

# Tweaked amateur tour opens season at Glynn's Creek

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[Craig DeVrieze](#) The Quad-City Times | Posted: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 10:38 pm | [No Comments Posted](#)

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A revamped schedule and slightly tweaked scoring system will greet Quad-City Amateur Tour competitors starting with this weekend's Glynn's Creek Amateur.

The scenic course in Scott County Park outside Long Grove, Iowa, moves to the top of the Am Tour rotation this year, replacing the traditionally spring-soaked Hawthorn Ridge Amateur in Aledo, Ill.

The popularity of the Glynn's Creek layout and its ability to handle May showers a bit better than low-lying Hawthorn make it a better choice for the Saturday-Sunday opener, said veteran tour player and board member Chris Wilkins.

"Hawthorn Ridge got hammered the last couple years," he said of an event that twice was pushed back to an August rain date. "We just decided to try Glynn's early in the season. They seem to be a little less affected by the weather."

Another change in a season of tweaks will see the Memorial Day weekend Quad-City Amateur return to a three-round format for the championship flight only.

The Q-C Am's Friday afternoon opening round will launch a run of four straight events that will start on Friday this year.

"Last year, our two best (attended) events were Palmer and Short Hills," he said. "They had over 90 participants on Friday-Saturday. We have done the surveys with our membership. They seem to like that concept."

Another attendance-driven tweak to the eight-event lead up to the year-end Tour Championship will be to award "bounty" points in the Player of the Year points races for the championship and senior divisions.

Essentially, players will be rewarded based on the number of competitors they beat in a given week. That makes winning over a 90-player field worth more than topping a late-season event that draws half as many players.

This year, too, the tour won't award first-place points to runners-up who finish behind tournament contestants who are not official tour members. Last year, three non-members were event winners.

Wilkins called this year's schedule the best since the amateur tour's debut in 1999.

New to the regular rotation this season is a July event at Arsenal Island Golf Course. The tour also brings Clinton's Riverboat Days Amateur back into its points race after taking a year off.

Davenport's Ben Peters will be looking to win his fourth points title in five years. Dave Waugh is the defending senior division champion.

In June, the Quad-City Junior Amateur Tour will debut a six-event schedule at courses around the Q-C.

Last week, the tour awarded college scholarships to Eric Sikkema from Prince of Peace High School in Clinton, Iowa, and Daniel Wiegel from Rockridge (Ill.) High School.

At a glance

The Quad-City Amateur Tour will include nine stops this year.

Friday-Saturday: Glynn's Creek Amateur

May 27-29: Quad-City Amateur (Emeis)

June 17-19: Riverboat Days Amateur (Clinton CC)

June 24-25: Short Hills Amateur

July 15-16: Palmer Hills Amateur

July 30-31: Arsenal Island Amateur

Aug 6-7: Pinnacle Amateur

Aug 27-28: Tour Championship; Aug 27: Emeis, Aug 28: Crow Valley CC

Sept. 9-10: Hasley Cup (Short Hills CC)