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This page: At the beginning of the month, championship registration opened for the season's calendar of competitions! MGA Members can now register for 2019's MGA, LIGA, and WGA championships on mgagolf.org.

Pictured: The Met Open's Walker L. Trammell Trophy.



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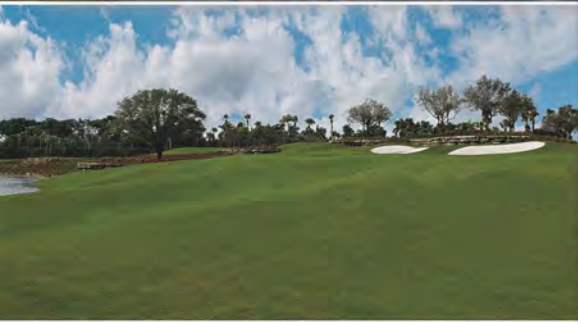
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Bocaire Country Club's golf course and practice facilities underwent a total transformation and looks nothing like its former self. What was once a relatively flat course has been transformed into a layout with lots of undulation in the fairways and mounding on the peripheries. Over 325,000 cubic yards of dirt were moved – and several new lakes created – to bring this new masterpiece together.



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Bocaire Country Club in Boca Raton, FL just opened **"The Challenge at Bocaire,"** their newly designed, \$8 million golf course by Kipp Schulties, named "the hottest golf course designer in South Florida" by *Boca Raton Magazine*. Schulties said, "We moved 350,000 cubic yards of dirt to make elevation changes and add contour. We lengthened the course to over 7,000 yards for championship play and made each hole unique for better variety."

The course has soared to new heights – literally – the tee box on the 3rd hole may well be the highest elevation point in the area. Holes have been eliminated, added, redesigned and reconfigured in order to create a course that is challenging, yet seven sets of tees make the course playable for every skill level. Thousands of red bougainvillea and oleander plants as well as stadium-like greens provide lush backdrops, and Bocaire is now the only South Florida course to feature TifGrand® fairways, a grass that is vibrantly green and lets the ball sit up nicely.

Also, Bocaire's world-class practice facility allows players to actually hit to greens, many fronted by rock bunkers to help zero in on distance and accuracy. There's also a separate short game area with multiple greens so players can experience what might await them on the course.

Bocaire is an exclusive private club with 238 custom-built private homes. There are no membership cards and members enjoy generous family golf privileges without tee times or greens fees for parents,



children or grandchildren. There are five Har-Tru tennis courts with a competitive tennis program as well as on-site pros for lessons and equipment repairs. The resort-style aquatic center features a beach entry, temperature-controlled pool with 2 lap lanes surrounded by a natural stone deck with spa as well as a fully-equipped fitness center and Pro Shop. Bocaire's renowned Executive Chef Kevin Marcelle and his talented culinary team provide exquisite cuisine in both casual and formal dining facilities.



Seminar Season

On March 12, more than 100 golf course superintendents, professionals, green chairmen and club officials gathered at Willow Ridge Country Club in Harrison, N.Y., as the month-long, MGA Foundation-sponsored Spring Education Series began with the Green Chairman Seminar.

Industry experts discussed a variety of timely topics, with Cornell's Frank Rossi, Ph. D., assessing golf footwear's effects on putting surface performance and Chris Carson, CGCS at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, N.J., sharing his experience using Twitter as a communications tool with membership. USGA Northeast Region Green Section agronomist Paul Jacobs discussed the challenging labor market faced by superintendents, while colleague Dave Oatis, Director, USGA Northeast Region Green Section, covered a sweeping range of topics including increasing golfer enjoyment and learning from the challenges presented by the hot, rainy 2018 season.

Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, Conn., was presented with the 13th annual Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award for its preservation efforts for a variety of wildlife habitats.

Visit mgagolf.org for complete details and a full schedule for the Spring Education Series, which includes Handicapping & Rules Seminars and Caddie Academies.



Jim Pavonetti,
CGCS at Fairview
Country Club.



The Met Golfer EXTRA

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

Volume 7, Number 3 • March 2019

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Published for the Metropolitan Golf Association by:

Great Golf Resorts of the World, Inc.
2600 Philmont Avenue, Suite 325
Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006
Phone: (215) 914-2071

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EXTRA RELIEF



As MGA staff have continued to educate players on golf's new Rules, a number of specific changes have drawn their share of attention from seminar attendees. One such case is an extra relief option for an unplayable ball in a bunker.

It is not uncommon for a player to need to take unplayable ball relief in a bunker, especially when the ball is very close to a steep-faced bunker wall or lip. Previously in this situation, a player's only option for relief outside the bunker was to play from where the last stroke was made, also known as stroke-and-distance relief. Now, if a player deems their ball unplayable in a bunker, they can—under Rule 19.3b—take back-on-the-line relief (*see inset photo*) outside the bunker under a two-stroke penalty.

The availability of this option can potentially help players avoid large scores and allow them to successfully finish holes where they may not do so otherwise, while also speeding up play. Additionally, the severity of a two-stroke penalty reflects the significant amount of relief being

allowed while also ensuring it won't become a frequently used option to simply get out of a bunker.

A player declaring their ball unplayable in a bunker also still has the option to take stroke-and-distance relief, take back-on-the-line relief *in the bunker* or take lateral relief *in the bunker*, all under penalty of one stroke (Rule 19.3a).



Under new Rule 19.3b, this player is taking back-on-the-line relief outside the bunker and dropping in his determined relief area.

Sometimes the best option when facing a challenging lie close to a bunker's lip is to declare your ball unplayable.

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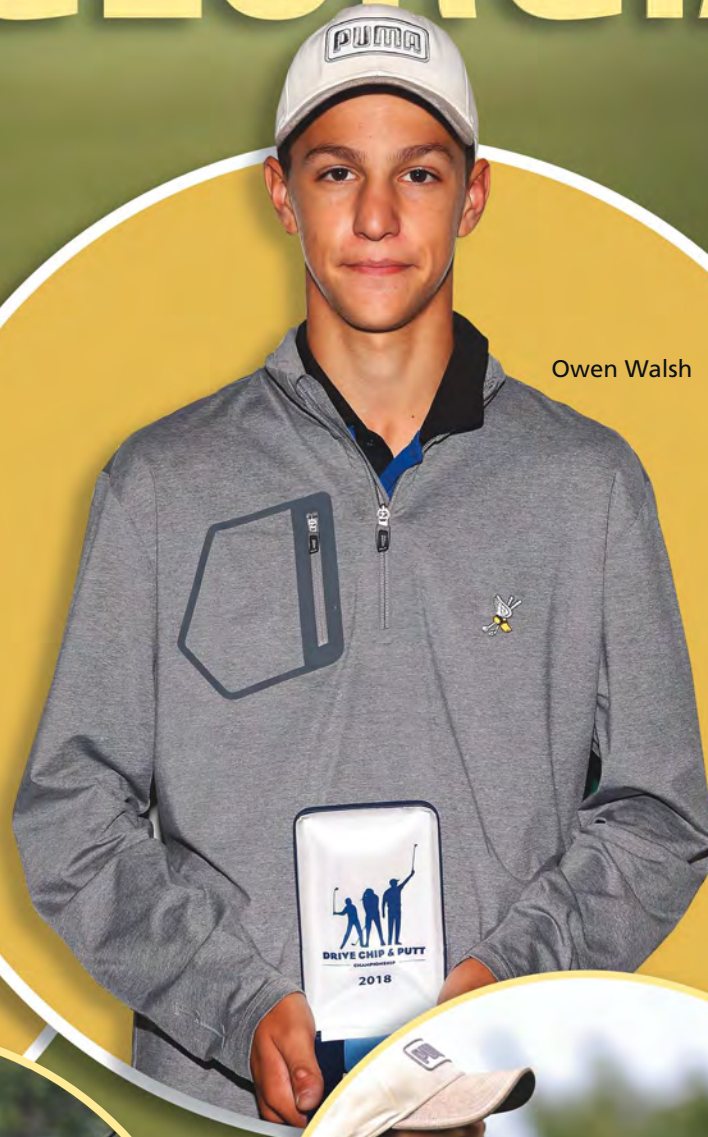




GEORGIA on their MIND



Nathan Drogin



Owen Walsh



After facing one another in the opening round of the 50th MGA/MetLife Boys' Championship last summer, Nathan Drogin of Essex Fells, N.J., and Owen Walsh of Goldens Bridge, N.Y., were fortunate that their qualifying paths didn't cross for 2019's Drive, Chip & Putt. Now, both players are set to drive down Magnolia Lane and compete in the National Finals, April 7 at Augusta National.

Extra: Having attempted DCP qualifying in the past, which parts of your game improved most to help you advance to the National Finals?

Nathan Drogin: Each year, something was different. In my first year, I didn't hit the fairway each time on my drives. At the Subregional last year, I again missed a fairway on a drive, but truthfully my chipping wasn't great. This year, chipping was my strongest event and I managed to hit the fairway each time, which is necessary in order to advance.

Owen Walsh: In the first couple of years, I didn't really have my chipping down and I was skulling chips over the green and duffing them. So, I feel like my chipping was pretty solid throughout all of the qualifiers, which really put me at the top of the field.

E: With a trip to the National Finals on the line, how did you stay focused during Regionals?

ND: Congressional was an unusual experience because it was pouring rain the entire time. It was difficult to loosen up without getting drenched. I managed to just focus on one shot at a time.

OW: My brother competing at Winged Foot the year before really helped me. He gave me some key advice on not worrying about other opponents and he really helped me stay relaxed and cheered me on. He really motivated me to make it to Augusta.

E: What are you looking forward to most about competing in the National Finals at Augusta National?

ND: I'm looking forward to the experience of being at Augusta, and if I get to meet some of the players, that would be cool too.

OW: The atmosphere is going to be really cool... I'm just going to take what a great opportunity it is... I feel like I'm in for a treat.

Visit mgagolf.org to read full Q&As with Nathan and Owen, plus see all of the Met Area juniors who will compete in the Drive, Chip & Putt National Finals.

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CREATURES of Comfort

BY SCOTT KRAMER

Shanks aside, can anything ruin a golf round quicker than uncomfortable shoes? If your feet are aching on the course, then both you and your game will suffer. But thanks to some clever use of materials, this year's golf shoes feel more heavenly than ever. They collectively eliminate any break-in period, letting you enjoy them from the first moment you put them on. FootJoy's *FJFURY* (\$220/BOA lacing, \$190/standard) conceals a soft, stretch, one-piece inner fit sleeve underneath the insole. It's complemented by a special footbed comprised of two densities of foam - one maintains cushion throughout the shoe's life, the other takes an impression of your foot and creates a custom fit.

Callaway's Skyline (\$150) sports a TPU outsole that provides plenty of support, while enhancing feel and traction. The outsole's cutouts let the shoe flex and move as one with your foot throughout the swing. A soft, molded EVA insole adds cushion, while a dual-layer foam midsole adds further comfort. PUMA Golf touts the "extreme comfort" in its *IGNITE PROADAPT* (\$200) that has an ultra-soft yet supportive insole that improves fit and comfort for the entire round - its proprietary IGNITE foam underfoot provides energy return, responsive comfort, stable cushioning and immediate comfort out of the box.





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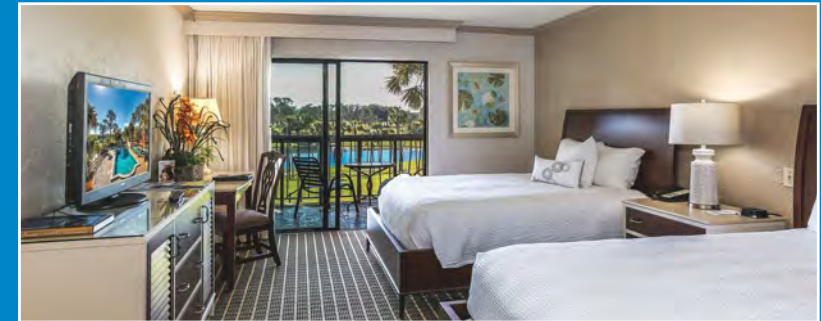
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Masters Edition



The par-four 18th on Jones' The Oconee serves as a more than memorable finishing hole, with namesake Lake Oconee coming into play for the fifth time during the round.

Late in the winter months, nothing quite gets the heart pumping like seeing the season's first Masters commercial. It's even better if you're set to make the pilgrimage to Augusta National and have your own rounds to plan during what is most golf fans' favorite week of the year.

Reynolds Lake Oconee: Easily accessible just west of Augusta, Reynolds Lake Oconee offers a relaxed atmosphere, desirable amenities, and first-rate accommodations in addition to its award-winning golf. With five resort courses designed by names like Bob Cupp, Tom Fazio, Rees Jones, and Jack Nicklaus, players encounter variety, challenge, and scenic brilliance around every corner. From the rolling topography of The National's 27 holes to the risk/reward routing of The Oconee, each course boasts its own unique characteristics.

Santee, South Carolina: With Santee National, Santee Cooper, and Lake Merion within close proximity, there's no wonder why Santee—east of Augusta—is called "Golf's Little Big Town." These parkland courses flow gently with the southern landscape, their lush fairways lined by mossy oaks and towering pines. As a true value golf destination—where accommodations include hotels, condos, or villas—more than 10 courses also lie within 40 minutes of Santee, offering play no matter the direction in which you're headed.

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Nestled among the natural beauty and rolling terrain of the nature preserves, the Fazio and the Hills courses at Old Trail provide a pure golf experience. This golfer's paradise presents a true test for players up to the challenge. The Fazio has been described as one of Tom Fazio's best designs and is revered as Jonathan's Landing's true championship course.

The Hills, designed by Arthur Hills, is a shot maker's dream. This course lends itself to the pristine, natural surroundings and is known for requiring accuracy more than power. The courses at Old Trail offer an unparalleled experience that, golf purists will agree, leaves you wanting to play these courses again and again.

The Village location, just a few miles east in the heart of Jupiter, is home to the JL Village course, designed by Tom Fazio. Meandering around the neighborhoods of the gated

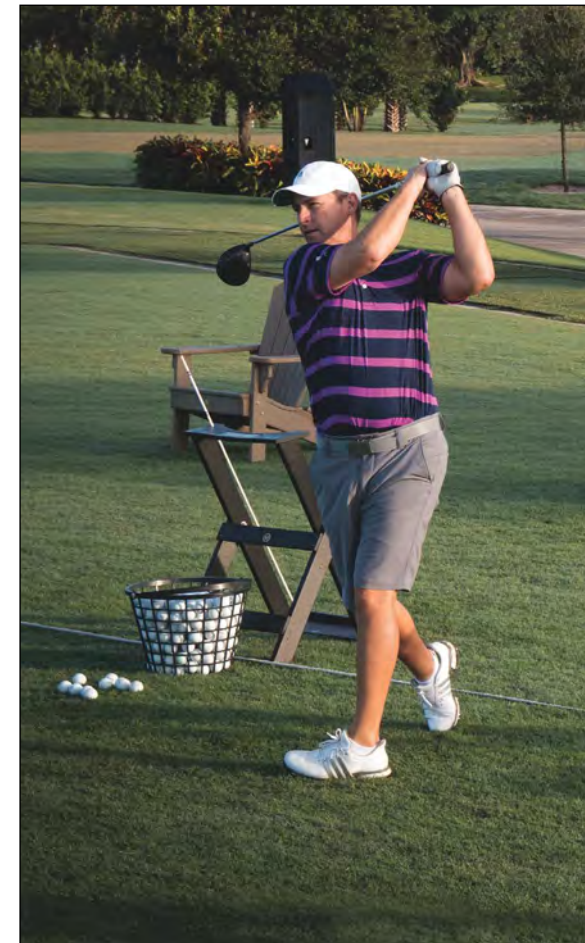


community and Intracoastal waters, this course features a one-of-a-kind ferry boat ride over the scenic waterway at the signature 17th hole. Whether you're a beginner or an avid golfer, these three courses will test your skills and provide you with the variety of play every golfer searches for.

Tennis enthusiasts will enjoy an active schedule on our Tennis Center's ten Har-Tru courts with matches and inter-club leagues. Jonathan's Landing features a modern Fitness Center & Spa, offering a full range of cardio and strength exercise equipment, a variety of group fitness classes, individualized personal training programs and exceptional spa services.

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Honoring HOPE and Humanity



PGA HOPE is a six to eight week program led by trained PGA Professionals.

As the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association continues to announce award recipients to be honored at its 68th National Awards Dinner, the May 13 event at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown, N.Y., is once again shaping up to be a can't-miss evening.



Kevin Purcell

PGA HOPE (Helping Our Patriots Everywhere), the flagship military program of PGA REACH, will receive the Distinguished Service Award. The program was developed to introduce golf to the nation's disabled Veterans and was designed to enhance participants' overall quality of life.

Kevin Purcell, Executive Director of the New Jersey State Golf Association, will receive the Mary Bea Porter Award, honoring his heroic actions that helped saved the life of Carlos Tapia, who collapsed at Forest Hill Field Club having suffered a massive heart attack.

The Bing Crosby Tournament Sponsor Award will be presented to ShopRite, title sponsor of the ShopRite LPGA Classic Presented by Acer. ShopRite became the title sponsor in 1992 and has since donated more than \$34 million to various organizations.

To buy tickets, support PGA HOPE and a Veteran's attendance at the dinner, or purchase raffle tickets, visit the MGWA's website.



The Bay Course at Seaview Hotel and Golf Club near Atlantic City, N.J., hosts the ShopRite LPGA Classic.