



### **Player Development Award; Paul Banks, Copper Hill Golf Club**

The Player Development Award recognizes a PGA Professional for extraordinary and exemplary contributions and achievements in the area of player development and considers

the PGA Professional's growth of the game leadership commitment and the impact made at the facility level through quantity, quality, and diversity of player development programs. This year's recipient, Paul Banks of Copper Hill Golf Club, was elected to PGA Membership in 1991 and began his career as an instructor at Grand Cypress Golf Academy in Orlando, then worked at the Golf Club Murhof in Austria for a few years before settling down at Copper Hill in 1994. Paul has redefined Player Development at Copper Hill Golf Club with the introduction of Foot Golf, and the inclusion of non-golf activities such as horseshoes, corn hole, and even volleyball. These activities draw non-golfers to the course and helps establish a level of comfort that entices them to try golf. His out of the box thinking has resulted in a ladies league, a senior league, a couples league, and tremendous growth in their junior golf program. Paul currently hosts the following programs at Copper Hill:

- 7 to 9 weeklong junior golf camps for age 9-16
- 5 three-week half day programs for ages 7-10
- 7 weekly programs for entry level players ages 5-14
- 2 Spring and 1 Summer PGA Junior League teams

Paul also hosts four High School golf teams who use Copper Hill as their home course while offering 7 adult enrichment classes through Windsor Adult Ed, East Granby, Granby, and Suffield Parks & Rec. Paul's commitment and continued efforts in player development earned him the 2018 Player Development Award.