



WHEN A FRISBEE IS A DISC – NANTUCKET DISC GOLF

Photos: Peter Lunderback



By Michelle Haynes

It looks like and flies like a Frisbee but whatever you do, don't catch it. In the sport of *Disc Golf*, a round disc (think Frisbee®) is thrown at specific targets around a course, all quite akin to golf. The object of one of the fastest growing sports in the nation is to finish the course with the fewest number of disc throws. It's golf-like, but with flying discs replacing the clubs and balls.

A *did-you-know* fact: the word Frisbee is actually a trademarked name, thus the term, disc golf. "People do not know a lot about disc golf as a sport," says the understated Todd Rainwater, president of Nantucket Disc Golf. "We walk around the forest carrying a small bag and throw discs (Frisbees) from hole to hole, and the one who gets to the 18th hole with the least number of throws, wins. We do not have tee times, the course is always open and free and kids and dogs are welcome." (How un-golf like is that!) Mr. Rainwater says disc golf areas are opening up at a rapid pace in Massachusetts as well as the rest of the country.

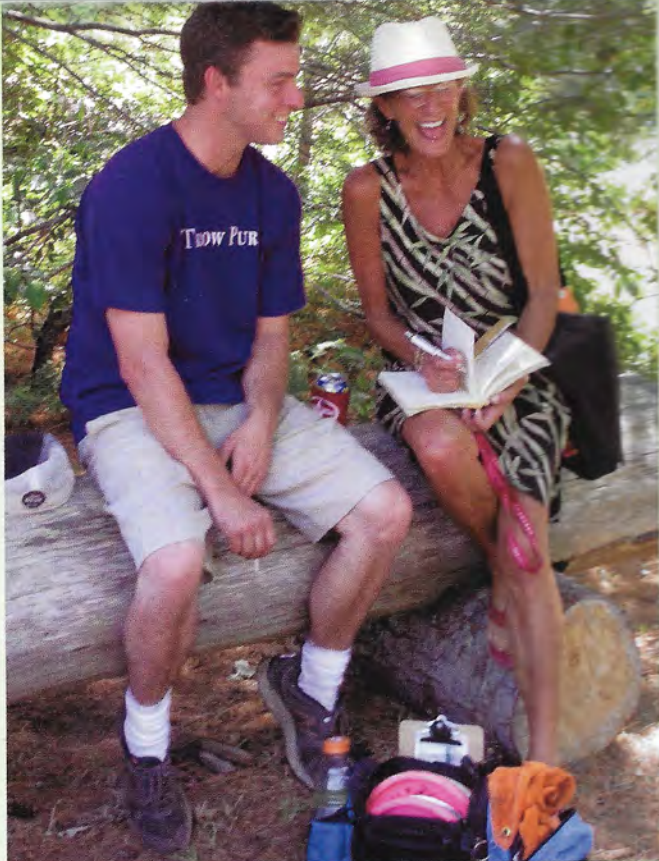


Todd Rainwater, president of Nantucket Disc Golf

"Folks are looking for inexpensive activities they can enjoy as a family that are also environmentally friendly, and disc golf certainly fits all of those categories."

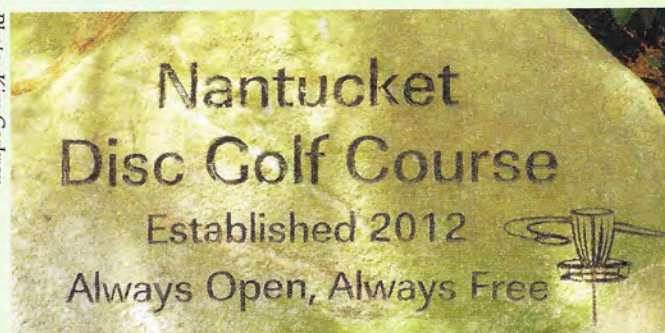
For those planning an autumn visit to Nantucket, the disc course can be found in a beautiful stretch of woods reached by a dirt road sporting the sign Lovers Lane. Open every day and, not to be repetitive, but the course is free to everyone.

BIRD'S EYE VIEW



"No Michelle, it is not a Frisbee."

Just show up, pick up a scorecard and a map at the course entrance and play. Unless you are a really bad throw, you only need one disc to play. Discs can be found at the *Sunken Ship*, more landmark than gift shop, located on Broad Street, across the way from the Nantucket Whaling Museum. They run around \$10. Then again, you can always dig out the old Frisbee from the back of the trunk, which is not something you see from the hard core disc golfers. "The official discs are actually made to fly differently," says Mr. Rainwater. "They fly left, and some are good for the right, while others are made for sidearm and overhand throws, but for most folks any Frisbee will do for a fun outdoor activity on Nantucket."



For the next couple of months the disc course forest will show off quite a show of foliage color so if you send holiday photo cards, this setting surely beats the fireplace pose! Did we mention it is free? nantucketdiscgolf.org

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