

The Official Publication of the TGA

LONGSTAY GOLF

2017 Players of the Year

INSIDE: A Year of Fun Golf ★ Experience Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail

2017 Players of the Year

If the heart of the Texas Golf Association is the passionate group of competitive golfers across all levels of play, then its soul resides in the elite class among them.

Every year, thousands of serious players in our Men's, Women's, Senior and Legends Junior Tour divisions put in untold hours training and practicing in order to perform come tournament time. We salute each and every athlete who continues to chase their dream of excellence.

Within that large group exists another tier, a segment cut above the rest. While most – if not all – who sign up to play in a given event would *like to win*, there is a finite list of those who *expect to win*. That is a big difference.

It's these tenacious competitors who collect frequent trophies and who also are in the mix on an annual basis for our TGA Player of the Year awards.

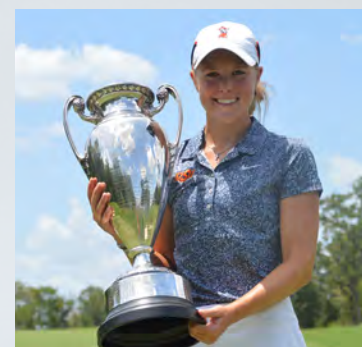
This year, like every year, eight of the state's best amateurs emerged in that select group.

Through hard work and dedication, they earned the right to be called the best amateur golfer in Texas. In the following pages, we'll highlight each of them. ★



MEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**COLBY
HARWELL**
SAN ANTONIO



WOMEN'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**MADDIE
McCRARY**
WYLIE



SENIOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**JOHN
PIERCE**
SAN ANTONIO



NORTH PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**WILL
OSBORNE**
FORT WORTH



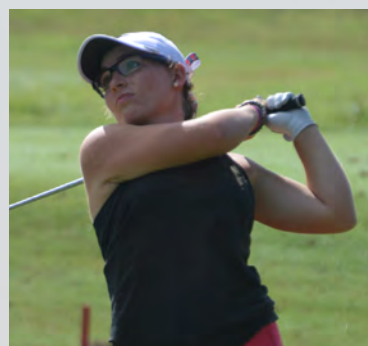
SOUTH PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**TREVOR
SAUNTRY**
HOUSTON



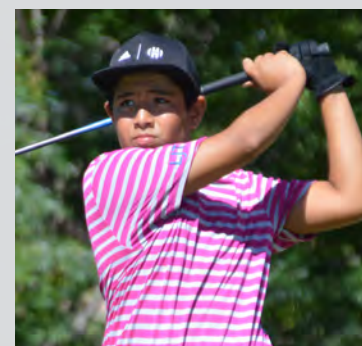
BOYS 15-18 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**JANSEN
SMITH**
SAN ANGELO



GIRLS 12-18 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**HAILEY
JONES**
DALLAS



BOYS 12-14 PLAYER OF THE YEAR

**SHAHEEN
MOMIN**
SUGAR LAND

Texas Men's Player of the Year

COLBY HARWELL

SAN ANTONIO

2017 Texas Mid-Amateur (Win)

2017 Texas Mid-Amateur Match Play (Win)

2017 South Mid-Amateur (5th)

108th Texas Amateur (T13)

2017 South Amateur (18th)

2017 U.S. Amateur (MC)



Texas Women's Player of the Year

MADDIE McCRARY

WYLIE

96th WTGA State Amateur (Win)

2017 Women's Stroke Play (5th)

2017 Texas Women's Open (T9)



Texas Senior Player of the Year

JOHN PIERCE

SAN ANTONIO

2017 West Texas Senior Amateur (Win)

2017 Texas Senior Amateur (3rd)

2017 South Texas Senior Amateur (T3)

2017 Texas Four-Ball, Senior Division (T4)

2017 U.S. Senior Amateur (Quarterfinalist)

2017 Texas Mid-Amateur

Match Play (Quarterfinalist)



North Texas Player of the Year **WILL OSBORNE**

FORT WORTH

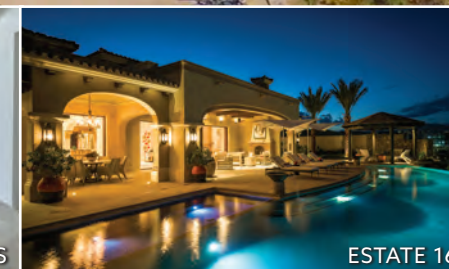
2017 North Four-Ball (Win)
2017 Texas Four-Ball (Win)
2017 North Mid-Amateur (2nd)
2017 Texas Mid-Amateur (T8)
2017 Texas Mid-Amateur
Match Play (Quarterfinalist)
2017 North Amateur (T11)
108th Texas Amateur (T32)



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THE LEDGES



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South Texas Player of the Year

TREVOR SAUNTRY

HOUSTON

2017 South Mid-Amateur (T3)

2017 South Amateur (T6)

2017 South Four-Ball (T18)



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Boys 15-18 Player of the Year

JANSEN SMITH SAN ANGELO

91st Texas State Junior Championship (Win)
2017 Alamo Shootout (Win)
2017 North Texas Classic (Win)
2017 Collegiate Preview (T2)
2017 Byron Nelson Junior Championship (T8)

Girls 12-18 Player of the Year

HAILEY JONES

DALLAS

2017 Winter Classic (Win)

2017 Alamo Shootout (Win)

2017 North Texas Classic (Win)

91st Texas State Junior Championship (2nd)

2017 George Hannon Junior Invitational (2nd)

2017 Jimmy Demaret Junior Classic (2nd)

2017 Texas Girls' Invitational (T5)



Boys 12-14 Player of the Year

SHAHEEN MOMIN

SUGAR LAND

2017 Jimmy Demaret Junior Classic (Win)
2017 Spring Preview (2nd)
91st Texas State Junior Championship (T3)
2017 Bluebonnet Championship (3rd)
2017 Fall Challenge (T3)
2017 George Hannon Junior Invitational (4th)
2017 Alamo Shootout (5th)



Looking Back on a Year of Fun (Golf)

When the TGA launched Fun Golf in 2015, it was our hope members would enjoy getting out in the sunshine, meeting new people and playing golf at discounted rates on some of the best courses in Texas.

It turns out they eagerly awaited such an initiative, because the response has been overwhelmingly positive. The turnout has increased each year, which means more members have heard about Fun Golf. Members love to tee it up in a welcoming environment in which having a good time is the priority.

“It’s rewarding to see Fun Golf grow so much so quickly,” said Kelly Kilgo, the TGA’s Senior Director of Membership Services & Course Rating and captain of Fun Golf. “Every year we add more golfers, both men and women, as well as more events.”

This year, nearly 350 golfers took part in

the 12 Play Days on premiere courses that included TPC San Antonio, Onion Creek, Old American, Las Colinas CC and Walden on Lake Conroe.

The 2017 season did end on a sad note, however. The last Fun Golf event of the year, the popular Texas Shamble, was cancelled when a catastrophic fire roared through the clubhouse at host Tapatio Springs Resort in Boerne.

Thankfully, there were no injuries. But due to the damage, the resort will be closed for the foreseeable future.

The TGA is pleased to announce that there will be two Texas Shambles in 2018. The Spring Texas Shamble, which can be considered a make-up of the 2017 event, will be held **Feb. 25-26 at Moody Gardens Golf Course** in Galveston. Entries are now open for the Spring Texas Shamble, so grab a partner and sign up. The Fall Texas Shamble will be held in November 2018 at a site to be determined.

With a crowd-pleasing event like the Texas Shamble kicking things off, next year promises to be filled with memorable Fun Golf outings on must-play courses.

Some host clubs have already been secured for the 2018 Fun Golf Calendar, including favorites like Lantana GC, Walden on Lake Conroe, Onion Creek and both the Oaks and Canyons Courses at TPC San Antonio.

If you need a New Year’s Resolution you’d actually enjoy making good on, consider a commitment to having more fun in 2018 by signing up for a TGA Play Day. ★



WHAT'S IN THE BAG?



PRECISION GOLF

WITH EDDIE ROWE

DRIVER

2017 Callaway GBB Epic Sub Zero 9° Driver
Project X Hzdus Yellow 63gram 6.0 Flex
Spine Aligned at 45.25° NS Setting at D4 Swing Weight

Driver ball speed increased from 146 mph to 151 mph, which increased his smash factor from 1.41 to 1.49. We lowered his launch from 15.1° to 12.6° and his spin from 2800 to 2300 on average. With all these changes Eddie was able to increase his carry distance and total distance from 242 yards carry to 249 yards carry and 262 yards total to 276 yards total distance.



FAIRWAY WOOD

2017 Callaway GBB Epic 15° 3 Wood
Fujikura Pro XLR8 71gram Stiff Flex
Spine Aligned at 43° NS setting at D4 Swing Weight

The new fairway wood increased ball speed from 139 mph to 145 mph and his smash factor from 1.44 to 1.48. Launch angle increased from 12.5° to 13° and spin remained from 3200 to 3300 on averages. With all these changes in his fairway wood, his distance increased from 220 yards of carry to 230 yards of carry and total distance of 240 yards to 247 yards off the ground.

HYBRID

Adams 9031 Prototype 20° Hybrid
Matrix Ozik Altus Hybrid Shaft Stiff Flex
40° at D4 Swing Weight.

Nothing was done to his current hybrid as the specs fit right into the gap he needed for his new setup.

WEDGES

Fourteen RM Tour Raw Wedges
Project X LZ 6.0 Spine Aligned
at D6 Swing Weight

With the wedges he was looking for more versatility around the greens to be able to hit a variety of different shots and pitches.

PUTTER

Odyssey O Works
2 Ball, 33" long
Winn Midsize Grip

We analyzed his stroke with SAM Putt Lab we determined this putter was best for his stroke. Loft was adjusted to 2° and the lie angle to 70°.

IRONS

Miura CB501 Irons 4-PW
Project X LZ 6.0
Spine Aligned at 37.5° long at D4 Swing Weight

With the new irons and shafts we increased his ball speed from 116 mph to 119 mph and his smash factor from 1.35 to 1.38. We were also able to lower his launch from 18° to 16.9° on average and his spin rate from 5900 to 5100 based off his 6 iron, which lead to more distance and a much tighter dispersion for his irons from 164 yards of carry on average to 171 yards of carry on average.

Member Club Spotlight: Onion Creek Club



Picturesque layout at Onion Creek.

Onion Creek Club in south Austin has a couple claims to fame. In terms of classic, old-school layouts with mature trees that shape a variety of thought-provoking holes, the golf course at Onion Creek has few equals and has long been considered one of the best in central Texas.

More notably, the historic 27-hole facility, co-designed by Jimmy Demaret, Ben Crenshaw

and Bill Coore, is one of only two Texas courses to feature the design skills of two Masters Champions. Onion Creek also holds an iconic spot in the history of professional golf as the birthplace of the PGA Champions Tour.

Back in 1978, the traditional parkland-style course hosted the inaugural Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf. Sam Snead and partner Gardner Dickinson won the title

in dramatic fashion when Snead birdied the final three holes.

The event proved so popular that it was staged again in 1979 and the Senior PGA Tour (as it was first known) was born. Onion Creek hosted the Legends of Golf annually through 1987. As the event grew, so, too, did the club's reputation as an enjoyable course for golfers of all skill levels. It's a throwback in all the best ways – it's an ideal walking course – and

the club's history and tradition make it one of central Texas' most memorable golf experiences.

The best women amateurs in Texas will visit Onion Creek next spring for the 2018 Women's Eclectic (March 12-13). One of the

most popular events, women play the course twice and take the better score from each hole to create one, 18-hole score. The flighted tournament will no doubt fill up fast for its dates at Onion Creek. ★

Onion Creek Club

Austin, TX



■	6,530 yards (71.7/128)
■	6,158 yards (69.7/126)
□	5,874 yards (68.8/125)
■	5,355 yards (66.9/121)
■	4,800 yards (70.3/124)

Member Club Since: 2000

Architects: Jimmie Connolly, Jimmy Demaret (1974); Ben Crenshaw, Bill Coore (1994)

Greens: Tiff Eagle Bermuda

Fairways: 419 Bermuda

Head Golf Professional: Kirk Dillen, PGA

'Build it and They Will Come'

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail Celebrates 25 Years of Perfection

by Dave Finn, Special to *Lone Star Golf*

Kevin Costner's iconic 1989 movie *Field of Dreams* may not have won an Oscar, but it sparked a winner. Let me take you behind the scenes, and tell you about another man's vision.

A golfer's dream would be to have 18 of their favorite holes featured on a single course.

Dr. David Bronner, the CEO of Retirement Systems of Alabama, had a dream to invest his organization's pension funds and build 26 world-class golf courses that would challenge people enough that "they will want to come back and try again." »



Bronner may not have heard the voices like Ray Kinsella, but he listened to the call and tapped into his creativity and courage to do what no one else could imagine. Once he lured the legendary Robert Trent Jones Sr. out of semi-retirement, there was no looking back.

With Jones as his co-director, the result is an extraordinary golf trail that meanders across Alabama, from the Appalachians in the north all the way down to the Gulf of Mexico. *Golf Digest*

has declared the RTJ Trail as “the number one value in the country for golf.”

“The very best courses are those where nature provides the canvas,” Jones has said. “My job is to discover her secrets and reveal them.” Bronner also was convinced the trail would attract tourism and industry to Alabama. He was right.

A golfer gets a feeling for a course based on what makes it a great experience for him or her. Here is what left a memorable

impression on me after visiting the RTJ Trail during its 25th anniversary.

Scenery

The Judge at Capitol Hill has one of the most incredible opening holes in golf. As you stare down a 200-foot bluff to a sliver of a fairway with a well-protected peninsula green that juts out into the Alabama River, it will take your breath away.

The layout traverses 200 acres of river backwaters with 14

holes that feature water hazards, making accuracy more important than distance.

Here, you can also play the Legislator, a more traditional parkland course framed by tall pines and built along a large bluff or the Senator, a Scottish links-style design with more than 150 sod-faced pot bunkers and mounds that stretch 40 feet towards the sky.

Challenge

Ross Bridge in Hoover is the

fourth-longest golf course in the world. From the very back tees, it plays all of 8,191 yards. Surrounded by the foothills, it features lots of elevation changes and forced carries that provide drama and danger.

Ten holes play along the shoreline, and the waterfall that spills into the central lake is best viewed from the 9th and 18th tee boxes. Linger until dusk to hear the soulful sounds of a bagpiper as he makes his way to the putting green. »



You'll be transported "across the pond" at this challenging course that once played host to the Champions Tour's Regions Charity Classic.

Personality

Grand National near Auburn/Opelika offers three 18-hole layouts. The Lakes Course is the home of the PGA Tour's Barbasol Championship that runs the same week as the British Open. Built around 600-acre Lake Saugahatchee, 12 holes nudge the shoreline and will test your skills against the pros.

The Links Course reportedly has the strongest finishing hole on the Trail, but the Short Course was my favorite. With a good combination of short and long holes, some uphill, some downhill and more than half touching the lake, every hole is unique and what I'd consider a signature hole anywhere else.

Design

Personally, I'm a big fan of huge

elevation changes, and in this category, I'm torn between two contenders. Oxmoor Valley near Birmingham literally rocks. The Ridge, built on the site of a former mine once owned by U.S. Steel, takes full advantage of the peaks and valleys of the Appalachian mountain range. It showcases towering shale formations, more than 150 feet in height, and rich, dense forests.

Cambrian Ridge boasts three nine-hole layouts. The Canyon was carved out of a former hunting ground, and the first hole will both inspire and intimidate you, a par-5 that drops 200 feet from the tee to the fairway. And that's only the beginning of the adventure.

With 11 sites, 26 courses and 468 holes of golf, the Robert Trent Jones Trail is varied, fun, challenging and affordable. Often imitated but never replicated, it's no wonder the *New York Times* declared the RTJ Trail as "the best public golf on earth." For more information on the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail, [click here](#). ★

TGA FOUNDATION DISASTER RELIEF FUND

HELP SUPPORT HOUSTON CLUBS

Your donation to the TGA Disaster Relief Fund will be made directly to the TGA Foundation. In coordination with the Southern Texas PGA Section and the Club Managers Association, the TGA Foundation will distribute the funding to those in the greatest need at the club level.

CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW

Mickey Jones Honored with Bob Wells Award

We've written and said this many times, but it always bears repeating. Volunteers are the lifeblood of the TGA. We're so blessed to have scores of them who take time away from their families to make our tournament experiences exemplary.

Mickey Jones is a prime example of a dedicated, selfless volunteer who contributes countless days and hours to making TGA Championships the best they can be. Jones, a longtime member of Odessa Country Club, recently was bestowed with the highest honor the TGA gives volunteers when he received the Bob Wells Distinguished Service Award.

First presented in 2005, the Bob Wells Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual's meritorious service to the game. The award is named after the late Bob Wells, who served as TGA president from 1980-87.

"Mickey's commitment over the years to all facets of the TGA has been an inspiration not only to hundreds of fellow volunteers, but also to our staff who have seen

him dedicate countless hours to the game we love," said Rob Addington, the TGA's Executive Director.

"We are honored to recognize Mickey's important contributions to the TGA, and for personifying the Association's mission of promoting and conserving the best interests of the game."

A longtime member of the TGA board of directors, Jones was first elected to the Executive Committee in 2004 as secretary and treasurer.

He served as Vice President of the TGA from 2006-09. From 2010-11 Jones was the TGA President.

In addition to his duties as a TGA officeholder, Jones has been actively involved in a number of influential committees including Rules and Competitions, Nominating and Long Range Planning, serving as chairman of the last two.

Jones is also on the board of directors of the Legends Junior Tour and the TGA Foundation.

His dedicated service to the TGA extends far beyond the boardroom. As a Rules of



Golf expert, Jones frequently volunteers as a Rules Official for TGA Championships, as well as USGA National Championships. Jones is also responsible for site selection and administration of TGA and USGA qualifying in

West Texas. Under his leadership, qualifying participation in the region has increased by over 400 percent.

The TGA owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the altruistic volunteers like Jones, who give

freely of their time, energy and experience to help make the game of golf better for all Texans, while upholding its traditions and providing the leadership necessary to ensure its future growth. ★

Engage with the TGA

A Look at What's Been Happening on Social Media

#TGA #TOP5

It all comes down to this! You've given us your #TGATop5's and now we want to know their definitive rankings. This month: What is the best golf movie? Click the image below to submit your answer and find out!



What is the best golf movie?

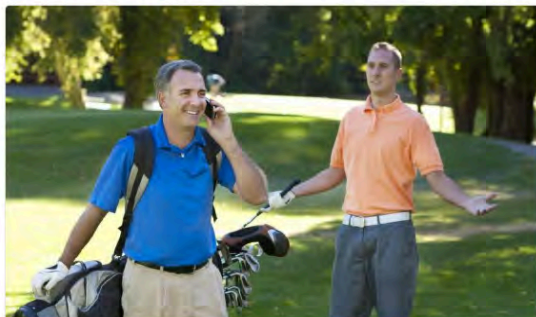
Other Top 5 Submissions:

TexasGolfAssn
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Share your tips for breaking 100, 90 & 80!
#WednesdayWisdom #TGATop5

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#ThursdayThoughts What are some golf etiquette practices that players may be neglecting? Share your pet peeves with us now! #TGATop5



TexasGolfAssn
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Here's your chance to put your favorite course on our radar! Name the best new/renovated clubs in #Texas since 2000
#TGATop5 #TGAMemberClubs



In Case You Missed It

TexasGolfAssn
@TexasGolfAssn

#VeteransDay has a special meaning for Jackie Burke, co-founder of the Champions GC that is hosting the #USWomensMidAm. Great story from @USGA: usga.org/content/usga/h...



Save



How to Clean Golf Clubs Step-By-Step

Article from ThoughtCo

Cleaning your golf clubs is an important chore that needs to be performed every so often to help keep your... [More](#)

AlliOJarrett
@AQJB

Super job by all volunteers and scoring @TexasGolfAssn @USGA playoff board about to be filled with scores!



Women on Course
@women_oc

Ten new #golfers in the making with our new Golf101 program starting in Dallas with @TexasGolfAssn @golfgirlie21



Like and Follow Us!

The Big Number

Number of times McKinney native Jake Kuwitzky has sunk the Jackie Burke Cup-clinching putt for the Legends Junior Tour's North Texas team. A homeschooled senior who recently signed a Letter of Intent with Texas Tech, **Kuwitzky saved par with a 4-foot putt** on the 18th hole at The Cascades Club to seal the 2017 JBC for North Texas. It was déjà vu for the winner of the 2017 Jimmy Demaret Junior Classic. In 2016, Kuwitzky rallied from 4-down against Ben Wong and **drained a similar-length putt** to deliver a JBC victory to North Texas at Escondido Golf & Lake Club. ★

They Said It

“As an all-too-recent witness to the powerful and destructive ability of Mother Nature, it is a privilege for Champions Golf Club to be able to host the 31st U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur.”

– 2016 Curtis Cup Captain & Champions GC Vice President Robin Burke on her club stepping up to host the **USGA Championship** after Hurricane Irma forced relocation from Quail Creek CC in Naples, Fla.

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Allied Associations

