

2013 Assistant Professional of the Year
Tom Michaels, PGA
Former First Assistant Professional at Suburban Club

On June 16, 1984, Thomas C. Michaels was born to John and Sheila Michaels of Albany, New York. The Michaels family which also includes Tom's siblings Luke and Katie lived in the Upstate New York town of Clifton Park until 1996 when John and Sheila moved the family to Queensbury, New York. They settled right across the street from Glens Falls Country Club and this is where Tom, at the age of 12, discovered golf.

Tom attended the junior camps at Glens Falls where PGA Professional Tom Haggerty gave Tom his first set of golf lessons. He continued on with the game by playing once a week with his Grandfather, William Hennessy, at the Sagamore Resort on Lake George in Bolton Landing, New York. Through high school, Tom worked at Sagamore in the bag room and received extra advice on the game from the resort's Head PGA Professional Tom Smack. With his dedication to golf, Tom made the decision to travel south and join the golf team at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland.

During his time at McDaniel, Tom competed in two All Centennial Conference Championships (2005 & 2006) and received First Team All-Conference honors both years. Following graduation from McDaniel, Tom spent some time working for PGA Professional Mike Healy at the Country Club of Maryland. "I owe a lot to Mike," said Tom who credits Mike for getting him the Assistant Professional position at Suburban Club in 2007.

It was his time at Suburban that exposed Tom to the Assistant Professional world of the MAPGA. He immediately joined the Assistant Professional Association (APA) and participated in as many tournaments and education seminars that his schedule would allow. As an APA member and an MAPGA Apprentice at that time, Tom earned the AHEAD/APA Scholarship for all three of his PGA checkpoints. He became a PGA Member in 2011 and in that same year he ran for and was elected to be the Assistant Professional (A-8) Director for the MAPGA's Northern Chapter Board.

As the A-8 Director in the Northern Chapter, Tom works with the Section's A-8 Director Jim Bennett, PGA to coordinate playing and learning opportunities. His focus is to make the APA an educational association that would help all members grow in their respective positions. In 2012, Tom was honored to be selected as the APA Captain for the Independence Cup which is a Ryder Cup-style tournament versus the Philadelphia Assistant Organization (PAO). The APA went on to defeat the PAO by a score of 26.5 to 13.5 at Spring Creek Golf Club near Charlottesville, Virginia. This was a proud moment for Tom and a great opportunity to showcase his leadership skills in front of his peers.

Tom's leadership skills have also played a part in his position as First Assistant at Suburban Club. He manages a staff of 18 employees who stand by him to achieve success at the club. In 2010, Tom focused on player development at Suburban and created a women's program called "Get in the Game" that created over 25 new female golfers. Furthermore, Tom has been instrumental in organizing Men's leagues during the week, which have increased rounds by 15% on typically slow days. In 2012, Tom was asked to be an advisor with the Maryland Private Golf Club Conference (B-Team) which is an interclub non-profit association specifically designed for "competitive, but not elite golfers." Tom was a liaison between PGA Professionals and B-team players to help increase B-Team participation and help fellow PGA Professionals increase rounds and revenue through the B-Team players.

When away from the Suburban Club, Tom enjoys playing tournament golf and feels that competition feeds his passion for the game. In 2010, he finished first in the Northern Chapter Assistant Championship and T-4th in the Section Assistant Championship which qualified him for the National PGA Assistant Championship. Tom also finished T-14th at the 2011 MAPGA Professional Championship which earned him a spot to play in the 2012 PGA Professional National Championship in Seaside, California.

Since 2008, Tom has been happily married to his wife Mary and they currently live in Perryville, Maryland with their dog Sadie. Starting in March of 2013, Tom will transfer to the Philadelphia PGA Section and begin his new position as the Senior Assistant Golf Professional at Waynesborough Country Club in Paoli, Pennsylvania.