

Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, Receives 2010 MGCSA Distinguished Service Award at Annual Banquet

By DAVID OBERLE
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On Wednesday, December 8, following a sumptuous dinner at the Southview Country Club, I had the pleasure of presenting Jack MacKenzie, Certified Golf Course Superintendent at North Oaks Golf Club, to receive the MGCSA's most prestigious honor; the Distinguished Service Award. The DSA is presented to an individual who has made an outstanding or significant contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession. This contribution will be made over a significant period of time and may be on-going.

Indeed Jack has been very busy over the last decade promoting his industry. As Paul Diegnau CGCS and President of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association stated, "Jack has always reminded me of the Energizer bunny. He seems to have a limitless amount of energy and I envy that! The most positive-minded individual I have ever met, without doubt, Jack has the greatest outlook on life and I find that when you spend time with him, his attitude and enthusiasm are contagious. He is a gifted writer and gives willingly of his time and talent to the MGCSA as editor and contributor to the association's Hole Notes magazine. He is the one that took this publication to the next level and beyond, winning national awards for chapter newsletters. His columns also appear nationally in *Turfnet Magazine*. It seems that a year doesn't go by that you see at least one article (often times many articles) in a national publication devoted to Jack and his golf course operation or to a cause or topic that he feels is relevant in the industry. Jack is a visionary, an outside-the-box thinker and an idea guy. I really don't think he ever sleeps. The wheels are always turning. He is always looking at ways to improve our association and show the value of our industry as a whole."

MacKenzie has been in the business for over 34 years, the last 26 as Superintendent at North Oaks Golf Club. Beyond his work as a superior Turfgrass manager, Jack has made major contributions with several state 'green industry' associations, including the Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association, the Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation,



THE MACKENZIE FAMILY

Jack MacKenzie CGCS (center) shares a proud moment with his family after receiving the MGCSA Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Awards and Recognition Banquet. Pictured to his left are his mom Barb and wife Kim, and to his right, daughter Madeline and his dad Keith.

the Minnesota Golf Association as well as the MGCSA.

While on the MGCSA's Public Relations and Editorial Committees he initiated the MGCSA Golf Ambassador program which picks a local celebrity to embrace and promote the MGCSA. He spearheaded MGCSA's involvement in MGA Golf Expo. Ever the industry booster boy, Jack has been on local radio and television presenting golf maintenance in a positive light.

The MGCSA's Hole Notes magazine has dramatically improved since Jack became Editorial Chair. *Hole Notes* turned into a full-color magazine with improved and timely content. These improvements resulted in three national awards from GCSAA. Along with his standard 'In Bounds' article in *Hole Notes*, Jack has had articles published in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, *Minnesota Golfer*, *Golf Course Management*, *SuperNews*, *TurfNet*, *Golfdom* and *North Oaks News*.

Jack joined the Minnesota Turf Grounds Foundation (MTGF) Board of Directors as MGCSA Representative in

2006. He served as Vice President in 2006-2007 and as MTGF President in 2008-2009 and currently serves as Ex-Officio. "Jack is an outside of the box thinker and I have always appreciated his broader view of the green industry as member of the MTGF Board of Directors," said Shawn Bernick, current President of the MTGF.

Through the years, Jack has worked closely with the MGA as MGCSA/MGA Liaison and served on the MGA Economic Impact Study Committee and the Warren Rebholz Award Selection Committee.

Jack's influence goes beyond the golf business. As a member of the Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association, serves on MNLA's Government Affairs Committee and is an active "Day on the Hill" participant. He has Chaired the Minnesota Turfgrass Government Affairs Committee, testified before the Minnesota Department of Labor on behalf of MGCSA, and currently attends many Senate Committee hearings on water use.

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Besides working with Dr. White and Dr. McDonald at the University of Minnesota over many years, Jack also is a volunteer and booster of the UM TROE Center and continually supports the UM Turf Club. Jack's industry participation includes the Toro Professionals Club, BASF Turf Council and is a Bayer Science Purple Cow Award recipient. And finally, Jack was the original creator of the world famous Green & White markers marketed through Par Aide Products Company.

"Jack's willingness to serve the turfgrass industry transcends the borders of North Oaks. He is a regular columnist for TurfNet; has served on every major board relating to turf in Minnesota; takes extra time from his family to educate legislators on golf and the role golf courses play in an urban environment; he is willing to serve as a mentor to undergraduate students at the University of Minnesota; he coaches young industry professionals on campus and in the field; he enlightens us as editor and columnist for the award winning *Hole Notes*; and Jack always sees the best in every individual," according to Dr. Brian Horgan, Turfgrass extension Specialist at the University of Minnesota.

Deserving of the esteemed DSA award? You bet! MacKenzie should be celebrated for his dedication to the industry...the whole green industry. Dynamic and influential Jack has assured me that he will continue to positively represent the MGCSA going forward in his next big project. As Co-chair of the Minnesota Turfgrass Government Affairs Committee he is currently working on a BMP for water management to help guide the MGCSA in an ever more regulated environment.

It was a fine evening and I appreciated being a part of its success. The standing ovation Jack received at the conclusion of the program summed up the whole evening; impressive, very impressive.

Brian Horgan, Ph.D. Honored With MGCSA President's Award

The MGCSA President's Award was awarded to Brian Horgan, Ph.D., University of Minnesota. This award is not presented every year. MGCSA President Paul Diegnau CGCS, Keller Golf Course, and the Board of Directors felt Dr. Horgan, a world renowned turf ambassador, deserved this recognition for his

development of the Turf Research Education and Outreach Center at the University of Minnesota as well as the extensive turf research he's done for the MGCSA for many years. Horgan is currently working on Legislative mandated studies directed at nutrient fate in the environment. (See article on Page 16 of this issue.)

Superintendent Vincent Dodge and the Wilderness at Fortune Bay Presented MGCSA Environmental Award

The MGCSA Environmental Leader Award was awarded to Vincent Dodge and The Wilderness at Fortune Bay, Tower, MN. (See article on Page 5 of this issue.) This award recognizes a member who does his/her very best to exemplify and educate to others our efforts in environmental stewardship. The Wilderness is a preeminent example of how a developer can partner with a diverse group of environmentally interested parties to create a wonderful destination for golf and wildlife alike.

Aaron Johnsen Wins MGCSA Watson Award for Writing

The MGCSA Watson Award winner for 2010 is Aaron Johnsen, Winfield Solution. The Watson Award is presented to a member of the association for writing contributions to the association's monthly magazine *Hole Notes*. Aaron submitted three timely articles this past summer.

50-Year Member Jerry Murphy, CGCS, Along With 28 Others Presented MGCSA Service Awards

Twenty-nine MGCSA members were presented Service Awards. Most notably, was 50-year member Jerry Murphy CGCS. Prior to retiring Mr. Murphy was the long time Superintendent at Somerset Country Club in West Saint Paul.

The MGCSA, a member chapter of the



The Bades and Murphys: From the left, Stephanie Bade, James Bade, Jerry Murphy CGCS, and Marilyn Murphy.



VINCENT DODGE
MGCSA Environmental Award Recipient



AARON JOHNSEN
MGCSA Watson Award Recipient

Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America, was established in 1927 to advance the art and science of golf course management, to collect and disseminate practical solutions to problems with a view to more efficient and economical maintenance and production of golf courses, and to promote the welfare of the Superintendent and the profession.