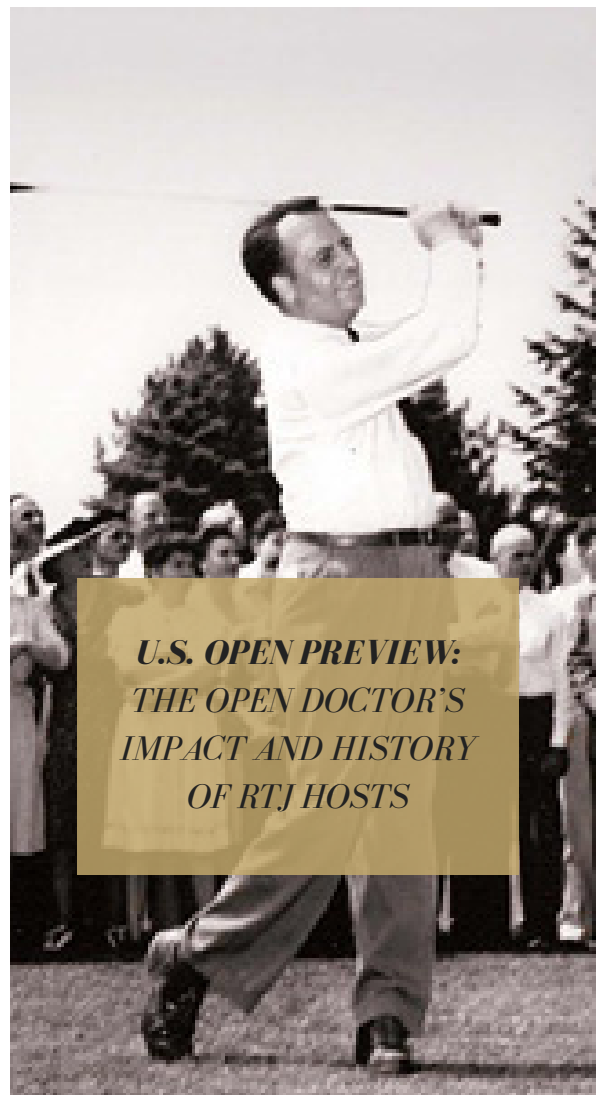


LEGACY MAILING

ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY

JUNE 2026 EDITION




**HOLE HIGHLIGHT:
THE 16TH AT
HAZELTINE**



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THE OPEN DOCTOR'S IMPACT LOOKING TO THE 2026 U.S. OPEN AT SHINNECOCK HILLS

Few individuals have shaped the U.S. Open more profoundly than **Robert Trent Jones Sr.**, known as “**The Open Doctor**” for his work strengthening championship venues across America. Through strategic redesigns that emphasized skill, precision, and thoughtful risk-reward decisions, **Jones helped define the modern U.S. Open test.** As the championship returns to Shinnecock Hills June 18-21, 2026, his influence remains evident in the enduring standards of challenge, fairness, and architectural excellence.

Men's U.S. Open Venues Associated With Robert Trent Jones, Sr.

Hazeltine National Golf Club

Original Design - 1970, 1991

Congressional Country Club (Blue Course)

RTJ Blue Course Redesign - 1964, 1997, 2011

Oakland Hills Country Club (South Course)

Major RTJ Renovation - 1951, 1961, 1985, 1996

Baltusrol Golf Club (Lower Course)

RTJ Restoration - 1954, 1967, 1980, 1993

Oak Hill Country Club (East Course)

RTJ Modernization of Bunker Scheme - 1956, 1968, 1989

Bellerive Country Club

Complete RTJ Design - 1965

The Olympic Club

RTJ Remodel - 1955, 1966, 1987, 1998, 2012

Atlanta Athletic Club

RTJ Design - 1976

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REPLAY: 2025 GARY PLAYER INTERVIEW



Gary Player and Robert Trent Jones Sr. were never formal design partners, but their legacies became closely linked through championship golf. Jones, known as the "Open Doctor," created and refined many of the courses that shaped U.S. Open history, while Player became one of the game's greatest champions competing on those stages.

Their connection was cemented at Bellerive Country Club, where **Player captured the 1965 U.S. Open to complete the career Grand Slam on a course designed by Jones.** Together, they represent a powerful intersection of championship architecture and championship performance that helped define golf's modern era.

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MEMBER SHOWCASE

HAZELTINE NATIONAL

TO HOST LPGA TOUR MAJOR



June 25-28, 2026
Chaska, Minnesota



The 2026 KPMG Women's PGA Championship at Hazeltine National Golf Club highlights the enduring legacy of Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his impact on championship golf. **As one of the LPGA's five major championships**, the tournament brings together the world's best women golfers to compete on one of the most respected courses in the game.

Designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr., Hazeltine has a long history of hosting golf's biggest events, and its selection for another major championship reflects the timeless quality, challenge, and championship vision that continue to define his work decades after its creation.

Hazeltine will also host will host the 47th Ryder Cup in 2029.



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HAZELTINE NATIONAL'S NEW, COMPLETED TROPHY CASE



PHOTO : CARL HORSCH, HAZELTINE ARCHIVIST

Hazeltine National Golf Club stands as one of the finest examples of Robert Trent Jones Sr.'s championship design philosophy.

Opened in 1962 and created with the goal of hosting golf's most prestigious events, Hazeltine was **shaped by Jones into a strategic and demanding test that has challenged generations of the game's greatest players.** His original vision established the foundation for a remarkable championship legacy that includes U.S. Opens, U.S. Women's Opens, PGA Championships, the Ryder Cup, and the upcoming 2026 KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

Enhanced over the years by Rees Jones while preserving its core architectural principles, **Hazeltine remains one of the most celebrated courses in the Jones portfolio and a lasting testament to the family's influence on championship golf.**

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DEEPEN YOUR ENJOYMENT OF THE ROBERT TRENT JONES, SR. LEGACY EARLY YEARS OVERVIEW

1906

Born in England on June 20, 1906, Robert Trent Jones Sr. emigrated with his family to East Rochester, New York, at the age of five. Though his roots were far from the world's great golf centers, his move to America placed him in a country where golf was rapidly growing and where he would eventually become the most influential golf course architect of the 20th century.

1922

At just 16 years old, Jones demonstrated his exceptional golfing talent by setting a course record of 69 at Rochester's Genesee Valley Park Golf Course. While many knew him as a promising player, a future in competitive golf was ultimately derailed by health challenges. That setback would prove pivotal, steering him toward course architecture and changing the future of the game.

1928

While attending Cornell University, Jones pursued a self-designed curriculum focused on golf course architecture, landscape design, engineering, and agronomy—an innovative approach at a time when golf architecture was not yet recognized as a formal profession. During this period, he designed the back nine holes of what would become Cornell's Robert Trent Jones Golf Course, offering an early glimpse of the creativity and strategic thinking that would define his career.

1929

By age 23, Jones had already become a club professional and established connections with some of golf's most influential figures, including Gene Sarazen. Armed with practical experience, academic training, and a growing reputation, he was poised to launch a career that would ultimately span more than six decades, influence hundreds of golf courses worldwide, and shape the championship venues that continue to host the game's greatest professional and amateur competitions today. For Robert Trent Jones Society members, these early milestones reveal the foundation of a legacy that remains alive every time golfers experience the strategic brilliance of a Robert Trent Jones-designed course.

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SOCIETY NEWS

MAUNA KEA JOINS THE SOCIETY



MAUNA KEA
GOLF COURSE



Photo: Mauna Kea Golf Course

This year marks a **special milestone for Mauna Kea Golf Course** as the club celebrates its **60th anniversary** and **officially joins the Robert Trent Jones Society.**

Opened in 1965 as Robert Trent Jones Sr.'s first resort golf course, Mauna Kea quickly earned international acclaim for its dramatic oceanside setting, innovative design, and iconic seaside third hole perched above the Pacific. For six decades, the course has stood as one of the most celebrated examples of Jones's vision of championship golf integrated with the natural landscape.

As a new member of the Society and participant in the Passport Program, Mauna Kea strengthens its connection to the global Robert Trent Jones legacy while providing Society members the opportunity to experience one of golf's most historic and breathtaking destinations.

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REINTRODUCING THE ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY PASSPORT PROGRAM

Friends,

As a valued member club of the Robert Trent Jones Society, we are proud to reintroduce the Society's Passport Program, an exclusive opportunity that extends your golf experience far beyond your home course.

The Passport Program offers a reciprocal network of distinguished Robert Trent Jones Sr.-designed courses, allowing members to experience some of the most iconic layouts in the game. From historic championship venues to hidden architectural gems, each course reflects the strategic brilliance and enduring legacy of Robert Trent Jones, Sr.

Participating clubs across the country open their doors through this unique arrangement, with reciprocal access coordinated directly through your club's golf professional. While specific terms and fees may vary by location, **your Head Professional or Director of Golf can assist with planning your visit and securing tee times provided that your own Club participates in the Passport Program.**

We encourage you to **explore the full list of participating courses on the Robert Trent Jones Society website** and begin planning your next round on a course shaped by one of golf's most influential architects.

Your next great golf experience may be just a Passport away.

Warmly,

David Cardwell

Executive Director

Robert Trent Jones Society

PASSPORT PROGRAM

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22ND ANNUAL ROBERT TRENT JONES SOCIETY GATHERING

As a member of an RTJ Society Member Club, you are invited to attend the Annual Gathering. We will enjoy friendly competition on the **North & South Courses**, **meaningful connection**, and a **deeper look into Society happenings alongside fellow RTJ Society clubs**. Guest speakers and additional experiences are being thoughtfully planned, with more details to come. Please continue to check www.roberttrentjonessociety.com for updates.

DETAILS

REGISTER NOW



What: Two rounds of golf, course historical tour, Friday Welcome Reception, Saturday breakfast & dinner, and Sunday dinner including limited beer, wine, cocktails, and gifts

Who: Robert Trent Jones Society Members and Friends

When: September 11-13, 2026

Where: Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio

Attire: Country Club
Semi-formal for September 13 dinner

Member Rate: \$995/person
Non-golfing guests \$345/person

Firestone
COUNTRY CLUB 

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HOLE HIGHLIGHT

THE 16TH AT HAZELTINE



Photo: Hazeltine National Golf Club

Few holes at Hazeltine National Golf Club embody Robert Trent Jones Sr.'s philosophy of “**the difficult par**” better than the famed 16th.

The tee shot must carry Hazeltine Lake while staying short of a creek along the left side of the fairway.

The right rough offers little relief, as the elevated green angles away and is difficult to hold. Hole locations along the right edge once again bring the lake into play, creating constant tension from tee to green. Hazeltine's signature hole also features the **iconic Payne Stewart Bridge**.

The hole has played a pivotal role in some of the club's most memorable moments, including the 1991 U.S. Open, multiple PGA Championships, and the 2016 Ryder Cup, where its combination of water, strategic bunkering, and birdie-or-disaster potential created late-round drama.

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WE CARE TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR CLUB

Have something to share?

We welcome updates from member clubs, including tournaments, renovations, clubhouse news, and historical insights tied to the legacy of Robert Trent Jones, Sr. Submit content anytime to MemberHappenings@RTJSociety.com for potential inclusion in future LEGACY mailings.

Have an idea for future features?

LEGACY is designed to grow with our membership. We encourage suggestions such as favorite RTJ-designed holes, archival photos, and unique club stories. **Share your ideas at MemberHappenings@RTJSociety.com or with your Executive Sponsor.**

Warmly,
David Leigh
President
Robert Trent Jones Society