



# VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH

*Nominated by Kathy Carr, Director of Player Development*

**Our May 2021 Volunteers of the Month are Mary Payne and Jan Baldwin.** These two Texas gems are recognized for their contributions to both the Club's Beginner's Mentoring and Novice Supervised Play Programs. As instructors they teach pickleball fundamentals through a series of drills and guided player performance in a game environment. As coaches for Novice Play, they conduct warm up drills, evaluate player performance, and provide guidance to reinforce the players' understanding of the rules, scoring, and court positioning. As if that weren't enough, Mary and Jan routinely give of their time to run 8-week drill sessions for higher-level beginners wishing to improve their skills. The Club is most fortunate to benefit from Mary and Jan's extensive educational and tournament-level experiences.



## Mary Payne - May 2021

I was born and raised in San Marcos, Texas. My husband, Stan, and I retired from the high-tech industry in Austin.

In 2004, looking for a home where we could continue an active lifestyle, we moved to Sun City.

I played tennis weekly when, in 2008, I discovered pickleball. "What a funny name!" I thought. At that time, the Pickleball Club was offering a demonstration and an introduction class, so we took a chance to find out more about this silly sounding game. It looked like fun and something we could do together. The game was addictive, and we've both been playing ever since!

After playing regularly for a couple years, I found out about tournaments and jumped in with both feet! My first tournament was at Texas State Senior Games in 2014, where my partner and I won a silver medal in ladies doubles. I was hooked! I have been participating regularly in tournaments ever since.

I enjoy the game so much and wanted to help others learn about the sport. I organized a regularly scheduled mentoring and instruction program for beginner level players in the club. That program is still being provided every week, at a much higher level... thanks to Kathy Carr and her team of volunteers.



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## Jan Baldwin - May 2021



I grew up in Austin and started playing tennis in high school at age 15. I majored in Physical Education at UT - Austin and then taught and coached tennis in the Austin Public Schools (high school) for 3 years. I was the tennis pro at the Austin Courtyard Tennis and Swim Club for 8 years before moving to College Station to complete my master's degree.

As a graduate assistant at Texas A&M, I taught beginning, intermediate and advanced tennis in the Physical Education Activity Program. After graduation, I was offered a full-time position in the Department of Health and Kinesiology, teaching tennis, Major's classes, and supervising student teachers. By the end of the 15 years (1980 - 1994), I had achieved the position of Associate Chair of the Physical Education Activity Program at TAMU. It was during this time that I first played pickleball as an intramural sport.

From 1994 - 2015, I served as Director of Physical Education and Facility Manager at Texas A&M University at Galveston. I introduced pickleball to the students as a "rainy day activity" for the tennis classes... and then as actual pickleball classes. After retiring from the Director position, I returned to the main campus... to teach "a little."

I persuaded Frank Thomas, my friend and 1981 Pickleball partner and Director of the Physical Education Activity Program at TAMU, to include pickleball in the class offerings in the Physical Education Activity Program. It was a total success.

I moved to Sun City in 2019, where I continue to play/love pickleball and have the opportunity to continue to teach/coach this GREAT game. To my wonderful friends, Stan and Mary Payne... As I told ya'll, some 15 years ago... I will get to Sun City... and I did!!!

**You are the artist of your own life.  
Don't hand the paintbrush to anyone else.**