



PGA
Michigan Section

March 11th, 2021
Bob Bales, PGA
Board President
Michigan Section PGA

Special Awards Committee Report for March Board meeting

Section Officers and Board members,

Report:

The 2021 awards process began back in the summer with the nomination process by the membership and the voting of the candidates that completed bios, thus resulting in our interviews this past January.

The interviews were held on January 12th, 13th and 14th remotely via zoom calls with the candidates who received the most membership votes. We interviewed the 2 candidates receiving the most votes in all but a few categories. The other categories voting was close enough to interview 3 or 4 of the nominees. This is the same procedure we have used in the past years. The committee has brought selected candidates back directly to the interview process in the past and we did so again this season. The membership is made aware of this when it happens before the voting takes place.

As in past years, some members of our committee could not attend all the interviews, but we feel that the process was successful.

Each member of the committee voiced concerns prior to our interviews about using Zoom and as a group we all would have preferred to interview in person so we could have a more complete interview. After the interviews were completed, we had all changed our minds and felt it was a savings of time and money for both the committee members and the candidates. The only hiccups came in the form of poor internet connections at times.

The Special awards committee has for many years been made up of 3 members from each chapter, representing public, private and resort facilities as well as instructors so we feel fairness in all areas is equally represented across all the awards categories that are presented. The Committee chair is a neutral member, steering the process and only votes if the case of a tie. I have been in this position for the past two award cycles.

This cycle saw Josh Lathwell from Spring Lake CC and Amy Pollack from Boulder Creek step off the committee prior to the interviews. So, as I step aside this fall and the new committee chair is selected, they will be able to fill all three positions from the western chapter as Charlie Vandenberg is also stepping down after many years on the committee. Charlie brought a unique voice to the discussions as an instructor, a past private club professional, and one of the more seasoned members of the group. All three of these members brought different thought processes and insights to the discussions and will be missed.

The committee felt the changes we made last year helped us with the process in the 2021 cycle. The largest procedure change had the committee monitoring the bios that were turned in prior to the deadline, if we felt a category was not going to be accurately represented from a quantity of candidates or quality standpoint, we reached out and reminded those that had not turned in their bios to please do so. This only had to be done for a few of the award categories, but it did help.

Recommendations moving forward:

For the 2022 awards cycle please see the attached recommendations for board discussion.



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Results of 2021 Process:

The committee wishes to congratulate all the nominees and thank each one for the time they took to come in and speak to us. 13 awards have been determined for this 2021 cycle.

We are pleased to announce our 2021 results for The Michigan Section Special Award Recipients

A note to our winners and Section Members: FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY, do not share publicly, on social media, etc! The Section will send out a formal press release this summer, and awards will be given at the fall President's Dinner.

Assistant Golf Professional of the Year	Brandon Dean	Crystal Mountain Resort
Merchandiser of the Year Public	Ian Ziska	American Dunes Golf Club
Merchandiser of the Year Resort	Elliott Oscar	Forest Dunes Golf Club Ballyneal Golf Club
Merchandiser of the Year Private	Paul Lehnert	Pine Lake CC Kubica Golf
Professional Development Award	Glenn Pulice	Royal Oak Golf Center
Bill Strausbaugh Award	Chris Sobiak	Redwater Golf Clubs The Mines Golf Club
Youth Player Development Award	Kelly Kuhlman	Twin Lakes Golf & Swim
Player Development Award	Andre Pillow	Blythefield CC
Patriot Award	Wally Sierakowski	Red Run Golf Club
Teacher of the Year	Jason Guss	Jason Guss Golf Academy
Golf Professional of the Year	Dean Kolstad	Gull Lake View Golf Club & Resort
Distinguished Service Award	Justin Phillips	Michigan PGA Section Staff
Media Award	Anna Epkey	Michigan PGA Section Staff

Respectfully Submitted,

Doug Bell, PGA General Mgr.
American Dunes GC