

METROPOLITAN AMATEUR GOLF ASSOCIATION



A regional golf association licensed by the **USGA**

March 2009 Edition

MAGA announces 2009 Championship Schedule; Amateur returns to Bellerive

A return visit to Bellerive Country Club is among numerous highlights of the 2009 Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association championship schedule, which was finalized recently.

The Metropolitan Amateur Championship, the association's linchpin event, returns to Bellerive after a 13-year hiatus. Duke collegiate golfer Adam Long is the defending champion.

2008 Player of the Year Standings

1. Skip Berkmeier, Norwood Hills	3,360
2. Scott Langley, Pevely Farms	2,068
3. Darren Lundgren, Fox Run	1,910
4. Adam Long, Old Hickory	1,623
5. Justin Bardgett, Meadowbrook	1,310
6. Brian Kennedy, Persimmon Woods	1,216
7. Ross Millman, Old Warson	1,125
8. Mitchell Gregson, Annbriar	991.7
9. Ted Moloney, Fox Run	830.0

Once again the Metropolitan Match Play will visit another Robert Trent Jones Sr., design, Old Warson Country Club. The fourth playing of the Metropolitan Open

will once again be held in July at the Country Club of St. Albans' Lewis and Clark course.

The 2009 season opens on Tuesday, April 30 with the 2nd Annual MAGA Four-Ball. The event moves to Algonquin this spring. For a complete list of 2009 Tournament events and registration information, click on: <http://metga.org/2009competitions.htm>

USGA Championship Qualifying Season Opens May 13 at Persimmon Woods

While the golf world eagerly anticipates the return of 2008 U.S. Open champion Tiger Woods to competitive golf, more than 30,000 other golfers are gearing up in their attempts to qualify for 13 other United States Golf Association (USGA) championships, 10 amateur qualifying tournaments and three open events.

The MAGA, a regional golf association licensed by the USGA to conduct national qualifying events, will once again offer a full slate of events for men, women, senior and junior golfers. The season opens with the 109th United States Open Championship qualifying, an 18-hole qualifier slated for Wednesday, May 13, at Persimmon Woods Golf Club in Weldon Spring, Mo. Top finishers will move to Sectional qualifying in the hopes of advancing to the U.S. Open at Bethpage Black, just outside New York City. The MAGA

This marks the second straight year the MAGA will visit a Keith Foster-designed course for its Open Qualifying. Last year, former University of Texas standout Matthew Rosenfeld of Plano, Texas, led last year's qualifying at Gateway National Golf Links.



Do You Have What It Takes To Become An MAGA Volunteer?

The Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association relies on the support of volunteers to provide two essential services to St.

Louis golf – conducting MAGA Championships and USGA Qualifying Rounds **and** performing USGA Course Ratings in our region.

We are looking to bolster our volunteer forces, allowing others the opportunity to give something back to golf.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering with the Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association in 2009, visit our website - **METGA.ORG** to print and complete a **Volunteer Information Form** or click on the following link.

<http://metga.org/files/09VolunteerInformationForm.pdf>



Norwood to host Handicap, Course Ratings seminars

As a means to educate golfers, club officials, PGA members and golf rules officials and administrators, the MAGA, in concert with the USGA, will hold two workshops this April at Norwood Hills.

A one-day Course Rating Workshop is slated for Tuesday, April 28, while a half-day session on the USGA Handicap System is slated for Wednesday, April 29. To register online for the Handicap Seminar, click on: http://www.usga.org/playing/handicaps/understanding_handicap/handicap_seminars.html. Contact the MAGA (314-576-3700) for information regarding the Course Rating Workshop.

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GHIN Handicap Enhancements: More Revisions, Same Pricing

2009 MAGA Handicap Season Begins March 3

Improved technology will contribute to increased opportunities for golfers to post scores for handicap and receive timely updates.

In 2009, the Metropolitan Amateur Golf Association's GHIN Handicap season begins Tuesday, March 3 and runs through Saturday, Nov. 14. The 2009 Active Handicap Season will close with the Revision Update on Sunday, Nov. 15.

For the first time, this season's revision schedule will follow a two-week update cycle with updates occurring on the first and 15th of each month. Following the first revision update on March 4, all subsequent updates will occur on the first and 15th days of each month. In all, MAGA handicap golfers will receive 17 in-season updates as well as two additional revisions (in December) after the close of the active season in Missouri and Illinois.

These revisions will allow golfers who travel to warm weather climates such as Florida and Arizona which have year-round handicap seasons.

"The system now allows golfers who travel to the South during the winter months to routinely get timely handicap updates. This will be extremely beneficial to golfers who, for instance, wish to compete in handicapped events over the winter. This new system will allow those golfers to post scores and make certain their handicap remains current throughout the winter months."

Curt Rohe
Senior Director of Operations

MAGA golfers can post those scores via METGA.ORG (or GHIN.com) and have their handicaps updated in a timely fashion.

In past years, GHIN technology allowed MAGA golfers to post scores for winter rounds played in other parts of the country, but those scores would not be updated until the MAGA returned to its ACTIVE HANDICAP SEASON.

"The system now allows golfers who travel to the South during the winter months to routinely get timely handicap updates,"

2009 GHIN Handicap Revision Schedule

REVISION NO.	TRANSMIT DATA BY*	HANDICAPS UPDATED
1 Season Start	MAR 3	MAR 4
2	MAR 31	APR 1
3	APR 14	APR 15
4	APR 30	MAY 1
5	MAY 14	MAY 15
6	MAY 31	JUN 1
7	JUN 14	JUN 15
8	JUN 30	JUL 1
9	JUL 14	JUL 15
10	JUL 31	AUG 1
11	AUG 14	AUG 15
12	AUG 31	SEPT 1
13	SEPT 14	SEPT 15
14	SEPT 30	OCT 1
15	OCT 14	OCT 15
16	OCT 31	NOV 1
17 Season End	NOV 14	NOV 15
18 Off Season	NOV 30	DEC 1
19 Off Season	DEC 14	DEC 15

says MAGA Senior Director of Operations Curt Rohe. "This will be extremely beneficial to golfers who, for instance, wish to compete in handicapped events over the winter. This new system will allow those golfers to post scores and make certain their handicap remains current throughout the winter months."

USGA Central: St. Louis to host two national championships during 2009

The United States Golf Association will once again favor St. Louis with a pair of national amateur championships during the 2009 season. Since 1996, the USGA has conducted six national championships in the metro area, the most recent being the 2007 Junior Amateur Championship at Boone Valley Golf Club.

This summer, the area can add two more notches to its USGA championship belt. Old Warson Country Club will open its doors to the world's top women amateurs, Aug. 3-9, with the 109th playing of the U.S. Women's Amateur. A month later, the 8th

METGA.ORG

Online Registration For All MAGA Events
Available Beginning March 1

USGA Men's State Team Championship will be held at the Country Club of St. Albans' Lewis and Clark course.

Duke's Amanda Blumenhurst is the defending U.S. Women's Amateur champion. Blumenhurst, a three-time national collegiate Player of the Year, earned a 2-and-1 victory over Spain's Azahara Munoz last summer in Eugene, Ore.

The Men's State Team Championship, a biennial event that started in 1995, features three-player teams from each state in a 54-hole stroke play competition. Texas (Trip Kuehne, Jonathan Mathias and Terrence Miskell) won the 2007 team title.

The Missouri team will be determined from player rankings as determined by all of the state's associations, including the MAGA. In 2007, Missouri (Darren Lundgren, Ben Godwin and B.J. Curry) finished 30th. The Illinois team (Dave Ryan, Todd Mitchell and Mark Esposito) finished T14.