

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on an individual whose tireless effort, unwavering dedication, and exceptional contributions to the game of golf result in significant benefit to the Middle Atlantic Section, its members and apprentices, and to the entire golf community. The Section President personally selects the outstanding recipient of this award.

Joy Bonhurst PGA, LPGA
*Blue Mash Golf Course
Laytonsville, Maryland*

The MAPGA President, Lynne Hunter, personally selects this President's Award winner to recognize an individual who has been working "under the radar," to improve our game, our industry, and our Association. Ms. Hunter has identified Joy Bonhurst, PGA, LPGA for her endless support of the Section, her fellow PGA professionals, and the advancement of the game of golf.

Joy was born in Huntington, NY and has one brother, John Bonhurst. She was introduced to the game of golf by her mother, an avid golfer, when she was around 11 years old. Her mom introduced her to the game of golf by taking her to a schoolyard where they would hit and shag their own golf balls. After shagging their own golf balls too many times, she figured out a way to make their practice sessions a lot more fun and efficient. She trained their dog Pepper, (a beautiful golden retriever) to retrieve the golf balls for them. Joy shared that as she reflects on her introduction to golf and those days with her mother and Pepper, she realizes that those days were so special in her life and why she fell in love with the game of golf.

In high school, her first golf-related job was working at Birdie Golf indoor facility on Long Island in exchange for golf lessons. In 1989, Joy graduated from Methodist College with a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Professional Golf Management. She worked at Highland CC and Bent Tree CC before joining the staff at Chevy Chase Club where she worked from 1991-2008. From 2009-2012 she worked at Club Golf Performance/Sport & Health. In 2012, she began her current role at Blue Mash Golf Course at the Joyland Golf Studio.

During her career she credits Troy Beck (2021 MAPGA Hall of Fame inductee) and Holly Anderson, PGA, her college roommate, as incredible personal inspirations and mentors in her professional career. Other individuals she credits as being instrumental in helping her include Liz Cooper, PGA, LPGA, Lynne Hunter, current Middle Atlantic Section President, and Linda Nevatt, PGA, LPGA.

Joy's career has included numerous playing honors including earning the MAPGA Women's Section Player of the Year twice (2008, 2009). Her professional honors include the 2019 MAPGA Teacher and Coach of the Year, 4-time LPGA Professional Northeast Section Teacher of the Year, 4-time LPGA Professional Top 50 Best Teachers worldwide, 4-time Golf Digest "Best Teachers in the State" of Maryland, amongst others.

She continues to serve her professional Associations, serving currently on the MAPGA Tournament Committee, the LPGA Professional National Tournament Committee, and the LPGA Professional Northeast Mentoring Program. That service plus her commitment to running a memorial tournament in honor of Troy Beck that raises funds for Girls Golf were two of many reasons President Hunter selected Joy for this honor.