

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Women's Western Golf Association set to hold its 88th National Junior Championship

Golf, Ill. ... April 15, 2014 ... Knollwood Country Club, Granger, Ind. is set to host the 88th Women's Western Golf Association's National Junior Championship July 28 – August 1.

This will be the fifth time that Knollwood has opened its course and club to the WWGA. Indiana's slogan, "*Crossroads of America*" is more than apropos for this year's tournament as junior girls will be arriving from across the U.S., Canada and a number of countries all vying to have their name engraved on the L.B. Icelly Championship trophy. There are also a number of local area girls who will be competing.

Knollwood Country Club has enjoyed a long and productive relationship with the Women's Western Golf Association. The first Women's Western Junior tournament was held at Knollwood in 1993 when Grace Park was crowned Champion and Kellee Booth, Finalist. Both Park and Booth later won WWGA Amateur Championships and played on the LPGA Tour.

It would be another 13 years until the WWGA tournament returned to the Granger club. In 2005 Emma Jandel, who now plays on the LPGA Tour, was Champion and Piper Miller the Finalist. In 2008 Tory Bauman won the championship and Alexis Nelson the Finalist. Most recently, Anna Kim was Champion in 2010 defeating Vivian Tsui. This year promises to once again produce a number of outstanding players who are likely to become the LPGA stars of tomorrow!

Knollwood has two beautiful 18-hole championship courses set among graceful trees and picturesque, softly rolling terrain making it a challenge for the best of golfers. On June 23, 1976, the golf course opened; it was principally the creation of two men, David Eckrich and Ernie Shrock with Schrock mainly involved in building the golf course.

The field of 96 will be comprised of the top-ranked junior girls. Eligibility: entries are open to amateur girl golfers 18 years of age or younger who have not yet reached 19 years of age by August 1; have an 18-hole up-to-date USGA Handicap Index not to exceed 22.4 and are not college or university students.

The tournament format is match play with a 36-hole stroke play qualifying round to establish flights; qualifying will be played July 28-29. Championship Flight will be comprised of the low 32 qualifiers, all others will be placed in flights. The first round of match play will get underway July 30. There will be consolation in all flights, one of the few tournaments in the country that offers this to players.

Spectators are welcome and as always with top-ranked amateur events, admission is free.

Elsie Nemeth who is from Granger is a member at Knollwood Country Club; this year she will be wearing two 'caps' as she is the WWGA's Second Vice President and serving as the Tournament Chairman.

Nemeth said, *"Knollwood Country Club is looking forward to hosting this year's WWGA Junior. The club's Staff and members have been planning a great event for players, their families and residents from surrounding communities. The golf course is in excellent condition and is ready to test the contestants."*

She also stated, *"One of Knollwood's members who is from Granger, **Julia Potter** the 2013 U.S. Mid-Am Women's Champion, will be the Guest Speaker at the players' dinner. Also on the dais will be **Deanna Song** from Granger. Deanna played in many Western Juniors and is currently one of the Women's Western Foundation's Scholars; she is attending Yale University."*

Nemeth continued, *"Although the field is close to reaching capacity, tournament entry applications are still available on the WWGA's website 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.

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. This year's Amateur will be held at Lancaster Country Club in Lancaster, Pa., site of the 2015 U.S. Women's Open championship. 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 (a 3-time Junior Champion), 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.

Last year's WWGA Amateur Champion, **Ashlan Ramsey** was recently named to the 2014 Curtis Cup Team; **Heather Ciskowski**, the 2013 Junior Champion will start her college career at University of Minnesota this fall.

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 42 years, the Foundation has granted in excess of \$3.5 million to more than 580 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.

On June 22, 2011 the WWGA once again proudly partnered with their initial sponsor, the Western Golf Association.

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



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