

FALL / WINTER 2021 | VOL 11 NO 4

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# SNE GOLFER

## ENTREPRENEURS

*From* **FARMS**  
*to* **FAIRWAYS**



# [CONTENTS]

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PAGE



RISING STAR

PAGE



RYDER CUP

PAGE



WORLD AMATEUR

08 INSTRUCTION

19 SUZY WALEY

43 WESTERN MASS GOLF

14 RI PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

39 CENTRAL MASS. GOLF

44 LOOKING BACK

17 NEW INDOOR GOLF FACILITY

42 TRAVEL GOLF

48 MAP & LISTINGS

## TRIVIA

### RYDER CUP

- |    |   |    |   |
|----|---|----|---|
| 1. | When was the first Ryder Cup held?          | 9. | 1927  |
| 2. | Where was it held?                          | 8. | Worcester (Mass.) Country Club                    |
| 3. | Where was the 1999 Ryder Cup held?          | 7. | The Country Club in Brookline, Mass.              |
| 4. | What happened to the 2001 Ryder Cup?        | 6. | Cancelled due to 9/11 attacks                     |
| 5. | Who is the Cup named after?                 | 5. | Samuel Ryder                                      |
| 6. | What is the current winning streak?         | 4. | (1) Europeans won the last match in 2018 in Paris |
| 7. | Where was the 1991 Ryder Cup held?          | 3. | Kiawah Island                                     |
| 8. | Who missed a putt on the last hole to lose? | 2. | Bernhard Langer                                   |
| 9. | Where will the Ryder Cup be held in 2023?   | 1. | Marco Simone CC, Rome Italy                       |

# [ EDITORIAL ]

Welcome to our fourth and last issue of 2021. What a great year for golf! It seems like every course owner that I talked to has said that this has been the best year ever for their business. About time. Golf has certainly had its ups and downs over the years, and it's great to not see red ink on the bottom line of the balance sheets.

Being a former business teacher in high school and college and taught entrepreneurship to hundreds, no thousands of students. It certainly made for an easy cover headline in this issue. We are so fortunate to have so many entrepreneurs who decided to go into the golf course industry. It was a pleasure to talk to many of the owners and read the stories from our great staff about how and why they decided to make golf their choice of careers.

I was lucky to talk to the Lombardi family who will soon have the fifth generation working at Midville Golf Club in West Warwick that was formerly a dairy farm. Glenn Bourque at Chemawa in No. Attleboro and Therese Barry at Bungay Brook in Bellingham, Mass. had many insightful views on running a golf course as told to Mike Kirby. Joe Moniz, who saved a private club (Crestwood in Rehoboth, Mass.) from closing, and then purchasing a public course right next door, (Hazelton), and improving it tremendously is the perfect picture of an entrepreneur. His thoughts in the article show a great deal of wisdom.

Scott Cordischi has a nice story about Fenner Hill G.C. in Hope Valley, RI that was built by two contractors. Bill Doyle covered three courses in the Worcester area with great quotes and insights. John Torsiello did the same in Connecticut. Speaking of Connecticut, Bruce Berlet sent me 20,000 words about many golf topics. We have shorted it so that you will get to bed on time. Suzy Whaley's story is a must read.

Our teaching professional, Todd Campbell, will soon be moving to Cranston Country Club where he will have his own teaching facility. We found a couple of young entrepreneurs who are opening their own indoor golfing facility in East Greenwich, R.I. called Shanks. You need to check it out if you are in the area.

The 2022 Season Passport golf coupon book is being completed as you read this. It offers loads of golfing discounts and is bigger and better than ever. It will be on sale about the beginning of December and makes a great stocking stuffer for the golfers on your list.

Thank you so much for the advertisers who keep this publication alive. Please support them and tell them you saw their ads in our publication. We will be returning for our 32nd year towards the end of next April. Please enjoy the publication and forward it to as many golfing friends as you can. Keep your head down and swing easy. Hope that we have a warm fall and a quick return to a beautiful spring.

**BRUCE VITTNER**

Member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and can be reached at [bruce@snegolfer.com](mailto:bruce@snegolfer.com).

## **Editor/Publisher**

BRUCE VITTNER  
[bruce@snegolfer.com](mailto:bruce@snegolfer.com)

## **Sales Manager**

JIM GRAY

## **Account Executives**

DAVE HONEYWELL  
JACOB RESENDES

## **Graphic Design**

STEPHANIE MARTINEAU  
[stephanie@smlstudio.art](mailto:stephanie@smlstudio.art)

## **Web Design**

[blackdoorcreative.com](http://blackdoorcreative.com)

## **Contributing Writers**

BRUCE BERLET  
TODD CAMPBELL  
JOE CALABRO  
SCOTT CORDISCHI  
BILL DOYLE  
KATHARINE DYSON  
JAY GEARAN  
TIM GEARY  
MIKE KIRBY  
CHRIS MIRACLE  
JOHN TORSIELLO

## **For Advertising Information**

### **Call:**

401-464-8445

### **E-Mail:**

[bruce@snegolfer.com](mailto:bruce@snegolfer.com)

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# Four Generations at Midville Golf Club

Midville Golf Club in West Warwick, R.I. has always been one of our favorite clubs to play. The conditions are always great, and the management has always been very nice. The story of the creation of Midville is very interesting.

In the very early 1900's Vincenzo and Felicia Lombardi started a dairy farm at the site that is now Midville. They had 13 children, of which nine were boys. They all helped out on the farm. In the 1950's the family agreed that dairy farming was changing to where milk from the dairies was being sold to wholesale companies, who then sold it to stores. Profits dwindled.

Three of the boys, Louis, Carmine and Anthony Lombardi, talked the family into selling the 40 cows and turning the dairy farm into a golf course. Arnold Palmer was making the game of golf popular to the masses and one of the brothers, Carmine, had been playing golf since the 1930's and was a member of the old Meshanicut Green course in Cranston, and



John, his son, John and Richard Lombardi

Story Continues On Page 6

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he spearheaded the change.

The work began in 1960 and the course opened in 1962. Carmine had been taking classes in agronomy and turf management and understood golf the most. He was the one who did most of the designing and building with the help of his two brothers. Richard, Carmine's son, started working on the course at a young age. "My dad got a lot of advice from Joe Ray who had been superintendent at West Warwick C.C., Valley C.C. and Quidnessett C.C. He also got a lot of help from Lou Colardo who was a superintendent," said Richard. "My dad also helped Jeff Hopkins build Washington G.C. in Coventry," he added.

Louis worked in the clubhouse. His son, Ronald now runs the clubhouse and Richard is the person in charge of maintaining the pristine course. Louis's other son, the late Louis Lombardi Jr., first became a teacher, but was drawn back to the golf industry and was the superintendent at Ledgemont C.C. in Seekonk and Cranston C.C. He died in 2012.

The three brothers then bought the Cornell farm in Cranston and Richard, just back from Viet Nam, built the first nine with his father, Carmine, and with the help of the other brothers after it was designed

by Geoffrey Cornish. The second nine was built in 1976. Anthony became the owner of Cranston C.C. and his son, Michael is now the owner.

Richard is very involved with the Rhode Island Superintendent's Assn. He has served as the President, Vice President, and Secretary and currently is in charge of the Scholarship and Research section of the organization.

Richard's son, John has been working at Midville since he was in his teens, and is now a superintendent at the course. John's son, also named John just turned 9 and has been doing many little cleanup jobs around the course as he rides around with his grandpa (Richard) looking after the course. Young John now makes four generations of Lombardis involved with Midville G.C. We think that Vincenzo and Felicia would be very proud of what their dairy has become and how pristine their property looks.

---On a side note, an older brother of Louis, Carmine and Tony---Sam had started a farm in Easton, Mass. When he saw the success of Midville, he built Easton C.C. in Easton, Mass. The brothers all went to help with that project. Sam's grandson, Mark, is currently running Easton, and it is a fine course. ■



**Age:** 24  
**Birthplace:** Scarsborough, NY  
**Family:** Wife, Kelsey  
**College:** Wake Forest 2020

## Cameron Young

Cameron Young had graduated from Wake Forest University and wanted to become a professional golfer. His dad, David, is the head professional at the famed Sleepy Hollow C.C. in Scarborough, N.Y.

He had no status on any tours in 2020 and played mini-tour events. He kept trying to Monday Qualify for Korn Ferry events without success. He planned to go to their 2021 Tour Qualifying School, but decided to try one more Monday qualifier in Omaha, Nebraska.

He qualified and went on to finish tied for 11 that gave him a start the following week. He proceeded to finished in the top 15 the next four weeks that gave him full-status on the Korn Ferry Tour for 2021.

In 2021 he started the year slowly, but in May he won the Advent Health Championship and the Evans Scholar Invitational presented by First Midwest Bank in back-to-back starts. He finished the year 17th on the Korn Ferry Tour Points Standing to get his PGA TOUR card for 2022.

Young has not earned any money on the PGA Tour yet, but his great year in the minors on the Korn Ferry tour has given him the opportunity that he has always wanted. He will be an interesting person to watch in 2022.

RISING STAR



# Rhode Island Golf Course Superintendents Association holds the 38th Annual Scholarship & Research Tournament

The Scholarship and Research Committee sponsored another successful event with the 38th Annual Scholarship & Research Tournament held at Potowomut Golf Club on September 21. The purpose of this event was to raise money to help benefit deserving students through scholarships and help to continue research efforts at the University of Rhode Island.

In 2020 the event was not held due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but from funds raised from past tournaments they were still able to give out \$22,000 in scholarships. Organizing this event requires dedication and hard work of the committee members and staff early in the year to achieve rewarding results.

Recognition goes out to the entire Scholarship & Research Committee which includes William J. Coulter, CGCS, Andrew Cummins, Vincent Iacono, John Lombardi, Richard Lombardi, Michelle Maltais, Thomas Ohlson, CGCS, Mark Richard, CGCS, James Santoro, Gary Sykes, Michael Varkonyi, and Michael Whitehead, CGCS. We would also like to thank the volunteers that helped on the day of the tournament which are Bill Coulter, Joan Fandetti, John Lombardi, Michelle Maltais, Alicia Pearson, and Gary Sykes.

The committee also extended a special thank you to Julie Heston for her assistance, dedication, and strong administrative support. To our annual sponsors, who play a key role in the tournament's success, the committee extends its gratitude. Special recognition is also extended to Superintendent Peter Fish and the entire team at Potowomut Golf Club.

The superb conditions of the course and the facility along with excellent service provided by the entire staff from start to finish greatly contributed to the day's success. The unconditional support and efforts of all participants allows the Scholarship & Research Tournament to remain a key event representing the RIGCSA's strong commitment to educational enhancement. ■



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# Rethink Your Course Management

Do you need to hit Driver every time? Do you need to hit every Green in regulation? Are you hurting your score by making poor club decisions that have a very low percentage of success? These are questions that you need to start asking yourself when you are struggling to reach your scoring potential.

Let's start with the Driver. It is almost an instinct when you reach a Par 4 or Par 5 to grab the big stick and let it rip. If you are comfortable and confident you can keep the ball in play with the Driver, then that should be your play. If you find yourself questioning where your next tee shot is going to go, it's probably not the right play. I like to think of the 70% rule when making club decisions. If I believe I can hit the shot with a success rate of at least 70%, then I commit to that shot. If there is any doubt in my mind of pulling the shot off, then I go down to a shorter club. I also like to use a yardage book or iPhone GPS app to get an understanding of where my probable landing zone is, as that will also be a determining factor in club selection. If there is a fairway bunker or a water hazard in my landing zone, I need to rethink how I can play the hole without penalizing my score. If I take a shorter club and take the trouble out of play, I'm left with a longer shot into the green, no question about it.

Let's say you are playing a really long par 4 (assume it's one of the hardest holes on the course) and I convince you to hit a fairway wood off the tee instead of the driver. You are now complaining that you are faced with a long approach to hit the green in regulation and make Par on a really tough hole. We need to take a deeper look at what "Par" actually means - Par is the predetermined number of strokes that a proficient (scratch or zero handicap) golfer should require to complete a hole. If you are shooting around 90, you are basically an 18-handicapper, and in a perfect world would make bogey on every hole. This may not be the case as you may sprinkle in some Pars along the way and maybe an occasional Birdie. Then how could you still be shooting 90? It's because of the bigger numbers (Blow-Up) holes leading to double and triple bogeys. With better decision making off the tee box and not putting pressure on yourself to hit every green in regulation, you may find yourself eliminating more of the high numbers that are robbing you of your scoring potential. So going back to the example above, let's say you had 220 yds left into the green. You opt to

then hit another fairway wood and put yourself in more trouble and are looking now at Double Bogey or worse. However, if you played a shot of 150 yds and then hit a 70 yd wedge to the middle of the green, you have a putt at par or at worst a tap in bogey. Not bad for a really tough hole on the course and you took a lot of the stress out forcing yourself to hit longer clubs.

Many students believe they need to make more birdies to shoot their personal best score. The PGA Tour average for birdies per round in 2021 was 3.6. You can't save your score by hoping you are going to make a large number of birdies. HOPE IS NOT A STRATEGY. You can, however, eliminate the bigger scores by using better course management. If you would like to get further information about course management strategy and on course playing lessons, please contact me to set up a lesson appointment. ■

**Todd Campbell writes an Instruction column in each issue of *snegolfer.com*. He can be reached at [toddcampbell@pga.com](mailto:toddcampbell@pga.com), cell: 508-951-4371**

**Editor's Note:** Todd Campbell will be moving shortly to Cranston Country Club where he will have his own dedicated teaching studio.

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# [ USA's Youth Movement Wins the Day, and the Cup ]

The only drama was the ghosts of Ryder Cups past. The United States team, permeated with a bunch of fresh faces, rolled the more grizzled Europeans, survived Pete Dye's most diabolical design ever, and set a record for most points in the 94-year history of the event.

If this were a prize fight it would have been declared a TKO after Saturday afternoon's Four-ball. The only shred of drama going into Sunday's singles were the memories conjured by monstrous comebacks (or collapses) in 1999 at Brookline or 2012 at Medinha.

The USA's 19-9 rout was a vindication for Captain Steve Stricker, who surrounded himself with some incredible assistants; Phil Mickelson, Zach Johnson, Fred Couples, Davis Love, and who took a furnace of heat for selecting a bunch of rookies with little or no previous Ryder Cup experience. The biggest omission seemed to be Captain America, Patrick Reed, but the "kids" played like kids play, with no fear and no baggage.

The European heroes of Ryder Cups past, Rory McIlroy, Lee Westwood and especially Ian "Wild Eyes" Poulter, could never conjure the magic that seems to have attached itself to the European team since Seve showed up on the scene and pretty much saved things.

But there was no Euro magic this time around. This time paper held up. This time there were no 40-foot Euro birdie putts dropping, or pitch shots falling into the cups. This time talent was stronger than witchcraft.

Dustin Johnson went 5-0, the first player to do that in a Ryder Cup since Larry Nelson in 1983 (and why Nelson has never captained a US team remains both a mystery and a black mark against the PGA of America). Justin Thomas and Jordan Spieth struggled for a match and a half but redeemed themselves, and Patrick Cantley introduced both his personality and his competitive fire to the world which already knew of his immense talent.

Collin Morakowa, who got the clinching point, showed why he is among the top players on the planet and afraid of nothing. Daniel Berger played well enough to perhaps earn another round of commercials with fictional cousin MacTavish. The camaraderie among the Americans was so strong that even the PGA Tour's version of the Hatfields and the McCoys, Bryson DeChambeau and Brooks Koepka were seen hugging when it was over.

You can almost wager a month's salary that a made for TV match between the two will be forthcoming and that they'll be making commercials together the way Larry Bird and Magic Johnson did in the 1980s. If not they should be seeking new agents.

The crowds were back, they were boisterous and at times downright vulgar, which seems to be the spice the Ryder Cup has that makes it so popular. The only downside was the absence of a significant European fan base.

That will be much different in 2023 when the matches are held in Rome. That will also be the acid test for the Americans. Yes, they have won the last two cups held on red white and blue soil, but the last time old glory flew in Europe was 1993.

Can the US back this convincing victory up with another on enemy territory and snap a 30-year drought? That remains to be seen. It also remains up to the Euros to find a new cadre of Seves, Faldos, Roses, Montgomerys and Langers.

John Rahm can't do it by himself (although he was magnificent) and Sergio Garcia may be at the end of the trail, along with Lee Westwood, Poulter, and Paul Casey. The Tyrell Hattons of the world certainly aren't going

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to get the cup back for the Euros. Matthew Fitzpatrick may be a fine player, but does he scare anyone? Tommy Fleetwood was a bust, pure and simple.

Victor Hovland looks like he's got the goods. His record in these matches wasn't impressive but his game was and is, as is Bernd Wiesberger.

Europe needs to get its kids ready for '23. The USA is loaded with youth. This was just the surface being scratched. A wave of talent is coming like a Yankee Doodle tidal wave, and for the first time in years, the Americans actually seemed to have a blast playing, instead of pressing.

Which brings us to Whistling Straits. If there was a bigger winner than the US, it was the venue. They could film "Survivor" at this place. It's a lost ball haven that combines the looks of a true links (without an ocean) with an insidious design that would make Satan smile. They almost had to call 911 to extract Shane Lowry after he slid down an embankment.

McIlroy, who was a major disappointment during the first two days, before winning his singles match on Sunday, typified the love and emotion that players feel for this competition. He was in tears during a post match interview and that, perhaps more than all the fist pumps, champagne showers, flag waving and chants, illustrated why the Ryder Cup is the greatest golfing competition in the world. ■

*Tim Geary is the former sports writer for the Fall River Herald and writes a column in each issue of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com)*



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Jon and Scottie were playing a match. Scottie hit his ball way offline and he started looking for it. After three minutes the ball was still not found and Scottie continued to look for it because he said that you have 5 minutes to look for the ball. Is he correct?

**Ruling:** Recently the rules were changed for this scenario. Rule 18.2 says that you only have three minutes to look for the ball, and it starts when you get to where you think the ball landed. Scottie's ball would be considered lost and he would have to go back to the previous spot and hit another with a stroke and distance penalty.



# [ Ryder Cup is Great Viewing ]



The Ryder Cup is truly “Must See TV” . It is so exciting to watch the best players from the United States against the best from Europe. I was fortunate to be at the 1999 Ryder Cup at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass., but you definitely see much more of the event on television.

For a change the United States team dominated. Tim Geary does his usual great job in his coverage of the event, but being a former teacher, I felt I could give the players their report cards. Below is their grades with a comment.

<b>X. Schauffele</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>3-1-0</b>	<b>Good Partners, Strong play, very steady</b>
<b>P. Cantlay</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>3-0-1</b>	<b>Great finish to great season</b>
<b>S. Scheffler</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>2-0-1</b>	<b>Future star, win for the ages over Rahm</b>
<b>B. DeChambeau</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>2-0-1</b>	<b>Crowd favorite, 417 yd. drive? Unique</b>
<b>C. Morikowa</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>3-0-1</b>	<b>Capped a wonderful year</b>
<b>D. Johnson</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>5-0-0</b>	<b>Oldest on team, great skills, clutch</b>
<b>B. Koepka</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>2-2-0</b>	<b>Needs to show more, loads of talent</b>
<b>T. Finau</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>1-2-0</b>	<b>Loads of potential</b>
<b>J. Thomas</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>2-1-1</b>	<b>Emotional leader, can do better</b>
<b>H. English</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>1-2-0</b>	<b>Will get better</b>
<b>J. Spieth</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>1-2-1</b>	<b>Creative, but needs to control driver</b>
<b>D. Berger</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>2-1-0</b>	<b>Good Captain's pick</b>

The English team did not get grades, but here are some thoughts. Rory McIlroy is lost, Shane Lowry is a great competitor, John Rahm is the best in the world, Sergio Garcia always rises to the occasion as does Ian Poulter, Viktor Hovland is a future superstar, Paul Casey and Lee Westwood are nice, but too old, Wiesberger and Fitzpatrick seemed over their head, Tyrell Hatton showed promise, Tommy Fleetwood won the sartorial award with a short sleeve shirt and a ski cap.

The Americans were the winners, but the true winner in the three-day telecast was Whistling Straits. The place is magnificent. Lake Michigan looks like it qualifies to make the course a links layout. How many viewers said that they have got to go to Wisconsin and play that course? You can, you know! Can't wait for the next Ryder Cup in Rome, Italy. ■



# Fenner Hill — Two Brothers' Dream



**S**outhern New England golfers and Rhode Island golfers in particular, are very fortunate to have many great courses to choose from both of the public and private variety. One of the reasons for that is that arguably the world's most renowned course architect – the late Donald Ross – designed many courses in the area. But we also happen to have some unique layouts that were designed and built by local people like The Fenner Hill Golf Club in Hope Valley, Rhode Island just off Route 95 at exit 2.

Prior to 1999, the land that Fenner Hill resides on was a dairy farm. Enter brothers Ron and Dennis Levesque. The two brothers owned Levesque Construction Inc. and decided to try their hand at something new and very different from what they were used to doing – building a

golf course.

“When the opportunity presented itself to purchase the land we both thought that it was perfect for a golf course,” said Ron Levesque. “The executor of the estate for Wheeler Farm did a lot of road work for Dennis and me, so we had an “in” so-to-speak when we bought the land from him.”

Some Earth was moved and wetlands navigated. And, in the end, the two had come up with what this writer considers to be a very fun and enjoyable test of golf which combines both links-style holes along with your traditional New England tree-lined holes.

“Believe it or not, we didn't have to remove a lot of trees or move a ton of land,” Levesque said. “We did a top-o of the land and saw all the beautiful trees, ponds,



brooks and stone walls and we designed the course around them."

"What's even more amazing is we had the thing built in about a year," he said. "We literally bought the land in the fall of 1997 and worked all winter that year because we didn't have any snow. By the fall of '98 we opened for a tournament, and we were open to the public in the spring of '99."

Offering six different sets of tees from which to play, Fenner Hill stretches out to 6,636 yards from the tips, offering a nice challenge for even the best of golfers. Generous and well-maintained fairways await your drive on most holes while large, well-bunkered undulating greens await your approach shots. The two most challenging greens may be on holes 9 and 18 where the two-tiered greens feature lower levels that are probably a good 10-15 feet below the upper level of the green.

The course also features two very distinct nines. The front nine is much more open than the back, giving one a true links experience which is somewhat uncommon in these parts. The back nine features a more tree-lined layout that one would come to expect of a New England course, all while still featuring generously wide fairways and an occasional links-style feel as well.

While local course knowledge isn't a must, it can be very helpful to golfers playing Fenner Hill.

Holes 3, 10, 15, 17 and 18 are all holes where knowledge of the hole can assist you in obtaining the lowest possible score and, maybe more importantly, avoiding a big number on said holes.

The 3rd hole is a 520-yard par-5 from the tips where it is better to favor the righthand side of the fairway or even bail out into the right rough between holes 2-3. The reason? Out of bounds and/or hazard frames the entire left side of the hole which slopes from right to left to begin with.

Additionally, a good drive will give a golfer a false sense of security of being able to go for the green in two. But, considering the downhill nature of the approach shot along with the narrowing of the hole by the green, the reward generally does not equal the risk of going for it.

A short wedge to the top of the hill on your second shot will leave you an even shorter wedge shot to the green giving you a good look at birdie while avoiding all of the possible trouble that awaits.

Hole 10 is a short, uphill par-5 measuring 480-yards from the blues. All you need to do here is go to the top of the hill by 150-marker to line up your approach shot before hitting your second shot. At that point, going for the green in two shouldn't be an issue.

Hole 15 is probably the most tantalizing hole for golfers. Standing on an elevated tee looking down a steep hill to a green only 325-yards away makes one think he or she can drive the green. For me, the play is a mid-iron to the bottom of the hill and a little sand wedge to the green for a great look at birdie on the hole. The pond guarding the front of the 15th green and the stone wall behind it make it too difficult to drive and hold the green, as tempting as it may be.

Hole 17 features a similar predicament. Just over 300 yards in length from the back tee, some might want to challenge themselves and try to cut the corner over the trees on the left to drive the green. Like holes 3 and 15, the risk is simply too much in comparison to the reward. Like 15, a mid to long iron or even a rescue club should get you past the dog leg and put a wedge in your hands for an easy approach shot.

Lastly, the 18th hole may be one of the more challenging finishing holes in all of Rhode Island.

A 455-yard par-4, 18 is uphill all the way from tee to green making it play longer than its distance. Additionally, the fairway slopes severely from left to right with a strategically placed tree on the right side of the fairway just waiting to obstruct your second shot.

A great tee ball favoring the left side of the fairway away from that tree can leave you a manageable approach shot to the two-tiered green. Otherwise, you may have to lay up to anywhere from 120-140 yards out and then hit your third shot over a wetlands hazard to the green.

When the round is over with, a bite to eat and a cold one in The Pub & Grille is a nice way to finish off your day at the course. And next year, they will be opening a new practice facility which includes a 6-station driving area, two tiered greens, two holes and a sand trap for both your long and short game skills.

Sadly, co-owner Dennis Levesque passed away in 2013 after fighting a long and courageous battle with cancer, but he is memorialized with a plaque on the third tee at the course.

"Yep! Dennis is still there to be a pain in the ass for all of us when we play the course," brother Ron quipped.

The two brothers were and are rightfully proud of Fenner Hill – a terrific course they designed for all to play in Southern New England. ■

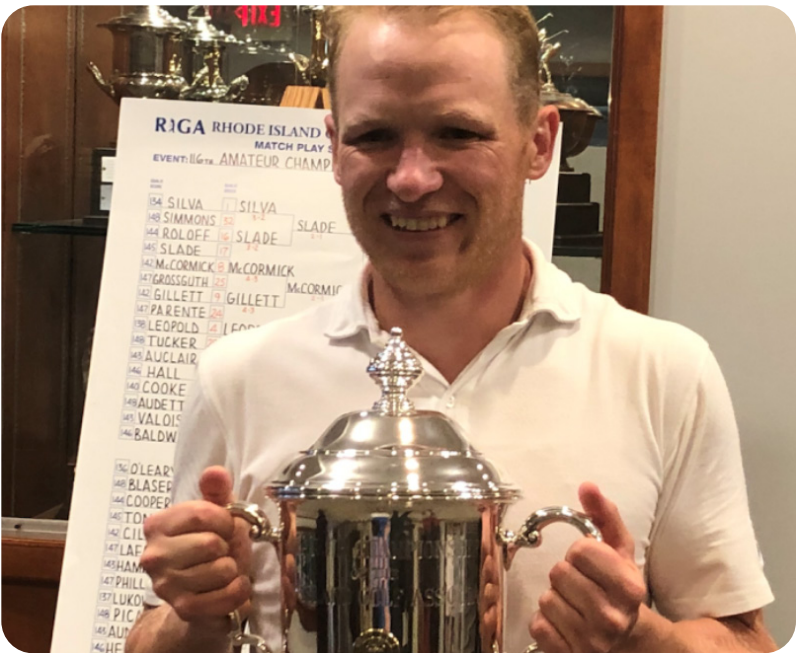
***Scott Cordischi hosts a sports talk radio show and writes a column in each issue of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com).***



# Rhode Island Players of the Year

The competitive golf season in Rhode Island has come to an end. The year saw great champions climb the mountain again and young stars rise. Here are this reporters Rhode Island Players of the year:

## Male Golfer of the Year: Bobby Leopold



The Rhode Island male golfer of the year is Bobby Leopold...This past summer, Leopold added to his already amazing resume by winning the Rhode Island Amateur at Kirkbrae Country Club. He did it by running through a gauntlet of contenders including Brad Valois, Tom McCormick and Notre Dame star Andrew O'Leary. It was his third Amateur title in four finals appearances. "I mean the first couple of times, not that you don't appreciate it, but you don't realize how hard it is. The last seven years, it's been difficult, guys here are good, and every time I go up against someone it's a tough match. To me, this kind of validates practicing and playing. I still got it and I can still compete," Leopold said after the match. Besides the RI Amateur, Leopold

and his brother-in-law Tyler Cooke finished third at the RI Four-Ball, and Leopold finished 15th at the New England Amateur where he held the first round lead. **Runner Up: Tom McCormick**

## Female Golfer of the Year: Emily Brooks



Emily Brooks won the Rhode Island Women's Amateur this year at Wanumetonomy over Fairfield star **Addy Douglas**. However, it is not just that she won it, but how she won. Brooks entered the match play portion of the tournament as an eight seed and took down both of the top two seeds en route to winning the title on the last hole over Douglas. That tournament was her first competitive round since 2019 when she quit competitive golf after shooting a 100 in the Carolina's Women's Amateur.

## Female Senior Player of the Year: Marilyn Weigner

Wannamoisett's Marilyn Weigner had a big summer. She played 23 events and won an amazing six times, granted a few of those wins came in Best Ball of the Foursome events. Short of those events, Weigner made it to the round of 16



at the Women's Amateur, and tied for tenth at the Women's Stroke Play Tournament at Valley. She then ripped off three straight wins including the Junior/Senior at Pawtucket and the President's Team at Triggs Memorial. Weigner finished in a tie for 7th at the Senior Amateur Championship at Alpine. **Runner Up: Kay Bullock**

### Male Senior Player of the Year: Dean Parziale



Dean Parziale is the Rhode Island Senior Men's Player of the Year. Parziale played four state tournaments in 2021 and came away with two victories. Parziale took home the trophy in the Senior Stroke Play Championship at Alpine, and most recently the Senior Mid-Amateur Championship at Ledgemont. Prior to that, he finished 13th at the Senior Amateur Championship and fourth at the Senior Four-Ball Championship at Valley. **Runner Up: Derek Johnson**

### Girls' Junior Golfer of the Year: Kylie Eaton

After several close finishes in other tournaments throughout the summer, Kylie Eaton won the Rhode Island Junior Amateur over Olivia Williams at Rhode Island Country Club. It was the first state tournament win of Eaton's career. "It means a lot to finally get it done. I've played good golf in the past, but was never able to make the

finals, let alone win, so I'm really pumped," Eaton said after the round. Prior to winning the Junior Amateur, Eaton made it to the quarterfinal of the Rhode Island Women's Amateur before losing to Lauren Dohoney. Eaton also won her third straight Kirkbrae Women's Club Championship. **Runner Up: Vinny Papa**

### Boys' Junior Golfer of the Year: Max Jackson



La Salle Academy sophomore Max Jackson won nearly everything there was to win this past summer. It started in early June when Jackson won the Rhode Island High School Golf Individual title at Cranston Country Club. He was two-under par for the tournament and won going away. A month later, Jackson won the World Series of Junior Golf at Triggs Memorial by one shot over Massachusetts' Wyatt Barlage. Jackson made match play at the Rhode Island Amateur at Kirkbrae before losing in the first round in a close match. Most recently, Jackson won the Rhode Island Junior Amateur over Moses Brown's Harry Dessel in an epic championship match at Rhode Island Country Club. Jackson now is playing soccer for La Salle, hoping to lead them to a state title. **Runner Up: Harry Dessel ■**

*Joe Calabro writes a Rhode Island Notebook column in each issue of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com). He has his own website, [golfnewsri.com](http://golfnewsri.com).*



## Joe Videtta— Golf Entrepreneur Extraordinaire



**J**oe Videtta is the perfect example of a golfing entrepreneur. He is the owner of Laurel Lane Country Club in West Kingston, R.I. and Pine Ridge Golf Course in North Oxford, Mass. as well as the co-owner, with his brother Michael, of Country View in Golf Club Harrisville, R.I.

Videtta started his golf career at a very young age as his dad, Rudy, was the head professional at the former Locust Valley in Attleboro, Mass. "I started working with my dad while I was in elementary school, and I have worked my entire life in the golf industry," said Videtta.

After Locust Valley the family managed Brook Meadow G.C. in Canton, Mass. and helped them switch from a nine-hole to an 18-hole club. Joe and Mike then managed Norwood C.C. in Norwood, Mass. Mike had moved to the west coast after college and became the head superintendent at San Diego C.C. Joe became the asst. professional at Brook Meadow, following in his dad's footsteps.

Mike came back east as Joe's partner at Norwood CC. "With his knowledge as a greens superintendent combined with my experience on the golf business side it has been a great combination. He was also my partner in the first purchase which was the Longest Drive driving range in South Dennis on Cape Cod," said Joe Videtta.

Joe then started purchasing golf courses. He bought Laurel Lane in 1997. The following year he saw that Country View was for sale and talked his brother, Michael, into becoming a partner in the purchase of Country View. They sold the driving range on the Cape

in 2005.

In 1999 Joe was told that Putnam Country Club in Putnam, Ct., a former nine-hole course that had been expanded to 18 holes that were not quite finished, was for sale and he purchased it from the Donovan family. "It was in the middle of nowhere, but it was beautiful," recalls Videtta. In 2006 he sold it to a person that had just sold his company for many millions of dollars and wanted to make it into a championship layout that is now the gorgeous Connecticut National G.C.

He was not finished purchasing golf courses. In 2000 he purchased Pine Ridge in North Oxford, MA and still owns that today. Mike continues to manage Country View along with overseeing the grounds crews at both Country View and Pine Ridge

Videtta's philosophy for running golf courses is quite simple. "You must manage your cash flow properly, and it must be run efficiently. Take care of your customers and give them good value and a very good product. It is so important to have customers feel that they got their money's worth; that is so critical to making it work."

Joe Videtta fits the role of entrepreneur to a T (or is that tee)? His work week is quite hectic as he travels to his courses. He is often found at Laurel Lane C.C. and is a very interesting person to talk with. ■

***Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com) and a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America.***



# New Golf Simulator Business Opens in East Greenwich

**Y**ou will have a new place to keep your swing in good form this winter. Shanks Clubhouse is opening soon in a storefront property on Route 1 in East Greenwich, R.I.

This new business is the brainchild of Nick Henriques with the help of his good friend Justin Graves. Henriques, a general contractor from Smithfield, R.I. said that he has been playing at the golf simulator on the Newport-Middletown line as often as he could in the last few years. "I loved it. I saw the potential to open up a golf simulator in the East Greenwich-North Kingstown area," he said.

Recognizing the need for a partner in business, Henriques turned to his best friend from childhood, Justin Graves. Henriques and Graves grew up together in North Kingstown, meeting on the very first day of kindergarten. After high school Graves headed off to California to make his mark in life. He was working on a degree from Cal State LA when Henriques told him of his new idea for a business. "I hopped right in my car after graduation and headed back to Rhode Island", said the 30-year-old Graves.

"We've always stayed in touch and had thrown different entrepreneurial ideas at each other. I have a business background, and Nick is so talented in construction and design. It certainly helps that we both love golf," laughed Graves.

The Clubhouse is located at 5700 Post Road. It is next door to the Waysider Grill. There is plenty of parking behind the building. The two have really fixed up the place nicely, capitalizing on the square footage allotted to maximize the golfing potential. Shanks features three simulators in their main room, and a private room, with a large, curved screen- ideal for private events. Each bay has a large projector screen, hand crafted high top tables and stools, offering a gathering place for players and spectators.

"We have so many ideas for making our business grow. We plan to have leagues for both men and women, and we feel it will be an excellent venue for children's parties and bachelor and bachelorette gatherings. There are thousands and thousands of golf courses from around the world that you will be able to play", said the two entrepreneurs.

Nick (L) & Justin (R)



The facility is going to be BYOB and in the spirit of community the Waysider Grill next door will have delivery service available for the patrons. Golf has become so popular since Covid-19. Tee times can be tough to arrange at golf courses, and the two owners are hoping that the growth of golf will make this a perfect time to open a new business in the golf sector.

With camera-based simulators, Shanks players will be able to hit short chip shots and putts accurately, versus other radar-based systems. Rental clubs will be available for lefties and righties.

With a focus on inclusivity, Graves and Henriques wanted to ensure something for everyone. Shanks also offers arcade style software, with games like mini-golf, target practice, darts and speed challenges etc. There's plenty of other options, something for everyone, all skill sets welcomed. The driving range has over a dozen data points, along with a slow motion, frame by frame 'point of contact' video for each swing.

This writer strongly suggests you visit the property to see for yourself what is available for you to improve your golf game, have fun and great camaraderie. Shanks Clubhouse's telephone number is 401-243-4241 and you can reach them at [info@shanksclubhouse.com](mailto:info@shanksclubhouse.com). You can also book your times online. ■

**Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com) and is a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and can be reached at [bruce@snegolfer.com](mailto:bruce@snegolfer.com).**



# Joe Moniz— Both Public and Private Course Owner

When the idea about featuring entrepreneurs in an issue of *snegolfer.com* came up, one of the first persons to come to mind was Joe Moniz. We had featured Moniz in our May 2012 issue that was written by the late-great Joe Gordon who wrote a column in each issue of *snegolfer* after his retirement from the Boston Herald.

Moniz, who grew up in Warren, R.I. had been a member at Crestwood Country Club in Rehoboth, Mass. for 18 years when the story was written. He had made most of his money in a machine shop that he opened in the early 1980's with a great work ethic and the use of solid business practices. Crestwood was in dire straits in 2011 and Moniz gave the club a loan to keep the fine course open that PGA Senior star Dana Quigley had been the head professional for many years.

It wasn't many months later, as the course continued to flounder, that Moniz was asked to purchase the private course by some of the board members. "I saw it as the only way to get my loan money back," said a smiling Moniz. He purchased the club for \$3.2 million in September of 2011 and immediately started to put his stamp on the club with major renovations. The membership went from 138 to 260 in eight months. "We had only two weddings in 2011 and we had 29 at the time of the story in May 2012," recalled Moniz.

The membership continued to rise and the financial situation is excellent at this time. Now to the second part of the story.

In 2016 Moniz bought the golf course that was right next door to Crestwood. In fact the properties almost abut at one point. "I had always played Sun Valley in my early days," recalled Moniz for a story that I did in 2017.

Sun Valley had sunk lower than low. It was awful, a crying shame from the glory days of the 1960's when it was owned by the Asquino family. This writer used to consider it his favorite course as I played there often in the 1960's and early 1970's.

Moniz has changed the name of the course to Hazelton Golf Course and it gets better day by day. We did a feature story on Hazelton in 2019 when it was still experiencing growing pains. "It has a long way to go, but we will get there," said a positive Moniz who talked of



his plans to triple the size of the greens and make other changes to this course that has good bones but had suffered from many years of abuse.

I spoke with Moniz on September 21. As always he was brimming with ideas and plans to make Hazelton a great public course. "We are finishing the driving range this fall. We got permission to install a multi-million gallon water tank to help with the watering and eliminating much of the wetness that has often plagued the course," said Moniz as he showed us the new clubhouse with beautiful tile and masonry work and beautiful landscaping around the spacious patio area that will be able to host up to 250 people.

"I want to have more leagues and more tournaments, because that is the lifeblood of a public course," said Moniz as he talked about redoing the 11th hole and having some of the river water run underground to make play better for the golfers. Holes 3 and 10 are also being redone.

"Hard work is always the key," said Moniz who was smiling as he showed off the beautiful Hazelton property. For someone who has revised a sinking private club that was months away from closing, and bringing back a wonderful old public course to an even better new one, he has a right to be very proud. His Portuguese work ethic is truly shining through. ■

**Bruce Vittner is the publisher/editor of *snegolfer.com* and can be reached at [bruce@snegolfer.com](mailto:bruce@snegolfer.com).**



# Whaley Enters CONN. Golf Hall Of Fame



**FAIRFIELD, Conn.** — Little ole Connecticut, the Land of Steady Habits, has produced some of the most marquee names in golf annals.

World Golf Hall of Famer Julius Boros, the oldest winner of a major championship until Phil Mickelson captured the PGA Championship in May, along with other major titlists Gene Sarazen, William Burke, Doug Ford, Dick Siderowf, Grace Lenczyk Cronin, Pat O'Sullivan Lucey and Glenna Collett Vare, whose name is on the silver trophy that the U.S. Golf Association presents to the U.S. Girls Junior Championship winner and the trophy awarded to the player with the lowest season scoring average on the LPGA Tour.

PGA Tour titlists Ken Green, Tim Petrovic and J.J. Henry, the only state player to win what is now the Travelers Championship, the premiere sporting event in Connecticut at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell. LPGA Tour winners Lucey and Heather Daly-

Donofrio, who served as president of the LPGA Tour executive committee in 2005 and 2006 and is now the organization's chief tour operations officer.

Edwin H. May Jr., a co-founder of the Insurance City Open at Wethersfield Country in 1952 that has grown into the Travelers Championship that is among the best-attended tournaments in the world. May's son, Ted, has been a major factor in many phases of the event for more than four decades.

PGA Life Member Walter Lowell, who initiated the idea of women being eligible for the PGA of America and was named national Professional of the Year in 1978; Connecticut State Golf Association executive director Russ Palmer, who made major improvements to the CSGA and was one of a few Americans to be a member of the Royal & Ancient in St. Andrews, Scotland; and William "Widdy" Neale, the longtime CSGA executive director who originated caddie scholarships in his name that have awarded more than \$3.25 million to 596 high school seniors since 1954.

While the aforementioned individuals have been worthy inductees into the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame, no one has been more qualified than Suzy Whaley, who became the 96th member on July 30. Some might consider that hyperbole, but no one has been eligible for entry for distinguished golf AND distinguished service to the game. Whaley, a trailblazer in so many ways, certainly qualified on both fronts.

Playing on the LPGA Tour and winning three consecutive Connecticut Women's Opens and several other regional and national championships would be good enough alone for the player category. But then you can add being the only female to play in the Julius Boros Challenge Cup Matches between the

CSGA and Connecticut Section PGA and becoming the first female to capture a PGA of America individual professional tournament and qualify for a PGA Tour event in 57 years when she won the 2002 Section PGA Championship and a spot in the 2003 Canon Greater Hartford Open at TPC River Highlands. The latter inspired World Golf Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam to accept a sponsors' exemption to a PGA Tour event, the 2003 Colonial, played two months before Whaley played in the GHG.

But those series of milestones might actually pale to what the 54-year-old Whaley has achieved while helping enhance the game off the course, starting in 1996 working for renowned golf instructor Jim Flick at Ibis Country Club in West Palm Beach, Fla., where her husband, Bill, was the director of golf. A year later, the family moved to Connecticut after the PGA Tour sent Bill to TPC River Highlands. Whaley became a teaching pro at Tumble Brook Country Club in Bloomfield and later the head pro at Blue Fox Run Golf Club in Avon and then earned national recognition while the head of Suzy Whaley Golf in Connecticut and now the director of instruction at the Country Club of Mirasol in Palm Beach Garden, Fla., where she and Bill, the PGA Tour's national director of golf, now reside.

But all that merely touches the surface of what Whaley has done to grow the game. She's a PGA Master Professional and honorary director of First Tee-Connecticut who has been named a Top 50 instructor by several national magazines and organizations, influenced members on the business side of the game through PGA LEAD, PGA WORKS and other educational programs, was an on-course commentator for ESPN for two years, and in 2014 became the first Section member to be elected to a national board position when she became the first female



to serve as an officer of the PGA of America, capped by her presidency in 2019-2020. Earlier this year, she was interested in succeeding Mike Whan as LPGA commissioner after he left to become CEO of the U.S. Golf Association but decided to take her name out of consideration.

Whaley has been at the forefront of creating more playing opportunities for girls and women, and she proudly notes the National Golf Foundation data released in 2019 showed the No. 1 demographic in the game's growth during her PGA tenure was girls. She also received rave reviews about several of her initiatives, many of which were achieved under duress during a worldwide pandemic.

"When you get an honor like this, it's a dream come true," Whaley said at her induction ceremony at The Patterson Club. "It's incredibly humbling and also makes you reflect on some of the things that you had the opportunity to do and afforded you the opportunity to make a difference. Why it's so special is that it's a culmination of everything, not just one thing.

"Playing in the GHO gave me a platform for the growth of women everywhere. I'm as competitive as anyone, but it wasn't about being first or making the cut. It was so much more than that. It gave me a door to walk through and a lot more to do. It showed my daughters (Jen and Kelly, now competing on the Symetra Tour) and other young girls to take chances and be brave, no matter what the outcome was to be, and really work hard to get there."

Hall of Fame officials had wanted to induct Whaley for several years, but she was always tied up with extensive PGA duties. She is in the midst of two years as PGA of America honorary president so she became a rare solo entry not far from where Sorenstam won her U.S. Senior Women's Open debut by eight strokes at Brooklawn Country

Club. In fact, three competitors were among 100 people who attended her induction – Cindy Figg-Currier, amateur Carol Semple Thompson and seven-time LPGA Tour winner Michelle McGann, whose father, Buck, caddied for Whaley in the GHO.

Others at the ceremony included five previous Hall of Fame inductees, including myself, and Whaley offered special thanks to Lowell, myself, her husband, her daughters, her late mother, Mary Ann McGuire, who started her in the game and often caddied for her; PGA pro Joe Tesori, who gave her lessons when she was young and hired her for her first job in golf; Hall of Fame member Betty Boyko, who was instrumental in the founding of the Southern New England Women's Golf Association and Connecticut Women's Amateur Championship; longtime Connecticut Section PGA executive director Tom Hankte; and PGA Life Member and Hall of Famer Gary Reynolds, the campaign manager of the 25-person team that initially worked to get her elected at the annual meeting in Indianapolis, Ind.

Highlights of Whaley's life and accomplishments, including her and Buck McGann in the GHO, were captured in a terrific 20-minute video that had comments from two dozen players and officials from around the country done by the CSGA, headed by executive director Mike Moraghan, whose father, longtime tournament director Marty, was inducted in 1991. In his remarks, Moraghan mentioned how when he took over as executive director, he was told Whaley was the first PGA professional he should call, which is what he did.

When asked about the pinnacle of her career and where her Hall of Fame induction ranked among her myriad of achievements, Whaley said "right at the top."

"Look at the list of women like Glenna Collett Vare and Betty Boyko who put it on the table and made

it possible for me to do what I did," Whaley said. "I would not be here if not for some of the women in the Hall of Fame who preceded me."

When asked if playing in the GHO or being a PGA of America officer was more significant/important to her, Whaley said, "I can't pick one over the other. One gave me an opportunity to do the other. The GHO allowed me to feel I can give anything a go and step into the arena."

So, someone who started playing golf by happenstance in Dewitt, N.Y., outside Syracuse, at 9 years old, learned the game from a professor at Syracuse University, played on the boys team in high school and later the University of North Carolina and has been a successful entrepreneur for decades is now the newest member of the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame.

In one of the congratulatory taped interviews, Whan had perhaps the best summation of the significance of the woman whom he has known and worked with for 20 years when he said, "Not too many of us can say that we have left the game better than we found it, but you my friend are leaving the game better than you found it. I am so glad the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame understands that. I am really proud of you. I am really proud to call you my friend, and I am honored to have been a little part of this program. I wish I was there to hug you, but please from the entire United States Golf Association and the Ladies Professional Golf Association thank you for being our friend, being our leader and leaving this game so much better than you found it."

Welcome to the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame, Suzy Whaley. ■

**Bruce Berlet is a retired sports writer for the Hartford Courant and writes a CT column in each issue of *snegolfer.com*.**



## Ben James Continues To Excel — Makes U.S. Junior Ryder Cup Team

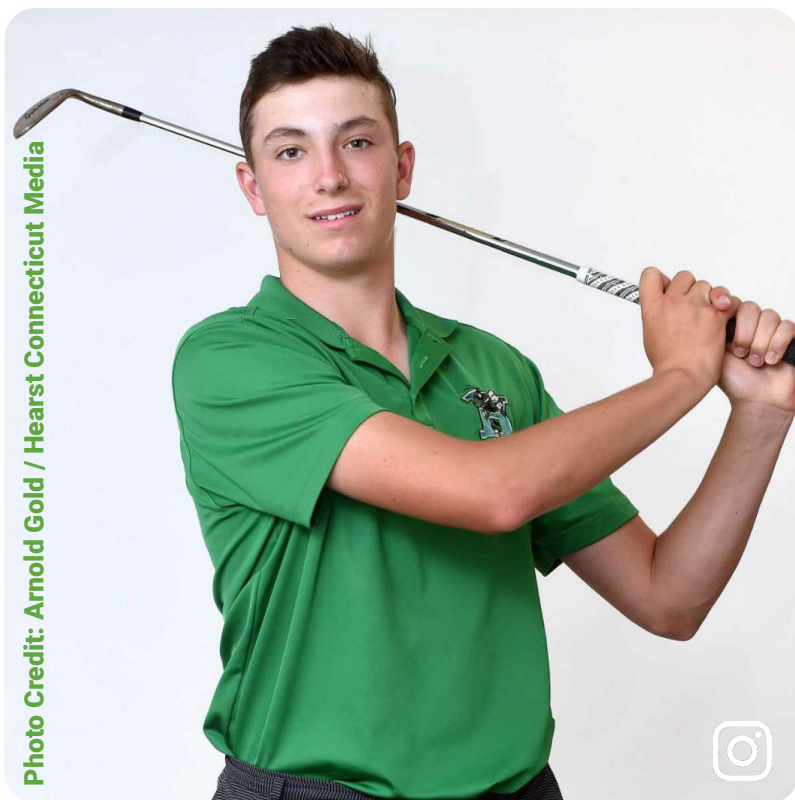


Photo Credit: Arnold Gold / Hearst Connecticut Media

A year ago, Connecticut State Golf Association executive director Mike Moraghan, the men's golf coach at the University of Virginia for 20 years, said he thought Ben James was headed toward being the best junior player in the history of the state. Some might have considered that hyperbole, but the results continue to make Moraghan appear to be a prophet.

After finishing second in the Connecticut Open to pro Peter Ballo, James shot 6-under-par 140 for 36 holes to notch a three-stroke victory over Tyler Lee of Franklin Lakes, N.J., in the Northern Junior at New Haven Country Club. James, a senior at Hamden Hall Country Day, rallied from a two-stroke deficit to Lee after the first round, shooting a closing 4-under 68 for his third major victory of the year.

"This means a ton," James said after hitting all 18 greens in regulation in notching an unprecedented third Northern Junior title in his final year of eligibility. "It was a really good field this year. I think everyone feels pressure. I like playing with pressure. It's not fun without it."

"The Northern Junior is such a special event for

me, and it's such a great opportunity for my family and friends to be able to come out and watch. My grandmother was even able to come out which was awesome. It just means so much to me to win this event."

The following week, James earned the 11th seed in the U.S. Junior Amateur at the Country Club of North Carolina but lost in the first round of match play to the 54th seed, Jonas Appel of Encinitas, Calif., who birdied three of the last four holes, including Nos. 17 and 18, for a 2-and-1 victory. Jackson Roman of Kensington qualified for match play as the 30th seed but lost to No. 35 Hunter Thomson of Canada, who won three of the last five holes for a 2-up win.

James then closed with two 5-under 66s for a 54-hole total of 14-under 199 and a record third consecutive New England Junior Amateur Championship at Val Halla Golf Club in Cumberland, Maine. "The achievement (winning three in a row) means so much to me," James said. "This event, it's my fourth time being here and I love our coach, Mr. Moraghan. We're really good friends and with all of my friends just being here too it means a lot to win this event. James, 18, recorded 17 birdies, an eagle and only six bogeys over three rounds.

"It's been a battle every year with me and the other competitors," said James, who will sign a national letter of intent to Virginia in November. "It's just been awesome to kind of get it all together three consecutive times. I've played pretty well in all of them, and I'm just happy to win my last one."

Each state brings seven boys and three girls to the championship, which began in 1967, with girls joining the event two years ago. The boys count their five best scores, and three girls' scores all count toward their team total. Connecticut finished second at plus-10, 15 strokes behind Massachusetts, which denied the Nutmeg team a third consecutive title. Matt Doyle of Madison tied for fourth at 210, two better than Connor Goode of Glastonbury. Roman tied for 13th at 224, three ahead of Will Lodge of Darien. Kyle St. Pierre of Shelton tied for 38th at 245.

The Connecticut girls' team finished fifth at plus-62. Kate Kong of Old Greenwich was the state's leader, tying for 10th at 242. Charlotte Wagner of Fairfield finished 11th at 243, and Leslie Li of West Hartford



was 15th at 256. Annie Dai and MacKenzie Whitney, both of Massachusetts, shared the girls' title at 230.

James earlier won the Scott Robertson Memorial and Team TaylorMade Invitational, tied for second in the PGA of America Junior Boys Championship and lost on the second playoff hole in the final of the American Junior Golf Association Polo Match Play Championship to Nick Dunlap of Huntsville, Ala., who won the U.S. Junior Amateur. James, ranked sixth in the Rolex AJGA Rankings, put another major notch on his resume when he shot 8-under 208 for 54 holes to overtake Dunlap and notch a four-stroke victory in The Junior Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra, Fla.

The Junior Players Championship win moved James to second in the Rolex American Junior Golf Association rankings behind Dunlap, earning him a spot on the U.S. Junior Ryder Team. The 12-player team only played an exhibition due to the annual competition being canceled because of ongoing travels issues for the European Junior Ryder Cup party. The team also participated in the Ryder Cup opening ceremonies and attended the first day of the competition. The event was scheduled to be played in 2020 but was postponed due to the pandemic.

## ELIA, HOLBROOK WIN BORCK JUNIOR TITLES

Alex Elia and Mia Holbrook parlayed home course knowledge into the boys and girls titles in the Borck Junior Championship at Silver Spring CC in Ridgefield.

Elia was co-medalist in match play qualifying but lost the first three holes in the final before rallying for a 3-and-2 victory over Charlie Stuhr of Redding CC.

"It is special to win an event on my home course," Elia said. "Just to win an event period is exciting. I have been so close to winning the last four years, and to finally get it done feels really good."

Holbrook was the qualifying medalist, notched a hard-fought, 21-hole victory over Lydia Welborn (Golf Performance Center) in the semifinals and then won the eighth, ninth and 10th holes on the way to a 2-and-1 win in the final over Jordan Levitt (Rockrimmon CC-Stamford), who has only been playing golf since March 2020.

"It is the best feeling," Holbrook said of winning at home. "Winning any tournament is great, but I think being at my home course is the best experience I could have asked for. Alex and I are close friends, so we really wanted to win this and pick up the trophy together. When I heard he won, I was on No. 14, and

I was like, 'All right, I got to go out and do it. I have to bring it home, too.' For me to win on my home course is cool, but for me to have one of my best friends win on my home course as well is so cool."

## GOODE CAPTURES CSGA JUNIOR TITLE

Connor Goode never trailed in beating defending champion Matt Doyle 4 and 2 in the CSGA Junior Amateur final at Watertown GC. Goode (Glastonbury Hills CC) built a 4-up lead after 12 holes by winning the third, ninth and 12th holes with pars and No. 7 with a birdie. Doyle won the 13th hole with a par, and after each bogeyed No. 15, Goode made eagle 3 on the 16th hole to beat Doyle's birdie and win the match.

Goode was part of the 12-player Connecticut Section PGA team that tied the New England PGA in the REMY CUP at Hartford GC. Goode and Glastonbury High School teammate Charlie Dolan swept three points as Connecticut won 8 1/2 of nine points in the first three matches. But New England reversed that in the last three matches to gain a 9-9 tie and retain the Cup as defending champion with its sixth consecutive victory. The event is named in honor of Jim Remy, a former PGA of America president and Hall of Fame member who was the vice president and general manager of the Okemo Golf Division at the Okemo Valley GC in Ludlow, Vt., for more than 20 years. He's a career services consultant for the two Sections and holds the distinction of having served in virtually every capacity within the areas of PGA governance, including an unprecedented 6 1/2-year term on the PGA Board of Control, which reviews and rules on membership issues. ■

**Bruce Berlet is the retired sports writer for the Hartford Courant.**

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## Cox Wins Second CONN. Women's Amateur

**A**fter making a 4-foot, par-saving putt on the final hole to clinch a second Connecticut Women's Amateur Golf Championship title in four years and shaking hands with the others in her threesome, Kyra Cox made a beeline to her mother, Jasmine.

"I'm SOOOO happy that she was here," Cox said after giving mom a lengthy and emotional bear hug. "It's the first time that she's ever seen me win, so it's really special."

Some putting problems down the stretch caused Cox to make it a bit nerve-racking for her and mom, who was watching her daughter play for only the fifth time thanks to other chores like working and caring for three girls, including one with autism. But Jasmine made the trip from Ridgefield to Race Brook Country Club in Orange and was outwardly delighted she did, especially after an 85-minute storm delay that started as Kyra's group was on the 14th tee.

"I'm very thrilled and as happy as can be," Jasmine said with a wide smile.

After an opening, 3-under-par 68, the only sub-par round of the tournament, Cox had a three-stroke lead and was five ahead of Kaitlyn Lee after nine holes in the second round despite a front-nine, 2-over 38. But Cox missed a 2-foot par putt at the 10th hole while Lee was making a 15-footer for birdie and then three-putted from 70 feet at No. 11, slicing her lead to two. Each player parred the next three holes and bogeyed No. 15, with Cox catching a major break at the latter when her chip from left the green hit the flag and dropped 15 feet from the cup instead of going into a bunker. "The flag really saved me," Cox said.

When Cox lipped out another 2-foot par putt at the 16th hole, her lead was down to one, but Lee sliced her drive into trees and made bogey at No. 17. Cox assured her victory with an up-and-down from a bunker at No. 18 for a closing 6-over 77 and a 36-hole total of 3-over 145.

"It means a lot to win this a second time especially after the year that we had last year (with COVID-19)," said Cox, 20, who plays out of the EClub

of Connecticut in Stamford. "I knew where I stood all the way, and when I got 5 up, I just said to play your game, don't try to make anything happen, you know how to golf."

"Even when I missed some shots, I didn't get discouraged. I know Kaitlyn is a good player because I've played against her a lot, so I didn't want to try to do anything fancy. Today was tough. I didn't play very good golf. Off the tee, I was lot better (in the first round), and especially on this course, you have to stay in the fairway, and to not have that made me lose some strokes. But I tried to just stay calm and stay positive and keep a good head on my shoulders."

In 2018, Cox shot 5-under 211 for 54 holes to win by eight strokes at Hartford Golf Club and become the first African-American champion in the tournament's 59-year history. In her title defense in 2019, Cox took a four-stroke lead after an opening 4-over 76 at Oronoque CC in Stratford but soared to a 91 in the second round to finish in tie for sixth. She didn't play in the tournament last year.

"Two years ago, was really, really rough," Cox said. "I had some personal things, and then there was COVID-19. This year had been tough, too, because I wasn't seeing the results I wanted." But that changed two weeks earlier when Cox won the New York State Women's Amateur at Teugega Country Club in Rome, N.Y. "That definitely set things up for this week," Cox said.

Cox also won that event before her CSWAC victory three years ago. "It's really special to win the same two events in the same year for a second time," Cox said.

So, Cox headed back to Furman University for her senior year with another title to her credit. The graduate of John Jay High School in Lewisboro, N.Y., played in 25 American Junior Golf Association tournaments in five years, winning and finished second twice each. It was during the AJGA Girls Championship at Furman in 2015 that she first saw the campus in Greenville, S.C.

Besides golf victories, she earned a berth in the 2016 Drive, Chip & Putt National Finals at Augusta National Golf Club, where she finished third in her age group and met, among others, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, two-time Masters and three-time Travelers Championship winner Bubba Watson and Cheyenne Woods, the niece of Tiger Woods; qualified for her first U.S. Golf Association



championship, the 2016 U.S. Girls' Junior, where she reached match play before losing to U.S. Curtis Cup player and eventual finalist Andrea Lee; and attracted a lot of interest from college golf programs, including some Ivy League schools, before committing to Furman in the fall of 2018.

"Golf has taught me a lot about management and about responsibility," Cox told the USGA in 2017. "I take that into my school day, and I seem to have gotten better at that, too. It has been such a positive influence on me."

Cox's father and coach, Keith, said, "I often tell people that Kyra was an average student, but the more she did in golf, the better she got in school. She's a lot more structured; she articulates herself well. She has taken it from the course into the classroom."

Lee, 19, is a junior at Yale University who lives in Scarsdale, N.Y., and is a member at Westchester CC in Rye, the longtime home of a PGA Tour event. She was making her tournament debut after finishing second in the Metropolitan (N.Y.) Open at The Apawamis Club in Rye, N.Y., and tied for fifth in the Connecticut Women's Open in June.

Tracy Lee (EClub of Connecticut) finished third at 149, one ahead of Mia Grzywinski (CC of Farmington), who won the Hartford Women's Open in June and finished second in the New England Women's Amateur in July. Charlotte Wagner (CC of Fairfield), who was second after an opening 71, shot 82 to fall into a tie for fifth at 153 with Liz Garfield (Tashua Knolls GC-Trumbull). Wagner won the Junior Division (18 and under), Cox the Mid-Amateur Division (19-49), 2008 champion and 2020 runner-up Jen Holland (Lyman Orchards GC-Middlefield) the Senior Division (50-59) and Jo Rasmussen (Great River GC-Milford) the Super Senior Division (60+)

The tournament was played for the first time at the home of the late Pat O'Sullivan Lucey, a member of the Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame who won dozens of local, state and national events from the late 1940s to the early 1980s. Lucey won the first three Women's Amateurs in 1966-68 and a record-tying 10 Connecticut Women's Golf Association Championships, starting in 1947 through 1968. During that stretch, she also won three Women's North and South Championships and New England Women's Amateurs and the Endicott Cup five times. Her biggest achievement was capturing the Titleholders, a LPGA major championship. ■

## Holland Wins SNEWGA Title Again

Jen Holland continued to dominate the Southern New England Women's Golf Association. The 57-year-old Holland made a 50-foot birdie putt on the penultimate hole and shot 6-over 154 for 36 holes to win a record ninth SNEWGA Individual Championship at Silo Point CC in Southbury.

After an opening 6-over 80 that included two double bogeys on the back nine, Holland had one birdie, one bogey and 16 pars in the final round to edge Nicole Elliott of Pequabuck GC in Bristol by a stroke. Holland's lone birdie on the par-5 17th hole proved to be the difference.

"Before the round, I told someone that I thought I had lost my golf game but knew it was in my bag somewhere," Holland said. "Afterwards, she said, 'Well, I guess you found it.'"

The funny thing is Nicole and I didn't know where we stood (on the 17th hole). I thought I had a one-stroke lead, but we were actually tied and the bomb that I made gave me the lead."

Holland, an elementary school teacher, had an unusual path to the presentation ceremony. She was the defending champion but had left the winner's trophy in the trunk of her car, so she had to make a quick dash to be able to have the trophy presented to her again. "It was pretty funny, but fortunately I got it to the ceremony in time," Holland said.

Elliott, who won several local and state titles under her maiden name Coffey, thought it was "interesting" how things ended. "I didn't know how Jen and I stood," Elliott said, "but when she made that long putt, I said that's the kind of stuff that wins it for you. She's a great player."

It was the best finish in the championship for Elliott, 46, a real estate agent who won the Connecticut High School Championship, New England Junior Championship, 2003 CWGA Championship and the Greater Bristol City Championship seven times.

She was an All-Big South selection in her senior year at Winthrop College and worked on the news/assignment desk at ESPN for 14 years but hasn't played as much recently because she has a 4-year-old son, Ryan. ■

## Grzywinski Earns Player Of The Year



Photo Credit: QU Women's Golf (Twitter)



**T**op-10 finishes in the four major events that she played earned Mia Grzywinski of Farmington her first CSGA Liz Janangelo Caron Women's Player of the Year Award. Grzywinski, 20, a junior at Quinnipiac University, won the Hartford Women's Open and finished second in the New England Women's Amateur, fourth in the Connecticut Women's Amateur and 10th in the Connecticut Women's Open.

She previously was an All-State and All-Conference selection for four years and All-New England in 2017 while at Farmington High School and the Connecticut Section PGA Player of the Year in 2016 and 2017, when she received the Jack Kelly Sportsmanship Award to become the first to win the two awards in the same year. Holland had won the first four Player of the Year awards named for the woman who played on the LPGA and Futures Tours, captured five State Women's Amateurs, four Connecticut Women's Opens and was a four-time All-American at Duke, where she won nine tournaments and helped the Blue Devils earn two national titles, including when she was NCAA Player of the Year as a sophomore. ■



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## Paladino Repeats As Player Of The Year

**C**ody Paladino was so consistent in pandemic-ridden 2020 that he earned the Connecticut State Golf Association's Dick Tettletbach Player of the Year Award without a victory but also came within five strokes of winning every CSGA major championship.

Paladino lost to Chris Fosdick on the final hole of title match of the Amateur despite shooting 9-under-par for 36 holes. He lost a playoff to Ben Conroy in the Mid-Amateur, tied for second in the Palmer Cup and was runner-up by a shot in the Tournament of Champions. He also swept his individual and team matches in the Julius Boros Challenge Cup and compiled a stroke-play average of 70.25 in his first full year back as an amateur.

The calendar turned to 2021, but the near-misses continued. Paladino lost in the Amateur final to the same opponent on the same hole, fell short in sectional qualifying for the U.S. Open and then failed to qualify for the U.S. Amateur by a stroke. That hardly put Paladino in the best frame of mind for the New England Amateur that began the next day at Great River Golf Club in Milford, but the classy reinstated amateur played like a pro and fittingly ended years of frustration by a shot.

Paladino, of Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford, overtook second-round leader and 2019 champion Xavier Marcoux early and then held off fast-closing Caleb Manuel with a 3-under-par 69 for a 54-hole total of 10-under 206. But the victory didn't come easy as Manuel made two birdies and an eagle 3 at No. 17 in the final six holes in shooting 68 for 207.

"To have such an awesome year last year with all of those close calls and not be able to put my hands on a trophy, then to start this year doing the exact same thing at the Connecticut Amateur, for that putt to go in the hole, to know that I won, even with all of that disappointment, I somehow felt vindicated," Paladino said.

Paladino, 32, celebrated with an embrace with swing coach and Great River pro Tom Rosati and



Photo Credit: David Colt

then was teary-eyed as he hugged his mother, Cindy, and others surrounding the 18th hole who appreciated how he had persevered better than most. A reinstated amateur after five years in the pro ranks, Paladino edged Manuel, a sophomore at the University of Connecticut from Brunswick Golf Club in Maine, after he pulled away from Marcoux, of Nashawtuc CC in Concord, Mass. Marcoux had two double bogeys in the first 11 holes on the way to 77 and a tie for sixth with Nick Waddington of Manchester CC, who had four birdies and an eagle on the back nine in shooting 66, the low score of the final round by two strokes.

"When you hear people win a big event they say, 'You know I can't really put it into words.' That is probably the best way to summarize how I feel," Paladino said. "I can't even count how many second-place finishes that I've had, and I think I'm up to four or five or six. So, you know, it's just amazing to finally have a victory."

Paladino became the first state player to win the tournament since John VanDerLaan in 2014 and the first to capture the event in Connecticut since PGA Tour player J.J. Henry at New Haven CC in 1998.

Paladino's older brother Brent won the title in 2007.

Paladino considers his victory in the 2015 Connecticut Open with Brent caddying for him as his best as a pro, but this was No. 1 as an amateur considering the recent past. And he added to his resume when he shot 2-under 70 to notch a one-stroke victory over Seth Jaincill (Keney Park GC-Hartford) and close friend Kevin Josephson (Stanley GC-New Britain) in the Tettelbach Division (under 55) of the CSGA Tournament of Champions at Bull's Bridge GC in Kent. Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame member Bill Hermanson also shot 70 to win the Siderowf Division (over 55) by two strokes over Patrick McGuinness (Keney GC). It was Hermanson's third T of C title after winning the Tettelbach Division in 2006 and the Siderowf Division in 2018.

The T of C victory capped a second consecutive Player of the Year Award as Paladino became the first repeat winner since Jeff Hedden in 2008-10. He turned pro in 2015 before regaining his amateur status in April 2020 in a bittersweet call.

"It was a very tough decision, excruciatingly tough," Paladino said. "But over time, the travel, the pressure, constantly being concerned about finances, it takes a toll. And as time went on, the related stress and strain wears on you. 'Why haven't I made it?' You're feeling so unstable about your life. Does that affect what's happening on the course? I don't know, but I know it's hard to separate the two. And in the end, I knew there were other things I wanted to do with my life."

Paladino made his decision in October 2018 after his fourth season on the PGA Tour LatinoAmericana. In five years as a pro, including events on the Mackenzie Tour in Canada, the Korn Ferry Tour, the Asian Developmental Tour, Northeastern tournaments and nearly a full season in China and 70 mini-tour events, Paladino had 125 starts in 22 countries. Four attempts to qualify for the Korn Ferry Tour came up short, and his one victory was the 2015 State Open.

After talking to close friends and relatives, including some of the Wethersfield CC members who had supported his LLC, he joined boyhood friend Kevin Josephson, a good amateur player himself, at Lyle Health, a health industry placement company in Farmington. In October 2019, he married Anna Pfau, a commercial real estate financial officer.

Paladino played the 2019 Connecticut Open as a pending amateur and finished seventh. It was a

return to an incredible amateur career that included victories in the CSGA Public Links (2006), Palmer Cup (2013), Amateur (2013) and Tournament of Champions (2013). He was the CSGA Player of the Year in 2006 and 2013.

Connecticut Section PGA Hall of Famers Chuck Lasher and Lindsey Hansen were instrumental in the development of the Paladino brothers while working at Timberlin GC in Berlin, but Cody has said there wasn't any one part of his game that didn't measure up while he was a pro.

"It came down to consistency," he said. "I had a couple of fantastic weeks every year. Some weeks I'd say, 'Wow this is it. I've figured it out.' I played as well as guys I knew were really good," mentioning three young PGA Tour players, Keith Mitchell, Martin Trainer and Adam Long, his roommate his first year on tour. "I'd be toe-to-toe one week, and the next week I would just not be bringing much to the table."

Paladino considers his first year, 2014, his best as a professional. In the final event of the PGA Tour Latinoamerica season, he needed a Top 15 finish to end the year inside the Top 60 on the Order of Merit and keep his card. He shot 67 to tie for 14th and finished 58th.

If the competitive stress was difficult, the traveling lifestyle was not. Fluent in Spanish, Paladino took advantage of his travel, especially in Latin America.

"I absolutely loved it. Loved to travel. Loved to experience new cultures," he said. "There was a pack of guys that stuck together, but for me, that was like never leaving the U.S. I loved to go off by myself and just see a market or a mall and talk to people. You learn a lot about yourself when you travel alone."

Paladino still occasionally dreams about playing on the PGA Tour, but he's content doing what he's doing.

"This is what I've been doing for 25, 26, 27 years," he said. "From the time I even knew what a Tour player was, I wanted to be one. I wanted to play on the PGA Tour, I wanted to win on the PGA Tour. How do I say to myself that I didn't accomplish that? I still think I have the game, but it's nice to think back on it all and feel proud of what I accomplished and was able to experience."

The bitterness and disappointment I felt when I first stopped playing has definitely subsided, and I'm incredibly grateful to have had to the opportunity to do what I did." ■



## Waddington Rallies For Historic Public Links Win

A clutch finish enabled Nick Waddington to duplicate what his father accomplished 22 years earlier with an emotional overtone. Waddington began the final round of the CSGA Public Links Championship four strokes behind Jamie Sheltman, who opened with a course record-tying, 5-under-par 67 at H. Smith Richardson Golf Club in Fairfield.

But while Sheltman struggled to a closing 79, Waddington birdied three of four holes around the turn on the way to a second 71 for a 36-hole total of 142 and a two-stroke victory over 2019 winner Peter Tomlinson.

With the win, Waddington, of Manchester Country Club, joined his dad, Derek, who caddied for him in the final round, as the first father-son duo to capture the tournament. Derek won in 1999 at Richter Park GC in Danbury.

"It is amazing to win the same tournament as my dad," Waddington told csgalinks.org as he looked at his father and smiled.

"Ever since I was a kid, I wanted to be like my dad because he wins all the golf tournaments. He wins the club championship, he wins state events, he plays on the Tri-State team, and now I did and it's is really amazing."

But the victory had an even deeper meaning for Waddington, whose brother died earlier in the year. "We lost my brother, so it was a rough start to the year so I did this one for him and it meant a lot," Waddington said. "It felt like he was here today. He loved watching me play golf and my dad play golf. It means a lot."

Waddington's birdie at the 12th gave him the lead for the first time at 2 under, but he bogeyed No. 13 to fall into a tie with Sheltman. After each parred the 14th hole, Waddington made an 18-foot birdie putt at No. 15 to take the lead for good.

"When I first looked at the putt, I said, 'Day, maybe a little left edge?'" Waddington said. "He kind of looks at me funny and goes, 'No, this is a left-to-

right putt, so I looked at it again and he was right as usual."

Waddington trusted with father's lead and won the tournament for the first time after he had a chance in 2017 but bogeyed the last hole to lose a spot in a playoff. This time, Waddington closed with three pars to complete his historic come-from-behind victory.

Tomlinson, of Orange Hills CC, closed with 69 to finish second at even-par 144.

"I just wanted to shoot under par today," Tomlinson said. "I knew if I shot under par, I would be close. I didn't expect to come this close, but the goal at the beginning of the day was under par and to get back to even-par for the tournament."

Tomlinson finished second thanks to his strong play and the collapse of Sheltman (Alling Memorial GC-New Haven), who played alongside Waddington.

After making six birdies in the first 18 holes, Sheltman had none in the second round, when he made five bogeys and a double bogey. He started with three pars but struggled the rest of the way and made a bogey and double bogey on the final two holes to finish third at 146 a week after he was fourth in the CSGA Mid-Amateur. ■



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## Szewczul Wins Another CSGA Title

Despite a variety of injuries and surgeries the past several years, Dave Szewczul has continued to build on his legacy on the Connecticut golf scene. The Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame member's latest achievement was overcoming late-round bogeys to par the first playoff hole and defeat Terry Ruzzo to successfully defend his title in the CSGA Super Senior Championship at Longshore Golf Course in Westport.

"Overall, it was a solid round, I hit a lot of fairways, hit a lot of greens and the putter was working somewhat," Szewczul told csgalinks.org. "I really would have had to mess up to finish worse than I did."

Szewczul, 67, winner of a record 10 Dick Siderowf Senior Player of the Year awards, was 3 under par after he holed a bunker shot on the 13th hole. But bogeys on the next two holes put other players into title contention, and he finished at 1-under 68 and in a tie with Ruzzo.

"With the back and hip surgeries that I have had, the wait becomes tough for me," Szewczul said. "I just kept walking around and hit a few balls to stay active."

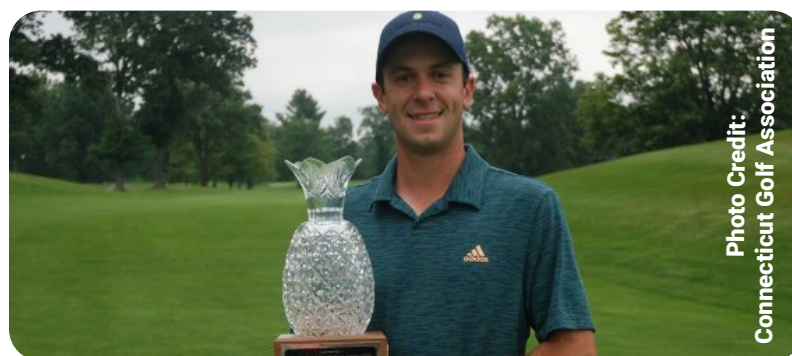
Ruzzo, the 2015 and 2016 Super Senior champion from Tallwood CC in Hebron, relished the playoff but drove into tall grass and made a bogey on the first extra hole. "The wait doesn't affect me too much," Ruzzo said. "I have played enough golf, so I made sure I warmed up and talked with the boys and stayed fairly loose."

Szewczul, of TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, home of the Travelers Championship, has won the tournament in two of the three years that he has been eligible and was third in 2019. He has won a record 15 CSGA major titles and is the only player to capture the Amateur, Mid-Amateur, Public Links, Senior Championship, Senior Match Play and Super Senior Championship. He also has 10 Four-Ball victories with fellow Connecticut Golf Hall of Fame member and close friend Bill Hermanson of the Black Hall Club in Old Lyme.

"To be able to still compete at this stage of my life is a lot of fun," said Szewczul, a member of the

Central Connecticut State University Hall of Fame. "You still have those competitive juices like everyone else does. Winning is not easy, and it just makes it that much more gratifying when you do." Arthur Haddad of Richter Park GC in Danbury finished third at 69. ■

## Dowling Captures Mid-Amateur



Rick Dowling (EClub of Connecticut) birdied the 13th and 14th holes to break from a plethora of challengers and win the CSGA Mid-Amateur Championship at The Farms CC in Wallingford. Dowling shot 5-under 211 for 54 holes to edge Paladino and Sheltman by a stroke and join Brian Ahern and Connecticut Golf Hall of Famer William Hadden III as the only players to win the CSGA Amateur, Mid-Amateur and Palmer Cup.

"I didn't know that, and my friend Brian is one of those guys and it's cool to be in the company of players like him and William," Dowling said. "This tournament is special because all the guys are 25 and older, and I am friends with them and it's cool that they are around. So to come out on top means a lot."

Dowling began the 36-hole windup at 3 under and two back of first-round leader John Abbott (Indian Hill CC-Newington). A 71 in the second round got Dowling into a tie for the lead, and he held off Paladino after making the back-to-back birdies. Paladino made eagle 3 at the 12th hole before successive bogeys dropped him two back. But birdies at the 16th and 17th holes gave him a chance to get into a playoff, but he narrowly missed a third successive birdie at No. 18. ■



## PETER BALLO NOTCHES HISTORIC CONNECTICUT OPEN WIN

For several years, Peter Ballo had been a leading player in the Metropolitan (N.Y.) Section PGA without being Player of the Year. But Ballo notched his second "family daily double" of 2021 in the Connecticut Open and wished his father Mike had been able to witness the feat at the Country Club of Darien.

Ballo's dad, Mike Sr., won the Connecticut Open in 1969 and 1978, and until this year, no father and son had ever captured the second biggest golf tournament in the state to the Travelers Championship. But after an opening three-putt bogey, Ballo notched six birdies in a closing 5-under-par 66 for a 54-hole total of 12-under 201 and a five-stroke victory over amateur Ben James.

Ballo, the assistant pro at Silvermine Golf Club in Norwalk, won the Westchester (N.Y.) PGA Match Play Championship in April, the first "family daily double" of the year. He began the final round of the Connecticut Open two strokes behind amateur Ben Carpenter of the host club, got even with three birdies in six holes in a front-nine, 2-under 34 and continued his precise play on the back nine with three more birdies, including a "choked 6-iron" to 12 inches on the par-3 16th hole that put an exclamation point to the victory.

"This is one of my four majors so to be able to win this after my father won is really special," said Ballo, who finished second in 2020 and earned \$14,000 this year. "There was a little doubt early because Ben was hitting it super, but the birdie at the seventh hole got me to another level as far as confidence and I was lucky enough to hit it a little closer at the end. The birdie at the 13th was huge, and the shot at the 16th was every bit as satisfying as the one on 7." Ballo's best year of his career has also included qualifying for the PGA Championship. "It was the first year that I was eligible, so it has been a year of firsts," Ballo said.

After Ballo made his final putt, he shook hands with James and Carpenter and then gave emotional hugs to his wife Kat, his mother Page, brother Mike Jr., who finished seventh, and Stu Waack, the head pro at Silvermine who was Mike Sr.'s assistant for 11 years and "is like our godfather," according to Mike Jr.

Fittingly, the Ballos will finally receive the 2020 Family of the Year Award from Metropolitan (N.Y.) Writers Association during the organization's dinner Oct. 6 at Winged Foot GC in Mamaroneck, N.Y. They

were scheduled to receive it in June 2020, but the awards dinner was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

James, 18, is closing in on a Connecticut Open title, having finished third at Torrington CC in 2019 and now second. "I didn't really put any pressure on Peter, but he played awesome," James said. "I'm just glad that I grinded it out and finished the way I did." James grabbed second thanks to three birdies in the last four holes, including a 10-foot putt for 2 at the 17th and a 4-footer on the par-5 18th that enabled him to beat Carpenter by a shot. For the first time in the tournament's 89-year history, the host club made a \$5,000 donation to the CSGA's Widdy Neale Scholarship Fund.

## YOUNG HEADED TO PGA TOUR

Eighteen months after being stuck in golfing purgatory, Cameron Young is headed to the PGA Tour. Young, a former Bridgeport resident who now lives in Scarborough, N.Y., was one of 25 players to earn PGA Tour cards for the 2021-22 season when he finished 19th on the points list after the conclusion of the Korn Ferry Tour's final regular-season event, the Pinnacle Bank Championship in Omaha, Neb. Young earned his new lofty status thanks largely to becoming the 10th player in Korn Ferry Tour history – but first since Michael Putnam in 2013 – to win back-to-back tournaments, the AdventHealth Championship and Evans Scholars Invitational, in May. The first victory came the same week that Phil Mickelson stole the headlines when he captured the PGA Championship to become the oldest winner of a major (50 years old, now 51). Young led or co-led all eight rounds in his two wins, setting a Tour record for consecutive rounds to hold such status.

## MUCHA WINS SECOND SECTION PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

As Bob Mucha made the three-mile drive from his house to The Ranch Golf Club in Southwick, Mass., for the final round of the Connecticut PGA Professional Championship, he learned the start had been delayed for an hour due to fog. So Mucha made a quick about-face, returned home and had a breakfast of two eggs

over easy from his farm and a piece of bread.

Mucha ended up needing all the strength that he could muster, finally making a 14-foot birdie putt on the second playoff hole to defeat defending and two-time champion Chris Tallman. The duo finished 36 holes at even-par 144 on the rolling, tree-lined course and each made 6-foot par putts on the final hole to get into the playoff. It was the second tournament victory for Mucha, who won 21 years earlier, though he did capture the Northeast New York Section title in 2009.

But Mucha said his latest win "is more than gratifying." "I hadn't been playing well at all," Mucha said. "If I did play well, I'd made a double bogey coming in to mess everything up, so this is really unexpected."

Mucha, 57, of Edgewood Golf Course in Southwick, which is also three miles from The Ranch, had a one-stroke lead after an opening 71 but had to work hard for a closing 73 that included birdie putts of 20 and 12 feet on the 14th and 16th holes. After saving par with a deft 50-foot chip and putt on No. 18, he hit an 8-iron on the second playoff hole, the par-3 17th, and made the decisive putt after Tallman missed from 18 feet.

The win was worth \$4,000 and 100 Player of the Year points and qualified Mucha for his ninth PGA of America Professional Championship on April 17-20, 2022, at Omni Barton Creek Resort & Spa in Austin, Texas. But Mucha said he doesn't plan to go to Texas.

## **BABCOCK RALLIES TO WIN INAUGURAL EVENT**

After shooting a course record-tying, 7-under 65 in the first round for a two-stroke lead in the inaugural Connecticut PGA Open at Gillette Ridge Golf Club in Bloomfield, Fletcher Babcock had an adventurous final 18 holes. But after losing his lead in the first two holes of the final round and falling two back after No. 7, the Danielson golfer righted the ship in shooting a 71 for a 36-hole total of 8-under 136 and a two-stroke victory over former Connecticut Open champions and playing partners Max Theodorakis and Jim Becker.

With three sets of tees used for men 49 and under, men 50 and over and women, all professional prize money and amateur golf shop credit was awarded based upon finish within one's division. Babcock earned the \$2,000 first prize in the 49-and-under division. Jo Rasmussen of Westport (166) was low women's amateur, and Johnny Bush of Cranford, N.J. (143) was the low men's amateur.

## **STRONG CAPTURES ASSISTANT TITLE**

Mike Strong, the assistant professional at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, said he feels as comfortable playing at Madison CC as he does the home of the Travelers Championship. Strong, 22, proved just that in the Assistant Connecticut PGA Championship as he shot 2-under 138 for 36 holes for a two-stroke victory over Sean Sweitzer of the host club. Strong, who graduated from Springfield College in 2020 and is just beginning his PGA of America membership journey, and Sweitzer earned berths in the National Car Rental Assistant PGA Professional Championship on Nov. 11-14 at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

## **CAMPBELL NAMED PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

Andrew Campbell seemed destined to be a golf professional, and he now has the highest honor presented by the Connecticut Section PGA to prove he certainly made the correct career choice.

Campbell's father, Ken, was the pro and proprietor at Newton Commonwealth in Newton, Mass., where Andrew spent much of his childhood. He and his five older siblings had to work at the course, where what Campbell jokingly called "cheap labor" and wouldn't have wanted it any other way.

## **MASTER PROFESSIONAL GLIHA DIES**

Sad news that Don Gliha, one of the most personable people and best golf teachers ever, died at 75. Gliha was Connecticut Section PGA president from 1984 to 1986, the first Section member to achieve Master Professional status, received numerous Section awards, including Professional of the Year in 2011, and played in the 2002 Greater Hartford Open. But his professional achievements pale in comparison to how many lives that Gliha touched and his love for his fellow human beings that led to hundreds of thousands of dollars being raised for charity, notably through a day-long golf marathon that he did with Tallwood CC pro John Nowobilski and ran for more than 500 holes on several occasions.



# Jean Oberg Becomes First Woman in 12 Years to Win World Amateur Handicap Championship

**MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.** -- Jean Oberg, of North Palm Beach, Fla. shot a net 67 (gross 89) to become the first woman in 12 years to win the Flight Winners' Playoff at the PlayGolfMyrtleBeach.com World Amateur Handicap Championship at in early September.

Oberg finished two shots ahead of James Jacobs (Nashville, Tenn.) and Joe Lovin (Surfside Beach, Fla.), who carded net 69s. Oberg is the first woman since Linda Fuller in 2009 to claim the mantle of World Champion and the sixth in the event's 38-year history.

Chuck Thatcher (Boonsboro, Md.) finished with a four-round score of 286, three shots better than second place Levi Shelton (Pineville, N.C.) to win the Men's Gross Division. Matt Corbitt (Juliette, Ga.) shot a 74 to beat Jim Marcelak (Fort Myers, Fla.) by one stroke in an 18-hole playoff to capture the Men's Senior Gross Division crown.

Bill Ashley (Lubbock, Texas) finished five shots ahead of Dennis Monahan (Largo, Fla.) to complete his victory in the Men's Mid-Senior Gross Division. Ann Marie Costello (Longs, S.C.) finished with a four-round total of 308, four shots better than second-place Kendra Muir, en route to winning the first Women's Gross Division title.

Matthew Thurman and Steven Keener, both from Rocky Mount, N.C., combined to win the Casa de Campo Pairs Competition, shooting a combined, net team score of 147. By virtue of winning, the pair received a 4-day, 3-night stay at luxurious Casa de Campo and unlimited golf.

Entry into the event, which included at least four rounds of golf, nightly admission to the World's Largest 19th Hole and a gift bag, was \$679. While much of the 2021 tournament looked familiar to players, there were two new women's divisions. For the first time, there was a women's gross division, and the ladies, who previously had just one age group, were split into two groups – 59 and under and 60 and older.

The World Am flights players based on age, gender and handicap, and were placed into 11 divisions – men 49 and under, senior men (50-59), mid-senior men (60-69), super senior men (70-79), seasoned seniors (80+), women (59 and under), senior women (60+), the gross division, senior (50+) gross division and women's gross division. There is also a "Just For Fun" flight, created for players who want to enjoy the World Am experience



without the pressure of competition.

After four days of play, all flight winners and ties advanced to the World Championship Playoff at the Grande Dunes Resort Course, an 18-hole shootout that crowned the event's winner.

While the competition is initially what lures players to the tournament, it's only part of what keeps them coming back. At the heart of the World Am's appeal is the camaraderie among its participants and much of that kinship is fostered at the World's Largest 19th Hole. Over 3,500 men and women competed in this year's event, the most in many years.

Each night of the event, the 19th Hole overtakes all 120,000-square feet of the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, providing participants with free food and drinks, live entertainment, celebrity guest appearances, a golf expo and more. Among the big names that have appeared at the 19th Hole in recent years are David Feherty, Brandel Chamblee, Charlie Rymer and John Daly.

Players also received a gift bag that included a polo, a pullover, a golf towel, a logo'd hat, a PGA Tour Superstore gift card and an assortment of other goodies valued cumulatively at \$250. ■

**For more information, please visit**  
[www.MyrtleBeachWorldAmateur.com](http://www.MyrtleBeachWorldAmateur.com).

# Golf & Fishing in the Catskills with my Grandson

When I asked my 24-year-old grandson if he wanted to join me for three days learning to fly fish along with two days of golf in the Catskills, there was only a brief pause before he said, "Let's do this." I understood that carving out this time was not easy for a young guy in grad school who runs pretty hard between his studies, teaching, friends, and hobbies—rock climbing, hiking in his size 13 boots, and growing heirloom tomatoes in his garden.

Our plan was to meet at the Emerson Resort in Mount Tremper, New York, (about 3-1/2 hours from Providence), play two rounds of golf, fly fish with a guide, dine by the Esopus Creek in Emerson's Woodnotes Grille and check out the unique features of this 40-acre property including the world's largest kaleidoscope and an eclectic collection of shops.

The golf part we knew. Doug, a low handicap golfer, has played all his life. I too have played all my life and continue to struggle, but consider myself well-seasoned. The fishing part was a different story. Both of us had been cast/spin fishing but not fly fishing so we were eager to learn.

Our adventure began the first morning at the Wiltwyck Golf Club in Kingston, NY. It is a great local asset for golfers seeking a quality golf experience at a great price (from \$40-\$50). Founded in 1933 and relocated in 1954 when Robert Trent Jones came in to design the new course, Wiltwyck rides over the hillsides of the Hudson Valley and is characterized by incredible views of the countryside, tree-lined fairways, large rolling greens, water carries, dog legs and beautifully sculptured bunkers that I found quite often. Luke Burbach, PGA, Wiltwyck's pro, greeted us warmly and explained that this course was formerly private, but after being acquired by a group of investors, is now semi-private and in the process of being renovated.

Doug and I agreed to a wager of \$5 on our match. I tried to convince him he needed to give me two strokes a hole, but in the end I relented and agreed to one. With five



Katharine (L) & Doug (R) Dyson

sets of tees ranging from 6,800 to 5675 yards, we had choices. Doug teed off on the blacks, I moved forward to the Reds. He typically drives his ball more than 320 yards and this day was no exception. With some great par 5s like hole #7, a straight down the line fairway pinched on both side by stands of trees, Wiltwyck offered him plenty of opportunities to hit out. In the end, no surprise Doug won, but thanks to my strokes, I didn't tank too badly. How embarrassing would that have been?

After golf and a quick drink on Wiltwyck's scenic patio, we drove to the Emerson Resort. It may be in the foothills of the Catskills, but accommodations here are far from rough. You can go upscale elegant and stay in the Inn itself or check into the lodges, more rustic but definitely on the chic side of log cabin. It is evident the Inn's aesthetic appeal is inspired by the spirit of Ralph Waldo Emerson's idea's about preserving nature. Soft natural colors are used through along with lots of wood and large windows opening to views of the Esopus Creek, fields, forests and mountains.

Our suite was in the Inn. Even though as a golf and travel writer fortunate to have stayed in a lot of cool rooms, I found this one pretty special with a fireplace, vaulted ceilings, balcony overlooking the Esopus, and lots of space

Walking to dinner that night to the Woodnotes Grille just across the way next to the Lodge, we stopped to chat with a young couple enjoying a bonfire with their two young children. They were roasting marshmallows



for S'mores, one of the many fun things the resort offers its guests.

During dinner on the patio overlooking the creek, Doug and I caught up on everything from Doug's rock climbing to his work for his Doctorate in Astro Physics. I paid close attention but did I grasp the mysteries of dark matter, black holes and the galaxies? No. When it comes to dark matter, I think pot bunkers. Still, I gave Doug an "A+" for trying to explain it all. A very patient young man for sure.

Early the next morning, we met our fishing guide, Mark Loete of Catskill Mountain Angler. Before heading to the Esopus Creek, he explained that the Catskills is "the cradle of American fly fishing" and recalled the history of fly fishing in the region when legendary figures like Babe Ruth, Mark Twain and Herbert Hoover came here to fish for the illusive rainbows and other wild trout.

Mark noted, "Fly fishing is a combination of sport, art and science," and showed us various kinds of hand-tied flies, delicate works of art, required for different situations—times of day, times of year, etc." I had no idea. Growing up in the Finger Lakes, for me fishing was a pole, a line and a fat juicy worm.

Then off we went for a fly-casting lesson on the grass before finally pulling on our waders and heading out to the creek just behind the Inn with our fishing rods and in my case, a collapsible stick attached to my waders, useful to keep me upright when walking on the beds of stones along the shore and in the water. And we fished.

I learned it was important to do it the right way or you could end up snagging your fellow fishermen, or in my case, my grandson. It was a bright day with brilliant blue skies. The creek ran steady, tumbling over dark rocks. Peaceful.

No, we didn't catch a fish (Mark had warned us this day might not produce a catch) but who cared. We were outside, learning a new skill, with RW Emerson's nature all around. Perfect.

There was more to experience that day, however: playing the historic Woodstock Golf Club course in Woodstock, NY. A tight classic 9-hole layout designed by Ralph Twitchell in 1929, it features slick greens, tons of old trees and a craggy brook that keeps crisscrossing the fairways. Back tee placements create a totally different golfing experience. This club has hosted the annual (Emerson) Woodstock Open attracting top amateur and professional golfers since 1932 and is considered the oldest continually running tournament of its kind in the country.

After this long but exhilarating day, I was thinking a

relaxing treatment at the Emerson's beautiful, soothing Spa would be great. Maybe a hot rock massage or the Emerson's Signature Integrative Massage. Or maybe the Spa's reset, a complete energy cleanse and reset with a crystal reiki session. And there are other fun things to do here—guided nature walks, craft experiences, and next door, Rail Explorers, an amazing ride on pedal-powered rail bikes.

These few days Doug and I had together will go into my memory bank to be pulled up when I want to savor once more, the joys of a one-on-one experience with my grandson.

And what is Doug getting for his birthday? The "Orvis Fly-Fishing Guide" and a box of hand tied flies plus a box of his favorite golf balls.

P.S. Ask about booking a package giving you accommodations with golf or other activities. Perhaps they would even put together a grandparent/grandchild combo for you. Makes sense. ■

***Katharine Dyson is a member of the Golf Writers of America and the Golf Travel Writers of America and writes a Women's column in each issue of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com)***

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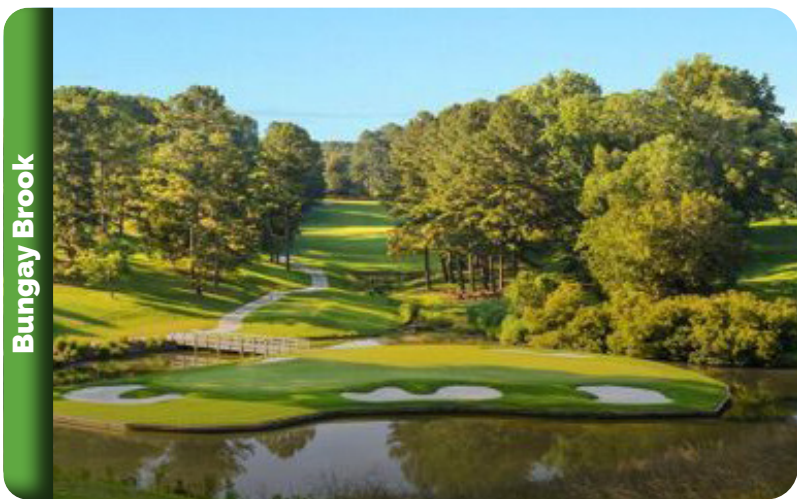
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# Bungay Brook and Chemawa— Farms to Fine Golf Courses



It's funny how families can get into the golf business. It could be a group decision among many family members. Or it could be a sudden change in situation by just one person who doesn't even play the game. Here are two of stories from family-run golf courses in Eastern Massachusetts.

## BUNGAY BROOK, Bellingham, Mass.

The decision was made around the kitchen table, like so many decisions by so many families over the years. The eight Gareau siblings were there, along with their mother, 92-year-old Therese Gareau. The family patriarch, a Canadian-born famer named Emile Gareau, had passed away.

The family needed to decide what to do with the family farm in Bellingham. Build houses on it? Turn it into a cranberry bog? There were financial and work complications with each. Finally, two brothers, both avid golfers, convinced the family that the rolling terrain would be best suited for a golf course. The siblings would then still own the property and run a business on it.

"We all agreed, and we all left careers to do this," said Therese Barry, one of the siblings. It appeared to be a great opportunity at the time. Tiger Woods had just burst on the sporting scene, the biggest star the game had ever seen. More people were taking up the game. Courses were springing up everywhere.

So, the Gareau family received the approvals needed to convert the land to golf and hired Howard Maurer Golf

Course Design, a renowned New England architect. It took four years, but by 2002 the Gareaus opened Bungay Brook Golf Club, a nine-hole championship layout on the land that their father had toiled since 1948.

Four siblings and a nephew work at Bungay Brook, each doing what they do best. For instance, Phil Gareau, the eldest, is the superintendent who brings farming knowledge taught by his father to keep the course in top condition. It is always rated one of the top conditioned courses in Massachusetts. "He can look at a blade of grass and know what kind of disease it might have," his sister Therese said. "He's a natural."

Brother Marc Gareau is the outgoing one, the perfect choice to run the pro shop. And Therese quit her job in big business, managing a large team of employees for a company involved in mergers and acquisitions, to lead the financial end of the family business.

The Gareaus have faced external challenges. The Tiger Boom faded quickly. COVID-19 restrictions shut down all Massachusetts courses last spring although there has been a recent upswing in rounds played as more people have chosen golf as a safe and fun recreation alternative.

However, there has never been any internal dissension. "In 20 years, we haven't fought at all," Therese Barry said. "We're like the Waltons, we all just get along. That's how we were raised. Our parents taught us to respect each other, and that's what we do."

More than two decades later, the Gareaus have



no second thoughts about the results of that family meeting. "It was the right decision," Therese Barry said. Area golfers would agree.

### CHEMAWA, North Attleboro

Glenn Bourque never had any intention of running a golf course. His father Raymond Bourque (not the hockey player and pronounced Burk) had purchased Chemawa Golf Course in North Attleboro 51 years ago, when Glenn was 3, but the son decided to go to college to get a degree in political scientist. He was considering entering the seminary.

Then he met his future wife. "That's when things changed," he said. He had always enjoyed working at his father's golf course, so with a family of his own on the horizon, he decided to join the business.

Bourque went back to school, earned a certificate in turf management from Rutgers University in 1993. He lives near Chemawa (pronounced Chem-OW-uh) and is there seven days a week. "There's always something to do, even in winter," he said.

He and his father decided Chemawa needed to expand from 9 to 18 holes and improve the often-rugged conditions. So, besides investing in more land to add holes, they chose to fully irrigate the fairways, opening the expanded course in 1997. "There was just so much potential," Glenn Bourque said. "But it had to be done so that the grass would be green in summer, not brown."

Bourque adds touches like decorating tee boxes with mums, corn stalks and even scarecrows in the fall. "I want people to have an enjoyable experience from the moment they drive into the parking lot until they drive away," Bourque said. "We have a lot of people come from a long way away because they know they can have a great time at a good price. I think that shows why we have been successful."

Although Bourque seldom plays, he watches groups closely, to see if a branch or tree should be taken down or a tee needs leveling. "We want the course to be fair and fun," he said.

Bourque said he made the right decision to get into the golf industry. He compares his job to his wife's career in health care. "Everyone is at the golf course because they want to be there, to have fun," he said. "At a hospital, everyone wants to get out." ■

**Mike Kirby, a former editor-in-chief at The Sun Chronicle of Attleboro, can be reached at [mkirbygolf18@gmail.com](mailto:mkirbygolf18@gmail.com).**

9

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# 2022 Golf Season Passport Available in December

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We will be offering a special price of \$44.95 until Christmas of 2021. After that the price for the Passport will return to \$64.95. There are discounts purchasing three or more of the passport, if you want to buy it with your golfing buddies. The Golf Season Passport will include discounts at many of the best public courses in New England including Blackstone National, Country View, Cranston, Crystal Lake, Foxborough, Gardner Municipal, Green Mountain, Fenner Hill, Laurel Lane, Manchester CC, Portland, Quarry Ridge, River Ridge, Tekoa CC, Triggs, Valley C.C., Winnepaug and dozens more. There are also some nine-hole courses for those that would rather just play nine including Coventry Pines, Kings Crossing, Louisquisset, Midville and Pinecrest in Rhode island. Returning this year is the fine Brattleboro CC in Vermont. The Golf Season Passport can be used through December 31, 2022.

Each course will be allowed to have up to three deals, and offer up to four plays per deal. This gives golfers an opportunity to not only save money, but also play their

favorite courses more often.

Thousands of golfers from around New England have enjoyed the Season Passport and have saved hundreds of dollars while golfing. You can purchase your pass at [www.golfwesternmass.com](http://www.golfwesternmass.com) or at [www.snegolfer.com](http://www.snegolfer.com) or call 401-464-8445.

While you are on the website, please register for information about golf events for your area. The Massachusetts group runs tournaments from time to time at some great courses, and regularly has over 100 players per event. We have played The Crumpin Fox Club, The Ledges Golf Club, Metacomet Country Club, Crestwood Country Club and Blackstone National GC along with many others. You can also get a \$10 off coupon from the Golfers Warehouse stores in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut. Ron Joseph who has a large group of golfers that play every Wednesday had this to say about the Season Passport; "We save hundreds of dollars each year on our golfing fees with the Season Passport. Each week we look at books and decide where we are going to play the following week. Since some of the courses have more than one coupon, we often go back to the courses we like the most."

There is a coupon code attached to the ad below. You can use that code at either [www.golfwesternmass.com](http://www.golfwesternmass.com) or at [www.snegolfer.com](http://www.snegolfer.com) to save \$20 if you order the book by December 25. The book makes a great gift for the golfers in your life and you will definitely save money on your golfing experiences next year with the Season Passport.

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# Save More On Golf in New England



# Juniper Hill, Blissful Meadows and Cyprian Keyes— Three Stories of Entrepreneurship in Central Mass



Dudley Darling at Juniper Hill



Gordon Bliss at Blissful Meadows



David Frem at Cyprian Keyes

People have enjoyed playing at Juniper Hill Golf Course in Northborough, Mass. for a long time - for 90 years, to be exact. Part-owner and general manager Dudley Darling has worked at the club for more than 60 of those years. He began working at age 10 and he's 72 now. A lot has changed over the years, but the best part hasn't.

"It's talking to people who've had a great round or a fun round," Darling said. "They're excited about it. It's also about seeing the kids smile when they go out there. It just kind of warms your heart."

Owning and operating a golf course is hard work, but Darling tries to remember that people come to Juniper Hill to enjoy themselves. "I tell them that it's really not a golf course, it's more like an entertainment center," he said. "We don't sell golf, we sell an experience."

Darling pointed out that while playing at Juniper, you could see an eagle or an egret fly overhead or a fox, raccoon or even a bear run by. "You get to see nature," he said.

Darling owns the course with his step-mother, Margaret Peddle; brother Thornton Darling, who is the club's equipment manager; and sister, Monique Darling. Juniper Hill is one of only a handful of 36-hole public golf courses in Massachusetts.

Homer C. Darling bought the 300-year-old Brigham Farm in 1928 and he designed the first nine holes on the Riverside Course, which opened on Memorial Day in 1931. Back then, it cost only 50 cents to play all day.

Geoffrey Cornish designed the second nine, which opened in 1954. Darling's son, Homer D., and architect Phil Wogan designed the Lakeside Course, which opened in May of 1991. Unfortunately, Homer D. died in late 1990.

Juniper hasn't celebrated the 90th anniversary of the opening of the first nine holes on the Riverside Course because of a shortage of staff due in part to the pandemic.

Darling said he's so busy, he's lucky to play golf twice a year. He works long hours five to six days a week. Because of a shortage in staff due in part to the pandemic, Darling has had to work some double shifts. He recently received some great news when his oldest son, Matt, agreed to come back to the course to be the assistant manager.

It's also the 50th anniversary of the redesign of Riverside's picturesque and demanding par-3 17th hole and the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Lakeside Course. Riverside's front nine holes are the hilliest of Juniper's 36 holes. The

Assabet River runs along some of the holes on the back nine of Riverside.

Riverside's 17th hole requires a carry of between 190 and 220 yards over a pond. The 17th used to be a shorter par 3 that played over a brook, but in 1971, Homer C. and Wogan built a new green farther back and to the right of the old one and constructed a pond in front of it. There are trees on both sides of the green, but there is a bailout area near where the old green used to be.

The Lakeside Course is located near Little Chauncy Pond, which is fed by Lake Chauncy in Westboro. Lakeside is tighter than the Riverside Course.

Owning a golf course can be fun, but it's also a lot of work, according to Gordon Bliss, who owns Blissful Meadows Golf Course in Uxbridge with his wife, Jean.

"You've got to love people," he said. "You've got to love the game. You've got to love outdoor work. You've got to love working hard."

The Bliss family opened the first nine holes of their public golf course in 1989 on farmland they purchased in 1964. Bliss was an engineering manager at Whittin Machine Works in Whitinsville at the time, and he and Jean raised their seven children on the farm, which they ran as a hobby, raising Black Angus beef cattle and

Tennessee Walker horses. To take advantage of a tax break, they built a golf course. The back nine opened in 1995. Brian Silva was the architect.

Bliss said owning and operating a golf is a lot like farming. "Because you deal with the elements," he said. "You can have a rainy season where nobody's playing golf, but you still have to maintain the course. You have dry seasons where you don't have enough water to water the greens, but you still have to maintain them. You work hard, you've got to love it."

The Bliss family live in the 1745 farmhouse next to the 1880 clubhouse and former barn, both of which are listed in the national records for historic buildings. The club's covered bridge, abandoned silver mine and Native American campground are other historical sites. The Bliss family has worked hard to maintain the New England farm character of the club by maintaining stone walls, the barn used for the tavern, weddings and pro shop, and historic equipment that can be found around the golf course.

Bliss, 82, loves what he's doing and has no plans to retire anytime soon. He thinks nothing of grabbing a hammer or hopping on a tractor. Jean still does her share of planting flowers and pruning.

"His enthusiasm and energy are going strong," his daughter, Kim Brunetti, said. "He is constantly coming up with new projects to work on and is always on his Kubota (tractor). Can't really keep a good man down."

Bliss's grandfather and father never retired. He remembers helping his 89-year-old grandfather roof a three-story building. Bliss is helping maintain the course this year before his grandson, Alex Bliss, takes over as superintendent in November. Alex studied turfgrass management

at UMass-Amherst and served as assistant superintendent at Blissful Meadows before he spent the past five years as first assistant superintendent at Myopia Hunt Club in South Hamilton.

Blissful is full of Blisses. Four Bliss daughters and two sons-in-law work at the course. Bliss's son, Kevin, helped build Blissful and owns Crystal Lake Golf Club, less than 10 miles away in Burrillville, Rhode Island.

Blissful has been busy with golfers this year and the number of weddings and outings has bounced back after the pandemic forced many cancellations last year.

"Best year we've ever had," Bliss said. Bliss plans to keep working on it for as long as he can. Genetics are on his side. He had a great grandfather who lived to 100. "I'll match him," he said. "I'd better."

General manager David Frem owns Cyprian Keyes GC in Boylston with his parents, Bob and Liz. "I will always joke," he said, "that I wish I had the job all my friends think I have, which is just enjoying everything, but I feel very fortunate to do what I do. I get to work at a beautiful place and wear golf attire. I don't have to wear a suit."

Frem, 51, said it's become a lot more challenging and expensive to run a golf course than when Cyprian Keyes opened its 18-hole championship course and nine-hole par-3 course in 1997.

"I'm a small business owner-operator," he said. "I don't golf every day." In addition to two golf courses, Cyprian has a well-stocked pro shop, a restaurant and a function hall, so Frem spends a lot of his time on non-golf business.

"You get to deal with a lot of great people," he said, "but I have the same headaches that any other owner-operator of any business has

in terms of rising costs and utilities and overhead and things like that. I spend more time than people realize making decisions on insurance and infrastructure and things that customers never see."

Frem said the par-3 course and golf school, both of which grow the game, account for a sizable percentage of Cyprian's income. More than 400 youths took part in the golf school this summer.

Frem is a past president of the New England Golf Course Owners Association and he remains on the board. He was very involved in trying to get the governor to reopen golf courses after they were closed for several weeks last year due to the pandemic.

Frem's grandfather, Harvey Frem, was a founding member of Mount Pleasant CC when it moved from Leicester to Boylston in 1956. His father, Bob, was a longtime member, greens chairman and multi-year club champion at Mount Pleasant, which has been renamed The Haven CC.

Bob Frem considered the property where the Boylston town offices are currently located when he decided to build a golf course, but instead he purchased the Barlin Acres property from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester. Frem had two business partners, but they eventually pulled out.

Many years ago, while Dave Frem worked in IT, he helped his father select phone and computer systems for the golf courses. "I wasn't even planning to stay," he said, "but I really enjoyed it." ■

**Bill Doyle is the retired sportswriter for the Worcester Telegraph and writes a column in each issue of *snegolfer.com*.**



# Mass. Women Do Well at Solheim Cup

The 2021 Solheim Cup, the 17th edition of the biennial team match play competition, was won by Europe 15-13 in early September at the Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio. Massachusetts golf fans, though, will always remember the valuable contributions especially from two United States team players-- Brittany Altomare from Shrewsbury and Megan Khang from Rockland.

Of the 13 overall points tallied by the United States team, Altomare helped earn two of them and Khang one and a half. The 30-year-old Altomare, in her second Solheim Cup, had an overall record of 2-2, going 1-0 in singles, 1-1 in foursome matches and 0-1 in fourball matches. Khang, 24, and also a repeat Solheim Cup player from the 2019 matches, went 1-1-1 overall, finishing 1-0 in singles, 0-0-1 in foursomes and 0-1 in fourball matches.

Heading into the final day of singles matches, Europe had a two-point lead over the U.S. and needed only five points to retain the coveted trophy. On that final day, however, Altomare and Khang, played exceptional golf, each keeping the USA hopes alive, winning their individual matches while combining to earn a third of the U.S. points in the singles competition.

Altomare's match against Carlota Ciganda from Spain certainly held the interest of TV viewers across the globe. Altomare, the former University of Virginia All-American, who starred on the Shrewsbury High boys' golf team, bogeyed the first hole, but quickly got back to even with a birdie on the next hole. After eight holes, Altomare was trailing again by a hole, and even fell behind, one down, after 12 holes. But, beginning with a birdie on the 13th, she began an amazing performance down the stretch with birdies on holes 14, 16 and 17 to close out the match with a 2 and 1 victory.

Khang, who earned low amateur honors at the 2015 U.S. Women's Open and made four LPGA starts as an amateur, in her singles match on the Solheim Cup final day against Sophia Popov, the 2020 AIG Women's British Open champion, dominated the action, never trailing and bolting to a 6-up lead after eight holes a streak that included six birdies. Khang wrapped up her win over

Popov won the 16th hole, notching a 3 and 1 triumph. Overall, Khang had seven birdies in 16 holes.

Fans of Altomare and Khang, who both have crossed the \$2 million mark in career LPGA earnings, are hopeful that the Massachusetts duo will return to play for the U.S. team in the next Solheim Cup which is scheduled for 2023 at the world-renowned championship course in Spain at Finca Cortesin, Andalucia.

## A Shot to Remember at Oak Hill in Fitchburg



Mackenzie Whitney, who will soon begin her senior year at Oakmont Regional, continues to make golf history at Oak Hill Country Club in Fitchburg. A year ago, at age 16, Whitney became the youngest club champ in the history of Oak Hill, winning the women's title by six shots.

In early August, Whitney, now 17, became the first person ever at Oak Hill, to make a hole-in-one on the par-4 ninth hole, which hundreds of thousands of golfers have played since the course's opening in 1921. Playing from the green tees in a women's four-ball match, 282 yards from the ninth hole green, Whitney blasted her Titleist ProV1 golf ball with her TaylorMade SIM2 driver.

Then something very special happened. "The hole is downhill, dog-leg, left to right, and we were down in the match, so I figured, I would just go for the green, and I hit a baby fade," said Whitney, who was playing with Oak Hill members Sue Crotty, Cathy McBride and Andrea Gamble.

"I tried reaching the ninth a few days earlier, and my shot ended up in the parking lot to the right of the green," said Whitney, whose drives average between 240 and 250 yards. This drive behaved. Whitney's tee shot flew high and deep, clearing the trees to the right of the fairway before slightly curving perfectly toward the green, designed by Wayne Stiles 83 years before Whitney was born. The pin was set toward the middle right on the putting surface.

"We could see the green through a gap in the trees," Whitney said. "We all watched the ball when it landed on the front of the green, roll toward the cup and then drop in." And then came the cheers. An ace on a par 4, called a double eagle or an albatross, is extremely rare. Former Golf World magazine writer Bill Fields has estimated that the odds of an albatross are 6 million to 1.

### Central Mass. Notes: Some top performances

At the NEPGA Championship at Worcester CC it was a Berberian Blitz. That was the story down the stretch in early September at Worcester Country Club as Rich Berberian of Vesper CC, in steady, light rain, birdied four of the final seven holes and won the 101st New England PGA Championship.

In charging to his fourth NEPGA sectional crown, Berberian, who will turn 34 next week, carded a back-nine, 4-under-par 31 for a 3-under 67.

His winning 8-under 203 (69-67-67) was three shots lower than runner-up Dan Venezio from Portland CC (71-68-67) and four lower than local favorite Bob Bruso of Blackstone National (69-69-69).

"Rich is very tough to beat," said the 32-year-old Bruso, the former Auburn High star, who notched his best finish in this event and will advance to the PGA Professional Tournament for the sixth straight year. "He went out there and made a lot birdies. But for me to shoot under par on the final day in the final group, I'll take it." ■

**Jay Gearan writes a Central Mass Notebook column in each issue of *snegolfer.com*.**

## New England dot Golf reaches 5 Million Web Impressions in 2021

by **TOM GORMAN**

**BOSTON, Mass.** — New England dot Golf, a six-year-old digital marketing platform that highlights the best of golf in New England and beyond, has announced results of its website and social media activity for the first eight months of 2021. By every credible Internet measurement, the golf media company has distinguished itself as the No. 1 source for golf news in the New England market for four consecutive years.

For the eight-month period January 1 through August 31, 2021, NewEngland.Golf has registered over 5 million web impressions. This figure is up almost 1 million from the previous reporting period of 2020. Monthly web impressions show an average of almost 700,000. Over 500 new, original posts have originated from the NEG website.

NewEngland.Golf is one of the fastest growing golf media companies in the country expanding its golf and sports audience to 5 million web impressions YTD.

"Professional golf and golf in general have been getting a lot of attention, particularly the past 18 months," said Publisher Thomas Gorman, with 28 years of golf writing experience. "Most print golf publications have been replaced with daily and weekly online golf content, that is a key factor in our audience growth and engagement. With a staff of 20 experienced golf writers from around the country, we are thrilled that NewEngland.Golf is providing quality golf journalism to a wide-ranging golf and sports audience."

Southern New England Golfer, [www.snegolfer.com](http://www.snegolfer.com), wishes to thank Tom Gorman for posting the four issues of [snegolfer.com](http://snegolfer.com) to be part of his online presence, as he includes our publication in his weekly emails when they first come out. ■



## Hilton Head Golf Island Announces Fall 2021 Golf Packages



Photo Credit: Rob Tipton

**H**ilton Head Golf Island (HHGI), comprising 26 courses across Beaufort, Bluffton and Jasper counties, invites golfers to experience pure Lowcountry golf this fall with packages from The Sea Pines Resort, Palmetto Dunes Oceanfront Resort and the Heritage Golf Collection.

Host of the PGA TOUR's RBC Heritage and home of Pete Dye and Jack Nicklaus' famed Harbour Town Golf Links, The Sea Pines Resort's Villa Golf Package can be tailored to golf groups of all sizes. Starting at \$255 per night, per golfer, packages include a three-night stay in a fully-appointed resort villa, three rounds of golf – one each on Harbour Town, Heron Point by Pete Dye, and Atlantic Dunes by Davis Love III – and same day, same course replays for \$50 on Heron Point and Atlantic Dunes.

For groups of 12 or more, Palmetto Dunes Oceanfront Resort is offering a Golf Group Stay and Play Premier Package with two or three rounds on its George Fazio, Arthur Hills or renowned Robert Trent Jones Course. The package includes resort villa accommodations, green and cart fees, pro shop merchandise and dining discounts at Big Jim's, the Dunes House and Alexander's Restaurant and Wine Bar. Golf vacation planners are available to customize any trip.

The Heritage Golf Collection's Birdies, Beaches and Brews is a wildly popular, all-inclusive experience featuring three nights' accommodations at the Hampton Inn Hilton Head, three rounds of golf, free replays and range balls, breakfast, a complimentary beer, and one

\$100 gift card per golfer to be used on merchandise and food. The Heritage Collection includes Oyster Reef, designed by Rees Jones, Shipyard's Clipper, Galleon and Brigatine courses and Port Royal's Robber's Row and Barony courses.

"With high temperatures ranging from the mid-60s to the low 80s, autumn is prime time for a golf trip to Hilton Head Golf Island," says Lowcountry Golf Course Owners Association President Brad Mara. "Our courses are in peak condition this time of year and fall is our sunniest, driest season."

Collectively, the Hilton Head Golf Island fall golf packages showcase several of South Carolina's most vaunted venues while also introducing golfers to a bevy of lesser known but outstanding tracks. Few golf destinations can offer courses designed by Pete Dye, Jack Nicklaus, Robert Trent Jones Sr., Rees Jones, Arthur Hills, George Fazio, George Cobb and Willard Byrd all within 15 minutes of each other.

"Hilton Head Island is one of the world's iconic golf destinations and we can't wait to welcome golfers to 'Golf Island' this fall," adds Mara. "Off the course, they'll enjoy fresh seafood and world-class cuisine prepared by many of the Southeast's culinary rock stars. And when it comes to water sports like boating, kayaking and stand-up paddle boarding, you can't beat our combination of Atlantic Ocean and Intracoastal Waterways"

For more information on Hilton Head Golf Island golf packages, courses, golf schools and events, visit [www.hiltonheadgolfisland.com](http://www.hiltonheadgolfisland.com). ■

## Former SNEG Writer Russ Held Honored

Postponed more than once due to Covid-19 restrictions, the 2020 Rollie Jacobs Tee Party honoree, Russ Held, longtime golf scribe for The Republican in Springfield, Mass., finally enjoyed his day of recognition. Held is the 74th recipient of the Tee Party award, a tradition and selection process that originated in 1947. Held was honored on September 30 at Ludlow Country Club.

"It's a long time to think about it, and a long time to get nervous about whatever speech I decide to give. Every couple of days I seem to hear from someone with congratulations, so that's been nice. I think it will really sink in on the day of the Tee Party. I've been going to them since 1994, so it will really feel strange to be in the spotlight," Held said.

"I think when the day comes, it'll be a big trip down memory lane. I had the golf beat from 1994 to 2019, but there are a lot of people I haven't seen in a number of years. Someone I wrote a story about in 1996 checked in with me last week. And while I still don't fully comprehend the impact I had on golf in Western Massachusetts, I appreciate everyone's willingness to help me cover the beat --especially the pros who were so good to me for so many years."

Words from Tee Party committee chairman and Country Club of Greenfield head professional Kevin Piecuch endorse the obvious choice of honoring Held. "Choosing Russ as the 2020 Tee Party Honoree was an easy decision for the committee, Russ has been an important part of the Western Massachusetts golf community for the past 20 years," says Piecuch. "He has singlehandedly helped to grow the game of golf in our area as much as any person. When I look back at The Republican Junior Classic and women's golf lessons and how many golfers in these two programs alone have developed, it's incredible."

Piecuch notes Held is not the first honoree to come from the pages of the Springfield Newspapers. "Russ had very big shoes to fill when it came to covering golf in Western Massachusetts, taking over for the likes of Tee Party honoree Jim Regan, a legend himself. Russ not only filled those shoes but, in many respects, went beyond."

Known for his modest demeanor among his peers



and golf pros alike, Held reflected more on this worthy milestone. "The Tee Party list is a very storied group of people, only 73 others before me ... in the history of golf in Western Massachusetts. How am I on that list now," Held says. "I know a handful of other media members, guys like Gerry Finn and Jim Regan, had been honored over the years. But those guys are legends. I am very humbled to even be considered to be part of it. It's more than a hall-of-fame list. I'm guessing I really don't understand the impact I had on golf around here for 26 years. It's very humbling."

Currently working in marketing and communications at Wilbraham & Monson Academy, Held, now 55, decided to direct his laptop-scribe energy away from golf, making for more family time with wife Kathy whom Held said, "I couldn't have done any of it, all the crazy hours and weekends, without the support from Kathy, and three sons Riley, Regan and Aidan, who are in college this year at Princeton, Framingham State and Hamilton College."

"Russ Held wrote a Western Mass notebook column in each issue of Southern New England Golfer for nine years, and always did a wonderful job," said publisher/editor Bruce Vittner. His work was always on time, and he is an excellent writer and even a better person," added Vittner. ■



**T**he Fall 2011 issue pictures Webb Simpson and his wife, Dowd, and his son James on the cover. Simpson had just won the Deutsche Bank Championship on the second hole in sudden death to defeat Chez Reavie. He had made a 26-foot putt on the 18th to get into the playoff. He had earned his first PGA win only two weeks before, and the two wins catapulted him up in the PGA standings.

We had a full-page ad for Direct Air on page 2. That was the airline that flew non-stop from Worcester to Myrtle Beach and also to three locals in Florida. We thought that they would be a long-time advertiser, but alas they went out of business two years later. Maybe some of you flew on their aircraft.

Our insert picture was on Bobby Leopold who had just made it to the Round of 16 at the U.S. Amateur at Erin Hills in Wisconsin (Wisconsin's second most famous course)! Leopold happens to be in this issue that you are now reading. He has stood the test of time.

New England's Keegan Bradley was also featured in this issue. He had won the PGA Championship and \$1.5 million in August, then threw out the first pitch at Fenway Park on August 30 and the next day flipped the coin at midfield at Gillette Stadium. Who could have a better

three weeks?

In another article we featured Danielle Kang who had just won the U.S. Amateur at Rhode Island C.C. Kang has gone on to have a fine professional career and played on this year's Solheim Cup for the Americans.

Two locals had just gotten new jobs. Gregg Burke had just been hired to coach the URI golf team and Charlie Blanchard had just been hired for the same position at Bryant University. Both men have a great deal of success in their positions.

Television golf announcer Frank Nobile was in our area to visit with old friend Casey Bierer who was the general manager of Wentworth Hills at the time. Nobile was working at the Deutsche Bank that week and it was a short commute to visit his old friend who was hosting a barbecue for members and friends at Wentworth Hills.

We had a large feature on Seth Waugh, who at the time was CEO of Deutsche Bank Americas and the man most responsible for getting the Deutsche Bank tournament to Norton, Mass. The story was written by the late Joe Gordon, who did a fine job covering Waugh from his youth in western Massachusetts. Waugh is currently the head of the PGA of America. ■

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# Lyman Orchards, Conn.— Farm and Fairway



12th on Jones Course

**A**t Lyman Orchards Golf Club in Middlefield, Connecticut apples and golf balls go together. Lyman Orchards is one of the largest orchards in the state, rambling over 600 acres with a busy farm store that features everything from jams and jellies to, of course, freshly made apple pies featuring fruit from the Orchard's own trees.

On another 400 acres is the site of perhaps the most extensive golf facility in Connecticut, Lyman Orchards Golf Club. There are two 18-hole courses, one designed by Robert Rent Jones, Sr. the other by Gary Player, a short nine-hole course called the Apple Nine, also the site of learning center, two separate driving ranges (one at the Learning Center and one at the golf club), short game practice areas and putting greens and an indoor golf simulator with three bays utilizing the Trackman 4 golf simulator.

Lyman Golf Club is a spectacular destination for apple pickers and golfers as the layouts are set amid central Connecticut's rolling hills, woodlands, wetlands,

and grasslands. Golfers often tie in some fruit picking, shopping and other seasonal entertainment as part of their day, or allow the non-golfers in the family to do so while they are out on the course. When you traverse several holes on the Player Course you pass through apple orchards and get treated to stunning 360-degree views on holes 11 and 13.

The first nine holes on the Jones Course opened in 1968 with the second nine opened the following year. It quickly drew rave reviews and became a must play for Connecticut golfers. The Player Course opened for play in 1995 and it's more of a hilly layout that, as mentioned, passes through a bit of the orchards. The Apple Nine and Learning Center opened in 2011 with the course built on flat land. It is a favorite of beginning golfers, but more accomplished players enjoy it as a chance to work on their iron play and because of the fact that you can traverse the track in a little over an hour on a good day.

John Lyman, Executive Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of The Lyman Farm, Inc., explained how his



family came to be involved in the golf business.

"It was the early 1960s and we also had a dairy operation on our property that the next generation wasn't interested in. We leased the dairy farm out for awhile but we were approached by the town about the possibility of them purchasing the land to build a golf course. They had Al Zikourus, a well-known architect who laid out many courses in New England) lined up to design the course. But the funding for the deal fell through. But the idea of using some of the non-orchard land for a golf course stuck in the Lyman's heads. "A cousin of my dad (Jack Lyman) had contacted a friend of the Robert Trent Jones organization and he reached out to us. Little did we know that Jones was one of the most famous course designers in the world? He came up, toured the property and thought it was a great place to build a nice layout, so we decided to acquire the funding for the project."

Building a golf course at the time was "a bit a stretch" for the family, said John Lyman, but with Jones on board and the power of his name, "we went to the bank, got enough funding and went ahead and built the course." Lyman said, "Circumstances were such that we caught the interest in golf at just the right time. It did take us five years to get to where we had a sustainable membership and daily fee golfers, but it was a well-designed course by an architect with a big name and play took off. As it turned out it was a very good decision and in the middle 1990's we decided to build another 18 holes because the demand was there. We consulted with several architects and settled on Gary Player."

Lyman said there is a synergy between the orchard, farm and golf operations. "Our family is very committed to retaining our land as productive open space and the orchard and golf do just that. We have been through some tough years with the farm and the golf has helped with that and vice versa. It's been a great marriage."

There are other courses in Connecticut that once served very different purposes, all as open space of some sort. Here are a few.

The Whitney Family originally established the property on which Whitney Farms Golf Club in Monroe now sits as a farm with rare race horse breeding stables. A dairy farm existed on this land as well.

The land was purchased in the mid-1970's by Chris Bargas, Sr. and after a three-year design project, Whitney Farms opened as a public course in 1982. During this time, over 300 homes were added to form a desirable golf community.

In the process of re-designing the land, the architects took advantage of the ponds, scenic views and left some

of the stone walls on the property that lend a rustic, farm-like setting to the course. The 18-hole layout was designed by Hal Purdy and built by Bargas, Sr.

The classically designed Pete Dye layout at Wintonbury Hills Golf course in Bloomfield was once a sprawling daily operation owned by A.C. Peterson, one of the largest such companies in the state. The course, which rolls easily over the former grazing pastures turned fairways and greens, opened in 2005 and has gained a reputation as one of the best municipal tracks in the Northeast.

Leonard Allyn took some property near his family's quarry in Canaan and personally turned it into a nine-hole courses in 2002. Allyn did most of the routing work himself and also built a small practice range where he conducts lessons. The course is a favorite of locals.

So the next time you are walking on a golf course, think about what was there before it became a sporting playground. It was likely dotted with farm animals, horses and various other four-legged creatures. ■

**John Torsiello writes a Connecticut Notebook in each issue of *snegolfer.com*.**



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We would love to spread our wings and find some more businesses that would consider being part of this publication that was founded in 1990. We publish four issues per year. The first is always near the end of April and features the Masters and many local events that are being held or prepared.

The second is always in the beginning of June. The

CVS Charity Classic has always been featured in that issue. Our third issue in at the end of July and again features many major tournaments held on our area as well as many travel and personal stories.

The last issue is always similar to what you are reading now. Ryder Cups and Presidents' Cups always seem to be a staple. We always feature travel stories in every issue. We are looking for places where our readers would enjoy visiting and playing golf. If you have a resort or destination golfing area that you wish to promote, we can do a great job for you.

The medical field, financial industry, travel and so many other industries should certainly see the benefit of reaching this demographic of dedicated golfers who read our publication from cover to cover every issue.

Each issue of the publication is sent to 80,000 emails. Many people forward it to friends and relatives. You are certainly welcome to see our very competitive advertising rates or set up an advertising schedule for 2022 by visiting [www.snegolfer.com](http://www.snegolfer.com) or calling 401-464-8445.

Regards

*Bruce Vittner*

Publisher/Editor

NAME THAT HOLE



### Tony Dore

of Fairhaven was the winner of Name that Hole for the Aug/Sept issue.

It was the 8th hole at Maplegate in Bellingham, Mass. He will receive a 2022 Season Passport valued at \$65.

Name the picture to the left and win a 2022 Passport.

Think North, way North. Good luck. Send your entry to [bruce@snegolfer.com](mailto:bruce@snegolfer.com).





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## April 24, 2022

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8. **EXETER C.C.** (18) SP  
320 Victory Hwy. (Rt. 102) Exeter, RI  
401-295-8212 CR,CL,PS,CH,O  
[www.exetercc.com](http://www.exetercc.com)
9. **FAIRLAWN GOLF COURSE** (9) P,X  
3 Sherman Ave. Lincoln, RI  
401-334-3937 CR,CL,CH,SB,O  
[www.fairlawngolfcourse.com](http://www.fairlawngolfcourse.com)
10. **FOSTER COUNTRY CLUB** (18) P  
67 Johnson Rd. Foster, RI  
401-397-7750 CR,CL,PS,CH,O  
[www.fostercountryclub.com](http://www.fostercountryclub.com)
11. **GREEN VALLEY C.C.** (18) SP  
371 Union St. Portsmouth, RI  
401-849-2162 R,CH,Rest.,O  
[www.gvccri.com](http://www.gvccri.com) D
12. **HARBOR LIGHTS MARINA** (9) P  
150 Gray St. Warwick, RI  
401-737-6353 CR,CL,PS,DR,CH,O, Les.  
[www.harborlightsri.com](http://www.harborlightsri.com)
13. **JAMESTOWN G.C.** (9) P  
245 Conanicus Ave. Jamestown, RI  
401-423-9930 CR,CL,CH,SB  
[www.jamestowngolf.com](http://www.jamestowngolf.com)
14. **KINGS CROSSING GC** (9) P  
655 Old Baptist Rd. N. Kingstown, RI  
401-294-2872 CR,PS,CH,O  
[www.kingscrossinggolfclub.com](http://www.kingscrossinggolfclub.com)
15. **LAUREL LANE C.C.** (18) P  
Laurel Lane, W. Kingston, RI  
401-783-3844 CR,CL,PS,CH,O  
[www.laurellanecountryclub.com](http://www.laurellanecountryclub.com)
16. **MIDVILLE COUNTRY CLUB** (9) P  
100 Lombardi Ln. W. Warwick, RI  
401-828-9215 CR,CL,PS,CH  
[www.midvillegolfclub.com](http://www.midvillegolfclub.com)
17. **NEWPORT NATIONAL G.C.** (18) SP  
324 Mitchell's Ln. Middletown, RI  
401-848-9690 CR,CL,PS,SB,O  
[www.newportnational.com](http://www.newportnational.com)
18. **NORTH KINGSTOWN G.C.** (18) P  
]615 Callahan Rd. N. Kingstown, RI  
401-294-0684  
[www.nkgc.com](http://www.nkgc.com)  
CR,CL,CH,O,DR,PS Fat Belly's
19. **PINECREST GOLF CLUB** (9) P  
25 Pinehurst Dr. Richmond, RI  
401-364-8600  
[www.pinecrestri.com](http://www.pinecrestri.com)  
CR,CL,CH,SB,O Leagues
20. **RICHMOND CC** (18) P  
74 Sandy Pond Rd. Richmond, RI  
401-364-9200  
[www.richmondcountryclub.net](http://www.richmondcountryclub.net)  
CR,CL,PS,CH,O,DR
21. **ROSE HILL GOLF CLUB** (9) P, X  
222 Rose Hill Rd. So. Kingstown, RI  
401-788-1088  
[www.rosehillri.com](http://www.rosehillri.com)  
CR,CL,CH,SB, Leagues
22. **TRIGGS MEMORIAL G.C.** (18) P  
1533 Chalkstone Ave. Providence, RI  
401-521-8460  
[www.triggs.us](http://www.triggs.us)  
CR,CL,PS,CH,O
23. **WINDMILL HILL G.C.** (9) X  
35 Schoolhouse Rd. Warren, RI (Rt 136)  
401-245-1463  
[www.windmillgolfri.com](http://www.windmillgolfri.com)  
CR,CL,CH,O, Restaurant
24. **WINNAPAUG CC** (18) P  
184 Shore Rd. (Rt 1A) Westerly, RI  
401-596-1237  
[www.winnapaugcountryclub.com](http://www.winnapaugcountryclub.com)  
CR,CL,CH,DR,SB,O
25. **WOOD RIVER GOLF** (18) P  
78 Woodville-Alton Rd. Hope Valley, RI  
401-364-0700  
[www.woodrivergolf.com](http://www.woodrivergolf.com)  
CR,CH,SB,O

**A. BUTTON HOLE D.R.**  
1 Button Hole Dr. Providence, RI  
401-421-1664  
[www.buttonhole.org](http://www.buttonhole.org)  
2 putting greens, lessons

**B. D GOLF CENTER**  
324 Market St., Warren, RI  
401-919-3500  
covered+outdoor bays, high-tech  
teaching  
[www.dgolfrange.com](http://www.dgolfrange.com)

**C. MULLIGAN'S ISLAND GOLF & ENTERTAINMENT** (9) X  
401-464-8855  
1000 New London Ave. Cranston, RI  
[www.mulligansisland.com](http://www.mulligansisland.com)  
60 stall driving range, covered  
area, batting cages, mini-golf, par 3  
course, pitch and putt



26. **BAY POINTE CLUB** (18) SP  
19 Bay Pointe Dr. Onset, MA  
508-759-8802  
[www.baypointeclub.com](http://www.baypointeclub.com)  
PS,CR,CL,DR,CH,O,SB
27. **BLISSFUL MEADOWS G.C.** (18) SP  
801 Chocalog Rd. Uxbridge, MA  
508-278-6110  
[www.blissfulmeadows.com](http://www.blissfulmeadows.com)  
CR,CL,CH,DR,PS,O
28. **BUNGAY BROOK G.C.** (9) P  
30 Locust St. Bellingham, MA  
508-883-1600  
[www.bungaybrook.com](http://www.bungaybrook.com)  
CR,CL,DR,PS,CH,O
29. **CAPTAIN'S COURSE** (36) P  
1000 Freeman's Way, Brewster, MA  
508-896-1716  
[www.captainsgolfcourse.com](http://www.captainsgolfcourse.com)  
CR,CL,CH,PS,O
30. **CHEMAWA GOLF COURSE** (18) P  
350 Cushman Rd. N. Attleboro, MA  
508-399-7330  
[www.chemawagolf.com](http://www.chemawagolf.com)  
CR,CH,O,CL
31. **EASTON C.C.** (18) SP  
265 Purchase St. Easton, MA  
508-238-2500  
[www.eastoncountryclub.com](http://www.eastoncountryclub.com)  
CR,CL,PS,CH,DR,O
32. **HAZELTON GC** (18) P  
329 Summer St. Rehoboth, MA  
508-557-1856  
[www.hazeltongolfclub.com](http://www.hazeltongolfclub.com)  
CR,PS,CH,O
33. **HILLSIDE Country Club** (9) P  
82 Hillside Ave. Rehoboth, MA  
508-252-9761  
[www.hillsidecountryclub.com](http://www.hillsidecountryclub.com)  
Tiki Bar, Rest,CR,Cl,Pool, Lessons, O, PS
34. **JOHN F. PARKER G.C.** (9) P  
17 Fisher St. Taunton, MA  
508-822-1797  
<http://www.johnfparkergc.com>  
CR,DR,CH,SB, Skins Thurs. 3:45
35. **JUNIPER HILL G.C.** (36) P  
202 Brigham St. Northboro, MA  
508-393-2444  
[www.juniperhillgc.com](http://www.juniperhillgc.com)  
CR,CL,PS,CH,SB,O
36. **MAPLEGATE C.C.** (18) SP  
160 Maple St. Bellingham, MA  
508-966-4040  
[www.maplegate.com](http://www.maplegate.com)  
CR,CL,PS,CH
37. **THE LINKS @MASS GOLF** (18) P, X  
300 W. Main Rd. Rt. 123 Norton, MA  
508-222-0555  
[www.linksatmassgolf.org](http://www.linksatmassgolf.org)  
CL,PS,CH,SB,O
38. **NORTON COUNTRY CLUB** (18) SP  
188 Oak St. Norton, MA  
508-285-2400  
[www.nortoncountryclub.com](http://www.nortoncountryclub.com)  
CR,CL,CH,SB,O
39. **OLDE SCOTLAND LINKS** (18) P  
695 Pine St. Bridgewater, MA  
508-279-3344  
[www.oldsotlandlinks.com](http://www.oldsotlandlinks.com)  
CR,CL,SB,DR,O
40. **PINE OAKS GC** (9) P  
68 Prospect St. S. Easton, MA  
508-238-2320  
[www.pineoaks.com](http://www.pineoaks.com)  
CR,CL,CH,O, Retail Store
41. **SHAKER HILLS C.C.** (18) S P  
146 Shaker Rd. Harvard, MA  
978-772-3330  
[www.shakerhills.com](http://www.shakerhills.com)  
CR,CL,PS,CH, O, DR
42. **SHINING ROCK G.C.** (18) SP  
91 Clubhouse Way Northbridge, MA  
508-234-0400  
[www.shiningrock.com](http://www.shiningrock.com)
43. **SOUTHERS MARSH G.C.** (18) P  
30 Southers Marsh Ln. Plymouth, MA  
508-830-3535  
[www.southersmarsh.com](http://www.southersmarsh.com)  
CR,CL,DR,Top Tracer,PS,CH
44. **TWIN BROOKS GC** (18) RESORT  
35 Scudder Ave. Hyannis, MA  
508-862-6980
45. **WAUBEEKA GOLF LINKS** (18) P  
137 New Ashford Rd. Williamstown, MA  
413-458-8355  
[www.waubeeka.com](http://www.waubeeka.com)  
CR, CL, CH, PS, O, DR
46. **WENTWORTH HILLS GC** (18) SP  
27 Bow St. Plainville, MA  
508-316-0240  
[www.wntworthhillsgc.com](http://www.wntworthhillsgc.com)  
CR,CL,CH,PS,O

D. **ATLANTIC DRIVING RANGE**  
754 Newport Ave. S. Attleboro,  
MA 508-761-5484  
[www.atlanticgolfcenter.com](http://www.atlanticgolfcenter.com)  
heated tees, shop, mini golf, chip  
+ putt

E. **STIX GOLF+BASEBALL FUN  
CNTR**  
582 Kelley Blvd. No. Attleboro, MA  
508-695-0091  
[www.stixfuncenter.com](http://www.stixfuncenter.com)  
TrueStrike golf mats, grass tees,  
minigolf, batting cages, putting  
green, bunker, lessons

47. **AIRWAYS GC** (18) P  
1070 S. Grand St. W. Suffield, CT  
860-668-4973 CR,CL,CH,SB,O  
[www.airwaysgolf.com](http://www.airwaysgolf.com)

48. **ELMRIDGE GOLF CLUB** (27) P  
229 Elmridge Rd. Pawcatuck, CT 860-  
599-2248 CR,CL,DR,PS,CH,O  
[www.elmridgegolf.com](http://www.elmridgegolf.com)

49. **FOX HOPYARD** (18) SP  
1 Hopyard Rd. East Haddam, CT  
860-434-6644 CR,CL,CH,PS,DR,O  
[www.golfthefox.com](http://www.golfthefox.com)

50. **LAKE OF ISLES C.C.** (18) P  
Foxwoods Casino, Mashantucket, CT  
860-312-3636  
[www.lakeofisles.com](http://www.lakeofisles.com)  
CR,CL,PS,SB,Rest, O, School

51. **MOHEGAN SUN G.C.** (18) P  
7 Dows Ln. Baltic, CT  
860-862-9230  
[www.mohegansungolfclub.com](http://www.mohegansungolfclub.com)  
CR,CL,PS,CH, golf packages, lessons

52. **QUARRY RIDGE** (18) SP  
9A Rose Hill Rd. Portland, CT  
860-342-6113  
[www.quarryridge.com](http://www.quarryridge.com)  
CR,CL,CH,PS,O riding only

53. **RIVER RIDGE GOLF CLUB** (18) P  
259 Preston Rd. Griswold, CT  
860-376-3268 CR,CL,PS,CH,O  
[www.riverridgegolf.com](http://www.riverridgegolf.com)

54. **SHENNECOSSETT G.C.** (18) P  
93 Plant St. Groton, CT  
860-445-0262 (PS 448-1867)  
[www.shennygolf.com](http://www.shennygolf.com)  
CR,CL,CH,PS,Rest.,O

55. **SKUNGAMAUG RIVER GC** (18) P  
104 Folly Ln.. Coventry, CT  
860-742-9348 CR,CL,CH,PS,O  
[www.skungamauggolf.com](http://www.skungamauggolf.com)

56. **TWIN HILLS CC** (18) P  
199 Bread and Milk St. Coventry, CT  
860-742-9705 DR,CL,CH,PS,O  
[www.twinhillscountryclub.com](http://www.twinhillscountryclub.com)

## MAP KEY

( ) = Holes

P = Public

SP = Semi-Private

X = Executive

CR = Cart Rental

DR = Driving Range

PS = Pro Shop

CH = Clubhouse

O = Outings

SB = Snack Bar

CL = Club Rental



*"Sorry, but I couldn't find any jobs that  
allow you to play golf and drink all day.  
I guess it was worth a shot."*