HOLE NOTES

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Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association

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Richard Traver Jr., CGCS......Monticello CC 763/295-3323 Fax: 763/271-0124 supytrav@soncom.com

Editor

Richard Traver, Jr., CGCS supytrav@soncom.com



Editorial and Business Office:
Scott Turtinen, Executive Director
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association
240 Minnetonka Avenue South, P.O. Box 617
Wayzata, Minnesota 55391-1617
Tel: 952/473-0557 Fax: 952/473-0576
Toll Free: 1-800-642-7227

E-mail: scott@mgcsa.org

From Your President's Desk

Jim Nicol, CGCS, Selected As MGCSA's Distinguished Service Recipient for 2002



Rick Fredericksen, CGCS MGCSA President

At our September meeting the Board of Directors unanimously selected Jim Nicol as our Distinguished Service recipient for 2002. Jim was chosen for his outstanding contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendents' profession. He has been an active member in our association since 1982 by serving on various committees. In 1998 he was appointed President. Jim has also participated on several committees at the national level. He has been a member of the GCSAA since 1979.

What led our Board to select Jim was how well he represented the superintendents' profession leading up to and during the PGA Championship. It was a busy time for Jim and his staff getting ready for the event, but he still had time to help out his colleagues. In early July, Chaska Town Course maintenance facility was destroyed by fire. Jim was one of the first to call and provide equipment to keep the operation going. He also found time to assemble a group of purveyors to sponsor a hospitality tent in the corporate village at the Championship. This tent provided a place to relax, enjoy a meal and visit with Jim's staff and other superintendents. I remember sitting in the tent, enjoying a cup of coffee on the first day during a rain delay. Overhearing Jim being introduced to a superintendent's wife, I heard him comment as he shook her hand that she had warm hands, so she must have a warm heart.

Jim was set apart from the other nominees because of how well he represented our profession to the media, and in effect, to the readers and viewers who learned about what goes into preparing for a big local event. He did a great service to our industry by communicating to golfers and non-golfers in a language they could understand. Everywhere, and in all forms of the media, Jim shared his experiences in an articulate and humble fashion. He was and continues to be an exemplary and consummate representative of our industry. Thank you Jim. I look forward to December 3rd when your peers will formally recognize you.

Other honorary guests include Dr. Don White and Dr. James Watson. In celebration of the MGCSA 75th Anniversary, these two individuals will be receiving the President's Lifetime Achievement Award for their contributions to the golf course industry throughout their careers. Well deserved for a pair who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of our profession!

And last but not least Andrew Carlson will be receiving his MGCSA Turf Scholarship Award. Andrew will be recognized for his accomplishments both academically and vocationally.

Come join me on Tuesday, December 3 at the Golden Valley Country Club for the 75th Anniversary Gala. Celebrate the end of a season and the beginning of another quarter century of brotherhood in turf management. And recognize those who have served so well and who will serve in the future.

-- Rick Fredericksen r_fredericksen@msn.com

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