

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA member who has performed outstanding service as a golf instructor along with overall distinguished performance as a PGA professional.

RICHARD L. KREBS, PGA - Turf Valley Resort

Rick Krebs, Director of Instruction at Turf Valley in Ellicott City, MD, is the recipient of the 2001 MAPGA Teacher of the Year Award. Rick's career as a golf professional spans 30 years, and he has been a PGA Professional since 1977. Rick is recognized and highly respected for his teaching skills, innovative instructional programs, and overall impact in the instruction of golf. He is the founder and program coordinator for Turf Valley School of Golf and has taught at Turf Valley for the past 12 years.

In a game that transcends age, gender and ability, Rick feels it is important to reach all groups in order for the game of golf to not only survive, but also flourish. The impact of his philosophy on golf at Turf Valley Resort and his community is evident by the growing number of people he teaches. With one eye to the needs of those seeking to learn the game and the other to the future, Rick has developed a variety of teaching programs. His Family Instruction Program was developed to accommodate the interest of golf within the family unit. Included in his junior golf program are conducting indoor Winter Junior Golf Clinics, serving as a consulting coach for the Wilde Lake High School Golf Team in Columbia, MD, conducting junior golf programs for the youth of Howard County, MD and providing teaching and coaching for the Turf Valley Junior Golf Team. In addition to offering private and group lessons for men, women, and seniors, Rick's "Corporate Golf Day," established in 1998, was designed for corporate personnel wanting to learn all aspects of the game, Rick offers a "For Women Only" program and a "Practice Techniques School," which focuses on warm-up, full swing, and short game, with the use of training aids. Since 1994 he has conducted a "Teach The Teacher" training program for Turf Valley apprentices on how to improve their teaching techniques and skills. Rick continuously strives to develop ways to be a more effective teacher so his students can better learn and execute the game of golf. He is co-owner of PrecisionGolf.com, a behavioral and frequently targeted guided practice.

Even with his busy schedule, Rick finds the time to contribute to his Association on both the section and the national level. He was instrumental in the initiation and organization of the first MAPGA Teaching and Coaching Summit in 1999 and was also a speaker at the summit. He served as an instructor for the Nike Corporation Golf Clinic at Turf Valley Resort in 1998; and in 1996, he taught seventy-five coaches from the High School Golf Coaches of America how to become better coaches at their respective high schools. On the national level, Rick has attended every National PGA Teaching and Coaching Summit since its inception in 1988. He also served as a National PGA Junior Golf Academy Instructor in 1989 and 1990.

Rick's father, the late Joseph Krebs was in the U.S. Army and stationed in Brooklyn, NY when he met and married Rick's mother, the late Rose Krebs. Rick was born in 1945, the oldest (by 13 minutes) of twin boys. Not long after, Rick, his parents, his twin brother Joe, and their younger brother Tony moved to Baltimore, MD where the boys grew up and attended school. All three of the Krebs brothers were interested in sports, but in their late teens, golf became their primary interest. His uncle Alcuin introduced Rick to the game when he was 16 years old. Joe enjoys playing golf, but did not choose the golf profession as a career. Tony, however, spent many years as a PGA member himself and still loves the game. Rick's first golf-related job was the same as so many other PGA Professionals; he worked as a caddy at Rolling Road Country Club in Catonsville, MD. Before turning professional, Rick played in many local and area amateur events and was on the Lackland Air force Base Golf Team in San Antonio, TX during his service in the U.S. Air Force. His first job as a golf professional was at Ft. Meade Golf Club in Ft. Meade, MD. He went from there to Bonnie View CC in Baltimore, then VFW CC in Frederick, MD. In 1983, while participating in the USAir sponsored MAPGA Section Tournament in Williamsburg, VA, Rick met a young woman who was a USAir employee serving as an event hostess. Rick and Monica fell in love and were married in 1984. They are now the proud parents of two wonderful children, Andrew, 14 years old, and Molly, 9 years old. Rick's career took him to Chestnut Ridge CC in Lutherville, MD in 1984. From there he went to Forest Park GC in Baltimore, before accepting his current position at Turf Valley Resort 12 years ago.

Rick believes that his personal philosophy on golf has been instrumental in his success as a golf instructor.

When asked to what he contributes his success, Rick's response was, *"It is imperative that golf instruction is kept simple and that it is communicated clearly. Information should be given in concise parts, with a productive practice plan and follow-up. I try to make instruction enjoyable for the students and foster their desire to become better players. As for me, my commitment to my students and fellow professionals is to continue to acquire the knowledge, grow as a teacher, and to share so all of them may improve their individual golf abilities."*