

GET TO KNOW THE PRO

AWARD – GOLF PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

RECIPIENT – VINCE PULIZZANO

EMPLOYER – WESTMOOR COUNTRY CLUB

ELECTED TO PGA MEMBERSHIP – 2005

Hometown – Skokie, IL

Current Residence – Brookfield, WI

College – Ferris State University

Accreditations

Certified PGA Professional – Golf Operations

Business to Business Marketing Certificate – Ferris State University

Awards & Honors

2012 Club of the Year (New Jersey)

2017 WPGA Private Merchandiser of the Year

2019 WPGA Professional Development Award

2020 WPGA Bill Strausbaugh Award

2022 WPGA Bill Strausbaugh Award

One noteworthy item that stood out from his award application - Was the driving force this past year in creating the “Future Leaders of Westmoor” group. This newly formed group of members was developed with the goal of helping prepare and produce the next crop of leaders for the Brookfield club. Pulizzano sees this as a key to the future success of the club.

Important past work experiences – I've been fortunate to work at incredible clubs for top notch golf professionals. Including Tom Wildenhaus at Olde Florida Golf Club in Florida, Jeff Mory at Conway Farms Golf Club in Illinois and Matt Freitag and Mike Adams at Hamilton Farm Golf Club in New Jersey. I've also been quite lucky to volunteer at The Ryder Cup, PGA Championship and Masters Tournament. These experiences have been valuable for my professional growth.

Best piece of advice I have been given – From Tom Wildenhaus, "There is always something to do and if there isn't, you better find something to do."

How were you introduced to the game of golf and where did you learn to play? – I started later in life. Tiger Woods won the 1997 Masters right around my 15th birthday. His victory propelled golf into a new realm and piqued the interest of non-golfers like me. I never really had the means for private instruction but participated in a few clinics conducted by Chris Pytell. Chris gave me the fundamentals and encouraged me to play as much golf as possible to learn the game. I started working at the Weber Park Par 3 course in my hometown of Skokie.

Biggest hope for the golf industry – I'm hopeful that the golf industry gets back to its roots. The heightened industry awareness has led to increased pressure for clubs and staff to perform at unrealistic levels. This is getting us farther and farther away from how the game should be enjoyed. Golf should be about enjoying your surroundings and your group. All of the other stuff doesn't really matter.

Favorite way to spend free time – Family and friends.

The best homecooked meal is – My wife is a tremendous cook. Her oven roasted potatoes are world class. Pair that with a bone in rib-eye and great wine... perfection.

Favorite place to hang out in Wisconsin – Our family of four will take one long weekend each summer and rent a cabin somewhere in Wisconsin. These cabins are my favorite places to hang out. Away from the hustle and bustle of summer at a Country Club enjoying campfires and quiet nights with my family.

What are you most looking forward to in 2023 - personally or professionally? – We have a lot on the horizon at Westmoor Country Club. In the spring of 2023, we will complete the first phase of a three-phase golf course master plan. In the fall, we will break ground on a major clubhouse renovation. The future is bright for Westmoor Country Club.

Comments or Thoughts – What does this award mean to you? “I am humbled and excited to be recognized by my peers as the 2023 Wisconsin PGA Golf Professional of the Year. Since moving to Wisconsin in 2014 I have made every effort to give back to the Section through education, mentoring and upholding the image of the PGA Professional. I take great pride in this award and look forward to celebrating this award with our current and former team members of Westmoor Country Club.”

