



## 2018 AGM in St. Augustine dodges hurricane for day in sun at the World Golf Hall of Fame

By Jim Davis

It was dicey there, for a time. While Hurricane Michael was causing heartache and havoc further west, the people of northern Florida's East Coast suffered several bands of heavy rains, but nothing worse. The pre-AGM warm up sponsored by Bill Reed and the Hickory Golf Association was rained out after nine holes, but that was as bad as it got.

The 2018 Annual General Meeting & Trade Show offered its customary fare of presentations, a banquet and trade show with the pleasing mix of long time friends, exquisite golf artifacts, and the captivating displays at the World Golf Hall of Fame (WGHoF) museum.

Also, when time permitted, there was nearby St. Augustine and the enchanting history the old Spanish affords, not to mention enticing restaurants and pubs.

The World Golf Village and the Renaissance Hotel were more than comfortable in a setting that is predicated on golf from the pond and island green that form the centerpiece of the Village, to the nearby golf courses and condos that whisper to each northern visitor.

A summary and round-up of the weekend can be found on the GCS website. Just click on the gold medallion at the top right of the page. But here's a quick review for those of you who missed the meeting:

Dr. Tony Parker, chief historian of the WGHoF began the weekend with an overview of the golf bag, from canvas wraps, basically, in the early going to the enormous tour bags of today. Dr. Gary Wiren, top golf professional and a popular and long-time collector, delivered an engaging look at the golf ball, a tall order, but done with style and good humor.

The annual meeting itself was conducted along familiar lines, with reports from Treasurer Rob Rendely (we are in



**PRE-BANQUET SOCIAL.** GHS members gathered for drinks and socializing before the banquet. Keynote speakers Bobby Weed, left, and Deane Beman, third from left, joined Gillian Alexander, a First Tee graduate and a contributor to *The Golf*, and GHS VP Bern Bernacki, for a sunset cocktail and hors d'oeuvres.

on the magazine's changes); and from Pete Georgiady on organizational changes, and Bern Bernacki on our continuing partnership with The First Tee. Davis, by the way, also said that work on an updated website continues with a publish date of Jan. 1 as the goal.

John Gates organized a putting contest on very ragged greens that the WGHoF caretakers assured us are on schedule for replacement, but that did not deter from the fun of negotiating some tough and tricky contours.

The WGHoF's Parker conducted a tour of the Hall of Fame Museum and its many treasures. The Museum begins with a stirring tribute to legendary comedian Bob Hope and his many contributions to golf, then through the many early stages of golf's history with fine examples of early clubs and artifacts. The LPGA, the PGA, a tribute to African-American players, and the Hall of Fame itself round out the experience, but this is all too brief a description. As Gary Player continues to say, "You must visit."

The GCS National Championship came up mid-day on Friday, played on the Slammer & Squire course. When all was said and done, Bill Kreisler of Pinehurst, N.C. took the Open title with a 78. See complete results of the tournament on the website story. Just find the golf results paragraph and click on the PDF link.



**2018 PRESENTERS** included Dr. Gary Wiren, left, and Dr. Tony Parker.

good financial shape); *The Golf* editor Jim Davis (much relieved to hear positive reports

Ah, the banquet. I like the banquet. There is an agreeable air of friendship in the room, of stories being told, and re-told, of laughter and a sense that all is just right in the world of golf and golf collecting. Leave everything else outside. I wish I had room to share all the photos I took of ladies and gents at the many tables, smiles and the buzz of great conversation... a priceless and idelible feature of any GHS gathering.

(See page 9 for a report on the 2018 Founders Award and the new Harris-Wolke Award.)

Former PGA Tour Commissioner Deane Beman's keynote address underscored a career truly remarkable for accomplishments that would change the way professional golf is conducted both here and abroad. Purses, television rights, charitable contributions, non-profit status for the Tour and many other facets of today's Tour are directly attributable to his efforts. Oh, and by the way, he was not a bad player, either, with four professional victories, nine

amateur victories, and he competed in all four majors, missing a playoff in the 1969 U.S. Open by only one shot.

Golf architect Bobby Weed followed Beman with an informativne talk on the life of a modern architect – "It's not glamorous." Apparently, it involves a lot of mucking about in the mud and dancing with bulldozers. He's made it work for him though, and countless numbers of golfers can thank Bobby Weed Golf Design for several TPC courses, the Slammer & Squire course at the World Golf Village and many, many others, both renovations and original designs, including the Ocean Course at Ponte Vedra. "First and foremost," he said, "architects should be building courses for fun." Amen to that.

It was a lovely weekend of golf, golf memorabilia, and a truly world-class venue in the World Golf Hall of Fame and Village. Much thanks are due our hosts and Dr. Parker for their efforts on our behalf to make the visit a memorable one. 🏌️



**A LITTLE TASTE OF FLORIDA.** Clockwise from top left: Pete League, left, and Ron Lyons discuss either golf cars or the Onion Creek Classic at the St. John's Golf Course outing; a happy Gillian Alexander with golf medals that she won at the tournament; the lively banquet scene; George Petro at the trade show demonstrating the "correct" method of using a rut iron, just sayin'; Linda and Braid Baird at the putting contest; your Board of Directors – from left, Brad Baird, Dick McDonough, Frank Cantrel Jr., Jim Jeselnick, George Petro, Bern Bernacki, Ron Luster, Curt Fredrixon, Rob Rendely, Pete Georgiady, Pete League, John Capers III, Michael West, Steve Barnhart, Ed Ronco, and Bill Reed; and a tradeshow threesome with Frank Henry, Donna Brown (left) and her daughter Maggie.





# 2018 GHS awards honor Lee Crist, Sonny Chappie

Awards honor generosity of spirit, collecting and golf club expertise.



LEE CRIST, right, was posthumously awarded the 2018 GHS Founders Award, accepted by his widow, Barbara. GHS President Jim Jeselnick presented the award to Mrs. Crist and the Crist's son, Sam.



the late **Richard "Richie" Harris** and **Eric Wolke**, two near-inseparable friends whose stories of long road trips to hunt for golf memorabilia were the stuff of legend.



RICHIE HARRIS, left, and ERIC WOLKE

PHOTOS BY CHRIS LANE

Announcements of the **GCS Founders Award** and the newly created **Harris-Wolke Award** created two of the weekend's emotional highlights at the recent Annual General Meeting and Trade Show in St. Augustine, Fla.

The late **Lee Crist**, known affectionately to all long-time members as "Mister Tee," was awarded the **2018 GHS Founders Award**. Crist's devoted research into the humble tee in all its iterations and variations filled in a lot of informational gaps about the device and its use. His posters of common and unusual tees, his articles in the Bulletin and elsewhere, made him to the go-to man for this subject. But it was his generosity of spirit, his willingness to help fellow collectors and his unerring support of the GCS that brought the recognition. His wife, Barbara, accepted the award for her late husband who passed away in January 2018.

The **Harris-Wolke Award** is newly minted and honors

The award is

designed to recognize members who are known for their generosity of time and expertise in the field of club making, repair, and maintenance; and who were instrumental in helping other members further their collections or learn more about the history of clubs or golf heritage in general.

**Sonny Chappie**, of Port Huron, Mich., was unanimously voted by the Board to receive the first Harris-Wolke recognition, but his health this year

took a sudden turn and he passed away in August 2018. The award was accepted on his behalf by Jim Jeselnick and will be given to his widow, Kathie, whom many will recognize as Sonny's ever-present companion at golf trade shows.



SONNY CHAPPIE, shown at left at collectors trade show in 2014, was posthumously awarded the first GHS Harris-Wolke Award.

## TO ABSENT FRIENDS

**Clarence J. 'Sonny' Chappie**

**Aug. 23, 2018**

From Mr. Chappie's long-time friend, Roger Hill:

Sonny Chappie had the best fairway wood game that I ever played with. He'd hit these high and long hickory brassies and spoons over and over, seemingly without effort. Will you give me a lesson? Sure! Yes, he was known as a club maker/restorer/repairman, but he was a fine player as well. In the

early days of the modern hickory revival, Sonny saw the need for a philosophy of restoration that would preserve our collectible clubs and allow them to be played with the modern ball. As the hard new Pro V1 began to break our old woods, Sonny developed the "Spring Face" outsert to protect club faces. While controversial, Sonny the historian carefully documented the use of these repairs from the period and today many of us have these old clubs still in play, preserved by

Sonny's repair. A fine player and equally fine clubmaker, Sonny will be remembered as one willing to share with and train new players in the art of club making. I only wish we'd gotten around to that promised fairway wood lesson!

**George Hoos**  
**Sept. 23, 2018**

Mr. Hoos was a longtime member of the GCS. His widow, Jean, sent a link to an article on Mr. Hoos from the *Colorado Avid Golfer* magazine. Please visit the GCS website to see the link and read about Mr. Hoos.