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WOMEN'S WESTERN GOLF ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE 2018 TOURNAMENT SITES

Golf, Ill. ... January 5, 2018 - Mistwood Golf Club, Romeoville, Ill., will host the Women's Western Golf Association's 118th National Amateur Championship from June 25-30, 2018. The field of 120 will be comprised of the top-ranked women amateur players from across the U.S. and internationally.

Mistwood Golf Club is one of the most talked-about Chicago-area golf courses after an acclaimed multi-million-dollar renovation overseen by owner Jim McWethy. Designed and renovated by Ray Hearn, a well-known course designer, the layout is centered around a beautiful 65-acre lake; the course features 20 St. Andrews style sod wall bunkers bringing a feeling of Scotland to the Midwest.

"Mistwood's staff is eagerly anticipating the 118th Women's Western Amateur," said tournament chairman Cece Durbin, WWGA's First Vice President. "The club has hosted numerous professional and amateur events, including 19 Illinois Women's Opens. The scenic course, which winds around two large quarry ponds, will provide a challenge to every player. Many of the holes are visually intimidating – but fair. Each hole, with beautiful bent grass fairways and greens, has a unique look and will play firm and fast. The WWGA is excited to be at one of the best courses in the Chicago area."

The Amateur Championship is open to amateur women and girls with a USGA Hdcp Index not to exceed 7.4. Tournament format is Match Play with a 36-hole stroke play qualifier.

The WWGA's 92nd National Junior Championship will be held at Cincinnati Country Club in Cincinnati, Ohio from July 15-20, 2018. The field of 80 will draw top-ranked junior girls in the U.S. as well as Canada and other countries.

"Cincinnati Country Club is looking forward to hosting the WWGA National Junior Championship for the fourth time," said tournament chairman Susan Buchanan, the WWGA's Second Vice President. "The last tournament here was held in 2012 and prior to that was held in 1970 and 1975. The club's members and staff are planning another memorable and rewarding experience for the players, visitors, and the residents of the surrounding communities. The golf course is in excellent condition and is ready to challenge competitors in another first-class event."

The Junior Championship is open to amateur girls with a USGA Hdcp Index not to exceed 14.4 and have not reached 19 years of age by date of the finals of the Championship. Tournament format is Match Play with a 36-hole stroke play qualifier.

The Amateur and Junior Tournament entry applications will be available on the WWGA's website in mid to late February 2018. www.wwga.org

About the WWGA ... The WWGA was founded in 1901 under the sponsorship of the Western Golf Association and is one of the oldest women's golf organizations in the United States; it is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established under guidelines set by the Internal Revenue Service. The Women's Western Golf Association and its Foundation have no paid staff; all Directors and Trustees are volunteers who come from across the country.

Two tournaments held annually ... The Amateur Championship has been held without interruption since 1901, not even two world wars kept the tournament from being played. The Junior Championship was first held in 1920; this tournament has been held annually with the exception of a few years during WWII.

Former WWGA Tournaments ... the Derby Medal Invitational was inaugurated in 1929 and continued through 1941. In 1930 the Women's Western Open was established and held through 1967; the Open was considered a Major Championship in Women's Professional Golf. In 1979 the WWGA introduced its Senior Championship which was held until 2007; that tournament is currently on hiatus.

Past Champions of WWGA tournaments reads like a list of 'Who's Who in Women's Golf': Patty Berg (an 8-time champion), Amy Benz, JoAnne Gunderson Carner, Beth Daniel, Meredith Duncan, Moira Dunn, Alice Dye, Dorothy Germain, Mary Hafeman, Candy Hannemann, Betty Jameson, Ariya Jutanugarn, Cristie Kerr, Brittany Lang, Pat Lesser, Stacy Lewis, Nancy Lopez (a 3-time winner), Carol Mann, Marion Miley, Grace Park, Betsy Rawls, Louise Suggs, Kathy Whitworth, Mickey Wright and Babe Didrikson Zaharias, to mention just a few.

In 1971 the **Women's Western Golf Foundation** was formed as an outgrowth of the Women's Western Golf Association. The Foundation was formed to receive and distribute funds to advance women in scholastic achievement and collegiate golf programs by granting academic undergraduate scholarships to deserving women students who have an involvement in golf.

Going on 47 years, the Foundation has granted in excess of \$4.1 million to more than 650 scholars representing 45 states and over two dozen collegiate women's golf programs. Its primary source of income is contributions from golf clubs and groups participating in the Annual Foundation Scholarship Day, WWGA Directors and Trustees, golf associations, individual friends of golf and benefactors.

For more information, past tournaments, history, etc. visit: www.wwga.org

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