

ABOUT WEST NINE:

Well before famed golf course architect Donald Ross created one of his most famous masterpieces at Plainfield Country Club, like many older American clubs Plainfield originally did not feature golf. So prolific Scottish golf course architect Tom Bendelow was hired to build Plainfield's golf course, which opened in 1898 at 5,239 yards (then considered quite sufficient yardage for a golf course). In 1916, the Club purchased an additional 60 acres of rolling farmland on the southeastern edge of club property (now the Plainfield West Nine) and hired Ross to add yardage to the Bendelow layout. Ross had a better idea - build a new course instead, with him at the design helm.

The Plainfield West Nine is the last vestige of the Club's original course. This property was incorporated with the 18-hole Ross course when it was brought into play in 1921, giving Plainfield Country Club a 27-hole private golf complex. Eleven years later, early in the Depression, it was set apart to be operated as a semi-private facility. It has since continued as such, and is today open to public play all year round, with a par of 33. Enjoyed by golf enthusiasts of all ages who come to learn, practice and perfect their skills, the Plainfield West Nine is known for its challenging greens and holes with uneven lies, including three par-3 holes.

Tom Bendelow, Architect

Thomas "Tom" Bendelow was one of the pioneer architects of American golf. In a career that spanned slightly more than 35 years, he is credited with laying out well over 700 golf courses across the U.S. and Canada. His boundless energy and enthusiasm for the game of golf was conveyed across the country with every course he helped establish and in every community in which he worked.

Bendelow's was a "naturalist's approach," in that he strove to utilize the natural features of the chosen site to its maximum advantage. "If a site had an especially unique feature, rock outcrop, stream, grove of trees, scenic view, he would work his hole placements in such a way as to take full advantage of the features even if that meant working his layout from the middle out," according to the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Bendelow, nicknamed "The Johnny Appleseed of American Golf", personally designed 25 courses in New Jersey, including the Plainfield West Nine in 1898.



Bill Castner, PGA Master Head Golf Professional & General Manager

Bill Castner has been teaching and coaching golf in New York, New Jersey and Florida professionally for over 30 years. The Head Golf Professional and General Manager at the Plainfield West Nine Golf Course, Bill is one of a handful of golf professionals nationally to gain his specialty certification in golf instruction, teaching and golf rules. **Bill is also the winner of the 2015 PGA of America YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD. He is also the Program Director of our First Tee of Plainfield program.**

A golf player since his teen years, Bill was fortunate to learn from many great teachers including Tom Strafaci, Carl Lohren and Mike Hebron. In 1983, he earned his Class A membership into the Professionals Golfers Association (PGA). He has since served as Head Golf Professional at various golf courses in New York/ New Jersey, including The Golf Club at Mansion Ridge, Colts Neck Golf Club, LaTourette Golf Course, Van Cortlandt Park Golf Course, and the Randalls Island Golf Practice Center. Before coming to Plainfield, Bill was the Director of Instruction at the Hyatt Hills Golf Complex in Clark.

He is a Quarter-Century member of the PGA of America and an elite group of PGA Golf Professionals in New Jersey to hold the designation of Master Golf Professional.

Bill has won the NJPGA Section Junior Golf Leadership award five times, as well as twice in the Metropolitan Section. He was a national finalist for Junior Golf Leader (now known as the Youth Player Development Award) for many years, finally winning this coveted national award in November 2015. Bill served as a member of the NJPGA Board of Directors from 2009-2014. He now serves on the PGA of America's Special Awards Committee.

Bill is one of a select few PGA members to also be a Certified Golf Machine Instructor, as well as a Lynn Blake Certified Master Instructor.