

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WOMEN'S WESTERN GOLF ASSOCIATION
ANNOUNCES 2015 TOURNAMENT SITES**

Golf, Ill. ... January 2, 2015 ... Nashville Golf & Athletic Club, Brentwood, Tenn. will host the Women's Western Golf Association's (WWGA) 115th National Amateur Championship from June 15-20, 2015. This will be the second WWGA Amateur Championship held at this club; the first one was in 1987. At the conclusion of the 1987 tournament club members donated the "Babe" Didrikson Zaharias Memorial Trophy to the WWGA; the trophy remains on permanent display at the club and each year is awarded to the WWGA's Amateur Finalist. The field of 144 will be comprised of the top-ranked women amateur players from across the U.S., Canada and a number of foreign countries. Sarah LeBrun Ingram, a prominent amateur golfer from Nashville and winner of the WWGA's 1991 Amateur Championship will be the Guest Speaker at the Players Dinner.

Nashville Golf & Athletic Club is located in the lush countryside of middle Tennessee. According to John R. Bibb, Club Historian and Past President of Golf Writers Association of America, *"Nashville Golf & Athletic Club may very well have had its beginning in the late 1770's. In the spring of 1786, Andrew Crockett, an uncle of the famous woodsman, Davy Crockett, unsheathed his broad axe and began the tortuous process of clearing a tiny knoll ... now, 200 years later, a few of the saplings that covered the Crocketts' knoll have grown to maturity, their strong, bountiful limbs spread shade across a putting green nestled in front of the centerpiece of Nashville Golf & Athletic Club."*

The 187 acre course, with no two bentgrass greens alike, has breathtaking views of the hills and countryside of Tennessee. Claire Carruth, WWGA's First Vice President will serve as the Tournament Chairman. She said, *"Nashville Golf & Athletic Club members and staff are looking forward to hosting the Women's Western Amateur Championship. This picturesque course is going to be a challenge to the best of golfers."* Carruth further stated, *"The club recently hosted the "All American Junior Golf Tour" and according to Brian Jorgenson, Director of Golf, the players from all over the Southeast raved about the beautiful conditions of the golf course."*

The WWGA's 89th National Junior Championship will be held at Hope Valley Country Club in Durham, N.C. from July 13-17, 2015. The field of 96 will draw top-ranked junior girls in the U.S. as well as Canada and other countries.

The first county club community in Durham County, N.C., Hope Valley was developed around an 18-hole Donald Ross design golf course. It was created in 1925-26 right before the stock market crash in 1929 and remained a rural colony until after WWII. The course is a true Ross "Total Gem" and is almost the same as the original layout although three well-known architects, Perry Maxwell, Dan Maples and John LaFoy have left their mark through the years.

Char Delaney, WWGA's Second Vice President will serve as Tournament Chairman. Delaney said, *"Hope Valley Country Club is looking forward to hosting the WWGA Junior National Championship for the second time, the last tournament was held in 2009. Hope Valley's members 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 Amateur and Junior Tournament entry applications will be available on the WWGA's website in mid-February 2015. 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. 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 43 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.

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

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Contact:

Susan Wagner, National Media Director
Women's Western Golf Association
womens.western.golf@gmail.com --or--
suzywagner@att.net