



PGA

Kentucky Section

## 2018 KPGA BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD NOMINATION

**Name of Nominee:** Kevin M. Childers  
**Facility Name:** The Club at Olde Stone  
**Facility Address:** 950 Village Way, Bowling Green, Ky 42103  
**Facility Phone Number:** 270/393-4654  
**Nominee E-mail Address:** [kchilders@olde-stone.com](mailto:kchilders@olde-stone.com)

*The nomination form should be typewritten.*

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement and contributions through mentoring PGA Professionals and illustrate a significant impact on their careers.

*I challenge myself to be persistent in inspiring my assistants to set themselves apart from other professionals within the industry. I have always been an advocate of giving my staff the autonomy and independence to do their job. Throughout my career I have mentored my staffs and continually coached them to help advance their professional careers. All the while stressing the importance of balancing the life of being a golf professional and making time for yourself personally. It's all about the pursuit of happiness and creating an atmosphere that your team and your membership can thrive on. My job as leader is to make a positive and meaningful impact on people's lives both professionally and personally.*

*The above mentioned philosophies and contributions during my 10-year career as a Head Professional and Director of Golf have groomed several assistant golf professionals and apprentices. Five of those individuals reached their goal of becoming a Head Professional or Director of Golf position.*

2. Please briefly describe the characteristics the nominee possesses relative to overall integrity and recognition as a person of outstanding character. How has the nominee furthered the values representative of the Association and the golf profession?

*A person's character is what defines them both personally and professionally. If I were describing my characteristics it would be one of passion and positivity. I come to work every day with an excitement to make myself better, my staff better and my membership better. It's through this passion that we as professionals should work towards to gain the respect of our membership and fellow golf professionals of The PGA of America. My hope is one day these efforts will be remembered for fostering the careers of some of the most passionate and positive professionals in golf.*

*I have been fortunate to work for some of the most successful golf professionals our association has to offer. Some of those professional's careers were directly impacted by Mr. Strausbaugh and his approach of Faith, Family and Profession. It is with these values that I represent my life and my profession.*

3. Please briefly describe the nominee's level of service to the Section and to the Association.

*My support of the Section and Association has been evident in offering our clubs facility for past events to include the Kentucky PGA National Championship and multiple State and Senior State Opens and will continue to do so for future events. Most recently I have assisted in serving on the education committee for our section.*

4. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement in community and Association activities including civic and charitable activities.

*To be involved is to be engaged, whether it's with your professional staff or donating your personal time within your community, church or charity. I have been fortunate throughout my career to have the support and opportunity to participate in multiple PGA Golf Day events raising over \$22,000 for The Kelly Autism School at Western Kentucky University, Susan G. Komen and The Kentucky Golf Foundation. My wife and I active supporters and advocates of Young Life Christian Ministry.*

5. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to building the image of the game of golf, PGA Professionals and the Association.

*If I had to describe my contribution in building the image of golf and PGA Professional, it would be my time. Not the tireless amount of hours worked throughout the season but how and where my time is spent. Its time spent garnering relationships with staff and getting in the trenches with them. It's the time spent with members on the practice tee or riding the golf course. It's taking the time to have lunch with a group of members. It's volunteering my time within the community helping area high school golf teams. But most importantly it's taking the time be a consummate golf professional and doing what I love, touching the lives of those I come in contact with on a daily basis.*

*We can easily be buried by emails, paperwork and voicemails but how important is this? Yes, these tasks are essential to any successful golf operation but we need to ask ourselves how important are they? It's a question we should all ask ourselves from time to time.*

*As golf professionals we must not forget about playing this great game. We must foster the image of ourselves and our club on the golf course and play. Throughout my career I have actively participated in various section events both individually and with members. I have also represented my club by hosting members in countless pro-am events locally, nationally and abroad.*

*One of the best compliments I have ever been given is the first time a member said, "hey pro". To me that means something, more than words can describe.*

6. Please list any Section or National awards the nominee has received

Award	Year Received	Section
Merchandiser of Year – Private	2012	Kentucky

Deadline – January 2, 2018

Return forms to:  
Kentucky PGA  
Golf House Kentucky  
1116 Elmore Just Drive  
Louisville, KY 40245  
(502) 243-9266 fax

Email Word documents to:  
[csaner@kygolf.org](mailto:csaner@kygolf.org)



# PGA

Kentucky Section

## 2018 KPGA BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD NOMINATION

**Name of Nominee:** Eric C.C. Gilliland  
**Facility Name:** Audubon Country Club  
**Facility Address:** 3265 Robin Road, Louisville, KY 40213  
**Facility Phone Number:** 502.637.5625  
**Nominee E-mail Address:** golfshop@auduboncc.org

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement and contributions through mentoring PGA Professionals and illustrate a significant impact on their careers.

In my 18 seasons as Head Professional at Audubon Country Club I have had the pleasure of working closely with 13 assistant golf professionals. My hiring philosophy is very simple – employ individuals with a high level of integrity and a passion for the game. Once on staff, they are quickly exposed to all aspects of the golf operation. This cross-training philosophy involves assistant professionals in merchandise planning and purchasing, committee meetings, business planning/budgeting, instruction program design/execution, tournament operations, and personnel management.

Beyond my immediate staff, I maintain an open line of communication with many PGA members within the Section and around the country. I especially enjoy working with former assistants to problem solve their new facilities. It is my belief that data and idea sharing with our peers is an invaluable tool in making us the most important employee at our facilities.

2. Please briefly describe the characteristics the nominee possesses relative to overall integrity and recognition as a person of outstanding character. How has the nominee furthered the values representative of the Association and the golf profession?

It is difficult to earn the respect of your family, peers, and employees if you don't have self-respect. To that end, I strive daily to be a person of integrity and strong character. I discuss with my assistants the importance of enforcing club rules and the Rules of Golf fairly and

equitably. Quite often the difficult decision is the correct one. Demonstrating the capacity to do the right thing, even when uncomfortable or inconvenient will help to earn the kind of respect that it is crucial for a lead PGA Professional possess. Similarly, I teach the importance of taking ownership of mistakes and working with your team to turn them into growth opportunities. Often times an apology, with a sincere desire to make amends can make a relationship stronger than if nothing had happened.

3. Please briefly describe the nominee's level of service to the Section and to the Association.

I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to serve the Kentucky Section PGA in a number of different ways since my election to membership in 1996. Although I worked with and for a number of PGA members early in my career, I learned from Dick Bradow, PGA and Mike Riley, PGA that section involvement is the responsibility of every PGA member. They demonstrated, by example, that not only do we have an obligation to our association to contribute, but it is critical to our professional development. I quickly became involved as an assistant professional, serving on the Kentucky Section Communications and Membership Committees. During that time I regularly contributed articles to the section newsletter "Forethoughts" and wrote the section submission for PGA Magazine.

Once established as a head professional, I enjoyed three terms as KPGA Director at Large, chairing both the Tournament and Sponsorship Committees. Since the completion of my terms on the KPGA Board, I have worked on a number of select projects for the Section and the Association.

- ✓ Named to a three person selection committee resulting in the hiring of Kim Shafer as the KPGA Director for Player Development
- ✓ Pro to Pro Educational Workshop panelist
- ✓ Co-chair of PGA Connect initiative with Lindsay Williams
- ✓ Annual host site for KPGA and KGA events

4. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement in community and Association activities including civic and charitable activities.

- Presentation Academy Assistant Golf Coach – 2016 to present
- PGA Golf Day/100 Holes - \$16,557 raised in 2017 divided between the Kentucky Golf Foundation and Colon Cancer Prevention Project
- Third Annual Colon One Golf Scramble - \$22,113.02 net funds raised in 2017

5. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to building the image of the game of golf, PGA Professionals and the Association.

The image of the game of golf and our Association are closely tied to the image of the lead PGA Professional at each facility. I believe a PGA Professional's first responsibility is to be a reflection of the values the game espouses. I work very hard to ensure that the Audubon membership, my staff, family, and the Association are proud of and never embarrassed by my actions. I am mindful of this responsibility in my youth coaching roles (basketball & golf), speaking engagements, and leadership roles within the club.

Secondly, we must teach these values to the professionals and junior golfers that we develop. The art of civility is very difficult to find in our digital, social media dominated culture. The PGA professional has a unique opportunity have unplugged interactions with members and guests. My staff and I use this platform to engage people in a positive, respectful, and service minded manner. I believe this approach is a differentiator, positively impacting the image of the game and of those who display the PGA logo.

6. Please list any Section or National awards the nominee has received

2017 Kentucky PGA – Deacon Palmer Award (National Finalist)  
2016 Kentucky PGA – Deacon Palmer Award (National Finalist)  
2014 Kentucky PGA – Co-merchandiser of the Year, Private  
2013 Kentucky PGA – Merchandiser of the Year, Private  
2010 Kentucky PGA – Bill Strausbaugh Award  
2008 Kentucky PGA – Horton Smith Award  
2005 Kentucky PGA – Bill Strausbaugh Award  
2004 Kentucky PGA – Golf Professional of the Year  
2002 Kentucky PGA – Merchandiser of the Year (National Finalist)





# PGA

Kentucky Section

## 2018 KPGA BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD NOMINATION

**Name of Nominee:** Ralph Landrum\_\_\_\_\_

**Facility Name:** World of Golf\_\_\_\_\_

**Facility Address:** 7400 Woodspoint Drive, Florence, KY 41042\_\_

**Facility Phone Number:** 859-371-8255\_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee E-mail Address:** rlandrum@pga.com\_\_\_\_\_

*The nomination form should be typewritten.*

1. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement and contributions through mentoring PGA Professionals and illustrate a significant impact on their careers.

Having been a PGA Member for over 30 years as well as being a PGA Master Professional, a former PGA Tour Member, a PGA National Award Winner, a Member of the KPGA Board of Directors, a President of the Kentucky PGA and a Member of the KY Golf Hall of Fame, I have become a visible PGA Golf Professional in both the KY Section as well as in my home area of Greater Cincinnati. I fully understand that my experiences place me in a position to bring attention to the game and PGA of America in both Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati. I use every opportunity I can find, to influence PGA Members and or Apprentices, in a manner that I hope will help promote their careers by increasing both their income and worth to their employer and or facilities. In my various leadership roles, I have attempted to have the PGA Member better understand the need to expose our great game of golf to as many folks as possible while also trying to increase the number of rounds of golf played, in order to raise revenues for all involved in the golf business.

During my time as President of the KY Section I had the privilege of running our section meetings. Besides running these meetings, I viewed this time as an opportunity to motivate the membership to strive for constant improvement in every area of their professional skills. I tried to lead them in a way which will benefit them professionally, grow the game of golf and improve the image of the PGA of America. As an example, at each meeting, I would end my report, by asking the KY PGA Membership to consider saying thanks to one additional

person each day, to host a player development program each month, to play in an extra section golf tournament this season and to take an additional continuing educational course each year. If each PGA Member would follow this advice, all involved in the game would benefit.

On a fairly regular basis, I am asked by PGA Golf Professionals for advice or an opinion concerning a job, an educational class or a player development program. I always try to make myself available and make sure I provide answers which I believe to be true. These answers may not be exactly what they wanted to hear but I do respect the fact they have asked for my opinion, so I have a responsibility to deliver an honest answer.

I have had several assistants who have gone onto nice careers both in and outside of the golf business. I hope my mentoring has had some small part in their success. My message to my senior team members each year is simple and to the point "You must do something that you can add to your resume each year". The staff member may add a certification from a golf vendor, take a continuing education class or attend a summit or seminar, just something that will improve their resume as well as their performance in both their current duties as well as any future position they may eventually hold. I try and make sure they understand things do not stay the same; it is either getting better or is headed in the wrong direction. Continuing one's education, constantly improving their skills while improving their self-image is a habit of successful people. This is a motto I live by and hope that others are able to see this. Being the best one can be is a good thing!

2. Please briefly describe the characteristics the nominee possesses relative to overall integrity and recognition as a person of outstanding character. How has the nominee furthered the values representative of the Association and the golf profession?

I have had contracts with two different cities to operate their golf facility for the entirety of my career. In order to raise awareness of the facility, expose the facility and game to more folks and to of course raise revenues, I operated each facility with the attitude that facility was a community center, but was focused on golf. I have always tried to expose the facility and the attributes the game has to offer by providing services to both golfers and non-golfers alike. Sometimes the services we offer are at the course but some are offered off-site. Events such as attending health fairs at the City of Florence, the Boone County Education, or even by the Cincinnati Reds are just a small example of how we try to get out into the community. In the past I have given golf lessons on Thanksgiving weekend at no cost other than to donate a toy to the local police Christmas toy drive for kids



whose family may not be able to afford gifts for their kids. I have for many years provided the Special Olympics a place to hold their golf program in Northern KY. I worked with the Cincinnati VA Hospital to provide golf to their disabled Vets and I am starting a new program this year. I have given free golf lessons to Vets on Memorial Day Weekend. I have worked with the City of Covington Board of Education to provide golf during their summer programs at their schools. I have and continue to work with a local Boys and Girls Club as well as a YMCA. Due to revenue growth during my management at these facilities we have added nine holes at one facility, built a new clubhouse at another and built one facility from scratch. My PGA Logo and Membership is always displayed or spoken of during any public announcements about the events. The community sees, supports and shows their appreciation for the events by volunteering, providing financial assistance or participating in the events.

3. Please briefly describe the nominee's level of service to the Section and to the Association.

KY PGA Board of Directors 2009-Present  
 KY PGA Secretary 2011-2013  
 KY PGA Vice-President 2013-2015  
 KY PGA President 2015-2017  
 KY PGA Honorary President 2017- Present  
 KGA-PGA Board of Directors 2011-Present  
 KGA-PGA Vice President 2017- Present  
 KY Golf Foundation Board of Directors 2011-Present  
 KY Golf Hall of Fame Committee 2016-Present

PGA National Growth of the Game Committee 2011-2015  
 PGA National Special Awards Committee 2014-2015  
 KY PGA Junior Golf Committee 2009-2012  
 KY PGA Junior Golf Task Force Chair 2013  
 KY PGA Finance Committee Chair 2014-2016  
 KY PGA Growth of the Game Committee Chair 2009-2015  
 KY PGA Special Awards Committee 2010-Present  
 KY PGA Co-Chairperson of the Government Relations Committee 2008-2010.  
 KY PGA Co-Chairperson of the Senior & Junior Golf Committee 2011-2012.  
 PGA Junior and Family Golf Summit Panel Member 2018

4. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement in community and Association activities including civic and charitable activities.

I understand that I have been blessed to be part of our great game for the majority of my life. These blessings have created a sense obligation for me to give back by doing my best to share the great joy the game has to offer with as many folks as possible. The desire to spread the word about our game has led me to be part of many community programs and professional committees. Opening up our facility to the Special Olympics, visiting schools on an annual basis to provide golf instruction, teaming with the Executive Women's Golf Association to create more fun for their local members, creating the Northern KY Middle School Golf League, coaching a middle and high school golf team, working with a local Boys and Girls Club to offer golf as a way to increase the kids self-image while providing an alternative sport to improve the physical fitness of the kids and even working with the LPGA to provide a girls golf program for young women who may not be able to afford the typical fee for such a program. I have raised monies for several programs by running in marathons (including the 2017 New York City Marathon as part of the PGA Hope team) and playing 100 golf holes in a day to raise funds for the KY Golf Foundation. I have provided free golf instruction to veterans on Memorial Day weekend. I am beginning a new project with John Kleindist, the Director of Voluntary Service at the Disabled Veterans to restart our Disabled Vets Golf Program.

The local community sees my efforts and is well aware of the efforts we give to support the community while promoting the game, my facility and myself as a PGA Golf Professional. At each of the above mentioned efforts, which by the way are all current programs, I always proudly display my PGA Logo and mention the PGA as being in support of most of these efforts. The community appreciates and supports the efforts by donating golf clubs, funds and volunteering their time. The image of the game, the PGA of America and the PGA Member are all enhanced by through these efforts.

5. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to building the image of the game of golf, PGA Professionals and the Association.

As mentioned above, the efforts I have and continue to make expose the game, myself, the PGA of America and the facilities I have operated to folks who may not have been aware of what the game has to offer or to how the PGA Golf Professional and the PGA of America give back to the community. The PGA of America National Growth of the Game Award I won a few years back provided me a platform to communicate what a great game golf is and how the PGA

services the communities. I was featured on a 30 minute documentary about my work the Boys and Girls Club which aired on CBS right before the PGA Championship. I was quoted in a Wall Street Journal article about how it is never too late to learn a new activity. Due to fact I played in two different Masters Tournaments I have been asked to appear on a local news show about the tournament. I coach a local middle school and high school golf team. Each of these efforts expose the value of the game, the PGA Golf Professional and the PGA of America has to all those who play golf and to the community as a whole.

6. Please list any Section or National awards the nominee has received

Award	Year Received	Section
Junior Golf Leader	1997, 2013	KY
President's Award	2000	Southern Ohio
KY Player of the Year	1986, 1987 & 1988	KY
KY Senior Player of the Year	2009	KY
KY Growth of the Game Award (formerly Presidents Award)	2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 & 2014	KY
PGA National Growth of the Game Award	2014	PGA National
Bill Strausbaugh Award	2016	KY
KY PGA Section Golf Professional of the Year	2010	KY
PGA Quarter Century Award	2010	KY

Deadline – January 2, 2018

Return forms to:  
Kentucky PGA  
Golf House Kentucky  
1116 Elmore Just Drive  
Louisville, KY 40245  
(502) 243-9266 fax

Email Word documents to:  
[csaner@kygolf.org](mailto:csaner@kygolf.org)



**PGA**  
Kentucky Section

## **2018 KPGA BILL STRAUSBAUGH AWARD NOMINATION**

**Name of Nominee:** Scott Sedgwick  
**Facility Name:** Louisville Country Club  
**Facility Address:** 25 Mockingbird Valley Trail, Louisville, KY 40207  
**Facility Phone Number:** 502-895-8477  
**Nominee E-mail Address:** golfshop@loucc.net

*The nomination form should be typewritten.*

- 1. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement and contributions through mentoring PGA Professionals and illustrate a significant impact on their careers.**

Scott has the utmost pride in providing an atmosphere in which he is able to mentor his assistants, giving them the absolute best opportunity to advance to the next level. Scott contributes on a daily basis by preparing his assistants to become head golf professionals through challenging them to go above and beyond what is necessary to run a successful golf operation. His mentoring has proven successful, as the family professional tree of Scott now includes 12 former assistants that are currently head golf professionals at other facilities. Scott also has 6 former assistants and PGA PGM interns who have moved on to become assistant professionals at prestigious facilities.

- 2. Please briefly describe the characteristics the nominee possesses relative to overall integrity and recognition as a person of outstanding character. How has the nominee furthered the values representative of the Association and the golf profession?**

The definition of integrity by author John Maxwell is that, "our words match our actions." Scott's adamancy to act in a manner which shows integrity and outstanding character is visible to everyone from members to employees. Members revel in the fact that their golf professional is the best of the best not only in running a successful operation, but doing it with all of the integrity of someone with an outstanding overall character. Scott's success mentoring assistants has shown success in advancing their careers, but each former assistant all possess the same qualities of integrity and reputable character. When hiring a new assistant, Scott is very honest that it will not be easy, but also makes it clear that his goal as their superior is to have them ready for the next level when the opportunity to advance comes. He will then take the time to follow through on his commitment and work towards that advancement. Scott's assistants are treated with respect and dignity and truly become part of his professional family.

The ability to care for others and their future well-being is how he defines himself as a person of integrity and outstanding character.

**3. Please briefly describe the nominee's level of service to the Section and to the Association.**

Scott has been involved in Section Committees in Southern Ohio, Carolina, and Kentucky. The type of operation that he is responsible for requires every bit of his time and effort. Louisville Country Club is very prestigious and expects to be the best of the best in every aspect of a successful golf club. Scott makes an exerted effort to provide to the Kentucky Section and The Professional Golf Association by producing very qualified and experienced golf professionals that will reflect the qualities and character called for by the Association.

**4. Please briefly describe the nominee's involvement in community and Association activities including civic and charitable activities.**

Scott remains very active with the athletic programs of his children. He has coached basketball and baseball, as well as implementing a golf club at his children's school.

**5. Please briefly describe the nominee's contributions to building the image of the game of golf, PGA Professionals and the Association.**

Scott works very diligently to build the image of all golf professionals by creating a desirable commodity for future employees through training all of his assistants in every aspect required to be a successful PGA Professional. He demands his assistants to act with honesty, integrity, and the utmost professionalism at all times, regardless of the situation. Scott is very prideful in his positive contributions to other's lives, whether it is mentoring an assistant to become a head golf professional or helping a child develop a love and enthusiasm for the great game of golf. Scott's contributions to the PGA continue to pave the way to longevity and a positive future to our Association.

**6. Please list any Section or National awards the nominee has received**

<b>Award</b>	<b>Year Received</b>	<b>Section</b>
Junior Golf Leader	2003	Kentucky
Merchandiser of the Year	2004, 2016	Kentucky
Bill Strausbaugh	2008, 2013	Kentucky
Golf Professional of Year	2012	Kentucky

### 2018 KPGA Bill Strausbaugh Award Nomination

Name of Nominee: Denny Thompson

Facility Name: University of Louisville Golf Club

Facility Address: 401 Champions Way, Simpsonville, KY 40067

Facility Phone Number: 502-852-7064

Nominee E-mail Address: [Denny@GoCards.com](mailto:Denny@GoCards.com)

1. I teach and promote to assistants and employees to treat people fairly and instill in each to have a great work ethic through hard work and commitment which will create a good work environment for all employees, members and their guests. When you create that type of atmosphere to work in, the 10-12-14 hour days pass along swiftly and then you look around and all of the sudden you have been in an organization like the PGA and those days have flown by.
2. I have stayed true to the profession in a professional manner and promote its values and growth through up and coming assistant professionals.
3. I have committed to 25 years plus promoting the game and its section activities.
4. I stay involved in advising and promoting events to help grow their success and profitability.
5. I continue to promote the good of the game and character it builds in individuals across all races, genders, etc. Golf knows no boundaries.
6. 2014 Quarter Century Award – Kentucky Section