

By Jeff Seisser
Union sports editor

COLD SPRING — For Mike and Judy Majewski, it's always been about the people. And it's because of the people that Spring Creek Golf Center has been named one of the top par-3 golf courses in America.

Golf Range Magazine recently named Spring Creek, located on Highway N between Fort Atkinson and Whitewater, one of the 12 premier par-3 courses in the United States. "This is a tribute to the people that work here and what they've done," Mike Majewski said.

Golf Range Magazine is a national publication that goes to all the golf courses, golf shops, golf manufacturers and golf retail outlets throughout the country. Recently, members of its staff visited and played golf at the local course.

"They run a contest every year on the top courses in America, the top courses and top short courses, and last year, I filled a questionnaire out, sent them some photos and a little article about the place," said Majewski.

He didn't hear back from the magazine ... until one Friday earlier this month.

"I didn't know I was filling it out for 2006," said Majewski, who thought the form was for next golf season. "I got a call from one of their guys and he said, 'I just want to congratulate you. You have become one of the top short courses in America.'

"This is nice to have golf-knowledge people tell us what we have," he continued. "It's one of the biggest things that has happened to this course simply because it's a recognition from the golf industry itself. They know what the course is, and that makes me feel really good."

The Majewskis will represent the course in an awards ceremony in Orlando in January.

"At first, I was impressed, but then I got very impressed when I realized that they bring the winners of those awards down to the National Golf Show in Orlando and have a ceremony," said Majewski.

Spring Creek Golf Center is mentioned as one of the 12 top par-3 golf courses in the May/June issue of Golf Range Magazine.

The following is what the magazine had to say about the Cold Spring course:

"Measuring only 1,644 yards from the back tees. Nine-hole layout covers 36 acres of gentle rolling terrain. Each hole features its own visual benefits. Family owned and operated."

Majewski said in his questionnaire that an average of 20,000 to 30,000 rounds have been played each year at Spring Creek since its opening in 1987.

A full story about Spring Creek Golf Center, along with photos, will appear in the July/August issue.

"I didn't know they were even here," Majewski said of the golf magazine representatives. "They came and played the golf course, then sent their reports back to the committee and they said the course was outstanding."

Also on the list of par-3 courses were Button Hole in Providence, R.I.; Blue Rock Golf Course in South Sandwich, Mass.; Divine 9 at Callaway Golf Center in Las Vegas; Middleton Golf Course in Middleton, Mass.; Midway Par 3 in Myrtle Beach, S.C.; Orange County National's "Tooth" in Winter Garden, Fla.; Sandstone Hollow at Turning Stone Resort in Verona, N.Y.; The Short Course at Cordillera in Vail-Cordillera, Colo.;

The Short Course at Magnolia Grove in Mobile, Ala.; Town of Palm Beach Golf Resort in Palm Beach, Fla., and Threetops at Treetops Resort in Gaylord, Mich.

“What impressed me is when I saw who else was on the list, and some of the designers of some of those courses,” said Majewski.

Threetops at Treetops Resort annually hosts the “Shootout,” a par-3 event covered by ESPN.

A par-3 event in Wisconsin is something Majewski has wanted for a long time.

“The PGA of Wisconsin would still want to do it; I just have to get a sponsor,” Majewski said about what would be a first-of-its-kind event. “That’s been a dream of mine for 17 years.”

Legendary golf course designers such as Rick Smith, Geoffrey Cornish and Bob Lohman, along with current PGA professionals Brad Faxon and Billy Andrade, helped design some of the aforementioned links.

Lohman helped design Spring Creek Golf Center.

“We’re listed with all these top (courses) in the country, which I think is amazing for the fact that almost all the courses are down south,” said Majewski.

Spring Creek Golf Center is only open when the weather cooperates, and in Wisconsin, that means some unplayable weather in April and even in October, leaving the course with really only five months of ideal playing conditions.

Being golf course owners, the Majewskis know it’s not just two people doing the work. Therefore, they give credit where credit is due.

Golf course superintendent and head groundskeeper Jerry Gallman has been mowing the fairways and manicuring the greens even before the first ball was struck 18 years ago.

“Without Jerry Gallman, this honor would not be possible; there’s absolutely no doubt in my mind,” said Majewski. “He’s worked this thing with his heart.”

Another groundskeeper and Gallman’s assistant, Ty Allard, also is responsible for Spring Creek Golf Center looking the way it does.

“The nice thing about Jerry and Ty is they care about this as much as Judy and myself do. You can’t normally find an employee, much less two, that do that,” Majewski said. “One of the higher recommendations we got from the magazine was the course condition.”

The course layout and its uniqueness also played a role into Golf Range making Spring Creek Golf Center one of its choices. The course features deeper-than-normal sandtraps, extra fairway cuts and bent grass tees and fairways.

“You don’t see that on par-3 golf courses,” noted Majewski.

Wisconsin’s own and PGA professional Steve Stricker, who is competing in the U.S. Bank Championships this weekend in Brown Deer, has visited Spring Creek Golf Center many times.

“Steve Stricker plays out here once a year, but he has never broken par out here,” Majewski said of the PGA pro and Edgerton native. “He plays the blue tees out here and on the (PGA) tour, that’s his second shot — the white tees are normally the second shot on most golf courses — but he loves to play the blue tees because they are very, very tough golf holes.

“The great thing about this course is the great player can come out and really appreciate the quality and toughness of the course, while the beginner is not intimidated,” Majewski added.

But it all comes back to the people for the Majewskis.

“People that come here for the first time can’t believe how unique this course is. I hear it every day that this is not your typical par-3 chip-and-putt golf course,” Mike Majewski said. “They’re getting championship quality like they’re never going to get elsewhere. “There’s so many good people that come out here and actually play golf, and have fun doing it,” he concluded.

For more on Golf Range Magazine, log onto its website at www.golfrange.org.