

# GOLF REPORT



With its instructional golf clinics, tournaments and scholarship program, the Ohio Girls Golf Foundation introduces girls to countless educational, recreational and career opportunities through the game of golf.



*We embark on the coming decade with a renewed spirit of hope.*

*Though the economy could have been brighter in 2009, support*

*for the OGGF has grown.*

*We are thankful for the overwhelming efforts of local golf associations to help us realize our mission. Along with our newest Board Member Sherry Kahl, the CWGA supported our first-ever Golf Bazaar in June, which raised more than \$2,000. People donated golf equipment and clothing for us to sell...and the day was a complete success!*

*Other organizations, such as the Avon Oaks Women's Golf Association and the GCGA, held charity dinners and tournaments making the OGGF the beneficiary.*

*Thanks to you, the young women our Foundation has mentored are truly making a difference. Many come back each year to volunteer and continue the giving process with the younger girls.*

*We look ahead to the new year and all that awaits!*

**— Teen Burke,  
OGGF President**

## Girls golf in Ohio is on the grow

**By Tom Rider, OGGF  
Tournament Director**

As we embark on a new decade, it's a good time to look back on just how far girls' golf in Ohio has come.

The slow climb began in 1974, when a group of six athletic directors in the Youngstown area formed a girls golf league for their female students. Its purpose was simply to introduce girls to competitive golf through match play. There were no sectional tournaments, no districts, no regionals, no states.

In the 1980s, more schools in the area tried to form teams; Warren Harding, Niles, Howland and others appeared in the Youngstown Warren area and Edgewood and Pymatuning Valley in the Ashtabula area.

The slow climb picked up steam in the 1990s, with

many more teams forming. In 1993 the OHSAA finally sanctioned an Ohio Girls Golf State Championship.

Up until 1994, there were no teams in the Cleveland area. Most girls played on the boys' golf team and then went to regionals as an individual. As far as anyone can remember, Solon High School started the first girls' team in the area, followed by Olmsted Falls, Walsh Jesuit and Cuyahoga Falls.

That same year, the Ohio Girls Golf Foundation (OGGF) was born and the momentum of girls golf began to swing forward. This special group took upon their shoulders the mission of expanding girls golf. The slow climb was not so slow anymore! They talked to anyone who would listen and interest started to pick up. They gave money to help countless young girls learn

to play golf and also awarded college scholarships to girls throughout the state.

To date, high school golf in Northeast Ohio has blossomed into 133 teams and two divisions with seven sectionals and two district tournaments. Across the state, there are more than 250 teams. There are league championships and more summer tournaments than days on the calendar.

And the legacy continues as the Foundation hosts the 2010 OGGF Open at Avon Oaks Country Club on July 18 and 19. As a testament to the interest in girls golf, this tournament (pictured below) fills up each year with a waiting list. Whether you are a player, volunteer, sponsor or coach...you can truly make a difference and carry on the growth of girls golf. Visit [www.oggf.org](http://www.oggf.org) to see more!



# ANNUAL FUND DONORS

*The Annual Fund is a big part of supporting our goals as a non-profit organization. To save on postage, we are including a donation envelope with this newsletter instead of sending out a separate fundraising letter.*

*And to make it even easier, you can now also donate online at [www.oggf.org](http://www.oggf.org).*

*Thank you to the following individuals and groups who donated in 2009 to help support the OGGF mission:*

Jeanie Belhobek  
Tim Bennett  
Jacqueline Cassel  
Barbara Cawley  
Sally Conley  
Jean Conrad  
Tom & Leslie Croyle  
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Patty & Charlie Wood

## From the Executive Director



**By Judd Stephenson**

2010!  
Wow, it just seems as if we were awaiting 2000 and the

new millennium...and already we are launching into a new decade!

The new decade finds the OGGF strong in support of girls golf in the state of Ohio.

I am happy to say that all of our sites for the 2010 Clinic Series have signed up again. Please take a look at the OGGF website at [www.oggf.org](http://www.oggf.org) for detailed information and to register. For the second

year, we will offer online registration for the Clinics, as well as a list of confirmed participants for all the various sites.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of our instructors — not only those who teach the Clinics, but those who participate in the Ongoing Instruction Program. 2009 was our best year for the Ongoing Instruction Program and in terms of participants for the OGGF Open.

I hope that you will take the time to visit our website and participate in all of these great opportunities!

Lastly, I would be remiss not to thank those who continue all their hard work

for and loyal support of the OGGF during these difficult economic times.

From our website host Doug Jenkinson, to the ladies of NuBried Communicators, the OGGF Board of Trustees, our OGGF Open sponsors, Annual Fund donors and raffle ticket buyers: the fact is that our strong Foundation would not continue to be healthy without your steadfast support.

We realize times like these often require tough choices in many regards and we are thankful that you continue to support the OGGF.

I wish you all a prosperous 2010 on the links!

## Apply now for 2010 scholarships, financial aid to attend tourneys

Each year the OGGF provides thousands of dollars in college scholarships and financial assistance for girls to attend tournaments locally, regionally and nationally.

All Ohio high school senior girls are eligible for the scholarships. According to Margaret Swope, who heads the Scholarship Committee, the OGGF reviews every application and rates each candidate based on financial need, academic/extracurricular achievements, golf participation, community service and a written essay.

Scholarship winner Taylor Lanning, who plans to study Golf Management at Methodist University, says her involvement with the Foundation has encouraged her to continue with the sport. "This organization has been so great to me and the sense of community with everyone is awesome."

Over the past 13 years, \$82,000 has been awarded to more than 80 girls. And the past three years, girls have received an additional



Congratulations to our 2009 scholarship recipients pictured here with Sara Swope (center): Nicole Barr - Walsh University, Lauren Erdel - Youngstown State University, Emily Fuller - Kent State University, Taylor Lanning - Methodist University, Katherine Kohut - Walsh University and Kaitlin VanMeter - Newberry College.

\$500 OGGF/Medicus Scholarship. Thank you to Medicus RMG for their partnership.

You can download forms for Scholarship and Financial Assistance at our website, [www.oggf.org](http://www.oggf.org). Contact Margaret Swope at 330-335-5136 or [mso724@yahoo.com](mailto:mso724@yahoo.com) with scholarship questions, and Judd Stephenson at 440-871-4638 or [juddstephenson@yahoo.com](mailto:juddstephenson@yahoo.com) for Financial Assistance Forms.

The deadline for Scholarship Applications is March 15, 2010. Financial Aid Applications are accepted year-round on a quarterly basis.

# Last three players standing force playoff, vie for OGGF Open glory at Avon Oaks

In a hard-fought competition, three players tied for first with a score of 79 during the 2009 OGGF Open at Avon Oaks Country Club. The girls rose to the top of a full field of 120 players from across the state.

It was the first three-way tie in the history of the tournament forcing a one-hole playoff. Taylor Lanning who played for Perry HS emerged the winner, with Maddie Keefe of St. Joseph Academy in second place, and Kelsie Teaberry of Warren JFK in third place.

The team competition was closely contested too, as Magnificat (351) won top honors, followed by Poland Seminary (358) and Cardinal Mooney (361). Other schools participating included Avon, Avon Lake, Canfield, Cuyahoga Falls, Strongsville, Hathaway Brown, Laurel, New Albany, Perry, Shaker Heights and St. Joseph Academy. Magnificat, which has finished in the top 10 in the state division the past years, became the first three-time champion of the OGGF Open.

Headlined for the past 14 years by LPGA Tour Professional and Cleveland native Barb Mucha, the Open included an on-course playing clinic and seminar by Sports Psychologist Dr. Jack Lesyk prior to the 18-hole tournament.

“Now there are more opportunities for girls in golf than ever before, be it playing on tour, golf management or teaching,”

said Mucha. “And it truly is a game of character. Golf will improve your character and those around you.”

Mucha shared golf tips honed from the LPGA Tour with the girls, along with past OGGF participants.

Avon Lake High School grad Lexi Brendt, a student in the golf management school at Clemson University, and Padua grad Rachel Levi, a golfer on the Xavier



Seconds after the winning putt was sunk, these three golfers are congratulated by LPGA Pro Barb Mucha and each other. From left, Mucha, Maddie Keefe, Taylor Lanning and Kelsie Teaberry.

University team, played two holes while Mucha commented on their on-course strategy.

The OGGF is always looking for new ways to improve the sport. New to the event

this year was a Coaches' Forum.

Seventeen coaches from throughout the state gathered for a presentation on swing mechanics by OGGF Executive Director Judd Stephenson.

The tournament sold out last year, so register early to ensure your spot at the 2010 OGGF Open set for July 18 & 19 at Avon Oaks Country Club.

You can download a registration form on [www.oggf.org](http://www.oggf.org), or email [juddstephenson@yahoo.com](mailto:juddstephenson@yahoo.com) for more information.

## One for the record books! Our Top 10 individual scores

- Taylor Lanning, Canton - 79
- Maddie Keefe, Avon - 79
- Kelsie Teaberry, Warren - 79
- Jackie Evans, Youngstown - 83
- Brooke Hamilton, Cleveland - 84
- Caitlin Kempton, Shaker Hts. - 85
- Lia Labate, North Olmsted - 85
- Morgan MacLean, Westlake - 85
- Allison Mitzel, Poland - 85
- Angela Molaskey, Poland - 85



Taking home all the crystal for the best team is Magnificat, seen here with Coach Libby McGrath.

## Thanks to our sponsors...

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Executive Director  
 Judd Stephenson

President  
 Teen Burke

Co-Founders  
 Mary Ann Bierman, Anne Caja

The mission of the OGGF is to encourage, sponsor and support the game of golf for girls by providing college scholarships, golf training programs and financial assistance to attend designated golf tournaments.

# Spring Clinics set for April

Girls ages 8-18 can get a head start on their golf game at the OGGF Spring Clinics on Saturdays in April. Clinics will be held on April 3, 10, 17 and 24 from 10-11 a.m. at all locations below, except 2CLUB Golf & Learning Center where they are from noon-1 p.m.

These instructional clinics conducted by PGA and LPGA instructors cost \$15 and are geared to inform, ed-

ucate and expand girls' knowledge in all aspects of golf. The format includes instruction for every skill level from beginner to advanced and examines all of the game from full swing to short game to putting.

Girls can participate in one clinic or the entire series. The deadline to sign up is March 20. You can pick up a form at one of the locations, register online at [www.oggf.org](http://www.oggf.org) or contact OGGF Executive Director Judd Stephenson at 440-871-4638.

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And girls who participate in our Spring Clinics will have the opportunity to continue improving their game through private lessons with PGA Professionals, partially funded by the Foundation.

When you sign up for a series of four private or semi-private lessons, you pay \$50 and the Foundation pays the remaining \$50.

For a list of participating Golf Professionals, check out [www.oggf.org](http://www.oggf.org).



## OGGF OPEN July 18-19

**Avon Oaks Country Club**  
 The Ohio Girls Golf Foundation is bringing together high school girl golfers, the corporate community and an LPGA tour professional for one of the area's premier golf events.

On Sunday, selected high school girls will golf with corporate sponsors in a fun 9-hole format. Then the full field gathers on Monday for a golf clinic by LPGA Pro Barb Mucha and an 18-hole tournament for high school girls at Avon Oaks Country Club in Avon, Ohio.

Cost: \$60 per player or \$300 per team. You may sell raffle tickets to defray entry fee. Download an entry form at [www.oggf.org](http://www.oggf.org) or call Judd Stephenson at 440-871-4638 to register.



**The Foundation is offering six clinic sites across Ohio on April 3, 10, 17, 24.**

**West Pines Golf Range**  
 34455 Chester Road  
 Avon  
 (440) 871-1414

**Golf Improvement Center**  
 116 Medina Road  
 Medina  
 (330) 239-3500

**Shamrock Golf Club**  
 4436 Powell Road  
 Powell  
 (614) 792-6630

**Pine Lakes Golf Club**  
 6233 West Liberty Street  
 Hubbard  
 (330) 534-9026

**South Toledo Golf Club**  
 3915 Heatherdowns Blvd.  
 Toledo  
 (419) 385-4678

**2CLUB Golf & Learning Center**  
 1511 E. Aurora Road  
 Macedonia  
 (330) 467-2040