



# Jacksonville Area Golf Association 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 31, 2022

## What Is JAGA?

Established in 1954, the Jacksonville Area Golf Association celebrates its 70th year in 2023. It is the leading organization for Northeast Florida golf and brings together those in our community who love the game.

### Some facts about JAGA:

- It is a not-for-profit 501(c)(4) corporation comprised of golf clubs in the Northeast Florida area. Clubs pay \$200 annually to belong and may appoint up to six directors.

- JAGA "members" are its member clubs. The directors serve their home organizations through JAGA and board members are appointed by the clubs. Anyone wishing to be a board member should contact their club's leadership.

- The JAGA board meets nine times a year at member clubs and is responsible for the organization's business. Officers are elected for one-year terms. It conducts the area's major amateur tournaments, including championships for men, women, seniors, juniors and families.

- Through the JAGA Scholarship Trust, a 501(c)(3) subsidiary, it manages a scholarship program that currently provides college funding for over 30 area students. Since 1974, the program has generated almost \$2 million in financial aid to approximately 380 students.

- The association maintains a website that includes information on JAGA as well as tournament results, archives of area golf news, and information on upcoming events. It's at [jaxareagolf.org](http://jaxareagolf.org).

- JAGA organizes the annual Celebration of Golf banquet which brings together all areas of our golf community. The 2023 banquet will be Feb. 22 at Sawgrass. A feature is the annual Deane Beman Award, named for the PGA Tour commissioner who brought the Tour to Northeast Florida. This year's recipients are Jim and Tabitha Furyk.

- JAGA produces the monthly Northeast Florida Golf News E-newsletter about area golf that's available to all. The link to the newsletter is at the JAGA website — [jaxareagolf.org](http://jaxareagolf.org).



## New President

*John Milton of Jax Beach, left, was elected the 2023 president of the Jacksonville Area Golf Association during the annual meeting in December at Jacksonville G&CC and accepts the gavel from outgoing president Jeff Adams. Meet Milton and the new officers, page 2.*

## Meeting Our Goals

Two years sure flies by fast! In January 2021 I became JAGA's new president. Now, in a blur, 24 months later, I proudly hand the JAGA gavel over to John Milton, who will make a great JAGA leader! It has been a great honor and privilege to be your leader. The objectives I laid out when taking office revolved around what I called "The 3 Fs" – Fundraising, Forward Progress and Fun. I'd like to think that all of us pulling together moved JAGA in a positive direction using the 3 Fs as our guideposts.

The FRIENDS of JAGA program generated almost \$20,000. That spelled FUNDRAISING success.

Developments in our accounting, budgeting, insurance and legal functions, the embrace of the "Areas of Focus" initiative, the strengthening of our relationships with sister organizations like the Northern Chapter PGA, NFJGF, the First Coast Women's Amateur, First Tee and Moore-Myers, the enhanced relationship between JAGA Operations and the Scholarship Trust, and having a program and materials in place to recruit new JAGA directors all clearly speak to FORWARD PROGRESS.

And lots of smiles and often gregarious interaction among directors, players and host club personnel at all of our events are the ultimate symbols that we were indeed having FUN while going about our business!

Every JAGA director made contributions to our success either directly or indirectly. There were many who took on assignments or simply

**Outgoing president Jeff Adams reflects on his two years at JAGA's helm. A representative from TPC Sawgrass, he is a former public relations executive with the PGA Tour.**

helped me when I came calling. I'd like to highlight names, but space does not allow. They know who they are. But I thank them here and extend deep appreciation to them and every director who has supported JAGA the last two years by volunteering, attending meetings, playing in events, taking on an "Area of Focus", accepting committee assignments and special requests, or any number of other things required to keep JAGA on track.

JAGA is an organization of member clubs and the directors who represent those clubs, but it is also an organization that cannot thrive without the support of area club professionals, instructors, coaches, superintendents, and GMs, and last but certainly not least, the male and female golfers on all levels who play our tournaments and attend our functions. We thank you all for helping JAGA at every turn!

If John Milton receives the kind of support and cooperation from everyone that I did the last two years, his term as JAGA president will be marked with much success. Good luck, John. You're going to do a wonderful job!

## Milton becomes JAGA President

John Milton of Jax Beach is the new JAGA president and succeeds Jeff Adams of TPC Sawgrass, who served as president in 2021 and 2022.

The other four officers were re-elected:

John Tancredi of Marsh Landing will again serve as Vice President/Administration for the third year.

Billy Walker of Cimarrone was re-elected Treasurer, a position he will serve for the fifth year.

Jeff Johnstone will return as Vice President/Tournaments, a role he shared in 2022 with fellow Sawgrass member Gregg Deiboldt.

Vincent Celestino of Marsh Creek was re-elected Secretary for the second year.

"JAGA has had tremendous success under Jeff Adams' leadership," said Milton. "We are in a strong operating position and have seen an influx of talented and motivated directors during his tenure. In the coming year I hope to be able to consolidate the gains we've made and continue to find ways to build our bench strength through training and recruitment."

"We will continue to refine the execution of our tournaments, always seeking to provide enjoyable competition at venues participants look forward to playing."

"Our 'majors', the First Coast Amateur and the Jacksonville Amateur, continue to improve in quality of field and national reputation," he said. "We will strive to build the reputation of these events to showcase amateur golf in Jacksonville and The First Coast."

"Lastly, I look forward to continuing to support the JAGA Scholarship Trust and the many people and organizations that promote junior golf along Florida's First Coast."

Continuing to provide service to JAGA again in 2023 are Jack Morehead of NAS (Assistant Treasurer/Meetings) and Arch Copeland of Deercreek (Webmaster). Barney Poston of Hidden Hills Golf Club remains JAGA's Executive Secretary and administrative historian.

Jennifer Borocz of the North Florida PGA will continue to provide part-time support as JAGA's BlueGolf Administrator for the third year in a row.



## The Scholarship Class of 2022

### Back row (from left)

**Wesley Pacheco**, Hyde Park. To attend Tallahassee CC.

**Davis White**, Deerwood, UNF.

**Jake Feltman**, Deerwood, Florida State College.

**Tori Mouton**, South Hampton, North Carolina A&T.

**Katey Kroog**, Jacksonville G&CC, FSU.

**Brooklin Cameron**, Marsh Creek, Tallahassee CC.

**Jayden Diaz**, Atlantic Beach, Florida Gulf Coast.

**Nicholas Flowers**, Brentwood, Maryland Eastern Shore.

### Front row

**Annabelle Mozingo**, Jacksonville G&CC, UNC Asheville.

**Samantha Clark**, Palatka, Eastern Florida State College.

**Bailey Studt**, Hyde Park, Florida State College.

**Manyi Ngu**, Brentwood, Florida Atlantic.

**Sarah Harpster**, Jacksonville Beach, Palm Beach Atlantic.

**Jenna Roach**, Eagle Harbor, Barton College.

### Not in photo

**Andrew Davis**, Moore-Myers, Paine University

## 2023 OFFICERS

*John Milton of Jax Beach was elected the 2023 president of the Jacksonville Area Golf Association during the annual meeting in December at Jacksonville G&CC. The officers are (from left) Vincent Celestino,*



*secretary, Marsh Landing; Billy Walker, treasurer, Cimarrone; Milton; John Tancredi, vice president/administration, Marsh Landing; and Jeff Johnstone, vice president/tournaments, Sawgrass.*

## Meet the Officers

### JOHN MILTON — President

JAGA director since 2015 ... retired from CSX after a 37-year career serving its Engineering and Industrial Development groups ... Co-chaired the First Coast Amateur and the JAGA Jacksonville Amateur ... two-time Captain of winning Underwood Cup Amateur Teams.

### JOHN TANCREDI — Vice President/Administration

Director since 2015 ... retired CEO of Searles Valley Minerals ... graduate of Fordham University with post-graduate degrees from Iona College and Cornell University... third year as Vice President.

### JEFF JOHNSTONE — Vice President/Tournaments

Director since 2021. A Naval Academy graduate, he is the former Commanding Officer of the USS Yorktown and now retired Senior Vice President of Service Delivery Centurylink Communications...Native of Moline, Ill...Resides in Ponte Vedra Beach...Serving in VP/Tournaments position for the second year.

### VINCENT CELESTINO — Secretary

JAGA director since 2015, representing Marsh Creek... Retired Senior Financial Consultant with HSBC Bank USA...From Tuckahoe, NY...Graduate of Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, NY; earned CFP graduate designation from Pace University...Resides in St. Augustine Beach...Serving as Secretary for second year.

### BILLY WALKER — Treasurer

JAGA director since 2013, representing Cimarrone...Retired, former partner at KMPG...Native of Montreal, Canada...Graduate of McGill University...Resides in Ponte Vedra Beach...Serving fifth year as Treasurer.



*JAGA directors and Sawgrass officials pose with this year's donation of \$14,385 to the Jacksonville Area GA's Scholarship Trust. The donation comes from club members and on hand were (from left) directors Joe Cronauer and Gregg Deiboldt, General Manager C.W. Cook, director and past JAGA President Randy Nader, director Ray Gottschalk and director of golf Stefan Brunt. Not pictured is director Jeff Johnstone.*



## Tournaments



*Jason Duff won the Amateur*



*First Coast Women's champion Elizabeth Kondal (center) with Super Senior winner Mary Helen McElreath and Senior winner Tama Caldabaugh.*



*President Jeff Adams with junior boys champion Tyler Mawhinney (right) and runner-up Matthew French.*

JAGA again had a full slate of events with most fields at capacity. With the cooperation of area golf courses, the organization again provided first-class competition to players of the area. Information on all JAGA tournaments is at [jaxareagolf.org](http://jaxareagolf.org).

### First Coast Amateur

Site: Hammock Beach Conservatory  
Winner: Ty Gingerich, University of Cincinnati  
Runner-up: Sam Rogers, Florida Southern College  
Co-chairs: Jeff Adams, John Milton.

### Underwood Cup

Site: San Jose  
Results: Amateurs 14.5, Professionals 9.5.

### Spring Four-Ball

Site: Palatka Golf Club  
Winners: Moses Campaan-Chase Carroll  
Runners-up: Troy Vannucci-Michael Smith, Toby Ragland-Jayce Barber.  
Co-chairs: Ron Jerin, Ron Mullis.

### Match Play

Site: Jax Beach  
Final match: Jeff Golden d. Jacob Posze, 3-1.  
Other semifinalists: Moses Campaan, John Makarauskas  
Chair: Jeff Johnstone, Gregg Deiboldt, Cary Helton

### Senior Amateur

Site: Deercreek  
Winner: Mark Spencer in playoff over Bob Macmillan and Mike Vallencourt  
Super Senior: Harry Black.  
Grand Senior: Frank Perry  
Chair: Lee Fields.

### First Coast Womens

Site: King & Bear  
Winner: Elizabeth Kondal  
Senior: Tama Caldabaugh  
Super Senior: Mary Helen McElreath  
Co-chairs: Susie Fonde, Melissa Gottfredson, Kaitlyn Price, Sarah Phillips.

### Junior Championship

Site: Eagle Harbor  
Boys: Tyler Mawhinney.  
Runner-Up: Matthew French.  
Girls: Sahana Chokshi.  
Runner-up: Alyzabeth Morgan.  
Flight winners: Brook Wilson, Stella Moritz, Ambrose Kinnare and Alexander Grainger.  
Chair: Jack Aschenbach, Lee Fields, Ray Wensel.

### Amateur

Site: Deerwood  
Winner: Jason Duff.  
Runners-up: Luke Cusick, Johnny Watts (tie)  
Chair: Jeff Adams, John Milton.

### Fall Four Ball

Site: Eagle Harbor  
Winners (Gross): Mike Vallencourt-Larry Smith.  
Runners-up: Paul Tesori-Kirk Irvin, Jennifer Borocz-Stephanie Connelley-Eiswerth (tie)  
Winners (Net): Skip Lunsford-Kevin Buller.  
Runners-up: Mark Scott-Greg Maueri  
Chair: Lee Fields

### Scholarship Trust

Site: Deerwood  
Winners (Gross) Todd Bork, Cary Helton, Josh Kennedy and Chris Henderson.  
Winners (Net): Tom Keiper, Mark Casper, Larry Stark and Daniel Isbell  
Co-Chairs: Michael McKenny, Steve Booma.

### Family Championship

Site: Jax Beach  
Morning results:  
Gross couples: 1. K.C. and Tama Caldabaugh, 66. 2. Adam and Kristin Schupak, 69.  
Net couples: Caldabaugh.  
Gross family: Stephan and Nancy Cox, 62. Tie 2. Scott and Kaitlyn Schroeder, Lee and Len III Schonfield, 64.  
Net family: Cox.  
Afternoon:  
Gross Couples 1. Bob and Melissa Gottfredson, 67. Tie 2. Paul and Lou Tenarvitz, Matthew and Sarah Wefer.  
Net couples: Paul and Sheila Brocki.  
Gross family: Tie 1. Bart and Barton Abstein, Russ and Russ Jr. Libby.  
Net family: Libby.  
9 Hole  
1. Matthew and Lex Cutchen. 2. Kamari and Kalani Smith.  
Co-Chairs: Duke Butler III, Sheila McLenaghan, Duke Butler IV, Sadie Butler.

## 2023 Member Clubs

JAGA is an association of clubs, which pay annual dues of \$200 to participate in the activities which include hosting tournaments and board meetings, having members and employees eligible for scholarships, and having up to four designees to the JAGA Board.

Amelia Island Club	Hidden Hills	Queen's Harbour
Amelia National	Hyde Park	San Jose
Amelia River	Jacksonville G&CC	Sawgrass
Atlantic Beach	Jax Beach GC	St. Johns G&CC
Brentwood	Julington Creek	St. Johns GC
Cimarrone	Magnolia Point	Stillwater
Deercreek	Marsh Creek	Suwannee
Deerwood	Marsh Landing	The Yards
Eagle Harbor	NAS Jax	Timuquana
Fernandina Beach	Pablo Creek	TPC Sawgrass
First Tee	Palatka	Windsor Parke
Fleming Island	Palencia	Windy Harbor
GC of South Hampton	Plantation	World Golf Village
Hammock Beach Resort	Ponte Vedra Inn	

## 2023 Schedule

First Coast Amateur	Jan. 14-16	Hidden Hills
Underwood Cup	Jan. 30-31	San Jose
Spring Four Ball	March 27	Jacksonville G&CC
Two-Day Four Ball	May 6-7	St. Johns Golf Club
Senior Amateur	May 21-23	Sawgrass
Junior	July 10-11	Eagle Harbor
Men's Amateur	July 20-22	San Jose
First Coast Women's	July 24-26	TPC Valley
Fall Four Ball	Oct. 20	Deercreek
Scholarship Trust	Nov. 20	Deerwood
Family	Dec. 17	Jax Beach



## 2022 JAGA Awards

Six leaders of Northeast Florida golf were the recipients of the annual JAGA awards. The presentations were made at the association's annual meeting in December at Jacksonville G&CC.

The JAGA Awards Nominating Committee consisted of chairman Adair Roberts (JAGA past president and director, Ponte Vedra,) Ray Gottschalk (director, Sawgrass), Skip Lunsford (director, Jacksonville), Fred Seely (JAGA past president, Timuquana) and Jeff Adams (JAGA president, TPC Sawgrass).

A list of past winners is at <https://jaxareagolf.org/jaga-awards-past-winners/>

### CLUB EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

**Russ Libby**

**Hidden Hills, Owner and General Manager**

A native of Maine and a 1989 Bates College graduate, he is on the PGA of America's national board of directors. He was president of the Northern Chapter in 2017 and 2018. Prior to taking over at Hidden Hills in 2003, he was head professional at Ipswich (Mass.) Country Club and Deerwood. Among the many groups Libby supports locally is JAGA, always making Hidden Hills available for JAGA meetings, outings, and important tournaments such as the JAGA First Coast Amateur. His three sons are JAGA scholarship recipients.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**Jack Aschenbach**

**North Florida Junior Golf Foundation, Executive Director**

After 23 years' service in the United States Navy, Jack Aschenbach pivoted to a second career in golf in 1995. The Sheboygan, Wis. native was a club professional (Mayport, Deercreek, Queen's Harbour and Amelia National) for 17 years, serving as head professional at the latter two. In 2012, he became executive director of the North Florida Junior Golf Foundation. His passion and commitment to junior golf has turned the NFJGF into one of the top junior organizations in the country. He has distinguished himself through leadership and dedication, making contributions to the development of junior players, both on the golf course and off. He has received many PGA of America accolades including his 2020 induction into the North Florida Section Hall of Fame.

### EARL & ELEANOR KELLY LONG-TERM SERVICE AWARD

**Nick Clark**

**San Jose, retired head professional**

PGA Life Member Nick Clark served as head professional at San Jose for 30 years, retiring in 2001. He was a leader in the local PGA chapter and a mainstay in bringing the local junior program to today's level. Highly respected throughout the Chapter and Section, Clark has willingly served as a mentor to area professionals. Always supportive of JAGA, he continues to give to its scholarship program with annual contributions. A native of Wilmington, N.C., he is a graduate of Clemson University.

### JAGA DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

**Ken Hicks**

**Deerwood**

A JAGA director since 2008, his interests in guiding young people steered him toward the Scholarship Trust Committee and he took on the critical and time-intensive role of chairing this committee



*Four of the 2022 Awards winners, from left are: Matt Durkee, Ken Hicks, Matt Borocz, and Nick Clark (award accepted by Todd Bork). Not present was Jack Aschenbach and Russ Libby.*

that promotes and identifies potential JAGA scholars and conducts extensive candidate interviews, then chooses the recipients. The California native also has a keen interest in the rules of golf and has served as a volunteer rules official at numerous JAGA events over the years. More recently, he has gotten involved as a coach in the annual Blind Golfers Association tournament played in Jacksonville. He also teaches golf at the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in St. Augustine. Hicks spent his professional life as an instructor at an automotive technical college in California.

### PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

**Matt Borocz**

**TPC Sawgrass, Assistant General Manager/Director of Golf**

A member of the PGA of America for almost 20 years, the Cleveland native and 2002 Coastal Carolina University Professional Golf Management graduate has been honored many times by the North Florida PGA Section and Northern Chapter for merchandising and golf operations excellence. In 2018, he was named North Florida Section Golf Professional of the Year. He has served as president of the Northern Chapter for the past two years, and now has been elected secretary of the North Florida PGA, which oversees four chapters throughout North Florida. In recent years, the JAGA/Northern Chapter relationship has grown to new heights and become stronger thanks to Borocz' commitment.

### SUPERINTENDENT OF THE YEAR

**Matt Durkee**

**Sawgrass, Director of Agronomy and Facilities**

For almost 20 years, Matt Durkee has had the responsibility of maintaining over 350 acres of golf course and grounds and over 100,000 square feet of air-conditioned facilities at Sawgrass, all while balancing relationships with 26 individual homeowner associations within the community's gates. The native of the Adirondack Mountain region in upstate New York was a JAGA scholarship recipient in 1997-99 and graduated from Flagler College where he pitched for the Saints' baseball team and earned a B.S. degree in Business Administration. Upon graduation, he enjoyed his first stint working for Sawgrass. During this time, he earned an Associates of Science degree in Golf Course Operations from Lake City (Fla.) Community College. This opened the door to a position with MacCurrah Golf Course Construction where he spent a number of years participating in the collaboration between golf course architect, builder and owner, working on projects with the likes of Pete Dye, Tom Fazio and Jack Nicklaus.