

Sun Country PGA Award History

National Award Winners

PGA Golf Professional Hall of Fame

Bill Eschenbrenner
Guy Wimberly

Inducted 2006
Inducted 2011

PGA National Golf Professional of the Year

Bill Eschenbrenner, Lone Star GC

2005

PGA National Horton Smith Award

Pat Gavin, NMSU PGA Golf Management Program

2014

PGA National Merchandiser of the Year - Private

Jason Epstein, Las Campanas

2015

Sun Country Section Awards

Golf Professional of the Year

The highest honor awarded to a Sun Country PGA golf professional. The following guidelines are used to determine nominees for this prestigious award as voted on by his/her peers:

- Overall performance as a golf professional at his/her facility
- Level of service to his/her Section and to the Association
- Leadership ability
- Image and the ability to inspire fellow professionals
- Promotion of golf

| | | | |
|------|----------------|------|------------------------------|
| 1983 | Mike Atkins | 2001 | Roger Martinez |
| 1984 | Tom Nielsen | 2002 | Gary Davis |
| 1985 | Jim Dickson | 2003 | James Williams & Scott Gates |
| 1986 | Joe Tiano | 2004 | Grant Dalpes |
| 1987 | Howie Tucker | 2005 | Scott Gates |
| 1988 | Guy Wimberly | 2006 | Daniel Nunez |
| 1989 | Joe McDermott | 2007 | Todd Kersting |
| 1990 | Henry Sandles | 2008 | Dan Koesters |
| 1991 | Dave Donachie | 2009 | Dave Brown |
| 1992 | Don Klein | 2010 | Mike Ciolek |
| 1993 | Dave Brown | 2011 | D. Mathewt Molloy |
| 1994 | Ron Doan | 2012 | Grant Dalpes |
| 1995 | Tony Hidalgo | 2013 | Dan Koesters |
| 1996 | Roger Martinez | 2014 | Derek Gutierrez |
| 1997 | Grant Dalpes | 2015 | Pat Gavin |
| 1998 | Mark Pelletier | 2016 | D. Matthew Molloy |
| 1999 | John Speary | 2017 | Mike Singleton |
| 2000 | Dan Koesters | 2018 | Pat Gavin |

Lifetime Achievement Award

The Lifetime Achievement Award was established in 2001 to recognize those SCSPGA Professionals who, over the course of their careers, have made significant contributions to enhance & promote the game of golf in the Sun Country Section. The goal is to bring much deserved recognition to the many fine golf professionals of this section.

| | |
|------|---|
| 2001 | Guy Wimberly |
| 2002 | Edward Moya |
| 2003 | Herb Wimberly, Bill Eschenbrenner, Bobbie Hickson, Paul Brilliant <i>(Executive Committee when Sun Country Section was activated)</i> |
| 2004 | Gene Torres |
| 2005 | Ron Doan |
| 2006 | Don Klein |
| 2007 | Richard McGuire |
| 2008 | Bobby Kaerwer |
| 2009 | Joe McDermott |
| 2010 | John Speary |
| 2011 | Bob Meiering |
| 2012 | Tom Nielsen |
| 2013 | Dennis McCloskey |
| 2014 | Danny Swain |
| 2015 | Manny Martinez |
| 2016 | Michael Olson |
| 2017 | Howie Tucker |
| 2018 | Mark Pelletier |

Assistant Professional of the Year

The PGA Assistant Professional of the Year Award is one of the highest honors the Association can bestow on a working club professional whose total contributions to the game best exemplify the complete PGA Professional. This award embraces a wide range of services executed by the club professional.

PGA Assistant Professional of the Year Guidelines:

- Demonstration of outstanding qualities of leadership.
- Demonstration of strong moral character.
- Maintain a substantial record of service to the Association and the game of golf.
- Well-regarded as a model PGA Golf Professional.

Criteria:

- Overall performance as a Golf Professional.
- Service to the Section and the Association.
- Leadership ability.
- Promotion and growth of the game of golf.

| | |
|------|------------------|
| 2009 | Steve Manning |
| 2010 | Zachary Hoefel |
| 2011 | Zachary Hoefel |
| 2012 | Vernon Bane |
| 2013 | Erin Hinderliter |
| 2014 | Chris Nieto |
| 2015 | Sigurd Dalen |
| 2016 | Anthony Romero |
| 2017 | Nicholas Knee |
| 2018 | Elias Eilers |

Jack Hardwick Teacher of the Year

This award is designed to give special recognition to a Sun Country Section PGA Professional who has performed outstanding services in teaching the game of golf.

Criteria to be considered are:

- Overall performance as a golf instructor at his/her facility
- Service to his/her Section and the Association
- Leadership ability
- Image and ability to inspire fellow professionals
- Promotion of golf
- Sectional impact on teaching and golf instruction
- Involvement in junior golf activities at the facility and in the community
- Innovative contributions to golf instruction
- Articles written for publication

Award named in memory of Jack Hardwick - 1942 to 1994, Sun Country Member since 1980

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1987 | Dick McGuire | 2003 | James "Tad" Bourg |
| 1988 | Tom Nielsen | 2004 | Ross Nettles |
| 1989 | Jack Hardwick | 2005 | Ross Nettles |
| 1990 | Jack Hardwick | 2006 | Todd Kersting |
| 1991 | Bobby Kaerwer | 2007 | Rob Lowry |
| 1992 | Tom Velarde | 2008 | Bill Harvey |
| 1993 | Tom Velarde | 2009 | Sandy Lemon |
| 1994 | Jack Hardwick | 2010 | Todd Kersting |
| 1995 | Ron Doan | 2011 | Todd Kersting |
| 1996 | Ron Doan | 2012 | Todd Kersting |
| 1997 | Cameron Doan | 2013 | Tom Velarde |
| 1998 | Bill Eschenbrenner | 2014 | Todd Kersting |
| 1999 | Todd Kersting | 2015 | Kevin Amhaus |
| 2000 | Bill Harvey & David Braxton | 2016 | Henry Stetina |
| 2001 | Bob Lowry | 2017 | Brad Lardon |
| 2002 | Ross Nettles | 2018 | Thomas J. McMullan |

Horton Smith Award

This award is designed to recognize individual golf professionals for their outstanding and continuing contributions to developing and improving education opportunities for Sun Country PGA golf professionals.

The guidelines for this award include:

- Contributions to the Section Education programs
 - Contributions and assistance toward the development of articles which benefit and relate to education
 - Leadership ability
 - Contributions to building the image of both the PGA golf professional and the Association
-

| | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 1984 | Bobby Kaerwer | 2002 | Pat Gavin |
| 1985 | Jack Hardwick | 2003 | Chris Moya & Jim Surber |
| 1986 | John Speary | 2004 | Pat Gavin |
| 1987 | Bobby Kaerwer | 2005 | Herb Wimberly |
| 1988 | Guy Wimberly | 2006 | Pat Gavin |
| 1989 | Bobby Kaerwer | 2007 | Pat Gavin |
| 1990 | Bill Eschenbrenner | 2008 | Pat Gavin |
| 1991 | Bill Eschenbrenner | 2009 | Jason White |
| 1992 | Mark Pelletier | 2010 | Pat Gavin |
| 1993 | Mark Pelletier | 2011 | Pat Gavin |
| 1994 | Not Awarded | 2012 | Pat Gavin |
| 1995 | Mark Pelletier | 2013 | Pat Gavin |
| 1996 | Mark Pelletier | 2014 | Joshua Salmon |
| 1997 | Terry Jennings | 2015 | Grant Dalpes |
| 1998 | Pat Gavin | 2016 | Joshua Salmon |
| 1999 | Pat Gavin | 2017 | D. Matthew Molloy |
| 2000 | Pat Gavin | 2018 | Joshua Salmon |
| 2001 | Pat Gavin | | |

Bill Strausbaugh Award

This award is presented to those Sun Country PGA members who by their day-to-day efforts have distinguished themselves in the field of Club Relations, causing dramatic improvements in employment conditions in the Section and/or the PGA of America.

The guidelines for this award include:

- Length of service as a chairperson, committee member or worker on club relations and employment, or as a resource person in these areas.
- Level of activity, i.e. number of calls made to golf facilities, contacts with professionals, employers on employment matters, etc.
- Involvement in education efforts relating to club relations and employment
- Involvement with PGA Career Links and PGA Career Services Consultants
- Any other positive and significant contributions to PGA Employment

| | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1983 | Bill Eschenbrenner | 2001 | John Speary |
| 1984 | Bobby Kaerwer | 2002 | Not Awarded |
| 1985 | Bull Durham | 2003 | Dan Koesters |
| 1986 | Jack Hardwick | 2004 | Ron Doan |
| 1987 | Ray Hardy | 2005 | Guy Wimberly |
| 1988 | Howie Tucker | 2006 | Grant Dalpes |
| 1989 | Guy Wimberly | 2007 | Grant Dalpes |
| 1990 | Dennis McCloskey | 2008 | Jason White |
| 1991 | Sam Zimmerly | 2009 | Grant Dalpes |
| 1992 | Dennis McCloskey | 2010 | Roger Martinez |
| 1993 | Not Awarded | 2011 | Roger Martinez |
| 1994 | John Speary | 2012 | Dan Koesters |
| 1995 | Chris Moya | 2013 | Grant Dalpes |
| 1996 | Not Awarded | 2014 | Derek Gutierrez |
| 1997 | John Speary | 2015 | Pat Gavin |
| 1998 | Brian Zongker | 2016 | Daniel Nunez |
| 1999 | Not Awarded | 2017 | Jason White |
| 2000 | Roger Martinez | 2018 | Brad Lardon |

Youth Player Development Award

(Formerly) Junior Golf Leader

The Youth Player Development Award (formerly the Junior Golf Leader Award) recognizes a Sun Country PGA Professional who is a leader in youth player development, who reflects the ideals of those who work with youth, and provides opportunities and experiences for juniors to learn to play golf.

The following guidelines are to be used in making nominations:

- Contributions to youth player development programs and events in our section, including service as a chairperson or a member of the Junior Golf Committee or as an instructor at a junior golf academy.
- Demonstration of involvement in the promotion and development of youth golf activities at the club level.
- Overall image, service and leadership in the area of youth player development.
- Proven interest, concern and ability to provide opportunities and experience for juniors to learn and play golf.
- Recognized as someone of outstanding character.

| | | | |
|------|--------------------------|------|------------------------------|
| 1988 | Russ Moore | 2004 | Bob Lowry |
| 1989 | Pete Chavez | 2005 | Eric Eggleston |
| 1990 | Pete Chavez | 2006 | Eric Eggleston |
| 1991 | Doug Lyle | 2007 | Rob Lowry |
| 1992 | Henry Sandles | 2008 | Eric Eggleston |
| 1993 | Chris Moya | 2009 | Rob Lowry |
| 1994 | Chris Moya | 2010 | Grant Dalpes |
| 1995 | Grant Dalpes | 2011 | James Williams |
| 1996 | Grant Dalpes | 2012 | Thomas Yost |
| 1997 | Mike Olson | 2013 | Thomas Yost |
| 1998 | Todd Kersting | 2014 | Jason White & James Williams |
| 1999 | Racquel Huslig | 2015 | Thomas Yost |
| 2000 | Chris Piano | 2016 | Linda Howell |
| 2001 | Jill Trujillo | 2017 | Crae Fields |
| 2002 | Racquel Huslig | 2018 | Henry Stetina |
| 2003 | Chris Moya & Tom Velarde | | |

Player Development Award

(Formerly The President's Plaque)

This award is designed to recognize a PGA Professional for extraordinary and exemplary contributions and achievements in the area of player development. This award considers the PGA Professional's growth of the game leadership commitment at the Section and National levels and the impact made at the facility.

The award is based on the following criteria:

- Contributions to Section and National Player Development initiatives.
- Quantity, quality and diversity of player development programs.
- Use of Golf 2.0 tools and resources in the area of Player Development
- Quality of best practices, including uniqueness of ideas, increase in rounds / revenues, retention and customer satisfaction.
- Inspiration of fellow PGA Professionals in the area of player development.

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 2008 | Todd Kersting |
| 2009 | Racquel Huslig |
| 2010 | Michael Singleton |
| 2011 | Michael Singleton |
| 2012 | Zachary Hoefel |
| 2013 | Todd Kersting |
| 2014 | Thomas Yost |
| 2015 | Todd Kersting |
| 2016 | Thomas Yost |
| 2017 | Timothy Krebs |
| 2018 | Sigurd Dalen |

Merchandiser of the Year

This award is designed to recognize a Sun Country golf professional who has demonstrated superior skills as a merchandiser in the promotion of golf. The Merchandiser of the Year must be a PGA Member in good standing and will be judged on their credit rating with the industry and their overall credit rating. Candidates will be judged in the areas of merchandise performance, details and innovation, displays and merchandising techniques.

| PRIVATE | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|------|----------------|------|----------------|
| 1991 | Dave Donachie | 2001 | Joe Smith | 2011 | Mark Pelletier |
| 1992 | Chuck Dunn | 2002 | Mike Putnam | 2012 | Jason Epstein |
| 1993 | Not Awarded | 2003 | Mark Pelletier | 2013 | Jason Epstein |
| 1994 | Danny Swain | 2004 | Mike Putnam | 2014 | Jason Epstein |
| 1995 | Alan Surges | 2005 | Danny Swain | 2015 | Juan Jimenez |
| 1996 | Cameron Doan | 2006 | Mike Putnam | 2016 | Marty Ivie |
| 1997 | Cameron Doan | 2007 | Stan Ferguson | 2017 | Kyle Capps |
| 1998 | Cameron Doan | 2008 | Mike Putnam | 2018 | James Davison |
| 1999 | Scott Forster | 2009 | Mark Pelletier | | |
| 2000 | Scott Gates | 2010 | Bob May | | |

| RESORT | | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------|------------------|------|--------------|
| 1993 | Nunez/Velarde | 2002 | Not Awarded | 2011 | Matt Molloy |
| 1994 | Daniel Nunez | 2003 | Gary Davis | 2012 | Matt Molloy |
| 1995 | Daniel Nunez | 2004 | Dave Brown | 2013 | Zach Hoefel |
| 1996 | Gary Davis | 2005 | Daniel Nunez | 2014 | Zach Hoefel |
| 1997 | Ciolek/Trujillo | 2006 | Roger Martinez | 2015 | Zach Hoefel |
| 1998 | Roger Martinez | 2007 | Daniel Nunez | 2016 | Matthew Long |
| 1999 | Not Awarded | 2008 | Mike Ciolek | 2017 | Matt Molloy |
| 2000 | Roger Martinez | 2009 | Derek Guitierrez | 2018 | Not Awarded |
| 2001 | Daniel Nunez | 2010 | Kelly Velarde | | |

| PUBLIC | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------|----------------|------|-------------------|
| 1991 | Bobby Kaerwer | 2001 | Tony Hidalgo | 2011 | Eric Eggleston |
| 1992 | Doug Lyle | 2002 | Sam Zimmerly | 2012 | Ross Nettles |
| 1993 | Sam Zimmerly | 2003 | Tony Hidalgo | 2013 | Jason White |
| 1994 | Doug Lyle | 2004 | Warren Lehr | 2014 | Justin Dahrling |
| 1995 | Doug Lyle | 2005 | Mike Singleton | 2015 | Bob Basham |
| 1996 | Tony Hidalgo | 2006 | Warren Lehr | 2016 | Michael Singleton |
| 1997 | Doug Lyle | 2007 | Doug Lyle | 2017 | Linda Howell |
| 1998 | Tony Hidalgo | 2008 | Erin Kato | 2018 | Vernon Bane |
| 1999 | Tony Hidalgo | 2009 | Dan Koesters | | |
| 2000 | Not Awarded | 2010 | Val D'Souza | | |

Marilea Bush Amateur of the Year

This award is named in honor of longtime Sun Country PGA staff member Marilea Bush who passed away in 2007 after a long battle with cancer. Winners are chosen on the following criteria that Marilea exhibited on a daily basis throughout her 17 years at the Section office:

- Their contribution to the game of golf
- Their participation and dedication to the game of golf

| | | | |
|------|-------------------------|------|-------------------------------|
| 1984 | Don Van Pelt | 2002 | Dr. Phil Vitale |
| 1985 | Henry Robinson | 2003 | Corky Clark |
| 1986 | Ted Martinez | 2004 | Mike Quinlan |
| 1987 | Rosemary Thompson | 2005 | Ken Adams |
| 1988 | Bill Hicks | 2006 | Marilea Bush |
| 1989 | G. Carruthers/H. Jensen | 2007 | Scott Summers |
| 1990 | Sam Lynn | 2008 | Matt Williams |
| 1991 | S. Mortimer/L. Lujan | 2009 | Ken Adams |
| 1992 | Rosemary Thompson | 2010 | Travis Hicks & Bobby Martinez |
| 1993 | Tony Hidalgo, Sr | 2011 | Ronne Mercer |
| 1994 | Ike Kalangis | 2012 | Tom DiFrancesco |
| 1995 | JoJo Robertson | 2013 | Joe Sholtis |
| 1996 | Luke Otero | 2014 | Lara Davis |
| 1997 | Edd Bush | 2015 | Dana Lehner |
| 1998 | Donna Sauve | 2016 | Adrienne Fields |
| 1999 | Pat Gordon | 2017 | Mike Quinlan |
| 2000 | Dr. Richard Peck | 2018 | Bruce Buchman |
| 2001 | Dan Vukelich | | |

Sun Country Salesperson of the Year

This award is based on the following criteria:

- His/Her support of and his/her integrity to the golf professionals of the Section
- Integrity in all his/her product representations
- Involvement in Section Championships, Junior Golf, education and Member/Apprentice services
- High quality of service to his/her accounts

| | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|------|------------------------------------|
| 1993 | Bob Scrivner - Titleist/FootJoy | 2007 | Adam Kase - Titleist |
| 1994 | Bob Scrivner - Titleist/FootJoy | 2008 | Adam Kase - Titleist |
| 1995 | Brad Gehrke - Ping | 2009 | Mark Zapach - Nike Golf |
| 1996 | Craig Stumpf - Spalding/Top-Flite | 2010 | Kenny Blake - SkyCaddie/Adams Golf |
| 1997 | Brad Gehrke - Ping | 2011 | Shaun Haberstroh - TaylorMade |
| 1998 | Brad Gehrke - Ping | | Adam Kase - Titleist |
| 1999 | Craig Stumpf - Spalding/Top-Flite | 2012 | Adam Kase - Titleist |
| 2000 | Brad Gehrke - Ping | 2013 | Adam Kase - Titleist |
| 2001 | Tom MacVicar - FootJoy | 2014 | Adam Kase - Titleist |
| 2002 | Justin McKinney - Titleist | 2015 | Eric Eggleston - Club Car |
| 2003 | Richard Burrows - Sundance | 2016 | Justin Thayer - Nike Golf |
| 2004 | Vince Falcone - Callaway | 2017 | Eric Eggleston - Club Car |
| 2005 | Adam Kase - Titleist | 2018 | Jason Masek – Masek Rocky |
| 2006 | Adam Kase - Titleist | | Mountain Golf Cars |

Player of the Year

| | | | | | |
|------|----------------|------|------------------------|------|-------------------|
| 1983 | Jim Dickson | 1995 | Mark Pelletier | 2007 | Bill Harvey |
| 1984 | Mark Pelletier | 1996 | C. Doan & M. Pelletier | 2008 | Bill Harvey |
| 1985 | Jim Dickson | 1997 | Cameron Doan | 2009 | Bill Harvey |
| 1986 | Terry Jennings | 1998 | Cameron Doan | 2010 | Bill Harvey |
| 1987 | Jim Dickson | 1999 | Dan Koesters | 2011 | Trent Rommann |
| 1988 | Ray Cragun | 2000 | Dan Koesters | 2012 | Scott Lieberwirth |
| 1989 | Mark Pelletier | 2001 | Dan Koesters | 2013 | David Muttitt |
| 1990 | Ray Cragun | 2002 | Dan Koesters | 2014 | David Muttitt |
| 1991 | Mike Putnam | 2003 | Dan Koesters | 2015 | Scott Lieberwirth |
| 1992 | Tony Hidalgo | 2004 | Dan Koesters | 2016 | David Muttitt |
| 1993 | Mike Putnam | 2005 | Dan Koesters | 2017 | David Muttitt |
| 1994 | Ray Cragun | 2006 | Bill Harvey | 2018 | David Muttitt |

Senior Player of the Year

| | | | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|---------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1988 | Don Klein | 1999 | Andy Boyd | 2010 | Carlton Blewett |
| 1989 | Gene Torres | 2000 | Gene Torres | 2011 | Dan Koesters |
| 1990 | Larry Beem | 2001 | Andy Boyd | 2012 | Dal Daily |
| 1991 | Joe McDermott | 2002 | Boyd & Velarde | 2013 | Dal Daily |
| 1992 | Jesse Whittenton | 2003 | Jim Dickson | 2014 | Bill Harvey |
| 1993 | Joe McDermott | 2004 | Jim Traina | 2015 | Carlton Blewett |
| 1994 | Joe McDermott | 2005 | McCloskey & Velarde | 2016 | Bill Harvey |
| 1995 | Joe McDermott | 2006 | Manny Martinez | 2017 | Bill Harvey |
| 1996 | Joe McDermott | 2007 | Mark Pelletier | 2018 | Brad Lardon |
| 1997 | Joe McDermott | 2008 | Mark Pelletier | | |
| 1998 | Bill Eschenbrenner | 2009 | Dan Koesters | | |

Associate Player of the Year

| | | | | | |
|------|-----------------|------|-------------------|------|------------------|
| 1994 | Cameron Doan | 2003 | Rob Kortan | 2012 | Mark England |
| 1995 | Cameron Doan | 2004 | Brandon Lane | 2013 | Chris Figueroa |
| 1996 | John Kienle | 2005 | Paco Ortiz | 2014 | Chris Figueroa |
| 1997 | John Kienle | 2006 | Paco Ortiz | 2015 | Russ Lara |
| 1998 | Rich Beem | 2007 | Scott Lieberwirth | 2016 | Chris Figueroa |
| 1999 | Tom Tracy | 2008 | Chris Thomas | 2017 | Calum Hill |
| 2000 | Bill Harvey | 2009 | Scott Lieberwirth | 2018 | Devin Miertschin |
| 2001 | Murry Van Gundy | 2010 | Trent Rommann | | |
| 2002 | Bill Harvey | 2011 | David Muttitt | | |

Bull Durham Growth of the Game Award

This award was named in honor of former Sun Country PGA executive director Bull Durham and was designed to recognize facilities that made the most contributions to growing golf through hosting Play Golf America initiatives, pro-ams and junior events. The award was retired in 2012.

PRIVATE

| | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 2007 | Santa Teresa CC |
| 2008 | Alto Lakes G&CC |
| 2009 | Santa Teresa CC |
| 2010 | Chamisa Hills CC |
| 2011 | San Juan CC |
| 2012 | The Outlaw at Alto Lakes |

RESORT

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| 2007 | Sandia GC |
| 2008 | Sandia GC |
| 2009 | Sandia GC |
| 2010 | Isleta Eagle GC |
| 2011 | Isleta Eagle GC |
| 2012 | Isleta Eagle GC |

PUBLIC

| | |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 2007 | Desert Lakes GC |
| 2008 | Desert Lakes GC |
| 2009 | Riverview GC |
| 2010 | The Links at Sierra Blanca GC |
| 2011 | Santa Ana GC |
| 2012 | New Mexico State University GC |