

Joy Bonhurst

2019 Teacher of the Year

For her excellence in teaching, as well as her innovative contributions to golf instruction, Joy Bonhurst is the 2019 Teacher of the Year. Joy epitomizes the PGA and is a dedicated role model for the PGA and LPGA. Joy has worked extensively with individuals of all playing levels – from beginners to accomplished players (Amateur & Professional) & with all levels of physical ability – from athletes to golfers with disabilities. Joy has served on the MAPGA Tournament Committee since 2016, was the LPGA Teaching and Club Professional (T&CP) Northeast Section Education Coordinator 2005 – 2013 and has recently been selected to serve on the LPGA T&CP Tournament Committee. Joy has been a member of the Proponent Group, a network of golf educators, since 2009.

Joy's mother, an avid golfer introduced her to the game of golf over 35 years ago. Joy and her mother would practice hitting golf balls at her schoolyard on Long Island, New York. To make practicing more fun, Joy taught her dog how to shag her golf balls. It was while spending time practicing at her schoolyard that Joy fell in love with the game of golf. As the fourth women golfer to be inducted into the Methodist College Athletic Hall of Fame, Joy and her team won Methodist's first four NGCA Division III National Championships from 1986 -1989. Joy has a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Professional Golf Management. After graduating from Methodist, Joy pursued her dream to become a golf professional. Joy has been a PGA and LPGA member 23+ years and is a Class A Teaching Professional.

Joy's passion for teaching and playing the game of golf continues to grow stronger and stronger every day! Joy is passionate that golf is a game of the lifetime to be played and she passes on that passion to her students; including inspiring other golf professionals to play more golf. Joy wants players to enjoy the game of golf as much as she does. Joy is also inspired by her student's accomplishments whether winning a tournament, shooting your best score, getting out for exercise, or having fun with friends. Having been influenced by many great teaching professionals and mentors, Joy loves to learn how to improve her teaching ability and commits significant resources and time on professional development through working with other professionals, certifications, seminars, online webcasts and teaching and coaching summits. To complement her keen eye, Joy has been a pioneer in early adoption of technology enhancements. Joy's continued professional development has resulted in increasing her teaching and playing abilities which have in turn benefited her hundreds of students.

Joy believes that a successful teacher and/or coach is able to identify how students learn best, is a good communicator, and motivates each student. When Joy first starts to work with a student, she will ask a series of questions in order to best determine goals, physical limitations, and how her students best learn (watching, hearing, doing or any combination). Joy prepares customized teaching programs that incorporate a combination of teaching tools (from high tech Trackman and K-vest to training aides) for

the students indoors and outdoors lessons to target areas of focus along with playing lessons. Each of these teaching locations provides the student with a different perspective and targets development of new skills including a positive mental game.

Joy's passion for growing the game of golf is evident whether teaching her students, being the Co-Tournament Director for the Annual Bermuda Ladies Pro-Am Golf Classic for the past twenty-two years, growing the golf program at Blue Mash Golf Course which includes golf clinics, running and playing in the Blue Mash Birdies, a weekly social competition and supporting the National Women's Day of Golf. Joy also supports LPGA sponsored "Girls Golf Clinics" and several Veteran's initiatives. Joy has written and/or been highlighted in articles for "PGA Magazine", "Tee Time Magazine", Comcast Sports Network, and has been a guest speaker at MAPGA teaching and coaching events.

Joy believes it is important as a Teaching Professional to continually refine her playing skills and that golf is a game to play. While Joy's professional responsibilities do not give her as much flexibility to play competitively as much as she would like, she thoroughly enjoys the competition and her experiences augment her teaching and coaching.

In addition to this MAPGA Section Award, Joy was selected to the inaugural LPGA Top 50 Best Teachers for 2017 -2018, selected LPGA Northeast Section Teacher of the Year in 2004, 2009, 2013 and 2017, ranked among the best teachers in "Golf Digest", "Golf For Women" during 2000 - 2012 timeframe and was the feature article in the "Maryland State Golf Magazine", June 2013.

As a playing professional, Joy's accomplishments include: winning the MAPGA Women's Player of the Year in 2008 and 2009, LPGA Teaching and Club Professional National Team Champion in 2013, 2015 and 2018, PGA Winter Series Women's Stroke Play Champion in 2012 and qualified and played in the Inaugural US Senior Women's Open in 2018 and qualified and played in the Senior LPGA Championship in 2018.

For the past 8 years, Champ Bunny, Joy's 4-legged 11-pound assistant has been by her side. Champ Bunny's duties include greeting players, being a forecaddie and bringing smiles to all.