



The National Golf Foundation and the LPGA

Throughout the sixties, the seventies and into the eighties, LPGA teachers were instrumental in the National Golf Foundation's (NGF) educational programs, which had been organized and expanded under the inspired leadership of **Ellen Griffin**. Griffin had been touring the country, lecturing and giving clinics to educators who wanted to learn how to teach golf. In her third year, Griffin asked for LPGA members

Shirley Spork and **Lorraine Abbott** for assistance. Spork, Abbott, and Griffin, along with countless other LPGA and PGA members, brought golf education seminars to the nation's schools. Through these educational classes, golf coaches and teachers learned how to teach the game.

"Hand in hand with consultation visits, the schools were provided written and audiovisual materials that were kept up to date by NGF headquarters. The popular "**Golf Teaching Kit**" was a complete guide for teachers and coaches. Included in the kit were "**Golf Instructor's Guide**," (Ellen Griffin, Shirley Spork, Lorraine Abbott); "**Golf Coach's Guide**," (Mary Dagraedt, Anne Casey Johnstone, Mary Beth Nienhaus, Lorraine Abbott); "Planning and Conducting Competitive Golf Events," (Dagraedt, Sport, et. al.); "**Planning and Conducting Junior Golf Programs**" (Griffin, et. al.); "**Easy Way to Learn Golf Rules**," and "**Visual Aids for Golf Instruction**," (compiled from other publications). Audiovisuals included the much-needed "**Courtesy on the Course**," (Griffin, Abbott, Spork, et. al.)."



The year 1970 marked the first summer seminar that brought the schools to the teachers instead of NGF area consultants traveling to the schools. The Seminar for Teachers and Coaches of Golf invited physical education instructors, coaches and professionals to enroll in a five-day session held at two, and later, three, sites. The seminars offered forty hours of accredited programming and hands-on experience working with the nation's finest golf educators, including **Dr. Gary Wiren, Jim Flick, Bill Strausbaugh, Bert Yancey, Patty Berg, Peggy Kirk Bell, Ellen Griffin, Bob Toski, Paul Bertholy, Manuel de la Torres, Shirley Spork, Joanne Winter, Jim Bailey, Carol Johnson, Conrad Rehling, Mary Dagraedt, Rod Myers, DeDe Owens, Dick Gordin, Mary Beth Nienhaus** and **Barbara Smith**. **Peggy Kirk Bell's** Pine Needles Resort was a frequent venue for this "meeting of minds."

Source: The Relationship Enjoyed between the LPGA and the National Golf Foundation during the Period of 1966 thru 1976," Lorraine Abbott, *LPGA Teaching Division Register 1950-1990*.