MSGA's First Annual Trip-Of-The-Month Raffle
Emily Hulsey, MSGA Handicap and Website Coordinator

The MSGA is pleased to announce its first annual Trip-of-the-month Raffle! This will be a year-long raffle, with 12 monthly drawings. All tickets (winning and non-winning) are put back in the pool each time, so you have multiple chances to win! Each month a different trip package will be offered.

The best part is this: Absolutely ALL PROCEEDS will be used for junior golf programs in Montana. We are passionate about our juniors and want to provide better tools and opportunities for them. So, join in the fun and give to a great cause at the same time!

More details and opportunities to purchase tickets will be coming soon! Check your e-mail for an official invitation.

You can contact Emily at golf@montana.net for questions or more information.

Familiar Names Commit To In-State Collegiate Programs
Nick Dietzen, MSGA Communications Director

Some familiar names have chosen amateur golf careers in the Treasure State, as three of the top female prep golfers put pen to paper during the fall early-signing period.

Teigan Avery of Kalispell, Class AA state champion as a sophomore and junior at Glacier High, and runner-up as a freshman and senior, also won three-times as an age-group winner at the Montana State Junior Championships and four times has represented Montana at the Girls’ Junior Americas Cup. Avery joins in-state products Hailey Hoagland (Butte) and Sadie Crippen (Missoula) on the University of Montana Grizzlies’ Roster.

"Teigan was an important signing for us," said UM head coach Matt Higgins. "She's one of the best junior players in the state, if not the best, and one of the things I want to do is bring the best player from the state to the University of Montana. We did that. She has a tremendous record in junior competition and at state championships. She's going to come in and help us right away."

"I chose Montana for many reasons," said Avery. "My parents are alumni, and I've always loved the Grizzlies. I'm excited for the opportunity to stay in state and be part of Coach Higgins' program."

Montana State University picked up another star from the Flathead as Whitefish's Coral Schulz, fresh off back-to-back Class A State Championships, signed on to play for MSU head coach Brittany Bayse's squad. Schulz was a Whitefish High School team's captain and MVP in leading the Bulldogs to back-to-back team championships during Schulz’s two seasons at Whitefish (Schulz had successful freshman and sophomore campaigns in Helena at Capital ...Continued on the next page
High School). She qualified for the Callaway Junior World’s, Trusted Choice Big I Junior Classic, and the AJGA (America’s Cup), as well as being a member of the Montana Junior America’s Cup Team.

"Coral comes from a family of MSU graduates, so I’m excited to bring some local blood into the program. She has good golf fundamentals, coupled with a positive attitude on the course, which will benefit her and the team while playing for the ‘Cats,” Coach Bayse said.

"I have always been a Bobcat and wanted to pursue my goal of playing collegiate golf without leaving Montana. After my official visit, it made me extremely excited to play for Coach Bayse and to play with the girls on the team. The campus feels amazing and to live in Bozeman will be such a great experience,” Schulz said.

Billings West standout Hayden Flohr committed to staying in town, signing on with Rocky Mountain College to play for coach Aaron Pohle’s Battlin’ Bears. Flohr is coming off a State AA individual championship, after finishing runner up in 2014, and she was also a member of the Montana Junior America’s Cup Team.

“Hayden brings us depth and will make an immediate impact for our team. She has the skill set to be great at the collegiate level and I am excited to have her as a part of our program,” Pohle said.

The Billings native has the opportunity to play for a hometown program and is looking forward to beginning her college career. “I’m excited to build as a person and as a golfer,” Flohr said. “I couldn’t think of any other place that I would rather be going.”

All three prep standouts have excelled in the classroom, with each earning academic honors throughout their high school careers, and bring not only tremendous skill to the golf course, but also talent to their respective schools.

In addition to the in-state signings, both the University of Montana and Montana State signed two more golfers to each program. The Grizzlies added twin sisters Caitlyn and Caylyn Villatora, of Lahaina, Hawaii (Maui), and the Bobcats inked Delaney Elliot of Superior, Colorado, as well as Kelly Hooper of Spokane, Washington.
USGA AND UMN ANNOUNCE RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP

The United States Golf Association and the University of Minnesota announced a five-year master research partnership to study and develop solutions to golf’s present and future challenges. “Participation and growth are central issues for the health of our game, but there are many other critical and complex factors that will contribute to its long-term sustainability,” said Mike Davis, USGA executive director. “This agreement will further the USGA’s mission to apply fact-based research and deliver tested solutions back to the industry, particularly in three areas: the game’s cost, the time it takes to play, and golfer enjoyment.”

The partnership, which allows both parties to identify projects and assign funding on an individual basis, leverages the full assets of the University of Minnesota, recognized as one of the most comprehensive public research universities in the U.S. The College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences; Carlson School of Management; College of Science and Engineering; and Humphrey School of Public Affairs are among those that are expected to contribute throughout the five-year period.

“We look forward to expanding our existing interdisciplinary research to build a sustainable future for the game of golf,” said Eric Kaler, University of Minnesota president. “This unique strategic partnership with the USGA will help us to identify and advance solutions through some of the university’s key strengths and mission: science, research, teaching and learning, and community engagement.”

The partnership will utilize the university’s Les Bolstad Golf Course as a living, learning laboratory to support critical research projects, as well as a classroom for demonstrating best practices in course design, maintenance, and operations. The historic layout, established in 1929, is open to the public and valued by students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community.

“We firmly believe the impact of our work will transcend golf by identifying core concepts and solutions that can be applied to all sports and public green spaces,” said Rand Jerris, Ph.D., senior managing director of public services for the USGA. “This partnership accelerates learning and solution development by augmenting our own in-house research team with investigators from different disciplines, working jointly to advance core economic, environmental, and social principles in the game.”

With an emphasis on innovation, projects will focus on technology, resource management, best practices for facility operations and design/renovation, community and economic impact studies, and participation behavior. In addition to conducting research on-site at the university, the partnership will utilize golf facilities nationwide for collecting data, which will be processed and analyzed by UMN students and faculty working closely with USGA experts.

“In this time of significant societal change, it’s important that golf remain relevant to its broad customer base,” said Brian Horgan, professor in the UMN department of Horticultural Science and Extension turfgrass specialist who is leading the partnership. “A transdisciplinary approach to research will allow golf to be responsible in its consumption of resources, and help golf facilities provide an experience that is affordable, enjoyable, and compatible with the time people have available for recreation.”

This partnership will complement the series of studies conducted by universities nationwide that the USGA has funded since the 1920s, particularly in turfgrass and agronomic research. The organizations will also explore the potential for online and on-campus educational programs, as well as partnership opportunities with other organizations and institutions to foster information-sharing worldwide.

DR. CLARKE TO RECEIVE 2016 USGA GREEN SECTION AWARD

The USGA announced Dr. Bruce Clarke, of Rutgers University, as the recipient of the 2016 USGA Green Section Award. Presented annually since 1961, the USGA Green Section Award recognizes an individual’s distinguished service to the game of golf through his or her work with turfgrass. Clarke, of Iselin, NJ, is an extension specialist of turfgrass pathology in the department of plant biology and pathology at Rutgers, and is the director of the...
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Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science. Clarke has authored or co-authored 75 refereed journal articles and more than 200 industry publications, and he has edited three books, including the second and third editions of the Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases. He is also a frequent contributor at turfgrass conferences throughout the world.

Clarke’s research and extension programs focus on the cause and control of turfgrass diseases and integrated pest management strategies to reduce fungicide use. Clarke’s work with the biology and control of summer patch and anthracnose, and his introduction of effective cultural management and fungicides are cited as some of the most important achievements affecting the playing conditions of golf courses worldwide.

“While the efforts of scientists throughout the country advance turfgrass research and help provide golf with exceptional playing conditions, Dr. Clarke goes much further,” said Dr. Kimberly Erusha, managing director of the USGA Green Section. “He combines the qualities of an exceptional researcher with selfless dedication to outreach and outstanding commitment. His leadership at Rutgers University has motivated a team of scientists across all disciplines that has resulted in a program that is improving turfgrass conditions around the globe.”

A native of Cresskill, NJ, Clarke earned his undergraduate degree in forest management and his Ph.D. in plant pathology from Rutgers. In 1982, Clarke joined the faculty as an assistant extension specialist in the plant pathology department. He was named director of the Center for Turfgrass Research in 1994, after one year as interim director. Under Clarke’s guidance, the Rutgers program has become a center of scientific and educational excellence.

“Dr. Clarke has that uncanny ability to relate to and connect with whomever he meets,” said James A. Murphy, Ph.D., Rutgers University extension specialist in turfgrass management. “His communication skills are outstanding in all situations: one-on-one, small groups, or large audiences. He can communicate with persons of any background, and he is just as effective listening as he is speaking. Numerous golf course superintendents, USGA agronomists, and academic peers consider Dr. Clarke a friend as much as they do a colleague. They trust him and frequently seek his advice and counsel. He is selfless with his time and works tirelessly to serve any member of the golf course industry as well as students and colleagues.”

During more than 30 years as a researcher and educator, Clarke has mentored hundreds of students who are now leaders in the turfgrass industry. “I was completely surprised when I received the call from Dr. Erusha,” said Dr. Clarke. “It’s a tremendous honor to receive the Green Section Award from an association that I respect and have worked with for more than 30 years. It’s nice to be recognized for doing what I really like to do – helping superintendents solve their turf disease problems.”

CHARLOTTE COUNTRY CLUB TO HOST 2018 U.S. MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

The USGA announced Charlotte Country Club (NC) as the host site for the 2018 U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship. This will be the fourth USGA championship contested at Charlotte Country Club. The dates for the championship are September 22-27.

“Charlotte Country Club has supported amateur golf for more than a century and the USGA is pleased to bring the U.S. Mid-Amateur Championship to the club for the first time,” said Diana Murphy, USGA vice president and Championship Committee chairman. “We know the course will thoroughly challenge the players’ skills as they compete for the Robert T. Jones Jr. Memorial Trophy.”

Designed by Donald Ross, Charlotte Country Club opened its first nine holes in 1910, with the second nine completed five years later. In 2007, Ron Pritchard completed restoration of the course, which is located 4 miles east of uptown Charlotte, in the Plaza-Midwood neighborhood.

Do you want to see something in the newsletter? Contact Nick Dietzen at: ndietzen@gmail.com (406) 459-3459