Old Tom Morris Award-winner, Ben Crenshaw, credits work of supers

MARK LESLIE

LAS VEGAS — Hailed as setting “a new standard” by which future Old Tom Morris Award winners will be judged, Ben Crenshaw here deferred praise to his mentors who were honoring him, his mentor who taught him the game, and the greats of the past and present. The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) presented Crenshaw the Old Tom Morris Award at its annual banquet during the International Golf Course Conference and Show. They cited his love of the game and the image he gives it.

About his good friend and mentor Harvey Penick: “I’ve been so lucky in my life to have been in contact with people in this game who are like Old Tom, a very simple man with simple needs... Harvey typified what Old Tom told people: Golf’s enduring qualities are endless and ageless. And we are lucky to have people today in golf who are the same way.”

About his course design work: “Our architectural business is so much fun. Old Tom would have had a twinkle in his eye if he had seen the Sand Hills property in Mullen, Neb.” At an earlier press conference he said of his design partner Bill Coore: “He’s an agronomist and has taught me so much about this field. In turn, I try to work on the playability of the...”

Harvey Penick: “I’ve been so lucky in my life - I’ve got my golf and my God to see me through... We have Old Tom to thank for the character of golf today.”

About past Old Tom Morris Award winners: “I’m amazed at the job you do it so well. And a lot of times you don’t get a fair shake... This [award] means the world to me.”

About Old Tom Morris, he said: “Old Tom preached and followed the way of his father at St. Andrews [which he maintained] it’s hard to imagine the hand of God did not touch that golf course. He took care of it, inexpensively, and left it alone.”

Happen to admire so many things about him. My memorabilia collecting has been truly architecture and Scottish. It starts in Old Tom. He spread the game with equipment, with balls and club-making. He’s my best friend and mentor who taught me...”

Ben Crenshaw

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McNitt, Milett, Wetzel and Green picked for Watson Fellowships

LAS VEGAS — The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has selected four researchers and educators as the 1996 recipients of The GCSAA Watson Fellowships.

Each winner received a $5,000 award and an all-expense-paid trip to GCSAA’s 68th International Golf Course Conference and Show held here Feb. 6-12.

The selection committee consists of Watson, chair, and representatives of The Toro Company, The GCSAA Scholarship Committee and university professors.

Andrew S. McNitt, Ph.D., candidate in agronomy-turfgrass science at Pennsylvania State University

Steven M. Milett, Ph.D., candidate in turfgrass pathology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

Henry C. Wetzel III, Ph.D., candidate in plant pathology at Kansas State University

David E. Green II, Ph.D., candidate in plant pathology at the University of Georgia

The GCSAA Watson Fellowship program is offered by the GCSAA Foundation and is sponsored by The Toro Company in honor of James Watson, Ph.D., a pioneer in the field of turfgrass research. The selection committee consists of Watson, chair, and representatives of The Toro Company, The GCSAA Scholarship Committee and university professors.