



PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit



The PGA of America's largest educational event, the PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit inaugurated in 1988 in Dallas, Texas, as a forum for ideas and teaching methods. Since its origin, the Summit has evolved from indoor sessions (1988-2000) to an all-outdoor classroom amphitheater at the PGA Learning Center (from 2002 through 2008).

The Summit continues to be an evolving, vibrant educational experience for PGA Professionals.

In 2008, the PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit featured 350 attendees representing 11 countries. The Summit was presented by Callaway Golf, and supported by Golf Pride Grips and SkyGolf. Summit attendees followed the theme, "Leading Instructional Growth into the Future," where three days are devoted to a) Junior instruction, physical training, technology and equipment; b) Live lessons; and c) Featuring the future of training and motion technology.

The fourth consecutive Summit to be conducted at the PGA Learning Center attracted many of the game's premier teaching minds to blend their expertise both in teaching and how it may relate to building one's teaching business.

The 2008 Summit featured co-masters of ceremonies in Laird Small of Pebble Beach, Calif., the 2003 PGA Teacher of the Year, and Suzy Whaley of Farmington, Conn., a two-time Connecticut Section Teacher of the Year and who in 2003 stunned the golf world by qualifying for a PGA Tour event, shared master of ceremonies honors throughout the Summit.

Motivational speaker Dr. Rick Rigsby of Dallas, Texas, gave a powerful challenge to the attendees before giving way to PGA Director of Fitness David Donatucci and his associates from around the nation to explore the Day One theme of physical motion.

The Summit also featured the first segment devoted to "Performance Coaching Challenges," highlighted by PGA Distinguished Service Award winner Dennis Walters of Jupiter, Fla., who carved a new life's chapter after an accident 34 years ago left him a paraplegic.

The second day also included the decorated triumvirate of PGA Teachers of the Year – Bill Forrest of Scottsdale, Ariz., Jim Hardy of Houston and Martin Hall of Palm City, Fla. Together, the trio evaluated lessons each other gave to students.

The Summit's final day featured the remarkable Errie Ball,



Errie Ball (left) the last surviving member of the original 1934 Masters field, joined 2003 PGA Teacher of the Year, Laird Small during an equipment presentation at the 2008 PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit.

then a 98-year-old PGA Professional from Stuart, Fla., who is the last surviving member of the original 1934 Masters field and who continues in 2010 with a regular teaching program at Willoughby Golf Club in Stuart.

The Summit achieved its goals of providing a venue for the PGA teaching professional to improve his or her ability and enhance their value with their clients. It continues to attract many of the greatest instructional minds in the world to share their philosophies of how people learn and how they need to be coached.