

Jeffrey Thoreson- Earle Hellen Sportswriter of the Year

Jeff was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to LeRoy and Betty Thoreson. After being introduced to golf by his father on family vacations to Minnesota, Jeff learned the game hitting whiffle balls in the yard with his 5 brothers and sisters. Jeff and his three brothers would play in the summer during his high school years, although Jeff admits he never took the game seriously until after graduation from college. He graduated with a Journalism degree from the University of Maryland and went on to do graduate work at Syracuse University. After several years working in the newspaper business (and awards won for investigative reporting, feature writing and sports writing), Jeff took over as the Editor of *The Washington Golf Monthly* in 1994. Jeff has been instrumental in printing MAPGA results, articles about and by MAPGA professionals, as well as keeping the public informed about the happenings in the local golf scene. He believes that "...people don't realize that all these nice golf facilities have appeared and succeeded in this area largely because of the work of local PGA professionals. Our goal is to give them the recognition they are due. There are a lot of guys working very hard and not playing golf all day-- we want the amateur to know that".

Jeff counts his most significant golf achievement as reducing his handicap from an "XX" to a 5. His goal, working with his teacher, Professional of the Year Bob Dolan, is to get to a 2 in order to play in some of the bigger events with handicap restrictions. Jeff has been married to Reba for 15 years, and has three children-- Emily (12), Bridget (9), and Alex (7).