

U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball at Quail Creek mere months away



From the Bunker
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In just a little over 100 days, Collier County will finally have its first United States Golf Association tournament.

The Women's Amateur Four-Ball Championship will be played at Quail Creek Country Club from April 25-29.

And the field of 64 pairs is almost finalized. There are just four qualifiers remaining, and none are in the state of Florida. The four qualifiers, with the last March 17 in Hot Springs, Arkansas, will fill the remaining 14 pairs.

There are six exempt pairs: Erica Shepherd/Megan Furtney (2019 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball champions); Alexa Pano/Amari Avery (2019 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball semifinalists); Rachel Heck/Sadie Englemann (2019 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball semifinalists); Casey Weidenfeld/Jillian Bourdage (2019 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball runners-up); Mary Ellen Shuman/Sammi Lee (2017 U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball runners-up); and Kaleiya Romero/Paris Hilinski (Both members inside Top 400 of Women's World Amateur Golf Ranking).

At this point there will not be a Southwest Florida presence in the field, although Florida leads the current list of players with 19.

Of course, Collier and Quail Creek were supposed to host its first USGA event back in 2017, but the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur had to be moved due to damage from Hurricane Irma.

Last year in Jacksonville, Shepherd and Furtney defeated Floridians Bourdage and Weidenfeld, 2 and 1, at Timuquana Country Club. It was Shepherd's second USGA title, following her win in the 2017 U.S. Girls' Junior.

For more information on the tournament or to volunteer, go to quailcreekcc.com/four-ball/

Quail Creek Sports Center having open house: To celebrate the completion of its new 33,000-square-foot Sports Center & Spa, Quail Creek Country Club is inviting the public to an open house Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

The event will introduce the new facility, which is the centerpiece of a two-year, \$18.5 million amenity improvements project featuring a rotunda with 180-degree views of the driving range and enhanced golf instruction and practice facilities, as well as new tennis and pickleball courts.

"The new Sports Center & Spa represents Quail Creek's commitment to transforming the member experience by connecting the club's Blue Zones-certified fitness center and wellness offerings with our sports programs," said Ian Coleman, Quail Creek's director of membership.

By integrating fitness and wellness facilities and bringing golf and racquets operations closer together, the club aims to encourage member interaction and access to services from Quail Creek's team of trainers, Titleist Performance Institute- and Racquet-Fit-certified professionals, PGA, LPGA and USTA instructors, and a full-time, on-site physical therapist.

For more information, contact Nick Gray, Membership Sales Manager at 239-254-7418 or membership@quailcreekcc.com.



Players participate the first round of 5th U.S. Women's Amateur Four-Ball Championship at Timuquana Country Club in Jacksonville on April 27, 2019.
H. LEO KIM/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

Cypress Cove Conservancy tournament: Cypress Cove Conservancy will hold its second annual golf fundraiser "Puttin' For Preservation" on Feb. 9 at Quail Creek Country Club in Naples.

This is the second year Quail Creek is hosting the charity tournament. Shotgun start is at 1:30 p.m. The format is a scramble. The golf entry fee is \$175 per person and includes a "Blue Zones Project" inspired dinner. Dinner-only cost is \$75 per person.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Registration for the tournament and dinner is available online at www.Cypresscoveconservancy.com.

Contact Valerie Klosterman with questions at: Vklosterman@me.com or 239-273-5226

Funds raised at the organization's 2019 golf tournament were instrumental in the group's recent purchase of a 10-acre parcel of property in Collier County, now called Cypress Cove Sanctuary.

The mission of Cypress Cove Conservancy is to purchase and preserve wild lands in Southwest Florida that provide critical habitat for endangered species as well as to create attractive natural environments where the public can connect with nature. The organization's goal is to safeguard natural resources and wildlife and leave green space behind for future generations.

Impact Zone Golf Academy: The academy's location at The Club at Renaissance officially opened Jan. 1. Private or Group Instruction at Naples and Fort Myers locations. Impact-based includes state-of-the-art technology, and IZG Impact-based teaching using Foresight, TrackMan, KCoach, Swing Catalyst and CoachNow. Beginner Clinic, Series of 5 clinics will be held weekly on Saturdays, started Jan. 4, in Naples. Distance Improvement Clinic, led by 6-time Colorado

state long-drive champion Paul Surniak, 4-week clinic held every Saturday, started Jan. 4, at The Club at Renaissance in Fort Myers. Two-Day Bobby Clampett Signature Schools at academies in Naples and Fort Myers every month, including 10-plus hours of content and instruction. Impact Zone Junior Golf Academy, Preregistration open for Jan-May After school and weekend programs for both Naples and Fort Myers. Four-week ladies program with Erica Stoner starting Jan. 9 in Naples and Jan. 10 in Fort Myers. Half-day ladies short game school on Feb. 8 in Fort Myers

Call or text 239-236-5536 for more information.

Durland Golf School: At Naples Grande. The Golf Magazine Top 100 instructor has announced January learning opportunities. Supervised practice, Jan. 14 and 28, 3 to 4 p.m.; Jan. 20, 3 to 4 p.m., \$50 per student; Practice N' Play, Jan. 23, 4 to 5:30 p.m., \$99 per student; Three-Hour Short Game School, Jan. 27, 1 to 4 p.m., \$150 per student; One-Hour Lesson and Playing Lesson, 3 hours, \$500 for 1 student or \$400 each for 2 students. Ladies Learning Club with Amber Richardson, Wednesday mornings starting Jan. 8 at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Tuition is \$45 per student, per session. Contact Amber at arwlinks@yahoo.com.

True Spec Golf also is open and features custom club fitting and club building. Former Naples Grande assistant professional Dan Doyle will be the Certified Master Fitter. Doyle utilizes TrackMan launch monitor technology and a fitting matrix of over 30,000 clubhead and shaft combinations.

To learn more or to schedule a fitting, email info@truespecgolf.com.

To submit an item, send an email to gghardwig@naplesnews.com.