

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 Gordan*	1978 David Ogilvie III	1994 Paul Reinking	2010 Butch Pegoraro
1958.... Harry Pezzullo*	1979 Hal Miller	1995 Jim Sobb	2011 Andy Shuman
1963.... Bruce Herd*	1980 Don Wegrzyn	1996 Bruce Patterson	2012 Bruce Carson
1965.... Hubby Habjan*	1981 Steve Cheaney	1997 Michael Harrigan	2013 Dick Wagley
1966 Harry Pezzullo	1982 Earl Puckett	1998 Roger Warren	2014 Jim Holmes
1967 Hubby Habjan	1983 John Spiroplaus	1999 Dennis Johnsen	2015 Bill Abrams
1968 Felice Torza	1984 David Ogilvie III	2000 Jim Sobb	2016 Casey Brozek
1969 Zigfield Troy	1985 Terry Carlson	2001 Dennis Johnsen	2017 Carol Rhoades
1970 Bill Ogden	1986 David Ogilvie III*	2002 Terry Russell	2018 Chris Gumbach
1971 Stan Kertes	1987 Joe Jemsek	2003 Don Pieper	2019 Steve Orrick, Jr.
1972 Larry Rouse	1988 Sherm Finger	2004 Frank Chieppa	2020 Mark Labiak
1973 Steve Blatnak	1989 John Cleland	2005 Tim O'Neal	2021 Brian Morrison
1974 Bill Davis	1990 Bill Ventresca	2006 Timothy Buscombe	2022 Danny Mulhearn
1975 Bill Heald	1991 Joe Jemsek*	2007 Carmen Molinaro	2023 Hans Larson
1976 Lee Milligan	1992 Leon McNair	2008 Mike Scully	
1977 Ken Weiler	1993 Bruce Patterson	2009 Jim Opp	

*PGA of America 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
1997 Stan Wiel, Jr – Wilmette GC
1998 John Cleary – Glen View Club
1999 Chris Gumbach – River Forest CC
2000 Curt Peterson – White Deer Run GC
2001 Jeff Schmidt – St. Charles CC
2002 Chad Hansen – Glen Oak CC
2003 Frank Bruno – Oak Park CC
2004 Brett Melton – Midlothian CC
2005 Mike Campbell – Village Links of Glen Ellyn
2006 Geoff Tollefson – Arboretum Club
2007 John Kiriakopoulos – Ravinia Green CC
2008 Ryan Holland – Barrington Hills CC
2009 Jeff Perdew – Medinah CC
2010 Jason Rasmussen – Ivanhoe Club
2011 Matt Flaherty – Butterfield CC
2012 Scott Baines – Bryn Mawr CC

2013 Matt Slowinski – Glen Oak CC
2014 Katie Dick – Biltmore CC
2015 Phil Yudys – Glen Oak CC
2016 Bill McInerney – LaGrange CC
2017 Nick Cuca – Exmoor CC
2018 Claire Castetter – Onwentsia Club
2019 Ryan Peavey – Knollwood Club
2020 Mark Hirn – Bllomington CC
2021 Sean Rea – River Forest CC
2022 Kyle Donovan – Oak Park CC
2023 Matthew Rion – Briarwood CC

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
1987 Marty Joyce - Golf Land GR
1988 Ed Oldfield, Sr. - Glen View Club
1989 Hubby Habjan - Onwentsia Club
1990 Dr. Jim Suttie - Pine Meadow CC
1991 Dr. Jim Suttie - Pine Meadow CC
1992 Gus Bernadoni - Pine Meadow CC
1993 Gus Bernadoni - Pine Meadow CC
1994 Todd Sones - Conway Farms GC
1995 Michael Harrigan - Medinah CC
1996 Todd Sones - Conway Farms GC
1997 Dan Ofcky - Driving Obsession
1998 Dr. Jim Suttie - Cog Hill Golf & CC
1999 Jon Reese - Pine Meadow CC
2000 John Green - Fresh Meadow GC

2000 ... Dr. Jim Suttie* - Cog Hill Golf & CC
2001 Bruce Patterson - Butler National GC
2002 Dan Kochevar - Golf Learning Centers
2003 Lou Solarte - Cantigny Golf
2004 Rick Sellers - The Den at Fox Creek GC
2005 Kevin Weeks - Cog Hill Golf & CC
2006 Chuck Lynch - White Pines GC
2007 Kevin Weeks - Cog Hill Golf & CC
2008 Brett Packee - CORE Golf
2009 Kevin Weeks - Cog Hill Golf & CC
2010 Connie DeMattia - Cantigny Golf
2011 John Platt - Green Garden CC
2012 Pat Goss - Northwestern University
2013 John Andrews - Pine Meadow GC
2014 Gary Pinns - Oak Brook GC

2015 Dan Kochevar - Oak Brook GC
2016 Bob Dickman - North Shore Elite
2017 Louis Sauer – LS Golf
2018 Mike Carbray – Butterfield CC
2019 Bill Abrams – Balmoral Woods GC
2020 Chris Greem – Glen View Club
2021 Garrett Chaussard – Skokie CC
2022 Joe Sheren – SMART Golf
2023 Michael Camastro – Silver Lake CC
2023 **Kevin Weeks*** - Cog Hill Golf and CC

***PGA of America National Award Winner**

Illinois PGA Youth Player Development Award

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.

1990 Bill Johnstone - La Grange CC
1991 Bill Johnstone - La Grange CC
1992 Bob Jacobs - Cantigny Golf
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1994 Bob Jacobs - Cantigny Golf
1995 Paul Reinking - Kankakee CC
1996 John Cleland - Butterfield CC
1997 Paul Reinking - Kankakee CC
1998 Juan Espejo - Maryville Academy
1999 Juan Espejo - Maryville Academy
2000 Jon Reese - Pine Meadow CC
2001 Steve Patterson - Winnetka GC
2002 Noel Allen - Village Links of Glen Ellyn
2003 Gregg Tengerstrom - Silver Lakes CC
2004 Mike Jones - Cantigny Golf
2005 Cary Cavitt - Twin Lakes GC
2006 Dan Kochevar - Oak Brook GC
2007 Cortney Miller - Winnetka GC

2008 Rick Anderson - Decatur Park District
2009 Chris Bartlett - Rockford CC
2010 Don Archer - Blue Needles GC
2011 Michael Wenzel - Sportsman's CC
2012 Michael Carbray - Butterfield CC
2013 Llyod McWilliams - Rockford Park District
2014 Brett Packee - CORE Golf
2015 Dennis Johnsen - Pine Meadow GC
2016 Doug Brazeau - Old Orchard CC
2017 Greg Barasel – Cantigny Golf
2018 Lance Olson – Champaign CC
2019 ... Connie DeMattia – Cantigny Golf
2020 Dan Shelden – Ruth Lake CC
2021 John Platt – Mistwood GC
2022 Tim Krouse – Effingham CC
2023 Chad Johansen – Blackberry Oaks GC
2023 **Connie DeMattia*** – Cantigny Golf

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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	1999 Frank Chieppa – Randall Oaks GC	2012 Jim Sobb - Ivanhoe Club
1984 Bill Heald - Riverside GC	1999 Bill Heald* - Riverside GC	2013 Brian Morrison - Olympia Fields CC
1985 Bill Heald - Riverside GC	2000 Steve Patterson - Winnetka GC	2014 Tim Buscombe - Lincolnshire Fields
1986 Leon McNair - Fox Bend GC	2001 Mike Williams - White Deer Run GC	2015 Don Pieper - Merit Club
1988 Bill Heald - Riverside GC	2002 Carol Rhoades - Golf Galaxy	2016 Andy Phelan - Wynstone Golf Club
1989 Bill Heald - Riverside GC	2003 Tim O’Neal - North Shore CC	2017 Nick Papadakes – Onwentsia Club
1990 Paul Reinking - Kankakee CC	2004 Ron Skubisz - St. Andrews Golf	2018 Paul Betteridge – Pekin CC
1991 John Cleland - Butterfield CC	2004 Paul Reinking* - Kankakee CC	2019 Chris Gumbach – River Forest CC
1992 Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC	2005 Bill Abrams - Balmoral Woods CC	2020 Vince Juarez – KemperSports
1993 Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC	2007 Bruce Carson - Onwentsia Club	2021 Daniel Waters – Bob O’Link GC
1994 Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC	2008 Bruce Patterson - Butler National GC	2022 Terry Russell – Cantigny Golf
1996 Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC	2009 Tim O’Neal - North Shore CC	2023 Kyle Bauer – Glen View Club
1997 Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC	2010 Bill Abrams - Balmoral Woods CC	
1998 Bill Heald - Riverside GC	2011 Jim Seeley - KemperSports	

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Illinois PGA Professional Development (Horton Smith) Award

Established in 1965, the Horton Smith 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.

A seven-time U.S. Ryder Cup team member and two-time Masters Champion, Horton Smith was PGA President from 1952-1954. He devoted much of his time to improving educational programs.

1979 Hubby Habjan - Onwentsia Club
1981 Regi Starzyk - St. Charles CC
1982 Sherm Finger - Knollwood Club
1984 Bill Kuikman - Calumet CC
1985 Ed Oldfield, Sr. - Glen View Club
1986 John Spiroplaus - Olympia Fields CC
1987 Regi Starzyk - St. Charles CC
1988 Tom Wilcox - Sunset Ridge GC
1989 Don Wegrzyn - Old Elm Club
1990 Pat O'Brien - Golf Club of Illinois
1991 Bill Kuikman - Beverly CC
1992 Bill Kuikman - Beverly CC
1993 Bill Kuikman - Beverly CC
1994 Bill Kuikman - Beverly CC
1995 Randy Bolstad - Willow Crest GC

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1998 Danny Mulhearn - Cantigny Golf
1999 Bill Heald - Riverside GC
2000 Frank Chieppa - Randall Oaks GC
2001 Frank Chieppa - Randall Oaks GC
2002 Ian Grant - La Grange CC
2003 Todd Sones - White Deer Run GC
2004 Casey Brozek - Crystal Lake CC
2005 Penni Godden - Klein Creek GC
2006 Jim Opp - Bonnie Dundee GC
2007 Jim Opp - Bonnie Dundee GC
2008 Jim Opp - Bonnie Dundee GC
2009 Geoff Tollefson - Arboretum Club
2010 Carol Rhoades - Stony Creek GC

2011 Hans Larson - Westmoreland GC
2012 Nick Papadakes - Old Elm Club
2013 Tim O'Neal - North Shore CC
2014 Todd Sones – Impact Golf
2015 Nick Papadakes - Onwentsia Club
2016 Daniel Gray - Skokie CC
2017 Todd Sones – Impact Golf
2018 Nick Papadakes – Onwentsia Club
2019 Vince Juarez – Deerpath GC
2020 Nick Papadakes – Onwentsia Club
2021 Nick Papadakes – Onwentsia Club
2022 T.J Sullivan – GOLFTEC Oakbrook
2023 T.J Sullivan – GOLFTEC Oakbrook
2023 **Nick Papadakes*** - Onwentsia Club

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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
2007 Dennis Johnsen - Pine Meadow GC
2008 Carol Rhoades - Stony Creek GC
2009 Dennis Johnsen - Pine Meadow GC
2010 Louise Davis - Cog Hill Golf & CC
2012 Jeff Siegmund - Sugar Creek GC
2013 Leon McNair - PGA Life Member
2014 Eric Aldrich – Bolingbrook GC
2015 Hans Larson - Westmoreland CC
2016 Mark Krizic - Ridge CC

2017 Patrick Lynch – Cantigny Golf
2018 Mark Krizic – Ridge CC
2019 Joe Sheren – SMART Golf and Fitness
2020 Connie DeMattia – Cantigny Golf
2021 Doug Brazeau – Old Orchard CC
2022 Ryan McGwyer – Cog Hill Golf and CC
2023 David Maslen – Chicago School of Golf

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	2003 Brian Morssison - Olympia Fields	2015 Alex Mendez - Butterfield CC
1991 Earl Puckett* - Twin Orchard CC	2003 David Impastato* - St. Charles CC	2016 Gabe Exiner - Crystal Tree G&CC
1992 Regi Starzyk - St. Charles CC	2004 Jeff Buttitta - Turnberry CC	2017 Dave Schmaltz – Exmoor CC
1993 Regi Starzyk - St. Charles CC	2005 Jim Holmes - Ravinia Green CC	2018 Shaun McElroy – North Shore CC
1994 Jim Schreiber - Edgewood Valley CC	2006 Hans Larson - Westmoreland CC	2019 Patrick Crow – Chicago Highlands
1994 Regi Starzyk* - St. Charles CC	2007 Andy Shuman - Twin Orchard CC	2020 Ian Brown* - Butterfield CC
1995 Mike Harrigan - Medinah CC	2008 Brian Morrison - Olympia Fields CC	2021 Sydney Syster – North Shore CC
1996 Tim O'Neal - North Shore CC	2009 Adam Rosuck - Northmoor CC	2022 Mark Labiak – Ruth Lake CC
1997 Jim Sobb - Ivanhoe Club	2009 Brian Morrison* - Olympia Fields	2023 Victoria McGowan – Rich Harvest Farms
1998 Tim O'Neal - North Shore CC	2010 David Hannon - La Grange CC	
1999 Chuck Dammeir - Morris CC	2011 Danny Mulhearn - Glen Oak CC	
2000 Steve Dunning - Oak Park CC	2012 Wade Gurysh - Knollwood Club	
2001 Scott Sandfort - Elgin CC	2013 John Varner - Beverly Country Club	
2002 David Impastato - St. Charles CC	2014 Andy Shuman - Twin Orchard CC	

***PGA of America National Award Winner**

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

1992 Roger Warren - Seven Bridges GC

1993 Bob Jacobs - Cantigny Golf

1994 Tom Tierney - Orchard Valley GC

1995 Emil Esposito - Kemper Lakes GC

1996 Penni Godden - Klein Creek GC

1997 Danny Mulhearn - Cantigny Golf

1998 Tom Tierney - Orchard Valley GC

1999 Tom Tierney - Orchard Valley GC

2000 Renie Calkin - Prairie Landing GC

2001 Jim Karras - Whisper Creek GC

2002 Jeff Vesevick - Village Links of Glen Ellyn

2003 Dave Erickson - St. Andrews Golf & CC

2004 Bryan Moran - Kemper Lakes GC

2005 Carmen Molinaro – Arboretum Club

2006 Jay Casaletto - The Glen Club

2007 Don Habjan - Makray Memorial GC

2008 Dennis Johnsen - Pine Meadow GC

2009 Mike Williams - Bolingbrook GC

2009 **Dennis Johnsen*** - Pine Meadow GC

2011 Mickey Finn - Stone Creek GC

2012 Robert Falkiner - Traditions at Chevy Chase

2013 AJ Shannon - Turtle Run GC

2014 Steve Gillie - Randall Oaks GC

2015 Rick Walrath - Deerpath GC

2017 Steve Gillie – Randall Oaks GC

2018 Jonathan Parsons – Schaumburg GC

2021 Randy Heinrich – Cog Hill Golf and CC

2022 Frank Hohenadel – Mistwood GC

2023 Randy Heinrich – Cog Hill Golf and CC

***PGA of America National Award Winner**

Illinois PGA Merchandiser of the Year – Resort Facilities

Established in 1978, the PGA Merchandiser of the Year (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
1992 Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort
1993 John Schlaman - Eagle Ridge Resort
1994 John Schlaman - Eagle Ridge Resort
1995 Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort
1996 Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort
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2001 Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort

2003 Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort
2004 Erin Streick - Eagle Ridge Resort
2005 Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort
2006 Andy Carr - Eaglewood Resort and Spa
2007 Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort
2008 Randy Bolstad - Oak Brook Hills Resort
2010 Erin Streick - Eagle Ridge Resort
2016 Randy Bolstad - Willowcrest Golf Club
2017 Reagan Davis – Eagle Ridge Resort and Spa
2020 Randy Bolstad – Willow Crest GC

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
2006 Bill Erfurth
2007 David Ogilvie III
2008 Ken Weiler
2009 Tom O'Connor
2010 Richie Hammel
2011 Dick Carparelli
2012 Pat Kenny
2013 Karl Bollnow
2014 Wally Hynes

2015 Brian Morrison
2016 Rick Groessl
2017 Dave Huber
2018 Harland Kilborn
2019 Adam Rosuck
2020 Don Habjan
2021 Allen Brown
2022 Juan Espejo
2023 Charles Kletcke

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

2018 Lloyd McWilliams – Rockford Park District

2019 Tim O’Neal – PGA Life Member

2020 Juan Espejo – Maryville Academy

2021 Dennis Johnsen – Pine Meadow GC

2022 Don Pieper – Merit Club

2023 Frank Chieppa – PGA of America

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
2020 Jamie Nieto – The Preserve at Oak Meadows
2021 Bill Sakas – Glencoe Golf Club
2022 Dino Lucchesi – Grayslake Golf Practice Center
2023 Gary Binder – KemperSports
2023 **Jamie Nieto*** - The Preserve at Oak Meadows

***PGA of America National Award Winner**

Illinois PGA Executive of the Year Award

The Illinois PGA Golf Executive of the Year Award bestows special recognition on a PGA Golf Professional who has performed outstanding services for a multiple facility/course management/ownership operation, Allied Association or golf industry executive management position. As one of the highest honors the PGA can bestow, candidates must possess outstanding qualities of leadership, vision, courage, strong moral character, and a substantial record of service to the Association and the game of golf. Individuals honored with the PGA Golf Executive of the Year award will be held as model PGA Golf Professional. The PGA Golf Executive of the Year Guidelines:

- Candidate must be a PGA member in good standing.
- Candidate must be well regarded as a model PGA member.
- Demonstration and acknowledgment as an individual of outstanding leadership and strong moral character.

2020 Mike Williams – Landscapes Unlimited

2021 Gary Binder – KemperSports

2022 Tony LaFrenerre – Schaumburg GC

2023 Vince Juarez - KemperSports

Illinois PGA Patriot Award

The Illinois PGA Patriot Award bestows special recognition on a PGA Golf Professional, who personifies patriotism through the game of golf and demonstrates unwavering commitment and dedication to the men and women who have valiantly served and protected the United States of America. This award was established in 2023.

2023 Dennis Johnsen – Pine Meadow GC