

Lake Nona Course Preview

By David Shefter

May 6, 2010



A look at the 18th hole at Lake Nona Golf and Country Club, site of the 2010 USGA Senior Amateur Championship. (Russell Kirk/USGA)

Lake Nona Golf & Country Club, Orlando, Fla.

Yardage: 6,691 yards

Par: 36-36—72

2009 champion: Marvin “Vinny” Giles III

Opened: 1987

Designer: Tom Fazio

USGA championships: This will be the second USGA championship at the club, following the inaugural USGA Men’s State Team Championship in 1995 won by Virginia.

Florida and the USGA: After going six years without a national championship, Florida suddenly is a hotbed for USGA activity. Both Senior Amateurs will be held in Florida in 2010 – the Senior Women’s Amateur is set for Oct. 9-14 in Naples, Fla. – and the 2009 U.S. Women’s Mid-Amateur was held at Golden Hills Golf & Turf Club in Ocala. The two Senior Amateurs will be the 18th and 19th USGA events held in the Sunshine State.

Home of champions: Several professional golfers from the PGA, LPGA and Champions tours have homes in Lake Nona, including two-time U.S. Open champions Ernie Els and Retief Goosen, and three-time U.S. Women’s Open champion Annika Sorenstam. Another resident is 2004 U.S. Women’s Amateur Public Links champion Yani Tseng of Chinese Taipei, who defeated Michelle Wie in the final. Other notables to call Lake Nona home include past Great Britain and Ireland Walker Cup members Justin Rose and Graeme McDowell, 1998 U.S. Amateur Public Links and 2008 Masters champion Trevor Immelman, former USA World Amateur Team Championship member Ben Curtis, who won the 2003 British Open, and two-time Great Britain and Ireland Curtis Cup member and past Women’s British Open champion Karen Stupples.

More than just golf: The private residential community in southeast Orlando is set amidst 600 acres of freshwater lakes, and oak, pine and cypress trees. The community is centered in the Tavistock Group’s mixed-use development plan for the region, which will include a life sciences cluster known as Lake Nona’s medical city. That city will house the University of Central Florida College of Medicine, the Burnham Institute for Medical Research, a University of Florida Center at Lake Nona Research Facility and a Veterans Affairs Medical Center Nemours Children’s Hospital.