

Elwood “Woods” A. Woolwine III, PGA
Cypress Creek Golf Course, Smithfield, Virginia

“Woods” was born on July 8, 1973 in Lebanon, Kentucky to Linda and Woody Woolwine, Jr. He has one sister, Amanda Nighbert, and a brother, Scott Woolwine. Woods began playing golf at the age of four when he was introduced to the game by his father as a kid in Abingdon, Virginia. His father won numerous tournaments as an amateur golfer in the state of Kentucky and just like every kid, Woods enjoyed going to the course with him and driving the golf cart while they played.

It was the combination of Woods’ mom and dad that gave him the opportunity to take up the game of golf. Being around the game and seeing his father succeed in such a competitive atmosphere made Woods want to pursue the game of golf as well. Other influences were MAPGA Professional Fred Funk, for whom he had the honor of caddying at the Anheuser Busch for four years giving him some great experience in the game at a very high level; and PGA Professionals Curtis Strange and Mark Carnavale whose friendships gave him great insight into what it takes to be a touring professional, the work and dedication it takes to succeed at that level, and how the professional golfer approaches the day to day competition.

Woods started playing golf competitively in Tarboro, North Carolina at the age of nine. The Head PGA Professional, Stuart Jones arranged inner club matches that he would drive them to each week. Woods’ first golf-related job was as a cart attendant at Kingsmill in 1989. He won the Red Spigle at Newport News Golf Club in Newport News, Virginia as a junior golfer and was voted “Daily Press Player of the Year” in golf while at Lafayette High School in Williamsburg, Virginia. Woods also won four district titles and two individual titles while at Lafayette. He played collegiate golf at Chowan College.

Woods became a PGA Apprentice in 1997 and was elected to PGA Membership on August 27, 1999. He was an assistant professional at Kingsmill Resort in 1997, an assistant professional at Highland Golfers Club from 1998 – 1999, the Head PGA Professional at Highlands Golfers Club from 1999 – 2002, and has been the Head PGA Professional and Director of Golf at Cypress Creek Golfers’ Club since 2002.

Woods’ golf philosophy is to think and go outside of the box. He is not your standard solid shirt kind of guy. Woods has always enjoyed an outgoing personality. He believes that you work hard when you need to and play hard when you can. This attitude has allowed him to enjoy life and work throughout his career. Woods says, “Our business can be time consuming but with a good staff and an understanding that you can leave the operation in their hands, you should be able to enjoy life like any other business person.” He attributes his success to the PGA Professionals that have given him direction and opportunity to succeed in The PGA such as Dan Baker who hired him at the Highlands for his first Head PGA Professional position. Mr. Baker showed him how to manage an operation as well as how to succeed as a PGA Professional. Frank Herrelko, PGA also gave Woods a lot of guidance by sharing information from his illustrious PGA career. These PGA Professionals, and others, enabled Woods to learn many different aspects of the industry as well as about being a Head PGA Professional. Woods feels that with the networking and brotherhood enjoyed in The PGA of America, the resources are unlimited. He has used those same resources to help raise money for several charities.

Woods met his wife Shannon M. Ford-Woolwine in high school and they were married on August 2, 1997. About Shannon, he says: “she is the backbone of our family and without her support and understanding of the career I have chosen I would not be the person I am in this business.” They have one son named Elwood A. Woolwine IV or as they call him, “EA.” EA is very active in basketball, playing in AAU and other local basketball leagues. He also enjoys playing golf and baseball.