

ASSISTANT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

This award bestows special recognition on an assistant professional who has distinguished himself/herself in service and contributions to his/her peers as well as to the Assistant Professional Association and in commitment to improving opportunities for assistants in the Section.

WILLIAM L. GOMBERT - Hillendale Country Club

Born in Allentown, Pennsylvania in 1966, Bill Gombert has been the assistant professional at Hillendale Country Club since 1998. He started his golfing career by caddying at Lehigh Country Club in Pennsylvania at the age of 12. Immediately "hooked" on the game, Bill bought a club from a department store with his caddy money and started playing with the rest of the caddies on Mondays. He soon developed his playing skills and won several area-wide junior golf tournaments.

Bill graduated from Appalachian State University in 1988 with a degree in Computer Information Systems. In 1989, Bill turned professional and accepted an assistant professional position at Cedar Rock Country Club in Lenior, North Carolina. Six months later he returned to Pennsylvania as an assistant professional at Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. From there he went on to work at the Great Golf Learning Centers in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania until 1994, when he served as assistant professional at Bonnie View Country in Baltimore, Maryland until 1997, winning the 1997 Assistant of the Year award.

"It has been wonderful watching Bill mature and develop as a professional. He handles himself very well and I know the club members are very proud to have him on their professional staff. I believe Bill has a bright and rewarding future ahead of him."

Bill Clarke, Past President, PGA of America

Bill was elected to membership in 1996, and immediately assumed a leadership role in the representation of his peers. He has served on the Assistant's Professional Association (APA) Board of Directors since its inception in 1996. He served as President in 1997 - 1998 and is the current Treasurer of the Association. Bill is continually working to improve education and employment opportunities for all assistants in the section. He has served on the MAPGA Board of Directors as A-8 Director since 1998 and is also the current Northern Chapter Tournament Chair. Bill has been instrumental in establishing a scholarship fund for assistants attending the GPTP and is tireless in his efforts to develop playing opportunities for them. Bill is currently single, spends his free time with his girlfriend of 5 years, Susan Urquhart, and lives in Baltimore, Maryland.