

Dr. James R. Watson Elected To Minnesota PGA/MGA Hall of Fame

Dr. James R. Watson, vice-president and agronomist with the Toro Company, has been elected to the 1999 PGA/MGA Hall of Fame.

For more than 50 years Dr. Watson, nominated by MGCSA past president James J. Nicol, CGCS, has distinguished himself nationally and internationally in a variety of golf-related endeavors, primarily in turf management and research.

Also elected this year were Bill Kidd, longtime Interlachen Country Club golf pro, and Gene Hansen, a stellar golfer back in the '60s.

During his extensive career, Dr. Watson won several national awards while conducting research on turfgrass, fertilization practices, irrigation, compaction effects on fairway turf, snowmold prevention and winter protection of turfgrasses. He also has authored more than 400 articles on turfgrass care and management, water conservation and cultural practices.

With The Toro Company in Minnesota, his work has encompassed the areas of equipment development and evaluation, customer relations and agronomic consultation. A frequent lecturer at national and international conferences, he is recognized as a leading exponent of the critical need to conserve water and utilize waste waters.

The commendations he has received give testimony to his prowess. They include the 1978 USGA Green Section Award for distinguished service to golf through his work with turfgrass, the 1983 Distinguished Service Award by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, the 1989 Distinguished Service Award by the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association, the 1994 Donald Ross Award by the Golf Architects Society of America and the 1995 Old Tom Morris Award, the highest honor of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

He also has served on the Board of the Freshwater Foundation in Mound, Minn., as president of the International Turfgrass Society which he helped organize in 1979, the USGA's Research Committee and as adjunct professor in the Department of Horticultural Science and Landscape Architecture at the University of Minnesota.

"Of particular import is the manner in which he has enhanced communication between the business community and the research and academic arenas of the turfgrass industry," said Nicol. "His unique perspective has allowed these diverse elements to gain greater understanding of the roles and challenges of each segment.

"Thanks considerably to his efforts, today's golf course superintendents constantly are improving playing conditions for the betterment of the game for all concerned," added Nicol.



1999 PGA/MGA HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES
Gene Hansen, Dr. James Watson and Bill Kidd.

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