

# Pat Norton -N-



*The Nortons: Pat, Tommy, Sue, Megan and Ryan.*



## **NETTLE CREEK** *Country Club*

*The April meeting takes us to Morris, Illinois to visit Pat Norton, CGCS at Nettle Creek Country Club.*



*Wildflowers and native grasses are part of the landscape at Nettle Creek.*

Nettle Creek is a family-owned and operated 18-hole public golf facility and golf community. It opened in 1993 and sprawls over 190 acres. The golf course strategically plays to just over 6,500 yards, winding its way through home sites and prairie land, giving the course a great golf-community feel. Nettle Creek is a links-style course and it seems that the wind plays a large role in the golf game here. This property is also home to many wild animals such as fox and pheasant; plenty of wildflower and native plant preserves appear throughout the course. The *Chicago Tribune* ranks Nettle Creek as one of the top golf courses in the area and it is not hard to imagine why.


Here at Nettle Creek, no. 11 is the signature hole. A scenic hole, it is also one of the more challenging. It requires a well-placed tee shot short of water that runs the entire left side of the fairway until it cuts across the fairway about 140 yards from the green. The water then meanders to the front of the green on the right side, posing a difficult second shot. If anyone knows no. 11, it is Pat Norton.

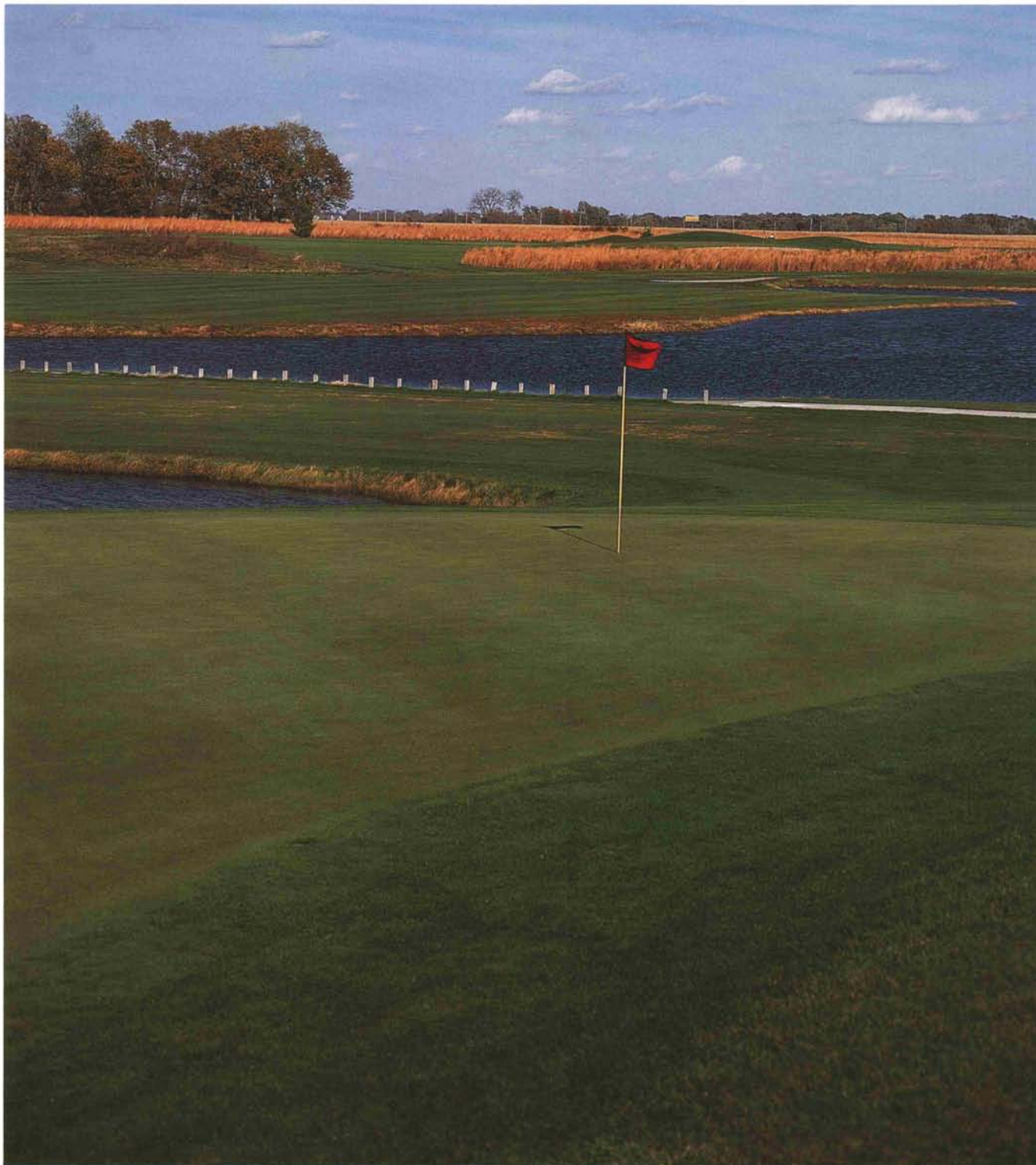
While attending the University of Wisconsin, Pat decided to switch majors and pursue his love of golf. After graduating college, Pat worked as a construction superintendent for Lohmann Golf Designs. Although he says construction was a great experience, he dreamed of having his own golf course. He moved on to Cedar Creek Country Club in Onalaska, Wisconsin as the superintendent, and then on to Nettle Creek. He became superintendent as well as vice president of operations in 1994. Playing such an integral role in operations is one of his favorite parts of the job. Another appealing aspect is the fact that his aunt and uncle own the course. Pat feels he has extraordinary freedom because of this. Along with all the benefits involved with working at Nettle Creek, there are also problems to overcome. Pat says one frustrating part of his job that many can relate to is a limited budget. Despite that obstacle, Pat Norton has done a great job at Nettle Creek.

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When not making Nettle Creek a better golf course, Pat enjoys a wide variety of other activities. Even off the course, he stays busy. He and his wife, Sue, have three children who keep them going. The oldest, Ryan, 19, is a freshman at the University of

Wisconsin and participates in ROTC. Megan, 16, is a high school sophomore; the youngest, Tommy, is 12. When not golfing, running, playing basketball or performing some home improvement, Pat enjoys watching his children play sports.

Nettle Creek provides its golf community with a beautiful and challenging course while still maintaining a family atmosphere. Just as the course is family-owned and maintained, a real family man—Pat Norton—has made this course outstanding. 



Nettle Creek's signature hole, no. 11.