

RE-OPENING OF SUNSET VALLEY CAPS SUMMER OF ACCOMPLISHMENT FOR GOLF COURSE ARCHITECT RICK JACOBSON

BY GLEN TURK ON AUGUST 22, 2018

EXCLUSIVE WEB CONTENT, MIDWEST FEATURES

Midwest Golfing Magazine had the privilege of playing Sunset Valley Golf Club recently and was blown away by its immaculate conditioning and pristine setting. This is one of the finest public golf courses in the Chicagoland area, especially when you consider the highest you will ever pay is \$57 with cart on the weekends. If you love courses that take you back to the roaring 20's, then a round at Sunset Valley GC should be in your future.

LIBERTYVILLE, Illinois (August 22, 2018) – The re-opening of Sunset Valley Golf Club in Highland Park, Illinois concludes a summer in which the work of golf course architect Rick Jacobson has been featured prominently in top professional and amateur tournament settings.

Jacobson's 18-hole renovation of Sunset Valley succeeded in re-establishing the course's original 1920's architectural style while making infrastructure and design improvements essential to its continued vitality for decades to come.

"The goal in renovating Sunset Valley was to restore the beauty and challenge of the original layout while addressing practical issues such as stormwater management, improving playability for a broad spectrum of golfers, and upgrading playing surfaces," Jacobson said.

Golfers immediately will notice visual changes to the course, which now has a unique British Heathland aesthetic characterized by a combination of links and parkland-style golf courses with wide vistas, flowing masses of native grasses, and strategic landforms, he said.

CURRENT ISSUE



JULY 13, 2018

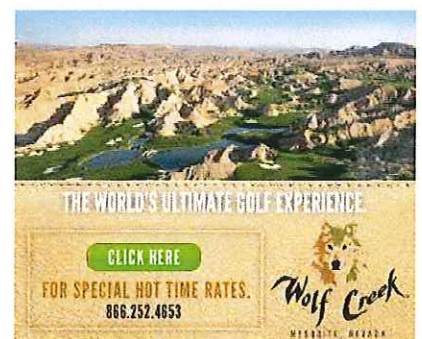
2018 Summer Issue is Now Available

WISCONSIN CLASSIC GOLF TOUR



RECEIVE SPECIAL GOLF OFFERS BY EMAIL

WEBSITE SPONSOR



SUBSCRIPTION PROGRAM

Subscribe to Midwest Golfing Magazine for only \$50 and receive 20 free rounds of golf. Cart not included

Players also will notice expanded multiple teeing areas aimed at accommodating various levels of golfers, contoured greens with more strategic pin placement zones, and undulating fairways (no longer flat) designed both to efficiently move water off the playing surface after storm events and give the course a subtle flowing characteristic, he said.

In the 1920s and '30s, Sunset Valley hosted the North Shore Open, which featured legendary players, such as Walter Hagen, Tommy Armour and Jock Hutchinson. Horton Smith played in the 1931 North Shore Open, three years prior to becoming the first player to win The Masters in 1934.

This summer, five Jacobson courses – either original designs or major renovations – hosted tournaments, including:

- **Kemper Lakes Golf Club** in Kildeer, Illinois (renovation/Dick Nugent-Ken Killian) – hosted the Women's PGA Championship, an LPGA major title won by Sung-Hyun Park in a sudden death playoff;
- Sei Young Kim won the Thornberry Creek LPGA Classic at **Thornberry Creek** golf course in Oneida, Wisconsin, a Jacobson original design near Green Bay;
- **Sunset Ridge Country Club** (renovation/William Diddel) – host of this year's Western Amateur championship won by Cole Hammer.
- **Ibaraki Kokusai Golf Club** in Osaka, Japan, host of the Japan LPGA's T-Point Ladies Golf Tournament
- In addition, **North Shore Country Club** (renovation/Harry Colt & Charles Alison), host of the 2011 Western Amateur and three subsequent PGA Tour Champions events, reopened this summer after all 18 greens were reconstructed to USGA specifications and all bunkers were reconstructed to visually reflect the design character of 1920's golf course architecture.

"Whether designing a new course or renovating an older one, our philosophy is to give the course a dynamic 'look' while giving it the kind of flexibility it needs to accommodate beginners, mid-to high handicap golfers as well as professionals and scratch players," Jacobson said. "It's easy to make a golf course difficult for the average player. The challenge is to make it a strong test for the best golfers and fun for everyone else."

During his career, Jacobson has renovated Ridgemoor Country Club in Chicago; Glen Oak Country Club in Glen Ellyn, Illinois; Oak Park CC in River Grove, Illinois.; Des Moines G&CC in West Des Moines, Iowa., in preparation for the 1999 U.S. Senior Open; Cantigny Golf in Wheaton, Illinois., in preparation for the U.S. Public Links.

Jacobson also has designed a number of highly-praised courses across the United States, including local courses such as Bowes Creek CC in Elgin, Illinois and Strawberry Creek in Kenosha, Wisconsin. In recent years, he has been one of the more prolific American golf course architects working in China.

Prior to starting his own firm, Jacobson worked for several years with Florida-based Jack Nicklaus Golf Services. Jacobson was involved in some of the Golden Bear's best-known courses, including PGA West-Private & Resort in LaQuinta, California; The Club at Nevillewood outside Pittsburgh; Wynstone near Chicago; English Turn in New Orleans, former home of the PGA TOUR's annual New Orleans event; Desert Mountain-Renegade Course in Scottsdale, Arizona, and others.

A native of Glenview, Illinois, Jacobson received his degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has served on the board of governors for the American Society of Golf Course Architects and is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects. For more information visit www.jacobsongolfcoursedesign.com.

Share this:



Like this:



Be the first to like this.

with the 20 free rounds and must be purchased. View Details >>



Related

Belvedere Golf Club Celebrates 95-years of History with Re-Dedication Ceremony
September 5, 2017
In "Chip Shots"

Destination Golf on the Rise: Central Wisconsin
August 1, 2017
In "Home Feature"

Complexity Veiled by Simplicity - New South Course at Arcadia Bluffs Opens for Public Play
July 31, 2018
In "Chip Shots"

SHARE.



ABOUT AUTHOR

GLEN TURK



Glen Turk is a Wisconsin native who has been the Senior Writer/Editor of Midwest Golfing Magazine since 2006. Besides being an avid golfer, Glen enjoys traveling, music, and cheering on the finest professional sports team of all-time, the Green Bay Packers. Glen's ultimate golf goal is to play in all fifty states and currently he is more than half way there. His other dream, albeit far-fetched, it to record an ace in all seven states of our distribution area. Thanks to an ace in Illinois in 2015, and one in Michigan in 2016, he has three down, four to go!

RELATED POSTS

AUGUST 21, 2018

UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP, FOUR SEASONS RESORT TO REOPEN, PINE MOUNTAIN/TIMBERSTONE TO RECEIVE MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR RENOVATIONS

AUGUST 13, 2018

Lauren Coughlin Wins Symetra Tour's PHC Classic

JULY 31, 2018

Complexity Veiled by Simplicity - New South Course at Arcadia Bluffs Opens for Public Play

INSTAGRAM FEED



FOLLOW US

Tweets by @midwestgolfing

Twitter feed snippet showing tweets from @midwestgolfing, including a tweet about the 2018 MGM Summer Issue and another about 20 free rounds of golf.

FOLLOW US

Midwest Golfing Magazine

