

SUPER-N-site

Luke Cella, MAGCS

Chuck Barber & St. Charles Country Club

Chuck Barber has one growing season at St. Charles Country Club under his belt. It was one of the hottest, driest, and certainly longest on record. Chuck survived the season as most by paying attention to the fundamentals of growing quality turf and communicating with his membership.

When the Midwest Board held a planning meeting in December they brought up the idea of trying to host a less formal, shorter and more networking centric nine hole event. Chuck stepped up and offered St. Charles Country Club's Quarry Course, or just the "Q" if you are in the know.

St. Charles Country Club has undergone a few changes since Tom Bendelow first designed the course in 1924. When Arthur Anderson Consulting purchased the western acres of the golf course (adjacent to the Fox River) in the mid 1980's the club hired architect and member David Gill to design seven new holes that opened for play in 1987. In 2002 David Esler was hired to design 6 additional holes (the Quarry Course) on undeveloped club property to the North. This was to be the first phase of a master plan for the whole golf facility that is now quiescent. You'll see from the pictures and if you come out visit, that these six holes don't fit within the rest of the gentle rolling-parkland Bendelow/Gill design. They stand on their own, with their own personality and feel. In fact, you don't even feel like you are in innocuous topography of post prairie Illinois.

Tina and Chuck covered by Molly and Tom.





Some of the elevation changes are quite dramatic and Esler used these transformations to frame some exciting golf vistas. Off the tee he used the property's expanse to pull you in, where there is a feeling of openness. Once in, par can be elusive with the practically revetted bunker faces, depth perception scrambling backdrops, and unsuspecting breaking greens. The pictures from this spring show the Quarry Course without the leaves, drawing your eye, even closer to the design features.

The Club encourages members to come out and play a quick six or nine (replaying holes one two and six). They even have a membership package called the Quarry that "gives today's busy families an option to play together and play in less than an hour." So just as St. CCC is trying something new, so will the Midwest as Chuck hosts our first twelve (we're going to play it twice) event on June 10. One more new thing, which is not really novel, we're going to encourage everyone to walk. It'll be a good reason to lighten your bag and clean it out, but leave a few balls in there, you'll probably need more than one. @

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