

Professional

The Newsletter for Golf Professionals of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts

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Summer / 2007

The Summer Classic Along The Shore Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Connecticut Senior Open and Ten Years at Shennecossett



When PGA Life Member Bill Fox produced and directed the first Connecticut Senior Open in 1983, his hope was to bring together senior professionals and amateurs from Connecticut for a day of friendly competition. Having been elected to PGA membership in 1980 at the young age of 62, he felt that there was a need for a special gathering of his contemporaries. For the first seven years, Fox secured sponsors, sites, and players, ran raffles to raise money, and conducted the event with some assistance from host professionals. He had no idea that 25 years later, the event would span three days, and entice players to return year after year from more than 12 different states and some from as far away as California, Florida, and Texas. In a recent interview, Fox remarked that he is very proud and satisfied to see that the event has endured and how popular it has become.

The inaugural event in 1983 fielded 60 players at Farmington Woods Country Club in Avon. Each professional each donated a dozen balls and sold raffle tickets to supplement the prize purse. Ed Rubis took home the first place check for \$500 for his round of 73. Everyone liked the event and hoped the new initiative would continue. Five years later at Wethersfield Country Club, 150 played and 50 more were turned away.

Besides Farmington Woods and Wethersfield, the tournament was also held at The Farms Country Club for several years, as well as Heritage Village Country Club, Golf Club of Avon, Tallwood Country Club, and Torrington Country Club. Now the Connecticut Senior Open, however, is synonymous with Shennecossett Golf Course, its host for the past 10 years.

By the mid 1990's the Connecticut Section PGA began to take more operational involvement. The section decided after the 1997 tournament that the popularity of event and the level of the competition dictated that the event be expanded from 18 holes to 36 holes. A venue to host this, however, would have to be secured.

Section Executive Director Tom Hantke had been in his position four years by that time and had visited many of the golf courses in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. He heard of Shennecossett many times, along with stories of its rich golf heritage in Connecticut circles. About that same time, the Town of Groton, which owns and operates the Donald Ross designed golf course, had swapped part of its property with property Pfizer, Inc. owned that was adjacent to the Thames River. As a result of this unique public-private partnership, a major renovation of the course was underway.

Hantke visited with Todd Goodhue, then in his first year as PGA Professional at Shennecossett and Lee DeLisle, the Town's director of Parks and Recreation at the time. The trio agreed that Shennecossett would be the host of the first Connecticut

Senior Open to be conducted at 36 holes in July of 1998, the same time the course was projected to reopen to the public. It was held on the second day the golf course was reopened, during Shennecossett's Centennial year, and with tremendous fanfare and public acclaim.

Since 1998, the Town and the Section have entered three consecutive agreements to ensure that Shennecossett would continue to host this summer classic where so many players look forward to returning each year (see below "The List of Shenny Regulars"). The event has also been supported by Foxwoods Resort Casino, Club Car, Michelob Ultra, and Pepsi, without interruption during the Shennecossett era.



The Bill Fox Trophy

Mike Grigely Set to Defend Title

This year, there are 168 players entered, including defending champion Mike Grigely of Longmeadow, Mass., the PGA Professional at Edgewood Golf Course in Southwick, Mass. Grigely will be one of eleven former winners that are returning, including all eight previous winners at Shennecossett (see Past Winners).

Last year Grigely ousted then defending champion Craig Kealey and amateur Dave Szewczul on the first hole of sudden death by recording an eagle three on the par five 18th hole. All three players ended the 36-hole tournament at 4-under par 138. Szewczul was the low amateur for the second year in a row. The only amateurs to win the event, Tom Gorman of East Hartford and Kevin Foster of Simsbury, will also be in this year's field.

This year the field will be comprised of 90 amateurs and 78 professionals, who range in age from 50 to 77. They will be representing 13 states, and the largest contingent obviously is Connecticut with 118 players representing 68 different towns.

The 2007 Connecticut Senior Open is sponsored by Golf Digest, Foxwoods, Aquafina, Ash City, Body Balance for Performance Centers of Connecticut, CBS Blooms, Club Car, Michelob Ultra, Pepsi, and Webster Bank. The tournament will be played to support the Arnies Army Battles Prostate Cancer campaign which was established in 2002, and has reached more than 70,000 golfers at over 1,000 golf and country clubs nationwide and raised over \$1.3 million dollars for the Prostate Cancer Foundation.



The List of Shenny Regulars

Since the first Connecticut Senior Open at Shennecossett in 1998, there has been a total of 1465 entrants. This represents 463 different competitors. And, the list of regulars at "Shenny" continues to grow. There are 12 entered this year that have played in all nine previous Shennecossett-held Senior Opens:

Professionals:

Ralph DiNicolo
Tom DiRico
Mal Galletta
Don Gliha
Tom Joyce
Tom Lupinacci
Dave Purnell
Bob Ross

Amateurs:

Tom Gorman
Joel Sokolov
Reg Zurenskas



Ralph DeNicolo, Head Professional at Manchester Country Club, has played in every Senior Open held at Shennecossett. Pictured on the 4th hole.



CONNECTICUT
SECTION

John Korolyshun Named Secretary of The Connecticut Section PGA

John Korolyshun, an 18-year member of the PGA of America, was appointed in June by the Officers and Board of Directors of the Section to the position of Secretary. This position became vacant when Michael Robichaud, former General Manager of The Ranch Golf Course, accepted a position Renaissance Golf Club, in Haverhill, Mass. and became affiliated with the New England Section.

Korolyshun, 57, has served the Connecticut Section as a Director and Vice President-at-Large, and is currently the Chairman of the Rules and Competitions Committee. He will serve as Secretary for the remainder of the two-year term that ends in December 2008 and also will now assume the chair of the Membership Committee.

John Steffen, head professional at Woodbridge Country Club, was also appointed as Vice President at Large at the June 19 meeting. He will serve until this year's Annual Fall Meeting and will take over as Chairman of the Junior Golf Committee, which was vacated by Paul Banks when he became the section's Junior Golf Tour Tournament Director.

"I have seen how the section has operated over the years," Korolyshun said to the Board. "With my experience and expertise I feel confident in my abilities to assist in continuing the efforts of the section and to help the section continue to move forward."

Korolyshun is currently assistant professional at Mill River Country Club in Stratford, Conn., and has previously served as head professional at both Oronoque Country Club (Stratford) and Alling Memorial Golf Course (New Haven), and as assistant professional at Race Brook Country Club (Orange).

Past Champions and Low Amateurs at Shennecossett

Tom Joyce of Huntington, N.Y., is the only two time winner of the Connecticut Senior Open when held at Shennecossett. Joyce will be joined by all seven other Shennecossett champions at this year's tournament.

Year	Champion	Low Amateur
2006	Mike Grigely	David Szewczul
2005	Craig Kealey	David Szewczul
2004	Kevin Foster (a)	Kevin Foster
2003	John Gentile	Joe Polizzano
2002	Tom Joyce	Charles Claffey
2001	Jack McConachie	Paul Novak
2000	Tom Joyce	Dave Stilson
1999	Mal Galletta	Jack Bracken
1998	Tom Lupinacci	John McCormac



Kevin Foster, winner in 2004, is the only amateur to have won at Shennecossett.

Shennecossett Golf Course – A Connecticut Gem

From its humble beginnings as a four hole private course on the stony farmland owned by Thomas Avery in 1893, Shennecossett has grown in size and stature over the past 110 plus years. Shennecossett made its mark on the golf world following the 1926 redesign of the course by Donald Ross. The highly successful entrepreneur, Morton Plant, in his desire to create a summer resort without parallel built the seaside home, the Branford House, linked to the golf course by a private railroad, in order to host his friends and summer guests. Shennecossett, as the premier resort course of the lavish Griswold Hotel, became a favorite of golfing legends Tommy Armour, Max Marston, Bobby Jones, Walter Hagen, and Babe Zaharias. Early Shennecossett PGA Professional Alex Smith won the U.S. Open in 1906 and 1909.

The course enjoyed a storied history for the majority of the century. As newer courses were built closer to major population centers on the East Coast, Shennecossett settled for a role as an interesting and challenging reminder of an era gone by.

Threatened by elimination by the burgeoning housing market of the 1960s, the course was purchased by the Town of Groton. Using town funds and a State of Connecticut Open Space Grant, the course was saved and has been under the auspices of the Parks and Recreation Department ever since.

Future collaboration between the Town and a rapidly expanding local company, Pfizer, Inc. in the late 1990s, led to the expansion of the course to the shoreline. This had been a longstanding dream of course patrons. The mutual desire to expand led the neighbors to a "land swap" which, with the assistance of an exceptionally talented golf architectural firm, culminated in the addition of three new waterfront holes and some alterations to existing holes. Many obstacles, including moving two city streets, utilities, and even a home, conservation and wetlands issues, and approval of plans by municipal boards and agencies, stood in the way of the completion of the project. However, the diligent efforts of all involved brought the project to fruition on time and within budget. As a result of their cooperative efforts, the Town of Groton and Pfizer were awarded the coveted Team Connecticut Award in 1997 by the State of Connecticut.

In July of 1998, and under tremendous fanfare and public acclaim, the Town of Groton, Pfizer, Inc., and the Connecticut Section PGA celebrated both the Centennial of Shennecossett and its re-opening by hosting the 16th Connecticut Senior Open. This championship has been conducted there ever since, and annually attracts competitors from over 12 states, many who return every July for the Connecticut summer classic.



During his career, PGA Professional Bob Ross (right), director of golf at Hawk Pointe in Washington Township, NJ, has served as golf professional at the esteemed Baltusrol and Seminole golf clubs. Ross got his start in golf as an assistant at Shennecossett in his hometown of Groton, and has played in all nine Connecticut Senior Opens held there. A multiple time Age Group winner, Ross accepts congratulations from Indian Hill Country Club's Jim Bedus, then section president, in 2004.



Arnie's Army Battles Prostate Cancer

For the past two years, the Connecticut Section PGA has designated the Arnie's Army Battles Prostate Cancer campaign as the Connecticut Senior Open beneficiary. The PGA's relationship with the campaign, however, dates back five years. In the time it takes to play a round of golf, 14 men will lose their lives to prostate cancer.

As the Honorary Chairman of Arnie's Army Battles Prostate Cancer and a prostate cancer survivor, Arnold Palmer is asking for your help - your influence - and your passion.

The program is about raising funds to find a cure. Funds raised go directly to the Prostate Cancer Foundation, the world's largest philanthropic source of support for prostate cancer research. Since its inception, PCF has raised over \$260 million dollars and funded over 1,200 research projects. Go to www.arniesarmybattles.com today and support this cause and the Connecticut Senior Open and its participants.



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Arnold Palmer

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- Encourage early detection which saves lives
- Engage the local community

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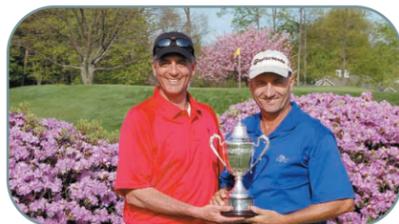
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Club Car

Section Snap Shots



The E-Z-GO PGA Pro Officer was contested at The Orchards Golf Course in June. Richter Park Golf Course PGA Professional Ralph Salito and Jim Arconti were this year's winning team. With Salito (l) are E-Z-GO Sales Representative Frank Savakis, Arconti, and Sandra Hall-Baggiano, E-Z-GO Regional Manager.



Fran Marrello, Canaan Country Club, accepts the Dennis Coscina Trophy for his victory in the Tournament of Champions from his longtime friend and 2001 winner, John Paesani, Norwich Golf Course. Shuttle Meadow Country Club hosted this year's event for the top-level professional and amateur players in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts.



Overall winner of the Walter Lowell PGA Tournament, Jack McConachie, Pine Valley Golf Course, accepts the trophy from Michael Packard, Senior Director, Tournaments and Player Development. On the far left is the tournament's initiator and namesake, PGA Life Member Walter Lowell; far right Tournament Chairman Fred Kolakowski, Mill River Country Club.

The presentation of the 2007 Walter Lowell Public Golf Course Distinguished Service Award took place on May 29 at the Golf Club of Avon following the Walter Lowell PGA Tournament. This year's recipient is Tunxis Plantation Country Club, Farmington Conn. Pictured left to right are PGA Life Member Dick Burkarth, Frank Walsh, Phyllis Lowell, PGA Professional Angelo Fiducia, PGA Life Member Walter Lowell, PGA Professional Lou Pandolfi, course owner Michael Tomosso, Joe Abate, and Leo Gagne.



Building a Legacy - PGA Professional Don Malen, Golf Club of Avon, has been a role model and mentor to numerous assistant professionals over his 32 years there. Pictured with Malen are eight former assistants who moved on to become successful professionals in the section. Tom DelRosso, Black Hall Club; John Paesani, Norwich Golf Course; Pat Aquaro, Wethersfield Country Club; Stan McLennan, Suffield Country Club; Bob Nelson, Tumble Brook Country Club; John Lucas, Quarry Ridge Golf Club; Scott Knights, Glastonbury Hills Country Club, and Dave Giaccondino, East Mountain Golf Course.



Member Milestones

Newly Elected PGA Members

Congratulations to PGA Professionals **Patrick Boucher**, assistant professional at Lake of Isles, North Stonington, Conn. and **James Chojnowski**, assistant professional at TPC River Highlands, Cromwell, Conn., who have successfully completed all the requirements of the PGA Professional Golf Management Program and have been elected to PGA Membership.

PGA Quarter Century Members

Congratulations to **Mike Grigely**, Head Professional, Edgewood Golf Course; and **Don Parson**, Retail Manager, Dick's Sporting Goods, Waterford, Conn., who recently became members of the Quarter Century Club. They join a distinctive group of 80 PGA Members in the Connecticut Section who have served The PGA and golf loyally for 25 years.

New PGA Apprentices

The section welcomes the following newly registered PGA Apprentices: **Billy Downes**, assistant professional at Elmcrest Country Club, East Longmeadow, Mass.; **Mark Farrell**, assistant professional at H. Smith Richardson Golf Course, Fairfield, Conn.; and **Christopher Martinez**, assistant professional at the Golf Club of Avon, Avon, Conn. All three have entered the PGA Professional Golf Management Program and are currently pursuing PGA Membership.

Also, the section would like to acknowledge the following golf professionals who have registered with the section and are eligibly employed as golf professionals: **Ryan Anderson**, assistant professional at New London Country Club, Waterford, Conn.; **Jeff Beal**, assistant professional at Orange Hills Country Club, Orange, Conn.; **Joshua Bialowans**, assistant professional at Old Lyme Country Club, Old Lyme, Conn.; **Ed Connelly**, assistant professional at Great River Golf Club, Milford, Conn.; **Ryan Jones**, assistant professional at Wethersfield Country Club, Wethersfield, Conn.; **Matt Little**, assistant professional at The Orchards Golf Course, South Hadley, Mass.; and **Michael McKenna**, assistant professional at Tekoa Country Club, Westfield, Mass.

Bill Ellison, 1918-2007

The section was saddened by the loss of PGA Life Member **Bill Ellison** in June. He spent his 34 years as a PGA Member teaching, most recently at Portland Golf Club. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out the Ellison family and to the friends he touched and influenced through his passion for golf.

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TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Championship Events

TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS - Fran Marrello, Canaan Country Club
WALTER LOWELL PGA TOURNAMENT - Jack McConachie Jr., Pine Valley Golf Course
E-Z-GO PGA PRO OFFICER - Ralph Salito and Jim Arconti, Richter Park Golf Course

Mohegan Sun PGA Pro-Am Series Events

PAGE & TUTTLE PRO & 3 AM – Evergreene Golf Center, Frank Leja Jr., Bill Melo, Mark Consolini, Greg Strycharz

Low Professional: Tony Kelley, Wyckoff Country Club

NIKE GOLF PRO & 3 AM – Golf Galaxy, Mike Gramelis, Brad Conlan, Gerry Esposito, William Hoffman
Low Professional: Craig Kealey, Farmingbury Hills Country Club

Western Massachusetts Chapter Events

JIM REGAN PRO-AM - Crumpin-Fox Club, Mike Zaranek and Keith Burch

PRO-SENIOR – Low Professional: Frank Leja, Evergreene Golf Center

PRO-LADY – Low Professional: Tony Kelley, Wyckoff Country Club

ASSISTANT CHAMPIONSHIP – Rick Leal, Wyckoff Country Club

Assistants' Association Individual Pro Events

RACE BROOK COUNTRY CLUB - Adam D'Amario, The Ranch Golf Club; Joe Mongillo, Timberlin Golf Course; Kevin O'Connor, Old Lyme Country Club

GOLF CLUB AT OXFORD GREENS - Bob Bigonetti, H. Smith Richardson Golf Course

ELMCREST COUNTRY CLUB - Mike Devlin, Elmcrest Country Club

ORANGE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB - Brian Gill, Clinton Country Club, Rick Leal, Wyckoff Country Club

Sanctioned Events

WESTERN MASS OPEN – Jerry Courville, Milford, Conn.

QUINNIPIAC PRESIDENT'S CUP - Kevin Giancola, Golf Quest Family Sports Center

NF CHALLENGE – Kevin Giancola, Golf Quest Family Sports Center

THE BROWNSON CLASSIC – Jack McConachie Jr., Pine Valley Golf Course

The Hartford Golf Club Site of U.S. Girls' Championship

The United States Golf Association has selected The Hartford Golf Club as the site for the July 23-26, 2008 U. S. Girls' Junior Championship. It will be the 60th playing of this national competition. The Championship is open to female golfers who have not reached their 18th birthday, whereas 156 of the finest young players from the United States as well as other countries will be invited to Connecticut to compete for the Championship. The Championship will be open to the public free of charge and portions will be televised by The Golf Channel.



The Hartford Golf Club 2008 United States Girls, Junior Championship Committee and the Connecticut Section PGA Golf Foundation, Inc. have entered into an agreement to provide each other with financial and other support during the 2007 and 2008 years.



The Pepsi PGA Junior Golf Tour is Underway



Presented by U.S.A. Hauling & Recycling

More than 350 junior players and their parents from throughout Connecticut and Western Massachusetts attended the Junior Golf Association Orientation Day on June 2, at East Catholic High School in Manchester, Conn. JGA members were given their Member Handbook, a Rules of Golf book, several items from sponsors, and were instructed in golf course etiquette and rules, and how to register online for this summer's Pepsi PGA Junior Golf Tour tournaments. The Pepsi PGA Junior Golf Tour consists of 16 events in Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. This tour provides a competitive schedule of events in some of the premier facilities in the section. The final event of the season is the Jack Kelly Junior Tournament of Champions.



The Connecticut Section PGA

Tues.	June 19	11th Annual Chicopee Junior Open	Chicopee Country Club
Wed.	June 20	Connecticut Elks Junior Tournament	Laurel View Country Club
Mon.	June 25	The Stan Trojanowski Memorial Tournament	Timberlin Golf Course
Wed.	July 11	The Charlie Ormsby Junior Classic	Fairview Farm Golf Course
Fri.	July 13	Frank Kringle Junior Championship	East Mountain Country Club
Tues.	July 17	The Oak Ridge Junior Open	Oak Ridge Golf Club
Mon.	July 23	The Ellington Ridge, Camera Mem. Jr. Open	Ellington Ridge Country Club
Tues.	July 24	Lynan Orchards Junior Open	Lynan Orchards Golf Club
Fri.	July 27	Hawks's Landing Junior Open	Hawks's Landing Country Club
Mon.	July 30	Torrington Rotary Junior Golf Classic	Torrington Country Club
Thurs.	August 2	Crumpin-Fox Club Junior Open	Crumpin-Fox Club
Mon.	August 6	The Pat Jackman Memorial Junior Classic	Country Club of Waterbury
Tues.	August 7	The Ranch Junior Open	The Ranch Golf Club
Fri.	August 10	Orange Hills Junior Classic	Orange Hills Country Club
Wed.	August 15	Lake of Isles Junior Championship	Lake of Isles
Wed.	August 22	Wintonbury Hills Junior Open	Wintonbury Hills Golf Club
THE PEPSI PGA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP			
Sat.	August 25	JACK KELLY JUNIOR TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS	Shennecossett Golf Course