



Spring 2021

Dear Friends,

2020 was a challenging and uncertain time to say the least. I hope everyone who reads this has been well and hopefully we can see a light at the end of this strange tunnel. Our TDA family has thankfully been healthy through all of this so far.

We normally put out two or three newsletters like this a year, but for part of last year any news we wanted to put out was uncertain - - and when things did become more certain, I got so busy it was hard to find time to help with putting this together. The ladies at our public relations company, On Course Strategies in Connecticut, have been great in adapting and helped keep the process of telling our story going.

2020 for us professionally started with a lot of excitement, then became interesting and uncertain, but ended with even more excitement. Our work at **Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club** was well recognized, our projects at **BraeBurn Country Club** in Houston and **Green Tree Country Club** in Midland, Texas, were green lighted, and we completed our Master Plan for **Thunderbird Country Club** in Rancho Mirage, California. We were able to keep things moving towards always being better for the clubs we work with in a consulting role. To cap it off, we were selected by the **Atlanta Athletic Club** to rework their Riverside Course and consult with them long term.

The great thing to come from this strange time is a renewed interest by so many in our game of golf as a sport all can play in the outdoors. It has seen a greater number of players take to walking as they play while getting in a good workout, which I think is one of the best things anyone can take from playing the game. We all need to do what we can in whatever way we can to keep this momentum and retain all of those playing for the first time or with renewed interest. For us, it is making sure the work we do allows course setup the flexibility to present options for players to find an enjoyable challenge. Golf has a bright future and we look forward to playing our part to keep it moving in the right direction.

Best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tripp Davis".

Tripp Davis

***Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club ranks No. 4 on GOLF Magazine's
list of the state's best courses for 2020-2021***



Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club's 18th Hole (Photo Credit: Mike Klemme)

Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club, Nichols Hills, Oklahoma, course opened for full play in 2020 following our extensive renovation and restoration of the Perry Maxwell and Alister MacKenzie designed course that originally opened in 1929. We rebuilt pretty much everything on the golf course. We restored old angles with wider fairways and the intent style of the bunkers. We preserved and returned the unique bumps and rolls in fairways and in the approach to greens to make the ground game more integral to play. We also reestablished the character of the greens.

[Click to view the Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club flipbook](#)

Spring Lake Golf Club: A Look at Our Restoration



Photo by Evan Schiller/www.golfshots.com

Our work restoring/enhancing the Tillinghast design at Spring Lake Golf Club, *Spring Lake Heights, New Jersey*, located next to the New Jersey Shore, is showcased in Evan Schiller's extraordinary images. We are working with the Spring Lake Golf Club staff to develop a guidebook for the club's long range plans. The golf course was originally designed by George Thomas in 1910, with a significant redesign to the greens and bunkers by A.W. Tillinghast in 1918. This great club has one of the best young superintendents in the country in Tom Havelka.



Photos by Evan Schiller/www.golfshots.com

Thunderbird Country Club has engaged Tripp Davis to develop a Master Plan to enhance the course with a classic look and better playability



Jason Gold, TDA shaper, and I prepared the bunkers at the short game area at Thunderbird

Our focus at Thunderbird Country Club, Rancho Mirage, California will be on bunkers, greens, tees and new turf. We have been testing different bunker sands and liners at the current short game area to identify which will work best for the golf course. We renovated the first hole greenside bunkers. We also removed a few small bunkers behind the greens on the course converting them into chipping areas that make easier play for the average to higher handicap player, while making shots more interesting around the green.

Thunderbird Country Club, which enjoys an amazing history going back to 1946, was the first golf course in the Coachella Valley – two hours east of Los Angeles. The club was a popular club that attracted both Hollywood celebrities and top players. Bob Hope and Bing Crosby were founding members, Ken Venturi spent winters at the club while playing the tour in the late 1950's and early 1960's and Claude Harmon was winter Head Pro for most of the club's formative years. Thunderbird hosted the Ryder Cup in 1955 on the Lawrence Hughes 1951 designed course. Thunderbird was the first host of the PGA TOUR's Desert Classic, which became Bob Hope's tournament now named the American Express, one of the longest standing events on tour.

Tripp Davis Starts Work at Houston's BraeBurn Country Club

The work will include rebuilding all of the greens with unique and strategic shapes, rebuilding all the tees to add strategic variety, giving the bunkers a more classic style and strategic positioning, and making better use of the elevation created in the 1991 project to further enhance how unique BraeBurn is in Houston, Texas. Work will also include installing a new irrigation system, replacing old turf with Northbridge Bermuda and upgrading the entire drainage system to improve playing conditions in the winter months, which is an active time for play in Houston, and upgrading the practice facilities. Greenscape Methods is doing the golf course construction and Heritage Links is doing the irrigation.

[View the BraeBurn Video: Building a better BraeBurn](#)

“This golf course redesign and construction project is a fantastic way for BraeBurn and its members to celebrate our 90th Anniversary,” said club general manager, Dan Olson. “Tripp has created a timeless design built on a vision that will sustain interest, character and challenging yet friendly golf for all levels of play. In addition, Tripp aided the Club in assembling world class construction teams to execute these plans. We could not be more excited about our project and what this means to this property, our membership and the next chapter in the beautiful story of BraeBurn Country Club.”

BraeBurn Country Club has a rich history and was originally designed by John Bredemus in 1931 and was extensively reworked in 1991 to address flooding issues. It was the 1991 project that was able to add some significant elevation changes to the course, which is unique to the Houston area. The legendary Hall of Fame golfer and three-time Masters Champion Jimmy Demaret was one of the club's early professionals.



Jason Gold, TDA shaper and construction specialist, photographed at BraeBurn C.C. January 2021.

Tripp Davis Named Consulting Golf Course Architect

at Atlanta Athletic Club

“Hard to put into words how excited I am to be selected by the Atlanta Athletic Club to work with them as their consulting golf course architect. First project is reworking the Riverside Course. Having grown up in Atlanta and having thought of Bobby Jones as a hero of mine, working at AAC is very special. Following another hero of mine in Rees Jones, who served in this role for close to three decades, adds to how exciting this is for me.” – Tripp

Tripp’s Press:

Golf Nation Podcast

Tripp Davis discusses golf during an interview with hosts Jeremy Lee and Stephen Risk.

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Golf Course Architecture

“This project has been one of the most satisfying in my career.” – Tripp

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By Design Magazine

“I hope one good thing to come from this virus is golfers walking more.” - Tripp

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