



# PGA

Illinois Section

## Illinois PGA News

The Illinois Professional Golfers' Association of America

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### SHUMAN HIGHLIGHTS LIST OF 2011 ILLINOIS PGA AWARD WINNERS

GLENVIEW, Ill. – Andy Shuman, PGA director of golf at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove, Ill., has been named the 57th recipient of the Illinois PGA Golf Professional of the Year, the highest annual honor bestowed by the Illinois PGA on a PGA Professional.

A member of The PGA of America since 1992, Shuman began his professional career more than 24 years ago as an apprentice assistant at Twin Orchard Country Club. He would go on to learn the duties of a PGA Professional from some of the best in the business. In addition to his outstanding skills as a PGA Professional, Shuman has excelled on the golf course as a competitor. He is a three-time winner of the Illinois PGA Assistant Championship and two-time winner of the Illinois PGA Players Championship (formally the Fall Classic), the fourth and final major on the Illinois PGA calendar. His outstanding play earned him the 1996 Illinois PGA Assistant Player of the Year Award. This is Shuman's third award in the Illinois PGA.

"It's a great honor to be named the Illinois PGA Professional of the Year," said Shuman. "It's always nice to be recognized by your peers. There are so many great golf professionals in Illinois and to win this award knowing how many outstanding professionals we have in the Illinois PGA is really special."

Shuman will be honored at the Illinois PGA Special Awards Reception on Wednesday, October 19 at Medinah (Ill.) Country Club. The awards program begins at 8:00 p.m., preceded by a 7:00 p.m. dinner reception. The evening's program will feature all 2011 Illinois PGA Award winners:

- **Matt Flaherty** of Lisle, Ill. – Assistant Golf Professional of the Year
- **John Platt** of Plainfield, Ill. – Teacher of the Year
- **Michael Wenzel** of Palatine, Ill. – Junior Golf Leader
- **Jim Seeley** of Lincolnshire, Ill. – Bill Strausbaugh Award
- **Hans Larson** of Mt. Prospect, Ill. – Horton Smith Award
- **Danny Mulhearn** of Wheaton, Ill. – PGA Merchandiser of the Year (Private Facilities)
- **Mickey Finn** of Urbana, Ill. – PGA Merchandiser of the Year (Public Facilities)
- **Dick Carparelli** of Evergreen Park, Ill. – Bill Heald Career Achievement Award

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**Illinois PGA Golf Professional of the Year** – The PGA Director of Golf at Twin Orchard Country Club in Long Grove, Ill., Andy Shuman receives the highest honor the Illinois PGA bestows on a PGA Professional – the Illinois PGA Golf Professional of the Year Award. This award recognizes the individual who best exemplifies the promotion of golf, community, charitable involvement, dedication, leadership and the ability to inspire fellow PGA professionals.

Born in Columbus, Ohio, Shuman was introduced to the game of golf by his father, whom he used to caddy for on a regular basis after his family moved to Oregon. At the age of 8, he entered Portland's junior golf program that required him to take a week's worth of various golf clinics and pass a test. Upon completion, he was issued a card that entitled him to play seven of the city's courses in Portland for 50 cents for nine holes. He was instantly hooked on the game after shooting in the low 50's for nine holes his first time out.

Due to his father's job, the family was constantly on the move, relocating from his birthplace in Ohio to Pennsylvania, then to Oregon, California, Illinois, Texas and back to California. The one constant in Shuman's life was golf. No matter where the family lived, he would find the nearest golf course and play every day, always making instant friends because of his golf abilities.

Shuman, 48, of Lake Zurich, Ill., began to focus more on his golf game in California due to the proximity of his family's home to a local course – SeaCliff Country Club in Huntington Beach. His daily routine in California involved him and his friends surfing in the morning, and in the afternoon, they would hop a fence at SeaCliff Country Club and sneak on the course to play. It got to the point where they knew all the rangers who would tell them not to run when they were noticed and to act like they were supposed to be there and everything would be fine. The additional time on the course began paying dividends as Shuman's game improved to the low 40's for nine holes.

Shuman would go on to play golf his first two years in high school in California and his next two years in Illinois after the family moved to Flossmoor. The transition was hard for Shuman but was eased after his parents became members at Flossmoor Country Club, where he met legendary PGA head golf professional David Ogilvie III. Shuman was at the club every day playing and observing Ogilvie and liked what he saw.

“Once we joined Flossmoor, it was really the first time I ever looked at being a PGA Golf Professional as an option,” said Shuman. “It was all because of Ogilvie. Dave ran the perfect golf operation and is a great player, great teacher and overall, one of the best PGA Professionals ever.”

After playing golf in three different high schools in three states, Shuman's passion for golf continued throughout his college career at Indiana University in Bloomington where he played three years on the golf team.

Following college and after a couple failed attempts at the PGA TOUR's Qualifying School, Shuman took a job working as an assistant for his long-time friend Larry Ward at Chicago Heights (Ill.) Country Club and the Addison Park District. Although he liked the job in Addison, he was always eager to get back to a private facility.

After playing a round of golf on a Monday at Twin Orchard, the caddymaster at the time, Chuck Hirsch, asked Shuman what his plans were for the following golf season. After telling him he was looking to get back into a private club, Hirsch mentioned that one of the assistants had just left Twin Orchard and there was an open position if he was interested. Shuman was asked to speak to PGA head golf professional Earl Puckett. Shuman received an interview with Puckett and was offered the assistant's position.

In 1998 when Puckett announced his retirement, the Board of Directors at Twin Orchard decided to only interview one candidate for the head golf professional position – Shuman. After the interview ended, he was hired immediately as the new PGA Head Golf Professional at Twin Orchard Country Club.

Shuman was elected to the Illinois PGA Board of Directors in 2008, where he still serves, and is chairman of the Tournament Committee. He is quick to credit his mentors for their encouragement and guidance in getting involved with Section leadership.

Always the competitor, Shuman won the Illinois PGA Assistant Championship three times (1994-1996) and is a two-time winner of the Illinois PGA Players Championship.

This will be Shuman's third award in the Illinois PGA. He won the 1996 Illinois PGA Assistant Player of the Year Award and was honored in 2007 with the Illinois PGA Private Merchandiser of the Year Award.

After 24 years at Twin Orchard Country Club, Shuman still continues to be passionate about the job, serving his members, mentoring his assistants, teaching and competing on the golf course.

“When you have a good job, it's hard to leave,” said Shuman. “Working for Earl, I just couldn't leave. There was no one out there better to work for or learn from. Just like Ogilvie, Earl is a great guy and a great guy to work for, which is why I never left. He was the best boss and I learned a ton from him.”

**Illinois PGA Assistant Golf Professional of the Year** – The PGA Assistant Golf Professional at Butterfield Country Club in Oak Brook, Ill., Matt Flaherty, is the 2011 Illinois PGA Assistant Golf Professional of the Year. Born and raised in Buffalo, N.Y., Flaherty, 41, of Lisle, Ill., began his career in golf as an assistant golf professional at Lockport (N.Y.) Country Club immediately following graduation from college. After three seasons, he moved on to become an assistant at the Bonita Bay Club in Bonita Springs, Fla., before relocating to the Chicago area to take an assistant position at Stonebridge Country Club in Aurora, Ill. While at Stonebridge Flaherty earned his PGA membership in June of 1998, and in 2005, after eight years at Stonebridge, he was offered the first assistant position at Butterfield Country Club, where he remains today. When Butterfield was undergoing a major renovation, Flaherty advanced his education and training as a PGA Professional, becoming a Certified Titleist TPI Golf Fitness Professional. With his new knowledge, a state of the art indoor teaching and golf fitness studio was built at Butterfield allowing for year-round golf activities for the membership and guests. He developed programs that focus on bringing the game of golf to beginning players, juniors and ladies. Flaherty created the Junior Champion of Champions tournament that pairs boys and girls junior club champions from private clubs throughout Illinois to determine the “champion of champions.” Flaherty attended Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y. where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature.

**Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year** – John Platt, the PGA director of instruction at Green Garden Golf Academy in Frankfort, Ill., is the 26th recipient of the Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year Award. Platt, 49, earned his PGA membership in 1996. Presented annually since 1986, the Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year Award honors outstanding teachers of golf among the PGA of America membership.

Platt gained valuable experience as an assistant at Hillcrest Country Club, Skokie Country Club and The Links at Carillon. He went on to hold head golf professional positions at The Sanctuary Golf Course and Nettle Creek Country Club.

Platt has coached on the collegiate level at his alma mater Illinois State University, where he was a 4-year letterman and graduated in 1985 with a Communications degree, as well as Lewis University where he was named the 1999 Division II/III National Women's Golf Coach of the Year. He continues coaching today as the Head Boy's Golf Coach at Providence Catholic High School, a position he has filled for the past seven years with an impressive 110-9 overall record.

For the past eight years, Platt has been bringing the game of golf to players of all ages and skill levels at the Golf Academy within Green Garden Country Club. He has implemented numerous pee-wee, junior, adult, senior and women's programs and personally delivers over 1500 private lessons per year. Platt also employs four to seven local PGA Professionals at each weekly session to assist with instruction.

Platt has witnessed the results of his efforts with his junior programs in the Youth Development Program (6-13 yrs. old) with over 25 first place finishers and over 40 top ten finishers. In the Junior Boy and Girl Divisions (14-15 & 16-18 yrs. old) he has seen over 50 first place finishers and over 400 top ten finishers. Platt developed a winter junior program from December to March that began with just 25 students and has grown to average over 100.

Platt founded a golf league for women that are new to the game. They play nine holes in a comfortable environment which incorporates a play-at-your-own-speed philosophy in order to generate enthusiasm for learning the game. Additionally, he enlists the help of two other instructors to be available on the range.

Platt has also conducted clinics in the golf dome and Learning Center that offered senior players advice for all parts of their games. He offers to videotape their swings in order to have a reference to work on drills during the winter months to enhance their skills.

Platt has reached out to families of juniors who do not have the financial resources to pay for lessons. He has given individual lessons where he covered their mat fees in the winter and charged a nominal or no fees in the summer. His only criteria in these cases were that the student work hard on their golf game and pass all their classes in school. He is proud of the fact that five of the students he taught in this program have gone on to play college golf.

Platt has been published in the *Joliet Herald News* and been a guest on radio shows on *WJOL*, *The Score*, and *ESPN Radio*. Platt was selected as a "Top Instructor" in the state of Illinois by *Golf Digest* three times.

**Junior Golf Leader Award** – A PGA member since 2006, Michael Wenzel is the PGA director of instruction at the Northbrook Golf Academy located at Sportsman's Country Club in Northbrook, Ill. Wenzel, 32, of Palatine, Ill., promotes junior golf at the club level and in the community through the implementation of a parent-junior tournament, junior golf leagues, junior development program and through schools and community events. In 2009, he hosted a Illinois Junior Golf Association (IJGA) youth development tournament for juniors ages 6-11, which has become an annual event. He volunteers at numerous national and local golf events, clinics and the Special Olympics. In addition to his duties at the Northbrook Golf Academy, Wenzel also served on the Illinois PGA Growth of the Game committee. In 2009, he obtained PGA certification status in Instruction, Golf Operations and Retail. The PGA director of instruction at Northbrook Golf Academy since 2009, Wenzel previously served as an assistant golf professional at Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Kildeer, Ill. and Sportsman's Country Club. He was the PGA head golf professional at Anetsberger Golf Course in Northbrook, Ill. from 2006-2009. Wenzel attended Augustana College in Rock Island, Ill., where in 2001, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and was a member of the golf team.

**Bill Strausbaugh Award** – Jim Seeley of Lincolnshire, Ill., is a PGA Life Member and the Executive Vice President of Operations for KemperSports in Northbrook, Ill. The Bill Strausbaugh award is presented to PGA members for distinguished efforts in mentoring other PGA Professionals and supporting them in both employment and through community service. Following 10 years in the Navy, including graduation from the Naval Academy, two tours of duty in Vietnam and two years instructing at the Naval Academy, Seeley, 69, met Bill Strausbaugh who set him on his career path as a PGA Professional. His PGA apprenticeship began in 1970 at Prince George's County Club (now The Country Club of Woodmore) in Mitchellville, Md., and after three years, was named the head golf professional. Elected to PGA membership in 1973, Seeley's duties were expanded after two years when he was appointed Executive Director and Director of Golf at Prince George's. In 1984 he resigned to accept a position with PGA TOUR Golf Course Properties where he was assigned as the General Manager and Director of Golf at TPC at Avenel (now TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm) in Potomac, Md., where his duties included opening the facility, hosting the first Chrysler Cup and hosting the Kemper Open at Avenel, all within the first 18 months of opening the course. He frequently consulted with newly opened TPC facilities and General Managers, all PGA members. In 1994, Seeley was offered his current position at KemperSports, which at the time had 18 golf courses under management and employed 20 PGA Professionals. One of his objectives was to encourage the hiring of PGA Professionals as General Managers in addition to their more traditional roles. Over the past 16 years, KemperSports has grown to managing over 90 facilities and employing more than 130 PGA members. Among his many awards, Seeley was selected by *Golf Inc.* in 2008 as one of the top 20 "Most Admired Operators" globally. The annual General Manager of the Year award given by KemperSports was renamed in 2008 to The James R. Seeley General Manager of the Year Award.

**Horton Smith Award** – Hans Larson of Mount Prospect, Ill., is the PGA head golf professional at Westmoreland Country Club in Wilmette, Ill. The Horton Smith Award honors a PGA Professional for outstanding and continuing contributions to developing and improving education opportunities for fellow golf professionals. Elected to PGA membership in November of 1998, Larson, 37, is a 1997 graduate of the Professional Golf Management (PGM) Program at The Pennsylvania State University in University Park, Pa. Prior to his current position, Larson served three years as the head golf professional at Fox Run Golf Club in Eureka, Mo., before returning to Illinois to accept the head golf professional position at Westmoreland in March of 2004. He served as a PGA assistant golf professional at Butler National Golf Club in Oak Brook, Ill. (1998-2001) and Bonita Bay Club in Bonita Springs, Fla. He has served on the Illinois PGA Education Committee since 2006 and has contributed numerous articles to *PGA Magazine* on merchandising and promotion of the golf shop. He has attended educational opportunities at Penn State to mentor and educate PGM students on the role of the PGA Professional. As a result, in 2010, he was awarded the Penn State PGM Alumni Association's Golf Professional of the Year Award. Larson was honored as the 2006 Illinois PGA Private Merchandiser of the Year and 2001 the Gateway PGA Private Merchandiser of the Year.

**PGA Merchandiser of the Year (Private Facilities)** – Danny Mulhearn of Wheaton, Ill., is the PGA head golf professional at Glen Oak Country Club in Glen Ellyn, Ill. Mulhearn, 44, is in his 12th season at Glen Oak having previously served as an assistant golf professional (1993-1995) and head golf professional (1995-2000) at Cantigny Golf in Wheaton, Ill. His philosophy in regards to merchandising is to always add value to the membership by accomplishing two primary objectives – “character” and “individuality.” He prides himself on offering what the members are asking for, buying and talking about, which reflects the desires of the membership as a whole. Mulhearn also educates the membership that they have the opportunity to place special orders so they can purchase what they desire regardless if the item is inventoried or requires a customization. Mulhearn attended Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State University) in Kirksville, Mo., where in 1991 he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Finance and played on the golf team, earning NCAA Division II All-American honors. In 1997, Mulhearn was honored as the Illinois PGA Public Merchandiser of the Year and 1998 the Illinois PGA Horton Smith Award for his contributions to professional education.

**PGA Merchandiser of the Year (Public Facilities)** – Mickey Finn of Urbana, Ill., is in his 7th season as the PGA head golf professional at Stone Creek Golf Club in Urbana, Ill. Finn, 44, who was elected to PGA membership April of 1992, operates the golf shop with a goal of providing the feeling of “resort for a day.” Being in a small market, Finn created a facility focused on high-end service and the products he carries reflect that same approach. Through marketing, special promotions and his ability to provide a wide range of products, Finn has increased the focus on corporate sales for special events. The key ingredient to his merchandising philosophy is a constant reminder of what he has available in special services and products he can provide to the customer. Prior to his employment at Stone Creek, Finn spent eight years as the PGA head golf professional at Harrison Hills Golf & Country Club in Attica, Ind., and three seasons as the PGA head golf professional at Sunset Hills Golf Club in Pekin, Ill. This marks the first time that Finn is being honored with an Illinois PGA award.

**Bill Heald Career Achievement Award** – Even at the age of 93, Dick Carparelli can still be found today giving lessons at Beverly Country Club in Chicago, Ill. Born into a large Italian family with nine brothers and sisters in Harrison, N.Y., Carparelli’s love of the game of golf began at an early age when he was caddying at Rye (N.Y.) Country Club. Growing up just a few blocks away from the immortal golfer Gene Sarazen, he went on to caddy for several entertainment and sports celebrities of the day including Mack Sennett, the Director of the “Keystone Cops.”

Those early years caddying hooked Carparelli on golf and from that point on, he was sure he wanted to become a PGA Golf Professional. During two winters in the early 1940’s, Carparelli worked as an assistant golf professional in Boca Raton, Fla., with his uncle Charley Penna.

Carparelli joined the United States Army Air Corps in 1942 and flew planes all over the world, including for the Eighth Air Force in Europe during World War II. In 1946, after the war ended, he came to Chicago to take a job as the first assistant professional for Penna, who had moved a few years earlier to become the PGA head golf professional at Beverly Country Club. Carparelli earned his membership into the PGA of America in August of 1947.

Born Angelo Nicole Carparelli, he was given the nickname “Red” as a child because of his hair color. When he was hired at Beverly, his uncle thought his given name was too ethnic and encouraged him to use Red as his first name. While signing his name R. Carparelli, the members mistook the “R” for Richard, which ultimately morphed into Dick.

The long-time Beverly assistant golf professional also served on the MacGregor Golf Staff for over fifty years, and in 1989, was named an honorary member at Beverly for his dedication and service to the club.

Now the club's Professional Emeritus, he continues to selectively teach serious-minded students of the game. He has given thousands of golf lessons to Beverly Country Club members over the years and has taught the finer points of the golf swing to a host of notable personalities including Cab Calloway and Jack Nicholson. He played golf with Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, and Perry Como and has a great singing voice himself.

Carparelli has made a significant and lasting impression on each of the members he has come to know. He has become one of the greatest single assets at Beverly and plans on continuing his service to the club and its members for many years to come.

He has been married to his wife, Christine, for 63 years. They have one daughter, Felicia, and two grandchildren, Tina and Pete.

**The Illinois PGA:**

The Illinois Section of the PGA of America is a professional organization serving the men and women golf professionals in northern and central Illinois who are the recognized experts in growing, teaching and managing the game of golf. The Illinois PGA is responsible for the administration of competitive golf tournaments, educational opportunities, support programs and growth of the game initiatives. With over 834 members and apprentices, the Illinois PGA is the 12th largest of the 41 regional entities or "Sections" that comprise the PGA of America.

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