

### **THE HORTON SMITH TROPHY**

***This award bestows special recognition on a PGA member for outstanding service and contributions toward developing and improving educational opportunities for the PGA professionals and apprentices.***

#### **THOMAS J. BARRY - Jefferson Lakeside Club**

Jefferson Lakeside Head Professional Tom Barry is well known and highly respected throughout the section for his extensive involvement in the MAPGA education program as well as his expertise as a rules official. He transferred to the Middle Atlantic Section from the Illinois Section in 1983 and since 1986, has been an integral part of the MAPGA education program. He has conducted seminars with leading speakers such as Bob Toski for instruction; Larry Starzel for Rules; and Gary Adams and Ted Sheftic for club fitting. His seminars have covered junior golf, handicapping and physical fitness. Because of his broad knowledge of the *Rules of Golf*, Tom is frequently called upon to answer rules questions, and he has been a familiar face as a leading rules official at MAPGA Section Championships since 1984. Tom has served as either a member or Chair of numerous section and chapter committees, including Education, Club Relations, Rules, Long Range Planning and perhaps most significantly, Membership. His Membership Committee involvement includes PGA membership interviews, apprentice orientations and overseeing that all members are properly classified. He has been dedicated to ensuring that the high standards and values of the Association are understood and has provided inspiration and guidance to literally hundreds of new apprentices in their pursuit of membership. Tom has a distinguished record of service on the Southern Chapter Board of Directors since 1986, serving as President in 1993 - 1995. In addition to being awarded the Horton Smith Trophy in 1989, Tom won the President's Award in 1990. For his outstanding efforts in club relations, he was awarded the Bill Strausbaugh Club Relations Award in 1992 and in 1994 he won the highest honor bestowed upon a golf professional in the section by being selected the MAPGA Golf Professional of the Year.

Tom grew up in Chicago Heights, IL. He is one of Joe and Maryalice Barry's eight children, and the respect and tolerance for others that he learned from having such a large family are evident in his relationships with people today. His father introduced him to golf when he was ten years old. At 13 he got his first golf-related job as a caddy at Flossmoor Country Club in Flossmoor, IL. In 1973 he became an Assistant Professional at Flossmoor Country Club, working with legendary David Ogilvie, 1986 PGA of America Golf Professional of the Year. Tom was elected to PGA membership in 1979, and in 1981 he accepted his first Head Professional position at Oregon Golf Club in Oregon, IL. Then in 1983 Tom was hired as the Head Professional at Jefferson Lakeside Club where he continues to work 17 years later.

Tom believes golf is the greatest game of all and that it will offer a challenge no matter what a person's skill level. "It is a lot like life itself . . . you get out of it what you put into it. I never thought of myself as someone with a significant amount of talent, but if you work hard, you can become successful. Being a PGA member gives you numerous areas to become involved and excel, even if you are not an accomplished player." Tom is also a devoted husband. When asked what he considers his most significant accomplishment, Tom will tell you it is his lovely wife of ten years, Michelle Hoffmann. Tom brings this same level of commitment and dedication to his profession, and the MAPGA is very fortunate and proud to have such a consummate professional.