

Women's Golf Association

By PATRICIA BOOK

What does "joy" on the golf course really mean?



BOOK

It is easy to find joy playing golf when we are having a great game! Who among us couldn't be joyful when our drive on number 7 red goes over the water and lands on the green, or when we sink a 20-foot

putt for a birdie or even a par, or when we play 18 holes without any three-putts, or achieve a round of golf below our handicap! But how much joy can you feel when you have two holes in a row with a score of 9 in each, or you are out of bounds, in the water, or get a stoke penalty for hitting the wrong ball? And to make matters worse, you are playing with great golfers watching you every failed shot!

At our board meeting in May, I asked attending CWGA members, "What brings you joy on the golf course?" Their answers centered around the environment and people, rather than the game of golf itself. Many of those members talked about meeting new people, learning more about members they got paired with that day, being outside in nature, noticing the wildlife and the beautiful foliage and being grateful for the opportunity to play on this beautiful course with a large circle of friends. On the day of our scramble on May 8, I continue my interviewing with a reframed question, "What is it about playing golf



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Lynne McMaster, Patti Book, Renate Bussell and Mary Jane Hunt.

with members of CWGA on Tuesday and Thursday that brings you joy?" Still the answers focused more on the camaraderie and the friendships rather than the skills of the game of golf. It seems that most of us can handle disappointing shots, too many putts or failed chip shots, a ball out of bounds or in the water, if we are playing with people who are supportive, encouraging and inclusive of each other. Last year two of our new members taught some of us a song to sing when someone get a par "Par Lelujah" to the tune of "Allelujah" or for a birdie, "Tweedle lee-deedle-dee" from the old song Rockin' Robin. We can tell you that is a great way to celebrate! Come and see me, and I will tell you who can teach you these quick melodies!

As of the May Board meeting, we are 138 members strong, and the rumor is that there are more members coming. The reputation of this club is spreading throughout the metro area. Our membership includes women from as far as

Beaverton, West Linn, Aloha, Portland, Lake Oswego and as near as Wilsonville, Tualatin, Aurora and Canby. A beautiful golf course in which to play and women with a vision of promoting golf through competition, sportsmanship, and golf fellowship among its members is all it takes. Now is the time to realize that as we grow it is important to mentor our new members into our culture so that we continue to bring joy to this interesting game of golf. If you have been a member of CWGA for more than two years, reach out to a new member and show them the way. Help them to navigate the ways of our organization and make a new friend!

Remember to sign up to play in the "Wild about Golf Scramble" on June 5. The shotgun start is at 8:30 a.m. followed by a CWGA General Meeting and lunch. Sign up and pay for golf and lunch in the Pro Shop, and also remember to accept the Golf Genius invitation for the scramble. Since this is a Jungle theme, animal print attire is encouraged!