GALA GALORE!

Great Time Had By All At MGCSA's 75th Anniversary Banquet
At Golden Valley Country Club on December 3rd

From the valet service to the closing presentation of a floral gift of appreciation, the 75th Anniversary Banquet and Awards Presentation was spectacular. Over 215 guests attended this celebration on December 3rd at the newly constructed Golden Valley Country Club. Complete with passed appetizers and the music of the Bob Deichert Band, the evening was one to be remembered. Honored guests arrived in luxury – chauffeured limousine service.

"The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association is a classy outfit," according to Dr. Philip Larsen, Senior Associate Dean of Research at the University of Minnesota College of Agriculture. All involved in the happy event concurred with his assessment. Besides merriment, the evening provided the opportunity for the presentation of a historical review and of several awards.

Jack Kolb gave a wonderful invocation preceding the evening meal that consisted of Caesar salads followed by an entrée of a duet of beef tenderloin and chicken breast. Complementing the dinner was a desert of chocolate cake drizzled with a raspberry glaze. The presentation could not have been finer.

During the dessert course, MGCSA President Rick Fredericksen, CGCS, reviewed superintendent history through the last three quarters of a century. Following his dialogue, Dr. Brian Horgan presented the first honored guest of the event, Andrew Carlson, the recipient of the MGCSA Turf Scholarship.

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Andrew is working towards his four-year degree in environmental horticulture with an emphasis on turf management at the University of Minnesota. At the University he was described by Professor White as “a talented, intelligent conscientious student, has been an excellent president of the school’s Student Chapter and is looked to for leadership by other turf students.

The 2002 Distinguished Service Award was presented to James J. Nicol, CGCS, an active association member since 1982 and MGCSA president in 1998. Nicol was honored for “his outstanding contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendents’ profession.”

Nicol, superintendent at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska where he was cited for the manner in which he and his staff prepared for, then maintained their course for the 2002 PGA Championship, also has been a 22-year member of the Golf Course Superintendents’ Association and has served on several committees on the national level.

Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Dr. Donald White, an agronomy professor at the University of Minnesota, who plans to scale down his workload a bit, and Dr. James Watson, vice president at The Toro Company and a frequent lecturer at national and international turfgrass conferences.

They were described by Fredericksen as a “well-deserved pair who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of our profession.”