

## *Hoosier State's Top Golf Destinations: 30 of Indiana's Top Public-Access Golf Courses*

By Mike May





**PROUDLY PRESENTS:**

***Hoosier State's Top Golf Destinations: 30 of Indiana's Top Public-Access Golf Courses By Mike May***

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## ***Hoosier State's Top Golf Destinations: 30 of Indiana's Top Public-Access Golf Courses***

**By Mike May**

The state of Indiana is well known for a number of reasons such as being the crossroads of America, the home of the Indianapolis 500 (aka, "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing."), the home of Hoosier Hysteria (the state's fascination with high school basketball), and the birthplace of tomato juice (in French Lick, of all places). Indiana also deserves to be recognized as one of the nation's leading destinations for golf. After all, once winter transitions into spring, the sun shines, and the temperature rises, it's time to spend more time outside challenging Old Man Par before Old Man Winter returns.

This story focuses on the top 30 public-access golf courses in Indiana. The top 30 layouts are: **Seven** golf courses in northern Indiana: Rock Hollow (in Peru), White Hawk Country Club (in Crown Point), Nobel Hawk Golf Links (in Kendallville), Walnut Creek and Club Run (in Marion), Blackthorn Golf Club (in South Bend), The Warren Golf Course at Notre Dame (in South Bend); and Cobblestones Golf Club (in Kendallville); **Six** golf courses in central Indiana: Maple Creek (in Indianapolis), The Fort (in Indianapolis), Brickyard Crossing (in Indianapolis), Plum Creek (in Carmel), Purgatory (in Noblesville), and Prairie View (in Carmel); **Five** golf courses in southwest Indiana: The Donald Ross Course (in French Lick), The Pete Dye Course (in French Lick), Sultan's Run (in Jasper), The Pfau Golf Course at Indiana University (in Bloomington), and Christmas Lake Golf Course (in Santa Claus). **Five** golf courses in northwest Indiana: The Trophy Club (in Lebanon), Tippecanoe (in Monticello), Zollner (in Angola) and the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex, home of the Ackerman-Allen course and the Kampen course (in West Lafayette); **Four** golf courses in extreme southern Indiana: Fuzzy Zoeller's Covered Bridge (in Sellersburg), Champions Pointe (in Henryville), Old Capital (in Corydon), and Chariot Run (in Laconia); **Two** golf courses in south-central Indiana: Otter Creek (in Columbus) and The Legends (in Franklin); and **One** golf course in western Indiana: Hulman Links (in Terre Haute).

From a logistical perspective, most of these golf courses are located fairly close to Interstate 65 (I-65), which travels from southern Indiana through Indianapolis and up to Chicago. In fact, most of these top 30 golf locales are easily accessible from I-65.

### **THE DONALD ROSS COURSE AND THE PETE DYE COURSE (in French Lick)**

The **Donald Ross Course** and **The Pete Dye Course** ([www.frenchlick.com](http://www.frenchlick.com)) are at the center of the world-renowned French Lick Resort in the small town of French Lick. It's impossible to talk about one course without referring to the other.



The Donald Ross Course (8670 West State Road 56, French Lick, Indiana; 812-936-5523), originally named the Hill Course, opened in 1917 while The Pete Dye Course (812-936-8062) didn't open until 2009. As the names on the two 18-hole layouts suggest, both courses are named



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after their respective architects. It's worth noting that the French Lick Resort is the only resort in the world which boasts a classic Donald Ross design and a more modern Pete Dye layout. And, it's the only resort with two golf courses designed by two hall of fame

architects.

Courtesy of a \$4.6 million investment, The Donald Ross Course has now been restored to Ross's original plans, which were and remain brilliant. Many of the greens have false fronts, which are accentuated by the back-to-front slope of the greens. False front greens are a common sight on Ross's golf courses. When you play this course, check out the configuration of the 8<sup>th</sup> green. It's in the shape of a square, as many greens were, back in the day. After playing this course, you can understand why the 1924 PGA Championship was held here. It's a classic test of anybody's ability to play golf.



**The 12<sup>th</sup> green (left) and 13<sup>th</sup> tee (right) at The Donald Ross Course in French Lick, Indiana.**

The Pete Dye Course (1082 Taggart Lane, West Baden, Indiana), which includes three man-made lakes, was built on top of the surrounding hills. Many powerful adjectives have been used to describe The Pete Dye Course -- breathtaking, dramatic, exciting, and spectacular, to name a few. This hilltop peak, where The Pete Dye Course clubhouse stands, is Mt. Airie -- 972 feet high and roughly 450 feet above the town of French Lick.

When you arrive at the clubhouse, it's Indiana's second highest elevation point, but it probably has the best view of any vantage point in the Midwest. It's Indiana's own 'Rocky Mountain High' – a 360-degree view of southern Indiana and the surrounding Hoosier National Forest. From many parts of this golf course, you can see 30-40 miles in every direction. When Pete Dye built this course, he wanted to give golfers a panoramic view of southern Indiana. He succeeded.



**The volcano bunkers are a common sight along the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole at The Pete Dye Course.**

“As I built the golf course, I tried to get the tees, the fairways, and the greens in position that they have these long views over the valleys and hills,” stated Dye. “The ambience of the course is the look, the vistas from all the different tees, greens and fairways.”

The most dramatic stretch of holes on The Pete Dye Course is the early part of the back nine – 11th, 12th, 13th, and 14th. On the 11th, steer clear of the volcano bunkers which hug the fairway along the right. The 12<sup>th</sup> is a true three-shot par five with a massive green. The views of the area as you play the par-three 13th are memory makers. The 14<sup>th</sup> is the Signature Hole. It's a lengthy par five with a split fairway, divided by a massive green hollow. Pars are celebrated at the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Not surprisingly, The Pete Dye Course is also one of the seven golf courses that is part of Indiana's Pete Dye Golf Trail.

In 2019, the French Lick Resort was selected among the Editors' Choice Award by *Golf Digest* as one of the [Best Golf Resorts in the Midwest](#) and, most recently, its Pete Dye and Donald Ross courses were ranked among the publication's list of [America's 100 Greatest Public Courses](#).

The Pete Dye Course moved up two spots to No. 17 on the list and the Donald Ross Course was ranked No. 99.

*Golf Digest's* annual review of "The Best Things in Golf" by its editors appears online at [Golfdigest.com](http://Golfdigest.com). It features the Best Resorts in the Americas. The listing recognizes resorts throughout the United States, Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, Bermuda and Canada.

#### **SULTAN'S RUN GOLF CLUB (in Jasper)**

**The Sultan's Run Golf Club** (1490 North Meridian Road, Jasper, Indiana; [www.sultansrun.com](http://www.sultansrun.com); 812-482-1009) is one of the marvels of golf in Indiana, if not the entire Midwest. Designed by Tim Liddy, a protégé of Pete Dye, this 18-hole layout is located in the southwest Indiana community of Jasper, about a 30-minute drive from French Lick.

Years ago, this piece of property where Sultan's Run is now situated was once the home turf of the famous horse Supreme Sultan, which once sired a record number of world champion American Saddlebred horses. Not surprisingly, the logo for Sultan's Run features the silhouette an American Saddlebred horse, which might be Supreme Sultan. In keeping with this property's equestrian past, each hole at Sultan's Run is named after a world champion horse sired by Supreme Sultan. Some of those more unique names are Foxfire's Prophet (4<sup>th</sup> hole), Magic Marvel (8<sup>th</sup> hole), Candledance (12<sup>th</sup> hole), Starpina (14<sup>th</sup> hole), and Bellissima (15<sup>th</sup> hole). When you play Sultan's Run, you sense this property's equestrian roots as Supreme Sultan's presence from the past seems to hang in the air. Sultan's Run is definitely a great place to live if you were a horse, back in the day.



Looking down the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway from behind the 18<sup>th</sup> green at Sultan's Run Golf Club (photo credit: Sultan's Run GC).



Sultan's Run, which provides beautiful views of the scenic southern Indiana countryside, features rolling hills, wonderful bunkering, bent grass greens, and a one-of-a-kind waterfall behind the 18<sup>th</sup> green. That waterfall is an ideal backdrop for a photo of you and golf buddies.

The fairways and tees of Sultan's Run feature zoysia grass which is a very hardy turf which can handle the extremes of cold and hot temperatures. The rolling hills in this part of Indiana give golfers a series of uphill and downhill shots. The most memorable downhill shots are the tee shot at the par-three 2<sup>nd</sup> hole and the approach shot on the par-four 14<sup>th</sup> hole. In fact, only a handful of holes at Sultan's Run don't have some type of elevation change.

The 18<sup>th</sup> hole –named after Supreme Sultan -- is the Signature Hole at Sultan's Run. The left-to-right dogleg, par four is a classic finishing hole – possibly the most dramatic home hole in the state of Indiana. The tee shot is hit from a high perch to wide, spacious, bunkered fairway in the distance. Driver is your club of choice on the 18<sup>th</sup> tee. When you strike your uphill approach to the 18<sup>th</sup> green, don't swing too much club and airmail the putting surface, which is flanked by the afore-mentioned waterfall at the back. When you play the 18<sup>th</sup> at Sultan's Run, the pin should always be at the back of the green in order for you to maximize the waterfall experience. The view from the back of the 18<sup>th</sup> green down the fairway will be your final memory of your trek around Supreme Sultan's former homestead, which is truly one of the marvels of Indiana golf.



The view of the 13<sup>th</sup> green, looking down the fairway of this uphill par five.

Some type of water hazard – pond, lake, creek, or stream – exists on ten of Sultan Run’s holes, including the last four. The most prominent water hazard is the lake that hugs the left side of the fairway at the 15<sup>th</sup> hole. That lake also comes into play on your approach to the 15<sup>th</sup> green.

Sultan’s Run features two ‘risk and reward’ short par fours – the 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> – which can be tempting for big hitters looking to drive the green.

When the weather gets dicey, that doesn’t golf stop from being played at Sultan’s Run, it just creates a slight delay to the beginning of play on that particular day.



**Sultan’s Run**  
G O L F C L U B

“Wet weather is always difficult but we have cart paths all the way around so we can keep carts off the turf until the course dries out,” said Becky Weisman, Sultan Run’s operations manager. “Frost delays are taken seriously! The superintendent will be in command and will give the go ahead on the opening of the course during frost delays.”

In 2015, Sultan’s Run was voted the #1 golf course in Indiana by the Indiana Golf Owners Association. That honor was well deserved.

Sultan’s Run has been the host of some prestigious events in golf such as Web.Com Tour Qualifiers, Indiana PGA Senior Open, Golfweek Midwest Junior Classic, and the Indiana PGA Junior Masters Series.

April through the end of October is the best time to play Sultan’s Run, which *Golf Digest* has given 4 ½ stars.

When you play Sultan’s Run, budget time in your schedule to eat afterwards at a nearby German restaurant in Jasper. It’s called The Schnitzelbank (812-482-2640), where I highly recommend the German Sampler as an appetizer. For your entrée, order the Wiener Schnitzel or the Schweine Schnitze, both served with German fries. For dessert, the apple strudel, German chocolate pie, and the Black Forest cake are beyond compare.

When visiting southwestern Indiana, you would be hard-pressed to discover a better 54-hole golf experience than Jasper’s Sultan’s Run and French Lick’s dynamic duo of The Donald Ross Course and The Pete Dye Course. That’s a terrific trifecta. And, when you cap off 54 holes of golf with a cold German beer and dinner at The Schnitzelbank, that would be a true ‘grand slam’ experience.

#### **OTTER CREEK GOLF COURSE (in Columbus)**

**The Otter Creek Golf Course** (11522 East 50 North, Columbus, Indiana; [www.ottercreekgolf.com](http://www.ottercreekgolf.com); 812-579-5227) is one of Indiana’s most respected and first-class golf courses. Otter Creek does not have a pool, tennis courts, or a spa. It is simply a golf course – and a great one at that.

Opened in 1964, Otter Creek – designed by the late, legendary Robert Trent Jones, Sr. – has



matured like a fine wine. Otter Creek has gotten better with age as it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014. Otter Creek is as popular, appealing, and relevant now as it was when it opened for business in 1964.

Otter Creek was originally owned by Cummins Engine, the largest employer in the area. The course was intended to be used by employees of Cummins, but soon after being opened, the company donated the course to the nearby city of Columbus. Golfers in the area – and throughout Indiana and the Midwest, for that matter – are indebted to the generosity of Cummins Engine. It truly has been a gift that keeps on giving.

Amateur golf in Indiana is especially indebted to the existence of Otter Creek. Why? Because the Indiana State Amateur Golf Tournament was held here from 1965 – 1990 and on five other occasions since then. Otter Creek is where Indiana's amateur golfers go to earn their golfing credibility.

Otter Creek is now a 27-hole complex. In 1995, another set of nine holes was opened. It's called the East course. The original 18 holes at Otter Creek were then renamed the North (front nine) and the West (back nine). Two words which best describe the North and West course: 'fair' and 'traditional.' The North opens with a par five, where birdies and the occasional eagle are common occurrences, especially for better players. The West closes with a par five which is often played into the wind, making par an acceptable outcome. To play well on the North and West courses requires creative shot making and an efficient set of greenside chipping, pitching, and putting skills. To the credit of Robert Trent Jones, Sr. the North and West courses at Otter Creek are as revered now as they were when the course first opened in the mid-1960s.

The East Course, a par-36 layout, is as good a nine-hole course as you will find anywhere in the U.S. There are two words which best describe the East Course: 'strong' and 'spirited.' Frankly, the East Course deserves another nine holes of a similar design which would make it one of the finest 18-hole golf courses in the Midwest. Simply put, this piece of property was destined to be a golf course. And, thanks to the creativity of Rees Jones, it is.



**Looking down the fairway from the green of right-to-left dogleg par-five 9<sup>th</sup> of the West Course at the Otter Creek Golf Course. (photo credit: Mike May)**

### BRICKYARD CROSSING GOLF CLUB (in Indianapolis)



Ladies and gentlemen, start your golf carts! That is an appropriate message for anybody that tees it up at the **Brickyard Crossing Golf Club** in Indianapolis. This 18-hole stretch of championship golf is named in honor of its more famous sporting neighbor, the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (aka, the Old Brickyard).

As you would expect, golf at Brickyard Crossing (4400 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, Indiana; [www.brickyardcrossing.com](http://www.brickyardcrossing.com); 317-492-6417) is a blend of golf and motor sports. This golf course sits inside and outside of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the site of the Indianapolis 500 and

NASCAR's Brickyard 400.

The Brickyard Crossing Golf Club, a Pete Dye re-design, has 14 holes situated on the outskirts of the Speedway and four holes that are located within the infield of the Racing Capital of the World. Those four golf holes are a hop, skip, and a jump away from Gasoline Alley. And, to reach those four infield holes, you must drive your golf cart through a tunnel which is under the actual race track.



**The par-3 seventh hole at Brickyard Crossing is perched in the infield of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (photo credit: IMS Photo).**

As you play holes 1-7 and 12-18, the grandstands of the Speedway are always lurking in the background, but they never impact play. Three of the most memorable holes are #7, #8, and #18.



The 7th hole, the first hole inside the Speedway's infield, is a par three which is played from a perched tee to a raised green. From this tee, there's a 360-degree view of the Speedway which is jaw-dropping. The 8<sup>th</sup> hole is a terrific par four which has a large unnamed lake bordering the entire fairway and the green. When standing on the tee, you must determine how much of the lake that you want to carry before finding the fairway which has a slight right-to-left slant to it. On the 18<sup>th</sup> hole, a historic barn, which sits in the distance beyond the green, is your target off the tee. In many respects, this barn is a tribute to Indiana's strong agricultural roots.

Brickyard Crossing -- which has been named to the list of America's Top 100 American Public Golf Courses by both *Golf Digest* and *Golfweek* -- is also one of the seven golf courses that is part of Indiana's Pete Dye Golf Trail.

To add to the authenticity of the experience, each flag on every pin is a black-and-white checkered flag with the logo of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway sewn across the flag. So, when you play Brickyard Crossing, you get 18 checkered-flag experiences. Everybody is a winner at Brickyard Crossing!

#### **THE FORT GOLF COURSE (in Indianapolis)**

Simply put, **The Fort Golf Course** (6002 North Post Road, Indianapolis, Indiana; [www.thefortgolfcourse.com](http://www.thefortgolfcourse.com); 317-543-9597) is widely considered to be one of the finest public golf courses in the state of Indiana. In fact, on the home page of this golf course, it's stated that The Fort Golf Course is one of the "best golf courses you can play in Indiana." And, after you play The Fort, you will agree.



**The view of the fairway from the tee of the par five 11<sup>th</sup> hole at The Fort. (photo credit: The Fort GC).**

The media agree. In December 2018, Golf Advisor listed The Fort as first under the “Top 25 Courses for Layout in the U.S.” In that same list, Bethpage Black in New York was listed second. Also, *Golf Digest* has reported that The Fort was a “top 10 public golf course in the state of Indiana” from 1997-2007 and as third under the heading “Best Affordable New Public Courses.”

“The Fort is a very enjoyable golf course and very secluded, yet only 25 minutes from downtown Indianapolis,” said John Swan, head golf professional at The Fort. “Our course is surrounded by the Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park, so there are no residential homes on the course.”



The military history of the land on which The Fort sits is worth noting, especially if you are a military buff. Golf has been played here since the early 1950s by U.S. Army soldiers and officers on a golf course which was originally called the Fort Harrison Officers Club and Golf Course. Things changed in 1998 after the re-design by well-known and well-respected golf course architects Pete Dye and Tim Liddy. The course was re-named The Fort and is now one of the seven golf courses that is part of Indiana’s Pete Dye Golf Trail. Since then, it has generated many words of praise from golfers such as “awesome” and “the best course for money in Indy.”

The Fort, a par-72 layout, caters to all golfers, as it has five sets of tees (red, green, white, blue, and gold). The red tees measure 5,045 yards while the gold tees stretch out to 7,148 yards.

Adding to the golf experience at The Fort is the chance to stay on-site at one of three housing options – (1) Fort Harrison State Park Inn: A 28-room historic building, located just 300 yards from the first tee; (2) Harrison House: You can see the first tee from the Harrison House, which features a Master Suite and six bedrooms, each with private bathrooms. The Harrison House includes a common gathering room, kitchenette, and a dining area. Up to 16 people can sleep at Harrison House; and (3) Officer’s Home: This has four 3-bedroom homes, each of which is a short walk to the first tee. Each home is fully furnished with a kitchen and dining room. Each home accommodates 10 to 13 people.

In keeping with this golf course’s military roots, it’s appropriate that the on-site restaurant is called the Garrison Restaurant.

#### **PLUM CREEK GOLF CLUB (in Carmel)**

**The Plum Creek Golf Club** (12401 Lynnwood Blvd., Carmel, Indiana; [www.plumcreekgolfclub.com](http://www.plumcreekgolfclub.com); 317-573-9900) at Lynnwood Farm in Carmel is a ‘peach’ of a golfing destination. Why? With six sets of tees and a practice area that’s second-to-none, there are very few, if any, golfing destinations in the Midwest that are as welcoming to golfers of all abilities as Plum Creek (12401 Lynnwood Blvd., Carmel, Indiana). Designed by legendary golf course architect and Indiana native Pete Dye, he has every reason to be as proud of what he’s designed at Plum Creek as he is about the other golf course design in Carmel – Crooked Stick Golf Club, host of the 1991 PGA Championship. Not surprisingly, Plum Creek is one of seven courses that are part of Indiana’s Pete Dye Golf Trail.



Plum Creek, like its cross-town golf course 'rival,' has also hosted some prestigious events such as the 1998 Indianapolis Open, 2000 Club Professionals Championship, and the 2003 Indiana Open. Just like Crooked Stick, Plum Creek is a proven championship venue whose set-up makes it as attractive to a PGA Tour player as it is to a high handicapper.

As great as the golf course is, it's important to focus on where golfers begin their golf experience at Plum Creek – on the driving range. Dye gets an A+ for his role in designing the overall practice facility. The practice areas and driving range are in close proximity to one another, yet isolated enough to give golfers enough space to focus on whatever part of their game that needs the most attention. Simply put, at Plum Creek, there are places to hone all aspects of your game before you step foot on the first tee.

One of the highlight holes of the front nine is the 4<sup>th</sup> hole, which measures 423 yards from the Championship tees and nearly 400 yards from the Tournament and Member tees. The 4<sup>th</sup> hole is special because of its dual fairways – one is straight ahead and the other one veers left off the 4<sup>th</sup> tee. The putting surface on the 4<sup>th</sup> is guarded on its right flank by a sentry bunker.



**The 4<sup>th</sup> hole at Plum Creek features a dual fairway. (photo credit: Plum Creek Golf Course)**

On the back nine, the golf course truly comes to life as water is present on six holes, there are five doglegs, and the two par threes – the 11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> -- are terrific one-shot opportunities. When played from the back tees, they rival any par three on the PGA Tour. A well-struck tee shot from the Championship tees on the 11<sup>th</sup> at Plum Creek is a joy to watch as it's played from a raised tee box.

The presence of the Lynnwood Farm barn on the premises – to the left of the 16<sup>th</sup> hole – is a reminder of this property's agricultural roots, a staple of the Hoosier economy and Indiana's traditional way of life.

#### MAPLE CREEK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB (in Indianapolis)

While world-renowned golf course architect Pete Dye is famous for designing the Stadium Course in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, the annual home of The Players Championship, **The Maple Creek Golf and Country Club**, located on the northeast side of Indianapolis, is actually Dye's first 18-hole golf course design.



Originally opened as Heather Hills Golf and Country Club in 1961, this 18-hole layout was created in partnership with his wife, Alice. Today, the Maple Creek Golf and Country Club (10501 East 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Indianapolis, Indiana; 317-894-3343; [www.maplecreekgc.com](http://www.maplecreekgc.com)) features small tees and greens, narrow fairways lined with mature trees and natural long grass areas. Multiple bunkers compliment a creek that winds its way through the front nine, which raises the bar, so to speak, for players of all skill levels.



**The first green at Maple Creek Golf & Country Club.**

According to Jim Grossi, Maple Creek's general manager/head golf professional, Pete Dye designed a golf course that will remain forever relevant and never go out of style.

"Maple Creek is a picturesque, traditional and classical setting defined by challenging yet rewarding design features," states Grossi.



If you are searching for evidence that Pete Dye had a role in designing this golf course, you simply need to examine how the putting surfaces were built.



**The approach shot to the 13<sup>th</sup> green at Maple Creek.**

“By far, our greens tell the story of Pete Dye and are a preserved piece of history,” adds Grossi. “You will find these original design features prominent in Mr. Dye's later career work.”

While all 18 holes at Maple Creek are creative designs, the signature hole is the par-five 13<sup>th</sup>.

“At 13, you will find great optical design features from the teeing ground as well as the second and optional third shot approach,” reveals Grossi. “This green (at 13) challenges even the most achieved golfer.”

While the 13<sup>th</sup> hole may be Maple Creek's signature design, the most memorable shot takes place late in the back nine.

“The view from the 16<sup>th</sup> tee box boasts one of the most picturesque views in the state of Indiana,” says Grossi.

While Pete Dye designed this great golf course, Grossi says that his superintendent is doing a great job of preserving Dye's legacy.

“Our superintendent Steve Conlin has always done a tremendous job preserving and manicuring the greens,” says Grossi. “Most notable, this year we have dedicated capital towards a property

wide tree-grooming project. The sole purpose is to return the sight lines from tee-to-green that Mr. Dye had originally planned and designed.”

This course’s website accurately describes Maple Creek as “A hidden gem on the Eastside.” This layout is also described as “A shot maker’s course that cannot be overpowered.”

Maple Creek is one of seven courses that are part of Indiana’s Pete Dye Golf Trail.

#### **PURGATORY GOLF CLUB (in Noblesville)**

The home page of the **Purgatory Golf Club’s** website says it all: “Your Gateway to Golfing Heaven.” And, a review by *Golf Magazine* supports that strong statement by issuing its own one-sentence editorial review: “Artful earthwork has rendered nearly every hole a world unto itself.”

The Purgatory Golf Club is located 31 miles north of Indianapolis, specifically in the city of Noblesville (12160 East 216<sup>th</sup> Street, Noblesville, Indiana; [www.purgatorygolf.com](http://www.purgatorygolf.com); 317-776-4653).



**The view from the tee of the 17<sup>th</sup> hole at Purgatory is dominated by sand.**

More than 218 acres of land were used to build this golf course which features more than 130 bunkers. Every hole at Purgatory has a name. Some of the more intriguing monikers are Stains of the Inferno (2<sup>nd</sup> hole), Eunoe (6<sup>th</sup> hole), River of Flames (7<sup>th</sup> hole), The Valley of the Kings (12<sup>th</sup> hole), Sweet Misery (14<sup>th</sup> hole) and The Gryphon (18<sup>th</sup> hole). The most pronounced bunkering occurs on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole, which is the ‘signature hole’ at the Purgatory Golf Club. The 17<sup>th</sup> – named

Hell's Half Acre -- is a par three with an island green. The putting surface on the 17th is surrounded by two acres of sand. An ace, here, would be unforgettable. Birdies are memorable.

This inland links-style course uses prairie-like grass for its rough.

Purgatory has earned strong accolades and words of praise by other entities in golf as it has been rated the top golf course in Indiana, appears on a list of the top 50 golf courses in the U.S. for women, and has been ranked as one of the top 100 public golf courses in the U.S.

There are six sets of tees at Purgatory. The back/championship tees are called Purgatory. From the Purgatory tees, this golf course measure nearly 7,800 yards. The other tee boxes, in descending order of length, are black, blue, white, green, and yellow. In 2011, to help create a length that is more suitable to higher handicap players, the membership of the club created a 'pretty' scorecard which is a mixture of holes from the blue, green, and white tees. It measure 6,061 yards. There's a shorter option which is a mixture of the two shortest tee boxes -- green and yellow -- which measures just under 4,900 yards.



"At Purgatory, we have a fantastic, scenic layout that will give you a real links feel," said Director of Golf Jon Stutz. "Our spectacular green complexes will challenge and reward players. And, we have very little forced carries which gives players options to play along the ground or through the air."

What's interesting about Purgatory is that it suggests which of the six sets of tees you should use based on the average distance that you hit your driver. It truly takes the guess work out of making the all-important tee-box decision.

At Purgatory, the bunkers are well raked, the fairways are large, and the tee boxes are very well manicured.

When you play Purgatory, there's a sense of peaceful serenity on the course.

"There are no houses on the course, giving a very quiet golf experience with Mother Nature," added Stutz. "Most holes are private to themselves. There's very little interaction with other groups and holes."

Even though the 17<sup>th</sup> is the most famous hole at Purgatory, the 10<sup>th</sup> hole -- named Paradise -- may be the best hole on the golf course.

"It's a great par four with a challenging tee shot with bunkers in the landing area and it's tree-lined on the opposite side of the fairway," noted Stutz. "The green complex is well protected by bunkers on both sides. The green is slightly elevated and slopes back to front. There's a fun chipping collection area on the right side of the green. It's a fun chip shot back up the green, if you are too aggressive with your approach. The green has great pin placements on a daily basis. At the 10<sup>th</sup>, a birdie is well earned, a par is welcome and the occasional bogey is OK, too."



As you would expect, a number of significant golf events have been contested at Purgatory in recent years such as the Indiana State Open, Indianapolis Open, Indiana Women's State Open, Indiana State Amateur, and the NCAA Women's Super-Regional golf tournament.

#### **COVERED BRIDGE GOLF CLUB (in Sellersburg)**

**W**hen you 'mix' the game of golf, a historic Indiana landmark, and southern Indiana's most beloved golfer, you get Fuzzy Zoeller's **Covered Bridge Golf Club** (12510 Covered Bridge Road, Sellersburg, Indiana; [www.fuzzygolf.com](http://www.fuzzygolf.com); 812-246-8880). It's a golf course that you can't help but love and adore. If you like Fuzzy, you'll like his course.

One of Fuzzy's philosophies when he built this course was that he wanted to cater to the amateur golfer. His goal was not to build a course that would challenge the best players in the world. Instead, he wanted to build a course that would challenge, entertain, and delight every golfer in the world.



**The 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> holes, both of which are par fives, at Covered Bridge share a double green.**

Two of the treats at Covered Bridge are the 'finishing' holes – the 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Not only are they both par fives, they also parallel one another and they share a huge double green. As you stand on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 18<sup>th</sup> tees, you'll see the clubhouse in the distance, perched atop a sizable hill which overlooks the entire course. Truth be told, Fuzzy's clubhouse at Covered Bridge has an aura and mystique to it. As you play the 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, you can just imagine Fuzzy and his members looking down at you from their lofty clubhouse perch.

As you would expect, an actual covered bridge sits on the golf course and is used by golfers who must cross a stream to go from the 2nd green to the 3rd tee. That same covered bridge is also used to make the transition from the 5<sup>th</sup> green to the 6<sup>th</sup> tee.

The most exciting 'risk/reward' hole at Covered Bridge is the 5<sup>th</sup>. The green on this serpentine par five can be reached in two, but the presence of a pond to the right of the green will 'sink' your chances of a sub-par score if your second shot veers too far right. Play it safe by hitting a mid-iron as a layup. Then, it's a wedge shot to the green, giving yourself a birdie putt. Holing your third shot for an eagle is not out of the question at the 5<sup>th</sup>.



The best time to play Covered Bridge is late in the day in the spring, summer and the fall because it's peaceful, tranquil, and serene. It's also a great time of the day to enjoy the flora and

fauna that are unique to southern Indiana. Those are the reasons why Covered Bridge is now one of the pride and joys of the Hoosier State.....and for Fuzzy, too.

#### CHAMPIONS POINTE GOLF CLUB (in Henryville)

**The Champions Pointe Golf Club** -- located just north of Louisville, Kentucky -- represents one of Fuzzy Zoeller's greatest legacies as he played a leading role in designing and directing the construction of this 18-hole venue, which opened in the summer of 2007. Champions Pointe (1820 Champions Club Lane, Henryville, Indiana; [www.fuzzygolf.com](http://www.fuzzygolf.com); 812-294-1800) has character, charisma, and charm. Champions Pointe is also fair, fun, affordable, and, at times, forgiving. But, most of all, it's simply a championship caliber golf destination.



As for the course itself, Champions Pointe opens like a lamb and closes like a lion. One of the keys to your success at Champions Pointe is to successfully negotiate the first four holes, which feature a short par four, two long par threes and one lengthy par five. If you can play those four holes in no worse than one over par, you should be OK for the remaining 14 holes. Also, beware of the 'beasts' of the front nine -- holes 7 and 8 -- which are back-to-back par fours. Wind and water impact both holes. Securing a pair of pars at those two holes -- the number 1 and number 3 handicap holes -- is a good barometer for the state of your game.

As was just mentioned, Champions Pointe closes like a lion, as two out of the four most difficult holes are the 16<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. To successfully negotiate the par five 16<sup>th</sup>, you need a strong, accurate tee shot. If not, you will probably be forced to layup short of the fescue-strewn stream that crosses the 16<sup>th</sup> fairway at an awkward juncture. At the 18<sup>th</sup>, it also requires a strong, accurate tee shot. If not, then you are faced with a 200+ yard carry into the wind over water to the green. Or, you have a bailout option -- a layup to your right in an adjacent, 'sister' fairway, which then requires to you to get up & down to secure your par.



**The bridge that connects the 18<sup>th</sup> fairway to the 18<sup>th</sup> green at Champions Pointe.**

After finishing your round, visit the Champions Pointe Sports Bar, where it's all about Fuzzy -- as his PGA Tour experiences are chronicled and showcased on the walls. The collection of photos of Fuzzy with sports and movie stars from the past and present always attracts a regular flow of onlookers. Everybody likes to get their picture taken with Fuzzy, as well as playing the course that he helped build.

#### **LEGENDS GOLF CLUB (in Franklin)**

**I**ts length is not its strength because its design is dynamic. That's the best way to describe the **Legends Golf Club**, located in Franklin, just south of Indianapolis. Because its layout can be considered to be a 'modern classic' which will always remain relevant, it's not surprising to find out that the Legends GC has another distinguishing feature. The Legends has hosted more Indiana championship golf events since the early 1990s than any other course in the Hoosier state.

The Legends Golf Club (2555 Hurricane Road, Franklin, Indiana; [www.thelegendsgolfclub.com](http://www.thelegendsgolfclub.com); 317-736-8186) was the vision of five business partners, including



former Indiana University men's basketball coach Bobby Knight. Ted Bishop, the 38<sup>th</sup> President of the PGA of America and the general manager of The Legends, led the startup and oversaw construction of the course, which was designed by accomplished golf architect Jim Fazio. Bishop continues to 'hang his hat' at the Legends Golf Club

to this day. If the sun is shining and golf is being played, Bishop can be found somewhere on the premises of the Legends. And, he's often there before sunrise and after sunset.

Since the course opened, it has been listed as high as 6<sup>th</sup> among public and private courses in Indiana and has been voted as "Indiana's Best Course" by *The Indiana Business Magazine*. And, it's been designated a 4-Star Facility by *Golf Digest*. The Legends Golf Club may well be Indiana's the most popular daily play golf course.



**The par three 7<sup>th</sup> hole at the Middle Nine at the Legends Golf Club.**

"We had over 48,000 rounds played in 2018 over our 27 holes," said Bishop. "When the weather is good, we are busy."

The three nine-hole courses at the Legend are The Middle, The Road, and The Creek. This 27-hole layout is a classic Indiana creation as it's surrounded by soybean and corn fields, and marigolds in between growing seasons. One of the commonly seen sites while playing the Legends is a trio of grain silos that are built on the property of a nearby farm. That visual confirms your geographic locale – in the heart of the American Midwest.

The Middle is where most players start their journey at the Legends. The Middle is an impressive and memorable layout which has nine superb holes, each of which deserves the signature hole moniker. Those nine holes exude integrity and class. The most majestic shot on the Middle is the tee shot on the par three 7<sup>th</sup> hole. At the right time of the day, a mirror-like image of the tall pine tree that sits behind the 7<sup>th</sup> green is reflected in the pond that separates the 7<sup>th</sup> tee from the 7<sup>th</sup> green.

There is no bigger fan of The Road Nine than Bishop.

"The Road Nine features a solid collection of par fours on holes 11-12 and 17-18," stated Bishop. "Depending on the wind, two of these holes will play down wind and two will play into the wind. Any player that makes four pars on these holes is headed towards a good score on The Road Nine. This nine holes has two 'risk-reward' par five and the risk might outweigh the reward!"

To be successful on The Creek Nine, you must be able to chip and putt for par because hitting greens in regulation is not easy.

"The Creek Nine features the most difficult three hole stretch on the course in holes 2-3-4," added Bishop. "Overall, The Creek Nine challenges players with slightly smaller greens that set up with interesting angles from the center of the fairways. The prevailing wind at The Legends means that all Creek holes except the first hole will play into a difficult cross wind or into the wind."

While the Legends was designed to be playable for golfers of all levels, it has hosted many high-profile events, such as the Indiana Open, Indiana's Men's and Women's State Amateur Championships, Indiana PGA Championship, and the Indianapolis Women's City Championship. In fact, according to Bishop, the Legends has hosted more championship events than any other course in Indiana since the early 1990s.

"All credit must be given to our course architect Jim Fazio," admitted Bishop. "With access to five sets of tees, the Legends can be set up for championship play as well as casual play. If you pick the right set of tees, any golfer can have an enjoyable and memorable day here at the Legends."

While Legends is quickly gaining a reputation as a great golf course played by great players, Bishop reveals that the majority of his customers are daily fee-paying golfers.

"Daily fee golfers account for roughly 90 percent of our revenue," added Bishop. "They are important to us and we cater to them."

Bishop is extremely proud of the condition of his golf course, which includes 135 bunkers. In fact, he takes a personal and professional interest in every renovation and repair on the entire layout. In addition to his ownership duties, Bishop is the superintendent, which gives him a chance to put into practice what he knows about growing grass, based on his degree in agronomy and turf management from Purdue University.

Now, the Legends Golf Club has added an 18-hole par-3 course, the clubhouse has been updated, and swimming facility has been added for members and the general public. The par 3 course – which was gifted to the Indiana Golf Foundation in the late 1990s -- was designed by Jim Fazio and named The Dye Course in honor of legendary golf course architect (and Indiana native) Pete Dye.



### THE WARREN GOLF COURSE AT NOTRE DAME (in South Bend)

In South Bend, you'll find **The Warren Golf Course**, which opened for play on May 1, 2000 and is perched on the northern edge of the University of Notre Dame campus. The Warren Golf Course was designed by the duo of Bill Coore and Ben Crenshaw. The Warren (110 Warren Golf Course Clubhouse, Notre Dame, Indiana; [www.warrengolfcourse.com](http://www.warrengolfcourse.com); 574-631-4653) is nestled on 250 acres of woodlands, which has been designated as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. As you would expect, the men's and women's golf teams at the University of Notre Dame play and practice at the Warren GC.

While playing this course, where par is 70, you'll encounter fescue fairways and a gently rolling terrain. You can see the famous golden dome on the Notre Dame campus from the golf course, though the statue of 'Touchdown Jesus' is not visible from any of the tees, fairways, and greens of the Warren Golf Course.



The green of the par-three 4<sup>th</sup> hole at The Warren Golf Course. (photo credit: Warren GC)

Golf course architects Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore were delighted with what they produced, soon after completion of The Warren Golf Course

"We wanted an old-fashioned, traditional golf course -- one based on subtleties, not special effects," stated Crenshaw and Coore in a joint statement.

They succeeded. The course is a throwback to the classic designs of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, when enjoyment of the game of golf was the primary objective of course architecture.

According to The Warren Golf Course General Manager/Head Golf Professional John Foster, special arrangements are made for interested golfers when Notre Dame has a home football game on Saturdays in the fall.

“On game days, we have a shotgun start on Saturday mornings and then we close the course during the actual game,” said Foster. “But, if you stand on the 5<sup>th</sup> tee, you can see the game on the Jumbotron inside the stadium. You can also see the Jumbotron on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> holes.”



**WARREN**  
GOLF COURSE

*Golfweek* has ranked The Warren GC as the sixth best golf course in Indiana and the 12<sup>th</sup> best collegiate golf course in the U.S.

If you make the trek to northern Indiana and it's too far to return home after your round, there are four area accommodation outlets that offer discounts to golfers (Hilton Garden Inn, The Inn at Saint Mary's, The Ivy Court Inn & Suites, and the Morris Inn at Notre Dame), but the stay-and-play deals are not available on weekends when the Notre Dame football team has home games.



The 16th hole, a short par four, at the Warren Golf Course. (photo credit: Warren GC)



One of the greatest endorsements bestowed on The Warren GC has come from the United States Golf Association (USGA) which staged the 2010 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links at the Warren and the 2019 U.S. Senior Open at the Warren GC, which was won by Steve Stricker. The Warren GC was the first collegiate golf course to host the U.S. Senior Open.

Since The Warren Golf Course is good enough for the USGA to host a pair of national championships, then it is certainly good enough for any golfer – male or female, young or old, pro or amateur – to enjoy a round in pursuit of eagles, birdies and Old Man Par.

#### **BIRCK BOILERMAKER GOLF COMPLEX: ACKERMAN-ALLEN & KAMPEN (in West Lafayette)**

The men's and women's golf teams at Purdue University in West Lafayette are blessed with not one but two great, nationally respected and admired golf courses which can be found at the **Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex** (1300 Cherry Lane, West Lafayette, Indiana; [www.purduegolf.com:765-494-3139](http://www.purduegolf.com:765-494-3139)). The names of the two courses are Ackerman-Allen and Kampen. The website for the Birck Boilermaker Golf Complex provides a succinct and accurate summary of what awaits all golfers: 36 Holes, 2 Courses, 1 Unforgettable Experience. That's a profound and definitive statement.

"It's not often that you get to play golf at a university and get to play two of the best courses in the State of Indiana. Not only that, but the two are Pete Dye-designed courses," said head golf



professional Daniel Ross. "What is so unique about the Kampen Course and Ackerman-Allen Course is that each course is very different from the other. Ackerman-Allen is a parkland-style course. As for Ackerman-Allen, Pete Dye took an already good golf course and turned it into an incredibly fun and truly enjoyable golf course. Kampen is a links style. It has always

been a strong golf course. Now, the course is in great condition and the greens are very consistent. People walk off Kampen praising the consistency of the greens. courses are kept in phenomenal shape."

Opened in 1934, the Ackerman-Allen Course (first called the South Course) was originally designed by Bill Diddle. It was a good enough golf course to host the 1961 NCAA Men's Golf Championship which Purdue won and Jack Nicklaus, playing for The Ohio State University, was the individual medalist. Fast forward to 2015-2016, at which time Pete Dye performed his redesign magic on the 18-hole, par-72 layout. Today, the greens, fairways, and tees feature bent grass. From the moment you walk off the first tee, you'll see that this course is a memory maker featuring rolling hills, tree-lined fairways, white sand bunkers, and wide collection areas around the greens. During the redesign, two new holes were created and the championship tees were extended from

6,400 yards to 7,500 yards. Now, this course's five sets of tees range from 5,200 yards (forward 'silver' tees) to 7,500 yards (championship 'black' tees).

The course is named in honor of Jim and Lois Ackerman and Sam Allen for their support of Purdue University athletics.



**The 18<sup>th</sup> green of the Kampen course.**

The Kampen Course – formerly called the North Course -- is every bit the equal of Ackerman-Allen, as it has hosted the 2000 Men's Big Ten Championship, 2003 Women's NCAA Championship, 2004 Indiana Open, 2005 Women's Western Amateur, and the 2008 Men's NCAA Championship.

When Dye started the redesign efforts on the Kampen Course in the fall of 1996, he had two main goals: (1) create a course that would challenge and excite top collegiate golfers and (2) create an atmosphere of learning for Purdue's students. With that in mind, Dye started working alongside course superintendent Jim Scott and 32 Purdue students affiliated with the departments of forestry, entomology, water quality testing, and agronomy. One of their projects was to build a water reclamation project. Thankfully, all of the water now used on the course is recycled.

The Kampen Course has a few shared characteristics with Ackerman-Allen, but it has many more differences such as a links-style layout, vast sand bunkers, well-placed waste bunkers, man-made wetlands, many ponds, and a natural celery bog.

From a degree of difficulty, the Kampen Course, from the championship tees, is now a stern test, as three of its par fives measure more than 600 yards.



**The 13<sup>th</sup> green at Ackerman-Allen.**

It's been stated that the degree of difficulty at the Kampen Course increases a great deal as you move back to a longer tee box, so make sure you choose the tee box that best suits your game.

The Kampen Course is named in honor of Emerson Kampen and his support of Purdue University athletics. A statue of Kampen overlooks the first tee.

"As a person who calls Indiana home, I am very pleased to have had the opportunity to build two of the finest university golf courses in the country at Purdue," said Dye.

As you would expect, both the Ackerman-Allen and Kampen Courses are now two of the seven golf courses that are part of Indiana's Pete Dye Golf Trail.

#### **CHARIOT RUN GOLF CLUB (in Laconia)**

**I**n 2019, Golf Advisor ranked the **Chariot Run Golf Club** as the #1 as the Top Course in Indiana and in 2018, *Golfweek* listed Chariot Run as Indiana's 4<sup>th</sup> Best Course You Can Play. Located about 30 minutes north of Louisville, Kentucky, this southern Indiana layout has established itself as one of Indiana's top public golf courses. This 18-hole, par 72-layout has been described as an inland, American-style links golf course. Turfwise, the course features bent grass greens and very well-maintained tees and fairways. The rough is not pleasant, but it's not meant to be and never will be. As for the bigger bodies of water on the course, its lakes sparkle in the sunshine.

With access to five different tees, every golfer can find his or her comfort zone at the Chariot Run Golf Club (8191 Chariot Run Drive, SE, Laconia, Indiana; [www.chariotrungolf.com](http://www.chariotrungolf.com); 812-578-3355) which can play as long as 7,200 yards from the back tees. With access to five different tees, every golfer can find his or her comfort zone. It's also a course where you can drive for show and putt for dough as its website reveals that Chariot Run "has wide, rolling fairways and some of the purest greens around." By selecting the correct distance to play, Chariot Run will be as enjoyable to play for golfers of all handicaps.



To emphasize the importance of course management, water (lake, pond, stream or creek) does come into play on ten holes at Chariot Run. The most memorable stretch of holes at Chariot Run can be found early in the back nine – the 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> holes. The 11<sup>th</sup> is a straight-away par five, which is reachable in two, if you can successfully negotiate the bunkers that protect the entrance to the green. The 12<sup>th</sup> is a delightful par three where a small lake looms large in front of the green. There is room to bail out to the right of the putting surface, leaving you with a reasonable chance to get up-and-down for par. The 13<sup>th</sup> is a short par four which provides you with two fairway options off the tee, unless you go pin seeking with your driver.



**Golfers must avoid the water and sand that flank the 18<sup>th</sup> green at Chariot's Run.**



It's also worth noting that Chariot Run is an Audubon International Certified Signature Sanctuary. The types of wildlife and amphibians that call this course home include squirrels, rabbits, raccoons, hawks, and turtles.

After golf, enjoy visiting the state-of-the-art clubhouse and conclude your experience with a meal at the aptly named Double Eagle Bar & Grill which serves breakfast and lunch seven days a week. The most popular menu items are its All-American burgers, highly-acclaimed chicken wings, and the BBQ Tri-Top Steak Sandwiches. Seating-wise, you can either sit inside, where you enjoy a number of large flat-screen TVs, or outside on the patio, where you can enjoy the views of the southern Indiana countryside.

### **ZOLLNER GOLF COURSE (in Angola)**

One of the biggest perks of being on the men's or women's golf team at Trine University is that the commute to golf practice is minimal since there's an 18-hole golf course located on campus. It's the **Zollner Golf Course** (1215 Thunder Drive, Angola, Indiana; 260-665-4269; <https://www.trine.edu/zollnergc/>). If a golf course's reputation is based on what tournaments and events which it hosts, then the Zollner Golf Course deserves top-billing as it has hosted the NAIA Men's National Tournament in 1987, 1990 and 1992; hosted the Pepsi Junior Tour for nine years; and was the site of the 2012 NCAA Division III Women's Golf National Championship. The Zollner Golf Course has also been the site for the Indiana PGA Assistant Championships, Indiana PGA Junior Age Group Championships, and sectional Indiana State Open Qualifying.

The Zollner Golf Course has been the home for the Trine University's men's and women's golf teams since the 1970s. The course was actually established 1971 as a gift from Trine University's Board of Trustees. In the last 25 years, the men's golf team has won 16 titles in two conferences, 15 state and regional championships, and finished as high as 10<sup>th</sup> on two occasions at the NAIA national tournament. During that same time span, the women's team at Trine University won the NAIA national championship in 1997 and had four top-five finishes in the NAIA national tournament between 1996 and 2000. Nationally, Trine now competes at the NCAA Division III level.



According to Trine University women's golf coach Noah Warren, this course has everything that a university will ever need for its collegiate golf program -- 18 holes, two putting greens, a renovated driving range, and a full golf shop/banquet room. Zollner also has an indoor golf lab that includes two simulators and a large putting green with multiple cups.

"It's such a great venue for our golf program as it's literally just footsteps from the student housing," said Warren.

Not only is this course conveniently located for the golf team, but it's a wonderful venue to play golf as it is beautifully landscaped with undulating fairways, a hilly terrain, and scenic views.

As this golf course's website states, "With its many elevation changes, Zollner is truly a thinking player's golf course. Strategically placed bunkers and reconfigured fairways offer even more interest and challenge."

**The Zollner GC is one of northern Indiana's top courses.**



Warren and Zollner's Director of Golf Operations Jonathan Busscher agree with that assessment.

"It's a very fun course that never gets old or boring to the golfers," added Warren.

"With its many elevation changes, Zollner is truly a thinking player's golf course," noted Busscher.

"Strategically placed bunkers and reconfigured fairways offer even more interest and challenges."

According to Busscher, the 'signature hole' at Zollner is the 5<sup>th</sup> hole. Nicknamed "Big Bertha," the 5<sup>th</sup> hole is a long par four which turns left. From the outset, you have a scenic downhill tee shot. Your approach shot is to a green which is tucked along the edge of the forest that borders part of the course.

The 5<sup>th</sup> hole may be the 'signature hole,' but Busscher has a favorite hole at Zollner.

"My favorite hole is the 10<sup>th</sup>," noted Busscher. "It's a long par five that borders our athletic fields. You can see and hear the Trine University's teams practicing at times which gives the hole a unique collegiate feel."

When you play this golf course, make sure you avoid the two greenside pot bunkers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> hole. The existence of vertical wooden sleepers on the walls of the bunkers add an element of difficulty and adventure to the task of getting up-and-down for par.

Every Friday night, from late May until late August, the Zollner Golf Course is the host of Birdies, Brews and BBQ at this course's own version of the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole. It's called Club Z. At Birdies, Brews, and BBQ, there's 'live' music on the patio along with a menu which includes a choice of ribs, chicken or a hamburger with unlimited sides and a full bar. Outdoor games and prizes also will be available at this family-friendly event. In the event of bad weather, the 'live' music and BBQ will move inside Club Z.

Once the golf season starts in the spring, play continues until mid to late November.

From a celebrity perspective, the most famous golfer to play the Zollner Golf Course is Herman Kaiser, the winner of the 1946 Masters.

#### **TIPPECANOE COUNTRY CLUB (in Monticello)**

Many people feel that the **Tippecanoe Country Club** (3267 NW Shafer Drive, Monticello, Indiana; [www.tippecanoecc.com](http://www.tippecanoecc.com); 574-583-9977), which is adjacent to Lake Shafer, is one of the oldest and most treasured attractions in northern Indiana, especially in White County. This golf course was originally a nine-hole golf course. It opened for play in 1920. Those nine holes were designed by Roy Robertson. It's worth noting those nine holes were first built along the banks of the Tippecanoe River, before the lakes and dams were added in later years.

Over the years, the Tippecanoe Country Club has since been updated and expanded. The most significant change to the golf course took place in 1963. Back then, a young, new golf course designer was hired to add an additional nine holes to the existing golf course. This fresh-faced, ambitious, and talented golf course architect was from Indiana. The new golf course designer was none other than Pete Dye. Yes, the Tippecanoe Country Club was fortunate to have access to the professional expertise of Pete Dye before he became famous around the world. The future hall of fame golf course architect poured his heart and soul into the Tippecanoe Country Club. When all was said and done, Dye had designed the back nine and had also re-designed portions of the front nine, including all the tees and greens. Dye's design remains as relevant today as it was back in the early 1960s.



**The second green at the Tippecanoe Country Club sits next to Lake Shafer. (photo credit: Margaret Duffey).**



According to head golf professional John Alexander, his golf course's biggest compliment comes from the high percentage of annual return play.

"I have many golfers from Indiana and the entire Midwest who come back to play our golf course every year," admitted Alexander. "Our golf course features a few risk and reward holes, a number of old trees, and well-designed layout by Pete Dye. The presence of Lake Shafer on the first three holes gets your attention immediately. It's just a beautiful golf course."

Today, this 18-hole, par-72 golf course is a semi-private club that is open to the public. This golf course is as appropriate for a serious, competitive, single-digit handicap as it is for the casual, infrequent golfer. Golfers of all shapes, sizes, ages, and abilities enjoy their treks around the Tippecanoe CC. From the back tees, this scenic golf course measures 6,850 yards. It's somewhat long, but it's not arduous. From the 1<sup>st</sup> tee to the 18<sup>th</sup> green, Tippecanoe is meticulously groomed and is considered one of the finest layouts in the state of Indiana.

This golf course opens for play as soon as weather permits in the spring, usually mid-to-late March and remains open until mid-to-late November. The Tippecanoe Country Club is a popular facility to stage tournaments, charitable fund-raisers, and corporate outings.

The Tippecanoe Country Club is part of Indiana's Pete Dye Golf Trail.

#### **PRAIRIE VIEW GOLF CLUB (in Carmel)**

**The Prairie View Golf Club** (7000 Longest Drive, Carmel, Indiana; [www.prairievewgc.com](http://www.prairievewgc.com); 317-816-3100) is one of Robert Trent Jones, Jr.'s finest creations.



This par 72-layout has five different tees that range from 5,203 yards to 7,073 yards. The white tees are a great choice as they 'tip the scale' at 6,215 yards. From the white tees, there's only one par four which measures more than 400 yards; two par fives that are less than 500 yards; and, water impacts play on just five holes.

Dr. Kevin Anderson, the assistant boys golf coach at Zionsville (Indiana) High School, refers to this golf course as "top notch." Not surprisingly, this golf course is now the annual home of the Indiana High School Athletic Association's boys and girls high school state finals golf tournament.



**This old buggy appears in the 17<sup>th</sup> rough at the Prairie View Golf Club.**

For golfers looking to improve any aspect of their game, they will be delighted to know that the Prairie View GC is also the home of the Golf School of Indiana. There is also a strong caddie program at Prairie View Golf Club, which is affiliated with the Evans Scholars Foundation.



**Many of the green complexes at Prairie View Golf Club are protected by sand or water.**

After your round of golf at Prairie View, enjoy a meal, a snack, or your favorite beverage at the Big Lug on the Prairie Restaurant & Pub. From the restaurant, you will enjoy panoramic views of the golf course. The menu features a wide variety of starters, salads, sandwiches, side dishes, and specialty items plus the locally produced Big Lug craft beer.

### **THE PFAU COURSE AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY (in Bloomington)**

**T**hanks to a very generous gift from Ned and Sue Pfau, the golf program at Indiana University has received a much-appreciated ‘shot in the arm.’ The championship golf course at Indiana University (1350 South State Road 446, Bloomington, Indiana; 812-855-7543), which first opened in 1955, has re-opened after a complete re-design by highly acclaimed golf course architect Steve Smyers. Smyers’ track record in the golf business made him the perfect candidate to oversee this project, as his resume includes work on 90 golf courses on six different continents since the late 1980s.

“We built a brand new golf course. This new course has nothing in common with the original course,” says Smyers. “Indiana University gave me a free hand. We built the golf course to match and complement the patterns of the existing landscape. It’s a beautiful piece of property.”



To honor and recognize the support from Ned and Sue Pfau, the new golf course has been named **The Pfau Course at Indiana University** ([www.thepfaucourse.com](http://www.thepfaucourse.com)). The financial gift from Ned and Sue Pfau was part of the Indiana University Bicentennial Campaign for Athletics.

Construction of this course began in May 2018. The planned re-open date was the spring 2020, but it was delayed until June 15, 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Smyers was prudent and pragmatic with his decision making on how to construct this golf course.

“Our goal was to achieve economic and environmental sustainability with this golf course,” says Smyers.



**The 14<sup>th</sup> hole at the Pfau Course is a left-to-right dogleg.**



**The early-morning view of the new clubhouse at the Pfau Golf Course.**

Weather permitting, the golf course will be open year round. Some of the major improvements on the golf course are target greens on the driving range, 36 mat-teeing stations, and 14-20 grass-teeing stations. Another plus is the lighted driving range. And, the venue also features a nine-hole executive course.

The new championship course measures from 4,300 to 8,000 yards.

“This golf course will never be played from 8,000 yards, but it provides opportunities to give the course different looks and lengths on many different holes,” says Smyers.

This 18-hole golf course’s new routing and layout may well make it the envy of the Big Ten Conference, if not all of U.S. collegiate golf.

Indiana University men’s golf coach Mike Mayer is thrilled about this new golf course.

“At the beginning of the process, my expectations were high and they have been exceeded,” admitted Mayer. “This course has the potential to not only be one of the best collegiate golf courses in the country, but one of the best golf courses in the country, as a whole. Every time I visit this golf course, it takes my breath away.”

Mayer reports that the new bent grass greens are in perfect condition. The new fairways have zoysia grass, which will thrive in the summer heat, and the rough will be inhabited by bluegrass.

One of the featured holes on this course is the 14th hole, which can play anywhere from 268 yards to 459 yards. This picturesque par-four is the brainchild of Smyers. He has designed a sharp dogleg to the right which has 10 deep bunkers that guard the right side of the fairway. From the forward tees, this hole can play as a risk-reward drivable hole. From the back tees, it’s a strong par four



that begins with a daunting tee shot. From the back tees, there's no shame in recording a bogey five.



**The Pfau Golf Course at Indiana University opened on June 15, 2020.**

Since this course re-opened, everybody who plays the course seems to love it and can't wait to return for another round on another day.

"The course is exceeding every expectation," reports Mayer. "The reviews from nearly everyone, including some major golf magazines, have been fantastic.

Mayer is optimistic that having a true championship caliber golf course will make Indiana University an attractive destination for the best high school golf prospects in the country.

"Having access to this golf course will be a game-changer in recruiting," admitted Mayer.

Smyers, himself a single handicap golfer, agrees with Mayer.

"If you are a collegiate player and you want to get better, you want to go to IU," adds Smyers.

Does this mean that Indiana University will be the next powerhouse in men's and women's collegiate golf? Only time will tell.

And, if Indiana does win a national title in golf in the coming years, Mayer may want to order two additional championship rings for Ned and Sue Pfau. And, possibly Smyers, too.

After golf, make sure you visit the 5,000-square-foot George L. Thomas Clubhouse where you can relax, dine, shop and enjoy wonderful views of the golf course. Opened in 2020 in conjunction with the opening of The Pfau Course, the George L. Thomas Clubhouse's large east windows offer spectacular views of the golf course.

While in the clubhouse, enjoy the wide range of pub-style dining options plus a wide variety of beer selections.

Now that this golf course is open, call the pro shop to reserve your tee time. Don't be surprised if it takes your breath away!

### ROCK HOLLOW GOLF CLUB (in Peru)

Golfers in Peru, Indiana are fortunate to have access to the highly-acclaimed **Rock Hollow Golf Club** (669 South 250 West, Peru, Indiana; [www.RockHollowGolf.com](http://www.RockHollowGolf.com); 765-473-6100). This par-72 layout measures just under 7,000 yards from the back (black) tees, more than 6,400 yards from the rock tees, under 6,000 yards from the red tees, and just more than 4,900 yards from the forward (gold) tees.



Rock Hollow has a ‘lamb-and-lion’ aspect to its opening and closing holes. This golf course opens like a meek and mild lamb as the first hole is a short par four, which is a mere 296 yards from the back tees. Rock Hollow closes like a ferocious lion as the 18<sup>th</sup> hole is a lengthy par four (427 yards from the back tees), which has a lake that borders the entire left side of the hole from tee to the green. There are two other holes where water is has a tee-to-green presence along one of the fairways – the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> holes.

At Rock Hollow, water impacts play on 10 of the 18 holes, which includes five of the first eight holes.



**The 17<sup>th</sup> tee at the Rock Hollow Golf Club. (photo credit: Rock Hollow GC)**

In addition to a pair of long par fives (the 6<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>), Rock Hollow has a trio of short par fours (the 1<sup>st</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>) which brings balance and fairness to this golf experience.

"We are honored to be considered one of the top golf courses in the state of Indiana," said Rock Hollow's head professional Cameron M. Smith. "Rock Hollow is truly a hidden gem for players across the Midwest."



**The 6<sup>th</sup> tee at the Rock Hollow Golf Club. (photo credit: Rock Hollow GC)**

Rock Hollow has been the beneficiary of a number of golf awards in recent years from a number of golf media outlets such as *Golf Digest*, *Golf Magazine*, *Golf.com*, and *Golf Week*. As recently as 2015-16, *Golf Digest* ranked Rock Hollow as "One of the Top 10 Best Courses to Play in Indiana."

#### **THE TROPHY CLUB (in Lebanon)**

**F**un, fair, first-class, and affordable. That may well be the best way to summarize the golf experience at **The Trophy Club** in Lebanon, Indiana (3887 North State Road 52, Lebanon, Indiana; [www.thetrophyclubgolf.com](http://www.thetrophyclubgolf.com); 765-482-7272), which features a few stern par fours, a handful of exciting short par fours, four strong par threes, and a quartet of traditional par fives.



Built on nearly 250 acres of property on the outskirts of Lebanon, The Trophy Club is an 18-hole, par-72 inland links-style golf course which is built on gently rolling Midwest terrain. One of this golf course's distinguishing features is Prairie Creek, which runs through the golf course. Water hazards are not a dominant feature at The Trophy Club, but they do have an impact on where you should and should not hit the golf ball. The greens at The Trophy Club are large which provides a wide array of pin positions. The fairways are usually 60 yards wide and feature bent grass. The grass in the rough

is a mixture of blue grass and fescue.

"This course is a second-shot golf course, as it's fairly forgiving and liberal off the tee," said Tim McBarnes, a retired golf professional who works and plays at The Trophy Club. "Many of the greens have significant undulations and false edges. It helps to have a range finder when you play this golf course."

If you read the testimonials from those people who have played The Trophy Club, that's all the background information you'll need in order to make the decision to play this golf course. The powerful words of praise include "Great layout, in great shape, and a great test of golf;" "My favorite Indiana public golf course;" "Great condition and reasonably priced;" and "One of the best golfing experiences you will ever have."



**For the most part, trees have little impact on play at The Trophy Club.**

If you can negotiate the water hazards that are present on holes eight, nine, and ten, your chances of posting a strong score are quite good at The Trophy Club.

#### **WHITE HAWK COUNTRY CLUB (in Crown Point)**

**The White Hawk Country Club** (1001 White Hawk Drive, Crown Point, Indiana; 219-661-1300; [www.WhiteHawkCountryClub.com](http://www.WhiteHawkCountryClub.com)) is one of northwest Indiana's top golf destinations. With access to four different nine-hole layouts, there's plenty of room for all local and visiting golfers. Those four nine-hole layouts are the Red, Grey, Black, and Silver courses. This 36-hole layout has been carved out of 600 acres of woodlands, prairies, streams, and natural wetlands. Located close to I-65 and I-394, it's easily accessible, especially for golfers from Chicago to the north and Indianapolis to the south.



After golf, the dinner and drink specials in the River Rock restaurant are delectable, tasty and affordable.





**The setting for golf at the White Hawk Country Club is serene, peaceful, and fun.**

**Get comments from golf pro, Ben**

#### **NOBLE HAWK GOLF LINKS (in Kendallville)**

The **Noble Hawk Golf Links** (3005 Noble Hawk Drive, Kendallville, Indiana; 260-349-0900; [www.noblehawk.com](http://www.noblehawk.com)) is one of northeast Indiana's most unique and popular public golf facilities. This course has been referred to as the perfect combination of links and traditional/parkland golf. Noble Hawk, nicknamed "The Hawk," features a unique design and theme featuring the perfect combination of links and traditional golf while showcasing a variety of beautiful golf holes.

One of the special events on the annual calendar at this golf course



**The 15<sup>th</sup> hole at Noble Hawk Golf Links. (photo credit: Noble Hawk Golf Links)**



One of the special events on the annual calendar at this golf course is the "Masters Big Hole Par 3." In this event each hole is set as a par 3 hole, ranging in length from 80-160 yards. On the green, a Big Hole cup is placed in a difficult location. The event is flighted, based upon total team handicap so players of all abilities have a chance to win. Teams are made-up of three players. Two teams play together for score verification. As you can imagine, it's a very popular event for golfers of all skill levels.

In keeping with the name Noble Hawk, the names of four of the five tees have an aviary affiliation: Talon, Augusta, White, and Redtail. The shortest tees are the Senior tees.

Four of the better holes at Noble Hawk are the 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> holes. The 7<sup>th</sup> – named Short & Sweet -- is a short, downhill par four. You can reach the green when the wind is at your back and the bentgrass fairway is firm, dry and fast. The 13<sup>th</sup> – named The Jugular – is a somewhat tight three-shot par five to a multi-tiered green, where disaster lurks from tee to green. At the 13<sup>th</sup>, a par is a much sought-after score. At the 15<sup>th</sup> – named Hawk's Challenge – is a par three which is 100 percent carry over water from tee to green. The clover-shaped green is filled with a series of undulations which means three and four-putt experiences are not uncommon. The 15<sup>th</sup> is the Signature Hole at Noble Hawk. The par five 18<sup>th</sup> hole – named Redtail Revenge – is described as "a great finishing" by general manager Tim Dykstra. According to Dykstra, eagles and the occasional double eagle are possible at 18.



**The 15<sup>th</sup> hole at Noble Hawk Golf Links. (photo credit: Noble Hawk Golf Links)**

By the way, every hole at Noble Hawk has a name. The names of two of the final three holes at Noble Hawk are attention getting: Eagle's Lair (16<sup>th</sup>) and Rapter's Roost (17<sup>th</sup>).



**The 13<sup>th</sup> hole at the Noble Hawk Golf Links. (photo credit: Noble Hawk Golf Links)**



When you combine the quality of the golf course, the beauty of this part of northern Indiana, and the customer service inside the clubhouse, it's easy to see why playing golf at Noble Hawk is often referred to as "The Perfect Golf Experience."

#### **HULMAN LINKS (in Terre Haute)**

**O**ne of the most famous last names in sports associated with the state of Indiana is Hulman. Yes, as in former Indianapolis Motor Speedway owner Tony Hulman. Not only was Tony Hulman a legendary leader in motor sports in the Hoosier state, but he was just as passionate about the game of golf in Indiana, too.



**Hulman Links** (990 North Chamberlain Street, Terre Haute, Indiana; 812-877-2096) has been hosting golfers since 1978. The creation of this course was actually one of the dreams and visions of Hulman, as he provided the money and the land it took to build this magnificent golf course. Sadly, Hulman died in October 1977 and was not alive when the course opened for play.



Built on more than 200 acres of property, Hulman's passion for golf is on full display in the form of Hulman Links. It is an 18-hole, par-72 layout that stretches as far as 7,225 yards from the championship tees.

Over the years, Hulman Links has been recognized for its excellent condition. In 2006, Hulman Links was listed as the 6<sup>th</sup> toughest public golf course in Indiana. And, in 2009, Hulman Links was recognized as the Indiana Municipal Golf Course of the Year. Those honors would have brought a smile to Tony Hulman.

**Building Hulman Links was a dream come true for Tony Hulman.**

At the end of your round, take time to check out this course's restaurant – the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole -- for a post-round beverage and/or a bite to eat.



### OLD CAPITAL GOLF CLUB (in Corydon)

**F**un. Fair. Exciting. Those three words best summarize what it's like to play golf at the **Old Capital Golf Club** (1605 Highway 62 NE, Corydon, Indiana; 812-738-2277; [www.oldcapitalgolf.com](http://www.oldcapitalgolf.com)) in Corydon, Indiana's first capital city. Old Capital, appropriately named, is an 18-hole, par-72 golf course which is built on rolling hills which are complemented by a wide, bedrock-bottomed creek that winds its way through the golf course. This natural



waterway is appealing to the eye and adds a degree of difficulty to a few shots around the golf course. As you would expect for a golf course in the southern part of Indiana, there are many elevation changes throughout this course and an abundant number of well-placed trees make which make this golf course one of the most popular in southern Indiana. Golfers love the look of the golf course as well as the variety of shots needed to successfully play it. And, Old Capital has a reputation for some of the best greens in the area.

“People love our greens as they are true and smooth. And, players like the speed of our greens,” says Timothy Wiseman, Director of Instruction, Old Capital Golf Club.

Located due west of Louisville, Kentucky, and just south of Interstate 64, Old Capital opened for business in 1946. Originally, it was a nine-hole course that had sand greens. In 1957, grass greens were installed and in 1995, nine more holes were added to the course. The course record is 60, set by Joey Wiseman, Timothy's younger brother, in the summer of 2020.



**An aerial image of Old Capital Golf Club.**

The number one handicap hole at Old Capital is the 4<sup>th</sup> hole. Here, a par four feels like a birdie three. The 4<sup>th</sup> fairway is the toughest one to find from the tee. When you combine the somewhat difficult tee shot and a putting surface that slopes from left to right toward the water, you have the foundation for a great golf hole.

Another great hole at Old Capitol is the par-five 8<sup>th</sup> hole. According to Wiseman, it's a classic risk-reward short par five where a pond to the left of the green will penalize a wayward approach to the putting surface.

## WALNUT CREEK AND CLUB RUN COMPLEX (in Marion)



Golfers who live in Marion, Indiana are blessed to have access to a pair of 18-hole layouts at one venue, **Walnut Creek and Club Run Complex** (7453 East 400 South, Marion, Indiana; [www.walnutcreekgolf.com](http://www.walnutcreekgolf.com); 1-800-998-7651). The two courses are Walnut Creek and Club Run. This golf destination opened on July 4, 1970 when Walnut Creek was opened for play. Club Run first opened in 1995 as a nine-hole course. A driving range was added in 1997 and the final nine holes were completed in 1998.

This complex is not only respected throughout the state of Indiana, but it is known throughout the nation as Walnut Creek was honored in 2011 as the Indiana Course of the Year and the runner-up for the National Course of the Year. Walnut Creek and Club Run Complex is also a past recipient of Indiana Hoosier Hospitality Award.



**Walnut Creek has spacious, well-maintained fairways.**

Of the two courses, Walnut Creek is longer, but more forgiving. Club Run is shorter and tighter, but rewards the player who is more accurate with their shots. Walnut Creek does have a par five which measures more than 600 yards. It's the 11<sup>th</sup> hole which measures 620 yards from the tips, but the hole is played downhill.

According to the club's website, "On Club Run, the 60 something can compete with the 20 somethings on a more level playing field. Club Run takes the strength factor out of the game. The two courses complement each other very well."

#### **BLACKTHORN GOLF CLUB (in South Bend)**



What do the **Blackthorn Golf Club** (6100 Nimtz Parkway; South Bend, Indiana; 574-232-4653; [www.blackthorngolf.com](http://www.blackthorngolf.com)) and Wisconsin's Erin Hills, the host of the 2017 U.S. Open, both have in common? The answer is that both courses were designed by golf course architect Dr. Michael Herdzen. While the Blackthorn Golf Club will probably never host a U.S. Open or a major USGA event, it does have an element of star power as it's the host of the Four Winds Invitational on the LPGA's Symetra Tour.



**The Blackthorn Golf Club is built on 226 acres of rolling terrain in northern Indiana.**

Blackthorn Golf Club opened in August 1994. The Blackthorn clubhouse is an Irish-cottage style building. When golfers play the par-72, 7136-yard layout, they are presented with four sets of tees. Nearly 80 bunkers appear on the course, which features broad fairways, wetlands, ponds, and native prairie grasses. The greens feature bent grass. The two-acre practice facility has bent grass tees, target greens, and a short game area for putting, chipping, and bunker play.

### CHRISTMAS LAKE GOLF COURSE (in Santa Claus)



**H**o, ho, ho! It's a true treat to play the **Christmas Lake Golf Course** (1 Club House Drive, Santa Claus, Indiana; 812-544-2255; [www.christmaslake.com](http://www.christmaslake.com)) and the media agrees. *Golf Digest* has ranked the Christmas Lake Golf Course as one of the Top 75 Public Golf Courses in America and *Indiana Business Magazine* has listed the course as the 7<sup>th</sup> Most Challenging in Indiana.

The Christmas Lake Golf Course opened for play in 1967. The architect was Edmund Ault, who also designed the well-known Tournament Players Course at Avenal in Potomac, Maryland -- a former PGA Tour stop. Ault also re-designed the Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland -- which has been the host of three U.S. Opens, one PGA Championship, and one U.S. Senior Open.



**A view of the 18<sup>th</sup> hole at the Christmas Lake Golf Course in Santa Claus, Indiana.**

The Christmas Lake Golf Course has tree-lined fairways, rolling hills, valleys, and a few sparkling lakes. The tees and fairways are planted with Zoysia grass, whereas the greens have bent grass.

According Tom Nelson, the head professional at Christmas Lake, this golf course never disappoints as the front nine and back nine have their own identities.

“With the outward half cut through the wildlife-filled forests of the southern Indiana hills, the inward nine flattens out a bit and winds through the beautiful homes of Christmas Lake Village,” says Nelson. “Spread out over 280 acres, Christmas Lake Golf Club’s diversified array of holes and friendly people make this a true gem of Indiana’s south central region.”



This course is so well-respected that it is a qualifying site for the Indiana Open.

A review of comments on TripAdvisor about the Christmas Lake Golf Course will find strong words of praise about this golf destination such as “This course is a true gem...”, “The large tiered greens are some of the best in southern Indiana...”, “Outstanding course...”, and “nice course layout.”

After golf, you are welcome to satisfy any hunger pains and quench your thirst by visiting the 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Grill & Bar Room.

Finally, it’s appropriate that the Christmas Lake Golf Course in Santa Claus, Indiana is closed on Christmas Day.

#### COBBLESTONE GOLF COURSE (in Kendallville)

**The Cobblestone Golf Course** (2702 Cobblestone Lane, Kendallville, Indiana; [www.cobblestonegc.com](http://www.cobblestonegc.com); 260-349-1550), located in northeast Indiana, just outside Fort Wayne, has been ranked as one of the premier outlets for golf in Indiana for more than 20 years. Cobblestone was selected as one of “America’s Best New Courses” for 1999 and “Best Places to Play” in 2002 and 2003. According to head professional Alan Moyer, Cobblestone is a first-class, 18-hole layout which features bent-grass tees, fairways and greens, with multiple hazards to challenge each and every shot.

Thanks to technology, golf is being played throughout the year at Cobblestone. Thanks to modern technology, an indoor golf simulator, which has more than 20 world-class courses, can be played in the winter which makes winter-time and rainy day golf available and accessible year round at Cobblestone.



A review of comments on Cobblestone’s website reveals a number of positive comments about this golf course such as “I would vote this as one of the nicest courses in all of Indiana” and “Very well maintained

course. Friendly staff. Great practice area.”



The 5<sup>th</sup> hole at Cobblestone is a classic short par four. (photo credit: Cobblestone GC)

**...“THE 19<sup>th</sup> HOLE”...  
THE SCHNITZELBANK: REAL GERMAN CUISINE (in Jasper)**

**A**uthentic, genuine, delicious and memorable. Those are the four words that best describe what it's like to eat at The Schnitzelbank, the German-themed dining and drinking establishment in Jasper, Indiana. Opened by Larry and Betty Hanselman, The Schnitzelbank ([www.schnitzelbank.com](http://www.schnitzelbank.com); 393 Third Avenue, Jasper; 812-482-2640) has been cooking and serving high-quality German and American fare to hungry and thirsty guests since 1971. The origin of The Schnitzelbank was a tavern that opened on the same property in Jasper in 1961.



After golfing at Sultan's Run in Jasper or in nearby French Lick, visit The Schnitzelbank Restaurant in Jasper to quench their thirst and satisfy their appetite. (Credit: The Schnitzelbank)



If you want to eat some delectable, award-winning German food, but you don't have a passport or enough money to fly to Germany, then head to The Schnitzelbank in Jasper. You don't have to speak German nor understand German in order to truly enjoy all that The Schnitzelbank has to offer. Though, you might be speaking a little German by the time you leave!

The Schnitzelbank is located minutes away from Jasper's Sultan's Run Golf Club and about a 30-minute drive from French Lick's dynamic duo of The Donald Ross Course and The Pete Dye Course.

**German beers are popular at The Schnitzelbank. (Credit: The Schnitzelbank)**

At The Schnitzelbank, you will find some great German food such

as Goulash, Sauerbraten, Weiner Schnitzel, Beef Rouladen, Schweine Schnitzel, Knackwurst, Bratwurst, Bockwurst, and the #1 sandwich in Indiana, The Bratzel -- a jumbo salted pretzel lightly covered with sauerkraut, two Merkley bratwurst and a drizzle of honey mustard sauce, served with German fries.

The Bratzel was the winner of a statewide competition for the best sandwich in Indiana during the buildup to Super Bowl XLVI which was hosted by the Indianapolis Colts in Indianapolis in 2012. Now under the leadership of Alan Hanselman and Gail Hettinger, Larry and Betty's son and daughter, The Schnitzelbank's atmosphere and menu continue to be a reflection of southwest Indiana's strong German roots. In fact, three generations of the Hanselman family are now working at The Schnitzelbank.

When you arrive in the parking lot at The Schnitzelbank, you immediately get the feeling that you are about to be 'transported' to Bavaria, Germany's historic Black Forest, or to downtown Dusseldorf. This restaurant's exterior and interior décor, the glockenspiel in the restaurant's clock tower, and the items for sale in the restaurant's gift shop are a reflection of The Schnitzelbank's links to 'Old World' Germany. And, as you would expect, The Schnitzelbank's waiters and waitresses are also dressed in true German attire – leder hosen for the men and dirndls





for the waitresses. By the way, the glockenspiel, one of two in Indiana, normally plays on the hour and the half hour.

“We have been serving German food produced from local family recipes that date back for more than 100 years and we haven’t changed them,” admitted Alan Hanselman.

The quality of the food is so good that many of the strongest complements come from visiting Germans. There’s a local exchange program with Jasper’s sister city in southern Germany -- Pfaffenweiler -- which brings high school students from Germany to Jasper and vice versa. Around 1850, German immigrants from Pfaffenweiler first settled here because the geographic terrain of this part of Indiana reminded them of the dense forests and rolling hills back in Germany.

**The Schnitzelbank’s desserts are delicious. (photo credit: The Schnitzelbank)**

“German tourists who eat at our restaurant say our food is more German than what they eat back home in Germany,” added Gail Hettinger. “There’s no need to book a flight to Hamburg, Munich, Berlin, or Frankfurt in order to eat authentic German food. We serve it here in Jasper.”

The Schnitzelbank’s menu features items listed in both English and German such as appetizers (Vorspeisen), soup (Suppe), seafood (Meeresfruchte), German specialties (Deutsche Spezialitäten), regular side dishes (Seiten), German side dishes (Deutsche Seiten), and desserts (Nachspeise). And, if you arrive for a late breakfast, you can order the Spates Frühstück – two country fresh eggs served with your choice of bacon or sausage with German fries and toast.

When it comes to alcohol, there are 20 beers (bier) on tap at The Schnitzelbank. Eight of those beers are brewed in Jasper under the direction of Alan Hanselman’s son, DJ. The most popular



local brew is a blonde wheat beer. That particular beer redefines ‘smooth’ and ‘satisfying’ in a cold beer. For those who want their beer ‘to go,’ guests can order a 32-ounce can, known as a crowler, or they can purchase a 64-ounce container, known as a growler. And, the selection of German wines at The Schnitzelbank is impressive, too.

According to Kim Voegerl, The Schnitzelbank’s sales and marketing coordinator, the restaurant sells 35 different wines – five of which are imported from Germany, three of which come directly from Pfaffenweiler. The Schnitzelbank also sells 13 wines produced by Indiana wineries.

The Schnitzelbank is clearly the real deal – always has been and always will be. Everything that is served at The Schnitzelbank is produced with great attention to detail by a loyal, dedicated, and hard-working staff, many of whom have been working at the restaurant for more than 25 years.

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When it’s time to order food, you’ll quickly realize that it’s going to take multiple visits to this restaurant in order to fully sample everything that’s worth eating. Simply put, everything on the menu is great, but a good place to start is the giant German pretzel, served with beer cheese and horseradish mustard. A family of four can easily devour this oversized soft pretzel. After eating the pretzel, make a beeline to the salad bar, which has been labeled the “Best in the Midwest” and is nicknamed the “Wunderbar.” Every day, two soups are also served at the salad bar. Some of those soups are tomato basil, beef noodle, and beef ribbie. On Fridays, bean soup and cornbread are always served at the salad bar. For a group dining at The Schnitzelbank, it would be wise to order the German Sampler Platter, which is advertised as being “large enough for two,” but it’s sufficient for at least three and maybe four. A classic entrée that is truly mouthwatering is the pork shank which is served over mashed potatoes with gravy and red cabbage. The two-inch hickory smoked pork chops are also outstanding. At The Schnitzelbank, it’s all good, all the time. For dessert, the coconut cream pie, apple strudel, German chocolate pie, and the Black Forest Cake are beyond compare. Don’t forget to order the cinnamon ice cream with the apple strudel.

The Schnitzelbank is open six days a week. It’s closed on Sundays, with the exception of the brunches which are served on Easter Sunday and Mother’s Day.

The hard-working staff looks forward to seeing you at The Schnitzelbank, possibly in the vicinity of the “Wunderbar.” And, make sure that you take time to listen to the glockenspiel - on the hour and the half hour -- Ein, Zwei, Drei, Prost – 1, 2, 3, Cheers!

## **RICK'S CAFÉ BOATYARD: INDY'S GREATEST SPECTACLE IN DINING (in Indianapolis)**

While the Indianapolis 500 has been known for decades as being the 'Greatest Spectacle in Racing,' there's a restaurant in Indianapolis which deserves to be called the 'Greatest Spectacle in Dining.' It's Rick's Café Boatyard ([www.Ricksboatyard.com](http://www.Ricksboatyard.com); 4050 Dandy Trail, Indianapolis, Indiana; 317-290-9300). When you consider eating at Rick's -- which is what the locals call this place -- get ready for a fun, delightful, delectable and affordable dining experience. It will definitely be the dining highlight of your trip to the capital city of the Hoosier state. And, it may well be the dining highlight of your calendar year.

Perched on the banks of the Eagle Creek Reservoir on the western side of Indianapolis, Rick's is surrounded by a 'ring of energy' that penetrates your soul, puts a smile on your face, and triggers your appetite. You will sense that vibe at Rick's as you walk from the parking lot to the front door. In addition to being a great place to eat, Rick's provides a toe-tappin' experience as live music is played daily -- twice on Sunday. While Rick's is officially a café/restaurant, it's really more than that. Rick's is a dynamic and delicious dining destination. Eating at Rick's is a significant part of the local lifestyle in Indianapolis. Frankly, every visit to Rick's is a true treat. It's the home of cool, classy cuisine. It's where memory making meals are made. It's all tasty and delicious. It's simply a doggone dietary delight.

At Rick's, which first opened in 1994, lunch, brunch, and dinner are served on a daily basis. It's open every day of the year, with the exception of Christmas Day.



**At Rick's Café Boatyard, the crème brûlée is second-to-none. (photo credit: Mike May)**

When placing your order at Rick's, you will be challenged to find something that won't tantalize your taste buds. Rick's also caters to vegans and their dietary restrictions. On the menu, there are appetizers, soups, salads, steaks, chops, wood-fired pizzas, sandwiches, and the specialty of the house – a number of signature seafood dishes. FYI: The seafood is fresh and flown in daily. As for the desserts, they are beyond compare. While it's OK to share your desserts, do not share the Cuban crème brulee, which is complemented with Chantilly cream, chocolate sprinkles and fresh raspberries. That dessert is a solo experience. But, it's OK to share any of the cheesecakes and the Outrageous Brownie Sundae, which guarantees a good time will be had by all.



**Ricks Café Boatyard has memorable sunsets. (photo credit: Mike May)**

The nautical setting and atmosphere at Rick's lends itself to seafood. The chilled Blue Point (New Jersey) oysters on the half shell, jumbo shrimp cocktail, and Maryland crab cakes are outstanding appetizers.

"Our oysters are always big and always fresh," said waiter Dandy Garcia. "The fried shrimp with tempura breading and the fried calamari are popular, too."

If you prefer a non-seafood appetizer, the barbecue pork nachos and chicken Cordon Bleu fingers are in a class by themselves. Both dishes are tasty and terrific.



**This mouth-watering shrimp pasta dish is delicious. (photo credit: Mike May)**

In many respects, eating at Rick's is a global seafood dining journey as you can start with Hawaiian Sashimi Tuna followed by New England seafood chowder followed by Maryland crab cake salad followed by a selection of entrees such as the Loch Duart Scottish salmon, Cajun Louisiana catfish filets, Florida mahi-mahi, the Creole crab filet, the shrimp/scallop linguini pasta, or South American lobster tails. Or, you can just go traditional and choose the most tender eight-ounce filet mignon in the Midwest, which will redefine 'melt in your mouth.' The steak blue-cheese salad is another great choice for healthy meat eaters.



**Seafood dishes are one of the specialties at Rick's Café Boatyard. (photo credit: Mike May)**

One of the most mouth-watering specials at Rick's is the Alaskan halibut which is wrapped with apple-smoked bacon and complemented by spinach topped with asparagus. The aroma which emanates from this entrée is powerful and pleasing to the palate. In layman's terms, it's 'to die for.' It's not on the menu every night, but it's worth asking for every time you walk in the door.

For those who are sandwich seekers, the grouper Rueben and the coastal grilled grouper are great selections.

At Rick's, every table is also served a small loaf of freshly baked bread, which is accompanied by Rick's homemade cinnamon butter. There's nothing like fresh homemade bread.

The selection of wines at Rick's is deep and diversified as there are a number of whites, reds, roses, and sparkling wines available for consumption. Wine is available by the glass or the bottle.

Rick's location is not what you would ever expect to find in a land-locked city such as Indianapolis. Rick's is so unique that if you were blindfolded, taken there, and unblindfolded, you would never guess that you were actually in the middle of Indiana. Restaurants like Rick's are normally reserved for coves and inlets that dot the Atlantic or Pacific coastlines -- not in the heart of the American Midwest. But, Rick's is the exception. It's a one-of-a-kind locale. And, as great as its location is, the quality of the food, drinks and service is even better.





**At Rick's Café Boatyard, the salads look and taste great. (photo credit: Mike May)**

When you arrive at Rick's, allow yourself to get consumed by this place's friendly, welcoming atmosphere. At Rick's, the laughter blends well with the linguine; the music complements the mahi-mahi; and the setting is simply special and stunning. Having the chance to eat dinner while watching the sun set in the west while the 'live' music is being played in the background are two moments which add to the allure of this waterside piece of paradise. It really gives you another reason to come back to Indianapolis. At Rick's, you willingly turn off and put away your cell phone.

"At Rick's, disconnect yourself from the grid so you get connected with those around you who are enjoying this spectacular social setting," said longtime guest Trish Whitcomb of Indianapolis. She likes to start with the wedge salad and conclude her dining experience with the amaretto cheesecake which is topped with whipped cream and small chocolate morsels.

Whitcomb's husband, Russ Sipes, is enamored with Rick's, as he makes frequent trips a month to this restaurant.

"It is the most unique setting of any restaurant, at least in central Indiana, that I have found," said Russ Sipes of Indianapolis, who has been a regular customer at Rick's for more than 20 years. "There's no restaurant like it. There's always been a bright, cheerful, and active sound to the place. The food has always been good and it just gets better."

Sipes' favorite items are all the steaks and the Atlantic salmon roulades.



**Always leave room for cheesecake for dessert at Rick's. (photo credit: Mike May)**

At Rick's, the customers are not the only people excited to be there, as the staff is, too.

"Everything here is just so good," said waitress Laura Nowling. "I look at the menu every day."

One of the many keys to success at Rick's is a skilled kitchen staff.

"Everything is homemade, even the sausage on our pizzas," said manager Chad Compton. "Our prep people are really talented and hard working."

Very few restaurants in the world can promote such a diverse selection of items on their menu and then quickly be able to deliver the finished product with exceptional quality and flavor. And, at Rick's, the chefs don't skimp on the portion sizes. When you show up hungry, you will leave satisfied. One of the purposes of visiting Rick's is to quell any and all hunger pains. That mission will always be accomplished at Rick's since the portions are always very generous. In fact, many people leave Rick's with a 'doggie bag.' I did!

At Rick's, you can dine inside or outside. Even if it's a little chilly outside, there are plenty of well-positioned space heaters that provide the necessary warmth on the outside patio, yet don't make you feel cramped, hot or uncomfortable. For those who are just meeting for a drink, there's a bar inside and a bar outside. If sitting outside, make sure you get a view of the reservoir. As the sun sets in the west each night, the view changes by the minute.

With slips for 120 boats in the reservoir's marina, the aquatic atmosphere is ever-present at Rick's. This place is so special that you might be motivated to buy a boat and dock it there so you have another reason to dine more often at Rick's.

After eating at Rick's, you will agree that this place has earned the title 'Greatest Spectacle in Dining,' at least in Indianapolis and possibly the entire Hoosier state.

Commented [MM1]:

## SPECIAL THANKS

### NEW BALANCE – WITH ME EVERY STEP OF THE WAY



My experience of walking along the top golf courses in central and southern Indiana was made possible because I wore the correct footwear – the NBG2004 golf shoe from New Balance Athletic Shoe. Those golf shoes were (and remain) comfortable, trendy, functional, waterproof, fashionable, striking, and appealing to the eye. On the course, these shoes gave me the necessary grip, traction and support that I needed to hit any kind of shot and walk any type of golf course terrain that I encountered. The durability issue is a key part of the design process because the game of golf is played in diverse weather conditions that range from dry to wet. Producing a top-notch golf shoe is not an easy proposition, but New Balance Athletic Shoe has figured out the solution.

### BIONIC GLOVES – SIMPLY THE BEST

Golfers who are searching for fit, feel, and comfort in their golf glove would well-served by wearing a golf glove from Bionic Glove. There are four models available in the golf category: Performance Grip Pro, StableGrip (with Natural Fit), the newly released RelaxGrip 2.0, and ReliefGrip. All gloves are designed by an orthopedic hand specialist with the purpose of providing the best tools to play golf with a focus on the anatomy of the hand.



The Performance Grip golf gloves have been designed for competitive golfers. They give the golfer a greater natural fit and superior feel on the golf club. These golf gloves are made with premium Cabretta leather that's durable, supple and safe to wash. With fit, feel, grip and moisture management built in, you are guaranteed a top-quality golf glove with maximum performance. The StableGrip golf gloves are made of Cabretta leather. There are 12 mini towels inside the glove that will help keep your hand drier. This glove has a strategically placed pad system which provides increased durability in areas that are prone to wear and tear and better contact surface with the club. And, the easy grab tab makes glove removal simple and quick. The RelaxGrip 2.0 golf gloves provide an extra relaxation layer to your hand, providing instant control and balance. The terrycloth lining inside the glove provides moisture absorption. The ReliefGrip golf gloves are designed to provide relief for sore tender hands. This glove has all of Bionic's signature technology; motion and webzones for breathability, dexterity and comfort; patented pad system for durability comfort; plus form-fitting LightPrene for enhanced wrist and thumb support.