

Media Contact: Elma Delic | [Salt Public Relations](#) | elma@saltphx.com | 480-275-8888



New Group of Renowned Industry Influencers to be Inducted into Arizona Golf Hall of Fame

Four Local Leaders to be Inducted on November 25 at Gainey Ranch.

Scottsdale, Ariz. -- Lights, camera. . . golf! The stage has been set for a class of new heavy hitters of the game, and they're ready to take a swing.

The four new inductees to the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame include Ping President and CEO John Solheim, golf writer Bill Huffman, golf course owner and teacher Shelby Futch and amateur golfer and volunteer Barbara Simmons who will join the ranks of elite influencers. Their talent, innovation, leadership and dedication to the golf industry in the state goes unmatched.

A committee that includes leaders from the Arizona Golf Association, Arizona Women's Golf Association, Cactus & Pine Superintendents Association, Club Managers Association, Junior Golf Association and the Southwest Section PGA have personally selected the new honorees based on their skill, accolades and industry impact.

They will be officially inducted on November 25 at the Gainey Ranch Golf Club and join the ranks of past inductees including Dana Garmany who was ranked second in *Golf Inc's* most influential and powerful people in the industry, Lyle Anderson, the well-known developer from Paradise Valley, and Rick LaRose, the legendary University of Arizona golf coach.

When considering the new recruits' backgrounds and experience, it is easy to see why they have been chosen as the newest members among the choice group that is the Arizona Golf Hall

of Fame.

John Solheim (business industry leader)

An engineer, leader and devoted son, John Andrew Solheim wanted to be an architect when he grew up and in a way he has realized that childhood ambition. He is an architect, but not in the strict definitive sense. He doesn't design buildings. Instead, he designs the fundamental tools that make the most obsessive sport in America an easier game to play -- Solheim designs golf equipment. He's also Chairman, President and CEO of Karsten Manufacturing Corporation, makers of PING golf equipment.

Solheim's insight and leadership have taken Karsten Manufacturing and PING Golf to new heights in the industry. Solheim and the company have donated thousands of hours and money to charitable projects such as the Wounded Warrior program and Bubba's PINK Driver charity. Karsten started the company, but Solheim has carried the ball into the 21st century.

Bill Huffman (golf media)

Bill Huffman was born in Iowa City, graduated from the University of Iowa in 1973 with a bachelor of general studies and in 1975 with a masters degree in journalism. In the fall of 1982 he moved to Arizona and has been covering the game of golf in the state ever since, first as the golf writer for the Arizona Republic, and then for the East Valley Tribune. He has reported on 48 majors and Ryder Cups, including 20 Masters.

Among his other accomplishments, Huffman served as the national president of the Associated Press Sports Editors Association in 1995-1996 and was a member of the executive committee of the Golf Writers Association of America from 1996-1998. In 1999, Huffman joined the team at Backspin The Golf Show, the talk radio show sponsored by PING broadcast Wednesdays and Saturdays. He is currently the editor-in-chief for *AZ Golf Insider*, a freelance writer and founder of an annual Media Golf Classic which brings together writers throughout the golf world.

Shelby Futch (golf course owner/PGA professional/teacher)

Shelby Futch grew up in West Texas and prior to establishing the Scottsdale Golf Group, played on numerous tours including the Far Eastern, the South American and several U.S. tour events. Futch also won the Illinois PGA Championship in the 1970's and has owned and operated several golf course properties within the Valley and across the country, as well as a chain of golf retail stores and a successful golf club fitting and manufacturing company.

While serving as an instructor for the Golf Digest Schools, he founded the world famous John Jacobs' Golf Schools. Futch has been recognized by, and written for, some of the industry's most coveted golf publications and is consistently honored by Golf Digest, Golf Magazine and Golf Tips as one of the world's top instructors. He has produced two series of golf instruction videos, was featured in the book *Golf Gurus* and has appeared on The Golf Channel's "Golf Academy Live." As an International Ambassador for golf instruction, he is a frequent guest speaker for both the Hong Kong and China PGA Tours. He is currently donating his skill to the

NJCAA National Champion Scottsdale Community College Golf Team, coaching the team pro bono.

Barbara Simmons (amateur/volunteer)

Barbara Simmons has made her mark on women's golf in Arizona since she moved here in 1984 and made the sport a significant part of her life by becoming a member of Papago WGA, Arizona Country Club and Forest Highlands. In 1985, the USGA dramatically changed the Course Rating System with the addition of Slope, increasing the need for volunteer involvement in the rating process. Simmons quickly immersed herself in the new procedure, working tirelessly with the rest of the AWGA Course Rating team to convert all of Arizona's courses to incorporate the new process.

Simmons was appointed to the AWGA Board of Directors in 2004, elected to the Executive Board in 2006 and served until she reached her term limit in January 2013. During that time, she held roles of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President.

Besides her responsibilities with the AWGA, Simmons also holds positions on regional and national committees. For eleven years beginning in 1991, she served on the USGA Women's Regional Affairs Committee and in 2002 she was appointed to the US Senior Women's Amateur Committee. Her golf achievements include the three-time title of Papago's Club Championship, twelve-time Arizona Country Club Champion, and four-time Forest Highlands Champion.

About the Arizona Golf Hall of Fame:

The Arizona Golf Hall of Fame was created in 1968 to honor those who by achievement or contributions have had a lasting effect promoting the sport of golf in Arizona. Since that time there have been 66 individuals inducted.

Arizona Golf Hall of Fame 2013 Inductee Ceremony
Monday, November 25
5:00 p.m. - Hors d' oeuvres and beverages
6:00 p.m. - Presentation of inductees
at the Gainey Ranch Golf Club
7600 E. Gainey Club Dr. Scottsdale, AZ 85258



PGA
Southwest Section

Shelby Futch-Golf Professional

Shelby Futch grew up in West Texas. He learned to play golf the way many good players often used to: by reinventing the swing for himself. When he was 10 his father won a set of Bobby Jones clubs in a poker game. He knew nothing about golf -- so he gave the clubs to Shelby, telling him only that they were for "hitting balls". There was no golf course within 50 miles, but there was a tennis court. Shelby would take a few tennis balls into the wheat fields and whack them around, letting the clubs teach him what to do.

A couple of years later, his father was transferred to Oklahoma and Shelby decided to try out for the golf team at his new middle school. "I went up to the tee and put down a tennis ball and the coach thought I was being a smartass," he told me. "But I had never actually seen golf played, and I didn't know there was such a thing as a golf ball. I missed the first golf ball I swung at, because it was so small, but then I hit it, and I couldn't believe how far it went."

From that moment Shelby was hooked. He went on to win the state junior championship and to receive a full golf scholarship to Oklahoma State University. The OSU coach didn't like his homemade swing, however, and worked to make it more orthodox -- with results that, initially, were disastrous. That experience set Shelby on what he would eventually see as his true career path, by helping to inspire a lifelong fascination with instruction.

He won the Illinois PGA Championship in 1975 and made a brief attempt to earn a living as a touring professional. He has played numerous tours around the world, but his true love has always been teaching. He was one of the original instructors for the Golf Digest Golf Schools. In 1983 he founded John Jacobs Golf Schools and established the Scottsdale Golf Group. The success of these schools revolves around Futch's commitment to excellence and his love for the game. He has earned an international reputation with a career that spans every phase of golf. He is currently donating his skill to the NJCAA National Champion Scottsdale Community College Golf Team, having agreed to coach the team, pro bono.

Shelby has been recognized by, and written for, some of the industry's most coveted golf publications and is consistently honored by *Golf Digest*, *Golf Magazine* and *Golf Tips* as one of the world's top instructors. He has produced two series of golf instruction videos, was featured in the book *Golf Gurus*, and has appeared on The Golf Channel's *Golf Academy Live*.

He has owned and operated several golf course properties within the Valley and across the country, as well as a chain of golf retail stores in addition to a successful golf club fitting and manufacturing company.