

JERRY MATTHEWS

(1934 -)

BACKGROUND

Son of Michigan golf architect W. Bruce Matthews. Attended Michigan State University, received degrees in Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning. During summers, worked in golf course maintenance, and supervised the construction of one course designed by his father.

After a short career in forestry, joined his father's business in 1963. Quickly became Bruce's partner and took on the active design work, with his father acting as consultant. Established his own firm in Lansing, MI when Bruce retired in 1985. Subsequently hired as design associates his nephew Bruce Matthews III and Ray Hearn.

Was appointed to the Michigan State Board of Landscape Architects in 1990. In 1993, served a term as President of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.

DESIGN PHILOSOPHY

Trained on a succession of low-budget courses, Matthews produced an early series of courses with solid fundamentals but visually uninspiring. By the mid 1980s, he began showing more flair in his bunkering and green complexes. An avid fisherman, Matthews has always showed particular attention to lakes, streams and wetlands on his courses. He keeps them in play, but also keeps them in natural states.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS

Very narrow fairways, especially in tree corridors. Specimen trees left standing in fairways. Mounds framing the backs of his greens. Eighteenth hole invariably the most difficult on the course.