26-Year Dream to Become Reality for Fred Boos

In August, when Grand View Lodge officially opens The Pines, a 26-year dream of part owner Fred Boos will become a reality.

Operations manager of the 72-year-old resort in the early sixties through 1986, he periodically thought about the tempting possibilities of a first-class course on the exceptionally suitable land already owned by Grand View—even though, in those years, he was a championship tennis player who only played golf three or four rounds a year.

“I first began thinking about it in 1964,” he recalled, “but none of the other owners, except my wife Mary, was a golfer. They weren’t sure that it was a good risk at first, but then they came to understand that golf was the game of the ’90s.”

“One of my principal desires was to complete our sports complex at Grand View, which has been nationally recognized as being one of the top 50 tennis resorts in the country,” Boos said. “In addition, I wanted to give the Brainerd area a championship course, and to build a course that would rank with the top five in the state.”

Fred’s dream didn’t really begin to take shape until 1987, when Grand View seriously began thinking about ways to expand, whether it be adding more units, building or buying other properties—or building a golf course.

When Fred’s research clearly showed the growth of golf nationally (one new course has to open daily to keep up with the demand) as well as the increasing numbers of people playing the game, both in Minnesota and the Brainerd area, building a course rose to the top of the list of Grand View’s expansion plans.

Moreover, the lodge already owned the 340 acres on which the course was to be built, a cost factor that weighed positively on the economic feasibility of the project.

“Green fees and cart rentals have risen to a point where the 5½-month golf season we have in the Brainerd area should make it worthwhile economically,” Fred said.

In 1987, Boos contacted architect Joel Goldstrand, a former touring pro before becoming head professional at Minneapolis Golf Club. During the decade of the ’80s, Goldstrand had begun gaining considerable regional prominence for his design abilities.

After learning more about the property and studying the topography from aerial photos, he concurred with Fred that (1) the land had “excellent possibilities for an outstanding course” and (2) that, from an owner’s standpoint, it was financially feasible.

“I told Joel that we wanted a course that would fit into the natural landscape, and one that would be fun for golfers of all handicaps,” Boos said. “In this regard, we’ve capitalized on all of the natural beauty, and the four-tee design makes it attractive for golfers of all capabilities. Beginners or occasional golfers can have fun from the red tees, bogey golfers have a chance on every hole from the white or blue tees and the championship tees provide a real test for the top players in the game. Furthermore, the beauty of the course will be half the fun.”

Boos says that “every hole is an adventure.”

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HOW TO GET TO THE MGCSA OFFICE

- From I-494, go west on Highway 12 to Highway 101 North (Central Avenue).
- At the stoplights on this exit ramp, turn left, go approximately one-third mile to the stoplights on Wayzata Boulevard.
- Turn right, go west on Wayzata Boulevard.
- After the first set of stoplights on Broadway, proceed two more blocks west to Minnetonka Avenue South.
- Turn left on Minnetonka Avenue; go south two blocks toward Lake Minnetonka.
- Turtinen Communications is located on the second floor of the office building at 240 Minnetonka Ave. South, on the northeast corner of Minnetonka and Indian Mound Street, right across from the Wayzata Post Office.

Publication Update

The publication Prairie Communities recently has been revised and is now available from most County Extension offices. This is a ready reference publication about native prairie plants found across the state and serves as a valuable resource for making the proper plant material selections when developing a prairie area.

McMullen Leads MTF

Fritz McMullen, CGCS, Forest Lake CC, Bloomfield Hills, Mich., has been chosen by Michigan Turfgrass Foundation board members to lead the foundation. Meeting during the recent Michigan Turfgrass Conference, board members unanimously elected McMullen as its new president. He succeeds Kurt Thuemmel.

McMullen’s initial priorities include the establishment of a golf course mechanics school at MSU and the appointment of an environmental turfgrass specialist.

Approaching the 12th green at The Pines

‘Every Hole Is An Adventure’
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“There isn’t a bad hole on the course, and I truly believe we have the best set of four par threes in the state,” he said. “The yardages are perfect, and the course has good balance with the four par fives and the par threes.

“The doglegs also are balanced, and you have both long and medium par fours,” he said. “We have super finishing holes, which will be great for the championship tournaments we already have coming in 1991, the greens really are interesting and the beautiful variety of trees come into play on each hole. Bunkers also have been placed strategically.”

Fred's favorite hole is No. 7, which he describes as "perhaps the finest and prettiest par 3 in the state."

"It can play anywhere from 100 to 169 yards, but requires a very accurate shot to evade a menacing pond on the left and a high bank and sand traps on the right. The two-level, elongated green is set into the base of an amphitheater of majestic Norway pines, which offer a sensational view.”

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