

## BRENDA POWELL: A “JILL-OF-ALL-TRADES”

The term "expert" refers to a person who is highly skilled in a particular field of endeavor. As was mentioned in an earlier issue of the SpareTalk newsletters, experience is an integral part of being an expert. But usually, when an individual has earned such a reputation, it often involves one particular talent. But in the case of the Monday Morning Seniors' Brenda Powell, she is a lady who carries a wealth of know-how in a wide variety of abilities that are traditionally reserved for the male population of hands-on laborers.

Brenda is a resident of Emmitsburg, Maryland in a location that is right on the border of Taneytown. She and her husband, Wayne, have been married for 47 happy years, and they live in a home on 1-1/3 acres of land, loaded with an impressive array of add-ons and landscaping. A great number of the "extras" that adorn the Powell home were constructed by Brenda, whose background in building is almost limitless, including the blue collar skills of electrical work, plumbing, masonry/concrete, carpentry, tile

work, and shed building, just to name a few.

Brenda was born in Takoma Park, Maryland, and grew up in the Hillandale area of Silver Spring. She refers to herself as having been more of a 'tomboy' in the early going, and picked up a lot of her building skills from her grandfather, who was not only a most proficient carpenter, but on a side note, he also helped start the Silver Spring Fire Department.

Powell's father worked professionally in Washington, DC on the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board. Her mother served closer to home for the local Auxiliary Fire Department.

In 1969, Brenda worked for Erie Insurance as a file clerk and would later move up the ladder to that of an adjuster. It was in 1975 when she and Wayne 'tied the knot'. Their bonding was ironic, given the fact that Brenda's family was involved with the volunteer fire department, and her husband was employed by the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg. Brenda remained with "Erie" until 1977 when the Powells'



*Brenda Powell*

first of two children came along. In 1979, Brenda and Wayne moved to what is now their permanent home in Emmitsburg.

Although she did leave Erie Insurance to raise a family, Brenda did do volunteer work for the local school system, when she had the time.

Brenda has basically spent her whole life working and building things, and really hasn't had time for hobbies. The Powells did take time out, however, to visit Hawaii for Brenda's 50th birthday. Among her other skills that are more of a



*A partial view of the Powells' back yard*

sedentary, in-home nature, this Renaissance Lady has done a great deal of crocheting, knitting, sewing, and crafting. Brenda also did work with "tole painting" for business craft fairs. (Just as a FYI, tole painting is a type of decorative artistry upon utensils, furniture, and other objects around the home – for example, coffee pots, jewelry boxes, or something similar).

In regard to the larger scale additions for their house, Brenda built a huge deck outside their home, which doubles as a pool in the warmer



*A massive deck with a pool, built by Brenda*



*More 'dressing' for the gardens*

weather. She also erected a brick wall as part of an addition at the back end of the house, which is imperceptible if you were to try to determine if it's part of the home's original construction.

The backyard is a sight to see up close, as well, with a beautiful series of pathways in and around the gardens. There is a parade of solar lights that flank the different floral and vegetable gardens, of which Brenda has a special fondness. She loves the abundance of lights that line the landscape, and I suspect the night view is nothing short of spectacular, to say the least.

Brenda became a member of her garden club in 2013, and was elevated to the position of President

during the years of 2017-2019.

Regarding her bowling career, Powell began rolling when she was 14 years old, during trips with her mom and dad to the Silver Spring Bowling Center on Bonifant street. She laid off from the game for a while, but was able to resume bowling on a more constant basis in 2005 at the Mt. Airy Bowling Center. In 2009, Brenda ventured to Thunderhead Bowl and Grill in Taneytown, and it was at this time that she became Treasurer of the Monday Morning Seniors league – a job that she still holds today. Brenda's high game is 166, and she's equaled this score on two other separate occasions.

## WELLER LASSOES THUNDERHEAD'S HIGH GAME OF THE YEAR

This past Thursday night in the Taneytown Doubles League, our own Jack Weller of the Monday Morning Seniors league captured the house high game for duckpins at Thunderhead Bowl and Grill with a devastating 196 effort.

Weller came out the gate firing in Game 1 of the league's final night of bowling for the season. After pitching a double-header in the 8<sup>th</sup> and

9<sup>th</sup> frames, Jack needed one more strike in the 10<sup>th</sup> frame to be in the driver's seat for a monumental 200 effort.

Weller was up to the task as he planted a strong first ball in the pocket, but left a solid 5 pin. Undaunted, Jack nailed the spare and then struck behind it to corral the highlight game of the season.

## A LITTLE LEVITY

MOTHER: The best time to take a bath is just before retiring.

JOHNNY: No wonder Grandpa didn't retire until he was sixty-five!





## FLASHBACK: “STRIKING” A BLOW FOR THE SENIORS

I recently had the occasion to review an ESPN telecast of one of the most incredible bowling performances I've seen for tenpins on the Professional Bowlers Association. John Handegard, a member of the Senior Tenpin Tour, was 57 years of age at the time of the 1995 tournament, and was one of the five finalists in the up-the-ladder, head-to-head competition. What he accomplished on that day was truly remarkable, despite the fact that he was a 10-time PBA50 (Senior Tour) champion. Handegard had never won a stop on the national tour, but those who followed his progress with the elder sect would have realized that he was a force with which to be reckoned.

Handegard's work to get into the final five was amazing. In the last game of competition on the day before the finals, he rolled a 269 game (striking on his last ball) to knock bowling legend, Walter Ray Williams, out of that 5<sup>th</sup> finalist spot by 1 pin. (John actually rolled another big game of 257 just before the 269).

In the opening match of the stepladder, Handegard faced off against PBA Hall of Famer, Mike Aulby, and won in a 215-205 effort. Then he faced Norm Duke. Unlike Aulby, Duke opted for Handegard to bowl first in the match, and thus be the last to finish. When the 10th frame rolled around, John needed to strike on his first ball to add onto his 9th frame strike, and he did just that,



*John Handegard*

ultimately winning 239 to 225.

John then challenged the 2nd seed, Bryan Goebel, who also chose to let Handegard finish last. Goebel started the game with 6 strikes in a row, but Handegard hung tough, although trailing by about 30 pins after the 6-bagger. Bryan couldn't shake the senior, and ended up leaving a split at a key moment. Handegard then strung strikes of his own to take the lead. By the end of the game, John needed a mark in the 10th frame to win. He left a 7-pin, but made the spare. Needing 9 to win, Handegard tossed a strike to attain a 237-235 victory.

Then in the championship, the tournament leader Mark Williams also chose to let Handegard finish last. Williams opened with a 4-bagger, and was strong throughout the early to late middle of the match. But after Handegard started the game with a strike and spare, the super senior began his onslaught of strikes. By the 7th frame, Handegard caught up with Williams. In the 8th frame, Williams left the 4-6-7 split, but then converted the spare, which would

normally have been a huge momentum swing. But Handegard continued striking. Williams finished with a triple in the 9th, 10th, and 11th frames, to ultimately roll a 247 game. Even with John's seven consecutive strikes, he then needed a mark in the 10th to win the championship. Handegard stayed true and struck twice more and then counted 8 on his final ball to win the title, 278-247.

The win was historic, as John became the oldest player to ever win a title on the PBA tour.

One occurrence that was also astonishing was that Handegard's first three opponents had all won tours surrounding John's win – Aulby won in the event preceding the telecast, and Duke and Goebel won titles in the two weeks that followed.

For me, this broadcast was extremely entertaining, not just because of the heroic effort of Handegard, but viewers were also treated to a magnificent announcing team of Mike Durbin and Earl Anthony, both of whom really made the event special.



*A nice side view of John Handegard, who prior to the telecast stated that his goal in bowling was to achieve the perfect armswing. He looks pretty solid here.*

## TANEYTOWN TRIPLES LEAGUE UPDATE

The “T3 League” is projected to host a maximum of 10 teams. After officially announcing the league on my SpareTalk Social and associated

Facebook accounts, we're floating right around 6 to 8 teams right now, and potentially others to follow in the next few months.