



Links Letter – May 2023

Mercedese E. Large, editor

New Season, New President!

At the beginning of the new golf year, newly elected CWGA president Michelle Murphy (Stonington) and outgoing president Lynn Lefler (Shuttle Meadow) had a chance to talk about golf, leadership and the best darn organization in Connecticut.



Michelle Murphy and Lynn Lefler

Lefler: Congratulations on becoming the 48th president of CWGA. How does it feel and how are you doing?

Murphy: Oh, Lynn, thank you. It's pretty amazing and very exciting. It feels like yesterday that I just joined the organization. Back then I was simply excited to get my handicap low enough to join. I was pretty nervous at first, but people were very friendly. I felt comfortable pretty fast. I'm feeling that way about this new role. It's a lot to think about, but I'm a part of a great team. How about you, Lynn? What was it like when you first took the gavel.

Lefler: Well, how quickly we forget! And that's not a bad thing, because we were in the middle of COVID. Remember that? Social distancing, working from home, masks. Golf was one of the few things we had. A lot of events were cancelled, but I think

we were able to keep our full schedule intact. Remember solo golf carts or the ones with the plastic shower curtains separating players? It really wasn't that long ago, but I'm trying to forget!

Murphy: (Laughing) There should be a little asterisk near your name and Sara Papa's on the list of CWGA presidents. You two had to deal with a situation we'll probably never experience again.

Lefler: Right, and thank goodness.

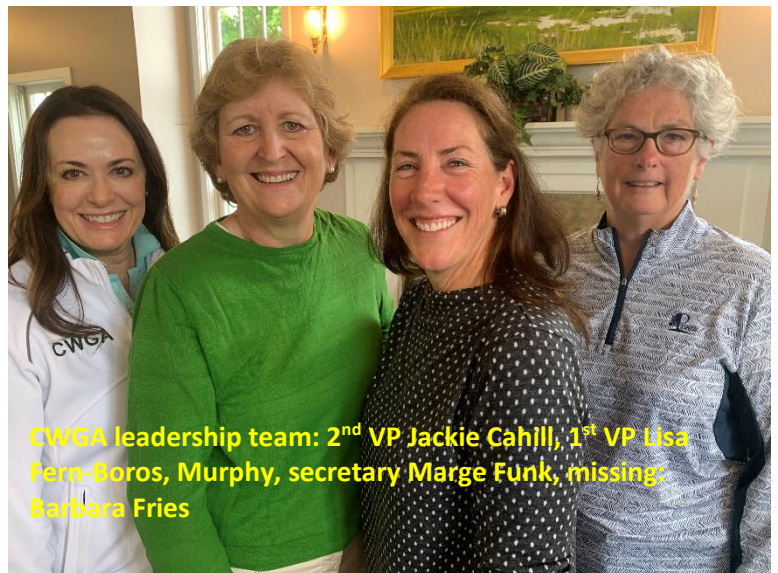
Murphy: So how does it feel not being president?

Lefler: I miss it and I don't. There is a thrill and energy of being in the middle of everything when you're president. You really know what's going on and get to meet a lot of great women who love the game of golf. But I expect it will be nice to just drive to a tournament and just play. How about you? How are you feeling now?

Murphy: So far, so good. We did a survey at the beginning of the year. We're using that feedback to guide us. As you know, there are a lot of good things in place, so the suggestions were about refinement. Like Golf Genius for scoring. We rolled that out last year, now we're really amping up the on-course usage so that we can announce winners sooner. And pace of play is always something we can continue to improve on. Our website is excellent, but we're looking it over and finding ways to make it even better. And we will continue to work with club reps to help recruit new members and volunteers to help keep CWGA strong.

Lefler: That sounds great. And you know I'm just a phone call away.

Murphy: Let's sign up to play in something this season. There are a lot of good events!



CWGA leadership team: 2nd VP Jackie Cahill, 1st VP Lisa Fern-Boros, Murphy, secretary Marge Funk, missing: Barbara Fries

Really Wonderful News

At the prize luncheon concluding the Presidents' Cup tournament (Suzanne Harris, Hop Meadow and Ann Malone, Hartford won), **Marion Hyde** (CC Farmington) was honored with a slide show and gentle roast in recognition of her nearly 70 years as a CWGA member. Sponsored by State Senator Derek Slap, the Connecticut State Assembly designated 19 September 2022 as Marion Hyde Day. Additionally, it was announced that a number of generous donations had been made to create the Marion Hyde Scholarship which will be distributed at the same time as the Priscilla Maxwell Endicott/CWGA Scholarships in the spring.

One of the highlights of the season for top senior amateur golfers is qualifying for the USGA Senior Women's Amateur Championship. In August **Jo Rasmussen** (Great River) and **Lisa Fern-Boros** (Highland), along with #1-ranked Connecticut player Jen Holland (Lyman Orchards) made the trek to Alaska. While each has competed in multiple USGA



events, this one was extra special as it was the first time the USGA had ever hosted a national tournament in The Last Frontier. Of the 132 players from the US and abroad who competed, our gang were not among the 64 who made the cut to match play. All was not lost as it gave them extra time to enjoy the food, scenery and extended daylight in our 49th state.



Deftly managing wind and chilly temperatures under brilliantly sunny skies, **Deb Johnson** (Blackhawk) came out on top to win the tri-state (CT, MA, RI) Endicott Cup held at Madison Country Club back in October. Scoring a two-day gross total 156, Deb was the only player in the field to shoot in the 70's for both days. Connecticut players rounding out the top 10 were Myra Macmillan (Blackhawk) 3rd, Lynn Scully (Waterbury) 4th and Patti Cheyne (Hartford) 10th. On the third and final day, both Tri-State (gross) and Eaton (net) Cup matches were won by Massachusetts. Rotating between the three states, this year's Endicott Cup and Tri-State Matches will be held at Wanumetonomy Golf & Country Club in Portsmouth, Rhode Island, 11-13 October. Sign up opens 1 September on the CWGA website.



Marion Hyde shows off her citation with Lynn Lefler at her side.



The Tri-State and Eaton Cup Teams at Madison – October 2022



Team Connecticut Front: Jenny Mortell, Deb Johnson, Ann Newman, Lynn Scully, Michelle Murphy. Second row: Becky Stewart, Myra Macmillan, Cindy Scope, Donna Harris, Lisa Fern-Boros. Back: Ellie Large, Pam Burt, Kirsten Adams, Patti Cheyne, Julie Paolino, Karen Kiely, Liz Distefano

Really Wonderful Updates

In March Wampanoag golfer **Ann Newman** raced in Tokyo to complete the Big Six World Marathons. A multi-time runner in London, Chicago, New York and Boston where she finished a remarkable seventh in her age class this year, Ann ran in Berlin for the first time last September. The long-haul flight to Tokyo was grueling and takes a bit out of a runner. Nevertheless, Ann said she was thrilled with the opportunity. She said the

“crowds were remarkably quiet and respectful.” She also noted “the entire race course and city as a whole were absolutely spotless.” Her golf season has begun, but you’ll still see Ann running the streets of West Hartford as she preps for her next marathon between golf tournaments.

Congratulations to rules official **Steve Basson** and his Weimaraner Hogan for bringing home the top prize in their size category in March at the *2023 AKC National Agility Championship*. After an impressive second-place finish last year, they are now the very top dogs! Steve and Hogan have been on the interview circuit to

discuss training, fitness (Steve’s) and squeaky toys (Hogan’s). Check out the links below.

1. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/sports/winners-2023-akc-national-agility-championship/>
2. <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/bonus-episode-steve-basson-and-his-dog-hogan-the-2023/id1506830920?i=1000606654737>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBylucgXFA4>



Priscilla Maxwell Endicott – CWGA & Marion Hyde Scholars 2023



Elizabeth (Libby) Dunn attends Berlin High School and is a member of their golf team. She will attend Texas Christian University in the fall and plans to major in mathematics and psychology. She came in second in

the 2022 CWGA Juniors Championship in 2022.



Sofia Ghorbel is from New Canaan and attended Stamford High School. She is currently taking a gap year at the Golf Performance Academy and plays out of Richter Park. Sofia will attend McGill University where she

plans to major in economics and finance. She T3 in the CWGA Juniors Championship in 2022.

The Marion Hyde Scholar



Meredith Norton attends Wm H Hall High School in West Hartford where she is a member of the golf team. She will attend Clemson University and plans to major in international

business with a minor in Spanish. Meredith tied for third in the CWGA Juniors Championship in 2022.



Kenna Roman attends Berlin High School and plays on their golf team. She will attend Stonehill College where she plans to major in psychology, marketing and special education. Kenna has been a member of the Peggy Kirk Bell, Hurricane

and Challenge Cup tours.

2022



Hersha Chauhan graduated valedictorian from Ridgefield High School. She is completing her first year at the University of Pennsylvania and majoring in economics.



Anna (Leni) Lemcke graduated from Staples High School in Westport. She was a standout member of their golf team and participated in

World Kid Golf tournament in Portugal. She is finishing her first year at Saint Andrews majoring in economics and sustainability.

PME Scholarship Committee

Special thanks to the team that manages funds and seeks and selects the recipients: Linda Kaye, chair; Sue Grayson, treasurer; Lisa Fern-Boros, secretary; Deb Boynton, Cindy Ahern, Lynn Lefler, Michele Murphy.

The Kids Are All Right

Golf is truly a game for life. Several of our members have taken that to heart. They started participating in CWGA when they were juniors. Now, some years later, with shelves groaning heavily with trophies, they have attained SENIOR and LEGEND status and still grace our ranks. (Sometimes the sexist language is queazifying.)



QUEEN OF STATE'S WOMEN AMATEUR GOLFERS: Miss Marji Funk of Bristol, who holds the Bristol and Chippanee Golf Club women's titles, displays huge trophy after winning



Mighty Marji

Bristol's barefoot beauty, 21-year-old Marji Funk, left photo, watches her putt roll up and in for a par five on the 18th green of the Lyman Meadow Golf Club Thursday afternoon, as she won the Connecticut State Women's Amateur Golf championship. At right she flashes her spontaneous smile (Courant Photos by Maurice Murray).

the Connecticut State Women's Amateur Golf Championship yesterday at the Lyman Meadows Golf Club, Middlefield. (Stories, additional photo in sports section). (UPI).

NEW HAVEN — Leslie Shannon (New Haven) teamed with Gia Felis (Brooklawn) to take low gross honors in the CWGA Class A better-ball tournament at the Yale Golf Club Tuesday.

N.E. Women's Amateur
 CWGA semifinalists Lynn Valentine (New London CC) and Gia Watkins (Brooklawn CC-Fairfield) lead the 20-player state contingent in the New England Women's Golf Association Amateur Championship Monday through Wednesday at Marshfield CC in Massachusetts.

Steel the best of champions

By **BRUCE BERLET**
Courant Staff Writer

WEST HARTFORD — Hannah Steel was so nervous Thursday she couldn't eat. And that was after she played in the Connecticut Women's Tournament of Champions at Wampanoag Country Club.

Steel eventually settled for a light salad, but the 10-time club champion at Hartford Golf Club had good reason to be giddy.

Steel, starting at No. 3 in the shotgun start, birdied three of the first 12 holes in shooting a 1-over-par 74 for a four-stroke victory over Jackie Wilson.

"I can't tell you how excited and honored I am to win this," said Steel after her career-low round at Wampanoag. "It was extremely important to me because I was co-chairman in the mid-1980s. I'd always hoped I'd win because then you're champion of the champions."

Zanetto Team Wins CWGA Mixed Honors

ELLINGTON — Pam and Steve Zanetto of the Torrington Country Club combined for a 36-37-73 to win low gross team honors Monday in the CWGA mixed two-ball tournament at the Ellington Ridge Country Club.

PAM ZANETTO WINS WILLIMANTIC (Special) — Pam Zanetto, Southington 1964 Connecticut Women's Golf Association junior champion, led the Junior Open day with 39-43-82 gross Friday at the Willimantic Country Club. Sharon Zailckas, Watertown, topped the nets with 71, Nancy Carniglia, Suffield, had 72. A field of eight girls competed.

Hannah Butler Leads

WOODBIDGE (Special) — Hannah Butler, 16, of Wee Burn, took the lead in the start of the Connecticut Women's Golf Association Junior championship Thursday by carding a 48-41-89 at the Woodbridge Country Club. The record field of 26 will play the second 18 holes Friday. Cathy Fiddler, 13, of Woodway was second with 45-46-92, and Joyce Proto, New Haven, third with 49-45-93.

Sister's Advice Pays
 Meriden's Steve Zanetto took advantage of some wise advice from his older sister and caddy, Pam Zanetto, to reach the finals of the Connecticut State Golf Association Junior Championship Wednesday at the Country Club of Torrington. "I told him where and what to hit on certain holes. It helps because this course is placement and position," said the distaff Zanetto, a member of the Torrington club. Zanetto will meet Farmington's Keith Nachilly in today's 18-hole final. **Back Page**

The Kids Aren't Kids Anymore, But They're Quite All Right

They have competed nationally and internationally. They have won at every level in the state and region. Visit their clubs to see their names all over the champions' boards. Here's a smattering of their victories. Thank you for the inspiration.



Gia Felis Watkins CWGA Junior Runner Up, CWGA Senior Champion, Connecticut State Senior Champion, college golfer. Brooklawn Country Club

Hannah Butler Steel CWGA Junior Runner Up, CWGA Founder's Cup (2), Senior and Legends Champion. CWGA President. Hartford Golf Club



Pam Zanetto CWGA Junior, Senior (2) and Legends Champion. Torrington Country Club

Marge Funk Connecticut State Amateur Champion, runner up in the CWGA Championship, CWGA Juniors and Legends. Yale

Mothers & Daughters

CWGA is not only an organization for life, it's also one for the generations. There are several mother-daughter pairs who help to keep the tradition alive.

We didn't come here to lay up, kid.



Joyce Curran (Silo Point) and Jen Curran (Ridgewood)

I love to drive Alfa Romeos.



Former CWGA President Linda Kaye and Sarah Cramer Hop Meadow

Putt for dough, honey.



Sally Mihalski and Patti Cheyne, Hartford

Diana and Mel Larkin, Highfield



Daughters, Mothers and Grandmothers

Special thanks to major tournaments chair Brenda Basson (Ellington Ridge) for giving the heads up on this wonderful story. She learned from Kristin Powers Harkness (Great Neck) that both her grandmother Katherine (Kay Kay) Parker Powers and her mother Astrea (Stree) Hupfel were active members of CWGA. Kay Kay's celebrated tenure included a stint as president 1951-1952. Kristin has the trophies, commemorative charms and stellar game as her legacy.

Kay Kay's life as a golfer seems to follow the trajectory of women's golf in the 20th century. She was active in CWGA and participated with gusto. She played regionally and, like so many, met the



Kristen Harkness

Eagle on Tenth.
The highlight of the day's play was an eagle three on the 495-yard tenth hole by Mrs. Ralph Powers, of Hartford, a score that very few of the pros have duplicated. Several of the women had pars on the hole but none was able to do any better.

State Women Golfers Wind Up Successful Season



Curses, Hartford Courant, this was a fantastic gathering. Clearly scanning is not your strength, nor delivery.

The Connecticut Women's Golf Association wound up the most successful season in its history yesterday with a luncheon and its annual meeting at the Hartford Golf Club. Shown above are the officers of the group. Standing, left to right, Mrs. Charles Brainard, Mrs. A. L. Rowland and Mrs. John B. Kirby. Seated, left to right, Mrs. H. M. Parsons, Mrs. Paul Adams, Miss Esther Dunn, Mrs. W. L. Fong, Mrs. Ralph Powers, newly elected president, Mrs. Charles C. Clare, outgoing president, and Mrs. William Brewster (Courant Photo).

Trophy's Inscription:
CWGA – 1950
Consolation Flight Winner
Katherine Powers



They don't make 'em like they use to:
Sterling Silver
Hand-Engraved Base

buzz saw that was New England native and American Golf Hall of Famer Glenna Collette Vare. She participated on the national circuit in tournaments like the North & South at Pinehurst with the likes of LPGA founder Peggy Kirk Bell. (Babe Didrikson had turned pro the year before.) Later articles mention Kay Kay playing with other amateurs in a Sea Island LPGA event that boasted a pro roster including Mickey Wright, Patty Berg and Louise Suggs.

Mrs. Ralph Powers Winner In Defense Of Seniors Title

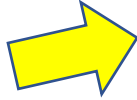
Wallingford, Aug. 30.—(AP)—The annual competition for the senior title of the Connecticut Women's Golf Association closed here today at the Wallingford Country Club with Mrs. Ralph A. Powers, of New London, adding an 85 to her opening round tally of 84 for a 36-hole total of 169 to successfully defend her title won last year at Race Brook.

Another strength was squash. Several *New York Times* articles mention her participation in a national squash racquets tournament in Boston in the 1930's.

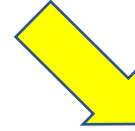
Closer to home Kay Kay taught her young daughter-in-law the game. And how Stree blossomed! She became an avid golfer and won the New London/Great Neck Country Club championship in 1965 and 1966, was runner-up in 1967 and 2006, and more recently won the President's Cup tournament. A great intellect, activist and artistic gardener, Stree, who died last July, was also a passionate fly fisher, accomplished skier and dancer.

And Now For The Mother Of Family Stories

No doubt there are many more mother-daughter stories out there that are yet to be revealed to the newsletter writer. Send your stories! Please send your photos. Turns out there was a clue from a recent tee sheet – same surname can be a giveaway. After an inquiry by text, Linda Groher responded, “Yes, we are related! That’s my daughter Melissa.” And so began the story that got funnier, more improbable and funnier.



Before the Covid Shutdown, Linda urged Melissa to move from NYC back home to Glastonbury



Capitalizing on a natural swing, Linda encouraged Melissa to work on her game, lower her handicap and join CWGA

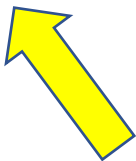
"Melissa was playing with her sister who noticed one of her high school friends in the group behind them. Addison happened to be that friend's college roommate. It started to pour and everyone ended up under the tent on the patio. The rest is history."



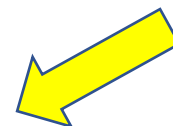
Addison & Melissa (Hartford)



They were married in June 2022



Their mothers are both CWGA members! Soamy Rosenbluth (Hartford) and Linda



2023 Tournament Calendar

Date(s)	CWGA Event	Site
Monday, 1 May	Opening Day, 2 BB of 4 by Draw	Great Neck CC
Tuesday, 16 May	Club Rep's Outing, by invite	Pine Orchard Y&CC
Monday, 22 May	Best Ball of 2	Bull's Bridge GC
Thursday, 1 June	CT vs RI Matches	Ledgemont CC RI
Monday, 5 June	Ringer Tournament	Old Lyme CC
Monday, 19 June	Solheim Cup	Highfield Club
Tuesday, 27 June-Friday, 30 June	CWGA Championship	Stonington CC
Monday, 10 July	Medallion	CC of Waterbury
Monday, 24 July	Two-player Scramble	Hop Meadow CC
Tuesday, 25 July	Tournament of Champions	Hartford GC
Monday, 31 July	President's Cup	Ridgewood
Tuesday, 8 August	CWGA & Junior Mixer	Wampanoag
Tuesday, 15 August	Summer Special	Wallingford CC
Thursday, 17 August	CWGA vs SNEWGA	Pequabuck GC
Monday, 21 Aug-Tuesday, 22 Aug	SR Championship	Watertown GC
	JR Championship	
Tuesday, 22 August	Legends Championship	
Wednesday, 6 September	Shamble - Make your foursome	Glastonbury Hills CC
Thursday, 5 October	Closing Day Scramble & Awards	Tumble Brook CC
Tuesday, 10 Oct-Thursday, 12 Oct	Endicott Cup	Wanumetonomy G&CC

Sponsored by Other Organizations

Jun 5 & 6	Connecticut Women's Open	Rolling Hills
Jun 12-14	NEGA Women's Amateur	Manchester CC
Jun 20	Women's One-day @ Blackhawk CC	Blackhawk CC
Jul 11 -12	CT Girls Jr Amateur	Fairview CC
Jul 17 & 18	CT Women's Amateur	Tashua Knolls
Jul 31- Aug 2	Borck Jr.	Patterson
Aug 7 & 8	SNEWGA Individual Champ	Hunter
Aug 3	CSGA Mixed Championship	Race Brook CC
Sept 18	Women's One-day @ Portland CC	Portland CC

Check the CWGA website for additional details <https://cwga.org/Tournament-Calendar>



Ridgewood's Big Winners at Bull's Bridge

Left-right: Chris Marano, Susan White, Maura Fletcher, Sarah Capelli, Jen Curran, Jeanne Iappaluccio, Sandra Smith

Please send your photos, stories, questions, comments to info@cwga.org

CWGA Membership: Any woman who is an active golf member of a CWGA member club who is eligible to participate in golfing activities at her club without payment of additional greens fees and has a USGA index of 25.0 or lower may apply for membership in CWGA up to October 1. Those who join after July 1 will miss the deadline for participation in the Past Presidents' Cup matches, but may participate in any other CWGA events. Complete the [on-line form](#); it will be electronically sent to your pro for approval and then forwarded to CWGA Membership. Please encourage your club members who meet the requirements to join.