

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

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This page: Laurel Links Country Club made its MGA championship debut in a big way this August, welcoming the 115th Met Amateur at its outstanding links-style layout.



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HOW **NY** DOES GOLF



After ushering in a new century for the Met Open Championship in 2016, Glen Oaks Club now serves as the launching pad for THE NORTHERN TRUST, the PGA TOUR's lead event of the season-ending FedExCup Playoffs which takes place August 22-27 and sports not only a new name this year, but a new focus as well.

“When you start with the competition, it’s hard to imagine that you could make it better,” said PGA TOUR SVP of Championship Management, Julie Tyson of THE NORTHERN TRUST, which features the top 125 players from the 2016-17 season. “I think this is going to be a can’t-miss experience for people, not only because of what the players I know will do with their golf games, but also the experience we’re creating outside the ropes.”

The event’s rejuvenated focus places what New York does best in the spotlight, with special fan experiences involving food and fashion. The “Taste NY Marketplace” will lend an outstanding selection of foods for those in attendance, featuring New York’s greatest names like Junior’s, and Nathan’s Famous, plus world-class dishes from chef’s such as David Chang, Marc Forgione, Mario Batali, and Mary Giuliani. On the fashion side, players will have scripted outfits featuring their most stylish ensembles, while fans can shop stylish jewelry and accessories at the Kendra Scott Studio.

“It will be great to see what the top 125 players in the world will do at Glen Oaks,” said Glen Oaks vice president Jordan Ziegler, who is on the MGA’s Executive Committee and is a chairman for the tournament. “Everyone’s really excited at the club. When you’re not seeking a PGA TOUR event and they come knocking, how do you say no?” After embracing the opportunity, Glen Oaks is primed and ready to play a role in truly showing how New York does golf.

The par-three 17th at Glen Oaks is sure to be at the center of the drama in THE NORTHERN TRUST.



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At the center of the island's recreational life is the Bald Head Island Club. Along with its top-rated golf course, the Club offers swimming, tennis, croquet and activities for all ages. Vacation rentals on the island range from cozy cottages to spacious homes that can accommodate extended family. Be sure to request temporary membership in the Bald Head Island Club when you book your home rental so you can enjoy access to all of the Club's amenities.

Real estate offerings run the gamut in terms of size, setting and price. Located near the golf course, The Hammocks neighborhood offers fractional home ownership that includes four weeks of vacation time each year, along with Club membership. Just a stone's throw from the ocean, the *Southern Living* Inspired Community at Cape Fear Station combines a perfect location with charming low country architecture.

Make plans to visit Bald Head Island this summer to



tour the *Southern Living* Idea House, opening for tours in June. Learn more by visiting www.bhirealestate.com. When you're ready to book a tee time, visit www.bhiclub.net or call 910-457-7310.



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Met Am MOXIE

The Met Amateur Championship is as much a test of mental and physical stamina as it is skill, but for Matt Mattare of Darlington Golf Club, this year's playing was also an opportunity to claim a title he'd come so close to once before.

"You never know whether you're going to get that chance again," said Mattare, thinking back on his runner-up finish in the 2012 Met Amateur—his first-ever MGA event. Mattare took full advantage of the opportunity this year at Laurel Links, winning 1-up over Brad Lankler of Fiddler's Elbow in the 36-hole championship match.

Mattare's performance was stellar from start to finish, as he was one of four competitors to lead the way with 1-over 143 in stroke-play qualifying. His high level of play continued in match play, where he picked up early wins by 4-and-3 and 4-and-2 margins. After battling from behind to defeat John Felitto of Echo Lake in 19 holes in the semifinals, Mattare came from behind once again in the championship match by winning two of the final three holes. "To be able to make it back here and get over the hump and get it done is just—it is an unbelievable feeling," said Mattare.



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The package, priced per couple, includes: Seaview Junior Suite accommodations with a complimentary breakfast daily; four celebrity-chef prepared dining experiences with wine pairings; two rounds of golf per person (non-transferable); and semi-private round-trip boat transfers between St. Maarten Airport and Anguilla.

Optional activities (priced per service) include: celebrity-chef cooking classes, a CuisinArt sommelier-led wine sampling and pairing class, Venus Spa treatments, additional rounds of golf, and more.

Special package pricing from \$4,430 per couple. Full package details may be found at epicureagolf.com.



"We love to eat good food, drink great wine and play a fabulous golf course, so the CuisinArt Resort was the perfect place for us to relax and unwind! The resort is beautiful...and the staff is wonderful."

—Michele Greenfield, WMGA, and Member, Glen Oaks Country Club

"This is hands down one of the best culinary events, bringing together some of the most talented chefs from around the world. Having the first night dinner cooked by Master Chef Christophe Muller from the 3 Star Michelin restaurant honoring Paul Bocuse was one for the bucket list. Food all four nights was amazing! The wines from Marchesi Antinori were stunning, well balanced and beautiful. Bravo to Met Golfer, CuisinArt Resort and Antinori Wines for the epic four days in paradise."

—Chef Scott Pikey, Executive Chef, Mayacama Country Club

"Joan and I had a great time on the trip. The food was fantastic and the other participants were great. We made a bunch of new friends on this trip and look forward to joining you for a third trip in the future."

—Glenn Carlson, PGA Head Professional, Torrington Country Club



Please visit epicureagolf.com for information or reservations, or call 610-442-5718.



Wedge HUNTING

BY SCOTT KRAMER

Mastering the wedge game can be tough for many players — perhaps even the most-difficult part of golf — which is why people tend to gypsy from one wedge line to another. Sometimes all it takes is a fresh look to generate a sudden surge of self-confidence around the green. Two new wedges on the market may be just what the doctor ordered for those unfortunate souls finding skulls and shanks becoming routine shots in every round.

Cleveland's latest is the CBX (\$140 each), a cavity-back wedge designed specifically for golfers who play cavity-back irons. It's built to be more versatile, forgiving, and easier to hit than tour-designed wedges, generating more spin. Essentially, it's a game-improvement wedge with the look, feel and weight of a cavity-back iron. A dual-V sole enhances turf interaction, as well. If a traditional look is more your style, Titleist's polished-chrome Vokey Design 456.14 Limited wedge (\$250) is a WedgeWorks model that commemorates the 20th anniversary of the first Vokey Design model on the PGA Tour. It's a classic design with offset and a rounded clubhead. A 14-degree bounce angle is ideal for soft conditions, bunkers and steep attack angles — while being versatile around the greens.



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PUTT FOR PINK



There's no age limit for getting behind a good cause. That was on display recently at Winged Foot Golf Club with the launch of "Putt for Pink."

Putt for Pink debuted on July 26 as those from the junior golf committee, club professionals, and greens staff worked together to create three three-hole putting challenges on the practice green. Member Tara Greco generated the plan, after her children expressed interest to participate in Play for P.I.N.K.—a fundraising staple for some 25 years at Winged Foot that raises money for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

A total of 70 juniors participated, competing on the miniature golf-like setup in three different age categories. The juniors all donned pink, while lemonade, cookies and cupcakes all colorfully matched the occasion as well.

Prizes were awarded to the top three finishers in each age group, with the level of competition matching the high enthusiasm for the event as two playoffs took place. The real winner at the end of the day was the event itself, which raised \$1,645 for the Breast Cancer Research Fund and likely established a new tradition.

BUNKER Boardwalks

By Chris Gaffney, MGA Director, Championships

Laurel Links Country Club in Laurel, N.Y., made its MGA championship debut early in August, welcoming the 115th Met Amateur. It also provided the opportunity for a somewhat unique Rules of Golf situation. Pictured is the greenside bunker on the par-three 14th hole. The wood path that goes through the bunker is treated as an immovable obstruction, for which free relief is provided under Rule 24-2b.

A player is able to take relief without penalty if the ball lies on the obstruction, or the obstruction interferes with the player's stance or the area of his intended swing. If it is determined that the player has interference from the immovable obstruction, the player may determine their nearest point of relief that must be inside the bunker and drop a ball (without penalty) within one-club length of and not nearer the hole than that point.

In addition to the standard relief, there is also a unique option available to the player that is only available when taking obstruction relief in the bunker. The player may, under penalty of one stroke, drop outside the bunker, keeping the point where the ball lay directly between the hole and the spot on which the ball is dropped with no limit to how far behind the bunker the ball may be dropped. Of course, the player also has the option to play the ball as it lies!



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Polishing off a Gem

An expansion of Knollwood's 10th teeing ground, plus substantial tree removal on the adjacent hillside opened sweeping views across part of the club's inward nine.

After several years of work on its master plan, Knollwood Country Club in Elmsford, N.Y., jumped all in for its final step, putting an efficient exclamation point on the project with its most dramatic improvements. The work—which restored bunkers, eliminated trees, and improved several putting surfaces—all channeled the club's rich history and aimed to restore the course to play more like its original design intended. For more details on Knollwood Country Club restoration, visit mgagolf.org.

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LAYOVER NASHVILLE

BY TIM HARTIN

Though not far from downtown Nashville, Gaylord Springs Golf Links presents a serene setting for golf.

While you'll certainly want to take advantage of the many live shows and evening entertainment options in Music City, keep your afternoons open to tee it up on one of Nashville's variety of impressive golf courses.

COURSES:

1 Gaylord Springs Golf Links – Nestled along the Cumberland River east of Nashville, Gaylord Springs features a links-style layout designed by Larry Nelson. Its rolling fairways and undulating greens are protected by clever mounding and bunkers, while water hazards add to the challenge as well.

2 Hermitage Golf Course – The facility's President's Reserve and General's Retreat courses both offer an outstanding yet enjoyable test of golf—situated on the Cumberland River just around the bend from Gaylord Springs. President's Reserve plays slightly longer, while General's Retreat poses a narrower layout.

3 King's Creek – This Arnold Palmer layout opened in October of 2005 just south of Nashville. A pair of creeks meander through the property, with additional water hazards and picturesque, sprawling bunkers creating a scenic setting for play enjoyable for players of all skill levels.



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Protecting Pollinators



With pollinator populations on the decline in recent decades, golf course superintendents have embraced the role their courses can play in providing habitat for the valuable species that help fertilize many crops and flowering plants.

At Rockville Links in Rockville Centre, N.Y., Luke Knutson has focused on pollinators—which include bees, butterflies, birds, and beetles—by planting wildflowers in out-of-play areas over the last three seasons. “The activity to these native wildflowers grows each year,” says Knutson of the work documented as a case study by the New York State Best Management Practices (NYS BMP) program. “There are also many more native pollinators nesting on the property. This is something very easy to do at a club that will greatly impact the local environment.”

This season, Paul Gonzalez of Whippoorwill Club in Armonk, N.Y., added honeybee hives (inset) to the course for the first time. “It fits in with other work we do with the Audubon Society and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation,” Gonzalez says. “Many of the natural areas and pond buffers are good habitats for pollinators.”



Meanwhile, Andrew Wilson of Bethpage State Park has been busy working to protect (and educate about) pollinators throughout the season, welcoming a local Girl Scout Troop to help establish a new pollinator garden in May, and hosting a local community college class to tour the park’s multiple gardens in June.

Area superintendents also help pollinator populations by following NYS BMPs that focus on details such as scouting pests and properly timing pesticide applications—just more examples of how environmental stewardship is a top priority.



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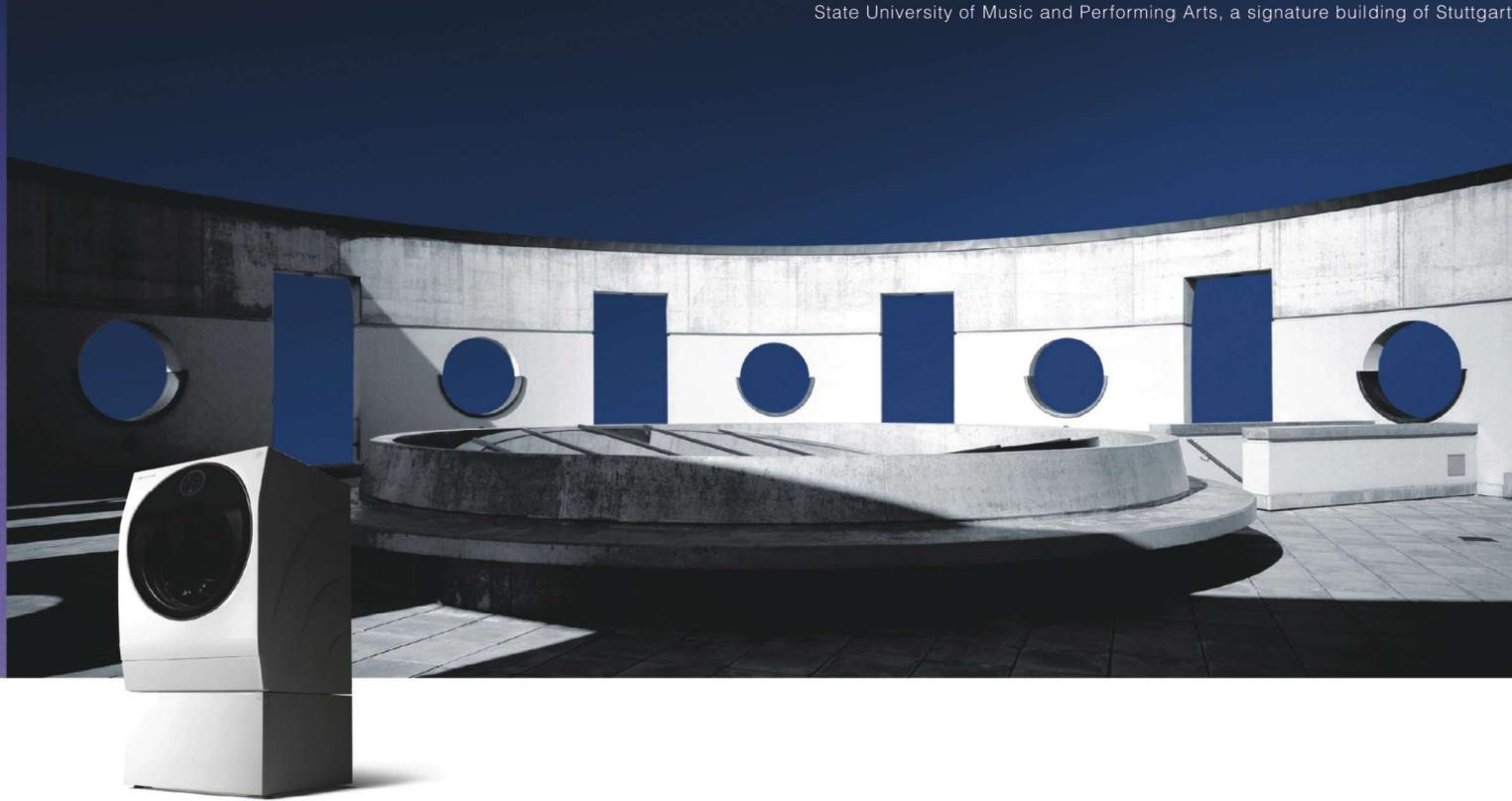
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PLAYING Through

While International Team Captain Nick Price (white shirt, in foreground) was answering a question at the Media Day press conference for the upcoming Presidents Cup at Liberty National (September 26 – October 1), Jordan Spieth (driving) and Daniel Berger arrived unannounced and quietly began a practice round. The three watching are Laura Neal, the PGA Tour's senior VP for communications; U.S. Team Captain Steve Stricker (in white hat); and the event's executive director Matt Kamienski.

