



UGA GOLD CLUB AWARD

The UGA Gold Club Award is presented annually to an individual who through significant achievement or unselfish service has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah, and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty, and friendship earn him the love and respect of his fellow golfers.

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2024



Allen Simkins

Golfers who lose a match credit their opponents and blame themselves, in varying degrees.

Steve Poulson played some great golf in the final match of the 2007 Senior State Amateur, but Al Simkins' defeat was his own fault. If he had taken a strong stance about the Utah Golf Association's lowering the minimum age from 55 to 50 for the senior championship, Poulson would have had to wait five more years, and Simkins, then 61, may have won a second consecutive title. "My passion in life has been golf for the last 55 years," Allen Simkins said. Other UGA board members figured that's what he would do out of self-interest, but Simkins defied the expectation. "I didn't," he said, "because I knew it was the right thing to do." And that's one way that senior golf in Utah has become a major part of Simkins' UGA legacy, contributing to his selection as the Gold Club Award winner of 2024. The award is "presented annually to an individual who, through significant achievement or unselfish service, has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah, and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty, and friendship earn the love and respect of fellow golfers.

"Simkins' playing ability and contributions to the game were equally distinguished in 2015, when he was the Utah Senior Open's annual honoree and won the Super-Senior division at Toana Vista GC. Now approaching 80, Simkins is among the players who helped make senior competition meaningful in Utah, and he also made a lasting administrative impact. The growth of 50-over participation was illustrated this year when more than 250 golfers registered for the Senior State Am, requiring multiple qualifying sites. Still playing regularly in the senior men's league at Green Spring Golf Course, Simkins "has always been an ambassador for Utah golf and the UGA," Rick Shew said in nominating him for the award. "I hope I'm viewed that way," Simkins said. "Amateur golf in the state of Utah is the best in the country, and we all know that. I'm grateful to be a small part of that.

"Shew, the UGA's Treasurer added, "He loves playing golf, tinkering with his golf swing, working on golf clubs, watching golf on TV, and teaching golf to his friends and grandchildren." Allen Simkins, nearly 80 years old, still plays regularly in the senior men's league at Green Spring Golf Course in Washington, UT. Is it any surprise that Simkins' home in Washington, Utah, is on Fairway Drive? He shares a love of the game with his wife, Susan, a three-time president of the Women's State Golf Association, before the 2012 merger with the UGA. "My passion in life has been golf for the last 55 years," he said. Basketball once occupied that place in Simkins' heart, as he grew up in Circleville and played for Piute High School. Golf entered his life only later, when he played a round at Cove View GC in Richfield with his brother-in-law, Jerry Bertelsen. After hitting a soaring shot on No. 3, Simkins said, "Instantly, I was hooked." The game permanently took hold of him during an academic career that was capped by 15 years as Weber State's Vice President of Administrative Services.

The experience of having WSU's athletic director report to him made him more than qualified to serve as the UGA president in 2008 and '09, near the end of his nine-year board tenure. That was a pivotal time for the UGA, with the retirement of longtime Executive Director Joe Watts. Simkins led the hiring of Thomas Pagel, while predicting that the United States Golf Association would quickly grab Pagel. That proved true, but the lasting impact would be the high standard for UGA executive directors, with Bill Walker, Jake Miller, and Easton Folster following Pagel.

2023



Devin Dehlin

Like a lot of award winners, Devin Dehlin was surprised to hear that he would receive the Utah Golf Association's Gold Club Award.

Even more surprising to him was his own reaction, and how the news affected him.

"I broke down, and I was speechless," he said. "You don't get me speechless very often."

Being named the Utah Section PGA's Professional of the Year in 2022 meant everything to Dehlin, coming from the pros he oversees as Executive Director of the Section. Yet in its own way, being recognized from an outside organization was just as validating.

"Devin is a titan in Utah golf," said UGA Executive Director Easton Folster. "His impact and contribution are immeasurable."

Dehlin's latest award makes the list of things that could happen only in Utah. The cooperation between the PGA and amateur association is unique in this state, insiders and outsiders say. Jeff Beaudry and Scott Whittaker, who preceded Dehlin in leading the Section, are previous Gold Club Award recipients.

"There's mutual respect from both sides," Dehlin said. "We know we need to work together to grow the game and make an impact."

Dehlin's three-year run of PGA and UGA major awards is unprecedented, and there's a thread connecting the Jeff Beaudry Golf Ambassador, Professional of the Year and Gold Club Awards. The treatment of other people is the common criterion.

Dehlin attributes that trait to his late parents, Pat and Jeanne Dehlin, running through himself and his three younger siblings. As he said, "My strength and my weakness is I care too much" about other's feelings, sometimes affecting his administrative decisions.

The Gold Club Award's description supports his approach. The award is presented to "an individual who through significant achievement or unselfish service has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah, and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty and friendship earn him the love of his fellow golfers."

Dehlin has been immersed in the PGA for nearly two-thirds of his life, but it all started with the UGA. He's remembered as a State Amateur finalist and two-time member of Utah's Pacific Coast Amateur team while playing for the University of Utah. Having worked both as a club professional and municipal administrator before moving to the Section office, Dehlin became the executive director in 2015. He has helped create and manage the Golf Alliance for Utah.

Throughout his career, he has "consistently shown ... that he has the greater good of Utah golf in mind," said Randy Dodson, a former Gold Club Award winner. Dehlin "looks beyond just the Utah PGA."

Wesley Ruff, another past recipient, labeled Dehlin "a champion of golf at all levels, both amateur and professional."

2022



Karen Gardiner

Being paired with Karen Gardiner for the first time in a tournament helped Sally Milbank produce the best round of her life. Gardiner's effect on every golfer may not be quite that dramatic, yet there's no doubt that thousands of women have benefited from her organizing ability.

Gardiner's work with six local and statewide golf groups validates her selection as the 2022 Gold Club Award winner, presented by the Utah Golf Association.

How do you describe a worthy recipient of the Gold Club Award? The UGA's definition is a good starting point, identifying a person ***"who through significant achievement or unselfish service has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah, and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty and friendship earn the love of fellow golfers."***

Another way of framing it? "Because I never say no," Gardiner observed, laughing.

Karen Gardiner, the 2022 UGA Gold Club Award honoree, loves golf. Her husband, Ron, no longer plays, but "I'm making up for him," Gardiner said, by playing six days a week.

Well, that explains why she's always being asked to launch and administer golf leagues at various levels.

"I'm very organized and I truly like people and I want things to be the best they could be," added Gardiner, who received the UGA Lady Award in 2013. "I kind of look at myself as a cheerleader, more than anything."

While working at Hill Air Force Base, she directed a league for Boeing employees for 22 years. Perhaps not surprisingly, that group dissolved upon Gardiner's retirement. Her influence expanded, though. Gardiner is involved with associations at Schneider's Riverside, Hill AFB, The Barn GC, Eagle Lake GC, the Northern Utah Golf Association (an alliance of eight courses, with team matches) and the UGA, as a third-year board member.

Informally, "She has always been the source of information about women's golf, tournaments, league play and, of course, the Rules of Golf," Milbank said in nominating Gardiner for the Gold Club Award.

Gardiner loves golf. Her husband, Ron, no longer plays, but "I'm making up for him," Gardiner said, by playing six days a week.

That reflects commitment beyond her personal interest in the game, as the members of those golf associations would attest. Remember, "loyalty" is one of those Gold Club Award traits. Mary Amidan long ago was one of Gardiner's first golf partners, and they played together again in the recent Joyce Billings Memorial tournament in Hurricane. And then there's Milbank, who acknowledges her golf performance never has matched that initial success with Gardiner. But "fortunately," she said, my friendship with Karen has been unflinching ever since."

2021



Wesley Ruff

The Utah Golf Association turned a \$600 investment into a lifetime of valuable returns.

That's one way to describe the career arc of sportscaster Wesley Ruff, tracing his contributions to golf in Utah. As the recipient of the 2021 Gold Club Award, Ruff again is being credited for his enthusiastic promotion of the game.

The UGA's recognition adds to his three Golf Citizen of the Year honors from the Utah Section PGA, which recently renamed the award for him and made him an honorary member of the PGA.

As a sportscaster for the ABC4 Utah television station in Salt Lake City for 36 years, Ruff has used his on-air platform to elevate golf coverage in the state. Beyond that, he volunteers his time and effort in UGA media productions and in UGA and Utah Section PGA celebrations.

It all stems from the UGA scholarship Ruff received as a 1976 graduate of Springville High School, initially enabling him to attend Southern Utah University. Let's just say he has repaid that \$600 grant many times over.

"I decided then that if I could help out the UGA or the game of golf in any way, I would do my best to do that, and help pay them back for the help they gave me," Ruff said. "I've tried to remember that it was because of the UGA that I was able to go to college and get into this business in the first place."

In nominating him for the Gold Club Award, 2010 award winner Sherm Hatfield wrote, "After giving this much thought, I have settled on one name: Wesley Ruff. He has been extremely supportive of the UGA and of the PGA."

That statement applies to Ruff both personally and professionally. In any golf setting, his approach personifies the intent of the annual Gold Club Award. It is presented to "an individual who through significant achievement or unselfish service has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah, and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty and friendship earn him the love and respect of fellow golfers."

2020



Steve Brinton

Finding a thread among winners of the Utah Golf Association's Gold Club Award is fairly easy. That's especially true in 2020. Steve Brinton's history of service to the game is directly connected to George Marks, who received the first such award 32 years ago.

Marks got Brinton involved in the United States Golf Association soon after that, and Brinton has remained dedicated to golf on multiple levels. While operating a three-generation office of the New York Life insurance company in Salt Lake City, Brinton also has maintained a high-level golf game and served both the UGA and the USGA. "For me, it's been a big part of my life," he said, thanking his wife, Joan, for authorizing his devotion to golf. "It is a great game."

The Gold Club Award annually recognizes an "individual who through significant achievement or unselfish service has contributed traditions and history of the game of golf in Utah and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty and friendship earn the love and respect of fellow golfers."

In 2014, Brinton received the USGA's Ike Grainger Award for 25 years of service. He's likely the best golfer ever to receive the Gold Club Award. He has qualified for match play in the State Amateur in five different decades, including reaching final match of the 100th State Am in 1999 at age 47. He played for Highland High School's legendary golf teams of the 1960s, contributing to four state championships, then played one year at Utah State before entering military service and then transferring to the University of Utah, where he chose to focus on academics.

His golf swing remained intact, explaining how he won club championships at both Willow Creek Country Club and The Country Club of Salt Lake City, where he grew up playing. He served as tournament chairman of the State Am in 2012, when the event returned to the historic Country Club.

When he became the UGA president in 2016, Brinton promised to emphasize the Youth on Course program that provided inexpensive access to golf. The success of that initiative is a big part of his legacy locally. Nationally, Brinton has created a lot of memories for himself as a USGA committee member and rules official, working at many major events. In that role, he said, "You're very conspicuous, when you're needed."

It's all about being prepared to make the call in those moments. As he tells those stories, Brinton sounds both proud and relieved to have provided the right answers. Brinton has always been there when the UGA or the USGA needed him, and Marks would be proud of the way his protege has served the game.

2019



Dick Alexander

Dick Alexander was a UGA executive director, Utah Open tournament director and Salt Lake City golf director. Add it up, and his career in the game gave him major influence in the Salt Lake Valley and beyond.

"I believe it is not hyperbole to state that few people have done more to promote the game of golf in our state," longtime golf administrator Dave Terry wrote in nominating Alexander for the 2019 Gold Club Award that will honor him posthumously.

Alexander, who died in January at age 72, is perhaps best remembered for his operation of the Utah Open at Willow Creek Country Club in Sandy in the 1980s and '90s. Working with University Hospital as tournament's organizing group and beneficiary, Alexander turned the Utah Open into a major event that attracted many top players from outside of the PGA Tour, in the days prior to what is now known as the Korn Ferry Tour taking hold as a developmental circuit.

He spent eight years as the Utah Golf Association's first full-time executive director, then another eight at the hospital. His duties included directing the annual University Hospital Utah Open, an event with a \$100,000 purse and a similar charity contribution. The Utah Open's stature was such that Utah-based PGA Tour golfers would come and play at Willow Creek if they were eliminated in The International, a Colorado tour stop that once had a first-day cut. The event often was locally televised.

As a teenager in Richfield, Terry said, "As far as I was concerned, the PGA Tour's majors included the four we know, plus the University Hospital Utah Open."

So he naturally was impressed with Alexander's role, even without knowing at the time what went into operating a tournament. Terry remembers meeting Alexander while playing in a regional qualifying event for the State Amateur, and later being in charge of the then-Utah Classic in Provo on what is now the Korn Ferry Tour. He gained more appreciation for Alexander's work. Then, he joined the UGA Board of Directors and recognized what it once took for Alexander to be the executive director of the organization. To complete the cycle, he followed Alexander as a Salt Lake City Golf director. "I began to grasp the long list of operational and political challenges Dick faced in managing our state's largest municipal golf program," Terry said.

At age 47, he said wryly that taking on the Salt Lake City program was "my midlife crisis."

Willow Creek member Jack Larsen said Alexander "just draws people right to him. He wins you over without you even knowing it."

Alexander needed that charm to handle the Citizens Golf Committee, which monitored the city's program. He once joked that he was 5-foot-9 when he took the position and soon became 5-7, worn down by criticism. But that didn't stop from making an impact in yet another facet of the Utah golf community.

"It goes without saying that Dick Alexander played a major role in the growth of golf in our state, and he is beyond deserving of inclusion in the Utah Golf Association's Gold Club," Terry said. "To his family and friends, know that Dick's tireless efforts did not go unnoticed and are greatly appreciated."

2018



Reese Nielsen

Reese Nielsen remembers playing Brigham City's old nine-hole course, with par of 37. If that layout existed today, he would know many more details about it. Nielsen directs the Utah Golf Association's course rating team, charged with thoroughly studying a course to determine its difficulty and applying the numbers to the United States Golf Association's handicapping system.

The process involves a lot of science and a little art, and Nielsen loves it. He has come a long way since the time fellow Thiokol employee Doug Wight asked him to help rate courses. "I had no clue what it was," he said.

He's an expert now, and his commitment to the rating effort has made him the 2018 recipient of the UGA's Gold Club Award. The annual award recognizes "an individual who through significant achievement or unselfish service has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah, and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty, and friendship earn him the love and respect of his fellow golfers."

Nielsen is thrilled to join the previous 30 winners of the award. The news of his selection "kind of left me speechless," he said, viewing the award as validation of how important course rating is to the UGA and its members.

"It makes you think you have done something productive and positive for golf in Utah," said Nielsen, who lives in Perry, just south of Brigham City. "It allows you to give something back."

The process is vital, and Nielsen views his work as evidence that the UGA is designed to support rank-and-file golfers, not only tournament players. "It basically affects everybody in the state that has a handicap index," he said.

If not for the rating system, handicapping would be based only in regard to par, with no consideration for the tees played, the length of the course and other difficulty factors. Think about everything that comes into play, just on one hole: elevation change, psychological obstacles, landing zones for drives, length of approach shots, rough, bunkers and slope of the green.

With an engineering background, Nielsen enjoys the analytics involved in course rating. He maintains a rotation of visiting 13 of the 119 ratable courses in Utah each year, making sure the numbers are up to date. New courses are re-evaluated after five years.

And he's thorough. "He's a detailed guy, enough to drive you nuts," said course rater James Mitchell, the UGA Volunteer of the Year. "If you want to do it well, Reese is the guy."

2017



Linda Olsen

The 30th person ever to receive the Utah Golf Association's Gold Club Award believes she was already rewarded by the game, long before now.

Linda Olsen is being recognized for her contributions to the golf, most notably helping to build the Bountiful Ridge Ladies Association's remarkable membership. Those efforts may have been designed with some degree of self-interest initially, but her impact has gone far beyond creating an after-work playing opportunity for herself.

The Gold Club Award has a special place in the UGA honors, because of its definition: The award is "presented annually to an individual who through significant achievement or unselfish service has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah, and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty, and friendship earn the love and respect of fellow golfers."

That describes Olsen's influence quite well. Golf has given her a lot, and she has given a considerable amount back to the game.

"It's done a lot to bring our family closer together," she said.

Golf and family were refuges for her after the passing of her husband Richard, 25 years ago, after they were married for 35 years. It is a good story, how she went to work for First Security Bank and missed her regular playing opportunities in the Bountiful Ridge Ladies Association. She mentioned the idea of an evening league to Assistant Pro Scott Whittaker, who basically said, "Start one."

So she did. The Monday outings soon grew from a couple of foursomes participating into the biggest nine-hole league in Utah.

She always has encouraged women to play, overcoming inhibitions about competing. "Just come and enjoy it," she would say. "Do it for the fun of it. You don't have to be good, just keep up and enjoy it."

Olsen has competed well in her flight of various tournaments for decades and still loves to play with family members and friends.

On a statewide basis, she was involved in the 2013 merger of the UGA with the State Women's Golf Association, joining Karen Gardiner, Julie McMullin, Mary Herman, Rose Roberts and Jodi White on the Women's Advisory Committee that aided the transition.

"More than golf, it's about the people," she said, summarizing her life in the game. "So many amazing people."

2016



Reed McGregor

The UGA is honored to present the 2016 Gold Club Award to longtime Rules official, past UGA president, and current USGA Senior Amateur Committee member Reed McGregor. As a man of many hats, McGregor has succeeded in nearly all areas of the golf industry.

“Reed’s dedication and support of the Utah Golf Association over the years is second to none,” expressed UGA Executive Director Bill Walker. “Whatever capacity he served in, whether it was as an official, Board member, or during his tenure as president of the UGA, he always left a positive impact.”

Reed graduated from Utah State University in 1974 with a bachelor’s degree in geography, a minor in zoology and a secondary education degree. He then put his newfound skills to the test in Snowflake, Arizona, where he taught LDS Seminary full time for one year. He and his family then moved to Portland, OR, where Reed graduated from the Western States Chiropractic College in 1979. Following graduation, the family relocated back to his hometown of Logan, UT, where Reed opened his chiropractic practice, Aggie Country Chiropractic Center. Soon thereafter, he purchased his father’s membership at Logan Golf and Country Club and started playing golf again.

Reed and his wife, Susan, have one daughter, Jenny, and two sons, Jim and Ben, who started playing golf at a young age. Jim and Ben played golf all four years at Logan High School, were frequent Utah Junior Golf Association competitors, and both finished as medalists on their state championship golf teams. Jim went on to play college golf at Utah State University and later at The University of Utah.

Following a summer of swing lessons from PGA Senior Tour Professional Bruce Summerhays, Reed asked Bruce what he owed him for the lessons. Rather than charging for the lessons, Bruce requested payment in the form of service and asked Reed to find a way to give back to the Utah golf community.

McGregor then called longtime friend and current USGA Regional Affairs Director Mark Passey for advice on how to be involved. Passey encouraged Reed to learn the Rules of Golf and become acquainted with UGA volunteers Lee Samsel and Keith Hansen. Samsel and Hansen invited Reed to observe the officiating process and attend the USGA Rules of Golf Workshop, which is exactly what Reed did.

“I’ve been to the USGA Rules Workshop every year since my first class in 2001, and it was a big goal of mine to get 100% on the final exam,” explained McGregor. “After a number of 98’s and 99’s, I finally got my 100% in 2015. I am very proud of that, and relieved.”

Reed was nominated to the UGA Board of Directors in 2002 and, within a couple of years, took on the role of UGA Rules chairman. He began studying relentlessly while writing a Rules column for Fairways Media. In 2003, just one year after joining the UGA Board, McGregor was nominated to the USGA Senior Amateur Committee. He has officiated at the U.S. Senior Amateur National Championship every year since and served on the Rules Committee for the U.S. Senior Open Championship the past four years. Reed was honored to referee the final match at the 2014 U.S. Senior Amateur Championship and the semifinal match at the 2015 U.S. Amateur Championship. He also has worked the NCAA Division 1 National Championship for the past four years which ranks among his favorite things to do.

In 2005, soon after retiring and selling his chiropractic practice, McGregor received a call from the executive director of the Future Collegians World Tour (FCWT), a national junior golf tour headquartered in Clearwater, Florida, and was offered the Senior Rules Official position for the western half of the United States. Reed accepted the position and has since worked around 15 events annually for the FCWT Junior Golf Tour.

“It keeps me involved and my head in the Rules Book during the winter months,” McGregor said. “Plus, I enjoy getting out of the cold and working with some of the best junior players in the country.”

“Educating juniors about the Rules of Golf is one of the reasons I became involved in golf officiating,” stated Reed. “I really enjoy helping kids learn and understand the Rules so they can continue succeeding and achieving their goals, whatever those goals may be.”

2015



Judy Allem

Judy Allem, a past president of the Utah Golf Association, will be this year's recipient of the UGA's highest honor, the UGA Gold Club Award. The presentation of the award will be the feature of the UGA Annual Meeting to be held Wednesday, January 20, at Hidden Valley Country Club.

UGA Executive Director Bill Walker said, "Judy continues to be an avid supporter of golf in Utah. From her USGA responsibilities with the U.S. Girls' Junior Championship and support of women's golf to her work as a course rater and rules official, Judy has and continues to have a positive impact on the Utah golf community."

Judy served nine years on the UGA Board of Directors and one term as its president in 2012. During those nine years, she learned all aspects of the golf association and was actively involved with rules and course rating. She credits Clea Rasmussen for introducing her to the UGA and mentoring her in all the UGA activities.

Judy was born and raised in the Sugarhouse area and graduated from Highland High School. She and her husband, Mike Allem, have been longtime members at Hidden Valley Country Club.

She worked in the banking business for 25 plus years, beginning at Continental Bank and Trust and concluding at Brighton Bank. She attended community college and took numerous classes from the American Institute of Banking to enhance her banking knowledge. She advanced as far as the 'glass ceiling' would allow.

During those years, she gave birth to her son, Josh, and became a breast cancer survivor. Josh also loved golf and worked hard at becoming a successful PGA professional. He is now an executive with Arnold Palmer's Century Golf Management and lives in Orlando, Florida with his wife and two sons. He supervises a chain of Palmer courses and is Judy's 'pride and joy.'

Judy has volunteered tirelessly in support of breast cancer charities and was chair of the Breast Cancer Coalition and a volunteer for the American Cancer Society.

Her parents were avid golfers and regularly played at Mountain Dell well into their eighties. Judy and her mother were both active in the Mountain Dell Women's Golf Association, and Judy was president of the group for two years.

She served on the UGA Board from 2004 to 2012, including being on the executive committee seven of those years as secretary, vice president, and president.

She became a USGA committee member in 2005, serving on the USGA Girls' Junior Committee from that time until the present. She has been the official in charge of sectional qualifying for the USGA Girls' Junior Championship for ten years and worked as a rules official at four USGA Girls' Junior Championships. She also was a rules official for the 2012 U.S. Amateur Public Links Championship at Soldier Hollow.

She captained three Girls' Junior Americas Cup teams and two USGA Women's State Teams and is currently a volunteer rules official and a member of the UGA Course Rating Team.

"Judy is highly deserving of our most important award," said UGA President Steve Brinton. "She has been invaluable to the UGA in numerous administrative areas of the game and is a great promoter of the game for young women," he said.

2014



Randy Dodson

Randy Dodson, owner-publisher of Fairways magazine, will be the recipient of the Utah Golf Association's Gold Club Award at the UGA Annual Meeting Thursday, January 15th, at Oakridge Country Club it was announced today by UGA Executive Director Bill Walker.

The Gold Club Award is presented annually *to an individual who through significant achievement or unselfish service has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah, and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty, and friendship earn him the love and respect of his fellow golfers.*

"The Gold Club Award is a significant award with the UGA, and Randy fits the meaning and description of the award to a tee" Walker said.

Fairways magazine is the official publication of the Utah Golf Association and has now completed its 23rd year of publishing. Dodson has been with the publication since its inception in 1992. The full color glossy magazine is mailed as a membership benefit to all UGA members four times a year.

In addition to Fairways magazine, Dodson is also the owner/publisher of Fairways 18 digital magazine and co-owner of UtahGolfDeals.com. He is also the owner/CEO of Fairways Media, a full-service advertising/public relations agency.

Dodson began his career in the publishing industry as an advertising sales representative for daily newspaper chains in Los Angeles and Boston before returning to Utah to work for the Daily Herald, Utah Business magazine and NBA HOOP magazine.

Dodson was instrumental in the inception and publishing of Franklin Covey's Priorities magazine and Home Court magazine, a former publication of the Utah Jazz. Dodson has also overseen the creation and publishing of golf tournament programs for Johnny Miller's Champions Challenge, Huntsman Cancer Foundation's Golf Classic, the Utah Section PGA's Utah Open and the Web.Com Tour's Utah Championship. In addition, Dodson and the Fairways Media staff (Mike Stansfield, Garrit Johnson and Gary Golightly) played significant roles in the 2012 USGA Amateur Public Links Championship at Soldier Hollow GC. Fairways Media is also one of the founding members of the Golf Alliance for Utah (GAU).

2013



Pete Randall

Pete was a highly respected member of the Logan Golf and Country Club for the past seventy years and served on its board of directors from 1953 to 1959 and as its president in 1959. During that time he was instrumental in the decision to expand the course to 18 holes. He remained active in club affairs his entire life and future boards and presidents often sought his counsel.

He was highly regarded state wide and served on the Board of Directors of the Utah Golf Association from 1971 to 1980 and as its president for two terms in 1974-75 and was co-chairman of the Utah Open in 1980.

Dan Roskelley, the head pro at Logan, describes him succinctly as 'The Mentor.' He was a mentor to many young club members and young players, not only in golf, but life, and in addition to Roskelley many have gone on to significant leadership positions, including Mark Passey and Keith Hansen, both of whom are past UGA presidents.

Passey was also UGA Executive Director and is currently Director of Regional Affairs for the United States Golf Association.

As a dentist by profession Pete didn't have time to travel the amateur circuit and restricted his play mostly to his favorite Logan Golf and Country Club. He enjoyed team competitions with the other country clubs and one of the highlights of his golfing career was teaming with Glade Harris in winning one of the team matches against Willow Creek when together they birdied the first 12 holes of the match.

Pete was one of the most 'endearing and enduring' golfers in Utah golf history and his record of winning the club championship at the same course in each of six different decades stands as a Utah record and no one has exceeded it nationally. He first won it at the age of 16 in 1939 and last won it in the 1980s. He was also a member at Marion Oaks Country Club in Florida and in 1993 won that club championship at the age of 70 to make it seven decades. It's a record that may be matched by someone somewhere, but it will never be broken. In 1987 he won the Club Champions Division of the UGA Tournament of Champions and in 1989, age 66, he won the Northern Utah Amateur.

His daughter Carolyn Farrell has won three club champions at both Logan and Congressional Country Clubs, all six of them in the 1990s. His son Cannon also won the Logan club championship in 1970.

As an esteemed leader in the community he was asked to serve on the committee to develop the Logan River Golf Course, a project that came to fruition with its opening in 1991 and has enhanced the enjoyment of the game for thousands of current and future players.

Two paragraphs in his obituary sum him up beautifully, "He was part of 'The Greatest Generation' that served, sacrificed, and worked, many of whom gave their lives, to save our country and our liberty; pulling our communities and country back from the twin nightmares of The Great Depression and World War II."

"Pete Randall leaves a legacy of professional achievement and civic contribution that is a reflection of what so many others of his generation offered. They weren't satisfied; there had been too much sacrifice by too many; the status quo was unacceptable ... Pete, along with all others of his generation, fought to overcome the obstacles confronting them, rebuilding not only their own lives, but their communities, and their country as well; demanding that a "better place" be provided for their children and grandchildren. We are indebted to all those who answered the call, doing their parts however large or small, to bring following generations lasting freedom, prosperity, and opportunity ... with the added obligation for those of us who follow, to do the same for the generations that will follow our own."

His childhood sweetheart, Janet Cannon, has been his lifetime anchor and they were happily married for 68 years. They have three children, Annette Haws, Carolyn Haws, and Cannon Randall.

Thanks to Pete and his family for a life well lived and shared.

2013



Dave Terry

Since graduating from BYU 23 years ago Dave Terry has held key positions in golf management in Utah, beginning as Tournament Director of the PGA Ben Hogan Tour, Assistant Executive Director of the Utah Section PGA, Golf Manager in St. George City, and currently Golf Program Director for Salt Lake City, the state's largest golf operation with 135 holes.

"He has made a significant contribution to Utah golf and has been influential in almost all aspects of Utah golf, but especially so in the expansion of junior golf programs and promotion of Utah's public golf facilities on both a local and national scale," said Jim Harland, UGA president. "He fits the description of the award perfectly and we are pleased to present it to him."

After serving an LDS Mission to Florida Terry enrolled at BYU with a focus on business administration and helped finance his education by teaching beginning and intermediate golf classes at BYU and by working in the pro shop at Riverside Country Club under the direction of Head Professional, Robert McArthur.

That experience, combined with his teenage years working in the pro shop at Richfield's Cove View Golf Course, provided the foundation for the rest of his life.

His most noteworthy playing accomplishments were earning medalist honors in the 1984 2A Utah High School State Championship, helping Richfield High School win the last three of its record-setting seven consecutive team titles, and earning a golf scholarship and playing for SUSC (now SUU) his freshman year.

He graduated from BYU in 1990 and that was also the year the PGA Tour created the Ben Hogan Tour and one of its first sites was Riverside Country Club. Terry's work ethic caught the eye of Jeff Beaudry, Executive Director of the Utah Section of the PGA, and he was hired the day after graduation to assist with all Utah Section PGA activities including the operation of the Ben Hogan Utah Classic.

Two years later, when Nike became the sponsor of the tour, he was given the title of Tournament Director with the responsibility of generating all sponsor revenue, coordinating with the PGA Tour, and handling all aspects of tournament operation.

In 1997 he was hired by St. George City as its first full-time Golf Manager responsible for the operation of its four golf courses. Working closely with PGA professionals they created a very successful junior golf program.

As a member of the Washington County Travel & Convention Bureau Board of Directors, he also spearheaded the development of St. George's Red Rock Golf Trail that has grown into a major marketing program attracting golfers from throughout the country.

St. George became a destination golf vacation for thousands of out-of-state players, along with snowbirds from northern Utah, and golf has become a major economic development tool in Utah's Dixie.

After eight years at St. George, he was asked to take the biggest, and some would say the toughest golf management job in the state, as director of golf for Salt Lake City. It is a daunting task. With little fanfare in his first two years on the job, Salt Lake golf revenues increased by ten percent, from \$7.5 million to \$8.3 million.

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2013



Dave Terry

In concert with SLC's PGA professionals, he developed Salt Lake City Youth on Course Golf and Life Skills Program that included clinics, camps, leagues, and tournaments including a series of nine-hole parent/junior scramble events that he says are his favorite junior golf development activities, the concept which he started in St. George and still continues there as well.

Currently, one of his primary efforts is working with Salt Lake City's elected officials and Public Services Department to obtain approval to proceed with long-deferred multi-million dollar capital improvement projects necessary to keep Salt Lake City's golf courses on par with Utah's other outstanding public golf facilities.

While managing the Ben Hogan and Nike Tour event in Utah the tournament raised \$300,000 that went to Utah Special Olympics and junior golf programs. The tournament consistently received a superior rating from the PGA Tour for its tournament operations.

Working side-by-side with Beaudry, he helped pioneer the organization of golf clinics for Utah Special Olympics that proved to be the catalyst in the development of golf as a Special Olympics sport in 43 states and 12 countries.

Beaudry, in recalling those early years in Dave's career, said, "He has two traits that stick out in my mind. One, that when making decisions he had the ability to look into the future and see where those decisions might lead, and two, he had the persistence and follow through to see that things got done. Planning was not the end for him. He performed."

Dave also served three terms on the UGA Board of Directors during which time he advocated for establishment of golf as an official program for girls in high schools throughout the state. In just a few years, this new prep program has grown to include over 1,500 girls each spring.

In all of his positions, he has been a big promoter of junior golf, and tired of all the talk and instead did the walk. Terry has never been a do-it-alone guy. He has always built coalitions and given credit where credit is due.

Outside of his duties for Salt Lake City, Terry's current golf project is working with other golf related groups to create the Golf Alliance for Utah, with an initial focus on working with the national Golf 20/20 organization to complete an economic and environmental impact study for the golf industry in Utah.

The primary purpose of this study will be to help decision makers throughout the state realize the scope of golf's impact on economic vitality as well as the quality of life enjoyed by Utah residents.

He lived the first forty years of life with kidney problems, and in 2006, shortly after moving back to Salt Lake City, his older brother, Jim Terry, who taught him how to play the game as well as how to conduct oneself on the golf course, donated a kidney for him. It is the ultimate bonding of brothers.

The past three years he has been dealing with a carcinoma cancer that has required numerous procedures.

Through it all he has gained even greater admiration from his peers and co-workers for his determined work ethic and resilience. With these health setbacks it would seem like a good time to rest on his laurels, but that isn't the case with Dave. Along with a focus on raising two daughters, Megan and Sarah, with his wife, Pam, he's still on the job, still smiling, still working for golf and golfers and the joy it brings to others.

2012



Tommy
Sorensen

This year's annual UGA Gold Club Award will be presented to Tommy Sorensen, long time head professional of Nibley and Mountain Dell golf courses, it was announced today by Judy Allem, UGA president.

The presentation of the UGA's highest honor will be made at the UGA Annual Meeting on October 30th at Hidden Valley Country Club. Tickets for the meeting are available at the UGA office.

"Tommy has been an important part of Utah golf for the past half century," said Judy Allem, "and the UGA is honored to honor him."

Sorensen went to work on the grounds crew at Nibley Park golf course when he graduated from Olympus High School in 1958, and he worked for Salt Lake City for the next 44 years until his retirement in 2002. In 1968, at the age of 26, he became the head professional at Nibley. Seven years later, in 1975, he was asked to take the head professional position at Mountain Dell, a position he held for 27 years. He built strong men's and women's leagues at both courses.

Mike Brimley, the current head professional at Mountain Dell, will give the tribute speech at the UGA Annual Meeting and the presentation of the award will be made by Judy Allem, who was a long time member of the Mountain Dell Ladies Association.

Other awards presented that night will be the UGA Players of the Year, which for the first time will include a Women's Player of the Year Award. Team and individual champions of other UGA tournaments will also be honored.

Three board members who are retiring due to term limits will also be recognized. They are Judy Allem, Dave Dorton, and Bill Probst. Nominated to fill those vacancies are Stew Walz, of Hidden Valley Country Club; Amy Mayberry, of Bountiful Ridge, and Randy Hadfield, of Alpine Country Club.

2011



Kent McCurdy

Kent McCurdy, junior golf advocate extraordinaire, is the recipient of the 2011 UGA Gold Club Award. As the head professional at Dinaland Golf Course in Vernal for 21 years he developed one of the state's strongest junior programs.

He coached the Uintah High School golf team for 18 years and his teams won one state championship and lost in playoffs two other times. Being located in the hinterlands of the state required much extra effort and personal expense for him to keep his juniors involved in state competitions. He personally financed a big portion of the team trips, which included travel into Colorado to find competition. He was awarded the Utah Section PGA Junior Golf Leader in 1993.

When he became head professional in Vernal in 1987 he quickly saw that a strong junior program was essential for the game to grow in a small rural town. He started junior golf clinics and through his enthusiasm for kids the clinics grew quickly from 60 to as many as 190 junior players. The UGA Gold Club Award is presented annually to an individual who through significant achievement or unselfish service has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah, and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty, and friendship earn him the love and respect of his fellow golfer. Think of it! That's about every kid in the Uintah Basin.

He built a volunteer network with the ladies golf association to help with the program and talked the city council into giving juniors the golf course every Tuesday morning during the summer months. He has been a big supporter of the men's and women's golf associations at Dinaland and the golf course has become the center of community life for many residents of the Uintah Basin.

He continued the legacy of hospitality that Vernal had long been known for and he expanded the tournament schedules that drew participants from many parts of the state for pros and amateurs, men and women, and seniors in various tournament formats.

Kent was born in Salt Lake in 1946 but has lived in Vernal his entire life. He graduated from Uintah High School, and attended Snow College and Salt Lake Technical College. He owned a service station and worked in the oil fields prior to taking the head professional job at the Vernal muni.

He married his high school sweetheart, Deanna Murray, who worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Vernal and retired in 2004. They have three children, Torr, Nanette, and Mike who are all employed in the Vernal area. Nanette worked with Kent in the pro shop from 1987 through 2008, and was a big part of his success. She also got a teaching certificate through USU Extension service and has taught in Vernal and is currently teaching in Rock Springs.

"Great golf people in the rural areas of our state are often overlooked when it comes to dishing out awards, and the Utah Golf Association is appreciative of their contributions. Kent's service has been particularly exemplary and we are pleased to present him with the 2011 Gold Club Award."

2010



Sherm Hatfield

Sherm Hatfield, one of Utah golf's longest serving and most popular volunteers will be given the UGA Gold Club Award at the UGA Annual Meeting October 27th at Hidden Valley Country Club it was announced today by UGA President Reed McGregor.

The award is the UGA's highest honor and goes annually to an 'individual who through significant or unselfish service has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah, and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty, and friendship earn him the love and respect of his fellow golfers.'

Sherm's service to golf began at Mountain View Golf Course where he was elected to the men's league board of directors and served as its president for two years. He was honored as Mountain View's Member of the Year in 1981.

In 1985 he was elected to the UGA Board of Directors, a position he held for the maximum nine years and included a stint as President of the UGA in 1994. It was during those years that the UGA launched into the progressive, full service golf association that it is today and Sherm was part of that group of leaders.

During that time he developed a special interest in the Rules of Golf and became one of a cadre of volunteers who developed significant expertise through attending USGA Rules Schools and gaining on course experience through officiating at numerous UGA events.

His officiating for the UGA has included more than 25 years of tournaments, including all of the Utah State Amateurs in those years, and almost a hundred percent at the UGA Winterchamps, Tournament of Champions, and Mid-Am events.

He has also officiated at many high school and college championships, and USGA qualifying events, and was on the Salt Lake County Golf Advisory Board for six years. He served as a co-captain of the Boys Junior Americas Cup teams for many years.

He became particularly expert at marking golf courses for competitions, a volunteer service that requires a full day of painting, staking, and establishing local rules prior to any quality tournament even beginning.

He served as a rules official for many Utah PGA events, including many Utah Opens, and in 2001 was the recipient of the PGA's Bill Howard Award for outstanding service to golf in Utah.

At golf tournaments his cheerfulness, sense of humor, and cooperative spirit are as important as his rules knowledge and players, pros, and volunteers are all happy when Sherm is on the course.

Sherm was born to Carl and Eleanor Hatfield on September 22, 1940 in Bingham Canyon and was raised in West Jordan along with two younger brothers, Roger and Gary, who are also avid golfers, and a sister, Karen, who was killed in a tragic car accident at the age of 16. He graduated from Jordan High in 1958 and began working at Kennecott that year. He entered the army in 1959, training at Fort Ord, California and then on to signal school at Camp Gordon in Georgia. He spent 20 months in Berlin in 1960-61.

He worked at Kennecott as a heavy equipment electrician for 28 years until it closed in 1985. He then worked in the Jordan School District in the maintenance department, retiring in 2004 after 20 years.

He married Joyce Jackson in August of 1962 and they helped build and supervise construction of their first home and have lived in it ever since. They have two sons, Mark and Mike, and four grandchildren.

For over a quarter of a century golf and golfers have been the beneficiary of Sherm's unselfish service, his good will, work ethic, sense of humor, compassion for others, and his insistence on doing things the right way. His trip to the UGA Gold Club Award was like a ride in his jeep, long and slow, but on time.

2009



Keith Hansen

Keith Hansen has been an invaluable volunteer for the past quarter century to three major golf organizations, the United States Golf Association, the Utah Golf Association, and the Utah Section of the PGA.

His unselfish commitment of time and talent has strengthened all three organizations and made golf better for thousands of golfers in Utah and across the nation. His service and achievement make him an ideal choice for the UGA Gold Club Award.

Under the tutelage and encouragement of Mark Passey and George Marks he developed a keen interest in the Rules of Golf and has become one of the nation's experts. He hasn't kept track, but he has officiated at over 50 USGA national championships, including a dozen U.S. Opens, a dozen U.S. Amateurs, and about 18 USGA Mid-Amateurs, along with several U.S. Women's Opens and Amateurs, the Boys and Girls Junior Amateurs. All that, in addition to a half a dozen USGA qualifying events in Utah each year for the past 15 or 20 years.

He has been chairman of the USGA Regional Affairs Committee in Utah for many years, and began his USGA service as the Utah chairman of the Mid-Amateur Committee.

His volunteer start began in 1988 when he was elected to the UGA Board of Directors where he served for nine years, two as president. He was a key part of the boards that transformed the UGA from a small, almost isolated golf organization into a progressive association that grew to provide services on a par with all the major regional golf associations in the country.

As he grew in rules expertise with the UGA he became in demand at both the USGA and Utah Section of the PGA. He has spent an average of about 100 volunteer officiating days on golf courses each year for the past 15 years or so.

He has always shunned the limelight, never seeking recognition. His reward has come 'through the quality of friends I've met and places and events I've been part of, and his recommendation to everyone is to 'find something you love and volunteer for it. It will enrich your life.'

He was born in Logan, January 10, 1947, graduated from Logan High in 1965, graduated from Utah State in 1970, and earned an MBA at Utah State in 1971. He has been self employed his entire life in a property management business and as owner-operator of the Utah Theatre.

He joined the Logan Golf and Country Club in 1972 and has served on its Board of Directors. He was on the committee that helped create the Logan River Golf Course, and has been a member of the Logan Junior Chamber of Commerce.

He married Dane Tang, who has a B.S. in math from the University of Utah, a Masters in biology at Utah State, and a PhD in genetics from Utah State.

They have two children, Brittany, who is married to David Milligan and they have two children; and son Trevor William who is currently working as a golf course architect in the Philippines with Robert Trent Jones Jr.

2008



Joe Watts

For more than 30 years Joe Watts has been at the vanguard of Utah golf. With consistent focus Joe has been a prime mover in leading the UGA to a significant increase in programs and services.

As a friend to players, volunteers, professionals, and media he has engaged in nearly every aspect of golf in the Beehive state and has earned the love and respect of his fellow golfers.

He was elected to the UGA Board of Directors in 1986 and was President of the UGA in 1988.

In 1990 he became the UGA Executive Director, a position he held for 19 years. Those were growth years for Utah golf. Many new courses were built and the UGA membership more than tripled as did the UGA programs and services.

During that time the Utah Golf Hall of Fame and the UGA Gold Club were initiated. All the golf courses were measured and rated to conform with the USGA Course and Slope Rating System. The UGA handicap system was brought inhouse and the UGA provided computers for handicap purposes to all the courses in Utah. The UGA was one of the first golf associations in the world to develop a comprehensive web page. Many new UGA tournaments were added, including the Utah-Arizona Shootout. The 100th Utah State Am was celebrated, including the publication of the Utah State Amateur history book, and the 8-man team leagues were re-invigorated.

Joe was born in Logan, Utah, Nov. 7, 1938, the son of Conley and Barbara Parkinson Watts. His siblings are Richard, Gary, Bobbie Jo Kerr, and Steve. He married Sharon Raymond in 1962 and they have two children, Connie and Joey, and five grandchildren. He graduated from Logan High in 1957 where he was selected to the All State basketball team.

After high school he became the sports editor of The Daily Herald in Logan, went on an LDS mission to New Zealand, played one year on the Utah State basketball team, and graduated from USU in 1964.

He was a teacher and basketball coach at Logan Junior High for three years while continuing as sports editor of the paper.

In 1966 he became sports editor of The Daily Herald in Provo where he reported on the Utah Valley sports scene for ten years, including the rise to national prominence of the BYU golf and football programs.

As sports editor at the two newspapers he chronicled the Utah golf scene and the Utah State Amateur championship for a period of 20 years, from 1957 through 1976.

He was co-founder and manager of Watts Lumber in Lindon from 1976 to 1986, and then founded Utah Golf News, a magazine that eventually morphed into the current Fairways Magazine, the official magazine of the UGA.

Joe's never ending example of energy, optimism, and cooperation have not gone unnoticed by those who are trusted with the administration of golf in Utah.

His habitual salutation of 'Savor the birdies' will forever live in the hearts of many. With this presentation of the UGA Gold Club the UGA and its members say a hearty 'cheers' to Joe.

2007



Parley Petersen

Parley Petersen has served the Utah golf community for almost half century with an unusual grace and style that has endeared him to his fellow golfers. He 'fits to a tee' the description of the UGA Gold Club Award.

He has been the General Manager of Riverside Country Club for 25 years and during those years has touched the lives of thousands of golfers beyond his own club members. The club has been generous in offering its beautiful facilities to outside groups to promote the good of the game. It was the Utah home of the Hogan and Nike Tour in the infancy of those tours and Parley played a key administrative role during those events.

The club has also been a generous host of the Utah Open and the Utah State Amateur, including the 100th Utah State Amateur, and every year has made its course available for USGA qualifying events. In each case Parley has been front and center in making the events run smoothly for contestants, spectators, members, and guests.

He has managed a growing, changing, active country club of 500 members, a staff of 30 to 50, a golf course, a swimming pool, a clubhouse, food and beverage service, with facilities to host community groups for meetings, weddings, and other special occasions. It is no easy task, but you wouldn't know it to observe how smoothly it all runs, how seemingly effortless it all is to Parley.

He has served the Riverside membership under 25 different presidents and boards of directors, and helped guide various committees that are responsible for numerous activities, and always with a great sensitivity to the needs of everyone involved. He has relied heavily on the quarter-century service of Robert McArthur, the head pro, and Steve Budge, the superintendent, as well as Peter Villano, the executive chef, and Joni Sloan, the office manager.

Parley's charm is in his courteous, graceful style. Never in a rush, but always on time. Never in a panic, but always prepared. Never flustered. Always immaculate in dress and manner. His quiet, gentle tone of voice and reassuring smile calm any ruffled waters.

He's keenly observant of the needs of others, before they even realize their need. He fixes distractions without distraction. He senses anyone's discomfort, and makes them comfortable, with a kind word, an inclusive welcome, a wink.

He has been a huge supporter of everything golf, but particularly supportive of the Utah Golf Association, the Utah Section of the PGA, the Utah Club Managers Association, and the BYU golf program. He served on the Board of Directors of the Utah Golf Association for nine years, and one year as its president.

2006



Doug Vilven

Jimmy Thompson, one of the illustrious members of the UGA Gold Club, mentored many of today's top golf professionals and treated several of them as if they were his own sons. Jimmy passed away earlier this year, but his legacy is living on in the lives of those he influenced.

He would be proud that another one of his 'adopted' sons, Doug Vilven, has been selected to enter the UGA Gold Club in the very year of his passing.

Doug's introduction to the game was as a caddie at the Salt Lake Country Club at the age of 13 shortly after his family moved to Utah. He attended Highland High School and was medalist at the Utah State High School Championship. He played collegiately at Utah State and graduated in 1971.

Doug began his professional golf career as the assistant to Jimmy Thompson at Los Coyotes Country Club in Buena Park, California in 1971. He moved with his mentor and helped him open the Tri City Golf Course in 1973.

He watched, learned, and emulated the friendly traits and hard working habits of his mentor and then ventured on his own to an assistant position at the Salt Lake Country Club under Tee Branca. In the winters he was the assistant at the Tamarisk Country Club in Palm Springs.

His first head professional position was at the Plum Tree National Golf Course in Illinois where he worked for three years. He yearned to return to Utah and in 1979 took the head position at Oquirrh Hills in Tooele.

He moved to Park City in 1982 where he had wonderful success as the head professional and general manager at Park City Golf Course, a position he held for ten years. He was a big advocate of men's and women's clubs and saw total rounds increase by more than 80%.

In 1992, with the help of some key investors, he opened his own Golf in the Round facility in Salt Lake City. Opening the driving range and golf course was a dream come true, but it brought with it many challenges.

Through innovation, hard work, and much personal sacrifice the facility has become very successful and now has the largest range volume of any facility in Utah. Golf in the Round has provided teaching opportunities for some of the state's best teachers, and was where his old mentor Jimmy Thompson found happiness in his later years.

During his entire professional career he has been actively supportive of the various PGA organizations. He was President of the Rocky Mountain Section of the PGA from 1984 to 1986 and was elected to the national Board of Directors of the PGA of America where he served from 2002 to 2005.

He was named Utah Section Professional of the Year twice, in 1986 and 2000, and won the Utah Section Horton Smith Award seven times for his exceptional service in educating other professionals.

On a national level he was an original faculty member of the national training program for golf professionals and administered seminars at more than 50 sites throughout the country. He has also taught seminars on public golf operations and management, and numerous business operations seminars throughout the country.

He has become an expert rules official and gives willingly of his time and expertise in that capacity and has been a teacher at national seminars. He was a member of the national PGA Rules Committee from 1992 through 2002.

For 11 years he was the television color commentator for the PGA Senior Tour event at Jeremy Ranch.

He and his wife Denise have two children, DeDe and Michael. Denise has played an active role in the success of Golf in the Round and is a well known and popular golfer.

2005



Tony Bermingham

As an 'orphan' Tony Bermingham was 'adopted' by golf and became a 'favorite son.'

Born in London, England on April 30, 1937 to parents he never knew, his adoptive mother, Margaret Leonard, moved them to Ogden, Utah when he was 12. By pure fate they chose a home near the Ogden Golf and Country Club, and the caddie shack became his home away from home. He was 'adopted' by the members of the club, and everywhere he went thereafter golf became his family and now the orphan boy is surrounded everywhere he goes by 'family.'

No one person in Utah has a more intimate knowledge and acquaintance of every tidbit about golf in Utah for the past 50 years. He has traveled the entire state and held a variety of jobs in golf. His knowledge, and amazing recollection of golf events, even obscure trivia, has been invaluable to the Utah Golf Hall of Fame Committee, a committee on which he has played a key role since its inception.

While many golfers can recall their own shots for years afterwards, Tony puts an unusual twist to it. He remembers others' shots from 50 years ago to the present. But that's Tony. He's always had an admiration for others and their achievements and has always promoted and supported others in a kind and selfless manner.

Why do others attach themselves to Tony so comfortably? Probably because of his good nature, his uncanny, natural wit, his generous happiness. He is the life of the party, the bearer of good news and happy jokes. His timely wit has quickly resolved many tense moments between friends. His presence in a conversation is like a fine wine.

His interest in golf began as a caddie at Ogden G&CC. He rose to caddie master and eventually became an assistant professional. For supplemental income he also worked at Paramount Dairy and in the shoe department at B & B Clothier.

He helped Ernie Schneiter, Jr. open the Ben Lomond golf course and also worked for Ernie Schneiter, Sr. during the opening of Schneiter's Riverside.

In 1964 he became the assistant professional to Dean Candland at Logan G&CC. His first head professional job was at Skyway Golf Club in Tremonton. The next year he became the head professional at the Copper Club in Magna where he worked for four years.

In 1970 he shifted directions and became a manufacturer's rep for many golf product lines, selling to pro shops throughout Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada, and New Mexico. In 1983 he gave up most of his lines to represent Foot-Joy shoes full time.

He helped the Utah PGA Section for ten years as coordinator of pro-ams and opens, organizing and managing the events. He also served as President of the Copper Club for one year and President of the Utah Golf Sales Association for nine years, during which time he introduced a Merchandise Show and the Utah Book of Golf.

In 1980 he began volunteering for the Utah Golf Association where he was involved in course rating and helped with tournaments. He was elected to the UGA board in 1993 and served in various positions on the board until 2002. During this time he also operated the café at West Ridge Golf Course and met many more friends.

In 1956 he married Arlette Boiteux, who was born in Lausanne, Switzerland. She has been his partner and supporter for all these years and helped sustain the family by managing their family wedding reception business.

They have five children, Michael Bermingham, Christine Walker, Stacy Conologue, Sean Bermingham, and Tiffany Christensen. They have 13 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

During all those years, aided by his travels and his wide variety of experiences within the golf industry, he has earned thousands of friends who have a special feeling of love for him.

2004



Sonny Braun

Forty years ago a perfect match was made, Hobble Creek Golf Course and Sonny Braun. They are inseparable. You can't think of one without the other. Pleasant, calm, peaceful, and popular describes them. They have never been without each other.

At the young age of 32 Sonny Braun became the first head professional at Hobble Creek and 38 years later he is still the only head pro at Hobble Creek. That's a Utah record. No other golf course in Utah has had the original pro maintain his position that long.

Sonny and his brother Jerry and sister Mary grew up loving golf. Sonny and Jerry both became golf professionals and Mary became the reigning women's club champion at Timpanogos Golf Course for the better part of three decades. Her daughter Terri is a Women's State Am champion and her son Craig is the assistant pro at Hobble Creek.

Sonny started into golf at the age of 12 when he began working at the original Timpanogos Golf Course. He worked at Timp for a period of 17 years, interrupted for two years by service in the Army.

During those years at Timp he worked under the tutelage of Jimmy Thompson, Bill Johnston, and Dave Crowton. While in the Army he served as assistant professional to Ben Cavalier at Fort Sheridan golf course.

In 1963 he went to Monterey Peninsula Country Club as an assistant pro with John Geertsen, Jr. He maintained that position until he was invited back to Utah County to be the head pro at Hobble Creek.

All totaled he has served in golf shops for 58 of his 70 years of life.

During his years at Hobble Creek he established strong men's and women's golf associations and worked closely with various mayors and city councils to build a solid core of loyal Springville golfers.

Hobble Creek, because of its unusual beauty and serenity, attracts thousands of golfers from throughout Utah, but Sonny sees that it retains the feel of a small community golf course. As the golf course icon Sonny has conscientiously worked on linking the community to the course and as a result the citizens of Springville take an unusual pride of ownership in their golf course. To them, Hobble Creek is their country club.

Sonny is a fine player, holding the Hobble Creek Course record at one time with a 63, but has devoted his golf focus to administration and teaching. He also developed a talent in golf repair and refinishing clubs and became a craftsman at it. He has won numerous awards including Merchandiser of the Year, the Bill Strausbaugh Award for Public Relations, and recently the Utah Section PGA 'Gentleman Jeff' Award.

The Art City Amateur Tournament he established is a fixture in Utah golf and because of his respect for history the tournament has developed an enduring tradition.

Without being flamboyant he is personable and friendly. He pays attention to detail, and runs an orderly operation. He takes pride in the condition of the golf course and the cleanliness of the clubhouse and always has time for a cheery hello and a friendly chat.

He is loved by Springville City officials and citizens, the men's and women's clubs at Hobble Creek, the employees, and all Utah golfers who have had a chance to enjoy his company.

Sonny married Laurel Turner 44 years ago, and they have three sons, Scott, Steve, and Shea.

2003



Jerry Marks

Jerry Marks is the man most responsible for supervising the administrative details of the handicaps of all UGA members for the past quarter of a century. He was the first person to computerize UGA handicaps and kept the UGA system technologically current in the rapidly changing computer industry.

He began as an independent contractor in 1980 and then became Director of Computer Operations and Handicapping for the UGA in 1991. During his years of service to the UGA he was responsible for supervising all the software developments relating to the handicap system and directed a program that saw the UGA purchase and install computers for all 100 golf courses in the state.

During his years the UGA never missed a bi-monthly update of the handicaps of UGA members. When he first started tracking UGA handicaps there were under 10,000 members and he helped that number grow to over 30,000.

For the past 20 years Marks has also been in charge of handicapping and computer services at the DuPont World Amateur Golf Championship at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, the largest golf tournament in the world. The tournament attracts over 5,000 golfers for a weeklong tournament at 70 different golf courses.

Jerry is the son of George and Phyllis Marks. George was the first recipient of the UGA Gold Club Award in 1988, and was also inducted into the Utah Golf Hall of Fame. George and Jerry are the first father-son duo in the UGA Gold Club.

Jerry was born in Salt Lake on Christmas Day, 1946, graduated from Highland School where he played on the golf team, served an LDS mission in Scotland, and attended the University of Utah and Westminster.

Jerry and his wife Leann have five children between them, Jeff and Greg, Jamie, Chase, and Destrie, along with six grandchildren.

Jerry personally traveled to every golf course in the state and worked with professionals and amateur committees all across the state in solving the myriad of problems that develop in the processing of handicaps. Along the way he made thousands of friends. He did all this stressful work with little fanfare and little recognition, never losing his cool, and preferring to shun the limelight and just get the job done.

He got it done.

2002



Jeff Beaudry

"Gentleman Jeff."

That's the moniker on the sportsmanship award presented annually by the Utah Section PGA. It is named after Jeff Beaudry and is an indication of the esteem in which he is held by golfers throughout the state.

As the Executive Director of the Utah Section of the PGA for eleven years he played a major role in the progress of all aspects of golf in Utah. He elevated the professionalism of the Utah Section PGA and was instrumental in creating a spirit of cooperation among all the golf organizations in the state.

The gentle and fair manner in which he handled meetings and mediated conflict between people and organizations resulted in progress for all concerned. He received the Utah Section Distinguished Service Award for his efforts in 1999.

He was instrumental in creating a partnership between the PGA and the Utah High School Activities Association that brought dramatic improvement to high school golf programs in the state. He was awarded the UHSAA Distinguished Service Award in 1992. In 1998 he was named the Official of the Year by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

He blended the Utah Nike Tour stop with the Utah Special Olympics in a beautiful and legitimate golf-charity partnership that brought very positive and tangible results to the Special Olympics.

Among those who are close to Special Olympics Jeff Beaudry is a true hero. His genuine interest in advancing the cause of Special Olympics is recognized nationally and internationally and the organization has benefited greatly by his devotion to it.

He was awarded the Bill Strausbaugh Award for Career Services by the Utah Section in 1993, and has also been given the award twice by the Colorado Section as well.

Prior to his years with the Utah Section he was an assistant professional at Mountain View and the head professional and general manager of the Copper Club, and was also a golf manufacturer's sales representative. He is now working as an Employment Services Consultant with the PGA of America.

He and his wife Shawna have two children, Jamie and Zach, and a granddaughter, Randi.

As one of the many beneficiaries of his leadership skills the Utah Golf Association is proud to present him with its most prestigious honor, the UGA Gold Club Award.

2001



Jeannie Goddard

For a quarter of a century Jeannie Goddard has been the most prominent woman's golf administrator in Utah and in the process of developing organizations, programs, and tournaments she has endeared herself to thousands of golfers of both genders statewide.

She took up golf at midlife and it has become a consuming passion with her, not selfishly, but unselfishly. She started as a 28 handicapper and improved to single digits, and all the time exerted a leadership role in attracting others to the game and making it more enjoyable for all.

She played a significant leadership role in the growth and development of the fledgling Utah State Women's Golf Association, which has been instrumental in providing many tournament opportunities for women that were previously unavailable.

Because of her leadership skills and her ability to work with everyone in a harmonious and constructive way, she became the first woman elected to the Utah Golf Association Board of Directors. While becoming a strong advocate for women on the UGA Board she worked cooperatively within the overall mission of the UGA in establishing new programs and services and advocated for improved men's programs as well. She served on the UGA Board for nine years, including several terms as treasurer, secretary, and vice-president. The programs at the UGA expanded dramatically during her years.

In addition to her roles with the Utah Golf Association she has held leadership positions at several local golf club organizations as well as with the Women's Regional Affairs of the USGA. She has been the chairperson of many tournaments, including both the men's and women's Utah State Amateur Championships.

Because of her broad community connections and her golf management experience she was hired by the Friends of Utah Golf to help manage the PGA Senior Tour Event in Park City. Those were very difficult years for the tournament, and her leadership during that time was critical in saving the tournament from extinction. She played key roles in securing sponsors and organizing volunteers.

Her voluntary community and church activities have benefited many. She was a member of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir for 18 years and during that time traveled much of the world. She has shared her singing talent in solo, duet, and group performances throughout the valley.

Jeannie was born and raised in Salt Lake City, the daughter of Earl and Florence King. She graduated from Granite High School and attended the University of Utah. Her husband, Richard Goddard, has been a marvelous support in all her activities, and has become a valuable volunteer for the UGA as well. They both worked for many years at Rex Williams and Sons. They have five children, Terri (Maher), Scott, Calee (Pholen), Trent, and Guy.

2000



Ernie Schneider,
Jr.

Ernie Schneider, Jr. is the son of Utah Golf Hall of Famer, Ernie Schneider, Sr. He followed in his father's footsteps and became a successful competitive golfer and teacher and club professional, and golf course owner.

Arlen Peacock, a long time admirer of Ernie and a member of the UGA Board of Directors, said, "I think we are giving him this award more for the way he handles his daily activities than for anything else. He is just such a remarkably friendly person that it is a joy for all golfers to be able to spend a few minutes with him. That is really his trademark," Peacock said.

Of course, to go along with it he has many personal achievements as well. He won the Utah Open in 1968 at the Ogden Golf and Country Club, and won many opens on the Utah-Idaho circuit through the 50s, 60s, and 70s.

Ernie Schneider Jr. was born in 1930. He married Sue Mattsson in 1955. She recently retired from Nordstrom's where she was a department manager for years. They have four children, Brett, Julie, Jon, and Lori. They are all active in various phases of managing the Schneider family golf courses.

Ernie graduated from Weber High School in 1948 and turned professional in 1950. He became the head professional at Oquirrh Hills Golf Course in Tooele, was an assistant professional for his father at the Ogden Golf and Country Club, spent two years at Blue Lakes Country Club in Twin Falls, and was the head professional at Ben Lomond Golf Course for 11 years.

In 1968, at the passing of his father, he took over ownership of Schneider's Riverside, which was then a 9-hole course on 40 acres designed by his father. In 1985 Ernie purchased an additional 39 acres and expanded the course to 18-hole and redesigned the original nine. In 1993 he purchased 150 acres in West Point, near Syracuse, and built Schneider's Bluff Golf Course.

The Schneider family is one of Utah's greatest golfing families and will remain so for many generations to come.

1999



Toni Guest

Toni Guest, because of her consistent cheerfulness and endearing personality, is one of the most popular persons in Utah golf. Because of the love she has engendered from her fellow golfers, and because of her significant contributions to Utah golf, she is the recipient of the UGA's highest honor, the UGA Gold Club Award.

As the Office Manager of the Utah Golf Association for the past 15 years she has been a key behind-the-scenes coordinator of many Utah golfing activities. She started working at the UGA in 1984 and has held key responsibilities in managing the affairs of the UGA ever since. During her span of employment she has helped the UGA grow from 14,000 members to over 30,000. She is the most senior employee of the UGA and has worked with three executive directors.

Because of her excellent relationships with golfers and golf professionals she has been the eyes and ears of the UGA. Her advice and counsel has been invaluable and has been instrumental in shaping UGA policies and procedures.

She has supervised the bi-monthly UGA mailings to all the golf courses and has stayed late many nights and made many special deliveries of handicap reports to anxious golf professionals. She has taken it as a personal challenge to see that the reports are out on time, every time.

She manages the UGA office with utmost courtesy, and always with a cheerful smile. For many years she has been the first telephone contact with almost all UGA callers. In most instances she answers the questions and solves the problems immediately without passing the call onto anyone else. She recognizes hundreds of golfers by voice recognition alone.

Toni has also become an avid, if not addicted, golfer. She started golfing at the age of 25 at Mountain View, and since then has played almost every Utah golf course. She has always held an active membership in a nine-hole league, most often at Forest Dale. She has never come close to conquering the game, but passionately searches for the secret. Her golfing friends are her best buddies.

In addition to her UGA achievements she has been a generous volunteer for other golfing organizations. She has been an official in the scoring tents in every Hogan and Nike Tour event held in Utah, as well as all the PGA Senior Tour events, and for the last 15 years has helped at the Utah Open. She has also been a volunteer course rater and has rated dozens of Utah courses for the ladies.

The only thing in her life that supersedes golf is her family. Her three children, Jami, Curtis, and Greg, are the loves of her life, along with her six grandchildren. She has also remained very close to her sisters, Chree and Dee, and her mother, Thail Olson. She idolized her dad, Jim Landures, who passed away in 1989.

1998



Gordon "Gordy"
Sperry

During the summer of 1963 Gordon was introduced to the great game of golf and it became his passion.

Any golfer who has teed off and turned in a scorecard knows Gordon. He has worked as a starter or scorer for the Utah Open, the State Amateur and Senior PGA Tour. He was the announcer on the first tee when Johnny Miller made his senior debut in Park City in 1997, and his voice was heard on ESPN. He has spent hundreds of days helping tournaments run smoothly and in the process has met thousands of golfers.

His love of the game is matched only by his affection for every golfer he has met. He is now completing his 40th year of officiating for the Utah Golf Association and the PGA.

All his volunteering hasn't been easy. He has suffered for 36 years with diabetes and takes insulin shots daily, but through the inconvenience and discomfort of this disease, he has always smiled and was anxious to get to the golf course.

In 1998 Gordon was honored with the UGA Gold Club Award. He felt it was a great honor for him to receive this award on the 100th anniversary of Utah Golf. In 2009 the PGA Section presented Gordon with the Presidential Service Award for his many years of service to the game of golf and the Utah Community.

It has been his privilege to work with all five UGA executive directors and 3 executive directors of the PGA Utah Section. He has also enjoyed working with high school golf.

Gordon has been privileged to be associated with the Hogan, Nike, Nation Wide and Web.com Tours, as well as the Utah Open, Jeremy Shoot Out and the Senior Tour.

He has learned from every person with whom he has worked. He says that none of the wonderful experiences that have been his would have been possible without the support of his wife and family.

He often says if he had to do it over again he would follow the same schedule plus more because the rewards have been far greater than the effort. The friends made along the way are his real treasures.

1997



Scott Whittaker

Scott Whittaker and I go back to 1973 when we were roommates at our first PGA Business School in San Francisco. Since that time, Scott has planned his career with one goal in mind: to make as positive a contribution as he can to golf.

Every time I think of a true friend of golf, Scott Whittaker comes to mind. Whether you are talking about women's, golf, amateur golf, junior golf, high school golf, the PGA, or the Bountiful Ridge men's club, Scott is there ready to do whatever it takes to guarantee a quality experience to the participants. When there is something that needs to be done, Scott leads by example.

Scott would never take credit for many of the things he has done. Like most Gold Club Award winners, he is more comfortable working and giving the credit to someone else. Some of Scott's accomplishments though, deserve recognition: He has been the head professional and director of golf at Bountiful Ridge since it opened in 1975. He was a pioneer in the formation of the 41st and last section of the PGA of America, the Utah Section, 1986. He served as president of the Utah Section PGA from 1988-1990. He was selected as the 1988 and 1996 Utah Section PGA Golf Professional of the Year (the only person to be selected twice). He was elected to the PGA of America National Board of Directors, serving from 1992-1996. (During his term on the national board of directors, Scott was also on the Utah Section board, and despite his extensive travel schedule for the PGA, he never missed a section meeting. That is the kind of commitment he has to Utah Golf). Scott was the driving force behind creating the Utah Book of Golf. He remains one of the strongest advocates behind the Utah Section PGA's support of junior and high school golf and is a constant supporter of women's golf.

Before we canonize him, however, know that Scott's greatest strengths are also his greatest weaknesses. Scott is not only perpetually late for meetings, but he also single-handedly makes those same meetings 50 percent longer than if he wasn't there. To the uninitiated, you might think this is the end of the story, but what you know after being in meetings with Scott is that to him, people are more important than schedules – so he always takes a few extra minutes to say or to do those things that are important to him. By the end of the day he is bound to be running late. Regarding Scott's talent for marathon meetings, Mt. Ogden Head Professional Steve Wathen put it best when he said, "It's just that Scott has more good ideas in an hour than most of us have in a year."

Scott's selection to this elite fraternity of Gold Club Award winners is a fitting tribute and compliment to those previous winners who continue to stand as an example for the rest of us.

Jeff Beaudry is the Executive Director of the Utah Section PGA and a regular contributor to Fairways

1996



Lynn
Summerhays

Lynn Summerhays, who has been the prime leader of the Utah Junior Golf Association for the past ten years, was chosen as the recipient of this year's UGA Gold Club Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Utah Golf Association.

The award was presented as the highlight of the UGA Annual Meeting at the University Park Hotel,

"Although I don't feel worthy of it, I am deeply honored to receive this award," Summerhays said. "Those who have previously received this award are very special people and it's an honor to join with them as a recipient. "The award goes annually to an individual who, through significant achievement or unselfish service, has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty, and friendship earn him the love and respect of his fellow golfers.

Summerhays fits the description of the award to a tee. In addition to being a powerful leader of the nationally recognized junior golf program, he has also made significant contributions and achievements in community, church, and business affairs while never losing focus of the importance of family.

A special tribute was paid to him at the dinner by his wife, children and nephew and it exhibited the close love and affection the family has maintained. Bruce Summerhays, Lynn's brother, was playing on the Senior PGA Tour and was unable to attend, but a special tribute from him was read by his son, Bryan.

Lynn is married to Ann Frischknect and they have seven children, David, Rebekah, Elizabeth, Spencer, Boyd, Mary, and Daniel.

Previous Gold Club Award winners have been George Marks, Steve Dunford, Karl Tucker, Jimmy Thompson, Marion Dunn, Mark Passey, Larry Disera, and Garey Chadwick.

A plaque for each of the award winners is on display in the Utah Golf Hall of Fame room at the Eaglewood Golf Course.

1995



Gary Chadwick

Gary Chadwick, past president of the Utah Golf Association and long time volunteer and member of the Utah Junior Golf Association, was the recipient of the 1995 UGA Gold Club Award. It was presented to him by UGA President, Ron Hitchcock at the UGA Annual Meeting at Willow Creek Country Club. The affair was attended by 170 golf leaders from throughout the state.

In his always gracious and humble manner, Chadwick expressed deep appreciation for the award and for the many friends he has developed through his years of service in golf.

The presentation of the award is always the highlight of the meeting. All previous living recipients of the award were in attendance. They are: George Marks, Karl Tucker, Jimmy Thompson, Marion Dunn, Mark Passey, and Larry Disera. Steve Dunford, the only other recipient, was presented the award posthumously.

Another highlight of the annual meeting was the election of two new UGA board members, Paul Hatch of Glendale, and Robert (*Bud*) Paul of Oakridge Country Club. They replaced outgoing board members, Keith Hansen of Logan Golf and Country Club and Karl Thalman of Riverside Country Club.

Hansen and Thalman were each presented a special plaque in appreciation of their nine years of service on the board. They each served two one-year terms as president of the UGA and made significant contributions to the growth and progress of the association.

Mark Passey, regional representative of the United States Golf Association, made a special presentation of the USGA Ike Grainger Award to George Marks for his many years of service to the USGA.

Awards were also presented to all UGA individual and team champions.

Hitchcock, in presenting the Gold Club Award to Chadwick, said, "One of my defining moments in golf was when Gary Chadwick called me by my first name. 'Wow', I thought. 'This big shot from the UGA knows my name.' I was in heaven. It wasn't until later that I realized Chadwick knew everyone's first name. He is recognized as one of the truly good guys in golf. He doesn't have a detractor anywhere. Everyone loves Gary and he is very deserving of this most prestigious of all UGA honors."

Chadwick served 12 years on the UGA board of directors, and two one-year stints as president. He has also served on the Utah Junior Golf Association board of directors since its inception in 1980. He spent much of his vacation time for 12 years traveling with and supervising about 40 different boys while serving as captain of the Utah Junior Americas Cup Team.

Hitchcock pointed out, "Because of his special leadership qualities the boys gained great respect for him, and even after many years, the bond of friendship remains clearly evident."

Chadwick got his start in golf at Bountiful and Davis Park golf courses. He served as President of the Davis Park men's Club for two years prior to being elected to the UGA board.

He has served on the USGA Public Links Championship Committee since 1981, and has been a volunteer for all of the PGA Senior Tour and Nike tour events held in Utah.

Chadwick was born in Ogden and graduated from Weber High School in 1956. He married Elaine Facer and they have four children.

1994



Larry Disera

The most coveted award of the night was saved for last. The Gold Club Award of the Utah Golf Association honors a person who “through significant achievement or unselfish service has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah, and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty, and friendship earn him the love and respect of his fellow golfers.” The only disparaging comment with the announcement of Larry Disera winning this year’s award was “What took them so long.” Disera proclaimed, “This is the greatest honor of my life.” Every man, woman, and junior golfer, past and present, in this state should feel honored that Larry Disera is the person he is. No one has given more of himself and his talent than he has over the last twenty years. For a long time, I thought he was a paid employee of the Utah Golf Association. Whenever I needed something it was Larry Disera who answered the call. It did not matter if it was a rules question, help with a tournament or turf management or most of all, help with the course ratings, he was on the spot. Proud of the fact he has played every golf course in Utah, he is a significant asset to the association in whatever capacity he has served.

And serve he has – on the Board of Directors from 1983-1992; as president in 1985 and 1989. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Copper Club for twenty years, serving as president in 1972, 1973, and 1982.

Disera was born in Magna, Utah and graduated from Cyprus High School. He played quarterback and tailback on their State High School Championship football team but it was golf that intrigued him. In the summer months he learned the game, as so many others did, from caddie yards. He entered the copper mines and began a career that would last thirty-seven years as he rose through the ranks to manage the employee relations for the entire Utah Division of Kennecott Copper. Just as he would help the thousands of workers who labored in the mines, he would help the thousands of golfers who played the game throughout this state. The Utah Golf Associations owes a tremendous debt to Larry Disera. His selection to receive the distinguished Golf Club award is a just and fitting honor.

The UGA concluded its annual get-together with pictures, hugs, backslaps, and handshakes around the room. Altogether not a bad way to end a year-long party where everyone seems to get along. Not at all like other places, and you know, I’m glad that’s the way it is.

1993



Mark Passey

As the sixth winner of the award, Passey came full circle in an organization that he, as much as anybody, has shaped and molded. Partly due to Passey's work, the UGA, according to one United States Golf official is "the best of all (associations) for one of its size."

In accepting this award Passey acknowledged the debt he owes to those whose help he has received along the way. He also thanked the hundreds of volunteers. "Without their help, an organization like the UGA could function at the level it does."

Passey flatly claims not being in the same league with former winners, conveying his appreciation, but saying it was too early in his career for such and honor. "People associate this type of award with retirement, or the end of the person's working life, and I feel my career is just starting with many more goals to accomplish." Passey promised to continue to work hard in trying to accomplish the vision that his predecessors had for golf in Utah.

Those persons in the audience who know of Passey's work ethics acknowledge he puts his shoulder to the wheel when the job requires it.

Born to good Mormon stock, Passey's work habits were formed early in his parents grocery store on property which is now Sugarhouse Park. He remembers working in the family business in an early age, but doesn't consider it special or out of the ordinary. What he does remember is the joy of growing up in south central Salt Lake City, with its rapidly growing suburbs, parks, and more importantly, public golf courses within walking distance or a short bike ride.

"I played all the sports," Passey remembers. "But it was the 1963 Utah Open that changed my emphasis to golf. I got a job caddying in that year's tournament and drew Frank Beard. Frank had a reputation as one of the more excitable players on the tour, but he was very nice to me. For that week golf was the most important thing in my life, and after that experience, golf became the spot I wanted to excel in."

Mark made the South High School golf team as a sophomore, but with the development of Sugarhouse Park and the coming the I-80 Freeway, his parents sold their property and relocated their grocery store to Magna, Utah. It was there, under the tutelage of PGA Golf Professional Norm Rackley, that Mark developed as a player.

Magna was a hotbed of golf activism that was in inverse proportion to the number of people living there. With only one nine-hole golf course for the mostly blue-collar workers from nearby Kennecott Copper Mine, the Copper Club, as it was known, spawned the careers of several golf notables. Larry Disera would serve as a director of the Utah Golf Association. Jeff Beaudry, now the Executive Director of the Utah Section PGA, was a teammate of Passey's on the Cyprus High School golf team. Marion Dunn, a former recipient of the Gold Club award grew up in Magna. Jack Ridd on the Utah's greatest players, would raise two sons, Kean and Craig, who would both go on to distinguished careers in golf.

Passey could have played on the golf team at Utah State, and at one time might have contemplated turning pro, but he joined a fledgling new grocery company that was trying to run with the big boys. The next twenty years were spent growing with Smiths Food & Drug store and playing golf at the Logan Country Club.

Passey's early job painting the signs that hung in the windows of his family grocery store evolved into a talent for printing the scoreboards at local golf tournaments, a service he performed for years at many prestigious tournaments.

Passey was nominated to the Utah Golf Association Board of Directors in 1981 and in 1984 he was elected president. When the United States Golf Association went looking for a person with strong leadership skills to direct its newly created South Central Region, Passey was mentioned first.

From bag boy to high management in the grocery business and from volunteer to one of the most influential men in amateur golf, Mark Passey has demonstrated that the credo of hard work, integrity, and a love for whatever task is at hand will transcend the problems most people find insurmountable.

1992



Marion Dunn

Marion Dunn, a sports writer in Utah for more than 40 years, has been named as the recipient of the 1992 UGA Gold Club Award, the highest honor given by the UGA. The award was presented at the UGA Annual Meeting, Thursday, October 8 at Riverside Country Club. Previous recipients of the award have been George Marks, Steve Dunford, Karl Tucker, and Jimmy Thompson.

Ever since the early 1950s, golf in Utah has been blessed with good press. One of the most frequent and prominent by lines through all those years has been out of Marion Dunn. "As long as I can remember, I've known I wanted to be a sports writer," says Dunn. "I fell in love with golf by reading the national sports writers, not by playing the game. I didn't start to play until after World War II."

When Dunn first joined the Deseret News sports staff in 1948 Golf was a minor sport. Few played the game and it warranted little press coverage. At that time, there were only three 18-hole golf courses in Utah. Forty-two years later when he retired as an editor of The Daily Herald, Golf had grown from the obscurity to prominence. Now there are nearly 90 golf courses in the state and it is estimated that 20% of Utah's population plays the game - the second highest participation rate in the country. That growth is due, in large measure, to public awareness fostered by the news media.

The Utah State Amateur Championship and the Utah Open owe much of their popularity and prestige to the significant press coverage given to the events. Dunn, and other members of the fourth estate, recognized the greatness of the game before it became popular and gave it public prominence long before it was justified.

"Golf is the greatest game ever invented," says Dunn. "It demands so much concentration that if you're forced to put all other problems aside."

Dunn has walked the fairways with every prominent golfer who ever played the game in Utah, becoming a first-name friend with most of them. He has been a recording witness to almost every golfing event of significance in Utah, and his ability to sense and report the drama and beauty of the game endeared him to tournament golfers statewide. They each felt he was genuinely pulling for them - and he was.

Of the pros, amateurs, and his fellow golf reporters, Dunn says, "we were almost like a family."

Dunn was born on November 20, 1922 in Manassa, Colorado. He grew up in Bingham and graduated from Bingham high school in 1941. After attending Utah State, he graduated from the University of Utah in 1950. He served time in the army from 1943 to 1946, including assignments in New Guinea in the Philippines.

He worked for the Tribune Telegram from 1950 to 52 and worked briefly for United Press in San Francisco and for the Twin Falls newspaper, before returning to the Deseret News in 1953. He joined the staff of the Salt Lake Tribune in 1959 and continued there until 1976, when he was name sports editor of the Daily Herald in Provo. While at the Daily Herald, he was named the president of the National Football Writers' Association in 1989.

Dunn's biggest concern about the future of golf in Utah centers on the management of public courses. "I don't think all should have to support other programs," he says. "Golf pays its way and that's all it should be asked to do." Dunn would like to see revenues collected from public courses stay in a fund for golf and golfers (as it did during much of his career) not in a general fund to be used as the government decides. He is also concerned with other governmental cost cutting measures like to reductions in golf course staffs. "If they take the pros at public course is out of the picture, it becomes too impersonal. Golf isn't all about profit. If we think that way, it will go back to being a rich man's game."

Of his Gold Club Award, Dunn says, "It means everything to me. I was elected into the Utah Sports Hall of Fame and was president of the National Football Writers' Association, but this is the biggest. This is the game I love."

Dunn is married to Hertha Sirstins and they have three children, Eileen, Zanonini, Gary, and Bob.

1991



Jimmy
Thompson

Jimmy Thompson, a longtime popular professional golfer in Utah, has been named as the fourth recipient of the UGA Gold Club Award. He will be presented with the honor at the UGA annual meeting Monday at 6:30 p.m. at the Ogden Country Club.

The 72-year-old Thompson served as the head professional at the Timpanogos Golf Course in Provo and the Tri-City Golf Course in American Fork. He was at Timpanogos from 1949 to 1951 before going to California to work at three different courses including Rancho Park in Los Angeles. He returned to Utah in 1973 and became the head pro at Tri City, a position he held until 1986.

Robert McArthur, head professional at Riverside Country Club, who was an assistant to Thompson at Tri-City, said, "I'm pleased the UGA has chosen to recognize Jimmy Thompson with such an important honor. He is a pro's pro and a golfer's golfer. He did wonders for Tri-City, and we certainly appreciate all he did for us."

The UGA Gold Club Award is "presented annually to an individual who through significant achievement or unselfish service has contributed to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah and whose personal integrity, sportsmanship, common courtesy, loyalty and friendship earn him the love and respect of his fellow golfers."

Previous winners of the award have been George Marks, Steve Dunford and Karl Tucker.

1990



Karl Tucker

Karl Tucker's very successful golf teams at Brigham Young University brought national and international acclaim to the state and elevated Utah golf to world class status. His program attracted some of the best young golfers in America, and the association with those golfers planted a seed of excellence that has raised the level of expectations of all golfers in the state. He has shown to others that the 'Impossible Dream' is neither impossible, nor a dream.

During Tucker's years as coach at BYU the Cougars were perennial contenders for the national championship, winning the NCAA title in 1981, finishing second twice, in 1976 and 1980, third twice, in 1969 and 1970, fourth three times, and fifth five times, for a total of 13 top five finishes. On four other occasions the Cougars finished in the top ten, for a total of 17 top ten finishes in 20 years.

His teams won 19 Western Athletic Conference champions and 16 individual WAC championships. His teams won 170 tournaments. He coached at BYU from 1961 through 1992.

He is a member of the National Golf Coaches Hall of Fame, the Utah Sports Hall of Fame, and has received the Dale Rex Award, the Bob Poulsen Award, and the UGA Gold Club Award.

Johnny Miller and Mike Reid are his most famous players. Both were first team All Americans at BYU. After graduating Miller went on to win the U.S. Open, the British Open, and wide acclaim as one of the greatest golfers in history. Reid won the World Series of Golf, finished second at the PGA, third in the Masters, and has had a long and successful career on the PGA Tour.

John Fought (1977) and Bobby Clampett (1978) two other products of the BYU golf program, were named U.S. Amateur of the Year. Pat McGowan (1978) and John Fought (1979) were named PGA Tour Rookie of the Year.

First team All Americans under Tucker were Miller, Reid, Clampett, Mike Brannan, Keith Clearwater, Rick Fehr, Ray Leach, Lance Suzuki, and Brent Franklin.

Many other BYU golfers have become professionals and are leaders in the golf industry throughout the country. Many of Utah's professionals played under Tucker and have been influenced by him.

His players will be making significant contributions to golf for many years to come, not only in the state, but the nation, and throughout the world, and many future inductees into the Utah Golf Hall of Fame will have roots with his BYU golf program.

Tucker was born Nov. 18, 1926 in Orem, Utah and has lived in Orem his entire life. He graduated from BYU in 1952 and received a Masters Degree from BYU in 1964. He married Joanne Eliason in 1952, and they have four children, Jackie, Shellie, Larry, and Phillip.

1989



Steve Dunford

Steve Dunford died an early and untimely death at the age of 56, but in those years he packed a full lifetime of service and accomplishments into the game he loved.

While the Utah Golf Association existed in some form or other since 1898, it didn't become formally incorporated until Steve Dunford came on the scene. He became its president, a position he held for 14 years, and then was full time general manager of the UGA for another three years until his sudden and unexpected passing.

During those years Dunford did everything he could to put Utah in the national mainstream of golf. He promoted and helped bring to Utah several major tournaments from the then fledgling PGA Tour. Most of the great players of the era came to Salt Lake City for those tournaments, including Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer, Sam Snead, Bobby Locke, Ed Furgol, Lloyd Mangrum, Jimmy Demaret, Cary Middlecoff, Lew Worsham, Julius Boros, and Billy Casper.

Those tournaments were well attended and widely publicized and brought an increased public awareness about golf to Utahns. The natural surge in interest resulted in the construction of many new golf courses throughout the state.

Steve was a member of The Country Club, but led out in taking the Utah Golf Association to the public courses. He felt golf was for everyone. He, along with George Marks, helped establish a fair handicap system for Utah golfers, and was responsible for encouraging the organization of junior and women's golf programs. He was instrumental in the success and growth of the Utah State Amateur and the Utah Open.

The persuasive power of his personality kept many projects alive and well long after they had been pronounced dead by others.

When Steve died in 1969, Hack Miller, of The Deseret News, wrote, "Steve had done more for the organizational side of Utah golf than any other person."

He was born in Salt Lake City on July 25, 1912 and married Mae Christensen. They had seven children, Larry, Craig, Jayne, Mrs. David (Kay) Thomas, James, Steven, and Christopher.

He graduated from LDS High School in 1929 and Utah State University in 1933. He was president of Dunford Bakeries, a wholesale and retail bakery he jointly owned with his brothers.

What is the power of one individual? We can see and know and still feel the effects of Steve Dunford's efforts. What would golf be like in Utah if he had lived longer? Have we filled his shoes? In some ways, sure; but it is also certain that golf in Utah would be better if Steve had been able to live longer.

Jack Schroeder, of The Salt Lake Tribune, wrote, "Steve Dunford's monument is the dignity, grace, and style that he brought to golf in Utah. His reward was not in money, but in the building of an ideal." Utah golf is the beneficiary.

1988



George Marks

The Utah Golf Association will present its first annual UGA Gold Club Award to George Marks Thursday night at the UGA Annual Meeting at the Riverside Country Club in Provo.

The new award will be given annually to an individual "who through singular achievement or unselfish service has contributed significantly to the history and tradition of the game of golf in Utah."

Marks, 68, has been a long-time volunteer worker in golf activities at the club level, for the UGA and for the United States Golf Association. He retired several years ago as managing partner of Covey Investment Company and is presently serving as vice-president of the Salt Lake Country Club.

Marks, who has served on the UGA Board of Directors and numerous committees for the USGA, is recognized as the state's foremost rules expert. During the past 16 years he has officiated at most U.S. Opens.

"George Marks has been a great part of laying the foundation for golf in this state," said UGA President Joe Watts. "He is a great gentleman who has developed friendships among golfers from Logan to St. George. We are proud of his accomplishments."