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GCSAA Tournament Fact Sheet

LPGA Tour
LPGA Founders Cup
March 20 - 24, 2014

Wildfire Golf Club at JW Marriott
Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa
Phoenix, Ariz.

Golf Course Management Information

GCSAA Golf Course Superintendent:

G. Todd Norton

Availability to media:

Contact Todd Norton by email

g.todd.norton@marriott.com

Years as a GCSAA member: 25

GCSAA affiliated chapter:

Cactus and Pine Golf Course
Superintendents Association

Years at this course: 14

Number of maintenance employees: 36

Previous tournaments hosted at facility:

2011-2013 RR Donnelley Founders Cup

Course statistics

Average tee size: 2,500 sq. ft.

Tournament Stimpmeter: 11.5 ft.

Average green size: 6,000 sq. ft.

Green construction:

USGA (90% sand, 10% peat)

Rounds per year: 65,000

Acres of fairway: 30

Source of water: City water

Acres of rough: 40

Drainage conditions: Fair

Sand bunkers: 79

Water hazards: 1

Course ratings (Palmer Course)

	Yardage	Par	Rating	Slope
Tournament	7145	72	72.5	140
Championship	6675	72	70.3	130
Regular	6080	72	68.0	120
Forward	5505	72	70.9	121
Wildfire	4915	72	67.9	109

Course characteristics

	Primary Grasses	Height of Cut
Tees	328 bermudagrass overseeded w/ryegrass	0.43"
Fairways	328 bermudagrass overseeded w/ryegrass	0.43"
Greens	Mini-verde bermudagrass overseeded w/ <i>Poa trivialis</i>	0.109"
Rough	Bermudagrass	0.75"

Environmental management/features

Wildfire Golf Club is a Audubon Certified Cooperative Sanctuary. The ACSP is an education and certification program that helps golf courses protect the environment and preserve the natural heritage of the game of golf.

Wildfire Golf Club has made strides towards sustainability with accomplishments and programs that include; lining the irrigation pond to prevent water seepage, installing oxygen diffusers to improve water quality, establishing no-spray zones and limited fertilization around the lake to prevent run-off and stocking fish for biological control of algae. Wildfire has also worked to identify wildlife habitat corridors and

plant native vegetation to provide shelter and food for wildlife on the courses.

Wildlife on the course

Blue heron; Bobcat; Coyote; Fish; Hawk; Quail; Rabbit; Raccoon; Snakes; Squirrel; Woodpecker; Several different species of birds

Interesting and historical course-related facts

Wildfire Golf Club has two championship golf courses, the Palmer Course and the Faldo Course, which can be combined. The LPGA Founders Cup will be played on both courses.

Offering two 18-hole championship Phoenix area golf courses, Wildfire is situated in the Sonoran Desert. The greens on the Faldo Championship are Mini-Verde, the Palmer Signature also has Mini-Verde greens and all fairways are Bermuda overseeded with rye.

Wildfire Golf Club features a complete practice facility, including an all-grass driving range, putting and chipping greens, a green-side practice bunker and state-of-the-art Global Positioning System in each golf car. Just after opening, *The Arizona Republic* selected the No. 2 hole on the Faldo Championship Course as one of the ultimate 18 holes in the Valley.

Wildfire was most recently recognized with *Golfworld's* Top 100 Best Golf Shops for 2008, Arizona's Leading Golf Resort for 2008 by The World Travel Awards and also received 2006 *Travel & Leisure Golf's* 'World's Best Golf Resorts' for family getaways and in 2006 *Condé Nast Traveler's* annual survey of Top 100 Golf Resorts in North America, which was an added accomplishment on top of the Gold Tee Award from *Meetings & Conventions Magazine*.

Course architect/date:

Arnold Palmer (1997), Nick Faldo (2002)

Most recent redesign/renovation:

Palmer Course (2008), Faldo Course (2009)

Other key course personnel

Alfredo Hernandez, GCSAA Class C Assistant Superintendent

Steve Henegar, Equipment Manager

Jeff Johnston, PGA Professional

John Wright, Director of Golf

Golf course management facts

For additional information please visit the GCSAA [association news](#) section or contact the Communications Department at 800-472-7878.

GCSAA is a leading golf organization and has as its focus golf course management. Since 1926, GCSAA has been the top professional association for the men and women who manage golf courses in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to nearly 18,000 members in more than 72 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enhance the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Find GCSAA on [Facebook](#), follow GCSAA on [Twitter](#), and visit GCSAA at www.gcsaa.org. The Environmental Institute for Golf is the philanthropic organization of the GCSAA, and has as its mission to foster sustainability through research, awareness, education, programs and scholarships for the benefit of golf course management professionals, golf facilities and the game. Visit www.eifg.org.