

John Hill –Joe E. Brown Award Recipient 2008 from PONY Baseball

We are proud to announce that John Hill recently received PONY Baseball's Joe E. Brown Award. This award is named for the first President of PONY Baseball, Inc. and recognizes those volunteers who have made significant contributions to their league and community over many years.

Over his 18-year association with Kempsville PONY Baseball, John served in every appointed position and in several executive board positions including Treasurer, Secretary, and VP for Mustang, Bronco, and Pony. He was the league's president for five years from 2000 through 2004. John put countless hours into the renovation of the concession stand operation, the organization of the equipment and uniform storage shed, and the maintenance of the baseball fields. When the league faced financial challenges in the early 1990s, John was one of a small group of volunteers who worked late night to early morning shifts at a Bingo hall to raise the funds needed to continue KPB's reputation for quality baseball operations. The funds raised enabled the re-lighting of KPB #1 and KPB #2, the renovation and expansion of the concession stand and meeting room building, and the construction of the enclosed batting cages at each field.

As the league's President, John started the girls' fast-pitch softball program that produced a number of tournament champion teams for several years. He implemented the league's coaching education program that is still in place today. He recognized the need to put funds aside for the eventual relocation of the KPB fields; the entire league and community will soon benefit from his foresight.

But John's most significant contribution over many years was his dedication and success as a baseball coach. John's knowledge of the game and his ability to teach it well made him one of those coaches you wanted your child to play for. His players were regularly the ones who went on to play for their middle school and high school teams. Last year, we were fortunate to have one of John's former players return to the league as a Pinto manager. That's a contribution that's tough to beat. Congratulations, John. Thanks for your hard work.



John Hill (left) receives the Joe E. Brown award from Frank Albero, KPB President