

Hepner: Watch the wind and greens

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what defines that green more than anything is the light green with the dark background. You see all the contours. You might get depth perception but you lose the contour. And as a golfer all you need is two pieces of information: the yardage and where the contour is.

Depth perception is the golfer not feeling comfortable with his yardage. He wants as much information as he can get to allow himself to get a good shot. Depth perception is you not believing your eyes.

If you're out there hitting in God's country don't try to change it. It's pretty good as it started.

GCN: You're a proponent of "walking" golf courses, and Tom Doak designed Stonewall Golf Club in Bulltown, Pa., a walking-only course. What's your feeling about golf cars? And, while we're at it, what about outings?

Hepner: Golf cars and outings are a false economy. [Outing] golfers probably do more damage than members do, because they're probably all taking golf cars and many of them are half in the bag by the 6th hole and are driving all over the place. It's good revenue, but if I were a member of the club I would pay higher dues to not have the outings.

And I'm a big proponent of giving some of that revenue to the superintendent to clean up the mess. I've never seen a case where the cart revenue pays for the \$300,000 worth of cart paths on a golf course.

GCN: One thing the old-time architects did not have to contend with was building on some of the gravel pits and dump sites that they deal with today.

Hepner: That's where modern architecture does help. Some guys are masters at creating a course on those sites.

We don't take those projects. We can't build every golf course because not every client fits our style. This [classic courses] is what we love and this is what we try to build.

GCN: How's your own golf game going?

Hepner: We get two or three calls a week from kids wanting to get into golf architecture. The first thing I ask them is, "How's your game?" They're pretty proud and tell you what it is. I say, "You might as well forget that. In two years it will double and in five it will triple. Forget about playing serious golf ever again because you're going to be out in the dirt."

But I enjoy playing golf more now than I ever have.

Harbottle, Harris collaborate on 36 in Minnesota

MILLE LACS LAKE, Minn. — Nestled near the shores of Mille Lacs Lake 90 minutes northwest of Minneapolis are two new golf courses designed by John Harbottle in collaboration with 1993 U.S. Amateur champion John Harris and owner Chip Glaser.

The courses meander over gently rolling terrain, through a hardwood forest and along the shore of Mille Lacs Lake. Natural wetlands border several holes, giving the

feel of playing golf inside a large nature preserve.

The Sanctuary Course is geared toward the average player, with shorter yardage than its counterpart Black Brook. It plays in and out of the forest and through a more open landscape. Just right of the 9th-hole tees sits an historical building, the restored chapel which lends the course its name. Resort guests and neighbors can make the

short trail walk each Sunday morning to church.

Black Brook stretches to more than 6,800 yards, winding through trees, around ponds and along Black Brook which guards the 13th hole.

On both courses, old-style architecture is adapted to the milled terrain to create a variety of holes demanding skilled shotmaking and careful thinking.

PREVENT
GRUBS.
STOP THEM IN
THEIR TRACKS.
OR MAKE SURE
IT'S NOT EVEN
AN ISSUE.