

## **ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

*This award bestows special recognition on an assistant professional who has distinguished himself/herself in service and contributions to his/her peers as well as to the Assistant Professional Association and in commitment to improving opportunities for assistants in the Section.*

### **ROBERT FERGUSON, PGA - Washington Golf and Country Club**

Rob was born in Washington, D.C. in 1961, to Frank and Hazel Ferguson. He is the youngest of three (two brothers, Frank Jr. and Michael). His father got him started playing golf at the age of 12 and since golf was always an integral part of the family, they always had their own foursome!

Rob has been an assistant professional at Washington Golf and Country Club since 1986. He started his career in golf as a cart mechanic at International Town and Country Club. He became a professional in 1984 and was elected to membership in The PGA in 1991. During Rob's time at the Washington Golf and Country Club, he has taught male and female golfers of all ages and abilities. He has assisted in refining a program specific to juniors that combines golf, swimming and tennis. This highly successful program is intended to introduce each sport to the children. It is the club's goal to make these initial experiences as enjoyable as possible so that they may begin to appreciate each activity and hopefully enjoy them for many years to come. From the looks on the youngsters' faces as they parade behind Rob from the tennis courts to the golf course, it appears the program is working beautifully.

Rob has served the MAPGA as Central Chapter Tournament Chairman and member of the Section Tournament Committee (1992-1998, 2000-present), Central Chapter Eastern Director (1999), and Central Chapter A-8 Director (1999). Rob was also the founder of the Assistants Tour, which has become the Assistant Professional Association, and has been a member ever since. His efforts in junior golf led to Rob being honored as the MAPGA Junior Golf Leader in 1994 and being nominated for MAPGA Teacher of the Year in 1998.

Reaching back in time, here is a quote from Rob in 1990, "Being a PGA Professional has always been my primary goal in life. I therefore find working in the golf environment, not a day-to-day chore, but rather, a most enjoyable and interesting experience whether I am teaching juniors, giving lessons, organizing tournaments, cleaning carts, or meeting the members during my duties." Judging from his varied and continued involvement, Rob's enjoyment and dedication are still going strong.

When asked, to what do you attribute your success? His answer was very concise and to the point, it was just two words, "Hard Work."

Rob and his wife, Shelli, have been married for nine years and have a 5-year-old son, Jackson.