MARK MIELKE, PGA EARN LOW CLUB PROFESSIONAL AT SENIOR PGA CHAMPIONSHIP
I hope you all have had the opportunity to enjoy a little down time after the busy season and you are getting out to play some golf. We are in the heart of our tournament season and our 2nd major championship of the year will be played in less than two weeks with the E-Z-GO South Florida Open at Bonita Bay Club Naples. We have a variety of events scheduled throughout the summer ranging from individual stroke play events to team events that incorporate various social activities. Many PGA Professionals have indicated to us that some of the most valuable experiences to them have come from the networking and camaraderie that happens at section and chapter activities.

June 15th marked the end of the current MSR cycle. For those of you that were not able to complete your requirements for recertification please reach out to us so we can help you with a plan to work back to class A status. There are a variety of online options you can choose as well as section and chapter education that will continue through the end of the year.

As many of you will see when reading through this edition of Topics newsletter we have ushered a change based upon board direction in the content and frequency of the newsletter. The section board of directors recently voted to change distribution of the newsletter to quarterly. The purpose of this change is to help in the redundancy of information that is being distributed. Currently the section distributes content through a variety of methods; website, email blasts, newsletters, text messaging, and all of our social media channels. The change will result in more current information being distributed in our weekly email blast while the newsletter will contain more member interest stories. This is where we need your help! We need your help in communicating various member interest stories.

Do you have a great program at your facility? 
Do you have a great story of how golf has impacted your life? 
Do you have a unique story of how you were attracted to the business?

We have transitioned items that we refer to as milestone markers to the last weekly email blast of each month. These milestone markers will contain information such as pro’s on the go, quarter century members, and other unique accomplishments by our membership.

We hope you will enjoy the new format of the newsletter and we hope you will identify some great stories that we can share with your peers.
Viomar Country Club in Vero Beach, FL hosted their 28th Annual Golf-A-Thon supporting the VNA & Hospice Foundation in early May. VNA’s annual Golf-A-Thon is unique because devoted local PGA Professionals come together and unite with volunteers from the participating golf clubs to raise funds that help to make a difference in the lives of those living in Indian River County; those who are most in need of healthcare assistance. Teamwork distinguishes the VNA Golf-A-Thon from all other fundraising golf events. This year, twelve South Florida PGA Professionals played 135 holes of golf. The Golf-A-Thon raised $330,000! The grand total raised over the last 28 years is approximately $4,300,000.
It's no secret that we are officially in rainy season here in south Florida. With daily showers over the past month (at least) the annual dates of May 15th through October 15th, similar to those of hurricane season, are evident that we are in the trenches of what can be the most dangerous time of the year for weather. The lighting show in the sky has been beautiful to look at but also poses as a threat. Florida has been marked as the "lightening capital" with 5-10 people losing their lives annually from lightning strikes. Florida gets, on average, 70 percent of its rain during this time period which explains why we all feel like we're swimming.

We've got a few tips for keeping you safe on and off the course:

1. Stay Informed- check the forecast on a regular basis. We all know that the weather can change in the blink of an eye.
2. Afternoon showers are the most predictable in Florida- don’t forget.
3. Stay Hydrated- with extremely warm temperatures and above normal humidity, it’s imperative that you drink plenty of water.
4. Wear Sunblock- the sun is the strongest in the summer, avoid the burn and lather on the block!
5. Hurricanes Are Real- have a plan in place for your facility and family.

You can never be over prepared for the south Florida weather. Take a look at the Earth Networks article on the next page for some more ideas in keeping yourself, staff and facility safe this summer.
Caves Valley relies on an outdoor alerting system to safeguard players & caddies

Caves Valley Golf Club is a member-owned golf club located in Owings Mills, Maryland. With 962 acres of rolling hills, pastures, woods, and wetlands, Caves Valley is a spectacular setting for a golf club. With a limit of 600 members who frequent a 18-hole, all-walking course, Caves Valley has been a popular East Coast golfing destination for over 20 years.

Faster lead times needed

Caves Valley Golf Club is an all-walking facility, so they rarely have carts on the golf course. Each golfer gets a caddie and walks the 18-hole course. With frequent dangerous summer thunderstorms rolling through the Maryland area, Caves Valley realized they needed a quicker lead time to bring golfers and caddies in from the spread out course.

Real-time radar and lightning alerts

The head golf professionals at Caves Valley Golf Club monitor developing weather patterns using Earth Networks online weather visualization. The visualization system shows real-time lightning data so they can track lightning patterns and watch storms rolling towards the course. If lightning or other dangerous forms of severe weather are detected within 6 miles of the golf club, the course springs into action.

Why it matters

By monitoring severe weather, Caves Valley is able to bring golfers and caddies off the course and out of harm’s way within ten minutes. “We now have the safety and security of a system that works with 100% accuracy,” says Matt Fuller, Head Golf Professional at Caves Valley Golf Club. They are able to confidently and quickly take players off of the course before the lightning actually strikes. Online weather visualization from Earth Networks has been a phenomenal safety asset for Caves Valley Golf Club.

For us, actually going onto the Earth Networks site and looking at all of the different lightning strikes and seeing the lightning patterns move in – There isn’t any other radar site that we’ve found that has been as good as Earth Networks

Matt Fuller, Head Golf Professional at Caves Valley Golf Club

The most advanced real-time weather visualization

Overview

Caves Valley Golf Club has used Earth Networks online weather visualization solution for over three years, all season long on their 18-hole, all-walking golf course in Owings Mills, Maryland.

Challenges

Keep golfers and caddies safe on a large, all-walking golf course during Maryland’s stormy summer months.

Solution

Use Earth Networks online weather visualization tool with over 25 layers of weather information to monitor total lightning and alerts for a 6-mile radius around the club.

Results

Caves Valley is able is able to protect walking golfers and caddies from severe weather, especially lightning, by monitoring real-time weather conditions and bringing them out of harm’s way before lightning is a threat.
On the golf course, in the classroom and throughout his community recent high school graduate Tyler Nagy exceeds expectations. His efforts did not go unnoticed when applying for the South Florida PGA Foundation Scholarship. Valedictorian of Sebastian River High School, Nagy is the first to receive this scholarship, with the purpose to support local high school seniors in pursuing higher education. Attending Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida; Nagy plans to study Mathematics and complete his master’s in business administration while playing on the men’s soccer team.

“I am honored to be the first recipient of the South Florida PGA Foundation Scholarship,” said Tyler. “I plan to use the scholarship to help pay for my undergraduate costs of attendance at Rollins.” Nagy further explained it would allow him to focus on gaining further education in graduate school. New in 2018, the SFPGA Foundation Scholarship is a $20,000 scholarship divvied up into four-year installments of $5,000. Each year the student will receive funding upon approval of their academic standing. The purpose is to build relationships with scholarship recipients and continue to support junior golfers like Nagy; who participated in South Florida PGA programs like Drive, Chip and Putt and PGA Junior League.

Along with the support of the South Florida PGA Foundation, Tyler said his biggest supporters are his parents April and Bela Nagy. Being the son of a PGA Professional, Tyler began playing golf at a young age and acquired love for the game and the many friends and memories that came along with it. “The scholarship application process allowed me to put into words my love for golf and the way the game has helped me grow as a person,” said Nagy. “As well as let me showcase the work I have done in high school.” For his CAS (Community, Activity, Service) Project needed for his International Baccalaureate Diploma Program while in high school, Tyler knew right away what he wanted to do. “I immediately knew I wanted to do a golf tournament. I also knew I wanted to honor Jimmy’s life, and soon began formulating the Jimmy Grave’s Memorial Golf Tournament.” Tyler explained in his scholarship application Jimmy was a classmate and teammate that passed away in a tragic boating accident in 2016. Nagy was able to raise over $6,000 for the Jimmy Graves Foundation.

The South Florida PGA Foundation is proud to support Tyler Nagy in his future endeavors, based on his academic, philanthropic and valuable achievements. We look forward to seeing what is next for Tyler. We are excited to see him achieve his career goals of becoming an accountant or consultant and work towards becoming a Chief Financial Officer. Until then, we will be checking in to make sure he continues to grow and achieve all he set out to at Rollins College. Maybe he can check off some items from his collegiate bucket list like play soccer for four years, take as many classes as possible, and study abroad in Italy or Hungary. For more information on the South Florida PGA Foundation or how you could support students like Tyler click here now.
PGA TOUR PLAYER JAMIE LOVEMARK VISITS VETERANS PROGRAM AT PGA HOPE

Who flies, travels across the world, and seeks to help others in whatever way possible? This superhero persona is PGA TOUR player Jamie Lovemark. On June 6th, Jamie visited twenty veterans participating in the PGA HOPE program hosted at The Country Club at Mirasol. He told tales of his favorite golf courses, explained his practice schedule, growing up playing multiple sports and shared his love of dogs and learning how to fly an airplane. The military personnel in attendance got to ask Lovemark questions while he displayed his praiseworthy golf skills.

These veterans participate in PGA HOPE (helping our patriots everywhere). This is a free, eight-week golf program for local veterans where they acquire new golf skills from PGA Professionals. The flagship program of the PGA’s national Foundation, PGA REACH; it serves as a means of therapeutic rehabilitation to get veterans out the door and back into civilization. Each week, participants learn course management skills, golf etiquette and improve their golf game. The South Florida PGA has provided this program to close to 400 veterans since 2015.

When asked why he visited HOPE, Lovemark explained that he wanted to help however he could. “These individuals have given and sacrificed so much,” said Lovemark, “it’s the least I could do.”

The two-hour class began with a brief lesson from one of the PGA Professionals leading the class, which would mirror a typical HOPE session. Then the visiting Tour professional gave a forty-five-minute clinic on his golf swing, overall game and answered a wide variety of questions. He met some requests for trick shots while showcasing his golf skills on the driving range. This included seeing just how close to the ground he could keep the ball, since he expressed just how much he had been preparing for the upcoming British Open at Carnoustie in July.

Jamie’s final words of advice to the class of servicemen and women included not getting too frustrated when playing. “It’s just the game of golf,” Lovemark added. “This coming from a guy who plays for life,” added one of the PGA HOPE instructors, Colin Amaral, PGA. These veterans will be able to put to use Lovemark’s advice, during their graduation class.
The South Florida PGA is proud to announce that nine local juniors have been awarded as 2018 National PGA Scholarship winners. All nine are children of PGA members from our Section, and some are alumni of our SFPGA Junior Tour. There were two scholarships these juniors applied for, the 2018 John Cox Scholarship of $5,000 and the 2018 National Scholarship of $2,000. Both scholarships are based on academic merits to assist the children and grandchildren of PGA members pursuing their higher education. Due to available funds, the PGA was able to award a total of $402,000 to 186 scholarship recipients.

The nine scholarship recipients from south Florida received a total of $21,000 through the PGA Financial Assistance Fund. Five of the winners are currently high school seniors beginning college in the fall, the rest are in college pursuing their chosen degree. You can find a list below entailing the details of the PGA National Scholarships awards in 2018:

Grayce Harris -- National Scholarship  
McKenzie Kicker -- National Scholarship  
Brian King -- National Scholarship  
Tyler Nagy -- National Scholarship  
Ryan Vassalotti -- National Scholarship  
Tim Graham -- National Scholarship  
Anastatia Keiting -- John Cox Scholarship  
Kathryn King -- National Scholarship  
Bennett Ragan -- National Scholarship

Congratulations to all the recipients and their families!
Working on face impact is a common phrase usually applied to a golf club by PGA Professionals. However, on Saturday May 19th it was applied to swinging hammers instead of golf clubs for fifteen PGA Professionals in Vero Beach. The South Florida PGA Foundation was onsite for the wall raising of their seventh home sponsored with Habitat for Humanity. Local PGA Professionals, SFPGA Board members and SFPGA Foundation Board members were in attendance, and lending a helping hand to Melissa Arduini and her four sons.

The day began with a brief ceremony, recognizing the impact that this home would have on the life of the Arduini family. Remarks were made on behalf the South Florida PGA Foundation, by its President Tom Wildenhaus. On the soon-to-be porch of the unfinished home, Wildenhaus expressed just how important it was to the SFPGA Foundation to be a part of an organization such as Habitat for Humanity. Because of their investment in a family and not a building, and giving back to communities on a personal level were just some of the reasons the SFPGA Foundation chose to support Habitat during its inception in 2011.

Once all of the speeches were finished, the front wall was raised by the Arduini family and PGA Professionals in attendance. Then the real work began.

For the next four hours, our PGA Professionals were nailing plywood into place, roofing a neighboring home, and performing various tasks that turned a shell into the beginnings of a home. In the next three months there are designated work days for PGA Professionals all across the Section to participate in and contribute to the completion of this home. Once a month, they can come out and lend a helping hand to turning a blueprint into a reality. Those dates are July 17th and August 8th.

This home will serve as the halfway point for the SFPGA Foundation’s goal of completing a home in every county within the confines of our Section. This encompasses 14 counties plus Puerto Rico. With the commitment comes a financial gift of $50,000 per home, along with volunteers to help build the home. Once all 15 homes have been built, the Foundation will have granted $750,000 to Habitat for Humanity throughout south Florida and more than 15,000 volunteer hours.

To sign up to volunteer and help build our seventh home, please email the Foundations Programs Coordinator Michelle Goda at mgoda@pgahq.com. We hope that you will be a part of turning this home into a reality by supporting our Foundation or lending your time. Please click here to learn how you can support the South Florida PGA Foundation.
Using Yoga to Help Grow the Game

Phil Grear has his teacher certification from the Yoga Alliance

By Kara Marsom

Does yoga really improve your students’ golf games? Most definitely, if you ask certified yoga instructor Phil Grear, a PGA Assistant Professional at Forest Glen Golf & Country Club in Naples, Florida.

“I would say that an hour of yoga will benefit the average golfer more than three hours on the driving range hitting balls,” he explains. “Many of the mistakes the average golfer makes is due to either some physical limitation or the inability to maintain focus during play.”

Grear, 59, is such a believer in the benefits of yoga that he took the necessary steps to obtain his teacher certification from the Yoga Alliance last June.

“The yoga classes I offer at Forest Glen are a way of reaching out and connecting with members,” he says. “As a teacher — whether it be the golf swing or yoga — I have always felt the ‘care factor’ is critical in delivering what is taught.”

Grear (pictured left and above) admits he has been consumed by golf since he was introduced to the game as a 10-year-old in Augusta, Georgia. But it was only later in life he would stumble upon an unforeseen “secret weapon” to help others improve their golf games — yoga.

Chronic pain triggered Grear to give yoga a try nearly 10 years ago. “After having a couple of MRIs, the diagnosis was stenosis in the spine, arthritis in the left shoulder, and a pinched nerve in my neck. I was very opposed to living on pain medications. “When I learned of a neighbor who taught yoga in our community, who also played golf, I started attending her classes.”

Within a couple of months, Grear’s back was feeling much better and he no longer had discomfort in his shoulder or arm. He knew then that he needed to introduce yoga to the members at Forest Glen, and the sooner the better.

In 2014, Grear made the decision to bring a yoga instructor in to teach a class at Forest Glen. But about a year into the endeavor, he realized it was mostly women who were taking the classes. Assuming the stigma around yoga being traditionally viewed as a women’s activity, Grear had an epiphany — if he were teaching the yoga classes himself, maybe more men would participate. So in October of 2016, Grear enrolled in intensive instructor training. Within a few months, he became registered with Yoga Alliance, RYT 200.

As a certified yoga instructor, Grear pioneered a class, cleverly titled “Yoga Fore Golf,” which he hoped would be inclusive and less intimidating to male members. “Before each class, I always convey an aspect of the golf swing to the students first to answer the ‘whys.’ For example, one class may be devoted to impact, another to separation, or alignments, and then breath work for improved focus for playing,” says Grear.

“The yoga classes I offer at Forest Glen are a way of reaching out and connecting with members.”
— Phil Grear, PGA

His yoga classes have been met with much praise and gratitude from members who were able to tap into certain aspects of their game they never knew they were missing. Forest Glen member Mike Flynn, one of Grear’s students, says he has learned the importance of balance through yoga as it relates to golf.

“Phil really helped me improve on my game. I didn’t realize balance was as important as it was before taking his class,” explains Flynn. “His ability to relate postures to golf is very beneficial. I attribute his class to my ability to stay limber and flexible on the course.”

Grear’s teaching has benefited numerous members at Forest Glen, and he maintains the notation that everyone’s golf game can be improved upon through the practice of yoga.

“My enjoyment with yoga is in the self discipline it gives to anyone who is willing to practice it. That same practice carries over into golf,” says Grear. “Golf is a game and yoga is a practice. And a better game evolves out of good practices.”
How I got involved with golf: In 1994, a small driving range and a 6 hole course with artificial turf greens opened up in Grindelwald, Switzerland! My dad and I started together that summer!

When I decided to be a PGA member: I've played as a playing professional since 2010, on different tours around the world, I didn’t have the breakthrough I needed to continue chasing the dream! As my passion for golf will never end, I decided to start the PGA PGM program in March of 2018!

My favorite playing memory: A dusty, gravel road leading up to the clubhouse to Barnbougle Dunes Golf Links in Tasmania, Australia, the small clubhouse was in sight, but from the minute you walk on the terrace the whole landscape of the golf course and ocean opens up, I truly forgot my score that day and had the best walk on a golf course in my life! Hitting golf shots came secondary! Amazing course tucked away on the ocean bank on the north side of Tasmania!

One thing about me that most people don’t know: The one thing I would have to eat for the rest of my life, if I had no other options, would be sautéed brussels sprouts with bacon and walnuts!
How I got involved with golf: I was introduced to golf around seven years old, through my father and my grandparents, going to golf clinics at our local club and watching it on television as well. I was hooked!

When I decided to be a PGA member: Golf is something that has always been a big part of my life. Playing as well as helping others has come naturally. I landed at an amazing club, Colliers Reserve. My Director was very supportive and encouraging of the idea to make the PGA my career path.

My favorite playing memory: My best golf memory would have to be, my brother who rarely plays, grabbing a random three iron and jarring it on a par three from the back tees. He did this on a closest to pin contest he was not in.

One thing about me that most people don’t know: One thing about me people don’t know; I know how to properly hand prune woody ornamental shrubs.
From Karl Stearns with KMS Marketing Solutions to Jim Butler, PGA with Club Benchmarking, over 40 SFPGA Professionals had the opportunity to hear valuable information about characteristics of a successful business and getting extraordinary results from ordinary people.

Immediately following the seminar, the Annual Meeting of the Membership presented by Discover and PGA National Golf Resort and Spa, was held with over 120 members in attendance. During the meeting PGA Professionals Bill Harley, PGA Head Professional at Wildcat Run Golf & Country Club and Bob Radunz, PGA General Manager at The Quarry Golf Club took their Oath of Office as they step into their new roles in the Southwest Chapter. Bill was recently elected as the Southwest Chapter President and Bob is the At-Large Board Member.

Thanks to Weston Hills Country Club and PGA General Manager, Jason Waters for hosting the event, and thanks to all those who attended.
The Junior Golf Tour is in full swing! The South Florida PGA Junior Tour offers many great programs for junior golfers of all skill levels at your facilities. Getting your juniors involved in tournament golf is a great way to continue to build the love for the game and keep them engaged at your facility. Our wide range of programs from Team Golf to our Championship Tour ensures each junior golfer in South Florida has a place to play. For more information on the South Florida PGA Junior Tour, be sure to visit www.sfpgajuniorgolf.com or contact Jake Weir at jweir@pgahq.com.

The Junior Golf department is always looking for PGA Members to volunteer at events. Volunteering at Junior Golf Tournaments is a great way to give back to the game we all love. Volunteers will earn 1 MSR credit per hour worked. If you are interested in volunteering at any of our Junior Golf Tournaments, please contact Jake Weir at jweir@pgahq.com.

**CLICK HERE TO VIEW ALL THE JUNIOR TOUR EVENTS FOR 2018**
Marisa Messana, a South Florida PGA Junior Tour Alumnus and a 2014 graduate of American Heritage School in Plantation, has made her mark on and off the golf course at Clemson University. She is one of, if not, the most decorated golfer in the program’s history. Messana was the first ever four-year starter for Clemson University’s Women’s Golf team, and managed to do so while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. This led to her earning the Elite 90 Award for the 2017 season.

This award is given to the athlete with the highest GPA at the national tournament. Messana was also inducted into the Clemson Athletics Academic Hall of Fame and earned the Solid Orange Athlete Award for demonstrating leadership, athletic performance, community service, academic excellence, and sportsmanship. Additionally, Messana is one of five Division I women’s golfers to be named a Strength All-American by the National Strength and Conditioning Association. She has earned a host of awards over her time at Clemson University and continues to push herself in everything she strives to accomplish.

Looking forward, after graduating in three and a half years and starting graduate school her final semester at Clemson, Messana plans to finish graduate school while preparing for LPGA qualifying school which will be held in California later this summer. We wish Marisa the best of luck and look forward to seeing what her future holds.
With the rainy season upon us, casual water starts to become an issue for events in south Florida. By definition in Section II of the Rules of Golf, casual water is classified as an “abnormal ground condition.” The relief under Rule 25-1b for this situation is pretty simple when it occurs “through the green.” As a reminder, “through the green” refers to the whole area of the course except the teeing ground of the hole being played, the putting green of the hole being played, and all hazards on the course. Casual water is considered to be interfering with a player when it affects his or her lie, stance, or area of intended swing. If this interference occurs “through the green” and a player wishes to take relief then the ball must be lifted and dropped within one club length of the nearest point of relief no closer to the hole with no penalty.

This rule becomes a bit more complicated if this interference occurs in a bunker. If complete relief from the condition is available, then the same procedure as above can be used as long as the ball stays in the bunker. If complete relief is impossible, then the player has two options: 1) Under no penalty, lift the ball and drop at a point as near as possible to the spot where the ball lays that affords maximum relief available from the condition as long as that spot is no closer to the hole. 2) Under penalty of ONE STROKE, lift and drop the ball outside of the bunker while keeping the spot where the ball lay between you and the hole.

*The ball may be cleaned when lifted under Rule 25-1b*
A LOOK AHEAD

CHAPTER EVENTS

Southwest Chapter

June 21st
Pro-Pro Championship
The Club at Grandezza

July 20th
Global Golf Sales Event #2
Imperial Golf Club

Southeast Chapter

June 22nd
Pro-Scratch Event
PGA Golf Club

July 6th
HP/AA/SR Championship
Hobe Sound Golf Club

July 16th
Team Championship Event
St. Andrews Country Club

August 3rd
Par 3 Pro-Pro Event
Palm Beach Par 3 Golf Course

Southern Chapter

June 21st
Senior Only Chapter Event
Woodmont Country Club

July 2nd
Pro-Pro
Fort Lauderdale Country Club

July 16th
Individual Stroke Play Event
Grande Oaks Golf Club

SECTION EVENTS

June 25th
Tournament Series #1
Bonita Bay Club

June 26th-28th
EZGO South Florida Open
Bonita Bay Club

June 30th
Pro-Junior Championship
Stonebridge Country Club

July 9th-10th
Yamaha/Callaway Pro-Pro Championship
Naples Beach Club

July 19th-20th
Florida Senior Open Qualifier
Turtle Creek Club/The Club Pelican Bay

July 23rd
Yamaha Junior-Senior
Jupiter Country Club

July 28th-August 4th
Travel Pro-Am
Ireland

Don’t forget to follow all things SFPGA via social media!

LEADERSHIP IS NOT A POSITION OR A TITLE, IT IS ACTION AND EXAMPLE

PRO’S ON THE GO  NEW MEMBERS  NEW APPRENTICES