



HOLIDAY ISSUE 2016 ❄️  
**ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
SECTION**



**PGA**

Rocky Mountain Section

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## 3 JAMES BROWN NAMED RMSPGA 2016 GOLF PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Brown is a twenty year member of the PGA of America

## 3 JONATHAN GIBBS SELECTED AS RMSPGA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

This is the second time Gibbs has won this award

## 4 MARK WEHRMAN WINS ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA HORTON SMITH AWARD

This honor marks the third occasion Wehrman has earned the Horton Smith Award

## 4 RON RAWLS WINS ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD

Rawls is a 27-year member of The PGA of America

## 5 ZACH ABELS EARNS 2016 RMSPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Abels has been a member of the PGA of America since 2014

## 5 TED BABCOCK IS THE 2016 RMSPGA ASSISTANT GOLF PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Babcock became a PGA Member in 2015

## 6 RAWLS, REINKE & FLESHMAN RECOGNIZED AS MERCHANDISERS OF THE YEAR

These individuals excel in their abilities to purchase, present and sell golf-related products

## 6 TOM ANDERSON EARNS 2016 PLAYER OF THE YEAR HONORS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA

Anderson earned honors due to his rock-solid performance throughout 2016

## 7 BRETT NAGEL SELECTED AS RMSPGA PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

This is the 1st time Nagel will be recognized as an award winner within the Section

## 7 PGA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

The program provides college scholarships for children and grandchildren of PGA Members

## 8 2017 BOISE GOLF & TRAVEL SHOW

Please support the Section by volunteering your time

## 8 OUR CONDOLENCES

We are sorry to announce that John Walker, PGA passed away

## 8 THANK YOU 2016 SPONSORS

The Rocky Mountain Section appreciates the sponsors who have helped to make 2016 a truly great year

## 8 SECTION OFFICE AND PGA OF AMERICA HOLIDAY HOURS

Offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays starting on Friday, December 23rd and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017

## 9 SPONSOR LISTING

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## JAMES BROWN NAMED ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA 2016 GOLF PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

The Rocky Mountain Section PGA has named PGA Life Member James Brown from Boise, Idaho, its 2016 PGA Golf Professional of the Year. Brown is a twenty year member of the PGA of America and has been a fixture in the Boise area golf scene throughout his career.

The PGA Golf Professional of the Year Award is the highest honor paid to a PGA professional. The honoree is chosen based on his or her outstanding leadership abilities, exceptional performance as a PGA Professional, and distinguished service to the Association and the game of golf.

Since his election to PGA membership in 1996, Brown has distinguished himself as a leader rising to the office of President of the Rocky Mountain Section. He has served his Chapter and the Section as an officer and committee member since 2007 and is the current Section President.

This marks the seventh time James has been honored by the RMSPGA as he was voted Merchandiser of

the Year for public facilities in 2004 and 2008, the Player Development Award winner in 2008, 2010 & 2012, and the Horton Smith Award winner in 2010. James is the epitome of a team player. He is a “lead by example” type of professional and his philosophy guides him to always think about the image of the PGA Professional as a whole and to make every effort to give back more to the game than he would ever receive. James takes great pride in championing programs for children. He spearheaded PGA Golf Days, a charity fundraiser which generated more than \$86,000 for the Make-a-Wish and Rocky Mountain PGA Foundations that raise money for kids with life threatening diseases and growth of the game initiatives. In addition, he is heavily involved in the PGA Junior League Golf program that allows children of all skill levels to compete in a team format promoting sportsmanship, camaraderie and competition.

Outside of his daily responsibilities, James volunteers his time in giving



James Brown,  
Golf Professional of the Year

free golf lessons at the Boise Open and the Boise Golf and Travel Show. He is also the Section liaison for the aforementioned Junior League Golf program in the Rocky Mountain PGA. The National Drive, Chip & Putt program is yet another junior initiative James has so willingly given his time.

Brown, along with the other Section award recipients, will be formally recognized in May as part of the 2017 Rocky Mountain Section PGA Annual Meeting.

## JONATHAN GIBBS SELECTED AS RMSPGA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Jonathan Gibbs, the PGA Director of Instruction at BanBury Golf Course in Eagle, Idaho, has been named the 2016 Teacher of the Year by the Rocky Mountain Section PGA.

The Teacher of the Year award bestows special recognition on a Rocky Mountain Section PGA golf professional that has performed outstanding service as a golf instructor. The honoree is chosen based on his or her performance, leadership, image, promotion of the game of golf, impact on teaching and golf instruction as well as involvement in junior activities at his or her facility in addition to innovative contributions to golf instruction and published articles.

This is the second time Gibbs has won this award having previously done so in 2006. He also earned the RMSPGA Youth Player Development Award just last year. Jonathan was elected to PGA Membership in 2004, became a Certified PGA Professional in Instruction in 2006, and has been teaching at BanBury for more than 16 years.

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# SECTION AWARD NEWS

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Junior instruction is a special passion of Jonathan's. The program he runs at BanBury has more than 300 participants extending over 8 months each year. He also captains PGA Junior League golf teams and to date has 45 of his current and past students involved in collegiate golf. Being in a seasonal area has not stopped Jonathan from making golf a 12 month activity as he fills the calendar with his junior academy, camps, clinics, and a year-round youth mentoring program.

Jonathan does not keep his award winning talents a secret. He selflessly shares his techniques and ideas with fellow PGA Professionals and apprentices in the Snake River Chapter PGA through leading seminars, mentoring others and day-to-day interactions. Jonathan was also published by the National PGA and has produced three instructional videos for PGA.com.

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## **MARK WEHRMAN WINS ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA HORTON SMITH AWARD**

Mark Wehrman, PGA Head Professional at Big Sky Golf Course in Big Sky, Mont., has been selected by the Rocky Mountain Section PGA as the recipient of the 2016 Horton Smith Award.

The Horton Smith Award is presented to a PGA member for his outstanding contributions to professional education. Wehrman, elected to PGA membership in 2008, reflects this commitment through his day-to-day activities in the Rocky Mountain Section PGA. Mark is currently the RMSPGA Education Chairman and serves his Yellowstone Chapter professionals as their education chair as well. He has willingly given his time to organize and promote various educational experiences and opportunities for the members and apprentices of the Section.

This honor marks the third occasion Wehrman has earned the Horton Smith Award as he was the recipient in 2012 and 2014. He also was honored in 2014 as the Resort Merchandiser of the Year.

## **RON RAWLS WINS ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD**

Ron Rawls, of Boise, Idaho, has been selected by the Rocky Mountain Section PGA as the 2016 recipient of the Bill Strausbaugh Award. Rawls, a 27-year member of The PGA of America, was honored with this award for the fifth time as a member of the Rocky Mountain Section.

Established in 1979, the Bill Strausbaugh Award is presented to a PGA Professional who, by their day-to-day efforts, has distinguished themselves by mentoring their fellow PGA Professionals in improving employment situations and through service to his/her community.

As a PGA member, Ron has worked tirelessly to promote the PGA of America and its members. A large part of his efforts are dedicated to his active involvement with aiding his assistant professionals in establishing their careers as PGA professionals. Ron has mentored many PGA members as he feels this is an immense part of protecting the very logo he stands for and given of his time to various organizations within the Boise area. They include the First Tee of Idaho, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southwest Idaho, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Ada County, Boise State University, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The 2016 Bill Strausbaugh Award adds to an already distinguished resume for Rawls, the PGA Head Professional at Crane Creek Country Club in Boise, Idaho. In addition to his 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2013 Strausbaugh awards, he also previously garnered the 2007 and 2010 Private Merchandiser of the Year Award. He was honored as the 2004 Golf Professional of the Year in the Pacific Northwest Section and the 2012 Golf Professional of the Year award winner in the Rocky Mountain Section.



## ZACH ABELS EARNS 2016 RMSPGA YOUTH PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

Zach Abels has been named the recipient of the 2016 Youth Player Development Award in the Rocky Mountain Section PGA. Abels has been a member of the PGA of America since 2014 and has not wasted any time in making an impact on junior golf.

The Youth Player Development Award bestows special recognition upon a PGA Professional who has displayed extraordinary and exemplary contribution and achievement in this field. As Zach is the Director of Instruction and Junior Golf at Canyon Springs Golf Course in Twin Falls, Idaho, his career path is dedicated greatly to the advancement and development of junior players. Zach runs instructional programs throughout

the year as he has the ability to facilitate practice indoors as well as on the course. In addition to his efforts at his home club, Zach has taken groups of children on road trips to participate in junior competitions at other courses. Zach is also willing to lend his expertise to other clubs as he has directly helped fellow professionals advance junior programs at their facilities.

Outside his normal responsibilities at Canyon Springs, Zach coordinates practice schedules for local high schools and is the Head Coach of the Canyon Ridge HS Boys' and Girls' teams. Zach conducts a spring league geared toward juniors ages 6 to 13 to prepare them for summer competi-

tions. With the varied programs he offers throughout the year, Zach has excelled at making contact with juniors of all ages and all skill levels. Perhaps the most significant part of Zach's junior offerings comes in the form of the Magic Valley Junior Golf Foundation which he formed in 2014. Through grants, donations, and land usage from the owners of his home club, Zach was able to pursue the now fully functional indoor practice facility which children may use free of charge.

The 2016 Youth Player Development Award marks the first time Abels has earned a Section honor.

## TED BABCOCK IS THE 2016 RMSPGA ASSISTANT GOLF PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

Ted Babcock, PGA Assistant Professional at Valley View Golf Club in Bozeman, Mont., has been named the 2016 Assistant Professional of the Year for the Rocky Mountain Section PGA. Babcock became a PGA Member in 2015 and has been employed at Valley View the last two years.

Ted's overall performance as an Assistant PGA Professional revolves around the idea of creating a welcoming environment to all those he comes in contact with on a daily basis. He primarily focuses on golf operations, teaching and tournament facilitation. Ted is acutely aware his interaction with members is often the first and last impression of any guest's day at the club. He makes a concentrated effort to provide a stress-free arena for his col-

leagues and members alike.

Teaching and growing the game of golf is Ted's true passion. He feels it is his obligation as a PGA Professional to create and implement programs for all levels of players. Ted credits his head professional for giving him the freedom to develop as many player development programs as he sees fit. He has created a ladies program to work in conjunction with the club's junior offerings. He invited mothers, especially when they dropped their children off for lessons. Ted simply spoke to them and asked if they either played or would consider playing. The basic question posed has led to many moms taking up the game either casually or even now some are playing in leagues and club tournaments. Ted's tried and

true idea of nurturing entire families to play is just the tip of his success.

Babcock is proud to wear many hats as an assistant professional at Valley View and willingly takes on any and all tasks assigned to him. He provides service and approaches each day with a servant's heart. The more smiles he creates, the better day he has.

This is Ted's first award within the Section and it will be formally presented to him at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Section PGA next May.

## RAWLS, REINKE & FLESHMAN RECOGNIZED AS MERCHANDISERS OF THE YEAR

Ron Rawls, PGA Head Professional at Crane Creek Country Club in Boise, Idaho, has been named the 2016 Rocky Mountain Section PGA Merchandiser of the Year for private golf course facilities. This award marks the third time he has been so honored by the RMSPGA having previously won in 2007 and 2010.

Rawls has been a member of the PGA of America for 27 years, and has been on staff at Crane Creek for 13 years. He lends his recent merchandising success to an offering of trunk shows, promotions, a significant increase in corporate business, and an invigorated focus on club fitting. Despite a loss of revenue time due to club renovations, these programs allowed the facility to more than make up for lost dollars. Ron's five point merchandising philosophy has served him well. Good selection, inventory control, a willingness to try new things, merchandise rotation, and staff training are his award winning keys to success.

Tim Reinke, PGA Head Professional at Pinecrest Golf Course in Idaho Falls, Idaho, has been named the

2016 Merchandiser of the Year for public golf course facilities. This denotes a truly remarkable seventh time he has won the Merchandiser of the Year award. Tim has been a member of the PGA of America since 1984 and has loyally served Pinecrest for the last 37 years.

Tim credits his great success with his extraordinary ability to create long term relationships with his customers. He treats people as he would like to be treated and the loyalty he creates is a proven asset to the golf shop. Reinke tries to keep things simple and organized. In addition, he makes every effort to order what he wants to order and to not let a vendor dictate to him. Staff training is also very important to Tim's operation. He keeps a staff operations manual updated and handy for his employees so they may all be on the same page for every detail which promotes consistency no matter which staff member any guest does business with.

Brent Fleshman, PGA Head Professional at Jackpot (Nevada) Golf Club has been recognized as the 2016 Merchandiser of the Year for

resort facilities. Fleshman has spent the past eleven seasons at Jackpot and has been a member of the PGA of America since 1996. This is the fourth time Brent has garnered this award having previously been honored in 2002, 2007 and 2010.

For Brent, it is all about learning from the customer. He does everything he can to realize that what he may like is not necessarily what will sell. Fleshman constantly changes items in the shop to keep a fresh look and is not bashful about listening to his vendors about what products are moving in other market areas. Staff training is also a big key to his success and Brent credits his staff for staying on top of their product knowledge and his guest's needs.

The Merchandiser of the Year Awards are presented to the individuals who excel in their abilities to purchase, present and sell golf-related products in the most effective and attractive way possible while providing a high level of service to the customer at their respective golf facilities.

## TOM ANDERSON EARNS 2016 PLAYER OF THE YEAR HONORS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA

Tom Anderson, PGA Head Professional at Laurel (Mont.) Golf Club is the 2016 Player of the Year and Senior Player of the Year in the Rocky Mountain Section of the Professional Golfers' Association of America. Anderson earned both honors due to his rock-solid performance throughout the 2016 season in Chapter and Section events.

Tom's award winning season was a model of consistency as his only top point getting category in the Player of the Year race was the Pro-Am money list. He finished no worse than 5<sup>th</sup> in any event (Regular or Senior division) he played including team events which do not count toward Player of the Year standings. This marks the third time Anderson has

earned Player of the Year honors having done so in 1995 and 1998 and the first time winning Senior Player of the Year honors (Professionals age 50 and older) at the tender age of 64.

# SECTION AWARD NEWS

## BRETT NAGEL SELECTED AS ROCKY MOUNTAIN SECTION PGA PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

Brett Nagel from Star, Idaho, has been selected by the Rocky Mountain Section PGA as the 2016 recipient of the Player Development Award. Nagel, a nine year member of The PGA of America has been honored as such to recognize his extraordinary contributions and achievements in the area of Player Development. This award considers the Professional's "growth of the game" leadership commitment at Section and National levels and the impact made at his/her own facility.

As the PGA Director of Instruction at The Club at SpurWing in Meridian, Idaho, Brett continues to work tirelessly to promote the game of golf. He takes tremendous pride in the growth of his students, the number of new players he has taught to love the game, and the amount of people who seek his guid-

ance and expertise. Brett teaches every level of Get Golf Ready program to members and non-members alike. The most successful program he offers is a junior mentoring and coaching program. He sees direct results from this as many of his kids have gone on to win significant tournaments and earn college scholarships. Outside of his responsibilities to the club, Nagel hosted and taught his fellow professionals in an instructional workshop featuring technology he uses in his teaching. Brett also willingly donates his time teaching free golf lessons at the Boise Golf Show and the Web.com Tour's Boise Open.

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time Nagel will be recognized as an award winner within the Section.

## PGA FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION NOW AVAILABLE

**E**stablished in 1986, the program provides college scholarships for children and grandchildren of PGA Members. It encourages and promotes the attainment of higher educational goals for the children and grandchildren of PGA Members, based on evidence of a high level of academic achievement during high school or college. Last year, this program awarded 128 scholarships totaling \$295,000.

### Important Information

- Applications must be completed and submitted online at PGA Financial Assistance Fund Scholarship Program by 5:00 p.m. ET on March 1, 2017.
- Students must submit, via mail, a sealed official transcript for the first semester of the current school year and ACT/SAT test scores. These must be **IN HAND** at the PGA headquarters office by March 18, 2017.
- Please be aware of your spring break times from school as school offices may be closed.
- If you are applying for financial need also submit the first page of your Student Aid Report (SAR).

### High School Seniors:

- Cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.4 or higher
- SAT/ACT Test Scores
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Score from SAR report, if applicable

### Current College Students:

- Cumulative GPA of 3.4 or higher
- Most recently completed semester GPA
- Expected Family Contribution (EFC) Score from SAR report, if applicable

### Apply Now

To learn more about the Application Requirements and to begin your application

**[CLICK HERE.](#)**

## 2017 BOISE GOLF & TRAVEL SHOW

Please support the Section by volunteering your time at the Boise Golf & Travel Show on February 10-12 at Expo Idaho in Boise. The Section will have a booth at the show and we will be distributing Clubs Fore Kids as well as giving ten minute free lessons as part of Play Golf America. We need volunteers in both of these areas.

Members will receive MSR credits for helping us out and Apprentices will receive Apprentice Education points.

Please contact Laurie at the Section Office (208) 939-6028 if you can help.

## OUR CONDOLENCES

We are sorry to announce that John Walker, PGA Life Member from Billings, Montana passed away at the age of 83. John attained his PGA membership in 1965 and served the Association faithfully for 52 years of continuous service. John was the Head Professional at Pryor Creek Golf Course in Huntley, Montana from 1985 until his retirement in 1996. After retirement John designed golf courses in the western United States and was very active with the Huntley Project golf team.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to The John M. Walker Golf Scholarship Fund benefiting the Huntley Project Golf Team, P.O. Box 2157, Billings, MT 59103.

## THANK YOU 2016 SPONSORS

The Rocky Mountain Section appreciates the sponsors who have helped to make 2016 a truly great year for the Section. Please take a moment to show your appreciation and acknowledge the companies and sales representatives who have contributed so greatly to our success. The Section is fortunate to have the support and it is hoped you consider the brands and representatives listed on our sponsor page when making your buying decisions for 2017.

## SECTION OFFICE AND PGA OF AMERICA HOLIDAY HOURS

The PGA of America and the Rocky Mountain Section offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays starting on Friday, December 23rd and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3rd, 2017. During this holiday season we wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.





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