

EASTERN SHORE GOLF

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER '08

M A G A Z I N E

CHRISTINA VOSTERS
WORCESTER PREP

BOB CROWTHER
BAYSIDE

DANA COOPER
OCEAN PINES CHAMP

PGA MANAGEMENT
UMES

RUDDO'S
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WILL WISEMAN
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ROB BAILEY
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EASTERN SHORE GOLF MAGAZINE



LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Welcome to **EASTERN SHORE GOLF MAGAZINE** and the Eastern Shore Golf Club.

With so many great Eastern Shore golf stories, it is our mission to cover those stories and bring them to you on a bi-monthly basis. Each issue will also feature local PGA Professionals, Assistant Pros, Course Superintendents, High School Standouts, Service with a Smile Section and Senior members of the golf community.

Brush up on your game with Beckelman's Tips from the Pros or check out the latest in golf technology with Ruddo's Product Showcase. You can read up on local tournament schedules/results, club championships, and also see the golfers who made hole-in-ones!

We kindly ask you, the Eastern Shore golfer, to email or call us anytime you hear of a good Eastern Shore golf story. With over forty beautifully unique golf courses, and thousands of golfers, there will be plenty of stories to cover! We hope you enjoy our publication as much as we have enjoyed bringing it to you.



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Born and raised here on the Eastern Shore, this young champion will make you proud. With the focus of a tigress in the brush, waiting to make her move, **Christina Vosters** is focused on the prize. Her mom introduced her to golf just before she turned 12 by sending her to a summer golf camp at BEARTRAP DUNES in Delaware. Since then, "THE TIGRESS" has been hooked. Even though she has only been playing the game for less than 5 years, she has achieved enough highlights to last a lifetime. She shot a career low 70 at Seaview Golf Course in New Jersey to finish in the top four of the tournament; shot an even par at Pine Hurst Course #2 finishing in the top 10 of the PGA Junior Championships; won the PGA Junior tournament at the Ranch Golf Club in Southwick, Massachusetts; and can drive the ball 260 yards off

the tee.

This month Christina will be heading back to Worcester Prep for her Junior Year. After being named PLAYER OF THE YEAR in 2007, one can imagine the expectations; expectations that are welcomed with open arms by Christina. Extremely wise for her age, she trains hard, stays clear of bad influences, and continues to grow mentally. Even with her "wise beyond her years" disposition, inside there is still the young girl who loves to go crabbing, ride horses with her mom, play tennis and watch L.T. Shake n Bake for her favorite NFL team, the San Diego Chargers.

Christina's summer schedule was as busy as an A/C repairman in Florida. With the loving support from her parents and big sister, she was able to play numerous



tournaments and still take it all in stride. The night before any big event you'll find the TIGRESS enjoying a nice prime rib, relaxing with family and watching the golf channel. The next morning it's back to "stalking her prey" on the links.

Christina is thinking big. She wants to help whichever college she chooses to win a national championship, turn pro, and be ranked #1 in the World. After a lengthy career golfing, she wants to design golf courses and commentary for a major network. With the help of the EASTERN SHORE Community, her WORCESTER PREP coach, Mr. Kevin Gates, and her loving friends and family, things are looking really bright for Miss Christina Vosters. ■ WRITTEN BY: RAY TARANTO

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PARKSIDE HIGH'S *Wiseman* WANTS TO WIN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

As Will Wiseman starts his senior year at Parkside High, he often thinks about his grandfather. Although Leland Pope, Will's grandfather, passed on over 10 years ago, his lessons of life and golf weigh heavy on Will's mind. When his grand dad introduced Will to golf at the age of five, it was an instant love. Will golfed with his grandfather all the time and learned the fundamentals of both the game and life while out on the course with his mentor. "I still do everything with thoughts of my grand dad in mind", Will says. Leland is definitely smiling down on his shining grandson.

At the age of ten, Will beat tour-pro Duffy Waldorf in a chipping contest, and won the Junior Invitational at Ocean Pines Golf Course. He then knew

what he wanted to do; play as often as possible.

Over the past year Will's career has really shifted into high gear. After finishing second at the Maryland State High School Championships in the 1A-2A Division and sixth overall, he started gaining momentum for his summer tour. He traveled all over the country

and was able to win the Bobby Bowers Match Play Tournament, as the 11th seed, in Springfield, VA; finished 5th out of 230 at the Future Collegiate World Tour at the PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach, FL; finished 2nd in the JPGA Qualifier at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club; and in the top 20 out of 224 players at the Press Thornton Future Masters Tournament. Will is currently ranked in the top 125 in the Nation (18 and under).

At the age of one, Will's dad moved the family from Staunton, VA to the Eastern Shore after being offered a Sales position with Purdue. Will enjoys watching movies, bowling and pumping Lil' Wayne on his IPOD, when not on the links.



He is a big fan of Adam Scott and Natalie Gulbis and is very determined to play college golf. UCF, UVA and JMU are all possible prospects of landing Will on their campus next year. Will says he stays grounded with the support of his Mom, Dad, brother Brett, and his Parkside High teammates.

A modest fellow, Will lets his play do the talking. While I sat down with Will for this interview (with the gracious hospitality of Head PGA Pro, David Combs, and Nutters Crossing), I couldn't help but notice the overwhelming respect that the local golfers have for Will—well deserved respect!

GO RAMS!!

■ WRITTEN BY: RAY TARANTO

the **WE LOVE THIS GAME** *& the* *golfer!* *caddy*



THE JOSHUA M. FREEMAN FOUNDATION

hosted its annual charity golf tournament on Monday, June 9. Held at Bear Trap Dunes in Ocean View, Delaware, the tournament included nearly 100 golfers and raised almost \$200,000 for the Joshua M. Freeman Center for the Arts.



"Bringing friends, colleagues, and family members together for a great day on the golf course was something that Josh looked forward to every year," stated Michelle Freeman, President and Chairman of the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation. "This tournament is not only a great way to continue doing that, but also allows us to raise money for a great cause as we work to create a permanent arts community in Sussex County."

The Joshua M. Freeman Foundation was established in 2007 to honor the legacy of Josh Freeman after his untimely death in 2006. The Foundation is dedicated to creating community facilities that support the arts, the environment, and athletic achievement.

Proceeds from the Golf Tournament will go to support the first project of the Joshua M. Freeman Foundation - the creation of the Joshua M. Freeman Center for the Arts in Fenwick Island, Delaware. The theatre was one of Josh's long-time dreams, and plans are underway to create a center that will host large performances, and classrooms for art, dance & music.

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HOLE-IN-ONE

H I G H L I G H T S



Head Golf Professional Josh Esworthy congratulates **Dr. Jeff Kukel** for his hole-in-one "Albatross" on the par 4 #10 at The Links at Lighthouse Sound. Jeff is the head pharmacist at Rite Aid in Ocean Pines, MD.



Sally Straford hits hole-in-one at Ocean Pines Golf Club on #7! Sally grew up in Indiana where her father, Floyd Hamblen, was a Pro at Tipton Golf Course. As a teen, she played in competitions and caddied for her dad in Pro-Am events. After college, she stopped playing golf to raise a family and teach. After retiring in 2001, she decided to take up golf again after thirty seven years off the course. As George Eliot said, "It is never too late to be what you might have been."



Marty Gross hits a hole-in-one at the new "end of the road" par 3 at Ocean Pines Golf Club.

SHORE UP!

WITH THE GAME COACH

Carson Lovett, MA - Sport Psychology

When Jack Nicklaus, Wayne Gretzky and Michael Jordan speak on sports, we listen. Their expertise is invaluable because we learn from the best. Beyond their words, researchers have discovered a wealth of knowledge from examining the psychophysiology of the expert athlete.

Elite marksmen maintain a visual focus and a heightened level of attention ideal for measuring the activities of the brain during sport performance. The skills required for target shooting allow the athlete to be connected to an EEG that monitors brain activity without interfering with performance, providing an in-game analysis of the athlete's mental state. It was found that expert marksmen were able to calm the left side of their brain just prior to shot execution, while no measurable effect was observed within the right hemisphere.

Given that left-brain activity is associated with verbal and analytical functioning while the right-brain is associated with visual and spatial processing, our lesson can be applied to the links.

As we become better golfers, we rely less on mental chatter. We no longer need to talk ourselves through a shot, or question our mechanics. We gain confidence through experience, and become able to focus our attention where it is most needed.

While both Tiger Woods and I will have an active right-brain before our identical 13-footers on 17, during his approach, his left-brain is quiet as he solely focuses on space and distance.

During my approach I am reviewing the steps of my routine, a mentally verbal and analytical process that increases left-brain activity. We have a limited ability to attend to a task, so Tiger sticks it, and until I SHORE UP my game, I wonder!

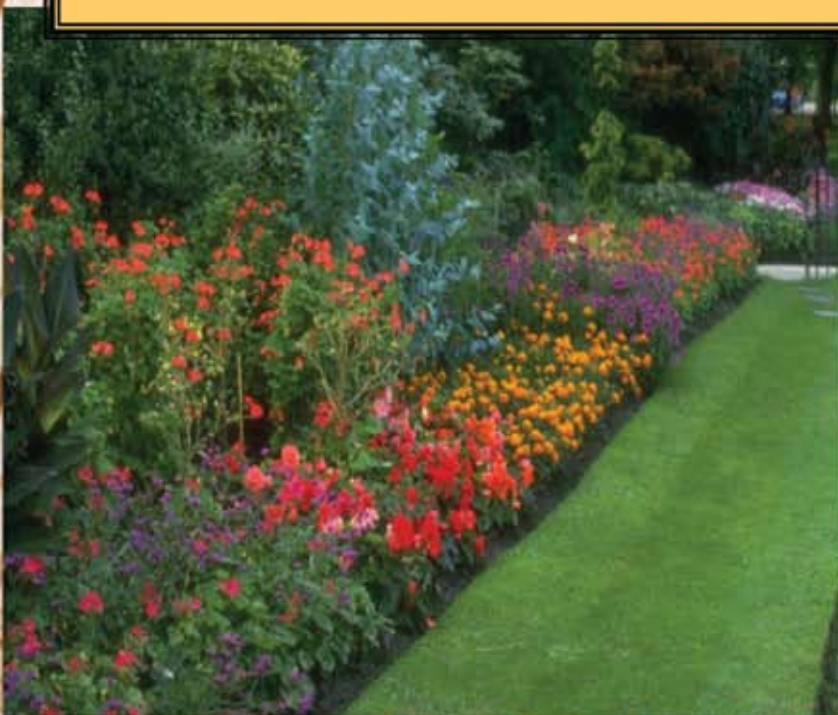
THE MORAL: Shush!

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Lefty Driesell

ATTENDS SEASIDE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY GOLF TOURNAMENT
BY RENE DAVIDSON

It would be hard to imagine a better day than what we had on Friday, April 18th. The sky was blue, the air was warm, the grass was green and the wind was minimal. There were 106 golfers, over thirty hole sponsors and the door prizes were plentiful. Many have commented that it was one of the best tournaments they have ever played in! Lefty Driesell, former head coach of University of Maryland Terps, came out for the dinner and autograph signing. He also donated several items of memorabilia for the auction. It all added up to a lot of smiling faces! We raised well over \$10,000 on this event. A very special thank you to two of our school grandparents, Scott and Carol Evans, for the tremendous job they did in organizing the tournament. We would also like to thank the many who sponsored holes, donated door prizes and items for the auction, and put together teams. We are truly blessed.



Scott Evans, Duane Fumell, Lefty Driesell



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Bob Crowther THE RUNNER OF BAYSIDE AND MARATHONS

Being the Head Pro at a golf course often seems as hard as running a marathon. With its long hours and demanding schedule it takes a certain dedication to keep the course "running" smoothly. BOB CROWTHER is no stranger to dedication. Bob has completed 14 marathons across the nation. He loves running on the pavement as much as running a golf course. He uses his time in running shoes to keep life in perspective and think about his blessings. His wife Bonnie and children Miles, Sam, and Ian are on his mind as he logs mile after mile. "My passion is running, if I were not a golf pro, I would most likely be involved in marketing and selling running equipment."

Bob was born in Lake Placid, NY, the son of a Marine. Growing up in a military family helped shape Bob into a disciplined young man. He eventually joined the Corps himself and, at the age of 19, while stationed at the Navy's submarine base in Groton, Connecticut, had an experience that shaped his view of golf forever. One weekend his Marine buddies invited him

to attend the Greater Harford Open. There, amazed by the crowds, he saw tour player Brett Upper use a wooden driver off the tee. "I will never forget the sound that club and ball made at impact, it was the loudest 'Whack' I had ever heard.

Following his hitch in the Marine Corps, Bob worked on his game and took a job working the bag drop at a golf course. Within a couple of weeks, the Head Pro named him his assistant and handed him a book, Ben Hogan's Five Lessons, The Modern Fundamentals of Golf. Six years later, in a crazy twist of fate, Bob ended up being paired with Brett Upper in the Philly Section Championships. Brett, who had left the tour to become Head Pro at a local course, ended up shooting 72



Bob Crowther giving a few putting tips to PGA pro John Lynch while he is in town. John is an Indian River grad who now lives and teaches golf in Hawaii.

to Bob's 76 in a very competitive round. Small World! Oh, by the way, Bob Crowther has since won the Philly Sectional twice. Acknowledged by Golf Digest as a top teaching pro, he has been the Head Pro at the Jack Nicholas designed Bayside Course since it opened. Bob, a fan of Adam Scott, Christie Kerr, yoga, and his morning cup of coffee, can be contacted for lessons at 302-436-3400.

■ WRITTEN BY: RAY TARANTO



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One could say that it is Tidewater Physical Therapy's 17 convenient local offices that keep patients coming back, or that Tidewater's therapists have the most experience, averaging 15 years each. Maybe it's the wide array of services they offer, from orthopedic and post surgical therapy to aquatic and work related therapy. Area golfers believe that Tidewater has become the proven leader in specialized therapy for the avid and novice golfer. This is due in large part to the fact that every Tidewater office offers quality therapy for sport related injuries. Additionally, many Tidewater offices offer specific programs for golf related injuries and athletic enhancement.

Bob Cairo, PT., MS., C.E.T. Clinical Director in the Ocean View, Delaware office of Tidewater Physical Therapy, offers a Golf Flexibility and Strengthening Program which is designed to improve your game, increase your strength and flexibility, helping you to avoid injuries. This program provides a one-hour evaluation to help you develop a personalized flexibility and strengthening program. Bob Cairo is also a certified Active Release practitioner and provides this cutting edge soft tissue therapy to golfers and athletes area wide.



Craig Joachimowski, PT, OCS. Clinical Director in the Seaford office offers specific golf injury rehabilitation as well as a performance enhancement program. This program is designed for those patients wishing to relieve discomfort, improve their strength, stamina and performance on the course. Craig also works from the Salisbury, Maryland clinic offering quality care from both locations.

For more information on these and other golf & sport related programs offered by Tidewater Physical Therapy, please call 1-800-736-3020.

Tidewater Physical Therapy has offered quality therapeutic and rehabilitative care to patients on the Maryland and Delaware Shore for 24 years. There is always a Tidewater office convenient to your home or work. Tidewater Physical Therapy has offices in Harrington, Milton, Lewes (Angola), Lewes (5 points), Georgetown, Seaford and Ocean View, Delaware. In Maryland, Tidewater has offices in Chester, Centreville, Cambridge, Denton, Easton, Salisbury, Pocomoke, St. Michaels, and Ocean Pines.

BEAR TRAP DUNES WELCOMES

THE BABY BEAR

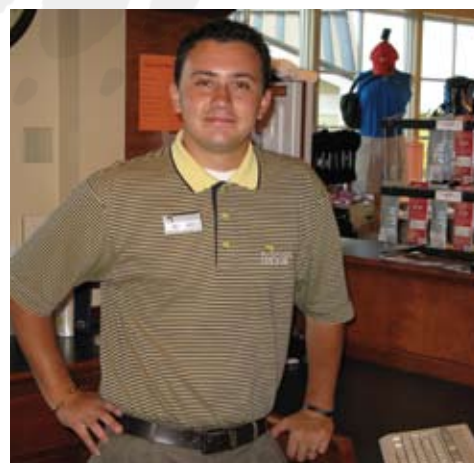
Keith Lewis is the newest member of the professional staff at BEAR TRAP DUNES in Delaware. Raised in Perryville, Maryland, Keith started golfing with his grandfather at the age of 9. Just 21 years old, the BABY BEAR is one of the youngest members of any professional staff on the Eastern Shore. After high school, he enrolled in the San Diego Golf Academy. He graduated in just 2 ½ years from their Orlando campus. Mike Tritapoe, Head Pro at Bear Trap, hired Keith when Tritapoe was at the Bay Club. Keith did such a wonderful job that Tritapoe brought him along when he was named Head Pro at Bear Trap. The BABY BEAR shot the lowest score among all players when he passed his PAT (Playing Ability Test) for the PGA recently. Keith says he loves Bear Trap and its three different nine-hole courses. He finds that "working

with a staff that has a lot of respect for each other makes the long days go by fast." Keith said, "I'm looking forward to paying my dues as an Assistant Pro and learning every day. One day I dream of becoming a Head Pro and excelling in the field of golf. All four of my grandparents play a role inspiring me to do my best."

■ WRITTEN BY: RAY TARANTO



big



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*Source: USGA The Rules of Golf 2008-2009



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UMES

PRINCESS ANNE – Like Ray Kinsella, the Iowa farmer played by Kevin Costner who obeyed the voice and built a baseball field in the movie, “Field of Dreams,” 64-year old Marshall Cropper once stood at the edge of a desolate field on the edge of his beloved University of Maryland Eastern Shore campus and saw not hay, nor corn, nor soy beans, but golf.

He saw, in fact, golfers, hundreds of them, young and old, male and female, of all races, from all backgrounds of life, standing side by side, hitting irons, stroking putts, blasting out of bunkers, honing their skills at a massive, state-of-the-art practice facility that stretched as far as the eye could see.

That was his vision. And almost everyone he told of his vision laughed at him.

Now, fifteen years later, Cropper, the Director of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore Golf Academy and one of several dedicated souls who have brought the PGA of America-accredited Professional Golf Management program to the Eastern Shore, feels a sense of satisfaction on this hot July day to watch 17-year old PGM major Gregory Price hit golf balls into that same field of grass that used to grow hay.

BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

This story really has three beginnings. The first was in 1993 when Cropper presented his proposal to bring golf to UMES and was laughed out of the room by school leaders.

The second was in 2002, when the school’s then brand-new President, Thelma Thompson, arrived on campus and dropped the bomb that she would not be building her legacy on resurrecting football, so fervently championed by the school’s powerful alumni, but rather on golf.

The third will be this coming semester, Fall 2008, when UMES’ inaugural Professional Golf Management class of 13 students arrives for the first time.

“When I came here in 2002, the campus inspired me,” explained Thompson, whose passion for this project showed in her eyes, as much as in her words. “It was beautiful, and green. It led me to think about golf. I’m not a golfer, but I know about golf, I like the game, I understand what it can do.”

Thompson began doggedly stoking a fire of enthusiasm on campus, gradually convincing administrators and faculty alike that golf, and in particular golf management, sits at the nexus of business, hotels, restaurants, athletics, and diversity of opportunity for her students.

“It didn’t take me long to realize that football was a hungry alligator that would eat me up, and that golf is a milking cow that will feed me forever,” she said with a fleeting, inward turn, the only indication she would give all day that the stakes are incredibly high for her and her school.

JUST HOW BIG IS BIG

“Big,” said Cropper, shaking his head, when asked where this PGM program, and UMES golf in general, is headed. “Big, Big, Big.”

By that he means that the PGA of America, one of the most influential bodies in the game of golf, only has 19 other accredited Professional Golf Management programs in the country, and none at a Historically Black College or University (HBCU) like UMES.

And since the PGA of America has incredibly strict guidelines for accreditation, it also means that Cropper’s vision of a huge golf facility on campus will soon be a reality. Plans are already in the works, according to Billy Dillon, the Director of the UMES PGM program and a PGA Professional himself, to expand and improve the already huge driving range, then to build an 8000 square-foot putting green, an entirely separate chipping and bunker practice complex, and an indoor practice and club-building facility, including a computerized simulator and swing analyzer.

Thompson has also vowed to field and recruit male and female golfers for teams she sees competing for national titles as early as Fall 2009.

According to Dillon, 39, a native of the Eastern Shore who has spent the last 13 years as a head pro in South Carolina, of the 25,000 PGA professionals in the United States, only about 140 are minorities.

“There’s a pretty obvious need there,” he said. “The PGA of America is working hard to correct that, and UMES is one of their avenues to achieve that goal.”

“We’re excited. In this first class we expect to have 13 students, and eight of them are minorities, so it’s already working. Every one of those 13 students is important to us, and to golf, and to the PGA of America. These kids are going to graduate from UMES with a background not just in golf, but also in hotels, restaurants, business and athletics.”

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

As dreamlike as it was for Marshall Cropper to watch young Greg Price hit balls, it was equally surreal for Price himself, if the nonplussed expression on his face was any indication. After all, just days after arriving on campus, he was already talking to media, standing side-by-side with the University President herself, posing for photos, and shaking hands.

And if ever there was a poster child for a PGM program, Price is it. Clean cut, well-spoken, confident but humble, polite to the point of absurdity, Price looked around at all the people looking back at him and said, "Sir, this is a once in a lifetime opportunity for me. This is the first HBCU to have a PGM program and I'm part of it. I'm trying to be a professional golfer. To have an opportunity like this . . . is beautiful."

Cropper agreed. "This is one of the greatest feelings I've ever had in my life. To see this young man out here hitting golf balls at UMES . . . at UMES! This is absolutely mind-boggling for me. Standing here right now, today, I know in my heart this is right. It's just right. It's all been worth it."



(center) Greg Price

(above)L-R: Chris Prosser, Lecturer and Internship Coordinator; Billy Dillon PGA & Dir. of Pro Golf Mgmt. Program; Charles Williams, VP Academic Affairs; Thelma B. Thompson, President; Marshall Cropper, Director of Golf Academy

PRINCESS ANNE – In January of 2008, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore received accreditation through the PGA of America to offer a Professional Golf Management program to incoming students.

According to University President Thelma Thompson, the program is a combination of business, hotel and restaurant and athletic courses of study, and includes a 16-month internship, which stretches the total time for completion to approximately four and a half years.

UMES has made public the following information for prospective students in the PGM program.

Admission into the PGM program is made on a competitive basis, the criteria determined by the make up of each incoming year's class, but also governed by PGA of America guidelines, including a class limit of 100 students, and a total school limit of 400 students.

Prospective students must apply first to entrance into the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and then after general admission may petition for admission into the Professional Golf Management program. Students may visit www.umes.edu for specific admissions procedures.

Beyond academic requirements, prospective PGM students must also produce proof of a USGA handicap of 12 or less, a "Confirmation of Playing Ability Form" filled out by a PGA Golf Professional or high school coach, and a successful completion of the PGA's Playing Ability Test (PAT).

The PGM Curriculum, according to UMES' recruitment materials, includes an orientation to the PGA and PGM field, tournament operations and rules, teaching skills, club fitting and building, turf grass management, customer relations, merchandising and inventory control, team building, management techniques, and actual playing ability.

The Professional Golf Management Student Association (PGMSA) is chartered by UMES, the Student Government Association, and sponsored by the Hotel and Restaurant Management Program. UMES PGM students are required to join the PGMSA, the fee for which is included in the yearly fee schedule.

For more information contact Billy Dillon, Director of the Professional Golf Management Program, at 410-621-1359 or by email at wcdillon@umes.edu. ■ **WRITTEN BY: JEFF DEAN**

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PLAYERS *Invited!*

BERLIN, MD – The Eastern Shore Golf Magazine would like to introduce our readers to the First Annual Eastern Shore Golf Magazine Championships, a two-day, flighted, individual stroke play tournament.

This year, the tournament will be held at The Bay Club in Berlin, Maryland on Saturday, October 25 and Sunday, October 26, 2008. Four flights will compete, pairing golfers with handicaps from 0-36. The field will be limited to 144 total golfers.

Saturday's round will be contested on the West Course and Sunday's round will be contested on the East Course. Both rounds will be played from the blue tees. The fee for the tournament is \$150.

"I really like this idea," said Mike Connor, Head Golf Professional at The Bay Club. "It's hard to come by individual tournaments these days, especially ones that don't require you to be a member of a certain organization."

"This tournament is truly open, so it's going to allow Delaware, Maryland and Virginia golfers to compete against one another, without having to travel to Philadelphia or the other side of the Chesapeake Bay to do so," Connor said.

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The top two finishers in each flight will also have their pictures on the cover of the November/December holiday issue of Eastern Shore Golf Magazine, and will be featured in the articles covering the event.

The Bay Club's West Course is best known for the par-3 14th hole's island green, the so-called "Devil's Island," as well as for its monster double green which connects the difficult par-5 tandem 9th and 18th holes. It was designed by Russell Roberts and opened in 1989. From the blue tees it plays 6575 yards to a par of 72. It is rated at 71.4 and sloped at 128. Tees and fairways are Bentgrass and Rye, greens are Penlinks Bentgrass.

The East Course features the Eastern Shore's only PGA quality Zoysia grass fairways. It was designed by Charles Priestly and opened in 1999. From the blue tees it plays 6750 yards, par 72, with a 71.2 rating and a 120 slope. Tees are Bentgrass, fairways are Zoysia grass, and greens are Crenshaw Bentgrass.

THE EASTERN SHORE GOLF MAGAZINE STAFF PLANS TO MAKE THIS AN ANNUAL EVENT, AND WILL ROTATE COURSES EACH YEAR TO ACCOMMODATE GOLFERS FROM ALL PARTS OF THE PENINSULA.

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Eastern Kentucky University; Richmond, Ky. (2006)
Ferris State University; Big Rapids, Mich. (1975)
Florida Gulf Coast University; Ft. Myers, Fla. (2005)
Florida State University; Tallahassee, Fla. (1999)
Methodist University; Fayetteville, N.C. (1999)
Mississippi State University; Mississippi State, Miss. (1985)
New Mexico State University; Las Cruces, N.M. (1987)
North Carolina State University; Raleigh, N.C. (2002)
Penn State University; University Park, Pa. (1990)
Sam Houston State University; Huntsville, Texas (2005)
University of Central Oklahoma; Edmond, Okla. (2008)
University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; Colorado Springs, Colo. (2003)
University of Idaho; Moscow, Idaho (2002)
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TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM CONTACT: **Mr. Billy Dillon**, UMES PGM Director, Class A Member, PGA of America

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introducing Rob BAILEY

BERLIN – Twenty years ago, Rob Bailey was working a construction job in Crofton, Maryland when he accepted an invitation from a buddy to kill time in the evenings by, as Bailey described it, “hanging out at this little driving range every night, hitting monster buckets of balls, like...500 balls at least.”

Within the first few swings he knew he was hooked, and he spent three hours a day for the next six months teaching himself how to golf.

Already a good baseball player, Bailey started hitting golf balls left-handed, even though he “does everything else right-handed.” In the first few months he worked his way down to a 12-handicap while playing left-handed, before becoming frustrated by right-handed golfers hitting it by him.

So he switched sides.

Within a year of switching to righty, his handicap dropped to 2 and he had shot 75-77 to win the 1990 Nutter’s Crossing Club Championship by three strokes.

Eighteen years later, Bailey, 43, of Salisbury, is now a PGA Class A Professional, has made a career out of golf, and is currently employed as the General Manager and Director of Golf at The Bay Club in Berlin, Maryland. He spent eight years as the Head Golf Professional at The Bay Club before moving to GM five years ago.

“A lot has happened since then, but that Nutter’s Crossing Club Championship is still my favorite memory in golf,” he said with a laugh.

Now as GM of a 36-hole course, he said life can be hectic, but nothing about his love for the game as changed. He stills plays once or twice a week, and competes in tournaments when he can, though he says he can’t practice enough to feel really competitive. Rob and his assistant pro and friend Jarrod Goslee are undefeated in the Toyota Cup Challenge. The Toyota Cup is where each clubs Pro and Assistant play against each other.

“With two courses, we can get twice as busy as an 18-hole course pretty quickly,” he explained. “On busy weekends now, we can see 500 rounds in a single day. When I started, 200 rounds a day got us excited. Now 200 feels like nothing.”

Trying to keep 500 golfers a day happy requires organization, and that is Bailey’s job. He oversees all golf operations, grounds, the food and beverage department, finances, budgets and inventory.

“I have a good crew,” Bailey said. “That’s the only way I can get it all done. I have department heads I can rely on. That makes my job a lot easier.”





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Bailey, who has four career holes-in-one, three right-handed and one left-handed, said he asks all of his staff to come to work in a good mood, explaining that, "No one wants to come to a golf course where the staff is walking around depressed. I tell our bag drop guys, you're the welcoming committee, you're the first impression people have of the course."

Bailey's philosophy must work, because The Bay Club has won National Golf Foundation awards for customer service and customer loyalty.

"I try to create a fun atmosphere for the employees, because I believe it will relay to the customers, and they will have a better experience."

Bailey said that these trying economic times have put pressure on resort courses like those found in Northern Worcester County, since fewer tourists mean fewer golfers. Anticipating ups and downs in the economy, he said The Bay Club has always valued its local base, and maintained a "local rate" program in which local golfers can play 18 holes with a cart for just \$35 at peak times and \$25 during twilight hours.

"It's a balancing act," he said, "trying to attract traveling golfers while maintaining your base. We use a punch card where locals who play five rounds get the sixth round free, and since that program began we've seen between 500 and 600 more local rounds every month."

A local base also pays the bills in winter, he said. "We really need local golfers on those occasional warm days."

As far as hosting the first annual Eastern Shore Golf Magazine Championships this October 25 and 26, Bailey said, "I'm excited! Green Hill Yacht and Country Club is bringing back the Salisbury Open, and now we have The Eastern Shore Golf Magazine Championships here. That's two great events for local guys. People sometimes shy away from playing their own balls in tournaments, but I know from talking to people that there are still a lot of golfers out there who really want to play in individual tournaments."

Bailey still lives in Salisbury with his wife, Jennifer, and three-year old son, Justin. He can be reached at The Bay Club by calling 410-641-4081 or 1-800-BAY CLUB, or by email at rbailey@cmfa.com. The Bay Club's website is www.thebayclub.com ■ WRITTEN BY: JEFF DEAN

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Tips



BOB BECKELMAN

Bob Beckelman has been a PGA member since 1994 and has been teaching Eastern Shore golfers for over sixteen years. Just down the street from the Ocean Pines North Gate entrance on Race Track Road, you can find Bob seven days a week at his new driving range and practice facility. Bob is a true blessing to the Eastern Shore golf world. He started out as an assistant pro at Ocean Pines, became the head pro at Deer Run where he helped build the course, and returned to Ocean Pines as the head pro for seven years. Bob graduated from Penn State and is a dedicated husband and loving father to Alec and Avery. Each issue Bob will give us a tip on how to improve our game. Enjoy!



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FROM THE PRO!



Want to hit longer drives? What a silly question; 99.9% of golfers are constantly looking for more distance, especially off the tee. Over the years, there have been many different methods employed to create more power, more swing speed, more ball velocity, more launch angle, less spin rate, etc., etc.. There has been the John Daly backswing, the X-Factor, the leg drive, the power slot, and the hold onto the angle, just to name a few. The one thing that I can say for science is that it has basically come to a much more simple solution: apply the power of the golf swing efficiently into the ball. What the heck does that mean? Well, it means that striking the ball squarely and with a center hit is as important, if not more important, than anything else. A golf swing does not have to be perfect to work or indeed to produce power. Each individual must make the best swing that they physically can, and they must transfer as much of that swing's power into the golf ball. This can be maximized for anyone in this three step process:

Find the perfect driver . . . not for John Daly . . . for you. Go and get fit for a driver by PGA golf professional. This does not have to cost extra. Many pros include the price of the fit in the cost of the driver. Finding the correct loft, length, head type, and shaft to max out your swing is critical. Spending a lot of money on a club is not important, finding one that works best for you is. Without a good club, a player cannot hope to make their best swing and get a good result. Where to go? The Bob Beckelman Golf Center in Berlin (Bob Beckelman – PGA), Ocean City Golf and Yacht Club (Buddy Sass – PGA), Ruddo's Golf in West Ocean City (John Ruddo – PGA), River Run Golf Course in Berlin (John Malinowski – PGA). Learn to hit the ball in the center consistently. No matter how long it takes or how many balls you have to hit, you absolutely must become a good ball striker. Nothing kills distance more than poor contact. Practice with face tape or impact tape on the club in order to improve "centerness of hit." Knowing the location of your misses will give you the opportunity to correct them (toe, heel, low, high). Hit the ball with a square club face. An open or closed club face is also a big killer of distance. Not only will

a misaligned face add the dreaded side-spin to the ball (creating a hook or slice), but much of the power of the swing will be lost due to the glancing blow and the ball will launch either lower or higher than optimal. How do you learn to hit the ball more squarely? Start by taking something off your swing, even if you already have a slow swing. Remember that efficiency is better than brute effort. Swing at 60% or 70% effort level and see if you can handle the timing necessary to square the club face at that speed. If you can, slowly increase your effort level until you start missing the center. Stick with the highest effort level that works and keep trying to increase it by small increments. If you are slicing (ball curving right for a right-hander), you must allow the toe of the club to pass the heel of the club more through impact. If you are hooking (ball curving to left for a right-hander), you must allow the heel to lead the toe more into impact. You must work at it to find your optimal effort level. Some players can swing at their most aggressive level and still make good square contact, some must swing at 70% or less to strike the ball well. Swing with effortless power, not powerless effort. If you have trouble with this, or any other part of your game, see your local PGA Professional.

Bob Beckelman's lesson rates: Adult \$50/hr., Senior \$40/hr., Junior \$25/hr.



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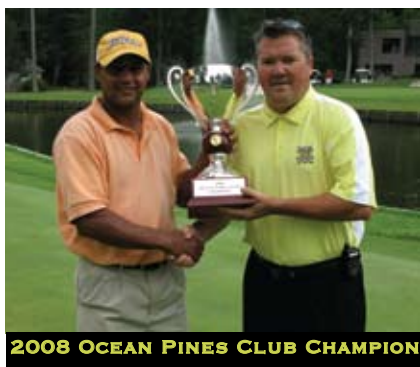
Set to compete in the ESGM 2008 Championships at the Bay Club October 25th – 26th, Dana Cooper is just a simple man. When he is not working with his eldest son Jeremy in the family masonry business, you can usually find him relaxing at his family farm in Selbyville, Delaware. Being able to feed nine children is a hard enough task. Throw in running a business and his hobbies of golfing and fishing and you will see there aren't enough hours in the day.

Since moving to the EASTERN SHORE from McKeesport, PA when he was 25 and falling for his bride Carol a couple years later, it's been work squared. Like the stork in the cartoons, babies have been delivered into the Cooper family about every 2 years for the past 18. Dana and Carol's children all help feed the chickens, till the garden and manage all the other jobs on the farm. Sweet corn, crisp cucumbers, potatoes, tomatoes, and enough veggies to make the local grocery store jealous, abound on the farm. Dana gives all the credit for his strength and many blessings to the Lord.

Dana first started golfing with his Dad at the age of 13. Last year, he won the Chester River Invitational and the Ocean Pines Golf Club Championship. Last month he repeated as the Ocean Pines Club Champion. He attributes his success on the golf course to countless plays with Ray Coates, a golf lesson he had with Walt Jones (owner of Midway Par 3 in Rehoboth), and some good genes. That's right; Dana's brother is a pro out west on the "Gateway Tour". One of his favorite golf moments was when he hit a hole in one while playing with his sons

Aaron and Joey. With a career low of 68, Dana has worked his handicap down to the low single digits and is looking forward to the ESGM Championships. "The 2-day event, playing East and West will truly challenge every player", Cooper says. "Winning a one week vacation with family in Myrtle Beach, SC, would be nice too."

■ WRITTEN BY: RAY TARANTO



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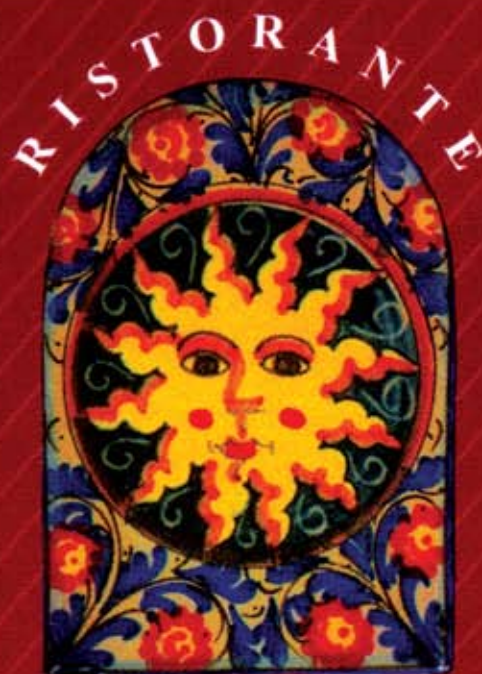
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F A U S T O D I C A R L O L I V I N G A D R E A M



When Fausto was twelve and growing up in Torino, Italy his mother told him; "Fausto, if you learn to cook, you will never go hungry." Soon after, Fausto started helping mom work her magic in the kitchen. "My mom was a wonderful chef", says Fausto. That time spent with mom proved to be the best thing young Fausto ever did. The

accomplishments Fausto has achieved in the culinary world seem like a dream. After coming to America in 1972, he opened The San Marco restaurant on City Avenue in Philadelphia. By 1985, San Marco was voted Best Italian Restaurant. It was there in Philly that Fausto learned to golf. And guess who helped teach Fausto to golf? Joe Namath. That's right Broadway Joe. Joe had a sports show in the area and used to frequent San Marco, befriendng Fausto. One day Joe asked Fausto to join him at the practice range. Fausto met him at the range, hit a few good shots and he has been playing ever since. While living in Philly, Fausto used to bring his family to the Eastern Shore for vacation and enjoyed the shore so much that he dreamed of living there full time

someday. Someday came in 1995 after he sold San Marco. He moved his loving family; wife Binda, daughter Laura, and son Faustino to Ocean City, Maryland. Partnering with Pino, current owner and chef of Fresco's, they started Ristorante Antipasti. Some years later, Fausto and Pino went their separate ways and are now enjoying their own successes. Fausto now has three Ocean City restaurants. Ristorante Fausto (Oceanside on 116th Street next to the Carousel Hotel), Ristorante Antipasti voted top 5 by Food Network (bayside on 31st Street) and Fausto's Bistro featuring OC's only brick oven pizza (on the boardwalk and 12th Street). In 2005, Fausto completely renovated his 31st Street location, designing the interior to look like it came straight from Florence, Italy. Fausto has a lot to smile about these days. He is living a dream. The day I spent with Fausto, he was enjoying a round of golf with his good friends, Vince Papale (former Philadelphia Eagle and the inspiration for the movie The Invincible), local golf legend Bobby Vermillion and the talented Doctor Eric Bontempo. Fausto has hit two hole-in-ones, Lighthouse #5 and Seaside #2 and was once a six handicap. Due to straining his back, he is now a twelve. "As I drive across the route 50 bridge on the way to work, I thank God that I live in such a beautiful place. The sun glistens off the water, the golf courses are plentiful and my friends and family are here enjoying it with me." If you want to have a great dining experience, go see Fausto!



■ WRITTEN BY: RAY TARANTO

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29

C MIKE O N N O R



BERLIN, MD Mike Connor, Head Golf Professional at The Bay Club in Berlin, Maryland, says he doesn't feel as much pressure as he used to over those knee-knocking six-foot putts.

That's because on his 2001 Jamaican honeymoon he suffered food poisoning from bad Cod fish, which led to a weeklong illness and a heart attack.

That's right, a heart attack at the age of 25.

As a result, his commercial airline refused to fly him home, leading him to charter a private medical jet to carry him back to the United States.

"My poor wife," he said, laughing about it now seven years later. "She thought I was going to die. But I'm fine. It was minor and I've not suffered any permanent damage. I look at it as a good thing. Heart disease runs in my family. Now I know I have to keep an eye on it."

"And yeah, those six foot putts don't seem so important now. I learned there's a lot more to life than golf."

A 1994 graduate of Cape Henlopen High School, Connor said he declared himself pro in 1995 when he accepted a job as second assistant at King's Creek County Club in Rehoboth, Delaware.

"It was a good offer, so I declared myself a pro and got involved in the PGA of America's program to become a Class A pro," he said.

Connor explained that the PGA of America offers a pathway for professional golfers to achieve credentialing that qualifies them for jobs as teaching pros, head pros (like himself), general managers, and owners and designers of golf courses. Connor said he is a Class A1 pro, which means he is a Head Professional at a golf course, rather than say a teaching professional at a driving range, or a teacher in a college-based Professional Golf Management program.

He said he spent seven years as an assistant pro at The Rookery before moving this year to be the Head Pro at Bay Club. "In time, I will start working towards the next level, which is a Certified Class A pro, but this is where I always strived to be. I'm happy here."

When asked what makes a good teaching pro, he said that the teacher has to be able to adapt his or her teaching style to match a particular student's learning style. "I try to keep it as simple as possible. I don't want to give people too many things to work on in one lesson. I've heard the complaint many times that people get a lesson and leave feeling overwhelmed, and as a result they never practice what they were taught."

"I also want people to know why they are making the corrections they are making, or why the ball got halfway into its flight and turned right. But I always keep it simple."

He said that the hectic life of a Head Pro does not leave much time for hobbies, but he enjoys spending time with his wife and three children, and when time does allow, to eat at one of his two favorite restaurants, "The Big Fish Grill" and "1776," both in Rehoboth Beach, DE.

When asked for one last piece of advice he offered this. "Most people don't strive to be mediocre in golf, or in any sport they take up. They want to play their best. But with that said, play to enjoy the game." Then he smiled. "Of course, you're going to enjoy the game a lot more if you're hitting greens and sinking putts."

Connor's personal website is www.depgagolfpro.com. He can be reached at the Bay Club at 410-641-4081 or by email at mconnor@cmfa.com.

■ WRITTEN BY: JEFF DEAN



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GOING GREEN

Growing up in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, Jamie Palokas dreamed of doing something big one day. That day is here for Jamie, who is the tender of one of the most beautifully landscaped golf courses anywhere. With the exciting and challenging project of adding another 9-hole course to the Baywood Greens Complex, Jamie is up for the task. After graduating from Penn State University with a degree in Turf Management, he paid his dues at the LPGA Tournament Host Golf Course, Bulle Rock in Harford County, MD. Working 70 plus hours a week for four years, being able to enjoy seeing his hard work on major network TV, and being mentored by Bill Lewis, (Superintendent at Bulle Rock) really helped mold this man.

Being the man that puts the "G" in Green at Baywood Greens is a huge responsibility that Jamie enjoys with all of his heart. An only child, Jamie started playing in third grade every Sunday with his Dad. He then played on his High School golf team at Rolling Meadow in PA shooting a career low 80; played weekly with his college buddies; and also worked for Tom List



at the OC Golf and Yacht Club. So, working around the Greens is second nature.

Jamie's loving wife supports his dedication to the course, and his sons Asher (5) and Brody (1), can't wait for Dad to get home at the end of the day.

With the addition of another 9 holes at Baywood Greens, this facility is taking the experience to another level. Two holes are already grown in and Jamie and his excellent staff will be seeding another three holes in the fall. A projected completion date of spring 2010 has all of Baywood excited.

■ WRITTEN BY: RAY TARANTO



JAMIE'S DO'S & DON'TS

DO:

Drive in the rough as little as possible

DON'T:

Leave ball marks on the Putting Greens



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Maynard made the Eastern Shore his permanent home just after the 1962 first class Noreaster tore up the shore. He moved down from Baltimore to help rebuild, working as a carpenter. In 1982, Maynard opened his own woodworking shop. Maynard says "Golf is like life, you get out of it what you put into it. I have been blessed to play some great courses over the years. One of the most memorable was Killarney Golf Course in Killarney, Ireland. Today, as a member of Ocean City Golf & Yacht Club, the blessings continue. Our head pro, Buddy Sass, is a great player, teacher and person", says Maynard. "Our courses are always in great shape, the service is excellent and having two courses to choose from...what else could I ask for?"



WRITTEN BY: RAY TARANTO

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Kenny was an excellent golfer, successful mortgage broker, real estate investor and friend to many. In memory of Kenny, Eastern Shore Golf Magazine will donate a portion of all proceeds to Arnold Palmer's Charitable Foundation, Arnie's Army Battles Prostate Cancer. Kenny's father Bob was diagnosed with prostate cancer when Kenny was young. Thanks to research and treatment, Bob was able to beat the disease. So, this is the foundation the family chose in memory of Kenny.

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A heartfelt personal thanks to: Scott Miller, John Coleman, Darrell Fearin, Bob Beckelman, Derrick Brodowski, John Ruddo, Jeff Dean, Gemma Boyer, and my loving and supportive family.

