

You can refer to us as the 'Hydroponics State'

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- The Oct. 2 monsoon drenched 120 female golfers in the Ponte Vedra Women's Golf Association's first-ever Pink Ribbon Golf Classic at the Ponte Vedra Inn & Club. Many members of the stalwart group got in a few holes. Nothing stops women on a mission, and their mission was to raise money to support breast cancer research at Mayo Clinic Jacksonville. They dried off, donned pretty pink outfits and headed for a festive lunch at the club, where masses of pink balloons decorated tables. Even WJXT TV-4 weekend meteorologist Rebecca Barry, a luncheon guest, couldn't forestall the torrential downpour.

Duffy Kopriva and Helene Gorab co-chaired the classic, which featured an informative talk by breast cancer survivor Kristie Naines. She asked everyone to stand if they had a family member or friend with breast cancer, and most of the luncheon guests got to their feet. Breast cancer is the leading cause of death in women ages 15 to 40, and 90 percent of women who have had the disease diagnosed have no family history of it, Naines said. Then she asked everyone to recite four points: "It's not just a mature lady's disease; research saves lives; I can make a difference; and early detection is the key."

It's important to maintain a sense of humor, she said, adding a tongue-in-cheek list of benefits of the disease. From their laughter, the women's favorite benefit was "you get to try all kinds of shapes and sizes of breasts, and the men in your life want you to go as big as possible."

On that segue, Ponte Vedra Beach plastic surgeon Paul Scioscia gave an informative talk about options for breast reconstruction. Brady and Kathy Rackley were title sponsors of the event and other top sponsors were the PGA Tour and the Inn & Club. Kopriva announced that the event surpassed its goal to raise \$20,000 by raising more than \$33,000.

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