

Leading to - the MPSGA!

[a historical prospective]

The earliest long nose woods used heads made of apple, pear, thorn, ash and beech trees. Shafts were made of greenheart, redheart, hazelwood, lancewood and hickory. Hickory proves to be the best for shafts and by 1910, persimmon had become the wood of choice for heads by the top clubmakers.

Gutta percha balls had replaced featheries (in 1848), and were used until rubber core balls start to replace them in 1899.

The game of golf is also impacted by changes in transportation, mowers, course architecture, bulldozers, irrigation systems and rules.

A Chronology of Sorts: *Of Michigan, Public Links, Senior & MPSGA Golf*

- 1888 - The first golf course in the U.S. is a 3 hole course in an apple orchard in Yonkers, New York. The St. Andrews Golf Club became a 6 hole course later that year. Members were known as "The Apple Tree Gang". The first club president is John Reid.
- 1891 - First 12 hole course - Shinnecock Hills, Long Island, N.Y. - it is designed and built by Willie Dunn - - with the help of 150 Indians from the Shinnecock reservation.
- 1893 - The first 18 hole course in the U.S. is the Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, IL. (originally a 7 hole course in Belmont, IL.) The course measures 5,877 yards.
- 1894 - The U.S. Golf Association (USGA) is formed.
- 1894 - First golf clubs are manufactured in the United States. (by Spalding - in Chicago)
- 1895 - First U. S. Open (won by Horace Rollins) and first U.S. Amateur. (won by Charles Blair MacDonald)
- 1896 - First public golf course in the United States - Van Cortlandt Park in New York City.
- 1896 - First African-American/Native-American to compete in U.S. Open, John Shippen finishes in tie for 6th at Shinnecock Hills. He would play in 5 more U.S. Open's.
- 1896 - **First golf courses in Michigan:**
to (some near rail or interurban lines for transportation)
- 1898 - Kent CC, E. Grand Rapids, 1896, 9 holes, 1,181 yards, clay greens, by Jim Foulis (18 in 1901)
- Wawanowin GC, Ishpeming - 1897, 9 holes, 2,750 yards, sand greens, by Tom Bendelow.
 - Seymour GC, Marquette, 1897, 9 holes, by Horatio Seymour.
 - The Country Club of Detroit - 1898, 18 holes, 5,090 yards, grass greens, by W. H. Way.
 - Ann Arbor Golf & Outing - 1898, 6 holes, by "U of M students", (to 9 in 1903)
 - Wawashkamo, Mackinac Island - 1898, 9 holes, 3,000 yards, grass greens, by Alex Smith.
 - Les Cheneaux, Cedarville, 1898, 9 holes, by W. M. Derby and W. H. Crawford.
- 1899 - Others in 1899 were - Washtenaw CC, Detroit GC, Saginaw CC, Charlevoix GC, Albion GC, Escanaba GC, Grosse Ile CC, Traverse City GC, Harbor Point GC in Harbor Springs, Port Huron GC, Wanikin GC in Kalamazoo and Wequetonsing GC, also in Harbor Springs.

- 1899 - First rubber core golf ball. (Goes 15-20% further than existing gutta percha ball)
 Invented by golfer Dr. Coburn Haskell along with Bertram Wolk of the BF Goodrich Co.
- 1899 - The Western Golf Association is formed in Chicago, Illinois.
- 1902 - The first gasoline powered lawn mowers are used at golf courses.
- 1904 - First major tournament in Michigan. The Western Open is held at Kent CC in Grand Rapids. It is won by Willie Anderson - who also won the 1903, 1904 & 1905 USGA Open's.
- 1908 - First Ford Model T - low volume until 1915. (Early travel to courses was by horse & buggy)
- 1910 - Center shafted putters are outlawed by the British R&A as they provide an "unfair advantage."
- 1911 - First Western Amateur in Michigan (in Detroit, won by Albert Seckel over Robert Gardner)
- 1913 - 20 year old American amateur, Francis Ouimet wins US Open in playoff with Harry Vardon and Ted Ray at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts.
- 1914 - First deep groove irons. (later outlawed in 1922 as spin rates are too high)
- 1915 - First U.S. Amateur in Michigan. (at CC of Detroit, won by Robert Gardner)
- 1916 - The PGA is formed with help of businessman, Rodman Wanamaker. (who donates cup)
- 1918 - First use of heavy equipment (dozers, shovels) in golf course construction.
- 1919 - The Detroit District Golf Association (DDGA) is formed. (DDGA becomes GAM in 1961)
- 1920 - The first greensmower that could be adjusted to 1/8" height is built by Ransomes. The last sand greens disappear, including those at Pinehurst #2.
- 1920 - Prof. Tom Trueblood organizes Michigan's first college golf team at The Univ. of Michigan. Golf becomes a conference sport in 1921 and Trueblood remains varsity coach until 1935. Teams at The College of the City of Detroit (later Wayne State) and Michigan State College of Agriculture (later Michigan State) are organized in the next few years.
- 1921 - Golf ball size and weight are standardized. Rubber core balls fully replace gutta percha.
- 1921 - Long time Michigan resident, Walter Hagen wins first of five PGA championships between 1921 and 1927. He is first American born PGA champion.
- 1922 - First use of underground irrigation systems at golf courses.
- 1922 - James D. Standish Jr., of Detroit, persuades the USGA executive committee to hold an Amateur Public Links Championship and donates a perpetual trophy. The first national tournament is held at the Ottawa Park Course in Toledo, Ohio and **the U.S. Public Links (later Publinx) Golf Association is formed.**
- 1922 - First 9 hole pure public links course in Michigan. (Belle Isle Golf Course which was designed by Ernest Way and operated by the Dept. of Parks and Boulevards) Palmer Park GC follows in 1923 - next to the Detroit Golf Club.
- 1922 - Al Waterous becomes pro at Redford GC (course had been private as Phoenix CC) and wins Canadian Open and first of 9 Michigan PGA championships. His last PGA win is in 1954 while the pro at Oakland Hills - at the age of 55.
- 1922 - Dr. William Lowell invents the wooden golf tee and they start to replace sand & rubber tees.
- 1924 - First U.S. Open in Michigan. (At Oakland Hills, won by Cyril Walker, over Bobby Jones)
- 1925 - First Donald Ross designed public course is Rackham Park Muni. He had redesigned Redford GC (original 9 by Tom Bendelow in 1913) and later completes Warren Valley (east and west).
- 1925 - The USGA approves metal shafts but they are not accepted by most players. A few are used in putters.

- 1925 - Willie Watson designs Belvedere GC in Charlevoix which becomes the longtime host for The Michigan Amateur Championship.
- 1927 - True Temper develops tapered step-down steel shaft - making the steel shaft much more acceptable in clubs other than putters.
- 1927 - The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture develops creeping bent grass for golf course putting greens.
- 1930 - Bobby Jones wins 4 "majors" -- using wooden shafted clubs. (Then retires at age 28)
- 1931 - Billie Burke wins the U.S. Open - this is the first major tournament won by a player using steel shafted clubs.
- 1931 - Chuck Kocsis, an 18 year old Detroit Redford High School senior, wins his first of 3 Michigan Open's -- beating then British Open Champion, Tommy Armour in a playoff.
- 1931 - Dr. Alistair MacKenzie and Perry Maxwell design the University of Michigan GC. (They also redesign 9 and add 9 to Crystal Downs in Frankfort in 1933)
- 1932 - The first use of a flanged sand wedge -- by Gene Sarazen during his British Open victory.
- 1934 - Horton Smith wins the first Masters Tournament in Augusta, Georgia. He repeats in 1936 and later becomes longtime head professional at the Detroit GC.
- 1936 - Former U. of M golfer, (1932 NCAA champion) Johnny Fisher wins the U.S. Amateur using wooden shafted clubs. This is the last major tournament ever won with wooden shafts.
- 1936 - University of Michigan senior, Chuck Kocsis wins NCAA championship and is low amateur in the US Open. (He later has a top 10 finish in the 1937 US Open at Oakland Hills, is low amateur in the 1952 Masters and runner up in the 1956 US Amateur.)
- 1938 - The USGA limits players to 14 clubs - "to restore shotmaking"
- 1938 - Michigan's Bob Babbish wins the Western Amateur in South Bend, Indiana.
- 1940 - First U.S. Public Links championship in Michigan. (at Rackham , won by Robert Clark)
- 1941 - First "Joe Louis Open" is held at Rackham GC. (with host pro, Ben Davis, who is golf instructor for Louis - as well as Pete Brown, Lee Elder, Calvin Peete and countless others.) It is won by Tutor Martin over field of 186 including Lewis, who put up the \$1,000 purse. (In 2000, Joe Louis Barrow Jr. (his son) becomes National Dir. of the First Tee Foundation.)
- 1942 - The Metropolitan Golf Association (which later becomes the MPGA) conducts first Open-Amateur for both public and private course players at Rackham.
- 1947 - First PGA Championship in Michigan. (at Plum Hollow, won by Jim Ferrier over Michigan's Chick Harbert of Meadowbrook CC)
- 1948 - Ted Rhodes becomes first African-American to play in U.S. Open since John Shippen in the late 1800's. The tournament is held at the Riviera CC in Los Angeles.
- 1948 - First USGA Junior Amateur. (at the University of Michigan GC, won by Dean Lind over future US Open champion, Ken Venturi)
- 1948 - First Motor City Open. (at Meadowbrook CC, won by Ben Hogan) The tournament founders are Russ Gnau, Hugh Rader, Glenn Sisler, Randall Ahern and Chick Harbert.
- 1949 - Second Motor City Open is first tour event to end in a tie after Lloyd Mangrum and Dr. Cary Middlecoff match scores on 11 extra holes at Meadowbrook.
- 1951 - Ben Hogan "brings the monster to its knees" in US Open victory at Oakland Hills. Chuck Kocsis of Red Run is again the low amateur.
- 1952 - The USGA eliminates the stymie in a major rules change.
- 1952 - First Evans Scholars house in Michigan at The University of Michigan. A second house is established at Michigan State in 1955.
- 1953 - Former Michigan publinxer, Walter Burkemo wins the PGA Championship at Birmingham CC.

- 1954 - Arnold Palmer wins the US Amateur at the CC of Detroit - then turns professional. (Red Run's George Linklater becomes last player to beat Palmer in amateur match-play)
- 1954 - Meadowbrook's Chick Harbert wins the PGA Championship at Keller GC, Minn.
- 1954 - Former Michigan publinxer, Ed Furgol wins the U.S. Open at Baltusrol.
- 1955 - Sam Kocsis becomes first Michigan golfer to win the U.S. National Public Links. He pulled his own cart through the semifinals and carried only 11 clubs, two of which were putters.
- 1955 - **First US Senior Amateur Championship is conducted by the USGA.**
- 1957 - Future MPSGA member, Lloyd Syron of Pontiac CC wins the Michigan Amateur.
- 1960 - Red Run golfers Chuck Kocsis and Randall Ahern are the first to be included on a DDGA(GAM) honor roll in four different decades.
- 1960 - The USGA approves marking and cleaning the ball on the green, while traditionalists (and others) agree this will add at least 30 minutes to the typical round of golf.
- 1961 - The University of Michigan men's golf team wins two dual meet matches over a Jack Nicklaus led Ohio State team. (This follows 1960 dual meet where Michigan's Joe Brisson beats Nicklaus heads-up in lead match at the U. of M. course in Ann Arbor.)
- 1961 - "The Detroit District Golf Association" becomes "The Golf Association of Michigan".
- 1963 - First nationally ranked par 3 course is built in Michigan. ("The Par 3" which becomes "Family Golf" in North Muskegon is designed & built by Montague's Bob Campsmith)
- 1965 - Red Run's Tom Draper wins the North & South Amateur in Pinehurst - at the age of 51. US Public Links founder, James D. Standish had won this event in 1909 on sand greens.
- 1967 - Michigan's Ray Palmer of Grosse Ile wins USGA Senior Amateur @ Shinnecock Hills, N.Y.
- 1969 - Chuck Kocsis wins National Senior Open (prelude to USGA Senior Open) in 1969, 1970 and 1979 and is International Seniors Champion in 1970, 73, 83 & 88.
- 1970 - Future MPSGA member, Herman Bennett and John Henderson are first African-Americans to join the MPGA when they are sponsored by Pete Owens and Bill Curtis.
- 1971 - Draper wins the USGA Senior Amateur @ Sunnybrook GC in Pennsylvania.
- 1976 - **The MPSGA is formed** by group of MPGA seniors including George Blake, Bob Hopkins, Jack LaRose, Gus Kranites, Bob Farmer and Roy Iceburg. The first state championship is held at Bedford Valley in Battle Creek. The co-winners are Ray Hartley and Dick Robertson. The tournament award later becomes known as the "George Greenhalgh Cup".
- 1979 - First "Legends of Golf" event leads to start of Senior PGA Tour. Arnold Palmer turns 50 in September and the PGA lowers the age of a senior to 50.
- 1979 - Sam Snead becomes the first player to shoot his age (67) in a regular tour event. (Quad Cities Open) Two days later he shoots 66 in the final round of the same event.
- 1980 - The first USGA Senior Open is held at Winged Foot GC - 25 years after the first USGA Senior Amateur. The USGA keeps the age for a senior at 55. The winner is Roberto De Vincenzo.
- 1981 - The USGA lowers the age of a senior to 50 for the 2nd US Senior Open and 51 year old Arnold Palmer wins the event at Oakland Hills. Michigan's Glenn Johnson is the low amateur.
- 1982 - **The first Constitution and by-laws of the MPSGA are approved.** The MPSGA follows the PGA and the Senior Open in setting the age of a senior at 50 - while the USGA & GAM keep the age of a senior at 55 for all amateur events.
- 1984 - The first USGA Senior Amateur Championship in Michigan is held at Birmingham CC.
- 1985 - Public golf courses, and the MPGA, become a part of the GAM for the first time.
- 1985 - Red Run's Fred Zinn wins the North & South Senior Amateur at Pinehurst.

- 1987 - William Newcomb of Ann Arbor designs first memorial course in Michigan. (The Donald Ross Memorial at Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs)
- 1987 - First wooden-shaft memorial tournament in Michigan is held at Ann Arbor Golf & Outing. It is organized and run by Dan Duncanson.
- 1988 - Jim Briegel becomes first three time winner of MPSGA's State Seniors Open-Amateur. Pat McCabe duplicates this feat in 2001 and Bill McDonald wins his 3rd in 2002.
- 1988 - Michigan's Bud Stevens is runner-up in the USGA Senior Amateur. His brother, Don was MPSGA State Seniors Open-Amateur champion in 1981 and 1985.
- 1996 - Briegel wins the 70 & up division of the British Open-Amateur at Blairgowrie.
- 1996 - Pete Green wins the Michigan Amateur - at age 56. (He earlier won in 1969, 1979 and 1989)
- 1996 - Michigan's Bob McMasters becomes president of the Western Golf Association.
- 2001 - **MPSGA adds "net competition" to State Seniors Open-Amateur.** Ron Hass is first winner.
- 2001 - The Michigan PGA introduces "Rush Trucking Senior Series" for amateur and professional seniors in Michigan. (8 tournaments and a tour championship) in "47-55" and "56 & up" divisions.
PGA's Jack Seltzer (47-55) and MPSGA's Tom Ahern (56+) are Player's of the Year. John O'Donovan (the 2009 GAM president) is leading money (G.C.) winner in "56 & up" div.
- 2002 - Michigan's Greg Reynolds wins the USGA Senior Amateur.
- 2002 - Doug King replaces Dr. Patric Cavanaugh as president of the MPSGA. Earlier presidents include George Blake, Bob Farmer, Jim Briegel, Dick King and Richard Golobic.
- 2004 - 1964 USGA Public Links Champion, Bill McDonald becomes first player to win the MPSGA State Seniors Open-Amateur Tournament 5 times.
- 2006 - MPSGA's Al Whited sets new Michigan Senior Olympics record in 70 & up div. of men's golf.
- 2007 - **MPSGA joins the Golf Association of Michigan.**
- 2007 - Jim Briegel shoots 70 in MPSGA event at Dunham Hills to beat his age by 11 strokes. Others have beaten their age by greater amounts, but we are not aware of any who have done so in tournament competition. The PGA Senior Tour record is 7 under by Joe Jimenez in 1995.
- 2007 - First GAM Senior Four Ball in Michigan. (at Verona Hills in Bad Axe) It is won by Roger Kuhl and Michael Sequite. The MPSGA is represented by Jim Mlynarczyk and Dan Sutherland in the senior division; and Briegel and Ahern in the super-senior division.
- 2007 - Michigan publiclinker, Bill Zylstra shoots lowest score ever recorded (65) in the stroke play portion of a USGA Senior Amateur at Flint Hills, Kansas.
- 2007 - **First Briegel Cup competition conducted by the MPSGA.** It is won by Ralph May.
- 2007 - **MPSGA introduces first Gross and Net Player's of the Year competitions.** Morrie Hoewel and Everett Bailey are the respective winners.
- 2008 - Zylstra is GAM men's senior golfer of the year for third year in a row and receives Golfweek magazine ranking as #1 senior amateur golfer in the country. -
- 2008 - Tom Pilon becomes the first player to win both the Briegel Cup and MPSGA Net Player of the Year awards. He is also runner-up to Hoewel who repeats as the gross winner. Desmond Roberts is Briegel Cup runner-up for second year in a row while GAM/USGA rules official, Jack Galsterer finishes third.
- 2009 - First GAM Senior and Super-Senior Match Play Championships at Port Huron CC. The winners are Bill Zylstra and Robert Layman. The MPSGA is represented by Cliff Davis, Kyu Kim, Steve Jones, John Pratt, Larry Semczak and Tom Ahern. GAM also adds a senior division to the GAM Mid-Amateur at Boyne Highlands.

- 2009 - MPGA's Bill Curtis, the 1992 MPSGA State Seniors Open-Amateur champion, is inducted into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame.
- 2009 - **GAM Senior Honor Roll points are awarded at the MPSGA State Seniors Open-Amateur (at Shanty Creek) for the first time.** Claud Johnston wins his second State Tournament.
- 2009 - Tom Watson is runner-up in the British Open at age 59.
- 2009 - Desmond Roberts wins the Briegel Cup, Mike Phillips is Gross Player of the Year and Dan Moore is the Net Player of the Year.
- 2010 - MPSGA's Kyu Kim, Ray Maidment, Tom Ahern and 2009 MPSGA State Champion, Claud Johnston all qualify for match-play in super-senior div. of 2nd GAM Senior Match-Play. Maidment reaches the quarter-finals; Ahern reaches the semi-finals and Johnston wins this GAM state championship. Zylstra wins the senior division for the 2nd year in a row.
- 2010 - Lion Kim of the Univ. of Michigan golf team wins U.S. Public Links Championship.
- 2010 - Ray Maidment wins the Briegel Cup, Charlie Mutz wins both Gross and Net Player of the Year awards and Mike Phillips wins **MPSGA's first Gross Super-Senior of the Year award.**
- 2010 - Ray Maidment, Claud Johnston and Jim Briegel (twice) all shoot below their age in the State Tournament. Bob Stuewe is overall low gross winner and Charles Mutz is the overall low net winner; after shooting a gross 69/net 63 on the Cedar River course.
- 2011 - MPSGA's Jim Briegel is elected to the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame. (Along with architect Arthur Hills, writer/editor Terry Moore and the founder of the Ferris State golf program, Don Perne')
- 2011 - At 54, Randy Lewis of Alma, Michigan becomes oldest player to win a US Mid Amateur.
- 2011 - Mike Phillips wins the Briegel Cup and Gross Player of the Year awards. Kyu Kim is Super Senior of the Year, Tom Ahern wins the **MPSGA's first Legend of the Year award** and Morris DeFever is the Net Player of the Year.
- 2011 - Claude Frady wins his first MPSGA State Open-Amateur while Ray Donnelly is the overall net winner. Jack Galsterer is the **first "Low Gross - Front Tee" winner.** The MPSGA Match Play gross winner is Sam Nichols, while the super-senior winner is Kyu Kim.
- 2012 - MPSGA's Paul Grill wins the GAM Net Amateur and Cliff Davis wins the Super-Senior division in the MPGA's State Tournament
- 2012 - Tom Pilon wins the Briegel Cup and Legend of the Year awards. Mike Phillips is again Player of the Year while Dave Ruelle wins the Super-Senior of the Year award. Harry Hicks is the MPSGA's Net Player of the Year.
- 2012 - MPSGA conducts **inaugural Club Championship** with Mike Phillips winning the gross Senior division and Hank Spellman winning the gross Super-Senior division at match play.
- 2012 - Age driven competition used at the State Tournament with Mike Grace, Tom Miller and Claud Johnston winning the gross divisions and Jim Mlynarczyk, Joe Mercury and Roy Vomastek winning the net divisions. Jim Briegel (3), Johnston (1) and Vomastek (3) all shoot their age.
- 2012 - Dan Sutherland replaces Doug King as MPSGA president -- Doug is recognized for 12 years of dedicated service and commitment to the organization. He will continue as an advisor.

- 2013 – Billy Green & Mike Phillips share Player of the Year honors and Tom Pilon wins the Briegel Cup and Super-Senior of the Year awards. Kyu Kim is Legend of the Year. Dan Pavlat wins the **inaugural season ending Tournament of Champion's (at net)** and Harry Hicks is the MPSGA's Net Player of the Year.
- 2013 – Mike Phillips, Tom Pilon and Jim Novar are the State Tournament low gross champions while Ray Denne wins low net.
- 2014 – Mike Phillips wins the super-senior division of the GAM Senior Match Play; Dave McTear finishes 3rd in the super-senior division of the GAM Senior Amateur; Jim Mlynarczyk is runner-up in the senior division of the GAM Net Amateur and Billy Green finishes 5th in the GAM Tournament of Senior Club Champions.
- 2014 – Jerry Fenby wins the **inaugural Grand Master of the Year** competition, Ray Maidment wins the Briegel Cup, John Pratt is Net Player of the Year, Billy Green is Player of the Year, Dave McTear is Super-Senior of the Year, Tom Pilon is Legend of the Year and Dave Baldwin wins the King Cup.
- 2014 – Billy Green, Mike Phillips and Dennis Ahern win the Senior, Super-Senior and Legend gross divisions at the state championship while Ray Donnelly is the overall net winner.
- 2015 – MPSGA member Dave McTear wins the 2015 GAM Net Match Play Championship at Forest Lake Country Club. After qualifying for the match-play portion of the tournament, Dave won all five matches in this rain-delayed four-day event.
- 2015 – Mark Mann, Mike Grace and Billy Green all qualified for the match play portion of the GAM's Senior Match Play Tournament at Tullymore GC in mid-Michigan. Billy, in particular, won several matches to reach the quarter-finals before losing to the eventual champion, Mitch Wilson.
- 2015 – In the Super-Senior division of this same tournament, MPSGA state tournament regulars Jim Novar and Claud Johnston also qualified for the match play portion of the tournament.
- 2015 – Ray Maidment wins the Grand Master of the Year competition and the Briegel Cup, Greg Pearson is Net Player of the Year, Billy Green is Player of the Year for the second year in a row, Dave Ruelle is Super-Senior of the Year, Mike Phillips is Legend of the Year and Carl Carli wins the King Cup at the Tournament of Champions.
- 2015 – Corky Mamayek, Tom Miller and Larry Brady win the Senior, Super-Senior and Legend gross divisions at the state championship while Lee Williams is the overall net winner.

MPSGA Historical Committee (7/2016)
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