

Whitewater's Spring Creek Golf Center named one of nation's top par-3 courses

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WHITEWATER-In 1987, Mike Majewski's dream was to build a par-3 golf course-unique in its design and layout.

Those in the golfing business called Majewski ambitious but crazy.

Par-3 golf courses were nothing more than the chip-and-putt variety. The avid golfer liked the challenge of the standard 18-hole layout, not a course where a 7-iron and a putter were the only clubs needed.

After 18 years, Majewski has not only proven his critics wrong, but he's turned Spring Creek Golf Center into one of the nation's finest par-3 courses.



Owners Mike and Judy Majewski stand in front of the signature hole at Spring Creek Golf Center near Whitewater. The fourth hole features an island green at the layout recently named one of the nation's top par-3 courses.

Al Hoch/Gazette Staff

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Golf Range Magazine, the industry's leading trade publication, has named Spring Creek one of the top 10 par-3 courses in the United States. The Bob Lohman-designed Spring Creek layout shares the honor with, among others, the Robert Trent Jones-designed Short Course at Magnolia Grove in Mobile, Ala., and the Threetops at Treetops Resort in Gaylord, Mich., home of ESPN's annual Par-3 Shootout.

"I wanted to build a championship par-3 golf course, and thanks to Bob Lohman, I was able to do that," Majewski said. "The course is so unique. It's worked very well over the years.

"A lot of golfers won't come here to play because it's a par-3 course. Once they do come out here, though, they're so amazed by the unique design and what they see that they're hooked.

"I have a lot of the state's top professional golfers come here to play because the course is so difficult from the blue tees."

Spring Creek, which opened in July 1988, is a nine-hole layout measuring 1,644 yards from the back tees, 1,394 yards from the middle tees and 964 yards from the front tees. In 18 years, with 20,000 to 30,000 rounds played on the course per year, only two amateur golfers have broken par (27) from the blue or back tees. The course record is 26.

The tees, fairways and greens are bent grass. The longest hole from the blue tees is the 234-yard ninth hole, while the 146-yard fourth is the shortest as well as Spring Creek's signature hole.

The fourth hole features a large undulating green surrounded by water. Interestingly, the hole is the same length and layout as the now infamous 17th hole at the TPC in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

"Obviously, we don't have the length at this course, so we had to make sure we had conditions that were second to none," Majewski said. "Because of Bob's design and the work of superintendent Jerry Gallman and his assistant Ty Allard, we have that.

"We got the award thanks to the work of Jerry and Ty," Majewski stated. "This course is in absolutely fantastic shape."

Majewski, who owns and operates Spring Creek along with his wife, Judy, knows that along with the award comes the challenge of trying to stay on top.

"Credibility is something that I've fought with since the first day this course opened," Majewski said.

"I'd like to get over the credibility part. This award we got, when you look at the other courses and architects that are on that list, is quite an honor and should go a long way toward proving our credibility.

"This is not a chip-and-putt course but a championship Par 3 course that has something to offer golfers at every level."

It's a dream come true for Mike Majewski.