

## Mark Your Calendars!

# MGCSA Announces Appreciation and Recognition Banquet to be Held December 7 At The Wilds Golf Club

The Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association announces an Appreciation and Recognition Banquet to be held December 7 at The Wilds Golf Club in Prior Lake. The event will be similar to the 75th Anniversary Gala in 2002 at Golden Valley CC.

The evening will bring recognition to MGCSA members including this year's Distinguished Service Award recipient Steve Garske, Par Aide Products Co., and Scholarship Award winner Aaron Johnsen, University of Minnesota.



Steve Garske was chosen as the 2005 Distinguished Service Award recipient for his outstanding contributions helping the advancement of the golf course superintendents' profession. Besides the Par Aide products his company supplies to the golfing world, Steve also sponsors a Legacy Scholarship in his

father's name. This scholarship has been awarded to MGCSA members' children since 1996.

Aaron Johnsen was awarded his scholarship in June but will also be recognized at this banquet.

A 45-year service award will be presented to G. M. Jerry Murphy, CGCS.

35-year service awards will be presented to George Jennrich, John Sniker and David Zimmer.

30-year service awards will be presented to Randy Allen; Joe Check; Tom Fischer, CGCS; John Granholt; Scott Hoffmann, CGCS, and John Wiley.

25-year service awards will be presented to the following members for 25 years of service to the MGCSA: Walt Braunig, Jr.; Richard E. Carr; Tim Commers; William S. Cox; Allan Fitz; Cary Femrite; John Ganske; James Gardner, CGCS; Michael Hoffman; Kurt Johnson; Tom McCann; Robert McKinney, CGCS; Marlin Murphy; Duane Slaughter, and Greg Spencer.

Other awards to be presented at the banquet include the Watson Award and the President's Award. The Watson Award is given to a member for journalistic efforts by writing an article for *Hole Notes*. Rob Panuska will present the President's Award to an individual who has dedicated his life serving the landscape and turf industries in Minnesota.

Invitations will be mailed the first week of November. Cost will be less than \$50 per person. Please mark your calendars for December 7. All members are encouraged to attend this social event with peers in the turf industry.

## Topic of the Month:

# Bunker Sand

(Editor's Note: This month's topic is about bunkers. Member Superintendents were asked the following questions via email: How old is the sand in your bunkers? What are your maintenance practices? Are your bunkers perceived as too soft, too firm or just right? What is the predominant sand inside your bunkers?)

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At Oneida Golf and Country Club, we went through a bunker renovation project in the fall of 2003. We installed new drainage and new sand in all 53 bunkers. We did not use any bunker liners. We rake the bottoms daily and the pull edges three times a week. The first year they were too soft, this year they are much better and it has been two months since we heard any complaints of the dreaded "fried egg." We are using Northface Bunker sand from Waupaca Sand and Gravel, which meets the industry guidelines for size and shape. We mechanically edge the bunkers two times a year, once in May and once in August.

- Mark Storby, Superintendent  
Oneida Golf and Country Club  
Green Bay, Wis.

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North Oaks went through a bunker rebuilding program 13 years ago. Using specifications available at the time we constructed sand hazards that are too deep according to today's standards. The brown masonry sand is too soft and inconsistent according to the members. They are spot-raked daily and total-raked about twice each week. A light edging is performed every week as well.

- Jack MacKenzie, CGCS  
North Oaks Golf Club  
North Oaks, Minn.

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Forest Hills did a complete bunker renovation project in the fall of 2000. The steep greens side faces were softened, they were made shallower and contoured with some fingers added and new drainage in all of them. Plaisted's "regular" bunker sand was used 4-6 inches deep. An idea that worked for me: I split my driving range bunker into three sections and put three different types of sand in them, let the members try them and decide (knowing the price also). We experience much less washout problems. We rake them mechanically 2-3 times a week, hand rake other days. Members still thought

they were soft...until this year with the new irrigation system. I have dual heads around the greens and make sure all bunkers get coverage so I can keep them moist and have heard no complaints. (Or maybe they didn't bitch about them because my greens sucked so bad!)

- Marlow Hanson  
Forest Hills Golf Course  
Forest Lake, Minn.

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The bunkers at the Benson Golf Club were redone approximately eight years ago. The sand is a straight mason sand and is too soft and buried balls happen often. The bunkers are too deep and will hopefully be fixed this year or next. We groom them 2-3 times a week.

- Sally Berens, Superintendent  
Benson Golf Club  
Benson, Minn.

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Dacotah Ridge Golf Club was opened in 2000. Construction methods were the use of draitile and the 4-6 inches of light brown mason sand was directly placed on the subgrade which varies from clay to gravelly type soil. When subjected to heavy rains the bunkers are prone to washing down from the faces as the bunkering is sculpted. Contamination from the subgrade has been a problem as drainage is being slowed as the fines over time have mixed in. Another big issue we face is the wind. Just keeping the sand in the bunkers is a challenge. On a windy day, which is often out here, the sand can be wiped out right down to the subgrade. On these days we run irrigation to try to wet things down, and I have installed irrigation with the sole purpose of wetting the sand to keep it in place. Overall playability is still very good. We touch up pretty much daily and do a complete raking twice a week.

- Michael Nelson, CGCS  
Dacotah Ridge Golf Club  
Morton, Minn.

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At Tartan Park, our bunkers vary in age from 20-40 years old. Masonry sand was used in all of them. They are groomed about twice a week. Our bunkers are perceived to be too soft and inconsistent. Some hand edging is done but most edging is accomplished chemically.

- Randy Allen  
Tartan Park Golf Course  
St. Paul, Minn.