

ASSISTANT PGA PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

This award bestows special recognition on an assistant PGA Professional who, through a commitment to improving opportunities for assistants, has distinguished himself/herself in service to the Section, his/her peers, and facility.

Roger K. Welch, PGA
Washington Golf & Country Club
Arlington, VA

Roger Welch delivers a high level of service with a great level of focus and concern. It was apparent upon his arrival at Washington Golf and Country Club he had the "IT" factor. This trait is not something that can be coached. Roger is engaged with the membership and does a great job relating with a large cross segment of members through lessons, playing, club fitting, merchandising and assisting with organizations of the club.

Roger was born September 30, 1982 in Prince Frederick, MD to parents Dennis and Peggy Welch and has one brother, William. Roger was introduced to golf by his father hitting golf balls with old antique clubs on the farm he grew up on in Southern Maryland. When his dad retired from the Maryland State Police, he picked up part time jobs at local golf courses. Instead of doing summer camps or having baby sitters, Roger would go to work with his dad. This afforded him the opportunity to play a lot of golf during the summer months. Though his dad wasn't the best golfer he was a very good athlete. The game of golf gave Roger an even playing field and they had a lot of good head to head matches, until he was 12 or so. His father may disagree with that statement! Over time, Roger enjoyed being at the golf course and had no issues being there all day. That led to the decision of becoming a PGA professional.

As an amateur Roger achieved many honors, including; Division II Junior College National Champion in 2002, Southern Maryland Amateur Champion in 2004 and 2005, United State Public Links Participant in 2004 and 2005, Missouri Valley All-Tournament Team in 2005, Southern Illinois Men's Golf Team Captain in 2005 and 2006, Missouri Valley All Conference in 2006, and was Inducted to College of Southern Maryland Hall of Fame in 2014.

Roger became a golf professional in 2006 but took a hiatus from golf between 2008 and 2012. In 2012, Roger and his now wife Amanda moved to Cape Girardeau, Missouri where Roger got hired as a First Assistant at Cape Girardeau Country Club. Later that year Roger was promoted to Head Professional and stayed in that position until 2015 when he was hired as the Senior Assistant Golf Professional at Washington Golf & Country Club. He was named Head Professional in early 2020. Roger likes to say that his successes in recent years have his wife's thumbprint on them. They are joined by their daughter Josie who is 12.

Roger feels very fortunate to have great people in his life. He has a very supportive family, friends and coworkers. His personal philosophy is to try and learn something from everyone he meets. With that mindset he discovers things he doesn't like and

does like and uses them accordingly. Every year Roger sits down and reflects on his professional goals that were set. This has been a very good exercise for him to continue growing as a PGA Professional.