

Louisiana Golf Association visits the Southern Golf Expo later this month in Baton Rouge

BY MICHAEL WALDER

Are you interested in the opportunity to shop for golf equipment, apparel, carts, courses, travel, real estate, and other lifestyle related products and services all under one roof? If so, consider making the trip to the Baton Rouge River Center Exhibition Hall on March 24-25 for the second annual Southern Golf Expo. The Louisiana Golf Association will be on hand as a sponsor and exhibitor for what's sure to be another fun and exciting show!

The Southern Golf Expo will once again be investing in interactive opportunities that will engage attendees for the chance to win valuable prizes. Last year, attendees competed to win such prizes as a new Lexus, two Harley Davidsons, a 52-inch plasma television, a trip for four to the 2006 PGA Championship at Medinah, on top of hundreds of other door prizes. This year, the expo will also be featuring clinics for juniors and women as well as demonstrations by World Long Drive Championship participant Trez Simmons.

The LGA booth will look to highlight many of the association's programs for the upcoming golf season, including the 2007 LGA Audubon Golf Trail Discount Card. As one of the many benefits of membership in the Louisiana Golf Association, golfers will receive this card entitling them to one free cart fee at each of the 12 golf courses on the Audubon Golf Trail. The card is good from April 1, 2007 through March 31, 2008 and will be mailed to LGA Member Clubs upon receipt of membership dues.

A LGA Handicap Network posting station — identical to the one in place at over 100 Louisiana clubs — will be set up in the LGA booth allowing LGA Handicap Network participants to post scores, review their handicap records, or print out their USGA Handicap Index labels. Additionally, LGA staff will be available to answer questions from individual members or club officials regarding the LGA Handicap Network or any other handicapping related issue.

Show attendees will also have the opportunity to purchase a Bushnell Pinseeker Tournament Edition rangefinder at a substantial discount when visiting the LGA exhibit. For the second straight year, the LGA has partnered with Bushnell to provide rangefinders at a significant savings to its individual members and non-members and a station will be set up for show-goers to purchase these devices online. Members of the LGA Handicap Network are able to purchase the rangefinder at a savings of \$150 off the MSRP, while everyone else receives a discount of \$100. If you are unable to attend the show and are interested in purchasing a rangefinder for a discounted price, you may do so at anytime by visiting the LGA website (www.LGAgolf.org). It is important to note that the LGA will again be utilizing the local rule in its 2007 Championships that allows for electronic distance measuring devices (e.g. rangefinders, GPS units, etc. provided they measure distance only).



Last year was the inaugural year for the allowance of these devices in LGA events and they were well received by our championship participants.

Furthermore, stations will also be available for individuals to enter upcoming LGA Championship events and to sign up for the individual sponsorship program.

The Louisiana Golf Association will be sponsoring giveaways of LGA golf shirts, umbrellas, and other prizes throughout the day on both Saturday and Sunday so make sure to stop by our booth for your chance to win. Show hours for the Southern Golf Expo are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and from 11 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. As an added bonus,

LGA members will receive a 10-percent discount off admission when they display either the LGA Handicap Network Card or 2006 LGA Audubon Golf Trail Discount Card at the ticket booth. So make plans to attend the show and while you are there, stop by the Louisiana Golf Association booth to see what the LGA does for amateur golf in our state!

ENTRIES AVAILABLE FOR 2007 LGA CLUB TEAM, NET AMATEUR, AND AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Registration is still available for the first three LGA Championships of the 2007 golf season. Entry forms for the Club Team, Net Amateur, and Amateur Championships are available at LGA Member Clubs and online at the LGA website (www.LGAgolf.org). To enter a LGA Championship, simply forward your completed application to our offices prior to the deadline date. In addition to paper entries, the LGA is offering online registration once again this year. For those of you that have not taken advantage of online registration in the past, we would encourage you to give it a try in 2007.

This will be the third year the LGA has utilized online registration and during this time, almost 50 percent of our entries have come in online. We have been working diligently to improve the ease with which our players can register for an event and are confident it is faster and more efficient this season. To register online, please visit the LGA website and click on the link for 'Online Tournament Registration.' From there, simply follow the instructions to complete your entry. Online registration is currently available for the Net Amateur and Amateur Championships.

Registration (online and paper entries) for the Junior Amateur, Four-Ball, and Mid-Amateur Championships will begin on April 1. The Senior Amateur and Senior Four-Ball Championships will open on June 1. See you later this month at the Southern Golf Expo! Next month, we'll see you...Inside the Ropes!

Michael Walder is the Assistant Executive Director of the LGA. He can be reached by phone at (337) 265-3938 or by e-mail (mwalder@lgagolf.org).