

# Tom Prosheck: DSA 2011

*By Rob Adams, Superintendent of The Ponds At Battle Creek Golf Course*

Tom Proshek is the 2011 recipient of the 2011 Distinguished Service Award.

At this year's MGCSA Recognition banquet Superintendent Tom Proshek was given the Distinguished Service Award for his many years of service on the MGCSA Board and committees. He served on the scholarship and research committees for a total of six years and then was eager to run for a board position. Tom served as the arrangements chair for five years bringing us many great venues for MGCSA golfing events and introducing the popular October Shootout at The Horse and Hunt Club.

If you haven't gone yet it really is a blast. Tom also has been a key supporter and contributor to the planning and implementation of the Wee One Foundation Tournament, held at North Oaks the previous two years. He and Brackett's Crossing, the club where Tom is superintendent, have hosted many meetings and events throughout his membership in the MGCSA. Tom is also the main organizer for the Southern Superintendents meetings that are held in the winter months. His time and effort are greatly appreciated by the MGCSA. Thank you

for your continued support and congratulations on receiving the Distinguished Service award. It is much deserved.

Now that the formal introduction is done, who is this guy?

Tom is the Superintendent at Brackett's Crossing Country Club in Lakeville Minnesota. He has been the superintendent at Brackett's since 1995. His start in the industry began back at New Prague Golf Club where he lived just up the street from the course. As a youngster he emptied garbage cans and peeled corn for the men's league. His talent and drive at these tasks was quickly recognized and he was promoted to the pro shop staff where he earned the coveted title of "Cart Boy". At age 16, looking for more

of a challenge, he took the leap and was hired on the maintenance staff and thus began his storied career in the industry, but it took some time to make that permanent.

Tom was a pretty good athlete in High School where he played golf, basketball and football. His abilities on the gridiron lead him to the University of St Thomas where he

was able to be the backup quarterback/tackling dummy. Not seeing a future as a professional athlete he majored in Human Resources but continued working summers at the golf course as a plan B. Upon graduation from college he worked as a manager for three years at a printing



# Distinguished Indeed!!!

company but never lost the bug to be outdoors working on the golf course. When the ink fumes finally got to him, he knew he had to make the move to something that he really enjoyed, working on the golf course. He enrolled at Anoka Hennepin Technical College majoring in Golf Course Management. Before he even graduated he was hired at Wildflower Golf Course in Detroit Lakes. The course was just being built, so his first experience as a superintendent was growing in a new course. He found it very challenging, and a great learning experience. Tom worked for three years establishing the course, and delivering tournament-like conditions. In 1995, wanting to be closer to his family and the twin cities area, he was hired as the Superintendent at Brackett's Crossing.

Tom was hired by Tom and Peggy Smith after they had purchased the course in 1993. Under their guidance and vision for the golf course Tom was able to really expand his knowledge and experience as a Golf Course Superintendent. He has tackled numerous renovation projects including drainage, irrigation installation, green and tee construction and an aggressive planting plan. He has added numerous gardens and native areas to the course, and watched the course grow into an outstanding facility. Tom wanted me to be sure to thank the owners, Tom and Peggy, as well as the General Manager, Steve Allen, and pro shop staff for all their support over the years. It has been his pleasure to be part of a great place.

When Tom is not at the golf course or on his cell phone he still plays a little golf. Not as much as when he was young, when he played

27-54 holes a day. He enjoys extreme sports like curling, bowling and watching NASCAR. Tom is an avid Twins and Gopher Hockey Fan and still gets back to the University of St Thomas to relive his glory days while running the scoreboard for the hockey team. He is somewhat of a motor head, and enjoys riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle or 1955 Ford pickup. He does know how to check the oil and tires on both of them.

After many years as a bachelor, he finally met a lady that could handle the Clint Eastwood pictures in his house enough for a second date, and they were married 12 years ago. The pictures have since been moved to the garage. His wife Sandy has a beautiful daughter, Melina, and Tom has taken over some of the car pooling duties to school, soccer games and other screaming young girl events. He is currently working with Melina teaching her how to drive because she just turned 16, and passed her driver's license test. He really does enjoy the family life, and is still very close with his two older brothers and younger sister. His brothers still come and work for him on weekends.

Well, that is probably more than you ever wanted to know about Tom Proshek. He is a good friend, and it was a great learning experience and a lot of fun working for him for almost nine years. He is pretty modest and doesn't really stand out in a crowd. He is pretty short, but the people that know him really appreciate his friendship and honesty. He is a great supporter of the MGCSA and a deserving recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Thank you, Tom. Your service and support it is really appreciated.

Rob Adams