Dow Finsterwald loves the personal challenge of every golf game he plays.

It’s what attracted him in 1945, when handling odd jobs at Athens Country Club came with the fringe benefit of free golf. It held him fast through college and during the 1950s and ’60s, when he earned 12 PGA Tour victories. It endured through his 29 years as the club professional at The Broadmoor, one of the country’s finest resorts. And it continues today as Finsterwald, 77, heads to the club several times a week to play a round of hit practice balls.

This sport that challenged him — and his ability to excel at it — will on May 29 put him in the company of the very few individuals who have been honored at The Memorial Tournament. Jack Nicklaus, who has been honored at The Memorial Tournament singles out Ohio Hall-of-Famer Dow Finsterwald, AB ’52, PGA Player of the Year in 1958, to be the captain of the 1977 team. Known for his four Ryder Cup teams and nonplaying captain of the 1957 U.S. Amateur Championship, and was a member of the Bobcat Open, a fundraiser for the University Estates golf course.

Finsterwald was a consultant — an “absolute crime,” she says. “I want to do that all the time to make sure that does not happen to the young generation of today. All children young and old should have firsthand knowledge and experience with their national parks.”

Thus, throughout her career, Hazelwood has become a lifelong career. “It was almost instantaneous for me,” recalls Hazelwood, “as a seasonal worker, she was assisting on a group winter camping outing. It was then she realized her job could become a lifelong career.

“N ot long after visiting her first national park, Gayle Hazelwood was cross-country skiing in Cuyahoga Valley National Recreation Area when she saw her future laid out before her. As a seasonal worker, she was assisting on a group winter camping outing. It was then she realized her job could become a lifelong career.

“It was almost instantaneous for me,” recalls Hazelwood, “as a seasonal worker, she was assisting on a group winter camping outing. It was then she realized her job could become a lifelong career.

Dow Finsterwald, AB ’52, PGA Player of the Year in 1958, will be honored at May’s Memorial Tournament.

For the home of Frederick Douglass, a leading abolitionist and adviser to Abraham Lincoln, is among the jewels of Gayle Hazelwood’s National Park Service district.

The historic nature of many of the properties in Gayle Hazelwood’s National Park Service district and their Washington, D.C., locations make them a good way to reach people with little exposure to national parks. It’s a responsibility she says she can’t ignore.

Keeping score

Career highlights: Finsterwald had 12 PGA Tour wins, including the 1958 PGA Championship, and was a member of four Ryder Cup teams and nonplaying captain of the 1957 U.S. Amateur Championship. Known for his consistency, he made the cut in 72 consecutive tournaments, which today puts him in fifth behind Tiger Woods, Byron Nelson, Jack Nicklaus and Hale Irwin.

Round he’s most proud of: Playing as an amateur while still in college, he shot a 61 at the 1950 St. Louis Open, breaking a record that had existed for 26 years.

His top golf tips: Maintain good balance throughout your stroke; keep a firm left arm; hold your head steady.

Athens connections: He visits his hometown a couple times a year to play in the Bobcat Open, a fundraiser for the men’s and women’s golf teams, and the O’Blenes Golf Tournament. He also is a consultant on the University Estates golf course planned west of campus.

Family: Dow and his wife, Linda Pedigo Finsterwald, AB ’51, live in Orlando, Fla., and Colorado Springs, Colo. They have four children, John, Jane, Hef and Dow Jr., and five grandchildren. His father, Russ, AB ’17, was an Ohio football and basketball player and head coach and a member of the first class named to the Athletics Hall of Fame (which Dow joined in 1969).
David Hostetler will tell you it all began with an accident. As an 18-year-old private in the U.S. Army during World War II, he suffered a leg wound during a training exercise with live ammunition at Ft. Ord, Calif. “It was the luckiest thing that ever happened to me,” the Ohio University emeritus professor of art says with a laugh, “because it put me in the hospital for six months.”

While he was recuperating, a fellow patient with an interest in art introduced him to the basics of draftsmanship. Since then, Hostetler has never harbored a doubt as to what his vocation would be. “I remember writing my father, saying, ‘I really think I’ve found it. I think I’m an artist,’” Hostetler, MFA ’49, says. “My father wrote back and said, ‘You’re probably being medicated, so we’ll talk when you get home.’”

By then, though, the Beach City, Ohio, native had made up his mind. He completed an art degree at Indiana University on the G.I. Bill in 1947 and a master’s degree at Ohio University. “And when I graduated from here, I left. Because everybody said the money was in commercial art. So I went into commercial art (in the Akron area),” he says. “And I hated it. I mean, I absolutely detested it.”

Then, a fortuitous message arrived. “I got a telegram from (then-School of Art Director) L.C. ’Pappy’ Mitchell, and he asked if I would come down to teach sculpture and ceramics for $3,000 a year. I was making $12,000 then, but I would’ve come down for $2,000. So I came, and here I am.”

During Hostetler’s nearly four-decade career as an educator, he taught many hundreds of students, some of whom, such as pop artist Jim Dine, have gone on to great careers in the art world. A walking repository of university history, Hostetler remembers the Vernon Alden presidency as particularly fruitful years for artists. “Alden was beautiful for those of us in art or music,” he says. “He and his wife had a great appreciation for art.”

It’s fitting then that the one piece of Hostetler’s sculpture that all students are familiar with stands in front of the library that bears Alden’s name. Like almost all of Hostetler’s work, “The American Woman” is a sculpture of a female form, at once willowy and totemic. Since 1989, when Hostetler and a fellow graduate made her a gift to the university, she has stood like a cory cool protectress of learning and the learned. At her base, a plaque reads, “Art is Long and Life is Brief.”

Hostetler’s artistic career has been anything but brief. His feminine figures — mostly in wood, sometimes in bronze — continue to proliferate. Now in his 80th year, he grabs his mallets and chisels every morning and sets to work, whether at his studio in Athens or his summer home in Nantucket, Mass. The home he and his wife of 22 years, Susan, own in Athens is particularly arresting. Built around an 1814 cabin, it is forward-thinking and rooted in the past, part Henry David Thoreau, part Le Corbusier. When one looks at the tall pines, oaks and elms that tower over the house and studio, it’s difficult to believe that when Hostetler bought the property back in 1955, it was treeless. But he’ll show you the pictures, and sure enough, it was all over-tilled, cattle-gnawed bareness.

Sitting in his studio (replete with a pool table, bar and decades worth of Ohio University memorabilia), Hostetler is the picture of satisfaction. “This is the dream right here,” he says. “I saw a picture of (an artist’s) studio on the cover of a ceramics magazine back in the ‘40s, and I looked at that and I said, ‘Someday.’”

“This is what I’ve always wanted to do, and I’ve got it now at age 80,” he adds. But Hostetler is not about to recline into any sort of complacency. “The spiritual side of life is so degraded in our particular time,” he says. “I figure I’m going to be (making art) till I die because it’s what keeps me sane. . . . I come in here, and I don’t know what I’m going to do that day, but I know it will have something to do with art.”

Stephen McKean, BA ’98, is a freelance writer based in Athens, Ohio.