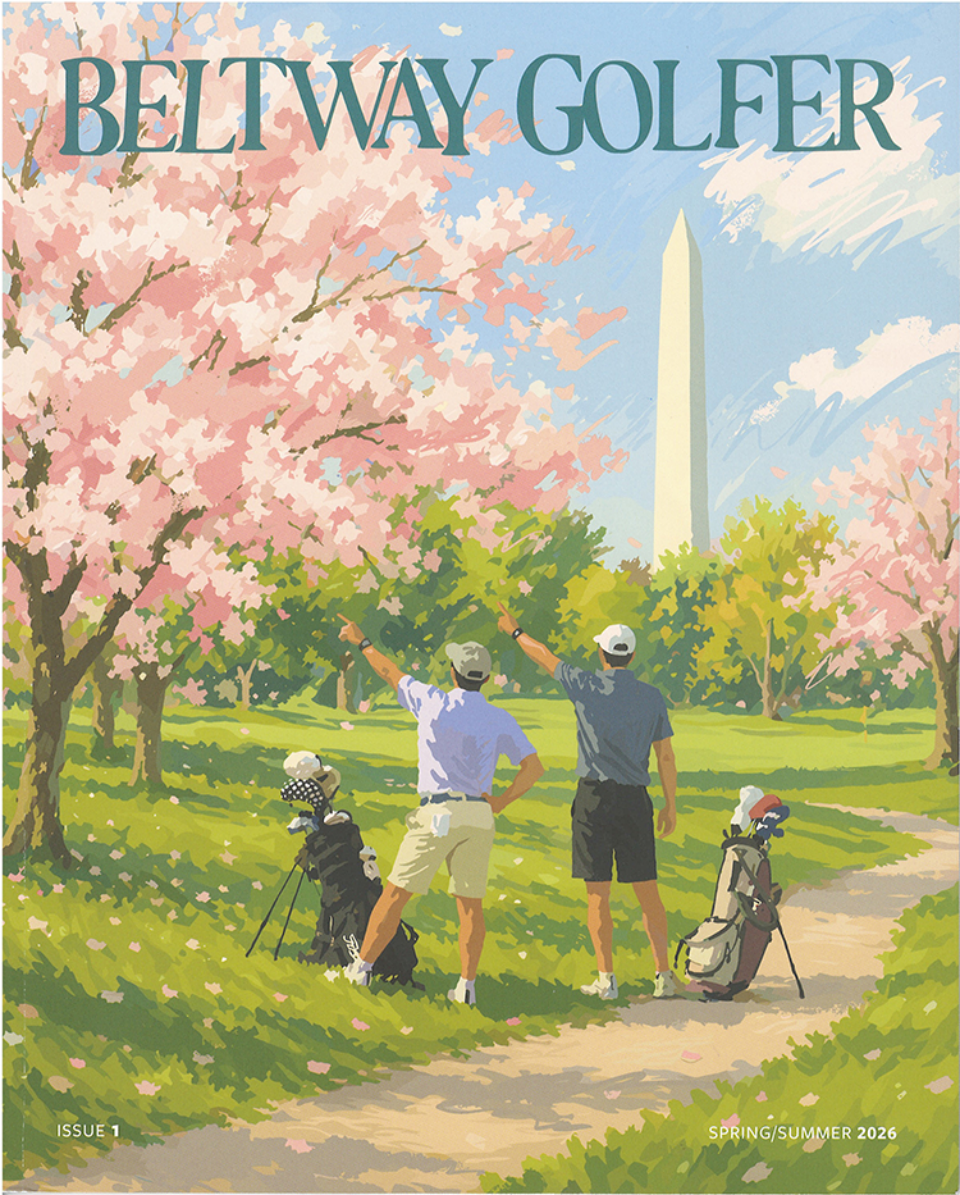


BELTWAY GOLFER

An artistic illustration of two golfers standing on a path, looking at cherry blossoms and the Washington Monument. The scene is set in a lush green park with large, vibrant pink cherry blossom trees in the foreground and middle ground. In the background, the tall, white Washington Monument rises against a bright blue sky with soft, white clouds. The two golfers, seen from behind, are standing on a light-colored dirt path. The golfer on the left is wearing a light blue polo shirt, khaki shorts, and a grey cap, with his right arm pointing towards the blossoms. The golfer on the right is wearing a dark blue polo shirt, black shorts, and a white cap, also pointing towards the blossoms. Both have golf bags on tripods next to them. The overall style is painterly and vibrant, capturing a beautiful spring day in Washington, D.C.

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PUBLIC

Worthington Manor

Urbana, Maryland

A short drive up I-270 from Bethesda brings you to Worthington Manor, a public-access, daily-fee course that opened in 1998 and remains one of the region's quiet success stories. Still relatively young by Mid-Atlantic standards, it has already earned a reputation for thoughtful design and consistently strong conditioning. I played it last summer and thoroughly enjoyed the rolling terrain, expansive views, and strategic demands of the layout.

Conceived as a challenging yet accessible test, Worthington makes excellent use of Western Maryland's natural contours. Shot placement is rewarded, poor decisions are exposed, and yet the routing remains playable for golfers of all abilities. It strikes an increasingly rare balance between being demanding and enjoyable. Even in its short lifetime, the course has hosted several USGA qualifiers, including U.S. Open and U.S. Amateur events—no small endorsement of its quality.

The pro shop also left a lasting impression. The staff were warm, welcoming, and genuinely pleased to see us—something that should be standard but too often is not. Golf is, at heart, a service business, and Worthington understands that. It's refreshing to feel like a guest rather than an interruption.

There are many standout holes, but the par-3 17th hole is the one that lingers in the memory. It is the longest par 3 on the course, and

the walk back to the black tee reveals a striking vista. A creek some 30 yards short of the green plays tricks on the eye, while a large bank tight to the right frames the target. The green sweeps upward and left, and a back-left pin demands a high, confident draw from right-handed players. Miss left, however, and the slope can funnel balls back toward the creek, quickly turning par into double—or worse.

Despite a brutally hot and dry Mid-Atlantic summer last year, conditioning was excellent. The original architects, Ault, Clark & Associates, made superb use of the natural landforms, and the routing never feels forced. New forward tees are a welcome addition—one only wishes more players would embrace them.

Worthington Manor proves that great golf does not require private gates. It delivers substance, character, and hospitality in equal measure.