
GOLF PENNSYLVANIA

GOLF NORTHEAST

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2023 PGA GOLF SHOW TOP PRODUCTS

SHOPRITE CLASSIC REVIEW

GOLF TRAVEL

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by Tony Leodora

NEW ENERGY AT PGA SHOW BODES WELL FOR TOP GOLF PRODUCTS OF 2023

To say the 70th PGA Show at the massive Orange County Convention Center in Orlando was a departure from the two previous years is an understatement of epic proportions.

In 2021, there wasn't even a PGA Show, due to the COVID pandemic. Golf industry manufacturers and suppliers had to get out their message using whisper-down-the-lane tactics.

In 2022, the PGA Show was sparsely attended – by exhibitors, buyers and media – and an aura of fear hung over the entire event.

But in 2023 the energy and numbers were back.

No, not to the levels of the heyday in the early part of the 21st Century. But the Orange County Convention Center was buzzing. More than a few exhibitors reported that the PGA Show was one of the best they attended in recent years.

This definitely was not a scaled-down event like the one in 2022.

Across the board, the equipment, apparel and accessories manufacturers responded with a multitude of new products. There was technology and style breakthroughs and, it quickly became obvious, that the pent-up energy of the pandemic era produced some noticeable efforts for the new golf season.

Without further fanfare, here are the eye-catching new products of 2023.

AERO-SWING TRAINING AID



The idea of air resistance training has been around in golf for a long time but the new Aero-Swing training aid has taken the concept a step further. Using plastic “pineapples” on the end of a shaft, this tool is a variable air resistance product and is designed to pull the most amount of air into the “pineapples” right at the ball impact point.

The result is a swing that encounters some resistance at the start of the swing, the maximum amount of resistance at ball impact and, as you finish the swing, the resistance lets up quite a bit.

Aero-Swing, and President Bill Orosz, won the top training aid award at the 2022 PGA Show, but not that many people noticed due to the sparse attendance. This year, attendees were noticing ... in droves.

www.aero-swing.com

BRIDGESTONE



E9 GOLF BALL

Golfers know the term, “It’s like hitting a rock,” when talking about distance golf balls. No longer – at least in the world of Bridgestone.

“The distance ball category has gotten softer,” says Elliot Mellow, manager of golf ball marketing. “This year we have an all-new product, the e9 Long Drive. It is all about ball speed and aerodynamics. The core of our new ball gets firmer as it goes toward the outer region, which creates higher initial ball speed. And it has a 330 dimple pattern on it. It helps with minimal drag so the ball doesn’t lose velocity and continues the high ball speed as long as possible.”

Bridgestone teamed up with the world long drive guys to help design the new e9 Long Drive. On the Tour, Bridgestone teams up with the greatest players, including Tiger Woods, to design its tour balls. That sounds like a winning formula.

www.bridgestonegolf.com

COPPER TECH’S HALF-GLOVE



After a full effort to produce a quality golf glove, interwoven with copper fiber to aid in blood circulation and pain relief for a number of years, Copper Tech is now going halfway. Sort of.

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Cont. from page 3

The latest twist is the new half-glove from Copper Tech.

By opening the finger of the Copper Tech glove, to the first knuckle, two goals are achieved.

1. The overall cost is reduced.
2. The glove can now be used for other applications, such as typing and sleeping.

"We made our name all these years by providing great, functional golf gloves that also promoted increased circulation through the use of copper infusion," explained Lloyd Cohn, founder and president of Copper Tech Gloves. "Our new product still has all the benefits of copper-infused technology. It supports oxygenation and circulation of muscles and joints. Finally, it helps to prevent straining and fatigue by keeping muscles and joints warm."

Even without the health benefits of a copper-infused golf glove, Copper Tech has proven to be the best overall one-size golf glove on the market. Now, the lineup has gotten even better ... by going halfway.

www.coppertechgloves.com

EMBRACED CBD-CHARGED COMPRESSION SYSTEM



Since 2018, the company Sycamore BioPharma has been on the cutting edge of CBD technology. Driven by the success of their Aligned Full-Spectrum CBD topicals, the company partnered with a specialized textile chemistry company to create a dynamic, wearable delivery system of socks and sleeves that has become the foundation of the Embraced CBD-charged product line.

Not only are the socks and sleeves charged with relief-providing CBD, but they can be washed, then re-charged with a CBD spray. The result is a working system of pain relief for participants in all sports ... but especially golf.

A growing list of customer testimonials support the claims that the products have helped to alleviate pain, improve sleep and contribute to the enhanced wellness of a loyal and growing customer base.

www.cbdcompressionsleeves.com

MAKEFIELD PUTTERS



The putter market is one of the most competitive areas of the golf industry. It seems that just about everyone has a different idea about how to get that little white ball in the hole.

Into that fray jumps Makefield Putter ... a new company based in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Not only have they accepted the challenge, they have embraced it. And their line of Makefield Putter models rocked the PGA Show by winning the Product Ingenuity Award for Emerging Companies from the International Network of Golf.

"All three of our Makefield Putter models employ parallel weight technology, similar to that used in drivers," stressed Nick Biglasco, director of product development. The weights go through the equator of the clubhead, as opposed to being screwed into the sole. There is a lifted center of gravity that decreases skid and increases roll, to the point where we believe our putter rolls better than any other putter in the market right now."

The biggest development was the introduction of a screw-in hosel pin system, making all of the hosel styles and shafts fully interchangeable.

www.makefieldputters.com

SKONI GOLF SHOES



Not everyone who steps onto the golf course has ambitions of winning the U.S. Open Championship. But, when they step, they want to step in style.

Skoni golf shoes, a new line of golf and casual foot apparel, is keeping that in mind. Their modern blend of comfort and style allowed

Cont. from page 5

them to attract a huge amount of attention from across the golf industry at the PGA Show in Orlando.

"We created a casual slip-on golf shoe that has some structure to it and appeals to those people who want to go out and have some fun playing golf," explained Jack Curry, Director of Sales for the less-than-one-year-old company. "People can put these shoes on, go play, then go out to dinner and it doesn't look like a golf shoe."

The new line of shoes – men's and ladies' – have a gum-rubber sole that is good for grip and comfort. They also have a removable insole for golfers who like to wear orthotics.

And the best part ... all models in the complete line of Skoni golf shoes are available for less than \$100.

www.skoni.com

TEE M UP BY GREENKEEPERS



Frank Carroll's injection-molded plastics factory in Northeast Philadelphia has long been a haven of innovation and cutting-edge design in many industries. His niche business, in the golf industry, has followed that same successful path.

In the world of performance golf tees, he has made his mark with the Four Yards More Tee and the Survivor Tee. Now there is the Tee M Up.

"The Tee M Up is a tool that's used for the installation of either a standard or a solid polymer performance golf tee," explained Carroll. "What this does, it ensures that the golf tee will be square to the ground. In addition, it has a height indicator on it that guarantees the exact height, whether you use a 2 ¾ inch or a 3 ¼ inch tee."

This is another product in the line of specialized golf tees from Greenkeepers. The constant mantra is always to hit the longest and straightest drives possible.

www.gkspikes.com or www.fouryardsmoretee.com

TOUR EDGE 723 C AND E SERIES

The secret behind the rise of Tour Edge in the golf equipment

industry is simple. The Batavia, Illinois-based company leads in time and money spent on research and development. And that effort produces continued innovation.



The latest innovation can be found in the Tour Edge Exotics line of 723 drivers.

This line takes innovation from last year's 722 driver and divides it into two models – C723, E723 – each designed specifically to accommodate the needs of a specific segment of golfers.

"We really brought the tech to the table in 2023," says Jon Claffey, VP of marketing for Tour Edge. "This is the latest step in our Exotics line of ultra-premium tour-played products. What our R & D team did is pretty remarkable. We have the most adjustable driver head on the market. There are so many different settings. If you do the math, there are 4,860 different settings on the head alone. We can fit any swing, any player type into these amazingly high-performance heads."

The new 723 Series still comes in a C723 model, made for players with clubhead speed over 105 mph. Players with slower swing speeds are using the E723.

www.touredge.com

STRIDE FOLLOW ME BAG BY ZERO FRICTION



Golfers will now be walking down the fairways with the old standard tune, "Me and My Shadow," echoing in their heads – thanks to the

Cont. on page 7

Cont. from page 6
new Stride Follow Me Bag by Zero Friction.

Instead of trying to drive a battery-powered golf trolley with the use of a remote device that the golfer has to operate and steer, the Stride Follow Me Cart uses a transponder that just hooks to the back belt or pocket. The cart then follows the golfer wherever they go.

“What we did was took a golf bag and made it into an electric trolley, all in one,” says Zero Friction president John Iacono. “We took the components of an electric trolley, with remote control and follow-me action, and we built it into a bag that is basically the size of a cart bag. There are two wheels on the front and a cantilevered wheel on the back. The cantilevered wheel sets down to the ground and gives it the extra stability and balance.

All you have to do is hit follow-me and go down the fairway, and you have your own personal caddie.”

www.zerofriction.com

360 BANDS – RESISTANCE TRAINING

There is no secret to the claim – in any sport – get stronger, get better. But golfers don’t always realize it.



David Wolfenden, president of 360 Bands, has taken that mantra to a new level.

Already successful with his line of resistance bands that have applications to any sport, Wolfenden has expanded into the world of grip training.

“Golf was one of the first sports to take bands and resistance training seriously. You’ll see them up and down the range, especially at long drive competitions,” says, Wolfenden. “We now have added grips, for functionality, and that’s where the 360 Bands came from. They’re the only bands that allow you to hold onto them better and actually work your grip.

“Now we have a new product, the 360 Grip, which is an extension of the brand and trains the opening and closing of your hands – the only resistance trainer to do that.”

The company slogan of 360 Bands says it all: “You’re only as strong as your grip.”

www.360bands.com

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2023 SHOPRITE CLASSIC PREVIEW

By MIKE KERN, GALLOWAY, N.J. — Brooke Henderson, at 25 already one of Canada's best exports, has won 13 times on the LPGA Tour. And she's successfully defended twice, in 2016 at the Cambria Portland Classic and three years later at the Lotte Championship. And she won another event, the Meijer Classic, two times in three years (2017 and '19). So she has an idea of what it takes to keep her hands on a trophy. "It has been good to me when I've come in as the defending champion," she said during the recent media day for



the ShopRite LPGA Classic, where she will try to win back-to-back on June 9-11 on the Bay Course at Seaview. "When you step up to a place where you know you've played well in the past, you feel like your game plan, your strategy for the course is pretty good. It just gives you a lot of extra confidence. All golfers play better when you're confident and swinging it a bit more freely."

Last year, she rallied from way back on the final day to force a playoff, which she won over Lindsey Weaver-Wright by making an eagle on the par-5 18th hole. But Henderson, who would win her second major title at the Evian Championship a month later, has always fared well in South Jersey. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that this tournament gave her a sponsor's exemption almost a decade ago, when she was just getting started. She tied for 11th here in 2019, was sixth in 2020 and second in 2021. So it really wasn't too much of a surprise when she finally broke through last June. Only maybe in the way she did it. It was an impressive Sunday.

"It was so much fun and so exciting the way it finished out," Henderson acknowledged. "Going into the day I wasn't sure (I would do it). I thought maybe I was too far back to get the victory, but I was just trying to go as low as I could and see what would happen."

"Just tried to make a bunch of birdies. I was 5-under through the first nine holes, which was really something, and I saw my name climbing up the leaderboard quickly."

"So to shoot a bogey-free 64 on a Sunday, get into a playoff and win with an eagle, it was just really special. My parents were there and

my sister was on the bag and lots of family and friends were there to celebrate too. I think it's one of the best closing holes the way the fans are always there and so excited."

"I remember a few years ago watching Lexi (Thompson) win there with an eagle putt on 18," she continued. "I remember listening to the crowd's reaction and the hair stood up on my arms a little bit watching her win. At the time I just thought, man, that would be really cool to do that. So to be able to basically do that, it really meant a lot to me."

Henderson, ranked ninth in the world, began the season by winning the Tournament of Champions in January. In six starts since, she has missed the cut twice and had a best showing of 11th, at the Lotte in April. She couldn't be at the media day, which she had to do via zoom, after withdrawing from an event in North Jersey as she recovered from an illness. But she insisted that she's going to be ready again come June.

"Nothing too serious," she stressed. "Just had to take care of myself and heal a bit. I'm feeling much better now and energy levels are coming back. That's really encouraging and like I said, I'm back here practicing and getting myself set for the rest of the year ..."

"It's kind of been a weird year, to be honest. I'm very happy about the win right out of the gate. It gave me a lot of high hopes about what was to come. Unfortunately, the schedule has been a little bit strange where we've had a lot of breaks and off time. I feel like it's been tough for me to get the game rolling consistently."

Of course, a return to Seaview, especially as the reigning winner, certainly can't hurt her outlook.



"One of the cooler things about ShopRite is the list of past champions," Henderson duly noted. "I was really proud to add my name to that list. The history, the tradition, it's been running for such a long time. All the good they do for the community (with \$40 million having been raised for charity). It's a tough golf course, too. I think the challenge keeps us coming back. It makes us better as players, and the event makes us better as people too."

"They were always good to me, and that has given me a little bit of extra motivation to play well. I think you have to remain patient and take what (the course) gives you. I think I've learned that over the past few years, and obviously with the win last year, I feel pretty confident with the strategy. As long as the ball striking is in a good place, I look forward to hopefully having another good finish this

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Cont. from page 9
time.

“With this big stretch coming up the rest of the summer, I look forward to hopefully putting myself in contention and making some climbs on the weekend.”

In other words, she’s probably not done yet. It’s a future worth pursuing.

“You know, I’m so grateful for the career that I’ve had so far,” Henderson said. “Sometimes, I have to pinch myself because it’s like when I was growing up I just wanted to play on the LPGA Tour and win out there. But you never really know if your dreams are going to come true. So far they have. It’s been so much fun to compete against the best in the world, and I’ve been fortunate to raise 13 LPGA Tour trophies ... With that being said, I’m just trying to get better and keep pushing forward. Trying to keep aspiring to be the best I can on all levels, see what will happen in the next five or ten years. Not to get complacent and just keep pushing boundaries.

“It’s hard to say what your goals are because you never really know what’s going to happen. If you make small goals, hopefully that leads to bigger things. It’s so crazy. I think I’m pretty young but then I look around and then I feel old.”

How’s that for perspective?

For the second straight year, Meaghan Francella, a teaching professional at Philadelphia Cricket Club, will be in the field on a sponsor’s exemption. Last June she opened with a 68 but missed the cut with a second-round 78. Back in 2007, in her second start, she beat Annika Sorenstam in a four-hole playoff to win the MasterCard Classic. It would be her lone victory. But at 41, this is certainly a week to look forward to, for all the right reasons.



“I’m not obviously playing every week like everybody else, but I’m doing the best I can with the time I have (to prepare),” she said. “My expectations aren’t what they used to be, which is good. I don’t do this full time any more. But I’ll be ready. I’m not concerned about that.

“I think realistically I want to have fun. That’s number one. That’s really the goal. I’m not going to be doing this for a lot longer. Who knows how many more LPGA events I’ll get in moving forward, if I even want to get in any LPGA events moving forward. I just want to enjoy myself. Realistically I know I can still compete. I proved it last year (in round one). Then my expectation level went through the roof.”

It happens. Nothing wrong with that. And maybe there will be an encore. For both of them. See you there, at what has become the biggest sporting event in South Jersey. And there’s not even a close second. So continue to support the cause. And maybe catch a glimpse of some talented golfers doing some special things. That’s something we can all root for.

Schedule of Events	
FRIDAY, JUNE 9	
7:15am - Round one (All Day)	
Format: Three days, 54-hole stroke play	10:00am to 5:00pm - Family Fun Zone
Field: Full field event	12:00 - 2:30pm - Live Coverage on Golf Channel
Purse: \$1.75 million	
Course: Seaview, A Dolce Hotel, Bay Course	SATURDAY, JUNE 10
7:15am - Round two (All Day)	
MONDAY, JUNE 5	10:00am to 5:00pm - Family Fun Zone
Professional practice rounds (closed to the public)	2:30pm to 3:30pm - Junior Golf Show (Seaview Driving Range)
1:00pm - LPGA Qualifier (closed to the public)	Free of charge to all Saturday ticket holders and their children!
TUESDAY, JUNE 6	5:30 - 7:30pm - Live Coverage on Golf Channel
8:00am. - Professional practice rounds (closed to the public)	
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7	SUNDAY, JUNE 11
7:00am - ShopRite Pro-Am, Day One (closed to the public)	8:45am - Final round (All Day)
2:00pm - Women's Executive Day (invite only)	10:00am to 5:00pm - Family Fun Zone
6:30pm - Pro-Am Celebration (invite only)	2:30 - 5:00pm - Live Coverage on Golf Channel
THURSDAY, JUNE 8	Award ceremony immediately following play
7:00am - ShopRite Pro-Am, Day Two (closed to the public)	



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VALLEY FORGE AREA PROVIDES PERFECT SETTING FOR INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF GOLF SPRING FORUM

By TONY LEODORA

Being in the right place at the right time always has been a perfect formula for success.

The Greater Valley Forge area always has been the right place. Just ask George Washington.



But now is also the perfect time for the development of business and tourism activity in this exploding hub that sits less than 20 miles away from downtown Philadelphia ... and in the heart of America's East Coast megalopolis.

While the pandemic hurt every level of every area in America, Valley Forge is a shining light that blasted out of one of the darkest economic times in American history with a new vigor. Housing, business development, retail and sports and recreation are just some of the sectors that have blossomed in Valley Forge ... and throughout surrounding Montgomery County.

"We have been very fortunate," says Mike Bowman, president of the Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board. "People see the Valley Forge area as the best of both worlds. We are close enough to the transportation hubs of Philadelphia and other cities. Yet we sit in an idyllic and safe suburban setting."

For those reasons, Valley Forge has been attracting record numbers of visitors – for tourism, shopping, youth sports and business conferences. National organizations have been taking note and booking their conferences and seminars.

The International Network of Golf is a perfect example. This national golf media and business organization has been holding their conferences in well-known locations across the country for 33 years. It is no surprise conference locations such as Pinehurst, Orlando, Biloxi, St. Augustine and Myrtle Beach have been on the list – a number of times.

Now Valley Forge has stepped up to host one of the newly designed ING Spring Forums, bringing key golf media and business representatives together May 30 through June 2. Headquarters will be the Valley Forge Casino Resort. The two days of the golf portions of the Spring Forum will be held at nearby Raven's Claw Golf Club in Pottstown, PA.

"We have been trying to coordinate this event for a number of years," explains Mike Jamison, executive director of the ING. "We wanted to hold the event in Valley Forge and Valley Forge wanted to host the event. Things kept getting in the way. Of course, the biggest obstacle was the pandemic."

Once the dates were set and the room space was reserved, the ING Spring Forum quickly took shape and began to gain momentum.

Sponsors – such as Yuengling Brewery, Caliber Golf, Makefield Putters and the Four Yards More Tee have jumped on board.

Highlighting the educational aspects of the ING Spring Forum will be a marketing/social media seminar conducted by longtime ING member and marketing executive Patricia (Tiss) Dahan.

She has spent nearly two decades developing sales and marketing strategies and plans, and leading teams in four different industries. Much of that time was spent with TaylorMade-adidas Golf as Vice President, Global Apparel. Five months ago she became CEO of English Riding Supply, Inc. in Pennsylvania. She also is certified in professional and job-transition coaching.

On the golf side, Pennsylvania-based architect Ed Shearon will be addressing the group at Raven's Claw, one of the many courses he designed or renovated. He also will be available for interviews on golf course architecture, as well as the business side of golf course operation.

"It's exciting to see this event and the organization come to my home state," admits Frank Carroll, president of Greenkeepers, a successful golf accessory company based in Northeast Philadelphia. Carroll



#18 Raven's Claw

also is an active ING member, who has built quite a reputation on the business side of the golf world. "We will be showing off Pennsylvania and Valley Forge, in particular, to high profile people from across the country."

Portions of the ING Conference, the Valley Forge Casino Resort, the Valley Forge area, Raven's Claw Golf Club and Yuengling Brewery will be shot for the two episodes of the award-winning Traveling Golfer television show. One show will air in July and another in September. They can be seen on NBC Sports Philadelphia, the WingDing Network, the Fun Roads Network and at www.travelinggolfervideo.com.

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A GOLF TRIP TO THE SANDHILLS WITH A U.S. OPEN HOLDING COURT

By Pete Kowalski

With early planning, you can watch the 2024 U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2 in the morning and play golf in the Sandhills of North Carolina that afternoon. While you might not be able to get that coveted tee time to tackle the turtle-back greens on the Donald Ross-designed gem, don't leave those clubs home.

Phil Werz, the president and CEO of the Pinehurst Southern Pines Aberdeen Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, urges golfer-spectators from the Northeast to make their play as fast as John Daly when he's 15 strokes out on a Sunday morning.



"I would recommend that anyone who is coming to the 2024 U.S. Open to book now," said Werz. "Golf will be available if you book early enough but it's the lodging. We are so limited here with 2,300 hotel rooms and many already committed by the USGA, etc. Short-term rentals have doubled in size to around 600. So, the short-term rentals is probably the best route if you are going to book now."

Tickets for the U.S. Open (June 10-16, 2024) at the Donald-Ross-designed iconic layout do not go on sale until later this year but you can volunteer now.

However, arranging for your lodging should be your first priority and Werz's team will have a website full of possibilities once those '24 Open tickets are available.

"At Home of Golf.com, when the tickets go on sale live, we will have a special landing page that will take people to lodging in Moore County but will also take you to Fayetteville, Chatham County, Lee County, Raleigh, and other places," Werz said. "There will be a high demand once those tickets go on sale. That will be in May or June from what the USGA tells me."

Successful planning points to booking airfares and rental cars early as well.

Prices for lodging might also reach a spiking point based on demand,

Werz said.

"That's why it's important to book now," Werz said. "Obviously, the hotels and the short-term rental owners know that is going to be an opportunity for a rate increase. There will be a spike, so the earlier you book the better. But they talk to each other so there will be some consistency."

Rates for properties within walking distance will be the highest and will decrease the farther away you make your choice.

According to Werz, there should be good availability at many of the Sandhills area courses that are challenging and fun.

"Courses like Talamore, Mid South, Pine Needles, Mid Pines, Southern Pines GC, Legacy and even Hyland, Beacon Ridge, Foxfire, and others farther out are some good opportunities to book some golf and play and watch some U.S. Open or watch some competition and then play in the afternoon. I would book your lodging now because there is such a high demand and there is a lot of saturation in the market now a year out."

With nearly 40 courses within a 15-mile radius, the Sandhills offers a convenient selection that has earned great reviews. Here's the link from the CVB.

The golf and stay packages for the Resort on Carolina Vista during its fourth U.S. Open on No. 2 can be found here but remember choices will be somewhat limited.

Food and drink is the next question that begs an answer and the Sandhills, literally, satisfies.

"We have been trying to position this area as one of the best foodie/golf destinations in the country," Werz said, while listing tasty options in the Village, Southern Pines, Aberdeen, and other locations.

In nearby Southern Pines, a section of town is called Red's Corner and features a plethora of food and beverage options.

"Red's Corner is the state's only permanent food truck/beer pavilion," Werz said. "They have 12 beers on tap. You want Italian, you want Asian, you want Greek, you want ice and cookies? They have everything for everybody. It is a cool place, and they have entertainment. It will be hot next June but they have canopies so you can sit in shaded areas."

In addition, the Village of Pinehurst is likely to have special events, but a schedule is not set.

"Once we get four to six months out, we'll have a better idea of what the program will be off the golf course," Werz said.

The almost therapeutic weather in the Sandhills gives it another strong option, according to Werz.



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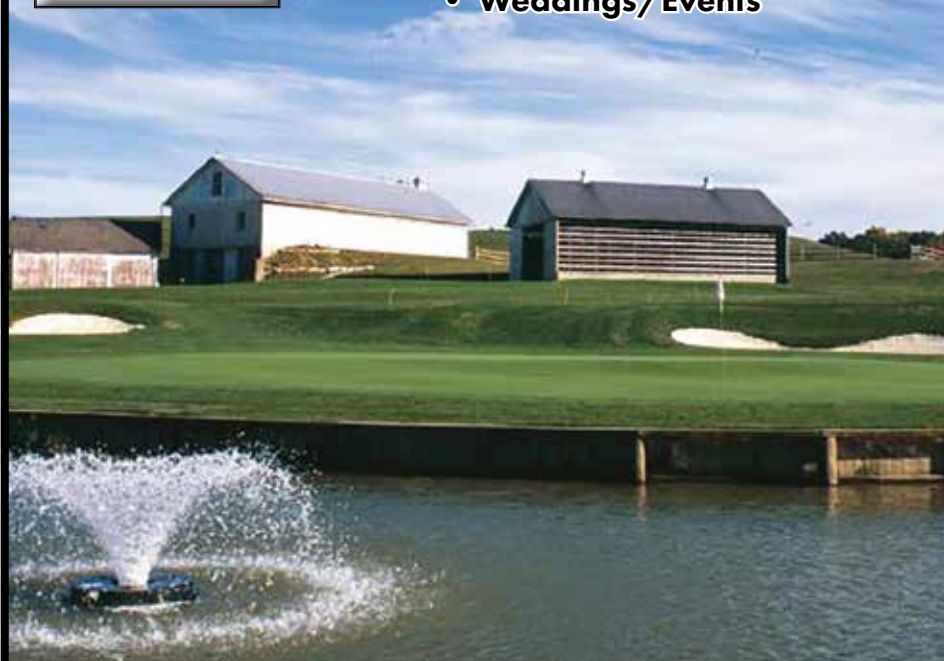
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Cont. from page 15

“This is a great outdoor destination,” he said. “2023 is the Year of the Trail in North Carolina. That will go beyond the calendar year though. We have 36 trails throughout Moore County. We want to boost and amplify getting people getting on our trails. In 2023, we have a program called the Pinecone Pathways Program. We coordinated with Starworks, and we have 100 glass pinecones that we hide on the trails. It’s basically the largest scavenger hunt in North Carolina.”

The parks and arboretums of the area offer natural areas of respite and beauty.

Arts and music can also fill a visitor’s schedule.

Werz also suggests Seagrove, the home of the largest collection of potters in the nation, as a place for touring and shopping and it is only a 45-minute drive from the Sandhills. He also predicts that music will feature prominently in events during the U.S. Open with the Neon Rooster in Aberdeen and the Bell Tree Tavern in Southern Pines as prime possibilities.

With all of those amenities swirling in your head like a swing thought, remember, the primary mission is to get there to enjoy it all. Book it all and then you can choose between Ship Sticks and lugging the bag on the plane.



Red’sCorner with fire pit

HUNTSVILLE’S LUGIANO TOPS AM. QUALIFYING

Huntsville Golf Club’s Robert Lugiano carded a 4-under-par 67 to earn medalist honors in BMW Philadelphia Amateur Qualifying Tuesday at Berwick Golf Club (par 71, 6,493 yards).

Lugiano, 21, of Jackson Township, Pa., led the field earning one of two qualifying positions and ties available for the Championship proper. The cut line stopped at 1-under-par 70.

The 123rd BMW Philadelphia Amateur Championship will take place June 12-14 & 17 at Huntingdon Valley Country Club in Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

BMW Philadelphia Amateur Championship
Originating in 1897, the Amateur Championship is GAP’s premiere individual event. Philadelphia Cricket Club’s Albert H. Smith captured the first Amateur Championship by defeating J.D. Winsor of Merion Cricket Club in 37 holes. The event’s format switched to medal play in 1938. J. Wood Platt went on to win two consecutive Amateurs under that format. His brother William “Zimmer” Platt earned the 1940 title at Philadelphia Cricket Club by being the only competitor to finish all 72 holes. The event’s format reverted back to match play in 1941. The Amateur Championship wasn’t contested from 1943-45 because of World War II. Overall, 34 courses have hosted the Amateur.



Pos.	Player	To Par	Gross
1	Lugiano, Robert Huntsville	-4	67
2	Pabst, William Elmhurst	-1	70
The following players did not make the cut			
CUT	Borrmann, RyanFive Ponds	+4	75 1st Alternate
CUT	Haftmann, Gerald Rolling Green	+5	76
CUT	Wilson, Jonathan Irem	+6	77
CUT	Kelly, Sean Bucknell Golf Club	+8	79
CUT	Verrecchio, Nick Rolling Green	+8	79
CUT	Cicini, Tom Berwick Golf Club	+9	80
CUT	Kelleher, Cade Scranton	+13	84
CUT	Matteo, Connor Valley	+14	85
WD	Walsh, BrianGalloway National	WD	
WD	Kacvinsky, Frank Scranton	WD	

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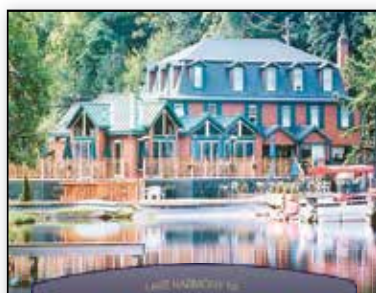
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HUNTSVILLE'S WERNER PLANS 100-HOLE HIKE



An estimated 6.7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's Dementia according to the Alzheimer's Association. Included in that group is Nick Werner's grandfather Robert (Bob) Ashton.

Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that affects memory, thinking and behavior. Symptoms eventually grow severe enough to interfere with daily tasks.

After learning about the disease through his grandfather's diagnosis in 2018, Werner has decided to do his part to support the Alzheimer's Association. On May 30, Werner will participate in a 100-hole hike to raise money for the Alzheimer's Association at Huntsville Golf Club, where he is a member.

"Watching my grandfather's cognitive decline has been one of the hardest things I've had to deal with as a young adult," Werner, a rising junior at Wyoming Seminary, wrote on his Alzheimer's Association donation page. "We've spent so many hours on the golf course together and I cherish those memories. He has been my biggest supporter and strongest inspiration to continue working hard and playing the game I love."

Support from his parents, Joe and Susan Werner, family members and fellow Huntsville members has encouraged Werner to meet his goal of raising \$2,000 for the research, awareness and advocacy of people impacted by Alzheimer's. Currently, his donations sit at \$5,865. Since he has surpassed his original goal by nearly \$3,000, he has identified a new goal of raising \$6,000 for the Alzheimer's Association.

"My family has been very supportive ever since I told them about the idea," Werner, 15, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa. said. "My father in particular has been helpful with setting up the technical stuff [like] getting the golf course reserved. I can't thank the head pro [Matt Occhiato] at Huntsville enough for letting me play."

"Members have come up to me and told me how good of a cause it is," Werner said. "It's been really nice to see all the [members] being so supportive of it."

Werner will begin his first of over five and a half rounds of golf on Tuesday as soon as the sun rises.

"I'm obviously hoping to play well, I'll keep track," Werner said. "After a hundred holes, less than 10-over would be [great]. It's a difficult golf course."

To donate visit "The Longest Day" Alzheimers Association and give under Nick's fundraiser.





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NARDELLA, PEREGRIM CAPTURE JOHN MOORE



Elmhurst Country Club’s Doug Nardella and StoneHedge Golf Course’s Michael Peregrim, Jr. carded a 6-under-par 137 to capture the 39th John Moore Memorial Tournament at Pocono Farms Country Club (par 72, 6,127 yards) and Valley Country Club (par 71, 6,114 yards) May 20-21.

The duo cruised to an eight-stroke victory over a field of nine teams. Nardella and Peregrim did their damage at Pocono Farms, firing a 6-under-par 65 amid rainy conditions. An even-par 71 at Valley kept all chasers at a distance.

“It was a great round (Saturday) on a very difficult golf course and quite difficult conditions. It was foggy the whole day. We couldn’t use our rangefinders almost all day because we couldn’t pick up the locations,” Nardella, 49, of Moscow, Pa., said. “But on that golf course, you just need to have the ball kept in front of you. Mike and I managed to keep the ball in front of us, and we played bogey-free on a golf course where lost balls happened everywhere. It was awesome.”

It marked the duo’s first John Moore victory in years of attempts. Nardella and Peregrim met during a Keystone Games Qualifier some 30 years ago at Irem Country Club. A golf friendship formed that day.

StoneHedge’s Joe Diskin and Bill Pasqualichio, Jr. won the event’s First Flight. The duo carded a 4-under-par 139.

Results

CHAMPIONSHIP DIVISION

Name, club	R1	R2	Total
Doug Nardella/Michael Peregrim, Jr., Elmhurst/StoneHedge	66	71	137
Patrick Mitchell/David Price, Pocono Farms b/Elmhurst	75	70	145
Brandon Jackson/Eamon Evans, Wemberly Hills/Glenmaura National	76	70	146
Mark Bartkowski/Mike Bartkowski, Pocono Farms/Wemberly Hills	75	72	147
John Olszewski/A.J. Olszewski, Wyoming Valley	72	76	148
Jeff Lewis/Bob Shoemaker, Wyoming Valley Country Club	74	74	148
Christopher Lucarelli/Joe Archer, Country Club of Scranton/Pocono Farms	73	80	153
Damien LaRue/Marty Wilbur, StoneHedge Golf Assn./Huntsville Golf Club	83	72	155
Ryan Manley/Sam Toman, Elmhurst Country Club/StoneHedge Golf Assn.	81	76	157

FIRST FLIGHT

Name, club	R1	R2	Total
Bill Pasqualichio, Jr./Joe Diskin, StoneHedge Golf Assn.	70	69	139
Chris Kearney/Gerard Byron, Honesdale Golf Club	71	69	140
Walter Savitts/Anthony Andrejko, Wemberly Hills Golf Club/StoneHedge	70	70	140
Bob Andrejko/Steve Mazur, StoneHedge Golf Assn.	75	68	143
Michael Coleman/Jerome Potis, Country Club of Scranton/Elmhurst	70	73	143
Jeffrey Dorunda/Justin Pasqualichio, StoneHedge Golf Assn.	74	71	145
Jim Sherma/Paul Gruzieski, Hershey Country Club/The Golf Course at Paupack Hills	76	72	148
Ed Clark/Christopher Clancy, Elmhurst Country Club	77	71	148
Mark Ambrose/Jack Sohns, Elmhurst Country Club	79	72	151



In a ranking by The Sun News, golf experts voted two holes, #2 and #13, as part of the "Dream 18," a compilation of the best 18 holes on the beach



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THREE FOURSOMES SHINE DURING WOMEN'S SPRING SCRAMBLE



YARDLEY, Pa. – It was all smiles, swings and sunshine at the Women's Spring Scramble contested at Yardley Country Club (par 73, 5,349 yards) Monday. The event, in its fifth iteration, hosted 21 teams with players hailing from 28 GAP Member Clubs. It featured three flights by handicap and implemented a net scramble format. The Spring Scramble officially kicks off GAP's Women's Schedule.

Taking the first flight crown with a net score of 16-under-par 57 was Northampton Country Club's Katrin Wolfe, Lehigh Country Club's Jackie Beck, USGA/GAP GC's Mary Kate Lynch and Golf Course at Glen Mills' Grace Battista.

"It was a great putting day," Wolfe, 38, of East Stroudsburg, Pa. said.

"We all made putts," Lynch, 38, of Bethlehem, Pa. added.

The team's scorecard featured under-par net scores on every hole but four. Also on the card were both gross and net eagles. After selecting Lynch's drive on No. 13 (par 5, 416 yards), Wolfe blasted a 3-wood 230 yards just short of the green complex. Wolfe, Beck and Lynch attempted to chip it close, but Battista's "Texas wedge" from 15 feet sealed the deal. On the next tee, Battista kept momentum going by hitting the group's choice drive on the par-5, 400-yard 14th. Aided by Lynch's 3-hybrid from 180 yards to the front apron of the green, Battista chipped it close and the team tapped in the birdie look. A net dot forged the birdie into an eagle.

The teams' formation can be likened to putting a jigsaw puzzle together.

Battista and Wolfe met each other while playing in the inaugural GAP Women's Championship last year at Bala Golf Club. Wolfe, the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's Mid-Atlantic field staff representative, and Lynch, Lehigh University's Women's golf coach, are old college friends who reconnected over social media. Battista and Beck are frequent names on GAP Women's event tee sheets. Beck is also a tournament volunteer and member of GAP's Women's Committee.

But the group's early foundations can be pointed towards GAP's Four-Player Team event.

"[The group] started with Jackie and I texting. We had played a couple years in the [Four-Player Team]," said Wolfe, who alongside Beck won the event's Women's Division in both 2021 and 2022. "[GAP's Women's Schedule] came out and we were like 'We need to start recruiting people,' so we recruited [Grace and Mary Kate for today]. We are also going to take them to the Four-Player Team."

Second flight honors went to Wyoming Valley Country Club teammates Natalie Sokoloski, Donna Long, Karen Kempinski and Melissa Define who combined for an 11-under-par 62 with the help of a net eagle on No. 12 (par 4, 282 yards). Spring Ford Country Club's team of Karen Hilliard, Lisa Calle, Lauren Studebaker and Kathy Wolfgang carded an identical score, but the USGA-recommended scorecard tiebreaking method favored the ladies of Wyoming Valley.

In the third flight competition, Cherry Valley Country Club's Heather Shannon, Kristen Sugarman, Amy Vannozzi and Ashley Schmitz collaborated for a 14-under 59. Net eagles on Nos. 12 (par 4, 282 yards) and 14 (par 5, 400 yards) were presented on their card.

Next up on the GAP Women's Schedule is the 2nd GAP Women's Championship (June 1 at Riverton Country Club), followed by the Net Championship (June 5 at Valley Country Club). Also taking place June 5-11 is #GAPWomensWeek, a week-long celebration dedicated to appreciating the Women of GAP!

NOTE:

BMW, sponsor of the GAP Team Matches and Philadelphia Amateur, made a special appearance at the event. Throughout the day, players were invited to sign-up to test drive some of BMW's newest models and receive gifts from BMW staff. A 2023 Marina Bay Blue Metallic BMW X5 M was parked on Yardley's 140 yard, par 3, 9th hole anticipating the possibility of a new owner if any competitor aced their tee shot.



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A century apart in time, two Upstate New Yorkers are forever linked by the weight of their contributions to the game and the PGA.

by Holly Geoghegan

Whaley receives Walter Hagen Award during 2023 PGA Championship

The 2023 PGA Championship, held at Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester NY, is in the history books with Brooks Koepka capturing his third PGA win and 5th major of his career. It came alongside PGA club pro Michael Block nearly stealing the moment with a stunning hole-in-one on the par 3, 15th hole on Sunday, and a magical up and down from the heavy rough on the 18th to achieve a top-15 finish and a qualifying spot to return to the PGA next year.

Since 1956, Oak Hill's famed East Course has hosted six majors including three U.S. Opens and three PGA Championships, along with the Ryder Cup, Senior U.S. Open, Senior PGA Championship and U.S. Amateur. Rochester was also an annual stop for the LPGA Tour including a major championship from 1977-2014.

The city and its residents have a unique love affair with the game both as players and fans that can be traced back to the hometown roots of one of the most colorful, successful and historical figures in professional golf, Walter Hagen.

Hagen, aka "The Haig," was born on December 21, 1892. The Haig grew

up in the game becoming one of golf's most flamboyant and captivating sports figures of the early 20th century. He was considered the world's first full-time tournament professional, a career that began at the age of seven, working as a caddie at the Country Club of Rochester to help pay the family bills. CCR, as it is locally known and is another Donald Ross gem, was located across the street from Hagen's boyhood home. He rose to become to the head golf professional of the club in 1913.

Known for his dashing clothes and showmanship, Hagen won his first professional tournament at the age of 21. His impressive career included 58 professional tour victories, including 11 major championships. He was the first American-born player to win The Open Championship and served as Captain of the U.S. team in the first six Ryder Cups. Hagen was a founding Member of the PGA of America in 1916 and helped to popularize golf by playing hundreds of exhibitions around the world. He was the first golfer to earn a million dollars in his career and helped raised the status of professional golfers as well as their earnings.

In 2019, in honor of the legendary golfer, the Country Club of Roch-



The French Horn Ensemble of the Eastman School of Music and the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and the performing "Tee Time."

ster initiated and presented the first Walter Hagen Ambassador of the Game Award to recognize "individuals who contribute to the growth of the game."

"Mr. Hagen opened the doors of clubs and courses around the world to professional golfers, previously only open to the 'elite,' commented Matt Arrilli, President of the CCR Board of Stewards. "By doing so he crossed the threshold of inclusion for many to enjoy and compete in the game of golf."

This year's Walter Hagen Ambassador of the Game award was presented to LPGA Professional, Suzy Whaley during a formal ceremony at CCR the week of the PGA Championship. Seth Waugh, the CEO of the PGA of America, attended the event along with members of the PGA's executive leadership and a cross section of industry professionals.

A dual member of the PGA of America and LPGA Teaching & Club Professional division, Whaley is truly in a league of her own as one of the most accomplished and distinguished professional golfers and instructors in the game.

Whaley was the first woman ever elected to serve as an Officer of the PGA of America and the first female to serve as President of the PGA of America. She famously qualified and

played in the 2003 Greater Hartford Open becoming the first woman since Babe Zaharias in 1945 to qualify for a PGA Tour event. Shortly before, Whaley became the first PGA of America female professional to win the Connecticut PGA Championship. Her numerous state victories and milestones resulted in Whaley being inducted into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame.

Her tournament resume is long and notable including her recent participation in the 2022 PGA Cup, the PGA Club Professional Championship, the USGA Senior Women's Open, and the LPGA Senior Women's Championship.

"To receive an honor named after Walter Hagen is extremely gratifying and humbling because few people had a greater impact on the game than he did," Whaley said. "He had few peers as a player. His 11 major titles trail only Jack Nicklaus (18) and Tiger Woods (15). And people forget that he captained the first six U.S. Ryder Cup teams."

The 56-year-old Whaley has been a trailblazer in her own right with her numerous accomplishments, awards, and break-the-glass-ceiling moments for women's golf along with her leadership roles with the PGA and LPGA in growing the game. She handles it all with a unique grace and ease and a welcoming and approachable style that is immediately apparent from her warm and radiant smile.

Second to none is Whaley's love, dedication and commitment to teaching the game. Whaley has conducted



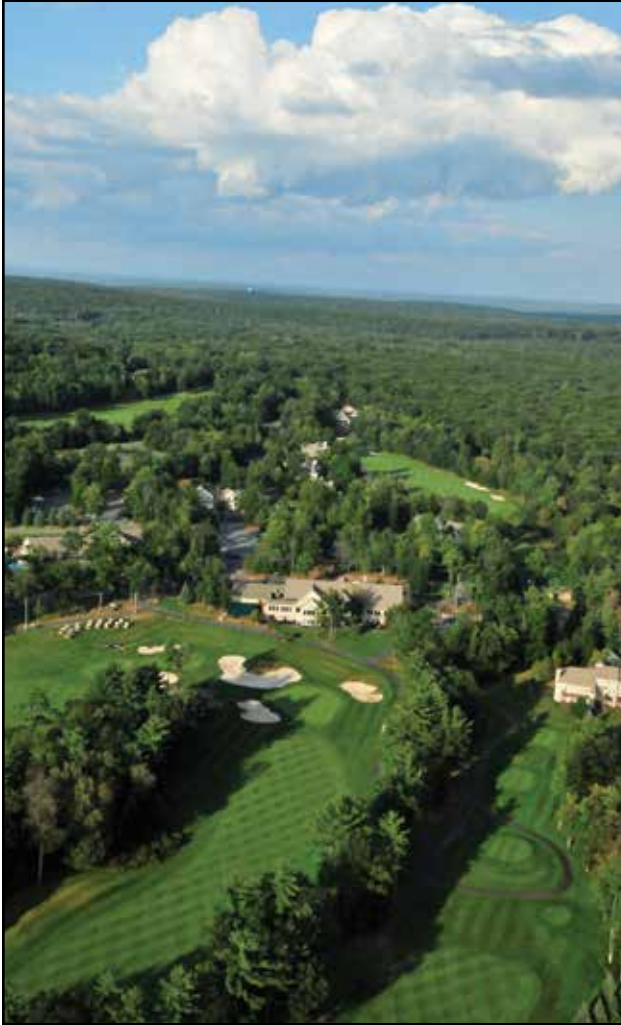
Whaley hosting junior clinic Tuesday afternoon of PGA Championship week.

reg Smith, Matt Parrilli, and Mark Gianniny of CCR with izey Whaley beside Hagen statue.

undreds of youth clinics and coached various
ams that have won national and international
urnaments. She has instructed more than 300
ildren who have gone on to play collegiate golf
nd has been recognized as one of GOLF Maga-
ne’s “Top 100 Teachers in America,” Golf Di-
est’s “50 Best Teachers in America” and an LPGA
Top 50 Best Teachers.”
Whaley has worked as a head golf professional,
egan her own instruction and coaching business,
currently a golf commentator for ESPN and is
resident of Golf Nation, a new golf lifestyle, on
emand entertainment channel. Perhaps her
roudest achievement is being a mom who raised
family along the way.
A native of Syracuse, NY, Whaley is a 1989 grad-
ate of the University of North Carolina with a
achelor’s degree in economics. Whaley and her husband, Bill, are both
GA Members. Bill is the National Director of Golf for the PGA Tour Prop-
ties Division. They have two daughters, Jennifer and Kelly.
“When I reflect, golf has given me far more than I ever could give it
ack,” she said. “I met my husband Bill through the game. My daughters
lay the game. My mom was my first teacher and caddie. It’s been a part
f so many facets of my personal and professional life. To receive an award



named after somebody who made golf what it is today and to receive it in
a place (Rochester) that means so much to me is truly exciting.”
The Hagen Award ceremony kicked off with a lively fanfare and an
original composition titled “TEE TIME” written and performed by Erin
Futterer and the French Horn Ensemble of the renowned Eastman School
of Music and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. The celebration ended
with an spirited tribute song for Whaley entitled “Blow Your Horn.”



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Philadelphia PGA Section

SCOREBOARD



PGA MEMBER BRIAN BERGSTOL WINS 25TH HAVERFORD PHILADELPHIA PGA CLASSIC AND \$150,000 PRIZE IN SUDDEN DEATH PLAYOFF



Plymouth Meeting, Pa. (May 30, 2023) — Reigning Philadelphia PGA Professional Champion Brian Bergstol of Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort in Shawnee on the Delaware, Pennsylvania, won the 25th Haverford Philadelphia PGA Classic at Sunnybrook Golf Club by tapping in a one-foot par on the first sudden death playoff hole to top Jeff Herb, PGA, of Waynesborough Country Club in Paoli, Pennsylvania. Bergstol's \$150,000 winner's check is the largest first-place prize available from any event across the PGA of America's 41 nationwide Sections.

Bergstol made four birdies and three bogies en route to a 1-under-par 71 to tie Herb, who finished his round earlier in the afternoon. Bergstol said the course played "super hard," and went on to remark it was one of the hardest tournament course setups he has played.

Bergstol went on to thank the event's title partner, The Haverford Trust Company, their founder and director George Connell, Sunnybrook Golf Club and its membership, and staff, for their dedication to the Philadelphia PGA Section and its nearly 900 PGA Professionals.

PGA Associate Zach Barbin Wins 2023 Delaware Valley Open Championship
"I look forward to this event every year," said Bergstol.

Bergstol has won two of the Section's biggest tournaments over the course of the nine months, having claimed the 101st Philadelphia PGA Professional Championship at DuPont C.C. in September, and now the 25th Haverford Philadelphia PGA Classic.

In the Senior Division, PGA Member Dave McNabb, Applebrook G.C., took top honors with his 1-over-par round of 73. Green Valley C.C.'s John Cooper, PGA, and PGA Life Member George Forster finished in second place, one stroke behind McNabb. Three PGA Members rounded out the top five at 3-over-par: Barry Dear, Blue Heron Pines G.C.; Dave Quinn, Laurel Creek C.C.; and John Pillar, C.C. at Woodloch Springs.

Steve Wetherill Jr. finished with Low Amateur honors after turning in a 1-over-par 73 to top Frank Natale by five strokes.

PGA Associate Zach Barbin Wins 2023 Delaware Valley Open Championship

West Chester, Pa. (May 22, 2023) — PGA Associate Zach Barbin of Chesapeake Bay Golf Club in Rising Sun, Md., turned in a 4-under-par 68 to win the 2023 Delaware Valley Open Championship at Radley Run Country Club by one stroke over PGA Members Steve Sanderson, Saucon Valley C.C., Zac Oakley, Bidermann G.C.; and Alex Knoll, Glen Brook G.C.

Barbin made six birdies en route to his victory, and only had one blemish on his scorecard (a double bogey on No. 10). The lead was at 3-under-par for most of the day, but Barbin made back-to-back birdies on Nos. 15 and 16 to tie, and ultimately take the lead.

The event is a Philadelphia PGA Rolex / The Haverford Trust Company Player of the Year tournament and the second Silvercrest Cup qualifier of the year. Returning for the second year, the Silvercrest Cup series will include four qualifying events for Philadelphia PGA Professionals, and will culminate in a \$30,000 Silvercrest Cup final, hosted at Applebrook Golf Club in Malvern, Pa. For more information on the season-long race to the Silvercrest Cup, click [here](#). In addition to receiving the winner's share of the purse, Barbin also took home an additional \$2,500 from the Silvercrest Cup qualifier bonus pool.

Three PGA Professionals tied four fourth place, two strokes behind the winner:

Gregg Meyer, Woodstone C.C.; Joanna Coe, Merion G.C.; and Bryan Saxon, Lehigh C.C.

Laurel Creek C.C.'s Dave Quinn fired a 1-under-par 71 to claim a one-stroke victory in the Senior Division over John Spina, Philadelphia Cricket Club. Four PGA Professionals tied for third place at 2-over-par: Hugo Mazzalupi, Linfield National G.C.; PGA Life Member Brian Kelly; Rob Rohrbach, Foxchase G.C.; and Terry Hatch, Royal Oaks G.C.

Kelly, who recently retired from Bucknell G.C., took top honors in the Super Senior Division, bettering six of his fellow PGA Professionals by one stroke: Bill Sautter, Philadelphia Cricket Club; Mike Moses, Concord C.C.; Bob Lennon, Wilmington C.C.; George Forster, Radnor Valley C.C.; Greg Farrow, Deerwood C.C.; and Dave Roberts, Cedarbrook C.C.

The Philadelphia Assistants' Organization (PAO) held an event concurrently with the Delaware Valley Open, with Barbin also walking away with a winner's check in that event. Oakley and Knoll finished in second place, followed by Saxon in fourth, and Rusty Harbold, Philadelphia Cricket Club, in fifth place at 1-under-par.

Two amateurs competed in the field this year, with Nathan Myers, Moselem Springs G.C., taking Low Amateur honors with a 12-over-par 84.

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2023 PPGS Event Calendar

Updated May 25

U	Event	Host Course	Course Contact	Host Professional
Tuesday, April 18	Spring Pro-Pro	Glen Brook Golf Club	570-421-3680	Dustin McCormick
Wednesday, May 3	Pro-Am	Woodstone Country Club & Lodge	610-760-2777	Gregg Meyer
Wednesday, May 10	Pro-Am	Buck Hill Falls Golf Club	570-595-7730	Brian Fruehan
Tuesday, May 16	Pro-Am	Southmoore	610-837-7200	Jim Muschlitz
Wednesday, June 7	Pro-Am	Olde Homestead Golf Club	610-298-4653	Kevin Edwards
Monday, June 12	Pro-Am	Irem Country Club	570-675-1134	Chris Mathews
Tuesday, June 27	Pro-Am	Glen Brook Golf Club	570-421-3680	Dustin McCormick
Thursday, July 6	Pro-Am	Wyoming Valley Country Club	570-825-9489	Pete Korba
Wednesday, July 12	Pro-Am	The Country Club of Woodloch Springs	570-685-8102	John Pillar
Wednesday, July 26	Pro-Am	Elmhurst Golf & Country Club	570-842-7011	John Roche
Wednesday, August 2	Pro-Am	The Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort	570-424-4019	Nick Lussier
Tuesday, August 8	Pro-Am	Pinecrest Lake Golf & Country Club	570-646-4444	Brian Boyle
Thursday, August 17	Pro-Am	Pocono Manor	570-839-1389	Greg Wall
Thursday, August 24	Pro-Am	Skytop Lodge	570-595-8910	Justin Alunni
Wednesday, August 30	Pro-Am	Green Pond Country Club	610-691-9453	John Kulhamer
Wednesday, September 6	Pro-Am	Pocono Farms Country Club	570-894-8441	Kyle Monahan
Tuesday, September 19	Pro-Am	Scranton Canoe Club	570-378-9982	Spencer Lunger
Monday, September 25	Pro-Am	Country Club of Scranton	570-586-2311	TBD
Tuesday, October 3	Pro-Am	Elkview Country Club	570-222-4555	Jared Cottell

Season-ending events will be announced at a later date. For more information and updates, visit the PPGS web site (www.golfppgs.com) or view the PPGS Facebook page (@golfPPGS).

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Sarasota Golf

Florida's best kept golfing secret offers something for everyone!



When John Hamilton Gillespie, the man known as “The Father of Sarasota” arrived from Scotland in 1885 as a land developer, he brought along his golf clubs and by 1886 he had laid out two new golf holes that eventually turned into 18. The original course was situated on the spot that is currently near Sarasota’s downtown Main Street. Whether it was the first golf course in the United States or not is an ongoing debate, but it set the tone for the love of the game and the explosive growth of golf in the Sarasota area.

Fast forward to present day, Sarasota is a sophisticated cultured city that has been named by US News and World Report the #1 best place to live in Florida in 2023-24, as well as the #5 best places in the U.S.

It’s no wonder, with great weather and over 50 area courses stretching across the county from the beautiful gulf beaches to beyond the interstate to the east, and from the northern most point of the award winning master planned community of Lakewood Ranch, then south through the cities of Sarasota, Osprey, Laurel, Venice Englewood to North Port. The region has something for golfers of all levels. You can choose from family and senior-friendly executive courses to championship tracts, and public and semi-private play is available as well as a luxurious resort where golfers can be pampered from head to toe.

STAY AND PLAY RESORTS

The Ritz Carlton Members Club, Sarasota

Looking for the most luxurious experience on the Gulf Coast? At The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota, guests can choose to be pampered in one of the spacious guest rooms and suites with private balconies overlooking Sarasota Bay in downtown Sarasota. Your stay also includes the use of The Ritz-Carlton Beach Club on Lido Key, The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Sarasota, and The Ritz-Carlton Members Club featuring an 18-hole, Tom Fazio-designed championship course. Beautifully landscaped, and set over 300 acres that roll around 12 lakes and the Braden River, the par 72 layout with six sets

of tees provides a fair and memorable test of golf. A Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary designated course, wildlife abounds. Tee times are available to members and guests of the hotel only. For reservations:

RitzCarlton.com • 941-309-2000

Resort at Longboat Key

If the crystal sandy beaches and world class tennis facility at this luxury AAA four-diamond beachfront resort wasn’t enough to attract your attention, The Resort at Longboat Key Club’s 45-holes of championship golf along one of Florida’s most pristine islands certainly will. Hotel guests or club members can enjoy the tree-lined Harbourside Course that runs along Sarasota Bay, or the Links of Longboat Course that borders the shimmering turquoise waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The club has earned Golf Digest’s prestigious “Best Places to Play” award, and the Ron Garl-designed course continues to serve as premier golf and beach getaway. Golf is only available to guests of the resort and tee times can be made only one day in advance of play. For reservations: **941-383-8821**

SEMI-PRIVATE COURSES YOU CAN PLAY

The Meadows Country Club

The Meadows is home to 54 holes of golf. Centrally located and just minutes from the airport it’s a great first stop on your tour of Sarasota golf, or perfect for an emergency 9 before takeoff. With two unique golf experiences open to the public, The Groves and The Highlands are great showpieces for Sarasota golf. The Groves course is an Arthur Hills design that rewards shot placement and accuracy. At Par-65, don’t let the yardage fool you, as most players play to their handicap here. The 18-hole Highlands Course challenges the most serious golfer, with large greens and wide fairways lined with massive Old-Florida oaks. The Members Course at the Meadows is open to members only, but you won’t be disappointed by making a tee time to play either the Groves or The Highlands.

MeadowsCC.org • 941-371-6000

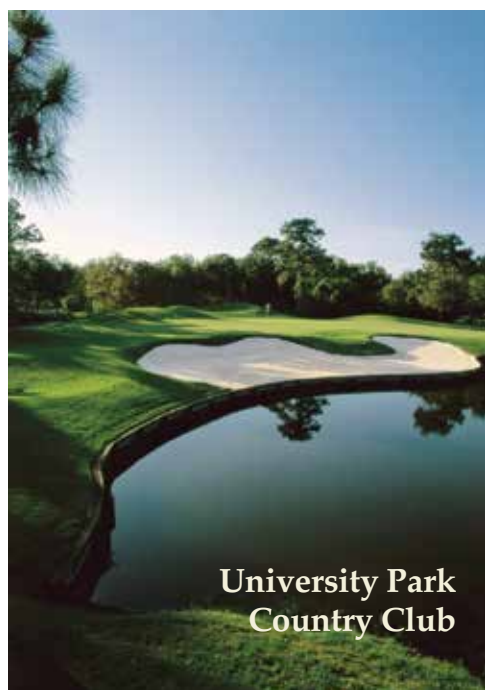


The Meadows Country Club

Tatum Ridge Golf Links

Tatum Ridge is a true Scottish-style links course complemented by wide preserves, wetlands, and 11 lakes. The natural setting offers plenty of opportunities to spot wildlife. The 13th hole, considered the signature hole, is a 504-yard, par-5 dogleg right, over water. This course has been rated 4 stars by Golf Digest and is a favorite of senior golfers for its playability and affordable price. A large practice facility is available to hone your game. Located 2 miles east of I-75 off Fruitville Road.

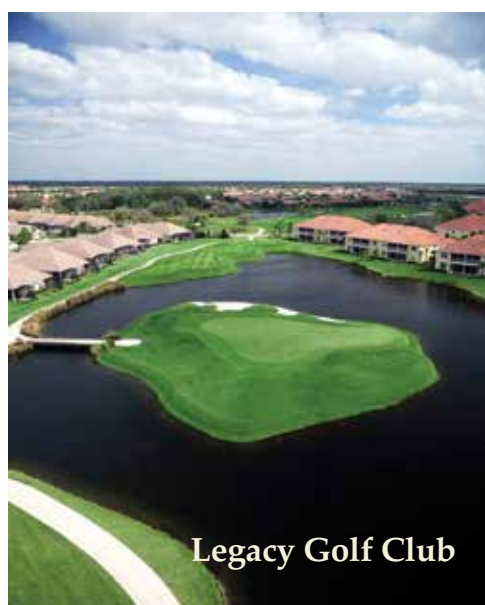
TatumRidgeGolfLinks.com • 941-378-4211

University Park
Country Club

University Park Country Club

Trust the reviews. Voted the Best Place to Play Golf by Sarasota Magazine readers since 1993, and rated four stars by Golf Digest since 1996, University Park is a premier semi-private club just north of downtown Sarasota and is considered a “must play” on any visit to Florida’s cultural coast. This Ron Garl-designed 27-hole championship course is always in stellar shape, and with six sets of tees it’s perfect for golfers of all abilities. The club welcomes daily fee players with three-day advance tee times. Come for the golf but also stay for an excellent lunch in the dining room with first-class service.

UniversityPark-FL.com
941-359-9999



Legacy Golf Club

Legacy Golf Club

An award-winning Arnold Palmer Signature Design, Legacy features multiple elevated tees, natural wetlands, and every hole is framed by either sand or water –or both! The dramatic layout is a treat to the eyes, and although it’s a challenge, it’s never too much to score well and enjoy the round. Legacy Golf Club has been voted among the “Best Places to Play” by Golf Digest.

The daily-fee course offers a large practice area to work on your game. Plan to stay for lunch at The Ranch Grille featuring great pub food and delicious brick oven pizza. Just east of I-75 off University Parkway.

LegacyGolfClub.com • 941-907-7920



Tatum Ridge Golf Links

Bent Tree Country Club

Hall of Famer Nancy Lopez won her very first LPGA Tour event at Bent Tree in 1978. Although set up for Tour play from the tips, it’s a very fair course for amateurs of all abilities. This semi-private club offers well-manicured tree-lined fairways of towering oaks, and acres of lakes and streams to create a tranquil setting for championship golf. Tif-eagle greens are smooth and roll true.

BentTreeCC.net • 941-371-8200

Serenoa Golf Club

Serenoa Golf Club is not a typical Florida course. Boasting large manicured greens and generous landing areas that flow through marshes and lakes, water comes into play on all 18 holes. Over 50 sand bunkers are situated greenside or along the fairways. The terrain is gently rolling, with some raised tees and greens. Although not a long course, some of the water carries make it a shot-maker’s course. With so many natural areas and ponds, it’s a great place for spotting waterfowl and wildlife.

SerenoaGC.com • 941-925-2755

Misty Creek Country Club

Misty Creek’s par-72 championship course is set on a 350-acre nature preserve. It is a Ted McAnlis design winding through towering moss draped ancient oaks and pine trees. The course is well conditioned from

Misty Creek Country Club



tee to green on this par 72, 6,895 yard layout. Five sets of tees allow you to choose your pain level. This is a great course to spy an alligator- or more, and bald eagles, deer, wild turkey can be spotted around the preserve.

MistyCreek.net • 941-922-2188

GOLF IN VENICE

South of Sarasota lies the beautiful city of Venice. Known as the “Shark Tooth Capital of the World” for its miles of beaches with many shelling opportunities, it’s also a place where you’ll find a wide range of first class golf courses. Golf in Venice is a brand that is home to three of those semi-private courses that include: Capri Isles Golf Club, Calusa Lakes Golf Club, and Waterford Golf Club.

Calusa Lakes’ rolling fairways are just a short drive from Siesta Key. The beautiful wooded course takes you on an impressive journey through the lush Florida landscape. The 18-hole, par 72, championship golf course offers 5 sets of tees to accommodate the various skills of both members and guests. Even with its many lakes, this course is player friendly.

GolflnVenice.com • 941-484-8995

Capri Isles Golf Club is known for affordable golf and great conditions. Strategic water features, and fairway and greenside bunkers enhance the experience. With tees stretching from 6523 to 4585, the 18-hole, par 72, championship golf course is a great place for golfers of all levels.

GolflnVenice.com • 941-485-3371

Waterford Golf Club is conveniently situated just off I-75 (Exit 195 from the north or 193 from the south). Three distinct 9’s can be combined to enjoy the experience of three, 18-hole championship courses. The Turnberry 9, Gleneagles, or Sawgrass sprawl through an abundant natural landscape with no adjacent fairways, it’s an easy escape into imagining you are the only player on the course. **GolflnVenice.com • 941-484-6621**



Waterford Golf Club

Lake Venice Golf Club

Lake Venice Golf Club is a semi-private 27-hole golf club situated on the Isle of Venice, adjacent to the Gulf of Mexico and just minutes from downtown. Two outstanding traits of this venue are that no tee times are necessary or accepted, so golfers drop in whenever they have the urge to play; and there are no houses bordering the course. It’s just pure golf and nature. Golfers can walk or ride any time. This local favorite features a full practice area with a driving range, multiple putting and chipping greens. In addition, there’s a casual bar and restaurant overlooking the 18th hole providing a great spot to relax and watch golfers finish their rounds.

LakeVeniceGolf.com • 941-488-3948

Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club

Just to the south of downtown Venice lies Pelican Pointe Golf & Country Club. The scenic 1,000 acre property is home to various natural preserves, wetlands, endless wildlife, and 27 holes of golf that winds through acres of breathtaking nature preserves and lakes. The Preserve, the Meadows, and the Hatchet Creek are the 3-9's with no parallel fairways; you'll seldom see other golfers. A Ted McAnlis design, the course may play as long as 7,182 yards or as short as 5,326 yards – depending on which tees and which nine hole layouts are paired to make the 18 that you may play that day. Pelican Pointe is rated as one of the finest facilities in the area and has been awarded the "Reader's Choice" award by residents in Sarasota County every year since 2001. **PelicanPointeClub.com • 941-496-4653**

Heron Creek Golf & Country Club

At the southern end of Sarasota County in North Port we find another 27-hole layout filled with variety and challenges. Brilliantly designed by noted golf course architect Arthur Hills and meticulously maintained, this championship course is challenging, but not intimidating. Parts of the course include elevation changes unique to Southwest Florida. The Oaks 9 has ample trees to contend with, while the Marsh plays through ponds and wetlands and the Creek Nine has you play around the water of the Myakkahatchee Creek to reach home. Get there early to experience the best practice facility in the area. **HeronCreekGCC.com • 941-423-6955**

Boca Royale Golf & Country Club

A semi-private club just four miles from the gulf coast beaches of Manasota Key, Boca Royale Golf & Country Club is a lush gem tucked away in Englewood. A park like setting, the course rambles over 150 acres of lakes, tropical nature preserves and woodlands. The recently renovated facility offers 18 holes with Champion Ultradwarf greens, five tee box locations and excellent putting surfaces. Five tee box locations make this course a special place for all members of your family.

BocaRoyale.com • 941-475-6464

SARASOTA'S PUBLIC COURSE

Bobby Jones Golf Club

Expected to reopen this fall after a complete remodel, you should not leave the Sarasota city area without visiting the historical Bobby Jones Golf Club. Opened in 1927 and dedicated by Bobby Jones, the city-owned public course was designed by the famous Scottish architect, Donald Ross. The city is renovating the 18-hole Donald Ross Golf Course, and creating an additional 9-hole short course. A new clubhouse and restaurant is part of the package. Over half the site will be returned to a 100+ acre nature park, immediately adjacent to the municipal golf course. Follow the progress at:

BobbyJonesGolfClub.com • 941-365-4653



Heron Creek Golf & Country Club



Boca Royale Golf & Country Club



Bobby Jones Golf Club

SHORT STROKES - PAR 3'S AND EXECUTIVE COURSES

The Groves Course at The Meadows was mentioned as a great challenge on an executive layout above, but here are some other fun places to chase your hole in one.

Village Green Golf Club

Conveniently located near downtown Sarasota and the beaches, it's a fun place to play or just to tune up your short game. Two sets of tees ranging from 2810 to 2525 yards make this 18-hole, par 58 fun and enjoyable. It's a very walk-able course, and walking is allowed any time. Village Green is family-owned and operated with three PGA Professionals on staff. The spacious restaurant offers a full bar and lunch daily.

VillageGreenGolfClub.com • 941-922-9500

Venice East Golf Club

Golf should be fun! That's the philosophy of Venice East GC. If you are looking to have a relaxing day and get a little exercise, this is the place for you. At 2791 yards, this par 58 executive course makes it easy to get in 18 holes in less than 3 hours. Walking is allowed anytime, and a separate driving range and practice area is available, all located south of downtown Venice on US 41. **VeniceEastGC.com • 941-493-0005**

The Palms of Forest Lakes

This Par 64 course offers four sets of tees measuring from 4545 in the back to the 2731 yard junior tees. It starts out strong with a mix of par 3's and 4's and a single par 5 on the front for a par of 35 and then lets the golfer have fun with 7 par 3s and 2 par 4's on the back nine for a total of 29. The course winds through a mature neighborhood located just east of downtown Sarasota. A large practice facility offers two Putting Greens, Chipping Area and Aquatic Driving Range that will help hone your golf skills. **PalmsatForestLakes.com • 941-388-7241**

Peridia Golf & Country Club

This course is technically in Manatee County to the north, but it's worth mentioning since it's an easy drive from downtown Sarasota. It's prob-

SARASOTA ON THE PGA TOUR:

Fans can see the PGA hopefuls each year at the LECOM Suncoast Classic each spring at Lakewood National Golf Club in Lakewood Ranch. The tournament is an early stop on the Korn Ferry Tour and features 144 players looking not only for the coveted PGA tour card but also a piece of the purse worth more than a half a million dollars.

***New in 2023,** the exclusive Concession Golf Club will host the World Champions Cup, a Champions Tour version of the Ryder Cup Dec. 7-10.*

ably one of the best-maintained executive courses in the area. It's fun, walk-able, and offers a bit of a challenge. Stick around for lunch or dinner, because they are known for great food in the Terrace on the Green restaurant. There is also a lively gathering around the pool deck adjacent to the clubhouse with entertainment and food and drinks on weekends. Peridia is also known for their popular Sunday brunch.

PeridiaGCC.net • 941-758-2582

PopStroke Putting Course

Tiger Woods and his TGR Design team created two 18-hole putting courses, with synthetic turf, incorporating fairways, bunkers, and rough just as you would see on a traditional golf course. You can bring your own putter or they have a variety of putters to loan. Featuring a full service restaurant and a rooftop bar. It's fun for the whole family, no matter their level of expertise. No tee times needed.

PopStroke.com/Sarasota • 941-500-9495

GETTING THERE

Located on the Gulf Coast of Florida between Tampa and Naples, the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport was named one of the best for on-time flights, and with a major north-south highway, I-75, Sarasota is well situated to welcome golfers all year round.





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