

PGA Professional of the Year

This high honor bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional for overall performance as a PGA Professional, leadership, service, and promotion of the game of golf.

Thomas B. Joyce Jr., PGA

Hidden Valley Country Club, Salem, Virginia

Tommy was born August 16, 1968 in Martinsville, Virginia to parents Thomas and Pauline Joyce. He has two sisters, Wanda Cart and Kathy Holada. Tommy began playing golf at Lynwood Golf and Country Club in Martinsville, Virginia when he was eight years old with his father plus Head PGA Professional Wayne Haley (now deceased). The one-on-one time with his dad kept his interest high and the encouragement and relationship with Wayne Haley took his play to the next level. Tommy began working as a cart attendant at Lynwood when he was fifteen. He was a member of the 1986 VSGA Junior Team and a runner-up at the Donald Ross Junior Championship. Tommy received a full golf scholarship to Virginia Commonwealth University, was the Team Captain during his junior and senior years, and received All-Sunbelt Conference Honors in 1991. Jack Bell, PGA, the school's golf coach, was also a strong influence on Tommy.

Tommy began working as an assistant at Hermitage Country Club in Manakin Sabot, Virginia in 1990. He started playing the Hooters Tour in 1991 and qualified for several Nike Tour events. After two years as a touring professional, Tommy went to work for Links Group Management Company in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, first as the Head PGA Professional at Cypress Bay Golf Club, then as the Director of Golf, and finally as the Director of Revenue and Acquisitions. He earned his PGA membership in May of 1993. In 1997, Hidden Valley Country Club chose Tommy to be their Head PGA Professional.

Tommy was selected as the Section's 2001 Junior Golf Leader for his extensive commitment to juniors. His junior program was recognized by U.S. Kids Top 50 Teachers in America in 2004 and 2006. He has been able to work with other PGA Professionals and help develop several successful programs. Tommy developed the Roanoke Valley Junior Golf Association in 2000 and conducts 20 one-day tournaments throughout the year. He is the host professional and serves on the committee for the Delta Dental Pro-Am for Kids. This Pro-Am has risen over \$300,000 to fund an indoor hitting facility and a golf training program for the Roanoke Valley Boys and Girls Club. Tommy serves on the Roanoke Valley First Tee Board of Directors that constructed a First Tee Range in 2005. He also serves on the Roanoke Valley Golf Hall of Fame Board of Directors which annually awards over \$46,000 in scholarships to high school seniors with an interest and ability in the game of golf. Tommy's continuing efforts to give back to the game are a fitting tribute to his two mentors, Wayne Haley and Jack Bell.

Tommy has a reputation of helping assistants gain PGA membership and presently has 10 former assistants whom have gained PGA Membership and been able to secure a Head PGA Professional or Director of Golf position. Tommy's assistants know that he will do everything possible to help them advance. In 2006, the MAPGA recognized Tommy for his mentoring and community service by awarding him the Bill Strausbaugh Award.

Tommy has also been active in the governance of his Association. He previously served two years on the Carolinas Section Board of Directors and was President of the Myrtle Beach Area Golf Professional Association. When he moved to the Middle Atlantic Section, he quickly became involved with the Southern Chapter, serving through the officer chairs culminating as Chapter President. Tommy has also served as the Chair of the Section's Junior Golf Committee from 2001-2006, and as a member of the

Education, Employment, and Grow the Game Committees. Presently, Tommy serves as the Section Director-at-Large.

Tommy's success is based on always going that extra step to help others. The world is full of givers and takers and it has always been stressed to Tommy through coaches and parents that giving back is the only way. His professional goal is very simple: to continuously payback the wonderful things that other PGA Professionals gave to him. Tommy has donated his time to "Scott Robertson's In School Program" by arranging to have PGA Professionals go into elementary schools and introduce the game to fifth graders. He also serves as a Tournament Committee Member for the Scott Robertson Memorial Junior Tournament, which is one of the top 10 Junior Tournaments in the nation. In 2007, Tommy organized and hosted "Stroke Savers," a weekly one-minute special on the local NBC station. He has also spoken at numerous meetings and given special golf clinics for various organizations.

Tommy and his wife, Kristy, have been married for six years. They have a son, Trey, and a daughter, Kendall.