MIDDLE ATLANTIC SECTION

2025 Middle Atlantic PGA (MAPGA) Special Awards Recipients

- **PGA Golf Professional of the Year**



Lynne Hunter, PGA, Director of Golf at Kenwood Golf & Country Club in Bethesda, Md., is the 2025 **MAPGA Golf Professional Of The Year**. This is the highest annual honor paid to an MAPGA Professional, and it is based on overall performance, level of service to the MAPGA, leadership ability, promotion of the game of golf, image as a PGA Professional and ability to inspire fellow professionals, among other criteria.

A resident of Laurel, Md., Hunter recently completed her term as the MAPGA's 51st President, and the first female President in the Section's 100-year history. A PGA of America Member since 2007, she is a graduate of James Madison University, where she earned a BS in Business Administration. Her first golf related job was an intern in the accounting department at TPC Avenel, in Potomac, MD. In 1997, she became a golf professional and joined the staff at Kenwood Country Club, eventually earning the position of Head Professional in 2012. A dual member of the PGA and LPGA, Hunter has earned numerous awards and accomplishments, including the 2021 LPGA National Professional of the Year, 2010, 2017 and 2021 LPGA Northeast Section Golf Professional of the Year; was named a U.S. Kids Top 50 Junior Golf Instructor in 2008, 2010 and 2011; 2006 Kenwood Golf and Country Club Jack Weber Award Winner; and the Titleist Performance Institute certified golf fitness instructor status.

As a MAPGA Member, Hunter has made significant contributions mentoring fellow PGA Professionals, especially in the area of employment and club relations. For her never-ending dedication to her fellow PGA members and LPGA members, and unwavering commitment to her community, she was awarded the MAPGA's prestigious Bill Strausbaugh Award in 2019.

- **PGA Teacher & Coach of the Year**



John Scott Rattan, PGA, the Director of Instruction at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., is the 2025 MA**PGA Teacher & Coach Of The Year**, which is presented for excellence in golf instruction along with overall performance as a PGA Professional. It recognizes an individual's impact on teaching and golf instruction, involvement in junior golf activities, innovative contributions to golf instruction and articles published, among other criteria.

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A resident of Rockville, Md, who has been a PGA of America Member since 2018, Rattan played golf collegiately at the University of Tennessee and before playing professional golf for 4 seasons, Rattan began teaching golf full time in 2009. In 2013, he joined the staff at Bethesda Country Club. In 2017, he joined the team at Congressional Country Club as a teaching professional where he is currently the Director of Instruction.

Rattan's experience and knowledge of what it takes to compete at high levels, coupled with his ability to create positive relationships with his students has attracted top junior, amateur and professional golfers to work with him. By using a holistic approach which utilizes the latest technology and research to help his students, he formulates a game plan and practice program to help them achieve their goals.

Since 2015, he has been recognized in Golf Digest as a "Best Teacher in State" in Maryland, as well as a "Best Young Teacher". In 2020, John Scott was named the Middle Atlantic PGA Section Teacher of the Year. In 2021, Golf Magazine recognized him as a "Rising Star", and in 2024, he was named a Top 100 Teacher in America by Golf Magazine. Throughout his career, Rattan has received numerous awards and accolades, which includes the 2022 MAPGA Professional Development Award and the 2020 MAPGA Teacher Of The Year Award.

- **Bill Strausbaugh Award**



Adam N. Hemeon, PGA, a resident of Bethesda, Md., and the Director of Golf at the Chevy Chase Club in Chevy Chase, Md., is the recipient of the Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) Bill Strausbaugh Award, which is presented to a PGA Professional for outstanding involvement in charitable and community activities; untiring and distinguished service mentoring fellow PGA Professionals, especially in the area of employment and club relations, and integrity and character reflecting positivity upon the profession. These criteria reflect the characteristics and qualities that the late Bill Strausbaugh possessed during his lifetime as a PGA Professional and his service to MAPGA and his community.

A PGA of America Member since 2000, Hemeon is a decorated PGA Member with extensive leadership experience. He is a Board Member- First Tee of Greater Washington DC, a Taylor Made Golf Company- Presidential Advisory Board Member, a Sun Day Red - Inaugural Advisory Board Member, a past member of the New England PGA- Co-Chair of Employment & Club Relations Committee, a Past President of the NEPGA Assistant Professional Association and a Past Member PGA of America President's Council. On the awards front, Hemeon was the 2024 Mid Atlantic PGA- Central Chapter Professional of the Year, the 2022 First Tee of Greater Washington-"Spirit Award"Recipient, the 2018 NEPGA Bill Straughsbaugh Award Winner and the 2014 NEPGA Merchandiser of the Year.

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- **PGA Professional Development Award**



Andy Weissinger, PGA, a resident of Chesapeake, Va., and the General Manager of Eaglewood Golf Course at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia, is the Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) PGA Professional Development Award winner, which bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional for outstanding service and contributions to developing and improving educational opportunities for fellow PGA Professionals.

Additionally, contributions to PGA and MAPGA education programs and inclination for continuing contributions and assistance are additional criteria considered for this award. A PGA of America member since 2002, Weissinger is a PGA Master Professional and served as the MAPGA President from 2022-2023. A highly decorated PGA Member, Weissinger was selected as the recipient of the 2022 PGA Professional of the Year He was also honored with the 2020 MAPGA Merchandiser of the Year Public Award, the 2016 Bill Strausbaugh Award, the 2011 Youth Player Development Award, and the 2009 PGA Player Development Award. In the same year, he was the recipient of The PGA of America Patriot Award in only its second year of existence. In 2018, he received the inaugural VSGA Grow the Game Award and the NGCOA Mid Atlantic Public Golf Course Operator of the Year Award. In 2021, he was named the inaugural Air Force Golf Brigadier General Chuck Yeager Person of the Year.

- **Player Development Award**



Zach Pfingst, PGA, a resident of Cape Charles, Va, and the Director of Golf at Bay Creek Resort and Club, in Cape Charles, Va., is the recipient of the Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) Player Development Award, which bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional for exemplary contributions and achievements in the area of player development and for extraordinary efforts in conducting and/or supporting growth of the game initiatives, as well as leadership commitment at the section and national levels, and the impact made at his/her own facility. A PGA of America Member since 2007, Pfingst has spent his entire career at Bay Creek Resort & Club, rising to his current role as Director of Golf. During his career, he has earned all 6 PGA Certifications through the PGA of America, including Golf Operations, Executive Management, General Management, Ownership/ Leasing, Retail, and Instruction. Zach is also a multiple time winner of the MAPGA Merchandiser of the Year award.

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- **Youth Player Development Award**



Paul Maurer, PGA, a resident of Ellicott City, Md., and the Owner of Edge Golf Performance, in Columbia Md., is the recipient of the Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) Youth Player Development Award, which recognizes a PGA Professional who is a leader in junior golf, reflects the ideals and qualities that juniors can emulate and provides opportunities for juniors to learn and play golf. Contributions to the MAPGA and PGA junior programs and involvement in the promotion and development of junior golf at the facility and community level are additional criteria considered for this award. A PGA of America Member since 2011, Maurer has been coaching for 13 years. During that time he was inspired with the idea that is now Edge Golf Performance.

Through his experience coaching, he envisioned a place where his players could train year-round with the best possible resources available to develop their golf, physical and mental skills. He has been a part of the Howard County golfing community working and coaching at four different facilities. He has had success coaching beginners of all ages as well as high level junior, collegiate and local amateur players. Among PGA Professionals, Maurer is specialized in Teaching & Coaching and enjoys helping players establish baselines, set goals and create gameplans to achieve them!

- **Merchandiser Of The Year (Private Facilities)**



John Glorioso, PGA, a resident of Burke, Va., and the Head Golf Professional at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, in Gainesville, Va., is the recipient of the Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) Merchandiser of the Year Award for Private Facilities. This honor recognizes PGA Professionals who have demonstrated superior skills as merchandisers in the promotion of golf. It is awarded for excellence in golf shop operations in three categories: private, resort and public/municipal/military/semi-private. Candidates are judged on merchandising performance, details and innovation, displays, merchandising techniques, inventory mix, shop operations, merchandising philosophy, and staff training. A PGA of America Member since 2013, and backed by over 14 years of experience, Glorioso is a Certified Professional in Golf Operations who collaborates with his team to create memorable experiences for members through exceptional golf programs and highly personalized hospitality services. His expertise lies in enhancing golf operations by combining innovative program development with a focus on customer satisfaction. By

fostering a welcoming environment and delivering tailored experiences, his team ensures the club remains a premier destination for golfers at all levels.

- **Merchandiser Of The Year (Public Facilities)**



Matt Summers, PGA, a resident of Bel Air, Md., and the Director of Golf at Bulle Rock Golf Course, in Havre de Grace, Md., is the recipient of the Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) Merchandiser of the Year Award for Public Facilities. This honor recognizes PGA Professionals who have demonstrated superior skills as merchandisers in the promotion of golf. It is awarded for excellence in golf shop operations in three categories: private, resort and public/municipal/military/semi-private. Candidates are judged on merchandising performance, details and innovation, displays, merchandising techniques, inventory mix, shop operations, merchandising philosophy, and staff training.

A PGA of America Member since 2018, Summers was an accomplished junior golfer/athlete leading his way to playing NCAA Division II golf and baseball for Salem College in WV while earning a degree in Golf Industry Management. He is a PGA Class A Member and is also a designated Certified PGA Professional in Golf Operations with less than 4% of all PGA Professionals obtaining this designation. He is also a competitive golfer within the Middle Atlantic Professional Golfers Association, national and local pro-ams with multiple individual and team professional victories.

- **Merchandiser Of The Year (Resort Facilities)**



Brian L. Alley, PGA, a resident of Stuart, Va,. and the Head Golf Professional at Primland Resort, in Meadows of Dan, Va., is the recipient of the Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) Merchandiser of the Year Award for Resort Facilities. This honor recognizes PGA Professionals who have demonstrated superior skills as merchandisers in the promotion of golf. It is awarded for excellence in golf shop operations in three categories: private, resort and public/municipal/military/semi-private. Candidates are judged on merchandising performance, details and innovation, displays, merchandising techniques, inventory mix, shop operations, merchandising philosophy, and staff training. A PGA of America Member since 2007, when he started his career at Primland, Alley also won the MAPGA Merchandiser of the Year Award for Resort Facilities in 2017 and 2020. His merchandising philosophy begins with establishing great relationships with vendors, guests, and staff members. With little storage at the golf shop, Alley depends on quick turnaround times from vendors. Given that their logo requires a lot of detail and attention, they rely on vendors who understand and appreciate attention to detail combined with high levels of communication to make things run smoothly.

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- **Assistant PGA Professional Of The Year**



Nick Funk, PGA, a resident of Arlington, Va., and an Assistant Golf Professional at Chevy Chase Club, in Chevy Chase, Md., is the recipient of the Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) Assistant PGA Professional of the Year Award, which bestows special recognition on an Assistant PGA Professional for distinguished service to his/her peers and the MAPGA and in his/her commitment to improving opportunities for fellow assistants in the MAPGA. A graduate of the North Carolina State Professional Golf Management Program, and a PGA of America Member since 2016, Funk has had a lifelong passion for teaching junior golf that started Ford's Colony Country Club where Jonathan Schoenfeld offered him a position to teach junior golf clinics that fueled his career in the golf business. Funk was also an accomplished junior player, making First Team all State in 2009 & 2010 at Walsingham Academy. He also competed in numerous VSGA and MAPGA junior tour events growing up, and qualified for the VSGA junior championship 3 times.

- **David Wortman Citizen Of The Year**



Mary Leahy, a resident of a North Potomac, Md.,and a Golf Sales Professional, formerly with Callaway, is the recipient of the Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) David Wortman Citizen of the Year Award, which recognizes an outstanding amateur or amateurs whose contributions to the MAPGA include the promotion of golf, promotion of the MAPGA and PGA Professionals, and recognition by the MAPGA and business community as a leader in his/her field. Leahy is an award winning, multi-million-dollar golf territory manager who has built a career driving drive sales and growing business for a variety of companies/brands. She developed great relationships with our MAPGA professionals and helped them grow their businesses along with hers.

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- **Earle Hellen Sports Media Award**



John Feinstein, who passed away on March 13th, 2025, was a renowned American Sportswriter, Author and Sports Commentator. He is the recipient of the Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) Earle Hallen Sports Media Award, which honors an outstanding individual in the field of journalism for exemplary contributions to the section with regard to the promotion of golf, promotion of the MAPGA and PGA Professionals, based on scope and distribution, quality and content of media coverage and recognition as an outstanding journalist by his/her peers. Feinstein, whose career as a columnist and bestselling author of sports books made him one of the most notable sportswriters of his time, was a long-time sports reporter at the Washington Post. He wrote numerous books and was particularly known in golf for A Good Walk Spoiled, published in 1995, which chronicled life on the PGA Tour.

- **Salesperson Of The Year**



Clay Pokorny, a resident of Williamsburg, Va., and a Golf Sales Professional, formerly with FootJoy, is the recipient of the Middle Atlantic PGA's (MAPGA) Salesperson of the Year Award, which honors a golf salesperson in the region for outstanding service, support and dedication to the members and apprentices of the MAPGA. Employed by Acushnet for 35 years, including two with Titleist in Massachusetts and 33 with FootJoy in Virginia, Pokorny is a decorated golf executive, having earned national sales rep of the year, runner up sales rep of the year, several honorable mentions, and multiple Gold Circle sales awards. An accomplished player, Pokorny has captured numerous club championships and senior club championships.