

State Amateur At The Bog

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

The Bog in Saukville hosted the 112th Wisconsin State Amateur Championship July 22-25, 2013. The Arnold Palmer Design last hosted the "Amateur" in 2004 but considering most of the top finishers are under 25 they did not compete then.

The Bog will challenge the states best as it measures 7,221 yards from the back tees with a rating of 75.3 and slope of 143.

Wisconsin State Golf Association Director of Rules and Competitions Bill Linneman loves the ability to significantly change yardage on holes due to the multiple tee boxes and angles.

To enter the 72 hole stroke play event players need have a handicap index of 9.4 or less, be one of the approximately 41 exempt players or qualify at one of the 9 qualifying tournaments. Players must qualify in the district of their home course unless providing a good reason why they cannot do so. 168 players make the field with a cut after 36 holes to allow the top 70 players and ties to play for the championship.

Four days of championship play will provide for the true state champion and winner of the Sinnissippi Cup. The cup received its name from the first championship in 1901 when the amateur was played at Sinnissippi Country Club which is now the Janesville Country Club. While players compete for individual honors WSGA member clubs with three qualifiers compete for the Yule Cup awarded to the low club after the first 36 holes of play.



Teamwork is needed to host a big event as shown on the Par 4 5th hole. The hole plays 469 yards from the back tee.



The golf course borders the 1,600 acre Cedarburg Bog which has been designated a National Natural Landmark. It is the most intact bog in South Eastern Wisconsin and known for its expanses of cedar-tamarack swamp forests and 9 lakes.

2013 WSGA Amateur Championship Qualifying Sites

DISTRICT #1A: DRUGAN'S CASTLE MOUND CC, Holmen

DISTRICT #1B: EAU CLAIRE G&CC, Altoona

DISTRICT #2: LAKE ARROWHEAD GC (LAKES), Nekoosa

DISTRICT #3: EVERGREEN GC, Elkhorn

DISTRICT #4: REEDSBURG CC, Reedsburg

DISTRICT #5: RIDGEWAY G&CC, Neenah

DISTRICT #6A: HARTFORD GC, Hartford

DISTRICT #6B: NAGA-WAUKEE GC, Pewaukee

DISTRICT #6C: WHITNALL PARK GC, Hales Corners

COVER STORY

Past winners of the State Amateur include US Open Winner Andy North, and PGA Tour Players Steve Stricker, JP Hayes and Mark Wilson.

This year Jordan Niebrugge held the lead from start to finish and entered the 4th round with a 8 shot lead over Charlie Danielson but saw it dissipate through the final round. In the end Niebrugge finished with a 6 under par 282 (69-66-71-76) one shot ahead of Danielson with 283. (72-74-68-69)

Jordan plays out of the Bull at Pinhurst Farms and attends Oklahoma State has had quite a spring with wins at the WSGA match Play and the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship. The latter win should garner Niebrugge a spot in the 2014 Masters Tournament.

The event had a youthful feel to it with the top 6 finishers current college players. In the top 12 the only "old guys" were a 25 year old and a 53 year old.

Jordan is not done for the year as he is scheduled to play Western Amateur and the U.S. Amateur.

In the Yule Cup team competition the Bull at Pinhurst Farms won for the first time in part



The 430 yard Par 4 18th hole with the clubhouse in the background makes for a perfect morning picture.

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Member 9 With Anthony Gonzalez

1. **First Vehicle?** *Ford F250.*
2. **Favorite Piece of Golf Course Equipment?** *Field Scout moisture meter.*
3. **18 Hole Handicap?** *Too high to count, seriously!*
4. **Current Vehicle?** *2008 Chevy Silverado.*
5. **Favorite TV Show?** *48 Hours.*
6. **Favorite Pro Sports Team?** *Packers of Course.*
7. **Favorite Main Course Meal?** *Anything my Mom makes especially authentic Mexican.*
8. **Pets?** *I have a female Wemaraner named Chance.*
9. **Favorite Thing About Working In Golf Industry?** *Connecting with nature and the wide range of people encountered daily.*



The Bog's maintenance staff led by Golf Course Superintendent Anthony Gonzalez.

COVER STORY

RIGHT: The 195-yard Par3 13th hole is all carry over marsh and the 3 front-side bunkers.

BELOW: The 469-yard Par4 5th hole borders the Cedarburg Bog.

BOTTOM: Flag from the 12th Hole.



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COVER STORY

due to Jordan Niebrugge's opening 69-66. Rounding out the tem competition was The Legends shooting 442 and Merrill Hills at 449.00

The Bull is owned by Terry Wakefield and was built on a 290 acre site and opened for play in 1995.


Superintendent Tony Gonzalez entered the golf business through a summer job in high school working at then Ville Du Parc CC under Mike Handrich (currently at Racine CC) and Steve Allen (currently at Songbird Hills GC). When Eric Jasin (currently at Lake Arrowhead GC) joined the staff as Assistant Superintendent Tony realized the golf industry could be a viable career option.

Gonzalez graduated Michigan State and interned at Ozaukee CC before a brief stint at Westmoor CC. Tony has been involved at The Bog pretty much since the beginning giving him knowledge of the infrastructure and location of irrigation and drainage systems. Tony took over as head superintendent at The Bog in 1999.

The soils of the rolling golf course are mainly glacial till but the fairways were sand capped with 4-6" of sand during construction. The sand cap turned out to be a benefit but caused some problems but overall the South Shore/ Putter/ Penlinks fairways and tees have done well over the years and the course has hosted a number of statewide tournaments in its young life.

Bordering the Cedarburg Bog forces Gonzalez to pay attention to the environmental sensitivity of the bog. With such a large property the irrigation system is expansive and has over 1500 sprinkler heads. Tony explained that just checking each head for proper operation can take three days of longer depending on play levels and fall blowout is a 4 day operation.

In my time on the course the maintenance staff worked as a well oiled machine working through the golf course in quick fashion. Tony was quick to give credit to them for the condition of the golf course and expressed his appreciation for the job they do.

The 112th Wisconsin State Amateur Championship is in the books and the players were quick to give thanks to Tony and the maintenance staff for providing great conditions for the event. Congratulations Team! 

Future WSGA Amateur Championship Sites

2014 - Ozaukee Country Club, Mequon - Host Superintendent - Brett Hosler

2015 - Erin Hills, Erin, Host Superintendent - Zachary Reineking

2016 - North Shore Golf Club, Menasha, Host Superintendent - Scott Schaller

2017 - Oconomowoc Club, Oconomowoc, Host Superintendent - Dustin Riley



ABOVE: Keegan Drugan son of WGCSCA member Mike Drugan hits his approach shot into hole 7. Keegan finished tied for 37th place.

LEFT: 396-yard Par-4 2nd hole plays downhill to a well protected green.

COVER STORY



LEFT: Sandhill Cranes wander across the 7th Fairway.

MIDDLE LEFT: This bunkers serves both the 12th and 18th holes.

MIDDLE RIGHT: The green on the 348-yard par4 12th hole can provide agromic challenge due to the lack of air movement.

BOTTOM LEFT: 528-yard par5 14th hole.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The boulders on the 430-yard par 4 18th hole provide a dramadc view.

