

# 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 \*

dbell@americandunesgolfclub.com

Name of Nominee: \*

Doug Bell

Award Nominated for: \*

2023 Golf Professional of the Year

Facility Employed at: \*

American Dunes Golf Club

Year Elected to Membership: \*

1991

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

Thank you for the consideration and honor of this award. Over my 31 years as a Member of the PGA and the 5 years prior as intern in the Ferris State program I have always tried hard to represent the brand of the PGA in an honorable way. Having worked at facilities in Texas, Alabama, Maine and Florida, I learned and observed from many great PGA Professionals. Settling back in Michigan in the 90's it has been home since. Working my career at Public Facilities most of my career, it has been wonderful to see and work in the tourism side of Michigan and see how Golf is a major player in this economy.

I have been very fortunate to be "hands on" involved with the construction of 3 course now in the state. My time at Eldorado Golf Club in Cadillac was my first exposure to construction as I was a key part of the construction team prior to converting to golf operations and setting up the inside golf operation and staffing.

4 years later accepting the opportunity to run Manistee National G & R in Manistee, we built the second of the 2 courses on site I was fortunate again to be in a construction mindset for one course while the operation of the original course was underway. During this time at Manistee National I included learning the hotel business inside and out and became the General Manager. This is where I learned more about tourism and working with other facilities both north and south in our state, and how critical those relationships are to run a successful operation.

20 years at Manistee National and I was again approached to move south the Grand Haven for the opportunity to head up the construction and development of the course, the team, and assist in the mission plan at American Dunes.

Teaching, playing, golf operations and service to our customers and community are all facets of our jobs as a PGA Professional and are listed as criteria in this award.

My early career I was an instructor with the Golf Digest Schools and feel that I am a competent and knowledgeable teacher of the game who can relate well to students and help them.

I played more in my younger days and supported the Northern Chapters and Section events as time allowed.

PGA Section and Chapter support  
 Past Northern Chapter Tournament Chair  
 Past Northern Chapter President  
 Past Northern Chapter Vice President  
 Past at Large Board Member for Section as Chapter President  
 15- year member of Section Special Awards Committee (3 as committee chairman)  
 Host of 36-hole Northern Chapter Pro-Am for 20 consecutive years at two different facilities  
 Hosted Section Tournaments on two occasions at Manistee National  
 Section Professional Volunteer at PGA Champ and Ryder Cup at Oakland Hills  
 Current Western Chapter Member

Staff support and mentoring

Over my career I have had the fortune to hire and train many great individuals striving to be PGA members and advance to their own positions.

I have hired and employed on my team over 15 PGA Professionals over this time and influenced 12 more to enter the PGA PGM Program at Ferris State, all graduating and 9 still currently in the PGA.

Currently at American Dunes we have a staff member who has entered the PGA Associate Training Program and another entering in the Spring.

Countless more individuals in the Hotel and food operations I have operated and many of these have now moved on to terrific careers.

Using the Special Awards Criteria describe your achievements/accomplishments that would pertain to this award: \*

Community Support  
 Bear Lake GC (1st Head Professional position)  
 • Bear Lake Lions Club Member

## Eldorado Golf Club (Cadillac)

- Member of the Cadillac CVB Tourism board to assist growth of golf in tourism mix
- Member of "Golf Cadillac" Marketing board
- Initiated the development of C.A.J.G.A (Cadillac Area Junior Golf Assn) junior tour o 501 c3 that promoted junior tour opportunity to high school players

## Manistee National G &amp; R (Manistee)

- Manistee County CVB Tourism Board for 20 years promoting tourism in Manistee County o 4 years as chairman
- United Way of Manistee County Board for 15 years o Annual fundraising chairman for 2 years
- Creator and 20-year member of "Golf Manistee" Tourism Council o Managing member 18 years
- Member of the Manistee County Airport Authority for 6 years o Chairman of Authority 3 years
- Member of America's Summer Golf Capital Marketing Group 7 years

## American Dunes GC (Grand Haven)

- Fold of Honor Michigan Chapter Board Member (4 years current, 1 year while at Manistee)

## Past Section Awards honored to have received

- 2005 Michigan Section Merchandiser of the Year Resort Category
- 2017 Michigan Section Patriot Award
- 2020 Michigan Section Patriot Award
- 2022 Michigan Section Patriot Award

My current position at American Dunes allows me to speak to our community as well as others around the state and the nation in regard to The Folds of Honor Foundation, the PGA of America and to the golf industry being a leader when it comes to support of our military members and veterans and charitable fundraising.

Looking back over my years in the PGA, I can say it has been fun, fast, and forward thinking. I have tried to present a positive attitude to my customers, members, and staff while striving for the goals of the ownership.

I have been blessed to work at one facility for 20 years and help shape and mold its future, and at the same time I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to move through 4 Michigan facilities as a Head Professional or GM in my career, learn and grow at each and assist my team of PGA Staff to also grow and move on in their careers.

I am fortunate to have been exposed to construction opportunities and to have been in charge of three facilities in Michigan in their "dirt to grass" development. To initiate programs at each and have these plans remain long into the future is certainly a point of pride that I will always have.

Thank you again, for your consideration of this prestigious award.

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