

## *Distance-Measuring Devices Allowed Through Local Rule*

Effective January 1, 2006, the use of distance-measuring devices during a stipulated round will be allowed through the implementation of a Local Rule. Decision 14-3/0.5 allows the committee to establish a Local Rule permitting players to use devices that measure distance only. Since the announcement of this new decision, the USGA clarified its tournament policy going forward and announced it will not adopt the new Local Rule at USGA championships and qualifying rounds in 2006.

Given the interest surrounding the use of distance-measuring devices and the new Local Rule, the MGA felt it important to state its position on the adoption of Decision 14-3/0.5. On December 15, 2005, the MGA Executive Committee voted unanimously to follow the USGA's tournament policy and will not permit the use of distance-measuring devices in MGA championships and qualifiers for 2006. The MGA will review the matter annually.

\* \* \* \* \*

(Editor's Note: Questions regarding application of this Local Rule at your club or for specific events should be referred to Doug Hoffmann, MGA Tournament Director, at 952-345-3963 or [doug@mngolf.org](mailto:doug@mngolf.org).)

## *Watson Award Winner Michael Sonnek*



Michael Sonnek, right, Assistant Superintendent at Spring Hill Golf Club, Orono, Minn., was the recipient of the 2005 Watson Award. This award is presented annually to a member who took time to write an article for the association's *Hole Notes* publication. His article, entitled "Beach Party at Spring Hill," was an informative article about bunker restoration at Spring Hill. Tim Johnson, Superintendent at Spring Hill, helped with the article's facts and figures while Michael related the human interest side of the project. Pictured on the left with Michael is *Hole Notes* editor Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, North Oaks Golf Club.

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