

2016 Tri Club Awards

Male Grand Master - TJ Devlieger: TJ had a successful racing year, beginning with the Florida Challenge Sprint triathlon where he won his age group. TJ was 2nd in his age group at Red Hills Triathlon and Crystal River, 7th at Chattanooga Waterfront, followed by an age group 1st at Freedom Springs. He then travelled to Milwaukee for USAT Olympic Distance Nationals, finishing with a 2:29. TJ returned to Florida and picked up a 1st place Masters at the Beach Blast Olympic #2 completing his 2016 season.

Male Master - Matt Rowan: Matt began 2016 at Red Hills placing 3rd in his age group. One month later, Matt travelled to Panama City, competing at Gulf Coast 70.3, finishing 6th in his age group. Matt had an age group 2nd at Freedom Springs and Georgia Veterans, followed by a 5:18 finish at IM 70.3 Augusta.

Male Most improved - Nathan Rhodes: Nathan made the decision to do an Ironman this year, despite the fact that his wife made the same choice. Now, realize, Nathan and Melanie have 2 very active children and Nathan works full time as an Audiologist. Nathan stepped it up this year starting with Red Hills where he placed in his age group. He then completed the Chattanooga Waterfront, followed by an age group second at Freedom Springs. Nathan completed his year with a 13:30 at the big show, Ironman Chattanooga. (He and Melanie are still living Happily ever after :))

Male Rookie of the Year - Peter Kaus: You sure wouldn't know he is a rookie based on his ability and performance. With a running background, Peter is new to triathlon, but certainly picked it up quickly. He won his age group at Red Hills and Jacksonville Sprint. Peter was 3rd overall at the Cocoa Village Sprint, then snuck off to Virginia to place 7th overall/Age group 2nd at the Monticello-man 70.3. Peter won the entire race at Chattahoochee Challenge and took an age group win at Freedom Springs. With Tri season

over, Peter headed to NY and ran a little marathon in November at a time of 3:13! Impressive first year!

Female Master - Angie Milford: Angie, the mother of 3 remarkable young athletes, is no slouch. Angie is a 2nd year USAT All-American, a gold level Ironman All World Athlete, ranking 10th nationally and 16th in the world in her age group. Angie's 2016 actually began at the end of 2015 when she qualified for the ITU World Championships. Angie warmed up 2016 at IM Florida 70.3, qualifying for the Ironman 70.3 World Championships. Angie then placed 6th in her Age Group at IM Chattanooga 70.3 in May. She then traveled to Australia for the IM 70.3 World Championships. In November, she finished her year at Miami Man 70.3, USAT Long Course Nationals with a 3rd place Age Group finish, qualifying again for ITU Long Course World Championships. Angie volunteers at Maclay School, helping Gary Droze with the cross country and track teams. She runs the after-school running program for 50 of the elementary kids. This past spring, Angie worked with a dozen youth to participate in local AAU track meets, ranging from shot put to running events! This fall Angie worked with Gulf Winds Track Club to start a weekly running group for youth in the area. This group took 30 kids to participate in the AAU Cross Country Nationals at the ARP in December.

Female Grand Master - Bonnie Wright: Bonnie stepped up her game in 2016 after a successful year in 2015. Bonnie began 2016 with an age group win at Red Hills, followed by the Jacksonville Olympic where she placed 2nd. Bonnie also won her age group at the Chattahoochee Challenge. She then headed to Milwaukee and competed in both the sprint and olympic at the USAT Age Group Nationals. Bonnie is a regular volunteer at local events when she isn't participating.

Female Most Improved - Joanne Maltese: Joanne entered this sport as an older athlete, a grand master athlete actually. She started out afraid to put her face in the water, but so willing to improve that she learned how to swim, and literally dove head first into triathlon. This year Joanne, a mother

of 3 who works full-time, completed her first 70.3 and went on to complete Ironman Chattanooga.

Female Rookie of the Year - Jocelyn Chan: Jocelyn started 2016 placing 2nd in her age group at the Florida Challenge Sprint, followed by an age group 3rd at Red Hills. After competing at Crystal River, she placed 2nd at the Jacksonville Olympic and 2nd at the Chattahoochee Challenge. She won her age group at Freedom Springs and then ended her season with an age group 2nd at Georgia Veterans. Not too shabby for a Rookie Triathlete!

Youth Award - Bryce Bass: Bryce is a 14 year old triathlete who participated in all three YTS Races and finished 1st in his Age Group. Additionally, Bryce competed at Red Hills Triathlon, an adult event with a challenging course. Bryce placed 2nd in the 15-19 age group at Red Hills. Bryce competed at the Heartland Triathlon, another adult event and then concluded his year with a second place age group finish, 20th overall at Captain Hiram's River Challenge Triathlon.

Service Award - Keith Rowe: Keith ...always a smiling happy face to see at every event. Keith could be found at any event this year that had a Gulf Winds Triathlete presence. As if getting his own gear packed and to an event without forgetting something wasn't a task, Keith made it his mission to let everyone know where the Gulf Winds Triathletes could be found by bringing the Gulf Winds tent. Did it stop there? No. Keith made sure there were refreshments to be had as well. The list includes Florida Challenge Sprint, where he placed 2nd Clydesdale, Red Hills - 1st, followed by Gulf Coast Sprint, Crystal River, Jacksonville Olympic, Freedom Springs, Chattahoochee Challenge and Georgia Veteran's where he placed 2nd Clydesdale, and ending his season with the IM Augusta 70.3.