

LONESTAR GOLF

The Official Publication of the TGA

The Best of Times

It's not the TGA's official motto, but it might as well be: *Only the best for the best.*

Every year, whether it's a competition for men, women, or juniors, our championships feature the top amateur golfers in the state. And, as we all know, if you're the best in Texas, then you're one of the best in the entire country. In turn, we believe the best players deserve the best courses.

The 2016 season is another perfect example. Each venue for our six premier championships is ranked in the top third of the *Dallas Morning News'* Top 100 Courses. That includes the 107th Texas Amateur presented by Insperity, to be played in June at San Antonio's Oak Hills Country Club, which was ranked 23rd by the *DMN*.

Brook Hollow Golf Club, ranked ninth, will play host to the 95th WTGA State Amateur in July. The Byron Nelson Junior Championship, the premier event on the LJT schedule, is played in June at Lakewood Country Club, ranked 33rd.

The mission of every championship is to identify the best golfer in the field. Playing those events on elite courses ensures credibility, as well as a memorable experience for the competitors.

Starting on Screen 3, we'll showcase the exquisite courses for each of our 2016 major championships. As you'll see, it's only the best courses for the best golfers. »

PLAY



Breaking 100

Celebrating a Century of Women's Golf in Texas

In addition to a new competitive season, 2016 also marks 100 years of Women's Golf in Texas. To celebrate the historic milestone, the TGA recently launched the "Breaking 100" initiative, which includes several programs to commemorate and promote women's golf.

The program is highlighted by the Breaking 100 Gala, a Nov. 1 dinner and panel discussion with industry leaders at Houston Country Club featuring World Golf Hall of Fame members Kathy Whitworth, Sandra Haynie, Carol Mann and U.S. Women's Open champion Sandra Palmer. The yearlong promotion honors the history of women's golf in Texas that dates back to the 1916 Women's State Amateur Championship.

The Breaking 100 agenda also incorporates several yearlong programs, such as "100 Holes of Women's Competitions," in which five players from across the state will

pledge to play at least 100 holes of Women's competitions and seek financial support from friends and golfers in their area. The "100 Lessons for Women and Girls" campaign features 11 teaching pros who will give at least 100 lessons in an effort to grow the game and expand participation. "100 Texas Women" is a blog that highlights 100 notable women from the history of Texas golf.

One major focus of the campaign is an effort to raise funds in support of women's golf and its future generations. All proceeds go directly to the TGA Foundation's Women's Initiatives, such as the 'Nez Muhleman/Doris Kallina Scholarship that awards a \$25,000 college scholarship paid out over four years to award winners.

Other junior programs geared specifically for girls include the Winner's Program and Texas Challenge, which promote excellence

in golf and the classroom and are conducted in coordination with LPGA/USGA Girls Golf. The "Golf for Grads" program is aimed at college-aged women who want to learn basic golf skills and etiquette to help them use the game as a networking resource in the business world. "TGA Works," yet another Foundation program, presents Texas teenagers paid summer internships at TGA Member Clubs and facilities.

"I'm an example of a girl whose life was changed because of golf and the things we'll do through the Breaking 100 initiative."

**- Stacy Dennis
Managing Director, TGA**

"It's an honor and a privilege to help celebrate the first 100 years of women's golf in Texas," said Stacy Dennis, TGA Managing Director and a two-time WTGA State Amateur champion from Dallas. "We've come so far and produced some of the greatest names in the sport - from Babe Zaharias and Betty Jameson to Stacy Lewis and Angela Stanford - and yet there is so much more we can do to promote and strengthen the game for future generations."

A former longtime private club general manager, Dennis was hired by the TGA in January 2015. She's worked in the golf industry since before she was a collegiate player at Texas A&M in the early 1990s.

"I'm an example of a girl whose life was changed because of golf and the things we'll do through the Breaking 100 initiative," she said. "Golf provided me opportunities for a college education, an exciting



career path, and lifelong friendships. We want to offer the same opportunities to every girl who is interested."

The TGA needs your support with its Breaking 100 efforts. To make a donation or find other ways to get involved, please contact Stacy Dennis at sdennis@txga.org or 214-468-8942, ext. 154. For more information on Breaking 100, [click here](#). ★

Breaking 100 Programs

Breaking 100 Gala

A Nov. 1 dinner and panel discussion with industry leaders at Houston Country Club featuring World Golf Hall of Fame members Kathy Whitworth, Sandra Haynie, Carol Mann and U.S. Women's Open champion Sandra Palmer.

100 Holes of Women's Competitions

Five players from across the state will pledge to play at least 100 holes of Women's competitions and seek financial support from friends and golfers in their area.

100 Lessons for Women and Girls

Eleven teaching pros will give at least 100 lessons in an effort to grow the game and expand participation.

100 Texas Women

A blog that will highlight 100 notable women from the history of Texas golf.

Annika Clark of Highlands,
2015 WTGA State Amateur Champion

PLAY

Texas Four-Ball Championship

Cordillera Ranch

May 13-15
Boerne, Texas
Jack Nicklaus, 2007
7,464 Yards, Par 72

PLAY

Texas Amateur Championship *presented by Insperity*

Oak Hills Country Club

June 16-19
San Antonio, Texas
A.W. Tillinghast, 1922
6,765 Yards, Par 71

PLAY

Byron Nelson Junior Championship

Lakewood Country Club

June 27-30
Dallas, Texas
Tom Bendelow, 1912
6,726 Yards, Par 71

[PLAY](#)

95th WTGA State Amateur

Brook Hollow Golf Club

July 26-29
Dallas, Texas
A.W. Tillinghast, 1920
6,703 Yards, Par 71

PLAY

Texas Senior Amateur

The Club at Carlton Woods

September 9-11
The Woodlands, Texas
Jack Nicklaus, 2001
7,402 Yards, Par 72

[PLAY](#)

Texas Mid-Amateur Championship

Spanish Oaks Golf Club

September 23-25

Austin, Texas

Bobby Weed, 2003

6,954 Yards, Par 71



2016 Schedule Boasts the Best Courses

This year’s TGA Championship schedule features something for everyone.

No matter what golf course architectural design style you fancy, the 2016 Competitions Calendar has the type of diversity to please everyone from old school traditionalists to lovers of contemporary designs.

The 107th Texas Amateur presented by Insperity, for example, will be played at San Antonio’s Oak Hills Country Club, designed by revered icon A.W. Tillinghast. The ever-popular Texas Father-Son Championship is slated for the Hill Country’s Apple Rock Course at Horseshoe Bay, designed by architectural game-changer Robert Trent Jones, Sr.

We’ll also feature one of the modern masters of golf course design – 18-time major champion Jack Nicklaus – with the Texas Four-Ball Championship at Cordillera Ranch in Boerne and Texas Senior Amateur at the Club at Carlton Woods in The Woodlands. Of the 11 Member

Clubs that will host state-wide championships in 2016, nine are ranked in the state’s Top 100 courses by the *Dallas Morning News*.

“In addition to the excitement of competition, one of the thrills of playing in TGA Championships is the opportunity to experience spectacular Member Clubs,” said Ryan Finn, Managing Director of Championships for the TGA. “From historic Oak Hills to Carlton Woods and The Rawls Course, in 2016 players will be treated to a compelling lineup of host clubs.”

The calendar may say January, but it’s never too soon to start planning ahead, especially for competitive amateur golfers with an increasingly packed playing schedule. ★



2016 Men’s Events

DFW Medalist #1 Feb. 6-7 Sky Creek Ranch GC Keller	South Mid-Amateur Mar. 18-20 Eagle Pointe GC Mont Belvieu	Texas Father-Son July 8-10 Horseshoe Bay Horseshoe Bay
Hill Country Medalist #1 Feb. 6-7 Comanche Trace Kerrville	Hill Country Medalist #3 April 2-3 Club at Sonterra San Antonio	West Texas Amateur July 15-17 The Rawls Course Lubbock
North Four-Ball Feb. 27-28 Waterchase GC Fort Worth	North Senior Amateur April 5-6 Denton CC Denton	Texas Mid-Amateur Match Play July 21-24 Northwood Club Dallas
South Four-Ball Feb. 27-28 Clubs at Kingwood Kingwood	South Senior Amateur April 6-7 Cypresswood GC Spring	Texas Stableford Handicap July 29-31 Riverhill CC Kerrville
DFW Medalist #2 March 5-6 Golf Club of Dallas Dallas	DFW Medalist #3 April 23-24 Sherrill Park GC Richardson	North Amateur Aug. 5-7 Hurricane Creek GC Anna
Hill Country Medalist #2 March 5-6 Onion Creek CC Austin	Texas Four-Ball May 13-15 Cordillera Ranch San Antonio	South Amateur Aug. 5-7 Wolfdancer GC Lost Pines
Texas Super Senior March 7-9 Las Colinas CC Irving	Texas League Play June 2-5 Horseshoe Bay Horseshoe Bay	Texas Senior Amateur Sept. 9-11 Carlton Woods The Woodlands
North Mid-Amateur Mar. 18-20 Firewheel GP Garland	Texas Amateur <i>presented by Insperity</i> June 16-19 Oak Hills CC San Antonio	Texas Mid-Amateur Sept. 23-25 Spanish Oaks GC Bee Cave

For more information regarding registration and deadlines, please ***click here***.

GAME ON.

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*Offer valid March 22 – May 24, 2016. Specials cannot be combined with other discounts and must be paid in full and booked with Reservations at least 48 hours prior to play. Specials do not include play at Lakewood Golf Club. Specials do not include tax or lodging. Not valid with previously booked packages. There is a \$10 surcharge for each round on the Judge at Capitol Hill. Ross Bridge specials are available Monday - Thursday from \$199. Some restrictions may apply. Offers subject to change.

2016 Women's Schedule Packed with Top-Notch Venues

It's always a festive occasion when the best women amateurs gather to compete for a statewide championship. There will be even more reason to come together in 2016, when the Women's Texas Golf Association celebrates its yearlong recognition of a century of women's golf in Texas.

Conducting the state's most prestigious women's amateur championships, starting with the inaugural State Amateur in 1916, has helped identify the best female golfers in Texas. As part of its Breaking 100 Program, the TGA has marshaled a 2016 Women's tournament schedule packed with an impressive array of host clubs.

In addition to the WTGA State Amateur making a memorable return to historic Brook Hollow GC in Dallas from July 26-29, there are a number of other significant events in the upcoming year. Most notably are the Women's Stroke Play Championship, the newest event on the annual schedule, and the Women's Senior Stroke Play, the second-oldest Women's championship.

Established in 2015 to identify the best woman golfer in the state regardless of age, the inaugural Stroke Play Championship brought together multiple former Women's champions, USGA champions and a new generation of stars from the junior, high school and collegiate ranks.

This year's championship will be contested June 24-26 at Pine Forest CC in Houston. Designed by Jay Riviere, Pine Forest is consistently ranked among the finest in Houston. The classic parkland-style course places a premium on accurate drives and precision approach shots.

"The membership and staff of Pine Forest are honored to welcome the Women's Stroke Play Championship," said Guy Mason, chair of the club's Host Committee and past president of the TGA. "Not only will this championship showcase our classic golf course, it will bring the state's best female golfers, their families and supporters to our vibrant city and allow them to experience all the hospitality our community has to offer."

The 27th playing of the Women's Senior Stroke Play will be Oct. 2-4 at the newly renovated Amarillo CC. First held in 1990, the event is one of the most competitive on the women's schedule. Among the former winners are Carolyn Creekmore, Anna Schultz and Mina Hardin, a Texas triumvirate who have each won a USGA Senior Women's Amateur Championship and together have won a total of eight Senior Stroke Play titles.

After an extensive renovation, the 18-hole course at

Amarillo CC has its swagger back. Originally designed by William McConnell in 1919, the multi-million dollar restoration was overseen by Weibring-Wolfard Golf Design. Among the numerous changes include larger tee and green complexes, increased aesthetics and shot values, and most dramatic of all, six completely new holes — three each on the front and back nine.

"We are thrilled to be hosting this year's Women's Senior Stroke Play Championship," said Dell Wood, Head Golf Professional at Amarillo CC. "The Women's Senior is one of the most distinguished women's amateur events in Texas, and we are confident that our newly renovated course will test the players thoroughly as they compete for the honor of hoisting the trophy in 2016."

Celebrating a century of women's golf in Texas is not all about cakes and candles — it's about being involved. The WTGA Committee encourages players of all ages to tee it up in 2016, as a way of honoring the spirit of the pioneering Texas women golfers from 100 years ago. ★

2016 Women's Events

The Eclectic

March 7-8 | The Club at Santerra | San Antonio

The Partnership

April 25-26 | Crown Colony CC | Lufkin

Women's Stroke Play Championship

June 24-26 | Pine Forest CC | Houston

95th WTGA State Amateur Championship

July 26-29 | Brook Hollow GC | Dallas

Women's Four-Ball Championship

Aug. 15-16 | The Hills CC | Austin

Women's Senior Stroke Play Championship

Oct. 2-4 | Amarillo CC | Amarillo

Women's Texas Pinehurst

Nov. 9-10 | The Woodlands CC | The Woodlands

For more information regarding registration and deadlines, please [click here](#).



Pine Forest Country Club in Houston will host the second Women's Stroke Play Championship on June 24-26.

MEET

Twin Cup

Parker and Pierceson Coody take the Legends Junior Tour by storm

It was getting too dark, too fast.

As Parker and Pierceson Coody concluded their Plano West High School golf team's nine-hole qualifying round at Gleneagles Country Club, the September sun was setting as fast as the birdies were dropping for the teenage fraternal twins.

Parker had eight of them for a dazzling front-nine 28. Pierceson, nearly identical and 37 minutes younger than his brother, coaxed in three of his own for a 33. While the rest of the

high school hopefuls headed home with their parents, the Coody boys pressed on. Parker was playing the best golf of his life. His brother wasn't exactly scraping it around, either. Both career-best scores were within reach.

Their parents, Kyle and Debbie, waited for them at the clubhouse. Kyle, a former mini-tour player who won the 1984 Harvey Penick Intercollegiate for the University of Texas, has been successful as a reinstated amateur.

He won the 2001 Texas Mid-Amateur

Championship at Las Colinas Country Club. His father - the twins' grandfather - is Abilene's Charles Coody. He won the 1971 Masters after holding off Jack Nicklaus and Johnny Miller by two shots and played on the U.S. Ryder Cup team that year. Charles is Texas golf royalty; he also won the 1959 Texas Amateur.

Golf is the Coody Way. It's in their blood. Recently turned 16 years old, Parker and Pierceson love it, and they've reaped some

very cool experiences as a result of their major championship lineage. More on that later.

The shadows grew longer at Gleneagles, and Kyle offered to grab a golf cart for his sons so they could move along faster.

The boys said no; they didn't want to change anything. Parker rolled in another long birdie to get to 9-under through 13 holes. Golf's magic number is 59, and Parker had it in his sights.

But it was getting too dark, too fast. »

MEET

That's when Pierceson did something perfectly emblematic of their relationship. Both boys are fiercely competitive. They want to win at everything, but not at the expense of the other's misfortune. It's the best kind of competitive nature – and one commonly seen from the state's top young golfers week in, week out on the Legends Junior Tour.

The Coody boys love and support each other every bit as much as they want to whip each other's tail.

Pierceson was 4-under through 13 holes that day. He knew if he caught fire he could threaten 64, his personal best. But he looked around and saw dusk closing in. Parker only saw more birdies.

So Pierceson made a decision. He picked up his golf ball and put it in his pocket. He stopped playing so he could get the flagsticks for his brother and watch him pursue

his personal best.

"I didn't think we both would finish," said Pierceson, who won the 2015 LJT Player of the Year award with four top-5 finishes. "It was hard because I wanted to finish my good round, but he was 9-under and I knew his score was really important. I just did it. There wasn't much discussion."

Talk about your Brotherly Love.

With a final two-putt birdie from 50 feet in the gloaming of the evening, Parker shot the best score of his life, a mind-bending 10-under 61.

"I didn't expect him to pick up, but I really appreciated it," said Parker, who won the LJT's 2014 Texas State Junior Championship. "It took a lot for him to stop playing. I'd like to think I'd do the same for him, and I imagine I'll be in that position at some point soon."

They're both positioned this year to move forward in their budding careers. They've

already established themselves as two of the best LJT players. Combined, for example, they're 9-0-0 lifetime in the annual year-end Jackie Burke Cup matches.

Last November in Parker's first JBC appearance, the brothers teamed up in Foursomes (alternate shot format) to run away with a 5&4 victory over South Texas' Thomas Critch and Pryce Beshoory.

In singles, Parker was 4-down through nine holes to Levi Valadez in front of some college recruiters that included Texas coach John Fields. Parker stormed back to win the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th holes. He won the match 2&1.

During any typical LJT event, when one Coody finishes and signs his scorecard, he'll ask how his brother fared. Whoever gets done first usually goes back out to watch his brother.

It's the kind of sibling relationship for

which any parent would desire. Debbie and Kyle Coody have done a marvelous job raising their sons, and the LJT is better because of their participation.

"They're extremely competitive with each other, but in a positive way," Kyle said. "They're not upstairs wrestling. It's more that they push each other to get better. When one isn't playing well, the other is his biggest supporter."

For full swing instruction, the Coody twins see Plano's Chris Como – Tiger Woods' latest swing coach – and they've recently started taking short game lessons from Cameron McCormick, the PGA of America's 2015 National Teacher of the Year and longtime coach of two-time major champion Jordan Spieth.

In 2014, the brothers combined for three LJT victories. Last season, Pierceson was the runner-up to Ryan Grider at the Byron

Nelson Junior Championship and also tied for second place at the Collegiate Preview. He scored a T3 at the Bluebonnet Championship and T4 at the Texas Cup Invitational. His distance off the tee is his strength – he carries his driver 280-285 yards – and revels in the advantage of hitting into greens after his opponents because he knows exactly what he needs to do to keep or gain an advantage.

Parker, meanwhile, tied for second at the North Texas Classic, finished fourth at the Collegiate Preview and scored a T9 at the Lanny Wadkins Junior Championship.

He's also long off the tee and considers ball-striking and wedge play as rapidly improving parts of his game.

"I was very happy for Pierceson when he won the Player of the Year," Parker said. "If I'm not going to win it, then I'm very happy that he did. There's some pride in knowing he's my brother and I can do it, too." »

Parker Coody, 2010 Masters Par 3 Contest, 5th Hole

Pierceson Coody, 2010 Masters Par 3 Contest, 9th Hole

MEET

The boys have a nickname for their illustrious grandfather. Everyone in the family calls Charles Coody “Pro,” which is exactly what Parker and Pierceson want to become someday. But first, there are two and half years of high school left, then college. They’ve narrowed their wish list down to Texas, TCU, Baylor, Oklahoma State and Auburn. They’d be happy to go to the same school, but it’s not mandatory.

“We’ll probably make a decision next summer or before school gets out,” Pierceson said.

As you might imagine, having a grandfather who won the Masters has its spoils. Not only can they go to him for stories and advice, Pro has taken Pierceson and Parker to play Augusta National. That’s cool enough, but it doesn’t compare to what they experienced while caddying for Pro at the annual Masters Par 3 Contest.

Since they were 6 years old, they’ve held the bag for Pro about every other year. As 10 year olds, Pro let them each take a putt for him

during the 2010 exhibition on Augusta National’s Par 3 Course. With a thick gallery around the fifth green, Parker hit a gorgeous putt from 40 feet that curled down the hill, broke about five feet and fell center-cut into the hole with perfect speed. The crowd went nuts, as did 2009 U.S. Open champ Lucas Glover who was in Charles Coody’s group.

Not to be outdone, four holes later, Pro purposefully hit a wedge that stuck on the top tier of the skinny, mercury-fast ninth green. It was Pierceson’s turn and – yep, you guessed it – he tapped the 35-foot putt ever-so-gently. It barely crested the ridge that sent the ball funneling straight down the hill ... and into the bottom of the cup. Words can’t paint the scene adequately, and lucky for us (and you!), **the Coody’s have videos of both remarkable putts.**

Pro was beside himself with pride and said the hardest thing was instructing both preteens to take off their hats and acknowledge the

patrons. Charles Coody has loved every minute he’s spent watching his grandsons mature.

“Of course, I’m a biased grandfather,” he said. “I’m proud of them in all areas. They’re really good boys. They’re thoughtful, mannerly and act right on and off the golf course. They work hard. They come here to Abilene and they wear me out. They’ll play from first light until it’s dark. I have no idea how far they can go, but I know at age 16, they are light years ahead of where I was. It’s because they put the time in and work at it.” ★



Players walk up the first fairway at Lakewood Country Club, host of the Byron Nelson Junior Championship.

2016 Legends Events

Winter Classic

Jan. 23-24 | Dallas Athletic Club | Dallas

James A. Ragan Memorial

Feb. 14-15 | Palmilla Beach GC | Corpus Christi

Spring Preview

Feb. 27-28 | Black Horse GC | Houston

Collegiate Preview

March 7-8 | Hurricane Creek CC | Anna

Jimmy Demaret Junior Classic

March 15-16 | The Hills CC | Austin

Bluebonnet Championship

May 21-22 | Brownwood CC | Brownwood

Byron Nelson Junior Championship

June 27-30 | Lakewood CC | Dallas

Flodder Financial Shootout

July 11-12 | TBD | TBD

Texas State Junior Championship (14 & Under)

July 25-26 | The Woodlands CC | The Woodlands

Texas State Junior Championship (Girls 15-18)

July 25-27 | The Woodlands CC | The Woodlands

Texas State Junior Championship (Boys 15-18)

July 27-29 | The Woodlands CC | The Woodlands

Lanny Wadkins Junior Championship

Aug. 8-9 | Gentle Creek CC | Prosper

George Hannon Junior Invitational

Aug. 15-16 | Barton Creek CC | Austin

Texas Girls’ Invitational

Sept. 24-25 | Bentwater Y&CC | Montgomery

North Texas Classic

Oct. 8-9 | Tangle Ridge GC | Grand Prairie

Texas Cup Invitational

Nov. 5-6 | Mira Vista CC | Fort Worth

Jackie Burke Cup

Nov. 12-13 | Escondido G&LC | Horseshoe Bay

For more information regarding registration and deadlines, please **click here**.

FUN GOLF

More TGA Play Days Scheduled For 2016

Texas Golf Hall of Famer Charlie Epps loves to say, “Golf is a game, and games are meant to be fun.” He’s right, of course. For elite competitive amateurs, playing in TGA Championships represents their version of fun. For the other 95 percent of us – recreational golfers – being out on a course, among friends, trying to coax in the occasional par or birdie is our style of fun.

The TGA’s Fun Golf initiative is exactly what it claims to be. Since late 2014, we’ve introduced a number of events that offer TGA Members and their friends the chance to play great courses without the pressure of competition. It’s simply golf for the sake of having fun. And people love it.

Take Preston Hill for example. The 62-year-old from Sugar Land is an 11-handicap who typically plays in charity scrambles. He and his friend William Ferguson – a competitive golfer with a 1-handicap – played in the inaugural Texas Shamble at Horseshoe Bay last November. It was a two-person team event open to men and women alike. There were four flights with prizes awarded

to winners, but the competition measured a distant second to the camaraderie and enjoyment of being around other golf enthusiasts.

“The people in charge of the tournament were awesome and the facilities and the staff there were perfect,” Hill said. “It was a very positive and upbeat atmosphere, and I loved that. Life is too short to get caught up in events and pressure that don’t really matter.”

Part of the beauty of Fun Golf events is they truly are for everyone. There was an entire flight of husband-wife and co-ed teams at the Texas Shamble, as well as low-handicap players with competitive experience.

Ferguson, for example, has qualified for the U.S. Amateur and has played in the Greater Houston City Amateur several times. He enjoyed the Fun Golf event’s laid-back vibe as much as anyone.

“Being around some of those couples was so much fun,” he said. “We played with a father and son in our group and it was so much fun.”

Everyone who played in the Texas Shamble received a new pair of golf



shoes, which was something else Hill and Ferguson loved.

“My friend Preston had never been given a pair of new golf shoes. He thought he was at the Masters,” Ferguson joked. “As a competitive golfer, I love a good golf course. Horseshoe Bay satisfied my desire to play an awesome course. I didn’t care if we won or lost, I just wanted to have fun and we definitely did.”

In all, more than 300 Texas golfers participated in nine different Fun Golf events in 2015. We currently have 12 Fun Golf events scheduled for this year with four more to be announced. If you’ve never attended one, make a resolution to do so in 2016. After all, the only requirement is to have fun. ★

“It was a very positive and upbeat atmosphere, and I loved that. Life is too short to get caught up in events and pressure that don’t really matter.”
- Preston Hill

2016 Fun Golf Events

For more information regarding registration and deadlines, please [click here](#).

TGA Play Day #1

March 11 | TPC San Antonio (Oaks Course) | San Antonio

TGA Play Day #2

April 10 | Onion Creek Club | Austin

TGA Play Day #3

Summer TBD | Las Colinas Country Club | Las Colinas

TGA Play Day #4

June 25 | The Falls Resort and Golf Club | New Ulm

TGA Play Day #5

July 14 | Blackhorse Golf Club | Cypress

TGA Play Day #6

July 27 | Tenison Park Golf Club (Highlands) | Dallas

TGA Play Day #7

July 30 | Bentwater Y&CC | Montgomery

TGA Play Day #8

August 6 | Fair Oaks Ranch Golf & Country Club | Fair Oaks Ranch

TGA Play Day #9

Aug. 26 | Tapatio Springs | Boerne

TGA Play Day #10

Aug. 27 | The Clubs of Kingwood (Marsh) | Kingwood

TGA Play Day #11

September TBD | TPC San Antonio (Canyons Course) | San Antonio

TGA Play Day #12

November TBD | Mira Vista Country Club | Fort Worth

PLAY

LJT Season Starts with a Bang at the Winter Classic

Going back to class after a long, relaxing holiday vacation can be a real drag for high school students. While it's a safe bet no one looks forward to the onslaught of homework assignments, there is one bright spot in an otherwise dreary January - the start of the 2016 Legends Junior Tour season.

For the eighth consecutive year the LJT kicks off another exciting year of competition with the Winter Classic at famed Dallas Athletic Club. The 36-hole, nationally ranked event will be conducted Jan. 23-24 on DAC's formidable Blue Course.

The 84-player field has three divisions competing for separate titles: Boys 15-18, Boys 14 & Under and Girls 12-18. In addition to being ranked by *Golfweek* and Junior Golf Scoreboard, the Winter Classic awards AJGA Performance Stars to top finishers in all three divisions.

There's even more on the line for the Boys 15-18 division. The top three finishers receive invitations

to this year's Byron Nelson Junior Championship (June 27-30 at Lakewood CC in Dallas). They also gain exempt status for the Texas State Junior Championship (July 27-29 at The Woodlands CC Tournament Course).

Exemptions are at stake for the Girls 12-18 division, too. The top three finishers are awarded invitations to the Texas Girls' Invitational (Sept. 24-25 at Bentwater Yacht & CC in Montgomery).

Originally designed by Ralph Plummer, the Blue Course underwent a major renovation overseen by Jack Nicklaus in 1985. It was a fitting and triumphant return to the Metroplex for Nicklaus, who, as a then 21-year-old wunderkind, won the 1963 PGA Championship held on DAC's Blue Course.

Scott Roden of Dallas won the Boys 14 & Under division last year. He'll be back this year, but playing in the Boys 15-18 division. Austin's Sadie Englemann returns to defend her Girls 12-18 division title. ★



Scott Roden won the Boys 14 & Under division of the 2015 Winter Classic in a one-hole playoff.



Kaylee Vesely had three top-5 finishes in 2015 and will be in the field at the James A. Ragan Memorial.

James A. Ragan Memorial Returns to Port Aransas

Tucked in near the popular destination beach town of Port Aransas, the stunning Palmilla Beach Golf Club once again welcomes 84 of the state's best junior golfers for the second annual James A. Ragan Memorial.

Conducted by the Legends Junior Tour, the 36-hole championship will be played Feb. 14-15 and features three age divisions competing for separate titles: Boys 15-18, Boys 14 & Under and Girls 12-18.

The tournament serves to honor the late James A. Ragan, one of the most popular LJT players of all-time and the namesake of the tour's Sportsmanship Award. A Corpus Christi native, Ragan passed away in February 2014 at the age of 20 from a rare form of pediatric bone cancer. Though his time on earth was short, Ragan touched many lives through his courage, compassion and his Triumph Over Kids Cancer foundation.

"It was very heartwarming to see such a great turnout for the inaugural James A. Ragan Memorial, and I expect this year will be no different," said Kellen

Kubasak, Director of Operations for the LJT. "James left an indelible mark on so many of us, and we wanted to do something that would continue to honor his indomitable spirit."

Reminiscent of the coastal links in Scotland, Palmilla Beach was designed by Arnold Palmer. The par-71 course stretches to nearly 7,000 yards and meanders through sweeping, untamed native dunes. The unique routing affords spectacular panoramic views of both the Gulf of Mexico and Corpus Christi Bay.

With rolling fairways lined with native grasses, imposing greens and ever-present breezes, Palmilla Beach will serve as a stern test for the talented junior golfers gathered for this year's championship.

Dallas native Turner Hosch, the reigning Player of the Year for the 14 & Under and defending champion of that division for the James A. Ragan Memorial, is in the field this year and will compete in the Boys 15-18 division. Ellie Szeryk of Allen won the Girls 12-18 division last year. ★

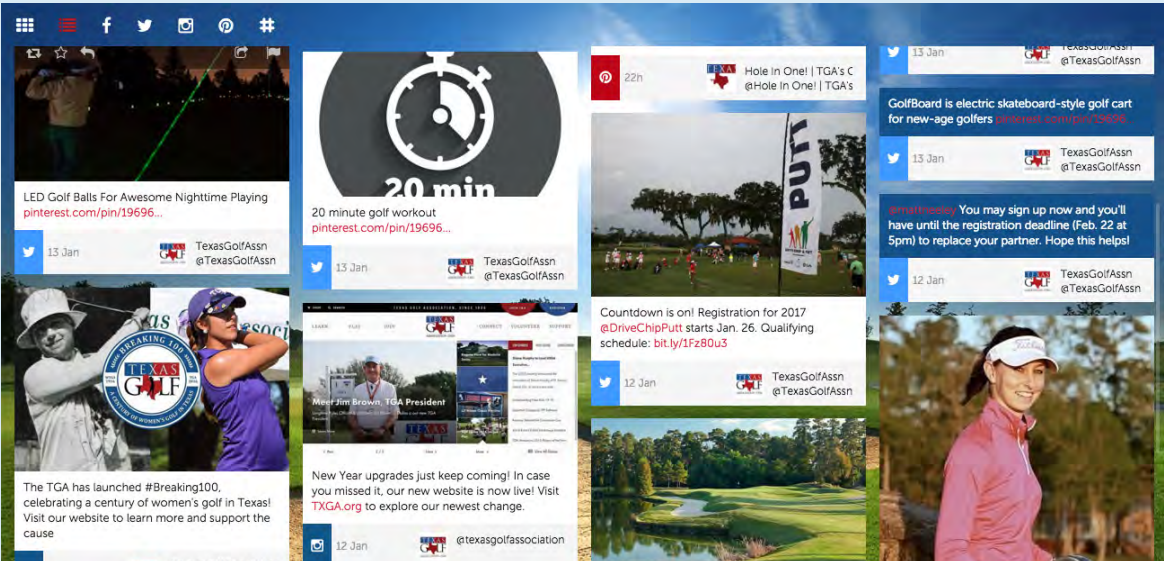
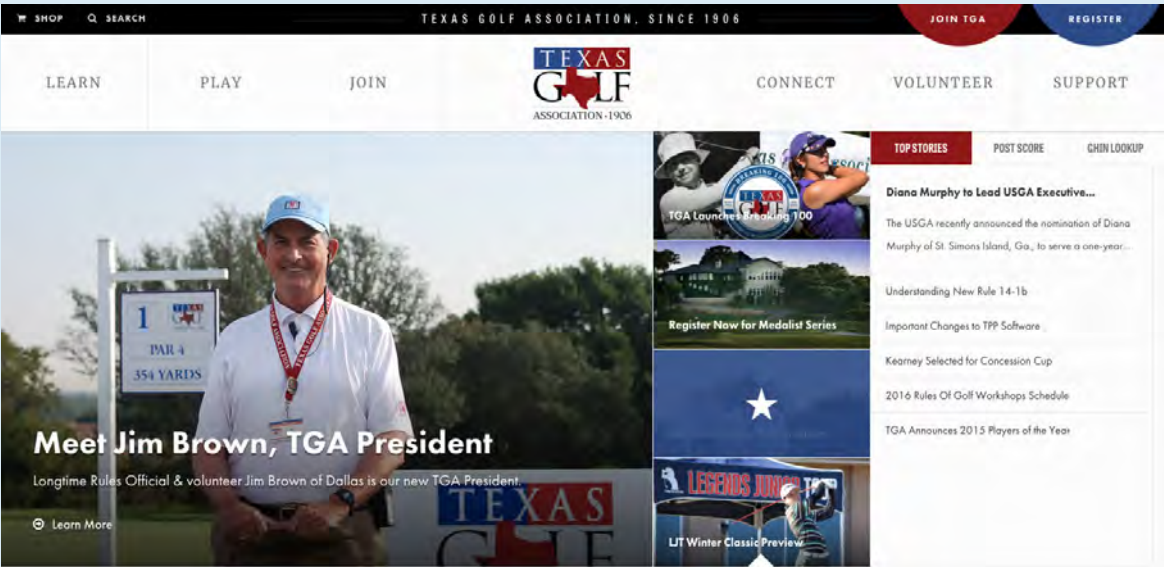
ENGAGE

TGA Launches New Website and Social Media Platform

In early January the TGA unveiled its new website at txga.org. The cutting-edge, responsive design scales to the size of the device being used to view the web pages.

The new website has integrated capabilities for seamless, real-time scoring from our events. There's also a **Social Media Hub**, which smartly captures all of our social media activities on a single page. Even those without social media accounts can view the TGA's communications on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and now Pinterest.

Be sure to follow us on Social Media!
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SHINE

Member Club Logo Spotlight

Part of every club or course's identity is its logo. A well-designed logo can tell golfers about the club or course's brand, history and mission. A distinctive logo also can drive merchandise sales; most golfers can't resist buying a hat or shirt from a club with an eye-catching logo.

Among our more than 500 TGA Member Clubs exist some of the coolest logos in the country.

For this month's TGA Member Club Logo Spotlight feature, we wanted to find one that was singularly "Texan." We discovered it with the classic boot logo from Boot Ranch, a private club and retreat in the heart of the Hill Country.

What's more Texan than a boot? We love the logo's clean, rustic look and the fact that there's no mistaking it for something else. Although the club's founder, former PGA Champion Hal Sutton, hails from Shreveport, La., he owned a Texas ranch in Junction during his 20-year PGA Tour career. With the heart and spirit of a Texan, Sutton in 2004 had his vision for **Boot Ranch**.

He wanted the logo to be uniquely Texan, and he nailed it. "All great logos and brands say what they are," said Emile



Hale, Boot Ranch's head professional. "The reason the boot is up on the toe is to give the feeling of being in motion. The boot, like the club, is moving forward."

Located in Fredericksburg, an hour and change north of San Antonio, Boot Ranch has 180 members and has been a TGA Member Club since January 2006.

If you think we should consider your favorite TGA Member Club logo for this feature, [click here and tell us about it.](#) ★

You Be the Editor!

It's important to us that you understand Lone Star Golf is your magazine. As a TGA Member, our aim is to present compelling stories, photos and multimedia features that interest you. In short, we want to tell the stories you want read.

To that end, we would love to hear your best ideas. Maybe your club has a chef or grounds crew member who has worked there for 40 years or is the third generation from his or her family to work at the club. Maybe you or someone in your regular Saturday game made multiple hole-in-ones in a single month or regularly shoots their age.

The story concepts are virtually unlimited, but Texas is a big state. We need your help gathering some ideas. If you have an idea or just want to tell us what kinds of stories you'd like to see, [click here](#). Thanks in advance and thanks for reading Lone Star Golf. ★



CONTACT

LONE STAR GOLF

Mark Button
mbutton@txga.org
@MarkAButton

Patrick McKinley
pmckinley@txga.org
@PMcKinleyTGA

Jim Spagnolo
jspagnolo@txga.org

Jennifer Williams
jwilliams@txga.org

Allied Associations



Texas Golf Association 16200 Addison Rd., Ste 150, Dallas, TX 75001 | 214-468-8942 | www.TXGA.org

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Stacy Dennis *Managing Director, Membership Programs & TGA Foundation*
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