

## **HORTON SMITH AWARD**

***John C. Malinowski III, PGA***

*River Run Golf Club, Berlin, Maryland*

John was born September 11, 1971 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to John and Barbara Malinowski. His father was in the United States Marine Corps for 28 years and the family lived all over the United States. John's dad introduced him to the game of golf when he was nine years old at the Marine Corps Air Station at Cherry Point, North Carolina. He played golf sporadically over the years while concentrating on baseball. When his baseball career didn't work out as planned he decided to concentrate on his golf game and landed a spot on the golf team at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, North Carolina. John graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Economics and Political Science in 1993.

John first worked as a cart attendant for Head PGA Professional Richard Standen at Medal of Honor Golf Course at the Marine Corps Base at Quantico, Virginia then as an assistant there during college breaks. He moved to an assistant position at Catawba Country Club in Newton, North Carolina in 1996 and declared his professional status. Fifteen months later, John was elected to PGA membership. In 1999, he was selected to be the Head PGA Professional at Montclair Golf Club in Montclair, Virginia. After 2 years, John moved to the PGA Director of Instruction position at Capital City Golf School in Washington, D.C. In 2003 he accepted the Head PGA Professional position at River Run Golf Club.

John has served on the Section Education Committee since 1999 and became Chair of the committee in 2006. He has been involved in the planning and implementation of the Section's educational seminars and programs over the past six years by recruiting speakers and pursuing ideas from other PGA Professionals for valuable educational programs. While Chair of the Membership Committee he was responsible for the redevelopment of the apprentice orientation. The purpose of this orientation is to introduce new apprentices to the Section staff and to give them a history of the MAPGA, the role of the Chapters and officers, and their role as apprentices. The goal of the orientation program is to get apprentices on the right track early in their careers and involved in The PGA by making a difference with their participation.

John believes in the importance of continuing education for PGA Professionals to help them meet the changing demands of the golf industry and recently completed PGA Certification in Golf Operations. By continuing his education, he has raised the value of the PGA Professional in all employers' eyes and the image of The PGA of America for providing an advanced industry specific education to its members.

John is involved in the Ocean City community through the Chamber of Commerce Golf Committee and the city's Economic Development Committee. He helped create and coach the first golf team for a local middle school and taught a golf class to fulfill physical education requirements for a local middle school. John continues to educate the public on the differences between a golf professional and a PGA Professional and participates in growth of the game initiatives, such as Free Lesson Month, which showcase the talents of PGA Professionals.

John and his wife, Julie, have been married ten years. John enjoys teaching their five-year-old daughter, Emily, the game of golf.