

PGA PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

This high honor bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional for overall performance as a PGA Professional, leadership, service, and promotion of the game of golf.

Jay Dufty, PGA
Washington Golf & Country Club
Arlington, Virginia

Jay Dufty has been selected as the recipient of the 2023 PGA Professional of the Year Award for his extensive service to the Section, his support of fellow PGA Professionals, and his commitment to growing the game of golf.

Jay Dufty was born January 23, 1973 in Morris, MN to parents Doug and Karen Dufty and has one sister, Paula. He was first introduced to the game at the age of 7 by his father who was the Head Wrestling Coach and professor of Sports Medicine at the University of Minnesota-Morris. Coach Dufty would teach golf in the summer months to students and Jay would often tag along hitting golf balls alongside the students. His first golf-related job was at Oxbow CC in Fargo, North Dakota as a caddie before working at Moorhead CC under Mr. Larry Murphy through high school years. Jay went to college at New Mexico State University where he earned his degree and PGA Membership in 1998 through the PGA Golf Management Program.

Jay began his professional career at Blueberry Pines Golf Club in 1996 where he stayed until 2000. From 1997-2014 Jay spent time at multiple TPC Courses; Scottsdale, Myrtle Beach, and Potomac at Avenel Farm. In 2015, Jay headed to Washington Golf & CC as Director of Golf and has been there ever since. Throughout his career Jay has earned many awards, 2011 First Tee of Montgomery County “Bob Metz” Service Award, 2014 MAPGA President’s Award, 2014 TPC Network Golf Professional of the Year, 2018 MAPGA Private Club Merchandiser of the Year, and the 2020 MAPGA Bill Strausbaugh Award.

Jay shares that his goal is to be a Golf Ambassador to the members of Washington Golf & CC by delivering the experience each member desires. Noting that not everyone desires the same experience, so having a capable and professional staff to fulfill the desires of the membership is key. Jay's strength is building a team and challenging them to be well rounded golf professionals. He ensures his staff is trusted to execute, create/deliver, and achieve their goals as PGA Professionals should work in lock step to delivering his member’s needs. Under his direction, his team's performance continues to deliver record merchandise sales, record player development numbers, record tournament rounds, and continually adding relevant events to hit all golfers. It was a goal nine years ago to make WGCC highly relevant again in the golfing community while growing the PGA Professional brand. His performance and his team's commitment have made big strides to make this goal a reality.

He believes a big part of being a strong golf professional is working with allied associations to promote the game and create opportunities for others in golf. Working

in governance to assist fellow MAPGA Professionals, assisting with the First Tee of DC, or volunteering his time to allied associations and his church all fulfill Jay.

Jay has been a part of MAPGA governance for the past 12 years. He served the Central Chapter in all capacities from Regional Director, Secretary, VP, President, and Past President. Jay currently serves as the Section's At-Large Director. Throughout his governance he has actively served on the Membership, Sponsorship, and Employment & Club Relations committees.

Jay has been married to Michelle Dufty for 18 years, and they are blessed with two kids; Mason (16) and Mia (14).