



Summer 2018

Oak Hills Country Club Opens for Member Play



9th hole

TDA has completed the course work at Oak Hills Country Club in San Antonio. Members are enjoying the course and eagerly await the official re-opening later this year.

“We were honored to be selected to renovate and restore this storied golf course,” said Davis. “Everything we did at Oak Hills was to better reflect Tillinghast’s design tendencies and to make this a great golfing experience for the members. Riley Maxey, Superintendent, has done a great job, both in playing a key role during construction and in establishing over 3 million square feet of new turf. Landscapes Unlimited and Shaper Steve Page were great partners in the process.”

The Ransom Course Opening



Credit: OU Athletic Department

Charlie Snyder (OU Chip In Club), Grant Hirschman (Men’s Golf Team), Joe Castiglione (Director of Athletics), Ryan Hybl (Men’s Golf Head Coach), Jerry Ransom (Alumnus and Project Donor), Tripp Davis, Julienne Soo (Women’s Golf Team) and Veronica Drouin-Luttrell (Women’s Golf Head Coach).

Tripp spoke at the official dedication of The Ransom Course, a four-hole loop practice course, at his alma mater the University of Oklahoma (OU) in Norman, Oklahoma in May. “The key is giving players the ability to practice in a realistic environment and experience real on-course situations,” said Davis. “We designed a course with the highest level of practice variety that is beyond the typical driving range and short game area.”

In 2017, TDA completed the 18-hole Jimmie Austin (OU) Golf Club renovation that brought out the naturalistic attributes of the site in order to embrace original designer Perry Maxwell’s styles and influences. The Ransom Course and the 18-hole course work were both artfully carried out by builder Course Crafters and Shaper Bill Willingham under TDA’s guidance.

The Northwood Club



Credit: Kevin Carpenter

Tripp Davis and Associates recently celebrated the completed course construction of The Northwood Club in Dallas, Texas. One of the area's revered private golf clubs, The Northwood Club embarked on an 18-month major transformation of its historic 1946 course originally designed by Bill Diddel and unveiled a refreshing new look inspired by Diddel's style to its membership on April 13.

"Tripp and his team have contributed to bringing Northwood Club's history of U.S. Open golf back to life, blending our rich history with modern concepts for tomorrow," said Kevin Carpenter, The Northwood Club Superintendent. "Tripp's understanding of the game as a player is apparent in his design detail, yet he's considerate to the maintenance needs of the final product. It's been an honor to work with Tripp and his skillful team as they rise to the top of today's best course designers and restoration specialists."



Credit: Kevin Carpenter

12th hole

TDA started construction with a master plan of the 18-hole layout in 2016 and completed the construction of the 175-acre property, including creating a short course, in fall 2017. TDA and builder Landscapes Unlimited refurbished all tees, greens and bunkers and reshaped most fairways, along with providing new cart paths, drainage and a new irrigation system. TDA introduced NorthBridge, a new Bermudagrass, which is used over the entire course with the exception of the Bentgrass greens. In addition, creeks on the property were restored and a new irrigation lake was built to help the club recapture more water. Trees that were hiding the quality of the land were removed.

"To take a classic golf course such as this and to keep this course in its original mindset while tinkering with it to make it a little more modern takes a special person and Tripp is certainly one who's known for being able to do that and being very successful at it," said Jon Davis, general manager of The Northwood Club.

TDA, like Diddel, understood how wind impacts play at The Northwood Club. Tees were designed for multiple course set-ups based on the changing wind direction. The greens are firmer and faster. The style adheres to the quality of the original routing. Wide fairways are now firmer and strategically challenge top golfers based on pin locations. Average golfers have fairway angles to attack the middle of the green. Davis and his crew also rebuilt the practice facilities, including the driving range and designed a 'Short Course' to broaden the playing options, especially for junior golfers. The 'Short Course,' with holes ranging from 50-120 yards long, opened late November 2017.

PROJECT NEWS

Green Tree Country Club, Midland, Texas



TDA completed a unique 3-hole Short Course with an additional short game and putting practice area at the Green Tree Country Club in Midland, Texas. TDA has been retained as the consulting golf course architect for Green Tree and developed a master plan for the 27-hole facility. The Short Course grassing is complete and members will enjoy a September soft opening.

“The Green Tree members were using an open field across the entry road from the clubhouse to hit shots to flags. We are transforming this nearly 5-acre location, based on our master plan, into an interesting area for play and practice,” said Davis. “We have built three holes ranging from 70 to 130 yards, a putting green and a separate short game green for chipping, pitching and bunker practice. We are also using this area as a laboratory to test bunker sands and to show the membership the stylistic themes that we will carry into the main course transformation, when that part of the master plan is approved. This Short Course practice area will be great for the club’s junior program; but the membership also will heavily use this new practice area to improve their game.”

TDA used builder Landscapes Unlimited to construct the Short Course, which included site stripping, installation of drainage and basins and the grasses. Afghan pines were planted and curbing was established for golf cart parking. The greens are 007 Bentgrass, the fairways are 419 Bermuda, the rough is a mix of 419 Bermuda and Buffalo Grass and the bunker sand is premier white.



Tripp finishes a green using a Sand Pro

“Our master plan focuses on the Short Course, all practice facilities, and the south 18-holes,” said Tripp. “The membership and staff have been great to work with and the property has tremendous potential. Wray Crippin, General Manager, Brian McKinley, Head Golf Professional, and Terry Todd, Head Superintendent, are very involved and it has been really fun to get started with the Short Course.”

Green Tree Country Club was originally built as an 18-hole course in 1981 and an additional 9-holes were added in the late 1980’s.

Tripp's Travels

Old American Golf Club Tests LPGA Players



Credit: Old American Golf Club

Tripp was onsite for the Volunteers of America LPGA Texas Classic at Old American Golf Club (The Colony, Texas) in May. The course, designed by Tripp and Justin Leonard, emphasizes strategy and shot-making in a very naturalistic, even minimalistic setting, enhanced by fourteen holes having lake views.

“It was great seeing players at the highest level attack the course,” said Davis. “So much of the LPGA game is precision and so much of the course is about precision. We had a great team to build the course and the Old American staff takes really good care of the course. Russell Birkhimer, Superintendent, had the course in great shape for the tournament.”

Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club hosted NCAA Men's Regional

“It was fun seeing the NCAA Men's Golf Division I Regionals played at the Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club. We've spent the last few years remaking the course which included new tees, bunkers, reshaped fairways and 5 new greens. Bill Willingham shaped my design.”



American Society of Golf Course Architects



Credit: American Society of Golf Course

Tripp attended the 72nd American Society of Golf Course Architects Annual Meeting at The Woodlands, Texas. He attended presentations and heard panel discussions led by ASGCA members and industry experts.

ON THE TEE

Bunker Reconstruction Resumes at Niagara Falls

Tripp will continue the greens and bunkers reconstruction at Niagara Falls Country Club in Lewiston, New York, this fall. Niagara Falls is home to the Porter Cup, one of the nation's premier amateur golf events. Tripp has competed in multiple Porter Cups and was in this year's field.



Niagara Falls 1st hole showcasing TDA's renovation work

Tripp Returns to Rolling Hills Country Club



Above: TDA renovated Rolling Hills Country Club's par-4, 5th hole

Tripp returns to Rolling Hills Country Club, Wilton, Connecticut, to work on the original Alfred Tull designed course. TDA will lead a bunker renovation this fall. TDA previously renovated several Rolling Hills holes to improve visibility and enhance playability for members. TDA worked with LaBar Golf and Superintendent Glenn Perry to create long-lasting and fully functioning bunkers. Rolling Hills is one of only two clubs in Connecticut to have had the honor of hosting the state's Amateur Championship, the Open Championship, the Senior Amateur, the Women's Open and the Palmer Cup.



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