



# THE LINKS LETTER

Issue Thirty-five

Boulder • Colorado Springs • Denver • Ft. Collins

Winter 2008



## Looking Back And Moving Forward . . .

by Scott Romero

As I look back to my first to **Golf 4 Fun** experience, I was almost 10 years younger, recently newlywed and a family was not even in the picture. Back then, I remember seeing Tiger Woods at the International. I remember seeing a wonderful bunch of volunteers helping people with disabilities enjoy hitting golf balls. I was surprised with the amount of "time" Englewood Golf Course gave to **Golf 4 Fun** (Thank you, City of Englewood!). They were giving back to the sport; giving back to some people who once played lots of golf and some who had never played at all. I saw board members and other volunteers offer time, encouragement and assistance. These were tireless supporters who continued to give funding. Many of these fine people are still around today giving as they always have; giving their heart and soul to those in need. For those who have moved on, I thank



Scott Romero

you for the impact that you have had on our mission over the years.

As my oldest son began kindergarten this year, I quickly became aware of many things that qualify as "once in a lifetime." First bike rides, first time on skis and the sheer joy of seeing a five-year-old and a three-year-old hit golf balls (Thank you Dick Hartman!). With this realization came the natural feelings of not being "there" enough for my family. As busy as my life has become, I now am faced with a difficult decision of how best to manage what little time I have after work and other commitments are completed.

As difficult as this decision to resign has been, I feel it is necessary for life's balance as well as the growth of **Golf 4 Fun**. New leadership means new ideas. I am confident that the organization will continue to grow and prosper. I am truly pleased and proud of the solid ground on which **Golf 4 Fun** now stands. The individuals that direct, promote, organize, volunteer and dedicate countless hours of their lives: I salute and sincerely thank you. We now have more **Golf 4 Fun** students serving on the board than ever. This provides necessary feedback for our lessons and interaction with our students. Our lone fundraiser each spring continues to be a tremendous success (Thank you, Thorncreek!). **Golf 4 Fun's** marketing and development teams are on a great course to continue to promote and further establish our programs. Our satellite programs continue to instruct our client base all over metro Denver as well as managing to attract new students. So I leave **Golf 4 Fun** as I came into it — in great hands. I envision a great season in 2008 and beyond. Thank you to everyone who has had a part in making **Golf 4 Fun** a fantastic service organization for people with disabilities.



## A Season Of Thanks

by Bob Nelson, Chairman Emeritus

As **Golf 4 Fun** began its '07 season, we found somewhat of a problem when we learned that a new shopping center called Riverpoint would be taking over 56 acres, a great portion of the Englewood Golf Course, which would cause **Golf 4 Fun** to find a new source to conduct our '07 program. Inquiry was made and to our delight we were able to gain a time schedule with our great friends at the Foothills Golf Course. We had to incur a little cutback in our program, but overall we were able to present a very satisfactory summer of lessons. With the teaching of classes by our outstanding pro instructor Dick Hartman and the assistance of our many great volunteers, we were able to complete a great summer program.

We would like to express our deepest thanks to Foothills in being able to present our summer program and their annual help and hosting our "Play Day" tournament for our disabled students at the end of the lesson year. As always it was a huge success. As we look forward to the '08 season Mr. Jerrell Black, Director of the Englewood

Recreation Program, and Mr. Bob Spadr, the manager of the Englewood Golf Course, have invited the **Golf 4 Fun** program back to the Englewood course, which will be named "The Broken Tee" golf course at Englewood at its grand opening about May 28, 2008.

Our annual fundraising tournament was very successful and we deeply appreciate the wonderful help we received from our many hole sponsors as well as the truly loyal players who come back to play every year. We picked up some new players this year and they were all pleased and plan to return in 2008. As usual the great management and staff at Thorncreek Golf Course assisted in every way for us and we look forward to another great tournament in '08.

With every tournament you see on TV, the sponsor always mentions their thanks for the work of the volunteers and even though **Golf 4 Fun** is not on TV, our thanks to the volunteers are as deep as with any golf you see on TV.

And lastly, with some remorse, Scott Romero has advised me that because of the growing demands of his family, his job, and other matters that need his attention, he will necessarily need to resign as our chairman. Scott stated he will still be in the loop and will help the **Golf 4 Fun** program in the future.

We at **Golf 4 Fun** wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season, and a wonderful New Year.



## Another Successful Tournament Year

The 2007 Bob "Red" Nelson **Golf 4 Fun** Tournament this past May was again a fantastic success, thanks in no small part to our fearless tournament coordinator, Tim Gaudette, who wears more hats than he has heads. He did have help from our many volunteers who worked tirelessly to collect donations, to persuade their friends to join the party, and to then volunteer at the event itself.

This year's winner, like last year's, was the team from UBS. Silver sponsors included Intermountain Electric and the Parkhouse Foundation. Other Hole Sponsors this past year included Rick Doucet of the Community Outreach Center, Holland & Hart, and Joseph Nelson of General Iron. Dick Micek of the Bailey Co. LLC sponsored the putting green. Innovative Prosthetic was our beverage cart sponsor. The number of individual tournament donors this past year was too great to mention, but next year, we expect to be able to do that. Tim Gaudette just needs to grow a few more heads.

Fundraising is never an easy task and golf tournaments as fundraisers can be very expensive. We are proud to say that for every dollar spent on the tournament, we raised three dollars for **Golf 4 Fun**. Part of the reason was the phenomenal support of ThornCreek Golf Course, which saved us quite a bit of money.

This tournament is the only fundraiser **Golf 4 Fun** has each year, and we thank one and all for taking part. And of course we invite you to next year's tournament on May 21, 2008.

### 19th Annual Bob "Red" Nelson Golf 4 Fun Benefit Tournament

Wednesday, May 21, 2008  
Thorncreek Golf Course

RSVPs by May 14 • 303-414-2374  
tgaudette@hmbrown.com • www.golf4fun.org



## Golf 4 Fun Presents At The BIAC Conference

by Stephen Parkhouse, Director of Development

**Golf 4 Fun** enjoyed another successful presence at the annual Brain Injury Association of Colorado's (BIAC) Conference in Vail this year. The event was well attended and **Golf 4 Fun** was able to get its message out to many people. The reception to what **Golf 4 Fun** offers and what it does was very positive. There was a large interest in **Golf 4 Fun** from a couple of organizations including BIAC itself. The Hangout Network, a group of individuals based in Denver with Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI) who meets weekly for such things as meetings, community, socialization, and outings, would like to learn more about **Golf 4 Fun**. They are hoping to attend at least a couple of special classes next year. Moreover, a major theme throughout the conference was that thousands of our young veterans will be returning home with a brain injury which does not include other disabilities, such as amputees or vision problems. Our nation will have to meet the challenge of integrating our disabled veterans back into society. Hopefully, recreation will be part of the integration process. Several nationally known doctors specializing in TBI gave keynote addresses as well as Colorado's First Lady Jeannie Ritter, which made for a very informative conference. The conference also included several break out sessions, one of them entitled "The Importance of Recreational Therapy", which is very applicable to **Golf 4 Fun**. **Golf 4 Fun** hopes to continue to build its relationship with BIAC in the years to come.



Student of the Year Elena Martinez and Pro Dick Hartman.



## Student Of The Year — Elena Martinez

by Percy Fry, Director of Student Programs

Each year, we select a Student who represents the "Spirit" of the **Golf 4 Fun** program. This year, our Student is Elena Martinez.

Elena has participated in **Golf 4 Fun** for nine years. She is just 17 so is one of our youngest students. When Elena was young, she suffered from seizures. She has overcome many medical problems and credits **Golf 4 Fun** for helping her. She is a happy and active high school sophomore at Green Mountain High School. Elena has excellent grades and participates in many activities including tennis and marching band.

Elena describes **Golf 4 Fun**, the Volunteers and Golf Pro involved in the program as AWESOME. "It helps people to have Fun."

This year, Elena needed a ride. Her Grandpa gave up some of his fishing time to bring her. He provided a lot of humor and support for everyone. She discovered that the 5 wood (my favorite) can add some distance to the drive.

Elena has participated in Play Day, the Thorn Creek Tournament and has previously demonstrated at *The International*. She is an excellent example of how **Golf 4 Fun** has people of different ages and disabilities, but all of them have a positive experience.



## Some Sad News

It was with sadness that we learned of the passing in December of a longtime **Golf 4 Fun** student, Rick Smith. Year in and year out Rick came to lessons with a smile on his face and an ever improving golf swing.

Rick Smith at  
Play Day in  
August.





Joe Arcese with the single rider cart at Castle Pines during The International golf tournament.



## Single Rider Golf Carts Update

by Joe Arcese, Director, golf carts

Through funds raised from our annual golf tournament and a grant from the USGA, **Golf 4 Fun** has been able to purchase five new single rider carts over the past two years. These carts, along with carts purchased over the past 10 years, have been donated to the following golf courses along the Front Range:

- Broadlands Golf Course (GC), Broomfield
- Coal Creek GC, Louisville
- Englewood GC, Englewood
- Flatirons GC, Boulder
- Foothills GC, Lakewood
- Hyland Hills GC, Westminster
- Legacy Ridge GC, Westminster
- Meadows GC, Littleton
- Mira Vista GC, Aurora
- Patty Jewett GC, Colorado Springs
- Saddle Rock GC, Aurora
- South Suburban Family Center GC, Centennial
- Thorncreek GC, Thornton
- Twin Peaks GC, Longmont
- Ute Creek GC, Longmont

Several other golf courses in Colorado have purchased single rider golf carts, including:

Collindale CG and City CG in Ft Collins, South Suburban CG and Centennial GC in Littleton, City of Denver Courses, Omni Interlocken GC, Pole Creek GC in Winter Park, Vail GC, and Steamboat Springs.

Please reserve usage in advance, and ask that the cart be charged. Depending on the age of the batteries, the carts may go 18 holes, but I recommend you only count on nine holes. The courses have the discretion to charge for the use of the cart. We check these carts periodically to be sure they are in good condition. If you have a problem with a cart please e-mail me at jfarcese@yahoo.com.



## Our Supporters

We are always in need of financial donations and gratefully thank our recent donors and contributors. \$25 contributions came from Ann Waterman, Hale McMenemy, and Arden Kirkpatrick twice. A \$50 contribution was received from Margaret Thompson, a dedicated volunteer. Deborah Russell contributed \$75, and J. R. Lower and Deborah Bettin contributed \$100.

Finally, the estate of H. Weidman left to **Golf 4 Fun** \$14,000. Thanks to one and all. If you wish to contribute, please use the following form.

## We Need Your Help!

*I would like to help . . .  
Here is my donation.*

- Enclosed is a check or money order payable to **Golf 4 Fun**.
- Please charge to my credit card.
- MasterCard
- Visa

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

My gift of:

- \$500       \$100       \$50
- \$25         \$10         \$\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**For more information visit our  
Web site at [www.golf4fun.org](http://www.golf4fun.org)**

*All gifts are tax deductible to  
the full extent of the law.*



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[www.golf4fun.org](http://www.golf4fun.org)**



Dave Brighton mid-swing.



Brighton and intern Tim watch the shot.



Boulder intern Pearl.



## Boulder Golf 4 Fun News

by Kitty Gibbons

photos by Randy Vaughn

Dave Brighton swings his club and hits the ball every time. No surprise as Dave has been with the **Golf 4 Fun** group in Boulder for several years. The ball doesn't travel very far, but it travels straight. Dave lifts his head briefly to make sure. He doesn't stand up to look at it because his back is bent by cerebral palsy. Other people surely notice it; he doesn't care. Nor does his wife of 17 years.

The Boulder satellite **Golf 4 Fun** program is led by Cory Lasher-Miller, a certified recreational therapist, who also heads the larger Boulder organization called Journeys through EXPAND. Journeys provides "fitness, adventure and leisure opportunities for adults who have suffered a mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI)." Obviously, **Golf 4 Fun** is part of the leisure opportunities along with bowling. The

Journeys members also take part in swimming, kayaking, yoga, adaptive water skiing, pottery making, and a whole lot more. Oh to be a Boulder resident!

Cory has led the **Golf 4 Fun** group for 10 years. (She also served on the **Golf 4 Fun** Board for a number of years.) This year's group included Dave, a longtime member, a few first-year golfers, and a couple in between. Doug Cook teaches the **Golf 4 Fun** group. He is the golf pro at Flatirons Golf Course and currently the manager. He has been the **Golf 4 Fun** pro for several years. He is joined this year by two interns — Tim and Pearl.

Dave was on his way to swimming class when I stopped him to ask how long he'd been in Boulder. He moved to Boulder from Trinidad 37 years ago. When he was born some 60 years ago, Trinidad had a population of about 10,000. There wasn't much in the way of cerebral palsy treatment available. In Boulder he found a good bit more, including the Journeys program, all of which is much more to his liking. And for his wife, Mary, do all his activities bother her? Not at all, he says, but his table manners do.



## Play By The Rules

### Rules Interpretation From The USGA Rule Book

by Dick Micek, Treasurer

The Spring/Summer edition of *The Links Letter* contained the second article about the USGA "Rules of Golf." This article covered one of the many topics addressed by the USGA "Pace of Play." The *Rule Book* is the *Encyclopedia of Golf* and is approved by both the USGA and The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. The USGA also publishes a book entitled "A Modification to the Rules of Golf for Golfers with Disabilities" and excerpts are located on the USGA Web site at [http://www.usga.org/playing/rules/golfers\\_with\\_disabilities.html](http://www.usga.org/playing/rules/golfers_with_disabilities.html).

In June of this year the USGA Web site began delivering a "Rule of the Week" to all USGA members. I currently have received 19 weeks of rules and in this issue will provide a list of the topics that have been provided so far. While each week's rule is about one page in length I will provide the topics covered to date.

**Week 1:** Etiquette — Covered in depth in the Fall/Winter 2006 *Links Letter*

**Week 2:** Definitions — Foundations to Learning the Rules of Golf

**Week 3:** Quick and Easy Penalties

**Week 4:** Course Rating and Slope Rating

**Week 5:** Partners

**Week 6:** The Committee

**Week 7:** Pace of Play — Covered in depth in the Spring/Summer 2007 *Links Letter*

**Week 8:** Rule 20 — Play the ball as it lies

**Week 9:** The Ball — Part 1 — Addresses balls that conform to the USGA requirements

**Week 10:** Other Balls — Stray balls, wrong balls, balls played by others

**Week 11:** Nearest Point of Relief — What is it? How is it determined?

**Week 12:** Water Hazards

**Week 14:** Why Aerate the Greens

**Week 15:** Ball Unplayable

**Week 16:** Misconceptions

**Week 17:** Rule 1b, Appendix II — Adjustability

**Week 18:** Rules that Apply after the Last putt is holed — This rule must refer to the 19th Hole which is where the other 18 Holes are replayed by the participants. After reading the Rule it simply states that in either match play or stroke play the players must make sure that there are no disputes in the round just played. After resolution of any points or disputes it is then time to proceed to the 19th hole.

**Week 19:** How to Decide Ties — I just received this one on October 15, 2007

For some reason I did not receive Week 13 Rule. Maybe there is some superstition in golf rules or the person writing them. I will check with the USGA Web site in case I missed Week 13 Rule. If you would like additional information on any of the weekly rules identified above, e-mail me and I will forward the information to you. E-mail address: [rpmicek@comcast.net](mailto:rpmicek@comcast.net).

While we could and sometimes may be totally overwhelmed by the many rules contained in the *USGA Rule Book*, there is one thing I feel all golfers should keep in mind. Unless you are in match play, stroke play or an official tournament the bottom line is to enjoy the day, the game and the people you are playing with. The majority of golfers generally play by the rules of the group, the club or their own rules. Just have fun!



## Meet Four Of Our Volunteers

### Jane and Curt Birky

Jane Birky has been an enthusiastic and knowledgeable member of the **Golf 4 Fun** staff for more than 14 years. She has served as a member of the board for most of that time, and is now a volunteer serving competently in whatever capacity she is asked to fill. Jane



Jane Birky

was a high school Spanish teacher early in her career, and later was the Dean of Women at Oklahoma City University. She has served as an officer of the Colorado Women's Golf Association and also as Chairperson of the Women's 9-Hole League at Columbine Country Club. She first learned of the existence of **Golf 4 Fun** 14 years ago from a brochure that was posted on the bulletin board of her local King Soopers store, and shortly after that she saw a video presentation of **Golf 4 Fun** students in action at a Colorado Golf Hall of Fame event that was held at Columbine Country Club. As she states, "I was absolutely fascinated." She and Curt have been enthusiastic contributors of time and talent (not to mention money) ever since, and have helped guide the continued success of **Golf 4 Fun** through the years. A recent foot operation has slowed her down a bit, but only temporarily. We look forward to Jane and Curt's continued involvement in our organization for many years to come.

### Rebecca and Rob McAllister

Rebecca McAllister modestly describes herself as a stay-at-home mom while the two daughters were growing up, but she didn't stay home all that much. In addition to helping her husband Rob with their business operating a fleet of 18-wheeler petroleum tankers (Petco), she found the time to organize an art history program for Red Rocks Elementary school, where her daughters attended. That has been a lifelong involvement ever since. Her oldest daughter is now a nuclear engineer, married to a fellow nuclear engineer who currently is the captain of the U.S.S. Boise, one of this country's nuclear submarines. Her youngest is President of the Aspen Valley Real Estate Association. Not a bad record for a stay-at-home mom, wouldn't you say? Rebecca and Rob are avid outdoor athletes active in kayaking, mountain biking, skiing, golf, or any other activity that

gets you out in this beautiful Rocky Mountain country that we all enjoy.

Rebecca has been a volunteer ski instructor at the National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park for more than six years. Two summers ago, she was looking for an involvement that would not require multiple trips to Winter Park during the summer months. Sheila Nevins, a **Golf 4 Fun** volunteer (and former board member) and instructor in Winter Park, referred Rebecca to **Golf 4 Fun**. Rebecca's husband



Rebecca McAllister

Rob, an avid golfer, soon joined her in what has become a mutually rewarding situation for everyone involved. Rebecca echoes the sentiments of all of us who are part of **Golf 4 Fun**: "We get more out of our interaction with **Golf 4 Fun** than we put into it. We are inspired by the efforts and accomplishments of the golfers who have overcome their disabilities to participate in and enjoy this great game of golf." Rebecca and Rob expressed perfectly the attitude of our great group of volunteers. And we greatly appreciate their continued involvement.

## Want To Volunteer?

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Home Phone

*I would like information on the following:*

Bob "Red" Nelson Fundraising Tournament

### Classes:

- Denver Sessions
- Ft. Collins
- Colorado Springs
- Boulder

### Golf Carts:

- Courses
- Instruction on Use

### Volunteering:

- Classes
- Fundraising Tournament



## Disability Day Update

by Kitty Gibbons

Joe Arcese and Kitty Gibbons represented **Golf 4 Fun** at the city of Denver's Sports and Recreation Day October 2 during Disability Awareness Week at the Wellington Webb Municipal Building in downtown Denver. We handed out several business cards, brochures, and newsletters and displayed photos of our many students, some using single rider carts.

A dozen groups represented included the King Adult Day Enrichment Program (KADEP), the Winter Park Disability organization, the SoloRider disability golf cart, and the Denver Parks and Recreation Special Needs Program. Joe however was the star of the event, because of his wheelchair. An iBOT, as in independent robot, created by the inventor of the Segue, it is able to rise up to near standing height. At that level, Joe was able to hand out several brochures to some very impressed people. Luckily, they were **Golf 4 Fun** brochures!



Golf 4 Fun in Colorado Springs.



## Colorado Springs Golf 4 Fun

by Diane Ridderhoff

The 2007 **Golf 4 Fun** program in Colorado Springs was simply wonderful! The pros that assisted the five individuals with physical disabilities were amazing. Patty Jewett Golf Pros Shawn, Patrick, Billy and Jeff were outstanding in their teaching and adapting. We also had a community volunteer, Bill, who is a retired golf pro and had also sustained a stroke a few years ago and he had valuable suggestions for our participants who can golf with only one arm. All in all, the participants loved the program; three individuals were able to utilize the golf carts which enabled them to get out on the course, the instruction was phenomenal, and the Fall weather was beautiful Colorado!

— MARK YOUR CALENDARS —

## 19th Annual Bob "Red" Nelson Golf 4 Fun Benefit Tournament

**Wednesday, May 21, 2008**  
**Thorncreek Golf Course**

*Shotgun Start — 7:30 a.m.*  
*Registration & Continental Breakfast 6:30 a.m.*

**RSVPs by May 14 • 303-414-2374**  
*Registration/Sponsorship information to follow.*  
**tgaudette@hmbrown.com • www.golf4fun.org**

**Program Endorsed by:**

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Colorado Golf Association  
Colorado Section of the PGA  
Rocky Mountain Golf Course Superintendents  
United States Golf Association

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