

**MERCHANDISER OF THE YEAR**  
*Public/Military/Semi-Private Category*

**Matthew O. Hill, PGA**  
*Whiskey Creek Golf Club, Ijamsville, Maryland*

Matthew Hill was born on April 6, 1973 in Kingwood, West Virginia to parents John and Carolyn Hill. His father and two older brothers, Mike and Max, introduced him to the game of golf during the summer of 1983. At the age of fourteen, Matt started his first golf-related job at Alpine Lake Resort in Terra Alta, West Virginia as an outside cart attendant. Matt was named NJCAA All-American at Garrett College in 1994, where he attended for one year before transferring to Fairmont State University on a golf scholarship. He was also named West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Player of the Year in 1996 and lettered in golf at FSU from 1994-1997, where he received his degree in Management and Marketing.

Matt gives credit to his mentor and dear friend Wheeler Stewart, PGA, formerly of Oakland Golf Club in Oakland, Md. for playing an influential role in his career path to becoming a golf professional. Matt studied under Wheeler and learned a lot about the business of golf and where he wanted his career to head. Even though Wheeler was somewhat older than Matt, he was the best man in his wedding.

He started working at Oakland Golf Club six years prior to becoming a Golf Professional in 1997 and was elected to PGA membership in 2006. After eight years at Oakland Golf Club, Matt moved down to Boca Raton, Fla. From 1998-1999 he worked at Boca Woods Country Club. Shortly after that, he relocated to Silver Spring, Md. where he worked at Leisure World Golf Club, 1999-2007. Matt started off as an Assistant PGA Golf Professional at Whiskey Creek Golf Club in Ijamsville, Md. in 2007 and has now been the Head PGA Professional for over two years.

Matt's personal golf philosophy is to try and treat everyone as he wants to be treated. He says that he strives to be consistent and desires to create an atmosphere that people want to be around as well as carrying items that are appealing to customers. He also believes in the phrase "you get what you pay for", so having a selection of merchandise that fits every budget is very important. Keeping things simple, providing good products, and offering superior customer service is how Matt has been able to be successful in this business.

Matt has been married to his high school sweetheart Shelli for 13 years, but they have been together for over 20 years. They have two beautiful children, Samantha (6), and Mason (3).