



Greystone Golf Course ~ A Touch of Grey

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“Joe Lee never built a bad golf course” — Jack Nicklaus

The discussion of who is the greatest golf architect of all time normally starts with Donald Ross and Alister Mackenzie, then you have A.W. Tillinghast and Old Tom Morris in the next tier. For

modern design, Pete Dye and Tom Doak top many lists. Somewhere right after these icons you have to include Gentleman Joe Lee and one of his greatest admirers the Golden Bear, Jack Nicklaus. Lee collaborated with noted Architect Dick Wilson in the late 1950s and early 1960s in the design and renovation of more than 250 courses, including Doral's Blue Monster, La Costa, and Bay Hill. Upon Wilson's death, Lee took over the design firm. On his own, he created Cog Hill, Warwick Hills, the Magnolia and Palm courses at Disney World, and Musket Ridge in Myersville, Maryland. The only golf course architect to work with Ben Hogan, Lee teamed with Hogan on The Trophy Club in north central Texas in the 1970s. When Jack Nicklaus decided to design courses, the first architect he consulted was Lee, who was known for creating courses that appealed to the average golfer as well as players of championship caliber. “I start with the premise that courses should be enjoyable, not a chore,” Lee once said. When silver haired Lee started building Greystone Golf Course in northern Baltimore County in the mid 1990's, it was intended to be a private country club golf course. Before its completion in 1997, the investment group backing the country club aspect had gone sour, and the Baltimore County Revenue Authority stepped in and purchased the



project. Lee passed away in 2003 at the age of 81, but golfers can enjoy his wonderful work over and over again at Greystone.

Laid out over a diverse piece of farmland, Lee produced a masterpiece that looks like it has been there forever. The holes flow naturally across the terrain.

A welcome mix of five par 5's and five par 3's are integrated into the routing. Like the designer's previously mentioned premise on his intentions, Greystone is compatible to all golf skill levels. Five sets of tees range from 6925 from the tips (grey tees) to 4800 yards from the forward (red tees). The front nine at Greystone starts with a sweeping par 5 where most of the trouble is found to the right. One of the toughest par 4's is the second with a tree-lined dogleg left and a slightly elevated green, so take an extra club on your approach. The picturesque par third (seen on the cover) plays over wetlands to a receptive green. Anything long will find sand or a hillside that will make for a tough up and down. The 450-yard par 4 fourth maneuvers back towards the clubhouse and has bunkers bordering a wide fairway. Have fun playing the par 5 fifth, a sharp dogleg left with plenty of elevation change. Six sand traps around the green will have you thinking placement on your second shot. The tight, shortish par 4 sixth should be a fairway wood for most off the tee. Accuracy is everything here with anything over the narrow green leading to a big number. Many locals both love and hate



Hole 7 Par 4



Hole 16 Par 3



hole on the course. It's uphill all the way to a severely sloped green. Par here wins snack bar money.

The back nine at Greystone plays noticeably shorter than the front, but that does not necessarily make it any easier, although many think that there are better scoring opportunities on this side. A

delightful double dogleg par 5 opens the side with a real chance to reach the green in two. Just avoid the water to the right of green. Deep bunkers protect both sides of the fairway on the eleventh, but the green on this par 4 is open for bump and run shots. At only 161 yards, number twelve rates as the eighth hardest hole because it swings over a deep gorge to a nearly 100-foot, two-tiered green. A bottomless bunker will gobble up anything short on this terrific hole. The par 5 thirteenth features a splendid tee shot from an elevated tee. The shortest hole at Greystone is number fourteen, but you need to steer clear of a set of gapping sand traps that defend this par 3. A fairway wood or hybrid is best suited for the dogleg left par 4 fifteenth cut through tall pines. The only saving grace on the 240-yard par 3 sixteenth is that it plays downhill. Par here is always a good score. A lake pinches in the fairway on the left of the par 4 seventeenth. A mid iron will find the dance floor and give to a shot at bird. The closer, a long par 5, normally plays into the wind and is definitely a three shot hole. Pick the right club on your approach to a pop-up green. It's one of the best finishing holes in the Free State.

the par 4 seventh. A large lake sits 240 yards from the white tees. Your second shot to a wide putting surface is all water. A bulk-headed pond guards the left side of the pretty par 3 eighth. The closing hole of the outward nine is a brutal par 4 and is rated the most difficult



Not taking anything away from the other fine facilities of Baltimore County Golf, but Greystone Golf Course is the gem of the contingent. It has quickly become one of my favorites since my return to Charm City. I had the pleasure to meet Joe Lee before we lost him, and I'll have to agree with Jack here. . . . This gentlemen knew how to build a golf course, and few are better or more pleasurable than Greystone Golf Course. 🏌️

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