

2021 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Email address *

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Name of Nominee: *

Douglas P Brody

Facility Employed at: *

Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: *

1997

Award Nominated for: *

Golf Professional Of The Year

Briefly describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award: *

I am honored and humbled to be nominated for this special award. I have been a Head Golf Professional for the past 23 years, 7 years at Walnut Hills CC and the past 16 at Warwick Hills Golf & CC. As a PGA Professional I have always tried to continually get better at my craft, but there are so many pieces to our profession that I have learned that you need a strong staff if you are going to be successful. My team is my greatest asset. It starts with my wife Jenn, who is the ultimate partner both at home and at the club. We have owned the golf shop since 2005, and with the help of our golf shop staff we run a successful retail operation. Our key staff includes: Tyler Nunn, Darren Husse and Kelley Braum, who all play vital roles in our success in the golf shop and golf operation. We were honored to be awarded the Michigan Merchandiser of the Year for Private Clubs in 2014 and 2019. Relationships with our members, guests, vendors and community are the backbone of our business. We try and give our members and guests every reason to want to come support our golf shop. We are also very fortunate to have a strong history of Professional Golf at Warwick Hills, highlighted by hosting the PGA Tour Buick Open from 1958 to 2009. We now host the PGA Champions Tour ALLY Challenge Presented By McLaren. This history is a source of pride at our club, and one I don't take for granted.

The area of our operation I am most proud of is our Junior Golf Program. My mentor Bill Mory instilled the importance of Junior Golf when I first started at Walnut Hills. We have a very active program with over 130 junior golfers. We have been all in with PGA Junior League since its inception in 2013, having two teams every year since. Three times our league All Star Team has won the State Championship. My greatest thrill was coaching our team to a State Championship in 2018 and having both my daughter Kate and son Tyler on the team! I have also been a main driver in organizing the Motown Cup Junior Interclub Series with many of the top clubs in Southeast Michigan. The Motown Cup has been a great stepping stone for our juniors that have aged out of PGA Junior League. Both PGA Junior League and the Motown Cup have played major roles in providing a team culture for our juniors to thrive at Warwick Hills. Our juniors love to play and hang out together. The big kids look out for and mentor our younger junior golfers. Lastly, the addition of Jason Guss, Director of Golf Performance both at Eagle Eye and Warwick Hills has had a major impact on the development of our top juniors at Warwick Hills! Jason Guss has been a game changer on our lesson tee.

Sharing ideas with industry leaders has been an important piece to the evolution of change and improvement at the club. I am fortunate to meet twice a year with a group of leading Michigan golf professionals organized by Pat Markley of Barton Hills CC to trade information, ideas and best practices. I also participate with the PGA Ambassadors on a regional and national level, having not missed the PGA Merchandise Show in the past 27 years. While in Orlando I like to take advantage of educational opportunities such as the National PGA Teaching and Coaching Summit or Association of Golf Merchandisers. It was at the Summit where I was exposed to Jim Hardy's One Plane Swing and Bobby Clampett's Impact Zone that play a major influence in my teaching and my own game. Two other areas that are a passion of mine are Tournament Operations and Travel with members. We have a robust golf calendar that drives a lot of play and golf shop activity. We run 65 member events for Men, Women, Couples and Juniors and 15-20 outside golf events highlighted by our Men's Invitational with over 200 players and Ladies Invitational with over 100 players each year. This year our Ladies Pink Par Tee Breast Cancer fundraiser raised over \$100,000. We annually do a Men's two day golf trip and Ladies two day golf trip with 20-30 members at a time, renting a motor coach and hitting the best golf destinations in Michigan. Every two or three years I will travel overseas with members to play links golf in Scotland, Ireland or England. The bonds I have forged on these trips have been invaluable!

I am proud of our staff at Warwick Hills and proud of the tournaments and programs we run. I feel fortunate to work at a place like Warwick Hills. We have a great membership who support and appreciate the hard work and effort we put into club. It is our staff, membership, mentors and relationships that have given me the opportunity to be considered as the Golf Professional of the Year and for that I am grateful!

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