

MERCHANDISER OF THE YEAR

Resort Category

Joseph R. Burbee, PGA

Bay Creek Golf Club, Cape Charles, Virginia

Joe was born April 9, 1967 in Cincinnati, Ohio to Ray and Pat Burbee. He has one brother, Ed, and a sister, Anne Engelhard. Joe began playing golf when he was ten years old with his father's old clubs that he found in the garage. Jack Nicklaus was the dominant player of the time and Joe liked his style and demeanor; and he putts like Jack! Joe quickly came to love the game. When he was fourteen, Joe was hired at the Jack Nicklaus Sports Center in Mason, Ohio as a ball mark boy; he walked the course for eight hours each day fixing ball marks. Joe played for his high school golf team, was awarded the Boy Scouts of America's highest honor, the Eagle rank, and graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Joe declared his professional status in 1992 and began working as an assistant at the Golf Center at Kings Island in Mason, Ohio in 1993. He was elected to membership in 1995 and became the Golf Center's Head PGA Professional in 1997. Joe was selected to be the Southern Ohio Section's Merchandiser of the Year in the Resort Category in 1998. Three years later he moved to the Head PGA Professional position at The Signature at West Neck in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was selected to be the Head PGA Professional at Bay Creek Golf Club in 2005.

Joe treats people the way he would like to be treated and always tries to look at situations from the other person's point of view. His success in merchandising can be attributed to being dedicated and caring about every decision he makes.

Joe met his wife, Deanne, while giving her a bunker lesson; she hates bunkers. They were married seven years ago and have a two-year-old son, Jack, who recently took up the game of golf.