

THE HORTON SMITH TROPHY

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA member for outstanding service and contributions toward developing and improving educational opportunities for the PGA professionals and apprentices.

KEVIN R. TAYLOR, PGA - Four Streams Golf Club

This year's Horton Smith Trophy winner is Kevin Taylor, Head Golf Professional at Four Streams Golf Club in Beallsville, MD. Kevin was named for his continuing efforts to improve educational opportunities for the golf professional in the Middle Atlantic Section. Kevin began his career as a golf professional in 1992 at Kings Creek CC in Rehoboth Beach, DE. In 1994, he accepted an Assistant's position at Columbia CC in Chevy Chase, MD, working under the tutelage of the legendary Bill Strausbaugh, and in 1995, the highly-respected Bob Dolan when Bob was named Head Golf Professional at Columbia CC. Kevin learned much working with these two MAPGA "greats" and exhibits their same high standards and commitment to improve opportunities for his fellow professionals.

In 1996, Kevin earned his PGA membership. He became actively involved in the MAPGA Assistants' Association, later serving as the A-8 Director for the Central Chapter and as Director-at-Large for the APA. In 1997, he accepted an Assistant's position at Chevy Chase Club in Chevy Chase, MD; and in 1998, was named the MAPGA Assistant of the Year. Also in 1998, he was offered and accepted his current position as Head Golf Professional at Four Streams Golf Club in Beallsville, MD.

Kevin was born in 1967 in Indianapolis, IN and was introduced to the game of golf at the age of 13 by his parents, Robert and Shirley Taylor. His first golf-related job was at Ironmaster's Golf Shop where he worked as a Shop Assistant doing club repairs. He graduated from Central Pennsylvania Business School in 1987 with a degree in Banking and Finance Management and worked at an off-course golf shop doing club repair and handling retail sales before deciding to make the golf profession his career and declaring professional status in 1992.

As Chair of the MAPGA Education Committee, Kevin demonstrates unselfish dedication to not only making golf a better game for both the amateur and the PGA Professional, but making the golf business better for the professional. His goal is to ensure his fellow professionals stay ahead in an industry that is changing daily. Kevin has brought many quality speakers to the section covering the topics of teaching, merchandising, health and fitness, and business. He strives to make sure that the education programs of the MAPGA and the National PGA are programs that will enhance the careers and personal lives of fellow members and apprentices. Kevin inspired recent changes to the Titleist Custom Fitting System on a national level. His recommendations were implemented by Titleist, and due to the overwhelmingly positive response, Kevin was made part of the national Titleist Custom Fitting staff in 2000.

Kevin takes great pride in being a golf professional and a member of The PGA. He presents himself not only as a player and a teacher, but also as an ambassador, taking every opportunity to promote golf and the association so that the public has a greater understanding of the contributions PGA members make to the industry. He emphasizes to his assistants the importance of professionalism, attitude and appearance, whether attending a meeting or education seminar, playing in a tournament or visiting with a member at the club. As predicted in 1998 when he was named MAPGA Assistant of the Year, Kevin continues to stand out as a leader in both his profession and his Association. He has served on the MAPGA Board of Directors since 1999. He served as Secretary of the Central Chapter Board of Directors, and when Vice President Nancy Maunder transferred out of the section, Kevin assumed the duties of Vice President of the Central Chapter as well. He was recently elected President of the Central Chapter at their 2001 Fall Chapter Meeting.

Kevin attributes his success to hard work, a positive attitude, and involvement in Chapter and Section affairs. He firmly believes in the importance of meeting people and networking, and considers himself very fortunate to work with and around many accomplished PGA Professionals. Kevin, his wife Carrie, and daughter Madelaine reside in Silver Spring, MD with their two beloved Labradors, Kodiak and Trooper.

