

PLGC Honoree – Bruce Seely

Bruce Seely was born in Chicago, January 10, 1953. Growing up in Pittsburgh, he learned to love the game of golf with a large group of neighborhood kids who turned their backyards into a pitch and putt course every summer. Bruce can be quoted as saying, "To the extent I have a good short game, this is the explanation."

Bruce attended graduate school at Delaware in History of Technology from 1975 - 1981. This allowed little room for golf. He then taught for 5 years at Texas A&M, where it was usually too hot to golf in the summer. He went on to build a career as a historian of technology, who explored and wrote about the history of the American highway system, American railroads, the iron and steel industry, and nanoscale science and technology.

Upon his arrival at Michigan Tech in 1986, he rekindled his passion for the game of golf. As Bruce puts it, "Golf in the Upper Peninsula is almost perfect for an academic, since we cannot play until the snow melts, which was at the same time as the spring semester ended. Even so, at one point I had 4 different men's league partners in 5 years, which led even my wife to ask what I was doing to drive people away; not just from golf, but also from the Copper Country! So I subbed for a couple of years in men's league before latching onto my current partner for the last 15 years. For that entire time, with two other players to round out our foursome, my partner and I get in 27 holes on league night, and another 27 most Mondays in our pickup league. These are the best nights of the week."

After 32 years at Michigan Tech as a faculty member, department chair of Social Sciences, and Dean of the College of Sciences and Arts, Bruce retired in July of 2018.

Following his tenure at MTU, he almost immediately became a starter at Portage Lake Golf Course. "A position that earned me much more respect locally than anything I did as an academic. LOL!"

Bruce won the PLGC President's Cup in 2016. When asked about his current relationship with the game, his response was, "I'm thrilled I can finally play from the senior tees, and I enjoy the game now as much as ever."

Bruce is a positive light in the Portage Lake Golf Course community. His kindness to others and love for the game truly embody what PLGC stands for.

Thank you, Bruce, for making Portage Lake Golf Course a better place for our members and patrons.

We look forward to many more years of witnessing what have come to be known as your "Seely pars."