



TENNESSEE
GOLF
FOUNDATION

2022 PROGRESS REPORT



The mission of the Tennessee Golf Foundation

To promote golf and its life-enhancing
values, with an emphasis on teaching
youth, veterans and the disadvantaged.

The TGF utilizes its resources in each region of Tennessee - including regional directors and staff - to positively impact the game and its participants, regardless of age, gender or ethnicity.

Tennessee is a model state for the rest of the country in such areas as: cooperative golf administration, junior golf development, The First Tee, and a cooperative culture that emphasizes collaboration between amateurs and professionals, men and women, juniors and seniors.

TGF programming is currently in 62 of the 95 counties in Tennessee, impacting 42,200 youth annually.

ON THE COVER: Tennessee's PGA HOPE ambassadors retired Master Sergeant Steve Reed and retired Specialist E-5 Clark Harrison

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

WHIT TURNBOW

PRESIDENT OF THE
TENNESSEE GOLF FOUNDATION
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Studies show there are a number of reasons people choose to give to certain causes and organizations. I would argue that of those reasons, most notably, are a couple that stand out in my mind.

First, they believe in and understand your MISSION. Your mission is key as a platform in which your organization stands firmly upon and becomes the front door to new supporters.

Over the last couple of years, I have watched intently as our Tennessee Golf Foundation staff and the Tennessee Section PGA partnered to deliver PGA HOPE.

The program (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) is the flagship military program of the PGA of America and introduces golf to Veterans with disabilities to enhance their physical, mental, social and emotional well-being. The program introduces the game of golf through a developmental 6 to 8 week curriculum, taught by Tennessee PGA Professionals trained in adaptive golf and military cultural competency. The cost of programming is free to all Veterans. On the cover of this year's report, you will find two of our national PGA HOPE ambassadors, Clark Harrison





and Steve Reed.

It became clear that Veteran programming should be and remain an integral part of the offerings here at Golf House Tennessee and around our state. So, in 2022, I asked our board to consider an amendment to our mission statement to include our Veterans, which they unanimously approved.

The Tennessee Golf Foundation mission statement now reads: ***"To promote golf and its life enhancing values, with an emphasis on teaching youth, our veterans, and the disadvantaged."***

I am happy to report that in 2023, with the help of our friends at Delta Dental, we will deliver PGA HOPE clinics in 10 program locations throughout Tennessee!

The second and possibly most important reason people give is they TRUST your organization. Building long lasting philanthropic relationships takes time and transparency. For more than 30 years, the TGF has worked hard to build and maintain your trust by providing meaningful and life-altering programming in every region of our great state. You will see inside this report lots of the opportunities that have reached more than 40,000 people in 2022 and continue to grow and expand.

We have a staff of good, smart, hardworking individuals who have a heart

for those in need and a governing board that expects nothing but the best and are willing to roll up their sleeves and join the fight. I could not be prouder of our team!

Finally, beyond time and transparency, trust is built with a genuine THANK YOU. Knowing that an organization truly appreciates your gift of time, talent or resources, is the icing on the cake, assuring the donor that they matter. Each and every gift regardless of denomination, means something. It means a scholarship can be given; it means a coach can be hired to start a new class. It may mean that a blind student finds inspiration in hearing the sound of a putt dropping in the hole for the first time.

So, please know from my chair, you are loved, and you are valued. We cannot accomplish what we do, year in and year out, without the support of individual and corporate donations. Thank you in advance for your support, and I look forward to seeing you out on the course!

All my best wishes,

Who we are at **GOLF HOUSE** TENNESSEE

Cooperative Culture Partners



Amateurs



Juniors



Professionals

Allied Associations



Facilities

Youth Programs



Adult Initiatives



Rob Long to be inducted into Tennessee Golf HOF in '23

Winner of 10 TGA state titles, including two Tennessee Opens; Clarksville native has made 15 USGA national tournament appearances

■ One of the winningest amateur golfers in Tennessee history will become the 54th member of the Tennessee Golf Hall of Fame this coming March.

Rob Long is set to be inducted during a ceremony scheduled for March 25th in his hometown of Clarksville.

Long is a two-time Tennessee State Open champion (1987, 2003) and a winner of 10 TGA state titles overall - three Tennessee Mid-Amateurs (1988, 89, 91), three Tennessee Four-Balls (1996, 97, 07), the 1987 Tennessee Match Play and the 2002 Tennessee Two-Man Scramble.

On the national level, he has made 15 appearances in United States Golf Association (USGA) championships, including four United States Amateur tournaments, six U.S. Public Links, three U.S. Mid-Amateurs, one U.S. Senior Open and one

State Team Championship.

In 1999, Long played in the U.S. Amateur at Pebble Beach - eventually won by fellow Tennessee Golf Hall of Fame inductee David Gossett - and opened match play with a win over PGA Tour player Charley Hoffman before suffering a close 1-up defeat to another Tour player, Hunter Haas.



Long was an All-Ohio Valley Conference standout at Austin Peay State University in the 1970s before turning professional in 1980. He regained his amateur status five years later.

Long and his wife, Ruth Ann, have one son, Robbie.



TGF SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

THE STALLINGS FAMILY

TENNESSEE GOLF FOUNDATION PERSONS OF THE YEAR

■ Scott and Jennifer Stallings of Knoxville have been named the Society of Tennessee Golf Persons of the Year for 2022. This award is selected by the board and executive staff members of the Tennessee Golf Foundation, and is awarded to an individual(s) who has gone above and beyond in their contribution to growing the game in Tennessee.

"How Scott and Jennifer have impacted the game globally, and most notably here in Tennessee, we will never know the full extent," TGF president Whit Turnbow said. "The number of people who have drawn inspiration from Scott's journey, both on and off the course, cannot be measured. The doors Kids Play Free has opened for kids to play in an affordable manner are countless. We are proud to recognize the Stallings family for their tremendous contributions to the game in our great state."

The Stallings family partnered with the Tennessee Golf Foundation in 2018 to start the Scott



Stallings Kids Play Free program. Through that program, juniors under the age of 18 could play unlimited golf year round at par-three courses Concord Park and Beverly Park in Knoxville. The program has expanded in recent years to include The Patch in Oak Ridge, Bloomfield Links in Murfreesboro, and Bear Trace Cumberland Mountain in Crossville.

The Stallings family also continues to host the Tennessee Junior Cup, which just celebrated its 11th year. The event is a Ryder Cup-style event that puts the top juniors from the east and west sides of the state against each other in a three-day gathering at The Grove Club. Scott and Jennifer are at the course every day of the Junior Cup, interacting with the players and families.

The Stallings family hosted several other events in 2022 to support the TGF, including: two fundraising dinners at the Walnut Kitchen; The Scotty, a state-wide junior four-ball championship; a Kids Play Free fundraising tournament at Holston Hills. Scott also made appearances at TGF events throughout the year, just to show his support.



TGF SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

SWEETENS COVE GOLF CLUB

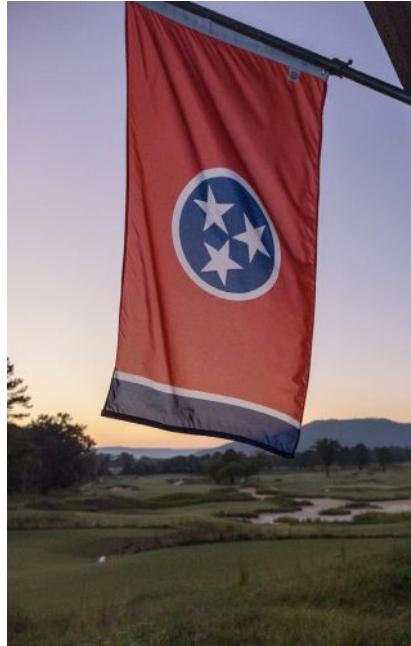
TENNESSEE GOLF IMPACT AWARD

■ The Tennessee Golf Foundation annually recognizes the general manager, golf professional or administrator who exemplifies the supportive spirit of the TGF's mission and goes above and beyond to support youth golf initiatives in the state. We recognize them with the Tennessee Golf Foundation Golf Impact Award.

For the year 2022, the TGF is pleased to honor the staff at Sweetens Cove Golf Course in South Pittsburg, Tenn, including Matt Adamski, PGA, Colt Layne, Rob Collins and Jon Rife.

"Matt and his team of owners at Sweetens Cove have embraced all that is good with the ever changing landscape of golf," said TGF president Whit Turnbow. "The game needs faster, more social, and unique opportunities to continue to grow, and Sweetens delivers on that everyday. We are proud to honor them all with our Impact Award for 2022."

Sweetens Cove is an award-winning 9-hole course that has been ranked as the top public



course in Tennessee for several years now.

Though anyone can play it, access to the course is somewhat limited because Sweetens Cove only makes available a certain number of green fees for each day of the year, and they almost immediately sell out when they go on sale at the start of the season.

That makes it even more special what Adamski and the staff did this year, allowing multiple TGF-related events to have full use of the course.

This was highlighted by the inaugural Rally in the Valley with PGA Tour pro Scott Stallings in September. A month later, music artist Drew Holcomb and his brother Sam Holcomb brought 40 of their closest friends to Sweetens Cove for a gathering to benefit the First Tee of Tennessee.

Sweetens Cove also gave the Sneds Tour a day to host a summer tournament this year.

TGF amends mission statement to prioritize veteran initiatives

PGA HOPE program is expanding across the state as more veterans enjoy the life benefits of golf

■ At the end of 2021, Tennessee Golf Foundation president Whit Turnbow took the steps necessary to amend the organization's mission statement to include veteran initiatives.

It now reads: "To promote golf and its life enhancing values, with an emphasis on teaching youth, our veterans, and the disadvantaged."

"With the development of PGA Hope and the growing momentum behind creating meaningful programming for those who have so valiantly served our country, we were thrilled to partner with the Tennessee Section PGA to help bolster their efforts in making sure we can continue to expand HOPE programming throughout Tennessee," Turnbow explained.

In recent years, the PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere) has expanded across the state, thanks in large part to the Tennessee Section PGA, The Little Course PGA Professional Valerie Vaughn, and the PGA Professionals in the state who are organizing the program at their respective courses.

PGA HOPE was first introduced at Golf House Tennessee in 2016, under the guidance of Vaughn and the Tennessee Section PGA.

Delta Dental is now the statewide sponsor of PGA HOPE and a major reason why the program continues to grow and impact more people.



2022 Progress Report

There were two different programs held in both the spring and fall: a six-week introductory class, and a five-week league for those who have already been through the program.

Since the program started in 2016, a total of 179 veterans have graduated from PGA HOPE at Golf House Tennessee.

The spring and fall classes had a total of 47 veterans graduate, while the leagues combined to have 38 participants.

In 2022, PGA HOPE took place at seven different courses in Tennessee: Golf House Tennessee, Nashville National, Old Fort, Centennial Golf Course, Indian Hills Golf Course, Pine Oaks Golf Course and the UTC Practice Facility. Three more courses are slated to add PGA Hope next year.

Over 22 percent of participants are homeless and rely on transportation from Veteran Affairs. Seventy-one percent of those who have graduated had never touched a golf club before coming to PGA HOPE.

The program relies heavily on volunteers, with over 400 assisting since 2016. There is also a junior golf aspect to it as area juniors will come to the classes and the year-end graduation scramble to play with the veterans.

For anyone interested in PGA HOPE, either as a participant or a volunteer, contact Valerie Vaughn at (615) 465-6323 with any questions.

USGA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



Ingram, Heck help lead USA to Curtis Cup victory at Merion

■ The United States captured the Curtis Cup for the second time in as many years in 2022, and once again two Tennesseans helped lead the way at Merion Golf Club.

Sarah Ingram of Nashville captained the USA for the second time, while Rachel Heck of Memphis was a playing member.

The two also were part of the victorious squad in Conwy, Wales in the Covid delayed version in 2021.

TGF FACILITIES REPORT

THE LITTLE COURSE

at Conner Lane and Golf House Tennessee

■ The Little Course at Conner Lane and Golf House Tennessee Learning Center once again provided a full season of accessible, affordable, beginner-friendly golf to Tennessee families in 2022. The Little Course hosted over 20,000 rounds of golf this year, all while delivering hundreds of player development and instruction programs for players of all levels of experience and ability.

- The annual TPGA Junior Golf Academy celebrated its 50th season, with 16 multi-day junior golf camps for a total of 256 boys and girls.

- The GHT Learning Center delivered over 500 Junior Development programs including golf clinics, after-school learning leagues, junior

and family golf tournaments.

- The Little Course played host to a full schedule of PGA Junior League Golf events representing four full





The TPGA Junior Golf Academy at Golf House Tennessee celebrated its 50th season of multi-day junior golf camps with over 256 attendees this summer.

teams consisting of 48 new and returning junior players.

- The Little Course hosted nearly 100 home school students participating in our PE Golf Engagement program – designed to expose and engage new golfers through our spring and fall semester class offerings. Our staff will also visit area elementary schools during the winter season to expose several thousand students to golf through introductory Welcome to Golf In School classes.

- The Little Course staff delivered nearly 70 programs for adult beginners with over 600 participants in 2022. Both our Senior

and Ladies programs had record participation in 2022.

- Our on-site PGA Hope program



also had record military veteran participation as our staff, in conjunction with the Tennessee PGA and the area golf community, provided instruction, practice range access and complimentary greens fees for our military veterans in this highly impactful program.

- In addition to our full slate of group programming, our staff of highly dedicated PGA teaching professionals provided over 2,000 private and semi-private golf lessons.

TGF FACILITIES REPORT

The VinnyLinks | Nashville

The home of First Tee of Tennessee, with over 500 students in our Middle Tennessee program. Operated by the TGF in cooperation with Metro Parks. The course saw a total of 14,475 rounds played in 2022, ranging from public play, to First Tee and junior golf programming, to seniors.

The Barn at Beverly Park | Knoxville

One of two par-3 courses in Knoxville operated by the TGF, Beverly Park allows all junior golfers to play at no charge thanks to the Scott Stallings Kids Play Free Program. The course saw 5,442 total rounds in 2022, including 2,397 Kids Play Free rounds (17.4% increase from 2021).

Concord Park | Knoxville

One of two par-three courses in Knoxville operated by the TGF, Concord Park allows all junior golfers to play at no charge thanks to the Scott Stallings Kids Play Free Program. The course saw 17,263 total rounds in 2022 (9% increase), including 6,114 Kids Play Free rounds (17.4% increase).

BEVERLY PARK REBRANDED AS 'THE BARN SHORT COURSE'

TGF-OPERATED COURSE GETS NEW GREENS, NEW IDENTITY IN 2022

■ The Barn Short Course at Beverly Park, formerly Beverly Park Par 3 Golf Course, underwent a complete greens renovation and rebranding in 2022. The renovations were spearheaded by the Knox County Parks and Recreation Department and the University of Tennessee Department of Plant Sciences.

"Providing the best golf experience is one of the goals for Knox County Parks and Recreation," said Mark Brown, Director of Golf for Knox County. "With the help of University of Tennessee professors Brosnan and Horvath, the Tennessee Golf Foundation, and use of multiple assets from Knox County, our golfing community won!"

The greens renovation process began in May when the previous putting surfaces were eliminated with herbicides and debris was removed via fraise mowing. USGA funded research at the University of Tennessee found that this integrated practice enhances the effectiveness of the



process compared to just spraying herbicide alone. On June 28th the greens were sprigged with Sunday bermudagrass. After the sprigging, the greens followed a recommended grow-in program from UT Extension to facilitate establishment.

In addition to the new greens, the course underwent a name change, logo update and multiple facility enhancements including new hole signs and walking bridge. The Tennessee Golf Foundation manages The Barn Short Course for Knox County Parks and Recreation.

The facility is home to the Scott Stallings Kids Play Free Program and other TGF initiatives.

TGF helps lead charge to renovate Percy Warner Golf Course in 2023

New practice area will welcome additional junior golf programming upon re-opening

■ Percy Warner Golf Course closed in November of this year to undergo an 11-month golf course renovation and enhancement project led by architect Bruce Hepner.

Metro Parks and Recreation, the Tennessee Golf Foundation, and Friends of Warner Parks are partnering to restore the golf course and surrounding landscapes, with a tentative grand opening date of September 2023.

Percy Warner Golf Course opened in 1937 as Nashville's second public golf course. Throughout its 84-year history, the course has been credited with introducing more people to the game of golf than any other course in Nashville – including 2012 FedExCup champion Brandt Snedeker. The course remains extremely popular, with an average of 26,813 rounds played annually over the past 10 years.

Among the improvements being made to Percy Warner Golf Course during the upcoming closure:

- Installation of a new irrigation system.



TGF president Whit Turnbow and Jim Nantz speaking at a fundraiser for Percy Warner

- Creation of a one-of-a-kind practice area with putting greens, a short game training area, and practice bunkers.
 - Replacement of summer and winter putting greens and green surroundings with one modern green complex.
 - Improvement and expansion of tee boxes and bunkers. The current tee boxes are small and uneven.
 - Restoration and management of golf course woodlands and surrounding landscapes.
- As part of the Percy Warner Golf Course project, an endowment will be established to support annual needs for equipment, maintenance, junior golf programming and staffing.
- The Tennessee Golf Foundation will use its involvement in the project to expand junior golf programming opportunities to Percy Warner, including The First Tee, PGA Junior League and more.

WHAT IS THE FIRST TEE OF TENNESSEE?

■ First Tee of Tennessee operates at 44 different locations across the state, with program directors in Nashville, Greater Knoxville, Chattanooga, Memphis and the Tri-Cities.

First Tee is so much more than just golf! It teaches core life skills through the game and provides mentorship that will last a lifetime! First Tee is a youth development organization that

enables kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with

First Tee of Tennessee programming statewide reached 40,000 kids in 2022!

a life skills curriculum, we create active learning experiences that build inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience





that kids can carry to everything they do. We're building game changers through our junior golf programs.

Statewide in 2022, First Tee of Tennessee reached 1,662 unique youth through on-site programming, while holding retention rate of participants over 50%. Staff also conducted 35 National Schools Programs throughout the state, which served an additional 36,000 youth, along with the DRIVE program that has 30 locations serving 1,000+ youth.

First Tee of Tennessee employs 43 staff members and 61 volunteers.

At the end of 2021, the Tennessee Golf Foundation introduced Shawn Mauer as the new Executive Director of First Tee of Tennessee.

Mauer had served as the executive director of First Tee of Greater Knoxville since 2017. The Tennessee Golf Foundation took over operations of that chapter last summer, bringing Greater Knoxville under the TGF's First Tee of Tennessee umbrella.



Scott Stallings, Shawn Mauer, Lucas Forestrom and Lee Whitehead



REGIONAL REPORT

FIRST TEE OF TENNESSEE - MIDDLE TENNESSEE

■ First Tee of Tennessee - Middle Tennessee had almost 500 junior golfers in programming in 2022. Not only do participation numbers continue to grow, but so does the number of junior golf rounds at VinnyLinks in downtown Nashville, with over 1,200 junior golf rounds played this past year.

First Tee of Tennessee - Middle Tennessee hosted a 2022 Summer Tournament Series, which consisted of five tournaments with over 100 participants throughout the series.

The chapter had seven students graduate and achieve Ace certification in 2022. These participants not only received chapter accolades and scholarships, but also national recognition through First Tee's home office. Graduating participant Breonna Boyd received national recognition as a 2022 First Tee Scholar.



First Tee of Tennessee alumni Joia Robertson was selected for the First Tee Future Entrepreneurs, presented by Wells Fargo. In its inaugural year, the program celebrates promising First Tee alumni going to, attending or from Historically Black College and Universities and provides them an opportunity for mentorship, networking, personal and professional development.

First Tee of Tennessee - Middle Tennessee also had the pleasure of partnering with Big Brother Big Sisters, various P.E. programs within Metro Nashville Public Schools, The Ted Rhodes Foundation, Friends of Shelby Park, Shelby Park Community Center, Special Olympics, NW Suburban Women's Golf Association, and Alliance Bernstein.

First Tee participants also had the opportunity serving in various volunteer capacities for the Korn

Ferry Tour's Simmons Bank Open, operated by the Tennessee Golf Foundation at The Grove.

Not only is First Tee programming a hit in Middle Tennessee, but so is LPGA Girls Golf, with almost 80 girls participating this year. We provided eight Girls Golf Events this year at Vinny Links, as well as a week-long Girls Golf Summer Camp.



REGIONAL REPORT

MEMPHIS

■ Under the leadership of TGF Regional Director Kaitlyn Hayes, a total of 2,816 youth were reached through golf, not only in West Tennessee, but portions of Mississippi and Arkansas, as well.



Kaitlyn Hayes
TGF Regional
Director Memphis

In the First Tee of Tennessee - Memphis program, alone, 1,837 junior golfers participated. Other programming operated by the TGF in the region were: Sneds Tour, PGA Jr. League, Girls Golf, U.S. Kids Golf, Chapter Led School Program and Youth Group Instruction.

Individual and alumni spotlights from the First Tee of Tennessee - Memphis this past year were:

- Alumni Benhamin Nganga served as First Tee HQ and PGA Tour Business Operations Intern in Ponte Vedra, Fla.
- Coach and alumni Asa Hudson was the recipient of the Loren Roberts/First Tee

Memphis Scholarship.

- Ana Hunter was one of 24 First Tee students nationwide selected to attend the John Deere Drive Your Future Academy in San Francisco.

- Michael Wade was one of 72 First Tee students nationwide selected to attend the Game Changers Academy honoring Joe Louis Barrow, Jr. in Philadelphia.

- Mason Wade was one of 28 First Tee students nationwide selected to attend the Innovators Forum in Dallas.

- 33 First Tee of Tennessee - Memphis students played in the revived Overton Park Junior Open.

Over \$225,000 was received in fundraising efforts this year in support of



Over \$225,000 was received in fundraising efforts this year in support of First Tee and junior golf initiatives in West Tennessee.

First Tee and junior golf in West Tennessee. This included a donation from Tommie Dunvant in the amount of \$100,000 to fund the First Tee of Tennessee-Memphis Endowment in honor of her husband, William "Billy" Dunavant, Jr.

Another major fundraiser was the second annual golf outing hosted by Loren Roberts at TPC Southwind, which featured 104 participants and raised almost \$93,000.

REGIONAL REPORT

KNOXVILLE

■ The 2022 season was another great year for the Tennessee Golf Foundation in Knoxville, under the leadership of TGF Regional Director Hayden Echols.

- The Scott Stallings Kids Play Free Program saw 8,511 rounds played at Beverly Park and Concord Park, an increase of 15.7% over the year before. KPF availability also expanded to two new courses - The Patch in Oak Ridge and Bear Trace Cumberland Mountain in Crossville.

- The Knoxville region had 321 junior

golfers compete on the Sneds Tour this year, up 6.6% from 2021.

- Two major fundraisers were held for the Kids Play Free program. The annual KPF Benefit Tournament at Holston Hills had 112 players and raised \$35,000. Two KPF Benefit Dinners were held at Walnut Kitchen and saw 161 people attend, raising over \$13,000.



Hayden Echols
TGF Regional
Director Knoxville

- The Scotty - the only junior four-ball championship in Tennessee - was played at Oak Ridge Country Club and had

112 players registered. The annual Tri-Star Junior Match Play was once again held at Three Ridges Golf Club.

- The Knox Area Pro-Am played a total of 4,423 rounds thru October 2022 and added four new Fall Member Series events this year.

- A Sub-48 Developmental League was launched at Beverly Park and Concord Park par-three courses and 36 junior golfers participated.

- The TGF helped facilitate the Visit Knoxville Open Kids Clinic prior to the Korn Ferry Tour tournament at Holston Hills and 130 kids participated.

- Knoxville had 186 kids participate in Drive,





Chip and Putt local qualifiers.

- The Knoxville Golf Social League launched in 2022 and had 36 players register.
- Fall Ball Leagues at Beverly Park and Concord Park had a total of 40 participants.

FIRST TEE OF TENNESSEE - KNOXVILLE

This was the first full year of Greater Knoxville being under the Tennessee Golf Foundation's First Tee of Tennessee umbrella.

At the end of last year, First Tee of Tennessee - Greater Knoxville Executive Director Shawn Mauer was tabbed to lead the First Tee of Tennessee's entire statewide efforts. Mauer remains in his day-to-day role in

The Peter Malnati Classic raised over \$40,000 for First Tee of Tennessee



First Tee of Tennessee golfer Malerie Taylor volunteering at the 2022 President's Cup

Knoxville, as well.

Some highlights for First Tee of Tennessee - Greater Knoxville in 2022 included:

- 678 junior golfers took part in the Life Skills Experience programs.
- 73 kids participated in the Spring Break, Summer and Fall

Break golf camps.

- One participant from the First Tee of Tennessee in Greater Knoxville - Julia Kessler - signed to play golf in college at University of Virginia - Wise.
- First Tee of Tennessee - Greater Knoxville had another outstanding year at the Peter Malnati Kids Classic held on August 1st at Fox Den Country Club, raising over \$40,000. Not only is the PGA Tour pro, and local native, very hands-on with the tournament, but Malnati also has become very involved with the First Tee chapter, interacting and mentoring students when he is in town.

REGIONAL REPORT

CHATTANOOGA

■ Big changes happened in the Chattanooga region in 2022 as Lamar Mills, the President of the Tennessee PGA and former general manager at Cleveland Country Club, was named the new TGF Regional Director for Chattanooga.



Lamar Mills
TGF Regional
Director,
Chattanooga

Along with long-time First Tee of Tennessee - Chattanooga director Kathleen McCarthy, there was plenty of growth and excitement in the region.

For the First Tee, programming was added in the upper Cumberland area at Bear Trace Cumberland Mountain. Three high school female golfers were added as paid coaches, positions funded by the Chattanooga Women's Golf Association. Three volunteer coaches were added in Hamilton county and a total of 11 in the Cumberland area.

First Tee participation increased by 27% in

2022, with 306 total juniors in the Chattanooga region.

The National School Program expanded with new elementary schools coming on board and TGF programming will be conducted in PE classes this winter.

The Chattanooga region saw plenty of exciting events outside of First Tee, as well. The inaugural Rally in the Valley, hosted by Scott Stallings, was held at Sweetens Cove on Sept. 20 and 104 players enjoyed a fun-filled day while fundraising for the TGF.

The 2022 TGF Pro-Am (Honors/Council Fire Pro-Am) had a different look with the Honors Course undergoing renovations, but Black Creek stepped up to host with Council Fire and 116 players enjoyed two days of spectacular golf.

The PGA Hope program expanded to the Chattanooga region with 11 veterans taking part in the inaugural class at the UTC Player Development Center. The LPGA-USGA Girls Golf had 51 kids sign up for membership in 2022, with clinics offered at Black Creek, Cleveland Country Club and the UTC Player Development Center.

The PGA Hope program expanded to Chattanooga at the UTC Player Development Center this fall, with 11 veterans taking part in the inaugural class.



Rally in the Valley

TGF and Scott Stallings host unique inaugural fundraiser at Sweetens Cove

■ When the Tennessee Golf Foundation and PGA Tour pro Scott Stallings were offered the complete use of Sweetens Cove Golf Course this past fall, it opened up the possibilities to do something truly unique and special to raise money for junior golf initiatives.

And so was born the inaugural Rally in the Valley, which took place on Sept. 20 in South Pittsburg.

Fifty-two teams traveled from as far away as Texas to Sequatchie Valley for a fun-filled day at one of the true golf gems in the country.

There was a morning and afternoon wave, with each group playing the nine-hole traditional route and then the lesser-known 10-hole par-three layout.

Stallings spent the day roaming the course, interacting with the players and even serving them refreshments.

Each participant also received a haul in swag, including a bottle of Sweetens

Cove's Kennessee Whiskey, a \$75 gift card to Sweetens Cove's shed, a Jones shag bag, a Branded Bills hat and a custom headcover.

Thank you to all of the sponsors who made the day possible: Tri-Star Beverage, Coca-Cola, Company Distillery, Sweetens Cove, the Clubhouse Group.



REGIONAL REPORT

TRI-CITIES

■ 2022 was a year of growth for the Tennessee Golf Foundation in the Tri-Cities area, thanks to the work of TGF Regional Director Cody Weems and Adam Dean, Director of The First Tee of Tennessee in the Tri-Cities.

Among the highlights added to programming this year were the region's first ever Special Olympics golf program and the first PGA HOPE program in the area - both of which were held at Pine Oaks Golf Course.

Also new was the Little/Big League - a

season-long league where First Tee students on 11 teams played nine-hole rounds to get a scoring average. The top four teams earned their way into the match play championship.



Cody Weems
TGF Regional
Director Tri-Cities

The First Tee of Tennessee - Tri-Cities had a total of 363 students in its classes this year, as well as special tournaments like the 333, Golf Golf and Fall Finale. 19 area schools participated in the First Tee School Program, which allowed First Tee of Tennessee instructors to reach over 5,200 students through PE classes.

227 junior golfers participated in a total of 21 Tri-Cities Junior Series and Sneds Tour tournaments in the region. The Junior Amateur was held at The Virginian.

The Tri-Cities had 22 schools field teams in the Tennessee Middle School Golf Association. The Tri-Cities Travel Golf League had its most golfers ever as 40 high school students from 21 different schools competed in the six-week long league.

A local Drive, Chip & Putt qualifier was held at Blackthorn and had 82 kids participate.

Weems was the Pro-Am Director for the Tri-Cities PGA and hosted 28 regular season events with over 4,200 rounds played, generating over \$180,000.



USGA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Four Tennesseans compete in inaugural U.S. Adaptive Open at Pinehurst

■ The United States Golf Association hosted the inaugural United States Adaptive Open at Pinehurst this past July and featured male and female golfers in various impairment categories: arm

impairment, leg impairment, multiple limb amputee, vision impairment, intellectual impairment, neurological impairment, seated players and short stature.

A total of 96 golfers were invited to compete in the

“Participating in the U.S. Adaptive Open was a life-changing experience that reaffirmed my mission to serve not only the pediatric limb loss community, but the game of golf.”

Nashville's Jordan Thomas



national tournament, and four of those reside in Tennessee – Jordan Thomas, Luke Carroll, Brandon Rowland and Alex Fourie.

Thomas, who lost both of his legs in a boating accident at the age of 16, won

the multiple limb amputee division and finished fifth in the overall standings.

The Nashville native uses his Jordan Thomas Foundation to support kids who have lost limbs, and the Foundation was part of the Tennessee Golf Foundation's Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation earlier this year.

“Participating in the U.S. Adaptive Open was a life-changing experience that reaffirmed my mission to serve not only the pediatric limb loss community, but the game of golf,” says Thomas. “My accident took a lot from me, but in the process of healing, it gave me so much more. My hope is that all people living with disabilities can experience some of the same joy golf has given me.”

The U.S. Adaptive Open will return to Pinehurst in 2023.

SNEDS TOUR

ANOTHER *Record Year*

Tennessee's state-wide junior golf tour expands season, regional footprint; had more members than ever in 2022

■ The Sneds Tour, named after Nashville native and 2012 PGA FedExCup champion Brandt Snedeker, continues to be one of the premier junior golf tours in the country.



Presented by South College, the Sneds Tour has enjoyed an up-tick in membership for five years straight, having its most ever in 2022 with 1,890.

The Sneds Tour also played its most rounds ever with

11,364 as tournaments were added and fields were more full.

Under the leadership of Rob Cherry, Lissa

Bradford and Hanley Long, the Sneds Tour season ran from February-December this year and had tournaments in nine different states. Highlighting the schedule were new destination events in Panama City, Sea Island and Hilton Head.

Also new this year was junior match play championships for the Prep Series (4-11 year olds) and Elite Series players.

The Sneds Tour also partnered with six new companies in 2022 to bring in additional revenue for the tour. They included: KPMG, Scott Insurance, the Parke Company, CapStar Bank, Junior Golf Hub and F&M Bank.

The Sneds Tour employed a total of 32 staffers across the state during the summer season.

The Sneds Tour gave out a record amount of scholarships in 2022, which allowed junior golfers in need to play the Tour at no cost.

#SNEDSTOUR2022 BY THE NUMBERS

1,890
MEMBERS
↑16

11,364
ROUNDS PLAYED
↑896

170
TOURNAMENTS
↑1

82
FULL FIELDS
↑3



2022 Progress Report





SPECIAL EVENTS

TENNESSEE JUNIOR CUP

■ The 11th annual Tennessee Junior Cup, hosted by Scott Stallings and Friends, was held at The Grove Club in September.

The annual Ryder Cup-style tournament featured the best junior golfers in the state from the 2022 Tennessee Junior Golf season as they got together for three days of camaraderie and competition, with Team West ending the East's five-year winning streak.

The 2022 Junior Cup would not have



been possible without Stuart Smith and Family, Blue Cross, Blue Shield of Tennessee, The Grove Club, Titleist, NOBULL, Swiftwick and Beats by Dre.

THE HATCHETT

■ The 2022 Hatchett Invitational was held at Sweetens Cove in October and benefited the First Tee of Tennessee. The Holcomb vs. Holcomb event with nine (9) holes of four-ball, foursomes and singles matches was hosted by brothers Drew and Sam Holcomb,

honoring their late brother Jay Hatchett Holcomb.

The brothers chose their own teams for the Ryder Cup-style competition and their parents, Hamp and Nancy, grilled out lunch for all of the competitors.



SPECIAL EVENTS

THE MAYOR'S INVITATIONAL

HOSTED BY SHANE MCFARLAND AT STONES RIVER

■ For the second year, Murfreesboro mayor Shane McFarland hosted The Mayor's Invitational, raising money

to fund the Scott Stallings Kids Play Free program at Bloomfield Links.

All junior golfers under the age of 18 can play the course any time, any day, free of charge.

The Mayor's Invitational had 100 golfers participate, raising over \$20,000 for Kids Play Free.

Thank you to sponsors Ole South, John Jones Real Estate, Stones River Country Club, Stones River Total Beverage, and the Alley on Main for making the event a huge success.



A NIGHT WITH NATE BARGATZE

HOSTED BY THE ALLEY ON MAIN AND THE WALNUT HOUSE

■ The Tennessee Golf Foundation partnered with Shawn and Christy Hackinson and the Alley on Main in Murfreesboro to

host a special "Artist at the Alley" featuring acclaimed comedian Nate Bargatze at the Walnut House earlier this year.

The invitation-only event raised over \$20,000 for junior golf initiatives in Tennessee.

Guests were treated to an exceptional dinner from the Alley on Main before a night of a thousand laughs, featuring Bargatze, his father Stephen Bargatze and opening acts Clinton Clegg & Zavior Phillips.



CHIP-IN AND CHANGE LIVES

■ The Tennessee Golf Foundation partnered with First Bank with Chip-In and Change Lives, a tournament at The Grove to benefit junior golf initiatives and Habitat for Humanity.



The tournament featured 85 golfers and raised over \$115,000 for the charities.

The night before the tournament, Country Music Hall of Fame member and Tennessee Golf Hall of Fame member Vince Gill entertained the field, along with several of his musical friends.

BLIND GOLF INITIATIVES

TGF, Snedeker Foundation to build golf facility at Nashville Christian School

Will be used in a collaborative effort between NCS, Tennessee School for the Blind students

■ The Tennessee Golf Foundation joined with the Snedeker Foundation last month to make a \$55,000 contribution to build a golf practice facility on the campus of Nashville Christian School.

Featuring a putting green and hitting area, the facility will be used in a collaborative effort between NCS students as well as Tennessee School for the Blind students.

Dr. Chad NeSmith, one of the top blind golfers in the world, led the charge to see the project through, due to his passion and hard work to bring attention and more opportunities for blind athletes in Middle Tennessee.

"We believe in providing access to everyone, regardless of their situation, who wants to learn the game. Our blind community



was an important segment for us to provide programming for, moving forward, and this partnership with Dr. NeSmith and Nashville Christian was the perfect opportunity."

Turnbow and Brandt Snedeker were on-hand at the ground breaking to hit ceremonial first balls toward the area where the putting green will be.

SIMMONS BANK OPEN TO BE A KORN FERRY TOUR FINALS TOURNAMENT IN '23

**TGF-OPERATED EVENT WILL MOVE DATES;
NOW TO BE HELD SEPT. 14-17 AT THE GROVE**

In the two years since the Tennessee Golf Foundation took over operations of the Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation, the event has quickly become one of the favorites on the Korn Ferry Tour.



The tournament has received rave reviews from players, caddies, fans, Korn Ferry Tour officials and the middle Tennessee community, alike. Now the Simmons Bank Open is being rewarded with an elevated status on

the Korn Ferry Tour tournament schedule.

Earlier this month, the Korn Ferry Tour released its 2023 line-up and officially announced that the Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation will be one of four events making up the expanded Korn Ferry Tour Finals in September next season.



The 2023 dates for the Simmons Bank Open will be Sept. 14-17 at The Grove Club. The tournament will join the Albertsons Boise Open, the Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship in Columbus, OH and the Korn Ferry Tour Championship as KFT Finals events.

As one of the Korn Ferry Tour Finals events, all four days of the 2023 Simmons Bank Open will be televised on Golf Channel, bringing additional national exposure to the tournament. Fans



2022 Progress Report

and sponsors will also experience upgraded hospitality offerings on-site.

"This is great news for the Simmons Bank Open, the Snedeker Foundation and golf in Tennessee," said Whit Turnbow, the president of the Tennessee Golf Foundation. "I can't explain how truly proud I am of our team, everyone at Simmons Bank, and our hosts at The Grove Club. The Tennessee Golf Foundation believes in providing opportunities, from junior golf to professional golf, for individuals from all walks of life to be successful. We look forward to showcasing that to the golf world next September."

The Simmons Bank Open continues to benefit the Snedeker Foundation, which was founded by 2012 FedExCup champion and Nashville native Brandt Snedeker and his wife, Mandy. The tournament made a \$250,000 charitable contribution to the Snedeker Foundation following the 2021 tournament.

The Simmons Bank Open also made \$10,000 contributions to the following charities this year: Jordan Thomas Foundation, KultureCity, Safe Haven Family Shelter, First Tee Tennessee Our Kids and Second Harvest Food Bank.

This past year's tournament week was highlighted by Brent Grant being crowned champion. At the end of the Korn Ferry Tour season, he finished high enough to earn his PGA Tour card for 2022-23.



2022

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The 2022 Progress Report Donor Roster was compiled from gifts received from November 1, 2021 to October 31, 2022

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 Mayor's Invitational to support Kids
 Play Free Murfreesboro

FIRST TEE OF TRI CITIES & REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Joseph Butt
In Memory of Steve "Mo" Carson
 Blackthorn Club



Gayle & Teresa Carson
Linda Carson
Lindsey Davison
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Gibson
Mark Fox
Food City Foundation
General Shale
Justin Harvey
Andy Kraus
Seniors Golf League in memory of
Ralph Hudson
Tennessee PGA
Tri Cities PGA
Waste Management

FIRST TEE OF KNOXVILLE

Baird & Wilson Sheetmetal, Inc.
Born & Raised Productions
James & Mary Bush
Bush Brothers
Mitchell Corey
Covenant Health
D & V Distributing
Food City Charitable Foundation
Hardin Valley Dental
Gordon Heins
Home Federal Bank
Johnson & Galyon
Knox on Tap LLC
Knoxville Beverage Company
LTW Title Group
John Michael MacDonald
Mike Milner
Pilot Company
Pinnacle Bank
Carole Price
Tailgating for a Cause
TIS Insurance
Toddy's Liquor Store
The Wakefield Corporation
Walking For Kids Foundation
Marshall & Clare Wilkins





TNgolf.org/tgfb

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