

# From the Pro's Desk

By Tina Bradley Mayers, PGA



**I**t's unbelievable to hear all of the bad advice women get from husbands, fathers, boyfriends, partners and even golf instructors. Some of my favorites: *Keep your head down and still. Your left arm should be straight. Bend your knees.* We didn't grow up with a bat, we have a bigger chest (not speaking personally), and we're not as strong. However, we are more flexible and have the same desire to learn. Our definition of success may be just to hit it in the air and relatively straight.

Finding simple and practical advice that correlates to our specific needs can be elusive and difficult. Women have characteristics that must be taken into account. We must go to an experienced qualified instructor that understands our physical and mental differences, why we play and ultimately how to set realistic goals and obtain reasonable success.

There are more women golfers being introduced to the game than ever before. Unfortunately, the same amount leaves the game. Why? The most common answers are "It's too difficult." "It takes too much time." "It's frustrating and embarrassing." "Rules and etiquette are like an encyclopedia." ...HELP!

I believe success breeds success. Learn golf from the green to the tee. Putting requires no strength and very little mechanical

input. Allow yourself to progress at your own pace until thirty footers are as comfortable as five footers. Gradually work into chipping and pitching. Avoid, at all costs, moving on until your confidence level is ready for the full swing. When you do, use tees and short targets. When you decide to play, try playing from 150 yards and in, so you're not rushed and your fear of failure is minimized. Instead of playing with your husband, father or friend who shoots 100 or below, find a partner with a similar skill level, or play by yourself when the course isn't crowded so you can enjoy your own game.

Keep everything in perspective. Play for fun first. Enjoy the serenity of the outdoors. Strengthen your family, friend or business relationships. Challenge yourself or the course and not your companion. Have simple goals. Don't keep score.

Getting the ball up in the air and advancing it toward your target will measure your success. Find an instructor you can trust and to whom you can relate. Golf can be an incredibly rewarding and exhilarating game.

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## Executive Women's Golf Association Austin/Hill Country Chapter

Since its January 1999 inception, hundreds of Austin professional women have become members of the *Austin/Hill Country Chapter* of Executive Women's Golf Association (EWGA). They have developed new golf skills, shared golf experiences and gained new friends and business contacts through golf clinics, twilight leagues, weekend golf events and networking events.

The mission of EWGA is to promote and foster a spirit of acceptance, dignity and respect of career-oriented women golfers. Its goals nationally are to:

*Create opportunities for women of every skill level to network and enjoy the game of golf in a welcome environment.*

*To communicate the positive aspects of women's golf and address issues affecting career-oriented women golfers.*

*Motivate and educate women to utilize golf for personal growth and corporate advancement.*

*Dedicate our resources to nurturing young female golfers into the world of business.*

To support EWGA national goals, the *Austin/Hill Country Chapter* local goals are to:

*Give back to the community by assisting selected community programs with financial contributions and volunteer efforts.*

*Build a chapter of the LPGA - USGA Girls's Golf Club (in partnership with **The First Tee of Greater Austin**).*

*Provide a comprehensive educational program for members - from the new to experienced golfer.*

*Provide high quality golf and programs for women at all skill levels.*

*Actively work to enhance EWGA as a professional organization.*

*Support the **Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation**.*

*Support of **Live in the Game** program.*

*Support of **Rally for A Cure**.*

Visit EWGA on the Internet at [www.ewga-austin.com](http://www.ewga-austin.com), call them at (512) 707-4402, or send an email to [ewga@yahoo.com](mailto:ewga@yahoo.com)