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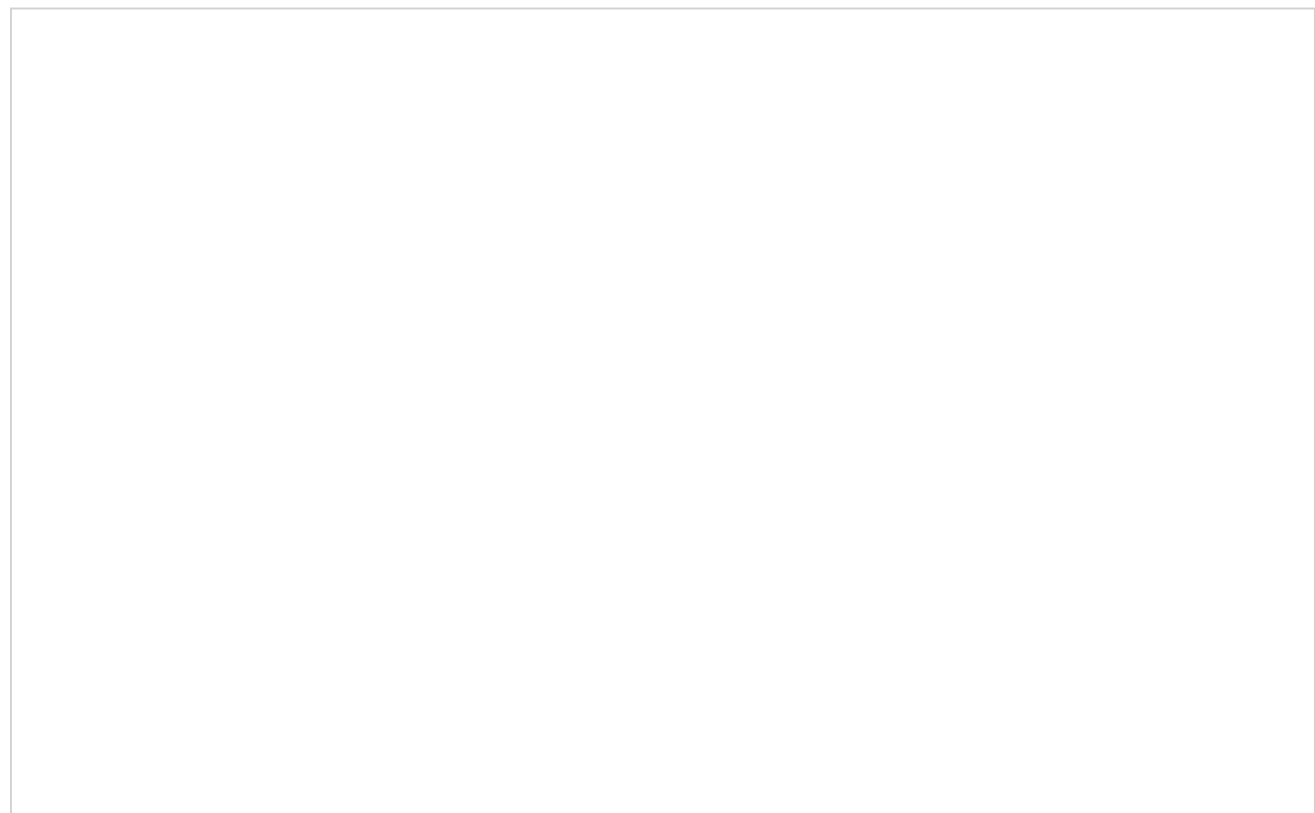


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November 4, 2021

Greystone's Mark Blackburn honored as PGA's 2020 teacher, coach of the year

By Gregg Dewalt, AGN Editor





It was a year in the making, but Alabama teaching professional **Mark Blackburn** of Greystone Golf and Country Club in Birmingham, finally was honored as the **PGA of America's 2020 Teacher and Coach of the Year**.

Blackburn was one of 12 honorees as the PGA of America opened its annual meeting Wednesday night in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The celebration of 12 honorees also included **PGA Golf Professional of the Year Ronny Glanton**, and the first **PGA Golf Executive of the Year, Dana Garmany**, was delayed by a year due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Among the other honorees was **Larry Dornisch**, a PGA member for 48 years and the director of golf at **Muirfield Golf Club** in Dublin, Ohio, who was presented with the **Bill Strausbaugh Award**, for exceptional character, integrity and leadership in teaching and mentoring other PGA Professionals. Also, PGA **Master Professional Jim McLean**, a member for 41 years, was awarded with the PGA Professional Development Award for his contributions to the education of PGA Professionals.

A newly minted U.S. citizen, Mark Blackburn honored for 2020 work

Mark Blackburn, a **Alabama-NW Florida PGA Section** (<https://alabamanwfloridapga.com/>) member and director of instruction at Greystone, was presented with the 2020 PGA Teacher & Coach of the Year Award for his outstanding services as a golf teacher, innovator and coach.

A native of England, Blackburn came to the United States in 1994 on a golf scholarship to the **University of Southern Mississippi**, where he was team captain. Blackburn received his U.S. citizenship in 2020.



(<https://franklinprimary.org/golf-tournament-2022/>)

Mark Blackburn has been a longtime fixture in Alabama and is a four-time Alabama-NW Florida Section Teacher of the Year. He also is a two-time Alabama-NW Florida Section Horton Smith Award* recipient (2011, 2018).

Blackburn founded **Blackburn Golf** in 2000, and continues to work with golfers of all levels, focusing on each student's unique movement patterns to develop an efficient and repeatable technique for their desired ball flight.

His Blackburn Golf Academy develops and coaches juniors, club golfers, elite amateurs, college and professional clients from around the world. Among the many PGA Tour golfers taught by Blackburn are **Chez Reavie, Kevin Chappell, Charley Hoffman, Mike Weir, Heath Slocum** and **Max Homa**.

"My big thing is my coaches and the coaches in my academy," Blackburn said. "I want to grow a tree of coaches who can lead and do things to leave a legacy to make golf better and make our coaches in the PGA of America even better."

After receiving their awards from PGA President Jim Richerson, the recipients were brought onstage for several town-hall style conversations with **Master of Ceremonies Dave Marr III**.