

Jeffrey Zachman, PGA
Piney Branch Golf and Country Club, Hampstead, Maryland

Neither of Jeffrey's parents, Warren and Joyce Zachman, were golfers, but his grandmother, Marvel Fett Zachman Smith, began playing golf at the age of 58 at Kings Mill Golf Course in Waldo, Ohio. She got her husband interested and then asked thirteen-year-old Jeff to join them during their rounds, though he always had to mow the lawn first. He had the privilege of getting to better know his grandfather while playing golf with him for a year before he died of a massive heart attack. Jeff doesn't think there's a better game for getting to know someone in a short period of time. In 1990, while attending the PGA Merchandise Show, Jeff played a nine-hole match with his grandmother, giving her two shots a hole. It was a short course and she shot a 49 actually making a birdie on a par-3 for a net zero. Jeff lost that match, but enjoyed it immensely. In what other game can an 80-something play against a 30-something and still be competitive?

PGA Professional Roger Hensel, married to Jeff's Aunt Karen, hired Jeff at the age of fourteen to work at Whetstone Country Club in Caledonia, Ohio in the bagroom cleaning clubs and parking carts, then later as an assistant. He worked on improving his golf game and was Whetstone's Junior Club Champion in 1974 and won the Boswell Bash in Nashville, Tennessee in 1979 while fulfilling a college internship at Belle Meade Country Club.

Ferris State College (later University) in Big Rapids, Michigan first offered the Professional Golf Management program in 1975, the first of its kind in the nation. Jeff entered Ferris State in 1977 and graduated in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. He had the privilege of spending the next eight years working for "Coach" Bill Strausbaugh (MAPGA Hall of Fame Class of 1989) at Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Jeff received his PGA membership in 1983 while at Columbia, where Coach trained Jeff to communicate effectively and fostered his willingness to educate students and help his fellow PGA Professionals. Jeff was selected to be the Head PGA Professional position at Piney Branch Golf Club in 1989 and is finishing his 19th season there.

From 2002 to 2007, Jeff served as the Secretary, Vice President, then President of the Northern Chapter, the Chair of the Section's Historical and Scholarship Committees, and a member of the Employment Committee. He is active in his church as Finance Chair and also serves on their Administrative Board. Jeff has been a member of the Westminster Elks and is still active in the Hampstead Lions Club. He was recognized in 2003 for helping to raise funds for the Northeast Rabbits, an organization that helps needy families in Carroll County. The ARC of Carroll County (previously known as the Association of Retarded Citizens) honored Jeff in 2004 for his contributions and continued support of their annual charity golf tournament. Jeff was the Honorary PGA Professional at the 2006 Bill Strausbaugh Memorial Pro-Am/Pro-Pro. PGA Professionals from across the country as well as local celebrities are invited to this annual charity event conducted at Columbia Country Club to raise funds for the Fred McLeod-Bill Strausbaugh Caddie Scholarship Fund and other charities. Having spent many years with the "Coach" Jeff will always treasure those memories and this honor.

Preferring to keep things simple and fun, Jeff wants each student to know that he cares about them and their golf game. He does his best to be realistic and encouraging at the same time and feels good communication is the best way to help students improve.

Jeff was hooked early on and his love for the game has only increased in the ensuing years. While dating his future wife, Jana, her father advised her to take up golf if she wanted to get serious about Jeff. She took his advice about the lessons and has given Jeff her love and support every step of the way in their 18 years of marriage. They have three beautiful daughters – Tori, age 14; Lindsay, age 12; and Olivia, age 10 – and the girls keep Jeff and Jana busy with softball, soccer, lacrosse, basketball, and yes, even golf. Jana shot her best round of 86 while seven months pregnant with Lindsay!