Getting to Know ... The Canal Days Disc Golf Tourney Chairs

Written by Stephanie Groves Thursday, September 12, 2013 12:00 AM - Last Updated Thursday, September 12, 2013 12:05 AM

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Staff Writer

sgroves@delphosherald.com



DELPHOS — If you're looking for an outdoor activity mixed with some skill and friendly competition on Saturday morning of Canal Days, there will be a Disc Golf Tournament at Leisure Park with a players meeting at 9 a.m. at the shelter house and a shotgun start at 9:30 a.m.

Disc Golf Tournament Chairs Dana Sterling and Jim Vaske have been helping with Canal Days festivities for a few years. Sterling said Disc Golf, the actual organized sport, has been around since the early 60s. In the early days, just tossing a Frisbee back and forth evolved into throwing the discs at trees, then at wooden dowels and now through a standardized target used all over the world.

Sterling explained that he and his wife, Diane, have been playing Frisbee/disc golf for a number of years and she thought it would be great to build a course in or close to Delphos.

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"After visiting all the parks, there just didn't seem to be enough room anywhere," Sterling said. "She [Diane] convinced me to check out Leisure Park and it turned out the layout of the park would accommodate a 9-hole course."

Both men were involved with expanding the disc golf course at Ottawa Metro Park in Lima from nine holes to 18.

"Jim and I thought we could help do one at Leisure Park in Delphos," Sterling said.

Vaske and Sterling approached the Canal Days core group to see if they would fund the project if they received permission from the park to build the course.

"So now we have a wonderful 9-hole Disc Golf course and we are having a Canal Days Tournament to show it off," Sterling said proudly.

Sterling said he knows the Canal Days core group is always trying to bring new events to the celebration. Vaske and Sterling thought it would be a great thing to have a Disc Golf Tournament and the core group agreed.

"When your wife is the Canal Days Coordinator, the only way that you can see your spouse for four days is to be a part of it," Sterling said. "Once you are involved and you realize how hard the core group works and how passionate they are, you know they need the help."

Sterling said the days leading up to and during Canal Days festivities are long with a lot of work.

"When it's shared by many and they all know what to do and when to do it, the work seems to just flow," Sterling stated. "The timing seems like it was planned to the minute."

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"We are hoping for 15 to 20 teams and will attempt to match players of the same skill level to play together," Vaske explained.

The tournament will host three classes of players, Co-ed, Recreational and Advanced. Everyone that signs up for the tournament will receive a players pack which includes a Disc Golf Disc. Cost is \$20 for both Recreational and Co-Ed. Advanced will be charged \$30 to play. There will also be a Closet to the Pin Challenge and an Ace Challenge. All individual players are eligible to participate.

"It is going to be a bring your own partner scramble playing three rounds," Sterling detailed. "Scoring is the same as ball golf. You keep track of the number of shots it takes to put your disc in the target and the team with the lowest score wins."

Vaske said the prizes that will be awarded are based on the number of entries in each class. All three classes will win vouchers for new Frisbees. The Advanced may have a cash payout if there are enough teams. The grand prize is a disc golf bag full of discs, which is valued at \$250.00.

"We are hoping to bring the sport to all ages," Vaske said with excitement. "It's an inexpensive sport that is easy to play and most courses are free to play. You bring your Frisbee take a walk through the park and throw at a target."

"We are hoping to raise enough money to put concrete tee pads in at the park," Sterling added.

For more information or to pre-register with a two-person team for the Tournament, call Dana Sterling at 419-303-3341 or Vaske at 419-235-5186 or stop in the chamber office or call Diane at 419-695-1771.