



USTA NORTH CAROLINA

CTDW NC TENNIS AWARD WINNERS

On September 28th, NC Tennis presented Awards to some of the best and brightest stars in our Tennis Communities.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2019

Educational Merit Award Given by Buster and Karen Brown: Lou Welch, Executive Director of the Abilities Tennis Association of North Carolina

- Lou Welch, of Raleigh, has been the Executive Director of Abilities Tennis Association of NC since 2014 and has served as a member of both the USTA NC and USTA Southern Adaptive committees
- Her work with Abilities Tennis provides tennis opportunities to athletes with intellectual disabilities. They train of volunteers and coaches, host events, fund raise and so much more.
- Under Lou's leadership, ATA has expanded its reach throughout the state, providing more clinics and tournaments each year.

- Though not limited to juniors, the work Lou does impacts the lives of so many kids, introducing them to our sport and providing a pathway for them to pursue it fully.
- The passion Lou has is unrivaled and it shows through in everything she does.
- Todd Wilson came to the game of tennis just a few years ago through the Try Tennis. He quickly began playing in USTA leagues and actively recruited friends, neighbors and co-workers to take part in Try Tennis too. He captains teams each season and happily adds new players to his roster. He helps to create new teams at his local club and shares his enthusiasm and welcoming spirit to keep new players encouraged. Todd now serves as a volunteer member of the GRETA Board of Directors chairing Adult Leagues and Tournaments.

Outstanding Parks & Recreation Department of the Year Given by Metaltek:

Reidsville Parks & Recreation Department

- Parks and recreation departments often find many competing sports and interests when it comes to offering events and the use of their facilities. The city of Reidsville has a rich history of tennis however, that has fallen off. The Parks & Recreation department of Reidsville, though, is helping to revitalize that legacy. They have improved their facilities, offered more programming and been a proud partner of the Rockingham County Tennis Association
- Reidsville P&R owns and maintains the largest tennis facility in the county, Jaycee Park. Through USTA Facilities Assistance, they have resurfaced and maintained these courts for high school team practice and community use.
- For the first time this summer, Reidsville YMCA offered a 3-day tennis camp as part of their sports camp schedule. This camp, attended by 15 young players from ages 6-15.
- In collaboration with RCTA, they have worked to bring new players to the sport by hosting Try Tennis, Net Generation events, and NJTL summer camps.
- Their department is committed not only to providing access to quality programs, but also to quality facilities.
- Chuck Moore gives many hours of his time each week promoting new USTA membership, organizing both clinics and informal group play, and managing the dynamic scheduling needs of multiple leagues. He took on a champion role to create new teams and welcome new players at Pinetop (*where both men are members).
- Because of their joint efforts, Pinetop had an 18 & over 5.5 combo team for the first time in many, many years. They exemplify teamworking, encouraging play at all levels and connecting people. They share their passion for the game and are great ambassadors for the game.

Jr. Team Tennis Local League Coordinator of the Year:

Cheri Kohan

The JTT Local League Coordinator is recognized for more than just coordinating junior team tennis leagues. The coordinator embodies the sport and creates a positive impact for children who play.

- Cheri runs the Raleigh JTT, the largest league in the state with over 1500 participants each year.
- She is recognized for being fair and consistent, organized, helping with registration, scheduling, and rules and conflict resolution when needed.
- Cheri took initiative to run the first stand-alone championship track tournament for the 18u division in Raleigh where teams advanced to the Sectional Tournament.

League Volunteer Service Award Given by Omega Sports:

Todd Wilson and Chuck Moore

The League Volunteer Service Award is presented to individuals who make generous contributions of time, leadership and energy to the USTA League Tennis program. This year, we recognize two volunteers who give countless hours to make a difference.

USTA League Tennis Local League Coordinator of the Year:

Iris Ham

- The USTA League Tennis Local League Coordinator is so integral to the success of the league tennis here in North Carolina. Today we honor a coordinator who has probably seen and dealt with just about every league situation imaginable.
- Iris Ham has been a Local League Coordinator for 26 years and the Adult LLC for Lake Norman for 21 of those, where she has overseen USTA League Adult, USTA League Mixed Doubles and Southern Combo Doubles.
- At the end of 2018, she was asked to take on four additional leagues – Racquets and Jackets, USTA Summer Singles, Tri-Level and Fall Singles and she did so without hesitation. On top of that, she organized Try League, part of the Try Tennis Pathway, giving 20 brand new players and an easy, stress-free introduction to league play.
- Under her leadership, Lake Norman continues to see league growth, with the biggest growth coming in Tri-Level, increasing by almost 50%.
- She has established strong relationships and a good reputation with both public and private facilities; as a result, Iris has earned priority status when it comes to scheduling courts. She works diligently to find teams for interested players. This Spring, she found teams for 42 people.

USTA League Captain of the Year:

Aulia "Lia" Tandradinata

The USTA League Captain of the Year award recognizes a nominee that has a positive, encouraging attitude and displays sportsmanship, leadership and organization to help their team practice and play.

- Lia picked up her first tennis racket in 2018, as a participant in Try Tennis and quickly joined her first beginner's team. Before long, she was volunteering to captain two 2.5 teams - leading both to State Championships and took led one of them to Sectionals.

- Lia's loyal teammates describe her as "enthusiastic, kind, fair, knowledgeable and welcoming," mentoring new players. She consistently displays exemplary sportsmanship and is always a willing volunteer.
- She makes sure her teammates are well matched and get equal play time, encourages bonding and networking with other teams.

Member Organization of the Year:

Rockingham County Schools

A member organization provides outstanding service to the local community, partnering with USTA NC and promoting the game of tennis. This year, for the first time, the winning organization is a school system – one that is bringing tennis back into focus.

- In collaboration with Rockingham County Tennis Association, RCS offers after school Kids Tennis Clubs to 12 elementary schools, 4 middle and 1 high school. Each school received Net Generation community packs and access to Net Gen curriculum.
- The school system has hosted two PE tennis training sessions for all level PE tennis teachers
- With USTA Facility Assistance Grants, the system has painted courts on blacktop playgrounds at 8 elementary schools, one middle and one Head Start location for a total of 40 red ball family courts across the county.
- RCS partners with Rockingham Community College and Reidsville Parks & Recreation to share facilities for school practice and tournaments. They are currently pursuing a new 6-court facility to serve the western part of the county.

Adaptive Tennis Award:

Rod Spence & Gary Workman

The adaptive tennis award recognizes those who demonstrate a sustained commitment to enhancing and growing adaptive tennis.

-

- Rod Spence and Gary Workman have been players with the adaptive tennis program through Atrium Health-Carolinas Rehabilitation Adaptive Sport and Adventures Program in Charlotte for as long as it has existed. The year-round weekly adaptive tennis program's mission is to expose individuals with all levels of physical disability to the sport of tennis.
- Rod and Gary acted as role models to all players, especially those newly injured and new to tennis. Through decades of play, they became expert players and advisors to the wheelchair community and beyond.
- These two men are a big part of the reason the adaptive clinics are like family. Rod and Gary would even go out to high school tennis matches to show support for the kids who volunteered for the program.
- Rod continues to play weekly and dominate most opponents that are decades younger than him. He has volunteered at Special Olympics for years and helps young tennis players improve his or her skills and find love for the sport.
- Gary travelled the state by attending wheelchair clinics wherever they were held. He had the ability to make everyone around him feel welcome, not matter ability or disability. He was a joy to be around.
- Their love of tennis and of life are infectious. They are an example of how an injury doesn't have to change the vigor in which you attack life.
- Unfortunately, Gary passed away earlier this year. His presence is missed by many, but his spirit lives on. Gary's wife, Becky, still attends the weekly clinic to encourage the athletes. The annual "Gary and Becky Workman Sponsorship" Grant has been dedicated in their name to provide an annual gift to eligible athletes to advance his or her level of play.

USTA NC Diversity Outreach & Inclusion

Award:

William Brown

- This award is presented to the individual or organization who demonstrates sustained commitment to diversity and inclusion on and off the court
- Coach William Brown, has been doing just that for over 30 years – at Sugaw Creek Park, as coach of Harding High School tennis teams, and as manager of the Tuckaseegee Park Tennis Facility. He is a mainstay within the African American community in Charlotte, and has had an impact on the lives of countless youth.
- Coach Brown creates an inclusive environment for all kids, sharing his love of tennis with whoever wants to learn.
- When you are in his program, you not only learn to be a tennis player, you also learn respect, how to be kind to others and that ALL things are possible if you are willing to put in the work.
- Those lessons have paid dividends for his kids, as many of them gone on to play tennis in college and be leaders in their communities. Many are first generation college students going on tennis scholarships.

Community Tennis Association of the Year:

Abilities Tennis Association of NC

The Community Tennis Association (CTA) of the Year Award is one who exemplifies our mission, "to Promote and Develop the game of Tennis in North Carolina" As you all know, this can take many shapes and happen in many ways.

- Abilities Tennis Association of North Carolina (ATANC) began in 2007 when a small group of parents and a coach united to provide regular tennis opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities.
- In 2012, ATANC received 501(c)(3) status and became a statewide USTA Community Tennis Association launching the organization to the next level.

- This year ATANC hosted 18 clinics, 6 tournaments and hosted coach and volunteer training throughout NC.
- The program was chosen through Net Generation to attend the US Open and participate in an on-court demonstration on Arthur Ashe Stadium. Their athletes took court on August 28th before the night match.
- ATANC is the first adaptive program to do the on-court demo before a night match on Arthur Ashe.
- This opportunity has brought tremendous energy and excitement to the program. Abilities Athletes worked incredibly hard practicing and preparing for their time to shine at the US Open.