



PGA Museum of Golf



A display honoring African American Golf Pioneers features video tributes to six individuals who overcame racial barriers and grew the game of golf.

In conjunction with the celebration of both The PGA of America's 95th Anniversary and PGA Village's 15th Anniversary, the PGA Historical Center was renamed the PGA Museum of Golf on Jan. 1, 2011.

The Museum was renamed to better define the purpose of the historical building, which houses a myriad of golf artifacts and remembrances that cannot be found anywhere else in the world. The PGA Museum of Golf extends The PGA's ability to preserve the history of the game and further educate golfers about the vital role played by the Association and PGA Professionals.

Located between the PGA Center for Golf Learning and Performance and the PGA Educational Center in Port St. Lucie, Fla., the Museum features the Probst Library, one of the world's premier golf collections of both periodicals and hardbound books. In addition, the PGA Museum of Golf presents memorabilia from throughout golf history, as well as displays that honor many of the Association's leading PGA Professionals and premier events.

A single-floor, 8,300-square-foot facility, the PGA Museum of Golf is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Dec. 26 through Easter Sunday. Admission is complimentary. Summer hours are Thursday-Sunday; from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Researchers may access the facility during off-hours by appointment.

Visitors to the PGA Museum of Golf will experience interactive touchscreen units that will provide them with an opportunity to learn more about the men who have held the office of PGA President; access to highlights of PGA of America spectator Championships; and profiles of notable PGA members who are the recognized Experts in the Game and Business of Golf. There are also several new displays for 2011, including:

- A PGA 95th Anniversary collage that celebrates the people who have made The PGA and the game special.
- New areas dedicated to PGA Past Presidents and PGA Honorary Members.
- 2010 Ryder Cup memorabilia from the riveting competition at The Celtic Manor Resort in Wales.
- New timeline walls that provide a dynamic visual presentation of PGA history.
- A special exhibit that showcases personal items loaned by 1958 PGA Champion Dow Finsterwald - the first PGA Champion in the Stroke-Play era.
- Golf's Grand Slam Trophies - the hardware for golf's premier competitions - the Masters, U.S. Open, British Open and PGA Championship.
- A display honoring African American Golf Pioneers that features video tributes to six individuals who overcame racial barriers and grew the game of golf.

The Probst Library includes more than 6,000 hardcover books, more than 3,000 handbooks and yearbooks; and approximately 600 volumes of bound periodicals, including every edition of PGA Magazine dating back to its origins, when it debuted as The Professional Golfer of America in 1920.

The library is named after Col. R. Otto Probst (1896-1986), an engineer from South Bend, Ind., who began collecting golf periodicals and books in the 1920s. The collection features golf books dating from the 1700s and periodicals from the 1850s on subjects such as instruction, art, biography, golf club histories, essays, equipment, fiction, history, humor, poetry, records, reference manuals, travelogues and The Rules of Golf.

Adjoining the Probst Library is a room containing rare books of golf, including the first published Scottish Acts of Parliament of 1566, which covered in retrospect the reigns of King James I through Mary Queen of Scots. Included within the manuscript is the first identifiable reference to golf. In 1457, James II prohibited his subjects from playing golf, because it prevented training in archery - vital to the defense of the Realm. The Acts were later relaxed with the Treaty of Glasgow in 1501, as King James IV had his own clubs made and began playing the game.

The PGA Museum of Golf also hosts the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame, which honors respective PGA members and significant contributors to the Association. Located on the south portico of the PGA Museum, the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame was dedicated on Sept. 8, 2005.

A new interactive museum (www.pga.com/museum) website, dedicated solely to the PGA Museum of Golf, provides images and videos from the rich history of The PGA.



The names of those inducted into the PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame are inscribed on a marble wall at the PGA Museum of Golf.