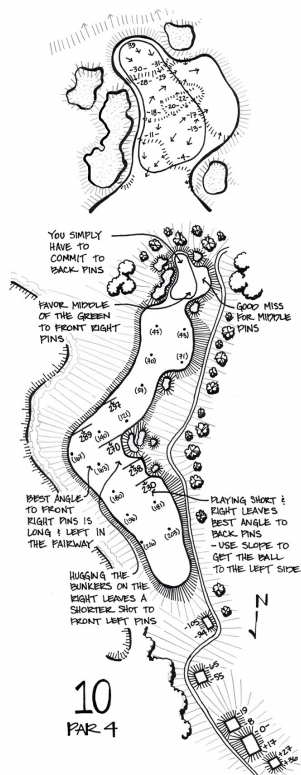




Spring 2018

Old American Golf Club to host LPGA Tournament in April



The Volunteers of America LPGA Texas Classic will take place April 30-May 6 at Old American Golf Club in The Colony, Texas, a northern suburb of Dallas. The course, designed by Tripp Davis and Justin Leonard and located on the shores of Lake Lewisville, pays homage to the “Golden Age of Golf Architecture.” Together, Davis and Leonard traveled the country researching the old classic courses such as Shinnecock, Maidstone, National Golf Links, Prairie Dunes and Pinehurst before they began construction. Old American has previously hosted the Texas Women’s Open, the NTPGA Professional Championship and a U.S. Open qualifier. 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. Fourteen Old American holes have lake views.



Tripp and Justin review routing map



Tripp with John Miller, LPGA Tour Agronomist

ON THE HORIZON

Tripp Davis has three projects opening this year: Oak Hills Country Club, San Antonio, Texas; Northwood Club, Dallas, Texas; The Ransom Course, University of Oklahoma, Norman, Oklahoma.



Photo Credit Kevin Carpenter

TDA's renovation of the Northwood Club will re-open this spring. TDA began construction in 2016 with a master plan renovation of the 18-hole layout. Davis and his crew also rebuilt the practice facilities and designed a "Short Course" to broaden the playing options, especially for junior golfers.

Photograph (L to R): Jason Gold, Tripp Davis and Kyle Downs stand on the 14th tee during construction



Members eagerly await the official re-opening of the Tripp Davis renovation/restoration project at Oak Hills Country Club in San Antonio in mid-June to early July.



Photo Credit Ryan Hybl

Tripp is looking forward to the official opening of The Ransom Course, a four-hole loop practice course, at his alma mater the University of Oklahoma (OU) in Norman, Oklahoma this May. Currently, the men's and women's golf teams have been practicing on the course.

PROJECT NEWS

Green Tree Country Club, Midland, TX



TDA has been retained as the consulting golf course architect for Green Tree Country Club and has developed a master plan for the 27-hole facility. TDA recently began construction at Green Tree on a unique 3-hole Short Course with an additional Short Game and Putting Practice Area. Landscapes Unlimited is doing the work that should be completed mid-May.



“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.”

“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,” added Tripp. “We are building 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 renovation, 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 will heavily use this new practice area to improve their game.”

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.

PROJECT NEWS

Willow Brook Country Club, Tyler, TX



Above (L to R): Kyle Downs, TDA Senior Golf Architect, and Willow Brook Head Professional Chris Hudson

TDA broke ground on the front nine at Willow Brook Country Club, the 1922 member-owned golf club in Tyler, Texas. TDA is currently leading a golf course renovation with golf course builder Course Crafters on the project. The completed back nine renovation opened in October 2017. Construction of the front nine holes will finish in the late summer and the course, based on weather conditions, should would re-open in Fall 2018.

“Willow Brook is routed over some of the most interesting terrain I have seen,” said Tripp. “It is not quite as hilly as Pine Valley in the New Jersey Sand Barrens, but it is a similar landscape with the sandy soil and mix of pines and oaks. In the 1950s, legendary golf course architect Ralph Plummer did a very good job routing the current course and our direction is to take the strategic character of the course to the next level with more interest in the greens and bunkers.”

“The playability of the bunkers will be greatly improved due to how the bunkers are constructed,” said Kyle Downs, TDA Senior Golf Architect. “We added subtle elements of strategy to the course which the players should find interesting as they begin to play the back nine. TDA took the course backbones and brought out the beauty of the place in the features.”



Willow Brook Short Course

Willow Brook's Short Course

TDA previously designed 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.” The short course gave TDA the opportunity to show Willow Brook members the style of greens and bunkers to be built on the main course.

Tripp Davis at the Golf Industry Show

Tripp Davis and Associates exhibited at the 2018 Golf Industry Show in San Antonio, Texas, in February. Tripp met with industry people, attendees and the media. Tripp shared his experiences at the Golf Industry Show as a panelist for the American Society of Golf Course Architects Forum: “Understanding Strategic Design-A Guide for Better Golf Course Management.”



Nathan Neumann, Golf Course Superintendent at Oklahoma City Golf & Country Club, visits Tripp at the TDA booth.



ASGCA Forum Panelists (L to R): Tripp, Chris Cochran, John Sanford (moderator) and Jeff Blume



Tripp interviewed by the media

(Above): Tripp explains his Oak Hills Country Club renovation and use of Zoysia grass during the “Zoysia & The Future of Golf Seminar.” Tripp and Riley Maxey, Oak Hills Golf Course Superintendent, toured attendees around the property.

ON THE TEE

Powelton Club, Newburgh, New York

“I am proud to be working on a master plan for the Powelton Club that is right near the Hudson River and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point,” said Tripp. “It’s a great old Devereux Emmet design that has had very little done to it, except little things around the greens and a lot of tree planting. We will work on the course a little bit at a time.” The Powelton Club was established in 1882.



TDA NYC Design Assistant Jack Skirkanich with Bob DeMarco, Golf Course Superintendent, and his Assistant Superintendent toured the course in the January snow



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