

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARLENE STREIT HONORED WITH WOMEN'S WESTERN GOLF "WOMAN OF DISTINCTION" AWARD

Golf, Ill. ... October 9, 2015 ... The Women's Western Golf Association (WWGA) "Woman of Distinction" award was first presented to Patty Berg in 1994. It is awarded to women who have displayed leadership qualities, involvement and commitment to the game on either the amateur or professional level. The honoree will have participated in or have won a WWGA tournament and/or made significant contributions to the Association.

This year's honoree is Marlene Streit. She was born in Cereal, Alberta, Canada and graduated from Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. In 1947 she began caddying and started to play golf in 1949; she was taught to play and coached her entire career by Golf Professional Gordon McInnis, Sr.

An outstanding golfer, she is the only woman in history to have won the British Ladies' Amateur, USGA Women's Amateur, Australian Women's Amateur and the USGA Senior Women's Amateur (3 times.) Other victories include winning the North/South Championship twice; a 4-time Helen Lee Doherty Champion; a 7-time Doherty Senior Division Champion; Women's International Four-Ball Championship twice, the first time in 1956 with Ann Casey Johnston (who was the 1960 and 1961 WWGA Amateur Champion) and then again – 40 years later when she won in 2003 with partner Carol Semple Thompson (also a "Woman of Distinction" honoree.)

In Canada she is regarded as the most successful Canadian Amateur having won 24 Canadian Ladies' Golf Association championships which include: 11 Amateurs, 9 Close and 4 Seniors. She also won copious Ontario Ladies Golf Championship starting in 1951 through 2003 that included Junior, Amateur and Senior Championships.

Streit won a total of 30 national or international amateur championships with at least one championship in each decade and has the distinct honor of winning on three different continents outside of Canada. In her home country of Canada she claims 24 wins; United States four wins and one each in Great Britain and Australia. She has "Honorary Life Memberships" in 16 Canadian golf clubs; outside of Canada has one in Wales and three in United States clubs.

Her awards are numerous including the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame, Canada Sports Hall of Fame, Rollins College Sports Hall of Fame, Canadian Woman of the Year and the first Canadian to be inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame.

A true champion both on and off the golf course, she has been a friend of the Women's Western Golf Association for many, many years. The "Marlene Streit Awards Fund" provides only travel expenses to outstanding junior girl golfers from Ontario. These young ladies have traveled to the top Junior competitions outside of Canada for years including countless Women's Western Junior tournaments.

Other professional recipients who have received the award include: Louise Suggs, Nancy Lopez, Peggy Kirk Bell, Betty Jameson, Wiffi Smith, Carol Mann, Kathy Whitworth and Mickey Wright. Amateur recipients: Carol Semple Thompson and WWGA Directors: June Beebe Atwood, Alice Dye, Judy Bell, Ann Upchurch, Co McArthur, Susan Wagner and Audrey Peterson.

About the WWGA ... The WWGA was founded in 1901 under the sponsorship of the Western Golf Association and is one, if not the oldest women's golf organization in the United States; it is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established under guidelines set by the Internal Revenue Service.

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. The above mentioned tournaments were all conducted by WWGA Directors who volunteered their time and talent; these farsighted pioneers in women's golf were committed to the game. To this day, all the WWGA Directors, who come from across the United States, are dedicated volunteers; they receive no compensation or reimbursement for personal travel expenses.

Past Champions of WWGA tournaments reads like a list of 'Who's Who in Women's Golf': Patty Berg (an 8-time champion), JoAnne Carner, Beth Daniel, Meredith Duncan, Moira Dunn, Alice Dye, Dorothy Germain, 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.

Over the past 44 years, the Foundation has granted in excess of \$3.5 million to more than 600 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.

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.

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