500 Golf Digest subscribers, the golf course superintendent was listed the most (48 percent). Other responses included the course/club professional 25 percent, club/course manager 14 percent, beverage cart or halfway house person 11 percent.?

Golf courses have a cooling effect during the hot summer months. The average temperature on the golf course is typically 5- 7 degrees cooler than a residential area and 7 - 15 degrees cooler than an urban downtown setting.?

The infield of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway is home to four holes of the Brickyard Crossing golf course. The remaining 14 holes outside the oval are accessed through a tunnel under the track.?

Golf courses delay play on frost-covered turf (especially greens) because stepping on frost-covered grass causes the frozen leaf cells to rupture. The turf will turn brown and eventually die.?

The Old Works Golf Course in Anaconda, Mont., is the first golf course built on an Environmental Protection Agency Superfund Site. Designed by Jack Nicklaus, the land served as a smelting location for the mining of iron ore. The golf course opened in June of 1997.?

Why do golf course superintendents aerate turf? Because it reduces compaction on a golf course by removing soil cores from the ground, allowing the movement of water, air and nutrients to the turf roots. Highly traveled areas plus poor soil composition creates compacted surfaces.?

What is the origin of the stimpmeter? In the early 1900s, a man by the name of Edward Stimpson was looking for a means to create

# SLICE OF LIFE



By Terry Moore

Excuse me while I clean out my desk er...mind. A proverbial pack-rat, I've been saving up notes and brochures for the past few months waiting for the "write" opportunity. So with that as fair warning, here we go.

**Lake George, NY:** We visited this beautiful part of the Adirondacks last fall on a return trip from Boston. Mindful of northern Michigan, it's a wonderful area to discover—especially in the fall when the colors are spectacular. Also, as a Donald Ross devotee, I was able to play the venerable **Sagamore Golf Club** that overlooks scenic Lake George. Ross designed the picturesque layout in 1928 and it was popular resort course in its heyday. But the course and the nearby resort fell on hard times in the '70s and in fact at one time closed down. Fortunately in the '80s, some investors wisely bought this tarnished gem and restored it to its rightful place of esteem. Spending millions, they improved the conditioning with irrigation while restoring and preserving Ross's trademark bunkering and hogback greens. It's

rather tight in spots off the tee and requires some local knowledge, but it offers a delightful golf experience with plenty of challenge. Not surprising, it's on *Golf Digest's* and *Golfweek's* list of Best Public/Resort courses in NY.

And for accommodations, you can't beat the **Inn at Erlowest**, a movie-perfect stone mansion overlooking Lake George with elegantly decorated rooms, terrific dining and also offering separate condo-style units. And speaking of dining, two "must-eat" restaurants are **Cate's Italian Garden**, located only minutes away, offering up—naturally—delicious Italian dishes at fair prices; and the farther afield **O.P. Fredericks** in Chestertown which is widely known for its authentic and home-spun Adirondack atmosphere and excellent menu. Also, besides golf and general sightseeing, the Lake George area offers some inspiring hiking trails. For more information, visit [www.visitlakegeorge.com](http://www.visitlakegeorge.com)

**Golf stuff:** I came back from the PGA Merchandise Show last January with all sorts of brochures and press releases. But since my game hibernates until spring, I didn't expose them to the light of day 'til now. On the apparel side, I liked **Fairway & Greene's** new *Pureformance* line of shirts that offers the best of both worlds: performance and natural fabric shirts. Fairway & Greene puts its patented wrinkle-proof collar around a natural fabric on the outside and a micro-polyester yarn performance type fabric on the inside (where it's touching the skin and able to wick away moisture) and delivers a handsome and heat-conscious prod-

uct....Meanwhile on the south end of the body, **Puma** is making strides (no pun intended) in the golf shoe market. 2006 U.S. Open champion Geoff Ogilvy wears Puma as does Euro Tour player Johann Edfors. Long a leader in athletic footwear, Puma is offering jazzier and more stylish golf footwear models while not sacrificing traditional features. For example, Puma has an attractive Gore-Tex Tour Saddle that looks GQ with its trademark "leaping puma" logo on the toe. Question, if these shoes are left untied, could someone ask: "Cat got your tongue?" Sorry; visit [www.golf.puma.com](http://www.golf.puma.com)

Other items that caught my attention: Sun Mountain's new waterproof **H2O Tech** carry bag is a long overdue introduction; **Bushnell** laser rangefinders are booming thanks to USGA allowance for handicap and tournament play—e.g. sales are up over 400% from last year. I love the **LaserLink** rangefinder and my club uses the system; but Bushnell offers a portable and versatile alternative that will be hard to beat; for type A yet absent-minded golfers prone to leaving clubs on the last green, they should investigate the **Electronic Golf Club Recovery System** that uses electronic sensors to monitor one's set in the bag; for those fighting a losing battle with foot odor, they (or their loved ones) should purchase **Stink Away**, shoe pads that sanitize and remove shoe odors and last for 10 weeks. ("To defuma the Pumas, use Stink Away!") After my Dad recently removed his shoes in our den to take a nap thereby inadvertently alerting the HAZ-MAT unit, I ordered a year's supply. **MG**