

PGA Village a great spot for all golfers

By Bruce Vittner and Joe Hall

Gary Player talks about the World Golf Hall of Fame—"If you love golf you have to go." Well, there's an outstanding facility 200 miles south (warmer in winter), also just off I-95, that should have the slogan, "If you're a golfer, you have to visit."

PGA Village in Port St. Lucie has it all for the golfer. Golf Digest rated it Number 51 in its Best Golf Resorts in North America in 2009, but with all the golfing amenities the place has, it's got to be one of the top three in America.

Imagine three championship golf courses, two designed by Tom Fazio, the other by Pete Dye. All three were rated excellent by ZAGAT in 2009. Add to the courses the PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance, rated Number 10 best practice area by Golf Digest in 2009, the PGA Historical Center that has wonderful memorabilia from the PGA and an incredibly helpful and

2007 and Fazio's courses were renamed the Wanamaker and Ryder Courses.

The Ryder Course reminds players of a Carolina layout, with tall pines and even some hills. It was named after Samuel Ryder, who founded the Ryder Cup matches. There's plenty of water, especially on the par-5 fourth hole. It's a dogleg right that winds around a long pond along the right side. Cut the corner on your tee shot and go over the water on your second and you might reach the 521-yard hole in two. It's the number-one handicap hole for a reason. Number 10 has an elevated narrow green and numbers 17 and 18 are very difficult pars.

Fazio's other course, Wanamaker, is named after Rodman Wanamaker, who organized a meeting of top golf professionals and amateurs that led to The PGA's founding in 1916. This is a true Florida layout with a great deal of wetland and vegetation and palm and palmetto trees. In typical Fazio fashion, there are bunkers everywhere and of every design. Accuracy will definitely help you on this course that most rate the most difficult of the three, with two par-3s well over 200 yards. The seventh seemed the most difficult and the 18th is a long par-4 bending around a lake to a tiered green.

We played the Dye course twice. It definitely gets easier the second time. It is a links-style design

Entrance to PGA Golf Course

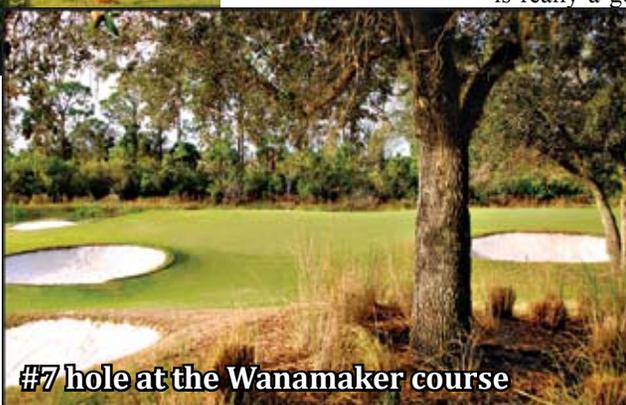


knowledgeable staff, and you have a place that every golfer should make plans to see.

We've had a chance to play all three courses, spend many hours at the Golf Learning facility and a wonderful two hours going through the Historical Center.

PGA Village was the first public facility owned and operated by The PGA of America. It serves as the winter home to PGA professionals. The PGA Education Center, located on the property, is home to the PGA of America Golf Schools and serves as a training forum for PGA apprentice pros.

Tom Fazio built the first two courses in 1996, then called the North and South courses. Dye's course opened in 2000. All three made the Top New Courses in America list when opened. All three courses went through major renovation in 2006 and



#7 hole at the Wanamaker course

with plenty of water, but not much that should come into play. There are five sets of tees, and it's important to select the one for your game. The championship tees tip out at 7,215 yards with a rating of 74.7 and a slope of 139. Move up!! We played the standard tees at 6,105 and it was just right. Champion Ultra Dwarf Bermuda grass makes the greens roll perfectly true.

PGA Clubhouse



All three courses have earned the Audubon International Signature Status award. Each is distinctive and memorable. The conditioning on all three, the practice tee and the fine clubhouse where the food is excellent and reasonably priced, make you smile when reliving your rounds. There's also a family fun course great for kids and wives who might not want to venture onto the championship course. Holly Taylor

is the head professional on site, the first woman to hold that position.

For those that have the time, spend some of it at the Golf Learning and Performance Center. It's great for all levels of golfers. GM Joe Hallett was just recognized as one of the Top-50 Teaching Professionals.

There are two putting greens (one almost the size of Rhode Island), chipping areas, bunker areas with dozens of different kinds of sand, and a three-hole course used for on-course instruction. There are more than 100 hitting stations on this 35-acre site that is really a golf park. You do not pay for a bucket of balls. Your fee is for the whole day, very reasonable, and you get as many balls as you want to use. "Millions of balls are hit every year on this site," said Bob Baldassari, GM of PGA Village.

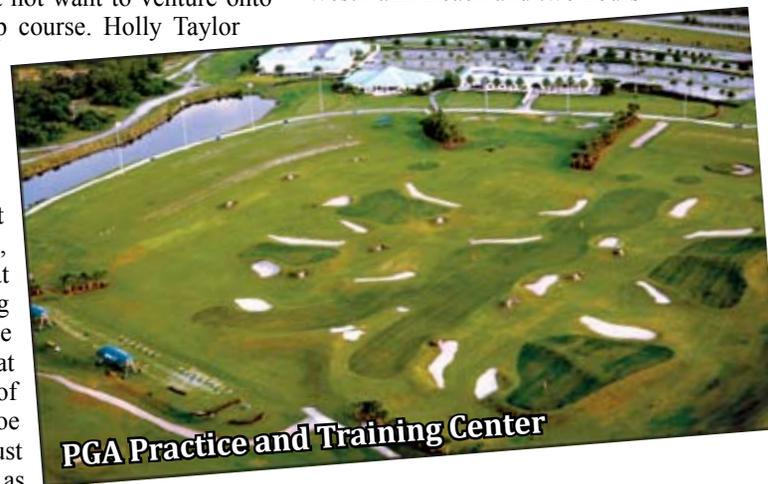
In addition, the Center also features state-of-the-art motion and club-fitting technology, such as the MATT System by TaylorMade, Dynamic Balance System, Launch Monitor, SAM Putting Lab and more, to help you and your instructor learn more about your game and how to improve it.

What sets PGA Village apart from other resorts is the PGA Historical Center. We saw the Ryder Cup and the four major championship trophies in golf, the first-ever program for The Masters, a picture of the

first Masters players, a new section paying tribute to African-American golf pioneers—enough pictures and plaques to keep you busy for hours. The Center also houses the

Probst Library, one of the world's foremost golf reference libraries.

The PGA Village is 45 minutes north of West Palm Beach and two hours



PGA Practice and Training Center

from Orlando. There's an excellent Hilton Garden Inn with over 300 rooms right on the property and also condos for rent to groups. You can find out more about the resort at www.pgavillage.com or by calling 1-800-609-9067 for tee times and golf packages. If you are a golfer you need to go.

Bruce Vittner and Joe Hall are members of the Golf Writers Assn. of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America.



The actual Ryder Cup

What's Up in West Tennessee



By Johnny Lyon

Last month, the First Tee of Memphis held their First Annual Fairways Dinner at TPC Southwind to

honor **Loren Roberts** for his support and discuss the new facilities to open at Firestone. Loren was given the Middlecoff Award to honor and commemorate the career of Cary Middlecoff and pay tribute to Loren for his exemplary dedication and contributions to junior golf and the First Tee.



Mr. Roberts was the guest speaker and discussed the launching of the financial effort to raise \$5 million to build the 9-hole golf course designed by Jerry Pate to include

a learning center to promote golf to underprivileged children. Located at the old Firestone tire plant in North Memphis, the First Tee hopes to begin construction this spring. Ernst & Young have agreed to be the Title Sponsor and you can contact Berry Jones at (901) 340-1229 to make a contribution.

Will Taylor, of TPC Southwind in Memphis, has been awarded the Teacher of the Year, by the PGA Tennessee Section, an honor recognizing him as one of the top teachers in the Section. The Tennessee PGA



announced their 2009 Section Award winners to honor them for excelling in their fields of expertise while demonstrating a strong dedication and commitment to the game of golf. In addition to teaching some elite players, Taylor holds numerous junior development clinics and junior camps to ensure the success of future golfers. Taylor has contributed dozens of instruction articles to local media outlets and this is Will's first award on the Section level.

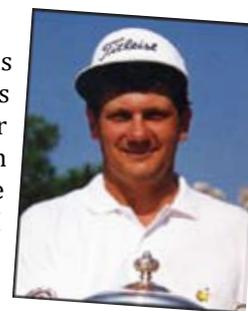
Also from TPC Southwind, head professional **Jon Goin** has been named Merchandiser of the Year which recognizes superior skills as merchandisers in the promotion of golf and excellence in golf shop operations. Jon has demonstrated an ongoing philosophy of creativity when it comes to marketing merchandise to the membership at TPC Southwind. He also has stressed the importance of being adaptive during challenging times and strives to find new ways to bring added value to his members. This is Jon's First Section Award and congratulations to them both.



Tim Jackson of Germantown, TN was elected as President of the Tennessee Golf Association at their Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors. Tim will be the association's 77th president and will also serve on the Board of Directors for the Tennessee Golf Foundation. Jackson is widely known for his extensive amateur career and his dedication to amateur golf. Tim has won 11 Tennessee State Championships, 3 U.S. Golf Association Championships, twice a member of the U.S. Walker Cup team and was the 2nd ranked golfer in the world in 1995

behind Tiger Woods.

Tim has dedicated his life to his family, his career and amateur golf, following in the footsteps of the great Bobby Jones. "I wouldn't trade that for anything. I've been fortunate to work in a field and a profession that have allowed me to pursue what I enjoy and what is most important to me," Jackson said.



The University of Memphis Lady Tigers are on a roll. They claimed their 2nd victory for Memphis in 2009-10. The Lady Tigers won their final event of the fall, the UAB Fall Beach Bash, where they were led by Sarah Mathew's runner-up individual finish.

Two girls made all tournament and won by 10 shots.

It is the first time the women's

golf program has won two or more tournaments in the same season since 1996-97. "This was an incredible performance by our team," said Harrelson. "The conditions were tough, but they just kept battling, and it really showed. I can't say enough how proud I am of everyone." Hats off to the team and **Coach Beth Harrelson** has the Lady Tigers playing some great golf.

Germantown Country Club is celebrating their 40th Anniversary since opening in 1970 and **General Manager Harvey Carter** has been there since day one. They are celebrating with several events through the summer and are offering the first 40 new members the anniversary rate of \$40 to join. Contact Harvey for more information at 901-754-7241.

Until next time, keep it in the short grass.



(L to R) Sarah Mathews (tied for 2nd 74-73=147) Alex Alang (8th 79-73=152) Marissa Steen (26th 78-77=155) Kathleen Glavin (11th 72-78=150) Coach Beth Harrelson, Leslie Grabeman (5th 76-72=148).



EDWIN WATTS GOLF

EST. 1968

Nashville

2510 Music Valley Drive

615.883.0125

TENT SALE

APRIL 16th & 17th

Nashville Location Only

\$25 OFF* all regular priced In-Line Woods
\$50 OFF* all regular priced Iron Sets
\$2 OFF* all regular priced dozen Balls or Bonus Pack

- Worldwide Delivery
- Launch Monitor System
- Latest Technology Simulators
- Over 41 Years of Trusted Service
- Expert Advice for all levels of Play
- Custom Fitting & Repair Specialists
- Best Selection of Top Brand Golf Equipment

Over 70 locations nationwide to serve you • edwinwattsgolf.com



*Not valid with other offer. Excludes select products from Ping, Titleist, Cobra, Mizuno, Cleveland, Kodak and certain other manufacturers due to manufacturer policies. Some select previous sales products excluded. Good April 16th & 17th, 2010 only.