



2020 Golf Guide

Dispatch • Argus
QCOnline.com

WHAT'S INSIDE

FEATURES By Tom Johnston

2020 golf season endures rough start page 2

These movers and shakers started here page 3-4

TPC Deere Run finishing hole gets a makeover page 5-6

John Deere Classic set to celebrate 50th Q-C tourney page 7-9

All in the family, part 2 at Byron Hills Golf Course page 10-11

Golf and tourism a big hit for QCA page 12

John Deere Classic jump-starts careers page 13

'Sarge' in charge on QC Amateur Tour page 14-15

Bettendorf course keeping up with the times page 16

Plenty of options; find a course for your golf game page 17-22

MAPS

Local page 18



CONTRIBUTED

Palmer Hills Golf Course, Bettendorf, Iowa

Angst, uncertainty surround 2020 golf season

Hopefully as you are reading this, you are near a golf course, thinking about finding one to play, or just spent an enjoyable few hours on one.

As you have realized by this point, the start of the 2020 golf season has been, shall we say, unusual — to say the least. While Mother Nature and what she throws at the Midwest during the spring and summer is always a concern, there has been a major upheaval caused by the COVID-19 pandemic that is spreading across the world.

In mid-May during the production of this publication, much of the sports world was still at a standstill, although looking at ways to return to workouts and games. The PGA Tour hadn't teed it up since the first round of the Players Championship in March. The Masters was postponed. The Open Championship was canceled for the year and the PGA Tour has shuffled its schedule to a point where not much remains the same from its original form.

As of mid-May, the July John Deere Classic — the largest, most impactful sporting event on the Quad-Cities sports calendar each year — is still being planned. It may not be presented as usual, though, as it was still up for debate as to whether fans will be allowed at TPC Deere Run for the 50th anniversary event. Millions of dollars are funneled through the JDC and reach over 500 local non-profit businesses and organizations each year. The

successful Birdies For Charity program will continue no matter how the athletic event is contested.

With nearly 50 golf courses in the Illinois-Iowa region within an hour or so of the Quad-Cities, that sector of society has been hit hard. A "shelter-in-place" decree is still in effect on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River after effectively shutting the industry for nearly two months. At least the golf courses are now open. Hopefully they stay open for the rest of the season.

For the sake of the golf community's collective sanity and those whose livelihoods rely on the golf industry, fingers are crossed that this runs its course sooner rather than later and things get back to normal.

While that's not the case yet, know that those in the business understand how important the game is not only from an economic standpoint, but also from a quality of life perspective.

With that in mind, many owners/operators are champing at the bit to salvage what they can out of the season with alternative procedures in place to ensure the health and safety of golfers and employees alike. That meant some services have been scaled back a bit, but at least communities on both sides of the Mississippi River are back to enjoying golf.

If this is being read post-shutdown and things are again approaching normalcy, may you enjoy any and all golfing ventures in the Quad-Cities. With all of the courses here, you are sure to find a few that are right for your game.

Hit 'em straight and avoid those hazards. And don't forget the hand sanitizer!



TOM JOHNSTON

QC's ties to pro golf run rich and deep

TOM JOHNSTON
tjohnston@qconline.com

The Quad-Cities has deep ties to the game of golf.

Until last year when the Arsenal Island Golf Course closed, the area was home to the second-oldest golf course in the state of Illinois, it opening in 1897 as one of the oldest clubs in America.

This summer, the John Deere Classic celebrates the 50th anniversary of Tour golf here.

Many people whose names have become synonymous with golf have their roots here — some still calling the Quad-Cities home.

It is only natural that many of those connections are through the John Deere Classic. However, there are many other inside-the-ropes ties the QCA has to the game at its top level. Some of the more prestigious are 1955 U.S. Open winner Jack Fleck and former PGA Tour pros Butch Harmon and Jim Jamieson. Another is Moline's own Tony Navarro, one of the most recognizable caddies on Tour.

Harmon has become more famous for helping others win on the PGA Tour as one of the most renowned teachers in the world.

The teaching pro to many of

today's top stars got his start as a club professional at Davenport's Crow Valley Country Club, where he met his wife, Christy.

Two of Harmon's most famous students, of course, were Tiger Woods and Phil Mickelson. But the one-time Tour winner (1971 Broome County Open) from New York has also worked with some of the game's other legendary players, including Ernie Els, Greg Norman, Davis Love III, Justin Leonard, Seve Ballesteros, Jose Maria Olazabal, Darren Clarke and Stewart Cink. He also worked with LPGA standout Danielle Kang. Most recently his stable included standouts such as World No. 1 Dustin Johnson, Rickie Fowler, Jimmy Walker, Gary Woodland, Nick Watney (for whom Navarro totes) and Ollie Schniederjans.

"I have been blessed to work with the best players in the world," said the humble

Harmon. "Believe it or not, I have learned as much from them as they have from me."

Fleck, a Quad-Cities native, has one of the most indelible connections to pro golf. The long-time Bettendorf resident took down the iconic Ben Hogan in a playoff for the 1955 U.S. Open at the Olympic

Club in San Francisco. He died in March 2014 at the age of 92.

While Fleck may have one of the most amazing stories, there is an impressive and varied group of people from the area with connections to pro golf.

Another PGA Tour winner from the QCA is Jamieson, who passed away in 2018. The Michigan native who grew up in Moline won the 1972 Western Open and finished top 5 in the Masters twice in his illustrious career that was cut short by a hand injury. Jamieson, who operated his own golf school at Resort Glade Springs in Daniels, W.Va., coached women's golf at NCAA Div. II University of Charleston in 2011, getting

Please see TIES, Page R4

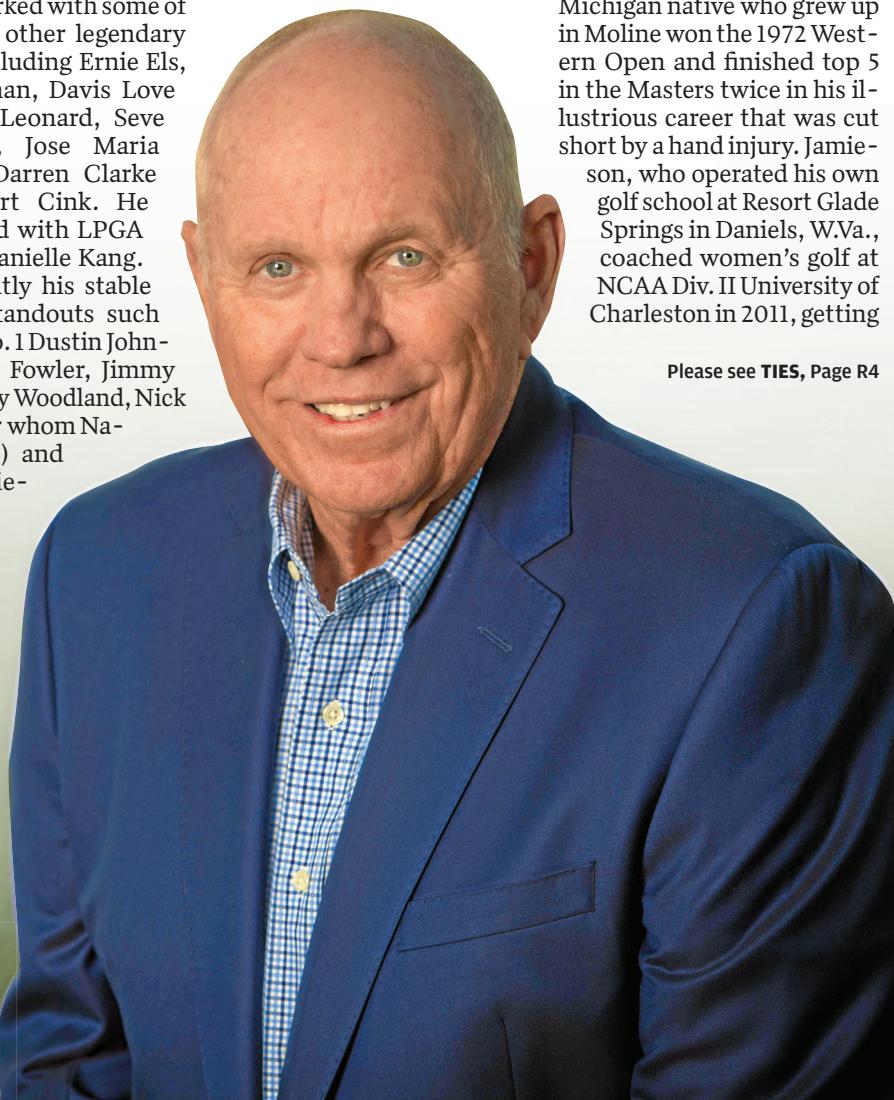


PHOTO COURTESY OF BUTCH HARMON SCHOOL OF GOLF

Butch Harmon, whose first job as a PGA professional was at Davenport's Crow Valley Golf Club, has taught some of the best professional players in the world.

Ties

From R3

that program up and running.

Richie Karl won the B.C. Open as a PGA Tour pro and retired to Bettendorf. He then won four consecutive Iowa section PGA titles.

Another former touring pro from the area is Beth Bader, who grew up in Eldridge. The former North Scott High School and Iowa State University standout spent a good portion of her adult life on the LPGA Tour and had five Top 10 finishes and earned over a million dollars.

Former PGA Tour standout Dan Halldorson was an adopted Quad-Citizen, living in nearby Cambridge, Ill., for a number of years before his death in 2015. The native Canadian had moved back over the border, last serving as head pro at Oak Island Resort in Manitoba. Halldorson had one win

(1980 Pensacola Open) and 28 Top 10 finishes in a career in which he also earned over a million dollars when that was a major benchmark.

Two other locals with deep ties to the PGA Tour have never played in a professional event but walked numerous rounds with some of the best players in the game. Moline natives Navarro and Rick "Montana" Thompson spent time inside the ropes caddying for top players.

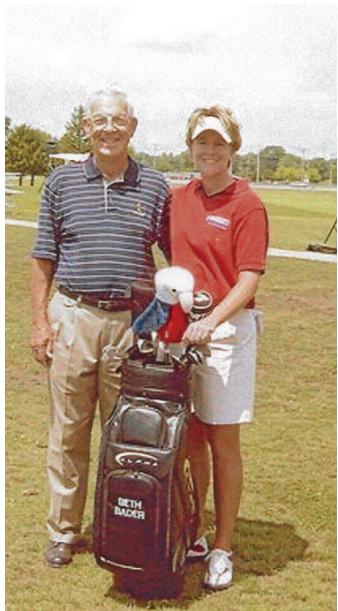
Navarro, a 1978 Moline High School graduate, is one of the most respected caddies in the game. He toted for Norman, Ben Crenshaw, Raymond Floyd and Jeff Sluman in his early years on the bag. He has most recently worked for Watney after having been on the bags of Adam Scott, Bud Cauley, Woodland and Australian Matt Jones.

Navarro spent 13 years with Australian standout Norman. They became very close friends



MEG MCLAUGHLIN

PGA Tour player Nick Watney and caddie Tony Navarro, of Moline, look down the fairway of the 11th hole during the third round of last year's John Deere Classic at TPC Deere Run in Silvis.



CONTRIBUTED

Quad-City Sports Hall of Fame members Jim Hasley, left, with former LPGA player Beth Bader.

and have been in business together on a number of very successful ventures. Navarro carried for half of Norman's 20 PGA Tour victories and the 1993 British Open. With Navarro, Norman ascended to the No. 1 World Ranking.

Thompson, a 1976 MHS grad and 1981 Western Illinois University product, actually started caddying while in high school, first picking up a bag at the 1975 Ed McMahon Jaycees Quad City Open — where Navarro also got his start — and making it a full-time job in 1988. Among the players he worked for were Rick Pearson, Billy Ray Brown, Joel Edwards, Scott Verplank and others before catching on with Billy Mayfair. He says one of his career highlights was when Mayfair logged a playoff victory over Tiger Woods at the 1998 Nissan L.A. Open at Valencia CC, which is still Woods' only Tour playoff loss.

Long off the toting grind, Thompson is now a scoring official with the rules and competitions committee on the PGA Tour, a position he began in 2003. He also oversees the caddies as the Advisory to Caddie Affairs.

A number of other locals

have toiled on the professional mini tours in hopes of making it to golf's biggest stage. Moline's David Lawrence is currently on that path, having logged multiple mini-tour victories in Florida in just his sixth year as a professional.

The Quad-Cities has numerous ties to nearly every professional sport that is played nationally.

The NFL got its start right here in the Quad-Cities with the Rock Island Independents, who played in the league from 1920-25.

Moline's historic Wharton Field House was home to the National Basketball League's Tri-Cities Blackhawks from 1946-51, a franchise that was the root of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks.

Professional baseball on the Minor League level here dates back to 1879. Games here even included the legendary Babe Ruth in the early days when teams traversed the country in trains and took games to the masses. Numerous Major League All-Stars either got their starts here in the Quad-Cities or have come through here while playing in the minors.

HIDDEN HILLS

GOLF COURSE

4335 Indiana Ave., **HIDDEN HILLS** GOLF COURSE
I-80 & Middle Rd.,
Bettendorf, IA

(563) 332-5616
hiddenhills-golf.com

TOURNAMENTS
Holiday 4 Person Best Shot
Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day

SEASON PASSES
Single Walking.....\$900
Single Riding (1 seat).....\$1,450
Family Walking.....\$1,300
Family Riding (2 seats).....\$2,200

GROUP OUTINGS
Shotgun Start
Available for groups of 40 or more.
7:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.

GREENS FEES

Mon-Fri
9 Holes.....\$14.00
18 Holes.....\$20.00
Sat-Sun, Holidays
9 Holes.....\$14.00
18 Holes.....\$22.00
Seniors & Juniors (Mon-Fri only)
9 Holes....Seniors \$11/Juniors \$10
18 Holes.....\$14.00
Twilight Golf
18 Holes\$14.00
Cart.....\$11.00
Riding Cart Fees
9 Holes.....\$11.00
18 Holes.....\$14.00
Pull Cart Fees
Weekdays.....\$5.00

TPC Deere Run prospering behind investments, numerous improvements



TOM JOHNSTON

Work in progress earlier this spring on the new retaining wall between the pond and green on the 18th hole at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill.

Please see **DEERE RUN**, Page R6

TOM JOHNSTON
tjohnston@qconline.com

It is always a majestic setting when players walk down the 18th fairway toward the closing green during John Deere Classic tournament week.

Spectator chalets rise above the ground, surrounding the oblong green. The Deere & Co. hospitality suite sits directly behind the green with a perfect view looking back toward the 18th tee and 17th green. A large bunker filled with shimmering white sand frames the green to the right at the base of the hillside where spectators can lounge and catch the action




FYRE LAKE GOLF CLUB

1057 Fairway Ln., Sherrard, IL
(309) 644-4575

Fyre Lake Golf Club, a world-class Nicklaus Design golf course, is special indeed, offering an experience the entire family will enjoy. Here, the bent grass tees, greens and fairways of a championship golf course are interwoven through the hardwood forest in a glorious lakefront setting. Located just 10 miles south of the Quad Cities airport Fyre Lake Golf Club is designed for those who cherish exceptional golf and natural beauty, making it a golf experience unlike any other. Memberships, group outings, leagues and golf instruction now available.

RESERVATIONS:

Call Pro Shop at (309) 644-4575 for reservations or group outings.

Visit or book online at:

www.fyrelakegolf.com.

Find us on Facebook.

GREENS FEES Weekdays

9 Holes.....	\$16.00
18 Holes	\$32.50

Seniors

9 Holes.....	\$20.00
18 Holes	\$32.00

Weekends & Holidays

9 Holes.....	\$21.00
18 Holes	\$42.50

RIDING CART FEES

Every day

9 Holes.....	\$9.00
18 Holes	\$17.00

RENTAL CLUBS

9 Holes.....	\$5.00
18 Holes	\$10.00

Deere Run

From R5

from numerous shaded spots.

To the left of the green ... oh, to the left of the green.

Lurking.

Waiting for any shot that might be yards or even inches off line.

The pond.

It waits to be a watery grave for any golf ball that lands near the edge of the sloping green on the finishing hole at TPC Deere Run.

This year, that pond could prove to be even more problematic for wayward shots — both during the 50th anniversary playing of the John Deere Classic July 6-12 at Deere Run and to those fortunate enough to play the PGA Tour-owned facility in Silvis.

Just as menacing as ever, the pond will have a drastically different look to it this season thanks to off-season work.

"It shouldn't change the playability of the hole too much," said Todd Hajduk, TPC Deere Run general manager. "The pond was being worn away by little rodents and it was becoming an eye-sore. ... It needed to be done for sustainability of the bank and to get rid of the varmints. But we also wanted to make sure what we did were visual improvements for the spectators on 18 during the tournament."

Deere Run superintendent Alex Stuedemann said that work done by local company Uncommon Ground included dredging the pond, removing silt and installing a retaining wall that now serves as a border between the green and the pond.

"It will provide a nice little aesthetic improvement as well as a structural one," said Stuedemann of the concrete blocks that take on the appearance of limestone. "From the strategy of the golf hole, it will be very minimal difference, which we're very happy for because we like the challenge that it provides not only



CONTRIBUTED

The completed retaining wall project between the pond and green on the 18th hole at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill.



TOM JOHNSTON

The pond adjacent to the 18th green at TPC Deere Run was drained and dredged so a new retaining wall could be built. Thousands of golf balls and a few golf clubs were pulled from the pond.

to the guests, but the golfers of the John Deere Classic."

The best-in-his-field superintendent was busy this past off-season and the course will show that once this golf season gets in full swing.

While the pond renovation was the most noticeable change for this year, there was another big-ticket item that definitely doesn't stand out as much but is probably even more important.

A new pumping system for irrigation has been installed and a lot of work is being done on the irrigation pond that sits left of the fourth hole on the west side of the property.

"Much like a 20-year-old automobile, it had served a

good purpose but had to be replaced," said Stuedemann of work that was scheduled for the end of March.

"It's not a sexy project," admitted Hajduk of the \$200,000 investment, "but it's the life-blood of the property in the hot summer months and essential."

Lots of work was being done on the pond itself, too. Stuedemann said that an old aeration system was removed from the pond on No. 18, rebuilt over the winter, and is being installed in that body of water.

"We're always trying to be resourceful with our assets," said the super, noting the importance of that water to the property and course's condition and sustainability.



In addition to that, the course is "partnering with a trial program through the fisheries biologist at Exelon Energy" to introduce mussels into that water in hopes of keeping it clearer and free of algae.

"They have done some really good studies with mussels and what they can do with eating algae and some of those other things," Stuedemann said. "We're going to try it out and see if the mussels really work in that water body here in the spring once the weather improves.

"It's a pretty intriguing program and when I first started talking about it with (Jeremiah Haas) — we're on a state-wide committee together — I said 'Why not?' Why say no to an opportunity that can improve the lot in life for both parties?"

Other projects on the course in the off-season included tree trimming, adding drainage lines and reworking the parking lot to improve traffic flow.

Stuedemann said that a focus was targeting "some of those tree-management endeavors."

That meant removal of a couple of older trees in out-of-play areas as well as opening "corridors off a couple of tees that were starting to become unfair."

He said that his team is constantly adding drainage tiles to help the clay-infused soil that can be slow to drain in downpours.

"We got about 1,500 lineal feet installed around the 17th green and 14th green," he said. "We're hoping yet, if Mother Nature cooperates, to do a little bit more (until) the end of April, and then we have to let things settle back in before the tournament."



KEVIN E. SCHMIDT

2012 John Deere Classic champ Zach Johnson puts out on the 18th green during the 2019 John Deere Classic with a John Deere all-terrain vehicle on display in the background. Johnson, who grew up in nearby Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is also a JDC board member who calls this PGA Tour event his "fifth major."

JDC set to mark historic 50th anniversary

TOM JOHNSTON
tjohnston@qconline.com

SILVIS — "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

While those words are normally associated with U.S. Postal carriers, they could also apply to golfers in the annual John Deere Classic through the years.

The local PGA Tour event is planning a major celebration this summer when the 50th annual competition will be contested for the 21st time at TPC Deere Run in Silvis. And any number of the previous 49 events held at one of three local courses have endured the worst of what Mother Nature, the economy and tough situations have thrown at it.

That's what make it such an endearing story

Please see **JDC**, Page R8

BYRON HILLS GOLF COURSE

**23316 94th Ave. North,
Port Byron, IL
(309) 523-2664**

Visit our website to book
you tee times online!
www.byronhills.com
 Find us on Facebook!

Byron Hills Golf Course is an 18-hole public course in Port Byron, Illinois. 20 minutes from the Quad Cities.

Family owned since 1972, this course is known for new improvements every year and considered a golfer's favorite in the QC area. With many lakes and sand traps it is a challenge for the serious golfer, yet open enough for all golfers to have a pleasant experience.



**HOME OF 5 - TIME
STATE QUALIFYING
RIVERDALE RAMS!!**



GREENS FEES

Weekdays (Monday-Friday)

9 Holes.....	\$15.00
With cart.....	\$22.50
18 Holes.....	\$21.00
With cart.....	\$36.00

Senior (60+)

9 Holes.....	\$13.00
With cart.....	\$18.00
18 Holes.....	\$19.00
With cart.....	\$29.00

Junior (18 and under)

9 Holes.....	\$10.00
With cart.....	\$17.50
18 holes.....	\$15.00
With cart.....	\$30.00

Twilight (After 1pm – 18 HOLES ONLY)

18 Holes.....	\$15.00
With cart.....	\$28.00

Weekends and Holidays

9 Holes.....	\$17.00
With cart.....	\$24.50
18 holes.....	\$25.00
With cart.....	\$40.00

Twilight (After 1pm – 18 HOLES ONLY)

18 HOLES.....	\$20.00
With cart.....	\$32.00

JDC

From R7

of the little tournament that has held on to thrive and carve out a niche on the PGA Tour next to the big hitters and majors of the golf world.

"It's quite a story," said Clair Peterson, tournament director of the not-for-profit event.

And this summer, the tournament hopes to be able to tell it in a way that celebrates the triumphs, sheds light on the struggles and honors those who tirelessly worked to keep the tournament in the Quad-Cities when it was a lipped-out putt away from being gone.

"The over-riding theme for us is an exciting one in the fact that it's our 50th tournament," Peterson said. "We have a number of things planned to celebrate that."

The biggest event, and change to the week's festivities, is planned for Wednesday

"In a lot of ways, the story of the John Deere Classic is the story of the Quad-Cities. It has been the greatest privilege of my life to share the story of how thousands of dedicated volunteers battled to keep this tournament alive as the PGA Tour grew into a fifth major league while the local workforce, as well as Deere & Co., adapted in smart, creative and strategic ways in the aftermath of the challenging 1980s."

Craig DeVrieze, local writer

of tournament week. According to Peterson, that is when an Appreciation Dinner is planned at Bettendorf's Waterfront Convention Center. He said that many of the tournament's champions will be in attendance, including Deane Beman, who won the first two events at Crow Valley Country Club. The first of those was a satellite event in which he beat Dow Finsterwald. The second he beat a youngster named Tom Watson by a stroke.

"Steve Sands (Golf Chan-

nel anchor) will be hosting and we have past champions coming back — Deane Beman, D.A. Weibring, Zach Johnson has assured us he will be there, and there will be more," Peterson said.

Weibring, of course has his imprint all over the local PGA Tour event. He and Steve Stricker are its only three-time winners, Weibring taking titles in 1979, 1991 and 1995. He also is an architect of the Deere Run layout that now hosts the event, the course Stricker conquered three straight years from 2009 to 2011.

With the appreciation dinner filling the Wednesday evening activities, the usual JDC concert is being moved to Friday evening. It will again be held at The Rust Belt in East Moline. As of March, the headlining act had not yet been announced. Recent performers have included country stars Dustin Lynch, Jake Owen, Cole Swindell and Lee Brice.

Another special part of the 50th anniversary is the publishing of "Magic Happened," a book detailing the tournament's history. Local writer Craig DeVrieze — who covered the golf tournament for a number of years as a sports writer with the local newspapers — has spent the last four years gathering information and stories that detail the accounts of the tournament from its infancy to near death and back into prominence when local manufacturing magnate Deere & Co. took over sponsorship in 1998.

In 1997, the tournament, the PGA Tour and Deere & Co. formed a partnership that not

only brought stability to the event but also landed the Quad-Cities a TPC facility. In return, Deere became the provider for golf turf equipment for all 32 TPC facilities.

"In a lot of ways, the story of the John Deere Classic is the story of the Quad-Cities," DeVrieze said. "It has been the greatest privilege of my life to share the story of how thousands of dedicated volunteers battled to keep this tournament alive as the PGA Tour grew into a fifth major league while the local workforce, as well as Deere & Co., adapted in smart, creative and strategic ways in the aftermath of the challenging 1980s."

"It's an especially remarkable story when you factor how Deere & Co. has found increasingly effective ways to make the sponsorship enhance its business interests while working with the tournament staff and a legion of volunteers to grow Birdies for Charity into one the strongest charity initiatives on Tour. As a Q-C native, I'm just so proud of what this story says about my friends, neighbors and hometown."

That Birdies for Charity success has also set itself apart from the rest of the PGA Tour by annually being the No. 1 tournament on Tour in terms of charitable contributions per capita. Last year, the JDC set another record by raising \$13,819,154 for the 542 participating local non-profits which solicited funds on their own behalf through the Birdies For Charity program. That equated to \$36.85 for each person among the area's 375,000 population.

Since 1971, the tournament has raised \$120.87 million. Deere & Co. began underwriting the Birdies program in 1998, and 98% of those proceeds have been accrued since then.

Dylan Frittelli won last year's tournament firing a 21-under par 263 total. He played the final 44 holes without a bogey and had just one over-par hole in the four rounds as he became the 23rd player to win his first PGA Tour title in the Quad-Cities.

TIMMERMAN'S COUNTRY VIEW

8284 N. 2300 Ave.,
Geneseo, IL 61254
309-441-5272

Timmerman's Country View is centrally located between Geneseo and the Quad Cities. Only 4 miles from Interstate 80 making it easy to access from the Illinois and Iowa Quad Cities and the surrounding areas. It has been family owned and operated since 1978 by three generations of the Timmerman Family, providing a consistently high standard of maintenance.

RESERVATION INFORMATION:
Reservations not needed, play is on a first come first served basis.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: After your round of golf, stop by our one of a kind Clubhouse for a snack or beverage from our full service bar.

- Group Discount on group of 24 or more.
- Outings are welcome.

COUNTRY VIEW

GREENS FEES:

Weekdays:

9 Holes.....	\$12.50
18 holes.....	\$19.50

Weekends:

9 Holes.....	\$12.50
18 Holes	\$19.50

Senior: (till 2pm

weekdays)

9 Holes.....	\$11.00
18 Holes	\$18.00

Juniors:

17 and under....	\$5.00
------------------	--------

RIDING CARTS:

EVERY DAY

9 Holes.....	\$7.50
18 Holes	\$14.50

PULL CARTS:

Everyday	\$1.50
----------------	--------

RENTAL CLUBS:

.....	\$3.00
-------	--------

JDC winners

Here is the list of players who have won the PGA Tour event in the Quad-Cities, now known as the John Deere Classic:

2019: *Dylan Frittelli	1994: Mark McCumber
2018: *Michael Kim	1993: Daid Frost
2017: *Bryson DeChambeau	1992: David Frost
2016: Ryan Moore	1991: D.A. Weibring
2015: Jordan Spieth	1990: Joey Sindelar
2014: *Brian Harman	1989: *Curt Byrum
2013: *Jordan Spieth	1988: *Blaine McCallister
2012: Zach Johnson	1987: Kenny Knox
2011: Steve Stricker	1986: Mark Wiebe
2010: Steve Stricker	1985: *Dan Forsman
2009: Steve Stricker	1984: Scott Hoch
2008: Kenny Perry	1983: Danny Edwards
2007: Jonathan Byrd	1982: *Payne Stewart
2006: *John Senden	1981: *Dave Barr
2005: *Sean O'Hair	1980: *Scott Hoch
2004: *Mark Hensby	1979: *D.A. Weibring
2003: Vijay Singh	1978: Victor Regalado
2002: J.P. Hayes	1977: *Mike Morley
2001: *David Gossett	1976: *John Lister
2000: *Michael Clark II	1975: *Roger Maltbie
1999: *J.L. Lewis	1974: Dave Stockton
1998: Steve Jones	1973: *Sam Adams
1997: *David Toms	1972: Deane Beman
1996: Ed Fiori	1971: Deane Beman
1995: D.A. Weibring	*First-time PGA Tour winner



Emerald Hill Golf Course, located in Sterling, is a par 72 course with four sets of tees. The facility also features a full driving range and short game practice area.

Spring Shoulder Season

Opening Day - May 21

	9 holes	9 w/cart	18 holes	18 w/cart
Adult	\$12	\$15	\$15	\$20
Junior	\$12	-	\$12	-

Summer Holidays

Memorial Day Weekend: May 22 - 25

4th of July Weekend: July 3 - 6

Labor Day Weekend: September 4 - 7

	9 holes	9 w/cart	18 holes	18 w/cart
Adult	\$23	\$25	\$27	\$30
Junior	\$15	-	\$15	-

Summer Season

May 26 - September 3

	9 holes	9 w/cart	18 holes	18 w/cart
Adult (week)	\$13	\$18	\$18	\$23
Adult (weekend)	\$17	\$20	\$22	\$25
Junior	\$12	-	\$12	-

Fall Shoulder Season

September 8 - October 4

	No Cart	w/Cart
Adult (9 holes)	\$12	\$15
Adult (18 holes)	\$15	\$20
Junior	\$12	-

Late Fall Shoulder Season

October 5 - Close

	No Cart	w/Cart
Adult (9 holes)	\$10	\$12
Adult (18 holes)	\$12	\$17
Junior	\$10	-

EMERALD HILL GOLF COURSE
emeraldhillgolf.com | 815.622.6204
16802 Prairieville Rd., Sterling, IL

*First-time PGA Tour winner



TOM JOHNSTON

Brothers Jim Groves, left, and Mike Sutton, right, are the new owners of Byron Hills Golf Course in Port Byron. They are continuing a tradition at the course, which has been family owned since 1972.

All in the family at Byron Hills

Brothers take their turn in charge of course

TOM JOHNSTON
tjohnston@qconline.com

PORT BYRON — Byron Hills Golf Course has long held the reputation of being one of the finest manicured courses in the Quad-Cities region on top of being a fun track to play.

The Sutton family — led by brothers Bruce and Larry — staked the facility's reputation on that and offered a solid product for local linksters to enjoy.



While that family lineage running the facility is changing this season, the same mentality will prevail as course ownership has changed from one set of brothers to another.

As of late January, the course is now owned and operated by brothers Mike Sutton and Jim Groves.

But the family approach and the desire to serve the public will not change much at the 6,500-yard public facility just a short drive from the Quad-

City metro area.

"We want to put the energy back into the course," Groves said.

And Mike Sutton, who worked on the grounds crew for his dad, Larry, added "I, myself, would like to see the conditioning go back to what it was 15 years ago — not that it's ever been bad."

The love and concern for the golf course is evident in the brothers. The desire to continue what family members have nurtured for years oozes.

That's why they were willing to jump through the necessary hoops in order to gain ownership from their dad, Larry, and

uncle, Bruce.

"Business transactions can be difficult when you have family involved," said Mike Sutton, noting other family members didn't want to get involved in running the course that has been in the family since 1972.

While that delayed the transaction by about a month, they stuck with it until finally closing on the deal.

"We wanted (the course) to stay in the community," Mike Sutton said. "We were afraid if somebody from the outside bought it that it would turn into a cornfield again or housing."

Please see **SUTTONS**, Page 11

Suttons

From 10

That has happened to too many courses recently as the golf industry bubble burst after flourishing in the 1970s, '80s and '90s. In this area, two within an hour's drive of the Quad-Cities have suffered such a fate. Olathea Golf Course, across the Mississippi River in LeClaire, Iowa, was turned into a residential community. Hend-Co-Hills, outside of Galesburg, was turned into farm fields.

Along with the family ties, each have other reasons to want to see the course continue to prosper.

Both Sutton and Groves have deep roots in both the Port Byron community and the Riverdale High School golf team that calls the facility home. Each played golf while attending RHS — Groves part of the 1979 team that made it to the

state tournament and Mike on the 1997 state-qualifying Rams team.

Now, Mike's son, Ashton, plays for the Rams, who are coached by Trent Groves, Jim's son.

"We want to keep the junior golf thing going out here," said Mike Sutton, who also has a younger son coming up through the ranks expecting to golf for the Rams. "We were worried the whole program might fizzle if it went to an outside source."

That won't happen soon, they hope, as they work to keep alive the family tradition at Byron Hills. The new owners say they have received plenty of support from their wives — Mike's wife Holly and Jim's wife Jackie.

"Our wives are a huge part of what we're doing," Mike said.

"We didn't think they'd be too thrilled, but they jumped in," Groves said. "Both have full careers, too, so they are work-

ing a lot of overtime."

While Bruce and his wife, Penny, could be found many hours a week manning the clubhouse themselves, the new owners will have a staff of about 16 helping out with the front desk, concessions and grounds work. Groves said he hopes to get back to a program of utilizing high school-aged kids to help with maintenance.

Both Mike Sutton, 39, and Groves, 58, know their way around a golf course, from all sides of the industry.

Both have turf degrees from Penn State University. Mike worked grounds at Byron Hills with his dad as a teenager and into adulthood but said he couldn't raise his family doing that and went to work at 3M full-time, a job he still has on top of the golf course. Groves has been in golf course maintenance his entire life, coming back to the Quad-Cities after a number of years in southern Illinois and near the St. Louis

area.

While they are still getting settled into the business, the new owners have some ideas moving forward they would like to implement as time and resources allow. They are applying for a video gaming license and hope to add a few machines in the clubhouse. They are also looking into a top-of-the-line simulator that could help offset not having a driving range and also be an off-season draw to the course.

The course has also updated and given a fresh look to its website (byronhills.com). Reservations now may be made online through the website. There also is a Facebook page to stay up on all the happenings at the course.

The new owners keep looking to the future and have longer-range plans, but for now, the goals are simple.

"In our first year," said Mike, "we just want to keep our head above water."

GLYNNS CREEK GOLF COURSE
 19251 290th St.,
 Long Grove, IA
(563) 328-3284
www.glynnscreek.com

18 Hole Fee \$27.00
 9 Hole Fee \$17.00

Special Rates:

Senior Rate
 62 or older with one-time purchase of Senior Card at \$5 (Senior Card has no expiration date)
 Valid Monday-Friday \$17.00

Junior Rate
 Monday-Friday, 18 and under \$15.00

Weekday Rate
 Monday-Friday before 3:00 p.m. \$22.00

Twilight Rate
 7 days per week after 3:00 p.m. \$19.00

HOME OF HEROES & CHAMPIONS

JOHN DEERE CLASSIC

JULY 6 - 12, 2020

silvisil.org

Golf a hit for Q-C Tourism

TOM JOHNSTON
tjohnston@qconline.com

Dave Herrell has headed Visit Quad-Cities for just over a year.

He admittedly has enjoyed golf for a lot longer than that.

The Venn diagram of those parts of his life is very interesting and, as head of the local tourism group, constantly changing. So is his perspective on the game of golf here and what it can do for the region.

Showing interest in this publication means golf is interesting to you, too. Herrell hopes his group can make the game an even bigger part of the region's story and attractive to even more visitors.

"I am extremely bullish on what we have to offer in terms of the golf courses that exist in

the Quad-Cities," Herrell said. "I think the quality and diversity in the marketplace is extremely well positioned from a destination perspective.

"We've got a world-class venue like TPC Deere Run in our backyard, but then there's a whole variety of others — both public and private — and they've got stories to tell. As golf evolves as a sport and an industry, we've got a responsibility to work with those folks to tell that story."

Herrell and his staff are also doing their best to make the Quad-Cities a golf destination. While it may not rival hot spots in much more golf-friendly climates like Alabama, Florida, the Carolinas, Arizona or California, it can be a standout locale in the heart



KEVIN E. SCHMIDT

Dave Herrell, president and CEO of the Quad Cities Convention & Visitors Bureau.

of America, he says.

This area draws some of the top golfers from across the game's spectrum. Of course, it starts at the top with the PGA Tour's annual stop here as the John Deere Classic has carved out a niche on the top tour in the world. The QCA also hosts some of the top collegiate athletes, with the NAIA National men's (2020 and 2021) and women's (2022 and 2023) tournaments also landing at TPC Deere Run.

While those events have a significant economic impact on the area, it goes much deeper, and that is another aspect on which Visit Quad-Cities can capitalize.

"It's a nice economic impact, but having over 600 student-athletes from four-

year colleges from all over the United States can help recruit young talent into the area," said Herrell of the potential for growing population here as well. "It's a very cool opportunity that we need to make the most of."

But what makes this region great for golf is that there is a course to fit everyone's game and that's a key message his group is trying to get out as well.

"I've been very pleasantly surprised with the high level of high qualitative courses in the region. They're fun, they're challenging," Herrell said. "You can play a course from the tips and have a really difficult experience or play it from an up tee and have a ton of fun doing that. That diversity and flexibility is great."

"I think we've got accessible and affordable options, too. If you look at other markets around the United States, I think how we are positioned from an affordability standpoint in the sport of golf bodes well for our future."

And to make that happen, Visit Quad-Cities' vision is to become a bigger player in the game of golf as it markets this destination to regions such as Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Des Moines, Omaha and others.

"Our courses needed help with added promotion and more marketing. ... People aren't playing as much golf as they should be — or being a guy who loves golf that I'd love to see them do."

If golf has brought you to the Quad-Cities, Herrell and his group, along with the local golf course industry, are hoping you enjoy your visit.



OAKWOOD
COUNTRY CLUB



Oakwood Country Club, located just 10 minutes from the Quad Cities Airport in Coal Valley, is a place where members can feel at home, make lasting friendships in an atmosphere that is gracious, welcoming and just plain fun.

Oakwood Members Enjoy:

- * A very affordable Clubhouse, Social & Golf Memberships
- * An 18 hole Pete Dye designed championship golf course
- * A full size swimming pool, wading pool and snack bar
- * A full service dining room overlooking the 18th green
- * A lounge featuring casual food & beverage services
- * Banquet facilities with seating capacity of 300
- * PGA Professional and staff
- * Complete practice area for long and short game
- * Many social activities

If you would like to become a member of the Oakwood family, call us at 309-799-3153 US HWY 6, Coal Valley, IL

Frittelli joins esteemed club as a first-time winner at JDC

TOM JOHNSTON
tjohnston@qconline.com

The Quad-Cities has a unique history with the PGA Tour for a couple of reasons. It is the only “small-market” event left among the 46 Tour stops, which in its own right makes it a special week on Tour.

The John Deere Classic is also still around because of the deal between the tournament, the PGA Tour and Deere & Co. TPC Deere Run, which annually hosts the JDC, is here in the area because of the partnership that provides Deere turf equipment for all of the TPC courses in the network.

Another thing that has set the JDC apart is its penchant for first-time winners and kick-



Frittelli

starting some fabulous careers, including most recently Bryson DeChambeau (2017), Brian Harman (2014) and Jordan Spieth (2013).

To commemorate those accomplishments, the 11th hole at TPC Deere Run is appropriately named “Jump Start” for the players, now numbering 23, who have jump-started their careers here with their initial victories.

Last summer, for the third straight year, we had a player add his name to the list of Q-C’s first-time winners — Dylan Frittelli. He follows DeChambeau and 2018 winner Michael Kim.

Frittelli has added to his résumé with some solid finishes since last year’s JDC and appears as if he isn’t running into any let-downs after his initial PGA Tour title.

Having just turned 29 a month before his victory, the South African was hardly a “young-guy.”

However, he has done well adding to his historic finish here.

The most impressive of those youngsters who got off and running with their victories here was Spieth. In his rookie year, the 19-year-old Texan had shot to stardom before coming to the Quad-Cities but created his legend in dramatic fashion.

With a water hazard looming beyond the 18th green on Sunday, he sunk a difficult bunker shot on the 72nd hole that set the clubhouse mark. He was joined in a playoff by then defending champ Zach Johnson, who bogeyed the 72nd hole, and David Hearn.

By outlasting Hearn and Johnson, Spieth became the youngest winner on the PGA Tour since Ralph Guldahl won the Santa Monica Open in 1931.

His first PGA Tour victory was also significant in that it earned him entry into golf’s major

events and that year’s FedExCup playoffs. Playing on conditional status with enough earnings, he had also accrued enough points but didn’t qualify for the playoffs until that victory actually made him an official PGA Tour member.

Going back a few years, there have been other notables who won their first trophies as professionals in the Quad-Cities. Payne Stewart won the 1982 tournament at Oakwood Country Club in the event then known as the Quad Cities Open to kick-start his career that was cut short in its prime. Another person familiar to many — if for his voice more than his golf swing — NBC commentator Roger Maltbie’s first PGA Tour victory was at the 1975 Jaycee’s Quad Cities Open. Another familiar voice, CBS commentator Gary McCord, finished fourth that year.

Enjoy smooth fairways and challenging greens at Indian Bluff.



We’re closer than you think!
Located just south of the
Quad City International Airport.

**Book your tee time online
or give us a call.**

309-799-3868

Season passes now available!

6200 28th Ave, Milan, IL • indianblugolfcourse.com
Indian Bluff is part of the Rock Island County Forest Preserve.

'One-year rental' looks to help QCAm Tour continue growth

TOM JOHNSTON
tjohnston@qconline.com

If you are operating a business, chances are you look for a leader who knows that operation from multiple angles and can see things from the perspective of both workers and management.

Well, the Quad City Amateur Tour has taken that approach to filling the tour manager position for the 2020 golf season, which was scheduled to begin this month, but has been delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

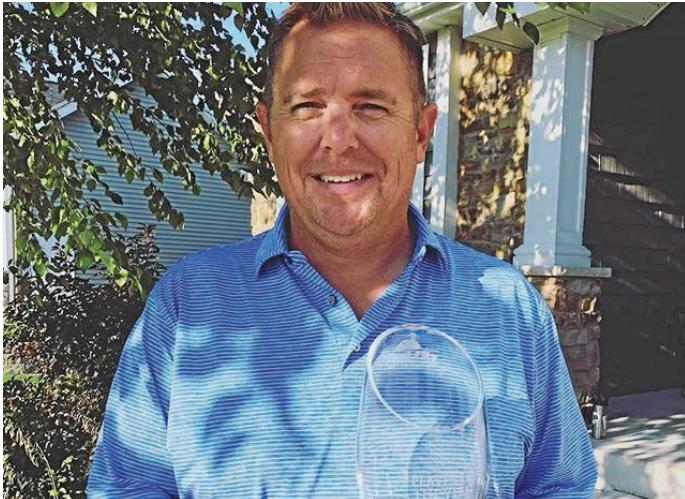
Ryan Sergeant, a former Moline High School student-athlete who played golf at both Black Hawk College and St. Ambrose University, has assumed that role this year.

The 31-year-old brings a unique perspective to the position, too. Not only did he play on the local amateur tour during and shortly after his collegiate career, he spent the last six years as an assistant golf professional at Crow Valley Country Club, where his duties included running golf tournaments and outings at the private facility.

Now, after leaving his job at Crow Valley and becoming an independent insurance agent with Mel Foster, he gets to combine all that knowledge and help lead the QCAm Tour in its 21st season. While he waits to get his amateur status restored so he can again play on the tour as soon as next summer, he assumes the role of tour manager for the circuit.

"Ideally, I'd like to think that that makes me an extremely viable candidate, one of the better ones who, A, was willing to do this, but B, I assume, that's what they thought as well, because of that perspective," Sergeant said.

His hiring had everything to



CONTRIBUTED

In 2019, Ben Peters won his second straight player of the year honor on the Quad City Amateur golf tour.

do with that, said Jamie Hallstrom, board member and spokesman for the QCAm Tour.

"We're very fortunate to land Ryan Sergeant," Hallstrom said. "He's kind of synonymous with golf and social media in the area and those were the two positions we needed to fill."

"He'll be a great asset. He knows the game of golf really well, knows the Tour extremely well, and most importantly, he's on board and in line with our vision of trying to grow youth golf in the area."

Sergeant replaces Keil Huber, who was the first to handle the Tour Manager post last season on a one-year stint before heading to law school. Danielle Henricksen, who was responsible for social media exposure for the QCAm Tour, is not back this year as she now has a social media position with the LPGA's Symetra Tour. Sergeant said that he will assume the responsibilities both held last year with help from the other board members — Hallstrom, Dave Waugh, Dave Holmes and Brent Hayden.

"Sarge has some big shoes

to fill," joked Hallstrom of the Tour's one-year rental. "They did a tremendous job last year promoting the tour and getting young golfers out there, which is one of our target areas of growth."

As the point person, Sergeant will serve as starter and scorekeeper for each QCAm Tour event. His experience as a former assistant golf professional also qualifies him to help serve as point person in regards to rules or other golf-related issues that might crop up during an event and help each hosting golf professional.

It appears as if the tour manager position is in good hands with Sergeant, a lifelong Quad-Cities resident who won once on the QCAm Tour.

"I really think for so many reasons, it's such a great thing that we have in this area," Sergeant said of the tour. "What they do for local charities, what they do for kids, now with the scholarships and things like that. There's so much good going on. ... And just the good guys that are out there that you can play with. I didn't know any



Sergeant

of these guys until I started playing on the Tour and now I have a relationship with them. Those experiences helped me be a better player."

Those are not the only changes for the tour this season.

The schedule has been condensed a bit and suffered some changes because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As of the middle of May, the first two events had been postponed, but is still expected to be made up of six tournaments. One of those events, the Pinnacle Country Club Amateur on June 28, will be a one-day event with a new format that has the entire field playing 18 holes. Then, the top 12 finishers in the Championship Flight and top six seniors will head back out for a nine-hole shootout. The Quad City Amateur at Emeis Golf Course, which had been a three-day event for those competing in the championship flight, has been reduced to a 36-hole, two-day event. That event has been also been pushed back and will be played later in the summer.

Tour

From 14

The QCAM Tour is open to any golfer — male or female — high school aged and older who lives within roughly an hour of the metro Quad-Cities. While the amateur players in the championship and open flights fight for season-long points and pro shop gift certificates, students are playing for the chance to earn scholarship money for their respective programs.

Last year, \$5,000 of scholarships were handed out to Scholastic Division players for their schools. Tour officials are hoping to have about that same amount to disperse this year as well.

With more donations to local nonprofits last year, the QCAM Tour has now donated over \$100,000 to local businesses and organizations.

For the second year in a row,

Ben Peters earned Player of the Year honors in the Championship Division in 2019. He had a tremendous season, finishing top 10 in all five events in which he played, including victories at the Geneva Amateur and Palmer Hills Am. It was Peters' sixth season-long points title during his time playing on the circuit.

Waugh had a tremendous season as well, winning three senior flight events in the seven tournaments, finishing second twice and third once en route to his second Senior Player of the Year honor.

"This is great competition right in your own backyard, competing against great guys," Sergeant said. "I realize now that there is so much more to the Quad City Amateur Tour and its purpose than just the competition. I didn't realize that when I was younger, but at 31, I see the bigger picture. I'm excited to be part of that and help grow that."

DAVENPORT

PARKS & RECREATION



DUCK CREEK

► GREEN FEES:

18 Holes (Weekend Mornings) - \$22.00
18 Holes - \$20.00
9 Holes - \$13.00

WHY DRIVE?
ANYWHERE ELSE?

► COURSE HIGHLIGHT:

FULL SERVICE
DRIVING RANGE

LEAGUES &
FOOD SPECIALS

563-326-7824

► CART FEES:

18 Holes - \$15.00
9 Holes - \$9.00
Pull cart - \$4.00

Duck Creek offers an 18 hole, 5759-yard course that plays to a par of 70. Open since 1927, Duck Creek is a mature public course known for its dramatic elevation changes along the scenic Duck Creek parkway. Duck Creek offers a full service pro-shop, concessions, and a practice range.

golfdavenport.com



DAVENPORT

PARKS & RECREATION



COURSE
HIGHLIGHT:

PRACTICE
COURSE

WEEKDAY RATE

9 HOLES + CART

\$20.00

563-326-0348

RED HAWK

► GREEN FEES:

9 Holes - \$12.00
Senior 9 Holes - \$10.00
Junior 9 Holes - \$9.00

► CART FEES:

9 Holes - \$8.00
Pull Cart - \$2.00

WHY DRIVE?
ANYWHERE ELSE?

Open since 2002, Red Hawk is a 2260-yard 9 hole course, which plays to a par of 33. The course is home to the First Tee of the Quad Cities (www.thefirstteequadcities.com). Red Hawk features a large driving range (open nights in the summer), practice putting and chipping greens, and features a 3 hole short course that is great for kids and family fun!

golfdavenport.com



DAVENPORT

PARKS & RECREATION



COURSE
HIGHLIGHT:

FULL SERVICE
PRACTICE
AREA

CALL FOR
LESSONS

563-326-7825

EMEIS

► GREEN FEES:

18 Holes (Weekend Mornings) - \$25.00
18 Holes - \$22.00
9 Holes - \$15.00

► CART FEES:

18 Holes - \$15.00
9 Holes - \$9.00
Pull Cart - \$4.00

WHY DRIVE?
ANYWHERE ELSE?

Emeis is a demanding 18 hole, 6500-yard course that plays to the par of 72. Built in 1961, Emeis is one of the most renown 18 holes courses in the QCA. Emeis features a full service driving range, chipping and putting practice greens, as well as a full service pro-shop and concessions.

golfdavenport.com

Palmer Hills adapting for a new era of golf

TOM JOHNSTON
tjohnston@qconline.com

While the golf industry has been a tough one in which to prosper recently, Palmer Hills Golf Course in Bettendorf is making itself an attractive destination for Quad-Citians as well as visitors.

It offers a number of reasons to be outdoors no matter if you have time for a full 18-hole round of golf or a few minutes to pound some balls on the range.

Jon Waddell, head golf professional at Palmer Hills, reported that the city-owned course saw some nice spikes last year in both rounds played and revenues from the driving range.

Conveniently located in the heart of the Quad-Cities just off the Interstate 74 corridor on Middle Road, the facility has enjoyed a boost in traffic. Waddell couldn't specifically attri-



TOM JOHNSTON

The new 7,000-square foot putting green and pavilion are two of the big upgrades at Palmer Hills Golf Course in Bettendorf. Both are located just north of the clubhouse between the first tee and ninth green.

bute that to the recent opening of the TBK Bank Sports Complex in the northeast portion of town just a few miles away but

figures there has to be a correlation.

"I think we've got to be, but I'm not sure it's all that measurable yet," said Waddell of picking up business from those at events at the BettPlex. "Last year, we had our best year in 10 years."

Knowing that the expansive sports complex and accompanying amenities there were going to increase traffic in town, the city and course laid out a plan to be a destination location as well. That plan included not only upgrades to the course that improved playability but also ones that have made it an attraction for visitors as well as local linksters. To that end, beginning this summer, construction starts on the third phase of the plan — a new lighted putting course.

"I really think we'll start to see that with the putting course and new amenities involved with that," said Waddell of increased traffic the putting course will draw.

That part of the property will include four separate greens, amounting to roughly 60,000 square feet of putting surface. It will be available for walk-up play and even outings, Waddell said.

"It's exciting," he added. "It will be something really neat to our area."

One location will be able to provide options for those in town with an entire day to fill with activities, or just a few hours.

"I think the best BettPlex attraction is really yet to come for us; I really think the putting course is something that will hit that timetable of 'we've got three hours between games.' Whereas maybe a round of golf you wouldn't have time for. ... We'll really see that with the putting course and other new amenities coming down the line."

This is the next phase of a long-term plan for upgrades at the course. Last year, officials at the course opened a new 30,000-square-foot putting green near the clubhouse and also put into play a new par-3 13th hole. The new hole opened the space near the driving range for the putting course.

Waddell said that the new putting green is already serving his customers well. Not only does it allow for warm-ups closer to the first tee box but also frees the old putting green below the hill for practice and classes.

RUSTIC RIDGE GOLF COURSE

1151 E. Iowa St., Eldridge, IA
(563) 285-8119
www.golfrusticridge.com



New prices for 2020 Every Day

9 Holes \$14.50
18 Holes \$20.50

Seniors and Juniors (M-F 'til Noon)

9 Holes \$12.00
18 Holes \$18.00

RIDING CARTS

9 Holes \$9.50
18 Holes \$13.50

PULL CARTS

9/18 Holes \$2.00

RENTAL CLUBS

9/18 Holes \$7.00



A local favorite since 1974 and
Readers' Choice WINNER.
2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

QC area golf checks off all your golfing needs

TOM JOHNSTON
tjohnston@qconline.com

A variety of golf courses. Check.

All of those golf courses always in fantastic condition. Check.

Some of the best rates available to play the game. Check.

That pretty much sums up the local golf scene here in the Quad-Cities, so hopefully you have your clubs with you and are ready to play as you check out the golf landscape in the area. From championship layouts that host a PGA Tour event to family-owned 9-hole tracks, it's a safe bet you can find a course that's perfect for your game.

With roughly 50 golf courses in a 50-mile radius, the competition for the golfing dollar has created a mecca for golfers in the Iowa and Illinois region

of the Mississippi River valley region. That competition has resulted in a situation that is the best of both worlds for golfers – owners need to work hard to keep courses in phenomenal condition, but also need to keep prices down to be competitive.

"It's a buyer's market," said Todd Hajduk, general manager at TPC Deere Run, the top course in the Quad-Cities. "Golfers have a choice of a lot of courses at a terrific price point. ... It's about supply and demand with a price-point that favors the golfer."

That's what led the region being voted by Golf Digest magazine as one of the best values for golf in America just a few years ago and it still fits that bill today. You will find that out soon, if you haven't already.

Many realize what the QCA has to offer golf-wise.

Among those are all types of layouts that cater to all levels of play. On the top end, you have TPC Deere Run, site of the PGA Tour's John Deere Classic, that will test even the most skilled golfer. There are also 9-hole courses that are great for beginners. Of course, there are plenty of courses that rank between those end points.

Numerous "other amenities" make this area a great travel destination, but the golf may rank among the best reasons to be here in the Quad-Cities – a metropolitan area of roughly 350,000 people in Iowa and Illinois that straddles the Mississippi River. It isn't much of a stretch to say that there's a course close by that's a fit for every golfer. The plethora of course options makes it

a dream for those of us silly enough to play the game.

And whether you are a scratch golfer or a beginner, a 7-day-a-week player or an occasional hack, you will find a course suited for your needs – and usually at a value price.

The Quad-Cities golf industry has been boosted by the most recent addition of a Jack Nicklaus Design Group course opened in nearby Sherrard. Not the longest layout in the area, it is definitely a boon to QC golf. Fyre Lake Golf Club, which opened in 2013, offers big challenges in a small package. Stretched out to just 6,500 yards, the par-70 layout will test your game with demanding approach shots that require pinpoint accuracy and tee shots that are well-suited with local

Please see COURSES, Page 18

MUSCATINE MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

**1820 Highway 38 North,
Muscatine, IA
(563) 263-4735
www.muscatineiowa.gov**

Muscatine Municipal Golf Course is located 1.5 miles north of Muscatine on Hwy 38.

Our well maintained course offers 6 sets of tees ranging from 6,520 yards Championship Tees to our 3,533 Youth Tees, and our new Par 3 Course. Our course offers wide open fairways and inviting, but demanding greens. Water comes into play on 2 Holes, including our Par 3 13th water hole, which is a challenge for any golfer.

Muscatine Municipal Golf Course also offers Foot Golf for an enjoyable golf alternative, and Junior Rate for golfers under 18 years of age.

Reservations- Call for Tee Times, 6-Day Advance Booking by Phone and 7 Days Advance in Person.

Special Information - We are available for family outings, golf tournaments, PGA Golf Instruction, Driving Range, Golf Carts, Fully Stocked Pro Shop, Driving Range, and Snack Bar (to pay off those bets).

GREENS FEES

Weekdays

9 Holes	\$18.00
18 Holes	\$22.00

Seniors (65+)

9 Holes	\$17.00
18 Holes	\$20.00

Juniors (17 and under)

9 Holes / 18 Holes & More	\$7.00
---------------------------------	--------

Weekends

Adult 18 Holes	\$24.00
Senior 18 Holes	\$22.00
Junior 18 Holes	\$8.00
Adult 9-Holes.....	\$19.00

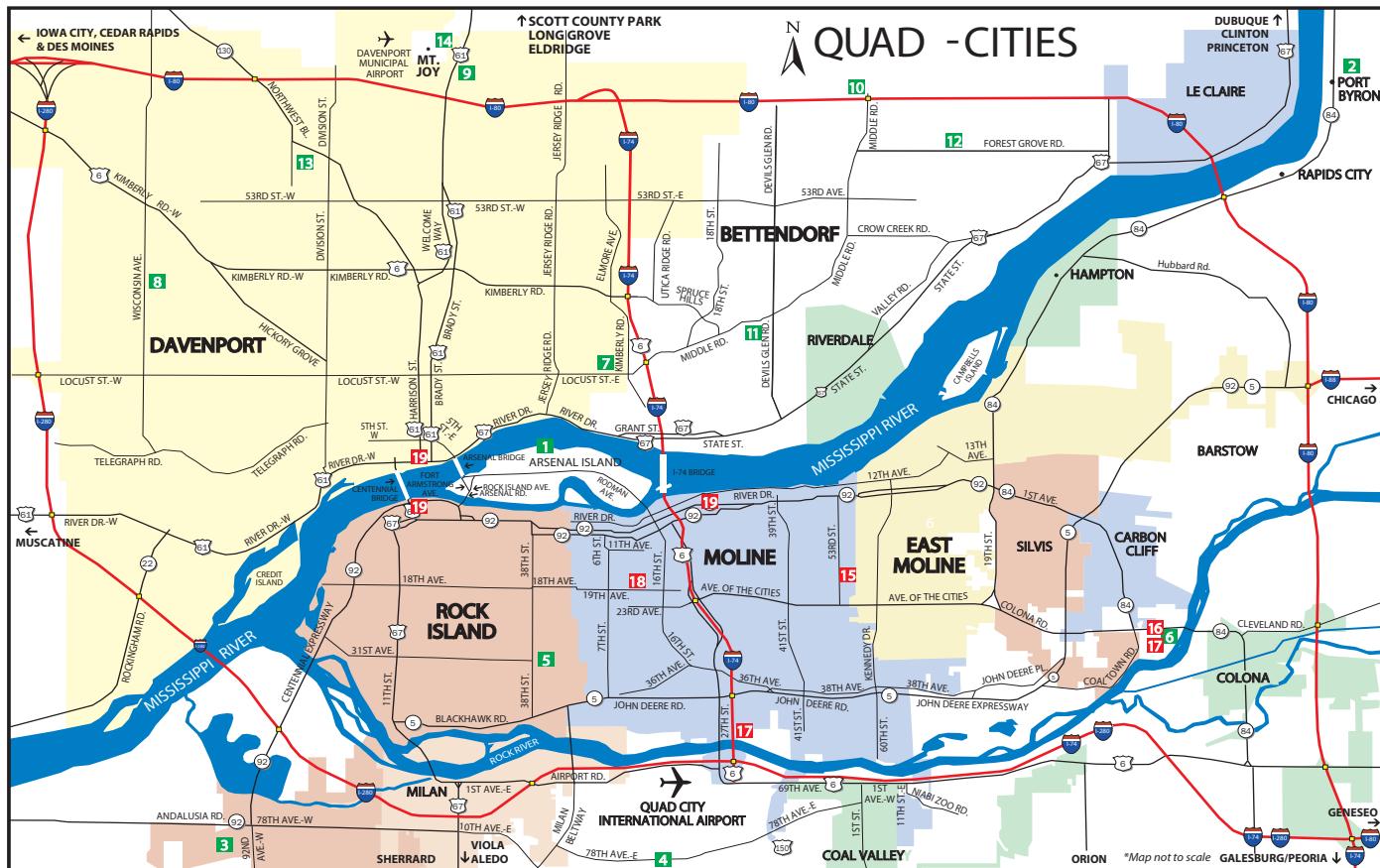
SEASON PASSES

Adult.....	\$655.00
Junior.....	\$140.00
Senior	\$565.00
College Student	\$375.00
Family	\$1035.00

NOTE: All season pass purchases have an optional payment plan.

FAMILY PASS: Rates applies to anyone in the family listed as a dependent on the latest IRS tax return.

COLLEGE PASS: Rate applies to any traditional full-time student.



GOLF COURSES

Illinois

1. Aresenal Island Golf Course
2. Byron Hills Golf course
3. Highland Springs Golf Course
4. Indian Bluff Golf Course
5. Saukia Golf Course
6. TPC Deere Run

Courses

From 17

knowledge and placement in rolling fairways.

That is the newest golfing addition to the area since TPC Deere Run in Silvis opened for business in 2000. Owned and operated by the PGA Tour, that facility hosts the PGA Tour's John Deere Classic each summer. It also hosts about 22,000 other rounds per year of championship-caliber golf as well as some top collegiate players when the NAIA brings its

Iowa

7. Duck Creek Golf Course
8. Emeis Golf Course
9. Glynn's Creek Golf Course
10. Hidden Hills Golf Course
11. Palmer Hills Golf Course
12. Pebble Creek Golf Course
13. Red Hawk golf course
14. Rustic Ridge Golf Course

men's and women's national championships to the area on a rotating basis.

On a sad note, one of the area's most challenging courses has closed. The stately Arsenal Island Golf Course was shut down at the end of September, 2018. Most recently run under the Army's MWR initiative as a public course, the former private club is shuttered and facing an unknown future. The second-oldest course in Illinois was a gem and maybe by the time you return, it will be up and running again.

Hopefully you'll enjoy the

DRIVING RANGES

15. Two Rivers YMCA

EVENTS

16. Birdies for Charity
17. John Deere Classic
- QC Amateur Tour
(multiple courses)

golf just as much as we do, especially if you get the chance to play the elite courses in the area. Across the board, the number of top layouts may pale in comparison to high-end resort destinations, but you should be delighted with what you find here.

If you aren't totally familiar with the QCA golf scene, hopefully this story will help you find a course that fits your skill level and helps make your stay — and golf — enjoyable. No matter what you're looking for in a round, you can find it here. Enjoy your stay. And have

GOLF EQUIPMENT

18. U.S. Golf Manufacturers

SERVICES

19. QC Convention & Visitor Bureau Welcome Centers
(multiple locations)

fun golfing in the QCA!

At the top

Play TPC Deere Run and you will gain a new appreciation for how easy the PGA Tour pros make it look when they are in town each summer for the John Deere Classic — its home since opening in 2000. Playing from the back tees, this course can take a big bite out of your ego and your confidence. But there's another great thing about the design by Illinois native and PGA Tour veteran

Courses

From 18

D.A. Webring and Chris Gray of PGA Tour Design Services. They made it very fair and playable from the shorter tee boxes. However, playing it shorter also brings more bunkers into play and landing areas tighten as fairways narrow. Strategy is needed as much as brute strength.

The scenic, 7,000-yard, par-71 course was built on 280-acres overlooking the Rock River and is making a name for itself on the Tour. In a 2003 Sports Illustrated survey of Tour players, Deere Run was mentioned as one of the best courses on Tour. And it has continued to be one of the main reasons the top Tour golfers come back each summer.

The course is the result of a landmark deal between title sponsor Deere & Co., the PGA

Tour and the local golf tournament board. It is being hailed as one of the strongest TPC layouts in the country and, obviously, living up to that reputation. It also has tested the top collegiate golfers in America, as it has been the site of the NAIA National Golf Championships for six years since 2010, including this spring. It also annually hosts the top local players on the Quad City Amateur Tour.

Deere Run is the best the Quad-Cities has to offer and can be complemented by Fyre Lake Golf Club for a great 1-2 weekend punch for those coming to town to play.

Fyre Lake Golf Club was built as a residential community course, but offers plenty of challenges despite being short by new course standards. Don't let the yardage fool you as you will need plenty of skill and a lot of local knowledge to handle this beauty, complete with bearclaw-shaped bunkers

to honor the Golden Bear.

For those seeking a more serious golf challenge, the Quads has courses for you.

Glynns Creek, located in Long Grove, Iowa, just 20 minutes outside of the Quad-Cities, is one of Iowa's best public courses and also one of its newest, having opened in 1992. It has hosted a Hooter's Tour event that drew rave reviews from those blossoming young pros and also was the site of a national AJGA event and other professional tournaments. It is also a fixture for top local amateur events each summer. The picturesque par-72 layout has the length to play tough (up to 7,036 yards), especially in the wind, requires straight tee shots, creative approaches and the ability to figure out demanding greens. The location in Scott County Park makes for a unique golf setting and the park offers so much more than golf – including camping, hiking and swimming among

other amenities.

Davenport's Emeis Golf Course, long-touted as one of the more difficult tests on the local public links circuit, was the site of the JDC's Monday Qualifier for a number of years and more than holds its own versus aspiring and veteran professionals. At just more than 6,400 yards, it may look like a gimmee on paper, but is anything but that, especially with recent design changes and bunker additions.

A retrofitting to the original design and other upgrades have turned Rock Island's Highland Springs Golf Course into one of the more challenging layouts in the immediate Quad-Cities area. This course is a favorite for many with forgiving, yet challenging fairways and greens that can test the best of putters. It may be just a wedge away from being on par with Byron Hills

Please see COURSES, Page 20

HIGHLAND SPRINGS GOLF COURSE

9500 35th St. W., Rock Island, IL
(309) 732-PARS (7277)
www.rigov.org/highlandsprings

Season Specials
Mondays- 2 for \$40 after 1pm
Mondays & Wednesdays
18 holes + cart -\$29
Fridays-2 for 1 Driving Range
Buckets after 1pm

- 18 hole championship layout
- Player friendly with multiple sets of tees
- Rolling terrain with strategic placement of ravines and ponds
- Clubhouse and snack bar
- Adult beverages available
- Outdoor barbecue weekends in season
- Driving range and putting greens
- Outings and leagues available

PARKS & RECREATION

GREENS FEES
A full selection of golf passes are available.

Weekdays

9 Holes	\$15.00
18 Holes	\$20.00
Afternoon	\$17.00

Saturday, Sunday, Holidays

18 Holes	\$25.00
Afternoon	\$19.00

Juniors

18 Holes (M-F)	\$14.00
----------------------	---------

Seniors (62 & above)

18 Holes (M-F)	\$17.00
----------------------	---------

RIDING CARTS (per person)

9 Holes	\$8.00
18 Holes	\$15.00
Seniors (M-F except holidays)	\$12.00
Afternoon	\$12.00

PULL CARTS

9/18 Holes	\$3.00
Range Tokens	\$7.00

Reservations accepted up to a week in advance.

SAUKIE GOLF COURSE

3101 38th St., Rock Island, IL
(309) 732-CART (2278)
www.rigov.org/saukie

Season Special
Everyday 18 holes + cart-\$26
Wednesday 2 for \$30 after 1pm

- 18 hole executive length course
- Hundreds of mature oaks line the holes
- Measuring just over 5,000 yards and playing to a par of 66
- Terrain is rolling with deep ravines and many doglegs
- Beginner friendly, but can challenge any level of player
- Clubhouse and snack bar
- Adult beverages available
- Reservations taken up to a week in advance
- Couples events every month in season
- Outings and leagues available

PARKS & RECREATION

GREENS FEES
A full selection of golf passes are available.

Weekdays (M-F)

9 Holes	\$14.00
18 Holes	\$19.00
Afternoon	\$16.00

Weekends and Holidays

18 Holes	\$21.00
Afternoon	\$18.00

Juniors

18 Holes (M-F)	\$13.00
----------------------	---------

Seniors

18 Holes (M-F)	\$15.00
----------------------	---------

RIDING CARTS (per person)

9 Holes	\$8.00
18 Holes	\$13.00
Seniors (M-F except holidays)	\$11.00
Afternoon	\$11.00

PULL CARTS

9/18 Holes	\$3.00
------------------	--------

Courses

From 19

Golf Course, Emeis and Glynn's Creek. Some argue this 6,900-yard, par-72 layout may be the strongest design in the area.

Byron Hills, in Port Byron, is the home of the 2018 IHSA Class A state team champion Riverdale boys' golf team as well as individual champ Tyler Bussert. It is well worth the short drive from the metro Q-C area. From humble 9-hole roots, this family-owned and operated layout has earned a strong reputation as being one of the top manicured courses in the area. It requires quite a few thoughtful shots on the seasoned shorter front side before it stretches your long game on the newer back side. It is more of a test than its 6,441 yards may indicate, and its quick, lush greens — the fastest in the area for public play

behind Deere Run — will test your nerves. You will be glad you played it.

Aledo's Hawthorn Ridge Golf Course was designed by William Spear, the same architect who designed Highland Springs and Bettendorf's Palmer Hills. New owners are sprucing up the place with some much-needed TLC and making sure this off-the-beaten-path gem gets the attention it deserves. It is worth the 45-minute drive from the heart of the metro QC. Also appealing is that getting on the course is usually easy and you can play a round in a reasonable amount of time. Be sure to take advantage of replay specials.

Bettendorf's Palmer Hills is quickly becoming an upper-echelon layout thanks to a recent renovation that rebuilt holes 14-15-16 and most recently added a new par-3 13th hole. Another huge difference for the facility is the \$1.5

million clubhouse that was erected a few years ago. Those recent changes will make room for the addition of an 18-hole putting course that is expected to open in 2021. Continued work by superintendent Brian Hickey has this course in great shape and getting better.

One of the more intriguing layouts is Valley View Country Club in nearby Cambridge, Ill. Originally built as a wide-open 9-hole layout, former PGA Tour player Dan Halldorson, who lived in Cambridge for a number of years before his 2015 death, designed a new 9. The addition provides a totally diverse look and feel than the original holes, not to mention a different test that can be accessed for limited public play.

About 45 minutes east of the Quad-Cities in Kewanee is Kewanee Dunes. The former country club layout has gone public, but still offers all the amenities of a club. It is a fun track that will test your game and is definitely worth the drive.

been done — including a new clubhouse and a higher-scale menu in its new restaurant — makes it an attractive landing spot for a few hours of golf and refreshments.

An 18-hole course in the Quad-Cities that gets considerable play is Bettendorf's Hidden Hills Golf Course. A unique layout that grew from 9-hole roots, it features 22 holes. Ownership there is working hard on making changes to improve the clubhouse and also improving the appeal on and off the course to make this a nice option as well.

An easy 30-minute drive West of the Quad-Cities will take you to Muscatine Municipal Golf Course. Billed as "one of the best golf values in Eastern Iowa," the 6,500-yard layout features a bit of everything — elevation changes, water hazards and chutes off numerous tee boxes. Yet it is still very playable for the average golfer.

Tuneups

For average golfers, Saukie (Rock Island) and Duck Creek (Davenport) will give you plenty of challenges as they could be described as above-average executive-type 18-holers. Saukie recently celebrated 90 years in business and has become one of the best-groomed courses in the Quad-Cities. Numerous recent upgrades have made Duck Creek more playable and more enjoyable — especially when it is not flooded by its namesake water entity that bisects the property. Another 18-hole course that isn't quite as challenging, but is always in good shape, is Saddleback Ridge (Solon, Iowa). It recently has expanded and is quickly moving up the playability charts for golfers of all levels.

Above par

For the above-average golfer not quite ready for a pro-caliber course already mentioned, there are plenty of options. Especially on the 18-hole front.

Located directly behind the Quad City International Airport in Milan, Indian Bluff Golf Course is nestled in a Rock Island County Forest Preserve. So, yes, you get some tree-lined fairways on the 6,000-yard, par-70 layout. You also face challenging shots — and a few quirky ones, too. But it is a fun track that suits the skill level of a variety of players. With a pavilion for rent, it hosts many golf-related outings.

Sugar Maple Golf Course — formerly Maple Bluff Golf Club — is a 6,500-yard layout in Geneseo that is also under new management. It is a fun 18-hole course in which the newest 9 has matured and blended nicely with the original holes to make for a good challenge. Lots of work has

SADDLEBACK RIDGE GOLF COURSE

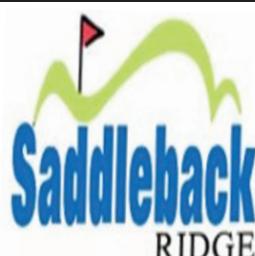
4646 180th St. NE, Solon, IA
(319) 624-1477

www.saddlebackridgegolf.com

WORTH THE SHORT DRIVE FROM THE QUAD CITIES AREA.

Par 72 hole layout with 4 tee boxes per hole makes Saddleback fun and challenging for golfers of all ages and abilities. Our unique layout features 3 par 3's...3 par 4's...3 par 5's on both nines! Finest practice facility in the area, featuring large putting area and all turf driving range with multiple targets. Currently booking outings for groups and business of all sizes.

Individual and Group Instructions Available
Laurie Knepp - General Manager
Matt Sertterh - Superintendent
Jackson Rushek - Business Manager



2020 GOLF RATES

Greens Fees

18 hole green fee (Mon.-Thurs).....	\$26.00
18 hole green fee (Fri.-Sun+Holidays).....	\$34.00
9 hole green fee (Mon.-Thurs).....	\$17.00
9 hole green fee (Fri.-Sun+Holidays).....	\$22.00

Cart Fees

18 hole golf cart (price per person).....	\$16.00
9 hole golf cart (price per person).....	\$11.00
18 hole pull cart....	\$3.50 (tax incl)
9 hole pull cart.....	\$2.50 (tax incl)

Driving Range

Small basket (approx. 15 balls).....	\$4.00
Medium basket (approx. 40 balls).....	\$6.50
Large basket (approx. 65 balls).....	\$8.50

9-hole options

It's almost a shame to have to list Pebble Creek Golf Course in LeClaire, Iowa, among the 9-hole courses. There is

Courses

From 20

sometimes a stigma associated with the “9-hole” tag and this course is the farthest thing from a traditional 9-hole course. It’s more championship golf than anything, just lacking a second 9 that has been talked about since the course’s inception, but remains in the planning stages. Don’t think this is a putt-putt 9-holer; this course deserves to be played and will test your game.

For beginners, or those looking for a quick round, check out the redesigned Red Hawk Golf & Learning Center in northwest Davenport. The home of the First Tee chapter for youth, the former privately owned course is now under the auspices of the city of Davenport and allows the First Tee program to serve roughly 500 kids a year.

Illinois-side hidden gem

Country View Golf Course near Geneseo has been a hidden 9-hole gem for a number of years. It is a fun family-owned course that is well maintained and offers a very low-key approach to the game thanks to the Timmerman family. Original owners Larry and JoAnn Timmerman have passed, leaving the course in the very capable hands of their son, Jeff, and his family. He has continued the tradition of giving the facility a very homey feel with their welcoming ways and playable layout. It is tough to find friendlier people at a golf course. You will be pleasantly surprised by a humble looking layout in the country that delivers some solid golf holes.

Great Iowa-side option

Owners of Rustic Ridge Golf Course in Eldridge, Iowa, have

been putting plenty of work into the facility – both on the course and off. A refurbished clubhouse, the addition of Lynn’s BBQ restaurant and new parking lot greet you and a fun 9-hole track with newer irrigation makes for an enjoyable outing. Under the same ownership in Jackson County Iowa, Plum River Golf Course in Preston and Maquoketa’s Prairie Creek Golf Course are about an hour north of Davenport on Route 61. Both are fun, playable tracks.

Dahinda, Oak Run Golf Course fits any skill level, but the big, well-manicured greens will test anybody. A full-service course off the beaten path, this one is worth finding.

To the northeast of the Quad-Cities in Sterling is the 18-hole Emerald Hill Golf & Learning Center. Under the auspices of the Sterling Park District, this facility has been voted the course of the year in the Sterling/Rock Falls area and demands crisp irons into postage-stamp greens.

Illinois quick jaunts

In the Galesburg area, just 45 minutes or so southeast, you have a couple of different golfing options. Bunker Links Golf Course is a tight, testy track that is very enjoyable to play. Home to many high school, collegiate and local amateur tournaments, this course has a way of sneaking up on you to challenge your game. Just east of Galesburg in

Iowa drive time

There are some Iowa-side 18-holers requiring a bit of a drive, but are worthy of the trip.

An hour away in Clinton is Valley Oaks Golf Course. The name of this facility changed a few times recently, but is back to the name it was in its heyday. The transformation,

Please see COURSES, Page 22

VALLEY OAKS GOLF COURSE

2018 Green Fees Schedule

Open to Public Play 7 Days Per Week

	Weekday	Sat/Sun/Holiday	Cart Fee
9 Hole Rate	\$13	\$18	\$9
18 Hole Rate	\$14	\$21	\$14

Senior Special Mon-Fri before noon \$23 including cart

Twilight Rate After 2 p.m. \$25, Unlimited golf including cart

Memberships and Weekday Memberships Available

Call for Information.

Call ProShop for Tee Times
563-242-7032



Valley Oaks
Golf Course

www.valleyoaksgc.com

3330 Hartsmill Road • Clinton, Iowa • 563.242.7032

Courses

From 21

though, continues as it has gone from the family-owned facility it was before being bought out by Clinton Country Club membership. It is now under private ownership, but is one of the more challenging courses in this part of the state.

Open to the public, this layout features an 18-hole course as well as a fun little 9-hole track.

Timberline Golf Course (Peosta, Iowa) is built on 250 acres of woods and rolling hills.

Numerous mature oak trees come into play and make for some tight sight lines. Enjoy the first 14 holes because the last four have earned the nickname "Demon's Run."

Another course with a great nickname that gets your attention is Cedar Valley Golf



CONTRIBUTED

Valley View Club, Cambridge, Ill.

Course in Tipton, Iowa. Known as ``The Badlands,’’ this links-style pasture golf course is described as ``a beast

... narrow with lots of hazards and trees.’’ Sounds like fun!

As you can see, from begin-

ners to those who seek the de-

mands of championship-level layouts, the Quad-Cities can

fill your golfing needs.

Check.

VALLEY VIEW CLUB GOLF COURSE & POOL

9701 IL Highway 82

Cambridge, IL

(309) 937-3938 for tee times and more information

www.valleyviewclub.org

Valley View Club is a beautiful, 18-hole golf course located just south of Cambridge, IL in a quiet, country setting.

Four sets of tees (3,163 to 6,393 yards, par-72) offer shot-making challenges to golfers of all abilities. Valley View is known for its excellent greens, well maintained, watered fairways and mature trees. The beautiful signature lake holes on the back nine were designed by the late PGA Tour Player, Dan Halldorson.

Valley View on 82...It's worth the trip!

- Clubhouse features a friendly, full-service lounge and snack shop with new outdoor patio
- Corporate or Group Outings and Fundraisers Welcome
- Heated Swimming Pool
- Banquet Facilities for your next party, shower, fundraiser or special event
- Driving range and putting green
- Reciprocal Course Program
- Please remember to visit our website for questions and information at www.valleyviewclub.org

VISIT US   

**Check Our Website for
Membership Specials!**

GREENS FEES

Public Players

9 Holes includes cart	\$27.00
18 Holes includes cart	\$39.00

Senior Rates (65+)

Weekdays (M-F)	
9 Holes includes cart	\$20.00
18 Holes includes cart	\$25.00

Weekends and Holidays

9 Holes includes cart	\$27.00
18 Holes includes cart	\$39.00

Junior Rates (under 18)

9 Holes	\$8.00
18 Holes	\$15.00



PLAY WHERE THE PROS PLAY

Relive the magic every day at TPC Deere Run



Welcome to golf at the highest level, where you can test your game on the same course that hosts golf's greatest players during the PGA TOUR's John Deere Classic. Welcome to TPC Deere Run.

GET BACK IN THE GAME WITH STARTING RATES FROM \$59

Annual Pass from \$1,950*

QCA Player Card: \$99/year with set rates to play every day

*Payment plans starting at \$300/month

LEARN MORE
TPC.COM/DEERERUN
(309) 796-6000



DEERE RUN

PALMER HILLS GOLF COURSE

2999 Middle Road, Bettendorf, IA
(563) 332-8296
www.palmerhillsgolf.com



The Award Winning Palmer Hills Experience

Palmer Hills Golf Course is an award winning, public 18-Hole course designed by William J. Spear. Established in 1974, Palmer Hills is home to 100 year old oak trees and features rolling hills, with creeks and ponds coming into play on 11 holes. The hills and water can provide a challenge, but a wide variety of teeing options makes Palmer Hills playable for golfers of any caliber.



From tee to green, this course has matured into one of the finest courses in the region! Our golfers often tell us that the fairways & greens are the "best in the area."

The addition of 14 new tee boxes makes Palmer Hills even more playable for all skill levels.



Call us for tee times or book online at palmerhillsgolf.com

*** Value Pass for the Value-Minded Only \$280 / Pay for 10, get 12 Rounds!**

*** Perfect your swing at our Driving Range, Passes Available**

 Find us on Facebook



- Our Clubhouse is home to the "Palmer Grill" serving Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner 7 days/ week (in season)
- Fully Stocked Pro Shop, with a wide selection of merchandise
- Certified Ping & Mizuno Clubfitters

GREENS FEES

Weekdays

9 Holes	\$18.00
18 Holes	\$23.00
Sundown	\$18.00
Super Sundown	\$14.00

Weekends (Begins Noon Friday) & Holidays

9/18	\$28.00
Sundown	\$20.00
Super Sundown	\$16.00

Juniors/Seniors

(Monday-Thursday before 2 p.m., Friday after 10am, excluding holidays)
\$14.00/\$18.00

RIDING CART FEES (per person) Daily

9 Holes	\$11.00
18 Holes	\$16.00
Sundown Cart Fee	\$12.00
PULL CART FEES	\$3.00

RENTAL CLUBS

Every Day	\$15.00
-----------------	---------

OTHER FEES

Driving Range

Large Bucket	\$9.00
Medium Bucket	\$8.00
Small Bucket	\$6.00
Jr. or Sr. Bucket	\$5.00