



NEWSLINKS

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

Gerri Cavanaugh Chosen to Receive AWGA Dorothy Pease Achievement Award

It's new! It's exciting! It's a highly prestigious award! The Arizona Golf Hall of Fame selection is an arduous process, and it has served to draw attention to the many people in our community who have done so much for and through the game of golf. This year the Selectors Committee recommended that each Association represented on the Committee create a special award for their own members. This award is meant to elevate awareness of the accomplishments of individuals who may be considered for eventual induction into the Hall. The AWGA subsequently created the Dorothy Pease Achievement Award, which was introduced at the Hall of Fame Induction ceremony November 21, 2011, and will be presented at the AWGA Annual Meeting January 26, 2012. Gerri Cavanaugh will be the first to receive this award.

About Dorothy Pease: Dorothy was instrumental to the success of women's golf in Arizona for over 50 years. Along with her accomplishments as an individual golfer, her volunteer spirit, ingenuity and generosity contributed to the initiation of many highly regarded programs and events. Some of her major achievements include: Founding the Junior Girl's Championship in Arizona in 1958 and the AWGA State Seniors Championship in 1963; 40 years of service on the Women's Trans National Golf Association Board; 22 years as a volunteer on the USGA Women's and Girls' Boards; and launching the ASU women's golf team with Betty Graham. Dorothy Pease was inducted into the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame in 2000.

About Gerri Cavanaugh: Gerri is an accomplished golfer, a philanthropic leader and a steadfast volunteer. When Gerri won the AWGA State Amateur Match Play Championship in 1976, Dorothy Pease was a Rules Official for the match. "I knew Dorothy so this is a great honor for me," Gerri said. Gerri also won in 1986 and was the AWGA State Amateur Stroke Play Champion in 1981. She has had five decades of numerous Club Championships at Paradise Valley CC, White Mountain CC and Phoenix CC. Gerri played as an adult on the ASU Women's Golf team and on the national team. "I played with women young enough to be my daughters," Gerri remembered, "and I'm still friends with many of them." Gerri can also take pride in ten holes-in-one.

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Hall of Famers Evie Hill and Donna Cumming were instrumental in creating and naming the award. From left to right: Evie Hill, Donna Cumming, Gerri Cavanaugh and Barbara Simmons.

Gerri Cavanaugh/Dorothy Pease Award

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As a volunteer, Gerri's enthusiasm is only surpassed by her leadership skills as a devoted, capable and spirited volunteer. She has held previous Board positions in organizations including the AWGA, Phoenix CC Board, President of Paradise Valley CC and White Mountain CC. Gerri co-founded the PING Banner Health LPGA Tournament and served as the co-chair of the event from 1991 to 1998. She and her late husband, Harry, received the Turquoise Award in 2004 for their contribution to the tournament and cancer prevention. Gerri managed 20,000 volunteers for Super Bowl XXX and received the Volunteer of the Year Award in 1996 for her efforts in that event. Career Concept for Youth named an annual award for the Cavanaghs and Gerri received the 2011 Outstanding Service Award from that organization.

As a philanthropist, Gerri is a Founder and Director of the Farrington Foundation and has served as its President since its inception in 1991. Her generous and continued support for Arizona golf is beyond measure with substantial donations to many amateur golf organizations as well as the PING Banner Health LPGA Tournament. She is sponsor of the Marilyn Smith Charity Golf Scholarship Tournament and currently has a five-year commitment as title sponsor of the Arizona Silver Belle Championship, a nationally ranked tournament open to girls and young women up to age 23. "I enjoy giving young people a start," she said. "Playing golf gives them a huge advantage in life. They learn the life skills needed for eventual work in the business world."

Although Gerri still has a passion for golf, she doesn't play competitively anymore. "That's one of the reasons golf is such a great game," she said. "You can play just for fun. And the game often leads to new friendships." Gerri now spends a great deal of time with her two horses. She rides them, trains them and dances with them! "There is a crossover with golf and horses," she said. "Working with horses is similar to the mental side of golf. You need focus and commitment with both," she added.

Her reaction to being chosen for the first Dorothy Pease Achievement Award – "It is a great tribute," she said. "My husband was in the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame and it would be an honor for me to join him there someday – an extraordinary cap to my golfing career."

Betsy Bro & Liz Waynick: Overall Winners in the AWGA Partners Tournament

It couldn't have been more ideal weather for golf both days of the Partners Tournament in Prescott Valley. Cool temperatures, fall colors and meticulously manicured fairways and greens made the course as enjoyable as it was challenging. "The AWGA provided spotters on almost every hole to assist the women who hit wayward shots," said Kelly Hollister, Program Coordinator. "The course was very difficult and there were trouble spots on every hole," she added.

Betsy Bro and Liz Waynick -- friends, partners and champions -- are members of Pinnacle Peak CC WGA. They both played exceptionally well and easily won with a team Stableford Gross of 99. On the second day of the tournament, Betsy shot her personal best score of 65 and set a new Course Record at Stoneridge GC. Added to those stunning accomplishments, Betsy also shot her age – truly a day to remember!

"I was just thrilled," Betsy said. "I've had a number of 67s but never shot a 65! I had seven birdies and shot a bogie-free round," she added. Betsy's game all came together at Partners noting that she hit every club well and usually plays her best on target courses like Stoneridge. Betsy gave much of the credit for their phenomenal score to her partner, Liz.

"We played great together," she said. "Liz took the first day and I took the second."

Liz Waynick has been playing golf since she was 8 years old. Liz and Betsy play golf regularly together. "Betsy was the sponsoring member when I joined Pinnacle Peak Country Club," said Liz. Liz played in the 2011 USGA Mid Am, made it through the qualifier but lost her first match. According to Liz, she still had a great time!! "The Partners Tournament was fun," Liz said "and



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Betsy Bro & Liz Waynick

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the course was in great shape." She continued, "Betsy and I played well together except for one hole! Oh well, no one is perfect!"

Both of the winners described their day as competitive but always pulling for the others in their group. "We had a great time," Betsy said, "lots of laughing, teasing and fun!" Betsy is a past AWGA Champion having won the State Amateur Match Play Championship in 1996 and 2000, and again in 2011 as a senior, the State Amateur Senior Match Play Championship. Liz added, "It is highly unusual for anyone to shoot their age, especially a woman, so I was very happy to have played with Betsy on that special day!"



Betsy Bro

Two Eagles on Hole # 16

Yvonne Brooks, member of Anthem Golf & Country Club WGA, eagled the 440 yard, par 5, 16th hole at Stoneridge Golf Course. This wasn't the first eagle for Yvonne since she has been playing golf for over 30 years but it was definitely an extremely satisfying one. Yvonne recalled her shot, "I was about 5 feet short of the green on the par 5 in two and decided to putt the ball. The putt went in. Both my partner and I were very happy because it meant 6 points for us gross and 8 points for us net."

Juanita Rosenfeld, also a member of Anthem Golf & Country Club, has had four holes-in-one but this was her first eagle on a Par 5. "I lost my tee shot into the desert the day before so my goal on the second day was to keep the ball in play," she said. After hitting it off the toe, it had a big kick and the ball ended up in the middle of the fairway. She added, "I followed with a solid three wood that was met with applause by the spotter as it rolled about 20 feet past the hole. It was a slippery downhill putt and I prayed for a short birdie putt. I was amazed and quite delighted as it dropped into the cup."



Betsy Bro & Liz Waynick

Two Holes in Three at DC Ranch

DC Ranch held its annual Member/Member Rodeo on November 15th and 16th and two members hit a hole-in-three on Wednesday. Lauren Rautbord had hers on #16 while Kim Cohos had hers on #3. Both ladies had lost ball situations off the tee. Their next tee shot went into the hole! Mary Fink jokingly commented, "It certainly is the way not to have to purchase drinks!"



Tough course for Rules Officials

Help us reach more women golfers.... when you're finished reading this newsletter, pass it along to a friend.



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We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding the new "NewsLinks" newsletter. Please submit your ideas to Logan Erickson at logan@awga.org.



FOUR

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The AWGA Needs Your Input State Medallion Tournament

The AWGA is evaluating the State Medallion Tournament and has summoned a task force to survey AWGA Representatives to determine what, if anything, should be changed to make the event a more positive experience for players. Melanie Bridges, head of the task force and AWGA Rep at Prescott Country Club, said this process began about a year ago with a goal of assessing whether the tournament can be improved and what our members might consider practical or constructive changes. The group then composed a survey, being sent to AWGA Reps. A second survey to this year's Medallion participants followed.

"We are expecting all AWGA Reps to respond to our survey," Melanie said. "Their input is essential in making the State Medallion the best it can be and the most fun for the women lucky enough to earn a place on their team." Since many AWGA Reps may not have participated in a State Medallion competition, members of their WGA who have played in the event are encouraged to offer their assistance in answering the questions in the survey. Melanie added, "The more information we receive from our members, the better we'll know how to proceed."

The AWGA State Medallion Tournament draws over 200 participants each year. Questions have arisen concerning the date, starting times, entry fees, format, locations and other details of the event. The committee is open to suggestions, and is planning to send a follow-up survey to all participants in the 2011 State Medallion competition. "Reviewing the opinions and ideas of those who play in the event will give us valuable information," Melanie said.

So what will future AWGA State Medallion Tournaments look like? If you have been a player in the event, contact your AWGA Rep to give her your input in completing the initial survey. If you are happy with the current set up and don't feel changes are needed, say so. If you think a few changes could make a difference in the overall experience of playing for your club, then make your thoughts known. "This is a long process," Melanie added, "and if there are any changes, they won't happen until the 2013 State Medallion. We are taking the time needed to do a comprehensive evaluation and incorporate the views of our members into any decisions." The AWGA is dedicated to providing the best in competitive events for its members and encourages all who have earned a place on a Club team or have participated in a past Medallion event to be a contributing voice in the future direction of the State Medallion Club Team Tournament.



The 2012 AWGA Season Opener will be played at Whirlwind Golf Club on Sunday, February 19th, 2012. This event will be a Partner event, so grab a friend and come on out and enjoy the first AWGA tournament of the year!

It's the Season for Giving! AWGA Members Show Their Generosity

Whether one celebrates Christmas, Hanukkah, Eid, Diwali or Kwanzaa, the spirit is the same. It's the time of year to think about others. It's the Season for Giving! Women's golf clubs all over the state hold events to help those in need. Non-profits, including the AWGA, count on the generous donations of their patrons to preserve their legacy and keep their mission moving forward.

As women who share a passion for golf, a commendable place to consider financially supporting is our own state association. The AWGA has a stellar record of distributing the contributions it receives to golf-related programs and services that assist youth and women's golf in Arizona. You can donate now online at www.awga.org.

Highlighted below is a sampling of clubs and the events they hold to support worthy causes. When planning for future charity events, consider contributing your proceeds to the AWGA.

Crooked Tree – According to Pat Combs, ladies from the Sahuaro WGA @Crooked Tree (Tucson) have a Christmas luncheon for all members and past members. Each attendee donates food items or money to go to the Community Food Bank in Tucson.

Coyote Run – Rae Farley, Past President of Coyote Run WGA, reported that in Leisure World (Mesa) both men's and women's groups participate in the United Way tournament, and also, as individuals, in the Christmas Tree program. Members take a name from the tree and buy gifts for disadvantaged children from this area.

Great Eagle -- Dorthey Spurek, President of Great Eagle Ladies Club (Surprise), reported that they are planning a charity event in February for the Heart Foundation. They also held a Rally for the Cure in October.

Las Colinas – Shirley Fletcher reported that the WGA at Las Colinas (Queen Creek) is collecting boxes of chocolate to take to the assisted living homes in their community. They will also be hosting a charity event in the spring and the proceeds will go to these homes.

PebbleCreek – Carolyn Suttles reported that The PebbleCreek LGA (Goodyear) held its Red and Green Tournament on Dec. 5th and 6th with the proceeds going to the New Life Women's Shelter.

Quail Creek Country Club -- The three Quail Creek Ladies Golf Associations (Green Valley) worked together to plan a Rally for the Cure. 156 golfers and 54 putters enjoyed the 9-hole golf event and a putting obstacle course followed by a luncheon with 51 additional ladies. The theme was "Hats off to you Ladies," with a presentation of roses and a poem written by Keta Valdez honoring cancer survivors. The Quail Creek Country Club WGAs donated over \$13,000 to the Susan G. Komen Foundation.





Season for Giving *(continued from page 5)*

Queen Valley – Sally Salo reported that in the past each member of the Queen Valley Women’s Golf Association brought unwrapped toys to their Christmas luncheon that the Pinal County Sheriff’s office collected and distributed. However, this year the ladies decided to sponsor at least four families. Their plan is to shop for presents and food and personally deliver the gifts.

Robson Ranch -- Fran Fowler, AWGA Rep at Robson Ranch 18 Holes Ladies Associations (Eloy), reported that they are hosting a MARY KAY Cosmetic Party on November 14 with half of the profits going to their annual Rally for the Cure. They are also participating in yard sales with 100% of the proceeds going to the Rally for the Cure.

Sun City Grand -- Sharon Cronkrite and Terri Gruhn are Co-Chairs for Operation Warm Heart, the organization supported by the Ladies Grand Niners (Surprise) benefiting children at Luke Air Force Base at Christmas. They sold raffle tickets for baskets filled with items donated by area restaurants and golf courses, held a Community Garage Sale, sold Phoenix area Entertainment books and held 50/50 Raffles. Luke Air Force coordinators provided a “wish list” from children and LGA members shopped for them.

The Gallery -- Cathy Hareland reported that The Gallery Women’s Golf Association (Marana) has adopted “Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse” as their fall charity. This organization provides domestic abuse crisis intervention and housing, prevention and education, and support and advocacy services to women and children in Southern Arizona. Members purchase gift cards to local stores, which will be given to those who find themselves without the necessary supplies for everyday life.

Torres/Ranch -- Jana Oxenford, AWGA Rep, reported that the Torres/Ranch LGA (Green Valley) held its annual “Chili Pepper Classic” on October 26th with the proceeds of \$1500 - \$2000 going to local charities and individuals who are in need of help.

Troon Country Club – (Scottsdale) Marlene Baumann reported that the LGA designated Homeward Bound for their 2011 charity. Their main effort will be in collecting diapers. Homeward Bound is a “help up” organization that provides transitional housing for families of domestic violence and homelessness.

Valle Vista – Venita Barnes reported that each member of The Valle Vista Ladies Golf Club (Kingman) brings an unwrapped toy to their Christmas Party. The toys are donated to Kingman Aid to Abused People. The women have been participating in this event for the past 3 years.

Wickenburg – “The women of Wickenburg WGA hold a scramble each year before Christmas and gather together for a lunch afterwards” said Barb Baxter, VP of the Wickenburg WGA. Members who participate bring canned goods or boxed food to donate to the needy in the town and a gift for “Cops Who Care” to wrap and give to a child that may not otherwise receive a present on Christmas.





Barb Byrnes & Robin Lane Team Up to win Scotch Play Tournament

"It was the first time Robin and I have played together in Scotch," Barb Byrnes laughed and said, "and it was a match made by default." Both Barb's original partner and Robin's partner were unable to play in the tournament so the two of them teamed up. Barb added, "It turned out very well for us!"

Robin and Barb played together once before in 2009 in the AWGA Partners Tournament. According to Barb, they had a great first day but lost on the second day after having a very large lead. "That was tough," she said. This time they played well on the first day but the outcome was different. With a final score of 155, they secured a hard fought victory over Kim Eaton and Christie Austin winning by three strokes. "We played ham and eggs," Barb said. Robin added, "Barb played great and I helped! We had to depend on each other throughout the game to play well in this format." It's easy to see they had fun together as partners. Barb and Robin were very excited to have defeated Kim and Christie. In Barb's words, "they are both so talented and such skilled players."

Barb's skill on the course is evident with a string of titles over the past eight years. She is the 2011 LGA Champion at Red Mountain Ranch and earned a place on their Club Team for the State Medallion Tournament. A generous player, Barb gave up her spot so another who had not played in the Medallion could enjoy the experience. Barb will be acting as a Rules Official at the event. But perhaps the most prestigious accomplishments were being named the 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008 AWGA Senior Player of the Year and her three AWGA State Seniors Championships in 2004, 2005 and 2007. In early November, Barb made a hole-in-one at Red Mountain Ranch to add to her accomplishments! Barb continues to play in competitive events and has qualified for the US Senior Women's Amateur Championship for the past eight years. She is currently an active volunteer Rules Official working USGA Qualifiers and Championships, AWGA and Central District events, college, high school and junior tournaments. She currently serves as the AWGA Tournament Committee Chair.

Robin is an avid golfer with a 4.5 handicap index and was thrilled to win her first AWGA title. "I finally brought home a crystal trophy that says AWGA!" she said proudly. Robin was the Club Champion at The Gallery in 2007 and has won in her flight many times. She can boast one hole-in-one while she was playing golf with

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July

12. Joan Gordon | Poston Butte

August

2. Grace Burriss | The Gallery North

October

13. Maria Sorce | Grandview
16. Ginny Mazade | The Club at Prescott Lakes
17. Karen Jennings | Seven Canyons
22. Linda Slocomb | Grandview
25. Sandy Costello | Granite Falls Ladies 18
29. Carolyn Jarvis | Antelope Hills South

November

3. Bev Iverson | Quail Creek CC
8. Nancy Ellis | Kokopelli Golf Course
11. Barbara Byrnes | Red Mountain Ranch CC
11. Karen Colabella | Poston Butte



SEVEN

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Upcoming 2012 Events

AWGA Annual Meeting

Wild Horse Pass
January, 26th

AWGA Season Opener

Whirlwind Golf Club
February 19th

AWGA Weekend Classic

Las Caballeros Golf Club
May 19th

AWGA State Match Play Championship

The Ritz-Carlton Golf Club
June 25th-28th

AWGA Day In Hades

Quintero Country Club
July 15th

AWGA State Seniors Championship

Seville Golf & Country Club
September 24th-26th

AWGA Mixed Stix

Omni Tucson
July 28th-29th

Barb Byrnes & Robin Lane

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her husband, Tommy, and friends in St. Simons Island, GA. Robin has been energetically involved in the AWGA for the past four years. She is a dynamic part of the Board of Directors, has served as Vice President and is Chair of the Communications Committee in 2010 and 2011, and is the incoming President for 2012. "It's been a great experience working with such dynamic and enthusiastic women on the Board," she said. As part of her responsibilities, Robin sits on the Advisory Board for the Southern



Arizona Tee Times magazine representing the AWGA and writes articles for each publication. She is also a weekly guest on the Uncle Buck radio show every Monday at 11:30 am.

Barb's excitement over winning the AWGA Scotch Play Tournament was palpable. "It's always exciting to win an AWGA event," she said, "and Robin and I will definitely be playing together next year to defend our title." Robin added, "Now that I know I can do it, I want to sign up for more AWGA events to win more trophies!" That's the spirit, ladies. Playing in AWGA tournaments is fun, competitive and contagious!

2011 Partners



Save the Date! Thursday, January 26th, 2012 for the AWGA Annual Meeting & Recognition Dinner

Mark your calendars for the 2012 AWGA Annual Meeting and Recognition dinner. This year's event will be held at Wild Horse Pass Resort and Casino on January 26th, 2012. As those who attended the 2011 event at Wild Horse Pass Resort and Casino will testify, the food was delicious, the surroundings were beautiful, the camaraderie is incomparable and the atmosphere of ringing bells and cheers from winners can be entertaining during your free time. More information will be available in the coming weeks.



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GOLF & TENNIS



EIGHT

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