

Course Review: Greenlea Golf Course

We are happy to report that Greenlea Golf Course in Boring lives on. Technically, Greenlea closed in 2014. We played there late that fall, along with friend Ron Hebert, and were told by the owner that the course's days were numbered. Greenlea always closed over the winter months anyway, but this time, when December came, it was to be done.

But enter local golf professional Scott Shields, a native of the area. Shields long had a hankering to own and operate a golf course, so a deal was struck, and in mid-April 2015, just a little later than usual, Greenlea was again open for business.

Greenlea began life as a nursery back in the 1930s. The golf course started in the late '70s, but the course still has a distinct rural, nursery feel. Located about a good 3-wood from Mountain View Golf Course, Greenlea should benefit from overflow from that regulation 18-hole venue.

An executive course that features five par 3s and four par 4s, holes measure from 97 yards at the shortest to 270 at the longest. There are two sets of tees, blue and white, but with scant difference — 1,657 from the blues; 1,524 from the whites. However, Greenlea plays a little more difficult than the scorecard indicates. The first hole, a short (115/125) par 3, lulls you to sleep a little bit; not all the holes are that easy. Not that anyone will mistake this layout for a golfing “test,” but as you work your way around



Posin' with our buddy Ron Hebert (far left) before teeing off at Greenlea Golf Course.



Many holes at Greenlea are wide open. Others, as you can see, offer a bigger accuracy challenge.

the course, things do get occasionally tighter and more difficult.

Greenlea's premier hole is probably No. 5. Now, it may sound silly to deem a 250-yard (270 from the blues) par 4 hole that way, but No. 5 features a 90-degree dogleg right that is protected by a grove of trees, so you have to be patient and place your drive accurately. Left of center in the fairway would be ideal, but there's one large tree sitting at that exact location, so too far left and it's in your way. So while a 250-yard par 4 may scream birdie or even eagle on the scorecard, out on the course par is a good score.

No. 7 may be Greenlea's most aesthetically pleasing hole simply because it's the only hole on the course that features both sand traps and water. Granted, the pond is directly behind the green and not in play unless you overclub. Bunkers guard both sides up front, a deterrent on this otherwise drivable (190 or 205 from the blues) par 4. The only other trap you'll encounter at Greenlea comes greenside on No. 4.

Greenlea has always had a reputation for being a good beginners course and family friendly. It has a lot of women in its regular clientele. Shields would be wise to continue those emphases.