

Jim Bowling, PGA
Princess Anne Country Club, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Jim grew up in Jersey City, New Jersey, in a county that had no golf course (private or public). He began playing golf at the age of six after receiving a set of clubs as a Christmas present. A family friend, Joan Murphy, an avid amateur golfer and superintendent of the Jersey City public schools, gave him lessons at a driving range next to the Duncan Avenue Housing Project in Jersey City. Jim preferred basketball, but after injuring his ankle during his sophomore year in high school, decided to focus on golf. He worked summers as a caddie at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, New Jersey.

Jim was named to the 1980 high school All-American golf team. While attending Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, Jim played four years on the varsity golf team that won the 1982 and 1984 NAIA District Championships. In 1982, Jim also won the Baltusrol Golf Club Caddie Championship.

After receiving a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Math from Spring Hill College, Jim declared his professional status in 1985 and accepted an assistant position at Northdale Golf Club in Tampa, Florida. From there he went to East Lake Woodlands Country Club in Oldsmar, Florida. Jim was elected to PGA membership in 1988. He moved to the Head PGA Professional position at Airco Golf Course in Clearwater, Florida in 1989; Crescent Oaks Country Club in Tarpon Springs, Florida in 1990; and Wentworth Golf Club in Tarpon Springs in 1991. In 1992, Jim accepted an Assistant PGA Professional position at Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston, Virginia where he was named Employee of the Year. It was back to Florida a year and a half later to be the Head PGA Professional at American Golfers Club in Fort Lauderdale. He left there in 1996 to be the PGA Teaching Professional at Golden Bear Golf Center (now Willowbrook Family Golf Center) in Wayne, New Jersey, near his hometown. Jim moved across the river in 1997 to be the regional retail manager for Family Golf Centers in Melville, New York. In 1999, he moved to the Bronx to be the Head PGA Professional at Bronx Family Golf Center. It was back to New Jersey in 2000 to accept the Head PGA Professional position at Darlington Golf Center in Mahwah. After almost three years there, Jim became the PGA Director of Golf at Kiln Creek Golf Club and Resort in Newport News, Virginia. Jim has been the Assistant PGA Professional at Princess Anne Country Club since 2003. He received their annual Dependable Service Award in 2004 and 2006 for continually providing superior service to the membership on a daily basis.

Having worked as a Head PGA Professional, Jim has a pretty good idea of what is expected of an assistant and is therefore able to handle many responsibilities around the course. He has volunteered as a mentor for any member or apprentice needing help or advice. Jim had some good mentors and feels there is no greater sign of leadership than being considered a mentor to one's peers. As with most PGA Professionals, Jim began his career because he enjoys and loves the game, and believes it should always be fun. His passion is junior golf as he had very little chance to play as a child and wishes to give more children the opportunity to play the game.

The secrets of Jim's success are organization, a strong work ethic, and support from his family. Jim is extremely well organized and can easily adapt to the ever-changing environment of the

golf business. His work ethic guarantees that if he can get something done today, then he won't wait until tomorrow. Jim gives his members his undivided attention at all times and his family's support allows Jim to spend as much time as is needed at the club every day.

Jim and his wife, Dorothy Maureen, have been married for twenty years and have two children: daughter Erin Rochelle is sixteen, a junior at Grafton High School, and an honor roll student who plays alto sax in the school band, and was named to the 2007 District Band; and son Brendan John is twelve, a sixth grader at Grafton Middle School, and an honor roll student who is also an All-Star baseball pitcher and outfielder. Jim coached Brendan's baseball team in the Yorktown Little League that won the League Championship. He was also named as one of the coaches of the 2007 York County Little League 11-year-old All-Star Team.