

Patricia F. (Trish) Gates, PGA
River Bend Golf & Country Club
Great Falls, Virginia

Trish Gates was selected as the 2014 MAPGA Assistant PGA Professional of the Year for her long-time service to her Chapter and Section as well as her continual quest to improve herself and her fellow assistant professionals through mentoring and leadership. Her early work with the APA and, most recently, on the Tournament Committee are two examples of her service to her Association.

Trish was born on July 21, 1968 in Silver Spring, Maryland to Billy and Dot Gates. She grew up the youngest of five with two brothers, Charlie (deceased) and Stephen, and two sisters, Catharine and Danne. The Gates family spent much of their time at Columbia Country Club where Trish had her first experience with golf. She and Danne attended one of Columbia's winter golf clinics and the Assistant Professional helping that day was Dennis Satyshur. He guided Trish on proper swing techniques and introduced her to the game that would guide her future.

Golf for Trish was something "to do" after swim practice in the summer. However, the competitive nature of the sport motivated her to improve and at the age of 14, she attended the PGA Golf Academy where she learned from top instructors like Gary Wiren, PGA; Dick Harmon, Jim Brotherton, PGA; and Craig Shankland, PGA. She also learned a lot from Columbia Country Club's PGA Head Professional Bill "Coach" Strausbaugh who fostered Trish's golf development from junior golfer to professional.

From these mentoring experiences, Trish continued to improve her game and was welcomed as a walk-on to the women's golf team at the University of South Carolina. Before entering her Junior Year at USC, she transferred to Hunter College in New York City on a Media Arts scholarship. While in New York, she experienced television production first-hand by interning on the *Late Night with David Letterman* show. After a year-long experience at Hunter, Trish returned to USC and completed her degree in Media Arts before making her way back to Maryland to start her career in golf.

Trish accepted her first golf job in 1992 as a starter at Kenwood Golf & Country Club in Bethesda, Md. working under PGA Head Professional Rod Thompson. Rod educated Trish on all facets of working at a golf facility and in 1994, Trish made the decision to become a golf professional. In 1996, she accepted a position to work for MAPGA Hall of Famer Jim Folks, PGA at Bethesda Country Club. Only 18 months would pass before she would be offered the opportunity to work at River Bend Golf & Country Club, where she has remained since.

As an assistant to John Madden, PGA, Trish has grown both as an individual and as a PGA Professional. She earned her PGA Membership in 1999 and instantly threw herself into Chapter and Section activities. Her first involvement was with the Central Chapter as the A-8 (Assistant Professional) Director. This position allowed her to see first-hand how the Association worked at the Chapter and Section level and also gave her the opportunity to work directly with the Assistant Professional Association (APA). She progressed in the Chapter and became a Regional Director; serving two terms. Her role in the Chapter progressed to that of a mentor to Apprentices and Assistants. Trish was

recently appointed to a seat on the Section Tournament Committee to share her insight on issues for female professionals.

At River Bend, Trish has been instrumental with golf operations, player development programs and membership. During the course's reconstruction in 2009, she and her fellow assistant professionals were in charge of arranging reciprocal golf for the River Bend members. Special computer software was put in place and Trish was an integral part of developing procedures to make the process as smooth as possible. She spent many hours talking to members and area golf professionals to make sure the needs were met for all parties involved.

When it comes to growing the game, Trish has been actively involved with junior, women's and Section programs. She helped organize the Junior Golf Kickoff at River Bend that featured fun, near-golf equipment like GolfZilla and SNAG to spark the interest of the 85 little golfers in attendance. Trish also co-captained two PGA Junior League golf teams and initiated a "Girls Club" for aspiring female golfers ages 7-12. She conducts regular clinics for the women at River Bend that have proven to be very popular and very successful. For the last two years, Trish has volunteered for National Golf Day to be a representative of The PGA of America and give golf instruction to Members of Congress and their staff. In addition, she has given her time to help Kirk Lucas with his Wounded Warrior Weekend at his Golf Teaching, Learning, and Practice Facility, otherwise known as "The Farm."

Trish is entering her 17th year as an employee of River Bend and she has worked with many individuals of varied professional backgrounds, positions, and experience. She enjoys mentoring employees and values communication as a tool to success. Her leadership qualities make her a source for guidance at the club as well as with other Assistants in the Middle Atlantic PGA. She feels that pairing the right Assistant with the right facility will help "foster one's ability to thrive and progress" in the golf industry. Her goal is to help with that by constantly looking for better opportunities for Assistants across the Section. Moreover, Trish encourages professionals to "just be yourself;" the advice she received from her supervisor, Laurie Diamond, during her internship with *Late Night with David Letterman*.

Trish resides in Leesburg, Va. and is proud to be a dedicated fan of the Washington Nationals, Capitals, and Redskins.