

Illinois PGA Golf Professional of the Year

Presented annually since 1955, this award honors the working club professional whose total contributions to the game best exemplify the complete PGA Professional. Special emphasis is placed on performance and achievement over the past five years, or specifically in the following categories: overall performance as a PGA Professional at his/her facility, service to the Illinois PGA and the Association, leadership ability, image and ability to inspire fellow PGA Professionals, and the promotion of golf.

1955	Bill Gordon*	1981	Steve Cheaney	2001	Dennis Johnsen
1958	Harry Pezzullo*	1982	Earl Puckett	2002	Terry Russell
1963	Bruce Herd*	1983	John Spiroplaus	2003	Don Pieper
1965	Hubby Habjan*	1984	David Ogilvie III	2004	Frank Chieppa
1966	Harry Pezzullo	1985	Terry Carlson	2005	Tim O'Neal
1967	Hubby Habjan	1986	David Ogilvie III*	2006	Timothy Buscombe
1968	Felice Torza	1987	Joe Jemsek	2007	Carmen Molinaro
1969	Zigfield Troy	1988	Sherm Finger	2008	Mike Scully
1970	Bill Ogden	1989	John Cleland	2009	Jim Opp
1971	Stan Kertes	1990	Bill Ventresca	2010	Butch Pegoraro
1972	Larry Rouse	1991	Joe Jemsek*	2011	Andy Shuman
1973	Steve Blatnak	1992	Leon McNair	2012	Bruce Carson
1974	Bill Davis	1993	Bruce Patterson	2013	Dick Wagley
1975	Bill Heald	1994	Paul Reinking	2014	Jim Holmes
1976	Lee Milligan	1995	Jim Sobb	2015	Bill Abrams
1977	Ken Weiler	1996	Bruce Patterson	2016	Casey Brozek
1978	David Ogilvie III	1997	Michael Harrigan	2017	Carol Rhoades
1979	Hal Miller	1998	Roger Warren	2018	Chris Gumbach
1980	Don Wegrzyn	1999	Dennis Johnsen	2019	Steve Orrick Jr.
		2000	Jim Sobb		

*National award winner

Illinois PGA Teacher of the Year

Established in 1986, the PGA Teacher of the Year Award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional who has performed outstanding service as a golf instructor. Criteria considered for this award are overall performance as a golf professional at his/her facility, service to his/her Section and the Association, impact on teaching and golf instruction, involvement in junior golf activities at their facility and in the community, innovative contributions to golf instruction, and articles written for publication in books and magazines.

1986	Ed Oldfield, Sr. - Glen View Club	2003	Lou Solarte - Cantigny Golf
1987	Marty Joyce - Golf Land GR	2004	Rick Sellers - The Den at Fox Creek GC
1988	Ed Oldfield, Sr. - Glen View Club	2005	Kevin Weeks - Cog Hill Golf & CC
1989	Hubby Habjan - Onwentsia Club	2006	Chuck Lynch - White Pines GC
1990	Dr. Jim Suttie - Pine Meadow CC	2007	Kevin Weeks - Cog Hill Golf & CC
1991	Dr. Jim Suttie - Pine Meadow CC	2008	Brett Packee - CORE Golf
1992	Gus Bernadoni - Pine Meadow CC	2009	Kevin Weeks - Cog Hill Golf & CC
1993	Gus Bernadoni - Pine Meadow CC	2010	Connie DeMattia - Cantigny Golf
1994	Todd Sones - Conway Farms GC	2011	John Platt - Green Garden CC
1995	Michael Harrigan - Medinah CC	2012	Pat Goss - Northwestern University
1996	Todd Sones - Conway Farms GC	2013	John Andrews - Pine Meadow GC
1997	Dan O'fcky - Driving Obsession	2014	Gary Pinns - Oak Brook GC
1998	Dr. Jim Suttie - Cog Hill Golf & CC	2015	Dan Kochevar - Oak Brook GC
1999	Jon Reese - Pine Meadow CC	2016	Bob Dickman - North Shore Elite Golf Academy
2000	John Green - Fresh Meadow GC	2017	Louis Sauer - LS GOLF
	Dr. Jim Suttie* - Cog Hill Golf & CC	2018	Mike Carbray - Butterfield CC
2001	Bruce Patterson - Butler National GC	2019	Bill Abrams - Balmoral Woods GC
2002	Dan Kochevar - Golf Learning Centers		

*National award winner

Illinois PGA Assistant Golf Professional of the Year

Established in 1996, the Assistant Golf Professional of the Year Award is presented for exceptional performance as a golf professional and service to the Illinois PGA, while upholding the image of a golf professional and inspiring fellow assistant professionals.

1996	Rob Saunders - Ravinia Green CC	2010	Jason Rasmussen - Ivanhoe Club
1997	Stan Wiel, Jr. - Wilmette GC	2011	Matt Flaherty - Butterfield CC
1998	John Cleary - Glen View Club	2012	Scott Baines - Bryn Mawr CC
1999	Chris Gumbach - River Forest CC	2013	Matt Slowinski - Glen Oak CC
2000	Curt Peterson - White Deer Run GC	2014	Katie Dick - Bitlmore CC
2001	Jeff Schmidt - St. Charles CC	2015	Phil Yudys - Glen Oak CC
2002	Chad Hansen - Glen Oak CC	2016	Bill McInerney - LaGrange CC
2003	Frank Bruno - Oak Park CC	2017	Nick Cuca - Exmoor CC
2004	Brett Melton - Midlothian CC	2018	Claire Castetter - Onwentsia Club
2005	Mike Campbell - Village Links of Glen Ellyn	2019	Ryan Peavey - Knollwood Club
2006	Geoff Tollefson - Arboretum Club		
2007	John Kiriakopoulos - Ravinia Green CC		
2008	Ryan Holland - Barrington Hills CC		
2009	Jeff Perdew - Medinah CC		

Illinois PGA Youth Player Development Award

Presented annually since 1988, this award recognizes a PGA professional who is a leader in junior golf and reflects the qualities and ideals of those who work with our youth. Ongoing work by this PGA professional includes involvement in the promotion and development of junior golf at the club level, in addition to support for national junior golf programs.

1990	Bill Johnstone - La Grange CC	2006	Dan Kochevar - Oak Brook GC
1991	Bill Johnstone - La Grange CC	2007	Cortney Miller - Winnetka GC
1992	Bob Jacobs - Cantigny Golf	2008	Rick Anderson - Decatur Park District
1993	Bob Jacobs - Cantigny Golf	2009	Chris Bartlett - Rockford CC
1994	Bob Jacobs - Cantigny Golf	2010	Don Archer - Blue Needles GC
1995	Paul Reinking - Kankakee CC	2011	Michael Wenzel - Sportsman's CC
1996	John Cleland - Butterfield CC	2012	Michael Carbray - Butterfield CC
1997	Paul Reinking - Kankakee CC	2013	Llyod McWilliams - Rockford Park District
1998	Juan Espejo - Maryville Academy	2014	Brett Packee - CORE Golf
1999	Juan Espejo - Maryville Academy	2015	Dennis Johnsen - Pine Meadow GC
2000	Jon Reese - Pine Meadow CC	2016	Doug Brazeau - Old Orchard CC
2001	Steve Patterson - Winnetka GC	2017	Greg Barasel - Cantigny Golf Club
2002	Noel Allen - Village Links of Glen Ellyn	2018	Lance Olson - Champaign Country Club
2003	Gregg Tengerstrom - Silver Lakes CC	2019	Connie DeMattia - Cantigny Golf
2004	Mike Jones - Cantigny Golf		
2005	Cary Cavitt - Twin Lakes GC		

Illinois PGA Bill Strausbaugh Award

Established in 1979, the Bill Strausbaugh Award is presented to a PGA Professional who by their day-to-day efforts have distinguished themselves by mentoring their fellow PGA Professionals in improving their employment situations and through service to the community. The award reflects the characteristics and qualities of Strausbaugh, a Middle Atlantic PGA Master Professional who died in 1999. Award candidates should demonstrate a record of service to their Section or Association; leadership ability, involvement in civic activities and local charitable causes within their community and be recognized as someone of outstanding character.

1981	Bill Heald* - Riverside GC	2002	Carol Rhoades - Golf Galaxy
1984	Bill Heald - Riverside GC	2003	Tim O'Neal - North Shore CC
1985	Bill Heald - Riverside GC	2004	Ron Skubisz - St. Andrews Golf & CC
1986	Leon McNair - Fox Bend GC		Paul Reinking* - Kankakee CC
1988	Bill Heald - Riverside GC	2005	Bill Abrams - Balmoral Woods CC
1989	Bill Heald - Riverside GC	2007	Bruce Carson - Onwentsia Club
1990	Paul Reinking - Kankakee CC	2008	Bruce Patterson - Butler National GC
1991	John Cleland - Butterfield CC	2009	Tim O'Neal - North Shore CC
1992	Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC	2010	Bill Abrams - Balmoral Woods CC
1993	Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC	2011	Jim Seeley - KemperSports
1994	Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC	2012	Jim Sobb - Ivanhoe Club
1996	Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC	2013	Brian Morrison - Olympia Fields CC
1997	Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC	2014	Tim Buscombe - Lincolnshire Fields CC
1998	Bill Heald - Riverside GC	2015	Don Pieper - Merit Club
1999	Frank Chieppa - Randall Oaks GC	2016	Andy Phelan - Wynstone Golf Club
	Bill Heald* - Riverside GC	2017	Nick Papadakes - Onwentsia Golf Club
2000	Steve Patterson - Winnetka GC	2018	Paul Betteridge - Pekin Country Club
2001	Mike Williams - White Deer Run GC	2019	Chris Gumbach - River Forest CC

*National award winner

Illinois PGA Professional Development Award

Established in 1965, the Professional Development Award is designed to recognize individual golf professionals for their outstanding and continuing contributions to developing and improving education opportunities for the PGA golf professional. The guidelines for this award include contributions to the National PGA Education program, contributions to educational programs and seminars in the PGA Section, contributions and assistance toward the developing of articles and materials which benefit and relate to education, and contributions to building the image of both the PGA golf professional and the Association.

1979	Hubby Habjan - Onwentsia Club	2000	Frank Chieppa - Randall Oaks GC	2019	Vince Juarez - Deerpath GC
1981	Regi Starzyk - St. Charles CC	2001	Frank Chieppa - Randall Oaks GC		
1982	Sherm Finger - Knollwood Club	2002	Ian Grant - La Grange CC		
1984	Bill Kuikman - Calumet CC	2003	Todd Sones - White Deer Run GC		
1985	Ed Oldfield, Sr. - Glen View Club	2004	Casey Brozek - Crystal Lake CC		
1986	John Spiroplaus - Olympia Fields CC	2005	Penni Godden - Klein Creek GC		
1987	Regi Starzyk - St. Charles CC	2006	Jim Opp - Bonnie Dundee GC		
1988	Tom Wilcox - Sunset Ridge GC	2007	Jim Opp - Bonnie Dundee GC		
1989	Don Wegrzyn - Old Elm Club	2008	Jim Opp - Bonnie Dundee GC		
1990	Pat O'Brien - Golf Club of Illinois	2009	Geoff Tollefson - Arboretum Club		
1991	Bill Kuikman - Beverly CC	2010	Carol Rhoades - Stony Creek GC		
1992	Bill Kuikman - Beverly CC	2011	Hans Larson - Westmoreland GC		
1993	Bill Kuikman - Beverly CC	2012	Nick Papadakes - Old Elm Club		
1994	Bill Kuikman - Beverly CC	2013	Tim O'Neal - North Shore CC		
1995	Randy Bolstad - Willow Crest GC	2014	Todd Sones - Todd Sones Impact Golf		
1996	Randy Bolstad - Willow Crest GC	2015	Nick Papadakes - Onwentsia Club		
1997	Randy Bolstad - Willow Crest GC	2016	Daniel Gray - Skokie Country Club		
1998	Danny Mulhearn - Cantigny Golf	2017	Todd Sones - Todd Sones Impact Golf		
1999	Bill Heald - Riverside GC	2018	Nick Papadakes - Onwentsia Club		

*National award winner

Illinois PGA Merchandiser of the Year - Resort Facilities

Established in 1978, the PGA Merchandiser of the Year (Resort Facility) recognizes those PGA golf professionals who have demonstrated superior skills in both merchandising and the promotion of golf.

Guidelines for this award include being a PGA member in good standing, having a credit rating within the industry and overall, and community involvement. Merchandising abilities and techniques, inventory levels and turn rate, shop displays and attention to detail are also judged.

1991	Dennis Johnsen - Pheasant Run Resort	2007	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort
1992	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort	2008	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort
1993	John Schlaman - Eagle Ridge Resort	2009	No Recipient
1994	John Schlaman - Eagle Ridge Resort	2010	Erin Streick - Eagle Ridge Resort
1995	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort	2011	No Recipient
1996	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort	2012	No Recipient
1997	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort	2013	No Recipient
1998	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort	2014	No Recipient
1999	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort	2015	No Recipient
2000	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort	2016	Randy Bolstad - Willow Crest Golf Club
2001	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort	2017	Reagan Davis - Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa
2002	No Recipient	2018	No Recipient
2003	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort	2019	No Recipient
2004	Erin Streick - Eagle Ridge Resort		
2005	Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort		
2006	Andy Carr - Eaglewood Resort and Spa		

Illinois PGA Player Development Award

This award recognizes individual PGA member professionals for their extraordinary and exemplary contributions and achievements in the area of player development and growth of the game leadership. This award considers the PGA Professional's growth of the game leadership commitment at the Section and National levels and the impact made at the facility.

2006	Mike Jones - Cantigny Golf	2016	Mark Krzic - Ridge CC
2007	Dennis Johnsen - Pine Meadow GC	2017	Patrick Lynch - Cantigny Golf Club
2008	Carol Rhoades - Stony Creek GC	2018	Mark Krzic - Ridge Country Club
2009	Dennis Johnsen - Pine Meadow GC	2019	Joe Sheren - S.M.A.R.T. Golf & Fitness
2010	Louise Davis - Cog Hill Golf & CC		
2011	No Recipient		
2012	Jeff Siegmund - Sugar Creek GC		
2013	Leon McNair - PGA Life Member		
2014	Eric Aldrich - Bolingbrook GC		
2015	Hans Larson - Westmoreland CC		

Illinois PGA Merchandiser of the Year - Private Facilities

Established in 1978, the PGA Merchandiser of the Year (Private Club) recognizes those PGA golf professionals who have demonstrated superior skills in both merchandising and the promotion of golf.

Guidelines for this award include being a PGA member in good standing, having a credit rating within the industry and overall, and community involvement. Merchandising abilities and techniques, inventory levels and turn rate, shop displays and attention to detail are also judged.

1980	Bob Hickman* - Medinah CC	2005	Jim Holmes - Ravinia Green CC
1991	Earl Puckett* - Twin Orchard CC	2006	Hans Larson - Westmoreland CC
1992	Regi Starzyk - St. Charles CC	2007	Andy Shuman - Twin Orchard CC
1993	Regi Starzyk - St. Charles CC	2008	Brian Morrison - Olympia Fields CC
1994	Jim Schreiber - Edgewood Valley CC	2009	Adam Rosuck - Northmoor CC
	Regi Starzyk* - St. Charles CC		Brian Morrison* - Olympia Fields CC
1995	Mike Harrigan - Medinah CC	2010	David Hannon - La Grange CC
1996	Tim O'Neal - North Shore CC	2011	Danny Mulhearn - Glen Oak CC
1997	Jim Sobb - Ivanhoe Club	2012	Wade Gurysh - Knollwood Club
1998	Tim O'Neal - North Shore CC	2013	John Varner - Beverly Country Club
1999	Chuck Dammeir - Morris CC	2014	Andy Shuman - Twin Orchard CC
2000	Steve Dunning - Oak Park CC	2015	Alex Mendez - Butterfield CC
2001	Scott Sandfort - Elgin CC	2016	Gabe Exiner - Crystal Tree Golf & CC
2002	David Impastato - St. Charles CC	2017	Dave Schmaltz - Exmoor Country Club
2003	Brian Morssison - Olympia Fields CC	2018	Shaun McElroy - North Shore Country Club
	David Impastato* - St. Charles CC	2019	Patrick Crow - Chicago Highlands Club
2004	Jeff Buttitta - Turnberry CC		

*National award winner

Illinois PGA Bill Heald Career Achievement Award

This honor is presented annually for a career of service to employers, mentoring, community service, playing ability, teaching, junior golf, education, and going above and beyond the duties of a PGA Professional who has not been previously honored as the Illinois PGA Golf Professional of the Year.

2005	Tony Holguin	2014	Wally Hynes
2006	Bill Erfurth	2015	Brian Morrison
2007	David Ogilvie III	2016	Rick Groessl
2008	Ken Weiler	2017	Dave Huber
2009	Tom O'Connor	2018	Harland Kilborn
2010	Richie Hammel	2019	Adam Rosuck
2011	Dick Carparelli		
2012	Pat Kenny		
2013	Karl Bollnow		

Illinois PGA Distinguished Service Award

The Illinois PGA Distinguished Service Award honors individuals who display leadership and humanitarian qualities, including integrity, sportsmanship and enthusiasm for the game of golf.

Espejo is the inaugural recipient and embodies the criteria of the award and a PGA Professional.

2015	Juan Espejo - Maryville Academy
2016	Jamie Nieto - Pheasant Run Resort
2017	No Recipient
2018	Lloyd McWilliams - Rockford Park District
2019	Tim O'Neal - PGA Life Member

Illinois PGA Merchandiser of the Year - Public Facilities

Established in 1978, the PGA Merchandiser of the Year (Public Facility) recognizes those PGA golf professionals who have demonstrated superior skills in both merchandising and the promotion of golf.

Guidelines for this award include being a PGA member in good standing, having a credit rating within the industry and overall, and community involvement. Merchandising abilities and techniques, inventory levels and turn rate, shop displays and attention to detail are also judged.

1991	George Kallish - Dunne National GC	2007	Don Habjan - Makray Memorial GC
1992	Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC	2008	Dennis Johnsen - Pine Meadow GC
1993	Bob Jacobs - Cantigny Golf	2009	Mike Williams - Bolingbrook GC
1994	Tom Tierney - Orchard Valley GC		Dennis Johnsen* - Pine Meadow GC
1995	Emil Esposito - Kemper Lakes GC	2010	No Recipient
1996	Penni Godden - Klein Creek GC	2011	Mickey Finn - Stone Creek GC
1997	Danny Mulhearn - Cantigny Golf	2012	Robert Falkiner - Traditions at Chevy Chase
1998	Tom Tierney - Orchard Valley GC	2013	AJ Shannon - Turtle Run GC
1999	Tom Tierney - Orchard Valley GC	2014	Steve Gillie - Randall Oaks GC
2000	Renie Calkin - Prairie Landing GC	2015	Rick Walrath - Deerpath GC
2001	Jim Karras - Whisper Creek GC	2016	No Recipient
2002	Jeff Vesevick - Village Links of Glen Ellyn	2017	Steve Gillie - Randall Oaks Golf Club
2003	Dave Erickson - St. Andrews Golf & CC	2018	Jonathan Parsons - Schaumburg Golf Club
2004	Bryan Moran - Kemper Lakes GC	2019	No Recipient
2005	Carmen Molinaro - Arboretum Club		
2006	Jay Casaletto - The Glen Club		

*National award winner

Illinois PGA Deacon Palmer Award

The PGA of America established the Deacon Palmer Award, named after Arnold Palmer's late father who overcame personal obstacles to succeed as a PGA Professional, in 2014. The Deacon Palmer Award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional who personally displays outstanding integrity, character and leadership in an effort to overcome a major obstacle in their life. This individual is an unsung hero/heroine at their facility and in their community. This award was established in 2019.

2019 Rich Flores - Pheasant Run Resort