



# Driving Their Dreams Down the Fairway

By Ersula Odom

Those in attendance for the first annual Women of Color Golf (WOCG) Soiree held on Sunday June 1 at Pebble Creek Golf and Country Club witnessed history in the making.

Clemmie Perry, President of WOCG, told her “treasure in the trash” story about traveling with her brother Ross who turned on PGA Blvd and discovered a set of golf clubs in a trash pile. Ross just couldn’t let destiny slip by. He stopped, retrieved the clubs for his sister, and instructed her that these would be her training clubs. Her other big brother Ken paid \$50 for her first golf lesson.

Clemmie credits God for leading them to those tools which led to WOCG.

WOCG beginner golf lessons are already offered in two counties. In Hillsborough, WOCG golf professional Mackenzie Mack provides lessons at Roger’s Park Golf. In Pasco the lessons are offered by WOCG golf professional Donna Pentrack at Wentworth Golf & Country Club.

The organization has already created an outreach program by

providing college scholarships to help students focus on their transition into professional life. WOCG is partnering with Hillsborough Community College to offer a golf continuing education program.

Paula Pearson Tucker, guest speaker and honoree at the June event, is a South Florida LPGA golfer and African American Golfers Hall of Famer who turned professional in 2004 by leaving a 14-year career as a Financial Services Broker.



Tucker shared that her passion for kids and golf led her to develop a million-dollar golf course for underserved kids. She has moved from mentoring young people to making golf a reality for them.

As Perry prepared to present the first ever Women of Color Golf Legacy Award to Tucker, she evoked the legacy of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, who started a school with \$1.50, five little girls and her son. WOCG was started with beat-up

clubs, five young women and Clemmie’s “adopted son” Chris. They turned an idea at a Super Bowl party into an organization, and the crew is now, as WOCG members say “Driving Our Dreams Down the Fairway.” Perry views WOCG as an opportunity for groups of people to form teams, learn the game, and play together. The ladies are looking to work with sororities, social and business groups, educational institutions, and networking organizations who want to try the sport.

For more info, contact Clemmie Perry at (813) 892-0659 or info@womenofcolorgolf.org. Learn more online at [www.womenofcolorgolf.org](http://www.womenofcolorgolf.org)

