

**Media Contact:**

Caroline Rizzo  
Public Relations Manager  
Grand Traverse Resort and Spa  
Cell: 231.492.5594  
Office: 231.534.6352  
E-mail: [publicrelations@gtresort.com](mailto:publicrelations@gtresort.com)  
Visit: [www.grandtraverseresort.com](http://www.grandtraverseresort.com)



**GRAND TRAVERSE  
RESORT AND SPA**

## **104th Turtle Creek Casino Michigan Open Championship Returns to The Bear**

ACME, Mich., May 19, 2021 – The Michigan Open Championship, the state’s more prestigious golf tournament, returns to The Bear at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa June 14–17. We invite you to come and watch the [104th Turtle Creek Casino Michigan Open](#) and experience golf history.

### **Dates and Details for Spectators**

- The tournament begins Monday, June 14 and ends Thursday, June 17, 2021.
- The tournament is open for public viewing at no charge.
- Spectators are to follow standard golf course etiquette, dress codes, and COVID-19 protocols.
- Results for the tournament will be posted [here](#) as scores are available.

### **About the Turtle Creek Casino Michigan Open Championship**

The Michigan PGA welcomes back Turtle Creek Casino & Hotel for the second year in a row as title sponsor of the Michigan Open Championship. The 104th edition of the state championship will take place on The Bear for an unprecedented 28th time in tournament history and 32nd time at the Resort.

The Michigan Open was first played in 1916 and won by Leo Diegel, who also played in the inaugural Ryder Cup matches and the first Masters Tournament in Augusta, GA. Many of golf’s famous players have their names listed on the Michigan Open’s James Standish Trophy, including Traverse City’s own Scott Hebert, a six-time winner of the championship.

### **Tournament Details**

The field is made up of the top Michigan PGA professionals, touring professionals who maintain residency in the state, and the top amateurs. The tournament is a 72-hole stroke play event. Purse payout is for those who return a 72 hole score.

Six-time champion Scott Hebert of Traverse City Golf & Country Club and defending champion Brett White of Caledonia head a list of 14 former champions who are entered. Recent Open winners also on the list include Eric Lilleboe of Okemos (2019), Jake Kneen of White Lake (2018), Matt Thompson of Hillsdale (2017), Jeff Bronkema of Caledonia (2016), Jeff Cuzzort of Grosse Ile (2015), and Barrett Kelpin of Kalamazoo (2012). Grand Traverse Resort and Spa’s PGA Pro Mark Hill will also compete.

### **About The Bear**

The Bear was home to the Michigan Open Championship from 1985 through 2008, returned in 2018, and has continued to host the event annually since then. The Bear is often described as one of the toughest golf courses in the state. It is an 18-hole, par 72 course which features terraced fairways, tiered greens, deep grassy roughs, and deep pot bunkers. A true test for even the finest golfers, The Bear plays to 7,078 yards from the championship tees. It has four lakes, ten holes with water hazards, and only one hole with no bunkers. The Bear is a signature design of Jack Nicklaus and opened on June 17, 1985.

### **Volunteering at the Michigan Open**

The success of the Michigan Open is largely due to the volunteers who help make the event run smoothly. Volunteers help provide services such as live tournament scoring, leaderboards, shuttle driving, spotting, score verification, and more. The Michigan PGA will be providing volunteer training meetings before the event. Volunteers will receive complimentary golf from the Resort and a hat from the Michigan PGA. Those interested in volunteering should contact PGA Assistant Golf Professional Tyler Jablonski at [tyler.jablonski@gtresort.com](mailto:tyler.jablonski@gtresort.com) or 231-534-6477.

### **For the Media**

Press interested in covering the event should contact Caroline Rizzo at [caroline.rizzo@gtresort.com](mailto:caroline.rizzo@gtresort.com). A limited number of golf cars are available for media use. The Resort is also offering a special room rate for out-of-town media coming to Traverse City for the tournament.

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*Media images are available [here](#).*

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### **About Grand Traverse Resort and Spa**

Nestled among the freshwater beaches and hardwood forests of Traverse City, MI, Grand Traverse Resort and Spa is miles away from ordinary. Featuring nearly 600 guest rooms and 86,500 square feet of meeting space, the 900-acre property is one of Michigan's premier resort destinations. The Resort is also home to three championship golf courses, the renowned Spa Grand Traverse, and *Wine Spectator* Award of Excellence winner Aerie Restaurant & Lounge. Visit [grandtraverseresort.com](http://grandtraverseresort.com) or call 800-236-1577 to learn more.