## Kenneth T. Clark, PGA

## Country Club of Petersburg, Petersburg, Virginia

Kenny Clark was born on September 6, 1963, in Richmond, Virginia to Billy and Donna Spear Clark. He is the youngest of six children, including two brothers, David and Jerome, and three sisters, Billie Gail, Faye, and Gilda. When Kenny was one year old, the family moved to New Kent and it was around the age of 12 when his father started taking him to Brookwoods Golf Course in Quinton, Virginia. His father truly loved the game and felt it was something they could enjoy and share. Kenny's mother also took up the game when he was a teenager so that they would have a common interest. There was no golf team at New Kent HS at the time, so Kenny started a team as a freshman when he also played soccer. He graduated from New Kent HS in 1981, and then attended Atlantic Christian College (now Barton University) where he was a member of the golf team.

Kenny's first golf-related job was at Brookwoods as a cart attendant where he formed a lifelong friendship with now fellow PGA Professional Tim White. The two worked alongside each other as teenagers and played 54 holes a day — every day (and some serious football on the range in winter!). Kenny declared his professional status in 1983 and in 1991, after a number of years working outside of the golf industry, he went to work as an assistant for Head PGA Professional Jimmy McFarlane at Meadowbrook Country Club in Richmond, Virginia where he remained for three years. After a short time at The Dominion Club as an assistant, Kenny returned to Meadowbrook in 1995. Elected to PGA membership in 1996, Kenny was quickly selected to be the Head PGA Professional at the Tides Inn's Tartan Golf Course in Irvington, Virginia. In 2001, he became the Head PGA Professional at the Tides Inn's Golden Eagle Golf Club just a couple of miles from the Tartan Course. In 2004, he was selected to be the Head PGA Professional at the Country Club of Petersburg.

Kenny's support of the Middle Atlantic Section dates back to his days at the Tartan Course when he did yeoman's work in hosting the TaylorMade-adidas Golf MAPGA Chapter Challenge Cup. Kenny was a tremendous host to six of eight Challenge Cups conducted at the Tides Inn between 1996 and 2003! His outstanding contributions to the event truly made it a very special competition full of camaraderie, as it continues to be today. Over the years, Kenny has always been very accommodating in hosting Section and Chapter Tournaments including the Section Championship, the Tournament of Champions, PGA Tour qualifiers, Chapter events, the Stableford Championship, the Pro-Scratch, and more!

Kenny was elected Secretary of the Southern Chapter in the fall of 2003, served as the Vice President in 2005, and currently serves as President. In September of 2004, when the Section Tournament Chair resigned, Kenny stepped up and volunteered to take on the additional and very challenging position as Section Tournament Chair. At President Taylor's request, Kenny agreed to stay on as Tournament Chair through his current administration.

He was previously recognized by the Middle Atlantic Section as its 2003 Merchandiser of the Year in the Resort Category. Kenny has been an accomplished tournament player for many years. He has won numerous Pro-Am and Pro-Pro tournaments and qualified for, and played in, the 1994 Nike Tour's Dominion Open. In 2003, Kenny and Tim White, PGA, were named co-MVP's of the Tom Strange Cup, for the Southern Chapter team in the Chapter Challenge Cup. Kenny and partner Mark Lambert, PGA, won the 2004 Page and Tuttle MAPGA Senior-Junior and were runners-up in 2005. Kenny was also the runner-up in the 2005 Callaway MAPGA Head Professional Championship. In 2006, he was recognized with the MAPGA President's Award.

While in Irvington, Virginia, Kenny found the time to be the golf coach at Lancaster Middle School and at Christchurch School from 2001 - 2003. He also helped the Lancaster High School golf team, where his son played. Kenny was active in the local YMCA, Little League, PTA, and Lancaster High School Athletic Boosters. He started the highly successful Chesapeake Bank Pro-Am in 1998, which raised over \$35k and benefited athletic endeavors at Lancaster public schools. Kenny continues to be very involved in his current community and its surrounding area through numerous school and charitable events along with a number of civic organizations. He has coached various youth sports and frequently provides golf equipment to the Petersburg High School golf program. Kenny is proud to be an original member of the Virginia Junior Golf Alliance, which was started last winter with the objective of increasing competitive, affordable junior golf tournaments and educational programs.

Kenny and his wife, Cindy, have been married for twenty one years and he credits her as the reason for his success. They have two children. Taylor Thomas (20) is a sophomore at Radford University, majoring in physical education. Taylor was a catcher and helped Thomas Dale HS win their District Championship in 2007 (something that hadn't happened in a very long time!). Griffin Wilder (14) is in the eighth grade and has recently decided to make golf his primary sport. He won his age group in the 2008 Bobby Bowers! Both of the boys are great athletes and have enjoyed many sports through the years, including golf. Cindy and Kenny have spent the better part of numerous years cheering them on! Kenny feels he has been successful because he truly loves what he does and has a passion for it. He enjoys all aspects of the golf business including mentoring and managing a great staff, merchandising, running first class events, and teaching this greatest of games.

Kenny appreciates meeting new and interesting people as a perk of the profession. He believes being a PGA Professional is who you are, not just what you do.