

MWGA *Newsletter*

Communications in the 21st Century By Lori Wohlrabe

Remember when we were told that computers would reduce the amount of paper that we use? We soon discovered that the opposite was true, that computers made it much easier to generate paper, and we took advantage of that ability. Widespread Internet access has finally reversed that trend because it allows individuals to receive and store information electronically, as well as to look up information on web sites at their convenience.

As our society has become more concerned with the burden that all the paper we generate places on the planet, many organizations have taken advantage of technology to reduce waste, and save money, by distributing information electronically. The MWGA started on this path six years ago by making the information in the yearbook, newsletters and tournament mailings available online as well as in print. Now we are moving further down the path by actually replacing some printed information with online data.

One important change for 2008 is that the tournament information that is mailed to participants will be reduced, with the intention of eliminating these mailings

completely in the near future. All of the information will be posted on the web site where players will be able to view it themselves, and print it if they choose to do so. The MGA adopted this approach several years ago and it has worked well for them.

In addition to being cheaper and easier on the environment, electronic distribution is also faster and will allow us to keep members informed without the delays caused by printing schedules. In 2008, the fall newsletter that has traditionally been devoted to displaying results will be eliminated in favor of displaying results on the "Tournament Schedule" and "Event Schedule" pages of the web site. In addition, we plan to use e-mail and the MWGA web site (www.mwga-online.org) to distribute information that has traditionally been found in the newsletter, so be to give us your current e-mail address.

We hope that members who look forward to receiving the MWGA newsletter in their mail boxes will be just as pleased to receive the information by e-mail and will appreciate the improved timeliness. Let us know if there are other ways that you would like us to stay in touch.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



I've been doing a lot of thinking about little girls and big girls these days, and asking myself which one I want to be. My decision is that I want to be both. I'm rebuilding my swing this year. I was playing *okay*. But I wanted more. So I've been taking lessons. And now I am as likely to whiff as I am to make solid contact. My challenge is to be brave and let people see me unmade and undone until I get it. I want to be a big girl: calm and mature in both golf's and life's valleys.

We just had our second annual junior clinic, where over 230 gleeful girls braved the cold and wind to come get excited about the game. There were little girls in pink and older girls in sweatshirts running here and there in anticipation of what life will bring them and I smiled. I want to be a little girl, living in the present; unafraid to try things I'm not good at. I want to giggle.

In June we'll see the "big girls" come to town for the U.S. Women's Open. The ones who blow us away with their talent and poise. And in our events and on golf courses around the state we'll see more and more little girls. Because our sport is growing and women's golf is coming of age.

(Fun fact: we are only seven years away from our MWGA centennial celebration. We are big girls!)

Golf is a crazy, wonderful sport full of peaks and valleys. Every round brings a new opportunity for glory and a new opportunity for despair. The question always is how will we manage ourselves along the way. And whether we'll be big girls or little girls as we do. (Or maybe a little of each.)

Kim Vandervalle

A few highlights from the Jr Clinic



Laurie Velett
Newsletter Editor

Jr Girls' Clinic photos
courtesy of the
Minnesota Golf Assn.

The 2008 Open Champion Is....

Who will it be? Will Lorena Ochoa capture her first U.S. Women's Open (and the second leg of a potential Grand Slam)? Or will it be someone unexpected, who happens to put together four awesome rounds when it matters most?

In just a few weeks, the women's golf event that we've all been anticipating will finally be here. The U.S. Women's Open takes place June 23-29 at Interlachen CC in Edina and the MWGA will be there in full force.

As an organization, the MWGA has assumed the responsibility of staffing the transportation committee for the Championship. Volunteers will have an upfront and in-person experience with players, caddies and family members, as well as USGA representatives.

In addition, many of our members will fill other volunteer spots including serving as on-course marshals, and working in the junior golf Catch the Spirit tent.

A total of 1,236 entries have been accepted by the USGA for the 2008 U.S. Women's Open. It is the fifth consecutive



Patty Berg

year that entries have surpassed 1,000. Thirty-nine entrants were Minnesota women.

Past champions include three

Minnesotans. Legendary golfer Patty Berg won the first Women's Open in 1946 at Spokane CC in Spokane, Washington. It was the only Open conducted in the match play format. Berg won the 36-hole qualifying, shooting rounds of 72-73-145, and defeated Betty Jameson, 5 and 4, in the 36-hole match play final round. Jameson won the following year.

It was another 33 years before a Minnesotan again took the Open trophy. Jerilyn Britz, now a Florida resident and from Minneapolis originally, won just twice on the LPGA tour, but her first win was a big one. She was the Open Champion in 1979, when the tournament was played at Brooklawn CC in Fairfield, Connecticut.



Hilary Lunke

The most recent Minnesota connection to win the Open was Hilary Homeyer Lunke, who thrilled her hometown fans with her rock-steady short game in 2003 at Pumpkin Ridge GC in Oregon. Hilary was an MWGA champion during her amateur playing days, including the 2001 State Match Play Championship, 1996 State Match Play runner-up, and the 1997 State Amateur second place. She was also the State Junior Champion in 1996 after placing second in 1995. Hilary happens to be one of three daughters of MWGA Rules Consultant Bill Homeyer and his wife Penny.

Save the date

MWGA Annual Fall Meeting and Volunteer Appreciation Day

September 22

Brackett's Crossing CC

Further information can be found in your MWGA Yearbook or on the web site.

Swanson Shines

Top pro scores in history and

leadership By Cherie D. Riesenber

Kathy Swanson, PGA/LPGA Teaching Professional at the Minneapolis Golf Club, is one of Minnesota's true golf



luminaries, achieving distinctions few professionals can claim, and making history in the prestigious Professional Golf Association and in women's golf.

In 2006, she was the first woman in the history of the PGA to be honored as Golf Professional of the Year, an award

coveted as the highest recognition in each of the 41 sections of the PGA. In October 2006, Kathy was elected to a two-year term as president of the Minnesota Section of the PGA, the second woman ever elected to that position in the country.

Many golf legends and top professionals start playing as young children, often with their fathers, then compete on college teams or the amateur circuit for years before turning pro. Although Kathy's dad was her mentor and biggest fan, she actually began golfing with her mother in a women's league and never really played until graduating from college. Yet, she liked it so much, scored so low, and improved so quickly, that she passed the playing ability test and turned pro within a year.

Swanson continued on page 5

Junior Membership Announced

By Lori Wohlra

This year the MWGA is pleased to roll out a special membership for junior girls. Juniors have long been able to join the MWGA if they belong to a member club, but this new membership is open to all girls, even those without a home course or a handicap. The goal of the junior program is to promote the game of golf and to initiate girls into the organization and "the sisterhood of the game."

Junior members will receive reduced entry fees for MWGA junior tournaments, a USGA Rules book, a specially designed T-shirt, and an MWGA passport. Girls wishing to play in other MWGA events still need to have

a full membership but will also receive the junior membership package.

An enthusiastic advisory committee, comprised of five juniors and two adult members, has been busy planning for the 2008 season and creating promotional materials. They set up shop at the Junior Skills and Rules clinic at Rush Creek on May 3rd and signed up 40 Junior members. The 2nd annual clinic was a success in spite of less than perfect weather. It was a brisk day, but that didn't stop 230 girls from showing up, ready to learn and have fun.

The MWGA hopes that today's junior members will become tomorrow's full members, and that welcoming girls into the MWGA family will establish a lifelong bond that will benefit all of us.

Does the MWGA have your current e-mail address? If not, you can fill out a change of address form online. Go to the Contact Us page of the web site.

MWGA Foundation Page

MWGA Foundation Awards Four Scholarships In Its 11th Year of Giving

On behalf of the 2008 Scholarship Committee for the Minnesota Women's Golf Association Foundation, we are very pleased to announce we have selected five recipients who will receive a \$3,000 scholarship to be used towards tuition, books or room and board. The award is renewable for four years for a total of \$12,000. The criteria for judging applicants are based on their academic excellence, continued financial need, quality of character demonstrated by civic and academic activities related in their personal statement, and interest or involvement in the game of golf.

Rachael Anderson

Chaska, MN
Mayer Luthern HS
Loyola University
Majoring in Biology

Sabrina Bolin

Windom, MN
Windom Area HS
University of Minnesota
Majoring in Business

Kacie Finch

Janesville, MN
St. Clair HS
Gustavus Adolphus

Alicia Yankovec

Sauk Rapids, MN
Sauk Rapids-Rice HS
University of Minnesota
Aeronautical
Engineering

We'd like to thank the following MWGA member clubs, individuals and organizations for their generous support of the MWGA Charitable Foundation in 2007. *Every effort has been made to present the following information accurately, but if we've made an error, please contact us.*

Catherine Agee	Susan Erickson	Joyce Humboldt	New Prague GC	Karen Shute
Pam Allen	Karen Erickson	Indian Hills GC	New Ulm CC	Sandra Simmons
Trish Anderson	Mary Lou & Quint	Interlachen CC	Mary Newman	Ann Simons
Jocelyn Anderson	Erickson	Island View GC	Sally Nordling	Judith Sirota
Judy Appel	Kathryn & Barry Estes	Marjorie Johnson	Alice Nordquist	Vicki Katzovitz Siskin
Lou Ann Archambault	Judy Farber	Jane Johnson	Nancy Norling	Helen Sjostrom
Diane Archer	Darlene Femrite	Lee & Judy Johnson	Carole North	Carol Skon
Judith Azemove	Barbara Finn	Gwen Johnson	North Oaks GC	Linda Smith
Jane Baggott	Sarah Fjelstul	Mary Jueb	Northfield GC	Diane Smith
Elaine Barr	Carolyn Flock	Kelly & Berens, PA	Northland CC	Mary Soderholm
Pat Bauer	Patsy Forrest	Lindy Kenline	Oak Glen GC	Somerset CC
Marianne Baumann	Denise Frame	Amy Koehane	Sue O'Brien	Peg Sorensen
Heather Beaupre	Judy Freeman	Marilyn Kirwin	Lynnda Odland	Southview CC
Earlene Bennett	Ken Gaines	Judith Kishel	Judith Ogdahl	Judy Speers
Wendy Benson	Marge Galowitz	Gretchen Koehn	Meredith Olson	Jusan Speetzen
Marilyn Bethke	Phyllis Garon	Pat Koepp	Olympic Hills GC	Julie Sprau
Linda Bich	Renee Garpestad	Lee & Barbara Koepp	Owatonna CC	St. Cloud CC
Norma Black	Barb Geer	Carol Korda	Mary Paymar	Adrietta Stafford
Jim Bloom	Jan Geerdes	Diane Kuperman	Chuck & Terry Payne	Sandy Stassen
Jane Boller	Susan Genis	Carole LaBelle	Nancy Perrine	Ordell Stewart
Debra Bomberg	Julie Gfrerer	Peter LaBelle	Diane & Ron Peterson	Stillwater CC
Kelly Bomier	Pamela Gilbert	Cheryl & Scott	David & Lynn Bishop	Joan Strickler
Brackett's Crossing CC	Martha & Everd Giles	Ladendorf	Judith Pihlstrom	Lori Ann Swift
Jan Brady	Roxanne Gleason	Lafayette	Mary Polzin	Joanne Switzer
Mary Braje	Sandra George	Robin Larkin	Sue Pratt	Mary Tambornino
Kathryn Brandt	Marlene Goldberg	Lorrie Larson	Linda Prestrud	Patti & Corey Tewalt
Julie Bullock	Golden Valley G&CC	Anita Leggott	Jill Ragatz	The Minikahda Club
Burl Oaks GC	Golf Bums of MN	Kathy Lewis	Linette Ramsey	Susan Timm
Heather Burns	Louisa Greenwald	Jo-Ann Lindsay	Marilyn Rasmussen	Maggie & Joe Tisdell
Gene Burns	Joan Gresser	Barbara Loesch	Sharon Re	Dave Tonia
Kathleen & Paul	Marsha Gronseth	Jackie Lund	Sally Redding	Town & Country
Campbell	Mary Jo Gruidl	Mary & Scott Lundquist	Lynn Regan	Jim & Donna Turner
Ann Canis	Leslie Hahn	Lila Luther	Charlene & Keith	University GC
Corky Carlsen	Ellie Hanson & Pat	Marlys Lynch	Reierson	Kim Vanderwall
Judy Carrick	Lamb	Mankato GC	Maureen Rendahl	Anita Veit
Norma Cashill	Carole Hanson	Mary Buska	Jack & Ede Rice	Nancy Vieburg
Craig Christensen	Debbie Harper	Beverly Mast	Sharon Richardson	Deborah Wagner
Andy & Carmen	Dotty Harrington	Carol Mayeron	Rochester G&CC	Wayzata CC
Christensen	Nancy Harris	Lili McMillan	Lori Ruschmeyer	Mary Ann Weber
Mary Clifford	Sally Haugen	Ann McNerney	Dorothy Russell	Karen & Jim Weitzel
Mary Ann Clinton	Hazeltine National GC	Roberta Mellen	Patricia Rustad	Judy Welhusen
Pat Cooper Foundatoin	Barbara Hegman	Mendakota CC	Theresa Ryan	Elaine & Herb
Ann Crowley	Carol & William	Nancy Messerli	Sawmill/Logger's Trail	Wensmann
Susan Cushman	Heidemann	Mary Meuwissen	Patricia Scheller	Pamela Wheeler
Deborah Daniels	Gary & Paulette Heist	Martha Meyers	Christine & William	Betty Ann Wiens
Patricia & Ernie	Larry Henneman	Jane & Gary Miller	Schommer	Lori Wilcox
Darfinger	Joanne Henry	Minneapolis GC	Diane & Russell	Woodhill CC
Linda Dawson	Rose Hermodson	Minnesota Valley CC	Schuveiler	Rita Wray
Geri DeCorsey	Catherin Hicks	Minnewaska GC	Jean Schwappach	Paula Zeuli
Dolores DeFore	Hillcrest GC of St. Paul	Joanne Monson	Dee Schwartz	
Dellwood Hills GC	Kay Hochschild	Caryl Morgan	Norma Schwartz	
Nan DeMars	Terryn Hofmann	Judy Morgan	Jane Schwartz	
Kathleen Doar	Gloria Hogan	Betti Lu Mueller	Virginia & John Sedwitz	
Mary Ann Dobesh	Steve & Diane Holker	Joan Myhrman	Robin Segal	
Karin Dunleavy	Heidi Holley	Lois Nat	Bev & Don Sellentine	
Kerry Ehrmantraut	Patti Horita	Barb Nazarian	Joan Seymour	
Elk River CC	Sandra Hudson	Karen Nelson	Janet Sharp	

Swanson continued from page 4

Kathy's rapid success isn't so surprising when considering her background.

Growing up, she had played every other sport but golf. Chasing her dream to make the Olympics, she earned 12 varsity letters in four sports at Eden Prairie High School and while only starting softball junior year, was such an immediate standout that the University of Nebraska at Kearney recruited her to play and awarded her a full scholarship. She won two consecutive All-American citations and blasted through so many batting stats that she has records still standing today. One of their best players of all-time, Kathy was inducted into the UNK Athletic Hall of Fame in 2000.

That might have been the end of her sports career, but when her first job at the Carleton Celebrity Room fell through, Mike Malone offered her a summer position in the pro shop at the Dahlgren Golf Club. She loved it. With his help and with the support of Mike Schultz, PGA Head Professional at Hazeltine National, she was off to winter for the first of four years in Palm Springs, California.

Today, 22 years later, Kathy is as passionate about golf as she is accomplished. She's one of approximately 20 women among more than 600 PGA section pros and one of only 1,100 LPGA pros nationwide. She is one of just four Class A members of both the PGA and LPGA in Minnesota.

"I knew I was under consideration for teaching pro of the year, so I was completely surprised when voted top pro," said Swanson. Dan Simpson, Head Golf Professional at MGC describes her

as "so capable, well organized, enthusiastic and energetic. I have the highest regard for her."

Kathy describes a huge demand for women pros given how few there are and celebrates the large number of talented young women golfers in the state. She sees the PGA helping them achieve their dreams through their mission to "grow the game", which targets initiatives for kids and women. She is a past chair of the PGA Junior golf program and helps run the annual spring MWGA/PGA skills and rules clinic for girls at Rush Creek.

There is no question that Kathy's spirit of generosity informs her teaching. She played on the mini-tour for two years and claimed two checks, but she lights up most when she talks about teaching. "The people's lives we touch ... for me, that's what it is (all about)."

Only Kathy's dedication to the game and her enthusiasm for her students can outshine her achievements, or eclipse her dazzling record of professional accomplishments, service and leadership. Her rising star casts a bright light on all of Minnesota golf.



MGA Associate Members' Day

Here's another golfing opportunity with one of MWGA's affiliated groups. Did you know that if you maintain your handicap through the MGA, you are an Associate Member? Join the fun and participate in an MGA Associate Members' Day event this year. (Don't forget to get your Passport stamped.)

Format:

2 of 4 net best ball

Field Limit:

30 teams of 4

Entry fee for each event includes golf, hors d'oeuvres, range balls, prizes and a great time.

August 4

Minnetonka CC

August 24-25

Giant's Ridge & The Quarry, Biwabik

September 22

Rochester G&CC

Please contact Joel, 952-345-3968, at the MGA Office for further information or go to www.mngolf.org.

Keeping Up With the Pace of Play

By Patty Barnacle, Director of Rules

After a “practice year” to familiarize our players with a new policy, this year the MWGA will be implementing the USGA Pace of Play policy for real. Called the Checkpoint System, it places the responsibility for maintaining an acceptable pace of play with the players.

Below is a brief overview of the Checkpoint System. Please see the MWGA web site for a thorough explanation of the MWGA Pace of Play policy.

- As long as you keep up with the group ahead of you (within 14 minutes), your group will NEVER be in jeopardy of being out of position. Always look ahead, not behind you.
- The Committee has the option of choosing a two (2) checkpoint system at the 9th and 18th greens or the four (4) checkpoint system at the 4th, 9th, 13th and 18th greens. The designated checkpoint system will be noted for each Tournament and Championship in the Notice to Competitors.
- Each group will be given a fixed amount of time in which to play the holes within each of the checkpoints. Times will be reflected on the scorecards. Each group will be required to complete each checkpoint hole based on the allocated time or within 14 minutes of the group ahead.
- Posted signs and atomic clocks will be located on all checkpoint holes.

- Review and application of the penalty will only occur in the scoring area, not during the stipulated round.

The USGA has used the checkpoint system for the past two years with very positive results. The MWGA Tournament Committee is confident that we will experience the same.

2008 MWGA Schedule of Events

June Association Day

Hastings CC - June 5

Rush Creek GC - June 10

State Amateur Four-Ball Championship

Alexandria Golf Club

June 11-12

Junior Girls' Four-Ball Tournament

Indian Hills Golf Club

June 16

Junior Girls' State Championship

Dellwood Hills Golf Club

July 7-8

MWGA Mid-Handicap Tournament

Tartan Park Golf Club

July 14

MWGA Senior Four-Ball Tournament

Forest Hills Golf Club

July 16-17

State Match Play Championship

The Jewel Golf Club

July 30-August 2

State Amateur Championship

Edina Country Club

August 11-13

August Association Day &

Mini Excursion

Mesaba Country Club & The Quarry at

Giant's Ridge

August 18-19

Senior Women's Amateur Championship

Mankato Golf Club

August 25-26

USGA Events/Qualifying

Each year we see a few of the state's better golfers qualify for and compete in USGA championships. There may be others out there who could take part in these exciting competitions, as well. Check out the following qualifying dates and eligibility requirements. For further details, contact Ede Rice at erice4801@aol.com

U.S. Women's Open Local Qualifying – Took place May 13 at Woodhill CC for this year's Open, to be played later this month at Interlachen CC. An index of 4.4 or lower at time of entry was the standard for playing in the 18-hole qualifier, which was open to both professionals and amateurs. Thirty-nine Minnesota women were among the entrants. Local qualifiers include Karen Weiss, Julie Hennessy, Kris Lindstrom, Lisa Grimes, Amy Schmucker, Alissa Super and Becky Quinby. They will go on to sectional qualifying in June. The 2009 U.S. Women's Open will be played July 9-12, 2009 at Saucon Valley CC, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.



U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links Sectional Qualifying – Was held May 29 at Braemar. This was open to any legitimate public golfer with no private club privileges, and had no handicap index limit. Qualifiers are Racheal Schmidt, Steffi Neisen and Kaytie Spangler. The championship will be played June 14-21 at Erin Hills in Wisconsin.

U.S. Junior Girls' Sectional Qualifying – Coming up soon, on July 1 at Edina CC. Entrants cannot be 18 or older on or before July 21, and must have an index of 18.4 or lower at time of entry. The championship will be played July 21-26 at Hartford CC, West Hartford, Connecticut.

U.S. Women's Amateur Sectional Qualifying – Will be played July 8 at Windsong Farm. Eligible players will have an index of 5.4 or lower. The championship is to be played Aug. 4-10 at Eugene CC, Eugene, Oregon.

U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur Sectional Qualifying – To be played August 18 at Oak Ridge CC. Participant must be 25 on or before Sept. 6, with an index of 9.4 or lower. The championship dates and site are September 6-11 at Barton Hills CC, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Sectional Qualifying – Will take place August 21 at Somerset CC. Players must be 50 on or before the first day of the championship, and have an index not exceeding 18.4. The championship will be played September 20-25 at Tulsa CC, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Don't forget to take your passport with you on your golfing journey this summer. We are extending the passport rewards program this year and adding a new twist.

Get 10 stamps in 2008, including at least one in each category, to earn an MWGA logo shirt (the categories are 1) MWGA event participant, 2) MWGA volunteer, 3) recreational play).

Get 25 stamps in 2007-2008, including at least 3 in each category, to earn an MWGA logo zip front cardigan.

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Postage Permit

F.P.O.



Questions? Comments?

Please contribute your ideas to the following Board
and Staff members:

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www.MWGA-online.org



Girls bundled up against the cold at the Junior Girls'
Clinic at Rush Creek GC, May 3.