

SUPER-N-site

Robert Kronn, Sr. and Woodstock Country Club

Bob Kronn, Jr., Boone Creek Country Club

PHOTOS: LUKE CELLA

This day and age, many traditional golf clubs built in the early 1900's have gone through expansive renovation to remain relevant or to keep up with technology. On the contrary, Woodstock Country Club has done everything to preserve their 9 hole Thomas Bendelow design.

The design approach was simple. Following the flow of the natural terrain, Bendelow staked the location of the green and tees on foot and on the fly. "It was farm fields and meadow, and the founders would come out on weekends with a horse and wagon and clear away rocks and brush and basically built it by hand" said long time member Kent Cooney. "It was done frugally by a bunch of townspeople" Through the years there were multiple opportunities to expand the club to 18 holes, or to move the club to a different location. Fortunately those options



Bob Jr. (Supt. at Boone Creek) and father Bob Kronn, Sr. are excited for Midwest members to enjoy Woodstock CC.

never came to fruition, and the membership now is able to enjoy a golf course that has seen very few changes over the



The club is on Country Club Rd, in the town of Bull Valley. It holds the 19th spot on Golf Digest's best Nine Hole golf courses in the US.

years, as the golf course today looks and plays much like it did nearly a century ago, a testament to both Bendelow's ingenuity and the natural beauty of the land it was shaped from.

Woodstock Country Club was established in 1916 but went by the name of Glen Crest until the mid 1920's, The 65 acre property is nestled in the rolling hills of Bull Valley, right in the heart of McHenry County. The par 70, 5968 yard golf course uses 2 unique sets of tees to create a terrific 18 hole golf course. Don't let the yardage fool you, this golf course provides a unique challenge to players of all abilities, and will



require every shot in the bag. This is a great place to work on your game considering there are very few level lies after you leave the tee box. Local knowledge also helps as the flowing changes in elevation naturally conceal several flagsticks.

Golf course superintendent Bob Kronn describes the 65 acre property as “one of the nicest pieces of property for golf in Northern Illinois. The layout is fantastic. We haven’t done any big changes since it was constructed in 1916. What we do now is like turning the clock back to keep it close to the original design”. Kronn has spent the last thirteen years at the club, time which he has utilized to improve the playability and aesthetics of the golf course.

Bob began his career under the tutelage of his father Ben Kronn, who diligently served as the superintendent at Twin Orchard Country Club for over thirty years. In 1970, after attending Penn State University, Bob accepted his first Superintendent position at Ridgemoor Country Club in Harwood Heights. After three seasons he moved on to Rolling Green Country Club for 12 years and then on to La Grange Country Club for 16 years.

As a 45-year member of the GCSAA Kronns’ success comes from his hands-on management style. Being a second generation Superintendent has allowed him to learn the trade from the ground up. Of course being a single digit handicap has helped. “My playing ability goes along with my knowledge of growing turf.” Bob has played in numerous tournaments throughout his career. He has won the MAGCS Championship a record twelve times, and has competed in several PGA events. Using the players’ perspective has been a crucial quality in his time as a Superintendent.

“We don’t want green grass; we want grass that is ex-

tremely playable,” is one of Bob’s mantras. Firm conditions along with consistency from tee to green are two of the more important things he has passed on to over a dozen MAGCS members that are now superintendents in the Chicago area. “I have always felt you should give something back to our profession. My thought was to pass on my knowledge and my Dad’s to a select group of individuals who would become very successful in our profession. I take great pride in that,” Kronn said.



Blind shots abound at Woodstock, not only off the tee, but into several greens as well. And good luck finding a flat lie if you are fortunate enough to hit a fairway.

The current staff at WCC includes Assistant Superintendent Jeremy Woods, who has been at the club for over ten years. Woods fills the role of the mechanic, spray tech, and

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irrigation tech while managing a crew of 3 to 4 seasonal employees. He takes great pride in the golf course and working for a superintendent that is knowledgeable.

The membership is also grateful for the work done by Kronn and the maintenance staff. In fact several members often help out with in house projects on the golf course and in the clubhouse. Members have moved on, and passed away over time, but the communal effort of the membership to preserve the golf course has remained constant. Bob, Jeremy, and the WCC members are excited to open the course to the MAGCS on July 10th. Hopefully you will be able to come out and enjoy this original layout that plays as it was designed nearly 100 years ago. @



The membership appreciates the knowledge and experience Bob has brought to Woodstock CC and it is apparent as one plays the course. You won't find much fluff at Woodstock, just great golf conditions and a lot of happy members who love to play the game.

