

94th State Open At The Bull At Pinhurst Farms By David Brandenburg, Golf Course Manager, Rolling Meadows Golf Course

The 418 acre Pinehurst Farms existed for over 150 years in Sheboygan Falls. Started by the Giddings family and purchased by the Reiss family in 1910 with a goal to create a showplace of agriculture. The farm was known for its Grand Champion caliber Holstein cattle.

In 1950 the farm was purchased by Reiss's grandsons Peter and David Bachmann Sr. with David becoming the sole owner in 1955 continuing with Holstein breeding and exporting.

A barn fire in 1993 marked the end of Pinehurst as a dairy farm and increased the dream of creating a championship golf course on the property. Construction on The Bull at Pinehurst Farms started in August of 2000 with and opened for play in 2003. Each of the holes of the Jack Nicklaus layout is named after a bull bred by the farm with its own unique story.

The course is currently ranked as the 77th Public Golf Course in America by Golf Digest and has hosted many previous events including the State Amateur, State Match Play and State Senior Open.

The course is set on over 400 acres of hardwoods, wetlands and is crossed by the Onion River and a 40 foot ravine. The course features 5 sets of tees with the back (Bull) tees playing 7,354 yards with a slope of 147 and rating of 76.3.

Pat Shaw has been the Golf Course Superintendent at The Bull since 2007 and is no stranger to high profile operations after hosting the Great Milwaukee Open from 1987-1993 at Tuckaway Country Club.

Shaw started in golf as a caddie at Oconomowoc Country Club at age 12 before joining the golf course maintenance staff under the tutelage of superintendent Harvey Miller at age 15. After high school Pat went to Carroll College and graduated in 1982 with a degrees in math and physics.



Above: Hole 15 called Landmark plays 180 yards

Middle: Hole 10 called Renaissance plays 469 yards

Bottom: Hole 9 called Dynasty plays 454 yards



2014 Wisconsin State Open Qualifying Sites and Host Superintendents

The Legend At Bergamont – Jered Kamin

Greenwood Hills CC – Scott Sann, CGCS

Mascoutin GC – Bruce Livingston, CGCS

La Crosse CC – Jack Tripp, CGCS

Racine CC – Mike Handrich, CGCS

River Club of Mequon – Gerald Panella

Chenequa CC – James Shaw

Member 9 With Pat Shaw

- 1. First Vehicle?** *1964 Chevy – Biscayne*
- 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. Current Vehicle?** *2000 GMC Sierra with 120,000 miles.*
- 5. Favorite TV Show?** *Modern Family, NCIS*
- 6. Favorite Pro Sports Team?** *Green Bay Packers – Is there any other professional team?*
- 7. Favorite Main Course Meal?** *A good pot roast and mashed potatoes. No veggies.*
- 8. Pets?** *Golden Retriever – best pet I have ever had.*
- 9. Favorite Thing About Working In Golf Industry?** *Sunrise – getting out early in the mornings and seeing the sunrise, all the wildlife and just the solitude of nature.*



Top Left: Pot Bunker on the Par 5 13th Hole
Top Right: Deep bunkers protect the green on hole 12.
Bottom Right: Mowers on Hole 18 the 485 Yard Par 4
Bottom Left: The Bull has a number of boardwalk type bridges over the river and wetlands.



COVER STORY


In 1983 Pat started a masters program at UW-Milwaukee before being called by a desire to be outside. Pat went to work for his brother Jim at Chenequa County Club for three years before being hired as superintendent at Muskego Lakes CC. In 1997 Pat went to Tuckaway Country Club where he stayed until he went to build The Bog in Cedarburg in 1994.

Shaw stated when I saw him on the course that every property has its challenges and The Bull is no different. The size of the property alone makes getting around difficult but the 8 bridge crossings add to the challenge.

The beautiful Nicklaus design offers steep hills and bunkering to add quite a bit of hand labor while the Onion River has a mind of its own as it crosses the golf course.

The Bull hosted The 94th Wisconsin State Open August 18, 19 and 20 with 156 competitors trying to make the 36 hole cut. The top 60 players and ties move on the play 36 holes on the third day of play to declare the champion.

In 2014 Ryan Helminen shot a final round 67 to finish 9 under par for the 72 holes and win the open by one shot over two time champion Dan Woltman. Helminen who serves as the teaching professional at Ridgeway Country Club in Neenah also won in 2008 and has been in the top 3 three times since 2006.

Congratulations Pat and your staff and the entire operation at The Bull for a successful tournament. 



Top Left: A deer jumps the fence on Par 4 11th Hole

Top Right: Hole 16 plays 422 yards to a well protected green.

Bottom Right: Hole 6 plays 193 yards over a ravine.

Bottom Left: The Open Flag

Future Wisconsin

State Open Sites

- 2015 University Ridge GC, Verona,
- 2016 Blackwolf Run, Kohler
- 2017 North Shore CC, Mequon
- 2018 North Shore GC, Menasha