



Worthington Manor ~ Baby I'm Worth It

Nick Ciattei

I've been around the game of golf long enough that most people will tell you that I'm very qualified to acknowledge each and every positive feature of a golf course. As part of my job, I recommend golf courses to out-of-town travelers who may have never stepped foot on some of the courses they plan to attempt. When customers ask me to choose courses for them in the Frederick, Maryland, area, I endorse the Worthington Manor Golf Club in Urbana as one of the first. The now infamous Frederick golf boom began when this Ault-Clark signature course opened their doors in 1998. Designed in the game's grand tradition, the layout offers a picturesque country setting that hasn't changed much over the years.



Hole 3 Par 4

National publications continually rank Worthington Manor as one of the top ten daily-fee golf courses in the Free State, and here at *The Golf Guide* we agree whole heartedly. Not aggressively long playing at a smidge over 7000 yards from the tips, confrontations await on several difficult tee shots and many fast and creative undulating greens. The testy drives start right out of the gate on holes one and two, the

first of four consecutive par 4s. Clear the gorges and both of these holes become a lot easier. Be happy with par on number three, the toughest hole on the outward side. Take a moment to enjoy the unobstructed view of most of the course from the tee on the fourth. The fifth, a good birdie-able par 5, leads to the signature par 3 sixth that features an exquisite shot over a pond decorated with stone to a green laced with inviting bunkers and bailouts. Seven, a short par 4, offers another nice scoring opportunity. I've always found uphill par 3s to be very intimidating, and Worthington Manor's eighth falls right into that category. I suggest taking an extra club from the tee here. A solid drive on the par 5 ninth sets up the chance to go for the green in two, but anything short ends up in a golf ball graveyard.

More diverse threats await you on the back nine at Worthington Manor. The first two medium length par 4s give an opening to put some decent numbers on your scorecard. Golfers frequently discuss the par 4 twelfth, as tough a hole as you'll find anywhere. Your approach over a ravine to an elevated green with deep bunkers and a sharp drop-off to the left creates a real nail-biter (see story on page 44). Thirteen travels slightly uphill and normally requires three shots to get home on this par 5. The attractive downhill par 4 fourteenth hole plays back to the clubhouse allowing you to replenish your



Hole 10 Par 4

appetites for the closing holes. This unusual opportunity appears after you putt out on one of the course's most devilish greens. The par 3 fifteenth plays to a deep green, so avoiding the sand trap in the front makes smart play much easier. Worthington Manor closes with three terrific challenges. A distinctive element on the long par 4 sixteenth, a grassy knoll of deep rough, lies front and center of the putting surface's entrance.

This will make you think about your strategy from the fairway. Tucked into the layout's only hardwoods, the par 3 seventeenth displays beauty with plenty of bite. Any errant shots on this 220-yarder are swallowed up by trouble that surrounds the green. Those same trees act as a flight path for your tee shot on the par 5 closing hole. An area of hilly rough splits the fairway in two and allows for options on your drive. If you end up in the rough, automatically rule out any chance of going for the green in two. This entertaining hole offers a chance to close your round with a birdie.

After almost 20 years, this terrific facility's success can be measured by how well the course is received and respected. A recipient of many regional awards, Worthington Manor is the only Maryland course to have hosted each of the USGA's Men's Qualifier events. Quite impressively, 2015 marks the eighth year they have welcomed a United States Open Qualifier. They pride themselves on this achievement and their loyalty to their customers. FREEquent player cards and a nice yearly free birthday round are extremely popular here.

Worthington Manor has several distinctive characteristics that have always stood out to me. At the Manor you can enjoy that great feeling you get anytime you play a course that is almost totally void of housing. A few lovely homes skirt the border of the property. Otherwise, no structures run interference. Worthington Manor can

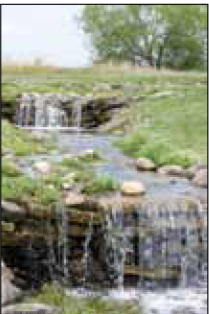


Hole 14 Par 4



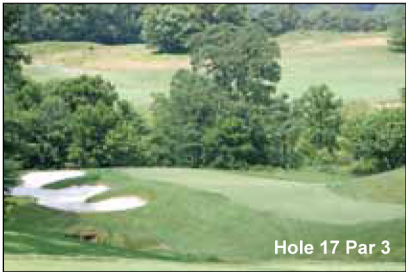
Hole 4 Par 4

also boast having preserved the very natural feel of the land that the course plays across. That being said, if you look at photos of the farmland that graced the property before the course was built, you find very little change if any. Other modern courses have opted to build contemporary clubhouses. Here you find the 1858 family residence of the facility's namesake, J.T. Worthington, fares just as well. Historic and captivating, having



been built before the Civil War, the clubhouse comfortably accommodates all of the course's needs with its plantation-style facade and hardwood floors. The appropriately named J.T.'s Grill and an expanded dining area with large picture windows make perfect settings for after round comradery or any special functions.

Being one of the most attractive addresses just a mile west of I-270 makes Worthington Manor easily accessible from Baltimore, Washington, Virginia, and points north. You will find any expedition to this first-class golf course always well worth it!



For more information visit worthingtonmanor.com

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