

HORTON SMITH AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional for outstanding service and contributions toward developing and improving educational opportunities for PGA Professionals and apprentices.

Joshua B. Tremblay, PGA
Springfield Golf & Country Club
Springfield, Virginia

For his dedication to the educational programs throughout the Middle Atlantic Section, Josh Tremblay, PGA was selected as the 2018 Horton Smith Award recipient. This is the third award that Josh has received from the Middle Atlantic PGA. In 2010, he received the Junior Golf Leader award and in 2014 MAPGA was named Professional of the Year.

Josh was born in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire on October 18, 1979 to Dennis and Mary Tremblay. Growing up in northern New Hampshire where the golf season was very short, he maximized the time he had at the golf course during the summer months and those experiences have allowed him to appreciate the mild winters in the Middle Atlantic Section. Josh attended The Penn State University's Professional Golf Management program and graduated in 2002.

Josh started playing golf at the age of five when his parents took him to Bethlehem Country Club, where he met Fred Ghioto, the local PGA Professional. Ghioto really sparked Josh's interest in the game, and it was further fueled by another PGA Professional, Wayne Natti. Natti became the Head PGA Professional at Bethlehem Country Club when Josh was about 10 years old and took him to play in his first tournament away from home; a Pro-Junior with Wayne and his sons. Bethlehem Country Club is also where Josh started his first job, at 15 years old, washing golf carts.

Dennis and Mary's support was very instrumental in Josh's decision to play golf and ultimately choose golf as his career path. The Tremblays were avid golfers which made it easy for them to support his interest in playing in tournaments. He also volunteered to help out with the club's junior program.

Josh won approximately 12 medals through various New Hampshire High School tournaments. He was also the team MVP and Captain in his sophomore, junior and senior years. In 1997, Josh was selected as a member of the Boston Globe New Hampshire All-State First Team.

Upon graduation from Penn State, Josh started his golf professional career and was elected to PGA membership in 2003. He worked at Wilmington Country Club in Delaware from March 2003 to January 2005, while wintering at Jonathan's Landing Golf Club in Jupiter, Florida. Josh relocated to Maryland and worked as an assistant professional at Woodmont Country Club from 2005-2006 before becoming the Head PGA Professional under Director

of Golf David Dorn in February 2007. In 2010 at the age of 30, he accepted his current position of Head PGA Professional at Springfield Golf & Country Club in Springfield, Virginia; the fourth PGA Professional in Springfield's history.

Josh served as the MAPGA Education Chair from November 2013 through October of 2015. During his tenure, he led the committee to some new programs as well as upgrading traditional events such as the Teaching Summit. In 2014, Josh implemented a series of educational events held in early 2015 called "MSR Mondays" (currently called Professional Development Days) that were comprehensive days of education that mixed the more popular instructional topics with some other less popular but necessary subjects. These are well attended and he located one in each of the Chapters so that it is geographically convenient for all to attend.

The 2014 Teaching Summit had a headline of presenters with Chuck Cook, Bob Toski and Dr. Bob Rotella along with Andrew Fisher and David Edel. Josh chose Don Frost, PGA to be the chair for the event, held at Congressional Country Club, and the registration numbers were outstanding. In 2015, Josh and the committee planned another great summit focused on more practical applications for our Professionals such as 'Faults and Fixes', live lessons and two national presenters in Cameron McCormick and Martin Hall. Josh chaired the 2015 Teaching Summit himself and enlisted the help of Bernie Najjar, Trillium Sellers, Erika Larkin and Pat Coyner to round out the presenters for the Summit, which was held at Woodmont Country Club.

On a National education level, Josh was a panelist for two topics/sessions of the 2016 PGA Youth & Family Golf Summit preceding the 2016 PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando, Florida. The first session was on "Using PGA Junior League Golf as your Youth Cornerstone" and the second was centered on how to "Measure and Communicate the Value of Your Youth & Family Golf Business." Josh really enjoyed the opportunity to present some best practices to the audience and collaborate with his fellow professionals including Suzy Whaley and Rick Murphy.

Josh also served as a panelist during the 2017 PGA Merchandise Show on the PGA Forum Stage alongside Dennis Johnsen, PGA, Rick Murphy, PGA and Will Robins, PGA. The topic was Junior Golf Best Practices and the panel was moderated by Suzy Whaley, PGA.

His service to the Section has also been a priority in his first 15 years as a PGA Member. He currently serves as the Vice President of the Middle Atlantic PGA. His previous leadership positions include Section Secretary, Membership Chair, Junior Golf Chair and all the Chairs of the Central Chapter. His time spent on the Section's Board of Directors has been extremely rewarding and the friendships fostered are ones that aid him every day in his job.

One of his most rewarding experiences came when Josh was nominated to be a representative at the inaugural PGA Magazine Coaching & Mentoring Summit. This experience propelled him to serve as a leader and mentor to assistant professionals, PGM

interns and PGM students. He has also served as a Lead Mentor for Penn State University's PGA Professional Golf Management program.

Rounding out his achievement as the 2018 Horton Smith Award recipient is Josh's community outreach to local, diverse groups. His efforts have expanded his reach as a PGA Professional and have also elevated the exposure of Springfield Golf & Country Club. In the spring of 2013, he led an instruction program for the Culmore Character Boys & Girls Club. The final session was held at Springfield where the students were able to hit on the range, use the putting green, and play a one-hole scramble. Josh also worked with a group called Networking for Executive Women (N.E.W.). They provided group instruction for fifteen new female golfers and closed the session with a fun networking luncheon.

Josh loves playing the game of golf and being around the game with others who truly enjoy golf. He attributes his success to being able to step into the shoes of a member, a junior golfer, or tournament player and look at the operations and programs from their perspective to meet or exceed their needs. Josh considers himself a team player and he enjoys helping others reach their own goals, and in return, feel they are both better for the time spent together. Josh views lessons as coaching, because he feels like he is working with the student on the same team, trying to help them reach their personal goals. Above all, Josh enjoys having fun...he looks forward to coming to work every day and being around golf. He lives to help his members enjoy their day to the fullest while at the club.

Josh resides in Burke, Va. with his wife Sarah, their son Rory and their two dogs Wrangler and Kai.