

# 2023 Special Awards Candidate Bio Form

Please send this form back no later Friday, October 21, 2022.

If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award.**

Email \*

BrianCorwin@ferris.edu

Name of Nominee: \*

Brian Corwin

Award Nominated for: \*

Bill Strausbaugh Award

Facility Employed at: \*

Katke Golf Course - Ferris State University

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1997

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

I am truly very honored to be nominated for this award. It came as a complete surprise as one never considers recognition for what we do on a daily basis. As a golf professional it is our duty to prepare the next generation and I am very blessed to be in a position where I can do so!

Mentoring is critical for the game of golf, whether it be with our students or staff. I have been fortunate to be the varsity golf coach for both boys & girls at our local High School for the past 11 years, the opportunity to mentor young adults in not only golf but in life lessons has been one of the greatest things I have been involved with. Nothing makes me happier than when a former player contacts me to tell me about their best round of golf or better yet something they achieved outside of golf in their lives. This tells me that I made a difference in their lives.

I am now in a position where I able to work with the students going through the PGA Golf Management Program at Ferris State University. To be able to work with them on adding to their skillsets is a true reward. We have a minimum of 3-4 PGA Golf Managment students on staff at any time throughout the year. We make sure to involve them in all aspects of the golf operation; merchandise buying, tournament administration, teaching, course marking, merchandising, club repair and customer service. The students are an integral part of our operation and learn valuable skills for their careers.

Recognition as a Person of Outstanding Integrity and Character that Reinforces the Values and Image of the Association. It is my sincerest hope that I am recognized in this manner by my fellow professionals, co-workers, students and staff. I strive to achieve and uphold these criteria every day.

Section Service and Activity. I have been somewhat limited in availability in previous years, with my employment at FSU, I am granted the opportunity to become more involved. Currently Katke hosts 5-6 Playability Tests every season, it is a great opportunity to meet our upcoming professionals as well as mentor our staff on tournament operations. We also host a Drive, Chip & Putt for our area youth to participate in. I have also volunteered at Folds of Honor events.

Non-golf Community/Civic Activities: I have served on a local school board, involved in many committees during my term. I have had the opportunity to be elected to our county's intermediate school district board of education in different capacities. I have served on our local school's Sports Boosters board in various positions. In addition to the other organizations, I have also served on our townships Planning Committee. I am also a member of the MIGCA (HS golf coaches association) and participate as much as possible.

Thank you for the honor of being nominated and the consideration for the Bill Strausbaugh award. I would like to thank Ferris State University for granting me the wonderful opportunity I have to be the golf professional at Katke Golf Course and work alongside and mentor the next generation of PGA professionals.

Thank you

Brian Corwin  
PGA Golf Professional  
Katke Golf Course - Ferris State University

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Email \*

cpowers@boyne.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Casey P Powers

Award Nominated for: \*

Bill Strausbaugh Award

Facility Employed at: \*

Boyne Resorts

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1995

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

Thank you for consideration for the Bill Stausbaugh Award...I am truly humbled.

I have been a PGA Member since 1995 and have been with Boyne Resorts since the spring of 1996. I have enjoyed all parts of the golf/ski world of Boyne Resorts.

I started as an Assistant Professional at Boyne Mountain, was the Director of our National Junior Golf Academy for 3 summers, taught for our Super 5 Golf Schools for 3 more before getting my first Head Professional Position at the Ross Golf Shop in 2005. After one summer at the Highlands, I came back to Boyne Mountain and spent 16 years as the Head Golf Professional and Director of Retail where I oversaw 36 Championship holes and 10 retail outlets at the resort.

This past year, I became the Director of Golf for Boyne Resorts. I now oversee Boyne Golf which consists of 6 resorts, 18 PGA Professionals (8 Head Golf Professionals), 13 Championship Golf Courses, The Boyne Golf Academy, and two private memberships...the Bay Harbor CC and the Country Club of Boyne. Boyne Golf is not a secret in Michigan, and we are starting to reach to a worldwide audience.

I'll try to keep it brief and easy to read so below are just a few details:

Our Company/team's philosophy:

- Boyne Resorts is a Servant Leadership company and I can't agree more!
- o You win with People – Growing a team is critical to success
- o Develop Great People, I'm blessed w/ this after 26 years

Major Tournaments hosted by our Team at Boyne Resorts:

- AJGA – The Highlands and at Sugarloaf
- MI PGA State Pro-Am
- Tournament of Champions
- Multiple GAM events
- Kircher Cup
- Multiple other Am Tour Events

A bit about my career:

- 2022-Present Director of Golf for Boyne Resorts
- 2006-2021 Head Golf Professional at Boyne Mountain
- 2005 Head Professional Ross golf Shop at The Highlands
- 1999-2004 Jr Golf Academy/Super 5 Golf Schools
- 1998 Black Bear GC
- 1996-1998 Boyne Mt
- 1995 Birchwood Farms G&CC
- 1992-1995 Windstar on Naples Bay
- 1992 Hope College Golf Team

About Me:

- I have been married to my wife Jennifer for 13 years
- 2 Kids – my son Griffin (24) and my stepson Patrick (25)
- I am currently the President of the NMPGA Chapter. This is my 7th year on the NMPGA board after serving as the Tournament Director, Secretary and Vice President (All 2 yr terms)
- Boyne City Golf Coach (2001-2017)
- MI PGA Junior Golf Leader Award 2003
- Member of Walloon Community Church
- o Former Youth Small Group Leader
- o Greeter
- o Member of the Praise Band – Bass Guitar

I am a proud PGA Member, and have been for the last 27 years, spending that entire time in our Section. I have been blessed by this game and try to represent our great association at work, at home, and in my community. It is my true pleasure to be able to continue to grow our game, and mentor the next generation of PGA Professionals, to make sure our game is going to be strong in the future.

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Email \*

CJVANDENBERG54@GMAIL.COM

Name of Nominee: \*

Charley Vandenberg

Award Nominated for: \*

Bill Strausbaugh

Facility Employed at: \*

Vandenberg Golf Academy

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1981

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

Bill Strausbaugh ("Coach" to those who knew him) was the quintessential golf professional. A man of unquestioned character, Coach displayed compassion and concern for the welfare of all he met, guided, and represented. I am honored to be a candidate for this prestigious award based on the following criteria:

Mentoring - Over 40+ years as a PGA Professional (including 27 years as a head professional - now exclusively teaching), I employed and came alongside many fellow PGA members, assistants and instructors. My assistants continued on to top positions in our industry as both club professionals and teachers; I have shared my knowledge by serving as a featured speaker to many PGM students; crafted various instructional videos and written articles for both state and national associations and publications; and it continues to be my privilege to mentor fellow instructors by sharing my experience.

Recognition as a Person of Outstanding Integrity and Character that Reinforces the Values and Image of the Association - It is my sincere hope that my fellow professionals believe I have met and continue to meet this criteria.

Section Service and Activity - I served multiple years on the Michigan Section Education Committee as chairman, vice-chairman and member. From Section meeting conceptualization to completion, I have personally engaged speakers spanning many areas of expertise including top instructors Mike Bender, Mike Shannon, Jim McLean, and Dr. Gary Wiren. I headed the Michigan Section Teaching Committee as both chairman and member, and served on the Michigan Section Special Awards Committee where I completed my ninth year in 2021. I was the 2019 Chairman of the Michigan Teaching Summit and a committee member for the inaugural Michigan Teaching Summit in 2009. I also volunteered for several years at the PGA Senior Championship, assisted at the Folds of Honor Fundraiser, and was the featured speaker at Ferris PGM workshops and West Michigan Golf Show for multiple years.

Non-golf Community/Civic Activities - My most meaningful endeavor was the "Golf Marathon of Hope", an annual individual fundraiser (1997-2006) in which I played 400+ holes in 24 continuous hours per year, raising over \$500,000 for a local West Michigan homeless shelter (retiring due to injury). I have also participated in many golf events over the years raising money for charities, as well as continuing to support homeless shelters in various ways.

I appreciate your consideration for this exceptional award!

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Email \*

edmitchell@pga.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Bill Strausbaugh Award

Award Nominated for: \*

Ed Mitchell

Facility Employed at: \*

Ed Mitchell Technologies

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1967

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

I am honored to be nominated for the Bill Strausbaugh Award. I want to thank the Michigan PGA Section Awards Committee for their consideration of my 60+ years of experience as a PGA Club Professional, Instructor, Inventor, Manufacturer, Writer, Educator and Caddy.

I am a Half Century member of the PGA of America. I was introduced to golf as a caddy at the Country Club of Jackson, MI and worked into an Assistant Professional position in 1962, where I served 8-years.

I was Head Golf Professional at 2 clubs in Michigan (Clio Country Club and Shenandoah Golf & Country Club), Director of Golf at 2 clubs in Florida (Sabal Palms Golf Club and Bonaventure Country Club). These golf professional positions allowed me to mentor and train several assistants that went on to become head golf professionals.

I developed and operated an Indoor golf center in Ohio for 10 years during my 30-year tenure as a head golf professional. My golf center was a trail blazer for today's GolfTech and Indoor Trackman Studios. I employed PGA members providing high tech instruction, and conducted club fitting, building, and repair. One of my PGA staff members went on to serve the PGM program at Methodist University as an instructor in golf club performance, building, fitting, and repair.

While operating the indoor golf center, I realized the need for a quality loft and lie bending machine that was missing in the golf industry. In 1988, at the beginning of an industry trend towards custom club fitting, I developed a bending machine that became the industry standard that literally changed the way golf clubs are sold today. I feel this is by far the biggest impact my career has had on our golf industry.

This spawned a new business of manufacturing club performance and repair machines and tools that I operated for 33 years employing several PGA members to facilitate this growing trend of club fitting. The company still operates today bearing my name and with my suggestion the new owners employ a PGA member.

For more than 20 years I have developed and conducted training programs in club performance, building, repair, and fitting. I am currently conducting workshops for PGA members and their staff on this subject. I also conduct seminars for PGA Section Educational Programs, most recently at the South Central PGA Section 2022 Spring Coaching Summit.

I served on the national PGA Education Committee for 4 years, where I was instrumental in writing the curriculum for the club performance portion of the PGM program that was introduced in 2012.

I am a former member of the Golf Writers Association of America. I have authored many golf related articles on instruction and golf club performance and design. I was a presenter at the 2011 National PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit at the annual PGA Show, an instructor at several PGA Apprentice workshops, PGA Merchandise Show workshops, International Clubmakers Guild workshops, Professional Clubmaker's Society workshops, PGA Junior Golf Academy, Canadian PGA workshops and developed & conducted "Certified Training Schools" in club performance, building, fitting, and repair.

I am a member of three golf Hall of Fames: Southern Ohio PGA, International Clubmaker's Guild and Jackson Golf Hall of Fame, Jackson Michigan. I am also a recipient of the Southern Ohio PGA Section Legacy Award.

Other achievements, volunteer activities and awards during a lifetime as a PGA member:

1972

PGA Rules Committee PGA Championship Oakland Hills CC

1976

PGA Rules Committee PGA Senior Championship Aventura CC

1979-80

Board Member South Florida PGA Section

1979

PGA National Club Relations Committee

Golf Professional of Year South Florida PGA Section Southern Chapter

1980-81

President Southern Chapter South Florida PGA Section

1980

Resort Merchandiser of Year South Florida PGA Section  
1992  
Member Quarter Century Club PGA of America  
1993-2019  
Club Repair Technician Masters Tournament Augusta National Golf Club  
2008-2012  
PGA National Education Committee  
2009  
Horton Smith Award Southern Ohio PGA Section  
2011  
Presenter PGA Teaching & Coaching Summit  
2017  
Member Half Century Club PGA of America

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Email \*

eddiebpgapro@msn.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Edward Bialek

Award Nominated for: \*

Bill Strausbaugh

Facility Employed at: \*

Flint Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1989

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

I have been a member of the PGA for 33 years, 22 of those years have been in the Michigan Section and 11 have been in the Minnesota Section. I have been a head professional for 32 years, 3 at the Flint Elks, 17 at Bay City Country Club, 11 at Oak Ridge Country Club in Minnesota, 1 at the Flint Golf Club. It is always an honor and a humbling experience to be nominated for an award by one of your peers.

During my career as a head professional, I have truly been blessed to work with some outstanding men and women. I think that I have learned as much from them as I have hopefully been able to teach them. Two of my former assistants were award winners, one was the Assistant Professional of the Year and the other was a Player Development Award Winner. I have had five of my former assistants attain head professional jobs, three attain jobs as sales representatives in the golf industry and several others are enjoying careers outside of the golf industry. I am also proud that my caddie program at two of my clubs, have resulted in twelve caddies with Evans Scholarships. Observing those young men and women have that life changing moment puts life in perspective.

I have served on several committees throughout my career. Eight years of service to the Central Chapter serving in all positions including two years as President; Education Chair for the Michigan Section for two years, served on the Tournament Committee, Long Range Planning Committee and conducted new member interviews. While in Minnesota, I served on a mentoring committee that partnered with the Assistants Association helping them with fundraising events, Pro-Ams, and facilitating some educational opportunities. I also served as a panelist for the Minnesota Section on two occasions for educational seminars. I was awarded the Facility Promoter of the Year for Private Facilities in the Minnesota Section in 2020.

During my career I have worked with Bay City Western, Central and All Saints High School Golf Teams. I was the program coordinator for Bay Area Junior Golf from 2007-2010 and have conducted golf clinics for Minneapolis Junior golf and Flint Junior Golf, as well as offered my facility to host tournaments every year. I have volunteered my time with several organizations in my community. Empty Bowls, after school lunch programs in Hopkins, MN, Feed My Starving Children and the Imagination Library.

Throughout my career I have been blessed to interact with many of the top golf professionals in the industry. I am always trying to learn and share my experiences and ideas with others that I interact with. My life long goal is to try to lead by example and inspire my staff not to settle and be the best they can be.

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Email \*

kpmckinley@yahoo.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Kevin McKinley

Award Nominated for: \*

Bill Strausbaugh

Facility Employed at: \*

Unattached

Year Elected to Membership: \*

2002

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

The Bill Strausbaugh Award is given to the professional who shows significant contribution through mentoring, is recognized as a person of outstanding integrity and character and has provided significant service to our Section and the game of golf. Previous awards and participation in non-golf community activities also should play a role in the selection for this award as well.

Below, please find my record in each of these important criterion:

#### MENTOR

- \* Leadership roles at Crystal Mountain and Treetops over the past 24 years have allowed me to employ and mentor in upwards of 300 individuals in golf operations.
- \* I've employed approximately 30 PGA Professionals or Associates
- \* PGA Professionals or Associates who have gone on to key jobs all around the country are as follows:
  - General Managers - 3
  - Directors of Golf/HP - 12
  - Directors of Instruction - 4 (including 3 that have been Teacher of the Year in their Section)
  - Director of Sales - 2
- \* Assisted an Assistant just this year with securing a job in Florida for the Winter. Also, adopted his dog over the summer so that he could work at Treetops.
- \* Leadership roles within the Section have allowed me to mentor the members of our Section on a broader scale. An example of this is my creation of the Section Orientation Program.

PERSON OF OUTSTANDING INTEGRITY - The best way in my opinion to quantify this is the respect that you garner from folks outside of the golf business. Respect and admiration from those outside the business bring credit to the PGA Badge:

- \* Otsego County Business Person of the Year
- \* Leadership Otsego County Graduate and Mentor
- \* Otsego Community Foundation Grant Committee
- \* Michigan Army National Guard Civilian of the Year
- \* Veterans for Foreign Wars Award of Excellence
- \* Gaylord Golf Mecca Chairman
- \* America's Summer Golf Capital Chairman
- \* Golfweek Father of the Year (past winners were Jack Nicklaus, Earl Woods, Billy Casper, etc..)
- \* Inaugural local "Dancing With the Stars" Champion
- \* Legion of Merit Medal
- \* Chamber of Commerce Board Member
- \* Gaylord Evangelical Free Church Leadership Team (incoming Church Chairman)

SIGNIFICANT SERVICE TO OUR SECTION - I have served the Section for 16 years at all levels including all officer chairs with the Northern Chapter of the Michigan Section, at large board position, committee positions, Secretary and Vice President of the Michigan Section and sat on the Inclusion Committee and Special Awards Committee for the PGA of America and I'm on the ballot again to continue to serve. Some highlights of my service include enhancing the MI PGA Hall of Fame process as chairman of that committee for two years, authored and delivered a Michigan Section Orientation program at chapter meetings and Ferris State University, making significant changes to the Michigan PGA Constitution and assisting in creating the job scope for Michigan Section's first Player Development Coordinator. I've also been active in bringing all PGA promoted player development programs to Treetops including being the first facility in the state to have an in house PGA Junior League. We consistently have more than 40 kids and topped out at a record 61 kids in 2021 and maintained that level in 2022.

#### PREVIOUS AWARDS

- \* Michigan Section Patriot Award - 3 time recipient
- \* Michigan Section Golf Professional of the Year
- \* Michigan Section Bill Strausbaugh Award Winner
- \* Michigan Section Professional Development Award
- \* Michigan Section Golf Executive of the Year
- \* PGA of America Patriot Award Winner - 2017

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Email \*

kyle@kalamazoocc.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Kyle Horton

Award Nominated for: \*

Bill Strausbaugh

Facility Employed at: \*

Kalamazoo Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: \*

2009

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

I have been a member of the Michigan Section for 14 years, 4 of which as the Director of Golf at Kalamazoo Country Club. However, my first 5 years in the Section I worked seasonally between Michigan and Florida. During that time, I was fortunate to work under some fantastic PGA Professionals most notably being Dick Stewart and each day I strive to mentor fellow professionals as he did for me.

Upon becoming Director of Golf at Kalamazoo Country Club in 2019 it became my goal and mission to carry on Dick's legacy of being one of the greatest mentors in the MIPGA history (moving 26 assistant professionals on to Head Professional jobs). My focus day in and day out is to make every member of the team better in any and every way possible. This begins with having a sincere focus to spend time with each Professional, going over their goals and desires, and working with them to achieve them in an efficient and effective manner. That said, mentoring is much more than just setting forth a plan of objectives, its taking advantage of opportunities to impact a fellow professional's life and career whether it's on the golf course for a round of golf, at a staff party, or over a beer or two.

During my time at Kalamazoo Country Club over the past 4 years I am proud to say that we have had 9 PGA/PGM interns from various universities around the country most notably being Ferris State University, Florida Golf Coast University, and Trine University. Engaging with students at both the Ferris State Career Fair as well as taking time at the PGA Show in Orlando to visit the University booths has paid dividends in being able to impact many young professional's lives.

Mentoring for me also comes in the form of serving the Michigan Section PGA by being a part of the WMPGA Board of Directors over the past 7 years, going through the chairs and becoming President in the fall of 2021. This opportunity has allowed me to work with fellow PGA Professionals on the Board discussing Section & Chapter issues as well as lead roundtable discussions on best practices at their respective clubs.

I am also proud of former assistants and staff members that have moved on to promoted roles in the industry. These promotions range from Sales Managers and Pediatricians to a First Officer for Delta Airlines. Specific to the golf industry, I'm honored to recognize the following prior assistants and their promotions within the industry. Ty Bouwens - 1st Assistant at Lost Dunes Golf Club, Cody Sinkler - Director of Operations at The Park West Palm, and Brett Prell - Lead Assistant at Tippecanoe Lake Country Club.

The Michigan PGA is a fantastic organization, one that I am proud to be a part of with so many other great PGA Professionals. Thank you for the honor of being considered for this award.

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If you were nominated for more than one award you must **submit a bio form for each award.**

Email \*

markwilson@ferris.edu

Name of Nominee: \*

Mark Wilson

Award Nominated for: \*

Bill Strausbaugh

Facility Employed at: \*

Ferris State University

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1984

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

Throughout my career at Watermark Country Club and at Ferris State University I have always tried to make time to assist and mentor fellow PGA Professionals, Associates and PGA Golf Management University Students. As a speaker at PGA Education Activities including Business Schools, Rules Workshops and PGA University Programs, I have had the opportunity to interact with many of my colleagues in golf over the past 38 years.

Service to the Section and to the PGA of America includes: Holding all offices in the Western Chapter of the Michigan Section and serving on its Policy Board from 1985-2005; Michigan Section PGA Board of Directors 1988-1994 and 2007-2010; Michigan Section Rules Chair 1989-Present; PGA of America Rules Committee 1990-Present including Committee Chair from 2005-2010.

Major Awards: Michigan Golf Hall of Fame 2007; Grand Rapids MI Sports Hall of Fame 2008; PGA of America Horton Smith Award 2008; Michigan Section PGA Hall of Fame 2011; Golf Association of Michigan Distinguished Service Award 2012.

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Email \*

matt@railsidegolf.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Matt Koets

Award Nominated for: \*

Bill Strausbaugh Award

Facility Employed at: \*

Railside Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: \*

2004

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

Thank you for the nomination for 2023 Bill Strausbaugh Award. I would like to thank my wife, Barbara, and my children, Barbara, Grace, and Luke for their love and unwavering support of my career. I would also like to thank the ownership, membership and our team at Railside Golf Club for their support and for the opportunity to serve as the Head Professional.

Contributions Through Mentoring Fellow PGA Members:

- As an active PGA Member in the section, I've had the opportunity to build a network of peers from around the state. I truly enjoy connecting with others, sharing ideas, and learning.
- At my home club, I've had the opportunity to work alongside talented golf professionals. Truly, the best part of my job to serve others and watch them grow in their roles. Often times this leads to other opportunity, change, and turnover. This is good and the way it should be. Servant leadership creates an environment that attracts people, fosters an environment of growth, and provides opportunity.
- As a head professional, I've had the great pleasure of moving two former assistants into head professional roles.
- Three assistants, current and former, have been nominated for Assistant Golf Professional of the Year. Emily Rohdy won the award in 2019.

Level of Service to the Section:

- Ten year member of the WMPGA executive board. I served each role for two year terms and I am currently the Past President.
- Member of the MIPGA executive board, 2020 & 2021.
- Member of the MIPGA tournament committee, 2016 & 2017.
- Active in supporting the WMPGA and MIPGA tournament schedule.

As a nearly 20-year member of the PGA, I've represented myself, my family, and my employers with outstanding character and integrity and I will continue to reinforce the values and image of our association.

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Email \*

markleypm@yahoo.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Patrick Markley

Award Nominated for: \*

Bill Strausbaugh

Facility Employed at: \*

Barton Hills

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1996

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

Name of Nominee: Patrick Markley – Barton Hills Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: 1996

Award Nominated for: Bill Strausbaugh Award - 2023

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

As a proud PGA member for over twenty-seven years, I have spent nineteen years in the Michigan Section. My tenure as the Head Golf Professional at Barton Hills Country Club began in late 2012 and has lasted ten years. Prior to my tenure at Barton Hills, I was the Head Golf Professional and Director of Operations at Flint Golf Club for six years. My early membership years began as a PGA Assistant Professional at Kalamazoo Country Club in 1996 and 1997. Over my tenure as a Head Professional, I have worked closely with fellow professionals by forming a round table discussion group which has now grown to over twenty-five Head Professionals from our section. We constantly share ideas about merchandising, staffing, event management and our general golf shop operations. Throughout the years it has been my intention to help my fellow Professionals add value to their position and career, build their network and help develop their staff to become better leaders and Ambassadors at the clubs they represent. My network with this group remains strong and we are extremely passionate in helping each other with any challenge or issue we face, and I am happy that I could make a small difference in some of their careers. Three years ago, I was invited to serve on an advisory committee for PGA Magazine to help other fellow golf professionals who own or look to own their golf shops. I have been fortunate to speak at GBN regional conferences and have shared ideas and written best practice articles over my tenure. Some mentoring success stories over my career include several professionals who have worked with me who are now leading other Golf Operations as Head Professionals, General Managers and various golf sales positions. For many who know me they would attest that I am very happy to assist Golf Professionals and various associations in every way possible. I am very willing to work closely with other PGA Professionals from the MIPGA and other sections, plus the GAM and USGA by hosting major events that benefit both amateur golfers and fellow professionals alike. My willingness to approach and work with my Board to support golf in our state can be witnessed by the many MIPGA, GAM and USGA events I have held at my club each year. My service record to our section includes playing in various chapter and section events when my schedule permits and I have served on the Special Awards Committee since 2010. I continue to network with other professionals outside of Michigan because we all can learn from others and bring new ideas back to benefit our clubs. My service to my club, our Association and to my fellow professionals continues to drive my passion for golf and this business and I am honored to be considered for the Bill Strausbaugh Award from my peers in the Michigan Section PGA.

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Email \*

sbrady@oakland-hills.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Steve Brady

Award Nominated for: \*

Bill Strausbaugh

Facility Employed at: \*

Oakland Hills Country Club

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1900

Please describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award. \*

I have been fortunate enough to have been a member of the Michigan Section PGA for the past 36 years, and am most certainly honored to be nominated for this award. During this time, I have also had the honor of working for and alongside some of the most well-known and respected PGA professionals in the business; Pat Croswell, Tom Doozan, John Traub, Mark Wilson and Tom Stewart just to name a few. For most of my professional career, I've had the opportunity to play tournament golf at the highest level and learn from some of the greatest players and teachers in the game. Jack Nicklaus, Gary Player, Tom Lehman, Lee Janzen, John Daly, and Payne Stewart are some of the gentlemen I have had the opportunity to play with and learn from over the years.

After graduating from college, I spent 6 seasons as an assistant professional at Bay Valley Resort, then traveled to work and play tournament golf in the offseason. Tom Doozan was the Head Golf Professional at Apollo Beach Golf and Sea Club during those winter months and I will always be thankful for his mentorship. His knowledge of the game, and his willingness to pass along his gift, is something I still try to share with PGM interns, assistant professionals, golf shop staff and fellow PGA members.

I spent 6 years as an assistant professional under John Traub at Detroit Golf Club. John's honest, and very direct approach to the golf business was not always warm and fuzzy, but hard work and dedication will never go out of style. I try to pass along to young PGA professionals, that it can be one of the most rewarding careers out there, but there will be some sacrifice as well.

For the past 25 years, I have been Blessed to be a PGA professional at Oakland Hills Country Club. Longtime Head Professional Pat Croswell hired me in 1997 as an assistant, and when Pat retired in 2016, I was named to take his place. Pat was the consummate professional. Member service was his top priority. Hard work, attention to detail, go above and beyond were his beliefs. I use Pat as an example to all PGA professionals/Associates/PGA Students I meet.

I have helped countless former assistants, co-workers and interns secure employment at PGA facilities throughout the country. While on the other hand, I have also mentored some former employees to possibly seek employment "outside" of the traditional golf facility. Many of those have gone on to successful careers outside of golf in both the public and private sector.

Over the years, I have been asked to speak to numerous civic and non-golf community organizations. Birmingham Senior Men's Club, Detroit Athletic Club, USGA Amateur Community Outreach, Men's Golf Fellowship just to name a few.

This is for sure an honor to be nominated for this award. However, there are many other PGA professionals who sometimes don't get the recognition they deserve. It's many times "those professionals" who you can truly learn the most from.

- Host Professional 2016 USGA US Amateur Championship
- 2022 Senior Organization Honoree (For Outstanding Past Service to the Section, Chapter, Senior Organization and Ongoing Service to Golf)
- Responsible for bringing Michigan PGA Pro-Pro Championship to OHCC 2016
- Responsible for bringing Drive/Chip and Putt Regional to OHCC 2019-2020
- Michigan PGA Teaching and Coaching Summit Committee and Presenter
- Honorary Chairman 2019 Michigan Amateur Championship
- Hosted PGA Magazine Merchandiser's Round Table Breakfast
- Works with PGM programs to secure yearly internships
- OHCC Golf Shop AGM Platinum Award Winner 2015-2021
- Member OHCC South Course Master Plan Committee 2016-2020 (Gil Hanse)
- Saginaw Valley State University Athletic Hall of Fame, Saginaw County Sports Hall of Fame, Michigan Golf Hall of Fame, Michigan PGA Hall of Fame
- Featured Instructor Golf Channel's Golf Academy Live 2004

- Featured Instructor Golf Channel's "The Turn" 2008
- Fox Sports Detroit Color Commentator 2004 Ryder Cup
- Raised over \$12,000 for the Folds of Honor (Golf Clinic) 2018
- Titleist Leadership Advisory Staff Prominent Fitter
- TaylorMade Rising Star Northeast Region 2019
- Speaker Men's Golf Fellowship Dinners
- CYO Boys Basketball Coach
- Summer Music Theater Volunteer
- Pontiac Soup Kitchen Volunteer

PGA Teacher of the Year      2015      Michigan PGA  
PGA Player of the Year      1995      Michigan PGA  
PGA Hall of Fame              2013      Michigan PGA  
Senior Organization Honoree Award      2022      Michigan PGA

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