

Press Release



PGA

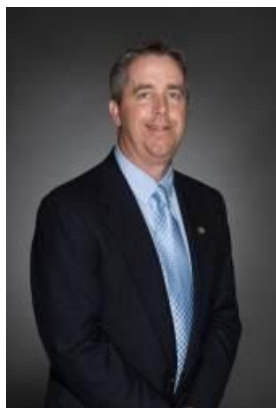
Northeastern New York Section

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2020 NENY PGA Special Award Winners

Schenectady, NY – The Northeastern New York Section of the PGA of America recently named the 2020 NENY PGA Special Award Winners.



Highlighting the 2020 Special Awards winners is Mike Behan, PGA whose journey in the NENY PGA Section began almost 20 years ago. Mike recently achieved the quarter century mark as a PGA member. His earlier years were spent working as an Assistant at various clubs in the MET PGA Section such as The Creek Club, Casperkill Golf Club, Country Club of Fairfield and the Tuxedo Club. Mike moved to the section in 2001 and since then has served in one capacity or another in a governance position with the NENY PGA. He has been the Head Professional at Woodstock Golf Club, Olde Kinderhook Golf Club and Van Patten Golf Course. In 2012, he transitioned to a non-traditional role as a sales representative for W&B Golf Carts, a Yamaha distributor. He services a large area in the northeast for W&B and has recently taken on a partner role and will soon be opening an additional location for the company. In addition, Mike also serves as the Assistant Golf Coach for the Siena College Women's Golf Team and is entering his fourth season. His commitment to serve the Section and

his fellow PGA professionals has been steadfast. After being elected to the board, he worked his way through several Committee Chairs including Education, Employment, Special Awards and Assistants. His leadership came to the forefront serving as an officer. He was instrumental in leading the charge for the establishment of the section's charitable 501c3 entity, PGA Reach NENY Foundation. Last year while serving at the helm as President, he helped guide the PGA membership and Section through an unparalleled global pandemic. His impact on the NENY PGA Section, his fellow professionals and the overall local golf community have benefited immensely from his active involvement.

The NENY PGA Section Special Award Committee has also added a newly established award with the first award winner being its namesake, Doug Evans awarded posthumously. The "NENY PGA Doug Evans Distinguished Service Award" bestows special recognition on an individual who is a steward for the NENY PGA Professionals and the game of golf in general. This new award category is eligible only to non-PGA members/individuals who have made lasting and meaningful contributions to the NENY PGA Section, the NENY PGA Membership and the entirety of the local area golfing community. Doug Evans was the NENY PGA Section's longtime staff member serving in the role as Tournament Director & Assistant Executive Director and passed away last fall.

All 2020 NENY PGA Special Award Winners, along with last year's winners will be honored for their achievements at an inaugural NENY PGA Special Awards Banquet to be held in November 2021.

Golf Professional of the Year:

Mike Behan, PGA – Sales Representative, W&B Golf Carts, Hudson, NY

Assistant Golf Professional of the Year:

Christian Torres - Operations Director, NENY PGA Section, Schenectady, NY

Professional Development Award (Education) Award Winner:

Anders Mattson, PGA - Owner/Director of Instruction, AndersMattsonGolf, Saratoga Springs, NY

Teacher of the Year:

Steve Jensen, PGA - Head Professional, Schuyler Meadows Club, Loudonville, NY

Youth Player Development:

Lucas Cohen, PGA - Owner/Director of Instruction, New York Golf Park, Hudson, NY

Roland Stafford Sportsmanship Award:

Kyle Kressler, PGA - Owner/Head Professional, Cedarview Golf Course, Massena, NY

Bill Strausbaugh (Club Relations and Community Services) Award:

Tom Oppedisano, PGA - Skidmore College Men's Golf, Saratoga Springs, NY

Sales Representative of the Year:

Ken Handy, - Owner/Sales Representative, Merchant Preferred Credit Card Processing, Clifton Park, NY

Player Development Award:

Dan Gaucher, PGA – Assistant Professional, Shaker Ridge Country Club, Latham, NY

Doug Evans Distinguished Service Award:

*Doug Evans, Tournament Director & Assistant Executive Director, NENY PGA Section

Patriot Award:

Brian Lowe, PGA - Head Professional, Catskill Golf Club, Catskill, NY

Merchandiser of the Year:

Private: Todd Manderson, PGA - Head Professional, Ballston Spa Country Club, Ballston Spa, NY

Public:: Ryan Butterick, PGA - Head Professional, Greenock Country Club, Greenock, MA

Resort: David Cummings, PGA - Head Professional, Sagamore Resort & Golf Club, Bolton Landing, NY

**Awarded Posthumously*

About The PGA of America

Since its founding in 1916, the PGA of America has maintained a twofold mission: to establish and elevate the standards of the profession and grow interest and participation in the game of golf. The PGA of America delivers world-class championships while building the public's interest in the game, the desire to play more golf, and ensures accessibility for everyone, everywhere. The PGA represents the very best in golf. For more about the Northeastern New York PGA, visit neny.pga.com or for the PGA of America, visit pga.org.

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