

# PEOPLE OF THE YEAR

These golf industry members made a difference in 2000

*Editor's note: There's a good chance you've never heard of some of these people, so it's our honor to introduce them to you. They made outstanding and worthwhile contributions to their profession. For that, we salute them.*

**BY GOLFDOM STAFF**



## JOHN SZKLINSKI

The superintendent at Southern Hills CC in Tulsa, Okla., has endured vandalism and a maintenance facility fire while gearing up for the U.S. Open in June. Vandals damaged eight greens on Southern Hills' championship course in the summer of 1999. Last February, the maintenance facility burned. Szklinski, who joined the club two years ago, also had to deal this year with one of

the hottest and driest summers in the city's history. However, he has rolled with the punches in preparation for the 2001 tournament. "We've persevered through a lot," he says.



## RICK JACOBSON AND CHRIS COCHRAN

These up-and-coming architects quietly finished one of the late Bruce Borland's design projects, Coyote Creek GC, near Peoria, Ill., Borland's hometown. The two designers also made sure the \$50,000 fee for the project was donated to a Florida church that Borland had designated as recipient for the

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money before his death. They're truly two of the good guys.

### FRED SLAGLE

The Ohio golf course architect and owner is on a mission to get more kids playing and experiencing golf. Last summer, Slagle opened his Little Thunder GC in Madison (near Cleveland), a scaled-down, 18-hole course with bunkers, ponds and other components that characterize full-size tracks. Slagle says children need more kid-size courses, not 7,000 yards of intimidation.

### DENNIS WATKINS

The superintendent at Lords Valley CC in Newfoundland, Pa., deserves recognition for his work in devising a gray leaf spot model that has helped the Skybit weather service gain accolades for its accuracy in diagnosing the disease. East Coast superintendents give Watkins credit for saving much of their turf from an outbreak of the disease that had devastated courses as recently as two years ago.

### RAY DAVIES

The CGCS at Crystal Springs GC in Burlingame, Calif., helped spur interest in and support for the Professional Development Initiative. No matter how you feel about PDI, we chose Davies because he cites his concern for the well-being of superintendents. "I'm among superintendents who believe that we can address [our] challenges and frustrations by taking our destiny into our own hands," he says.

### AL JANSEN

The superintendent of Baraboo CC in Baraboo, Wis., has helped spur support against PDI. No matter how you feel about PDI, we chose Jansen because he cites his concern for the well-being of superintendents. "Promote the association by what we do for each other, for

golf and for the environment," Jansen says. "Do not implement a program of segregation like the PDI."

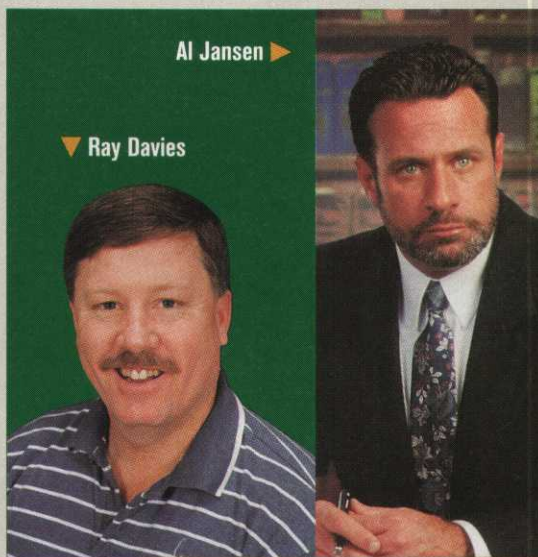
### BOBBY WEED

Weed is recognized as one of the industry's top young designers. The Pete Dye protégé and former superintendent

participating NGCOA member courses for participants in USGA Foundation-supported junior programs nationally. NGCOA entered into this partnership as part of its player development program, "Get Linked. Play Golf." "We will be able to provide affordable, real course experiences to economically disadvantaged juniors," Hughes says.

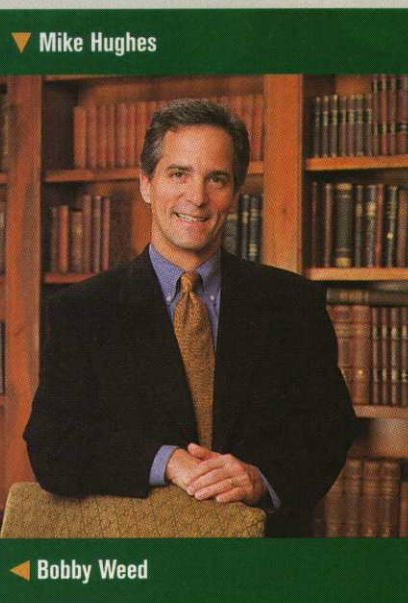
### TIGER WOODS

He's the galaxy's best golfer. Thanks to Tiger, you have job security as superintendents, designers, owners and gen-



▼ Ray Davies

Al Jansen ▶



▼ Mike Hughes

▶ Bobby Weed

says a goal is to design more maintenance-friendly courses. "My design style mixes the old with the new in an appropriate fashion," he stresses.

### MIKE HUGHES

The executive director of the National Golf Course Owners Association is on a mission to get more people — women, children and seniors, too — playing golf. One of Hughes' latest projects is the Kids on Course program with the USGA. Kids on Course provides \$1 green fees at

eral managers because he has single-handedly made the game more popular. The Tiger bump, as it were, will help the game keep up with the building boom that is upon us as his extraordinary play and 1,000-watt smile bring more golfers into the game. All Woods did in 2000 was win the U.S. Open, the British Open and the PGA Championship (first time someone has won three Majors in one year since Ben Hogan did in 1951), as well as the Canadian Open and five other tournaments.

### PHIL MICKELSON

He was voted the No. 1 PGA Tour player in terms of sportsmanship by

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GCSAA members in the 2000 Leadership Survey. Mickelson almost always has nice things to say about superintendents, no matter how well or how poorly he has played during the week.

#### TUCK TATE

One of the last of the elder statesmen of the great generation of superintendents

who built the profession into what it is today. Those who knew Tuck know just how important he was in Michigan and around the nation.

#### TIM MORAGHAN

He's the chief agronomist for the USGA and one of the hardest-working men in golf. Despite challenging weather con-

ditions at Pebble Beach this year, Moraghan still managed to have the course in tip-top shape to witness an historic victory by Tiger Woods in the U.S. Open.

No matter what anyone else talked about during the tournament, not a whisper was heard about poor course conditions. That was music to Moraghan's ears.



#### DR. GIL MORGAN

The PGA Senior Tour player is active in Swing for Sight, an annual event that helps raise funds for Prevent Blindness Oklahoma, a charity that provides free screenings for children in hopes of catching potential eyesight problems in the early stages. Morgan has had eyesight problems for several years.

#### OSCAR MILES

Who could ask for a better representative of the profession? Both the Merit Club and superintendents everywhere benefited for Miles' savvy ability to host the Women's Open like no one before him.



#### BOB LOHMANN

This quiet architectural talent finally got his due for his work at the Merit Club and his professional leadership. Lohmann may not be a household name, but he's great for golf.

#### LISA BLAND

Most wouldn't recognize her name or her face, but many GCSAA members knew her voice and benefited from her commitment. This 18-year veteran of the GCSAA staff was the heart and soul of the team in Lawrence, Kan. Her untimely death was a tragedy for all. ■

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