

Steve Garske Receives MGCSA Distinguished Service Award

By JOE MORIS
MGCSA Retired Member

Why is the MGCSA giving this award to Steve?

My first thought was that he is a great supporter of the Scholarship Program. I thought I would have a very short interview with him but I should have known better. I learned a great deal more about this man that I'd like to share with you.

The Board of Directors was given the task by President Panuska to come up with a list of members that have met the criteria to be honored with the Distinguished Service Award.

Once Steve's name was mentioned it was his, hands down. And not just for his contribution and support of scholarships. Par Aide's many great products, under the leadership of Steve, have made the life of a golf course superintendent a lot easier.

The course accessory business started for Steve in 1986 after his father's death. Steve had to make a decision: give up a very successful commercial real estate business in Denver, let the family business end, or come home and run it. Well, run it he has.

From 1960 to 1990 the small 10,000 square foot shop on Pascal Avenue in St. Paul was home. The year 1990 brought about big changes with the move to a more than double the size 23,000 square foot building in Vadnais Heights. This facility was outgrown in 10 years and

Lino Lakes became the current location for his 45,000 square foot building. The employee head count has also grown from 10 in 1986 to 33 today.

Enough about the great Par Aide business, what else is Steve doing with his life? He has many interests and passions, among them Board Director for the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce; Little Canada Planning Commission; serving his second 3-year-term on the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce; founding member of Wishes and More; Soup It Up Board



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Member in the Roseville Area; MGCSA Scholarship Chair; MGCSA Affiliate Board Director in 1992-1993; GCSAA Industrial Advisory Council; active in MGCSA Hockey; charter and very active member of the ESSA; attended every GCSAA Show from 1971 to present. By the way, that "mint" giveaway program has now reached four thousand pounds (2 tons).

Steve took the GCSAA Hospitality Night to a new level. For six years he set up this great event. He acquired another

business in 1999 - Team Powder Coating. This is the reason you see the high quality painting on Par Aide products.

His interests are many and varied but his love for Porsches leads them all - he now has acquired enough to fill a 1,400 square foot garage (clubhouse).

Having fun is a huge part of Steve's life and he brings this level of fun to the workplace as well. If you know Steve, I am sure you will agree. He has also been very willing to help superintendents out with work at Par Aide if they have found themselves between jobs.

Steve, my sincere congratulations and appreciation to you for everything you have done for the MGCSA, the GCSAA, the scholarship recipients, and the world in general. I am honored to be your friend.

MGCSA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 2006 @ 1:00 P.M.

ROOM L100 DEFG ~ MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER