

MAPGA President's Award

Jay Dufty, PGA

TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm

Potomac, Maryland

The MAPGA President, John Madden, personally selects this President's Award winner to recognize an individual who has been working hard, "under the radar," to improve our game, our industry, and our Association. Mr. Madden identified Jay Dufty, PGA not only for his work with PGA Tour events in our Section, but also his growing role as a Section committee member and Chapter Board member.

Jay was born on January 23, 1973 to Doug and Karen Dufty in Morris, Minnesota, about a two hour drive south of Fargo, North Dakota. He grew up with his older sister, now Paula Smith, who resides in Woodbury, Minn. When Jay was three, he tagged along with his father to Pomme de Terre Golf Club in Morris where Doug coached the University of Minnesota Morris Golf Team. This would be Jay's first introduction to golf and by the age of five, he was playing right along with the rest of his family.

Before Jay entered third grade, the Duftys moved to Fargo where they lived a short bike ride from a 9-hole course. Jay and his friends would ride to the course and play whenever they had the chance. He also played every winter from 1983-1991 when his family vacationed to warmer climates. His dedication to the game earned him a job at Moorhead Country Club in Moorhead, Minn. working for Head PGA Professional Larry Murphy. Mr. Murphy mentored Jay throughout his adolescent career as he played all four years on the High School golf team. The encouragement from Mr. Murphy also triggered Jay's interest to become a golf professional, resulting in his enrollment in the Professional Golf Management Program at New Mexico State University.

While attending NMSU, Jay worked as a PGA Intern at Oak Tree Country Club in Tulsa, Okla.; Wildflower Golf Club in Detroit Lakes, Minn.; and Rum River Hills Golf Club in Ramsey, Minn. Following graduation, he accepted an Assistant position at Blueberry Pines Golf Club in Menahga, Minn. and also worked during the winter months at TPC Scottsdale. In 1997, he moved into the Head Professional position at Blueberry Pines, earning his PGA Membership in 1998. He continued to work there until a full-time Assistant position opened up at TPC Scottsdale at the end of 1999, starting his career in the TPC network of courses. In the spring of 2001, Jay became the Head PGA Professional at TPC Myrtle Beach where he stayed for one season before moving north and accepting his current position as Head PGA Professional at TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm.

Jay's experience in the golf industry runs the gamut from facilitating a large PGA Tour event to supporting the local First Tee organization to serving his PGA Section. In his 15 years with the TPC Network he has been an integral part of more than 10 PGA Tour, Champions Tour, and Web.com Tour events. He is a current Board Member of the First Tee of Montgomery County and is proud to represent an organization that is making great strides to instill values and create opportunities for youth across the country. He is also very involved with the Middle Atlantic PGA on both the Chapter and Section levels. Over the last three years, Jay has served on the Section's Membership Committee and has held the Central Regional Director position on the Central Chapter Board.

As a PGA Professional, Jay enjoys the mix of variety and consistency that comes with every work day. As a team leader, he takes great pride in developing and executing a strategic plan and making sure that all staff members have a part in the success of the plan. He has a passion for developing his staff and strives to help them see their potential beyond TPC Potomac.

Jay and his wife Michelle have been married for eight years and together they have a son, Mason (6), and a daughter, Mia (4). Michelle, the rock of the Dufty family, is very understanding of Jay's passion for his career and has been his biggest supporter. She is also successful in her career as the Director of Product Marketing for Ellucian, a leader in higher education software and services.