

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

PGA National Senior Player of the Year

Brad Lardon, Las Campanas

2016

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 Guterrez	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