

Noack is new USGA Boatwright intern

By CARR McCALLA

The Louisiana Golf Association is pleased to announce the hiring of Sarina Noack as its USGA P.J. Boatwright Jr. intern for 2007. A recent graduate of Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Sarina is currently working on her Master's degree in Sports Administration. She begins work at the LGA's offices this month.

Originally from the Houston area, she made quite a name for herself at Northwestern State, garnering All-Southland Conference softball honors four consecutive years and leading all NCAA Division I institutions in stolen bases in her recently completed senior year. She has also been a perennial member of the Northwestern State Honor Roll. Sarina will gain experience in all areas of the organization, helping with championship entry administration, course and slope rating and other administrative functions as well.

The Boatwright internship program started in 1991 in memory of long-time USGA Director of Rules and Competitions, P.J. Boatwright Jr. The USGA funds Boatwright internships for the majority of state and regional golf associations in an effort to give interested individuals an opportunity to gain experience in amateur golf administration, while also providing the associations with much needed clerical and administrative help. LGA Assistant Executive Director Michael Walder (Virginia State GA) and I (Tennessee GA) are both former Boatwright interns. This marks the 11th consecutive year that the USGA has provided a Boatwright internship grant for the LGA.

LGA TO CO-SPONSOR SOUTHERN GOLF EXPO IN BATON ROUGE

The Louisiana Golf Association has just recently signed on as a co-sponsor of the 2007 Southern Golf Expo. The second annual Expo will take place the weekend of March 24-25 at the Baton Rouge River Center Exhibition Hall. Conducted for the first time in the spring of 2006 to extremely positive reviews, this year's expo will have something for everyone. Long drive champ Trez Simmons will be on hand to lend his expertise to the expo, including his participation in a special kids clinic as well as at the expo instruction stage. We are pleased to announce that members of LGA Member Clubs will receive a 10-percent discount off the admission price by showing either their LGA Handicap Network card or LGA Audubon Golf Trail discount card. In addition, LGA Member Clubs will also receive a significant discount off fees for booth space at the expo.

All facets of our great game will be represented. The golfing lifestyle will be highlighted, with area clubs and courses, golf resorts and destinations, real estate, fashion, etc., all hosting exhibits. There will also be a demo area, where equipment manufacturers will be available to let attendees try out the 'latest and greatest' equipment. In short, anyone who loves the game and wants to stay abreast of what's happening with golf in the Gulf States area will plan on being there. We'll be there in the LGA booth to talk about LGA happenings and hope you'll stop by and visit. For more information on securing booth space or simply attending the expo, please call our offices at 337.265.3938.

NOTES FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOLF ADMINISTRATORS CONFERENCE

LGA Assistant Executive Director Michael Walder and I recently returned from the International Association of Golf Administrators (IAGA) annual meeting and conference. The annual conference brings together the executive staffs of state,

regional, provincial, and national golf associations in North America. It's a wonderful opportunity to compare notes with colleagues that deal with the same issues and face the same challenges that we do on a daily basis in our respective areas of jurisdiction. We have 3-4 days of educational sessions, round-table discussions and the like. It is great to have the opportunity to see what kinds of new initiatives are working in other parts of the country, and, perhaps just as importantly, what new initiatives have been tried and found to not be successful. It's also a chance to 'take the pulse' of our side of the golf industry and to see what new issues are around the corner so that we can position ourselves to better serve our constituencies and to also protect the game we all love so much.



ELIGIBILITY REVISIONS FOR 2007 USGA AND LGA CHAMPIONSHIPS

As we have stated in previous columns, in order for a club to issue an authorized USGA Handicap Index to its members, it must first complete the USGA's Licensing Program for Clubs.

Beginning in 2007, if your club has not completed the licensing program, and is therefore not authorized to issue a USGA Handicap Index, you will not be eligible to enter a USGA Championship. The LGA has also elected to adopt this policy for its championships, in addition to its existing eligibility requirements. For most members of LGA Member Clubs, this is a moot point as all but a few clubs have completed the licensing program. However, there are still a few clubs that need to complete the program. If you are not sure as to the status of your club, the LGA has a listing of its member clubs that have completed the licensing program on its website. For a full listing of authorized golf clubs in Louisiana (Member and Non-Member Clubs of the LGA), please visit the USGA's website (www.usga.org), click on 'Handicaps' and then click 'Authorized Golf Clubs' on the right side of the page. If you should have any further questions about the USGA's Licensing Program for Clubs or eligibility requirements for LGA Championships, please contact the LGA office.

FARM D'ALLIE GOLF CLUB IN CARENCRO TO HOST CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

The weekend of April 21-22 will find the Farm d'Allie Golf Club in Lafayette hosting the first LGA event of the year. The popular LGA Club Team Championship will pit six-man teams from LGA Member Clubs in a Ryder-Cup type format. On Saturday each club represented will field three two-person four-ball teams, with the best two of the three scores counting as the team's score for the day. Sunday's play will be individual-stroke play with the best four of six scores counting.

With twice as many scores counting on Sunday there's a good chance that a club will come from far back in the pack and make a run at the title. Entry forms have been forwarded to LGA Member Club professionals. If your club is interested in fielding a team we encourage you to send your entry form in early to ensure your club's spot in the event. Provided we have space, we will accept more than one team per club.

Here's hoping the Holiday Season was a joyous one for you and your family and that 2007 will find you playing from more fairways and greens than rough and bunkers.

See you next month.....Inside the Ropes!

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