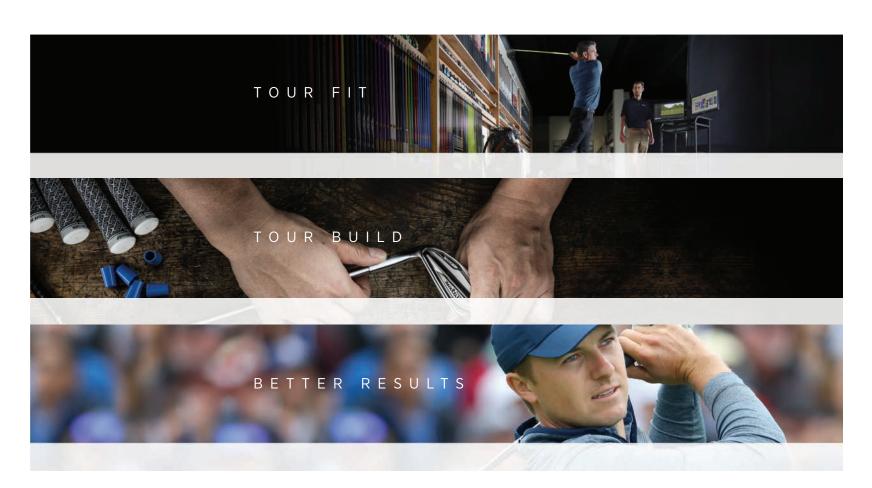
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FLORIDA GOLF IS ESSENTIAL

By Holly Geoghegan

After the coronavirus forced more than half of the country's 16,000 golf courses to suspend operations earlier this year, golf has seen a huge resurgence and a spike in popularity. As a sport that provides the perfect antidote for social distancing, outdoor recreation, comradery and mental healthiness, tee sheets are full and golf rounds are booming across the country.

Every state has seen an increase in play of at least 2% over last year representing about 12 million incremental rounds according to the National Golf Foundation. For snowbirds heading South to Florida, golf is alive and well in the Sunshine State.

An unprecedent busy summer season has spilled over into the fall with an increase in rounds in the month of September of 17.7%.

From the east coast to the west coast, there are plenty of great public, private and resort golf courses to safely travel to and discover this winter.

Let's begin with Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, home **TPC** the of Sawgrass and The Players Championship, the flagship event of the PGA Tour, where the surprise announcement was made back in March by Commissioner Jay Monahan to cancel the event and shut-down all

PGA Tour tournaments for what transpired into an unimaginable three months.

Celebrating its 40th anniversary, TPC Sawgrass opened in 1980 and was a golf course like none other. Built on a 415-acre tract of swampland, it was the brainchild of former PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman and designed by renowned golf course architect Pete Dye. TPC Sawgrass was a course that instantly left golfers wide-eyed with wonder and countless mind-boggling shots to ponder and replay in the 19th hole.

With contoured fairways, confounding angles, and a par-3 island green that would arguably become the signature hole for the entire sport, TPC Sawgrass and Beman's concept of "Stadium Golf" set the standard for the TPC Network that would follow – and raised the bar for golf courses worldwide.

The Stadium Course has been honored by multiple golf publications as a top golf destination. Golf Digest ranked it 48th among "America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses for 2019-2020" and ranked the Stadium Course 12th overall among "America's 100 Greatest Public Golf Courses" in 2017-2018. Golf Digest ranked the Stadium Course the No. 2 "Best Course You Can Play in the State of Florida."

While championship tees stretch the Stadium Course to 7,245 yards, there are four other yardage options to suit your game. The blue tees measure 6,670 yards and the white tees are at 6,086. A blended tee option at 6,406 yards offers a nice compromise. The green tees play to 5,019 yards.

Amateur golfers will find TPC Sawgrass a beautiful balance of short, medium and long holes; both right and left doglegs; and a course

routing laid out so that no two consecutive holes ever play in the same direction. The excitement and anticipation build as players near the 17th hole and get a glimpse of the iconic island green, with the opportunity to test their nerves and skills at one of the most widely recognized golf holes in the world. For that reason alone, TPC Sawgrass is definitely worth the price of admission.



Azario Lakewood Ranch

Sharing a home with the stadium course is Dye's

Valley Course, designed by Pete Dye, Bobby Weed and player consultant Jerry Pate. Although it sits in the shadow of TPC, Dye's Valley Course carries its own weight. Opened in 1987, Dye's Valley Course has hosted a number of elite-level tournaments: Korn Ferry Challenge (2020), Web.com Tour Championship (2013-2015) and more. It features large greens and an abundance of water that sprawl across rolling hills and valleys. During a renovation in 2006, more than 300 trees were added to the golf course and several bunkers were reconstructed to make them more challenging.

Along with the Sawgrass Marriott® Golf Resort & Spa, TPC Sawgrass offers several Stay & Play golf package offerings. As with most resorts and destinations throughout Florida, TPC Sawgrass follows the highest level of COVID 19 protocols and the safety and wellbeing of all guests is their number one priority. (tpc.sawgrass.com) A short drive from TPC Sawgrass is the historic Ponte Vedra Inn & Club, a beautiful 250-acre oceanfront resort that has been a Florida

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LPGA RECAP IN THE PHILLY AREA







SEI YOUNG KIM TEES OFF

By Mike Kern

It took awhile, actually some four months due to the pandemic that has impacted the entire sports landscape, but the two LPGA events scheduled for the greater Philadelphia region finally were played in early October. And as it turns out, the wait was worth it.

Neither was played with any fans. That's the world we still live in, at least for the time being. But they were held, and in the end that's something. And both produced worthy storylines, which is never a bad thing regardless of the circumstances.

First there was the Shop-Rite Classic, at the Seaview Resort in Galloway, N.J., across the water from Atlantic City. Once again it was played on the Donald Ross Bay Course, which can be a demanding shotmaker's challenge. Only this time, for only the second time, it was a 72-hole event instead of 54. And the winner was England's Mel Reid, who had won six tournaments on the European Tour and been a part of three Solheim Cup teams but had never lifted a trophy on the LPGA circuit. That is no longer a void on her resume.

"It changes your life, obviously," said the 33–year-old Reid. "These are the best players in the world. The LPGA is, in my opinion, the tour you want to be on if you want to be the best in the world. So to win out here, people look at you a little bit differently. It's tough to win out here, I can tell you that. So to get it done is just a huge relief. Obviously I'm ecstatic."

Reid, who entered the final round with a 1-shot lead, finished two ahead of Jennifer Kuphcho, a second-year pro who is 10 years younger. She closed with a 4-under par 67, her 10th subpar score in her last 10 rounds, for a 19-under 265 total. This is her fourth year on the LPGA Tour. At one point on Sunday she made four birdies in five holes to take control.

Two weeks earlier, she started the last round of the Cambria Portland Classic with a two-shot advantage. But she struggled to a 74 to settle for a tie for fifth.

"I just wanted to redeem myself," she said. "I feel like that was (a) really good (experience) for me. I had not been in contention for such a long time and never out here. So we've just been doing a lot of

really good stuff the last six weeks and trying to make progressions. So yeah, I'm just over the moon. I'm just so happy for myself and the team."

After not making a bogey for 42 holes, she made two in a row to fall one behind Jennifer Song after seven. Then she responded with that birdie run. And by the time she reached the 13th, she was up by four. A bogey at the short par-3 17th cut the margin in half, as both Kupcho and Song birdied, but Reid got on the par-5 18th in two and 2-putted for the victory.

Kupcho shot a closing 68, while Song had a 69 to get third at 268.

The following week the women headed some two hours west, to the Philadelphia suburbs, where they played the KPMG Women's PGA Championship, a major, at Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown Square. Which, by the way, is another Ross design.

This time the champion was Sei Young Kim, who at 27 came in as the active player with the most LPGA wins (10) without a major. Again, that is no longer a problem.

On Sunday she carded a bogey-free 7-under par 63, which tied a record for the event, and finished five in front of Imbee Park, who just happens to be an LPGA Hall of Famer and a seven-time major champ.

Her 266 total broke the scoring record, which had stood since 1992 and belonged to Pennsylvia's own Betsy King, who shot 267 at Bethesda (Md.) Country Club.

"I feel the pressure every week, but especially in a major championship," said Kim, the world's seventh-ranked player. "I've felt pressure every time I've played in one. I feel it in the players' eyes when I come to a major championship. Everybody is really eager to win this one. So it's nice to get it done."

She began the final day with a 3-stroke lead, but Park would cut it to two on four different occasions. But that was as close as it got. And Kim birdied four of the last six holes to remove any suspense.



Hawk's Landing

since 1928. Recipient of the prestigious Five-Diamond, the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club features two picturesque 18-hole seaside designs, The Ocean Course and the Lagoon Course, and has been recognized as one Golf Digest's "Top 75 Resorts in America."

The Ocean Course, originally designed in 1928 by famed British architect Herbert Strong, won acclaim as one of the "four hardest courses in America" in 1938. It was scheduled to host the 1939 Ryder Cup with Walter Hagan captaining the U.S. team that included Byron Nelson and Sam Snead. The event was cancelled, however, due to World War II.

In 1947, it was determined by locals that the Ocean Course needed to be "softened." Robert Trent Jones completed the first major renovation which was followed by two additional renovations by Bobby Weed in 1998 and the latest in May 2020.

The Ocean Course, recently re-opened and plays to a par-71. The course captures the essence of a modern seaside design with expansive fairways, strategically placed bunkers and lagoons with newly designed green complexes.

Major design changes to the golf course include lower green complexes and additional screening areas. Hole #2 green pushes closer to the surrounding lagoon. Hole #9 with its historic Island Green has been visually enhanced to provide a better view of the putting surface. Hole #13 is the exciting new par 3 with yardage ranging from 99 yards to 178 yards. Hole #14 offers players a completely new look from the tees making this hole a longer and more challenging par 5. Hole #17 now features an enlarged lagoon bordering the right side of the hole.

The Lagoon Course, a 6.022-yard, par-70 masterpiece, places a premium on accurate drives and thoughtful approaches. The front nine was completed by Robert Trent Jones in 1961. A second nine was added in 1978, designed by well-known Florida architect Joe Lee. Water is definitely the dominant feature with a mosaic of lakes and lagoons threatening golfers on all 18 holes. Tall pines, palms and ancient, sprawling oaks form the contours of this lushly landscaped course. Kept in immaculate condition, the fairways are narrow and



Island Green at TPC Sawgrass

the greens small and fast.

In 1997, Ponte Vedra Inn & Club and the Lodge & Club combined resources to bring two award-winning, uniquely distinct resorts under one prominent hospitality umbrella. Guests have reciprocal access and playing privileges at both golf courses. The New Peyton & Ocean House Inn featuring 28 rooms and 13 suites is due to open in late 2020. (www.pontevedra.com).

Traveling 90 miles south via I-95 and I-4, begins a westerly drive across Central Florida and a worthy stop for a plethora of great golf in the city beautiful, Orlando. Best known for Walt Disney World, its theme parks and night life, O-town has also become "the happiest place on Earth" for golfers too – with several hundred golf courses to choose from and a wide variety of

accommodations for seasonal visitors. (www.golfadvisor.com)

Orlando has evolved into one of golf's most diverse, fun and respected destinations. Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge hosts the city's only annual PGA Tour event, the Arnold Palmer Invitational each March. The Ritz Carlton hosts the annual PNC Father-Son Challenge in December. And Diamond Resorts hosts the LPGA Tournament of Champions every January. Many of the world's most respected golf course architects have put their signatures on designs here including Donald J. Ross who designed Mayfair Country Club, the oldest course in Orlando which opened in 1927.

The resort "stay and play" options seem endless and represent a great cross section of premium properties. A quick overview of Orlando's top resort courses include: the Waldorf Astoria Golf Club, Tranquilo Golf Club at Four Seasons, New Course at Grand Cypress, The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club Grande Lakes, Shingle Creek Golf Club, Omni ChampionsGate Resort, Disney's Magnolia and Palm Courses, and Hawks Landing Golf Club at Orlando World Center Marriott.

Hawk's Landing and Marriott Golf hired Bobby Cupp Jr. to redesign one of Orlando's most popular courses and 2018 Marriott Golf Property of the Year, which reopened to the public in September. The renovation of the 6,600-yard par 72 championship course included three holes that were completely rebuilt, highlighted by

"I saw the leaderboard and she just kept going lower and lower," said Park, who won this in 2015. "I'd make birdie, she makes birdie. I was like, 'Come on.' It was just fun to have that kind of race.

"I thought 65 will definitely do it. I thought (that's) a good number to post and just see what happens. But obviously Sei Young was just much better than anyone else out there today."

Five years ago at Westchester (N.Y.) CC, Park led Kim by two shots at the start of the final round and won by five.

"I actually didn't recall that until someone told me," Kim said. "But I tried to stay composed today and focus on my game."

For her efforts she won \$645,000, one of the largest payouts in women's golf.

"I dreamt of winning a major championship after seeing (fellow Korean Se Ri Pak) winning the first one for our country (at what was then called the McDonald's LPGA Championship at DuPont Country Club in Wilmington, Del. In 1998)," she explained. "To be honest with you, I didn't know if it was going to take this long."

Kim had 23 birdies for the week.

Nasa Hataoka and Carlton Ciganda tied for third at 273. Former

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champions Anna Nordqvist and Brooke Henderson each began the final round two shots back as well. But Nordqvist had a 71 to finish fifth at 275, while Henderson's 72 left her in sixth.

It was a good two weeks for the area, even if the virus changed the dynamics. It still produced some memorable golf. And hopefully by next year, the Shop-Rite can return to its traditional late-spring date, with its two-day pro-am and all that it means to raising money for the community. Because it is the sporting event at the South Jersey shore, and so many depend on it to support a number of essential charity work that goes on down there. Whatever happens on the course, we should never lose sight of that.



Atlantic City Skyline from Seaview Golf Course



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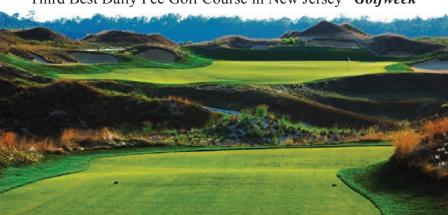


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SEASON FINAL - PLISKO & MAMARY TAKE MCCARTHY TITLE

By John Zimich

Drew Mamary and Eric Plisko have "climbed" the "McCarthy Mountain" at the historic Wyoming Valley Country Club in Hanover Township.

After finishing runner-up 2016, 2018 and 2019 in the club's prestigious McCarthy golf tournament, Mamary and Plisko defeated

Art Brunn Jr. and Scranton Country Club's Mike Lynch, 2 and 1, in the finals on Sunday (Sept. 13).

Postponed twice this 2020 season because of the virus pandemic, The McCarthy once again attracted a topnotch field and the championship finals was a rematch of the 2018 tournament when Brunn, one of the top amateur golfers in region and golf coach at Holy Redeemer High School, and Lynch, won the title on the first extra hole.

"Mamary and Plisko played great," said Brunn Jr. following the match on the par-4 17th hole. "You can't win them all and they earned the championship," further added Brunn, Jr., who now has seven runner-up finishes in The McCarthy with two McCarthy crowns. He also said Plisko is one of the finest players around.

Brunn Jr. got his team off to a one-up lead on the par-5 1st hole by canning a long downhill eagle putt after Plisko and Lynch had missed their

Both teams went on the make pars on the next three holes before one of the key moments occurred in the finals when Mamary, a 65-year-old Wilkes-Barre funeral director, two putted for a three on

tries after hitting the green in two with iron shots on No. 1.

the par-3 fifth hole to square the match.

The Mamary-Plisko team went one-up on par-4 sixth hole when Mamary canned a downhill 18-foot birdie putt to go one-up and a lead the team would never relinquish.

On the par-3 seventh hole once again it was Mamary coming through in the clutch when he two-putted for a par from long range for a three while Brunn and Lynch failed to make a par. This put the winners two-up.

With rain showers starting on the dogleg eighth hole Brunn Jr. had a tricky 10- to 12-foot putt to bring his team to within one but

Both teams made pars on the difficult dogleg ninth hole before Lynch sank a long uphill birdie putt on the uphill 10th hole to bring his team to within one.

Plisko, former topnotch athlete at Hanover Area High School and Temple University, produced the "shot" of the tournament on the par-5 11th hole. With his booming plus 300-yard drive landing in the uphill grassy section of the right fairway trap he hit an iron to some 80 yards from the green. Here, he took out his 58-degree sand wedge and struck the perfect shot. The ball landed just short of the pin and rolled into the cup for an eagle three to put his team two-up.

Lynch and Plisko both scored birdie fours on the par-5 12th hole before the winners extended the lead to three-up on the par-

> 4 13th hole when Brunn Jr. and Lynch missed relatively short putts.

> It looked as if the match would end on the par-3 15th hole when Brunn Jr. hit his first shot into the pond while Lynch's ball found the back trap with their opponents both on the green putting for birds.

> Lynch blasted out of the trap with the ball just finishing a few inches from the hole after it looked as if it would fall into the cup for a two.

> Brunn Jr. kept his team's slim chances alive when he sank a birdie putt on the par-4 16th hole to draw to within two but when Brunn Jr. missed a long tricky birdie putt on No. 17 Plisko calmly sank a short putt for a par and the team's first McCarthy championship. Days earlier, Plisko won his first club championship.

> Plisko was a bag boy at Wyoming Valley Country Club for some 10 years as a youngster. He was in the 10th grade when Mamary asked him to play in the tournament.

"This means so much to me, but I know what it means to him," said a happy Plisko following the win. "To finally put his name up on the board in the

grill room is something special."

The Wilkes-Barre funeral director said that Plisko's first McCarthy crown is only the beginning with more to come in the future with multiple other partners.

While the championship finals were being played the McCarthy Shootout was being held with the winners of the other 12 flights battling for that title.

And in the end it was Derrick Define and Josh Katyl winning the crown on the 18th hole with a natural birdie three.

McCarthy contestants had nothing but praise for the John McCarthy family, the club's McCarthy committee along with Chris Snopkowski, greens superintendent, and staff, Peter Manno, club general manager, and staff and head professional Peter Korba, assistants Jason Mustipitch and Jake Savitski, bag boys, lady club members and other volunteers for a great job in running the event during these trying times.

Retired RNs Pat Alansky and Becky Kulbasti each day checked temperatures of the contestants and everyone associated with The McCarthy. as the world "battled"" Covid-19.

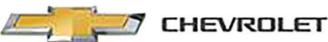


Drew Mamary - Eric Plisko





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GOLF DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Bob Oliver

When the golf world looks back at the year 2020, people will nudge each other and tell their story of Golf in the turbulent times of "The Pandemic."

COVID-19. The treacherous strain of influenza which effectively shut

down most of the country and most of the world. Words like quarantine, sequester, PPE, face masks and the popular social distancing became regular inserts into one's vocabulary. Golf was not immune to the disease, as the sport was effectively shut down in about one-half of the country's states with fears of spreading the disease.

Annual golf safaris from the Northeast United States to the south were cancelled; jaunts to play that special set of Irish or Scottish courses were postponed as states spoke of quarantines and were color

coded, as in red, yellow and green and everywhere in between.

The PGA Tour halted its schedule before reopening without spectators. The LPGA, more of a world tour, was on the shelf even longer. The long-running ShopRite LPGA Classic, a true opening of summer tradition, was moved to fall dates on the LPGA schedule.

Abnormal became the new normal as state governors each dealt with the pandemic in a way which suited their respective state. Heck, some golfers were issued summonses for crossing state lines to play the game outside of their home state confines.

At one point each of the states surrounding Pennsylvania saw its golf courses shuttered for play. Nearby Delaware did remain open for play – for a bit. In Virginia, most courses never closed their doors and operated business as usual, installing governmental recommendations.

At Frog Hollow Golf Club in Middletown, Delaware, a land office business greeted General Manager Patrick Keefe, PGA, upon reopening its operation to the public while nearby states were closed.

"The weather was good and people had a pent-up desire to play," explained Keefe, a Neshaminy High School graduate in Bucks County, Pa. "We installed numerous procedures to ensure social

distancing, like extending tee times, having touch free flagsticks and plastic inserts in the cups, having a single player in each motorized cart, going cashless and do forth. As you might guess, we had many 'dos and don'ts' questions, had some trial and error, but we were with the program so to speak."



Then in early April came a fax from the Governor's office. Play would be restricted to Delaware residents only. "Our parking lot had cars from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Maryland," said Keefe. "That stopped immediately. We (Delaware) were no longer a respite for area players looking for a drive friendly place to play, only Delaware residents."

It seemed forever, but courses in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York and Maryland did receive approval to reopen their fairways, greens and, well rough and hazards, to golfers. While tournament golf was stifled, actual play was open within states and across state lines.

Time finds a way of healing things, even when a vaccine hadn't been approved.

Courses were allowed to reopen with limitations, and that pent up desire by golfers made its way to the tee sheets.

"Since reopening our phones have been ringing off the hook," commented Jim Bogan, General Manager of Bensalem Township (Pa.) Country Club. "Of course, we committed to doing our best at installing procedures to mirror the Governor's requests, from social distancing, to wearing masks in common areas and inside, extending time between tee times and constant cleaning of our carts. When the bans were lifted our tee sheet was full."

Bogan smiled when asked about the COVID crisis. "It's amazing, our business had never had such a situation," and Bogan has a wealth of experience to draw on, having assumed the head golf professional position at Bensalem in 1971. "We've had to deal with economic issues over the years, with growing the game and so forth. But the pandemic was a different animal. There was concern and confusion as we dealt with the issues of safety."

If there was a silver lining to the shutdown, the Dean of area golf pros found it. "On the plus side," said Bogan, "our course exited winter in good condition. The winter was kind to us, relatively mild, and (superintendent) Jim Stauring did an outstanding job of keeping the course in shape and when we reopened players seemed pleased about the conditions."





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About Bridgestone Golf

Based in Covington, GA, Bridgestone Golf USA manufactures premium golf balls, clubs and accessories under the Bridgestone and Precept brands. The company started making golf balls in 1935 and today has more than 800 golf ball design patents. Beginning in

2006, Bridgestone revolutionized golf ball selection with its custom ball-fitting program, identifying a golfer's ideal golf ball based on personal swing characteristics. Today, as the #1 Ball-Fitter in Golf, Bridgestone has conducted over 2.1 million fittings via a combination of live-fitting, online selection and its new innovative virtual golf ball fitting solution, VFIT. The consumer data gathered from ball-fitting continues to inspire Bridgestone's innovative new golf ball designs, yielding industry-leading performance products for the entire range of players, from recreational golfers to the best in the world. Bridgestone Golf is proudly represented on international professional tours by icons such as Tiger Woods, Fred Couples, Matt Kuchar, Bryson DeChambeau and Lexi Thompson. Bridgestone Golf USA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bridgestone Sports Co. Ltd., headquartered in Tokyo. More information: bridgestonegolf. com.





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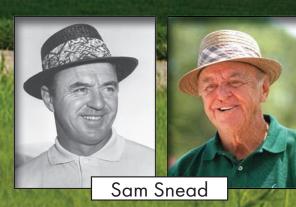
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Cont. from page 11

The jury is out on how and how long and to what extent the pandemic will affect the region in the future, at this point in time golf courses are open and golfers are playing the game they love. Conditions are good – oh, a little rain is always good for golf courses in the summer and play is brisk. While things are not back to the way things used to be considered normal the new normal is working.

"That's a great point," stated Tom Sullivan of McCullough's Emerald Links in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. "Players understand the need for safety, and readily comply with the wearing of masks inside and social distancing and all the other precautions we've made. They are with the program. Our course is in fine shape, we're truly open for business, and we welcome all to play."

A recent visit confirmed Sullivan's point, as the Stephen Kay designed layout – crafted in the Irish-Scottish tradition – was in superb condition. Challenges awaited, as did the early afternoon winds that generally pick up and befuddle club selection. Its tee sheets had few openings some days, something that courses in the tri-state area found the new normal.

Hopes are the worst of the Coronavirus has occurred, but there is always concern about a new virus which can evolve down the road. This adds a little to the confusion or uncertainty surrounding best practices, as course management does not want to loosen restrictions only to put them back in a few weeks later.

All courses contacted supported a walking game, but understand carts are an integral part of the public game. Thus, the care and cleansing of the motorized cart is imperative, which may put pressure on getting a cart needed on the first tee cleaned in a timely manner. All said, safety would not be reduced in an effort to push players on to the course.

Voluntary player compliance, as well as common sense, is imperative as well. For instance, changing into golf shoes is easy at one's automobile. Prohibiting non-family guests to ride along for the heck of it. Paying by credit card in advance, and so forth. No fuss. No muss. No hassle. And it's just safer.

"We can't be everywhere at all times," added Bogan. "Players still need to know and understand not to cluster together, wear a mask when need be, pick up only their own tees and clubs and not others. That's just common sense. We are all in this together."

Sullivan agrees with the assessments of his peers. "Common sense is just so important. In the 'New Normal' one has to be aware not only of their tee time but also who is around them and why. Be aware of their own situation, their temperature, their body. Coming to the course less than healthy is not an option. So while we are happy to be open for play, we remind ourselves daily of the care required to ensure we comply with state oversight."

It's a long road back, but the road is open for business.

"The good news is that once we reopened players found courses in great shape," explained Shore Gate professional Chris Smith. "We are doing

everything we can to be a safe respite for the public, and believe we can do that while providing a wonderful experience. Obviously, we are a "shore" course, and we get a lot of out of town visitors on vacation, so we are doing our best to make this all work."

At Maryland's P.B. Dye Golf Club safety continues to rule, but head professional Jack Kelley says everything is under constant review and analysis. "We truly are staying in an up to the moment, day-by-day operational standard," said the pro, who like his peers says business since reopening is booming.

"We recognize the uncertainty of everything, the science has to rule. We have done our best, but we are not over the hump. We are pleased to be open and to offer a golf experience, but we must be diligent in all our efforts to combat the virus."

Business is booming not only at regulation layouts but also 9-hole layouts such as Laguna Oaks in Cape May Courthouse, N.J. "We've seen a brisk business, not only from regulars but also newcomers to the game," explained owner Fred Langford. "There was a pent up demand and we are seeing players of all abilities visiting."

These days golf course operators are not only worried about promoting the game, filling tee sheets, providing food and beverage and so forth, but of most importance is acknowledging that the ability to remain open depends on some things out of their control. As for the procedures under their control, they understand and are doing their best to find the happy medium of playing golf in a safe 'green' environment.

Of immediate concern is that while keeping water coolers shuttered on the golf course safely keeps players from touching implements, heat and humidity necessitates the intake of water being of utmost importance. Thus many are offering bottled water at check it, or ensuring a beverage cart is consistently making its rounds.

As mentioned by several of the course representatives, the challenges of dealing with the pandemic means safety is job one. Each could respond with vigor on how the new normal is not merely taking a green's fee and pointing to the first tee. Patrons are reminded on social distancing and measures in place to promote safety in a green period of time, and are constantly reminded of such. But they also want golfers to have fun!

Clearly, it's now the New Normal -- as what has been known as normal operations are old news. It's a time to ensure safety, being nimble and aware. Clearly, it's a time to play golf.... safely.



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The Yacht and Country Club - The Waterfront Golf Gem on the Treasure Coast



By Holly Geoghegan

Ron Chesler spent 25 years of his 32-year resort and club management career managing golf properties throughout Pennsylvania. He moved up the ranks in various positions from Director of Golf to General Manager in several high-profile resorts and clubs that included five-star Nemacolin Woodlands Resort in Farmington, PA., Eagle Rock Resort in the Poconos and Bellewood Country Club outside Philadelphia.

With his children grown and graduated from college, Chesler and his wife started looking for opportunities to move south. He quickly found his sweet spot when he landed the position as General Manager of the Yacht & Country Club in Stuart, Fl in 2014.

Built in 1969 on a swath of scrubland near the Manatee Pocket, and less than a mile from the main Intracoastal Waterway channel, The Yacht & Country Club was the first 18-hole gated golf community in Stuart. In the '70s, The Yacht & Country Club attracted an upper echelon of buyers—Air Force generals, Navy admirals, titans of corporate industry and retirees from colder climates—who came to live in a little-known piece of paradise. Established on the principles of family, friendship and fun, as well as luxury and quality, the Yacht & Country Club put the sleepy little town of Stuart on the map.

The club thrived for many years, but as the 50th anniversary was approaching in 2019, Chesler knew his top priority was to tackle the tired looking clubhouse and maintenance facilities and do a complete makeover of this Treasure Coast gem. His first objective was to encourage the members to renovate the clubhouse; and then enroll the club in redesigning the golf course.

"In Florida, you have to upgrade your golf course about every 15-20 years," said Chesler. We put together a talented team of members and with the full membership's approval, passed a \$3 million budget. With the clubhouse renovation completed last year in honor of our 50th anniversary and the grand re-opening of the golf course coming next month, we now have a beautiful new private club to offer golfers on the Treasure Coast that's affordable, fun and in pristine condition."

The renovation of the golf course was led by local and respected golf course architect Tom Pearson, President of Tom Pearson Design. With a background in land planning and landscape design, Pearson spent 25 years working alongside Jack Nicklaus at Nicklaus Design, rising from a draftsman to senior design associate before venturing off to form his own firm.

"My main objective with the Yacht & Country Club was to modernize this



50-year-old developer built golf course," said Pearson. "The result is a brandnew championship quality course for the members to enjoy including new and relocated tees, reshaped and re-grassed greens, irrigation and drainage improvements, the addition of several water features and bunkers along with some new native areas and improved parkland space."

The original routing of the golf course was maintained per the request of the members. Pearson managed to lengthen the layout where possible to appeal to younger, more competitive golfers. Two out of the four par fives now measure more than 600 yards with back-to-back par 5s, Holes 15 & 16, on the finishing stretch. The par 71 course measures 6,574 yards from the back tees.

The Yacht & Country Club offers a fun, relaxed, unpretentious atmosphere filled with monthly social events and lots of camaraderie. Parties, holiday celebrations and special events featuring music and dancing fill the yearly calendar. From themed dinners (Blues, Brews and BBQs), monthly wine tastings, sporting event viewing parties, game nights and more, this is NOT your Daddy's old-school, stodgy private club.

Along with golf, YCC has many additional amenities, benefits and associations including boating, court sports (tennis and pickle ball), bocce and croquet, and a resort-style swimming pool. A state of the art, standalone fitness center is fully equipped with three work- out areas including a wide variety of functional training equipment, spinning cycles, free weights, kettle bells and more.

As the closest private club to Hutchinson Island, the Yacht & Country cCub is unique because it is not a "bundled" gated community like many others in South Florida and is open to members outside the community. With a variety of memberships and affordable price structures, YCC has something to fit every member's daily schedule, active lifestyle and budget.

"Today's private club member wants to relax, wear shorts and feel comfortable whether they're in their flip-flops or golf shoes," said Chesler. "The Yacht & Country Club is a friendly, laid-back, casual club. People make long-term relationships here. Our members love music, love to dance, love good food and love to have a good time."

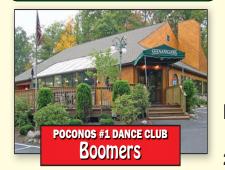
Right now, the Yacht & Country Club is offering a special 50th anniversary membership opportunity. Become a family equity member for 50% off the 2021 initiation fee. Offer expires Dec. 31, 2020. Does not include capital assessment and dues. For more information, contact Valerie Smyth, Membership Director, 772-403-8922, membership@yccstuart.com.

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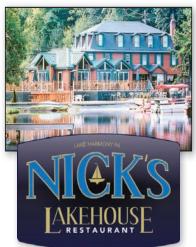
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2022 USGA SENIOR OPEN HEADED TO SAUCON VALLEY

By Pete Kowalski

Saucon Valley Country Club, known for the pristine quality of its 60 holes of

golf, celebrates its centennial in 2020. Among the myriad of highlights of its history are the seven national championships, conducted by the United States Golf Association, that have been contested on the nationally ranked Old and Graces Courses.

The club in Bethlehem, Pa., however, anticipates its next USGA Championship – the 2022 U.S. Senior Open – with innovative energy and planning under the leadership of Mimi Griffin's company known as MSG Promotions, which will handle the hospitality sales, operations, volunteers, and client services for the 42nd Senior Open, June 21-26, 2022.

Saucon Valley will become the first club in the nation to host three U.S. Senior Opens in 2022. The championship will be played on the Old Course, which will be 100 years old in 2022. It is also MSG's third Senior Open at Saucon Valley.

PAST USGA CHAMPIONSHIPS AT SAUCON VALLEY (7)

Year	Championship	Champion
1951	U.S. Amateur	Billy Maxwell
1983	U.S. Junior Amateur	Tim Straub
1987	U.S. Senior Amateur	John Richardson
1992	U.S. Senior Open	Larry Laoretti
2000	U.S. Senior Open	Hale Irwin
2009	U.S. Women's Open	Eun-Hee Ji
2014	U.S.Mid-Amateur	Scott Harvey

The U.S. Senior Open is the most prestigious competition for senior golfers (50 years and older) anywhere in the world. The field is 156 competitors who play 72 holes of stroke play and the winner is awarded the Francis Ouimet Trophy. The list of champions includes legendary stars such as Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Billy Casper, Hale Irwin, Lee Trevino, and Bernhard Langer. In fact, past U.S. Open champions have won the title 10 times since the championship began in 1980.

Each of the previous Senior Opens at Saucon Valley, 1992 won by cigar-smoking underdog Larry Laoretti and 2000 won by World Golf Hall of Famer Hale Irwin, were enthusiastically and genuinely embraced by the golf fans, local businesses, and hospitality clients in the Lehigh Valley, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and adjacent states like New Jersey.

"We take these championships very seriously," said Griffin, who has been coordinating U.S. Open corporate sales and hospitality for the USGA since 1995. "We set high standards in '92 and 2000. We have a big hurdle to meet those expectations (in 2022)."

Saucon Valley president Dave Kennedy added: "I know that I speak for the entire Saucon Valley Country Club family in expressing just how proud we are to continue our outstanding relationship with the USGA," club President David Kennedy said. "We're immensely proud as a private club that we're helping foster economic growth and prosperity as well. Bringing the Senior Open back to our area will be great for golf fans from all over the region."

At an August event at which the logo for the 2022 U.S. Senior Open was

unveiled, USGA executive producer of content Mike Trostel, who previously served as director of the Museum at the Association's headquarters, presented

some intriguing pieces of Saucon Valley's USGA history including Larry Laoretti's straw hat; Hale Irwin's driver and Billy Maxwell's putter used in the winning the 1951 U.S. Amateur.

"I think one thing that really helps foster exciting golf is getting a great experience from a fantastic host club and that's what we have here at Saucon Valley," Trostel said. "Only 13 other clubs in the entire country have hosted more (USGA events) than Saucon Valley. It's certainly in an elite and selective group."

Another elite group to consider is that of the possible participants in the 2022 U.S. Senior Open. Among the recognizable players are Pennsylvania native

Jim Furyk (who has posted two victories early in his PGA Tour Champions career), Phil Mickelson (who easily won his first try at senior golf), Steve Stricker (the 2019 Senior Open champion and 2021 USA Ryder Cup captain), Ernie Els, Fred Couples, Davis Love and Retief Goosen.

"Jim (Furyk) is a Manheim Township High School graduate and having him here will open up that entire Lancaster market too," Griffin said. "Golf fans from all over this area are in for a treat. And then you realize what a great list of players who could also be playing and you understand why there is such excitement building for a tournament that's two years away."

A former college basketball player and ESPN TV analyst in addition to her event management experience, Griffin thrives in creative solutions for her clients.

"The vantage points that we will provide for corporate hospitality will be second to none," she said. "Our emphasis will be on the total tournament experience and we are open for business."

Despite the current economic environment with business shutdowns due to COVID-19, Griffin said that sales, this far in advance of the competition, for the numerous hospitality locations and tent/table options were strong.

"This was not only an operational and aesthetic success for the Senior Open, but it's also a source of pride for the Lehigh Valley, for Pennsylvania, for our region in general," Griffin said of past Senior Opens at Saucon Valley. "It was also an incredible economic boom for our area and the estimate was about \$50 million in economic impact in our region."

To provide a heightened fan experience, there will be more interactive stations including golf skills and a centralized fan location.

For more information on hospitality sales visit: https://www.msgpromotions.com/2022-u-s-senior-open/. The USGA handles tickets sales and information will be posted on its website sometime in 2021.

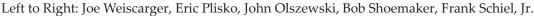
"The crowds in '92 and 2000 were phenomenal," Griffin said. "And we had great champions. We do not rest on our laurels. We have to make sure we keep growing and evolving."



A POCIATION

SENSATIONAL SIX: WYOMING VALLEY WINS AGAIN





It captured a sixth straight AGA/GAP Men's Coal Scuttle Championship Sept. 26-27. Wyoming Valley finished at 14-over-par 582 — three shots clear of Honesdale Golf Club. Country Club of Scranton's David Pompey earned individual medalist honors with a score of 4-under-par 138.

The event's 70th edition took place at Glenmaura National Golf Club (par 71, 6,308 yards) on Day One and Wyoming Valley (par 71, 6,178 yards) on Day Two. The low four of five scores count toward the team total.

John Olszewski and Joseph Weiscarger led Wyoming Valley with respective 1-over-par 143s. Eric Plisko (147), Bob Shoemaker (149) and Frank Schiel, Jr. (154) rounded out the team.

"The guys were awfully excited, as excited with this victory as we were with our first one. We were just happy," Weiscarger, 62, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., said. "There was obviously a lot of pressure if we could win for a sixth straight time. It was such a great field we were competing against."

"We were overjoyed and happy to win again. We start to feel the pressure these days were everyone is trying to dethrone us," Olszewski, 56, of Macungie, Pa., added. "There's a little bit of pressure we put on ourselves to try and come back and win it again. It's tougher and tougher every year."

Wyoming Valley led Country Club of Scranton by three strokes following Round One. A consistent Olszewski carded a 2-under-par 69 to stand a shot back of Pompey atop the leaderboard.

"I played very well at Glenamura. Shooting 2 under there, I was very happy with that. It was a good solid round," Olszewski said.

Weiscarger birdied No. 18 (par 4, 327 yards) to join Olszewski in red figures. He executed a delicate wedge — "nipped with some spin" — to 10 feet above a front hole location. It peeled to five feet. Weiscarger drained the ensuing putt — a lightning fast nerve nuisance.

"To have such a good score at a championship course like Glenmaura,

I was pretty proud of that," he said. "I birdied all four par 5s. In each case, I hit from inside 150 yards. On two of them, I hit 8-iron from 145 yards and made 15-foot putts. The other two holes, I had my 60-degree wedge and hit those within 15 feet. The strength of my game is my iron play, so for two days, my irons were pretty accurate. My distance control was very precise. If I can chip and putt, then I can score. That's how it worked out for me."

Matters continued to work in Wyoming Valley's favor as the final round commenced at the Wilkes-Barre, Pa. venue. But Honesdale, thanks to a surging Jeff Tamblyn and Eric Williams, gained ground quickly. The leaderboard fluctuation alarmed David Bienias, Wyoming Valley's non-playing captain. He meandered the course and rallied the troops.

"He was encouraging all of us. He knew that it got close," Weiscarger said. "We were 12 ahead of Honesdale [to start Round Two]. After everyone completed the 13th hole, we went from 12 ahead to eight behind. Our team, in the final five holes, shot a collective 1 under. Honesdale shot 10 over, so that 11-shot difference brought us back from an eight-shot deficit to a three-shot win. It was unbelievable. Our group thankfully finished strong."

"Under the pressure, our team came through in the last five holes," Olszewski said.

More than five individuals represented Wyoming Valley during its stretch of six-straight Scuttles. Depth is a talking — and tipping — point.

"I'm so proud of our club and all of our players. We've done it with 11 different guys over those six years, so it's not like the same five guys who are always doing it. That's a pretty good accomplishment," Weiscarger said. "We're just glad that right now, it happens to be our time. It won't last forever, but we'll take it while we can."

By virtue of its victory, Wyoming Valley will again serve as a Men's Coal Scuttle host site in 2021.





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STABILITY TOUR PUTTER SHAFTS



By Reid Nelson

Any golfer who's ever played more than a handful of rounds knows the shaft is the most important part of the golf club. It's the engine that provides the power for the strike. Why else would countless players routinely spend several hundred dollars on an up-graded or after-market shaft for their driver?

But is the shaft in your putter that important? After all, you don't swing your putter at 100-plus miles per hour. You don't really "swing" your putter at all; you stroke a putt, and at a speed that hardly seems to stress the shaft.

Or does it?

Recently – that is, over the last couple of decades – putters have evolved to the point that simple blades, like the classic Bullseye and 8802 designs have disappeared from golf bags and have taken their place in collectors' cases. In the chase for ever increasing MOI numbers, heads have gotten bigger, heavier and more technologically advanced, with adjustable weighting and the like.

Yet, over those same decades – and even long before – the putter shaft has remained basically the same: a mass- (and often cheaply) produced steel tube with an attractive chrome finish on the outside and who-knows-what on the inside. Little attention was paid to wall thickness - which directly impacts factors like flex and torque – because, frankly, who took time to measure such dynamics when it came to putters?

But as putters continued to change, a couple of golf's leading innovators and technical geniuses saw a need for more advanced putter shafts. That's why Barney Adams - the founder of Adams Golf and the brains behind such ground-breaking club designs as the "upside-down" Tight Lies fairway woods and the Proto Gold hybrids - started Breakthrough Golf Technology, a Texas-based company dedicated to the sole task of making the most advanced putter shafts in golf.

To help him accomplish just that, Adams hired Blair Philip, a former Tour professional with 25 years experience with some of golf's leading OEMs, including Ping, Yes Putters, Adams Golf and TaylorMade, as vice president of research and development.

Together, Adams and Philip designed the original Stability Putter Shaft, a multi-material design engineered to deliver the putter face, especially with the larger, high MOI designs, squarer and with more consistent loft than traditional putter shafts. The Stability Shaft quickly gained popularity with Tour players and serious amateurs, alike.

Now, Breakthrough Golf Technology, or BGT in short, has developed the Stability Tour Shaft, with a slimmer design and lighter weight but even stiffer flex profile. Made of high-modulus carbon fiber, the Stability Tour is all black – different from the original Stability shaft that featured a chromed-steel tip section – adding to its hi-tech persona.

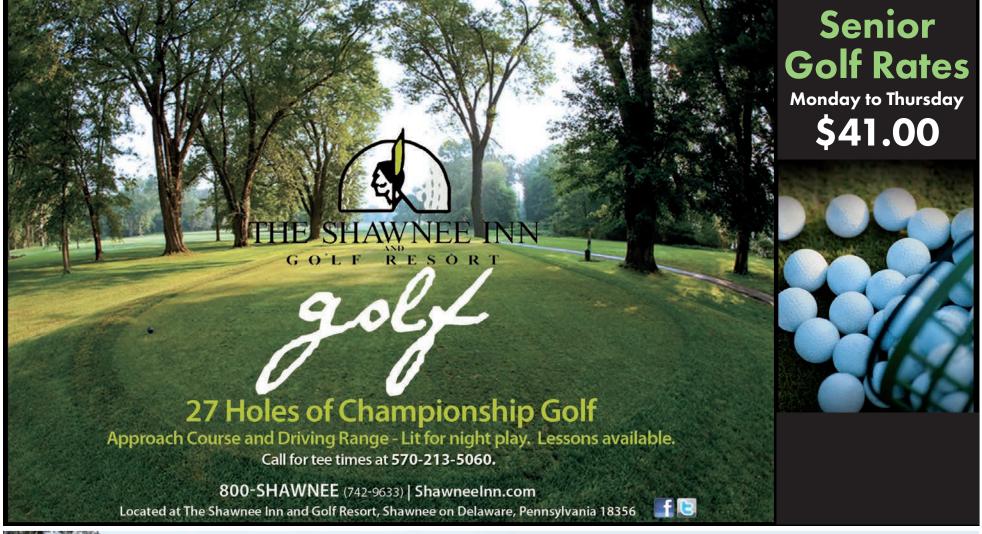
But going back to our original question, does the shaft in your putter really make that much difference?

To answer that, we tested the Stability Tour Shaft for ourselves. Mind you, ours was not a scientific "clinical trial" done in some putting lab with perfect, billiard-like surfaces and high-speed cameras to record face angle, skid factor, true roll and the like. Our testing was done on a real golf course, with real (read not perfect) greens because that's where you use your putter. So don't expect this review to provide a lot of numbers and statistics.

What we can give you is a opinion – honest, candid opinion. And not just ours but that of playing partners we asked to try the putter shaft. For the record, the putter head shafted with the Stability Tour was an Odyssey Metal X9, a heel-shafted, flanged blade. Admittedly, the classic style of the X9 head might not impart the physical demands on a shaft that many of the big, square shoebox-on-a-stick heads impart. But to test the shaft, we wanted to do it with a head we were comfortable looking at. Plus we wanted to test the Stability Tour Shaft with a head that didn't provide the foot-wide sweet spot promised by the oversized, high-MOI heads, thinking it would be a better test of the shaft, itself.

Comparing the Odyssey to its former self – that is to how it felt with the stock steel shaft – right away, the feel was noticeably different. More solid, more stable. That was particularly true with putts intentionally struck just off-center, whether a bit toward the heel or the toe. The only negative was getting the ball to the hole on longer putts, but here's the theory on that. Because the putter felt markedly more solid, it felt like a less forceful stroke was needed – if that makes sense. Once the subconscious realized you could make your normal stroke, distance control no longer seemed a problem.

Asking playing partners to try the shaft brought similar results, but in varying degrees. One friend, a low single-digit handicapper, liked the feel but only moderately so, adding that it was a bit subdued for his personal taste. Another friend, again a good player, good athlete and former tennis pro, loved the putter right away, holing a sharp breaking left-to-right 30-footer with his second stroke.





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Bottom line, like the putting stroke itself, finding the perfect putter shaft is a matter of personal preference. So it follows that the BGT Stability Tour shaft is going to be "perfect" for some golfers, not so perfect for others. But then, can't the same be said for the oversized putter grips that have captured a significant market share in recent years?

Regardless, the BGT Stability Tour shaft makes good on its marketing claims. The Odyssey putter used in our testing felt more solid and certainly "stiffer" with the after-market shaft. And though we didn't have access to a SAM Putting Lab, putts appeared to roll consistently end-over-end, with little or no side-spin, indicating a square face at impact ... all of which logs points on the positive side of the ledger for the Stability Tour shaft.

In fairness, on the negative side, there was an initial decrease in "feel" when going from the traditional steel shaft to the composite Stability Tour shaft. But this is a nit-picking difference pointed out solely in the interest in impartial reporting. It takes only a few holes with the BGT shaft to develop a new "feel" for the more technologically advanced shaft.

Is the shaft worth the \$250 it commands at retail? Again, that's a

question that can only be answered by the individual. But when high-end putters from boutique designers are routinely going for \$350 and up, doesn't it make sense to give the Stability Tour shaft a try before investing in yet another putter that's likely to end up in the bull pen after a few rounds? Especially when you consider the shaft can be fit to just about any putter head ever made.







CARYLE ROBINSON FOUR BALL TOURNAMENT





A scorecard incident sparked sorrow, but didn't scar. It instead motivated Anthony Bellino and Tyler McGarry Monday in the AGA/GAP Carlyle Robinson Fall Four-Ball at Elkview Country Club (par 72, 6,608 yards).

The two, teaming for the first time in 2020, carded a 4-under-par 68 to capture the event's Amateur Division. The victory came on the heels of shared disappointment stemming from a 36-hole better-ball event at Emanon Country Club over the weekend.

Bellino and McGarry played in the penultimate pairing, but alongside different partners: Robert Romasiewicz and Jake Wysocki. respectively. Expecting to enter a sudden-death playoff for the title, McGarry and Wysocki unintentionally signed for an incorrect score, thereby missing out.

"We were trying to get everything done quickly. We rushed everything," Bellino, an Emanon member, said. "It was great that we were able to bounce back from the weekend."

"I looked at Anthony and said, 'We're going to get this win today," McGarry, a Huntsville Golf Club member, added. "When that whole scorecard debacle went down, he felt a little bad. It was my fault, but he felt bad about it. We both wanted to get a win to try and ease the mind a little bit."

Minds eased entirely.

McGarry opened the team's quest for quelling with an eagle on No. 1 (par 5, 487 yards). After crushing a drive into the left rough, he drilled a 6-iron 210 yards to 15 feet. McGarry closed the team's outward tour with the three straight (well, two technically) birdies. On No. 7 (par 3, 168 yards), he hit a soft 9-iron to 10 feet. The par 5, 548-yard No. 8 somewhat mirrored No. 1: a 6-iron 200 yards to 15 feet. McGarry's eagle attempt, however, burnt the right edge. On No. 9 (par 3, 148 yards), he stopped a pitching wedge two inches from the hole location. Bellino, meanwhile, lifted a 9-iron to 20 feet.

ALEX KNOLL CAPTURES PHILADELPHIA PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP; EARNS BERTH IN 53RD PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

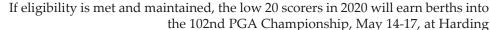
will televise all four rounds of the national Championship.

(Philadelphia, Pa.) (September 19, 2019) - Alex Knoll of (Glen Brook Golf Club), winner of the Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship, September 17-19, 2019 at host facility the Union League Golf Club at Torresdale and secondary facility Riverton Country Club will lead eleven Philadelphia PGA Professionals to compete in the 53rd PGA Professional Championship, April 26-29 at Omni Barton Creek Resort and Spa in Austin, Texas.

Knoll turned in a winning total of 2-under-par 209 to capture the Philadelphia PGA Professional Champion title. Ryan Lagergren of (Stonewall) was runner-up, finishing at even par 211. They are joined by Travis Deibert (Doylestown Country Club), Tom Cooper (Pine Valley Golf Club), Brendon Post (Univ of Delaware), Mark Sheftic (Merion Golf Club), Dave Pagett (Whitemarsh Valley Country Club), Stu Ingraham (M Golf Range), Terry Hertzog (Country Club of York), John Pillar (Country Club at Woodloch Springs), and Davis Jensen (Merion Golf Club).

The PGA Professional Championship and 41 PGA Section Championships feature a total purse of more than \$1.5 million. The PGA Professional Championship purse is \$550,000,

distributed among those who make the cut in the 312-player field. Golf Channel



Park Golf Club, San Francisco, California.

In addition to the Walter Hagen Cup, the PGA Professional Championship winner also receives an exemption into the next 10 PGA Professional Championships and exemptions into six PGA TOUR events over a 12-month period.

Established in 1968, the PGA Professional Championship roster of Champions includes the following premier TOUR professionals: Sam Snead, Bob Rosburg, Don Massengale, Ed Dougherty, Larry Gilbert, and Bruce Fleisher.

The PGA Professional Championship is presented by Cadillac, Club Car and OMEGA. Supporting sponsors are Titleist/FootJoy, NIKE and TaylorMade Golf. Presenting partners are Golf Channel and the PGA TOUR. The 41 Section Championships and the

National Championship offer a combined purse of \$1.5 million.



JOHN PILLAR CAPTURES PHILADELPHIA SENIOR PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP; EARNS BERTH IN 31ST SENIOR PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Malvern, Pa.) (August 20, 2019) - John Pillar of (Hawley, Pa.), winner of the Philadelphia Section Senior PGA Professional Championship August 19-20, 2019 at Applebrook Golf Club will lead seven Section PGA Professionals to compete Oct. 3-6, in the 31st Senior PGA Professional Championship.

The national Championship, presented by Cadillac and supported by Golf Channel and John Deere, will be held at Omni Barton Creek Resort and Spa in Austin, Texas.

Pillar turned in a winning total of 8-under-par 134 to capture the Philadelphia Section Senior PGA Professional Championship presented by Cadillac. Bob Lennon of (Wilmington, Del.) finished three strokes back at 5-under-par 137. They are joined by Brian Kelly of (Lewisburg, Pa.), Terry Hertzog of (Lititz, Pa.), George Forster of (Blue Bell, Pa.), Dave Quinn of (Marlton, NJ), Eddie Perrino of (Mountain Top, Pa.).

"I feel grateful to join the list of Philadelphia PGA Senior Champions," commented Pillar of his win. "We have such a strong contingent of senior players in our Section and to be considered in the same sentence as those legends is truly an honor. "I'd be remiss if

I didn't recognize everyone at Woodloch Springs, especially my staff, who do such an outstanding job at home allowing me to compete in these events. I also need to thank the membership and staff of Applebrook Golf Club for providing such an outstanding venue for us to play these past two days. I am looking forward to the National Championship and playing with the best players from across the country."

Pillar now joins a short list of players who have won both the Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship (2009) and Philadelphia PGA Senior Championship.

The Senior PGA Professional Championship brings together a field of 264

contestants representing the PGA of America's 41 nationwide Sections and features a total purse of \$300,000. The first two rounds will be conducted on the Foothills and Coore Crenshaw Courses. The first cut will be made after 36 holes of play to the low 90 scorers and ties. The second cut will be made after 54 holes

of play to the low 70 scorers and ties. The final two rounds will be played on the Foothills Course.

Designed by Tom Fazio, the Foothills Course was recently ranked as one of the top courses in Texas by Golf Magazine. The course is protected by cliffs, waterfalls and creeks, making for a beautiful, scenic round, but also emphasizes the importance of accuracy. Drives from the elevated tee boxes must be precise to hit the fairways, and even more so when approaching the small greens. Previously, the Foothills Course was home to the PGA Tour Champions Legends of Golf tournament from 1990-1994.

A collaboration between course architect Bill Coore and two-time Masters Champion, Ben Crenshaw, the Coore Crenshaw Course is designed with the ideology that nature is the best architect. Although the holes feature lush, wide

fairways, the dense trees to their sides will swallow any ball that misses its mark. However, the real challenge is found on the large, undulated greens that are sure to stump and frustrate players. The course's beauty is really seen on the signature 18th hole. Running slightly uphill, approach shots must carry a creek to the lowlying green which is designed to appear as though it was carved into the hillside.

Begun in 1989, the Senior PGA Professional Championship is modeled after the PGA Professional Championship, with a field of 50-and-older senior PGA Professionals who advanced through 41 Section Championships conducted from June through August this year. Results available on page 29



Cont. from page 25

"Anthony wanted to putt first. He said, 'I want you to mark that. I want to putt it. I want to earn something.' I said, 'Alright, I'll let you go," McGarry, 23, of Pittston, Pa., said. "We kind of joked about it."

"Tyler played some of the best golf I ever saw on that front nine," Bellino, 28, of West Pittston, Pa., said. "What a shot he hit into No. 9. We were laughing as we walked up to the green. 'You know I'm making this, right?' It was halfway [to the hole] and Tyler just started laughing because it was on a good line and went in."

The laughter receded — albeit briefly — when the Bellino and McGarry team bogeyed No. 10 (par 4, 384 yards): a missed green for the former, tree trouble for the latter. But Bellino rebounded with a 12-footer for birdie on No. 11 (par 4, 359 yards) following a flip wedge.

"That was a huge birdie for us. It got us to 5 under and helped to straighten the ship a little bit," McGarry, who graduated from Keiser University in May, said.

Bellino's birdie did ultimately prove to be huge for the team. Critical also: a McGarry six-footer to salvage a bogey on No. 18 (par 4, 400 yards). He and Bellino prevailed by a stroke over Wemberly Hills Golf Club's James Dougherty and Glenmaura National Golf Club's Patrick Mitchell.

"It was a solid showing for us. We vibe off each other pretty well," Bellino said. "He's the 'A' player in the group. There's no denying that. I just try to pitch in when I can."

Bellino and McGarry will again team for the AGA/GAP Modified Stableford Tournament Oct. 21 at Huntsville.

Senior & Super-Senior Division

Shared golf opportunities elude Mark Bartkowski and Ken Bolcavage these days. They hold membership at different clubs and rely on different golfers for various better-ball events.

But when the schedule stars align, rest assure the friends of 40 years will link on the links. Such was the case — a successful one at that — Monday at Elkview. Bartkowski, a Wemberly Hills Golf Club member, and Bolcavage, representing the host club, carded a 2-under-par 70 to take the event's Senior Division (par 72, 6,099 yards).

"The temperature all day was near 44 degrees, with sustained 20-30 mile-per-hour winds," Bartkowski, 56, of Roaring Brook, Pa., said. "We had a cart cover. That was a benefit to us, to keep the wind off. Regardless of what people may think, I think that helped us."

"It was a challenge right from the start because the weather was unbelievable. It was just an ugly day," Bolcavage, 57, of Crystal Lake,

Pa., added. "It wasn't a day where we were going to shoot 8 under. We stayed focused and made pars."

And birdies. Bartkowski went back-to-back on Nos. 5 (par 4, 409 yards) and 6 (par 4, 330 yards): a downhill 50-degree wedge 150 yards to 25 feet on the former, a lob wedge from inside 100 yards to 15 feet on the latter. Bolcavage moved the team to 3 under after a birdie on No. 9 (par 3, 130 yards), where he hit a gap wedge to 10 feet. On No. 14 (par 4, 457 yards), both Bartkowski (15 feet) and Bolcavage (six feet) made good on red.

Then came trouble. Club selection given a swirling wind caused a team bogey on No. 16 (par 3, 192 yards). Bartkowski never found his golf ball on the par 5, 463-yard 17th hole after sending his second shot into a mass of leaves. Bolcavage rolled his 40-footer for birdie into gimme territory.

The putt was anything but.

"He's butter on those. He never misses it, and he missed it," Bartkowski said. "He felt terrible. At the time, we didn't know [it would be inconsequential]."

"I don't know what happened," Bolcavage added. "I said, 'Mark, if we lose by one, then I'm going to be so pissed.' With Mark and I, we can laugh about that. Nobody feels worse about a bad shot than the guy who hit it."

Bolcavage undoubtedly felt good about a critical two-putt par on No. 18 (par 4, 372 yards). Entering Elkview's closer, he and Bartkowski held a one-stroke lead over groupmates Huntsville Golf Club's Matt Froncek and Michael Heck of the host club.

Given the weather conditions, focus became a buzzword Bartkowski and Bolcavage. Coincidentally, it's also a value one holds in high esteem for the other.

"I try to learn from his focus because he has the focus of a champion. As I'm standing over a shot, I can see a fly move across my face whereas his game is so focused," Bartkowski said. "He's also going to be the points leader [for AGA/GAP Senior Player of the Year], and I'm very happy to be able to contribute to that."

Irem Country Club's Jim Breck and George Elias won the Super-Senior Division (par 72, 5,554 yards) with a 3-over-par 75.





Philadelphia PGA Section







99th PHILADELPHIA PGA PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP





		CREEK	
1	Alex Knoll	Glen Brook GC	-10
2	Tom Cooper	Pine Valley GC	-7
T3	Rusty HarboldPhila	Cricket Club	-4
3	Andrew Turner	French Creek GC	-4
5	Michael Little	Lookaway GC	-2
T5	Zachary Oakley	Bidermann GC	-2
T5	Brett Walker	Sunnybrook GC	-2
T8	Hugo Mazzalupi	Patriot's Glen Nat'l	-1
T8	Parks Price	CC of York	-1
T8	Rich Steinmetz	Spring Ford CC	-1
T11	Mark Sheftic	Merion Golf Club	E
T11	Terry Hertzog	Merion Golf Club	E
13	Brendon Post	University of Del	+2
T14	Jeff Herb	Waynesborough CC	+3
T14	Jakob Gerney	Trump Nat'l GC-Phl	+3
T14	George Forster	Radnor Valley CC	+3
14	Trevor Bensel	Overbrook GC	+3
18	Ryan Lagergren	Stonewall Links	+4
T19	Anthony Malizia	Bidermann GC	+5
T19	Steve Swartz	West Shore CC	+5
T19	Brian Kelly	Bucknell Golf Club	+5
T19	Mike Furey	Saucon Valley CC	+5
T19	Eddie Perrino	Eagle Rock Resort	+5

PHILADELPHIA PGA SENIOR PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP





1 John Pillar CC at Woodloch Springs -6	5
Won on 1st Playoff Hole; Qualifier	
2 Dave McNabb Applebrook Golf Club -6	5
Qualifier	
3 Greg Farrow Deerwood Country Club - 4	
Qualifier	
T4 Dave Quinn Laurel Creek Country Club -2	2
Qualifier	
T4 John Allen Huntingdon Valley CC -2	2
Qualifier	
6 George Forster Radnor Valley CC -1	Ĺ
Won on 1st Playoff Hole; Qualifier	
7 Mike Moses Concord Country Club -1	Ĺ
1st Alternate	
8 Terry Hertzog Merion Golf Club E	ı
2nd Alternate	
T9 Terry Hatch Royal Oaks Golf Course E	1
3rd Alternate	
T9 Brian Kelly Bucknell Golf Club E	ı
Qualifier	
11 Hugo MazzalupiPatriots Glen National +1	1
4th Alternate	

MCQUISTON SENIOR/JUNIOR PRO CHANPIONSHIP AT BALA CC



-3

1 John Pillar / Brian BergstolCC at Woodloch Springs, Shawnee -11
2 Chris Barletta / Dave PagettBala GC Whitemarsh Valley CC -5
T3 George Forster / Tony PerlaRadnor Valley CC, Canoe Brook CC- 4
T3 Rob Rohrbach / Jeff FickFoxchase GC, Moselem Springs CC -4
T5 Brendon Post / Patty PostUniversity of Delaware -3

T5 John DiMarco / Joe KogelmanPGA, GOLFTEC - Moorestown

FALL MEETING GOLF COMMONWEALTH NATIONAL GC



1 Dustin Wallis / Steve Swartz Dustin Wallis Golf, West ShoreCC	-10
T2 Joey Pohle / Rick Pohle Blue Bell Country Club, Blue Bell CC	-7
T2 Brandon Kuzmich / Keith Clawson Merion Golf Club	-7
T2 Pat Butkus / Sam Ambrose Tavistock CC, Chester Valley GC	-7
T5 Billy Stewart / Mike Mitchell The ACE Club	-6
T5 Ben Debski / Patrick GarrisonThe Springhaven Club	-6
T7 John Spina / Bill Sautter Philadelphia Cricket Club	-5
T7 Bob Hennefer / Curtis Kirkpatrick Indian Spring Country Club	-5
T7 Jason Gebhart / Richie KrebsThe Bridges GC Briarwood GC	-5
T7 Alex Brewer / Jon Flint Commonwealth National Golf Club	-5
T11 Jason Calhoun / Michael HamiltonUniversity of Pennsylvan	ia,
Philadelphia Country Club	-4
T11 Michael Little / Štephen SierackiLookaway GC, Woodcrest C	CC-4
T11 Andrew Diesel / Peter Clarke Manufacturers' Golf & CC	-4

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VIRGINIA IS FOR (GOLF) LOVERS

By TONY LEODORA

The state of Virginia has been using a clever marketing campaign for years, promoting their large variety of tourism attractions. It claims, "Virginia is for Lovers."

Now it is time to amend that message, and proclaim, "Virginia is for Golf Lovers."

Ever since the golf boom began, in the early '90s, the overall golf scene in Virginia has been improving. Great layouts have popped up in all four corners of this large state.

Now, golf in Virginia is an even more appealing than ever ... for one major reason.

Virginia is within a five-hour drive of approximately 100 million people. And Americans have taken to the roads again, as they emerge from the paralysis of the pandemic, looking for new vacation spots.

Statistics have proved two things:

- 1. People want to play golf. Month-by-month Americans are breaking the record for increase in golf participation over last year, according to the National Golf Foundation.
- 2. They want to drive to new golf/vacation destinations.

With that in mind, here are three golf destinations that will fill the bill ... providing a variety of great golf, accommodations and even a variety of budget options. Kingsmill Resort

Winchester and the spectacularly

Aerial view of Primland in Shenandoah Valley

Kingsmill Resort, along the banks of the James River in Williamsburg, Virgina, is I first on this list because ... well, it was the first. The first ... as in the first place that settlers from England set foot in North America.

The settlement at Jamestown has a revered place in American history. Kingsmill has a revered place in American Golf history.

Over the years professional golfers have made the famed River Course at Kingsmill Resort, designed by Pete Dye, their home. For more than three decades the PGA Tour and, now, the LPGA Tour have conducted well-known tournaments on this challenging layout.

The Plantation Course, designed by Arnold Palmer, is the perfect complement to the brawny River Course. It is a true shot-makers course that winds through the rolling woodlands of this property.

The newest of the three courses, The Woods, is the members' course at Kingsmill Plantation. Designed by Tom Clark, with assistance from two-time U.S. Open champ Curtis Strange, it requires precision off the tee and a deft touch around the greens.

Kingsmill is Virginia's only AAA four-diamond condominium

golf resort. And that is another point of appeal for the traveling golfer. No lobbies, no elevators ... just walk from parking space into a spacious condo.

"It's all about providing a special experience here at Kingsmill," says James Gelfand, vice president of sales and revenue. "From the moment you drive onto the property here, to the moment you leave, we want you to be wowed with the beauty of the environment, the quality of the golf courses and the special nature of our hospitality."

For more information about packages that provide access to all three courses, go to www.kingsmill.com.

Shenandoah Valley

For golfers looking at new drive-to destinations to fill their expanded leisure schedules, Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, the historic town of Winchester and the spectacularly scenic Blue Ridge Mountains will

prove to be the perfect fit.

This area is a perfect family vacation destination ... as well as a golf destination. The area is very affordable and possesses some interesting and challenging golf courses. Additionally, the entire area is surrounded by some of the most famous American history sites ... from both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. In short, it is a bucket list piece of Americana.

"I have been promoting this area for many years," said Nick Ciattei,

owner of Mid-Atlantic Golf Getaways, a golf promotion and packaging company. "It has always been the type of destination that people stumble across, then return for a number of years. Now, especially for this Fall, new people are coming to the Shenandoah Valley because they easily can drive to the area and feel safer than in some of the other areas that are really struggling with the pandemic." The Shenandoah Valley has been a favorite road trip destination of Americans for many years. Whether looking down at the valley from the Blue Ridge Mountains and its famous Skyline Drive, or playing golf at the bottom and looking up at the scenery, every minute of the trip presents a picture postcard.





Tony Leodora Host of GolfTalk Live

Golf Pennsylvania

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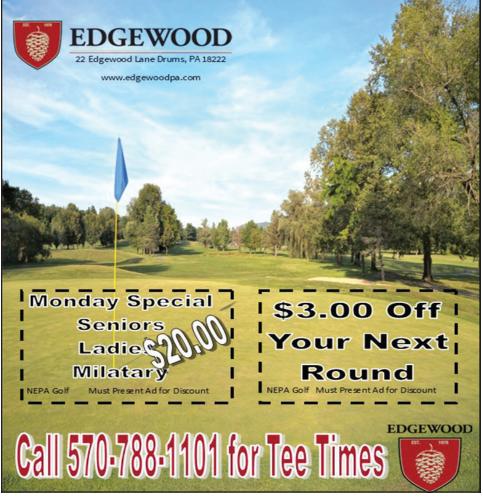
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ELKVIEW COUNTRY CLUB 2020 PRO-AM RESULTS

LOW PRO		LOW AM
1. John Pillar	67	1. Zach Fischl 71
1. Brian Bergstol	67	2. Mike Heck 73
2. Mike Molino	73	3. Jason Wilson 73
3. Chris Miller	73	4. Riley Hogan 75
5. Jared Cottell	74	5. Jeff Fick 74
LOW SENIOR PR	O	LOW SENIOR AM
1. Harvey Williams	71	1. Fred Greene 74
2. Rick Flesher	72	2. Charles Leon 76
3. Wayne Phillips	74	3. Bill Steirer 76
3. Greg Wall	74	

PPC	SS FALL PRO - PRO SOUTHMC	ORE	GOLF CLUB
1st	Kevin Edwards – Gregg Meyer	61	mm/M
2nd	Dustin McCormick – Mike Molino	65	ALL SALES
3rd	Harvey Williams – Jared Cottell	67	
4th	John Pillar - Kyle Tasselmyer	68	SOL
5th	Jim Muschlitz - Jim Booros	70	MINIMO
5th	Ray Silnik - Cole Young	70	ORE G.C



2020 PPGS PRO AM AT THE COUNTRY CLUB **OF SCRANTON**

			IOW	AMATUERS	
LOW	PRO		1st	Ken Bolcavage	71
1st	Mike Molino	72	2nd	Rob Linepensel	72
2nd	Gregg Meyer	73	3rd	Riley Hogan	73
3rd	Mike Grabosky	74	4th	Ryan Orcutt	74T
4th	Dustin McCormick	74	5th	Mario Costa	75
5th	Alex Knoll	74	T5th	Joe Grad	75
6th	Kevin Edwards	76			
7th	Chris Miller	79			
8th	Ray Silnik	79			
	•		LOW	SENIOR AM	
LOW	SENIOR PRO		1st	Shane Gunning	74
1st	Gary Clark	73	T2nd	Charlie Leon	76
2nd	Mark Monahan	77	T2nd	Albert McCormick	76
3rd	Harvey Williams	78	4th	Dylan Spadt	78
4th	Greg Wall	79		, 1	
5th	Jim Muschlitz	83T			

Congratulations to **Brian Bergstol the** winner of the 2020 **PPGS Stroke Play** Championship and Player of the Year!!



Ponte Verde Beach

by the signature 18th that is now a very memorable 204-yard, par 3 with an island green. The redesign is the culmination of a multi-year improvement plan that included a complete bunker renovation with capillary concrete liners, and a conversion of all putting greens to Diamond Zoysiagrass. The Orlando World Center Marriott offers special packages including stay and play along with instruction and practice facilities at the acclaimed Orlando Golf Academy. (golfhawkslanding.com; Marriott.com)

Venturing westward towards Tampa/St. Petersburg and south via I-75, you'll find more than 100 courses on the west central coast of Florida. (golfcoastmagazine.com) Anchored in the middle by the beautiful town of Sarasota, golfers will delight not only in the variety of great golf, but also in the area's sugar sand white beaches, diverse dining, enriching arts and culture, shopping districts and fun-filled attractions. (visitsarasota.com).

University Park Country Club, Sarasota's premier semi-private country club, continues to be the "must play" golf destination on Florida's Cultural Coast. For the 23rd year in a row, University Park has earned Golf Digest's 4-Star Rating. The Ron Garl designed course has won numerous accolades and distinctions including Golfweek's "Florida's Top Fifty." Golf Advisor has ranked it #10 in its top 25 courses in Florida.

The breathtaking 27-hole championship golf course is designed to challenge the golfer whatever their skill level and provide a memorable golf experience against a stunning backdrop of native Florida. The impeccable conditions and beauty of the course as well as the club's renowned friendly service offer the daily-fee player a private club experience that is surprisingly affordable. (universitypark-fl.com)

The newest golf community in Sarasota that's on the hot list amongst local golfers is Esplanade at Azario. Located in the master-plan community of Lakewood Ranch, Esplanadae at Azario features an 18-hole championship golf course that opened to the public in



University Park

May 2020. Designed by nationally acclaimed developer and home builder Taylor Morrison and golf course architect Chris Wilczynski, ASGCA, this is the third course on Florida's west coast that the two have successfully collaborated on.

With six sets of tees that play from 3,500 to over 7,000 yards, the layout features wide fairways, strategic bunkering and five holes through mature oaks and pines. Hole 17, "Big Oak," requires a bold tee shot across a lake to the multitiered 9,000 square foot green, adjacent to the largest native oak on the property. The course, which will ultimately be a resident-only private golf club, sits on 1,000 acres providing exquisite picturesque views and a nature filled, serene Florida setting. (azariolakewoodranch.com)

Finally, Venice is a sleepy little town south of Sarasota that is just waiting to be discovered. One of the best reasons to visit Venice, and maybe even stay for a lifetime, is the three spacious and wooded terrain golf courses that are part of the "Golf in Venice" group. Waterford Golf Club (27 holes), Capri Isles Golf Club (18 holes) and Calusa Lakes Golf Club (18 holes) provide a relaxed and peaceful setting with abundant wildlife and a unique natural Florida landscape. The family owned operation, winner of the "Best in Venice & Readers Choice Award" welcomes public golfers and takes pride in its outstanding customer service and course conditions that have earned nine awards in the last year. (golfvenice.com)

Following Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' executive order issued in April, golf courses were deemed essential businesses. Since that time, owners and operators have studied the Best Practices provided by the PGA of America, the Back2Golf Operations Playbook issued by the USGA, as well as the CDC guidelines and FDA Best Practices for reopening restaurant facilities. The Sunshine State is successfully using these tools to keep golf open, safe and an enjoyable environment for its customers and employees – and welcomes snowbirds who are yearning for warm weather, fresh air, social distancing and outdoor activity this winter. Florida golf is essential!



Kingsmill Riverland Course

Cont. from page 33

Although there are a large number of golf courses throughout the Shenandoah Valley, three of the most popular would make for a perfect drive-to golf trip.

Rock Harbor is a modern 36-hole facility, designed by Denny Perry. Shenandoah Valley Golf Club is a 27-hole layout that features some of the most scenic views of the surrounding Blue Ridge and Massanutten Mountains. Blue Ridge Shadows was designed by acclaimed Mid-Atlantic based architect Tom Clark and, with seven sets of tees, can accommodate players of just about any level.

To make the trip even more interesting, there is the historic George Washington hotel in downtown Winchester and within walking distance to the many shops and restaurants on the Loudon Street Mall.

To book a trip to Winchester and the Shenandoah Valley, go to www. midatlanticgolfgetaways.com.

Primland

Primland is a luxury mountain boutique resort with a charming name for its location – Meadows of Dan. It is pristinely nestled amid 12,000 acres and home to the acclaimed Highland Golf Course. The resort has garnered distinction as one of the world's top hospitality venues through the Conde Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards 2020.

Primland was the vision of the resort's founder, Didier Primat, to create a place of immense beauty that offered his guests a return to simple human pleasures in an environment of refined authenticity and sensuality. He developed Primland in an eco-conscious and thoughtful manner, as the ultimate retreat for world-class golf, refined dining and outdoor activities.

Most recently, Primland was voted the No. 1 resort in the South and No. 9 in America by Conde Nast Magazine. The results are posted online at www.cntraveler.com and are featured in the magazine's November issue.

"Being voted in the top 10 nationally and the best resort in the South by Condé Nast Traveler readers is a humbling honor, and we're thrilled that Primland has earned these accolades," said Steve Helms, Primland Vice President. "Our mission is to provide an exceptional resort experience for our guests, through our amenities, activities, and care."

Located in southwestern Virginia in the Blue Ridge Mountains, Primland features vast acreage and first-class outdoor activities, such as golf, hunting, fly fishing, hiking, biking, RTV trail riding, shooting, archery, water sports, and more. Its luxurious indoor setting and options are renowned as well, thanks to its regional cuisine, full-service spa, deep space star gazing in the Observatory, and distinctive lodging.

Primland resonates with people who immerse themselves in luxurious elegance whenever possible. value Mother Nature's masterworks ... cherish the soothing serenity of golden mountain sunsets ... rush with adrenalin while traversing ATV trails ... embrace treehouse lodging perches with panoramic views ... rejuvenate through caressing spa treatments ... covet organic ingredients served tastefully in farm-totable culinary dishes ... and, of course, relish playing award-winning trophy golf courses.

For more information about Primland, visit www.primland.com, or call 866.960.7746.



Rock Harbor





The Ottinger Golf Group, comprised of **Atlantic City Country Club**, **Scotland Run Golf Club** and **Ballamor Golf Club**, form an unbeatable trio of award-winning, daily fee golf courses in the Southern New Jersey area. Each is unique, but undeniably Ottinger in terms of an uncompromising commitment to providing the most exceptional golf course conditions and superior service found anywhere.



856-863-3737 scotlandrun.com



609-236-4400 accountryclub.com



609-601-6220 ballamor.com

For membership information, please call Mike Burke, Membership Director at 609-236-4400 or email him at burke@accountryclub.com

ottingergolf.com

