

ON FIRE!

MGCSA President Is So Hot He Sizzles!

By JACK MACKENZIE, CGCS

Rick Fredericksen, CGCS, has led a very busy life. In the turf industry for 34 years, a family man for just shy of a quarter century and a participant in the Long Lake Volunteer Fire Department for a decade. His life has been so active you could say that he is on fire!

As a lad of 13, Rick began his career at the Elk River Country Club. He would ride his bike to work and contribute his efforts for the incredible sum of a buck and four bits per hour. Not bad for a neophyte teenager in 1969. Under the tutelage of John Hopko, Rick performed the tasks of picking rocks off the new course as well as other physical jobs side by side with the rest of the five-member crew.

Besides hard work on the course, Rick busied himself with other high school activities such as the 4H Club and both the golf and wrestling teams. However, his first passion was law enforcement and the dream of becoming an FBI agent.

To fulfill this goal, Rick maintained excellent grades, a clean record and continued his education at St. Cloud State University in pursuit of a degree in Criminal Justice. His post high school education also included the courtship of



Jackie and Rick Fredericksen, CGCS

"Rick does an excellent job at Woodhill. He is knowledgeable of his profession and the membership holds him in high regard."

*-- Mark Albrecht General Manager
at Woodhill Country Club.*

Jackie Strand, whom he had met at college. However, after spending a term attending class at the St. Cloud Penitentiary, Rick's law enforcement attitude waned and he soon changed majors to turf Management and schools to Penn State.

For two years Scott Austin, CGCS, at Midland Hills Country Club, shuttled to and fro from Penn State with Rick. According to Scott, the road trips often provided "adventures" along the way, but most importantly, he solidified a growing relationship with a fine individual and fellow turf manager. Summers at Elk River and winters at Penn State prepared Rick for the ranks of upper management when he graduated in 1978 and became the Superintendent at The Huron Country Club in Huron South

Dakota.

After nine years of employment at the Elk River Country Club, Rick ventured west to cut his teeth as Superintendent. His first position taught him the value of patience and furthered his agronomic skills. Two years of South Dakota hospitality later, and shortly after becoming a newly wed to his bride Jackie, Rick applied for and accepted the position of Superintendent at the Rolling Green Country Club in Hamel, Minnesota.

"He is an extreme individual. Extremely trustworthy and hard working, one couldn't ask for a better assistant, mechanic or right hand man."

*-- John Hopco, former Superintendent at
Elk River Country Club and Rick's first boss*

Back to the land of 10,000 lakes Rick brought his wife, and with vigor he tackled new challenges. An opportunity actually, chances to install a new irrigation system and
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Rick Fredericksen —

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learn the intimate details of financial management and fiduciary responsibility. All the while starting a family. Two active girls kept Rick and Jackie as busy away from the course as Rick was when he was on the course. Their daughters, Jodi and Sandy, enjoyed then -- and still do today -- horses, skiing, boating and track.

And as though maintaining a country club and being an

"Rick is a great cook, all around handyman, EMT and volunteer fireman, and somehow he always finds time to spoil me rotten!"

-- Emotes Jackie Fredericksen of her husband.

active father were not enough, Rick felt obligated to participate in the management of a growing professional turf-grass organization, the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association. During the 1980's, Rick attained a position on the MGCSA Board of Directors with the goal to improve upon the advancement of the turf management profession.

Rick's diligent support on the Membership, Scholarship and Research Committees paved the way for his becoming Secretary, Vice-President and finally President of the MGCSA in 1992. During his first stint upon the BOD, he saw unprecedented growth, improved funding in research, the development of an environmental awareness program and a visible push "to the next level of professionalism." About the time Rick was Secretary of the MGCSA, the Superintendent's position became available at Woodhill Country Club. Encouraged by his maturing family, Rick pursued and accepted the opportunity in 1990. Although his clientele was a bit different than those he had catered to at Rolling Green, growing turf and grounds management was still of utmost importance.

For the last 13 years Rick has provided his membership at Woodhill only the very best of social experiences and recreational opportunities. Venues include paddleball, ice-skating, tennis, swimming opportunities and, of course, golf. Although pressed by an outdated irrigation system and a multitude of irrigation challenges, Rick has historically surrounded himself with a very competent staff. Former assistants and upwardly mobile professionals in the industry under Rick's fine leadership is apparent in the product they create.

From the first tee in the spring to the ice between the nets in the winter, Rick and his staff keep the grounds at Woodhill in exceptional condition.

Managing a prestigious golf club and raising two teenage girls wasn't enough for Rick so he reinvested himself back into Association politics in 1999. Last year, after climbing

back through the ranks, he began his second term as President of the MGCSA and instigated a year of celebration dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the MGCSA. On December 3, 2002, Rick hosted an exceptional dinner party, which brought over 220 members and their spouses together to celebrate the achievements of distinguished guests as well as the association.

Currently his concerns center around the long-term funding of the TROE Center at the University of Minnesota and committing to a permanent research and teaching facility on the site. Rick is also interested with the membership and their needs during this ever-changing economy.

Beyond work and family, Rick has been very active with his community, particularly as a member of the Long Lake Volunteer Fire Department. His skills as a past member of the Trollhaugen ski patrol and Emergency Medical Technician prepared him well for his current position as both a Captain of the Fire Department and a Training Officer as well.

Could our president's life be any busier? Probably not! However, between his management of a pre-eminent golf course, his commitment to family life and rescuing his neighbors from burning buildings, Rick is always available to his constituents. Always willing to embrace new ideas and challenges, Rick maintains an open line policy and welcomes your input into the association's continuing prosperity.

Hazeltine's Reed Mackenzie Re-Elected President Of USGA

Reed Mackenzie was re-elected president of the United States Golf Association on Saturday during the organization's annual meeting.

The 60-year-old Mackenzie, from Chaska, Minn., will serve a second one-year term.

Fred Ridley of Tampa, Fla., and Walter Driver Jr. of Atlanta, were elected vice presidents of the executive committee, Eric J. Gleacher of New York was selected as secretary, and Paul D. Caruso Jr., of Helena, Mont., as treasurer.

Six others were re-elected to the executive committee, while three individuals were elected for a first term.

Returning members are: Craig Ammerman of Cherry Hill, N.J.; Dr. Lewis Blakey of Alexandria, Va.; Emily (Missy) Crisp of Mill Neck, N.Y.; Mary Bea Porter-King of Kapaa, Hawaii; James Reinhart of Mequon, Wis.; and Bruce Richards of Bellevue, Wash. John Vardaman of Washington, D.C., moves from his past role as general counsel to a member of the committee.

James Bunch of Denver; Cameron Jay Rains of La Mesa, Calif.; and James F. Vernon of Pasadena, Calif., were newly elected to serve one-year terms on the executive committee.

