



Metropolitan Golf Writers Association NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2014

MGWA Spotlight

GLENARBOR GOLF CLUB

(Although fairly new in comparison to some of its venerable Westchester County golf course neighbors, GlenArbor GC in Bedford Hills NY [www.glenarbor-club.com] has rapidly assumed a leading position among the premier clubs and courses in the Metropolitan area. Golf is the primary focus at GlenArbor. There are no tennis courts; no swimming pool. In addition to an 18-hole course designed by Gary Player, the club boasts a double-ended practice range, a state-of-the-art teaching academy and one of the largest and best designed short-game practice facilities anywhere. Additionally, its professional staff is well-regarded for both its playing accomplishments and instructional acumen. Over the past two seasons, GAGC has undertaken a significant amount of course renovations, including the addition of several new tee boxes which has lengthened the course to a championship 7,000 yards, and a dramatic amount of tree clearing and removal. For a more detailed look at the changes, the following narrative has been provided to the MGWA Newsletter by the hospitable staff at GlenArbor.)

Since the club's inception, GlenArbor Golf Club has set standards not only in golf instruction, but also with its Gary Player Signature Course as an icon of golf course design. Truly unique, Gary Player himself ranks it at the top of his design accomplishments for its beauty and course architecture. Gary Player is not only the architect of GlenArbor, he is a cherished member of the club who remains active and engaged with the long-range planning process. Mr. Player has been involved from the beginning through his contribution to a Master Plan that was based on the club's mission statement: "The premier private club with an atmosphere that fosters camaraderie and a culture that preserves the finest traditions of golf through the design of our golf courses, golf instruction, member services and our enduring

SEND IN YOUR NEWS AND NOTES

All members of the MGWA who may have items for our newsletter are urged to e-mail them to **Chuck Stogel** (chstogel@aol.com).

BECK RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT; BOARD ADDS FOUR

Bruce Beck, lead sports anchor at WNBC-TV Channel 4 in New York, has been re-elected to a second one-year term as president of the MGWA. Additionally, **Ann Liguori** and **Peter Morrice** were re-elected vice presidents at the Oct. 28 meeting of the MGWA Executive Committee held at our Golf Central offices in Elmsford, NY. At the same time, four new members of the Board were appointed: **Mark Cannizzaro**, **Brian Crowell**, **Bill Meth**, **J.P. Newport**. In one other change, **Andy Lavine** has stepped down from the Board after 12 years of service. The MGWA Executive Committee now comprises 20 members, including the aforementioned officers and new additions, plus: **Dave Anderson**, **Dan Berger**, **Martin Davis**, **Dave Donelson**, **Bill Fields**, **Damon Hack**, **Pete Kowalski**, **Jay Mottola**, **Pat Norton**, **Bill Pennington**, **Jimmy Roberts**, **Ron Sirak** and **Chuck Stogel**.

MGWA DONATES \$28,000 TO CHARITY June 9 Set as Date for 2015 Awards Dinner

Mark it down on your calendars: Tuesday, June 9, 2015, is the date for our 64th MGWA National Awards Dinner, which will be held at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, NY. Our Executive Committee is currently working toward putting together a lofty roster of honorees for 2015; announcements about awards will be made during the winter offseason. The MGWA event is the longest running and, each year, often is the largest such awards dinner in the sport. Funds raised from the dinner are destined for our association's four charitable beneficiaries: the respective caddie-scholarship programs of Long Island, New Jersey and Westchester-Fairfield, and the MGA Foundation.

Our dinner this past June, highlighted by honorees such as **Fred Couples** and **Nancy Lopez**, was both a critical and financial success. Based on proceeds raised at the event, the MGWA Executive Committee will provide a \$7,000 donation to each of our four main beneficiaries.

In one other item of business at the Oct. 28 meeting, the MGWA Board voted to establish a Communications Committee to oversee and, as needed, handle such functions as organization news releases, our annual directory, awards dinner journal, association newsletter and web site, working in conjunction with MGWA Executive Administrator **Kate Keller** and newsletter editor **Chuck Stogel**. Several Board members have volunteered to serve on such a committee, but a chairperson is still being sought.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is scheduled for Dec. 16.

PEOPLE, PLACES, ETC

A group of 70-plus MGWA members got together in mid-October for a preview round on the new Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point in the Bronx. The course, designed by **Jack Nicklaus**, is adjacent to the Whitestone Bridge and has been playable for more than a year while temporary and permanent buildings, and other facilities, are being constructed.



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respect of the land.” Each year the club continues on the execution of this plan. All decisions on course improvements are reviewed during Mr. Player’s visits to the club.

Over the last two seasons, we have made several enhancements around the course. A few of these changes include:

- We initiated a “Naturalized Area” program in 2013 and 2014 where we introduced Little Bluestem to the course by planting 5,000 nursery grown plugs (with another 20,000 slated for the next year and a half). The basis of this program involves identifying out-of-play areas where we can allow the native grass species to grow without mowing. The “Naturalized” look is visually appealing and adds a dramatic flair to the course by creating a contrast between the intensely managed areas of turf and the outer edges. Each naturalized area will also provide shelter for various species of wildlife, which dovetails with GlenArbor’s Environmental Enhancement Program.

- Construction of two new tees at the par 4 second hole where 25 yards were added to the length of the hole. We also added a beautiful stone staircase leading to the new tees.

- The 10th hole and back patio of the clubhouse now boast a terrific view to our beautiful 7-acre lake. Much of the area between 10th Fairway and the lake is now part of our “Naturalized Area” program.

- Part of our spring 2014 beautification initiative included the area behind the 11th green where we planted 11 Dogwoods. In addition, we planted a beautiful Japanese Maple (Gary Player’s favorite tree), which sits on top of the hill behind the green and can be viewed from the 10th and 11th tees.

- A couple of other improvements include the addition of a stone staircase leading from the 11th green to the 12th tee, as well as a new forward tee on the 12th hole.

- The GlenArbor Short Game facility, built in 2007, is a tremendous asset to our members and guests. Every scoring shot imaginable from putts to long bunker shots and pitches from tight lies or lush rough can be replicated. Nevertheless, we have made some improvements.

PEOPLE, PLACES, ETC

Managed by the Trump Organization, green fees have yet to be announced for the course which is scheduled to open in the spring. Our group engaged in a lively Q&A session with Ferry Point general manager **Joe Roediger**; we also met and were greeted by marketing director **Liz Hickey**. Our golfers, who enjoyed a bagged lunch on their carts provided by the MGWA, were blessed with a warm, sunny day, but they also got to experience the two- and three-club winds that can prevail at Ferry Point . . . It’s been quite a month for **Frank Esposito Jr.**, the head pro at Brooklake CC in Florham Park, NJ. On Nov. 16, Esposito, 51, concluded a four-stroke victory in capturing the 72-hole Senior PGA club professional national championship at PGA Golf Club in Port St. Lucie, FL. Then, on Nov. 21, Esposito, the reigning New Jersey PGA Senior Player of the Year, posted another 72-hole, four-stroke margin in securing medalist honors at Orange County National, Winter Garden, FL, in Q School qualifying for the 2015 Champions Tour. The two victories earned Esposito \$20,000 and \$30,000 in prize money, respectively. In the senior club pro event, **Shawn Baker** of the Greens at Half Hollow on Long Island and **Bobby Heins** of Old Oaks CC in Westchester will join Esposito next May as top 35 finishers earning entry into the Senior PGA Championship scheduled in French Lick, IN. Although they didn’t earn tour cards for 2015, by finishing in the top 30 at Q School both **Charlie Bolling** of Glen Cove, NY, and **Craig Thomas** of White Plains, NY, are automatically eligible to tee it up in the Monday qualifiers for Champions Tour events next season . . . Players with local roots headed to the Final Stage (six rounds, 108 holes) of qualifying for the 2015 Web.com Tour, to be played Dec. 11-16 at PGA National in Palm Beach Gardens, FL: **Marc Turnesa**, Rockville Centre, NY; 2014 MGA Amateur Player of the Year **David Pastore**, Greenwich, CT; **Cameron Wilson**, Rowayton, CT . . . Centennial GC, Carmel, NY, has signed Troon Golf handle its management. **Scott Klemme** remains as head pro. **Kevin DeDonato** will join Centennial as director of golf, moving from a similar post at the Seaview resort in New Jersey . . . In Connecticut, **Gene Mulak** is the new head pro at Silver Spring CC in Ridgefield, succeeding David Jones, and **Jim Fatsi** has been promoted from assistant to head professional at Brooklawn CC in Fairfield, succeeding **Brad Worthington** . . . Winged Foot Damage: In early November, two all-terrain vehicles were witnessed riding on the fifth and sixth holes of the East Course at Winged Foot GC in Mamaroneck, NY. Considerable damage was suffered, especially to the greens, according to the club. The vandals were able to enter and leave club property without being apprehended. Coincidentally, the back nine of the East course is currently closed for renovations, while the front nine had been refurbished during the 2013-14 offseason. Repairs will have to be made, again, to Holes 5 and 6 on the East, which is scheduled to host the 100th Met Open next summer . . . Member change of address: **Ralph Wimbish**, 1005 Coletto Creek Lane, Carolina Shores, NC 28467. H: 910-575-8355; C: 516-457-3246.

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We rebuilt a beautiful European-style bunker with a steep riveted face, which takes bunker practice to a new level. We added a cart path which winds through the trees leading to Jerry's Tee, an elevated area with four specialty teeing grounds overlooking three beautiful practice green complexes. This area has added an exciting array of shot-making for tournaments and practice sessions.

- One of the most exciting projects we embarked on in the fall of 2013 is the lengthening of the 6th hole where we added two new tees, which lengthened the hole by 65 yards. This project was part of the original Master Plan devised by Gary Player in 1999 and execution began in 2006.
- We removed the large white pines behind the 7th green and replaced them with Dogwoods. The main reason for this work was to improve the growing environment at the 7th green and 8th tee.
- We also renovated the 8th tee complex by removing the front third of the Blue/White Tee, thus opening the view to the stream which runs in front of the Green Tee.
- The 10th green was expanded by 500 square feet on the backside of the green. The conversion of the previously sloped area allows for new, more challenging pin positions.
- Aesthetic enhancements to our state-of-the-art Teaching Center were also completed this past spring. The year-round instruction facility, which features all the latest diagnostic equipment, now boasts significant interior upgrades as well as an expanded bluestone patio.

Our annual "Traditions of Golf Invitational" in May is an event that celebrates the history of golf, and those who work so hard to grow the game. We look forward to next year's event . . . the perfect opportunity to showcase all the exciting upgrades we've completed.

(The staff at GlenArbor includes: Christian Potthoff, general manager; Rob Labritz, director of golf; Brian Crowell, head golf professional; Debbie Doniger, director of instruction; David Gagnon, senior golf instructor; Ken Benoit, course superintendent. Morgan Gregory is managing director.)



The MGWA at Ferry Point



GlenArbor Golf Club



The Clubhouse at GlenArbor