Weiskopf’s Cedar River GC opens in Michigan

BELLAIRE, Mich. — If Tom Weiskopf has his way, his new creation, Cedar River Golf Club at Shanty Creek, looks as though it were built “at the turn of the century, not at the end of it.”

Weiskopf—the designer—turned into Weiskopf-the-player on June 11 when he played an inaugural round at the grand opening of Cedar River, which gives Shanty Creek 72 holes of golf. The new 18 joins The Legend, Schuss Mountain Golf Club and Summit Golf Club at the four-season golf and ski resort.

“This is traditional golf,” Weiskopf said. “The bunkering here is traditional. The entries into the green are traditional and so is the presentation from the tee.”

Weiskopf said the site offers the three key qualities he hopes to find on properties: changes in elevation, mature trees and water.

Maxwell adding to Brookhaven track

BROOKHAVEN, Miss. — Maxwell Golf Group, Inc. has announced that construction is underway on its Golf Course Design division’s expansion and renovation of Brookhaven Country Club, some 45 minutes south of Jackson. The plans call for 10 new holes to be built this summer on newly acquired property north of the existing course and the current nine holes to be converted into eight new holes and new house lots next summer.

“There are a lot of nine-hole country clubs in Mississippi that have been around for years,” said MGG senior design associate Nathan Crace. “The recent growth in Brookhaven over the past few years forced the club to take a proactive approach in improving and expanding the facility before someone else built a new club and stole their members.”

The new holes, being built as part of phase one this year, will route golfers back and forth between stands of towering pines and a large open field. According to Crace, this setting provides for some unique design elements.

“We were able to produce a ‘linksy’ feel with large mounds, strategic bunkering and native grasses in the open area, while providing for a more sheltered and isolated element through the wooded areas. It’s been both challenging and rewarding to blend the two together without creating an element of separation within the course.”

One unique characteristic of the layout when it is complete will be the combination of holes in the new course. Landlocked to some extent by the configuration of the property, MGG opted to design a par-70 layout with four par-5s and six par-3s.

“Par-5s and par-3s are what make golf fun,” Crace said, “and a strong par-70 with this combination of holes is more fun than a short par-72 with 10 par-4s.”

Meanwhile, MGG has completed plans for the University of Mississippi regarding a renovation project at Ole Miss Golf Club in Oxford. Construction was expected to begin in June, with the renovations completed by the fall.

“The course is a fun layout,” said MGG President Frank M. “Max” Maxwell Jr. “And, as a result, they have experienced a significant increase in play like other public courses in Mississippi. But the course doesn’t have the needed tee space to accommodate the annual rounds played.” According to Maxwell, the average size of the tee complexes throughout the course will be at least doubled, with special attention being given to the par-3s.

Maxwell’s staff will consider the upcoming changes to the course as a result of a proposed expansion at the Oxford Airport adjacent to the golf course.

“A number of holes may have to be realigned in a few years due to the expansion,” Maxwell said. “So we are planning those changes into the new tee complexes now to keep from having to rework them in the future.”

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