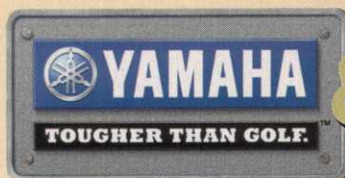


# Local Heroes

Because of them, our industry is a better place.

Yamaha and *Golfdom* are partnering to pay tribute to superintendents around the nation who serve their profession as volunteer leaders of local chapter associations. Please join us in thanking these "local heroes."



**&Golfdom**  
SOLUTIONS, IDEAS & OPINIONS

## Mark Esoda, CGCS

Atlanta CC, Marietta, Ga.

Leader in Georgia GCSA and Georgia Turfgrass Foundation

"Mark Esoda? He's the bomb, the best," says Georgia GCSA President Wade Thomas. "Through his leadership and foresight, he has been able to achieve more singly than anyone I can think of to advance golf in Georgia."



From his work with the Georgia GCSA, Georgia Turfgrass Association, Georgia Turfgrass Foundation Trust and now the Water Task Force, Esoda has clearly had an impact. Touring the country speaking on behalf of the GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative, he has helped permanently affect the national association. This is not to mention his professionalism in preparing Atlanta CC for seven BellSouth Classics and his enthusiastic "fatherism" in being a troop leader and patrol coach for the Flaming Dragons (Georgia's Boy Scout Troop 431).

"There is gratification in volunteering," Esoda says. "As corny as it sounds, the more you put into an organization, the more you get out of it."

## Jim Nicol, CGCS

Hazeltine National GC, Chaska, Minn.

Long-time servant with Minnesota GCSA and GCSAA

It is easier to list the offices Jim Nicol has not held, and the committees on which he has not served, than to name those he has. His only regret is that he could not have done more, having run unsuccessfully for GCSAA's board of directors.

"I wanted to help shape things," he said simply about his years of work at the national and state levels.



While working 18 years at Bunker Hills GC in Coon Rapids, Minn., and six at Hazeltine National GC in Chaska, Minn., Nicol has served on the Minnesota GCSA board of directors and was elected vice president and then president in 1997 and 1998, respectively.

His work with the GCSAA has included serving on several committees and serving as chapter delegate for several years.

"Jim is a highly respected member of the Minnesota GCSA and his opinions on association affairs are taken very seriously," said association President Rick Fredericksen of Woodhill CC in Wayzata, Minn. "Jim hosted last year's PGA Championship at Hazeltine National GC and his experience with other professional golf tournaments is an asset valued by his peers."

## DO YOU KNOW A LOCAL HERO IN YOUR CHAPTER?

Send us a note at [pjones@advanstar.com](mailto:pjones@advanstar.com) and we may feature your hero in an upcoming tribute.



Most golfers stand a better chance of breaking your golf car than they do 100. Unless they're riding in a Yamaha. Remember, it's made by the same company that turns out ATVs, WaveRunners® and motocross



bikes. Though the way golfers drive, it's hard to say which vehicles take more abuse. To torture a Yamaha Golf Car yourself, call us toll-free at 1-866-747-4027 or visit our website at [www.yamahagolfcar.com](http://www.yamahagolfcar.com).

