

TWO LEGENDARY FIREFIGHTERS RETIRE

- HY ROTHSTEIN

My assignment was to write an article honoring the achievements of two CalFire career firefighters who will be retiring this December. Experience with military veterans has taught me that the less they say about their service, the more they did while in uniform. Accordingly, I was not surprised when interviewing Jennifer Valdez and Marilou Young about their cumulative 69 years of service that getting them to talk about themselves was akin to squeezing blood out of a turnip. Therefore, my instinct told me that they are the real deal. Even though they were relatively tight-lipped, mostly praising their colleagues, I was able to get a sense of who these women are and what their legacies will be to CalFire and the community they served. And, while Jennifer and Marilou were not very talkative, their colleagues were.

Most of us don't fully grasp the dedication and sacrifice the fire service requires, especially if you work long enough to retire. When someone enters the fire service, they have decided to dedicate themselves to serving and sacrificing for others. They become part of a second family, a brotherhood and sisterhood that not many understand. They spend as much time, if not more, with their second family than they spend with their own. Our soon-to-be retirees have given



the fire service and community a significant portion of their lives, 30 years for Jennifer and 39 for Marilou.

Marilou always had a passion for the outdoors hiking in the Sierras as a kid. In 1983 she started working with the Placer Center performing back trail work and then moved to Bakersfield where she worked for the Bureau of Land Management. She eventually transitioned to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, CalFire, in Placer County. In

2001 she joined CalFire at Pebble Beach and remained in the trenches as a firefighter, exactly where she wanted to be.

Jennifer was also drawn to the outdoors and took a seasonal job with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources when she was 16 years old. She moved to California after graduating from high school. In 1992 Jennifer joined the San Benito-Monterey Unit of CalFire eventually moving to the Pebble Beach Fire Station. Over the years Jennifer

followed in her father's footsteps (a Berkeley Law Enforcement Officer) and advanced to become a CalFire Law Enforcement Officer/Fire Captain, specializing in fire investigations and the enforcement of fire laws and ordinances.



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January 2023

Dear Property Owner,

The Board of Directors wishes each and every property owner a healthy and happy New Year. The New Year offers many opportunities, one of which is to join the Del Monte Forest Property Owners ("DMFPO"). You are encouraged to take full advantage of the benefits offered by this organization at a very reasonable cost of \$50 annually.

The annual dues fund the quarterly Forest News publication updating you on current issues. Members will receive invitations to Sunday afternoon seminars featuring interesting speakers, and semiannual meetings in May and October held at The Inn at Spanish Bay. These meetings not only offer a chance to learn about current events impacting Pebble Beach, but also to enjoy wine and appetizers while socializing with other property owners.

As a member of this organization, you can receive assistance with neighborhood issues such as noisy parties, unsightly debris, road conditions, or public safety to name a few. DMFPO is the only entity providing this type of comprehensive service in Del Monte Forest.

Directors on the DMFPO board are property owners from all walks of life. They take pride in volunteering to accomplish DMFPO goals by serving on committees and boards of numerous other Peninsula/County organizations and are aware of what most impacts those living in the Forest. I think you will agree there are many benefits to becoming a supporting member! If you are interested in serving on a DMFPO committee or on the board please contact the office at (831) 373-1618 or office@dmfpo.org for further information.

We look forward to a productive year serving you and wish you a prosperous New Year.

Lucy Carlton, President

On behalf of the Del Monte Forest Property Owners Board of Directors

<http://www.dmfpo.org>

Del Monte Forest Property Owners January – December 2023 Membership Dues: \$50.00


As you send in your \$50 annual dues, please be sure to provide the information requested on the flap of the enclosed remittance envelope. If you prefer to pay by credit card, go to the DMFPO website "Membership" menu for online renewal at <http://www.dmfpo.org>.

Career resumes never fully tell the story about someone's impact on an organization. Jennifer and Marilou began their careers in the fire service at a time when the profession was dominated by men, some who felt that women were not capable of enduring the rigors of firefighting. Richard Lopez, a firefighter who has known both women for 20 years, said "what they may lack in physical stature was overcome by sheer grit," a positive trait based on an individual's perseverance. Grit enables an individual to overcome obstacles that lie on the path to accomplishment. It is a form of natural hardiness and resilience. The firefighters I spoke with all told me in different ways that Marilou and Jennifer have "grit." They always accomplish their tasks and quickly seek new challenges. As a result, both earned high praise from their fellow firefighters, drowning out the few voices who felt women should not be in the fire service. In other words, they earned the respect and admiration of their fellow firefighters the old-fashioned way, by superior performance.

While competence and determination will certainly be a big part of Jennifer and Marilou's legacies, there is more. Jesse Barnes told me that Marilou watches out for and takes care of everyone at the fire station. Kevin Dixon, who attended Academy training with Marilou, talked about how nice and respectful she is to everyone. He also spoke about her sense of humor. This explains why Marilou's fellow firefighters, in an act of solidarity, shaved their heads while she was going through chemotherapy for breast cancer. When I asked Dixon about Jennifer,

he was quick to highlight her dedication and work ethic. He also could not imagine who would competently take her place. Dixon also mentioned that both Jennifer and Marilou devoted time to the firefighter support system making sure that care was provided to families in need.

Jennifer Valdez and Marilou Young will leave behind an inspiring legacy of which they should be very proud. That they put other people's safety before their own every day for their entire working lives is testament to who they are. The residents of the Forest honor your incredible service and dedication to protecting lives. Congratulations on your outstanding careers and the contributions you made to the safety of the people around you.

"May their nights be undisturbed, and their days be long and without any call outs." Enjoy your retirement. 



WOMEN'S PROFESSIONAL GOLF AND PEBBLE BEACH

- Neal Hotelling

Pebble Beach will host the 78th U. S. Women's Open on July 5-9, 2023. It will bring together the best women golfers – professional and amateur – to Pebble Beach, and mark the first time that championship will be contested at Pebble Beach. However, did you know this will not be the first women's



MPCC club champion in 1946, Mary Sargent was among the amateurs that challenged the early professional women in the first U.S. Women's Open in 1946. She lost, down 1, to WPGA President Betty Hicks.



Clara Callender grew up on the MPCC course where her father served as the club's first golf professional. She was just 13 when she first won the MPCC Women's Championship in 1932. Shown here in 1942, when she won her 5th Del Monte Championship. She competed as an amateur at the 1946 U.S. Women's Open as Mrs. John Sherman.

open at Pebble Beach? For that, we need to go back 73 years to 1950. But let's first go back a few years earlier and explore the effort to create the U.S. Women's Open.

Women golf professionals did not arise in significant numbers until the 1940s. As early as 1940 Helen Hicks Harb, Opal Hill and Helen Dettweiler – ladies who competed as amateurs at Pebble Beach in 1930 – began discussing a Women's Professional Golfers Association. Such a group, led by Hope Seignious, was chartered at North Carolina in November 1943 but was slow to catch steam. California golfer Elizabeth Hicks, the 1941 U.S. Amateur champion, began promoting a similar effort in January 1944, and by September she was trying to create a National Women's Open at Miami. Hicks' effort reignited Seignious. They joined forces and in December 1944, Hicks became president of the group and Seignious the secretary-treasurer. Patty Berg became a charter member of the WPGA. Berg, after winning the 1938 U.S. Amateur, accepted a professional career to promote golf clubs.

The hoped-for Women's Open at Miami did not happen, but by March 1945, the WPGA accepted an offer from the Spokane Athletic Round Table to host the first U. S. Women's Open there in August 1945. As the date approached, the federal Office of Defense Transportation asked for a delay. The WPGA and Spokane organizers acquiesced.

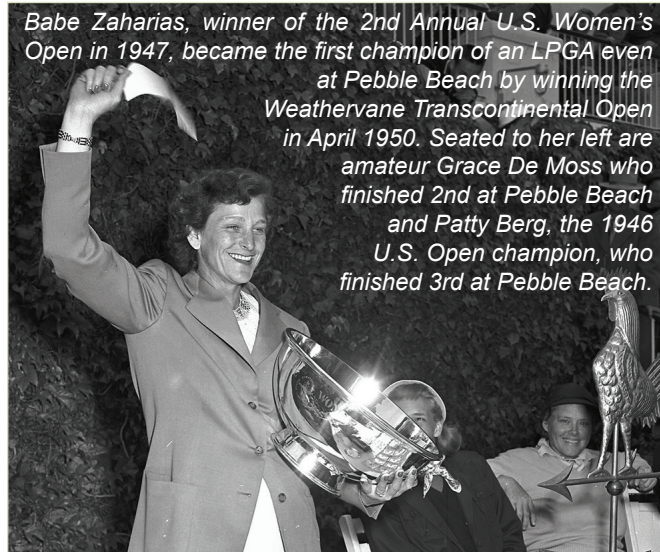
The delay lasted a year. On August 26, 1946, the first U.S. Women's Open was underway at the Spokane CC. Of the 38 women that entered, only six were professionals and eight of the amateurs were from Spokane. Among the other amateurs four had Pebble Beach connections – Clara Callender Sherman, Babe Zaharias, Ellen Keiser and Mary Sargent. Sherman had grown up at Pebble Beach and had multiple wins in the Pebble Beach and Del Monte women's championships as well as three women's club championships at MPCC. Zaharias had won the 1943 Del Monte Championship and Keiser won the 1943 Pebble Beach Championship, the last playing of each until after World War II. Mary Sargent lived at Pebble Beach and was the 1946 MPCC Women's Club

Champion. Sargent had finished runner-up to Patty Berg in the 1946 Pebble Beach Championship.

Berg was one of the six pros entered in the 1946 U.S. Women's Open. Another of the pros, Betty Jameson, had won the 1940 U.S. Women's Amateur at Pebble Beach. And WPGA President Hicks, had been the medalist at both the 1938 Del Monte and 1939 Pebble Beach Championships. Berg, Jameson, Hicks, Sherman and Keiser comprised 5 of the final 8 that played in the quarterfinals. The final match came down to Berg and Jameson, with Berg winning the 36-hole match 5-and-4. Clearly, Pebble Beach helped groom the best golfers for that first U.S. Women's Open.

The WPGA continued to run the U.S. Women's Open through 1948, shifting it to a 72-hole medal play championship. Jameson won in 1947 and Zaharias in 1948. Former Pebble Beach Champions were continuing to lead women's golf. In 1949, the WPGA was replaced by the Ladies' Professional Golf Association in September, just in time to run the 1949 U.S. Women's Open at Prince Georges G&CC in Maryland. Berg, one of the 13 "Founders" of the LPGA was elected its first president.

As the new LPGA compiled its 1950 championship schedule, it made Pebble Beach one of its first stops as part of the Weathervane Transcontinental Open. They would play 36 holes at each of four courses across the country. Each 36 holes featured \$3,000 in prize money with a \$5,000 bonus paid to the low score over the entire 144 holes. Seven



Babe Zaharias, winner of the 2nd Annual U.S. Women's Open in 1947, became the first champion of an LPGA event at Pebble Beach by winning the Weathervane Transcontinental Open in April 1950. Seated to her left are amateur Grace De Moss who finished 2nd at Pebble Beach and Patty Berg, the 1946 U.S. Open champion, who finished 3rd at Pebble Beach.

of the 13 LPGA Founders signed up to play at Pebble Beach in April 1950. The field was rounded out with 43 amateurs, for a total of 50 golfers.

Zaharias, was the winner of that first LPGA sponsored open tournament at Pebble Beach with a one-stroke victory over amateur Grace DeMoss, and two strokes

over Berg. DeMoss had won the past two Pebble Beach Championships. At the 1951 Weathervane at Pebble Beach, it was Berg winning by 4 strokes over Zaharias, with only one amateur in the top ten finishers. The Weathervane was significant, but the LPGA U.S. Women's Open remained the most significant. In 1953 it became a USGA championship.

Another Pebble Beach fun fact for the U.S. Women's Open is that the USGA replaced the original Spokane trophy with the current Harton S. Semple trophy. That trophy was first awarded to 1992 champion Patty Sheehan, a former San Jose State golfer who twice won the California Women's Amateur Championship, 1977-78, when it was played at Pebble Beach. 🐌



Betty Hicks (left), the first president of the WPGA in 1944, and Patty Berg, the first president of the LPGA in 1949, stopped for a photo on the 7th tee during the 1950 Weathervane Transcontinental Open at Pebble Beach. Berg won the 1951 Weathervane at Pebble Beach.

Feeding backyard birds has nourished the hearts of Americans for more than 100 years, and of Europeans for considerably longer. Today, in the US, more than 70 million people feed wild birds, the reported number having soared with the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A constant FAQ from backyard birdwatchers is whether it is okay to feed wild birds; is it safe for the animals? While there are absolute provisos to the matter of provisioning birds, the opinion of this writer is yes! The critical conditions:

1. Feeding birds at home, i.e., in a controlled and well-mannered fashioned, must never extend to feeding birds (or other wildlife) at the beach, a picnic site or any place where gulls, crows, and blackbirds will certainly become a nuisance. Passersby might get the wrong idea and try feeding their own bread, lunch scraps, or popcorn to the beggars and the whole ball-of-wax-paper unravels to become an unhealthful and ecologically unseemly mess.

2. Remember that predation happens: Cooper's Hawks and Sharp-shinned Hawks know about bird-feeders, and add them to their hunting routines. Be they imperfect, there are ways to arrange your habitat to favor the invited guests, keeping feeders within a few feet of escape shrubbery and foliage is a must. But brace yourself. We still have it in our power to manage the number-one despoiler of patio-time shared by towhees, juncos, and doves: keeping our House Cats in the House!

3. Responsible feeding means offering only smartly selected, stored, and clean food items, whether seed, suet, whole fruit, or sugary liquids. Clean feeding areas and feeders every two weeks to prevent contamination; store seed indoors in dry containers; and change birdbath water every week.

Selecting seeds to feed is the easy part: buy individual types in bulk and avoid packaged mixes, which are full of filler seeds, cheap red millet, cracked corn, and what-all that our bird's disdain. In addition to the extra expense, waste seed attracts and sustains woodrats and other rodents. Not good around the house! So, here is the recipe:

A. IF ONE INGREDIENT, Black Sunflower. In the shell, or better hulled. With hulled, at the end of the day, it's all gone!

B. IF A SECOND INGREDIENT, Safflower Seed. But no more than 10 percent of your total. Watch the Oak Titmouse go nuts!

C. IF A THIRD INGREDIENT, add Nyjer, which is fed in a Nyjer sock: the Goldfinches will love it.

Finally, get the complete low-down by joining the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's "Feederwatch" program {<https://feederwatch.org/>}. And, remember your ABCs of seed selection, regardless of what the Easterner Experts and Hardware Store clerks might wish you to believe.



February is
National Bird Feeding Month



Lots of activity outside my window this morning. The sun is shining and on the ornamental rosemary there is such a buzz, the bees are moving back and forth between tiny blue flowers. It is a lovely sight.

Well then, what about bees? Did you know that honeybees are native to western Asia and were originally imported from Europe to North America in the 17th century? There are approximately four thousand bee species just in the US. They range from tiny bees to oversized bumblebees. They display a range of colors, from the black and gold of honeybees to combinations of green, blue, orange, purple, and black in other species. Bee species live on every continent except Antarctica.

Unlike wasps, bees feed exclusively on nectar and pollen from flowering plants. Many plants depend upon them for pollination in order to make seeds and reproduce. When bees collect nectar and pollen from plants, the pollen sticks to their body and rubs off onto the next flower they visit. In addition to being essential to agriculture, bees pollinate about 80 percent of all flowering plants.

Photos by Susan Lambert and Jerry Loomis



While we are familiar with honeybees that live in hives, most bees are solitary nesters, they lay their eggs in tiny chambers in crevices and underground nests. Like other insects, the lifecycle of a bee is egg, larva, pupa, and adult. Life span varies depending on the species, usually about a year in total, although adults may live just a few weeks.

Unfortunately, domesticated honeybees and many native bee species are in decline. Causes include habitat destruction, disease, and use of pesticides. Given the nesting habits of solitary bees, it is a good practice to minimize raking. A layer of leaves provides protection and allows the soil to remain moist resulting in natural fertilization for plants. If mulching, use a thin layer of compost or shredded leaves instead of wood chips. Leaving the ground undisturbed also benefits many birds that lay eggs on the ground like quail and various kinds of songbirds.



For more information about pollinators, visit the Xerces Society at xerces.org and the National Wildlife Federation at nwf.org 



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To avoid waste bins being left curbside throughout the week, we wanted you to know...

After your property's weekly pickup, GreenWaste Recovery Inc., the waste collection and hauling company that currently services the Forest, will remove your trash bins from the curb and place them back out of view on your property within 100 feet of the roadway at no cost.

You can arrange for this service by calling GreenWaste Recovery Inc. at 831-920-6707 or by email at peninsulacs@greenwaste.com, or, if you have questions or need further assistance, you can contact Pebble Beach Community Services District at 831-373-1274.



Want to get published in the *ForestNews*? Submit a one-paragraph proposal to office@dmfpo.org on a topic of general reader interest.

The Roads and Traffic Committee of the Del Monte Forest Property Owners

The Roads and Traffic Committee of the Del Monte Forest Property Owners (DMFPO) has developed new guidelines for its members. These guidelines shift the focus of the committee from road surface evaluations to include personal review and appropriate responses to concerns regarding road safety issues submitted to DMFPO by Forest residents. The concerns will be reviewed by a committee member responsible for the geographic area in the forest where the issue is located. The information will be forwarded to Pebble Beach Company (PBC) for resolution. Accordingly, we encourage residents to report obstructed or damaged road signage, the need for additional signage and other traffic concerns. Please do so by phoning (831) 373-1618 or emailing office@dmfpo.org.



A "cold in-place" recycled pavement process was used for the first time on Forest Lake Road, re-purposing roadway materials, eliminating the need to haul away asphalt debris, and drastically reducing project time.

Following a vigorous paving schedule this summer, PBC continued its efforts into the fall. Crews have resurfaced all of Drake Road and Padre Lane as well as the long awaited for Forest Lake Road. The latter, having been subject to an extensive electrical undergrounding project, was especially troublesome, but is now a smooth comfortable

ride. In addition, PBC has been installing berms in various areas, patching trenches on Ondulado Road, Alva Lane and Sombria Lane, cleaning drains, and flushing pipes before winter rains.

The road maintenance schedule for 2023 is in the planning process. DMFPO is confident that Pebble Beach Company's maintenance activities will continue to improve our roads. Meanwhile DMFPO will continue to function as a source for communicating your concerns to PBC.