

James A. Fitzgerald, PGA
Chevy Chase Club, Chevy Chase, Maryland

Jim was born August 30, 1956 on Long Island, New York to Arthur (now deceased) and Edith Fitzgerald. Growing up in a large Catholic family, Jim had six sisters: Patricia Franck, Kathy Larue, Irene Hitchcock, Sharon Maiewski, Mary Spurlock (now deceased), and Karen Kordon.

Jim caddied for his father at Falls Road Golf Course in Potomac, Maryland beginning at age 11 and began playing golf himself when he was 13 years old at Potomac Valley Country Club (now Poolesville Golf Club) in Poolesville, Maryland.

Jim graduated from Gaithersburg High School in 1974. From 1974-1977, he worked the bagroom for PGA Professionals Dick Wilson and Jerry Hogge at Lakewood Country Club in Rockville, Maryland. Jim won the 1976 Bubby Worsham Championship, qualified for the 1977 US Amateur, and finished fourth in the 1977 Middle Atlantic Amateur. He turned professional in 1978 after graduating from the University of Maryland.

From 1978-1979, Jim worked at Montgomery Village Golf Club in Gaithersburg, Maryland. He moved to Columbia Country Club in 1980, where he worked for “Coach” Bill Strausbaugh. Jim was elected to PGA membership in April of 1982. From 1982-1984, Jim coached the George Washington University golf team. From 1982 to 1987, he was the PGA Teaching Professional at Sandy Lane Golf Club, a five-star resort, in Barbados, West Indies in the winter season. He became the head PGA Professional at Sankaty Head Golf Club on Nantucket Island in 1985. In 1987, Jim was hired as the head PGA Professional at Chevy Chase Club.

In 1981, Jim was honored as the Middle Atlantic Section’s Assistant PGA Professional of the Year. In 1996, he was selected as the MAPGA’s Teacher of the Year.

Jim’s desire to become a PGA Professional was not influenced by any one individual. He enjoyed the game as a youngster and feels fortunate he has been able to make a living and achieve a modest degree of success doing something he enjoys so well. In his early years in golf he was exposed to professionals he feels were poor role models. Later on, working for Bill Strausbaugh at Columbia Country Club, a great role model, he was guided by someone he wanted to emulate. Jim cares deeply about the golf profession, his image as a PGA Professional, his staff, and his membership. He tries to be consistent every day and treats everyone the same. In areas where he or his operation are not strong, Jim tries to improve and adapt to the times.

Jim married Jane Abood on May 11, 1985. She is an outstanding amateur golfer – they met when he gave her golf lessons in 1983. Jane won the Maryland State Golf Association’s Women’s Amateur Championship five times and the Women’s Open once, in 2001. She has qualified for every USGA Championship for which she is eligible. Jim and Jane have two children, daughter Kelly, age 16, and son James, age 12.

