



Events

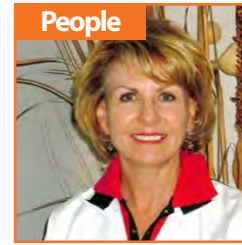
2016 GEM Winners

The result are in - check out the most highly rated courses for women
Page 2



2016 Rules

The principal changes to the Rules of Golf for 2016
Page 4



People

Happy New Year

from AWGA Executive Director Mary Pomroy
Page 8



NewsLinks

A publication of the Arizona Women's Golf Association | Dedicated to promoting golf for women in Arizona

Build a TEAM: Building Golf's Future

by Julie Fenn



Saguario High School ~ State Champions



McClintock High School Girls Golf Team

AWGA's Build a Team program has just finished its fourth season helping Arizona high school girls' golf teams. To date, thirteen teams have benefitted by receiving uniforms, equipment and professional lessons that otherwise would not have been available to them. We have received 19 applicants from Yuma, Tucson and the Phoenix metro area vying for the limited funding available to help schools in 2016. Coaches and schools have seen the benefits of the lessons when they have a match against a Build a Team school. The program continues to improve as more teaching professionals are interested in being a part of the program and are willing to significantly reduce their regular fees or donate their time for lessons. Lessons are provided throughout the summer so that the teams are ready for the start of the season in late August. Leagues and clubs at local golf courses are stepping up and "adopting" teams by donating funds to the schools. This provides a sustainable source of income for the girls' golf teams and allows the limited AWGA funds to be given to another school in need.

Success stories:

- One school reported that their girls' golf team had the best record of any fall athletic program. Both the Athletic

Director and Principal practiced with the team and attended at least one match.

- One school was able to demonstrate an average of a 10-stroke improvement per player in a 9-hole round over the six week season.
- One player's parents moved their daughter to a Build a TEAM school in order for her to be part of this program and benefit from the lessons and chance to play.
- One senior has received multiple golf scholarship offers.
- One player received the AZCentral sports' female athlete of the week award. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, plays softball, works on the school yearbook and has a 3.8 GPA.
- In a prior year of the program, a player received a golf scholarship to college. She is now playing golf for a local community college and is the first person in her family to attend college.

Even a small fundraising effort can have a significant impact on a young golfer's life. If you or your league/club would like to "adopt" a team or find out more about the Build a Team program, please contact Julie Fenn at the AWGA by calling 602-253-5655.

2016 GEM Award Winners

The results are in! Your opinion counts and your voice has been heard! Your continued participation in the GEM (Golf Endorsed by Members) program throughout this past year has allowed the AWGA to collect and compile data in our quest to find the golf courses that provide a great golf experience for women in the state of Arizona. Our GEM program is truly a program that is endorsed by members. The multitude of surveys our members completed, providing personal opinions and golf course evaluations on their experience playing a course, enabled the AWGA to objectively calculate direct data and select only the most highly graded courses which provided a great golf experience for women. Alphabetically, your list of GEM designated golf courses for 2016 are:

Camelback Golf Club 1st award - Public - Phoenix
Copper Canyon Golf Club 3rd award - Public - Buckeye
Desert Highlands Golf Club 2nd award - Private - Scottsdale
The Desert Mountain Club 4th award - Private - Scottsdale
Encanterra Country Club 4th award - Private - Queen Creek
Forest Highlands 4th award - Private - Flagstaff
Gold Canyon Golf Resort 2nd award - Public - Gold Canyon
Gallery Golf Club, The 4th award - Private - Marana
Highlands at Dove Mountain, The 4th award - Semi-Private - Marana
Los Caballeros Golf Club 2nd award - Public - Wickenburg
Omni Tucson National Golf Club 4th award - Public - Tucson
Pinetop Country Club 3rd award - Private - Pinetop
Pinetop Lakes Golf & CC 2nd award - Public - Pinetop
Poston Butte Golf Club 3rd award - Public - Florence
SaddleBrooke Golf Club 3rd award - Private - Tucson
Sewailo Golf Club 1st award - Public - Tucson
Superstition Mountain Golf Club 4th award - Private - Superstition Mountain
Tonto Verde Golf Club 4th award - Semi-Private - Rio Verde
Troon North Golf Club 2nd award - Semi-Private - Scottsdale
Ventana Canyon GC 4th award - Public - Tucson



In order to be included in a GEM survey, a golf course must be an active course with the AWGA. In essence, a golf course must have at least one set of tees with a current USGA Course rating for play by women that has been issued by the AWGA. In turn, this allows a course to be included in our score posting database. Courses were evaluated by AWGA members on a variety of criteria such as customer service, playability and restroom availability.

As an ongoing program, the new GEM year started November 1st. If your favorite course is not on the list, you can affect that by taking a survey and influencing your fellow golfers to take GEM surveys. For those members who may have “opted out” of participating in this important program, opting back in is as easy as an email to awga@awga.org. The GEM program is a unique, one of a kind, member endorsed initiative, consistent with the goals and objectives of the AWGA - to inspire and encourage women to engage in the game of golf.

Partners Motto:

Be prepared for everything

by Julie Fenn

The final AWGA tournament in 2015 was the Partners Tournament at Oro Valley Country Club on November 15th & 16th. Players brought cart covers, umbrellas, hats, gloves, numerous layers, hand warmers, and even heated vests to be prepared for whatever might come their way! Though it was chilly, no rain fell during play. On both days, Mother Nature was kind enough to have it stop before players teed off.

The AWGA joined forces with the Oro Valley Country Club members to have a food drive supporting the Southern Arizona Community Food Bank. Boxes were overflowing with generous donations as players gave back to the community less than two weeks before Thanksgiving. The LPGA also donated passes to the JTBC Founders Cup next March that were raffled off to help support the junior golf community.

There were a number of teams that have played together before. Some teams were new and nine players were able to say this was their first AWGA tournament. Two mother-daughter teams braved the weather together. This Stableford scoring event is a lot of fun. Only one ball counts on the first day, but both balls count on the second. Consequently, things can change on the leaderboard very quickly. Lisa Smego and Kelly Loeb, the champions, started the day one point behind but ended up winning by 14. Kathie Coil and Dawn Jacobs, the net winners, came out of the Hedgehog (5th) flight with strong performances both days. Results of this event and the 2016 schedule can be viewed on the AWGA's website at www.awga.org. Come out and join the fun!



Overall Champions Lisa Smego & Kelly Loeb



Overall Net Champions Kathie Coil & Dawn Jacobs





2016 Revisions to The Rules of Golf

Following are the four most significant changes:

- **Ball Moving After Address** - Rule 18-2b has been deleted. If a ball at rest moves after the player addresses it, the player is no longer automatically deemed to have caused the ball to move. A one-stroke penalty will be applied only when the facts show that the player has caused the ball to move. The player is now innocent until proven guilty.
- **Incorrect Score Card** - A new exception has been introduced to Rule 6-6d (Wrong Score for Hole) to provide that a player is not disqualified for returning a lower score for a hole than actually taken as a result of failing to include penalty strokes that the player did not know were incurred before returning the score card. Now the player incurs the penalty under the Rule that was breached and must add an additional two-stroke penalty for the score card error.
- **Penalty for a Single Impermissible Use of Artificial Devices or Equipment** - The penalty for a player's first breach of Rule 14-3 (Artificial Devices, Unusual Equipment and Abnormal Use of Equipment) during the round has been reduced from disqualification to loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play. The penalty for any subsequent breach of Rule 14-3 will continue to be disqualification.
- **Prohibition on Anchoring the Club While Making a Stroke** - Rule 14-1b (Anchoring the Club) prohibits anchoring the club either "directly" or by use of an "anchor point" in making a stroke. The penalty is loss of hole in match play or two strokes in stroke play.



For more information on anchoring a club, see www.usga.org/anchoring. Rules of Golf 2016 – 2019 are available from the AWGA for 30 cents apiece and a minimal shipping cost. Be sure to replace the old one in your golf bag.

Etiquette on the Putting Green

The two most common complaints about etiquette on the putting green are stepping on a player's line of putt and distractions during the stroke. Here's why. The Putting Green Surface is a very special place. Grass is delicate and takes time to recover after being crushed and a footprint can leave a depression in the putting green surface. Both of these can cause a ball to move off the intended line of putt. By stepping around or over another player's line of putt, you demonstrate your awareness of her ball and your courtesy to fellow competitors and opponents.

Shhhhh..... The atmosphere on the putting green should be like that of a library. What a wonderful analogy. Consider yourself sitting engrossed in a good book and how you would react to someone rattling through a purse for car keys, dropping a book or looking over your shoulder. They are all distractions that direct your focus away from that compelling story. Just as in the library, any sound or movement can be distracting to a player ready to play her stroke. It is my responsibility to be aware the player is addressing her ball. I will locate myself out of her peripheral vision away from her line of putt, as well as an extension of that line behind her or the hole. I will cast my shadow away from her line of putt. I will effectively be invisible; standing quietly without a whisper or a wiggle until that putter has made contact with the ball.

What to do about that rare unaware individual? New players (and a few experienced ones as well) may need a gentle reminder. Golf is an educational opportunity. Graciously share your knowledge on etiquette nuances.

Just for Fun Days A Real Understatement



Flagstaff Ranch Golf Course

The 2015 series of Just 4 Fun Days ended on a glorious fall day in Show Low on the Tower Course at Torreon. People are finally getting used to the fact that guests are welcome, we don't keep score, and laughter is supposed to happen on the golf course. It echoed through the trees all afternoon.

All this is part of the Just 4 Fun "experience". Have you tried it yet?

There were a total of 225 people that played in the six Just 4 Fun Days this year. We started at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West in March, thoroughly enjoying the Sunday brunch that started our day. In April, we had a blast at Augusta Ranch in Mesa and were reminded that just because a course is short doesn't mean it is easy. But our outside lunch next to the 9th green helped ease the bruised egos. In mid-May, we went to the Monument Course at Troon North. Father's Day weekend took us to The Gallery in Marana.

At each event we had closest to the hole contests for very valuable prizes (cups, flasks, head covers, windshield screens, etc.). Are you sorry you missed out on the fun? Are you glad you were one of the 225 people that enjoyed these events?

Unlike the AWGA tournaments, these events are available on a first come, first serve basis. Each participant must sign up individually online or a member may sign up herself and her guest by completing an entry form and mailing in a check. Your AWGA Rep will be getting this schedule on a poster to hang in your clubhouse. It will also be published in the 2016 AWGA Directory. It is already on the tournament page of the AWGA website under Tournament Registration & Results. Come out and join us – you'll have fun!

Your Generous Support Creates Opportunities

Since 2009, generous donations by people like you have enabled the AWGA to provide over \$140,000 in support for golf programs throughout Arizona that assist youth and women's golf. Our 501(c)(3) designation even enables you to take a tax deduction for your donations.

Helping Women Gain Influence in the Golf World

The AWGA's memberships in national and international golf organizations and our groundbreaking GEM program help amplify our members' voices to ensure women are seen and heard.

Educating New & Experienced Golfers

The AWGA helps get new and out-of-practice golfers involved in the game, teaching them everything from how to grip a club to how to join a league. Golfers with more experience can take Rules and Handicap seminars.

Developing Junior Golfers

The AWGA makes it possible for high school girls' teams around the state to get the equipment and training they need to be successful, and provides resources to Arizona's numerous junior programs.

Recruiting & Training Volunteers

AWGA volunteers give over 20,000 hours annually to AWGA, high school, college, district, state and national events.

Creating Golf Events for All Skill Levels

The AWGA offers events for every level of player - from casual players to highly ranked amateurs. Tournaments are often flighted - so that scratch golfers and those with higher handicaps can both participate and have fun.



**You can donate online
at www.awga.org/donate
or by mail:**

**Arizona Women's Golf Association
141 East Palm Lane, Suite 210, Phoenix, AZ 85004**

Aces



February 2015

14 | Martha French | Falcon GC

April 2015

13 | Shirley Gillespie | Pebblecreek Falls Course
17 | Chris Cook | Pebblecreek Eagle's Nest Course
17 | Sue Underwood | Fountain of the Sun CC

May 2015

1 | Carolyn Lynch | Las Sendas
5 | Chris Cook | Pebblecreek Palms Course
6 | Jennifer Betts | Pebblecreek Palms Course
26 | Rae Farley | Coyote Run in Leisure World

July 2015

20 | Rosalie Fournier | Fountain of the Sun CC
27 | Marilyn Klooster | Sunbird Golf Resort

October 2015

11 | Patty Assante | Cottonwood CC
15 | Trudy Nowak | Echo Mesa GC
22 | Judi Sloan | Ironwood GC
22 | Wanda Giles | Desert Trails GC
22 | Beth Maynard | Wigwam Resort Heritage Course
24 | Lari Hash | Clear Lake Country Club
25 | Heather Verbitsky | Sunbird Golf Resort
26 | Terry Clark | Ironwood GC
26 | Ellen Stallings | Alta Mesa GC
28 | Claudia Thompson | Tubac Golf Resort
29 | Barbara Collier | Ironwood GC
29 | Barbara DeNapoli | Ironwood GC
31 | Pat Linderman | Robson Ranch GC

November 2015

1 | Judi Sloan | Ironwood GC
2 | Joan McHugh | The Gallery GC – South Course
4 | Vandana Andresen | Paradise Valley CC
11 | Lois Fitzsimmons | Palo Verde CC
12 | Isobel Van Den Berg | The 500 Club
14 | Carol Miller | Fountain of the Sun CC
15 | Andra Privert | Terravita GC
17 | Leslie Harbison | Kiahuna GC
18 | Peggy Weisbeck | The Preserve at SaddleBrooke

19 | Jan Rossi | Ironwood Course at Anthem G & CC
20 | Rene Parks | Mountain Brook GC
22 | Nancy Ratermann | Sunbird Golf Resort
22 | Chris Falasco | Star Dust GC
23 | Sandy Jones | Turquoise Valley
25 | Esther Frehner | Eagle's Nest
27 | Kathy Behrens | Desert Hills GC
27 | Dee Dee Huffer | Skyline GCC
28 | Bobbie Ernst | Tonto Verde Ranch Course
28 | Fran Lindgren | Briarwood CC
29 | Cathy Munger | Peaks Course at Tonto Verde

December 2015

2 | Susan Keating | The Highlands at Dove Mountain
2 | Debbie Horton | Palms Course at Oakwood
4 | Joyce Fox | The Gallery – North Course
6 | Candy Matsukado | El Conquistador GC
11 | Jane Hein | Peaks Course at Tonto Verde
11 | Barbara Brophy | Alta Mesa GC
13 | Barbara Vanier | The Highlands at Dove Mountain

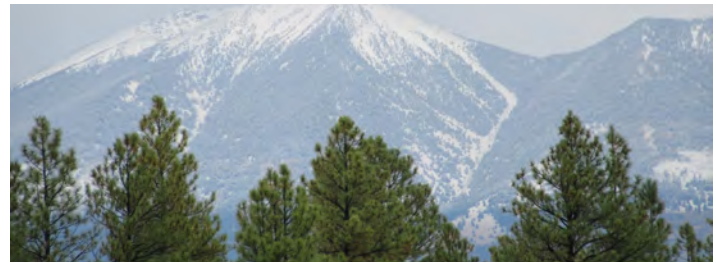
Quail Creek Fundraiser

The Quail Creek Lady Golf Associations, 18-hole club, Niners, and putters held their 16th annual Rally for the Cure event October 22nd. The rally is held in October in conjunction with the Susan G. Komen organization to raise money for research and a cure for breast cancer. The Quail Creek Lady Golf Associations raised \$12,000 this year adding to the \$120,000 raised over the last 16 years of participation! This year's event was titled "Hear Me Roar in Pink" with original art work by Kandi Roy.





*Overall Champions
Liz Waynick and Sharon Slattery*



*Overall Net Champions
Tori Totlis and Diane Thomas*

Scotch & Water Not the Best Recipe for Golf

The fantastic Forest Highlands Golf Club played host to the 2015 AWGA Scotch Play Tournament on October 19th and 20th. The Canyon Course proved to be a popular venue and the field had to be expanded beyond the standard 112 in order to accommodate all the players that wanted to participate. The course, club and staff did everything they could to make this a memorable event but Mother Nature had other plans.

Overnight Sunday and into Monday morning thunderstorms rumbled through, but the “Pastabilities” pasta dinner the club served Sunday night made everyone forget the weather outside. Monday morning was overcast and damp but no longer raining. Play was on!

On the second day, the weather was not willing to cooperate. Overnight thunderstorms and hail left the course very wet. Start time was delayed in order to allow the superintendent and his team to remove as much water as possible and allow a cell of storms to pass. Players were out on the course with only a 45-minute delay. But our good luck did not last long. Groups got in four to six holes before the lightning returned and play was cancelled. The good news was that lunch was ready and it was warm inside.

Due to the wet course conditions, results of the event were based on only one round of play. Liz Waynick and Sharon Slattery of Desert Mountain were the Champions and Tori Totlis and Diane Lucas of Arizona Country Club were one-stroke winners of the Overall Net award. Local knowledge was helpful and a number of Forest Highlands’ members were able to walk away with prizes. As an added bonus, a Nike representative was available and showing the 2016 spring line of clothing that was available for purchase.





Arizona Women's Golf Association
141 E Palm Lane Suite 210
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1555

Non Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Phoenix, AZ
Permit #744

Happy New Year: The AWGA Thanks you for your Membership

by Mary Pomroy, Executive Director, AWGA

As we wrap up 2015 and head into a brand New Year, we hope that you have thoroughly enjoyed your golf experiences on the course and with your golfing friends this year. We hope you can reflect and find that there is at least one thing we did at the AWGA in 2015 that added joy and meaning to your golfing experience this past year. Whether you have joined us at a meeting; played in a Just for Fun event; played in a tournament or Championship; taken a lesson through our Golf 101 program; made a donation that you know has impacted the life of a junior golfer through our Build-a-TEAM program; volunteered your time help us promote golf or administer a golf event; provided valuable feedback to an Arizona golf course through our GEM program; enjoyed our newsletter; or simply used your USGA Handicap to play in an event or game at your club, your enjoyment and appreciation for what we, the staff and volunteers of the AWGA, do makes it all worthwhile.



2016 promises to be an exciting year in many ways. Golf in the Olympics; a Rules, Handicap System and Course Rating System update year; progressive work at the USGA toward a World Handicap System, all will factor in to keep us on our toes next year.

Join us at our Annual meeting on January 26, 2016 at Wild Horse Pass for a full report on 2015 and a look forward to the coming year. The business meeting, as always, will be followed by a celebration dinner to honor the 2015 Player of the Year – **Hannah O'Sullivan**, Senior Player of the Year – **Kelly Loeb**, Rep of the Year – **Charlotte James**, Volunteer of the Year – **Kathy Cline**, Dorothy Pease Award – **Rose Nehring**, Host Club of the Year – **Forest Highlands**, Lifetime Achievement Award – **Colleen Green** and other success stories for the past year.