

YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Steven Prater, PGA

Roanoke Country Club, Roanoke, Virginia

Steve was born July 21, 1957 in Radford, Virginia to Jack and Betty Joe Prater. He has a younger brother and sister. Jack was a football coach at Virginia Tech, University of Miami, and College of William and Mary so the family moved a lot. Steve learned to play golf when his dad was coaching at Virginia Tech in the 1960s and would drop him off at the school's golf course, under head golf professional Earl Spicer, when he went to work. After a football injury in eighth grade Steve was told he couldn't play football anymore; he decided to turn to other sports and chose golf and basketball. Steve was one of the youngest juniors to qualify for the Men's VSGA State Amateur when he was fourteen. He attended Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky on a golf scholarship and played on the intramural championship basketball team. While at Western Kentucky University Steve was asked to play on the school's Junior Varsity basketball team, but he decided to focus on golf.

Steve began working at Brandermill Country Club in Midlothian, Virginia in 1977 as PGA Professional Tommy Wine's cart and bagroom attendant. He worked summers as a first assistant at Misquamicut Club in Watch Hill, Rhode Island from 1981 to 1983 and as a second assistant in the winters at Jupiter Island Club in Hobe Sound, Florida from 1981 to 1985. He declared his professional status in 1983. Steve also worked summers as a first assistant at Country Club of Fairfield in Fairfield, Connecticut from 1984 to 1986. He was elected to PGA membership in 1986. From 1986 to 1994, Steve worked as an Assistant PGA Professional and then PGA Teaching Professional at Sailfish Point Golf Club in Stuart, Florida. He then moved to the Head PGA Professional position at Blacksburg Country Club in Blacksburg, Virginia. In 2006, Steve accepted the Head PGA Professional job at Roanoke Country Club.

In 1993, while at Sailfish Point, Steve developed and produced The Circular World of Golf Instruction Video. He has also produced brochures on the secret to the golf swing and, in 1996, developed The Circular World of Golf Junior Academy including logos for Blacksburg Country Club's junior golf program.

Steve attributes his success to hard work; wanting to make his club proud of him by being a good person, a good family man, and a trusted friend; and to running a golf operation that offers programs, events, and daily operations that satisfy the membership. His teaching skills are his best asset - he's been a teaching professional for over twenty years averaging 2000 lessons a year. Steve has nine junior golfers ranked by Junior Golf Scoreboard and attributes their success over the past few years to the developmental instruction he provided.

Steve and his wife, Elaine, have been married for 16 years. They met during Steve's term at Sailfish Point; Elaine was the club's social secretary and executive secretary to the general manager. They have six children: Jack Prater, 13, a 1-handicap golfer ranked in the top 60 in the 2011 class; Samantha Prater, 15; Daniel Eveleth, 21; Julie Eveleth, 23; Chad Eveleth, 25; and Kristina Williams, 30. Steve is thankful for Elaine's patience and believes wives are often

overlooked as a factor in a PGA Professional's success spending weekends, holidays, and many hours without her husband in support of his career.