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INTERVIEWS & FEATURES



Forget about tee times and scorecards, dress codes and caddies; there’s a new golf club in town...disc golf that is.

Todd Rainwater has given Nantucket its first official course for disc golf, a favorite sport among college students and alumni alike. After summering in Nantucket for years, Rainwater wanted to bring this leisurely sport to the island’s picturesque backdrop. And now with the Nantucket Disc Golf Course being constructed on 82 acres of the State Forest, Rainwater’s disc golf dreams are about to tee off. Upon completion, the course will encompass 10 acres on what’s known as South Pasture, allowing players to enjoy all of the wonders of the forest while flinging their Frisbees.



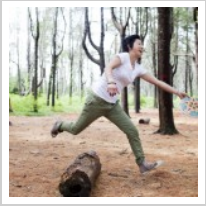
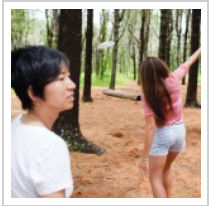
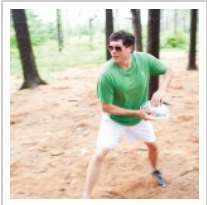
Though others have tried to pitch recreational projects to the island’s State Forest, all have failed due to the department’s strict rules and regulations. Undeterred, Rainwater patiently navigated the State Environmental Organization, the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and a six-month archeological survey to eventually gain approval for the course.

To design the course, Rainwater brought in John Houck. Touted as the Jack Nicklaus of disc golf, Houck says, “My main design goal is to utilize the natural land features and topography to create holes that people will enjoy playing over and over again.” The Nantucket course is Houck’s first independent design project in a State Park, and his ninetyeth course overall. “Virtually all the fairways were created

by removing only dead trees,” Houck says of the course’s environmentally friendly, low-impact design.



With Nantucket red baskets serving as each hole, the course is sure to compliment the forest’s bucolic beauty. Look for the completion of the Houck’s first nine holes early this fall nestled between Tacoma Way and Lover’s Lane. Unlike memberships to other golf clubs on island that can fetch hundreds of thousands of dollars, the Nantucket Disc Golf Course runs players around ten bucks—the price of a new Frisbee. After that investment, they play for free, or at least until their disc gets caught in a tree. Thanks to Todd Rainwater and John Houck, the island has yet another option to enjoy her abundant, natural beauty.



Written by Kristen Kellogg
Photography by Nathan Coe