

BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional who has shown outstanding integrity, commitment to mentoring their fellow PGA Professionals in improving their employment situations, and involvement in community and charitable activities. The award is named in honor of the late “Coach” Bill Strausbaugh, former Head PGA Professional at Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland, and member of the MAPGA Hall of Fame Class of 1989.

Scott Graber, PGA
The Federal Club
Glen Allen, Virginia

Giving back to the game and future generations of PGA professionals has long been a passion for Scott. He learned the importance of this through his early mentors. As he enters his 28th year in the golf business, Scott has a much stronger appreciation for “growing the game” and the multiple opportunities that are afforded a PGA professional.

Scott Graber was born October 4, 1973 in Roanoke, VA to his father Stan and his late mother Linda and was raised in Lynchburg, VA with his brother, Brad. He was introduced to the game of golf by his father at the age of 9. Like his father, Scott played several sports through high school, but he quickly realized the safer aspects of golf versus football. Scott and his father played at several clubs throughout the central Virginia area and were fortunate enough to become members at The Waterfront Golf Club soon thereafter.

Scott's first golf related job was working maintenance and driving range at London Downs Golf Club prior to its opening in 1991 under the guidance of Jerry Conner, PGA. While at Brookville High School, he was named All-District 1988, 1989, and 1990. He attended James Madison University where he played on the golf team all four years before graduating with his Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration in 1995. While there, he was named the John Health Award Winner in 1994 and 1995.

Scott became a golf professional in 1995 when he assumed the role of First Assistant Professional at Waynesboro Country Club. In 1999, he was elected into PGA Membership and in 2000, Graber accepted his first Head Professional role at Birkdale Golf Club. He served there for two years before moving to The Golf Club at the Highlands, where he served as the Head Professional and was later promoted to Director of Golf and later served as General Manager. In total, Scott spent 19 years at The Golf Club at The Highlands in his various roles. In 2021, Scott moved to his current role of Head PGA Professional at The Federal Club. He acknowledges Jerry Conner, David Johns, Frank Hedderich, Bob Friend, Tom Barry, and Andy Weissinger as mentors in his professional and personal life.

When asked, he attributes his success with members and customers to his enjoyment of his job and career. He encourages people not to take things too seriously and to be happy at their place of employment. "Understanding that we are in the entertainment business and people come to the golf course to enjoy themselves and the company of others is really key to creating an atmosphere that your members and guests will continually gravitate towards."

Scott has spent a great deal of time cultivating the skills of his assistants; not just ensuring that they have acquired the tools needed to provide superior service through tournaments, programming, teaching, and knowledge of the sport, but, also, developing their personal leadership skills and allowing them to grow into the role of decision maker. Scott has also made conscientious hiring decisions to bring more female professionals into the fold and encouraged their growth and participation in PGA and MAPGA events. Scott also has contributed to many seminars and employment summits and is currently serving as co-chair of the MAPGA Employment Committee as well as fulfilling his role as Southern Chapter President.

Scott and his wife Jenn just celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in Italy and are the parents of three daughters: Bella (19), Zoe (16), and Livy (14).