

In my 27 year career, I have had the priveledge to design and redesign golf courses throughout the world. There are times when the "stars align" and everything just seems to work out and something very special happens. In Romeoville, Illinois, you will see the results in an incredible golf course that will captivate you from start to finish. I am very proud of every hole at Mistwood Golf Club and hope you enjoy this truly unique experience.

Raymond Hearn

- Raymond Hearn Golf Course Designer

### MISTWOOD GOLF CLUB - HOLE #8

Ranked as one of the best par 5's in the United States by Golf Digest



### GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE

#### LEICASTER, ENGLAND

JULY, 2013



The 13th green at Mistwood

HOME

GREEN PAGES

ARTICLES MAGAZINE ADVERTISE

PRINTS

SEARCH

#### Revetted bunkers star at Mistwood

Observers told architect Ray Hearn that American golfers would never accept vertical-faced revetted pot bunkers, but his renovation of Mistwood Golf Club in Chicago seems to be proving otherwise.

The long-time home of the Illinois Women's Open, Mistwood closed early the last two years enabling Hearn, the course's original designer, to complete his renovation work and make improvements to the course.

The most noticeable change comes at the par five third hole where the green has been relocated to create space for a future clubhouse, and a double fairway added to create a risk-reward opportunity. The creek that used to be in front of the green is now behind it - and has been expanded into a pond that guards the entire right side of the hole and three sides of the green.



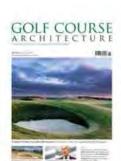
The split fairway at the par five third hole

In addition, Lannon stone walls were added along seven holes. Other improvements included repositioning tee boxes and bunkers, adding new high quality bunker sand, lengthening the course to 7,040 yards, and adding fescue grasses throughout the course.

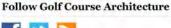
Mistwood's renovation also included the addition of 20 revetted bunkers, a common sight on the links of the United Kingdom, but rare in American golf.



Ray Hearn in one of his new revetted bunkers



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"I couldn't be happier with how everything has come together on this project and believe we now have one of the top golf experiences in the Chicago area," said owner Jim McWethy. "The work that Ray did incorporating the sod bunkers and the improvements he made to each hole are spectacular."

Mistwood owner McWethy, who took over the facility, in 2004 agrees he has swum against the tide, given the tough economic times that have seen most courses cutting back rather than expanding.

"A big part of this renovation was due to my love of the game," McWethy admitted. "By expanding, we did run counter to the rest of the golf world, but I feel it was worth it in order to position Mistwood among the very best golf experiences in the country. If you have an exceptional product, market it well, and take great care of your customers - even in this market you can be successful and we are doing that at Mistwood."

### Six Items that Separate RHGCD from other golf course design offices:

#### 1. HIGHEST VALUED GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS

In 2010, internationally acclaimed <u>Golf Inc. Magazine</u> ranked our office as the highest valued international golf course architects practicing world-wide compared to all other golf course architects. We have created or are creating some of the world's most spectacular golf courses but at construction costs much lower than other golf course architects.

### 2. WORLD'S TOP GLOBAL INNOVATORS

In 2013, internationally acclaimed <u>Golf Inc. Magazine</u> ranked our office as the most innovative course architects practicing world-wide. We are the best innovators in golf course design.

### 3. UNIQUE EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Our president and chairman, Raymond Hearn, is the only golf course architect practicing world wide with university degrees and training in: golf course architecture, landscape architecture, land planning, civil engineering, tutfgrass science, hydrology, turfgrass science, soil science and horticulture. No other golf course architect has this unique educational training.

#### 4. EXPERIENCE

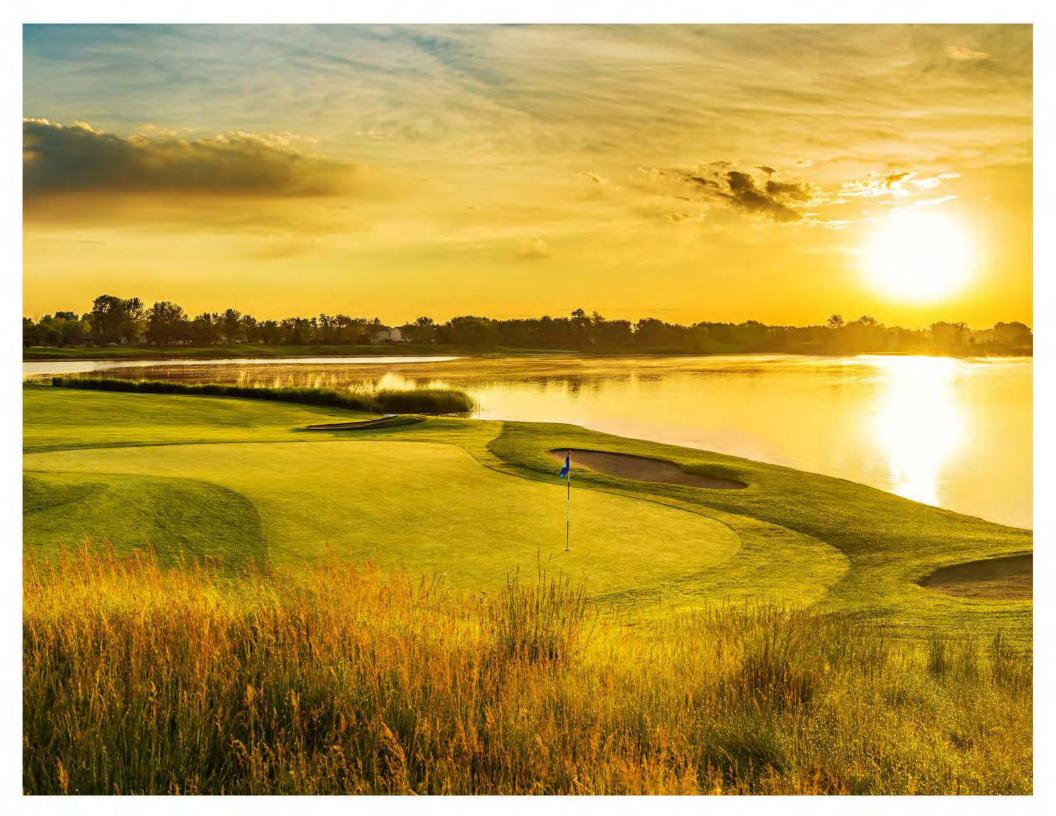
Our president and chairman, Raymond Hearn, has 27 years of experience as an international golf course architect and is a distinguished member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

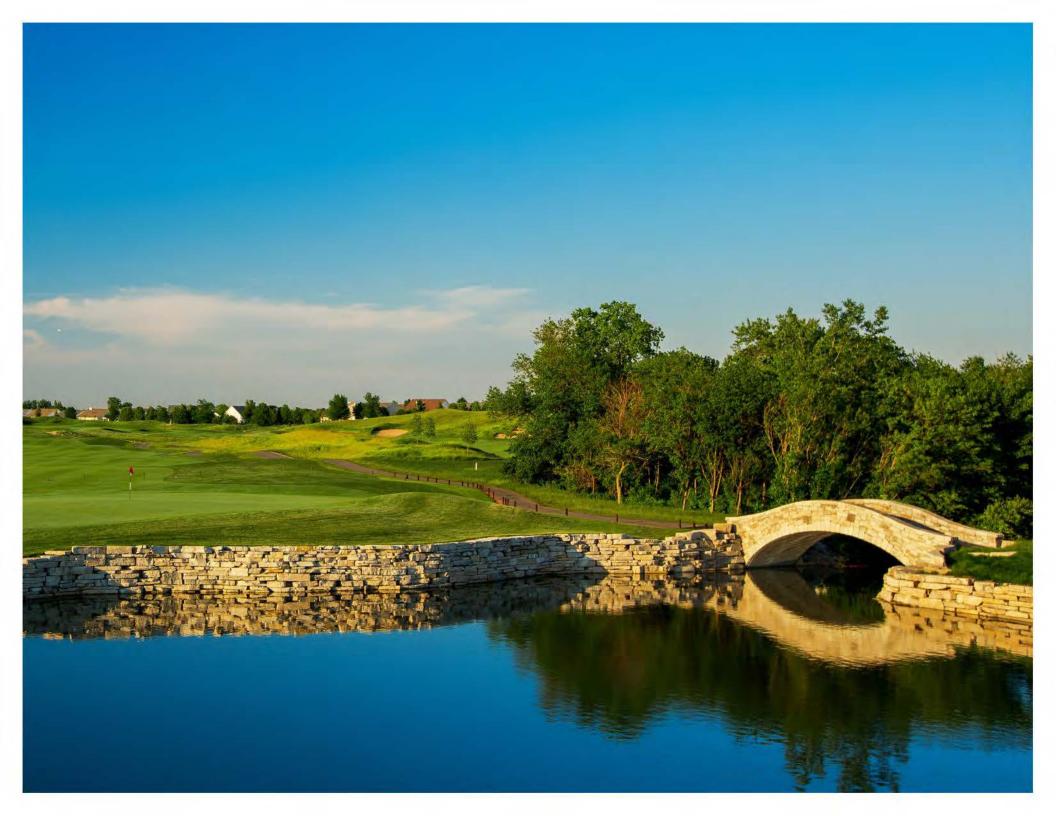
#### 5. EXPERTISE

Our president and chairman, Raymond Hearn, is the only golf course architect to have taught golf course design world-wide for the last 17 years. His seminars are internationally acclaimed. He is an expert in the field of golf course architecture and land planning.

#### 6. THE GOLF INDUSTRY'S MOST TALENTED STAFF

Our staff are some of the golf industry's most talented individuals with a combined 112 years of experience in golf course architecture, land planning, landscape architecture and civil engineering.





## General Information

Year Opened: 1998

Renovated: 2011-2012

Course Designer: Raymond Hearn

Features: 65-acre St. James Loch

20 Sod Wall Bunkers

Greens Fees: Weekend - \$90.00

Weekday - \$70.00

Seniors/Juniors - \$46.00-\$56.00

Memberships: Yes

Practice Facility: Yes

Lessons: Yes

Custom Club Fitting: Yes

Club Repair: Yes

Dining: Yes

Banquets: Yes

Meeting Rooms: Yes





### **Course Information**

Head Golf Professional: Visanu Tongwarin, PGA

Holes: 18

Par: 72

Course Yardage: Tournament - 7,040 yds

Gold - 6,836 yds Black - 6,639 yds Blue - 6,249 yds Red - 5,244 yds

Course & Slope Rating: Tournament - 74.7/144

Gold - 73.3/141 Black - 72.1/138 Blue - 70.1/133 Red - 71.5/130

#### 2013 Tournaments:

AJGA Midwest Junior Players Championship June 17 - June 20

IPGA Illinois Open Qualifier June 11

Phil Kosin Illinois Women's Open July 31 - August 2nd





## Agriculture & Landscape

Superintendent: Ben Kelnhofer, GCSAA

Tees: Bent Grass

Mowed at a height of 0.5 inches

Fairways: Bent Grass

Mowed at a height of 0.5 inches

Greens: A4 Bent Grass

Mowed at a height of .090 inches

Rough Bluegrass

Mowed at a height of 2.0 inches

Native Areas: Fine Fescue

Sodwall Bunkers: Blend of Tall Fescue & Blue Grass

Bunker Sand: Waupaca Deep Face Bunker Sand

Rock Walls: Lannon Stone





### **Mistwood Performance Center**

The Mistwood Performance Center is the Midwest's premier golf training facility, aiming to serve as the foundation for player success, and to help players reach their maximum potential.

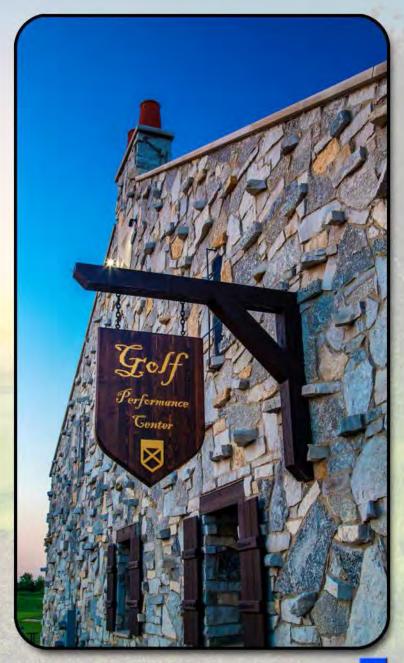
- 5,000 square foot building
- 11 heated hitting stations for all-seasons practice
- 2 teaching bays with state-of-the-art technology
- Putting lab
- Dedicated club repair room
- Full service bar with 8 flat screen televisions
- Turf Room for private events











### Player Performance

The Mistwood Performance Center offers individual and group programs for all ages and abilities, from beginners through Competitive Collegiate and Professional athletes.

#### Committed Athlete Program (CAP):

- Innovative & specialized program for high-performance committed youth athletes
- Comprehensive and systematic approach to training, competing, skill improvement and personal development
- Extremely successful, including participants performing well at local and national tournaments, and successfully earning scholarships to compete as student-athletes at the university level

#### Performance Center Staff:

#### Mike Baldwin - Performance Center Director

- Trackman Level 2 Certified
- SAM Putt Lab Level 2 Certified
- TPI Certified Golf Coach Level 2
- Certified Master Club Performance Specialist

#### John Platt - Director of Instruction

- 2011 Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year
- IPGA 2012 Junior Golf Leader
- US Kids Top 50 Instructor Honorable Mention
- 1999 NCAA Division II/III Coach of the Year

### Chris Ioriatti - Performance Center Specialist

- Trackman Level 1 Certified
- US Kids Golf Certified Instructor
- Certified Master Club Performance Specialist







### Custom Club Fitting & Repair

The Mistwood Peformance Center is your one-stop shop for all your golf needs! Offering custom club fittings and club repairs, utilizing industry-leading technology, our Certified Master Club Performance Specialists will get players, and their clubs, performing at their best.

#### Club Fitting:

- Trackman radar-based analytic software
- Foresight GC2 HD camera-based analytic software
- True Temper & KBS Performance Fitting Center
- Fujikura Charter Dealer
- Mitsubishi Rayon Authorized Dealer

### Club Repair:

 Length, loft, lie, regripping, swing rating, and frequency adjustments to optimize club performance

#### **Putting Lab:**

- SAM PuttLab
- Quintic Putting Analysis HD camera-based analytic software that measures ball & putter
- Match putter style & then customize length, loft, and lie
- · Bettinardi, Odyssey, and more!



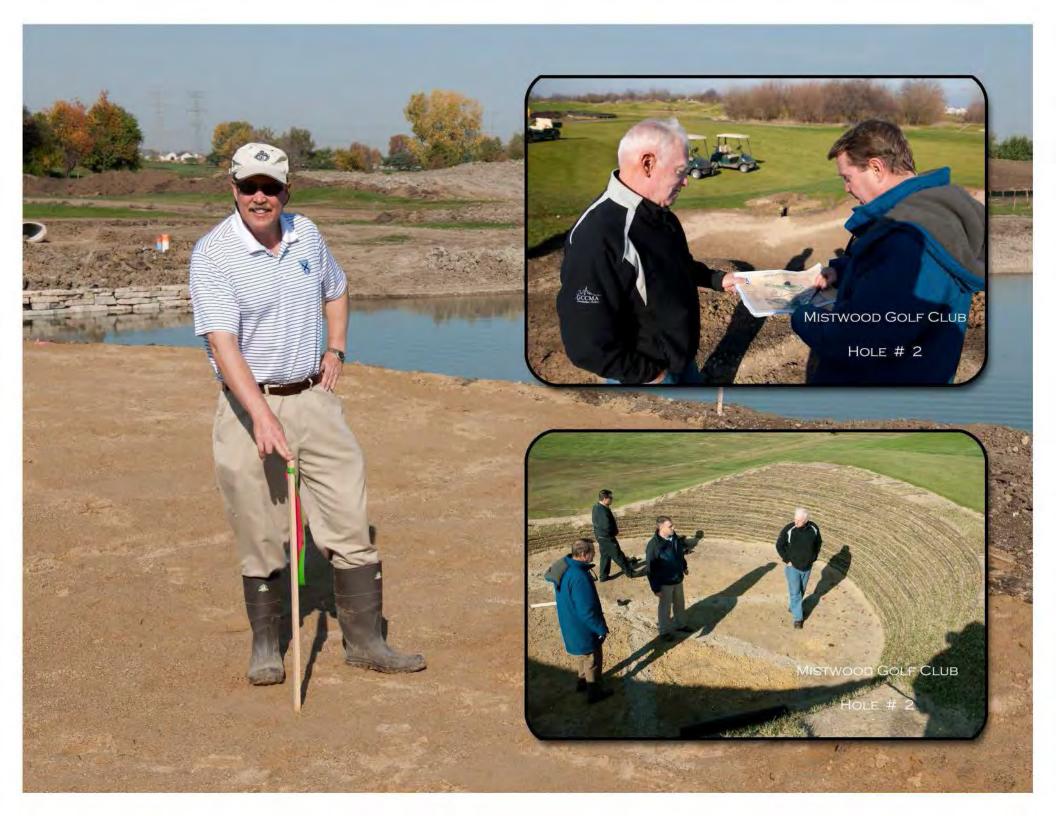


### Course Renovation

Highlights of the 2011-2012 golf course renovation include:

- Deepened three shallow lakes
- Increased shot value and strategy on every hole
  - Constructed new bunkers, tees and collars
    - Added 19 sod-wall bunkers
- Constructed several new stone bridges & rock walls
  - Lengthened the course to over 7,040 yards
- Completely renovated the 3rd Hole and the driving range
  - Added new drainage and irrigation
- Construction of a 5,000 square foot Mistwood Performance Center









HOLE	Silver	Gold	Black	Blue	Red	PAR
1	395	395	387	362	303	4
2	376	362	350	339	271	4.
3	556	506	490	482	459	- 5
4	420	410	.374	360	538	- 4
5	396	369	353	336	284	4
6	388	388	375	359	322	4
7	238	200	200	182	764	3
8	602	566	550	512	431	5
9	163	783	171	165	136	3
OUT	3554	2379	3250	3097	2708	36
10	362	352	341	325	296	4
11	441	441	412	396	339	- 4
12	400	390	342	318	281	4
13	375	375	367	354	287	4
14	239	200	192	157	710	3
15	569	559	549	. 529	434	5
16	365	346	322	307	262	- 4
17	175	175	158	139	112	- 3
18	527	527	506	495	409	5
IN	3453	3365	3169	3020	2536	-36
OUT	3554	3379	3250	3097	2708	36
TOTAL	7007	6744	6439	6117	5244	72





Golf Course Designed By:

## Raymond Hearn

Golf Course Designs, Inc.
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Holland Michigan 49424
616 399 7686 www.rhgd.com
616 399 7687 fax ray@rhgd.com
ray@rhgd.com

#### OWNER

JBM Golf Properties, LLC

CLUBHOUSE AND TRAINING CENTER ARCHITECT

& Daniel Wohlfeil Design





### MISTWOOD GOLF CLUB

ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #1 - The Burn



Golf Course Designs, Inc. Holland, Michigan

#### **SCORECARD**

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR - 4 Gold: 395

Black: 387 Blue: 362

Red: 303

#### AFTER REMODELING

PAR - 4 Silver: 395

Gold: 395

Black: 387

Blue: 362

Red: 303





May 3, 2012

AFTER REMODELING

#### **SHOT MATRIX**

GOLD 1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

BLACK 1: 294 2: 269 3: 244

BLUE 1: 269 2: 244 3: 219

<u>RED</u> 1: 210 2: 185 3: 160

NORTH

NOSCALE



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #1 - The Burn







BEFORE REMODELING



SCORECARD

BEFORE REMODELING

PAR - 4 Gold: 362 Black: 339

Blue: 323 Red: 271

AFTER REMODELING

PAR - 4 Silver: 376

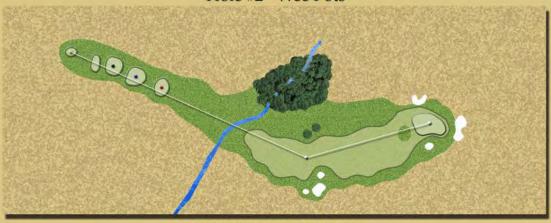
Gold: 362

Black: 350

Blue: 339 Red: 271

## MISTWOOD GOLF CLUB

ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #2 - Wee Pots



#### **BEFORE REMODELING**



AFTER REMODELING

Golf Course Designs, Inc.

Holland, Michigan

GOLD 1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

**SHOT MATRIX** 

BLACK 1: 286 2: 261 3: 236

BLUE 1: 263 2: 238 3: 213

RED 1: 195 2: 170 3: 145





ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #2 - Wee Pots







BEFORE REMODELING



#### SCORECARD

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-5

Gold: 567 Black: 551

Blue: 528

Red: 451

#### AFTER REMODELING

PAR-5 Silver: 556

Gold: 506

Black: 490

Blue: 482

Red: 459

May 3, 2012

### MISTWOOD GOLF CLUB

ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #3 - Lannon Stone



#### **BEFORE REMODELING**



AFTER REMODELING

### Raymond \Hearn Golf Course Designs, Inc.

Holland, Michigan

#### **SHOT MATRIX**

GOLD

1: 300 2: 275 3: 250 4: 225

BLACK

1: 250 2: 225 3: 200 4: 175

1: 226 2: 201 3: 176 4: 151

RED

1: 203 2: 178 3: 153 4: 128

1: 256 2: 281 3: 306 4: 331

1: 231 2: 256 3: 281 4: 306

1: 206 2: 231 3: 256 4: 281



NO SCALE



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #3 - Lannon Stone







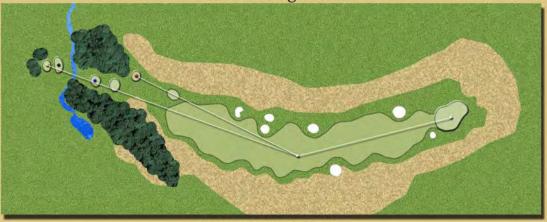
**BEFORE REMODELING** 

AFTER REMODELING

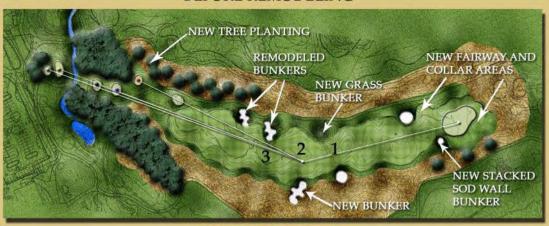


### MISTWOOD GOLF CLUB

ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #4 - Highlands



#### **BEFORE REMODELING**



AFTER REMODELING

# Raymond Hearn

Golf Course Designs, Inc. Holland, Michigan

#### **SHOT MATRIX**

GOLD 1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

BLACK 1: 290 2: 265 3: 240

BLUE 1: 254 2: 229 3: 204

<u>RED</u> 1: 218 2: 193 3: 168



NO SCALE

#### BEFORE REMODELING PAR - 4 Gold: 420

SCORECARD

Black: 410

Blue: 374

Red: 338

#### AFTER REMODELING

PAR - 4 Silver: 420

Gold: 410

Black: 374 Blue: 360

Red: 338



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #4 - Highlands







BEFORE REMODELING

AFTER REMODELING



### MISTWOOD GOLF CLUB

ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #5 - Long Loch



#### SCORECARD

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-4

Gold: 369

Black: 353 Blue: 336

Red: 284

#### AFTER REMODELING

PAR-4

Silver: 396

Gold: 369

Black: 353

Blue: 336

Red: 284



#### BEFORE REMODELING



May 3, 2012

AFTER REMODELING

#### **SHOT MATRIX**

GOLD 1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

BLACK 1: 276 2: 251 3: 226

BLUE 1: 257 2: 232 3: 207

RED 1: 188 2: 163 3: 138

NORTH

NOSCALE



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #5 - Long Loch







BEFORE REMODELING

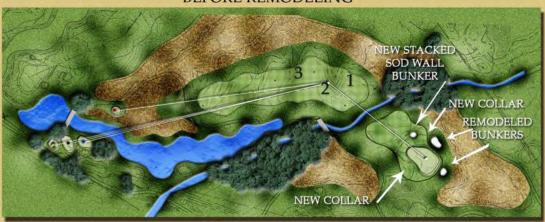


### MISTWOOD GOLF CLUB

ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #6 - Wee Bend



#### **BEFORE REMODELING**



AFTER REMODELING



Golf Course Designs, Ind Holland, Michigan

#### **SHOT MATRIX**

GOLD 1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

BLACK 1: 287 2: 262 3: 237

BLUE 1: 271 2: 246 3: 221

RED 1: 234 2: 209 3: 184



NO SCALE

#### **SCORECARD**

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-4

Gold: 388

Black: 375

Blue: 359

Red: 322

#### AFTER REMODELING

PAR - 4

Silver: 388

Gold: 388

Black: 375

Blue: 359

Red: 322



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #6 - Wee Bend







BEFORE REMODELING



## MISTWOOD GOLF CLUB

ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #7 - Doon



#### SCORECARD

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-3

Gold: 200

Black: 190 Blue: 182

Red: 164

#### AFTER REMODELING

PAR - 3

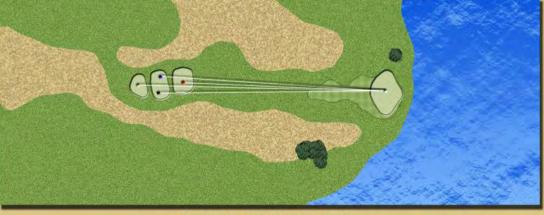
Silver: 238

Gold: 200

Black: 200

Blue: 182

Red: 164



#### **BEFORE REMODELING**



AFTER REMODELING





ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #7 - Doon







BEFORE REMODELING

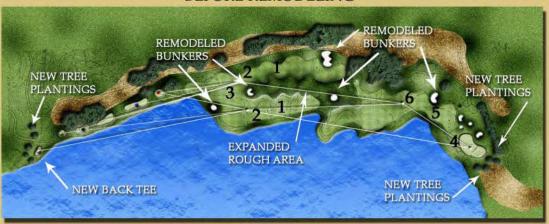
AFTER REMODELING



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #8 Royal Split



#### BEFORE REMODELING



#### AFTER REMODELING

### Raymond Mearn Golf Course Designs, Inc.

Holland, Michigan

#### **SHOT MATRIX**

GOLD 1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

BLACK 1: 270 2: 245 3: 220

BLUE 1: 239 2: 241 3: 189

RED 1: 135 2: 110 3: 85

1: 271 2: 296 3: 321

<u>5</u> 1: 246 2: 271 3: 296

1: 196 2: 221 3: 246



NO SCALE

### **SCORECARD** BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-5

Gold: 566

Black: 535

Blue: 512

Red: 431

#### AFTER REMODELING

PAR-5

Silver: 602

Gold: 566

Black: 550

Blue: 512

Red: 431



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #8 Royal Split







BEFORE REMODELING



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #9 Blind Pot



#### **SCORECARD**

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-3

Gold: 183

Black: 171 Blue: 165

Red: 136

#### AFTER REMODELING

PAR-3

Silver: 183

Gold: 183

Black: 171

Blue: 165 Red: 136



**BEFORE REMODELING** 



AFTER REMODELING





ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS

Hole #9 Blind Pot







BEFORE REMODELING



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #10 - Berry Bend



### **SCORECARD**

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-4

Gold: 352

Black: 341

Blue: 325 Red: 296

### AFTER REMODELING

PAR-4

Silver: 362

Gold: 352

Black: 341

Blue: 325

Red: 296

May 3, 2012



BEFORE REMODELING



AFTER REMODELING

### **SHOT MATRIX**

GOLD 1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

BLACK 1: 265 2: 240 3: 215

BLUE 1: 254 2: 229 3: 204

RED 1: 209 2: 184 3: 159





ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS

Hole #10 - Berry Bend







BEFORE REMODELING

AFTER REMODELING



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #11 - Beinn



Romeoville, Illinois

### SCORECARD

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-4

Gold: 441 Black: 412

Blue: 396

Red: 339

#### AFTER REMODELING

PAR - 4

Silver: 441

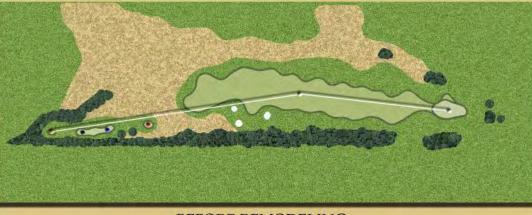
Gold: 441

Black: 412

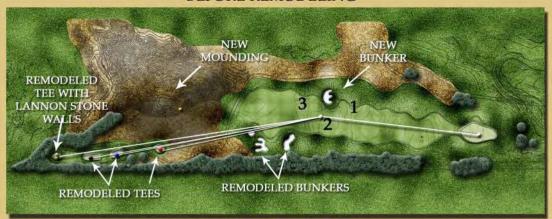
Blue: 396

Red: 339

May 3, 2012



### BEFORE REMODELING



AFTER REMODELING

### **SHOT MATRIX**

GOLD 1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

BLACK 1: 271 2: 246 3: 221

BLUE 1: 255 2: 230 3: 205

<u>RED</u> 1: 198 2: 173 3: 148

NORTH

NO SCALE



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS

Hole #11 - Beinn







BEFORE REMODELING

AFTER REMODELING



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #12 - Deep Pot



### SCORECARD

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-4

Gold: 342

Black: 332 Blue: 318

Red: 281

#### AFTER REMODELING

PAR-4

Silver: 400 Gold: 390

Black: 342

Blue: 318

Red: 281

May 3, 2012



### BEFORE REMODELING



AFTER REMODELING

#### **SHOT MATRIX**

**GOLD** 1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

BLACK 1: 257 2: 232 3: 207

BLUE 1: 215 2: 190 3: 165

RED 1: 148 2: 123 3: 98

NORTH

NO SCALE



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS



Hole #12 - Deep Pot





BEFORE REMODELING

AFTER REMODELING



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #13 - Wee Neck



#### Romeoville, Illinois

### **SCORECARD**

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-4

Gold: 375

Black: 367

Blue: 354 Red: 287

#### AFTER REMODELING

PAR-4 Silver: 375

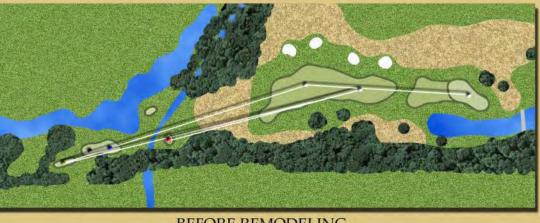
Gold: 375

Black: 367

Blue: 354

Red: 287

May 3, 2012



### **BEFORE REMODELING**



AFTER REMODELING

### **SHOT MATRIX**

GOLD 1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

BLACK

1: 269 2: 244 3: 219

BLUE 1: 261 2: 236 3: 211

RED 1: 181 2: 156 3: 131



NO SCALE



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS



Hole #13 - Wee Neck





BEFORE REMODELING

AFTER REMODELING



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #14 - Kelpie's Lookout



Activities of the second

### SCORECARD

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-3

Gold: 200 Black: 192

Blue: 157

Red: 116

### AFTER REMODELING

PAR - 3

Silver: 239

Gold: 200

Black: 192

Blue: 157

Red: 116

May 3, 2012



BEFORE REMODELING









ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS



Hole #14 - Kelpie's Lookout





**BEFORE REMODELING** 

AFTER REMODELING



SCORECARD

BEFORE REMODELING PAR-5

Gold: 559

Black: 538 Blue: 517

Red: 434

AFTER REMODELING

PAR-5

Silver: 569

Gold: 559 Black: 549

Blue: 529

Red: 434

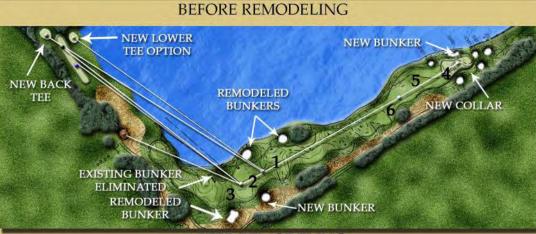
### MISTWOOD GOLF CLUB

ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #15 - Kelpie's Bend





### May 3, 2012



### **SHOT MATRIX**

Raymond \Hearn

Golf Course Designs, Inc.

Holland, Michigan

GOLD 1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

BLACK 1: 260 2: 235 3: 210

BLUE 1: 269 2: 244 3: 219

RED 1: 165 2: 140 3: 115

1: 269 2: 294 3: 319

1: 244 2: 269 3: 294

1: 219 2: 244 3: 269





ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS



Hole #15 - Kelpie's Bend





BEFORE REMODELING

AFTER REMODELING



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #16 - Kelpie's Bay



Holland, Michigan

### **SCORECARD**

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-4

Gold: 346

Black: 322

Blue: 307 Red: 262

AFTER REMODELING PAR-4

Silver: 365

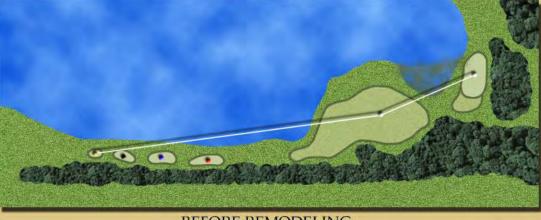
Gold: 346

Black: 322

Blue: 307

Red: 262

May 3, 2012



### BEFORE REMODELING



AFTER REMODELING

### **SHOT MATRIX**

GOLD

1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

BLACK

1: 281 2: 256 3: 231

BLUE

1: 257 2: 232 3: 207

RED

1: 197 2: 172 3: 147



NO SCALE



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS



Hole #16 - Kelpie's Bay





BEFORE REMODELING

AFTER REMODELING



#### Romeoville, Illinois

### MISTWOOD GOLF CLUB

ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #17 - Kelpie's Spine



### **SCORECARD**

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-3 Gold: 175

Black: 158

Blue: 139

Red: 112

### AFTER REMODELING

PAR-3 Silver: 175

Gold: 175

Black: 158

Blue: 139

Red: 112

May 3, 2012



BEFORE REMODELING



AFTER REMODELING





ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS



Hole #17 - Kelpie's Spine





BEFORE REMODELING

AFTER REMODELING



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS Hole #18 - Home



### **SHOT MATRIX**

GOLD

BLACK

BLUE

1: 227 2: 252 3: 277

1: 177 2: 202 3: 227

1: 300 2: 275 3: 250

1: 279 2: 254 3: 229

1: 268 2: 243 3: 218

1: 182 2: 157 3: 132

1: 127 2: 152 3: 177



### **SCORECARD**

#### BEFORE REMODELING

PAR-5 Gold: 527

Black: 506

Blue: 495

Red: 409

#### AFTER REMODELING

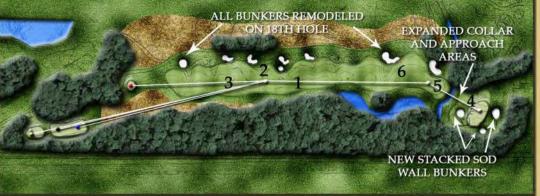
PAR-5

Silver: 527 Gold: 527

Black: 506

Blue: 495

Red: 409



BEFORE REMODELING

AFTER REMODELING

May 3, 2012



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS



Hole #18 - Home





**BEFORE REMODELING** 

AFTER REMODELING



ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS **Driving Range** 



**BEFORE REMODELING** 



May 3, 2012

AFTER REMODELING



Golf Course Designs, Inc. Holland, Michigan

### TARGET GREEN **YARDAGES**

1 80

2 120

160

200

250

310

NORTH

NO SCALE







## Mem Look Missimood A Premier Experience

By Neal Kotlarek

Don't believe for a moment that F. Scott Fitzgerald knew what he was talking about when he asserted that "there are no second acts in American lives." In just the past 12 months alone, architect Ray Hearn has proven the author's premise wrong not just once, but twice. The beauty and challenge of those bunkers take players on a journey across the pond to the great seaside links of Ireland and Scotland.

year ago, Hearn completed his renovation of the remarkable Island Hills Golf Club in Centreville, Michigan, which he originally designed in 1998. This spring, Hearn completed extensive renovations on Mistwood Golf Course in Romeoville, which he originally designed 15 years ago. Already considered by most Chicago area golfers to be among the state's top 10 publicly accessible courses, the new version is longer, more dynamic, more attractive and—simply put—better.

"I've been blessed," Hearn admitted in an interview days before the course's grand re-opening in mid-June. "To be provided a chance by [owner] Jim McWethy to upgrade the course, lengthen it, address some drainage issues and make it more appealing is a designer's dream come true," he added.

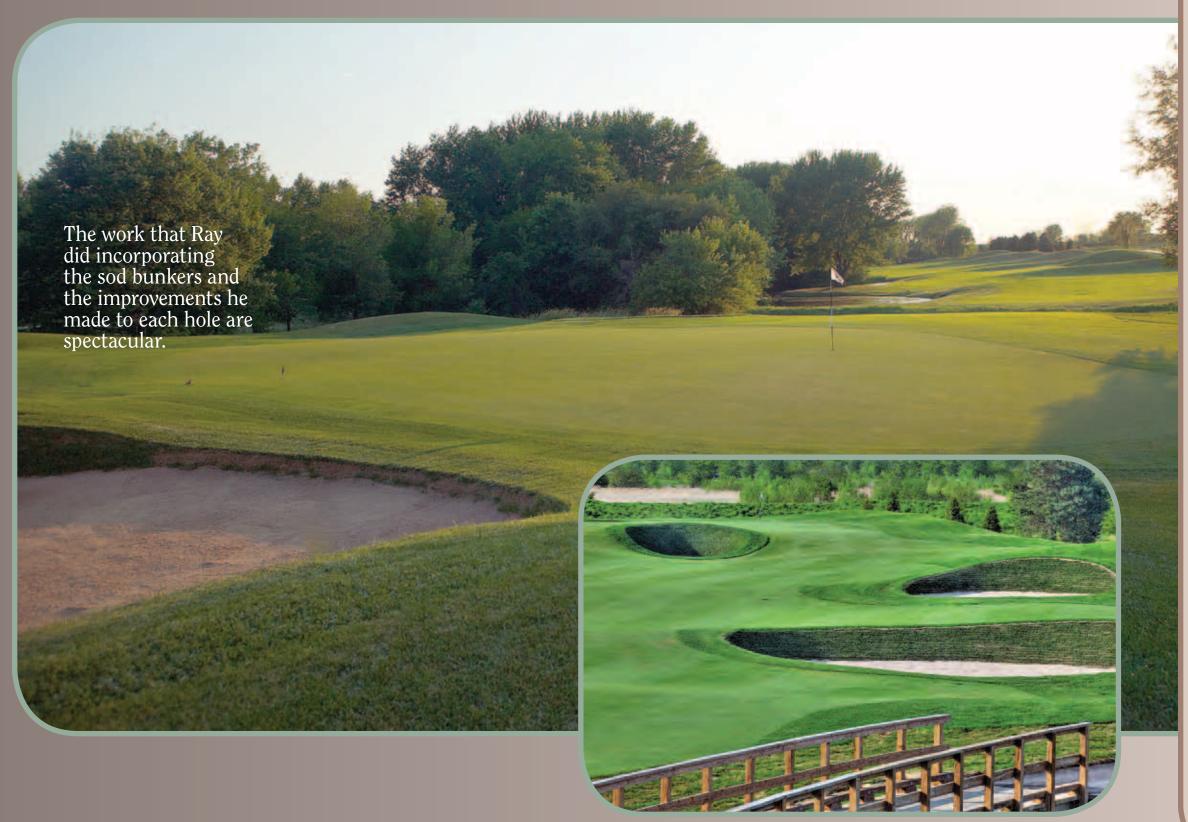
Fact is that the entire project—with a budget of \$6 million when finished—was far more than a renovation. Beyond stretching the course from a relatively modest 6,701 yards to 7,028 yards, Hearn gave it a unique new look with the addition of 19 stacked sod-wall bunkers that both add drama to the playing experience and utterly transform Mistwood's aesthetics. "Even though the term 'links' specifically references the linking of land to a large body of water," Hearn said, "lots of players at the club have stated that Mistwood had a 'links-style feel" to it. So we thought it would enhance the experience if bunkers that reflected that feel were added."

The beauty and challenge of those bunkers take players on a journey across the pond to the great seaside links of Ireland and Scotland. The star attraction of this grouping proudly lurks in front of the 12th hole green. "That bunker defines the hole," Hearn stated. And indeed, the par-4 would parallel countless other such dogleg right holes without this stunning obstacle—a pit over 10 feet deep that calls upon its victims to hit arguably the most creative blast shot in all of Illinois golf.

Hearn said that McWethy's eye for detail makes the aforementioned bunker shot far easier to execute than it would first appear. "Jim wanted sand in these bunkers that allows a club to glide through instead of getting stuck," he said. "Lots of top private clubs use Waupaca Steep Face sand because it eliminates fried egg shots and doesn't blow around on windy days. It's used at Mistwood to make

bunker shots a little less formidable."

# Improved!



While some of the new bunkers add additional drama and force long hitters to think twice before whaling away with their drivers, others frame fairways or serve as directional beacons off the tees. The end result is not just pleasing to the eye; these bunkers somehow look as if they belonged on the property all along.

One other obvious aesthetic improvement was still in process as the course re-opened. McWethy and Hearn toured three quarries to locate the sparkling white Lannon stone that will be used to construct two bridges and dry-stacked retaining walls on parts of the estate's two expanded lakes. The end result will make Mistwood look as stately and elegant as any publicly accessible facility in the Midwest.

A view from the 1st tee quickly displays the extent of the course renovations. Players are given the option of hitting a tee shot to the left side of the fairway over a burn that bisects the landing area on a sharp diagonal, or play short to the right side to avoid the hazard. This theme of multiple routes is repeated across the front nine with bisected fairways providing different avenues to the flagstick on two other holes.

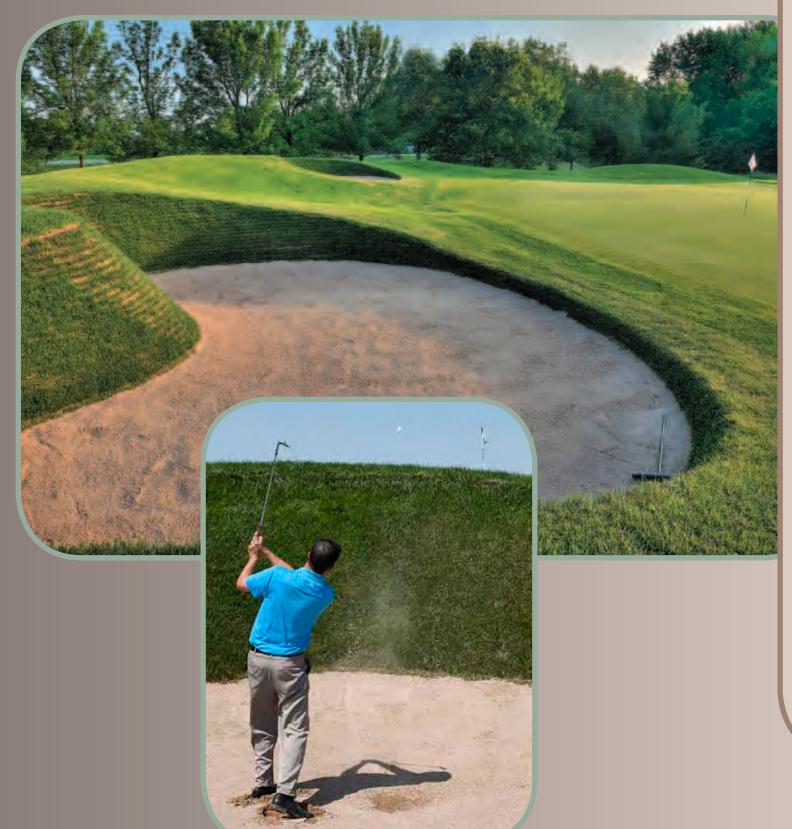
The short par-4 No. 2 introduces players to the course's stacked sod-faced bunkers. Previously a relatively open dogleg left, the hole is no much tighter as two deep bunkers reside in the middle of the fairway between the green and the landing area. While neither hazard is in play on the approach shot, both serve to guard against any possibility of reaching this green off the tee.

Highlighting the front nine is the 566-yard par-5 nicknamed "Royal Split" as two fairways provide multiple routes to the hole. Play left and you avoid water that runs from tee to green. Yet that route provides additional peril as a long approach shot to a well-protected green puts the lake to the rights side of the putting surface in play.

The aforementioned No. 12 serves as an excellent example of the extensive remodeling performed on the course, While a lake previously snaked along the left side of this fairway, that same body of water has now been expanded to weave across this fairway and protect the rights side of the landing area as well as the left side. While players have been forewarned about the bunker in front of this green, two other shallower stacked sod-faced bunkers also protect the left side of the tee shot's landing area.

The 527-yard No. 18 is like the grand finale of a fireworks display. While only one new bunker was added to this well-protected par-5, all of the former bunkers have been provided a face-lift and two of the greenside bunkers were made into stacked sod-faced bunkers. Once a formality, a par on this hole is now a triumph.

According to Dan Phillips, Director of Golf and Instruction at Mistwood, early reviews by both long-time members and the general public have been virtually unanimous in heaping praise on the new-look layout. "I'm sure that a number of members who loved the original Mistwood were originally a bit skeptical of all of the construction being done to their golf course," he said. "But now that the majority of the work is completed, they can truly appreciate Jim's commitment to excellence and Ray's creative vision.



"Simply put," Phillips said, "everyone raves about the changes and they now understand why we put all of this effort into making Mistwood better than it's ever been."

Owner McWethy seconded Phillips' comments. "I couldn't be happier with how everything has come together on this project and believe we now have one of the top and most unique golf experiences in the Chicago area," said McWethy. "The work that Ray did incorporating the sod bunkers and the improvements he made to each hole are spectacular."

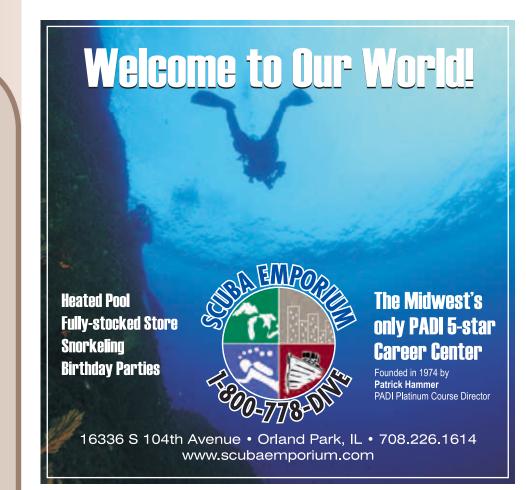
The course renovations are in fact only Phase 1 of a 3-Phase project envision by McWethy, who also owns the Bolingbrook Sports Dome. The next phase calls for the construction of a state-of-the-art learning center complete with practice green, indoor and outdoor hitting bays, simulators and swing analysis equipment. The property has always had a strong teaching program led by Phillips, PGA General Manager Andy Krajewski, head PGA professional Visanu Tongwarin and assistant PGA professional Chris Ioriatti.

Phase 3 will see the construction of a 32,000-square-foot clubhouse with Scottish castle accents that will feature dining and banquet facilities among other amenities.

While the completion of the project will culminate a project that started in earnest just last August, the property centerpiece will remain the golf course. "Anyone who liked the old Mistwood has to come back and play the new Mistwood," Hearn stated. "It's not just a great test of skills anymore," he asserted. "It's now a great golf experience."

Mistwood will very quickly test the skills of the state's best women golfers when it hosts the Phil Kosin Illinois Women's Open July 25 – 27. Organizers expect the 54-hole event to draw over 100 of the Midwest's premier amateurs and professionals to the event that is celebrating its 18th year.

For tee times and more information on Mistwood Golf Course, visit the property's website at www.mistwoodgolf. net or call 815-254-3333.





Whitetail Ridge Golf Club is Kendall County's newest golf course and banquet facility. The Greg Martin designed par 71 layout opened in 2007 and features two distinct nines. Whitetail Ridge is fully open to the public and has quickly become a favorite of many golfers in the western suburbs. The 24,000 square foot clubhouse features a ballroom that can seat up to 350 people, and a Bar & Restaurant that is open for lunch and dinner seven days a week. Book your next event at Whitetail Ridge Golf Club and experience our brand of "Radical Hospitality" from the moment you walk in the door.

7671 Clubhouse Drive / Yorkville, IL 60560 / (630) 882-8988 www.whitetailridgegolfclub.com









