



State Amateur Visits The Bull at Pinehurst Farms

By **David Brandenburg**, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

The Wisconsin State Golf Association's 109th Wisconsin State Amateur will be held at The Bull at Pinehurst Farms in July 19-22. The 18 hole Jack Nicklaus Signature Course features 5 sets of tees with the back tees playing 7,354 yards, par 72, slope 147 with a rating of 76.3. The course opened in August 2003 to much acclaim and has won numerous awards and honors over the layouts short history.

Course owner David Bachman Jr. provided more than 400 acres to Nicklaus to build the golf course on a property that included hardwoods, wetlands, the Onion River and a 40 foot ravine.

The property had been part of the Pinehurst Farms for over 150 years and had only two family owners in its history. The Bull's website highlights the farms history and prominence in breeding and raising award winning purebred Holstein Cattle. Each of the 18 holes is named after a bull bred by Pinehurst Farms.

Patrick Shaw has been the Golf Course Superintendent caring for the Nicklaus design since 2007. Pat grew up in Oconomowoc and got in the golf business at age 12 as a caddy at Oconomowoc Country Club. Pat's brothers Dan, Charlie and Jim also started in the golf business at Oconomowoc. For two years he moved into the clubhouse before joining the golf course maintenance staff at age 15 working for Harvey Miller Oconomowoc's long time superintendent.

Pat has never worked outside the golf industry and worked for his brother Jim for seven years at Chenequa Country Club. Shaw considers those years some of the best and considers it a much simpler time for the game and business of golf.

Pat is used to high profile operations from his time as the superintendent at Tuckaway Country Club where he hosted the Greater Milwaukee Open from 1987-1993.

Pat and Debbie Shaw have been married for 25 years and have three children. Andy is 22 and just graduated from Loyola and will be attending Graduate School for psychology and physical therapy. Haley is 18 and just graduated from Cedarburg High School and will be attending Carroll University to study elementary education and business. Abbey is 16 and a junior at Cedarburg High School.

As an athletic family Pat offered one oddity as all three kids tore an ACL and Abbey tore two. So the family has had someone in rehab for what seems like 8



Hole 6, 193 yard par 3



Hole 9, 453 yard par 4

years! Debbie works as a Para-educator at Thorson Grade School.

When he is not working Pat enjoys time with the family whether it is watching an event or just sitting on the patio relaxing. He volunteers for the Cedarburg Soccer Club helping to maintain 27 acres of fields and

doing committee work. Last winter he started refereeing basketball after a 15 year break.

I asked Pat what challenges being the superintendent at the Bull offers. At 418 acres of varied terrain getting around The Bull can be a challenge for the staff as they try to perform maintenance. The layouts bunkering, steep slopes and the river provide an atmosphere for quite a bit of hand labor.

Pat stated the he Onion River has a mind of its own and brings its own challenges with 8 bridge crossings that create bottlenecks when trying to traverse the golf course.

Shaw enjoys the natural piece of property Nicklaus left as the course flows through wetlands, woods and natural areas along with the Onion River. He also enjoys working with the maintenance staff as they are hard working and fun to be around. Pat gives the staff the credit for the courses condition and states they make his job easier and more enjoyable. More than once on my visit Pat expressed golf course maintenance staffs make superintendents look good.


To enter the 72 hole stroke play State Amateur players need have a USGA index of 9.4 or under to qualify at one of 9 qualifying tournaments or be one of the approximately 36 exempt players based on past championships and amateur play. This year qualifying sites include District 1 - Maple Grove CC, West Salem and Wild Ridge GC, Eau Claire District 2 - Lake Arrowhead GC (Lakes), Nekoosa, District 3 - Rivermoor GC, Waterford, District 4 - Edelweiss Chalet CC, New Glarus, District 5 - Branch River CC Cato, District 6 - Deertrak GC, Oconomowoc, Wanaki GC, Menomonee Falls and Oakwood Park GC, Franklin. Players must qualify in the district of their home course unless providing a good reason why they cannot do so.

180 players make the field with a cut after 36 holes for the low 70 players and ties. 4 days of 18 hole play will challenge the states best players and award the true State Amateur Championship the Sinnissippi Cup. The Sinnissippi cup gets its name because the first

amateur in 1901 was played at the Sinnissippi Country Club which is now the Janesville Country Club.

Players not only compete for the Sinnissippi Cup but any WSGA member golf club with three qualifiers can compete for the Yule Cup. The Yule Cup is given to the winning three man team after the first 36 holes of play.

Past winners of the State Amateur include US Open Winner Andy North, and PGA Tour players Steve Stricker, JP Hayes and Mark Wilson. Last year at Merrill Hills Country Club in Waukesha, Tyler Obermueller who plays out of River Falls Golf Club in River Falls won by one shot with a 4 over par 288. Tyler won by one shot over Andrew Dekeuster, Meadowbrook CC, and Miles McConnell of Odana Hills.

Both the Wisconsin State Open and State Amateur are open for spectators at no charge. It is a great way to see some of the best golfers Wisconsin has to offer playing the best golf courses Wisconsin has to offer. I hope to see you there. 

MEMBER 9 -

1. **What was your first vehicle?** 1964 Chevy - Biscayne (4 door - 3 speed on the column) It was passed down from my brothers.
2. **Favorite piece of golf course equipment?** Fairway mower, nothing better than putting on a pair of headphones and kicking back to mow grass for three or four hours.
3. **18 hole Handicap?** 14
4. **What is your current vehicle?** 2000 GMC Sierra with 226,000 miles.
5. **Favorite TV shows?** Two and a Half Men & Big Bang Theory, NCIS
6. **Favorite professional sports team?** Green Bay Packers - Is there any other professional team? Really we are in Wisconsin!
7. **Favorite main course meal?** A good roast and mashed potatoes. Keep the veggies.
8. **Pets?** Had a cat for 10 years (stray from Chenequa Country Club) and a yellow lab for 12 years. In our case the dog had it better than we did.
9. **Favorite thing about working in the golf industry?** Sunrise - getting out early in the mornings and seeing all the wildlife, sunrise and just the solitude of nature. Sure beats a concrete jungle.