

Introducing Rick Fredericksen, Our New President



NEW MGCSA PRESIDENT RICK FREDERICKSEN, left, head superintendent at Woodhill Country Club, Wayzata, accepts the president's gavel from immediate past president Tom Fischer, head superintendent at Edinburgh U.S.A.

Rick Fredericksen, the newly-elected president of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, wants to continue "the progress our association has enjoyed in recent years—particularly in such areas as education and environment."

Elected to the association's top position on November 20 at the MGCSA's 64th annual Turf Conference, Rick, head superintendent at Woodhill Country Club in Wayzata, has played an active role on the board of directors for the past five years.

"Tremendous strides have been made in so many of our association programs and activities for several years, and the tradition of excellence that has been built provides plenty of motivation to pursue continued progress, not only for myself but for all of our members," he said.

Rick, 35, who once wanted to study criminal justice, has been involved in golf course work since he was 13 years old.

Born in Princeton, Minn., on August 9, 1956, he was graduated from Elk River High School in 1974, where he lettered in wrestling for four years and in golf for two. At age 13 he began doing such maintenance chores as "picking up rocks" at Elk River Country Club, then assumed more responsible roles during his high school days at Elk River and two years at St. Cloud State University.

At St. Cloud, he considered that criminal justice career. However, his work at Elk River Country Club led to an assistantship under John Hopko, and the decision to enroll at Penn State University, where he earned his turf management degree in 1978.

Rick's first job was the head superintendency at Huron (S.D.) Country Club. Two years later he accepted a similar position at Rolling Green Country Club in Hamel, where he served for 10 years before becoming head superintendent at Woodhill in 1990.

Rick became a member of both the MGCSA and GCSAA in 1977. Following his election to the Board of Directors in 1986, he served as chairman of the Membership, Scholarship and Research Committees and as a member of the Education Committee.

He was elected secretary in 1989, a position he held for two years, then became vice-president a year ago. He obtained his Certified Golf Course Superintendents (CGCS) certificate in 1987.

Rick and his wife, Jackie, and their two daughters, Jodi, 11 and Sandy, 10, reside in Long Lake. He enjoys playing golf, snow skiing, water skiing and skating.

"My experience with the MGCSA for the past 14 years not only has helped me in my profession but also in making a lot of friends," he said. "I feel that what I've learned, particularly in the areas of education and environment, have been most beneficial."

"This activity has helped me to constantly stay abreast of all the issues in our profession," he said. "As president, I hope to continue the progress our association had made in these areas and hope to get as many members as active as possible. Membership activity is a big plus for both the MGCSA and the individual superintendent—but the big winner, in the long run, is the individual."