

The Official Publication of the TGA

LONE STAR GOLF

Resolve to Play Your Best!

New Year's Resolutions can be tricky. Everyone wants to make life improvements, but often we fall into ambitious traps and set ourselves up for failure. Planning to join a gym in January and lose 15 pounds by April is a popular decree. The problem is only 8% of Americans actually reach their New Year's goals.

By all means, we want you to shoot for the stars with your 2017 New Year's Resolutions. Join that gym. Work off the unwanted weight. But while you're thinking about your specific resolutions,

we encourage you to make some goals you'll truly commit to accomplishing - like lowering your GHIN Index. Besides, practicing your short game is more fun than hammering away at the bench press or sweating bullets on the treadmill.

To help inspire you, we asked several top competitive amateurs, as well as recreational golfers who enjoy our Fun Golf programs, for their 2017 Golf Resolutions. We hope the following pages encourage you to make some game improvement goals for next season. Good luck! »

INSPIRE

Fred Wedel

107th Texas Amateur Champion

“ In 2017, I have three main golf resolutions. First, I'd like to be more consistent with my putting, especially the fundamentals. I'm too streaky with the flatstick and the best players I've been around are great putters. Secondly, I want to flight the ball better with my irons. Finally, I want to learn more about myself, my golf swing and my tendencies so I can fully own all of those things, allowing me to shoot the best scores possible.”

2017 Golf Resolutions



INSPIRE



Branson Davis

Runner-Up, 107th Texas Amateur

“ I want to get my game ready for Q-School in the fall, make more birdies and throw fewer clubs in 2017!”

2017 Golf Resolutions

INSPIRE

Megan Thothon

2016 Women's Stroke Play Champion

“My resolutions for 2017 are to play in a professional event, beat my lowest tournament score to date in a round of golf (6-under par) and qualify for the NCAA National Championship.”

2017 Golf Resolutions



INSPIRE



Julie Houston

Runner-Up, 95th WTGA State Amateur

“Some of my golf resolutions will be to decrease my scoring average by at least one stroke, qualify for either the U.S. Women’s Amateur again or the U.S. Women’s Open and to decrease my average putts per round.”

2017 Golf Resolutions

INSPIRE

John Pierce

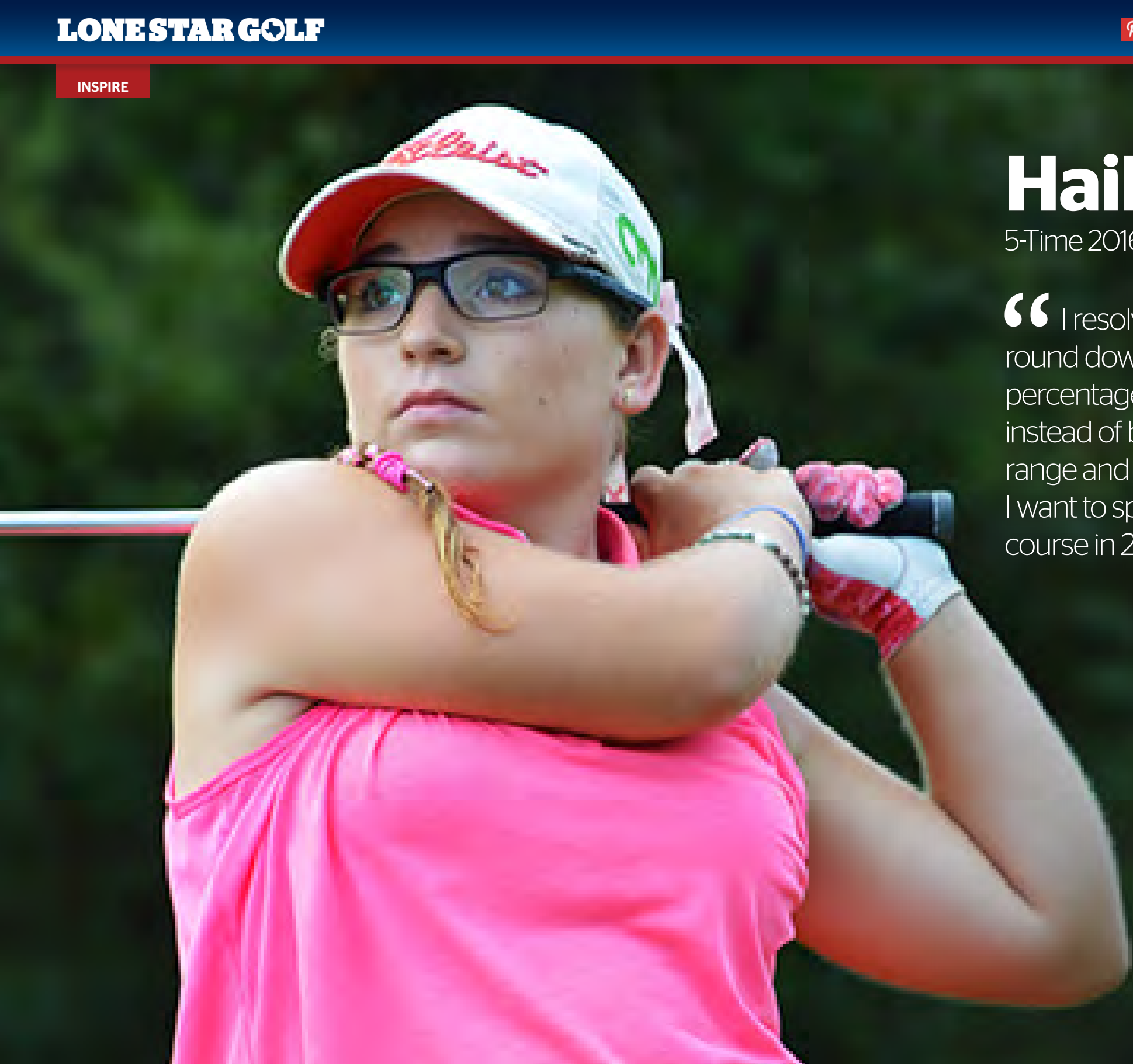
Runner-Up, 2016 Texas Senior Amateur

“ I intend to lose a little weight. Nothing crazy, but for my future health I think it’s important to eat better. I’ve been known to have too much pizza and my share of cheeseburgers and fries. I also want to work on my short game. Several times a week, I plan to putt 100 3-footers in a row after work. I want to feel comfortable in that uncomfortable distance. Finally, I’ll work on my flexibility with bands and basic yoga poses. During the winter, if weather allows, I’ll play as much as I can. And I always walk.”

2017 Golf Resolutions



INSPIRE



Hailey Jones

5-Time 2016 Legends Junior Tour Champion

“ I resolve to get my average putts per round down to 27 and my scrambling percentage up to an 80% average. Also, instead of being a ball-beater on the practice range and putting and chipping for hours, I want to spend more time playing on the course in 2017.”

2017 Golf Resolutions

INSPIRE

Levi Valadez

2016 Byron Nelson Junior Champion

“ I want to make it to the U.S. Amateur and advance to the final match. I also want to make it to the NCAA Men's Golf Championships as a team and/or as an individual. My final resolution is to win the 108th Texas Amateur at Lakewood Country Club.”

2017 Golf Resolutions



INSPIRE

Rev. Richard De Witt

TGA Fun Golf Participant

“My greatest golf resolution each year is to enjoy every shot, no matter the outcome, and to celebrate the absolute beauty of each course I have the privilege of playing. Now at age 71, my chances of shooting my age improve somewhat, commensurate with my ability to maintain a 5 Handicap.”

2017 Golf Resolutions



MEET

Texas Men's Player of the Year Joshua Irving

Joshua Irving of Dallas secured his second consecutive Texas Player of the Year award in September at Spanish Oaks GC in Bee Cave when he carded a final round 3-under 68 to win the Texas Mid-Amateur Championship. The victory vaulted him atop the Player of the Year points leaderboard with a cumulative total of 2,000 points, which was 214 clear of runner-up Colby Harwell from San Antonio.

Prior to the Mid-Amateur, Irving was picked to represent Texas at the U.S. State Team Championships with Zach Atkinson and Scott Abbott. Irving said his selection on that team was part of his motivation to win the Mid-Amateur.

"When the TGA picked me," he said, "I really wanted to validate that decision this week."

Irving was a force all year regardless of the format. He reached the quarterfinals of the Texas Mid-Amateur Match Play and U.S. Mid-Amateur. He also finished T2 at the Texas Four-Ball Championship with partner Scott Volpitto. »



2017 Golf Resolutions

"To become mentally stronger on short putts. Short putts, most of the time, are missed by mental lapses, not because of a stroke."

MEET

2017 Golf Resolutions

"I want to keep golf in proper perspective. While I do love the game, it's just a part of my life. My faith and my family are important and take a lot of my time. My wife and I will welcome granddaughters Nos. 3, 4 and 5 to our family over the next five months, so I definitely enjoy being 'Pops!' I also still work full-time as a dentist, so, golf is my getaway. It allows me to be outside and it feeds my competitive nature."

Texas Senior Player of the Year Lewis Stephenson

Start strong and finish strong is a good strategy for success. It was the winning formula Mansfield's Lewis Stephenson applied to capture the Texas Senior Player of the Year Award in just his second season of eligibility.

Stephenson roared out of the gates early and finished second in the North Texas Senior Amateur and West Texas Amateur's Senior Division. He closed out his stellar season in dramatic fashion by rolling in a 15-foot birdie on the final hole to win the Texas Senior Amateur Championship by two shots.

Stephenson racked up 1,250 Player of the Year points with the win, which gave him a cumulative total of 2,000. That was just enough to eke by runner-up Mike Peck of Irving by a mere 50 points. »

MEET

Texas Women's Player of the Year

Grace Choi

The most dominant player in the year's biggest amateur tournament in the state, Grace Choi from Dallas is the inaugural Texas Women's Player of the Year. A senior at Michigan, Choi won the 95th WTGA State Amateur Championship with a hard-fought, 3-and-2 victory over Julie Houston from Allen.

Choi never trailed in the four matches she won on the way to the title bout with Houston. In the championship match, Houston provided Choi her first taste of adversity. Choi missed a short par putt on the fourth hole and fell 1 down to Houston. Choi showed her mettle and responded with wins on the seventh and eighth holes to take a 1-up lead she'd never relinquish.

With the victory, Choi collected 100 Player of the Year points. She added two more with a T25 result at the Texas Women's Open. Her 102 points were seven more than Annika Clark of Highlands. ★



2017 Golf Resolutions

"Win the Big Ten team title and win a college event as an individual."

LEARN

Carol Mann (left) and Sandra Palmer joined Sandra Haynie, Judy Rankin and Kathy Whitworth to comprise the Breaking 100 Gala's all-star guest panel.

A Century of Texas Women's Golf Celebrated of Breaking 100 Gala

More than 270 people packed the ballroom at Houston Country Club on Nov. 1 to pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of Texas Women's Golf. A yearlong campaign with several facets reached its culmination with the festive Breaking 100 Gala.

An all-star panel provided the evening's highlight. Living legends Sandra Haynie, Carol Mann, Sandra Palmer, Judy Rankin and Kathy Whitworth took part in a lively discussion. The five Hall of Famers swapped stories and shared insights on Texas' sentinel role in piloting the women's game from the earliest days to the modern era.

Palmer, a two-time major champion who was inducted into the Texas Golf Hall of Fame in 1985, told the audience she was a "True Texan" based on her love of chicken-fried steak, country music and cowboy boots. Whitworth and Haynie, two World Golf Hall of Fame members with 129 LPGA Tour wins and 10 major titles between them, needled each other throughout the night. Whitworth's 88 victories are the most all-time for any professional. She notched her first win in 1962 after Haynie three-putted on the final hole. To the amusement of the attendees, it seems Haynie isn't over it just yet.

Rankin, the popular Golf Channel analyst, is a two-time LPGA Tour Player of the Year who went into the World Golf Hall of Fame in 2000. Born in St. Louis, Rankin married a Texan in 1967 and has lived in the Lone Star State ever since. She quipped that next year marks her 50th as a resident, which should qualify her as a naturalized Texan. The dinner guests' ovation served as approval.

The dinner, along with the yearlong program, raised more than \$120,000 for the TGA's suite of [Women's Initiatives](#).

"It has been such a great honor to bring together Texas' greatest women for this event. We had players representing seven decades of amateur golf and more than 200 LPGA titles in the room," said TGA Managing Director of Membership Programs and two-time WTGA State Amateur Champion Stacy Dennis, who took the lead role in organizing every part of the Breaking 100 campaign. "Golf truly builds community and that was certainly on display. It is exciting to think about what we'll do in the next 100 years."

The TGA is still accepting donations to help support the future of Women's Golf in Texas. For more information, [click here](#). ★



PEBBLE BEACH
RESORTS

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TWO NIGHTS AT THE INN AT SPANISH BAY OR THE LODGE AT PEBBLE BEACH

TWO ROUNDS OF GOLF

One Round on Pebble Beach Golf Links,
ranked #1 Public Golf Course in America by Golf Digest, plus
One Round on Spyglass Hill Golf Course or The Links at Spanish Bay

Plus • \$100 Resort Credit per package • Enjoy 20% off your third or fourth night,
plus a complimentary round on The Links at Spanish Bay when you extend your stay



Package starts at \$2,095 for the Inn and \$2,435 at The Lodge. Includes one round on Pebble Beach Golf Links and one round on The Links at Spanish Bay. **Valid November 20, 2016-March 31, 2017.**
To book, call (866) 298-4304 and mention code TGAP1.

*To receive package rate, all golf must be secured at time of booking. Offer is subject to availability and includes Garden View room at The Inn, occupancy tax, County tourism assessment and service charge. Golf package price quoted above is for one round on Pebble Beach Golf Links and one round on The Links at Spanish Bay, for one player. To receive Resort Credit, your two-night stay must be booked and completed by March 31, 2017. Resort Credit is valid at The Spa at Pebble Beach, The Shops at Pebble Beach and Pebble Beach Resorts restaurants. Resort Credit may not be applied to rooms and golf and must be used during your stay on this promotion. One complimentary player on The Links at Spanish Bay per package booked available for arrivals between November 20, 2016 and March 31, 2017. Complimentary round must be used during the package stay and is not transferable. Package is valid for new bookings only and parties of 8 rooms or less. Not valid in conjunction with other offers. Some blackout dates and restrictions apply. Pebble Beach Company reserves the right to modify or discontinue this offer at any time. ©2016 Pebble Beach Company. Pebble Beach®, Pebble Beach Golf Links®, Pebble Beach Resorts®, The Inn at Spanish Bay™, The Links at Spanish Bay™, Spyglass Hill® Golf Course, The Lone Cypress™, The Spa at Pebble Beach™, The Heritage logo, and their respective underlying distinctive images are trademarks, service marks and trade dress of Pebble Beach Company. Photo © Joann Dost.



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VISIT

An American Treasure

Spyglass Hill Golf Course: 50 Years of Golf and Literary History

Pebble Beach Resorts is known for some of the world's greatest golf courses – think Pebble Beach Golf Links, the No. 1 Public Golf Course in America as ranked by *Golf Digest* – as well as spectacular panoramas and a variety of activities and hotel options that combine for a memorable experience along the California coast.

The resort is also steeped in history on and off the course. One particular layout, Spyglass Hill Golf Course, features a literary twist that has enchanted guests since its opening day on March

11, 1966. That makes this year the 50th anniversary of Spyglass Hill, a milestone for one of America's toughest golf courses.

Spyglass Hill takes its theme from Robert Louis Stevenson's classic novel, *Treasure Island*, published in 1883.

Local legend maintains that Stevenson wandered the Spyglass Hill area in 1879 gathering ideas for his novels. With this in mind, course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. set about creating a treasure of his own. »



VISIT

The result of the 6,960-yard design incorporated two distinctly different kinds of terrain that influence the way the holes look and play. The first five holes roll through sandy seaside dunes and distracting ocean views, challenging golfers to pick the safest path. The next 13 holes are cut through pine trees with elevated greens and strategically placed bunkers and lakes ready to swallow errant shots.

Golfers who tee it up at Spyglass Hill walk in the footsteps of golf's greats. Spyglass Hill has long challenged PGA Tour professionals as part of the annual AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am rotation, having wreaked havoc over the game's best since 1967.

It continues its legacy of great championships with a nod from the USGA to co-host the 2018 U.S. Amateur Championship alongside Pebble Beach – just as it did in 1999. Not for the faint of

heart, Spyglass Hill is rated one of the most demanding courses in the world. From the Championship tees, it boasts a course rating of 75.5 and slope of 144.

As for its memorable name? Two years before the course opened, Pebble Beach founder Samuel F.B. Morse penned a letter to Sandy Tatum, who later served as president of the USGA, to explain:

“...As you know, Robert Louis Stevenson lived in Monterey for a while and he wandered through the (Del Monte) forest a great deal,” Morse wrote in a letter dated September 11, 1964. “If you have read *Treasure Island*, you will remember the name Spyglass Hill, a prominent point that overlooked the ocean, where one could view before anyone else ships coming into the one harbor on the island.

“It has been said, without any authority that I know of, that the high sand dunes at

Cypress Point which do command a view of the entire ocean all the way across the bay to Santa Cruz, were the inspiration for the Spyglass Hill in Stevenson’s story. It is the nearest high point to Indian Village (near the current sixth fairway), and I don’t think that there is much doubt but what the Indians viewed the Spanish galleons as they came in from this point...

“As far as I know, if it is of any importance, I am the one who named it Spyglass Hill, and now of course it has come into common usage.”

The 50th anniversary of Spyglass Hill also comes with a treat for golfers. Guests of Pebble Beach Resorts and the general public can use a block of previously unavailable priority tee times each morning. It’s a wonderful way to celebrate the course’s Golden Anniversary with a golf trip of a lifetime to Pebble Beach. ★



Exclusive TGA Member Offer from Pebble Beach Resorts

As a valued member of the Texas Golf Association, Pebble Beach Resorts is offering you the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of golf’s legends.

Book the Pebble Beach Stay & Play package:

- Two nights at The Inn at Spanish Bay
- One Round at Pebble Beach Golf Links
- One Round at Spyglass Hill Golf Course or The Links at Spanish Bay

You’ll also receive special member-only benefits, including a \$100 resort credit per package, the opportunity to book a third night at 20% off rack rate and 25% off your AVIS car rental to any destination.

Packages start at \$2,250. Call 800-877-7963 and mention promo code GOLFTGA to book your experience.



SHINE

Member Club Logo Spotlight

Designed in honor of the traditional wolf dance of the Tonkawa Indians who once inhabited Central Texas, the Wolfdancer logo is one of the most distinctive in the state.

Tonkawa Indians believe they originated from the wolf; their rhythmic dance celebrates the creation of the Tonkawa people.

While the dance was kept a secret from outsiders for many years, that's not the case with the breathtaking **Wolfdancer Golf Club**, designed by Arthur Hills in 2006. The best golfers in Texas likely have experienced the challenging course, which roams among native grasses, wildflowers, a heavily wooded ridgeline and rolling prairie.

The dramatic layout is also cut by



the Lower Colorado River, which runs alongside the course's memorable finishing holes.

The 7,205-yard, par-72 gem in August played host to the South Texas

Amateur, won by San Antonio's Danny Simmerman. Wolfdancer also was the site of a TGA Fun Golf Play Day outing in early October. Competitive and recreational players alike love the

course; it's golf like nature intended.

Wolfdancer is a public course located at Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort near Austin, and just celebrated its 10th anniversary in June. ★

About the TGA

Founded in 1906 as the governing body of amateur golf in Texas, the TGA is an official representative



of the United States Golf Association and the only licensed distributor of USGA GHIN Handicaps. We serve all golfers across Texas with elite competitive championships and recreational playing opportunities for men, women, seniors and juniors. The TGA is represented by hundreds of public and private facility Member Clubs throughout the state. It is our honor and responsibility to promote, protect and grow the game of golf on all levels. To learn more, [click here](#). ★

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