

Deacon's Lodge—

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large tee surfaces to help the staff maintain good tees and the large fairways that minimize rough.

With its five sets of tees, Deacon's Lodge plays to 6,964 yards from the King (back) tees to 4,766 from the forward tees, named Winnie after Arnold's wife. In between are Palmer, 6,541 yards; Deacon, 6,067, and Lodge, 5,364. The course ratings and slopes range from 67.6/114 to 73.8/128. Par is 72.

Three natural lakes are on the property and several deep wilderness wetlands are on a 170-foot deep layer of glacial sand. Norway and White Pines, Birch, Oak, Basswood and Aspen are found throughout the terrain which offers a variety of elevation changes that provide panoramic views across the large wetlands and lakes. The property is off the Northwest shore of Big Pelican Lake, approximately midway between Gull Lake and the Whitefish Chain about 145 miles north of the Twin Cities.

Designed to be environmentally friendly, the golf course does not disturb any wetlands or lakes. Natural elevations were used to minimize earthmoving and to utilize the sand subsurface to create vast natural areas. In addition, care was taken to carry the terrain of the tree lines into the playing area to create a natural flow to the golf course.

By utilizing the entire 499 acres, each hole has its own identity and isolation. The majority of teeing areas are on the elevated ridges, and many of the landing areas are designed with slopes to provide 30 to 40 yards of additional roll. Greens average 7,000 square feet and blend into the existing terrain, many bordering lakes and wetlands with sculptured white, sand-flashed bunkers.

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Arnie and Scott

U.S. Open, Working On Nicklaus and Palmer Courses Made Decade Of '90s Interesting For Scott Schunter

The final decade of the 20th Century certainly has provided some interesting experiences for Scott Schunter, 36-year-old golf superintendent at the new Deacon's Lodge course in Breezy Point Township north of Brainerd.

Among them was helping to prepare Hazeltine National for the 1991 U.S. Open in Chaska, getting the opportunity to grow-in Bearpath, a Jack Nicklaus course in Edina, and overseeing all aspects of the construction process at Deacon's Lodge, designed by Arnold Palmer.

Scott began playing the game as a 16-year-old in De Witt, Iowa, where his dad was an avid golfer and had a family membership in a local club. He played both high school and community college golf, was active in the Future Farmers of America and then earned his Bachelor of Science degree at Iowa State University, a school well-noted for its agronomy program and its emphasis on turf management.

Scott became interested in golf course work "when I was about 20. It was as close as I could get to farming and, at the same time, still be able to make a living."

From 1985 to 1988 he worked as a laborer and did general maintenance work as well as pesticide and fertilizer applications at Cedar Rapids Country Club in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In 1989 he became a foreman at Blackwolf Run in Sheboygan, Wis., then was an assistant superintendent from 1990-94 at Hazeltine where he supervised crews and helped prepare the course for the 1991 Open.

The next four years were at Bearpath, the Jack Nicklaus course in Edina, where he assisted in construction of the course and routine maintenance.

Then Scott officially started in March, 1998 at Deacon's Lodge, developed by Sienna Corp. which also developed Bearpath, although he was involved at the Breezy Point course in the fall of 1997 during the clearing and rough shaping as well as irrigation design and decision.



PREPARING THE WALKWAY to the front of the clubhouse before the application of asphalt, a workman smooths the path with his front-end loader.