Hole of the

No. 1
The Prospector Course at Superstition Mountain
Superstition Mountain, Ariz.
Gentle Beginning

The fairway of the 376-yard par-4 first hole at The Prospector Course at Superstition Mountain provides a generous landing area for golfers. According to superintendent Scotti Krout, the relative ease of the course's starting hole is deliberate.

"It's an easier, enjoyable hole," Krout says. "It doesn't hit you over the head. We like it because it doesn't force players to walk to the second tee mad. But the course gets harder from there."

At the dogleg, three bunkers (two right, one left) stand ready to snare errant shots. Krout says the left bunker doesn't come into play, however, unless golfers hit from the gold tees (the Nicklaus tees, in local parlance, after its designer).

The only true maintenance challenge concerns the turf that surrounds the bunkers. Krout says the challenge is to keep the turf well-watered without destroying the playability of the hazards.