



Fall 2017



This has been one of our most exciting years, maybe ever. Thank you to everyone who helped support us in 2017, most notably our clients and golf course builders, who you will read about inside our latest newsletter. Our commitment to doing great work is rewarded with the trust you place in our firm.

We just found out that Old American, the course I designed with Justin Leonard, will be hosting an LPGA event in Dallas next Spring, which will be fun. Our designs are always highly strategic, so it's rewarding to see the best golfers in the world compete on our courses.

I hope everyone has a great winter and I look forward to seeing you all in 2018.

## CONTENTS

**In the News: page 2**

**Project News: pages 3-6**

**On the Tee: page 7**

**Course Snapshots: pages 8-9**

# IN THE NEWS

## Old American Golf Club to host LPGA Tournament in 2018



LPGA and event officials announced that Old American Golf Club in The Colony, Texas, will host the Volunteers of America LPGA North Dallas Classic on April 30 – May 6, 2018. The official LPGA tournament will feature 144 of the world's top talent in a four-day stroke-play event, vying for a \$1.3 million purse.

Old American Golf Club, designed by Tripp Davis and PGA TOUR player Justin Leonard, is maturing since its 2011 opening. "The golf course is in the best condition and the course is better each year," said Mike McCabe, Old American General Manager. "The course plays as Tripp described it would mature – firmer and fast, which makes strategic angles ever important to playing well."

The 18-hole layout emphasizes strategy and shot-making and contains natural contours, hazard styles, native grasses and green shapes that were influenced by such masterpieces as Shinnecock Hills, National Golf Links, Prairie Dunes and Crystal Downs. Old American resides on the shores of Lake Lewisville, on the outskirts of Dallas, and fourteen of the holes have lake views.



12th hole



Left: Tripp and Justin review the routing map



# PROJECT NEWS

## Northwood Club, Dallas, TX



14th Tee: *"Some of the best designs are simply found instead of built."* — Tripp.

The Northwood Club, host of the 1952 U.S. Open, is undergoing a complete course and driving range renovation. Tripp is influenced stylistically by the original Northwood golf course architect William Diddel, who designed the course in 1947. The project involves rebuilding all greens, tees, bunkers and reshaping most fairways, along with new cart paths, drainage and a new irrigation system. The shaping and drainage are nearing completion with all plantings done. The main course will open Spring 2018.



7th hole

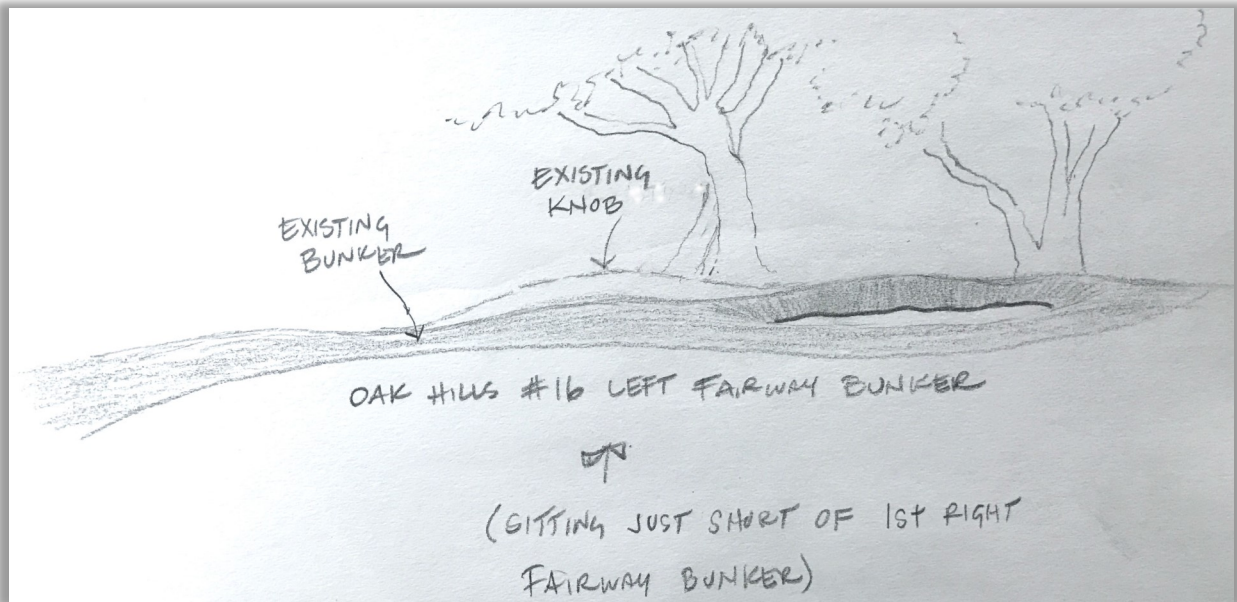
We've enjoyed working with Coby Morrow, Northwood Club Superintendent, Kevin Carpenter, Northwood Club Director of Agronomy and Landscapes Unlimited. Jason Gold, TDA Shaper, is doing awesome work with the new streams. A new 4-hole Short Course with holes ranging from 50-120 yards long is also being built and will be open late November 2017.



Credit: R. Kevin Carpenter



# Oak Hills Country Club, San Antonio, TX



We are nearing the renovation and restoration completion of A.W. Tillinghast's 1922 design. We have been rebuilding tees, greens, bunkers, re-grassing fairways and building a completely new range and short game areas. We have been putting subtle touches on the changes to the greens and bunkers to better reflect Tillinghast's design tendencies. The course will open late November 2017.



"Tripp Davis was the best golf course architect for Oak Hills Country Club," said Kris A. Glaubitz, Oak Hills General Manager/Chief Operating Office. "He worked diligently to use his expertise of A.W. Tillinghast's work and his design tendencies to enhance our course features that already existed and even added a few ideas of his own that have been received well by the Members of the Club. Tripp understood the Club's governance structure and worked cohesively with the committees, Board of Governors and the staff. We look forward to continually working with Tripp in the future."



# The Ransom Course at OU, Norman, OK

The four-hole loop course, part of the golf facility for the University of Oklahoma golf teams, takes practice to another level with holes that can be played as par-three, par-two or par-four holes from a wide variety of distances and angles. Players can practice every shot imaginable from a variety of angles from 100 yards in with fairways and bunkers approaching each of the four greens. Within the framework are two short par-four holes that allow players to practice different tee shots down the hole 'driving lanes,' which are oriented south and north.



The Ransom Course, 4th hole

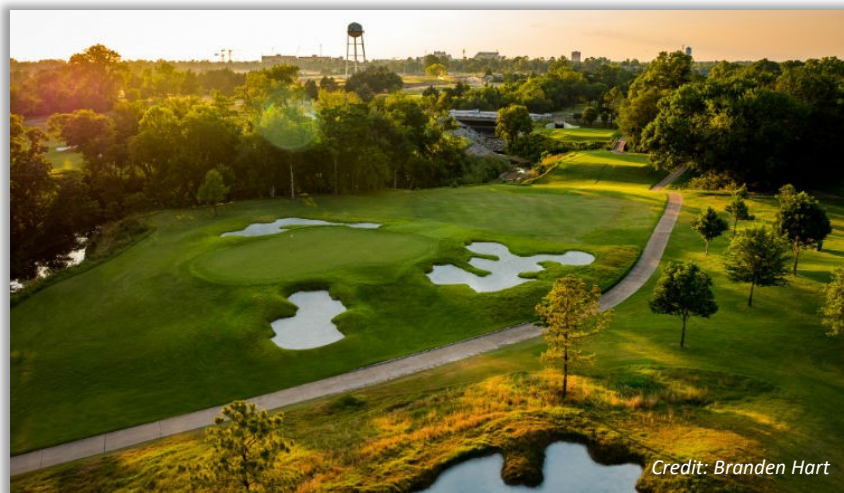


The Ransom Course, 1st hole

## RANSOM COURSE FACTS

- Opening Date:** May 2018
- Course Acreage:** 15 maintained acres
- Turf:** Greens: Pure Distinction Bent grass  
Fairways: Latitude 36 Bermuda  
Tees: Zeon Zoysia and Latitude 36  
Rough: Astro Bermuda
- Bunkers:** 15
- Sooners:** National Champions OU Men's Golf Team (1989 & 2017); OU Women's Golf: 6 Team Conference Titles

# Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club, Norman, OK



Credit: Branden Hart



New creek near the 11th green

The course continues to improve with the completion of a new stream feature that starts at the 10th green and runs along the 10th hole to the 11th green. We've enjoyed working with the talented Course Crafters and the OU Golf Course management team which includes Rodney Young, Cody Elwood and Eddie Roach, Jr. The Jimmie Austin OU Golf Club on the campus of the University of Oklahoma will host the 2018 NCAA men's golf regional.



# Willow Brook Country Club, Tyler, TX

We are renovating the 18-hole golf course and are working with golf course builder Course Crafters on the project. The renovation started in January 2017 and the back nine opened on October 18, 2017.

We previously designed on the property a four-hole short course that opened in 2015. “It’s a fun golfing ground,” said Tripp. “It’s all fairways with no tees so you drop a ball and play the holes any way you want. I love it because it encourages juniors to play and learn the etiquette of the game. These types of short courses have become very popular.”



*Above:* “The bunkers are maturing nicely as you can see in the September photograph,” said Kyle Downs, TDA Senior Golf Architect.

*Above and Below:* See the progression of the 16th hole renovation



*Above:* The people that made the Willow Brook renovation possible gathered for the back nine opening in October



## ON THE TEE

### **Burning Tree Country Club (Greenwich, CT) hosted Women's Met Open August 21-22**



*Above:* The new bunkering on the Burning Tree back nine. LaBar Golf and superintendent Steve Wickstrom and his staff are doing a great job with the new Pure Distinction Bent and the new bunkers.

“We are very proud of the design work and the execution of the construction and we believe the course is now better than ever,” said Tripp. “The course has been strengthened strategically, enhanced aesthetically and remains just as challenging but perhaps a bit more playable.” Burning Tree provided an exacting but fair test to the Met area's top professional and amateur women golfers.”

### **Cedar Ridge Country Club (Broken Arrow Tulsa, OK)**



“The Cedar Ridge bunkers that we renovated in 2016 are looking and playing great,” said Tripp during his August visit. He played in the Oklahoma State Mid-Amateur hosted by the Oklahoma Golf Association July 31-August 1.



# COURSE SNAPSHOTS

## Rumson Country Club in Rumson, NJ

### Rumson Restoration Aerial View

We expanded the 11th green and repositioned bunkers, which added the fairway left of the green.

On the 18th hole, we restored the big right fairway bunker and added the bunkers on the left to create strategic interest along the best angle to the green. We restored greenside bunkers and expanded the green to the front to add interesting hole locations.

The Shrewsbury River is in the background with the Atlantic Ocean coast line further in the distance.



18th hole greenside bunker

### 11th hole

The bunker style, to the right, is displayed throughout the course.





# COURSE SNAPSHOTS (CONTINUED)

## Hillcrest Country Club in Bartlesville, OK



Tripp visited Hillcrest Country Club in August and spent the day with superintendent Matt Wilson. “We worked with Matt during the renovation/restoration of this great Perry Maxwell design. Matt has the course looking great.”

Perry Maxwell designed the course in 1926. Ed Seay redid the greens and introduced a different bunker style in 1982. Hillcrest hired Tripp to restore the greens and bunkers in 2011 and 2012 to bring the course back to its roots with a modern game mentality.



“The bunker style and locations plus the contours in the greens were radically different from Maxwell to Seay. We recreated the greens based on photographs that Bryan Heim, former head golf professional, found from the early Maxwell days. We returned the bunker styling to long, linear bunkers with grass faces and simple shapes. We removed a few trees to get the fairway width and angles back. We added tees and renovated some tees to gain yardage. This is a great golf course,” said Tripp.

(Photo left to right): Kyle Downs (TDA), Bryan Heim (former head professional), Tripp, Jim Cord (HCC board member), Matt Wilson (superintendent) and Wadsworth Construction Representative





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Tripp returned to The Tribute Golf Links (The Colony, Texas), a course he designed in 1998, to work with Arnie (PGS) and Dan Boley, Tribute superintendent, while the club is renovating the greens and converting the grasses to TifEagle Bermuda during his visit. Tripp reshaped the slopes that would be severe for modern green speeds and reshaped a few other areas. The golf holes are inspired by Tripp's favorite holes from Scottish Links courses.