

## **MERCHANDISER OF THE YEAR**

This award is bestowed on those PGA Professionals who have demonstrated superior skills as merchandisers in the promotion of golf. This award recognizes excellence in golf shop operations.

### **MERCHANDISER OF THE YEAR PRIVATE CATEGORY**

*Chris Costantino, PGA  
Cattail Creek Country Club  
Glenwood, Maryland*

Chris was born on September 14, 1991, in Olney, MD, to Anthony and Lucia. He is the youngest of three siblings (Niki and Anthony Jr.). Chris was introduced to the game of golf at age six through his father, learning to hit golf balls around the yard in the least number of shots possible. Chris's Grandfather, Orlando, was the first family member to take up golf and joined Arnie's Army through the television. Chris remembers often gathering around the TV on Sunday afternoon with his dad and grandfather watching David Duval, Phil Mickelson, and a young Tiger Woods.

Chris's first golf-related job was at 13 working at Laytonsville Golf Course for Dean Greer, PGA. In high school and college, Chris worked at Argyle Country Club for Mike Barillo, PGA. Chris attributes his love for people, junior golf, and the game overall from these two PGA professionals. Both of whom took pride in promoting junior golf, caring deeply about interclub and junior camaraderie.

Upon graduating from Sherwood High School, Chris spent two years playing collegiately at La Salle University before transferring to Towson and graduating in 2014. After graduating with a Political Science Degree, Chris decided to stick with his passion, and accepted a job at Bethesda Country Club working for Ted Pogorelc, PGA as an assistant professional. Chris spent six years at Bethesda and gained invaluable experience in all aspects of the golf operation from both Ted and Jim Folks, PGA. In 2020, Chris joined the professional staff at Burning Tree Club working for Ricky Touma, PGA and Charlie Briggs, PGA. Chris credits Ricky and Charlie for emphasizing that everything matters, and treating every day like the Super Bowl.

In February of 2022, Chris accepted the Head Professional Job at Cattail Creek Country Club in Glenwood, MD.

Chris attributes his success to having a great team around him, and a conscious effort to continually improve in every area of the operation and profession. Chris also credits Jim Smith Jr., PGA, who has been an outside mentor of his since his college days at La Salle.

Chris met his wife, Samantha through their wonderful friends at Argyle Country Club and got married in October 2021. They have two girls, Charlotte who is 2 and Catherine who was recently born in December.