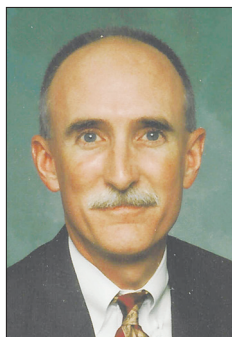


Ward named President of Louisiana Golf Association

By CARR McCALLA

Baton Rouge's Lew Ward took office as President of the Louisiana Golf Association at the conclusion of the LGA's Board of Directors meeting at Oakbourne Country Club in late February. A member of Beaver Creek Golf Club in Zachary, Ward has served on the LGA Board since June of 2002.

In addition to his administrative duties with the LGA, Ward is also an accomplished player, having competed in a number of LGA championships over the years. He partnered with Scott Rabenhorst of Baton Rouge in 1995 to capture the LGA's Four-Ball Championship. Ward will serve a



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two-year term as President, as will newly installed Vice-President Mike Ameen of Southern Trace Country Club and Secretary/Treasurer Keith Breazeale of OakWing Golf Club. The LGA is governed by an 18-member Board of Directors, representing its over 100 Member Clubs. The LGA by-laws require that the Board be geographically diverse based upon the association's membership, with five board members representing the New Orleans/Northshore area, three representing the Baton Rouge area, and two representing each of the following areas: Alexandria, Lafayette, Lake Charles,

Monroe, and Shreveport. Board members may serve a maximum of two three-year terms, with officers serving terms of two years.

APPLICATION DEADLINES FOR LGA CLUB TEAM, AMATEUR, AND NET AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS CLOSE AT HAND

Entry deadlines for the LGA's first three events of the year will be here soon. The Club Team Championship, to be held this year at the Atchafalaya Golf Club at Idlewild in Patterson, pits 6-man teams from LGA Member Clubs against each other in a Ryder Cup format competition. Deadline for entries into this popular event is April 8 with the event scheduled for April 19-20. As in past years, a second (and third team, too) from a LGA Member Club will be accepted into the Championship if space is available when the deadline date arrives. Entry deadline for the Net Amateur Championship at Santa Maria Golf Club in Baton Rouge is set for May 6 with the Championship taking place the weekend of May 17-18. This event has been on the LGA schedule since 2000 and has grown continually since its inception. We encourage all LGA members to consider participation, the format is such that low, intermediate, and high handicappers can all compete on an even playing field in a true LGA Championship for our net players. The event also includes a Net Club Team Championship conducted concurrently with the Net Amateur. Find three other club members that want to participate and you can represent your club in this event, in addition to competing individually in the Net Amateur. Three of the four members' scores are counted each day to determine the LGA Member Club that will take home a beautiful crystal trophy for display in their club's trophy case. Rest assured that 'sandbaggers' will not be tolerated. As is always the case, the

LGA will utilize the USGA's Exceptional Tournament Score Probability Table to retroactively reduce handicaps that exceed a certain probability. Lake Charles's Gray Plantation will host the 89th edition of our Amateur Championship June 5-8.

One of our most popular venues, we are excited to bring our marquee event to Gray for the first time ever. As was the case last year, the LGA will refund \$100 of the \$200 entry fee to those that do not advance past the qualifying stage for this championship. Qualifiers will be conducted at eight statewide sites in mid-May with the deadline for entries scheduled for April 29. Entry deadlines for the events mentioned above are at 5 p.m. on the dates indicated. Entries can be submitted online through

www.LGAgolf.org, or by hard copy sent to the LGA office. Hard copies of the entry forms may be downloaded via the LGA's homepage by clicking on 'online tournament registration,' then on the 'printable entry form' icon beside the applicable championship.

ENTRIES AVAILABLE FOR JUNIOR AMATEUR, FOUR-BALL, AND MID-AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Entry forms are now available for the 2008 LGA Junior Amateur, Four-Ball, and Mid-Amateur Championships. These events will be held at Santa Maria Golf Club in Baton Rouge (Junior Am), Carter Plantation in Springfield (Four-Ball), and Ellendale Country Club in Houma (Mid-Am). To enter, download an entry form, or for more information, simply visit the LGA website at www.LGAgolf.org. We anticipate all three of these venues will be popular sites so we encourage you to not delay in submitting your entry for any or all of these Championships.

Competition dates are July 9-11 for the Junior Am and July 19-20 for the Four-Ball. Championship rounds play for the Mid-Am are August 1-3, with qualifying set for early July at eight sites around the state for those not exempt into the Championship proper. Entry fees are \$50 for the Junior Amateur, \$300 team entry fee for the Four-Ball Championship, and \$200 for the Mid-Amateur. As is the case this year for the LGA Amateur Championship, participants who do not advance past the qualifying round for the Mid-Amateur Championship will receive a \$100 refund.

2008 LGA/AGT DISCOUNT CARDS AVAILABLE

The LGA is again pleased to partner with the Audubon Golf Trail in providing an important value-added benefit of membership to its individual members. As soon as a club remits its payment for 2008 LGA individual membership dues, the appropriate number of LGA Discount Cards will be forwarded to the club for distribution.

We continue to receive an extremely positive response from our membership regarding this program. In addition to all of the other benefits of LGA membership that a club and its individual membership receive by virtue of their members' \$12 annual membership dues (\$16 if a participant in the LGA Handicap Network), the LGA Discount Card alone is valued at \$180 as it entitles LGA members to a free cart fee at each of 12 Audubon Golf Trail facilities. The cards are valid April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009. See you next month.....Inside the Ropes!

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