

Kathy Franz, PGA
The Elkridge Club, Baltimore, Maryland

Kathy is the youngest of four children and grew up across the street from the Country Club of Maryland. She started taking golf lessons there at the age of ten from PGA Professional Andy Gibson (MAPGA Hall of Fame Class of 1992, now deceased) while playing with her family on the weekends; she was competing by the time she turned eleven. Kathy attended James Madison University on a four-year women's lacrosse scholarship and received a Bachelors degree in Public Relations in 1990. She was named to the All American Women's Lacrosse Team in 1989 and 1990 and played for the U.S. Women's Lacrosse Squad in 1990. Kathy was also the Country Club of Maryland's Ladies Club Champion in 1987, 1990, and 1992; the MSGA Women's Amateur Champion in 1993; and the WGA of Baltimore Champion in 1996. In 2005, Kathy was inducted with the inaugural class into the Athletic Hall of Fame at her high school alma mater, Notre Dame Preparatory School in Towson, Maryland, for her accomplishment in field hockey, soccer, lacrosse, and golf.

In 1994, Kathy accepted a job as a shop assistant at Sparrows Point Country Club in Baltimore, Maryland. Her family always supported Kathy's amateur golf career, as both of her parents and her brother Tom caddied for her in tournaments and her brother Mark competed with her as her partner in the MSGA mixed two-ball championship. Both Joe Franz, PGA, a childhood friend whom she had known for many years through Country Club of Maryland's junior golf program, and Allen Wronowski, PGA, encouraged her decision to turn professional. Kathy declared her professional status in 1996 and was elected to PGA membership in 2004. She moved to Hillendale Country Club in Phoenix, Maryland in 1996 and has been at The Elkridge Club since 1998.

From an early age, Kathy was surrounded by positive people who encouraged her to take something that she loved, golf, and turn it into a career where she can help others enjoy the game. She runs many junior golf programs at The Elkridge Club, provides clinics for several local girls' high school golf teams, and serves as co-chairperson of the USGA/LPGA Girls Golf of Baltimore, which is open to all girls in the Baltimore area ages 7-17. Through these programs, Kathy has incorporated learning the game of golf along with valuable lessons on sportsmanship, rules, etiquette, and appreciation for the golf course and its care. Though junior golf was dominated by boys when Kathy was growing up, she is able to show her students how golf has positively shaped her life and that it is possible for a woman to achieve career status in a sport still dominated by men.

Married since 1994, Kathy and her husband, Joe, have two children, Joe, age eight, and Maggie, age six. She and Joe are currently in their 10th year at The Elkridge Club; Joe as the Head PGA Professional and Kathy as the PGA Director of Women's Golf.