

George Connor Named Connecticut Section PGA Teacher of the Year

ROCKY HILL, Conn. – George Connor, Director of Instruction at the [Academy of Golf at Gillette Ridge Golf Club](#) in Bloomfield, Conn. has been selected by the Connecticut Section PGA as the 2011 Teacher of the Year. This award was inaugurated in 1986 to honor outstanding teachers of golf whose selection is based on overall performance as a teacher, and unusual, innovative, and special programs the professional utilizes, as well as outstanding golfers the professional has instructed.

Connor has been a member of The PGA of America for 14 years, first starting his apprenticeship at Longmeadow Country Club. He later gained Class A Membership and became a PGA Assistant Professional there in 1997 moving to The Hartford Golf Club in 1998. In 2008, Connor was offered the Director of Instructor position at the newly formed, Academy of Golf at Gillette Ridge Golf Club and jumped at the chance to build something from the ground up.

“I am very proud of my position as it gave me the opportunity to start an academy and also the ability to form, market, and create a prosperous golf instruction operation.” Connor explains. “Despite the continued economic woes, the Academy’s revenue is up mostly due to a low cost marketing campaign, aggressive use of social media and the time tested ‘word of mouth.’”

Connor has achieved his PGA of America Teaching Certification, Titleist Performance Institute Level One certification, Level 2 K-Vest certification, and Connor is just one out of 63 Certified Aimpoint Technologies Instructors nationwide. Connor continues to develop as an instructor working with both a physical therapist group and a personal training company to better serve his students.

“It is rewarding and fun to work with someone recovering from physical challenges that in many cases would abandon the game without my help guiding them towards a way to continue, or in some cases, begin to play the game,” says Connor.

His philosophy states that the majority of golfers do not understand how the golf club determines where the ball will go and that 95% of golfers do not routinely swing a golf club. He believes that the hands and the arms are the great destroyer of golf swings and that the words ‘hard’ and ‘fast’ are opposite. Most of all, Connor believes that you must offer advice about causes rather than symptoms in the golf swing. Connor has previously been honored by the Section being named the 1998 Assistant Professional of the Year, 2000 Teacher of the Year, and the 2005 President’s Award recipient. Connor resides in Bolton with his wife, Tanya, and their children, Pablo, Dylan, Bailey, and Reagan.

Connor will be honored along with the other award winners at the MGM Grand at Foxwoods Resort Casino on Sunday, November 20, at the Special Awards Banquet that is sponsored by Club Car, with support from Foxwoods, Kirk & Matz, and Polo Ralph Lauren.