

## **Assistant PGA Professional of the Year**

This award bestows special recognition on an assistant PGA Professional who, through a commitment to improving opportunities for assistants, has distinguished himself/herself in service to the Section, his/her peers and facility.

***Mike D. Wood, PGA  
Baltimore Country Club  
Lutherville, Maryland***

Mike Wood was selected as the 2018 MAPGA Assistant PGA Professional of the Year for his commitment to the Baltimore Country Club in his efforts to grow the game, build camaraderie, and fellowship through a comprehensive tournament program.

Mike was born on September 25, 1984 in Somerset, N.J. to parents Joann and Charles Wood. Mike began playing golf at the young age of five and credits his father as his greatest influence into the game of golf. Mike recalls his father taking him to the Bound Brook Golf Range in Bound Brook, N.J. where he first introduced him to the game. Mike got his first taste in the business of golf as a caddie for the Raritan Valley Country Club in Bridgewater, N.J. when he was fourteen years old.

Since arriving at Baltimore Country Club, Mike continuously works to improve the area of instruction by implementing innovative instructional offerings that best engage the membership. In addition to private teaching and coaching, he has worked closely with the director of instruction to offer various golf schools and the implementation of a comprehensive instructional calendar. He believes that leading by example is the most successful way to lead and mentor and it's a theory that he has instilled in not only his interns but also in the staff throughout his seven seasons with BCC. He prides himself on the belief that no task is beneath him, and understands that no goal can be achieved without teamwork.

Mike has also put a greater emphasis on leadership and mentoring for the club's seasonal PGM interns (35+ interns over seven seasons.) His management style is a, "lead by example approach". Interns leave the club with greater perceived self-worth and the skill sets necessary for a career in golf.

Mike is currently serving as the MAPGA Northern Chapter A-8 Director for the third consecutive season, working with Northern Chapter Head Professionals to deliver a first rate playing and education schedule for the Section's APA members. He has also served on the Section Tournament Committee, continually working to improve the quality of playing experiences for his fellow MAPGA members.

Mike was elected to PGA membership in 2011. He credits Greg Jones, PGA; Joe Plecker, PGA and Pat Coyner, PGA as his mentors who encouraged him to become a PGA

Professional. When he's not working, Mike spends his time volunteering. He believes that volunteerism is the foundation for all golf professionals. Throughout the years, Mike has worked with Catholic Charities, Els for Autism, Labor of Love, SMGA and The Wounded Warrior Project among others to help give back through the game of golf.

In golf, Mike believes that one should "keep it simple". He says that golf is a game of endless nuances. From instruction to management and administration, Mike believes this philosophy allows for increased focus on the details. A philosophy that can be used not only in golf, but in everyday life situations.