

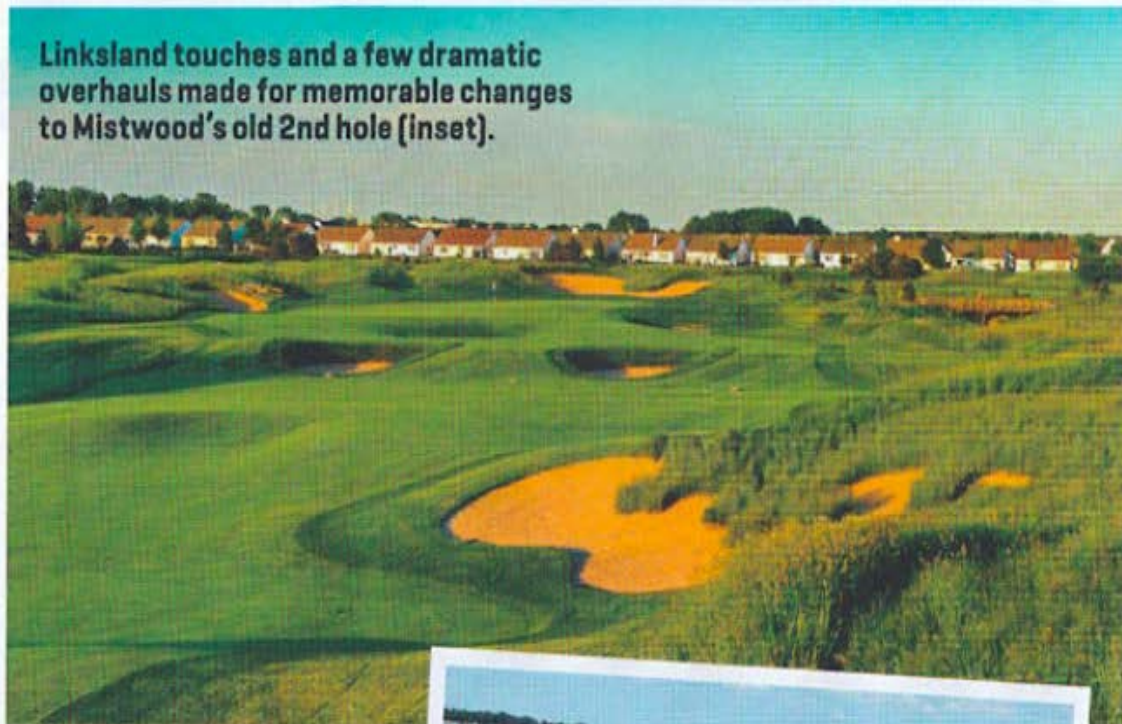
Mistwood Golf Club

ROMEOVILLE, ILLINOIS;
7,040 YARDS,
PAR 72; \$55-\$90;
815-254-3333,
mistwoodgolf.net

Raymond Hearn is no stranger to Renovation of the Year honors—he picked up the award for his work at Chicago’s ancient Flossmoor Country Club in 2009. But this year, he takes home our Best U.S. Renovation You Can Play award for altering one of his own designs, one that only dates to 1998. Why

renovate now? Owner Jim McWethy’s position was simple: “We want to elevate Mistwood into the ranks of the best golf courses in the Midwest.” The result? Mission accomplished. Fescue grasses replaced much of the traditional rough, decreasing fertilizer and pesticide usage, lowering maintenance costs and enhancing wildlife habitats. New stone walls around lakes and ponds add a distinctive touch, as does the addition of 19 stacked-sod-wall bunkers, a rarity in the region. Hearn saved the most dramatic transformation for the par-5 third,

Linksland touches and a few dramatic overhauls made for memorable changes to Mistwood’s old 2nd hole (inset).



relocating the green and converting the creek in front of it to a pond behind it. Mistwood may have been young for a face-lift, but this beauty is ready for its close-up.

