

BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional who has shown outstanding integrity, commitment to mentoring his fellow PGA Professionals in improving their employment situations, and involvement in community and charitable activities. The award is named in honor of the late “Coach” Bill Strausbaugh, former Head PGA Professional at Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and member of the MAPGA Hall of Fame Class of 1989.

Jeffrey W. Zachman, PGA

Piney Branch Golf & Country Club, Hampstead, Maryland

Jeffrey Warren Zachman was born in Marion, Ohio to Warren and Joyce Zachman on September 11, 1958. His sister, Diane, followed shortly, with brothers, Mark and Michael completing the family. While neither of Jeff’s parents were golfers, it was his paternal grandmother, Marvel Fett Zachman Smith who introduced Jeff to the game. Marvel began playing golf at the age of 58 at Kings Mill Golf Course in Waldo, Ohio. She got her husband, Marlow, interested and then asked thirteen-year-old Jeff to join them during their rounds, though he always had to mow the lawn first.

Jeff had the privilege of getting to know his grandfather better while playing golf with him for a year before he died of a massive heart attack. Jeff doesn’t think there’s a better game for getting to know someone in a short period of time. He and his grandmother both agree that golf brought them closer.

In 1990, while attending the PGA Merchandise Show, Jeff played a nine-hole match with his grandmother, giving her two shots a hole. It was a short course and she shot a 49, making a birdie on a par-3 for a net zero. Jeff lost that match, but enjoyed it immensely. In what other game can an 80-something play against a 30-something and still be competitive?

PGA Professional Roger Hensel, married to Jeff’s Aunt Karen, hired Jeff at the age of fourteen to work at Whetstone Country Club in Caledonia, Ohio in the bag room cleaning clubs, parking cars and later as an assistant. He worked on improving his golf game and was Whetstone’s Junior Club Champion in 1974 and won the Boswell Bash in Nashville, Tennessee in 1979 while fulfilling a college internship at Belle Meade Country Club.

Ferris State College (later University) in Big Rapids, Michigan first offered the Professional Golf Management program in 1975, the first of its kind in the nation. Jeff entered FSU in 1977 and graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. He had the privilege of spending the next eight years working for “Coach” Bill Strausbaugh at Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Jeff was elected to PGA membership in 1983 while at Columbia where Coach trained Jeff to communicate effectively and fostered his willingness to educate students and help his fellow PGA Professionals. Jeff accepted the Head PGA Professional position at Piney Branch Golf Club in 1989 and is finishing his 22nd season there.

From 2002 to 2007, Jeff served as the Secretary, Vice President, and then President of the Northern Chapter, the Chair of the Section's Historical and Scholarship Committees, and a member of the Employment Committee. He has been active in his church as Finance Chairman and on their Administrative Board. Jeff has been a member of the Westminster Elks and is still active in the Hampstead Lions Club. He was recognized in 2003 for helping to raise funds for the Northeast Rabbits, an organization that helps needy families in Carroll County.

The ARC of Carroll County (previously known as the Association of Retarded Citizens) honored Jeff in 2004 for his contributions and continued support of their annual charity golf tournament. Jeff was the PGA Professional honored at the 2006 Bill Strausbaugh Memorial Pro-Am/Pro-Pro. PGA Professionals from across the country as well as local celebrities are invited to this annual charity event conducted at Columbia Country Club to raise funds for the Fred McLeod-Bill Strausbaugh Caddie Scholarship Fund and other charities.

Having spent many years with the "Coach" Jeff will always treasure the memory. In 2007, he also received the MAPGA Horton Smith award for service and contributions toward developing and improving educational opportunities for PGA professional and apprentices.

Jeff prefers to keep things simple and fun. He wants each student to know that he cares about them and their golf game. He does his best to be realistic and encouraging and at the same time feels good communication is the best way to help students improve. Jeff shows patience with the novice as well as the professional when teaching. His easy-going style allows the student to communicate without feeling pressure.

Jeff was hooked on golf early on, and his love for the game has only increased in the intervening years. While dating his future wife, Jana, her father advised her to take up golf if she and Jeff were getting serious. She took his advice about the lessons and has given Jeff her love and support every step of the way in their 21 years of marriage. Jeff has been Jana's only golf instructor. She shot her best round of 86 while seven months pregnant with daughter, Lindsay.

They have three beautiful daughters – Tori, (18), Lindsay, (15), and Olivia, (13) – and the girls keep Jeff and Jana busy with soccer, basketball, track, lacrosse and yes, even golf. Tori was on the 2010 Class 1A/2A Maryland State Champion Golf Team at North Carroll High School and was 2nd team All-County, Lindsay was MVAL All-Conference honorable mention as a sophomore playing varsity soccer, and Olivia plays on a championship travel and AAU basketball team. She is planning to follow her sister and play on the North Carroll golf team next year. Oh yeah, Jeff also has a black lab named Buckeye (go Ohio State)!

Jeff has been a stalwart member of the MAPGA Employment and Club Relations committee for many years. As a protégé of Coach Strausbaugh, Jeff has been instrumental in the development of the Career Coaches program, where our veteran Professionals pro-actively try to counsel MAPGA members.