

SALT POND GOLF CLUB

400 BETHANY LOOP
BETHANY BEACH, DE 19930

August 17, 2012

Dear Eastern Shore Hall of Fame Committee:

This letter is written in support of the nomination of Arthur K. Whaley to the 2012 Class of the Eastern Shore Golf Hall of Fame. For more than thirty years, Art Whaley has contributed to the growth and success of the golf industry on the Eastern Shore as a player, PGA Professional, and golf pro and coach at the Salt Pond Golf Course in Bethany Beach.

Art Whaley fell in love with golf at an early age, hitting his first golf ball by the time he was eight playing at the Ocean City Golf and Yacht Club. Art won his first championship, the prestigious Delaware State Junior Championship, in 1971. In his junior and senior years in high school, Art won the Delaware High School State Championship. In 1978, Art was the Delaware State Open Champion. Through his play, Art earned a full golf scholarship to East Tennessee State, 1976-1980.

Art began his professional career in Greensville, Tennessee at the Link Hills Golf Club. While working, Art continued to play and excel in state-wide tournaments as noted below.

In 2000, as a past champion, Art was invited to come and play in the Delaware State Open Championship. It was during this tournament that Art decided to return to his home state and was hired to be the Golf Pro at the Salt Pond Golf Course. Art has been the head pro ever since. During that time, Art has worked tirelessly to build the course's reputation, operating the Pro Shop, instructing both juniors and adults, experienced or not, to help them enjoy the game.

In January 2008, the Salt Pond Homeowners' Association purchased the golf course and elected to continue its operation. The availability of Art Whaley to continue as the golf pro was a critical part of the transition. His knowledge helped guide the new Board of Directors to understand the business the homeowners had bought, and Art has continued to guide the Board to build the course as a desired destination for golfers looking to play at a reasonable price without taking the day from other activities. Art has been actively promoting golf as envisioned by the PGA Golf 2.0 program.

The following is a summary of Art's accomplishments:

1968:

Rock Manor Golf Club member

Won the Club Championship for four consecutive years - 1975-1979

1971:

Delaware State Junior Champion

1975:

Delaware High School State Championship (Junior year)

1978:

Delaware State Open Champion

1976 - 1980:

Eastern Tennessee State University on a golf scholarship

1985:

Link Hills Country Club - Assistant Professional

Tennessee State Pro-Junior Tournament Team Event Winner

Tennessee State Assistant Championship Winner

1986:

Tennessee State Assistant Championship Winner

1991:

Tennessee State Assistant of the Year

Memphis True Temper Classic Winner

1995:

Memphis True Temper Classic Winner

1996:

Tennessee PGA Section Champion

1997:

Tennessee PGA Section Champion

2000 - to present:

Club Professional at The Salt Pond Golf Course where he has accomplished the following:

- Designed and organized an active women's program
- Increased participation of Salt Pond women in the DWGA
- Developed new tournament play
- Developed an active couples golf program

- Actively developed an active volunteer ranger program to facilitate and manage course play
- Developed a marketing committee to advertise and promote the course
- Developed an active men's league

Art Whaley is well respected throughout the Delmarva area for his love of the game and his skill as a golf instructor. Salt Pond homeowners, golf course members, and many others have benefited from his expertise and have sharpened their skills and their enthusiasm for the game. Art is a professional golf pro worthy of the name. The Board of Directors of the Salt Pond Golf Course wholeheartedly support his nomination to the 2012 Class of the Eastern Shore Hall of Fame as a player, coach, PGA professional, and most importantly, as a contributor to the golf industry in Delaware and the entire Eastern Shore.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (302-541-9382) should you need additional information in support of this nominee.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Kennedy

President, Salt Pond Golf Course Board of Directors