

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.

From the President



Last October, in preparation to decorate the hotel room doors of my daughter's golf team at States, I googled "most famous golf quotes of all time."

Do you know what the legends being quoted all had in common?

A Y chromosome.

Not very inspiring for young girls starting out in the game.

Over the past 30 years, that's a script the OGGF has tried to flip.

We've run statewide clinics to introduce golf to young girls. Then we founded a competitive annual Showcase event for high school girls, which has grown dramatically over the years. Offering college scholarships and financial aid to girl golfers are other layers of encouragement and support.

Showcase headliner LPGA Professional Barb Mucha—our very own legend—has touched the lives of countless young women with her invaluable inspiration and insight into the game.

I love the old adage: "Golf shrinks the world." The girls who started with us back in 1994 are now grown women. Like a ripple on water making waves, we're proud to have introduced them to a game that fosters lasting connections. And we look forward to doing the same for the next generation of girls making its way to the tee. Happy anniversary, OGGF!

—Patricia Nugent, OGGF President

Cheers to 30 years of growing girls' golf

Back in 1994, an up-and-coming 18-year-old golfer named Tiger Woods put himself in the national spotlight by winning the U.S. Amateur, a defining victory (complete with fist pumps).

Things were shaking up that year in the local golf world, too. Cleveland Sports Hall of Famer Mary Ann Bierman and daughter Anne Caja had decided they weren't happy with the lack of girls' golf teams in Ohio. It was time for change.

"We were seeing girls who wanted to play high school golf having to play on the boys' teams," recalls Mary Ann, "and that was a no-no. We felt strongly about making a change and today we are thrilled to see how far we've come."

Mary Ann reached out to Parma native and LPGA Tour Professional Barb Mucha to join their grassroots effort, which began with a girls' golf clinic.

Teen Burke, who became President of the OGGF for many years, says the enormous increase in girls entering the sport has been encouraging.

"It's also exciting to see how the ability of the girls has improved remarkably," she says. "We sought to change the playing field by adding instructional clinics and inspiring coaches to become active in their teams and it's rewarding to see how successful that's been."

Teen points out that the OGGF Showcase for high school girls has earned a reputation for not just appealing to ultra-competitive players, but as a tournament for

high handicappers to also enjoy.

"Once high school teams played in our event, they kept coming back," she says, noting each year there's an early waiting list.

The Foundation was helmed for years by Judd Stephenson, PGA, who further expanded its reach, serving as Executive Director and President. Today the ED role is filled by Lynne Plaisance.

"Several coaches who were part of our organization, such as Tom Rider of Warren JFK and Libby McGrath of Magnificat, were instrumental to our growth," says Teen. "I'd also like to thank the many PGA and LPGA professionals who have taken part in our clinics and the Showcase."

Consistency of sponsors and the Board of Trustees is another reason for OGGF's evolution.

"I feel as though we're in a really good place now, poised for future growth and here to answer the call for girls who want to begin or continue their journey with golf," adds Teen.

According to Barb, who's one of those girls who had to play on the boys' team at Valley Forge High School in the late 1970s,



"We wanted young girls to feel that they had a place where they belonged in this sport. Thirty years ago, golf was not readily accessible to most young girls. Thanks to the passion and enthusiasm of the OGGF, it's not like that today."

For the full story, and to see a gallery of photos over the years, go to OGGF.org.



THANK YOU DONORS

As a nonprofit organization, we rely on individual and corporate donations. Funds are used for college scholarships, instructional golf clinics and financial aid. Please donate online at OGGF.org.

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Fairchild Family Foundation—in honor
of Teen Burke

From the Executive Director



As we celebrate 30 years of growing girls' golf in Ohio, I am honored to reflect on the incredible journey and progress we have made together in fulfilling the mission set forth by our founders. It has been my privilege to serve as the Executive Director and witness the positive impact we've had on the lives of countless young girls through the game of golf.

Over the past three decades, we have not only sustained but expanded our programming, striving to introduce more girls to the joys and benefits of golf. I am excited to share that due to the positive response we are continuing to offer both Winter and Spring Clinics this year, providing year-round opportunities for girls to engage with the sport. These clinics serve as a testament to our commitment to fostering a lifelong love for golf.

Our flagship event, the OGGF High School Showcase, has been a cornerstone of our efforts, attracting participants from 38 high schools over the last three years of its 22-year history. The growing interest and full fields highlight the enthusiasm and dedication of young girls across the state to excel in the game of golf. The future of girls golf is looking very bright!

Last year marked a significant milestone for our foundation as we expanded our scholarship and financial assistance programs. We were able to increase the amount of scholarships awarded from eight in 2022 to eleven. We also had the pleasure of awarding a set of golf clubs to a highly deserving high school girl, recognizing her commitment and passion for the sport. These achievements were made possible through the generosity of our donors, and we are immensely grateful for your continued support.

—Lynne Plaisance, OGGF Executive Director

Apply for 2024 college scholarships

By awarding OGGF college scholarships every year, it is our mission is to make an impact on girls' lives and support local girls in their future endeavors. We are about much more than golf and low scores; we award college scholarships to girls who prioritize community involvement and have good character. Over the past 25 years, the Foundation has awarded more than \$140,000 in college scholarships to 150-plus girls and counting.

- Lauren Olenik, Lake Catholic High School
- Emma Packard, Ashland High School
- Kamil Stephens, Danbury High School
- Emily Williams, Marysville High School.



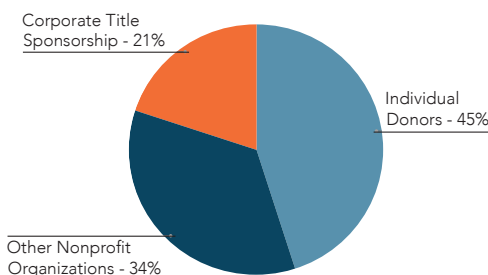
Pictured here are the girls accepting their scholarships presented by OGGF Scholarship chair Beth Casey, left, and LPGA Professional Barb Mucha, right.

The deadline for Ohio high school seniors to apply for a 2024 scholarship is

March 31. To make the application process easier, this year girls can fill it out and submit digitally at OGGF.org.

In addition to scholarships, the Foundation also awards girls financial aid throughout the year to travel and play in tournaments, locally, regionally and nationally. These applications are accepted year-round and are available on our website.

Where our funds come from



College Scholarships

In 1996, the OGGF awarded its first \$1,000 scholarship and the program grew from there, with one girl winning the first year, then three girls the next year, seven the following year and growing to eight or more girls nearly every year throughout the 2000s. In 2023, we had the most applicants in our history, and thanks to donations, were able to award a record 11 college scholarships.

2024 OGGF Showcase

Monday, July 29, at Avon Oaks Country Club

High school girls are invited to play in this premier event headlined by LPGA Tour Professional Barb Mucha. Enjoy instructional clinics in the morning, followed by an 18-hole tournament and awards dinner. Incoming high school freshmen and outgoing seniors are eligible to play.

Register at OGGF.org. Call 440-479-9579 or email lynne@oggf.org for more info.

'23 Showcase goes in the recordbooks

On a picture-perfect day last July, OGGF hosted 14 high school teams and 105 players at Avon Oaks Country Club. In addition to an 18-hole tournament, the girls also had an opportunity to hone their game, as we assembled past LPGA Tour players, local PGA and LPGA professionals and golf industry leaders all in one location to share their expertise.

Individuals and teams mixed things up with interactive clinics focusing on putting, chipping driving and bunker work led by local PGA and LPGA professionals, as well as an on-course clinic led by tournament headliner LPGA tour professionals Barb Mucha and Janice Moodie exploring the importance of the mental process to the game. A new clinic this year—Careers in Golf—was presented by PGA Career Consultant Garrett Korte.

At the end of the day, Siena Maschke, a rising senior at Laurel High School, earned medalist honors with a two-under score of 70. Coming in

second place was Maureen O'Leary from Magnificat with a 71, and tied for third were Cammy Reed from Magnificat and Gracyn Vidovic from Aurora, with a pair of 73s.

Teams competing in the event included Aurora, Avon, Avon Lake, Boardman, Chagrin Falls, Grove City, Hudson, Lake Catholic, Laurel, Magnificat, Medina, Olmsted Falls, Shaker Heights and Southern Local. In a repeat performance from last year, Magnificat teams nabbed the number one and two positions with scores of 312 and 313 strokes, and Grove City came in third place with a 325.

The featured speaker for the event was Katie McCarthy, founder of the women's golf attire company Kilo Tango. A past player in the OGGF, Katie played for Hathaway Brown High School and played golf at Gettysburg College, where she made it to nationals each of her four years.



THANKS TO OUR SHOWCASE SPONSORS

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If you would like to be a sponsor for our 2024 Showcase, please donate online at OGGF.org.



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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

Go ahead, get in the game! OGGF to host winter & spring clinics throughout the state

*"Hard work beats talent
when talent doesn't work hard.
Dedicate yourself to becoming
the best version of yourself."*
—Lexi Thompson

It's surprising how much better and more consistent your golf game becomes when you put in the work.

The best way to set up a winning practice routine—whether you are new to the game or competing at a higher level—is under the guidance of a PGA or LPGA golf professional.

To help girls ages 8 to 18 years old gear up for the season ahead, the OGGF offers Winter and Spring Clinics at both indoor and outdoor locations throughout the state. Cost is \$20 per session. Find out more, and register at OGGF.org.

Winter Clinics

1899 Canton
4700 Everhard Road NW, Canton
February 4, 11, 18, 25
8 to 9 a.m.

The Golf Dome
8198 E. Washington Street,
Chagrin Falls
March 4, 11, 18, 25
7 to 8 p.m.

Judd's Golf Sim
1507 Lear Industrial Pkwy., Avon
February 3, 10, 17, 24
1 to 2 p.m.

**The Jim Wise Golf Academy
Union Performance Center at
Medina Country Club**
5588 Wedgewood Road, Medina
January 6, 13, 20, February 3
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Mentor Community Rec Center
6000 Heisley Road, Mentor
February 3, 10, 17, 24
9 to 10 a.m. and 10 to 11 a.m.



*Conducted by PGA and LPGA instructors,
clinics are geared toward beginner to advanced players.
Deadline to sign up is one week prior to clinic start date.
Cost is \$20 per clinic. Register at OGGF.org.*

Spring Clinics

Avon Oaks Country Club
32300 Detroit Road, Avon
May 4, 11, 18, 25
10 to 11 a.m.

Black Brook Golf Course
8900 Lake Shore Blvd., Mentor
May 4, 11, 18, 25
10 to 11 a.m.

**The Jim Wise Golf Academy
Union Performance Center at**

Medina Country Club
5588 Wedgewood Road, Medina
April 20, 27, May 4, 11
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Stone Oak Country Club
100 Stone Oak Blvd., Holland
May 4, 11, 18, 25
9 to 10 a.m.

Windmill Golf Center
1511 East Aurora Road, Macedonia
April 27, May 4, 18, 25
9 to 10 a.m.