



**PGA**  
Philadelphia Section

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**For Immediate Release**

**KIDDIE LEADS LIST OF SECTION AWARD WINNERS**

Jeffrey Kiddie of Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown Square, PA, leads the way for his fellow professionals as he takes home the Section's top honor, Golf Professional of the Year. Kiddie, along with the other award winners, will be honored at the Section's Spring Meeting being held at Radnor Valley Country Club in Radnor, PA on Monday, April 2. This marks the second consecutive year that the Section's Golf Professional of the Year is a National Award winner. Kiddie will be honored at the PGA Merchandise Show as the Merchandiser of the Year – Private.

“Both awards are humbling,” said Kiddie about winning both a National and Section award. “The Philadelphia Section is rich in history, having just celebrated our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It is truly an honor to join the Professionals who have come before me on this list. The National Merchandiser of the Year is more of a team award so I am happy to share that with my tremendous staff.”

However, Kiddie is no stranger to Section awards. In both 2007 and 2011, Kiddie was awarded the Philadelphia Section's Merchandiser of the Year – Private. Additionally, in 1999 as a member of the Western New York PGA, Kiddie was presented with the Assistant Golf Professional of the Year award.

Kiddie has held numerous posts on the Section level while still managing to fulfill all of his duties as a head professional. Prior to 2012, Kiddie had served as the Section's District 6 Director as well as serving on the Special Awards and Junior Golf Committee. Currently, Kiddie is a member of both the Education and Rules Committee.

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Mark Sheftic, PGA Teaching Professional at Merion Golf Club is the recipient of the 2011 Teacher of the Year award. While known as an outstanding tournament player, Sheftic is also an accomplished teacher. Among his students are several of the Section's top playing Professionals as well as numerous top amateur players.

Over the last several years Sheftic has been featured on various local and national teaching programs. On a local level, Sheftic was a panelist on the Section's Great Teaching Debate which brought together some of the Section's top teachers to discuss their various methods. On the national stage, Sheftic has twice been featured on the Golf Channel's Golf Fix with Michael Breed, PGA.

"This is really the biggest honor I could've received," Sheftic said about the award. "Playing and teaching are two of the things I am most passionate about so to be recognized by my peers is tremendous. To follow in my dad's footsteps I must be doing something right."

This award also allows Sheftic to join his father Ted who is a three-time Teacher of the Year (1986, 1993, and 1999).

This year's Horton Smith award winner is a newcomer to both the award and to the Philadelphia Section. Brian Dobak, an assistant professional at The Philadelphia Cricket Club has taken on and succeeded at many challenges in his first year as a member of the Philadelphia Section. Dobak serves as the Chair of the Philadelphia Assistants Organization's (PAO) Education/Mentoring/Communications committee. Dobak is also a member of both the Philadelphia and PGA National Education Committees.

"It's an honor to be considered for any award, let alone actually win one," Dobak commented. "There are so many hard working golf professionals who deserve recognition for what they do. In terms of the Horton Smith Award, I believe education and mentoring are hugely important. Growing the profession starts with growing ourselves individually and not being afraid to share our unique knowledge with our peers."

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One of the more unique methods Dobak has been able to help his fellow Assistant Professionals has been through his personal website, [payitforwardgolf.blogspot.com](http://payitforwardgolf.blogspot.com). The website provides information and direction on many of the issues facing Assistant Professionals today. Many veteran PGA Professionals along with Dobak himself will share information as a resource guide for Assistants.

The 2011 recipient of The TaylorMade – Adidas Golf Assistant Professional of the Year award is Jeff Breiner from Carlisle Country Club. As a member of the PAO, Breiner serves on the Finance/Charity/Junior Golf committee while simultaneously serving as President of the Central Counties Chapter PAO. Additionally, Breiner was instrumental in bringing a Play Golf America Day to the Harrisburg Senators, a minor league affiliate of the Washington Nationals.

Breiner also finds time to give back to his local community. For more than 10 years, Breiner has been involved with the Harrisburg Parks Partnership Junior Golf Organization. Through this organization, Breiner gives golf lessons to inner city and at risk youth allowing them to experience a game they may not normally would have had an opportunity to do so. Breiner also organizes a club drive to provide equipment to program participants.

John Petronis is once again recognized as the Philadelphia Section's Junior Golf Leader. Having previously won the award in 2005-2006, Petronis regains the honor by tirelessly working to grow the game with our youngest golfers. In addition to his roles as a golf professional, Petronis has served as a high school golf coach as well as developing and growing his own junior golf foundation, the Junior Golfers' Association of America.

Petronis has also been heavily involved in promoting the game on both a Section and National level. Petronis has personally hosted various Section junior events as well as being instrumental in promoting qualifiers for National Championships. Petronis has also taught several of the Section's top junior golfers. Currently, Petronis serves on both the Junior Golf and Growth of the Game committees.

The PGA Bill Strausbaugh award winner for 2011 is Tom Carpus (Kennett Square G & CC). Carpus has been honored by the Section three times prior to 2011. In both 2000 and 2001, Carpus was honored as the Section's Horton Smith award winner, an award he also won on the National level in 2007. Carpus was also recognized as the Section's Golf Professional of the Year in 2002. Carpus has held numerous Section and National board positions including Section President (2004-2005) and PGA of America National Rules Committee (1995-present).

"Bill Strausbaugh's nickname was "coach". He was a golf coach, a life coach, and had an invaluable impact on the lives of PGA members and the game of golf. It is truly an honor to win this award named after him," said Carpus about winning the Strausbaugh award.

David Smith, Jr. is the 2011 recipient of the President's Plaque. Smith serves as Director of Golf Operations at Walnut Lane Golf Course and as the Site Director for the First Tee. Through both of these operations, Smith has been able to implement many growth of the game initiatives, including Get Golf Ready. Smith also does outstanding work with the MidAtlantic Blind Golfers Association and the Overbrook School for the Blind. Smith has also served as a member of the Section's Growth of the Game Committee.

The final professional awards are given to Troy Flateau, Simon Andres, and Rick Kline for Merchandiser of the Year in the Private, Resort, and Public categories respectively. These are the first Section awards for both Flateau (The Peninsula Club) and Kline (Sittler Golf Center). This is the second time winning Merchandiser of the Year - Resort for Andres (Hershey Golf Collection) having previously won the award in 2009.

Rounding the list of award winners for the Section is the 2011 Salesperson of the Year, Laura Manchester. Manchester has served as one of the Section's Callaway representatives for 12 years. Manchester and Callaway have supported the Section on various levels throughout the years. Most recently, Manchester and Callaway have supported the Section's Tournament Players Division (TPD) as well as the Junior Tour. Although previously nominated, this is the first Salesperson of the Year award for Manchester.

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“It is an honor and something I am very proud of as a sales representative,” said Manchester on winning the award. “To be recognized by my clients is extremely humbling.”

For more information on the Philadelphia Section PGA please visit our website, [www.phillypga.com](http://www.phillypga.com).