

# Inside the ropes: August championships recap

BY CARR McCALLA

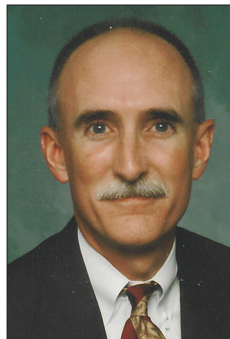
It's been a busy month for the LGA! We began the month in St. Francisville with our Senior Amateur Championship at The Bluffs Country Club and Resort (formerly known as The Bluffs on Thompson Creek). We then traveled to Monroe's Bayou DeSiard Country Club where we conducted our own Mid-Amateur Championship in addition to the Sectional Qualifier for the USGA Mid-Amateur; and then finished up the month in Gonzales with our growing LGA Net Amateur Championship at Pelican Point. While you'll have to wait until next month's Inside the Ropes to learn the results from the Net Am, we can tell you about the exciting finishes to our Senior Am and Mid-Am.

Darell Benoit of Belle Chasse won his first ever LGA Championship, taking the Senior Amateur by two strokes over Brusly's Scott Haynie and Jim Adams of Baton Rouge.

Benoit, playing in the final group of the day, birdied three of his final five holes, including a two putt birdie on the 18th to secure the championship. His final round score of 71 gave him a 54-hole total of one-under par 215 over the extremely demanding Bluffs course that, according to everyone that participated, was in the best condition ever. Adams, the leader after 36 holes, shot 74 on Saturday, while Haynie finished with a two-under par 70.

Three time LGA Mid-Amateur Champion, Tommy Brennan of Covington, captured his fourth title (1995, 1996, 1997, and 2005) by coming back from a two-shot deficit on the final day to beat Bossier City's Robby McWilliams in the Mid-Amateur at Bayou DeSiard Country Club.

Brennan and McWilliams, playing in the final group, counterpunched each other all day. Starting the day at five-under par to McWilliams seven-under, Brennan shot even par 36 on the front, but fell two more shots back as McWilliams got off to a strong start by shooting a two-under 34. On the back nine, Brennan staged a strong comeback as he carded birdies on 13, 15, and 16. After a McWilliams bogey on the par-3 17th, they headed to number 18 tied at seven-under. Two pars led to a sudden death playoff, which was halved with birdies on the first hole, McWilliams rolling in a 20 foot putt to extend the playoff after Brennan almost holed his second shot. Brennan then made an 8-footer for another birdie on the second playoff hole, before watching McWilliams' putt skirt the hole, to claim the championship. Additional congratulations are in order for Brennan, who qualified for the USGA Mid-Amateur Championship the next day, shooting a five-under par 67 on the same Bayou DeSiard track. He bested 17 other competitors for the one spot available. Mandeville's Mark Fair will also be heading to Chattanooga for the USGA Mid-Amateur, having qualified by shooting 70 at Hattiesburg Country Club earlier in the month. The USGA Mid-Amateur Championship will be conducted at The Honors Course, a Pete Dye design consistently rated in Golf Digest's top 100 courses, from Sept. 10-15.



**Carr McCalla**

Baton Rouge's Gayle Sanchez will head to Rocky Face, Ga., in mid-September to represent Louisiana in the USGA Senior Amateur Championship. Sanchez shot 73 to take the only available spot at the qualifier at Carter Plantation earlier this month. The Farm Golf Club, just outside Dalton, Ga., will play host to this championship Sept. 17-22.

## DEADLINE FOR FOUR-BALL IS SEPT. 6

The University Club of Baton Rouge, which was recently honored as one of the "Best College Courses" in the nation by Golf Digest, will host the 2005 LGA Four-Ball Championship.

The entry fee for each two-man team is \$300 and includes a practice round and two tournament rounds, as well as cart and range fees for all three days. If you've not yet signed up for this popular event, you don't have much time to get your entry in. Entries must be received by Tues., Sept. 6 at 5 p.m. You may enter online via the LGA website

([www.LGAgolf.org](http://www.LGAgolf.org)) or submit a hard copy to the LGA office. For more information, please visit the LGA's website or call the LGA office.

## LOUPE AND GALLOWAY TO REPRESENT LGA IN INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR FOUR-BALL

The 2005 LGA Junior Amateur Champion, Andrew Loupe of Baton Rouge, and 2004 Champion, Thomas Galloway of Covington, will represent the LGA in the inaugural International Junior Four-Ball Invitational in Savannah, Ga., the weekend of August 26-28. The South Carolina Golf Association, who is conducting this event, has extended invitations to each state and provincial golf association in the U.S. and Canada to sponsor a team. The LGA is excited to be able to send Loupe and Galloway to represent our state in this prestigious event, which is sponsored by the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa. We look forward to reporting on their experience in next month's column.

## USGA STATE TEAM FINALIZED

The LGA has announced that it will be sending Jeff Calloway of Baker, Robby McWilliams of Bossier City, and Tommy Brennan of Covington to represent Louisiana at the 2005 USGA State Team Championship at Berkeley Hall, a beautiful facility just outside Hilton Head Island in Bluffton, S.C. The three-man team will compete against 51 other teams representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The competition will be at stroke play over 54 holes (Sept. 27-29) with the best two of three scores counting as the team score each day. Team selections are made from a points list which is based upon finishes in LGA and USGA events over the two years leading up to the bi-annual competition. This event has grown tremendously over the last decade and competition is fierce to make the team. Congratulations (and good luck!) to Jeff, Robby, and Tommy.

## HANDICAP SEMINARS

The USGA has created a licensing program for golf clubs that requires a club that wishes to issue approved USGA Handicap

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