

**Geoffrey A. Montross, PGA**  
*International Country Club*  
*Fairfax, Virginia*

Geoff Montross was selected as the 2015 MAPGA Assistant PGA Professional of the Year for his long-time service to the Chapter and Section, as well as his continual quest to improve himself and his fellow assistant professionals through mentoring and leadership. Geoff's commitment to other assistants in the Section comes in the form of his service to the Assistant Professional Association (APA), as a member of the Section Tournament Committee, and serving as the Central Chapter Tournament Chair for the 2014 season.

Geoff was born on January 22, 1985 to parents Walter and Linda Montross. The Montross family was relatively small, as it was just Geoff and his older sister Tracy. Geoff's father was a highly renowned golf course superintendent for 33 years and worked the majority of Geoff's childhood at Westwood Country Club in Vienna, Virginia, where Geoff and Tracy learned to play the game of golf. Walter and Linda Montross never pushed their kids to play golf at any level, as they wanted golf to be something their kids fell into. Geoff credits his parents for teaching him the importance of having a great work ethic, as well as having a desire for education and learning; all of which are important in being a patient and understanding golf instructor.

Geoff's first golf related job was working for his father in the maintenance department at Westwood Country Club. By the age of 14, he started to become serious about playing the game of golf, due mostly to his mother's persistence in him playing a third sport in high school. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Geoff accepted the Assistant Professional position at Kenwood Golf and Country Club in Bethesda, Maryland in 2006. After two years at Kenwood, Geoff moved to his current position as the Assistant Professional at International Country Club in Fairfax, Virginia. Geoff was elected to PGA Membership in 2011 and credits Mike Fischer, PGA, (Westwood CC) as one of his mentors who encouraged him to become a PGA Professional.

One aspect of Geoff's personality that has always stood out is his leadership ability among his peers. Geoff has no fear of taking lead positions within the Chapter and Section and believes in leading by example. Geoff served as Chair on the Central Chapter Tournament Committee and served on the Section Tournament Committee in 2014. In an effort to better share information with fellow Central Chapter professionals, Geoff created an E-Newsletter that included articles about important issues within the Chapter and Section. He also helped develop social networking functions for Chapter professionals to increase camaraderie. Geoff is a firm believer in the importance of having open communication avenues. With many assistants finding it hard to make the leap to a head professional position, Geoff has begun the process of creating a networking group that will help forge a stronger bond between head professionals/directors of golf and assistants. Typically tournaments are the only place where assistants can meet and 'have the ear' of a more seasoned professional. Geoff sees the networking group as a solution and is always working to make the necessary steps to create a stronger fraternity for the Middle Atlantic PGA professionals.

Geoff's legacy at International Country Club and throughout the Middle Atlantic Section is one of creating a positive club atmosphere with a strong Junior Golf contingent. He wants to show the kids that golf is 'cool' and his passion is evident in the amount of camps, clinics, and team events that International has to offer. Within his six years of being at International, Geoff has successfully implemented programs such as the Boys and Girls Clubs (which are offered both in the spring and fall),

and the ICC Junior Tour, which consists of seven tournaments. In addition to implementing new programs, Geoff has been the driving force in growing existing junior programs such as a spring break camp, three summer camps, and a junior interclub. He is particularly proud of his Junior Member Guest event which has only been in existence for three years, but Geoff has been able to recruit 30 junior golfers to participate. International CC has increased participation in PGA Junior League by 109% and currently has 15 junior golfers who have made their high school teams, including the 2014 MAPGA Junior Tour Player of the Year for the 15-18 Division, Caroline Deloach.

In December of 2013, Geoff married his best friend, Julie Ackerman. Julie is a Senior Public Relations and Communications Executive in the packaging industry. They met at International CC in 2011 while she was participating in a golf outing. Geoff and Julie enjoy concerts and going to the theatre. New York City is their favorite place to spend their free time, taking in all of the arts that the city has to offer. When they are enjoying a rare day off together, Geoff and Julie also keep busy by enjoying time with their nine nieces and nephews.