



Women's Western Golf Association

**114th National Amateur Championship
Lancaster Country Club
Lancaster, Pennsylvania
June 23 – 28, 2014**

**May 2, 2014
For Immediate Release**

**The Women's Western Golf Association Set To Sponsor Their
114th National Amateur Championship At Lancaster Country Club,
Lancaster, Pennsylvania, June 23rd – 28th**

The nation's oldest golf association for women, the **WOMEN'S WESTERN GOLF ASSOCIATION** (WWGA) will stage their 114th National Amateur Championship June 23rd to 28th at the Lancaster Country Club in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Past winners of this championship include current LPGA members Ariya Jutanugarn, Cristie Kerr, Brittany Lang, and Stacy Lewis as well as LPGA Hall of Fame Members Patti Berg, Beth Daniel, Jo-Anne Gunderson Carner, Nancy Lopez and Louise Suggs. Stacy Lewis, who won this tournament in 2006 when she was a student at the University of Arkansas, is presently ranked #3 in the Ladies Professional Golf Association (LPGA) Rolex World Rankings.

Two 18-hole Qualifying Rounds will take place on Monday, June 23rd and Tuesday, June 24th. After the conclusion of these rounds, players will be placed in Flights based on their qualifying scores. The low 64 players will contend for the Championship title while the remaining players will be placed in respective flights of 16 based on their qualifying scores. Single elimination Match Play will be played each day starting Wednesday, June 25th. The 36-hole final will be played on Saturday, June 28th, while the remaining Flight Finals will be played on Friday afternoon, June 27th. The public is welcome to attend every day free of charge.

Last year the WWGA's 113th National Amateur Championship was held at Dayton Country Club, Dayton, Ohio. 17 year old Ashlan Ramsey, Milledgeville, Georgia, defeated Jenna Hague, Burlington, Ontario, Canada, by a score of 7 & 6 in the 36-hole Final. Ramsey, who had a stellar Junior Golf Career including being a member of the LPGA Junior Solheim Cup Team, entered Clemson University last fall. She will not be defending her title. She will participate in the Curtis Cup Matches in early June and has announced she will turn professional right after that event.

The entry deadline is June 1st. (Applications are online at www.WWGA.org). The field will be limited to 144 players. Priority will be given to the low USGA Handicap Indices received through May 26th. After that date, applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis if the field is not full.

At this time, entries come from 26 states and 9 foreign countries. Included are Erin and Madelein Kerr, 2 sisters from New Hope, Pennsylvania. This fall Erin will enter Wake Forest University and Madelein will enter her Junior year at Council Rock High School. Other entrants from Pennsylvania include Emily Gimpel, Lafayette Hill; Alison Weaver, Lititz; and Ann Colligan, Kittanning. It also looks like we will have a number of members of the Penn State University Golf Team which recently placed 4th at the Big Ten Conference Championship.

Other entries include last year's Finalist, Jenna Hague, a Senior to be at Ball State University and a last year's Semifinalist, Hally Leadbetter from Bradenton, Florida. Quarterfinalist Jessica Porvasnik, Hinckley, Ohio, won the 2014 Big Ten Conference Championship as a Freshman at Ohio State University. We also have the 2013 WWGA National Junior Champion and Finalist, Heather Ciskowski, Barrington, Illinois, and Kelsey Murphy, Plymouth, Michigan, as well as that tournament's Medalist, Bing Singhsumalee, Naperville, Illinois. Also participating is Vivian Tsui, Markham, Ontario, Canada, who was the finalist at our WWGA 84th National Junior Championship in 2010 and presently attends North Carolina State University.

The tournament will have a number of players that will have just graduated from high school. They include Calli Ringsby, Cherry Hills, Colorado (Stanford University); Celia Kuenster, Mendota Heights, Minnesota (University of Minnesota); Harley Dubsy, Valparaiso, Indiana (University of Nevada at Las Vegas); Alexandra Harkins, Crystal Lake, Illinois (University of North Carolina); and Sabrina Garrison, Calgary, Alberta, Canada (University of Minnesota). Other junior golfers include Niki Schroeder, Avon Lake, Ohio, a member of the high school class of 2015.

Contestants will have the option to play Practice Rounds the weekend before the tournament starts and can participate in a Co-Am (Contestant-Amateur) Tournament which will be played on Sunday, June 22nd where Lancaster Country Club members will be paired with contestants.

Lancaster Country Club was chartered in 1900, and its golf course was designed by William Flynn. Among other courses that were designed by Flynn are Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, PA; Shinnecock Hills Country Club, Shinnecock Hills, NY; The Country Club, Brookline, MA; The Homestead Resort (Cascades Course), Hot Springs, VA; and Glen View Club, Golf, Illinois. Glen View is the home club of current WWGA President Kim Schriver.

Lancaster hosted the 2013 American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) Rolex Tournament of Champions and is scheduled to host the United States Golf Association (USGA) Women's Open Championship in 2015. The club has also hosted a number of both Men's and Women's Pennsylvania State Amateur and Open Championships.

Known for gently rolling topography, the use of intersecting slopes and the strategic use of simple water features, the club is currently ranked #63 on *Golfweek's* 2014 Classic Golf Courses list. The Front Nine holes are called "Meadowcreek" and the Back Nine holes are called "Dogwood". Of historical interest, PGA member and 2013 U. S. Open Winner, Jim Furyk, is a member of the club and played his high school golf there in the 1980's. In 1948, Lancaster CC member H. H. Haverstick defeated 19-year old Arnold Palmer 3&2 on his way to winning the Pennsylvania State Amateur Championship.

Only one of the previous WWGA 113 National Amateur Championships has been held in the state of Pennsylvania. In 1978, Fox Chapel Golf Club in Pittsburgh hosted the tournament. The Champion was Beth Daniel who went on to have a very successful career on the LPGA Tour.

The WWGA is fortunate to announce that Carol Semple Thompson will be the Honorary Tournament Chairman for this year's Amateur Championship. Thompson, a native Pennsylvanian, is a Past President of the Pennsylvania State Women's Golf Association; has served on the USGA Executive Committee; and also has served on the Advisory Committee for the PGA of America. Among her accomplishments as an Amateur golfer is having won the USGA Women's Amateur Championship, the British Women's Amateur Championship, and has been Low Amateur at the USGA Women's Open Championship on 3 occasions. She is a multiple time winner of the Pennsylvania State Women's Amateur Championship and the Pennsylvania State Women's Open Championship. She also played in many WWGA Amateur Championships where she has been the Medalist, a Quarterfinalist, a Semifinalist, and a Finalist, but never was the Champion. The WWGA recognized her with our Women of Distinction award in 2003 in honor of her participation and contribution to the game of golf and to the WWGA. We are delighted have her join us in Lancaster and she will be sharing her thoughts on golf with the players at the Player's Welcome Dinner on June 22nd.

The WWGA was founded in 1901 under the auspices of the Western Golf Association (WGA) which sponsored the PGA Western Open Championship for many years and now sponsors one of the playoff events that is part of the PGA's FED EX CUP Championship. In 1903, the ladies chose to separate from the WGA and form its own organization with the mission to promote women's golf and hold an Amateur Championship each year. This dream has been kept alive for 114 consecutive years and claims a history as long and as prestigious as its initial sponsor.

In 1920, the WWGA added an annual event for Junior Girls. This year the 88th National Junior Championship will be held at Knollwood Country Club, Granger, Indiana, from July 31 to August 4. Last year's tournament was held at Dubuque Country Club, Dubuque, Iowa. Heather Ciskowski, Barrington, Illinois, defeated Kelsey Murphy, Plymouth, Michigan, on the 20th hole. Ciskowski will enter the University of Minnesota this fall and Murphy entered Eastern Michigan University last fall.

Between 1930 and 1967, an Open Championship was also conducted under the auspices of the WWGA. At that time this event was considered one of the 4 major tournaments in Women's Professional Golf. Winners of this event include past LPGA stars Patty Berg, Betty Jameson, Carol Mann, Best Rawls, Louise Suggs, Kathy Whitworth, Mickey Wright and Babe Zaharias. This tournament was held twice in the state of Pennsylvania: in 1951 at Whitemarsh Valley Country Club in Lafayette Hill and in 1958 at the Club Kawkwa in Erie. LPGA Founder and Legend Patty Berg won both events.

From 1979 to 2007, the WWGA also sponsored a Senior Amateur Championship. In 2006, this event was held at Hershey Country Club – East Course in Hershey, Pennsylvania. This event is currently on hiatus.

Today the WWGA, a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization has over 300 member clubs from all over the United States. Over 50 women volunteer to serve as Directors to facilitate all facets of the organization including on-site managing of the National Amateur and Junior Championships. There is no paid staff and each Director travels to tournament sites at their own expense.

The Women's Western Golf Foundation (WWGF) was formed in 1971 as an outgrowth of the WWGA. This charitable trust receives and distributes scholarship funds to deserving young collegians as well as providing funds to inadequately funded Women's collegiate golf programs. Over the last 42 years the Foundation has distributed in excess of \$3.5 million in scholarship awards to 580 women from 45 states and over two dozen collegiate Women's Golf Programs. Currently the WWGF is helping to support 74 women from 24 states attend the college of their choice. Its primary source of income are contributions from golf clubs and groups participating in the annual WWGA Foundation Day, WWGA Directors and WWGF Trustees, golf associations and individual donors.

More information about the Women's Western Golf Association and the 114th National Championship is available at www.WWGA.org.

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