

History
is at the
heart of

RUARK GOLF

d r i v e n b y t r a d i t i o n





Sitting at the tables of the Member's lounge in the GlenRiddle Club House, you can't help but to feel the history running through the walls of the building. The high vaulted ceilings and the exposed support beams accentuate the architectural integrity of the building, proving their might as you transcend through time to learn the history of the course.

For the past 30 years, the Ruark Family has been a titan of the Eastern Shore golf community. Through the development of their courses and their entrepreneurial expertise, the Ruark Family has left a permanent mark on the shore, just like the history of their courses left a mark on them.

In 1991, Tom Ruark began to develop a plot of land which later came to be known as Nutter's Crossing in Salisbury, MD. Soon after, he continued to buy and build and preserve.

"My father, Tom, first opened Nutters Crossing in Salisbury in 1991," said his daughter, Kim. "He was originally developing housing and subdivisions in the area when he realized there was no public course. That's when he decided to build it along with the Nutter's Crossing Community."

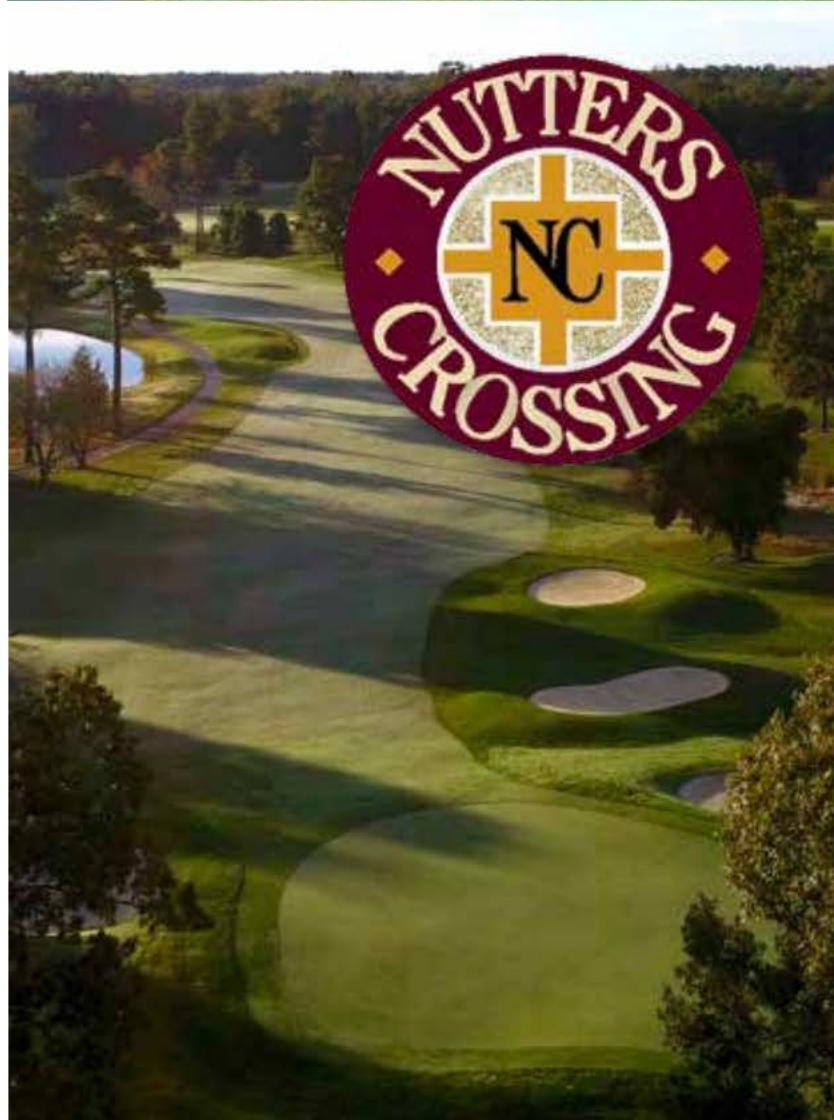
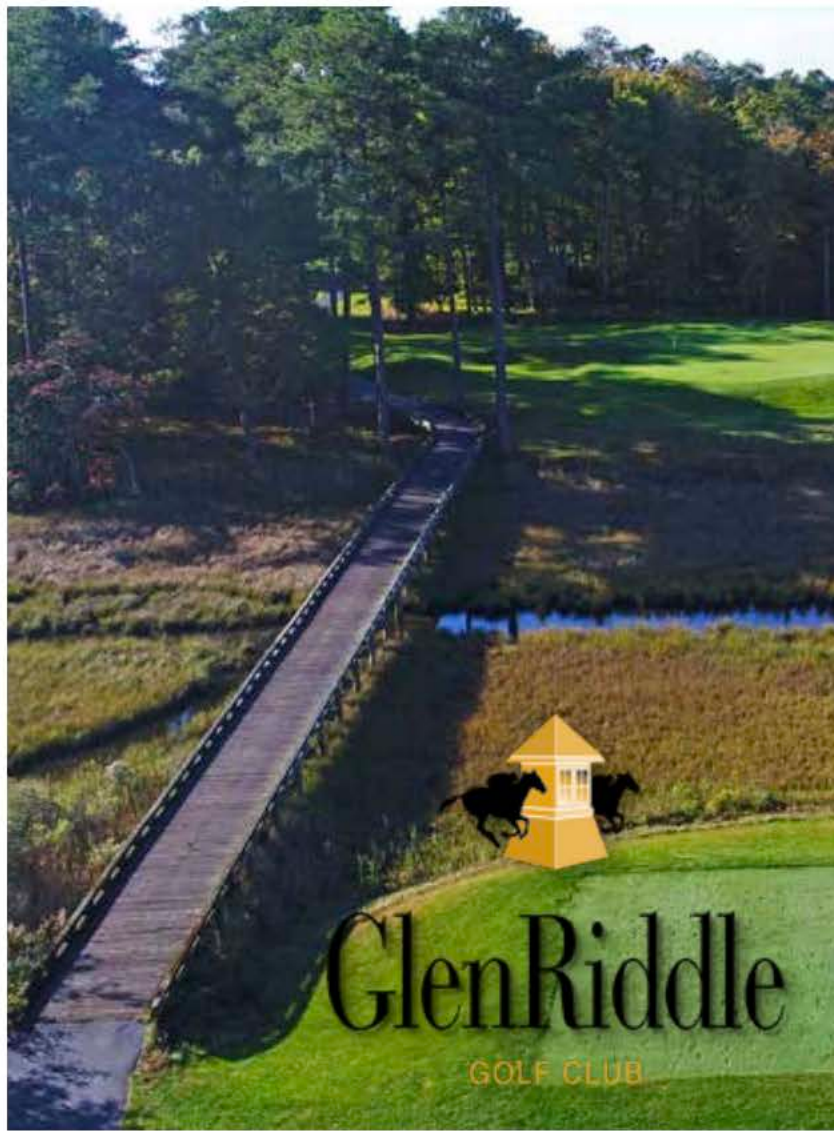
From there, Mr. Ruark developed Rum Pointe Seaside Links in 1997, the Links at Lighthouse Sound in 2000, and was approached by the developers of Glen Riddles community to develop two courses there: Man of War and War Admiral. After opening the Lighthouse Sound course, the company decided to develop their own golf packages for their courses.

"The property for Rum Pointe, which is towards Assateague Island, came up for sale and my father jumped on the opportunity because of the scenic views," said Kim. "We then started developing Lighthouse Sound after its original sale fell through. After that we created Ruark Golf Getaways."

"We were approached by the developers of GlenRiddle to build two courses on the property which are Man O' War which opened in 2007 and War Admiral which was opened in 2008. We approached Jim Furyk and got him to be a consultant for War Admiral," she said. "We also knew that we needed a big name for the development of the restaurant, to pull people off of Route 50 and the main drag, so we went after the Ruths Chris brand, which opened in 2006."

"We also had Pete and PB Dye design Rum Pointe and we had Arthur Hills design Lighthouse Sound," said Kim. "It was kind of my fathers vision to acquire big names to design the courses. He saw the higher end courses doing well and the lower to middle grade courses were the ones that were closing up. He decided he wanted to be on the higher end of the spectrum, especially with the views of the properties that we had. We wanted to do it first class."

Kim also mentioned how important it was to have course designers who respected the history and the natural beauty of the land that the courses were on.



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"One of the reasons we chose the Dyes was because they use a lot of historical pieces in their builds, like railroad ties in their bunkers and used a lot of natural elements in their design. The other courses they worked on had the look of what we were envisioning for that property," said Kim. "We wanted a different designer for each property. Arthur Hill was another big name where we liked his designs, and did top quality work."

"Jim Furyk at the time was one of the best players on the PGA Tour," she said. "It was funny, at the time, but our grand opening he almost wasn't able to come. The day before he was at the U.S. Open and he was tied for first place, and they were expected to have a rematch on the day of the grand opening. He ended up losing by one stroke, so he ended up being able to come, which was good for us."

The grounds that the courses were built on also have a significant history and the Ruarks work in preserving the history is what makes their company so special.

GlenRiddle is situated on land with a deep history. Originally owned by the Riddle family of horse-racing fame, the clubhouse that is now currently situated on the property was originally the stables that the racehorses used to stay in. The two courses at GlenRiddle are named after two of the most famous horses in racing history, Man O' War and War Admiral, who were trained at Riddle Farm. Man O' War, who was born in 1917, set racing records, of which some have still not been beaten, and forevermore changed American Horseracing.

Kim said, "My father's vision when he recreated everything was to keep as much of the history in store as possible. When he chose the lighting fixtures in the [GlenRiddle] Clubhouse, he chose fixtures that would have been used back in that time. It's amber lighting, its very soft, very dim lighting."

"The brick foyer looks similar to the same brick that was originally used with the stable. The stable had a kind of wood stove with the red brick in the middle. So everything was done to try to keep everything the same as possible," said Kim as she motioned to the table she was sitting at. "This table is made from the old doors to the stables, and you can see where the doors were originally. We kept the stable doors to use as tabletops,

and we tried to repurpose as much as we could. The beams of the building are all original. We had to change out a few, but really the bones of the building are all the original parts from the original building."

Kim recalled, "It's amazing, you know, to look back at when we originally started to renovate the building. The outside of the building was rotting, falling apart. Windows were broken from trees growing through them. The floors were dirt. It's really neat to look back on."

The land that Rum Pointe sits on is also steeped in history and lore. According to legend, Captain Kidd and Captain Blackbeard frequently sought shelter around Assateagues barrier islands. Multiple native american artifacts from multiple different cultures were found during the construction of the course. Some have even said that the course is haunted by the ghost of one of the Rackliffe sons who refused to ally with the British during the Revolutionary War. The Rackliffe's house is still on the course, located to the left of the fairway on hole six and is one of the only pre-revolutionary war dwellings in Wicomico County. The Ruark family later partnered with the Park Service to help preserve the house and part of the land.

"It's important to preserve the history. The house was on our property and that's what my Dad gave back to the county who restored it. It was really falling apart on our property, so we wanted to give it them. He knew that they would take care of it," she said. "They would take all the efforts it took to restore that building, which they did. We wanted to keep all the history on the land."

Since 1991, Ruark Golf has been making their own history, with the land that they developed to turn into world class courses. Their dedication to preservation and supplying high quality golf to consumers helps set them apart from everyone else.

"Our vision for everything high-end, our preserving of the history of each property, we've gone to great lengths to renovate buildings that would have been knocked down," said Kim. "My dad wants to make sure that everything that comes into the buildings goes along with the history of each course. He had a very precise vision."

