

The Met Golfer

EXTRA



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE METROPOLITAN GOLF ASSOCIATION

MGAGOLF.ORG



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This page: With the championship season in full swing, competitors grind their way through full days on the course. Find championship coverage inside on pages 5 and 12.

SWEET 16



The 71st U.S. Junior Amateur marked the 16th USGA championship hosted by Baltusrol Golf Club, adding to the club's rich history of crowning national champions. "It went extremely well," said Baltusrol member and MGA Secretary and Treasurer Andy Stock, who served as the championship's General Chair. "The participants were very grateful and appreciative of being able to play the championship on a course like Baltusrol. The kids behaved like gentlemen, were very respectful and

shined the best light on golf."

After extensive preparations to host the event, Stock says that a pair of moments will remain memorable for him. "Having worked on the tournament for two years, seeing the first ball in the air was pretty neat," he said. "Then, walking the final match was certainly a highlight—the level of golf was really outstanding." In the end, 16-year-old Michael Thorbjornsen of Wellesley, Mass., claimed the title, defeating Akshay Bhatia of Wake Forest, N.C., 1-up, in a thrilling 36-hole final.

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BROTHERS like no Others

One could call it a repeat of sorts. One year ago, Watchung Valley's Michael Graboyes and older brother Luke claimed the Ike Team Championship at Century. The two teamed up slightly differently this year at Meadow Brook, with Luke—having turned professional late last summer—instead taking the bag for Michael's victory in the 67th Ike MGA Stroke Play Championship Presented by Callaway.

Despite facing a five-shot deficit heading into the final nine, Michael saved his best for last. The Cornell graduate—a four-time All-Ivy League honoree—closed with back-to-back birdies and a final-nine 33. He finished the championship as the only player under-par, posting a 1-under-par 212 for a two-shot victory.

"It was exciting to come in and win the individual title, especially with my brother on the bag—it was special," said Michael, who became the 13th player to claim both the Ike and Ike Team titles.



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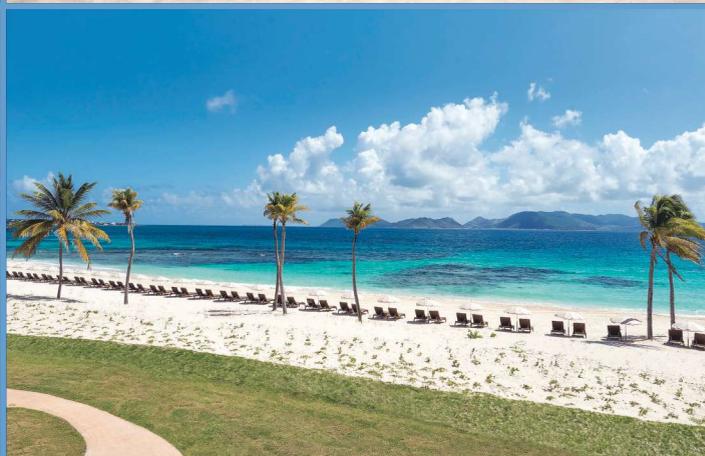
—Michele Greenfield, WMGA, and Member,
Glen Oaks Country Club

"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



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Inaugural SUCCESS

Taking part in the “first ever” anything evokes feelings of gratitude, pride, and excitement—all certain emotions felt by the 120 players that competed this month in the inaugural U.S. Senior Women’s Open at Chicago Golf Club.

Winged Foot director of instruction Alicia Dibos was one of several Met Area players grateful to take part in the championship—a highly anticipated event since its introduction announcement in 2015.

“I hope that the USGA knows the impact that a Senior Women’s Open created amongst us,” says Dibos, 58. “Players who love to compete, who love teaching the game, and who have dedicated our life to golf were motivated to practice with a goal and to be in shape to face the pressure and endurance of a U.S. Open championship.”

Dibos’ preparation paid off with a T-12 finish, but the week itself and competing in the inaugural championship proved most memorable. “We celebrated women’s golf,” said Dibos. “I was proud to be among all those players who have made history in women’s golf.”

Read a full-length Q&A with Alicia Dibos about her experience in the U.S. Senior Women’s Open on mgagolf.org.



Sterling Farms director of golf Angela Aulenti arriving at Chicago Golf Club.

Dibos, a former LPGA Tour player, was thrilled to once again compete in a national championship.



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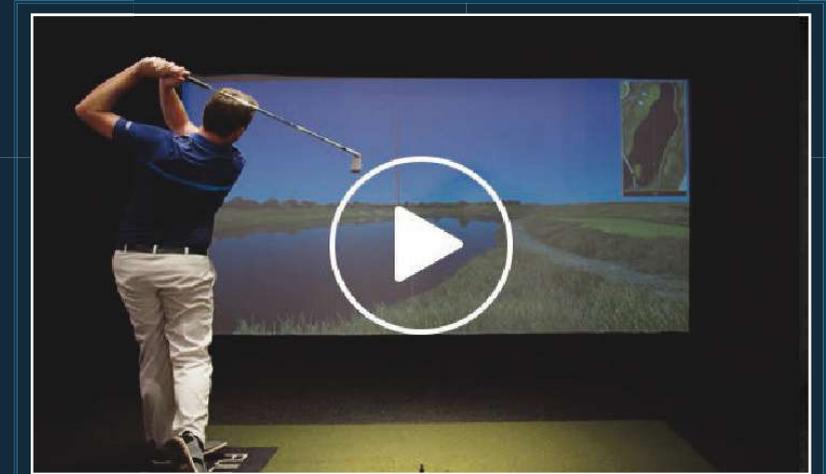
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LINEING it Up

BY SCOTT KRAMER

Despite having its putters in the hands of three Majors winners en route to victory through the years, SeeMore Putter Company has struggled to make a large impact on amateurs with its RifleScope technology that helps golfers easily line up putts perfectly via eyesight and body posture. But a competitor's new product may rejuvenate SeeMore's message. Odyssey this month debuted a similar concept in the Red Ball mallet (\$180). The putter has a top and bottom level: The top has a circular "scope" hole in it, the bottom sports a small red orb. When golfers visually center the red sphere in the scope, they know their putter is in position and they can stroke away. It's a simple yet effective approach. All the golfers need to worry about is the speed of their putt, at that point. And Odyssey adorned the Red Ball with its popular White Hot RX face insert that enhances sound, feel and roll. If you're in the market for a new flatstick but already feel your alignment is spot on, you have other fresh options. PING's limited-edition, milled PLD3 mid mallet (\$435) features a flame-torched copper sole plate – the result of a heating and cooling process that brings out the natural patina colors and patterns. And TaylorMade's Spider Mini (\$299) sports a streamlined, minimalist design.



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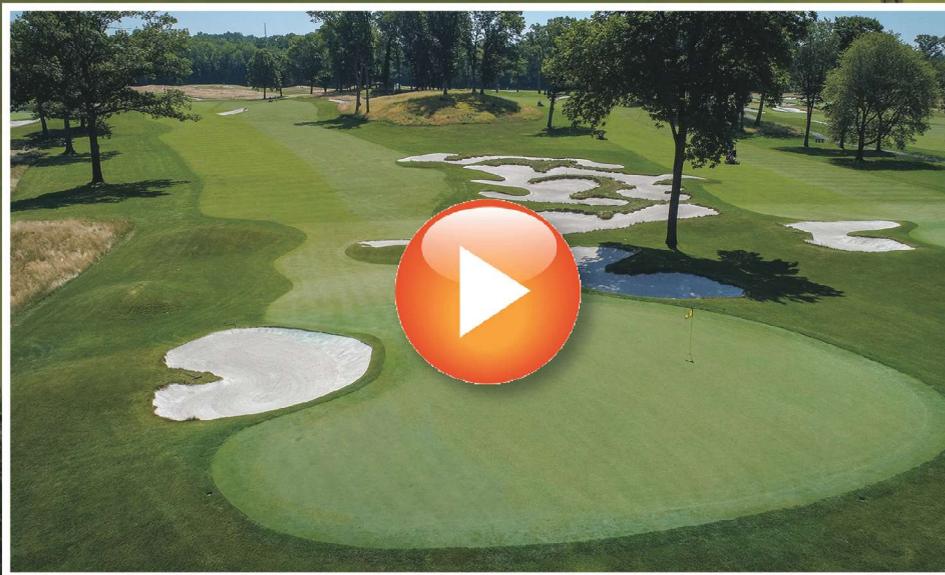


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ARCOLA AWAITS: The 116th Met Amateur Championship



The 116th Met Amateur Championship heads to Arcola Country Club in Paramus, N.J., August 2-5, when the region's top amateurs will vie for the MGA's oldest title. The championship, both a test of skill and stamina, requires the champion to navigate 36 holes of on-site stroke play qualifying and four rounds of match play, including the 36-hole championship match. Though a four-time host of the MGA Senior Amateur, Arcola will welcome its first-ever MGA major and is sure to serve as an outstanding venue and host.

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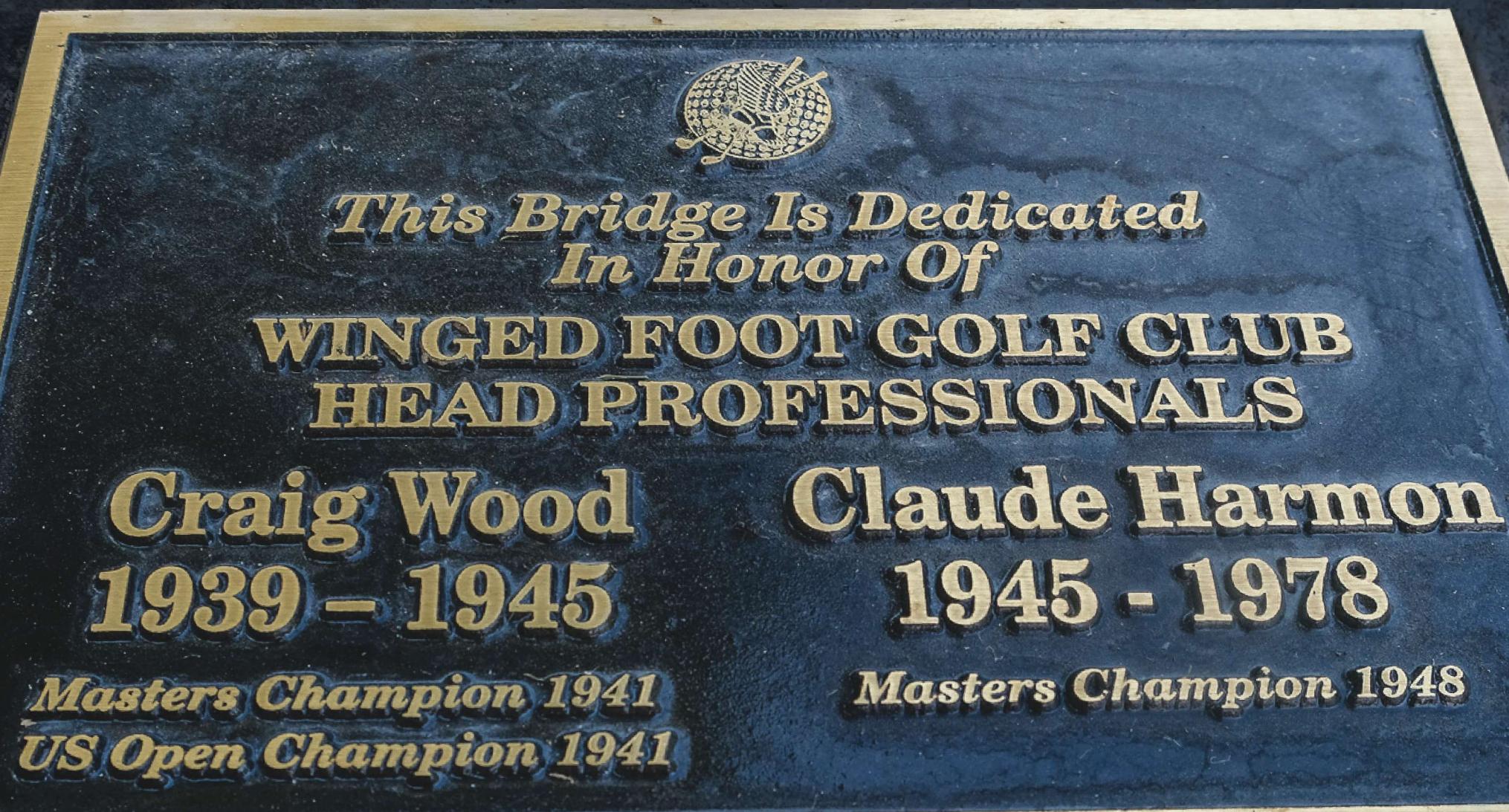
A Festive FOURTH



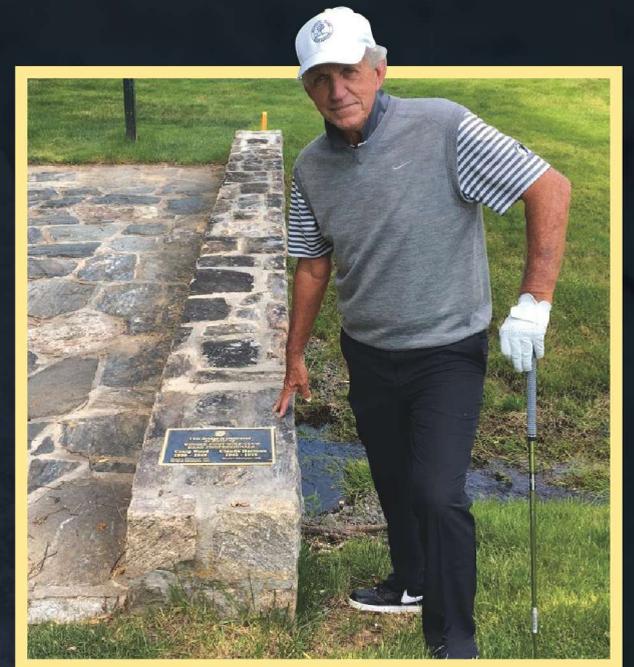
Fourth of July festivities included fun for the entire family at Trump National Golf Club Westchester in Briarcliff Manor, N.Y. A Red, White, and Blue golf tournament began the day's slate of activities, while kids later enjoyed a USA birthday party at the pool complete with activities and games. "What makes the Fourth of July celebration special at Trump Westchester is the great array of activities throughout the day," said general manager Brian Lynch. "It captures the interest and spirit of four generations of families who gather together to celebrate the historic day in a fun and family focused environment." The evening featured an 850-person family barbecue, while a 30-minute fireworks show served as the grand finale.



BRIDGE TO THE PAST



JOHN DETEMPLE



Billy Harmon, one of Claude's four sons, visits the plaque honoring his father at Winged Foot Golf Club.

Earlier this season, Winged Foot Golf Club introduced a tribute to two of its most decorated past head professionals, dedicating a bridge on the 15th hole of the West Course in honor of Craig Wood and Claude Harmon.

Wood, a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame, won 21 times on TOUR, with six victories coming during his time as Winged Foot's head professional. He was the first to win both the Masters and the U.S. Open in the same year, doing so just one year after his 1940 Met Open win.

While Harmon elected to teach the game for a living, TOUR players of the time knew he stood among the game's most skilled. Harmon showed this at the 1948 Masters—a stop on the return trip to Winged Foot following his winter job at Florida's Seminole Golf Club. Harmon fired a final round 70 at Augusta National, turning a two-stroke lead into a then-record five-stroke victory.



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BY TIM HARTIN

Using Canada's busy, diverse seaport city of Vancouver as the hub of a getaway opens an abundance of opportunities for incredible golf. While nearby municipal courses are well-recommended, a little extra travel in any direction can provide unique and unforgettable playing experiences.

At Bear Mountain Resort, sights of the rugged surrounding terrain—like the backdrop of the par-four 15th on the Mountain Course—are enjoyed throughout the round.

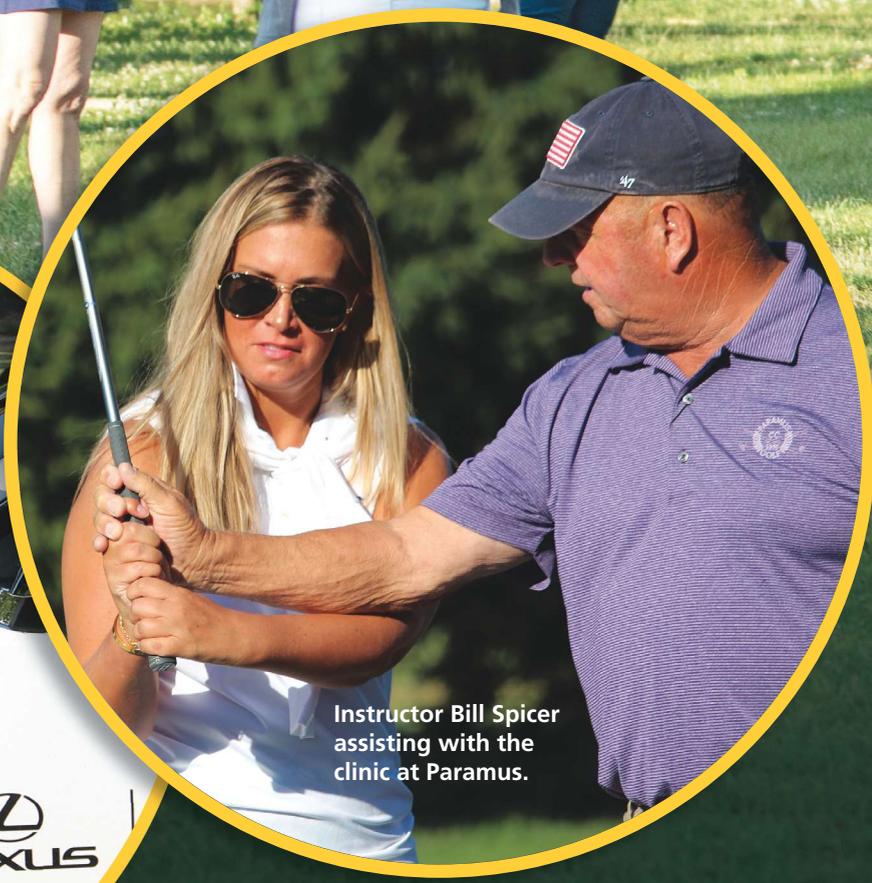
COURSES:

1 Northview Golf & Country Club: – Southeast of Vancouver in Surrey, Northview's Ridge Course—with its landing-strip fairways and variety of streams and lakes—was once a stop on the PGA TOUR. Meanwhile, the Canal Course presents a links-like feel with few trees in addition to wide, rolling fairways and undulating greens.

2 Bear Mountain Resort: – In Victoria, the aptly named Mountain Course offers stunning mountain and ocean views throughout the round as its fairways traverse rugged terrain highlighted by thick forests and elevation changes. The Valley Course—completing the 36-hole Nicklaus facility—is considered more playable, offering wider fairways and larger greens.

3 Chateau Whistler Golf Club: – Skiing isn't the lone attraction in Whistler, north of Vancouver. Designed by Robert Trent Jones, Jr., Chateau Whistler offers a slightly "elevated" experience on the side of Blackcomb Mountain. The layout melds with the terrain, crossing ravines and creeks while offering surrounding views of mountains and the valley floor.

Driven to LEARN



Instructor Bill Spicer assisting with the clinic at Paramus.

On June 28 and July 19, the MGA and Women's Metropolitan Golf Association (WMGA) continued their collaborative Introduction to Women's Golf clinic series with the support of Lexus. The clinics—taking place at Smithtown Landing Country Club in Smithtown, N.Y., and Paramus Golf Course in Paramus, N.J.—gave attendees the opportunity to learn fundamentals of the game and network with peers. From the putting green to the driving range, the clinics encouraged beginners to participate in instructional activities and have fun with learning the game.

Former LPGA Tour player and current Mill River Club director of instruction Liz Caron and Edgewood Country Club vice president of membership and sales Kyla Basso also served as guest speakers at the sites, sharing how golf has influenced their lives.

PGA Hall of Fame member Michael Hebron leading the instruction at Smithtown Landing.



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A trip to USGA headquarters in Liberty Corner, N.J., kicked off the annual summer series of MGA Foundation/MetLife Youth Clinics, as participants from multiple First Tee of Metropolitan New York locations enjoyed a day of learning and fun.

Attendees completed a walk through history with a scavenger hunt in the USGA Museum and Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History, learned about the ever-changing science and technology of golf in the USGA Research and Test Center, and tested their putting skills on the 16,000-square-foot Pyne Putting Course.

The kids, and coaches alike, were also treated to a special trick-shot show from Dennis Walters, the 2018 recipient of the Bob Jones Award—the USGA’s highest honor. Walters, paralyzed from the waist down at 24 years old after a golf-cart accident, has conducted shows since 1977, offering an inspiring message to everyone he encounters.