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# EASTERN SHORE GOLF MAGAZINE

Dear Reader,

Happy New Year from the Eastern Shore Golf Magazine family! We hope everyone had a happy and healthy, holiday season. We are proud to present the Winter Issue of the Eastern Shore Golf Magazine to the Eastern Shore Community. Thank you so much for a successful 2023 year for us at the magazine. Your readership and viewership are very important to us and we are so excited to continue giving you the best golf news the Eastern Shore has to offer. Thank you for all of your support with the Eastern Shore Golf Magazine. We worked really hard to put this together for everyone, so please enjoy the issue!

Warmest regards,  
 Delaney Cha  
 Editor



# THE CHAMPIONS OF BOGEY GOLF

by Delaney Cha

**GOLF IS HARD.** You think you have it all figured out, then you have a bad round and the dream of joining the Tour is over. Maybe it's time to stop swinging for the exceptional and start aiming for the unexceptional. Welcome to the Mediocre Golf Association (MGA): a league made for you by people who play like you.

In 2024, Tim Brennan and Mike Conklin, current members of the Kent Island Mediocre Golf Association Chapter, will run the new Lower Shore MGA Chapter.

"Mediocre is good for us," said Brennan. "The MGA is really for the weekend to everyday golfer. If you're too good, you really don't want to join because you won't win that much."

While Maryland currently has two MGA chapters (one in Baltimore and one on Kent Island), the decision to create a new chapter on the Lower Shore made sense to Brennan and Conklin.

"We were a part of the Kent Island Chapter, but sometimes it would be an hour to an hour twenty-minute drive to join in," said Conklin. "After a round of golf, that drive would be a lot to handle."

"We're starting one in the Salisbury area because we didn't want to drive that far. We talked to a few friends down on the lower shore and they were all interested in having a chapter over here," said Brennan. "We'll be able to bring more people to play in our chapter by the location. It would help expand the chapter even further, from Salisbury to Ocean City and even to the Delaware Beaches."

"People who are even vacationing in Ocean City can participate in our tournaments if they belong to other chapters around the country," added Conklin. "I went on a trip a few weeks ago and I was able to play with a chapter out of Augusta, Georgia. I played in theirs because I couldn't play here."

By adding a new chapter, Brennan and Conklin can continue to host the eight mandatory tournaments that are required for chapters to run across the country at prime courses in the Mid-Atlantic. The location is a haven for mediocre golfers to test their skills on incredible Lower Shore courses.

But how do you maintain a level of mediocrity? What is considered mediocre?

"The ideal score in the eyes of the MGA is a 90 on a normal par 72 course," said Brennan. "No one gets shots taken off because it's all handicapped. If you're a 52 handicap player, you don't get shots taken off; you only get shots added to your score if you're a good player and your handicap is under 18."

Brennan continues, "My MGA handicap right now is a 10, so if I play in a tournament, I get 8 shots added to my score. If your handicap is 18 and above, then you play your gross score."

The main goal of the MGA is to not get disqualified from tournaments. If a player shoots anywhere in the 70s or low 80s, they are disqualified from that event. Prizes are awarded to the winner of the tournament, whoever comes in the middle of the pack, and penalties for those who are disqualified.

"The winner usually gets one of those big cardboard checks, and they usually are only winnings of \$0.59 or some other ridiculous amount," said Brennan.

"The winner isn't the only person who gets a prize," said Conklin. "If you're in the middle of the pack, you get the most mediocre award. If you're last, you get the red key which means you get to play up a tee at the next tournament. The person who won has to play back a tee. It really tries to even everything out. It gives everyone an advantage."

But like every other sport, the more someone practices, the better someone can get. So what do you do if you get too good to play mediocre golf?

"You can still play. You can play as a guest or you can get disqualified every week. Some mainly play for the social aspect. On the whim that you don't play well, your score will count," said Conklin.

"It's a lot of fun because it can be as serious or relaxed as you want it to be. We have guys who come out who just wanna drink and play and have fun. If they score well great, if not whatever," said Brennan. "Then some others take it more seriously, grind away at it, and want to win. So it is as serious or laid back as you want it to be. But we do play by USGA rules. There's no gimmies."

With over 100 chapters spread across the United States, Canada, and Australia, all chapters are required to host the same eight events starting in March. There is usually one event per month, parodied after a famous PGA tournament. The

first tournament is always the "Rebel Beach AM-AM" (titled after the Pebble Beach Pro-Am) and is a two-person team tournament. The season ends in November with the Mediocre Golf World Championships located in Las Vegas.

The joys of mediocre golf also help build community and camaraderie within the sport.

"It's really a great way to meet people. I moved here and I only knew one person I worked with who played golf, and I played with him until he moved. So I didn't know a whole lot of people," said Brennan. "I ended up raising one of my kids to play, so I could have someone to play with. But then I met Mike who lived in Salisbury like me, and other people in the Kent Island chapter and now look what happened."

"All of the guys I met in the Kent Island chapter, I wouldn't have known them," said Conklin. "Now there's 20 guys I have something in common with. And even if we're not playing in a tournament, if someone is in the area, we will meet up and play a round together."

It's also important to Brennan and Conklin to keep it cost-effective and as inexpensive as possible.

"Our base membership is \$45 for the year, and then you pay per tournament," said Brennan. "If you show up, you pay. If you don't you don't. Our goal is to keep everything under \$100 for a tournament."

"The fees for each tournament pay for the cost to play, the cart, and a new set of golf balls. If you want to walk the course instead of using a cart, you can, but it would still be the same price," said Conklin.

The celebration of bogey golf is integral to the mission of the Mediocre Golf Association.

"Bogey golf is probably 95% of golfers. You watch the men and the women on TV on the weekends always shooting par or under and that's not us. My goal is to get disqualified from a couple of events. To shoot in the 70s? That would be great," said Brennan.

"I just want to win one," said Conklin.

If you are interested in joining the Lower Shore MGA Chapter or have any questions, feel free to reach out to Tim or Mike. Email [lowershoremga@gmail.com](mailto:lowershoremga@gmail.com), find the chapter on Facebook and Instagram @LowerShoreMGA, or visit the MGA website at [www.mgatour.com](http://www.mgatour.com).

**Schedule for 2024 Season (Courses TBD)**  
MARCH - REBEL BEACH AM-AM  
APRIL - THE BASTARDS  
MAY - THE MGA  
JUNE - F.U. OPEN  
JULY - BRATISH OPEN  
AUGUST - FORE! CHAMPIONSHIP  
SEPTEMBER - DOUCHE BAG INVITATIONAL  
OCTOBER - THE LAST GASP

(Press Release on page 17)



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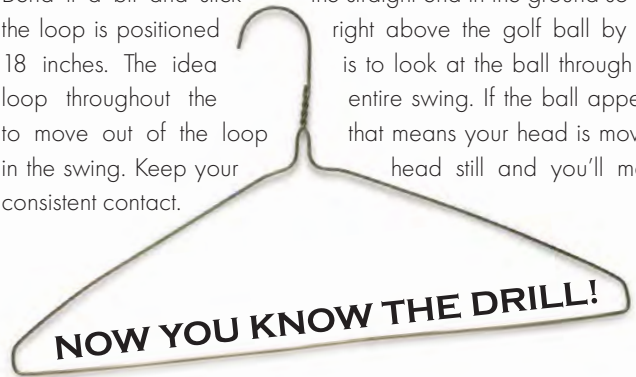
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# YOU KNOW THE DRILL

## “THE TIP THAT WOULD MAKE JOAN CRAWFORD MAD”

By: Steve Menz

You'll never hear a golf instructor worth their salt say, "Keep your head down". But you should hear them say, "Keep your head still"! Keeping your head down leads to fat contact and un-athletic swings. We want dynamic flowing. Here is a great way to keep your head perfectly still throughout the swing. Grab that old wire coat hanger from the closet. Yes, the one from the dry cleaner. You know the one. The ones you start using when you run out of the plastic hangers. Now straighten that thing out and make an apple-sized loop on one end. Bend it a bit and stick the straight end in the ground so that the loop is positioned right above the golf ball by 12-18 inches. The idea is to look at the ball through the loop throughout the entire swing. If the ball appears to move out of the loop that means your head is moving in the swing. Keep your head still and you'll make consistent contact.



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# HOLE - i n - O N E S



**KEVIN HAYES**  
hole-in-one@Green Hill  
hole #4 on 10/28/23



**FASON PURNELL**  
hole-in-one@Blue Heron  
hole #8 on 11/8/23



**ELIZABETH NEWELL**  
hole-in-one@Blue Heron  
hole #12 on 11/15/23



<b>DOUG STOCK</b>	hole #7	@Bayside on 2/23/23
<b>BRICE MOORE</b>	hole #15	@Bayside on 3/23/23
<b>DAVE DONALD</b>	hole #13	@Bayside on 4/10/23
<b>RICK RIEGEL</b>	hole #7	@Bayside on 6/18/23
<b>KEVIN RAUSE</b>	hole #7	@Bayside on 7/06/23
<b>MARK HUSTON</b>	hole #7	@Bayside on 7/07/23
<b>GLENN GRADY</b>	hole #3	@Bayside on 8/16/23

Send your Hole-in-Ones to [news@esgmagazine.com](mailto:news@esgmagazine.com)

# JONI MILLER'S *persistence-* **PAYS-OFF!**

interviewed by: Stacy Cha  
written by: Delaney Cha



How much luck do you think you would have if you got a hole-in-one? What about a second? Or a third? What about a hat-trick in 18 months? That was the case for Joni Miller, whose luck was plentiful at Blue Heron Golf Course over the past two years.

Her hole-in-one reign began last year on February 27, 2022. On a chilly day, and all bundled up, Miller was in shock as she watched her ball land on the green and roll up into the hole on number 11 (107 yards). Just 5 months later, on a much warmer day in July, Miller took a swing but did not see where her ball landed. Her good friend did see it land, started clapping, and congratulated her on the tee of number 17 (103 yards).

After a bit of a 14-month drought, Miller completed the trifecta with her most "shocking" hole-in-one on Sept 21, 2023, on hole number 8 (155 yards). Of course, none of this could have been done without a Bridgestone soft lady's ball with her signature pink dot.

Miller has been playing golf for the past 30 years. She plays five days a week, every month of the year, and plays in two separate leagues: the Couples League at Blue Heron and the Women's League at Queenstown Harbor. Miller said, "If I could play every day, I would." Anytime that she is not working at Safeway, she loves to be on the course. The love of the sport has led to a lower-than-average handicap.

Growing up in Severna Park, Miller was an avid athlete playing soccer, bowling, and volleyball. She picked up the sport of golf after caddying for her dad. Soon after she was hooked on the game. The family spent many hours on the golf course. Her mother, who is 82, still enjoys playing a round.

Miller is quite amazed to have gotten so many holes in ones in under two years and is constantly aiming for the pin, especially on Blue Heron's number 12 (a short par 3 that she feels is so "gettable"). Multiple hole-in-ones must run in the family, as she needs to get another four to catch her Uncle Gary who has an amazing seven of them.



**HOLE 11 ON 2/27/2022**



**HOLE 17 ON 7/30/2022**



**HOLE 8 ON 9/21/2023**

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## JIMMY CANTLER'S RIVERSIDE INN

Many people in the Mid-Atlantic seek the “blue” gold that resides in the Chesapeake Bay of Maryland. This is the infamous Blue Crab. Many will wait hours to get a seat to feast on them. There is a diamond of a place in Annapolis, Maryland that always has a bounty of these delicacies all year long. The famous Jimmy Cantler's Riverside Inn has been owned by Jimmy and Linda Cantler since October 16, 1974.

Jimmy and most of his siblings were all born on the Mill Creek Peninsula where his grandfather purchased land back in the early 1900s. Coming from a lineage of five generations of commercial watermen, the whole family worked on the Chesapeake Bay. They fished for everything the Bay had to offer including crabs, oysters, clams, and all types of fish. After he graduated from Annapolis High School, he became a full-time commercial fisherman. For many years, he owned four commercial boats and he operated them every day from this peninsula.

There was a small plot of land that had a tiny bar and restaurant on it that was located on the peninsula. The bar, which was adjacent to the current Cantler property, had zoning for workboats, charter boats, and crucial zoning for a gas pump that was tied to the property. Mismanagement of this property from previous owners led Jimmy to eventually take over this lease. He later purchased the property in 1974. He spent more and more time at the bar and restaurant and less time on the water. Freshly sourcing the Maryland blue crab, in this no-frills Maryland crab house, Jimmy started to slowly grow the restaurant with the crab steamer located right outside the bar.

Linda had first met Jimmy in the mid-1970s. She was also well versed in local Maryland seafood as she owned three seafood stores in Severna Park, Linthicum, and Crownsville, Md. During those early years, she purchased fresh seafood from Jimmy and his family for her stores. They married in 1989. Soon after, Cantler's Riverside Inn took off to new heights.



by: Tae Cha

The restaurant kept expanding and as it gained popularity, it started getting local and national attention. They have been featured on the Today Show, Good Morning America, The New York Times, and The London Times. USA Today picked them #3 for best seafood restaurant in the USA by the Readers Choice award. People magazine and Zagat rated them as the most popular restaurant in Maryland. Many celebrities, athletes, and politicians would be regulars at the establishment. The late Jimmy Buffett would frequent the restaurant when he played in town and would always comment about his meals at Cantler's during his concerts.

This national acclaim doesn't come without good food. Cantler's fresh Chesapeake Bay Blue Crabs are just that. Every crab is cooked to order. No pre-cooking / flash streaming here. Other crab houses practice this method to prevent dead loss. The Cantlers believe you should get what you pay for, and that is fresh blue crabs. During the season 100% of the crabs are sourced directly from the Chesapeake Bay watermen.

The flavor profile of the crabs is a mixture of sweet and salty, making them juicy and delicious. The crabs taste as if they were just pulled right out of the Bay. The use of J.O. spice for the crabs is a classic Maryland staple and at Cantler's, you can choose how much spice you want. However, it's not a true crab feast without some delicious sides. At Cantler's, you can't go wrong with the hush puppies, especially when they're served with honey butter on the side. How about some sweet, silver queen corn on the cob? Maybe 1 or 2 lbs of steamed jumbo shrimp alongside sweet onions and red potatoes from their steamer? Sure! Let's add some perfectly cooked Oysters Chesapeake. Sign me up!



Of course, while Cantler's is known for its hard-shell crabs, it wouldn't be right to ignore their soft-shell crab operation. If you like soft shell crab, you won't get them any fresher as they have peeler-holding tanks. It's a must-see to go down by the water to view the tanks. Feeling a little cold and looking to warm up? Try the cream of crab soup. The amount of jumbo lump crab meat you can find in the delicious broth will make you feel like you struck gold. Don't be afraid of mixing the Cream of Crab and Maryland Crab together, to create the perfect combination.

As a seafood lover myself, I find that their Drunk'n Mussels is one of the best dishes on the menu. The mussels are so fresh and the broth that the mussels are cooked in adds something so special to the dish. A favorite dish of my family's is their Maryland Crab Dip (although personally, I'm a bigger fan of the Jalapeño Fish Dip).

Cantler's has all types of non-seafood dishes as well if crabs or seafood isn't your thing. The jumbo wings are really good. The prime rib is always nicely cooked. The cheesesteak here is delicious and stacked with nice thin slices of rib-eye. They have a nice selection of salads. They also have pizza, which can be filled with your favorite toppings. There seems to be some type of treasure for everyone here.

The restaurant is open all year long except for two days: Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. If you want a seat at the table and you want the big ones, come early. There are no reservations and it's first come, first serve. There is limited parking so carpooling is strongly encouraged. If you have a boat, they are located inside of Whitehall Bay on Mill Creek, on the western side of the Chesapeake Bay just south of the Bay Bridge but north of Annapolis. They have ample free boat parking and gas to fill up. With a staff full of locals where some have been with the restaurant for almost 40 years, you can see why people stay loyal to the Riverside Inn.

Whether by car or boat, Cantler's Riverside Inn can supply you, your family, and your friends with the freshest Chesapeake Bay blue gold you could ever desire. This upcoming 2024 will be 50 years in business for Jimmy Cantler's Riverside Inn, and you'll want to make sure you get in during this golden anniversary. Congratulate Jimmy and Linda as they are in the restaurant quite often. There is a reason why they got the national and local notoriety they did and you don't want to miss this iconic restaurant.

**JIMMY & LINDA CANTLER - 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS**



TAE CHA



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## Mediocre Golf Association Coming to Delmarva's Lower Shore

SALISBURY, MD---The beaches of Maryland and Delaware combine to create the golf hub of the Mid-Atlantic region, and in 2024 this hub will offer a place for competitive golfers, who may also just be OK.

The Mediocre Golf Association (MGA), an international organization that believes bogey golf should be celebrated, launches the Lower Shore chapter this spring.

Players who win their club championships and those who still aspire to play professionally need not apply. The MGA hands penalty strokes to those with a handicap of less than 18 strokes and marvels over the rare birdie for its players.

"The MGA is a league for the everyday golfer," said Chapter Co-Leader Mike Conklin, a member of the MGA since 2019 in the Baltimore and Kent Island chapters. "We take the game seriously, but we know we're just not that good."

The Lower Shore chapter will play eight regular-season tournaments in 2024, beginning in March with the Rebel Beach Am-Am, the MGA's answer to the PGA Tour's Pebble Beach Pro-Am. Tournaments will be played at courses in southern Delaware and Salisbury and Ocean City areas of Maryland. A full schedule will be announced during the winter months.

"There are good amateur golf leagues in the region, unfortunately, most are located across the Bay Bridge and for those of us near the beaches, that means a two-hour drive each way," said Chapter Co-Leader Tim Brennan, a two-year member of the Kent Island chapter. "We want to give golfers in this area an affordable way to compete with like-minded players."

While many amateur tours incur significant costs to players, including registration and tournament fees of more than \$150, MGA registration fees are available for less than \$45 per year. Tournament fees for the Lower Shore are expected to average between \$65-\$80 with the goal of no tournament fee topping \$100.

Played by USGA rules, the golf is taken seriously - with players hoping to top the yearly money list, just one of the ways players can qualify for the MGA World Championship played annually in Las Vegas.

Interested in learning more about the Lower Shore Chapter of the MGA? Email [lowershoremga@gmail.com](mailto:lowershoremga@gmail.com), find the chapter on Facebook and Instagram @LowerShoreMGA, or visit the MGA website at [www.mgatour.com](http://www.mgatour.com).





# BILL KUPFER'S sdgcagronomy@gmail.com TIPS FROM THE TURF

Bill Kupfer, Director of Agronomy Southern Delaware Golf Club

First, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Bill Kupfer and I am the Director of Agronomy at the new and yet-to-open (May 2024) Southern Delaware Golf Club in Milford, DE. I have been in the Turf Industry for 20-plus years and at SDGC since February 2023 when we started the complete renovation. I am from Milton, DE. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Plant and Soil Science from Louisiana State University. I also have an Associate's Degree in Business Management from Goldey Beacom College.

When I was asked to write this article, I thought there were several ways and options to take this. This time of year, most of your Golf Course Superintendents are involved in course improvements which could range from tree work to any type of renovation with lots of other jobs mixed in, all the while maintaining the course to keep the best playing conditions for any Winter golf.

If you were to poll Superintendents on the Delmarva as to what they would want the Membership or Daily Fee Guest to know, it would come back as Golf Course Etiquette almost unanimously (I polled ten: 9 said etiquette, and 1 said cart rules which is really etiquette). These are the basic rules for just about any course. Keep in mind that rules are put into place for agronomic reasons, but a big part is also playability for the golfer. I can almost guarantee that most of y'all have found yourselves in one of these situations I will talk about.

First and foremost is cart traffic. Most golfers think that the 90-degree rule means getting past the Ladies Tee and driving right to your ball (this rule is Scatter). That is not correct. In the 90-degree rule you should drive the cart path to where your ball is and make a 90-degree turn to get to your ball, after hitting you should exit where

you came into the fairway or rough. When carts are around Tee Boxes all 4 wheels should be on the cart path and when you get to the green you should be no closer than 20 yards before you get to the cart path. Remember that you can cause just as much damage to the turf when it is hot and dry as when it is wet.

Any time that you take a divot in the turf with your club you should replace your divot or fill that divot with the mix that is provided in most carts or on the Tee area.

The rule that is most essential to any Superintendent is to PROPERLY repair your ball mark on the greens. This helps the agronomy staff keep smooth and consistent greens.

Raking Bunkers PROPERLY and placing the rakes back into the correct spot inside or outside the Bunker, depending on your course.

When you encounter an Agronomy Staff member on the course, please wait before hitting into them. Most are taught once they see you to get out of your way.

These are just a few helpful reminders to help each golfer enjoy their round. The Agronomy Staff wants you to have a great experience as well. You can find short videos on USGA.org. Also GCSAA.org (National Superintendents Association) and ESAGCS.org (our Local Superintendents Association)

I look forward to writing this article on a regular basis. If there are any questions or topics that you may want to know more about, please reach out. Hit 'em straight and make those 3-foot putts!



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## GOLF QUOTE

"THE MIND  
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~TOMMY BOLT~

# UPCOMING Charity Tournaments + RECAPS

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**Birdies for Benedictine ANNUAL GOLF Tournament**

The Birdies for Benedictine charity tournament was held at Talbot County Country Club in Easton, Md on Oct 23, 2023. The funds raised will be used for urgent needs including student and adult programming for those living with a developmental disability, facility repairs, and staff development.

After play, guests enjoyed a late afternoon gathering of food and awards and for the second year in the row the winning team title went to John Patrick, Charlie Shiles, Dave Mummert and Wes Sims.

Event sponsors included PNC Bank, Preston Automotive Group, BDK, Inc., Mullen, Sondberg, Wimbish & Stone P.A., VFW Post 7464, Town of Ridgely, Maryland, Barstow & Sons Heating and Cooling and First Maryland Disability Trust. Individual family support came from Alice Ryan, James Trumbauer, Rob Evans, the Mills Family and Bracewell, LLP. Participants also enjoyed tastings from Lyon Rum of St. Michaels.

Next year's event will be held on Monday, September 30th at the Talbot Country Club. For more information on all of Benedictine's events, the services that they provide for children and adults living with a developmental disability, and ways to support, please contact Claudia Cunningham at [Claudia.cunningham@benschool.org](mailto:Claudia.cunningham@benschool.org) or call 410.634.2292. Visit Benedictine at [www.benschool.org](http://www.benschool.org).

**BENEDICTINE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SCOTT EVANS PRESENTS ALICE RYAN WITH CLOSEST TO THE PIN AWARD AT BIRDIES FOR BENEDICTINE GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD AT TALBOT COUNTRY CLUB.**

**BIRDIES FOR BENEDICTINE WINNING TEAM JOHN PATRICK, CHARLIE STILES, DAVE MUMMERT, AND WES SIMS POSE TOGETHER.**

**ONE OF TWO PNC TEAMS PICTURED HERE PLAYING AT THE BIRDIES FOR BENEDICTINE GOLF TOURNAMENT. PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: BOB SCHLEIGH, TOM DOLAN, KURT ENGELHAUPT, KEN CODY.**



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# PLAY BETTER BY DESIGN

BY: RICHARD ROBINSON, INSTRUCTOR | THE ORIGINAL GOLF SCHOOL

## IT'S IN THE BOUNCE...

### GENE SARAZEN WAS THE FIRST PLAYER TO WIN THE FOUR MAJOR PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS.

But, his most enduring legacy is as the inventor of the sand wedge. The notion of altering the sole design of his niblick, occurred to him while taking flying lessons from aviation pioneer Howard Hughes. Sarazen saw the power of deflection in aircraft wing flaps and applied the concept to create what became known as "bounce" in club design.

**BOUNCE** is one of the most important specifications in iron design, especially with wedges. Bounce is simply the angle from the leading edge to the trailing edge of the club head sole. Most manufacturers identify the bounce on wedges. Bounce angles may range from 6 to 14 degrees for wedges. The general purpose of the bounce is to control the depth of a divot. A high-bounce sole will not dig too deeply in soft sand, long grass, or wet turf. A low bounce sole is less prone to deflect off hardpan, firm sand, or fairway lies.

**MATCHING THE CLUB DESIGN** to your swing style and course conditions is essential to optimizing your game performance. The art of modern club-making offers a variety of sole designs referred to as "grinds". When choosing a wedge, attributes such as the curvatures from the heel to toe of the club, the width of the club sole, and even multiple bounce angles of the sole, are worthy of consideration.

It is important to understand that the design must match your technique and intention. Opening the club face at address will increase both the effective loft and the bounce of a club. Closing the club face at address will decrease effective loft and bounce. If your angle of attack to the ball is steep creating deep divots, more bounce can be beneficial. If your style is to pick or sweep the ball with minimal divots, a low-bounce sole is preferable.

**SARAZEN'S ORIGINAL SAND WEDGE HAD A LOFT OF 56 DEGREES AND A BOUNCE ANGLE OF 12 DEGREES.** This remained the standard design for decades. As tournament playing conditions and course maintenance evolved, the value of a club capable of high-lofted shots from firm tight fairways became evident. Opening the club face of a 56/12 sand wedge would add loft, but the corresponding increase in bounce was detrimental from tight firm lies. The answer became a low bounce, high lofted "lob wedge". The original concepts were a 60-degree loft and a 6-degree bounce.

**CLUB MANUFACTURERS OFFER NUMEROUS LOFT AND BOUNCE COMBINATIONS AND SOLE DESIGN OPTIONS.** Wedge fitting is arguably more significant than getting fit for a new driver. There are many variables to be considered. It is interesting to note that among the top tour players bounce specifications for sand wedges vary considerably. Scotty Scheffler, Justin Thomas, and Max Homa use 14-degree bounce sand wedges. Viktor Hovland and Jon Rahm use 12-degree bounce. Brook Koepka and Jordan Speith play 10 degrees. Patrick Cantlay and Matt Fitzpatrick prefer 8 degrees.

**FOR MOST RECREATIONAL PLAYERS 10 OR 12-DEGREE BOUNCE DESIGN PROVIDES A VERSATILE SPECIFICATION.** Simple minor adjustments in club face alignment or shaft lean at set up can increase or decrease bounce most appropriate for the lie conditions and trajectory requirements of a particular shot.



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Good bounces are fortunate gifts along your path to par. You might not be able to buy a good swing, but you can acquire an optimum bounce to suit your style.

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## BEYOND THE SHORE | DESTINATION GOLF

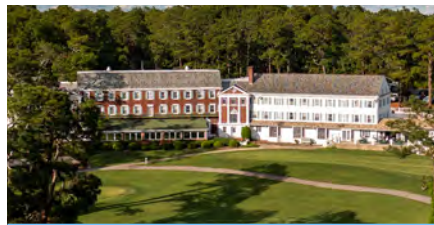
### T H E R O S S P R O P E R T Y G R O U P

If you ever find yourself in the Sandhills region of the Carolinas, do yourself a favor and play one of the courses built by Donald Ross. The Sandhills is a renowned golf region with over 30 courses to choose from including the historic Pinehurst, Aberdeen and Southern Pines courses.



Donald Ross was a Professional Golfer and course designer whose career began in the early 1900's. He was originally from Dornoch, Scotland and apprenticed at St. Andrews. He later became a golf professional at Pinehurst and is credited with over 400 course designs or redesigns. Jack Nicklaus said of Ross, "His stamp as an architect was naturalness." Donald Ross courses are known for Turtleback, Ross double plateau, and punchbowl greens.

The Pine Needles and Mid Pines management group with the help of architect Kyle Franz has been restoring the properties since 2013. Starting with Mid Pines in 2013 and Pine Needles in 2018, the courses had greens resurfaced, bunkers rebuilt and cart paths updated. In 2020, the management group purchased Southern Pines and completed its restoration in 2021.



Each course is from a different era in Donald Ross' career and development as a course designer. The youngest of the three is Pine Needles, which recently hosted the US Women's open in 2022. The course, built in 1928, has hosted the Women's open four times. Purchased in 1954 by LPGA legend Peggy Kirk Bell, she introduced her signature golf teaching program Golfari (Golf Safari). Many have learned the perfect balance between learning golf, practicing golf and relaxing with friends. You can still book Golfari's at Pine Needles or join for one of their many offerings in instruction. Pine Needles has over 20 acres dedicated to golf instruction.







Written by Stacy Cha

Pine Needles is a par 71. It has 5 different sets of tees so golfers of all levels can enjoy play. The Longest "Medal" tees are 7035 yards, followed by the "Ross" tee that measures 6435. The regular, executive and red tees complete the grouping with yardages of 6002, 5605 and 4940.



Mid Pines golf course was originally built in 1921. Mid Pines was primarily a private club for businessmen. It challenges your short game, makes you think and ensures you to use every club in your bag. When designing Mid Pines, Ross envisioned the course to promote friendly competition for guests while also challenging them. The fairways are narrower than its sister course across the street. Mid Pines is a par 72 with 4 different sets of tee boxes. The Blue, White, Green and red tees measure 6732, 6166, 5662, and 4903, respectively.

Southern Pines, established in 1906, is the most recent to be restored and the oldest course of the three. Architect Kyle Franz maintained the natural beauty of the course to bring it close to Ross's original design. Unlike most American courses, there is no "turn" (you do not return to the clubhouse after the ninth

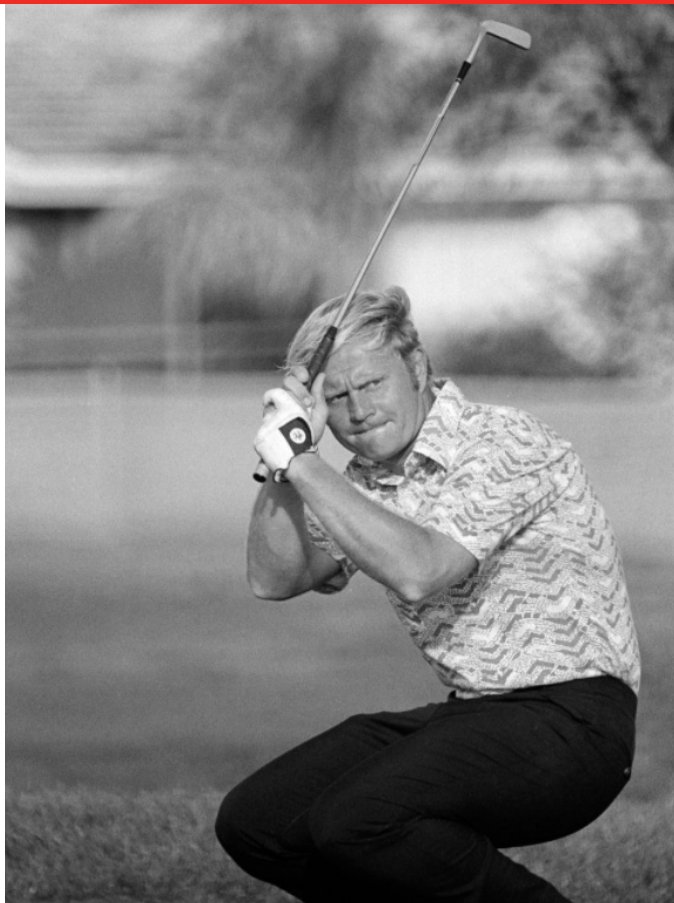
hole). While viewing aerial photographs, Mr. Franz discovered the "Lost Hole". Ross designed a fun par 3 to connect the holes 4 and 15 to provide a quick nine hole loop back to the clubhouse. You can play it before hole 5 and try your hand on the authentic sand green which mimics the style of greens Ross built before the 1930's Bermuda grass greens. Southern Pines is a par 71. It has 6 different tee boxes ranging from 6695 to 3982 yards depending on the challenge you want that day.

An 18 hole putting course named "Overhills" opened this past September at Southern Pines. Overhills was inspired by the Himalayas at St. Andrews, and was named in honor of a Ross course designed for the Rockefeller family owned estate. The Course includes solar lighting for the evening and speakers for a fun atmosphere. Rental cabins have recently been approved by the town.

If not staying at the Pine Needles lodge or the Mid Pines Inn you can book tee times 30 days in advance by calling the Pro-Shop or the reservation link on the website. There are many packages that are offered. If you are in the area, play a round at one or all three. You will not be disappointed!



# THE GOLDEN



Even in his greatest years Jack Nicklaus routinely began each new year with a pilgrimage to his mentor Jack Grout. The Golden Bear sought to reaffirm the fundamentals, especially his setup and alignment.

By 1974, Nicklaus had won the Master's four times, the PGA and US Open three times each, and the British Open twice. But, Nicklaus lost his focus at the 1974 US Open at Winged Foot. His shots were off target even on the greens. In fact, on his first hole of the tournament, he actually putted off the green. The putting touch returned, but the tee to green play was a struggle. Jack Grout identified the problem. Nicklaus was lining up with his shoulders closed relative to his target. Nicklaus initially disputed Grout's assessment and was reluctant to make a change. Returning to Muirfield Village, Nicklaus reworked his alignment to a more open shoulder position, under Grout's watchful eye. Two months later Nicklaus won the Inaugural Tournament Players Championship and resumed his assault on the major championships. Even the best can get off track.

Aim and alignment fundamentals are easy to practice in the winter months. Your goal should be to make the process routine and automatic.

# BEAR



Nicklaus popularized the technique of visualizing an intermediate target a few feet in front of the ball. He would align the club face perpendicular to a line extending from the club face through the intermediate target to the actual target. The key to this technique is the ability to correctly align the club face.

The simplest way to check club face alignment is to use a straight line reference, such as the corner of a wall, a board, even a sleeve of three golf balls. Place the club face flush to your perpendicular reference point. Using the corner of a wall, the baseboard identifies the “square” club face position and the wall defines the ball target line.

Nicklaus, as did Ben Hogan, advocated pointing the lead foot toward the target, as if making a step to the target. This may create a visual perception of an “open” toe line. However, the toe line does not create an open stance. To check his intended “square stance” Nicklaus would place a club on the ground parallel to the target line and check to see if the alignment of his heels was parallel to the target line.

There are numerous factors that affect alignment. Theoretical positions assume optimum anatomical posture, flexibility, and range of motion. Few golfers at any level meet these criteria. Even Nicklaus had subtle differences from his “Power Bear” days at 215 pounds and his “Golden Bear” days at 185 pounds.

One championship fundamental is an open shoulder line and address. This is a nearly universal characteristic of top performers. Why? The trail hand is lower on the club than the lead hand. This hand positioning naturally results in a slightly higher and open position of the shoulders. This gives the proper perception of the shoulders being aligned left of your intended target. Aligning the lead shoulder to the target in a closed position, is a setup for a variety of poor shots. It happened to Jack Nicklaus in 1974.



by: Richard Robinson

# HIGH SCHOOL PLAY

## EASTERN SHORE OF MD

# 2023

## DISTRICT VII & STATE RECAP

### INDIVIDUAL & TEAM PLAY

Written by: Delaney Cha

### On October 9, 2023,

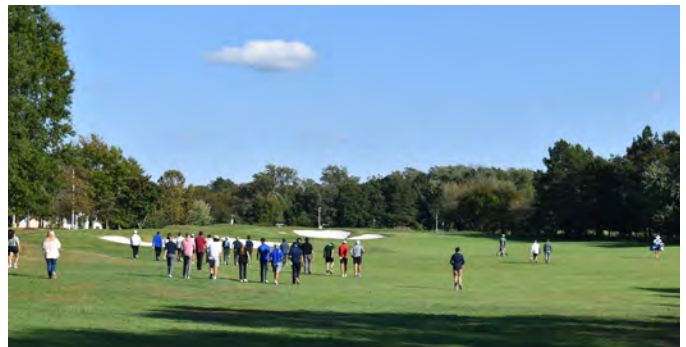
74 athletes met at the Hyatt Regency in Cambridge to test their skills on the course of River Marsh. Representing the Eastern Shore of Maryland, 17 high schools competed in team and individual events. All were vying for a spot at the state tournament either as a team or individually.

The morning was chilly as the players took to the course for the shotgun start but quickly warmed up for the rest of the day. The leaders of the tournament were paired together and started on hole 1. Nate Smith from Queen Annes (QA) and Kole Kohut from Stephen Decatur (SD) were evenly matched throughout the day. Kohut shot a one-under front nine (35) closely followed by Smith with an even-par (36). Smith quickly tied it up with Kohut with birdies on numbers 11 and 14. Both ended the round with a 3 over par 74. This would cause an exciting end to the tournament. A hole-by-hole playoff was held. With a crowd surrounding the first tee, both boys placed their drive in the fairway. With their second shot, both reached the green, with Smith being closer to the pin. Kohut then left his long putt short while Smith was able to sink it for a birdie. The individual boy's standings were as follows: Nate Smith, QA (74), Kole Kohut, SD (74), and Clayton McCabe, SD (77).

Brianna Kurtz of Kent Island (KI) led the female individual competition with a low score of 83. She started on hole 16 and had a front nine score of 44 and finished up with a back nine score of 39. Followed by Sam Boger from Stephen Decatur and Lexi Rockwell from St. Michaels (SM) both shooting 85. Taryn Brandt from North Caroline (NC), who had a banner season in the North Bayside conference ending up second in scoring average, had a rough start on the front nine. She was able to turn it around and drop 10 strokes for a back nine score of 38 to qualify with an 86.

The team event was led by South Bayside's Stephen Decatur and North Bayside's Kent Island. Both schools have been dominant in their conferences for the past 10 years, alternating winning the Bayside conference titles (which was won by Decatur for the 3rd year in a row). Stephen Decatur ended with a commanding 10-stroke lead over the second-place competitor Kent Island with aggregate scores of 314 and 324. Parkside (PS) was third (347), Queen Anne's fourth (363) followed by James M. Bennet (JMB) in fifth place (367).

For an individual female to qualify for the state tournament, she would need to score a 94 or less. For a male athlete, he would have to score 83 or less. A total of 17 competitors were able to move on to the State finals as individual qualifiers. The schools Stephen Decatur and Kent Island qualified for the team event. The State event was a two-day event that was held on Oct 23, and 24th at the University of Maryland.



The following scores were qualifiers for the state tournament:

**MALE:** Nate Smith, QA (74), Kole Kohut, SD (74), Clay McCabe, SD (77), Evan Oglesby, SD (78), Josh David, KI (79), Grant Ferrier, KI (81), Cade Byer, PS (81), Owen Wynot, KI (81), Colton Thomas, JMB (82), Steven Nicols, KI (83), and Will Davis, NC (83)

**FEMALE:** Brianna Kurtz, KI (83), Lexi Rockwell, SM (85), Sam Boger, SD (85), Taryn Brandt, NC (86), Isabella Westerfield, Easton (91) and Keira Corcoran, QA (93).



## During the State Tournament in October

Smith (QA) had a great showing with a first-day score of 80 and a day-two score of 74 for a total of 154. He ended up tied for 6th in the state. Kole Kohut and Evan Oglesby (both from SD) also did well with Kohut placing 33rd. Stephen Decatur placed 5th in the team event with a two-day score of 669. Kent Island fell just two strokes short of making the cut for day two of the tournament.

Taryn Brandt (QA), did well also. She carded an 84 on the first day to make the cut. On day-two, she improved her score by 3 strokes with an 81 to place, tied for 23rd in the state. Sam Boger (SD), also shot well enough to qualify for Day 2 with an 85, she matched that score on day-two to end up tied for 28th place.



**Male Winners C. McCabe | N. Smith | K. Kohut**



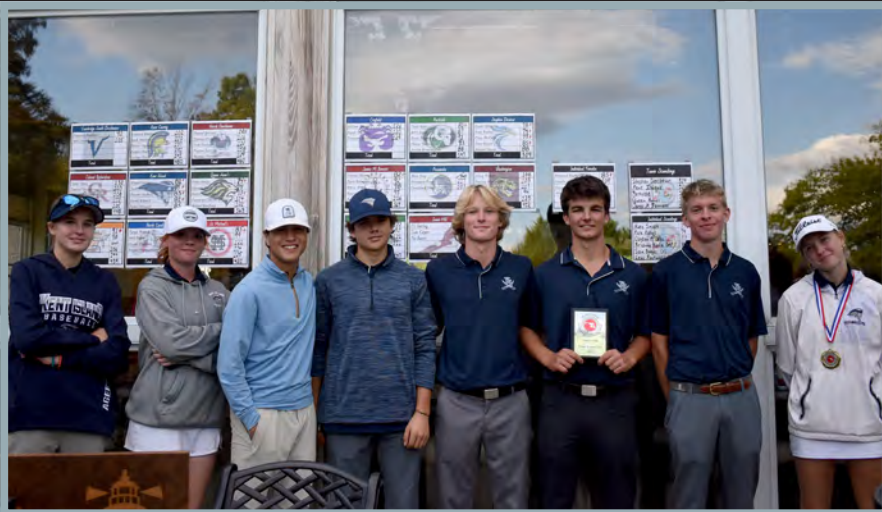
**Season Low Averages  
K. Kohut | N. Smith | T. Brandt**



**Female Winners B. Kurtz | L. Rockwell | S. Borger**



**1st Place Team** Stephen Decatur



**2nd Place Team** Kent Island





**TOP 10 North Bayside**



**TOP 10 Southern Bayside**



# HIGH SCHOOL PLAY | DMV



## POCOMOKE HIGH SCHOOL

Pocomoke Golf Team was a small team with two seniors and three sophomores. Each and every one improved as the season went on. No one qualified for states but three did go to districts.



Samantha Lambertson, Campbell Shay, Maxwell Guy, Branden Trego, Kanae' Cooper Holland



Pocomoke High School enjoying dinner and friendship after our last regular season match which was our annual Pink Out Golf Match.



Pocomoke High School sent three golfers (Branden Trego, Campbell Shay, Maxwell Guy) to districts on October 9, 2023 held at the River Marsh Golf Course.

Coaches send your season highlights to [news@esgmazine.com](mailto:news@esgmazine.com)



# Bayside

JUNIOR 14U GOLF TEAM LEAGUE

# SPRING 2024!

**ENTRY INCLUDES:**  
\$200 PER PLAYER

ALL 5 LEAGUE MATCHES, TEAM PRACTICES, UNIFORM SHIRT AND HAT, AND SPECIAL PLAYERS GIFT PACK WITH USGA RULES BOOK. ALL PLAYERS WILL ALSO RECEIVE AN INVITATION TO THE END OF THE SEASON AWARDS PARTY.

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:**

MONDAY, APRIL 8th @ HOG NECK GC  
 MONDAY, APRIL 15th @ BLUE HERON GC  
 MONDAY, APRIL 22nd @ COVE CREEK CLUB  
 MONDAY, APRIL 29th @ BLUE HERON GC  
 MONDAY, MAY 6th @ HOG NECK GC  
 CHAMPIONSHIP MATCH DETAILS TBD

4:30PM SHOTGUN START FOR ALL MATCHES  
 \*IN THE EVENT OF A CANCELLATION DUE TO WEATHER, MATCHES WILL BE RESCHEDULED.

**ELIGIBILITY:**  
ALL BOYS & GIRLS, AGES 9-14 YEARS AS OF 6/1/24. CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

**REGISTRATION:**  
REGISTRATION WILL OPEN FEBRUARY 1st, AND WILL BE OPEN TO THE FIRST 36 PLAYERS TO SIGN UP AND PAY. ONCE 36 PLAYERS ARE REACHED A WAITING LIST WILL BE AVAILABLE.

**LEAGUE RULES:**

- SIX TEAMS OF SIX PLAYERS- SHOTGUN START
- PAIRINGS WILL BE MIXED EACH MATCH
- 9 HOLES INDIVIDUAL STROKE PLAY
- TRIPLE BOGEY MAX SCORE PER HOLE
- LOWEST 4 INDIVIDUAL SCORES OF EACH TEAM COUNTED
- TEAMS MUST HAVE AT LEAST 4 PLAYERS EACH MATCH TO QUALIFY FOR TEAM POINTS.
- TEAM POINTS AWARDED BY FINISH POSITION
- BONUS TEAM POINTS FOR INDIVIDUAL TOP 3 MEDALISTS
- CADDIES WILL BE PERMITTED DURING PLAY TO HELP PLAYERS, TO HELP WITH RULES, AND PACE OF PLAY.
- PLAYERS AND CADDIES MUST WALK
- USGA AND ALL LOCAL RULES APPLY

**MATCH LOCATIONS:**





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# EASTERN SHORES' 2023 FALL CHAMPIONS



**6-8 GIRLS**  
Bauer Weeks



**6-8 BOYS**  
Aiden Moorhouse



**BOYS 9-11**  
Brody Rollins



**GIRLS 9-11**  
Madison Fisher



**GIRLS 12-14**  
Isabella Jancosko



**BOYS 12-14**  
Jakob Davis



**15-18 BOYS**  
Logan Brown



**GIRLS 15-18**  
Lexi Rockwell



POWERED BY UNDER ARMOUR

# THE UA JUNIOR TOUR

## player profile

# EASTERN SHORES' ADDISON APOLENIS

Interviewed by: Delaney Cha



### How long have you been on the Junior tour and how old are you?

This fall I played in my 3rd season on the UA Junior Tour and I am 13 years old.

### How did you get involved with the tour?

I wanted to start playing competitive golf tournaments and my mom found the UA Junior Tour on the Shore. I'm so glad she found the Tour. The Junior Tour has given me awesome opportunities to grow as a golfer, expand my golf knowledge, and to meet other players my age.

### What's your favorite course you played throughout the tour?

My favorite Tour course is Rum Pointe. The views are incredible and the layout sets up my game well. I also love Wild Quail because it is the first course where I earned a first-place Junior Tour medal. I love that the Tour allows us to replay courses from previous seasons. When we came back and played Wild Quail this past season, I was able to beat my last score which motivated me to practice and play even more.

### How has the tour helped you grow as a golfer?

The Tour has allowed me to become friends with other girl golfers. They are great athletes and super competitors. We encourage and learn from each other. The Tour has also given me the experience of having situational conversations with my golf coaches. This is great because it expands my golf IQ and shot abilities for specific scenarios.

### What plans do you have for the future?

I would love to take golf as far as I can. I am planning on playing in high school and expanding my tournament play. I hope this helps me to become a collegiate player. No matter how far I get playing golf, I am extremely grateful for everything that I have learned through my coaches and dad. I believe you will always be able to find me on a golf course because golf is a sport you can play throughout your whole life. Right now, my goal is to play every Eastern Shore golf course.

### How did you get involved with the sport?

My dad, uncles, and grandparents are avid golfers. I started playing golf because I wanted to be like them. They are now my biggest fans. They always want to know how well I've played after a tournament or match. I love that the Junior Tour allows caddies for younger players. My dad caddies for me. All of the time spent with him throughout the season is so special to me.

### Other Golf Thoughts...

I would encourage girls to try golf. We often see golf as being a man's sport, but golf is for everyone. It's a sport that you play your whole life. It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors and get exercise.

My golf coach, Steve Menz, once shared that good golfers practice until they get it right; great golfers practice until they can't get it wrong. I always strive to be the best golfer I can be. When I figure something out, I refer back to this quote because I want to be a great golfer. I try to practice with purpose until I can not get it wrong.

Golf is a difficult sport because every course is different. It's challenging to keep a positive mindset after a bad shot. I'm working hard on staying focused on my next shot. I try to listen to advice from my parents and coaches. They know me and my strengths.

I love when I hit a great shot. It's the best when you've been working hard on something, like chipping or putting, and all of a sudden it clicks. It makes all the practice worth it.



# DELAWARE WOMEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

CONTACT INFORMATION: For any questions please feel free to contact Lesley Reid Corydon at [lesleycorydon@gmail.com](mailto:lesleycorydon@gmail.com) or 732-533-4373.



## DWGA SEASON WRAP-UP

The Delaware Women's Golf Association wrapped up its 61st season supporting women's golf in Delaware and surrounding areas. The DWGA works to reach all golfers of varying ability through our tournament and open days programs. There are currently 33 member clubs and 364 members.

Founded in 1962, the organization's mission is to promote interest in amateur golf for women and girls in the State of Delaware and surrounding areas (Maryland). They do that by:

- ▶ Sponsoring the Delaware Women's Amateur and Senior Championships
- ▶ Hosting open days for members at member clubs in DE and MD
- ▶ Educating through workshops and seminars
- ▶ Promoting the USGA Rules of Golf and the USGA Handicap System (GHIN)

Open Days are a big draw for the DWGA as members can play the 33 member courses on a set calendar of days for a reasonable price.

## THE DWGA HOSTED THE FOLLOWING TOURNAMENTS IN 2023

### Bash to the Beach - May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

@Ocean City GC, Newport Bay and Plantation Lakes G&CC



1st place Gross: Dawn Stanley, Cindy Hall, Nancy Romagnuolo, Helene Malloy

### Delaware Amateur - July 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

@DuPont Country Club



Champion Reagan Garnsey  
Total Gross 152

### Solheim Cup - August 29<sup>th</sup>

@Wild Quail Golf & Country Club



First place overall gross  
BJ Ferguson & Carol Miller - 76

### Delaware Senior/Super Senior Amateur, June 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>

@Heritage Shores Golf Club



Overall Senior Amateur Champion  
Angie Coleman - Total Gross - 154



Super Senior Amateur Champion  
BJ Ferguson - Total Gross - 170



Senior Amateur Champion  
Lisa Schofield - Total Gross - 160



Ultra Senior Amateur Champion  
Judy Wetzel - Total Gross - 177

## 12 MEMBERS ENJOYED HOLES-IN-ONE THIS YEAR A RECORD FOR THE DWGA!



Tina Brown on 1/1/23  
@Kings Creek Country Club  
#2/115 yds/8 iron



Liz Mongan on 3/29/23  
@Rock Manor  
#3/88 yds/PW



Linda Kauffman on 6/6/23  
@Plantation Lakes  
#11/90 yds/PW



Karen Smith on 6/21/23  
@Univ of Maryland GC  
#11/99 yds/7 iron



Barb Reese on 7/5/23  
@Heritage Shores  
#8/128 yds/8 iron



Linda Griffin on 7/20/23  
@Cripple Creek  
#13/97 yds/8 iron



Arlene Zamora on 8/19/23  
@Furnace Bay  
#3/109 yds/9 iron



Lesley Corydon on 8/28/23  
@Rehoboth Beach CC  
#19/77 yds/9 iron



Diane Herndon on 8/28/23  
@Portmarnock in Dublin, IRE  
#7/133 yds/8 iron



Karen Kitchen on 10/4/23  
@Wild Quail  
#13/90 yds/5 wood



Sue Janes on 10/9/23  
@Rocky Gap GC  
#17/120 yds/9 iron



Nancy Yost on 10/11/23  
@Maple Dale  
#8/112 yds/8 iron

### DWGA 2023-24 BOARD MEMBERS

- PAT CARLSON, **President** Maple Dale Country Club
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# WOMEN'S PENINSULA GOLF ASSOCIATION



1ST GROSS:  
Joan Heiss, TCC | Jane Kasper, Hog Neck  
| Donna Kostens, Hog Neck | Diane Herndon, Kings Creek

ON SEPTEMBER 18TH,  
THE ROOKERY HOSTED  
A WPGA 1-2-3 TOURNAMENT.

ALTHOUGH IT LOOKED LIKE WE WOULD  
GET VERY WET, THE WEATHER CLEARED  
AND WE HAD A GREAT TOURNAMENT.

JOB WELL DONE BY LISA OREM  
AND THE ROOKERY TEAM!



2ND GROSS:  
Brenda Lewis, Maxine Ansbach, Ann Reed, Sue Ahrens  
| All of Mulligan's Pointe



3RD GROSS: Rose Pellegrino, Susan Bohaker, Fumiyo Burchell,  
Michelle Boutche | All from Hog Neck

CHECK THE WOMEN'S PENINSULA GOLF ASSOCIATION WEBSITE  
WWW.WPGAWEBSITE.ORG

WPGACONTACT@GMAIL.COM

FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO JOIN!

CLUB FEE - \$30 / INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP - \$20

Since 1954 the Women's Peninsula Golf Association (WPGA) has been promoting amateur women's golf across the Delmarva Peninsula; and for much of that time through its scholarship fund, the organization has been committed to fostering the growth and future of golf for junior golfers.



**1ST NET:**  
Karen Feuchtenberger, Chris Bielenda, Susan Shockley, Tammy Findlay  
| All from Mulligan's Point



**3RD NET:**  
Joan Turci, Suzy Hornyak, Denise Tamburo, Diane Aylor-Polisoto  
| All from the Rookery



**2ND NET:**  
Jacqueline Adams, Terese Kane, Rita McConnell, Brenda Joyce  
| All from Mulligan's Pointe



**4TH NET:**  
Claire Barr, Nutter's Crossing | Pam Idona, Great Hope  
| Jennifer Frieman & Kathy Gudelski, Elks

**NORTH DIVISION**

- ROOKERY
- \*PLANTATION LAKES
- MAPLE DALE
- MULLIGAN'S POINT
- WILD QUAIL

**SOUTH DIVISION**

- EASTERN SHORE
- NUTTERS
- GREAT HOPE
- GREEN HILL
- OCEAN CITY

**EAST DIVISION**

- BEAR TRAP
- CRIPPLE CREEK
- KINGS CREEK
- BAYSIDE
- HERITAGE SHORES

**WEST DIVISION**

- CHESTER RIVER
- HOG NECK
- PROSPECT BAY
- RIVER MARSH
- TALBOT

## Blue Heron Ladies Golf League 2023 Awards Banquet

The Blue Heron Ladies Golf League held its annual banquet on a rare sunny day at Fisherman's Crab Deck on October 2, 2023. Hosted by banquet chairs Chris Garrant and Debbie Viera and 73 golfers as well as two of the Monday morning Blue Heron golf course staff, Milt Stewart and Bill Plank. The program included door prizes, a putting contest, two 50/50 raffle winners and a "Guess the Number of Tees" contest sponsored by Blue Heron course manager Eric Beaufait as well as numerous golf awards. The prestigious "Most Improved Player of the Year" award went to Debbie Viera. Eileen England won the putting contest, always a big hit at the annual banquet, and 29 ladies won birdie pins for one, two, three, four, and an impressive 7 (Elizabeth Newell) birdies during the season.

President Sylvie Weikert announced that Elizabeth Newell won the coveted 2023 Club Championship plaque and monetary award. Elizabeth was unable to attend the banquet but receive her award later. The following players were also awarded prizes for the Championship Tournament: "A" Flight – 1st Place Gross: Kathleen Rowe, 2nd Place Gross: Susan Nauman; 1st Place Net: Sylvie Weikert, 2nd Place Net: Barb Letke; "B" Flight – 1st Place Gross: Phyllis Sherbert, 2nd Place Gross: Linda Crawford; 1st Place Net: Amy Fidanza, 2nd Place Net: Jackie Robertson; "C" Flight – 1st Place Gross: Maribeth Cullom, 2nd Place Gross: Carolyn Heimrich; 1st Place Net: Jan O'Connor, 2nd Place Net: Jean Sadler; "D" Flight – 1st Place Gross: Debbie Stodd, 2nd Place Gross: Phyllis Basil; 1st Place Net: Denise Matteson, 2nd Place Net: Debbie Viera. Prizes were also awarded in each flight for 1st and 2nd Ringer Low Gross and Low Net: "A" Flight – 1st and 2nd Low Gross: Elizabeth Newell, Kathleen Rowe, 1st and 2nd Low Net: Sylvie Weikert, Barbara Letke; "B" Flight – 1st and 2nd Low Gross: Amy Fidanza, Andrea Akers, 1st and 2nd Low Net: Jackie Robertson, Megan Andrew; "C" Flight – 1st and 2nd Low Gross: Jean Sadler, Maribeth Cullom and Debby Stodd (tie), 1st and 2nd Low Net: Carrie Lawn, Sharon MacMillan; "D" Flight – 1st and 2nd Low Gross: Sara Moulton, Phyllis Basil, 1st and 2nd Low Net: Denise Matteson, Susan Schmidt.

Officers for the 2023 golf season are President Amy Fidanza, Vice President Leslie Parreco, Secretary Anne Brunson and Treasurer, Susan Armiger.

Once again, the league reached its maximum number of players consisting of 90 women from both Western and Eastern Shore communities. The nine-hole league begins each year on the first Monday morning of April and continues every Monday through September. The awards banquet is traditionally held on the first Monday of October. Returning member registration runs from February 1 through March 1 and is then opened to new players until all spaces are filled. Due to slow pace of play, the Executive Board will be discussing whether to lower the maximum number of eligible players. For more information regarding qualifications and registration, call the Membership Chair at 410-827-9397.



Fisherman's Crab Deck on October 2, 2023



Elizabeth Newell Club Champion







Most Improved Player Award - Debbie Viera



Outgoing president Sylvie Weikert  
Congratulates 2024 president Amy Fidanza



Championship Awards



50-50 Winners Barb letke, Jean Sadler



Ringer Book Awards



Debbie Viera and Chris Garrant, Banquet Co-Chairs

# LPGA EASTERN SHORE

Submitted by: Trisha Seitz

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Our 2023 golf season has come to an end. To celebrate, our members enjoyed a wonderful End of Season banquet at Signatures at Bayside. Butlered hors d'oeuvres and cash bars were offered in the Cocktail Lounge. Once we were ushered into the Ballroom, our Captains and Co-Captains took the stage to present their awards for league play and our Handicap Chairs presented their awards to our winners in the Biggest Loser Contest. Our Pink Ball Chairs took the podium to present our guests from Beebe Medical Foundation and Atlantic General Hospital Foundation with checks from our Pink Ball tournaments.

Currently, members of the board are organizing educational and social events for the off-season. We are in contact with local venues for clinics, sessions on handicap updates, and an indoor miniature golf tournament for the 2024 season.

If you would like to learn more about the LPGA Amateurs Golf Association Eastern Shore MD/DE, please visit our website at <https://chapters.lpgaamateurs.com/about-us/about-us/EASH>

*Diane Sarsfield*

President

LPGA Amateurs Eastern Shore



**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN JOINING THE LPGA AMATEUR'S ORGANIZATION OR WOULD LIKE MORE DETAILS ON OUR EVENTS -**

**PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**

**HERE'S TO A GREAT 2024!!**

**[HTTPS://CHAPTERS.LPGAAMATEURS.COM/HOME/CHAPTER/EASH](https://chapters.lpgaamateurs.com/home/chapter/eash)**

WE HELD OUR END OF END-OF-SEASON BANQUET AT SIGNATURES AT BAYSIDE. WE CELEBRATED OUR LEAGUE WINNERS AND HAD A LOVELY EVENING WITH OUR FELLOW MEMBERS.



**WE HELD OUR ANNUAL TRANSITION-OF-THE-BOARD MEETING AND GOLF CLINIC AT SIGNATURES AT BAYSIDE AND HAD A WONDERFUL EVENING. THE CLINIC WAS VERY HELPFUL, THE FOOD DELICIOUS AND THE COMPANY EVEN BETTER.**

Barb Kieley, Donna Johnson, Joanne Kwasniewski, Sharon Brienza, Trish Seitz, Sharon Hoffman, Patty Lewis, Pat Zamorski, Diane Sarsfield, Vicki Sama, Joanne Grason



**OUR MEMBERS GATHERED TOGETHER AT THE VISTA ROOFTOP LOUNGE IN THE FENWICK INN FOR A FUN AFTERNOON HAPPY HOUR.**



WE PARTICIPATED IN OCEAN CITY'S WINTERFEST OF LIGHTS TREE DECORATING CONTEST. SOME OF OUR LADIES HANDMADE THE GOLF BALL ORNAMENTS! WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT IN VOTING FOR OUR TREE WHEN YOU VISITED THE BEAUTIFUL LIGHT DISPLAY! THE PROCEEDS FROM THE VOTES BENEFITTED THE ART LEAGUE OF OCEAN CITY'S YOUTH PROGRAMS.



2023 was a fabulous year for our Chapter and we are looking forward to an eventful 2024. Please check out our website for upcoming events and SAVE the DATE of April 22nd for our annual Kick-off Celebration. <https://chapters.lpgaamateurs.com/home/chapter/EASH>

# Help us find DIVOT!



Throughout the pages of this magazine, our mascot Divot is hidden **THREE** times within the ads. If you can name the three ads and the pages that it's located on, you will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 gift card. Please fill out the form below, cut it out, and mail it to us at:

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Stevensville, MD 21666

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Entries must be received by FEB. 29, 2024



## KUDOS

**ELLEN L.E.**  
FROM EASTON MD  
FOR FINDING ME!

**SHE WON**  
A \$50 GIFT CARD!

# TOOLS OF THE TRADE

BY STEVE MENZ



## “THE ANSWER MY FRIEND, IS BLOWING IN THE WIND!”

Playing golf on the Eastern Shore sure is beautiful. The views and wildlife can be distracting. Just this fall, I watched an amazing bald eagle gliding through the breeze out on the course. When I say breeze, that's an understatement because a slight breeze here is 10-20mph. Calm days on the shore are 5 to 10mph. These mild zephyrs can wreak havoc on your golf game. The wind can make the strongest of player second guess their club selection. It will certainly cause you to grip the club a little firmer and swing a little harder. When it's breezy, swing easy! That saying is straight truth!

Here you'll find some info to help you master the wind. The first step is to determine which way the wind is blowing. I look at the tree tops, clouds, ripples on the water, the flag or I toss some grass in the air. Your ears can also give you a definitive direction, just turn your head until the breeze makes a sound in both ears at the same time and you'll be facing the direction head-on. Just an FYI: you may not use artificial devices to determine wind direction (like a towel or a tissue) if you do you will be in breach of rule 4.3 of the Rules of Golf and incur a two-stroke penalty. Once you've determined the direction, it's time to figure out how much to add or subtract to your yardage to hit an accurate shot. To start let's focus on shots directly into the wind or

directly downwind. I recently saw a tip that had a player toss some grass and step of the yardage the grass flew. If it was into the wind they multiplied the steps by four. Grass that flew five steps would equal 20 yards added to the distance. If they were downwind, they would multiply the steps the grass flew by two. Four steps would subtract 8 yards. I went out for a few rounds and started testing the theory and to my surprise, this formula has become pretty accurate. So much so, that I nearly carded an ace on a 133-yard hole using a 7iron. I tossed the grass and it flew 8 steps times by 4 equaled +32 or 165 yards. I've seen other tips that use percentages to calculate how much the wind was going to help or hurt but I wanted something I could trust. Most wind calculations agree that the wind affects the yardage twice as much as downwind. As for crosswinds, that is going to rely on your personal shot shape or spin bias. If you draw the ball (as a right-handed player) the ball curves from right to left. Any wind coming from the same direction will cause the ball to curve more and run out more. Any wind coming from the opposite direction will straighten the ball flight and make the ball stop faster. The great players will shape their shots against the wind to hold the ball on line better. So the next time you go out try this formula. Tweak it to help you master the wind and make the wind work for you!



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# TIPS FROM THE PRO

## WHAT'S IT WORTH TO YOU?

by: Rob McDonald, PGA



I've often said that your enjoyment of golf is directly related to your expectations. If you can only play once per week and have no practice time but expect to go out and play flawlessly, you will be very disappointed. You may be a very intelligent person and understand the mechanics of a good functional swing. But that doesn't translate into low scores just because you "know it"! You may understand the mechanics of swinging a bat, but can you walk out to the plate and hit a 90mph fastball just "knowing" what to do? Can you pull onto the track at Daytona and tailgate at 200mph because you know how to drive? But you expect to walk out onto the course and play like a pro without putting in the time? If you practice the right things, with discipline and regularity, you will get better.

So, what are the right things? The first is technique. If you don't know the right technique, begin by taking regular lessons from a local PGA Professional. Practice the technique beginning with slow repetitions. The functional golf swing is the sequencing of your muscle groups. Like everything else in life, we learn sequencing slowly. Do this without a ball so you're not distracted by worrying about contact. Then, bring that slow sequencing to the range. As you get better at the sequencing, you can begin to build the speed, slowly.

The second is playing the game. How do you take the technique out onto the course? What are you focusing on? When you want to play your best golf, you must have freedom through the impact zone. Freedom in your arm swing and freedom from the worry about the outcome. We use our body to swing our arms, while they're holding a club. It's as simple as that until our expectations or fears distract us and control or manipulation gets in the way. Developing a consistent

pre-shot routine and sticking to it is the best way to help maintain freedom in every shot. But there are many levels you must pass through to get where you want to be. For many of the people I work with, the greatest blockage is due to what others think of them and what they perceive about themselves. Golf is a very personal game. It's all on us! The good and the bad. How do you get past this? You must go through the levels. First, you can do it on the range. Of course, there's no penalties there! Next, play a lot by yourself. Let it go and be free from outcome-based thoughts. Feel your body swinging the arms. Play a couple of balls from tough areas and figure out how to get up and down from there. Why is the second shot after an out-of-bounds shot always good? You're free because you've already hit the worst fear and you don't care! Begin to feel that on your first shots. Next play with your buddies and maybe have a little something on the line, but stay free. Enjoy the challenge of recovery shots versus the anger of the shot that put you there. Keep in mind, that you're "playing" golf. Next, sign up for some tournaments, but go into them with the idea of enjoying the competition, not fearing the worst. Everyone else has their battle going on. They're not thinking about you! It may take many events for you to recognize and overcome the distractive thoughts and how they affect your shots, but you learn from them.

In golf, we must ride the rollercoaster of ups and downs. This all takes time and commitment. Nothing worthwhile happens instantly. If you want a flawless game, either commit or let your expectations match your ability to put the time in. Golf is great because of these levels. They are endless. There's always the next level to strive for. That's the big picture, the real fun! You can't shortcut past the levels. You'd miss all the fun!





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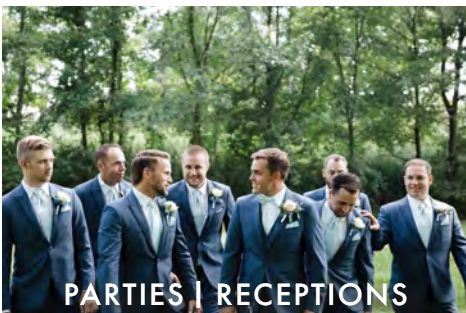
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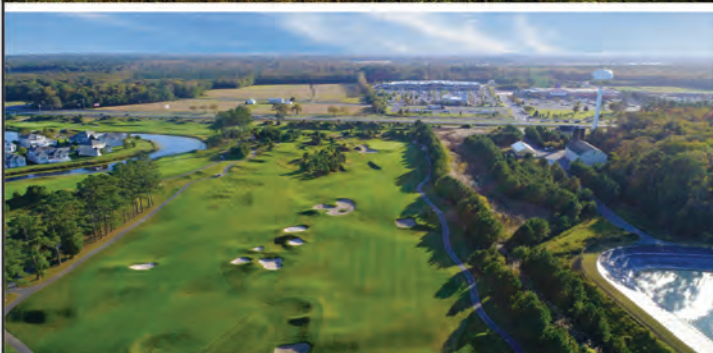
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## GOLF ETIQUETTE FOR ALL GOLFERS



### RECORD YOUR SCORES ON THE NEXT TEE BOX.

DO NOT RECORD YOUR SCORE ON THE GREEN YOU JUST PLAYED. YOU SHOULD CLEAR THE AREA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THE GROUP BEHIND YOU CAN HIT THEIR APPROACH SHOTS. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME ON THE NEXT TEE TO RECORD SCORES WHILE YOUR FELLOW COMPETITORS ARE HITTING THEIR TEE SHOTS.

## GOLF JOKE!



AFTER THEY WENT INTO THE LOCKER ROOM, ANOTHER GOLFER WHO HAD HEARD THE OLD GUYS TALKING ABOUT THEIR GAME, WENT TO THE PRO AND SAID, "I'VE BEEN PLAYING GOLF FOR A LONG TIME AND THOUGHT I KNEW ALL THE TERMINOLOGY OF THE GAME, BUT WHAT'S A RIDER?"

THE PRO SAID, "A RIDER IS WHEN YOU HIT THE BALL FAR ENOUGH TO ACTUALLY GET IN THE GOLF CART AND RIDE TO IT."

# meet the pro

## Abby Messick River Marsh Golf Course

Interviewed by: Delaney Cha



### **How long have you been playing golf?**

I've been playing golf since I was 8 years old. The first time I played was at Green Hill Country Club. My aunt and uncle were members there, and I would tag along with her sometimes. I would play with them over the summer and one day my aunt bought me a putter and a 9-iron out of the loose club barrel (which I really think was the lost and found) and I started playing then. I loved it. I played in high school at Cambridge South Dorchester and now here we are. I never would have thought that we would have such an amazing golf resort right here in Cambridge. And it's interesting, I'm the third generation in my family to work on this property. When this land used to be the hospital, my grandparents were nurses, my dad was a rehab therapist, and my mom was a mental health nurse. She worked with the health department which is now our hole # 12.

### **What made you interested in the sport/who influenced you?**

Definitely my family. I love spending time with family, and I love sports. I played tennis growing up and even before that I loved individual sports, and that's exactly what golf is. Golf makes you think so much. But it was mainly family. The ease of having someone to play with.

### **Favorite course that you've played?**

A lot comes to mind for a lot of different reasons. My favorite courses are all so different. I would say Kapalua Golf Course in Hawaii is beautiful because Hawaii is just so lovely and it was a thrill to play there. I also really love Aviara which is at a Hyatt Resort in Carlsbad, California. I also really enjoyed Pinehurst No. 2. But honestly, even if it's biased to say, I really like River Marsh because it just feels like home. It's a lot of fun and it can be a very different golf course depending on which tees you play from. But mainly by it being my home course. Rum Pointe is also a favorite on the shore. I think it's great and I love everything about it.

### **How did you get your LPGA Certification?**

I got it through the LPGA. I was working here for 6 years. I came to the property to teach tennis, as I was a certified tennis instructor. I was working in Salisbury and started thinking about moving south and they built the resort. I knew they were building tennis courts and I was interested in working for a global corporation, to have the opportunity to move around. When I came in to meet with someone about the job, there was no one yet for tennis, so I met the golf director at the time. We hit it off and he asked me to come work at the golf division until tennis got figured out. Now, 21 years later, here we are. But I love it, I love everything about the environment, I love the game obviously but I really enjoy the people aspect of it.

**What is something you think the industry could do better to expand women's interest in the sport?**

I like what is happening with the handicaps next year, with the short-hole option or the 9-hole option. I like that we are doing something to make the game more inclusive because a lot of ladies have struggled to develop a valid, verified handicap when they play 9-hole rounds that is true to an 18-hole golf course, so I think that's a great step. I just think inclusivity is important. Golf has carried this stigma of 'it's going to be really long, it's going to be really hard, it's going to be...' and it is all of those things; it is challenging, don't get me wrong. But it should be open to everybody. It's a great sport for ladies, for sure a great sport for young women who can play the game. You'll play it for the rest of your life. It'll carry you a long way in business. A lot of business deals are made on the golf course. I've read in the past two or so years that the most underutilized scholarship is in women's golf, which makes you think, 'Wow! That's a great opportunity for a young lady to take advantage of.' Opening up the door and showing people that it isn't all about a dress code, it isn't about the brand of clubs you play with. It doesn't always have to be an expensive sport. It just has to be fun. One of the things that we do here, and I'm very proud of it because it's been happening for a long time, is that we do a 4-hole loop program where it's the first four holes of the golf course. It dials it back, making it a little easier. It isn't 18-holes and it isn't as daunting. This golf course is a resort course and it is a lady-friendly course. The forward tees are nice, the fairways are large and open. It has the opportunity to make yourself feel good. What we watch on TV isn't what we see out here every day.

**What is the most impactful lesson that you've learned through your time in the industry?**

I think it's important to remember when you were put in that role. I always thought to myself, my assistant today won't work a 60-hour work week. It's very different now, times have changed. When I worked those longer hours, when I worked those shifts, when I came to work and I didn't know when I might leave, granted this was 20 years ago, I knew I never wanted to be that boss who then did the same thing because it happened to me. I try to make a concerted effort to make sure our team rotates holidays, rotates days off, and gets their requests. We try to stick to a 40-45 hour work week, even during the busy season, and we really try to take advantage of our time off during a slower time. We try to take advantage of slower days and be mindful of that. I think the potential for burnout and what the burnout of being in the golf industry can do to you is a threat to really great potential colleagues. I find that work-life balance is really important and I try to treat my team the way that I would want to be treated. Hyatt really does a great job of supporting that balance for us as well.

**What's your vision for River Marsh over the next few years?**

In my mind, I would like to see us adding a few more simulators, which fully dedicates more time to year round golf. This year, we have a couple of big renovations happening. Next summer, we're turning over the fairways which are really big and impactful for both the course and the environment. For me, my hope is we continue to drive rounds of golf, in high volumes while keeping in mind the resort component of relaxation and fun.

# 2023 CLUB *champs*



Mens' Gross Club Champ – Bryan Shepherd  
 Mens' Net Club Champ – Steve Dennis  
 Womens' Gross Club Champ – Diana Wiggs  
 Womens' Net Club Champ – Sue Bradford  
 Mens' Gross Senior Club Champ – Andy MacLean  
 Mens' Net Senior Club Champ – Dave Kushner  
 Womens' Gross Senior Club Champ – Sandy Scitti  
 Womens' Net Senior Club Champ – Jan Neel  
 Mens' Super Senior Club Champ – Joe Fields  
 Womens' Super Senior Club Champ – Nan Dove



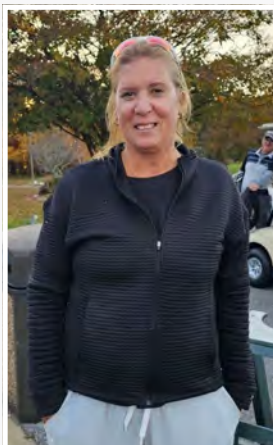
Mens' Club Champ – Keith Schussler  
 Womens' Club Champ – Pam Sheldon  
 Mens' Senior Club Champ – Bunky Cochran  
 Womens' Senior Club Champ – Towar Whitehead



Mens' Club Champ &  
 Mens' Senior Club Champ – Shawn Thomas  
 Womens' Club Champ – Tori Overhol



Mens' Senior Club Champ – C.G. Anderson  
 Womens' Senior Club Champ – Tami Bugas  
 Mens' Club Champ – Ryan DeVage  
 Womens' Club Champ – Margaret Hinson



Tori Overhol



Shawn Thomas



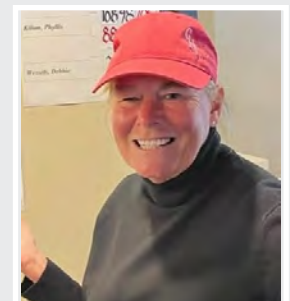
C.G. Anderson



Tami Bugas



Ryan DeVage



Margaret Hinson

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