

## ***BROOKSIDE COUNTRY CLUB***

### ***.... Its History and Its Vision***

Brookside Country Club originally took form as Lakeside Country Club in the last decade of the Nineteenth Century. In 1903, the members of Lakeside Country Club bought a “casino” and began reconstructing a 9-hole golf course located at Myers Lake in Canton, Ohio.

In 1917, a move to acquire more land for an additional nine holes was spearheaded by Messrs. Paul B. Belden, H.H. Timken, W.R. Timken, J.F. Clark, Frank McLain, T.K. Harris, G. Leonard and Clarence Herbruck.

The search ended in 1920 at the present location of Brookside Country Club, and a year later the famous golf architect, Donald Ross, designed and built 18 holes of golf. The course has changed through maturity and subtle innovations, but the original concept of Donald Ross has been maintained. Four clay tennis courts were built the same year as the golf course under the auspices of Conrad “Chub” Weeks. (Ironically, Mr. Weeks succumbed on one of his beloved courts 18 years later.)

The official opening of Brookside Country Club was celebrated in the summer of 1923 with a gala dinner/dance. The size of the club, its ambience and its dedicated members were the “talk” of Canton. (This same year, Lakeside Country Club was sold to the Shriners Club and a year later was destroyed by fire.) In 1929, the year of the “crash,” Brookside began to struggle for members. Annual dues were reduced to \$50. A lobster dinner was yours for \$1.50. Voluntary bankruptcy was entered into in 1938 and a long, difficult reorganization ensued. By 1948, the Club was totally reorganized and ended its voluntary bankruptcy by selling 90 certificates of membership for \$300 each.

With a slow but steady growth in membership, club expansion and facility improvements took place. In 1961, the Timken family donated an Olympic-size pool, which, at the time, was recognized as the finest in the area. The same year, the rotunda was completed, providing diners a spectacular view of the golf course. In 1968, Brookside Country Club completed two of the first indoor tennis courts in the area. By 1975, two additional indoor courts were added to provide members with year-round play. In 1983, Robert Trent Jones, Jr., architecturally adjusted the golf course for more flexibility of length and improved definition of the exceptional geography.

In 1985, an addition was made to the west side of the clubhouse. It included a completely new and greatly enlarged kitchen, employee work and relaxation area and added beautification to the swimming pool.

A complete renovation of the front of the Club was completed in 1990. Health and exercise facilities were introduced for the members, and enlarged pro shops added for both golf and tennis.

In 1997, the Club renovated the entire first floor of the Clubhouse. The Men's Grill and the men's and women's locker rooms were completely renovated. The health and exercise facility were greatly expanded. A Ladies' Grill was added. Outside, the Olympic-size pool was replaced and a bath house was constructed.

In 2001, the Board of Directors finalized a long-range "Phase II" plan to move Brookside into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In the Spring of 2002, the Club introduced its new state-of-the-art kitchen on the main level of the clubhouse. Brookside also celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of "The Invitational" in July of that year. The newly renovated rotunda dining areas opened on July 1, 2003, featuring the family oriented Mixed Grill and the adult-only Brookside Room.

The Club began the "Phase II" renovation project on the golf course following Labor Day 2003. The project included a new irrigation system with 1300+ sprinkler heads, a pump house, and three wells. The golf course renovation recaptured the design genius of Donald Ross, Brookside's original 1922 architect under the direction of Brian Silva, a respected classic golf course architect. The hole routing and greens remain true to their original design. An additional 9 acres of fairway and 1½ acres of putting surfaces were reclaimed, which were lost to modern mowing practices. The tee complexes now have 4-5 sets of tees per hole to challenge members of all skill levels. The 80 new tees were laser leveled and re-sodded with Bent grass. Many of the original bunkers were restored to capture the feel and vision of Donald Ross. Every bunker was rebuilt to include new drainage, sand and re-sodded Bluegrass surrounds. The golf course was lengthened by several hundred yards to compensate for new equipment and golf ball technology.

In January of 2009 Brookside Country Club encountered multiple Fire Suppression Sprinkler line breaks which caused substantial water damage to many areas of the first floor of the main clubhouse. As a result of the damage, the 2009 Board of Directors engaged a commercial design firm to create a *Master Renovation Plan* for the entire first floor of the clubhouse and subsequently renovated what was then the New Private Dining Room.

The Phase II renovation project of the Golf Course in 2003 left only Hole # 18 incomplete from the original renovation plans of our designated course architect, Brian Silva; therefore, and due to generous support from the Membership, the renovation of Hole # 18 was undertaken and completed during the late summer, early fall of 2012 and in keeping with the renovation plan of Mr. Silva. The renovation of Hole # 18 completes the Phase II Renovation project and continues the tradition of Brookside Country Club's Golf Course, as one of the Top 100 "*America's Best Courses*".

The 2012 Board of Directors revised and approved the Master Renovation Plan for the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Clubhouse originally developed in 2009. Construction began in early January of 2013 and was completed in March of 2013. Although not considered part of the renovation project, and again through generous support from the Membership, two Fire Pits were

approved, constructed and completed in March of 2013 adjacent to the Patio. In 2014, the Board of Directors approved the construction of the Poolside Café and Bar, which turned the former Ladies Grill Room into a self-service Poolside Café and an outside Poolside Bar and dining area was built overlooking hole #10 of our spectacular golf course.

In 2017, the Grounds Maintenance Building was renovated and a new service building was built on the site of the previous Superintendent’s residence. These improvements allow for increased efficiency of equipment repairs and provide improved facilities for our Superintendents and staff. Funds invested in a Capital Reserve from several profitable years were used to pay for these improvements.

In 2020, the club embarked upon a bunker recovery project restoring the course’s bunkers to the original Donald Ross design. Under the eye of Architect, Brian Silva, the club engaged Aspen Construction to conduct the work of shaping and relocating bunkers.

Since 2000, Brookside has appeared in Golfweek Magazine’s Top 100 “America’s Best Courses” as follows:

2000	#99
2001	#81
2002	#74
2003	#72
2004	#74
2005	#65
2006	#65
2007	#63
2008	#63
2009	#67
2010	#74
2011	#69
2012	#64
2013	#64
2014	#64

2015	#61
2016	#62
2017	#59
2018	#55
2019	#60
2020	#62

Best yet, in 2005, Brookside was honored by Golf Digest Magazine and featured in its January 2006 issue as *“Best New Remodel”* from over 150 courses that were opened or re-opened between May 1, 2004, and April 30, 2005!

Brookside is ready to continue its fine ***“Traditions, Mark of Excellence and Vision into the Future”***. Today, Brookside members and their guests enjoy one of the most complete and beautiful facilities in the country.