

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional for outstanding service and contributions toward developing and improving educational opportunities for PGA Professionals and Associates.

Patrick J. Bedingfield, PGA
Bethesda Country Club
Bethesda, Maryland

Patrick J. Bedingfield was born December 19, 1977, in Silver Spring, Maryland. Patrick comes from a family of avid golfers including his father Dr. James Bedingfield, brother David, and twin sister Andrea, who was a highly ranked junior golfer. His father introduced him to the game of golf at three years old in the backyard, a roughly designed par 3 golf course with one green which was cut to half an inch high grass. He then began playing at Argyle Country Club in 1983. Patrick's father had a tremendous influence on his decision to play golf. Dr. Bedingfield loves golf, became a student of golf while trying to improve his own game, and his work ethic and passion for the sport inspired Patrick's desire to pursue golf.

His first job in the industry was in 1990 at Argyle Country Club under PGA Professional Robert Bilbo. He worked in the cart barn, range, and bag room. Patrick became a golf professional on his eighteenth birthday in 1995 and was elected to PGA membership in 2002. He served in Assistant Professional roles at Argyle CC, Montgomery CC, and Bethesda CC before becoming the Director of Instruction at Bethesda CC, the role he serves in today. Since 2015, Patrick has also volunteered as an assistant Coach for the University of Maryland Women's Golf Team.

Professionally, he claims two excellent mentors, Robert Bilbo, PGA and MAPGA Hall of Famer Jim Folks, PGA. He considers them both to be like second fathers and most of all tries to emulate their professionalism.

Patrick has been involved in MAPGA Section educational programming since earning his PGA membership in 2002. Early in his career, he was actively involved in mentoring aspiring golf professionals, helping them with their workbooks as Associates worked towards their PGA membership. Since then, he has presented at several MAPGA Teaching & Coaching Summits, Caves Valley Seminars, and hosted other MAPGA educational sessions at Bethesda CC. In 2022-2023 he hosted a 7-session, 6-week Golf Instructional Seminar focused on teaching techniques, club fitting skills, student needs analysis, and more. He prides himself on being an early adopter to incorporating technology into his golf instruction. Patrick was one of the first to leverage Trackman in his golf instruction and has since incorporated other technologies including Science and Motion Putt Lab, Swing Catalyst 3 Motion Plate and Gears for Golf 3D capture system. He has readily shared this knowledge and experience with his fellow PGA professionals.

This is Patrick's third MAPGA award. In 2005, he was named MAPGA Assistant Professional of the Year and in 2021 he was named the MAPGA Teacher and Coach of the Year. He has also been listed as one of Golf Digest's Top Teachers in the state since 2013.