

***Joe Plecker, PGA***  
*Baltimore Country Club, Timonium, Maryland*

Joe's father, PGA Master Professional Coleman Plecker, was a member of the Middle Atlantic Section for over 30 years before he and Joe's mother, Barbara, moved to Florida two years ago. Coleman taught Joe to play golf in 1977 at the driving range at Eagles Nest at Towson Golf and Country Club in Towson, Maryland. That first lesson stressed the proper grip, how to choose a club for certain shots, and how to keep score. Later that same day, at the age of five, Joe played in the Jimmy Flattery Junior Golf Tournament at Hunt Valley Golf Club in Hunt Valley, Maryland, where he met MAPGA Past President John Flattery. Once he began playing, Joe played in every junior tournament he could get to, and was fortunate to meet many great PGA Professionals as a child, learning from them about golf and life in the golf industry.

Joe and his sister, Beth, were practically raised behind the sales counter at Towson Golf and Country Club where Coleman, then the Head PGA Professional, and also Barbara worked. Watching his father compete in the 1980 and 1986 Kemper Opens at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland had a profound effect on Joe and influenced his decision to pursue a golf career. That Coleman was such a good player, who did so much for the Middle Atlantic Section, makes Joe realize how lucky he has been to grow up in the golf industry.

Master Professional Frank Laber, Head PGA Professional at Black Horse Golf and Learning Center in White Hall, Maryland, whom Joe refers to as Uncle Frank, was a constant presence in his youth, has guided him through his membership in The PGA of America, and remains a close friend. Mike Healy, Head PGA Professional at Country Club of Maryland in Towson, Maryland, is always willing to share advice and thoughts on life as a PGA Professional. MAPGA Hall of Famers John Haines (Class of 2004) and Bill Sporre (Class of 2006) attended many of Joe's junior tournaments to offer encouragement and suggestions. During lessons with Bill Strausbaugh (MAPGA Hall of Fame Class of 1989) at Columbia Country Club, Joe shared his dream with the "Coach" to teach golf and was told to "keep the message simple," great advice that Joe still follows today and always will.

Joe got his first job (at the age of four!) operating the ball washer at Eagles Nest in exchange for Susan B. Anthony coins. When his father moved to the Head PGA Professional position at Manor Country Club in Rockville, Maryland, Joe also worked there through high school and college.

Joe attended Loyola Blakefield, a Jesuit college-prep middle and high school in Towson, Maryland, where he played on the school's golf team that won the 1987-1989 MSA Championships. Joe finished as the runner-up at the 1989 Maryland State Golf Association Junior Boys Championship behind Tim Burnett. He played on the Seton Hall University golf team that won the 1992 Big East Team Championship. Joe also attended Towson University in Towson, Maryland from which he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Sport Management in 1995.

After declaring his professional status in 1995, Joe continued working summers as an assistant at Manor Country Club and winters at the Ocean Reef Club in Key Largo, Florida until 1998, when

he was elected to PGA membership. Joe then worked at the Golf Academy at Chelsea Piers in New York City from 1998 to 2003 and, concurrently, at Coleman Plecker's World of Golf in Joppa, Maryland from 1999 to 2003. He briefly worked at Essex County Country Club in West Orange, New Jersey before accepting the PGA Director of Instruction position at Baltimore Country Club in Timonium, Maryland for the spring through summer seasons and Bent Pine Golf Club in Vero Beach, Florida for the fall through winter seasons.

Dan McNeal, a friend and fellow student at Loyola Blakefield, was killed in the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Center. As the Golf Chairman of The Dan McNeal Scholarship Fund, Joe has helped raise money toward an annual scholarship award for a Loyola Blakefield senior who embodies the characteristics of academic excellence, service, and leadership that Dan demonstrated during his years at Loyola.

Joe educates himself to be the best he can be and will never stop learning or being curious about life. His pride in PGA membership shows through in his professional manner. Joe philosophizes that if you know your goals then the path to them appears. He utilizes the latest technology to instruct members and guests and continues to educate himself by attending and presenting at PGA educational clinics and seminars. As a new faculty member in Towson University's Sport Management Department, Joe is teaching the university's first Professional Golf Management course this fall. Classroom instruction has offered Joe a new perspective on teaching golf and opened more opportunities for him to grow the game.

Joe and his wife, Bridget, were married in August of 2007.