



Spring 2013

# AZ GOLF *insider*

## Brave New World

AGA plays supporting role in helping Nicaragua overcome years of poverty through game of golf

20 questions  
with Ed Gowan

Boice earns  
Updegraff Award

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Four retreats  
to beat the heat

---

AWGA's Waynick  
sweeps awards



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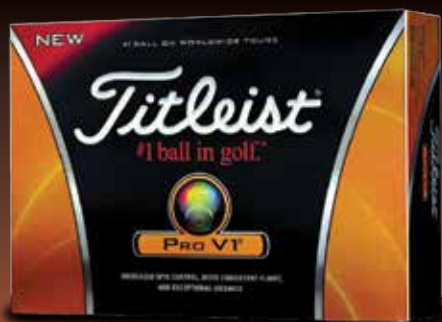
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*Clockwise below: The Phoenician, Scottsdale; Poston Butte Golf Club, Florence; Southern Dunes Golf Club, Maricopa.*

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20

## FEATURES

- 20 COVER STORY: BRAVE NEW WORLD** | By Dan Vukelich  
AGA plays supporting role in helping Nicaragua overcome years of poverty through the game of golf.
- 16 20 QUESTIONS** | By John Davis and Bill Huffman  
Ed Gowan, the AGA's longtime executive director, discusses challenges facing the amateur game.
- 28 BEST FRIENDS** | By John Davis  
Tucson's civic-minded Fred Boice captures Ed Updegraff Award.
- 38 BEAT THE HEAT** | By AZ GOLF Insider Staff  
Four dramatic destinations out West tempt golfers looking for cooler climates.

10



## AGA NEWS

- 29 AGA VOLUNTEER OF YEAR**  
Highly dependable Bill Burgesser earns the honor.
- 30 AWGA AWARDS**  
Liz Waynick sweeps POY and Senior POY honors.
- 31 MAYFAIR AWARD WINNER**  
Trey Martin had the AGA's best stroke average in 2012.
- 32 CACTUS & PINE**  
Charlie Costello of Phoenix CC claims GCSAA's national crown.
- 33 OTHER NEWS**  
JGAA board is announced; Bob Jones wins award.
- 34 RULES AND HANDICAPPING**  
GHIN has a solution: eClubhouse.
- 35 ARIZONA SCOREBOARD**  
AGA, JGAA results sponsored by Van's Golf Shops.



16



28

## DEPARTMENTS

- 8 A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR** | By Ed Gowan  
Innovative ways to grow Arizona golf: Products, events and more.
- 10 MEMBERS ONLY** | By AZ GOLF Insider Staff  
Local products, places and things you need to know about.
- 12 THE 19<sup>TH</sup> HOLE** | By Carey Sweet  
The Trophy Room at ASU Karsten Golf Course delivers a surprising menu.
- 42 OUT OF BOUNDS** | By Ed Gowan  
An amateur perspective on the 'State of the Game.'

### ON THE COVER

David McLay Kidd's exotic new creation in Nicaragua – Guacalito de la Isla Golf Club.  
*Photo courtesy of Murphy O'Brien.*



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### TALK TO US!

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SPRING 2013 | **AZ GOLF Insider** | 7



## More ways of growing Arizona golf

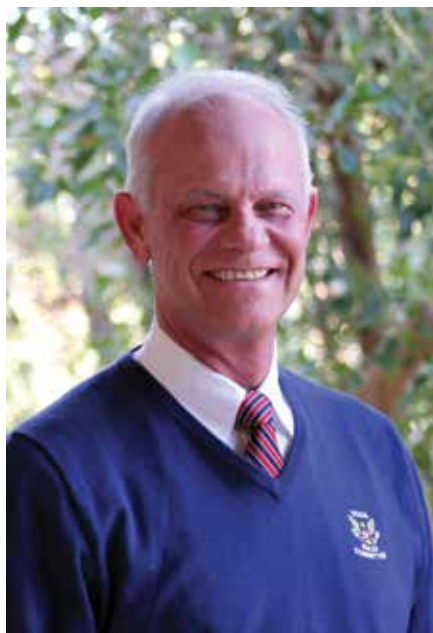
**W**e have several exciting additions for this new season. We invite all of you to participate with us in the growth of Arizona Golf.

We continue to grow the ACCESS Global offerings. One of our members booked a group into a golf resort, and the resulting bonus points led to a free cruise for he and his wife. I personally have saved the AGA over \$450 in three trips on airfare/hotel alone. Try it, you'll like it.

We are partnering with British Columbia to bring ACCESS Global to state associations throughout the U.S. and Canada. Washington, Oregon and Connecticut are already on board.

Several new twists to make 2013 exciting for tournament players have been added. The AGA Four-Ball Championship at Troon North will change format to match play in August. A new Cup Points Race will create a focus on achieving points in all divisions, with an exciting 36-hole finale at Southern Dunes the first part of November.

We will be announcing a new relationship for the Goldwater Cup. This should enhance this great tradition we've shared over the years with the Southwest Section of the PGA in honoring Bob Goldwater



JENNEA BONO

and his extraordinary legacy.

The USGA's eClubhouse software for club use will streamline communications and event planning for those who use it, and it's free for all clubs through the AGA. See page 34 for more information.

Two new partnerships soon will bring the AGA services to anyone interested in golf through smartphone apps and Internet offerings that truly are remarkable. Those who attended the spring meeting saw a bit of information for one of them.

We're looking for new volunteers in a variety of committee positions. If you have a little free time, please call Ginger Monroy in the AGA office to learn more.

Finally, we are again raising funds to support our military charities: Birdies for the Brave, Navy SEAL Foundation, Folds of Honor and Fighter Country Partnership. Please join us either as a team member for the 100-hole marathon on May 20, or in sponsoring a player for \$1 per hole. ■

## AZ GOLF insider

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Pacific Dunes #11, 148 yards, par 3  
Photo by Wood Sabold







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[www.datrek.com](http://www.datrek.com) • \$199.95



## ➤ Golden at Gold Canyon

Forget about Jacob Waltz, aka “the Dutchman,” and the treasure he never found. The real hidden gem of the Superstition Mountains is **Gold Canyon Golf Resort**, where the Sidewinder and Dinosaur Mountain courses are golden. On the eastern edge of the Valley at the base of the spectacular Superstition Mountains, Gold Canyon is the quickest golf getaway outside the Valley without really getting away. It's also the most affordable, as this summer Gold Canyon offers a “Lost Dutchman's Summer Special” for \$249 per couple. It includes a one-night stay in a deluxe casita, two rounds of golf on the Dinosaur, two rounds on Sidewinder and two breakfast buffet vouchers. The offer is based on double occupancy and valid May 28-Sept. 15, 2013.

[www.gcgr.com](http://www.gcgr.com) • \$249 (per couple)



## ➤ Top Secret: Bocchieri Golf

He came to Scottsdale with a heavy load, and things have gotten more secretive since Stephen Bocchieri opened his Research & Performance Center at the Scottsdale Airpark. Bocchieri, of course, is the inventor of the Heavy Putter, and more recently he has come up with the **Secret Grip**, a back-weighted grip endorsed by Jack Nicklaus and swing guru Rick Smith. According to Nicklaus, he used the same counterweight technology throughout his illustrious career. The Secret Grip is 40 percent heavier than a standard grip, with the tungsten weight in the butt-end of the grip raising a club's balance point to promote consistently crisp contact, greater control and even added distance. Special “golfer's dozen” (13 grips) is \$163.

[www.SecretGrip.com](http://www.SecretGrip.com) • \$16.99 per grip



## Loudmouth grows mustache

The good folks at fun-loving **Loudmouth Golf** have created a whiskered wardrobe for the Scottsdale-based Mustache Open. The limited edition of bold facial-hair-festooned apparel features every type of mustache known to man on its trousers, shorts, mini-shorts and sport coats. The golf tournament, which is set for May 18 at Troon North, is the brainchild of Scottsdale's Clifton S. Waterbury III and benefits Team Up Against Cancer. The entry fee of \$185 includes a two-man scramble with the winning team advancing to the Mustache Open's national championship in Las Vegas. Why a mustache? Because as Waterbury likes to say, "Golfing with a mustache ... It's just plain funner!" To register, visit [www.MustacheOpen.com](http://www.MustacheOpen.com). To order the mustache-logoed clothes see following website.

*www.LoudmouthGolf.com • \$65 to \$350*

## Caddie tales

Actor Michael Douglas, one of the guys whom caddie-author Oliver Horovitz looped during his seven-year stint at St. Andrews, said of the latest golf tale: "The book has great characters and a wonderful sense of being a fish out of water." And for those who read Horovitz's **"An American Caddie in St. Andrews,"** that pretty much sums it up. Horovitz spent seven straight summers as a caddie at St. Andrews and lived to tell about his crazy moments in this coming-of-age account at the game's most storied caddy shack. The caddies of St. Andrews certainly are the story, as Horovitz gets in some crazy tidbits and tips for playing the Old Course.

*www.oliverhorovitz.com • \$26 (hardback)*

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# Championship CUISINE

ASU KARSTEN'S **TROPHY ROOM** DELIVERS MENU LOADED WITH SURPRISES FROM TALENTED CHEF

First, let me say, I feel like I've been robbed. By not discovering earlier what was going on at the **Trophy Room** in Tempe, I've missed nearly a year and a half of excellent dining.

So many months stolen, when I could have been enjoying such pitch-perfect cuisine as butterfish, pan seared to a crispy edge, sprinkled in basil-coconut gremolata, set atop a salad of pickled beech mushrooms and glacier lettuce, paired with coconut quinoa dotted with grilled pineapple, and puddled in basil-yuzu sauce.

If you have no idea what restaurant I'm talking about, I'm not surprised. Trophy Room is on the Karsten Golf Course at Arizona State, inside the pro shop. For most of its decades-old history, it's served burgers, hot dogs, club sandwiches and the like, everything you'd have expected from a place frequented by guests more intent on the fine sport of golf than fine dining.

Yet in November 2011, chef Andrew Brosten came aboard. Previously, he was catering sous chef at the Sanctuary Camelback Mountain Resort in Paradise Valley, where he worked under Elements restaurant celebrity chef Beau MacMillan and no doubt learned the techniques that brought that exquisite butterfish to my table.

In earlier years, Brosten worked with such acclaimed chefs as Michel Richard, Robert Irvine, Patricia Yeo, Geoffrey Zakarian and Ming Tsai. He graduated from the Scottsdale Culinary Institute and earned magna cum laude honors from the University of Phoenix in business management.

His sous chefs, Kyle Roehrenbeck and Danny Bailey, are Elements alumni as well.

Which inevitably leads to the next question. What are these guys doing in a nice but oh-so casual grill like this?

Easy answer. Though Trophy Room is open only for



The chef who is in charge of ASU Karsten's Trophy Room (far left) is Andrew Brosten (above left). Among his many creations, the catfish po' boy (left) and the Boss Burger (above).

breakfast, lunch and special events, it has celebrated regular clientele, including Tim Mickelson (ASU men's golf coach and Phil's brother), and Melissa Luellen (ASU women's golf coach).

Management seems to let the team direct the kitchen as they see fit, including daily "blue plate specials" (market price) such as that fish that was priced at just \$13.

The chef can even send out amuses, such as the juicy nibble of pulled pork I got, served open face on a crostini, decorated in guajillo chile and a touch of watermelon gelee.

Am I gushing? I'm not embarrassed.

At first glance, the menu looks typical – mac 'n' cheese (\$8), a Chicago dog (\$8), Cobb salad (\$14), club sandwich (\$12) and chicken penne pasta (\$13). But investigate – the spiral mac is expertly al dente and dressed in a tangy, thick mantle of fontina and Parmesan scattered in crunchy panko all so beautifully seasoned that my dining companion and I acted like pigs (and didn't care who

saw us) to get the last forkful.

The dog is the real deal, topped in homemade spicy giardiniera on an artisan bun. The Cobb brings grilled-to-order marinated flank steak and Shaft's bleu cheese among the usual suspects, in a snappy roasted garlic vinaigrette, while the club is layered in prosciutto and house-made pickle, and the penne is a bright, silky toss of bell pepper, tomatillo, corn, poblano, manchego and chipotle cream.

I guess I'd never really looked at Trophy Room, but it's clear now how well its classic architecture has stood the test of time. It hasn't been updated much since opening in 1989, but the soaring wood and metal rafter vaulted ceiling is striking, capped in broad skylights and supported by large windows overlooking the greens. Blond wood tables and chairs are utilitarian but comfortable, and there's plenty of "natural" décor to look at, from the clothing displays in the adjacent shop (I love the tiny ASU-logo baby one-sie) and a wall of fame charting



Arizona golf history and history makers. A trim of blue-painted exposed ducts adds a bright burst of color.

Still, I'm not looking up from my plate, because my companion has quickly proven he's not above stealing my chicken sliders, which show how good such basic food can be when treated with care, the slow roasted chicken breast stuffed in a homemade buttermilk biscuit, topped in spicy-crisp jalapeño bacon and a creamy mantle of cheddar fondue (\$7). This is a bar snack elevated to steakhouse quality, and it's terrific with a Moscow Mule (\$6) of Russian Standard vodka, homemade ginger syrup, artisan ginger beer and fresh lime served over ice in a copper mug to keep it icy cold.

A catfish po' boy

sandwich is another happy surprise, bringing a warm demi baguette packed with chunks of tempura-fried fish (\$12). The seafood is first-rate, but what really brings it together is a slathering of sweet-spicy roasted peach chutney and crunchy coleslaw. The hint of sweetness in the sandwiches makes them a great match for another cocktail, the Loaded Palmer (\$6), blending house infused lemon vodka, simple syrup and fresh brewed iced tea.

My server commented that Mickelson and Luellen are fans of the spinach salad and turkey burger, so we ordered those, too. The spinach is so fresh we can smell it, the crisp leaves tossed with roasted fennel, tomato, fingerling potatoes, bacon and pickled shallot

in lemon poppy vinaigrette (\$13), while the burger reminds me of delicate meatloaf, moist and dense studded with chiles (\$11). The kicker is that Brosten signature accent: a surprise whisper of maple aioli that adds a delightful sweet note spread on focaccia.

The only dish we didn't care for was the Boss Burger, a monster of a beef patty mounded in pulled pork, roasted poblano, guacamole, jalapeño bacon, Corona beer-lime barbecue sauce, pepper Jack cheese and a big ol' fried egg (\$14). Certainly there are plenty of diners that love this Carl's Jr. kind of creation, but so much taken together obscures the good quality individual ingredients.

To wrap it all up, there's an ice cream sandwich (\$4) for dessert. Naturally,

the dark double chocolate chip cookies are baked fresh, and the vanilla bean ice cream is premium.

The name Trophy Room has long stood for the trophies in the restaurant's cases. Now, it can stand for the food, too. ■

*Carey Sweet writes about food, wine and dining for The Arizona Republic, San Francisco Chronicle, Phoenix Magazine and Sunset.*

## DETAILS

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Ed Gowan has been the executive director of the Arizona Golf Association since 1985.

# 20

## QUESTIONS

### WITH AGA'S

### ED GOWAN



By John Davis and Bill Huffman  
Photos by Wade Moran

As the executive director of the Arizona Golf Association, Ed Gowan has been the driving force behind amateur golf in Arizona since 1985, when he took over for Johnny Riggle, who had led the AGA since 1967.

Through the past three decades, Gowan has been involved in many changes involving the AGA, but he remains a staunch supporter of the amateur game and the people who run it, the United States Golf Association. (Read "Out of Bounds," Page 42.) Besides being a USGA rules official who has overseen national championships since 1978, Gowan loves to play as shown by the fact that he continues to be a scratch golfer, since his teenage years.





RECENTLY GOWAN, 63, SAT DOWN FOR A QUESTION-AND-answer session with *AZ Golf Insider* regarding the state of the game, and the state of Arizona golf in particular. The native of Cleveland, Ohio who today lives in Carefree had some candid answers on how he thinks the game could be better and where he sees it going.

**How did you get into golf? Did you think you would make a career out of it?**

It started with *Golfer News* in Cleveland when I couldn't get a job out of college one summer, and by the next year I had produced a tournament magazine, worked with Firestone on their PGA Tour event, started four local amateur tournaments and hosted seven golf charter trips to Mexico and the Caribbean. I did that for five years before joining the LPGA as a rules official. I also served as public relations director for Northern Ohio Section of the PGA. And, yes, I knew right away, golf was the perfect career for me.

**Let's get right to it. What is the biggest challenge facing the AGA?**

Young people aren't joining, clubs are struggling, and so our membership is stagnant. Yet expenses rise 5 percent a year. We're developing new outreach opportunities for all golfers, and that's changing the face of the AGA to appeal to all who play golf, not just members of clubs with handicaps. Change is stressful for all, and we're 80 percent of the way

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through the effort. But it's already showing great promise. It's an exciting time for the AGA and golf in Arizona.

#### **How does the AGA's role differ from the USGA's in growing the game?**

The goal in the growing-the-game puzzle is to get those already playing golf to play more golf. Information sourcing and advertising those playing opportunities to visitors and non-members alike is our primary focus. As more people who love golf play more, they will bring others with them. Golf is a social sport, and it's the social aspect that shows the greatest promise.



**Gowan: "I'm just happy to have had a part in the AGA's growth."**

#### **Speaking of growing the game, are we in trouble on that front?**

Growing the game is not the problem. It's the rate of growth that concerns many, primarily the golf-dependent businesses and course owners. Since golf revenue is way down from 10 years ago, many businesses are on the edge, courses included. We see steady growth coming, but it may not be soon enough for some.

#### **Is there any way to make the game more affordable and accessible?**

The game is not inexpensive, and probably can't be except for municipal sites where there is a willingness to service golfers. But even then, the costs for water and maintenance make "affordability" challenging. As for "accessibility," I feel the game is more accessible than it has ever been. We just need to continue opening access points.

#### **The proposed anchoring ban has brought a lot of controversy with it. Was that a bad move by the R&A and USGA?**

From the AGA perspective, I think the decision is a correct philosophical position, even if 20 years late. The conversation is very good in my personal opinion, as it opens the door for other issues to be addressed. No matter what the outcome, the game will be OK.

#### **Were you surprised that the PGA Tour and PGA of America do not support the ban?**

The Tour and PGA opposition was to be expected, given their stations in the game. The European golf organizations have come out in favor of the ban. This all fits in with their personal views as organizations of the best interests of their memberships, and their perspectives on what is important to golf for them. Let's see what comes from the discussion.

#### **Had Keegan Bradley, Webb Simpson and Ernie Els not won majors with with long/belly putters, would the proposed ban even happened? What if Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy had been using long putters. Would that have made a difference?**

I have served two terms as a consultant to the USGA's Rules of Golf Committee, and with that background, I can only ask you to believe me in saying that the success of tour players had very little effect in the creation of the proposal. As for Tiger and Rory, again, I'm absolutely certain it would have no bearing.

#### **If bifurcation (more than one set of rules) is something that would make the game more enjoyable to golfers, should the R&A and USGA continue to oppose it simply for the sake of tradition?**

I've been at this for 40 years. I fail to see any real benefit except for a few in any bifurcation effort. This is not to say that certain club/ball or other local rules couldn't be valuable in some ways, but having separate rules in my estimation would do a great deal of damage to golf.

#### **A lot of people have negative views of the USGA, that the organization is made up of blue bloods who think they're elitists or "purists." Has the USGA lost touch?**

That would be a perception foisted on the golf public by those with an agenda. If you could see the inside of the USGA in action, you would not ask the question. As to whether the USGA could become irrelevant should the tours decide to go their own way through bifurcation, again, much would be lost and the future of golf would be endangered.

#### **If you were the executive director of the USGA, what would you make your top priorities?**

If I was king, I would eliminate slow play in the championships with quick and direct penalties. I would, as the USGA is doing now, work to create a worldwide handicapping and course rating system that is available to all golfers, not just club members. Remember that USGA's Mike Davis and the executive committee work in concert, the executive director is not a dictator.

#### **Is there any way to speed up a round of golf from its current average of four-plus hours? Is time consumption killing the game?**

The amount of time spent playing the game and costs to play it are the chief issues confronting golf. Reducing slow play has to start at the top with the major championships, the



PGA Tour and local associations. Clubs and golfers will follow.

**How strictly is pace of play enforced in AGA competition?**

The AGA was the first to implement the checkpoint policy to reduce time of play. That was 12 years ago. At that time we took tournament play from well over five hours to four hours. Over the past eight years, accommodating players has led to a return to interminable times of play, so again this year we are slowly implementing a more stringent pace policy.

**Speaking of tournaments, how many does the AGA sponsor a year, and how can you make them better and more appealing for your members?**

We host about 35 of our own and run about 45 to 50. Our championships and USGA qualifiers are the best. The other events depend on the number of volunteers and interest of courses to give us access. That is currently very good, with the ongoing need to develop more volunteer support.

**A recession has impacted every facet of the game in the past five years. Where does Arizona golf stand in comparison to other parts of the country?**

As with most negative economic issues, Arizona initially suffers most and then recovers first. Most indicators in Arizona — golf and tourism, at least — are looking positive this year. Elsewhere in the country, they're still in doubt.

**What's left on Ed Gowan's plate as far as the AGA goes?**

My job is to spend the membership's dollars in the most effective ways to enhance their golf experience, while representing the best interests of the USGA as golf's amateur body. In a perfect world, I would see the AGA become a partner with every golfer in Arizona and for most who visit. That palette has an unlimited number of colors.

**When do you plan on hanging up the executive director's hat? Do you have any advice for your successor?**

The AGA's Executive Committee has that charge on both counts. I'm just happy to have had a part in the AGA's growth. Whoever follows me has a challenge, as golf is changing radically and rapidly from the traditional character it had for many years. I would hope that person has a deep love for the rules and history of the game. My advice is to remember that it's about the game, first and foremost.

**If you had a mulligan, and it couldn't be for a career in any way associated with golf, what would you be doing on a second go-round?**

The academic life seems quite attractive, so I suppose a university professorship would be great fun.

**What do you think will be your legacy with the AGA?**

I would like it to be great championships and an organization that serves all golfers. I grew up a street kid in Cleveland. Golf opened up a new world for me. I would hope the AGA offers that opportunity for everyone in Arizona, and that I helped to bring it about.

**How would you like your epitaph to read?**

Yet to be written. Hopefully, it will be by someone else . . . years from now. ■



The top of the advertisement features the Schaffer's Mill Golf & Lake Club logo, which includes a stylized 'SM' monogram above the club's name in a script font. Below the logo is a large, vibrant photograph of a golf course. The foreground shows a well-manicured green fairway with long shadows cast by trees on the left. In the background, a dense forest of tall evergreen trees stands against a clear blue sky, with a snow-capped mountain peak visible in the distance. A small body of water is visible on the right side of the course.

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# *BRAVE NEW WORLD*

*AGA plays supporting role in helping Nicaragua  
overcome years of poverty through game of golf*

BY DAN VUKELICH • PHOTOS COURTESY OF MURPHY O'BRIEN





RIVAS, Nicaragua — When David McLay Kidd opened a spectacular new golf course here earlier this year, the Arizona Golf Association was with him — hammering in hazard stakes as howler monkeys screeched in the treetops, iguanas lazed nearby and cries of tropical birds echoed across the jungle.

Kidd's newest design, Guacalito de la Isla Golf Club, an amenity of the five-star Mukul Resort, lies above a dramatic stretch of Pacific shoreline known as the Emerald Coast, about two hours south of Managua.

At 6,676 yards from the tips, Guacalito's generous parkland layout rises and falls across a deciduous tropical forest, winding through, under and around 300-year-old hardwood trees that Kidd absolutely was forbidden to cut down by the resort's owner, Nicaraguan billionaire Carlos Pellas Chamorro.

The result is a golf course perfectly integrated into the land's contours, as Guacalito means "little bowl." Ancient trees — some 100 feet tall — loom in the player's vision across 17 holes until the par-3 18<sup>th</sup> hole spills spectacularly out of the





**Mukul's Guacalito de la Isla Golf Club (left) is best classified as an adventure golf destination. Mukul's beautiful beachfront resort (right) is about two and a half hours by car from Managua.**

jungle onto a broad, white-sand beach.

One cove over is a protected nesting ground for rare, critically endangered Ridley sea turtles. Offshore, surfers ride consistent barrels to shore. Farther out, kite surfers dance on the wind and gray whales and dolphins breach the shimmering surface. In topography and ocean views, the Emerald Coast rivals California's Monterey Peninsula.

Guacalito's eco-friendly routing, which took Kidd four years to meticulously lay out, should remind people why his first major work — the minimalist, naturalistic Bandon Dunes — blew away the golf world 20 years ago. "I realized that over the years I had gotten away from the concepts that made Bandon so successful, and I've gone back to the idea of not placing obstacles in front of the player," said Kidd, whose portfolio includes such other notables as the Castle Course in St. Andrews and Machrihanish Dunes in Scotland, as well as Tetherow in Oregon.

There's more, added Ed Gowan, executive director of the Arizona Golf Association.

"All in all, this is as complete a new golf course for men and women as I have seen in the last 20 years," Gowan wrote Kidd after he and the AGA's assistant executive director, Lorraine Thies, spent three days marking the course's hazards in late January.

Guacalito is a part of a new luxury golf and beach resort and residential community that is about to become Central America's next red-hot destination, according to the *Wall Street Journal* and several other national publications.

Mukul, which means "secret" in a Mayan dialect, has 37 private villas sprinkled across a steep hillside overlooking the ocean. Each has a private pool and deck. Rooms are richly appointed with hand-made Nicaraguan furniture and art.

The resort's spa offers seven distinct styles of massage, "One for every day of the week," said Federico Spada, the resort's manager.

The first phase of two-story condos are being handed over to their new owners, 96 percent of whom are wealthy Nicaraguans. More luxury condos and single-family home sites are being offered to American and Canadian buyers lured by Nicaragua's natural beauty and low cost of living.

Pellas, the resort's owner and developer, heads Grupo Pellas, a multi-national conglomerate with interests in land development, vehicle dealerships, citrus, sugar mills, ethanol and the highly regarded Flora de Caña rum distillery. Pellas built BAC-Credomatic, Nicaragua's largest bank, before selling it to GE Capital in one of the largest deals ever in Central America.

In the past decade, Nicaragua's once hard-line Marxist Sandinista government significantly loosened business restrictions. Pellas grabbed the chance to take the lead in pushing Nicaragua, the second-poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, to build a sustainable tourism economy, and he's doing it from the ground up. And there are signs it is working, as extreme poverty, which once included 11.2 percent of the population has dropped to 5.5 percent in the past five years.

"They say I am crazy making huge bets like this, that the country isn't ready, that I'm jumping the gun. But I think it's the right time," Pellas, a Stanford business graduate, said in an interview.

Rather than hiring a golf-resort management company, Pellas recruited a team of veterans of the Mexican hospitality and golf industry to train a Nicaraguan workforce. People from the surrounding municipality of Tola, many subsistence farmers and fishermen, others who never had a job, now

*"All in all, this is as complete a new golf course for men and women as I have seen in the last 20 years."*

— ED GOWAN



Offshore breezes in Nicaragua buffet the island, making conditions perfect for surfing and kite surfing, but challenging for those playing golf at Mukul's Guacalito de la Isla Golf Club.

## NAVIGATING NICARAGUA: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The Mukul Resort near Rivas is about two and a half hours by car south of Managua's Augusto C. Sandino International Airport, which has non-stop service from Houston, Miami, Fort Lauderdale and Atlanta. Carriers include United, American, Delta, Copa, TACA and Spirit, and flying time is less than three hours. Mukul guests can schedule a helicopter pickup at Managua and make the trip in about 20 minutes during daylight hours. An airport capable of handling business jets and Boeing 737s is planned near the resort, with the eventual goal of scheduled Iberia Airways service from major Central American cities.

In the meantime, Mukul's Guacalito de la Isla Golf Club is best classified as an adventure golf destination, so travelers should keep in mind the following:

It's best to have a car from the resort pick you up. During the day, heavy traffic on the older cobbled Mexican-style roadway near Managua can significantly add to travel time. Be forewarned: Under Nicaraguan law, a driver involved in a serious accident can be arrested and held until police sort out the facts.

Although much of the road from Managua to Rivas recently was upgraded to U.S. highway-quality two-lane blacktop, at night the roadway can be an unnerving



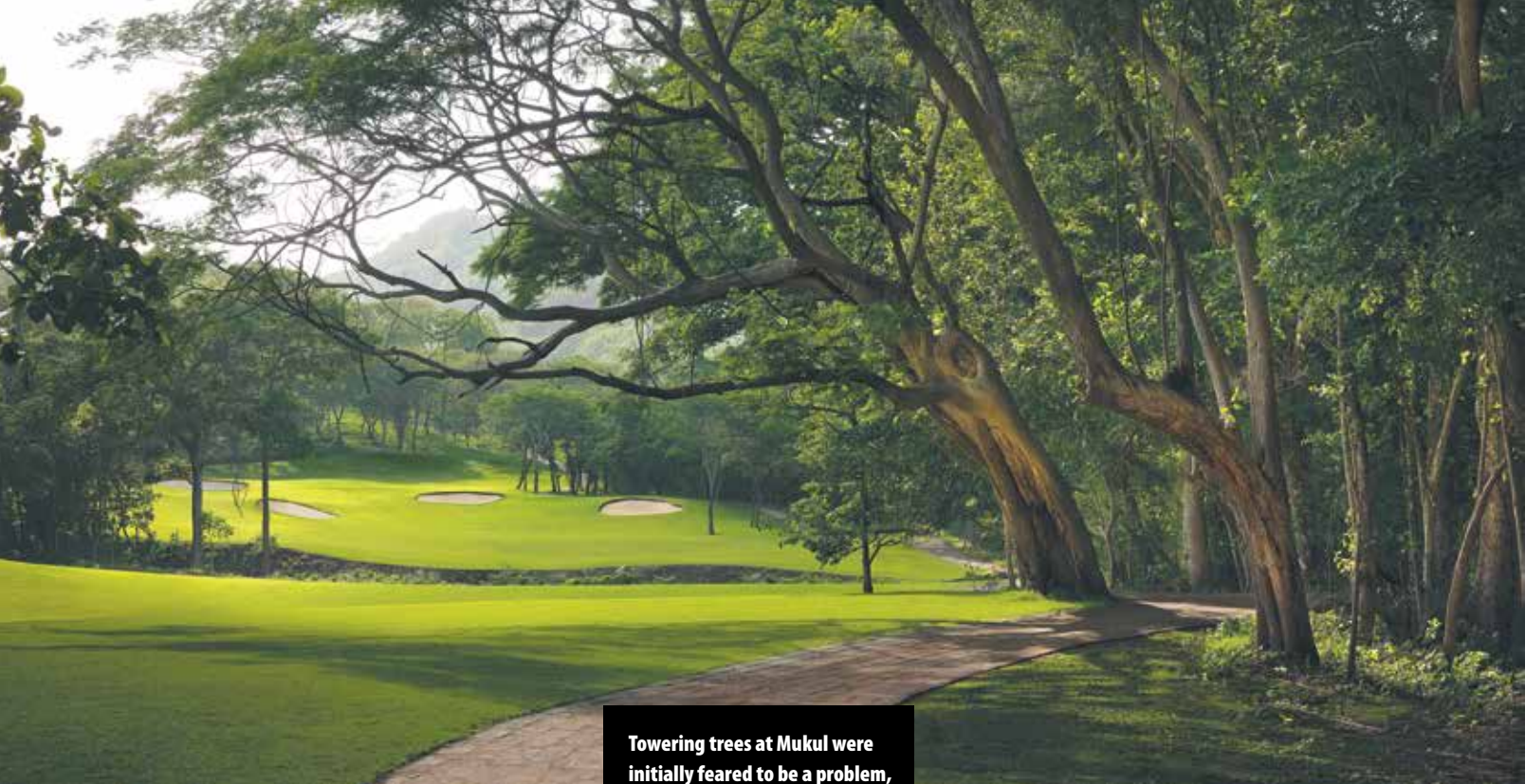
obstacle course of unlighted vehicles, dogs, horses, pigs and groups of pedestrians.

The water at the Mukul Resort is filtered and safe to drink. Unlike Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast, there is no worry about malaria or other tropical diseases. And should anything arise health-wise, the best hospital in Nicaragua is nearby and named after the developer's wife — the Vivian Pellas Hospital.

Offshore breezes that make for great surfing and kitesurfing at Mukul mean that wind is an integral part of playing golf at Guacalito much of the year. The green fee is \$145 and includes a cart and forecaddie. Rooms are a bit pricier, with an ocean view "bohio," or beachfront villa, costing \$620 a night with a 17 percent tax on top of that.

The dry season on Nicaragua's Pacific Coast is roughly Thanksgiving through May. The rest of the year can bring monsoonal rains that can dump as much as 5 inches in an hour, but Guacalito has tremendous natural drainage and can be playable again within 20 minutes. — *Dan Vukelich*





**Towering trees at Mukul were initially feared to be a problem, especially for tee shots. But thanks to extra efforts by the architect and developer, they were saved, adding challenge and visual drama.**

make up 70 percent of Mukul's staff.

Pellas established an academy, "Escuelita Mukul," to train workers on the intricacies of hospitality: to teach employees sanitary food handling, how to wait tables, tend bar, clean guest villas and caddie for golfers. Many workers who built the resort's roads and villas, transplanted trees and shaped the golf course had never operated mechanized equipment.

Last year, Mukul's Office of Corporate Social Responsibility (each of Grupo Pellas' business units has one) distributed ceramic water filter/purifiers to 550 families in five nearby villages, said program manager Jon Thompson. Another 550 filters will be distributed this year. Since the program started, "We've seen a drastic reduction in diarrhea and kidney infections," Thompson said.

Pellas' company has made small loans of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 to local small businesses. Recipients have included roadside food and craft stalls, small restaurants, hostels and B&Bs. Businesses that significantly improve standards can be forgiven their loans. "We want this place to be an authentic destination for people who want to visit an unexplored destination, and we want to do it in a sustainable way that benefits Nicaragua through what I call 'inclusive capitalism,'" Pellas said.

His push for sustainability led Pellas to Kidd, son of a Scottish golf superintendent, who walked Guacalito for months before clearing what Pellas calls "arbusto," the Spanish word for bushy, low-lying vegetation that obscured the forest's giant Guanacaste, Madroño, Tamarindo and Genizaro trees.

Faced with Pellas' "no cut" dictum, Kidd transplanted 1,500 trees from fairways to the course's turfed margins — an arboreal version

of Moses' parting of the Red Sea. Mukul set a world record for the largest tree ever moved, a 1-million-pound Guanacaste tree dragged and pushed by giant bulldozers to a spot inside Mukul's front gate.

How the AGA came to be in Nicaragua goes back to 2008, when Guacalito's director of golf, Andrew Gilchrist, a Scot raised in Mexico, then running the Nicklaus course at the Mayan Palace Resort in Puerto Peñasco, asked for the AGA's help in marketing his course and addressing playability issues. Last fall, he began working with the AGA on a plan for Guacalito.

Gowan said the towering trees, which he initially feared would unfairly play from tee boxes, now define holes and add challenges and visual drama. Guacalito's Penn State-trained agronomist and superintendent Chip Caswell agrees, but goes further. Tree limbs high above the 18<sup>th</sup> tee, for example, were left untouched to allow a band of howler monkeys living on the hillside above No. 17 to make the aerial commute across 18 to the rest of their territory.

Cutting the limbs would have reduced the band's habitat by as much as 50 percent. "In two years here, I've seen those monkeys on the ground maybe five times — those upper limbs are that important," Caswell said.

That kind of attention to environmental detail helps Guacalito live up to Pellas' vision of sustainability. It also makes a course that you could play every day for a week and never tire of it. That being said, whether or not Guacalito's massive trees, arroyos and ball-gobbling jungle make a monkey out of you — well, that's another story. ■

Dan Vukelich is a freelance writer in Albuquerque, N.M., who edits NewMexicoGolfNews.com. He also writes about golf and travel for the Chicago Tribune.

*"We want this place to be an authentic destination for people who want to visit an unexplored destination."*

— CARLOS PELLAS

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# AGA NEWS

29> VOLUNTEER 30> AWGA 31> MAYFAIR AWARD 32> GCSAA 33> JUNIOR NEWS



**Ed Updegraff Award winner Fred Boice (right) shares a story with the man the award was named after, Dr. Ed Updegraff, at their favorite home away from home — Tucson Country Club.**

spring meeting March 7 at Phoenix Country Club.

"I'm deeply honored and humbled to receive such an award, but having Dr. Ed's name on it makes it really special," Boice said. "I was amazed when I heard I won it. I didn't know quite what to say. I didn't think I had done anything that special."

Boice, 82, comes from a family of prominent ranchers and has served as president of the Arizona Cattle Growers and on the executive committee of the National Cattlemen Association. He later became a bankruptcy trustee and performed various other duties for the court system.

Along with his life-long involvement in golf, Boice has served in many civic organizations, such as the Tucson Conquistadores, but most prominently was a driving force with the Arizona Board of Regents.

He became the first person to serve two terms as its president and established the Regent's Tuition Task Force to address affordable education.

During his tenure, records were set in enrollment, retention, graduation rates and diversity.

"I can assure you he is very deserving of this award," said Updegraff, who many consider the best amateur golfer in Arizona history. "I don't think people really know how civic-minded he is."

Boice attended Tucson High School, Occidental College and the University of Arizona, and joined Tucson CC about 35 years ago, where he and Updegraff became best friends.

Boice estimates that the two men have played "a thousand or more" rounds of golf together, including their trips to compete in the U.S. Senior Open and U.S. Senior Amateur championships. They also have played as partners in numerous AGA events, winning several titles, and as opponents in the Tucson CC championship, which Updegraff has won an astounding 27 times.

"That was a tough one to win for most folks," Boice cracked. "I almost won it one time, but a bald-headed doctor got in my way. That's OK though. The better man won."

Updegraff joked that, "I guess I must have been very fortunate that year," and added that a very good man was chosen for the award.

"Seeing him get it is special because he has been such a good friend through the years," Updegraff said. "All of those who have won it were deserving individuals, but this brings it a little closer to home for me." ■

## Best friends

TUCSON'S CIVIC-MINDED **FRED BOICE**  
CAPTURES ED UPDEGRAFF AWARD

• By John Davis

Winning the Ed Updegraff Award is meaningful enough in itself, but when it is named after your best friend, receiving it becomes far more rewarding.

That is the case this year as Fred Boice of Tucson has been named the recipient of the annual award

created by the Arizona Golf Association "to recognize those who, their actions or accomplishments, exemplify the spirit of the game."

Boice, who has been prominent in shaping higher education throughout Arizona, has been a favorite playing partner of Dr. Ed Updegraff for over a quarter-century at Tucson Country Club. The award was presented at the AGA's

WADE MORAN



# Highly rated Burgesser named Volunteer of Year



JENNEA BONO

• By John Davis

**L**ike many others who have been bitten by the golf bug, Bill Burgesser was always curious about the course-design process and how it translated to ratings.

Instead of a classroom, Burgesser went straight to the subject, becoming a course rater for the Arizona Golf Association, and he doesn't mind one bit that he gets to play a variety of outstanding layouts across the state as part of the learning process.

Over the eight-plus years that he has been part of the AGA ratings team,

**Bill Burgesser is the AGA's "Mr. Dependable" when it comes to his volunteerism.**

Burgesser has become "Mr. Dependable," and his always-available efforts earned him this year's award as AGA Volunteer of the Year.

"I was very thrilled when they told me," said Burgesser, who received the award in March. "I take it seriously and it's quite an honor to be selected, especially for something that I really enjoy doing."

"We're all volunteers but there are rewards, too. I get my rewards by being able to do this with a great group of guys and to play

some great golf courses with them. It's really a blessing to be part of it."

Derek McKenzie, the AGA's director of handicapping and course rating, said there are more than 30 volunteers who help out as course raters, "and a handful of those work on the vast majority of ratings."

Collectively, they re-rate 30 to 50 courses per year. The USGA requires that courses be re-rated a minimum of every 10 years to maintain certification but urges a seven-year schedule.

"Like with all things, you have a certain group of people who are always going to be there and Bill is one of those," McKenzie said. "He puts in a lot of time and logs a lot of miles. He's definitely one of the most consistent guys we have, willing to do whatever we need him for. He's very deserving of the volunteer award."

**“He puts in a lot of time and logs a lot of miles. He’s definitely one of the most consistent guys we have, willing to do whatever we need him for.”**

— DEREK McKENZIE

Over the past five years, Burgesser has logged 32,976 miles driving to course-rating sites. He began playing the game at a young age and wanted to stay involved after moving to the Valley of the Sun from Dallas, where he retired after 35 years as an architect.

Now, it's course architecture that receives his attention.

"As an avid golfer, I was always interested in how courses are constructed and how designers go about putting them together but never really understood the different features that are part of determining slope and rating," he said.

"I was retired and enjoyed playing and wanted to find some more activities, so this seemed like a good fit. It's been a tremendous learning experience."

Burgesser is a key member of the AGA's highly regarded ratings team. Each year, the group attends a USGA calibration seminar, where teams from each state compete in course ratings, comparing them with USGA experts. In each of the six-plus years that McKenzie has led the AGA team, it has finished either first or second.

"Every year it is our goal to finish first," Burgesser said. "We've been able to do that several times, mainly because we have a great group of guys who really enjoy working together and they all know what they're doing." ■

# Way to go, Waynick!

SELF-DESCRIBED 'RANGE RAT' BECOMES  
AWGA'S FIRST PLAYER TO WIN BOTH POY  
AND SENIOR POY AWARDS IN SAME SEASON

• By John Davis

**A**fter undergoing surgery to repair a serious elbow injury, Liz Waynick's doctor told her not to touch a golf club "for six months."

Six months and one day later, she began hitting putts and chip shots. The self-described "range rat" dutifully kept the clubs out of her hands, but they were never far from her heart.

Her love of the game has taken her from the amateur to the club pro ranks and back again, culminating when she became the first person to be named both the Player of the Year and Senior Player of the Year in the same season by the Arizona Women's Golf Association, which was founded in 1924.

The Player of the Year honor ended a run of 11 straight years in which Thuhashini Selvaratnam won that award.

"I was surprised because I never really paid attention to how the whole process worked," Waynick said. "When you're in the golf business, you really don't get to play as much and you really don't think about it because it's your career and playing a lot of golf just isn't an option. But once you step back from it, you realize how much you enjoy it."

Waynick, 52, grew up in Virginia, where she won the women's state amateur title twice, and attended the University of Miami on a golf

scholarship. She later worked as a teaching pro at Paradise Valley Country Club, head pro at Desert Mountain Golf Club and director of golf at Pumpkin Ridge in Oregon.

She retired as a pro in 2000, began a new career in real estate and regained amateur status in 2009.

"I hadn't played any competitive golf for probably eight years, then I needed shoulder and elbow surgery, which kept me out about another year, so it really took me awhile to get back in the game," said Waynick, who received the awards in January.

**“She was blown away to get both (awards), and it was pretty obvious how much it meant to her when she made her acceptance speech.”**

— MARY LONG

**“I got a little burned out being a club pro. Now I have the best of both worlds. The game is really in my blood, so it has been a lot of fun getting back to playing and competing.”**

Along with her 2012 AWGA victories, which



WADE MORAN

**AWGA Player of the Year Liz Waynick, shown here with her dogs Bella (left) and Buddy, had a season to remember in 2012.**

included a three-stroke win in the State Seniors Championship, she qualified for the USGA Senior Women's Amateur and Mid-Amateur, where she was the runner-up.

Waynick breezed through her first five matches in the U.S. Mid-Am, never trailing by more than one hole before losing, 6-and-5, in the championship to Meghan Stasi of Oakland Park, Fla., who took the title for a record-tying fourth time.

"I had one of those weeks where nothing could go wrong until I got to the finals," Waynick said. "I was the buzzsaw that people ran into that week, until I met

Meghan. Then I got buzzed."

The AWGA buzz is that there's a new sheriff in town and that she's a straight shooter.

"We have such a nice field of players now, not only good golfers but young golfers," executive director Mary Long said. "Probably half who play regularly are single-digit handicaps, so Liz has plenty of competition. She didn't get any awards handed to her. She earned them."

"She was blown away to get both (awards), and it was pretty obvious how much it meant to her when she made her acceptance speech. She just about had us all in tears." ■



MAYFAIR  
AWARD

# Martin claims Mayfair Award

**T**rey Martin is a good guy, which is why he was chosen captain for the Arizona Golf Association teams that competed last year in the Goldwater Cup and AZ-Utah Shootout matches. He's also a great player, which is why he is the 2012 Billy Mayfair Award winner for low-stroke average.

Martin, whose 71.86-stroke



JENNEA BONO

**Trey Martin's 71.86 stroke average was the best in AGA competition for 2012.**

average was best among his peers in the AGA, edged Scottsdale's Zachary Wright for the award. Wright, a freshman at LSU, had averaged 71.94.

"That kind of makes up for a little bit of the sting of not winning player-of-the-year honors," said Martin, 36, a Scottsdale resident. "I really thought I had a good chance to win (POY).

"But Andy (Aduddell) won a couple of big events (Arizona Amateur and AZ

Mid-Amateur). So that's the goal for this year: Win a major and be player of the year."

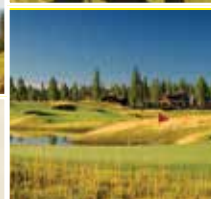
Martin won four times in 2012, including the San Tan Amateur, Northern Amateur and Club Team Championship with partner Danny Hanson. He also played on the winning MV3 team, placed eighth in the AZ Stroke Play, made the quarterfinals in the AZ Amateur and was within the top 15 in both the AZ Mid-Amateur and AZ Publinks.

"This past year I played some really good golf, and being captain for the Goldwater and AZ-Utah matches . . . that was awesome," said Martin, who already this season has won the Tempe Amateur at Ken McDonald in late January.

"Winning the Mayfair, it's such a great award named after such a great player, I could not be more honored." ■

## BILLY MAYFAIR AWARD

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| <b>1993</b> | Kyle Flinton    |
| <b>1994</b> | Ken Kellaney    |
| <b>1995</b> | Ken Kellaney    |
| <b>1996</b> | Ken Kellaney    |
| <b>1997</b> | Ken Kellaney    |
| <b>1998</b> | Ken Kellaney    |
| <b>1999</b> | Ken Kellaney    |
| <b>2000</b> | John R. Davis   |
| <b>2001</b> | Ken Kellaney    |
| <b>2002</b> | Jake Grodzinsky |
| <b>2003</b> | Ken Kellaney    |
| <b>2004</b> | Ken Kellaney    |
| <b>2005</b> | Ken Kellaney    |
| <b>2006</b> | Josh Wilks      |
| <b>2007</b> | Nathan Tyler    |
| <b>2008</b> | Doug Smith      |
| <b>2009</b> | David McDaniel  |
| <b>2010</b> | Kyle Kallan     |
| <b>2011</b> | Tim Beth        |
| <b>2012</b> | Trey Martin     |



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# Costello captures GCSAA national crown

• By Bill Huffman

**D**on't think for a minute that golf course superintendents don't think about winning the big one, too. That they don't have thoughts about the game that run the gamut from being a tour player to "Tin Cup."

Charlie Costello, the superintendent at Phoenix Country Club for the past seven years, had all those things and more working on his mind when he captured the 2013 Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's national championship.

Costello's claim to fame came the first week in February at storied Torrey Pines in San Diego, where he edged three other "supers" by a single shot.

"This was the big one, the only one, we supers really want to win," said Costello, 47, a Phoenix resident who plays most of his golf — when he isn't working! — in the Papago Men's League.

"It's by far the biggest thing I've ever done in golf, as I think my best finish prior to this was 20<sup>th</sup> place,

and I've played in 12 or 13 of these national tournaments. Even after the first day, when I drove the ball so well and made a few putts, I still didn't think I could win it."

Costello carded a 1-over-par 73 in the opening round and then followed it with a 74 for a winning total of 3-over 147. In all, 104 superintendents competed in the championship flight out of the 450 who participated in the event at Torrey Pines' very challenging South Course.

"We all wanted to win this because it came a week after the Farmers (Insurance Open) with the same pins (hole locations) that they used on Saturday and Sunday for the Tour event," said Costello, who is a 3 handicap.

"It was cold and damp and wet, and for me to end up 3-over, well, I even surprised myself."



Costello is a former club professional who worked under Dick Hyland at Desert Mountain Golf Club before moving to the agronomic side. He said he took a long circuitous route before he made fairways and greens his forte.

Costello's road began in college, where he played golf for both New Mexico Military Institute and New Mexico State, eventually getting his PGA certification before returning for two years to



COURTESY GCSAA

**Charlie Costello of Phoenix Country Club is the 2013 GCSAA national champion after holding off three other superintendents at Torrey Pines' South Course.**

Penn State, where he got an education in agronomics. He cut his teeth in the Cactus and Pine Arizona section under such legendary superintendents as Virgil Robinson and Sean Emerson, and worked at DC Ranch and Silverleaf before he grew in the grass at Southern Dunes some 10 years ago.

"I'd like to think (superintendents) are the hardest working guys in golf, like they often say," Costello mused. "But we like to play golf, too."

"Plus, everybody I know who works in the golf industry is a hard worker, so superintendents are just part of that."

But sorry, Charlie, not all guys who cut cups and lay irrigation pipe can pound the ball like you do, even if driving the ball never has been your worry.

"No, but I did have the yips for the last couple of years. In fact, my putting was so bad, I ended up being a pretty good putter with my sand wedge," Costello said with a laugh.

How did he cure them?

"I tried the long putter, cross-handed, the claw, you name it, and noth-

ing worked. But I started leaning to my right when I was putting with the sand wedge, and for some reason that corrected it," Costello explained. "In fact, I started making everything."

It still didn't hold off the demons as he came down the stretch on the South Course during the final round of the GCSAA's big bash.

"Oh, man, I was so nervous on that par-5 18<sup>th</sup> (hole). I'd hit a perfect drive down there and had 220 (yards) over water to the Sunday pin," he said, laughing again. "I'm thinking 'Tin Cup' — you know, come up short in the water — so I lay up with my wedge and have a sand wedge from about 90 yards."

"What do I do? Hit it at the pin and it spins back in the water. Now I'm thinking Kyle Stanley (2012 Farmers debacle), and I'm going to be gone. But some way I hit that second sand wedge in there and it spins back and lips out of the hole. I make a 3-incher for bogey — almost a par — and beat three guys by a shot."

"It was so much fun, so many nerves, just a great, great experience all-around." ■



# Desert Mountain's Jones honored with Brewer award

Robert "Bob" Jones, COO and general manager of Desert Mountain Golf

Club, the luxury private golf and recreational community in Scottsdale, has been named the 2012 James H. Brewer Excellence in Club Management Award winner.

The prestigious national award is sponsored by Club & Resort Business magazine and the McMahon Group, a private club consulting firm based in St. Louis, Mo., and was released in January. The Excellence in Club Management Award recognizes private club general managers, managers and chief operating officers who have exhibited outstanding skills in managing their club. The James H. Brewer Award honors managers at country/golf clubs with 600 or more full-privilege members.

"I am so proud to win this award on many different levels," said Jones, who has been at Desert Mountain for 16 years and is credited with creating architecturally award-winning clubhouses and high-end restaurant-style menu concepts within a club setting.

"Not only is it an honor to be selected by my peers, but the award holds special significance for my family. I am the second-generation family member to have a lifelong career in the club/food and beverage industry."

Jones was evaluated on several criteria including facility and golf improvements, dining and

COURTESY DESERT MOUNTAIN



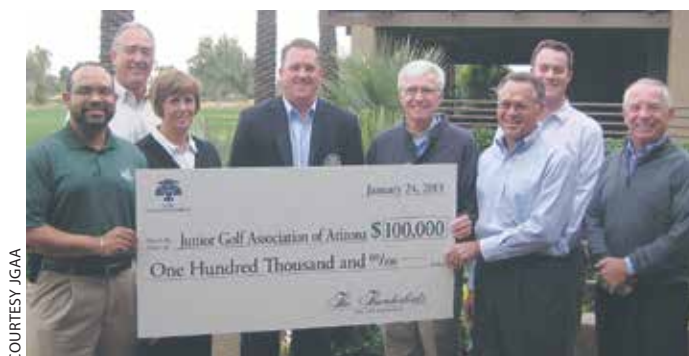
**Bob Jones has been Desert Mountain's COO and GM for 16 years.**

golf/recreational programs, employee training and incentives, innovative management programs, customer satisfaction, communications and promotions, membership development, cost controls/budgeting and more.

One of his greatest achievements at Desert Mountain was guiding the \$73.5 million purchase of the club by its members in December of 2010, the largest private, residential transaction recorded that year. It was accomplished in less than 90 days. The negotiated price was extremely favorable to the membership.

Jones is a member of the Club Managers Association of America and has a degree in Restaurant and Hotel Management from Florida International University.

Desert Mountain is considered one of the world's premier golf meccas, offering more award-winning Jack Nicklaus Signature golf courses than any other private community. ■



COURTESY JGAA

**The Junior Golf Association of Arizona received a \$100,000 check to help with expenses from the Thunderbirds. From left to right, JGAA board members Hugh Smith, Jr., Jeff Reich, Barbara Burton, Alex Clark (of the Thunderbirds), Robin Farran, Tom Cunningham (executive director of the JGAA), Scott McNevin and Brooks Thiele.**

## Reich, Smith, Farran head JGAA board

The JGAA announced its board of directors and officers for 2013 at its annual meeting.

They include Jeff Reich as president. Reich is a realtor for Russ Lyons Sotheby's International Realty. Hugh Smith, executive director of the First Tee of Phoenix is first vice president. Second vice president is Robin Farran, a well-known rules official and member of the USGA's Senior Amateur Championship Committee. Barbara Burton of the USGA Girls Junior Committee is secretary, and the Arizona Golf Association's Brooks

Thiele is treasurer.

Board members include Larry Boyles, golf coach at Horizon High School; Peggy Briggs of the Arizona Women's Golf Association; Greg Geis and Herman Lewkowitz of the Thunderbirds; Kathy Knadler of the LPGA-USGA Girls Golf of Phoenix; Jay Larscheid, general manager of Longbow Golf Club and a PGA professional; and Charlie Shoemake and Freeman Theriault.

Junior board members include Timmy Briones, Megan Hauptman, Timmy Shimon and Marolia Szmit. ■

## JGAA logo updated

**The JGAA will be celebrating its 30th anniversary this season. In honor of that occasion, the organization has updated its logo. ■**





## GHIN has new, improved solution: eClubhouse

**G**HIN has recently announced the launch of its improved eClubhouse. This online solution offers everything your club needs to manage its operation through the setup of your own website. With its easy, built-in site management tools, a club website can be created and customized in minutes. Within an hour your club administrator can add events to the calendar and update club news. All the features of eClubhouse are directly linked to GHIN and work in concert with the Tournament Pairings Program.

eClubhouse can help you manage every aspect of your club.

### Event calendar and tournament management:

A comprehensive calendar and event management capability allows club administrators to keep track of meetings, events and tournaments not only in your club, but at the golf association level as well. This information can include logos, images, interactive links or other related documents. Clubs can configure tournament registration and define collection methods, define eligibility criteria and customize and configure various email notifications (credit card processing will be available later in the year).

Once entries are complete, your tournament administrators can export

the information for use in GHIN's tournament pairings program (TPP). After the event, pairings, results and photos can be uploaded to the site.

### New members:

Are you looking to expand your membership? The About You section allows membership committees to add and manage information about the club and any other key information that will be available to members and non-members. You can send an invitation to non-members or inactive members. You also can add and approve new members directly through your club website.

### Communicating with members:

Need an easy way to communicate with your members? Use eClubhouse to create news articles that can include images, attachments and interactive links, manage existing news articles (modify or remove) and create and manage photo galleries that can be set to private or public.

### Role assignments:

Most clubs have members who manage various aspects of the club, from handicapping to tournament director, from membership to communications. eClubhouse allows you to define club administrative roles and to limit their access to the website.

### Member features:

Club members can access the eClubhouse site by creating an eGolfer account. One account will provide them access to all eClubhouse sites to which they are a member. As a member, he/she can maintain a profile, view and sign-up for club events, renew club membership online, and post scores directly to GHIN.

One of the cool features of eClubhouse/eGolfer is the optional myStats section that allows members to track their games. The myStats Reports feature not only provides standard statistics reporting, such as fairways, greens, putts and others. This reporting and graphing capability helps members generate clear views of playing trends.

Future development includes a "Find a Golfer" feature lets golfers search for other golfers in your club and nearby clubs to set up a round of golf.

### Looking for an eCommerce solution?

In addition to event fees, as mentioned above, your club can use the optional online eCommerce capability to collect membership fees to help facilitate renewals.

Does eClubhouse look like a match for your club? For more information or to schedule a demonstration, contact Ginger Monroy at (602) 944-3035. ■

## AGA NEWS



Elma Delic

## AGA names Delic to replace Bono

The Arizona Golf Association and *AZ Golf Insider* has said good-bye to Jennea Bono as communications manager and magazine editor for the AGA, and hello to Elma Delic, who assumed those positions in early March.

Delic's new duties include running the AGA's ACCESS member program, managing the

organization's social media profiles and website (azgolf.org), as well as writing and photography. Elma comes to the AGA from an advertising and public relations company in Phoenix. Delic graduated from the University of Arizona with degrees in journalism and political science.

Bono, who had worked for the AGA for the past three years, resigned in February to accept a position with the Flood Control District of Maricopa County.

"I'm excited about my future endeavors, but will certainly miss the position I'm leaving," Bono said. ■





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## ARIZONA GOLF ASSOCIATION

## 2013 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Schedule is subject to change and will be updated when sites are confirmed

## APRIL

April 18-21.....AZ Stroke Play Championship.....TPC Scottsdale-Champions Course  
 April 29.....Senior Cup Series.....Phoenix Country Club

## MAY

May 13-14.....AZ Senior Stroke Play Championship.....Tonto Verde  
 May 6.....US Open Local Qualifying #1.....DC Ranch  
 May 8.....US Open Local Qualifying #2.....Tucson National-Catalina  
 May 13.....US Open Local Qualifying #3.....Encanterra Country Club  
 May 15.....US Open Local Qualifying #4.....Southern Dunes Golf Club  
 May 18-19.....Western Amateur & AZ Am Qualifying.....Yuma Golf and Country Club  
 May 20.....Senior Cup Series.....Superstition Mountain  
 May 20-21.....Northern Divisional Four-Ball.....Talking Rock  
 May 29-31.....AZ Mid Amateur Championship.....DC Ranch

## JUNE

June 1-2.....54th Annual Father / Son Championship.....Antelope Hills  
 June 8-9.....US APL Sectional Qualifying.....Aguila  
 June 10.....Senior Cup Series.....Golf Club of Scottsdale  
 June 15-16.....Southern Amateur.....Poston Butte  
 June 17.....US Senior Open Sectional Qualifying.....Encanterra Country Club  
 June 19-20.....Pacific Coast Amateur Qualifying.....The Legacy  
 June 25.....89th AZ Amateur Qualifying #1.....Ocotillo Golf Club  
 June 26.....89th AZ Amateur Qualifying #2.....ASU Karsten

## JULY

July 2.....89th AZ Amateur Qualifying #3.....Antelope Hills  
 July 8.....89th AZ Amateur Qualifying #4.....Crooked Tree  
 July 11-12.....Falcon Amateur & AZ Am Qualifying.....Falcon Dunes  
 July 16-17.....US Amateur Sectional Qualifying.....Wigwam-Gold  
 July 22.....Senior Cup Series.....Oro Valley Country Club  
 July 23-26.....Pacific Coast Amateur Championship.....Capilano Golf & Country Club  
 24-July.....Senior Cup Series.....Terraviva  
 July 29-Aug 3.....89th AZ Amateur Championship.....Pinnacle Peak Country Club



**Pinnacle Peak Country Club will be the site of the 89th Arizona Amateur Championship, July 29-Aug. 3. The signature No. 9 hole, a water-guarded par 3 that plays 170 yards, will be among the challenges.**

## AUGUST

8-Aug.....Senior Cup Series.....Ventana Canyon  
 August 8.....US Senior Amateur Qualifying.....Alta Mesa Country Club  
 August 15.....Senior Cup Series.....Troon Country Club  
 August 16-18.....AZ Four-Ball Championship.....Troon North-Monument  
 August 19.....Senior Cup Series.....Encanterra  
 August 28.....US Mid-Amateur Qualifying.....Longbow Golf Club  
 August 26.....Senior Cup Series.....Desert Highlands

## SEPTEMBER

Sept 21-24.....AZ Senior Match Play Championship.....Longbow Golf Club  
 TBA.....AZ-Utah Shootout.....Utah

## OCTOBER

October 5-6.....Northern Amateur.....Antelope Hills

## NOVEMBER

November 2-3.....TPA Championship.....Southern Dunes Golf Club

## DECEMBER

December 2-3.....Goldwater Cup Matches.....TBD  
 TBA.....Club Team Championship.....TBD

## 2013 Short Course

## Bear Creek Cub Course

Feb. 23-24

Marc Apps.....54 61 115  
 David Rasley.....58 58 116  
 Roy Dwaileebe.....55 62 117  
 Christopher Petefish.....56 61 117

Marty James.....57 61 118  
 Cyrus Whitney.....58 60 118  
 Paige Peterson.....60 59 119  
 Frank Ellenburg.....58 61 119  
 Scott Berren.....58 61 119  
 Greg Cesarek.....59 60 119  
 Rusty Brown.....57 63 120  
 Tom Sweigart.....56 64 120

Ron Wood.....61 59 120  
 James Donley.....59 61 120  
 Sam Cutler.....56 64 120  
 Patrick Geare.....59 61 120  
 Jeremy Defalco.....55 65 120  
 Peter Lugowski.....59 61 120  
 Allen Webster.....58 63 121  
 Mark Bellhorn.....58 63 121

Scott McCarty.....59 63 122  
 Cj Weston.....60 63 123  
 Matthew Rounds.....61 63 124  
 Bud Roche.....60 64 124  
 Mitch Chilton.....59 65 124  
 Jeff Zieky.....59 65 124  
 Rick Bojalad.....62 63 125  
 Carson Kemp.....59 66 125



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|----------------------------|----|----|-----|
| Steve Brock.....           | 58 | 67 | 125 |
| Fritz Naumetz.....         | 59 | 66 | 125 |
| Bryan Hoops.....           | 59 | 67 | 126 |
| Toby McFarland.....        | 65 | 62 | 127 |
| Tony Petronis.....         | 59 | 68 | 127 |
| Scott Smith.....           | 60 | 67 | 127 |
| Bruce Glasco.....          | 59 | 68 | 127 |
| Tim Blau.....              | 57 | 70 | 127 |
| Matthew Gomez.....         | 65 | 62 | 127 |
| Steven Brown.....          | 62 | 65 | 127 |
| Murphy Mitchell.....       | 64 | 64 | 128 |
| Tom Henderson.....         | 60 | 68 | 128 |
| Steven Welker.....         | 64 | 64 | 128 |
| Bradley Wayne Davis.....   | 62 | 66 | 128 |
| Jeff Reich.....            | 62 | 67 | 129 |
| Jon Parvin.....            | 63 | 66 | 129 |
| Nate Lamma.....            | 61 | 68 | 129 |
| Keenan Steele.....         | 63 | 66 | 129 |
| Noah Klipstein.....        | 60 | 69 | 129 |
| Alex Trevino.....          | 62 | 67 | 129 |
| Matthew McCarty.....       | 67 | 63 | 130 |
| Gregg Curry.....           | 63 | 67 | 130 |
| Jonathan Hartmann.....     | 63 | 67 | 130 |
| Daniel Graf.....           | 63 | 67 | 130 |
| Tyler Apps.....            | 62 | 69 | 131 |
| Russell Hatfield.....      | 67 | 65 | 132 |
| Ben Herbert.....           | 61 | 71 | 132 |
| George Deligiannis.....    | 65 | 68 | 133 |
| Jordan Barrett.....        | 67 | 67 | 134 |
| David Levos.....           | 63 | 73 | 136 |
| Stephen Kois.....          | 65 | 71 | 136 |
| Ron Mercier.....           | 67 | 70 | 137 |
| Orson A Kinney.....        | 62 | 78 | 140 |
| Trent Thompson.....        | 68 | 72 | 140 |
| Tony Bustillo.....         | 64 | 77 | 141 |
| Mr. Jonathan Sullivan..... | 71 | 72 | 143 |
| Stan Eggen.....            | 73 | 71 | 144 |

**2013 San Tan Amateur**  
**Las Colinas Golf Club**  
 Jan. 12-13.

|                    |    |    |     |
|--------------------|----|----|-----|
| Patrick Geare..... | 65 | 69 | 134 |
| Koan Woon Rim..... | 68 | 68 | 136 |
| Adam Walicki.....  | 70 | 68 | 138 |
| Greg Sohl.....     | 69 | 69 | 138 |
| Carson Kemp.....   | 68 | 71 | 139 |

|                           |    |    |     |
|---------------------------|----|----|-----|
| Tom Sweigart.....         | 72 | 67 | 139 |
| Mr. John VanDeventer..... | 68 | 71 | 139 |
| Trey Martin.....          | 71 | 69 | 140 |
| Dwight Hietala.....       | 70 | 70 | 140 |
| Greg Cesarek.....         | 69 | 71 | 140 |
| Brendan Wiberg.....       | 71 | 70 | 141 |
| Marc Apps.....            | 70 | 72 | 142 |
| Mark Bellhorn.....        | 73 | 69 | 142 |
| Allen Webster.....        | 68 | 74 | 142 |
| Anthony Maccioli.....     | 72 | 70 | 142 |
| Kevin Wall.....           | 71 | 72 | 143 |
| Paige Peterson.....       | 77 | 66 | 143 |
| Grant Cesarek.....        | 71 | 72 | 143 |
| Jake Byrum.....           | 70 | 73 | 143 |
| Ty Hawkinson.....         | 71 | 73 | 144 |
| Peter Lugowski.....       | 72 | 72 | 144 |
| Cyrus Whitney.....        | 74 | 71 | 145 |
| Scott Berren.....         | 74 | 71 | 145 |
| John Paul Baranco.....    | 71 | 74 | 145 |
| Randy Ross.....           | 70 | 75 | 145 |
| Kevin Destefanis.....     | 72 | 73 | 145 |
| Fritz Naumetz.....        | 72 | 73 | 145 |
| Benjamin Snyder.....      | 74 | 71 | 145 |
| Tyler Apps.....           | 72 | 74 | 146 |
| Jon Eric Eliason.....     | 74 | 72 | 146 |
| Frank Ellenburg.....      | 74 | 72 | 146 |
| Tom Beach.....            | 68 | 78 | 146 |
| Lee Decof.....            | 74 | 73 | 147 |
| Kenneth Kellaney.....     | 70 | 77 | 147 |
| Michael Haberm.....       | 73 | 74 | 147 |
| Ryan Amstutz.....         | 73 | 74 | 147 |
| Jimmy Oh.....             | 75 | 72 | 147 |
| Ron Wood.....             | 75 | 73 | 148 |
| Keenan Steele.....        | 75 | 73 | 148 |
| Collin Covault.....       | 79 | 69 | 148 |
| Carter Mejia.....         | 73 | 75 | 148 |
| Dean Hall.....            | 75 | 73 | 148 |

**2013 Tempe Amateur**  
**Ken McDonald**  
 Jan. 26

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Trey Martin.....    | 67 |
| Carson Kemp.....    | 69 |
| Carlos Cabral.....  | 70 |
| Michael Lawson..... | 70 |
| Stephen Kois.....   | 70 |

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Marc Apps.....            | 71 |
| Christopher Petefish..... | 71 |
| Greg Cesarek.....         | 71 |
| Shayne Yoon.....          | 71 |
| Jordon Barrett.....       | 71 |
| Murphy Mitchell.....      | 72 |
| Greg Sohl.....            | 72 |
| Mr. John.....             | 72 |
| VanDeventer.....          | 72 |
| Mitch Chilton.....        | 72 |
| Tony Petronis.....        | 73 |
| Dean Hall.....            | 73 |
| Tyler Apps.....           | 73 |
| Dr. John Schaller.....    | 73 |
| Koan Woon Rim.....        | 73 |
| Zach Kellar.....          | 73 |
| Frank Ellenburg.....      | 74 |
| Tom Sweigart.....         | 74 |
| Kevin Trujillo.....       | 74 |
| Ron Wood.....             | 74 |
| Brendan Wiberg.....       | 74 |
| Calvin Wang.....          | 74 |
| George Markham.....       | 74 |
| Jake Byrum.....           | 75 |
| Paige Peterson.....       | 75 |
| Rick Bojalad.....         | 76 |
| Tony Bustillo.....        | 76 |
| Daniel Graf.....          | 76 |
| Jon Parvin.....           | 76 |
| Conrad White.....         | 76 |
| Grant Cesarek.....        | 76 |
| Michael Samp.....         | 76 |
| Scott Berren.....         | 76 |
| Orson A Kinney.....       | 76 |
| Kevin Destefanis.....     | 76 |
| Joe Mccanless.....        | 76 |
| CJ Weston.....            | 76 |
| Trent Thompson.....       | 76 |
| Collin Covault.....       | 76 |
| Bud Roche.....            | 76 |
| Robert Shaw.....          | 76 |
| Roger Kraig.....          | 76 |
| John Balnis.....          | 77 |
| Lee Decof.....            | 77 |
| Mark Matthews.....        | 77 |
| Ryan Finney.....          | 77 |
| David Levos.....          | 77 |

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**Papago Golf Course (Phoenix, AZ)**  
 Mar 2 - Mar 3

**Boys 15-18**

|                         |    |    |     |
|-------------------------|----|----|-----|
| Blake Cannon.....       | 72 | 69 | 141 |
| Anthony Quezada.....    | 71 | 73 | 144 |
| Prescott Mann.....      | 77 | 71 | 148 |
| David Ricciardelli..... | 73 | 75 | 148 |
| David Rauer.....        | 71 | 78 | 149 |
| Alec Bone.....          | 74 | 76 | 150 |
| Sam Triplett.....       | 72 | 78 | 150 |
| Michael Feagles.....    | 76 | 75 | 151 |
| Jino Sohn.....          | 74 | 77 | 151 |
| Brandon Carlson.....    | 81 | 71 | 152 |
| James Russo.....        | 78 | 74 | 152 |
| Blake Toolan.....       | 78 | 74 | 152 |
| Gavin DeFisser.....     | 76 | 76 | 152 |

**Boys 13-14**

|                  |    |    |     |
|------------------|----|----|-----|
| Jake Guess.....  | 70 | 74 | 144 |
| J.J. Gresco..... | 74 | 73 | 147 |
| Gavin Cohen..... | 75 | 77 | 152 |

**Girls 13-14**

|                           |    |    |     |
|---------------------------|----|----|-----|
| Kelly Su.....             | 80 | 79 | 159 |
| Hannah Li.....            | 82 | 80 | 162 |
| Ocean Pangan.....         | 80 | 82 | 162 |
| Elizabeth Caldarelli..... | 84 | 80 | 164 |
| Ellie Porman.....         | 74 | 90 | 164 |

**Girls 15-18**

|                        |    |    |     |
|------------------------|----|----|-----|
| Yesong Han.....        | 73 | 74 | 147 |
| Mikayla Harmon.....    | 74 | 74 | 148 |
| Morgan Gonzales.....   | 74 | 75 | 149 |
| Ariana Macioce.....    | 76 | 75 | 151 |
| Kim Cifuentes.....     | 74 | 77 | 151 |
| Alisa Snyder.....      | 80 | 73 | 153 |
| Morgan Messick.....    | 76 | 78 | 154 |
| Katie Dunaway.....     | 79 | 77 | 156 |
| Megan Knadler.....     | 82 | 75 | 157 |
| Charatta Thongbai..... | 77 | 80 | 157 |
| Kaitlyn Saum.....      | 80 | 79 | 159 |
| Abigail Cantwell.....  | 78 | 81 | 159 |



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# Beat the HEAT

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COURTESY CENTRAL OREGON VISITORS ASSOCIATION



When temperatures in Arizona start feeling like you're standing too close to the pizza oven, just remember it doesn't have to be a cruel, cruel summer for those who love the game. Here are a foursome of summer destinations — Central Oregon, Utah, Nevada-California and northwest New Mexico

**The Crosswater Course (above) is the crown jewel at Sunriver Resort in Central Oregon. Likewise for Soldier Hollow (below) at Wasatch Mountain State Park in Heber Valley, Utah.**

— that will allow you to kick back, cool off and still play some great golf in the heart of the summer. The green fees range from \$25 to \$200-plus, and you can get to any of these four destinations by car or plane.

## CENTRAL OREGON

The golfers in Central Oregon aren't much for limiting themselves. Locals love to brag about the sunshine and pleasant summer days that provide endless options for outdoor recreation.

The choices make golf special in Oregon's high desert among the towering ponderosa pines, snow-capped peaks, and

pristine rivers and lakes. An array that includes pine-framed mountain courses, desert gems, heathland masterpieces or even fescue-carpeted links are all in reach from the Redmond/Bend Airport in less time than it takes most folks in bigger cities to get from home to work.

Three of the eight courses that make up Central Oregon's Legend Collection are ranked in *Golf Digest's* list of "America's 100 Greatest Public Courses" — **Pronghorn Club's Nicklaus Course**, No. 28; **Crosswater Club**, No. 49; **Tetherow Golf Club**, No. 66.

But world-class golf, which ranges in price from \$75 to \$185, is but one draw. Save time for a visit to any of the nearly two dozen craft breweries, a turn on a whitewater raft or a run down the slopes.

"The Central Oregon trifecta includes a day of skiing, golfing, and fly fishing," said Scott Ellender, the director of resort operations at Central Oregon's **Sunriver**



COURTESY HEBER VALLEY, UTAH



**Resort.** “When you add up all of these features and activities, you end up with the most well-rounded golf destination that I am aware of in our entire country.”

Nowhere is the diversity and quality of golf more evident than at Sunriver. Just 15 minutes south of Bend, Sunriver is home to three distinct and aptly named championship designs — Crosswater, Woodlands and Meadows.

Crosswater, Sunriver’s 7,683-yard crown jewel, tests a player’s ball striking as it meanders around flourishing wetlands and two rivers as omnipresent Mount Bachelor stands guard in the background.

Crosswater, which has hosted Champions Tour and USGA championships, identifies shot-makers. The 456-yard, par-4 finishing hole shows it all off with a tee shot that must be hit over a wetland and short of the Little Deschutes River. A mid-iron over the river (and sometimes over kayakers) into a terraced green forces an accurate approach.

Give yourself time for nature, especially off the green of the par-3 13th hole, where each summer a family of bald eagles nests high above.

Elsewhere the lush, green canvas of Pronghorn’s Jack Nicklaus signature course contrasts its desert surrounding. The par-5 15th hole is reachable in two shots, so long as the lava outcroppings that make for a breathtaking golf hole are avoided.

Tetherow, designed by Bend resident David McLay Kidd, brings the fescues of Scotland to this desert environment. Tetherow’s par-3 17th, is set in an old quarry and shows off the course’s

links heart by calling on a golfer’s imagination.

**Brasada Ranch** wends through the high desert and **Black Butte Ranch’s** two courses twist through the surrounding forest.

Just remember, if a local asks, “What do you do?” they’re not asking about your job. In this famously laidback outdoor mecca, it’s what happens outside that counts.

For additional information, go to [www.visitcentraloregon.com](http://www.visitcentraloregon.com).

## HEBER VALLEY, UTAH

When visions of cool mountain air, spectacular scenery and amazing golf at unbelievable prices start to stretch your imagination in the middle of the summer, consider escaping to Utah’s mountain golf destination — picturesque Heber Valley, Utah.

Nestled in the Wasatch Mountains, only minutes from Park City, Heber Valley

**Schaffer’s Mill (below) is one of the big reasons why Truckee, Calif., has become a high-end golf mecca.**

**The Reno-Tahoe leg of that trip also offers big-time golf that rivals Scottsdale standards.**

is Utah’s answer to a golfer’s paradise, especially when the \$20 to \$40 green fees come in to play. Home to 90 holes at three incredible venues, you’ll never look at mountain golf the same way again.

That incredible list of high-rise beauties begins with **Soldier Hollow Golf Courses** at Wasatch Mountain State Park, featuring 36 holes of golf on the Silver and Gold courses. Built on the cross-country and biathlon ski venue for the 2002 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the two 18-hole championship courses reflect their Olympic roots.

The Silver Course is a parkland-style layout with large expanses of native grasslands while the Gold Course has significant elevation changes. Both courses mirror the surrounding native vegetation with scrub oak and mountain valley grasses. In 2012, Soldier Hollow hosted the U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship, the first USGA Championship held in Utah.

Another of Utah’s gems is **Wasatch Golf Course**, also at Wasatch Mountain

State Park. Wasatch sports 36 holes of golf on the Lake and Mountain courses. Both are consistently ranked among the most popular, affordable and scenic in Utah. Tucked away at 6,000 feet, you’ll escape the heat while playing on courses that Golf Digest has consistently ranked as one of Utah’s Best Places to Play.

The Mountain Course is a classic roller-coaster-style layout requiring challenging shot making from a number of elevations. Golfers enjoy occasional sightings of deer, elk, wild turkeys, moose and other wildlife. The Lake Course requires accurate tee shots. The well-established stands of trees that line each fairway, along with its eight lakes and ponds, make it a favorite.

**Crater Springs Golf Course** is named after the volcanic crater and hot springs that run through the 18-hole course. Renovated in 2012, the resort course lies adjacent to two resorts, the Homestead, which has been in operation for 126 years, and Zermatt, which opened in 2006.

Crater Springs features beautifully maintained



COURTESY SCHAFER'S MILL

greens, meandering streams and other gentle water features – all fed completely by crater water. It is considered one of the most picturesque golf courses in Utah.

For additional information about visiting Utah's beautiful Heber Valley visit [www.gohebertvalley.com](http://www.gohebertvalley.com).

## RENO-TAHOE-TRUCKEE (NEVADA-CALIFORNIA)

There was a time when Arizonans played their summer golf in San Diego at public courses like **Torrey Pines** and **Coronado**. But when Reno-Tahoe-Truckee came along with several high-end versions of the game that would rival anything in Scottsdale, a lot of “Zonies” headed for the high Sierras.

That trip starts with a flight into Reno-Tahoe International Airport in Nevada, and ends up in Northern California in the quaint village of Truckee. Along the way, you can golf yourself silly at cool courses like **Edgewood-Tahoe**, the site of the annual American Century Classic (July 19-21); **Incline Village**, a 36-hole masterpiece by Robert Trent Jones and his son, Robert Jr.; and magnificent **Montreux Golf Club**, the Jack Nicklaus-designed home of the Reno-Tahoe Open (Aug. 1-4).

But here's a tip: The best golf these days is found around Truckee, the funky mountain town where courses like **Coyote Moon**, **Old Greenwood**, **Gray's Crossing** and the newly named **Schaffer's Mill Golf & Lake Club** (formerly Timilick Tahoe) form a fabulous foursome open to the public. The price

also is right, with green fees ranging from \$125 to \$175, or less than you would pay in Scottsdale.

In fact, Schaffer's Mill was voted best new golf course in California when it came along in 2010. Considering the location of Schaffer's Mill – smack dab between the highly regarded private clubs of Martis Camp and Lahontan – and the fact that Johnny Miller and the late John Harbottle built it, Schaffer's Mill is on everyone's golf radar. To learn more, visit [www.schaffersmill.com](http://www.schaffersmill.com).

But if you want to spend a week in Reno-Tahoe-Truckee, or just a few days, this is the route that savvy golfers from AZ take, starting with the aforementioned Montreux. Then head for Carson City, where the golf-centric **Carson Valley Inn** can give you access to incredible courses like the 36 holes at **Genoa Lakes Golf Club**.

By the second or third day, amazing Lake Tahoe should be in full view. Edgewood is so good; almost like architect George Fazio left it from the very beginning, with its one-of-a-kind finishing stretch that puts the 16th, 17th and 18th holes right on the water. Yes, you'll pay \$200-plus, but it's worth every dollar!

Finally, there is Truckee, the old Pony Express stop where a golfer could spend the entire week. **Coyote Moon** is extreme but awe-inspiring golf, and actually has a den of coyotes near the spectacular 227-yard 13th hole that features a death-defying, tee-to-green drop of nearly the same yardage. Other knockouts in the area include **Old Greenwood**,



COURTESY PINION HILLS

**Signature par 3s like No. 6 is the norm at Pinion Hills Golf Course near Farmington, N.M. It's also why the course is ranked as the No. 4 best affordable golf course in the country.**

where Nicklaus has never been gentler, **Gray's Crossing**, **Tahoe Donner**, **Northstar** at Tahoe and **White Hawk Ranch**.

Just save your last, best shot for **Schaffer's Mill**, which combines a little of that **Forest Highlands** look with a bit of Augusta National. With 400 feet of elevation change, panoramic views of the Martis Valley and nearby Northstar and Carson ranges, Schaffer's Mill looks like a painting.

For more on the Reno-Tahoe-Truckee area, visit [www.golfthehighsierra.com](http://www.golfthehighsierra.com).

## FARMINGTON, N.M.

If you want to play the best public golf course in New Mexico, at least according to most national publications, and you want the weather to be a little cooler, then **Pinion Hills Golf Course** is for you. Located on the Colorado Plateau overlooking the San Juan, Animas and La Plata rivers, Pinion Hills has been “a legend since 1989.”

A “legend?” According to local lore, what makes Pinion Hills so legendary is its “affordable, friendly, fun to play and hassle free” golf course. And if you need more proof, just look at all the variety and views that stretch out in every direction. No wonder Pinion Hills once was ranked the No. 1 public course in the country that



## GET HOOKED ON SAN JUAN RIVER

Looking to mix in other outdoor diversions during your northwest New Mexico golf getaway? Cast a line year-round on the San Juan River near Farmington, one of the best tail-water trout fisheries in the world. Flowing out of beautiful Navajo Reservoir, the first 4.25 miles of the river are designated as Quality Water and boast an incredible 80,000 rainbow and brown trout, which average 17 inches.

San Juan trout are known to be selective feeders, preferring to sip on the tiniest of flies. The best way to ensure an exciting, fish-filled day is to hire a local fishing guide. **Resolution Guide Service** has some of the most experienced, professional guides on the river ([www.sanjuanworm.com](http://www.sanjuanworm.com)). Other fishing notables include the **Sportsman Bar & Grill** in the Navajo Dam. ([www.sportsmanbarandgrill.com](http://www.sportsmanbarandgrill.com)), the **Enchanted HideAway** ([www.enchantedhideawaylodge.com](http://www.enchantedhideawaylodge.com)), and **Rainbow Lodge**, where guests are spoiled with unparalleled service and fine dining ([www.sanjuanfishing.com](http://www.sanjuanfishing.com)).

you could play for under \$50.

Even though it's fallen to No. 4 behind such other legends as Beth Page Black (No. 1) and Chambers Bay (No. 2), picturesque Pinion Hills still is ahead of Torrey Pines (No. 5) and the TPC Champions (No. 6). And it's the No. 1 course in New Mexico, which has quite a portfolio of beautiful layouts open to the public.

According to Ken Dye, the man who built Pinion Hills for the city of Farmington, "I knew it was a good site. It was a big piece of property. . . . The thing that made it exciting to work on was that there were no restrictions as to where to build it within the perimeter of the 1,000 acres. And half of the 1,000 acres weren't usable because it was too steep, so

we focused on 300 acres."

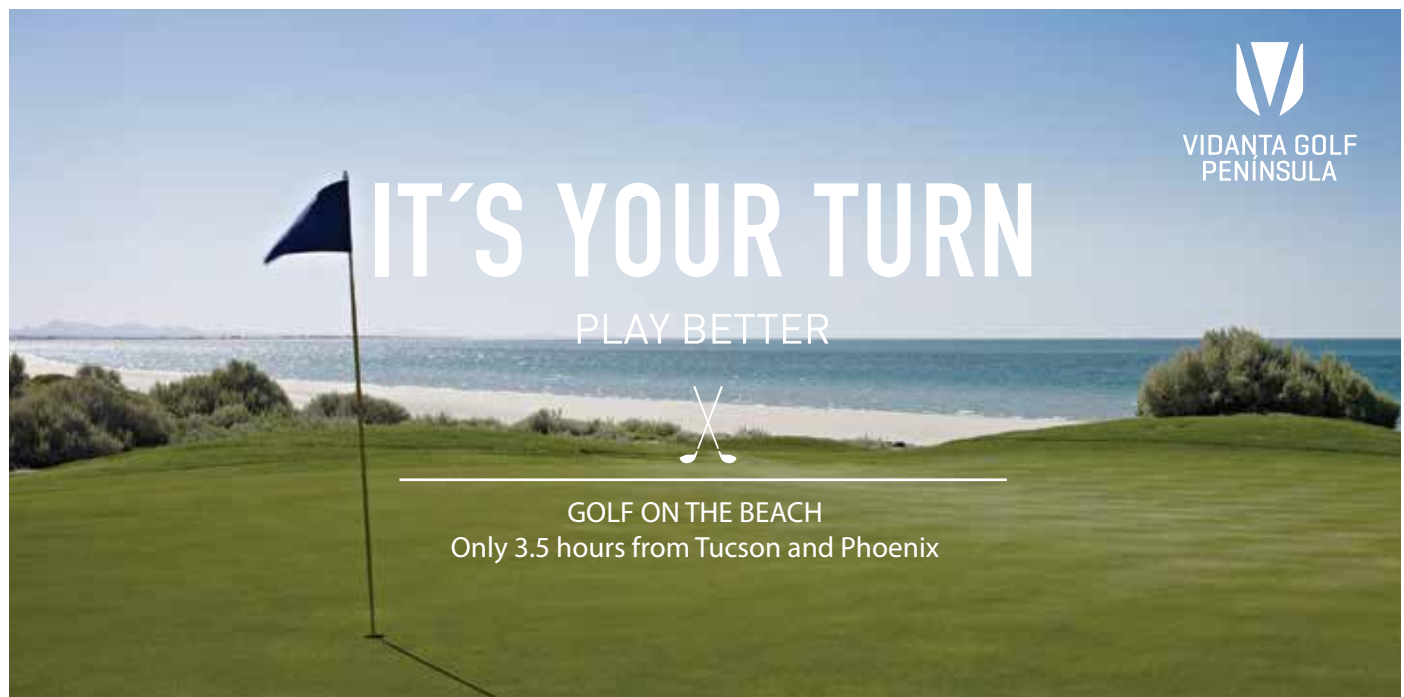
Such a large canvas is why Pinion Hills defies its tag as a "muni." With par 3s built in canyons, and with no two par 4s or 5s that look alike, this is a magical ride through the high desert of pinion pine and sandstone. The signature holes are non-stop, and Pinion Hills can be a brute at 7,646 yards although it tames down to 5,428 yards, too. And you can't beat the green fee that ranges from \$25 to \$50.

The Farmington area also has a great nine-hole layout in **Riverview Golf Course** in nearby Kirtland. It was built by noted architect Baxter Spann and also offers spectacular views at a very reasonable \$25 green fee for 18 holes. And if time is a consideration, take on the **Civitan Par-3 Golf Course**,

which is challenging and quite reasonable at \$8 – for 18 holes!

For more information on golf in Farmington, N.M., visit [www.farmingtonnm.org](http://www.farmingtonnm.org).

As for where to stay in northwest New Mexico, the **Sky Ute Casino** in nearby Ignacio, Colo., takes the word "play" to a whole new level, including its Shinnery Mini Golf. There's also a swimming pool and Lazy River, Rolling Thunder Bowling Lanes, and salon/spa, as well as a full fitness center. Owned and operated by the Southern Ute Tribe, the casino also boasts five restaurants, world-class poker room, complimentary high-speed Internet and HD-LCD TVs. To make a reservation, visit [www.skyutecasino.com](http://www.skyutecasino.com). ■



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**MAYAN PALACE PUERTO PEÑASCO**



# An amateur perspective on 'State of the Game'

Golf is a game of opposites. To hit a ball high, the player swings down into it. To make it go left, swing to the right; to go right, swing to the left. Today it also seems to apply to every aspect of the game, including perceptions and perspectives of its rules, architecture, economics and governing bodies, as well as the interplay among them. All are faced with polarizing issues.

Much of this was brought out in a recent "State of the Game" production by the Golf Channel. Its panel included a foursome of on-air talent: Nick Faldo, Johnny Miller, Brandel Chamblee and Frank Nobile, and was refereed by Dan Hicks. The topics discussed ranged from the proposed ban on anchoring a club during a stroke by the R&A and USGA to rules' bifurcation and Rory McIlroy's new clothes (clubs). These experts are four former tour players, professionals all. I enjoyed their thoughtful perspectives as they covered the current hot list of items.

Everyone is entitled to an opinion. Considering the "anchoring" debate, who cannot feel compassion for the 2 million to 3 million golfers who currently use long putters and feel put upon by the proposed rule change? Or the PGA Tour Advisory Board, which opposed it "in the interests of the game." They won't be able to play the game the way they have become accustomed. I understand.

But the objective, like the guys discussed, is not about the money. It's not about bringing more people into the game. It's simply about the character of the game itself, and those aspects of it that make it unique and lovable like no other game can be. Opinions welcome.

What's missing is an amateur perspective, representing 25 million of us. The word "amateur" is defined

by Webster as "one who engages in an activity for pleasure rather than financial benefit." Does financial success bequeath the right to be heard?

I vote no. It's the job of the USGA & R&A — amateur golf's leadership — to decide this issue, and I'm frankly offended that any would take a public stance otherwise. However, no opinion in this debate is without merit.



**But the objective, like the guys discussed, is not about the money. It's not about bringing more people into the game. It's simply about the character of the game itself, and those aspects of it that make it unique and lovable like no other game can be.**



As the devil's advocate, I don't pretend these following thoughts are correct, only that they also deserve a place at the "State of the Game" table:

- **We don't need to grow the game.** That's a drive for more money, a corporate perspective. We don't need to change the game, either. If one loves golf, he or she will encourage others to play. If all current golfers played twice a year more, that's 50 million rounds.

- **Deal with cost and slow play.** Golf is expensive for a family, and slow play is a cancer. Until the tours and the major championships make it a priority, nothing will happen at the local level. Here's where the bully pulpit must be used for anything to happen. Make it faster, less expensive and golfer friendly, and the game will grow.
- **End the distance chase.** Manufacturers will make every empty claim their product is "longer, better, prettier." Great courses have become outmoded. Reduce distance and mandate skill. We'll all be better for it.
- **Play by the rules.** It isn't chess if you make up moves, so don't call it "golf" when it isn't. That also means the rules need to be easier to learn and understand. This falls to the USGA & R&A on one hand to write, and the PGAs of the world to implement. Gentlemen, this is your mission impossible, should you choose to accept it.
- **Please teach more "teachers" and make them accessible.** So little help, so many wishing to improve. With all the equipment improvements, the average handicap hasn't changed in 30 years. Get Golf Ready is a wonderful effort. What about the rest of us?
- **Lastly, lest I alienate everyone, bring back "foursomes" match play.** It's not only fast, to me it's the finest form of golf. That would unfortunately require a discount on green fees ... fat chance of that happening.

See you all soon on the first tee — or 19th hole, if you'd rather. I don't always drink beer, but when I do, I prefer a Guinness! ■





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