



# NEWSLINKS

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



## Kim Eaton wins State Seniors Championship

Having won the AWGA State Seniors Championship in 2009 and 2010, Kim finished the three-day event in Kingman defending her title and claiming a victory in 2011. "I played well the first and third days," she said. "There were some challenging holes and good players in the competition. When the tournament was over, I felt pleased with my game."

This year Kim has amassed a string of victories. She won the AWGA Season Opener, the State Four-Ball Championship with Christie Austin and the Phoenix City Championship. She made it to the Quarterfinals in the USGA Senior Women's Championship and to the Round of 32 in the US Women's Mid-Am Championship. Kim also won the Jones Doherty Senior Championship in 2010 and was runner-up this year. After participating in several significant events in the past few weeks, Kim headed for Savannah, Georgia and played for Arizona in the USGA State Team Championship.

Kim's goal for 2012 is to play in the AWGA State Stroke Play Championship, the AWGA State Amateur Match Play Championship and make it over the Quarterfinals hump in the USGA Senior Women's Championship. "I made it to the quarterfinals twice," she said with pride, "in 2009 and 2011, but I'd like to make it to the semi-finals next year."

Kim started as a part-time resident in Arizona in January of 2007 and has been a full-time resident for one year. She plays with the ladies from Dobson Ranch where she was president in 2010 and holds the office again this year. She also is a member of the Encanto WGA and the Papago WGA. "I've made so many friends since I've been playing golf in Arizona," she said. "That's part of the reason I decided to become an Arizona resident."

Everyone has a bucket list and it seems that most women in the AWGA have golf on it in some way. Kim is no different. On the top of her bucket list is to play at Pebble Beach. When her schedule finally calms down, there is no doubt that playing golf at Pebble Beach will be on her itinerary.

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## Rebecca Crisp : Overall Net Winner at State Seniors Championship

Rebecca Crisp has played in the AWGA State Seniors Championship almost every year since she became a full-time resident in 1999. "Seniors is one of my favorite events," she said. "I really enjoy playing and competing with women my own age. And I think the new format this year, with flights by handicaps, made the tournament even better." Rebecca is a long-time player in both AWGA events and Southern Arizona District tournaments. She usually competes in the first flight and has often been a winner within her flight. "I was very surprised to hear I was the Overall Net Winner," Rebecca said. "I played better each day and

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## Arizona Women's State Team places 13th in Savannah, Georgia

On October 4 – 6, 51 teams from all over the country participated in the bi-annual USGA Women's State Team Championship at the Palmetto Course of The Landings Club, one of its six 18-hole layouts and considered the most difficult. Our Arizona team finished the competition in a respectable 13th place.

The three players representing Arizona were AWGA champions, Kim Eaton and Tui Selvaratnam, and Junior player, Makalya Harmon. Tui Selvaratnam has played on the Arizona State Team since 2001. "In 2001, we came in 3rd place and we won at The Club at Carlton Woods in Texas in 2007," she said with pride. "I also placed 1st individually that year." This is Kim Eaton's first time playing for Arizona but her fifth time playing in the USGA State Team Championship. "I'm happy to be playing for Arizona this year. I qualified by earning points and by becoming an Arizona resident," she said. Junior player, Makalya Harmon, is 17 years old and a Senior at Hamilton High School. This year's selection process was changed from members earning a place on the team based on an objective point system to the following criteria.

- 1) One player is selected based on her points earned during the selection period in AWGA tournaments only and must have participated in at least six individual AWGA tournament days during the selection period.
- 2) A second player is selected based on her accomplishments in local, state and national junior golf tournaments, with or without AWGA tournament participation, from a list of the 15 best junior golfers in the state from the JGAA and top Arizona high school golf coaches.
- 3) The third player may be selected by the Player of the Year point system or may be exempted onto the team for exceptional performance during the selection period by the Selection Committee.

Tui Selvaratnam, six time Arizona State Team player and AWGA Board member, believes the new process is fair and balanced. "The new selection method will give us a good junior player, mid amateur player and a senior player to represent the state. Since Arizona is a large golf state, it will represent everyone," she said.

The next USGA Women's State Team Championship will be contested September 17 - 19, 2013 at a site yet to be named.



# Winter Residents Keep Coming Back

By Mary Ann Souter

Each year at this time our ladies groups swell, friendships are renewed and the Arizona golf season kicks into high gear as our winter residents return. We're glad you're here breathing new life into our golf outings and energizing our permanent residents after a long, hot summer. Many AWGA members started as winter residents but have become permanent residents. Arizona can become irresistible to avid golfers, luring them to stay longer each year until they finally call Arizona home. Three Arizona winter residents, each from a different home state relate their experience.

**Betty Weinstein's** home state is Illinois and is a member of Desert Mountain during the fall and winter months. She has been playing golf with the Chicago Women's District GA since she was in her early twenties and has been coming to Arizona since 1987.

**Claudia Pilot,** a native of Minnesota, is a member of Arrowhead CC and won the 2010 AWGA Season Opener. She was also the Arrowhead Club Champion in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Claudia has won numerous championships in Minnesota including being named Player of Year seven times! She has been an Arizona winter resident since 2008 and calls herself a "sun-bird."

**Nancy Lamontagne** hails from Colorado and is currently a member of Anthem CC. She joined the AWGA in 2006 shortly after buying a home in Anthem. Nancy has been playing golf in Colorado for most of her adult life and is a member of their Course Rating team. She also played on The Pinery Country Club's traveling team in Parker, CO and currently plays on Anthem Country Club's Sonoran team.

## Why did you choose Arizona among the many other warm weather states drawing winter residents?

Betty answered quickly and with conviction, "Arizona is a beautiful state and there are no bugs! Plus there are so many beautiful golf courses here," she added. "Desert Mountain has six courses within walking distance. In Chicago, it is a 45 minute drive to play golf."

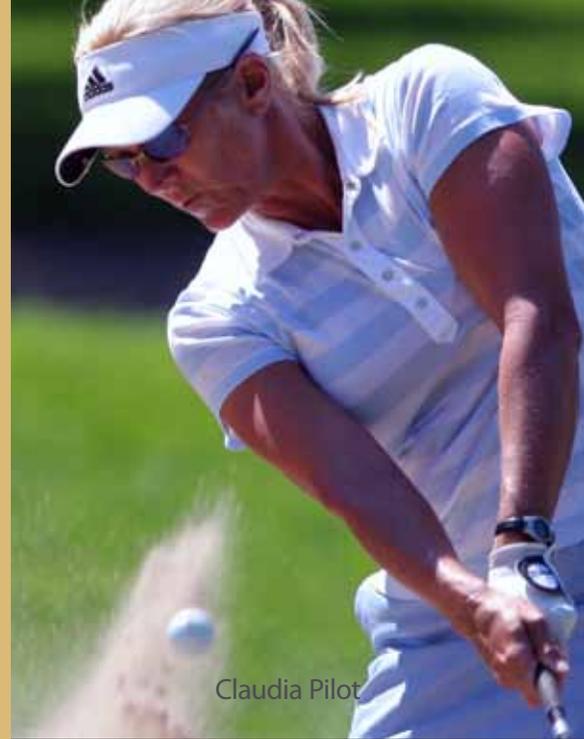
Claudia said, "The beauty of Arizona and the dry climate won me over right away. It's so humid in Minnesota. But the main attraction for me is that I am a sun-bird! I love being outdoors and the sun is always shining here so I can play golf any day I choose."

Nancy never thought they would live in Arizona. "We came to visit friends in Scottsdale in November of 2005, drove around the area and bought a house in Anthem that week!" According to Nancy, the beautiful scenery, various amenities, mild weather and friendly people made the area feel like home.

## What keeps you coming back every year?

"I'm spoiled in Arizona," Betty said. "It's an easier life for me here. We live in downtown Chicago and even going to the grocery store is difficult." Betty said the friendliness of the people here, the clean environment and having everyday needs conveniently around her make her life relaxed and stress-free. Claudia loves being outdoors not only playing golf but also hiking and bike riding. "Within 30 minutes I can participate in so many different activities," she said. "And I have so many friends here now – most of them I've made through golf."

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Claudia Pilot



Nancy LaMontagne



Betty Weinstein



THREE  
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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](mailto:logan@awga.org).



## Winter Residents

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Nancy is retired and is an avid golfer, enjoys hiking and tennis and plays on one of Anthem's traveling tennis teams. "The timing of golf seasons coincides perfectly," she said. "When Colorado's season ends, golf season in Arizona begins!" Nancy attributes her happiness factor in Arizona to making so many good friends in a short period of time. "Arizona feels just as much like home as Colorado does."

### Do you plan to become a full-time resident at some point?

Betty believes they will always have two homes since most of their family lives in Illinois. Betty's husband is still working and spends about 10 days each month enjoying their Arizona lifestyle. "I can see us becoming full-time Arizona residents," Claudia said. Claudia spends about six months a year here now but acknowledges that since all of their family is in the Twin Cities, they might go back for a couple months during the summer!" Nancy thinks they will stay winter residents in Arizona. "We love Colorado in the summer," she said. We live in the Vail Valley and it is so beautiful there that time of year – both the weather and the scenery." Having a winter home in Arizona offers them the best of both worlds.

### How much has golf impacted your lifestyle in Arizona and your decision to come here?

"Golf definitely played a part in the decision we made to come to Arizona," Betty said. She plays regularly with the Desert Mountain WGA and now has more friends in Arizona than in Chicago because of golf. "There are so many women here that play golf," Betty added. Betty has been playing golf on and off for 60 years but first played at the age of four with home-made clubs from her dad.

"I love to play golf and have been playing for most of my life," Claudia said. "My goal is to play four times a week with the ladies from Arrowhead or friends from Arizona or Minnesota. So choosing Arizona was positive because of the incredible golf courses the state offers." Claudia is an avid golfer who takes advantage of the many opportunities for golf in Arizona including playing in the AWGA Challenge Series.

"Coming here in November and playing golf in the lovely weather did influence our decision to buy a home on our first visit here," Nancy said. "I love playing golf with the women at Anthem. Our ladies league plays twice a week and I play a couple more times during the week with my husband and with friends."

### Where do you spend the holidays?

Betty, Claudia and Nancy all said they spend Thanksgiving here with friends. That speaks volumes to the relationships that are formed through golf!

It's unanimous - our winter residents sincerely think of Arizona as home. Each of these women found that making friends and becoming part of our women's golf community made a difference in their lives. And year-round residents benefit from the months our winter visitors are here as well. The friendships and camaraderie are precious. "Thank you for being part of the Arizona women's golf community. You are an integral part of our golf family and we're glad you're back!"



## Arizona Women Compete The 25th US Women's Mid-Am Championship The 50th US Senior Women's Amateur Championship

The **25th US Women's Mid-Amateur Championship** was held at the Bayville Golf Club in Virginia on September 17-22. AWGA members who qualified locally were Tui Selvaratnam, Kerry Postillion and Liz Waynick. Lynn Simmons played on exemption for her 2nd place finish at the 2008 Championship.

Tui Selvaratnam, AWGA champion and Board member, once again demonstrated her skill on the course by making it to the Quarterfinals where she lost on the 18th hole. "My experience at the Women's Mid-Am was great," she said, "playing on a challenging course and interacting with the wonderful people in Virginia Beach. The weather was a true test since there were so many weather delays due to rain and thunder storms." There is no doubt that Tui's experience on the course and her phenomenal course management skills propelled her to the Quarterfinals. "This was my fourth time in the Quarterfinals," she said. "I made it in 2004, 2005 and 2006. I continued on to the semifinals in 2004 and lost in the final match in 2006. I am still hoping to win a national championship one day," she added. AWGA champion, Kerry Postillion made it to the Round of 32 and Liz Waynick to the Round of 64.

Six Arizona women qualified for the 50th **US Senior Women's Amateur Championship** at The Honors Course in Tennessee on September 10-15. The Honors Course was built and designed to honor and focus on amateur golf. No professionals allowed! Barbara Byrnes, Judy Miller, Iris Owings, Kim Eaton, Joanne Travis and Laura Moore represented our state in this prestigious national championship. We also had three volunteer USGA Rules Officials from Arizona: Barbara Simmons, Jan Wobken (USGA Senior Women's Championship Committee) and Judi Lorenzen (USGA Women's Committee).

Barb Byrnes describes the event as "Southern hospitality at its best!" Barb has played in eight US Senior Women's Championships and qualified for Match Play five times. "I played very well on day two but it was not enough to get into Match Play." Kim Eaton was the only Arizona player to make Match Play this year. Since they were not playing in the final days, Barb and Judy Miller decided to be tourists and went to the top of Lookout Mountain on the world famous Incline railroad – not a bad silver lining for not continuing on to Match Play!

**Rebecca Crisp** (continued from page one)

was just hoping to win my flight, so winning Overall Net was pretty exciting news."

Rebecca started playing golf in her late 20s when she was living in Colorado. By the time she was 40, Rebecca was an avid golfer playing in a weekly women's league and in weekend couples events with her husband, John. When they moved to Arizona in 1992 as winter residents, they joined Skyline Country Club and Rebecca became a member of the AWGA. Seven years later they became permanent Arizona residents and currently belong to Oro Valley Country Club, where Rebecca plays golf two or three times a week. In the summer she and John spend time at their home in Show Low, enjoying cooler temperatures and playing golf at Torreon.

Golf is an integral part of Rebecca's life. She believes it's the ideal sport, especially in Arizona where she can be outdoors year round and is able to walk the course to keep fit. Spending time with other women who enjoy golf and building friendships is a benefit hard to measure. "I have met women from all over the state by playing in AWGA tournaments," she said. "It's great to arrive at the tournament site and spot someone that I haven't seen for a while. There's such an easy connection among women golfers." Golf has had a positive impact on Rebecca's life and perhaps this win will be the beginning of more championships to come.



## AWGA, 87 Years Strong Growing and Preserving the Legacy

The Arizona Women's Golf Association is expanding our reach and impact. **The Annual Giving Campaign** is a foundation of our new philanthropic strategy, giving members and supporters an annual vehicle for making a tax-deductible gift to grow and preserve the AWGA legacy for our daughters, granddaughters and women across the state. In 2009, we launched our first Annual Giving Campaign, allowing members to support both the mission and vision of the AWGA through annual gifts designed to broaden the AWGA's role in and impact on the community.

The AWGA was founded in 1924 for the purpose of promoting and maintaining the best interest and true spirit of the game of golf among women in the state of Arizona. Now 87 years strong, the AWGA's 25,000 members take pride in being Arizona's premier women's golf association, recognized nationally and locally as effective agents and advocates for women and women's golf.

Our importance and impact 87 years later is unquestionable! The AWGA, a 501c3 non-profit organization, is the only statewide Arizona women's golf organization and one of the largest women's membership organizations in Arizona. One of the AWGA's pivotal roles is facilitating access to golf instruction for all women whether they are first timers who want to see for themselves what the game is really about or veteran golfers who never tire of trying to improve their game and lower their scores.

**Since 2009, the Annual Giving Campaign** has enabled the AWGA to make significant donations totaling over \$ 46,000 to support the Junior Golf Association of Arizona, the Girls Junior America's Cup Team, the Mary Cave Cup Team, the USGA/LPGA Girls Golf programs in Phoenix, Tucson and Prescott, the Arizona Silver Belle Championship, the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame, and the Golf Industry Association of Arizona. In addition, your donations enable the AWGA to fund the Arizona Women's State Team, which finished 13th this past October in Savannah Georgia; and reach out to high school girls teams and coaches to provide assistance, guidance and funding. Continued support from our members and patrons will ensure our ability to touch the lives of females of all ages for now and the future.

Committed to growing and preserving the AWGA legacy, 100% of our Board of Directors has again pledged their personal financial support to this year's Annual Giving Campaign and urges you to give at a level that is comfortable and meaningful for you.

We encourage you to go to the AWGA website, [www.awga.org](http://www.awga.org) to make your tax-deductible gift today. Your gift, no matter how large or small, in combination with all the gifts of AWGA members will ensure that the AWGA legacy is strong and still growing when we celebrate our centennial in a few short years. Thank you for your membership and for your support.



The AWGA is proud of its diversity, embracing differences in age, ethnicity and backgrounds equally. We exist to promote the game of golf for women. Our purpose as an advocate and governing body for women golfers is paramount in everything we do. We value each and every one of you, whether you play daily or occasionally, whether you are a teen or a senior. Our strength lies in the diversity of our membership. The AWGA – an all-inclusive, innovative group of women golfers dedicated to the true spirit of the game of golf, and each other.





## Volunteers Serve the AWGA The AWGA Serves it's Volunteers

Serving as an AWGA volunteer is definitely not a one-way street. Just ask some of our women and you'll quickly see that the rewards are mutually beneficial. If you're looking for a satisfying way to spend your spare time and you love the game of golf, the AWGA offers many volunteer opportunities to match your skills and interests with open committee positions. The AWGA appreciates the time and support given by our volunteers to help our association with the daunting task of serving 25,000 members. A few long-time AWGA volunteers share their experiences.

**Cheryl Lewis** -- When Cheryl starting playing in tournaments, she realized she didn't know all of the Rules of Golf. After frequently asking for help with rules, she decided to take an AWGA Rules & Handicap seminar, which was given by volunteers. Cheryl saw volunteers at all the events and became interested in offering her assistance. She reviewed the AWGA website, completed a Volunteer Interest form and with the help of Judi Lorenzen, a Rules Official who she met through tournament play, she joined the AWGA Rules Committee and the Course Rating Committee.

"Becoming a member of these committees has helped me to understand more about golf," Cheryl said. "The more I learn, the better I play. Being a member of the Course Rating committee has improved my course management skills and I really enjoy the analytical nature of the job," she added.

Cheryl is appreciative for all the opportunities the AWGA gives to broaden a player's knowledge of the game. "I realized all that I have received and wanted to give back by volunteering. The AWGA needs many volunteers to assist with its functions and responsibilities and I have the time to help with a sport I love to play."

**Colleen Green** – Colleen retired to Arizona in 1987 and realized she had too much time on her hands. Her answer was learning to play golf – first with her husband, then by becoming a charter member of a ladies league at Great Eagle. By 1991 Colleen's club joined the CAGD and after learning that there was a state women's organization, moved their WGA from the AGA to the AWGA. She was quickly appointed to the CAGD Board and was recruited by Betsy Paul, Tournament Chair at the time, to volunteer for the AWGA.

Colleen has been the volunteer Tournament Director for the CAGD for 15 years, has served on the AWGA Tournament Committee for 8 years, and was appointed as an AWGA Board member in 2010. Colleen describes herself as a "worker bee" but her knowledge of the game affords her a much higher designation. She is definitely a take-charge volunteer who is not shy about sharing her passion for volunteering. Colleen is the chief volunteer recruiter for tournaments and affectionately calls herself their "mother hen!"

"The AWGA has given me so much," Colleen said emotionally, "and I have had a lot of fun along the way. I've made good friends and have learned important details

### May

- 10. E.J. Lindquist • Saddlebrooke
- 24. Dee Zoline • Saddlebrooke

### August

- 24. Pat DeMatties • Mountain Dell Lakes/Utah

### September

- 3. Sue Branton • Pebblecreek
- 6. Connie Newsom • Haven Golf Course
- 14. Lupe Sutton • The Refuge
- 14. Lynn Hawbecker • Canoa Ranch
- 15. Penny Kinney • Bison Golf & CC
- 19. Loretta Baughman • Bison Golf & CC
- 20. Cindy Spencer • Bison Golf & CC
- 23. Doris Putz • Bison Golf & CC
- 30. Jan Adamson • Canoa Ranch GC



SEVEN

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## Upcoming Events

AWGA Performance Series  
November 12th  
Crooked Tree

Join the Fun Scramble  
November 12th  
Pebblecreek Golf Resort

AWGA Scotch Play Tournament  
November 14th-15th  
Rio Rico Golf Resort

Join the Fun Scramble  
November 19th  
Arizona Golf Resort

AWGA State Medallion Club Team  
December 5th  
Wigwam Golf Resort & Spa

### 2011 Partners



**Golfsmith**  
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EIGHT

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## Volunteers

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about golf and the value of playing by the Rules.” Colleen attends Rules and Handicap seminars every year and says she always learns something new. “This year I scored 100% on the handicapping test,” she said proudly. Logan remarked that it had been a long time since he saw a perfect score! Colleen’s sweet spot is handicapping and her goal is to become an expert in the subject – a goal that will definitely be supported by the AWGA.

**Kathy Ehrlich** – In 2003, after retiring from a corporate position in Human Resources at Hewlett Packard, Kathy realized she needed more to do with her newfound free time. In



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2004 she joined The Foothills WGA not knowing much about the game of golf, course management skills or the meaning of a handicap. Kathy quickly became an avid golfer, improving her game and building relationships with the women on her league. One year later, Rosie Beale, a member of the AWGA Board of Directors at the time, asked if Kathy would be interested in sharing her business skills by serving on the AWGA Board. Although Kathy was somewhat apprehensive since her experience with golf was minimal, she agreed thinking her background might prove helpful. “At first I mostly listened at the meetings,” Kathy remembered. “Then I realized I could use my knowledge of business processes to help the association improve its management practices with staff, players, and members,” she added. Kathy moved from an appointed position on the Board to an elected one holding the position of Sites Chair and ultimately, President of the Board in 2009 and 2010. During her tenure as president, Kathy led the group in updating its AWGA Strategic Plan, which is a very valuable tool in fulfilling the mission of the AWGA. As her interest grew around golf and the AWGA, Kathy pursued the training to become a Rules Official. “I really enjoy being a player advisor,” she said. “It has added so much to my golf experience.” Kathy was recently invited to serve on the USGA Women’s Mid-Am Committee in 2010, an honor that she values greatly. Kathy currently serves on the AWGA Board and sits on the Board of the AGA as a liaison between the two associations. Her business knowledge and expertise have influenced the direction and success of the AWGA over the past eight years.

“Becoming an AWGA volunteer has changed my life,” Kathy said. “Girl golf is amazing and I have made so many friendships because of my involvement,” she continued. Kathy gives the AWGA credit for improving her knowledge of the game and chooses to give back, sharing her passion for golf and for the AWGA with everyone she meets. “There are so many benefits of belonging to the AWGA,” she added. “The AWGA embodies the “spirit of golf” and being part of this most prominent organization of women golfers has made my golf experience and my life more enjoyable and fulfilling.”