

2010 Adult Service Awards

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Don Cleveland of Delray Beach
"My Cup Runneth Over"

[WATCH THE VIDEO BIO INTRODUCTION](#)

Over the course of his life, Don Cleveland has been gifted with many things, including a loving and supportive family that is as zealous about tennis as he is.

Don, who has been making a mark in the tennis community for almost 25 years, has been a longtime supporter of tennis on the national and sectional level. His efforts have been recognized with numerous honors, including the 2007 USTA National Tennis Family of the Year Award, the 1993 and 2007 USTA Florida Tennis Family of the Year Award, the 2004 Father/Son Trabert/Talbert National Sportsmanship Award, and the 2002 USTA Florida Merit Award.

Don first became involved as a sectional volunteer when his son, Casey, took up tennis at the age of eight. In the ensuing years, he has lent his time and talents to an array of USTA Florida councils and committees, starting with his role as a junior tournament monitor and assistant district director. He also has served as District 6 director and as chairman of committees such as Adult Rankings and Adult Sanctions and Scheduling. In addition to serving as a member of the section's Grievance Committee, he spent two years volunteering as national chair of the Men's 55 Ranking Committee and serving on the USTA Florida Executive Board in the positions of treasurer, president elect, and president.

"The love of tennis and strong family values seem to go hand in hand with all of the relationships I have developed with fellow volunteers and staff," Don explained. "I am honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award and find it extremely rewarding to be able to share my passion for tennis with family and friends."



MALE MERIT AWARD

Gary Heatwole of Ormond Beach
"Making Up for Lost Time"

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In tennis terms, Gary Heatwole is a late bloomer who has spent the past three-plus decades making up for lost time. After taking up the game at the relatively advanced age of 25, Gary quickly developed a deep and abiding love for tennis, which led to him pursuing both a teaching and umpiring career.

His passion for the game led him to accept a job with the City of Ormond Beach, where he remained for over 32 years, becoming coordinator of tennis at the Ormond Beach Tennis Center in April 1980. In 1984, he began volunteering his time to USTA Florida, working as a verifier for regional, sectional, and national tournaments and eventually becoming head section verifier. As the years passed, Gary was appointed to the USTA NTRP Committee and the USTA Florida League Committee and assisted as a section tournament director and an NTRP observer at various national tournaments.

Getting involved in tennis has been a source of true fulfillment for Gary Heatwole, which is why receiving the 2010 USTA Florida Male Merit Award serves as the proverbial icing on the cake.



FEMALE MERIT AWARD

Linda Kleitch of Naples

"Cockeyed Optimist"

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Getting results is something that's been a hallmark of Linda Kleitch's USTA Florida volunteer career for more than 25 years. Whether it's been starting a wheelchair tennis program in Fort Myers in 1984 and growing it from 1 to 21 participants in a single year, or expanding the growth of various USTA leagues in Naples, Linda confronts each challenge with unflagging optimism.

Even the challenge of dealing with the protracted global economic downturn hasn't dimmed her enthusiasm, which was evidenced in 2009 when she increased league participation by over 20 percent. Over the years, she has served as a local league coordinator, been a member of the USTA Florida Leagues Council, acted as tournament director of the USTA Florida Super Senior Sectionals, and implemented the 10-and-under QuickStart play format as a pilot program in the county parks with the intent of incorporating QuickStart into all Collier County parks.

"I can only say that I do not do anything I do to achieve awards; I do what I do because I can and am totally committed to the USTA Florida organization," Linda explained. "I live in my little world with an emphasis on being the best person I can be and helping others."



TENNIS FAMILY OF THE YEAR

The Karin and Scott DeCoste Family of Stuart

"Playing Together...Staying Together"

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After relocating from Canada to Florida 15 years ago, Karin and Scott DeCoste worked on getting their visas before settling down in Stuart and attaining jobs at the North River Shores Tennis Club, where they have remained for the past 13 years. Karin, who runs the facility, plays on several of the USTA and ladies' teams, while Scott spends numerous hours working as a teaching pro and maintaining the facility.

They are also the proud parents of 8-year-old Myles, 10-year-old Emma, and 12-year-old Colter, all of whom possess a huge love for the game and spend countless hours hanging out at their second home -- the North River Shores Tennis Club. All three children currently compete at the state level and are beginning to showcase their talents on the national and international tennis scene.



What truly instigated their children's interest in the game was Jr. Team Tennis, which mom Karin introduced them to after forming several teams at North River Shores. Because of their affinity for the game, Karin and Scott became coaches and captains and are now local league coordinators. They also raise money for the Hibiscus Children's Center by coordinating a yearly mixed doubles and pro-am charity event that helps raise over \$30,000 annually. The DeCoste family is living proof that the "family that plays together stays together."

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Carol Clay of Fort Lauderdale

"Gratitude Is the Best Attitude"

[WATCH THE VIDEO BIO INTRODUCTION](#)

Over the years, Carol Clay has been involved with the adult and senior tennis scene at the local, sectional, and national level, both as a player and a volunteer. As an on-court competitor, Carol earned the USTA Florida No. 1 ranking in four separate years and received the section's Female Player of the Year Award in 1994 and 2004.

But her accomplishments on the committee level are equally as noteworthy. In addition to serving as a member of the USTA Florida Sanctions and Scheduling Committee and Ranking Committee, she has volunteered her time to the Adult Competitive Committee and organized the women's national intersectional teams, which involves tasks such as selecting captains and players and distributing stipends. Carol, who is a past board member of the National Senior Women's Tennis Association, also is a member of the USTA Adult/Senior Competition Committee, chairs the Women's Circuit Subcommittee, was a national ranker for several years, and currently serves as the seeding assistant for the national Women's 70 division.

On the local level, she has helped coordinate the Men's 45 Clay Courts, the Men's and Women's 30 Clay Courts, and the Checket Cup, in addition to volunteering as a member of the Fort Lauderdale Tennis Club Tennis Committee.

