

A Summary Report on the 2022 GHS National Convention

The one thing that has never changed from the earliest GCS conventions to the current GHS versions is the delight in seeing friends and fellow collectors. It was the same in Indianapolis for the 2022 edition. We have our favorite and “comfortable” friends that we are happy to see, but there is always the opportunity to meet new people and develop new connections.

For John Rusbosin, the perpetually incandescent GHS Ambassador from Latrobe, Pa., this is second nature. He was everywhere, introducing people, shaking hands, sharing stories and smiles, the very epitome of a GHS collector and golf heritage fan in his element.

Despite some early glitches in the registration process, the hotel proved a welcoming venue and comfortable, though I did hear some grumbling about the early closing hours for the hotel bar. Apparently, they, like so many other businesses, are finding the going difficult with regard to staffing. Our convention stalwarts love a good after-hours pub to go over the events of the day, talk shop and share stories. No matter, they found ways to do so by extending their room trading hours. You could hear conversations flowing from this room and that well into the evening.

The following is a summary report of the 2022 National Convention.

Thursday, Sept. 22

Throughout the day on Thursday was an auction of the collection of Dr. George “Willy” Gayle who learned about collecting and club refinishing from Bob Kuntz. Dr. Gayle passed away earlier this year. His friend Gary Wyckoff helped Dr. Gayle’s wife, Susan, prepare the items for auction and oversaw the day-long auction. Several hundred items were on the block and a good many of them sold that day.

USGA and the new World Golf Hall of Fame

Our USGA friends got things started on Thursday morning with a sneak peek at its new Pinehurst facility in partnership with the World Golf Hall of Fame. With designs just being finalized, the venture is expected to have a soft opening in May 2024. Hillary Cronheim, USGA Museum Director, said the new facilities are expected to have new and vibrant displays, interactive features, and a practice/testing pavilion. Included will be a Gallery of Championships, the USGA Experience, the Science of Golf, and a retail space where several items of apparel may be customized on the spot for an individual.

The World Golf Hall of Fame will present a “locker room” of champions with personal items from each Hall of Fame member on display. Again, the emphasis is on the visitor experience with interactive displays and other features to bring to life the careers of golf’s legendary champions and figures. Rosemary Maravetz, assistant museum director; and Andy Stamm, the



A sampling of items from the Dr. George Gayle auction.



Susan Wasser, left, director of the USGA Foundation, Rosemary Maravetz, assistant director of the USGA Museum, and Andy Stamm, the USGA’s new librarian.



Hillary Cronheim, director of the USGA Museum (in red) discusses a question with Spike Abernethy.



A slide from the USGA presentation shows an artist’s rendering of the proposed Golf House in Pinehurst.

USGA's new librarian, were also there with a display of items with connections to Indiana, including Alice Dye mementos, an early Pete Dye golf plan (never built), Ann Gregory's player pin from the 1956 Women's Amateur (she was the first African-American woman to participate in the championship), and a book from David Baxter, the former Indiana State Champion titled *The Golfer's Hell*. It was inscribed to Chick Evans. Following this, USGA Foundation Director Susan Wasser spoke about the foundation's work and the importance of legacy contributions, including collections, in furthering its efforts.

It's always a treat to see our USGA friends and they did not disappoint.

The GHS Golf Championships

Following the USGA presentation golfers had plenty of time to get to the Country Club of Indianapolis, just 10 minutes away, for a delightful round on a hilly and challenging Bill Diddel-designed masterpiece. Some organizational slips at the beginning were quickly sorted by the steady hand of Bob Muir and the golfers got underway about 15 minutes late. The course was in immaculate shape, the golf course staff patient and accommodating and our boxed lunches just right to see us through 18 holes of careful putting, the need for accurate drives and well placed approaches. Our dinner following the round was a treat of various dishes and a quite good barbecue chicken. The ubiquitous Rusbosin handled the raffle giveaways and Muir read out the golf winners whose medals arrived from Scotland the following day. (A list of winners follows this report.) Kirk Watson of Iowa won the hickory championship.

Friday, Sept. 23

At the 2022 annual members' meeting, President Bern Bernacki announced several positive factors from the past year including membership gains and income from such functions as the past summer's Latrobe Golf Club outing, and an auction of golf with Bob Ford at Oakmont that brought in \$4000. The board of directors is currently targeting new sponsorships and additional private club golf excursions that may be auctioned to GHS members. He thanked GHS "staffers" Terri Petrucelli, John Rusbosin, Jim Davis and Sally J. Sportsman for their efforts on our behalf. Bern alone has been featured on several national golf radio shows and podcasts. These are getting our Society a nice bump in brand awareness in both the golf industry and the public.

There are a couple of new regional directors, too, as some long-time veterans such as John Capers III and George Petro complete their terms. Look on the About Us page for new names on the board of directors. Those GHS vets, though, will always be on hand to provide direction, advice and encouragement as we grow and chart our way through an ever-changing social, economic, and political landscape.

Club collectors workshop

This one had an emphasis on putters. First up, club expert



The beautiful Bill Diddel-designed CC of Indianapolis was our golf venue. Above, the post-golf dinner. At right, Tom Irving focuses on an all-important putt.



GHS President Bern Bernacki directs the annual members' meeting.

and author Jeff Ellis presented a meticulous examination of the various methods used by enterprising fraudsters to create clubs that appear to be rare collectibles but are, at best, clever reproductions. Inaccurate club stampings, metal colors and textures out of place with the rest of the club, metal thickness and design oversights were among the giveaways he cautioned collectors to be wary of.

Bob Georgiade covered several decades of putter innovations from the hickory era through the collectible classics – the HB putter stood out for me. Ed Miller showed us samples of the “exotics” of which he is so fond, from the metal shaft era; the odd, the unusual, even the bizarre. One such club had a face that looked like a hard-boiled egg slicer. Another ungainly piece in black with an oversized grip was said to be hollow from putter blade to top of the grip. It gave a loud, resonant sound when struck, like a diesel horn compared with Ping’s more elegant ring. Its Japanese inventor said the sound would give its user insight into the strength of the putts. I still prefer my Brown-Vardon, thank you.

Pete and Alice Dye

Presented by Jan Bel Jan, current president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Her videos of interviews that she conducted several years ago with Pete and Alice allowed new insights into the careers and thinking of these two legends of that industry. (“Players who really love the game are not ‘average’,” said Pete.) It didn’t hurt that Bel Jan, as the interviewer, new exactly what questions to ask. Most of us did not know that Alice was such an accomplished golfer herself before taking up golf design with Pete. “They had a great perspective between the two of them,” Bel Jan said. “It was a love affair for 70 years.”

Golf Collection Preservation

In the day’s final session, Patti Morris, a golf archivist, gave a most welcome talk on the how-to’s of protecting and preserving one’s collection, especially when it comes to paper and photographic ephemera. It’s so important to get things right, organized and identified, let alone protected, within the right boxes and folders. The right system will not only aid the current collector and archivist, but future generations who will be entrusted with these materials.

The Friday evening banquet

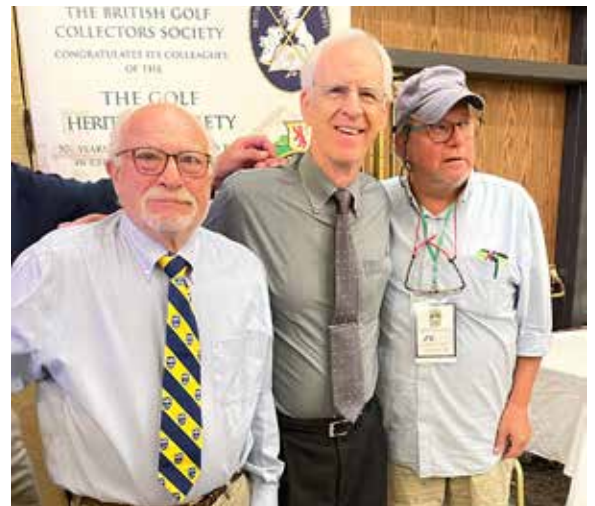
Here’s our chance to sup with our friends and acknowledge several of our members for their good work on behalf of the Society. To begin, keynote Chris Wirthwein, author and Crooked Stick Golf Club historian, gave a lively and polished presentation about Pete and Alice Dye, using materials he had been given by Alice herself. His slide presentation included many unpublished photos and news clippings from a scrapbook that Alice had kept. If you thought these two were “just” golf course designers, you are to be forgiven. That is what most of us thought. In fact, the two were accomplished amateur/



Examples of putter innovations.



One of the more unusual creative attempts.



Club experts Bob Georgiade, left, Jeff Ellis, and Ed Miller presented the seminar on putter collecting.



Jan Bel Jan, former president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, gave a presentation on Pete and Alice Dye. She is shown above with Bern Bernacki, left, and Taba Dale, right.

professional golfers in their own right before beginning their golf course construction company. Great fun to learn so much more about these two legends of the game.

Bill Reed presented John Capers III with the 2021 **Harris-Wolke Award** (delayed a year as Capers was unable to attend the 2021 meeting), and Dr. George Petro with the 2022 award. The Award honors the memory of Richard Harris and Eric Wolke, two inseparable friends who gave generously of their time to help others learn more about club making, further their collections, or to learn more about the history and heritage of the game.

The **Golden Quill Award** is presented annually to a contributor to *The Golf*, whose work both entertains, informs and stands as a solid addition to the general knowledge and history of the game. The 2022 recipient is golf curator and historian David Moore for his Winter 2021 article "Radioactive – The Tragic Story of Eben Byers."

The **GHS Hall of Fame** was created from the original Founders Award and is meant to honor those Society members of at least 10 year's standing who demonstrate an act or acts of significance in the administration or guidance of the Society; activities associated with other golf organizations that reflect well upon golf collecting; or other activities within the scope of the abiding interests of The Society. A committee of past GHS presidents presents nominees to the board for selection.

The 2022 inductees are Jim Davis, Bob Gettis, Rives McBee and Gary Wyckoff. Davis has been editor of *The Bulletin/The Golf* since 2013 and for several years prior as its layout editor; Gettis is a past president, board member and enthusiastic supporter of the Society; McBee is a past PGA touring pro of many records and victories, a legendary collector of golfiana, and a most generous supporter of youth golf; and Wyckoff is legendary for his support of fellow collectors, has a faultless record of trade show attendance and is the annual host of the Columbus Winter Trade Show.

A good foursome... at least with Rives in there to keep 'em on the fairway!

The Trade Show, Saturday, Sept. 24

Near 100 tables laden with golfiana greeted show goers and the public for the Saturday show. They had a nice big room for it. Mike Schaefer got a good spot right by the door to set up shop. He is disbursing his book collection of 40+ years and he had some good ones. His spot was quite busy. Mike Daniels, as always, had a great display of books, photographs and other items. Stan Lapidus of Canada was seen around the show. A keen photographer, Stan often has beautiful shots of golf's top players. He hopes to convince our Board to make our journal, *The Golf*, more widely available. Jim Jeselnick arrived late, but was happy to walk around the show to find that next big item. Marvin Utsinger, always present for the big shows, was



From left: David Moore with the Golden Quill Award presented by Dr. Bern Bernacki; George Petro (left) with the 2022 Harris-Wolke Award presented by Bill Reed; and John Capers III with the 2021 Harris-Wolke Award, also presented by Bill Reed.



The GHS Hall of Fame Class for 2022. From left: James Davis, Gary Wyckoff, Rives McBee, and Robert Gettis.



Above, Ben Huang, left, Roger Hill, and Bryant Murphy look over some clubs at the Trade Show.

At right, a selection of handmade tee molds from Bruce Markwardt of Michigan.



checking out the clubs. He agreed to consider one of the collector profiles for us. No doubt he has some good stuff in that long-time collection of his. Herb Klinenberg and Ben Huang were talking collectibles, Herb with a Bobby Grace headcover covering some special item. He's a big Bobby Grace fan, he says. Bob Hansen displayed several beautiful examples of long nose clubs and a number of rare golf balls, including a knife-cut gutty. "There are about 30 known examples of this type of gutty," he said, "but about 300 some feather balls." He's an experienced collector who knows his way around the industry. Advice for those starting out? "Slow down, learn, and have a great, but small, collection," he says. No need to build some monster collection of everything out there, focus in and create something sweet. Ron Lyons of Edmonton, Canada, was at the show, with a teaser look at a book on golf tees that is near completion. No photos, please, the cover may yet change, he said. Golf course architect Richard Mandell was at the show to offer his latest book, Principles of Golf Architecture. Perhaps not a page-turner mystery, but for those with a yen to understand more how courses are made based on theory, historical perspective and operational practicalities, this book could have you looking at courses with a shrewd, more knowledgeable eye. Roger Hill, past GCS president, and buddy Scott Petersen drove down from Grand Rapids. They had mostly clubs with Petersen showing a beautiful variety of players.

It was that kind of show, busy, lots trading hands left and right and happy buyers (and sellers) agreeing that this was a fine example in the great tradition of GHS trade shows.

The board is considering a proposal to visit Rochester, N.Y., next year, but nothing is set and another place may yet be added to the mix. Whatever they decide, it's onward and upward as organizers work to improve presentations, golf, and trade show visibility.



Ben Klinenberg, left, and Ben Huang. Klinenberg points to a Bobby Grace putter he admired.



GHS Board members Taba Dale, left, and Bill Robertson ponder the tough issues – so many collectibles, so little time.



Mike Daniels at his table of books, clubs, and autographed collectibles.



Mike Schaefer of Indianapolis was the first to sign up for the show. His table near the entry was the perfect spot to showcase his 40-year collection of books that he was disbursing. Jeff Ellis, above center, completes a purchase for one of Mike's volumes.

Golf Outing Results

Country Club of Indianapolis, Sept. 22, 2022

Classic Division

Gross

- 1 – Bob Muir, 94
- 2 – Bern Bernacki, 98

Net

- 1 – Bob Muir, 71
- 2 – Bern Bernacki, 77

Hickory Division

Gross

- *1 – Kirk Watson, 83
- 2 – Bill Kriescher, 87

*David Hanson also shot 83, but his score was somehow lost and not processed by the pro shop.

Net

- 1 – Patrick Milkovich, 89
- 2 – Bob Mirt, 110

Scramble

- *1 – Jim Davis, Bob Gettis, Bill Reed – 70
- 2 – Brad Baird, Linda Baird, Randy Condit, Richard Dragani – 72

*Bill Robertson, Tom Irving, and Spike Abernethy shot a 69, but their score was not turned in until well into the proceedings. The results above are official, but we wanted to recognize their good play.

Modern Division

Gross

- 1 – Robert Curtis, 84
- 2 – James Boyd and Glenn Hauelsen (tie), 86

Net

- 1 – Glenn Hauelsen (scorecard playoff), 73
- 2 – Mike Beckerich, 73

Ladies Division

- 1 – Priscilla Curtis, 106

Golf course architect Jan Bel Jan and one of Arnie's Amigos and GHS Ambassador John Rusbosin pose for a photo as the show was winding down.



Happy collecting to all and we'll see you next year!



Ron Lyons of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, is known for his most unique golf car collection, but he is currently putting the finishing touches on a book devoted to golf tees in all their variety.



Bruce Strom of Columbus, Ohio, had a variety of handmade collectibles at the show, including clubheads made into bottle openers.