

## TEACHER OF THE YEAR

*This award bestows special recognition on a PGA member who has performed outstanding service as a golf instructor along with overall distinguished performance as a PGA professional.*

### **JON MAGARACE - Old South Country Club**

Teacher of the Year award recipient Jon Magarace, Teaching Professional at Old South Country Club in Lothian, MD, transferred into the Middle Atlantic Section from the Philadelphia Section in 1991. He brought with him a reputation for being a quality instructor of the highest level. In addition to his full lesson schedule and the extensive junior golf program he directs at Old South Country Club, Jon conducts numerous clinics and camps for players of all levels. Some of his students throughout the years are Bobby Clampett, PGA Tour; Joe Daley, Nike and PGA Tour; Bonnie George, Philadelphia Ladies Outstanding Amateur; Rodney Carr, Montreal Junior Champion; Hall Chaney, MAPGA Junior Tour; Tom Winegardner, Hooters Tour; and Clarisse Bokabsa, Paris, France Junior Champion. Jon also participates in many Pro-Am Tournaments, both regionally and internationally, with Old South Country Club's members. He has been instrumental in the development and implementation of a new golf team for a local high school, and currently serves as the coach of that team. Jon is unselfishly giving of his time in promoting good deeds through the game of golf. Shortly after Hurricane George ripped through the small island, Jon traveled to the Dominican Republic to play in the Caribbean Invitational. He was so moved by the devastation caused by the hurricane that he started a clothing drive to benefit the residents of the small Caribbean country. Jon also contributes a great deal of time as a section volunteer. His long list of service includes rules official for section tournaments, serving on the greeting committee when the MAPGA hosted the PGA Annual Meeting; Paul Berry's Neediest Kids, "Ten More Yards," "Cure Your Slice, and many others too numerous to mention. Additionally, he serves on the *Professional Evaluator Panel* of the **Better Golf Institute**, a chartered nonprofit organization composed of Certified PGA Professionals, which provides non-biased evaluations of golf-related products and services for golfers of various abilities. Jon's dedication to charitable causes has resulted in thousands of dollars raised for the American Cancer Society through his "Longest Day of Golf" marathons, earning more than \$12,000 in pledges in a single day by completing 180 holes. Not only did he complete ten rounds of golf in a single day, but amazingly, he shot 28 birdies and 3 eagles! During the off-season, Jon travels worldwide in his promotion of golf. He organized and implemented the start of an International Junior Golf Camp and has provided golf instruction to junior golfers from Canada, Europe, South America, South Africa and the Caribbean.

Jon Magarace grew up in Philadelphia, PA, where he lived with his father Lawrence, mother Elva Brusca and three sisters Jeana, Gemma and Marianne. Jon's mother insisted on discipline, respect and tolerance for others. While his father was not a golfer, he did place emphasis on sports and taught Jon the value of good sportsmanship. Jon's first exposure to golf came when he was eleven years old. A planned outing to the movies with the family of his best friend turned into a trip to a driving range instead. Located near the driving range was the Somerton Springs' Executive Course. A few days later, Jon and two other friends sneaked onto the Executive Course, and as luck would have it, they were caught by the owner, David Platt. Mr. Platt, who apparently had a sympathetic nature as well as a passion for golf, agreed not to notify the police if the boys would agree to attend a junior golf clinic conducted by professional Chap Rafferty. That was the beginning of Jon's love affair with golf. The following year he

got a caddy job at Philmont Country Club in Huntingdon Valley, PA, and three years after that he became a counselor for Somerton Springs Junior Camp. Over the next eleven years Jon captured numerous amateur titles, including the Philadelphia Caddy Championship (four times), Philadelphia PGM Junior Championship (two times), Temple University Championship and others. Jon declared his professional status in 1983 and in 1989 he was elected to PGA membership. Ironically, as an apprentice, he worked at the same golf course that he sneaked onto as an adventurous eleven-year-old! In 1988 Jon became the Director of Instruction/Head Professional of J.K.S.T. Golf School/Haverford Golf Range in Haverford, PA. He reconditioned and maintained an old driving range and was the owner/operator of two golf professional shops. While there he organized and implemented an International Junior Golf Camp and directed an organization of instructors to provide golf instruction to junior golfers from all over the world. During this time he also participated in the European Mini Tour. In 1992 he accepted his current job as Teaching Professional at Old South Country Club. The MAPGA is very fortunate to have Jon Magarace as one of its members. His wealth of experience, skill as a player, and strength of character have earned him the respect and admiration of students, employers and fellow golf professionals. In the words of William Shea, General Manager of Old South Country Club, "Jon not only develops golf swings but relationships, which is what being a golf professional is all about."