sensitive areas and how we are taking measures to protect these areas.

Most recently we invited an official from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to evaluate our habitat enhancement activities. Not only did this visit give us some insight as to where we could do a better job with wildlife habitat enhancement but it involved other environmental entities in our efforts here and helps to spread the word about the many positive things we do to help the environment.

Making the public aware of our efforts as superintendents is perhaps one of the most important parts of environmental stewardship but is often one of the most difficult for many to perform. The one thing that I have learned is that public outreach, once you get started, actually becomes one of the easiest tasks to perform. The public wants to hear about the many good things that we are doing and are receptive to good news.

I would like to conclude with a final thought in regards to environmental stewardship and its relationship with the golf course industry. My belief is that most golf courses are doing the "right" things in regards to being a positive force for the environment—I think that many of the practices described above are followed by many of us in the profession.

In fact, I am sure there are those that do even more. What I think is most important is that we as superintendents make efforts to actually make people aware of the positive things that we are doing. Doing so will help us to overcome some of the false presumptions concerning golf courses that some in the public still prescribe to and help to ensure the vitality of the profession in the future. Staying silent is not the solution to trying to change public perception—becoming proactive with the public is.
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Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, Receives 2010 MGCSA Distinguished Service Award at Annual Banquet

By DAVID OBERLE
Excel Turf & Ornamental

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 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.

(Continued on Page 15)
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 Turf Net; 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.)
If you are a turfgrass professional working in Minnesota, what thoughts or words pop into your head when you hear the name Dr. Brian Horgan? I see words like visionary, energetic, well-respected, idea guy, optimistic, intelligent, passionate, confident, and the list goes on and on. Let's just say the gods of fortune were smiling on the Minnesota Turfgrass Industry back in 2001 when the University of Minnesota brought him on board.

After completing his PhD work at the University of Illinois under the tutelage of Dr. Bruce Branham, he joined the University of Minnesota faculty. Dr. Horgan is currently an Associate Professor at the University of Minnesota and holds the title of Turfgrass Extension Specialist. His research interests revolve around nutrient fate and turfgrass water conservation. Specifically, he is interested in improving nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizer recommendations and gaining a better understanding of the fate of phosphorus in our environment. Dr Horgan has spent the last five years researching turfgrass water conservation strategies utilizing new technologies, ET predictors and proper plant selection. He, along with Dr. Eric Watkins, conducts NTEP trials and works with alternative low-input turfgrass species.

When the Minnesota legislature decided that our state should be the first in the nation to ban phosphorous fertilizer, Dr. Horgan, along with several members of MGCSA, stepped forward to work with the politicians. The end result was a golf course exemption clause in lieu of completing a training and certification program for golf course personnel. This certification program was designed and taught by Dr. Horgan. Because of this successful collaboration, Brian and the MGCSA received a rare recognition award from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Brian was the impetus behind the creation and development of TROE Center (Turfgrass Research, Outreach and Education) research facility on the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus. The creation of this research complex in 2003 put Minnesota Turfgrass research on the map. It is here that most of the research studies are conducted and where an annual Field Day is held to expose industry stakeholders to research in progress.

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He was instrumental in creating a one-week academic course called the School of Turfgrass Management in collaboration with faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The course rotates annually between Madison and St. Paul and is well attended by assistants, grounds staff and anyone looking for a solid background in basic Turfgrass management. When you talk to students that were taught, mentored, or advised by Brian, a common theme emerges. He is highly respected and held in high regard.

Because of the value of this cutting-edge research to day-to-day golf course operations, Brian is highly sought after for speaking engagements. Since joining the University of Minnesota faculty ten years ago, Brian has earned a reputation that is in high demand at educational gatherings around the world. He has presented across the USA, in Canada, Europe, Asia, Australia and South America. His cutting-edge research combined with his engaging, easy-going, thought-provoking teaching style keeps him very busy on the speaking circuit. When you attend a seminar taught by Brian, his passion and excitement for his work shines through. He genuinely loves what he does. He is truly global and we here in Minnesota could not ask for a better representative.

Consequently, as President of MGCSA, I am proud to recognize the incredible contributions made by Dr. Horgan in these short ten years. Rarely does an individual impact an industry to this level in such a short time period. It became evident that Dr. Horgan would be the perfect recipient for the MGCSA Presidents’ Award (last presented in 2005). Therefore, in December 2010, at the annual MGCSA Awards Banquet, I had the honor of presenting the MGCSA President’s Award to Dr. Brian Horgan in recognition of his vision, dedication and outstanding contributions to the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents’ profession and to the Minnesota Turfgrass Industry. Moreover, on top of all this, he has a rather impressive golf game. Dr. Brian Horgan truly is a Minnesota wonder.
John Kennedy, Kennedy Consulting

John Kennedy was a former speaker for the American Nursery and Landscape Association and is our featured speaker this year.

Throughout North America, Europe and Australia, John Kennedy has delivered keynote speeches and workshops that have empowered tens of thousands of audience members to "SHAKE IT UP!" Currently, John develops and delivers consulting and strategic planning to countless businesses and associations. John is the co-author of "Fantastic Customer Service...Inside and Out!" and has a popular collection of audio recordings called "EmPower Tools." John's new book, "Management That Cooks," is also now available. John will focus on strategies, systems, and steps that are essential to surviving tough times and preparing for the opportunities that will follow.

RSVP

Please RSVP to Gertens. Owners will get a complimentary entrance pass. Register three paid participants and get the fourth free! Catered breakfast and lunch will be provided at the show.
March Mega-Seminar  
Set March 9-10  
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Day One will focus on agronomics; soil and water testing, foliar nutrient feeding and poa annua control.

Day Two will tackle the new technologies that are being utilized in our industry all the time, covering new data collection tools to social networking to useful smart phone applications.

There is something for all levels to improve their skills as a golf course Superintendent and, who knows, perhaps learn about a new tool for the back of your carts! We have brought some of the best from around the country to your back door.

More information can be found at www.mgcsa.org.

Bob Simondet Joins Reinders As Territory Manager in Minnesota

Reinders is proud to announce that Bob Simondet will join Reinders, Inc. as a Territory Manager in the Minnesota golf market. “Bob brings over 22 years of sales experience to our organization and we are excited about adding his professional talents.” said Dale Parske, Reinders, Inc. Western Regional Manager.

Bob may be reached at 612-578-9476 or bsimondet@reinders.com. More information can be found at www.reinders.com.

PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE MGCSA
Back to front, left to right: Greg Hubbard CGCS, Kerry Glader, Scott Hoffmann CGCS, Tom Fischer CGCS, Kevin Clunis CGCS, Rick Traver CGCS, James Bade, Keith Scott CGCS, Paul Eckholm CGCS, Dennis Hendrickson, Bill Johnson. Fred Taylor CGCS, Larry Vetter, Jim Nicol CGCS, Paul Diegnau CGCS and Jerry Murphy CGCS.

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FOR SALE
Tow behind 300 gallon sprayer with boom, stainless steel tank, piston pump, foamer. $1000/obo Contact: Daniel Hanson St Cloud Country Club 320-230-3351

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MPSA/MSTMA Merge To Form Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association

Two allied associations of the MGCSA are merging. As we all deal with shrinking budgets, less staff and more demands on our time, we are faced with difficult decisions and new challenges. With that in mind, members from both the Minnesota Sports Turf Managers Association (MSTMA) and the Minnesota Park Supervisors Association (MPSA) Board of Directors held a series of meetings to merge the organizations together.

The new association is the Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association (MPSTMA).

The two organizations have been running a parallel course and it was felt that now is the time to merge. The belief is that this will be a win-win situation for everyone involved.

The general feeling is to incorporate the traditional activities that each organization has enjoyed in the past. This will lead to more opportunity for education, networking and more access to conferences, schools and workshops.

To learn more about MPSTMA, visit www.mpstma.org.

ABOUT THE MTGF

You, as a member of the MGCSA, are also a member of the MTGF.

The Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation (MTGF) is a non-profit organization that was formed in 1993. It is a partnership of seven Minnesota turf and grounds related associations and the University of Minnesota.

They are: Minnesota Association of Cemeteries; Minnesota Educational Facilities Management Professionals; Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association; Minnesota Park and Sports Turf Managers Association; Minnesota Turf Association; Minnesota Society of Arboriculture; Minnesota Turf Seed Council.

The mission of the MTGF is to promote the green industries in Minnesota through support of research, education and outreach at the University of Minnesota and elsewhere.