



# Presidential Perspective

by Scottie Hines, CGCS Superintendent at Windsong Farm

Here we are, late September and I do not feel as if things have slowed one iota. I hope everyone has recovered from aerification and your course is back to mid-season form. I love fall golf!

Conditions are near perfect for fun, firm and fast playing

surfaces. I guess the next big battle is leaf clean-up. I am fortunate to not have much of an issue with leaves.

Two fun items to report to you this month:

Congratulations to Dr. Don White!

Historically, and this year as well, the competition has been stiff. However, with strong endorsement from the MGCSA, Dr. Don White, retired Professor of Turf Science at the University of Minnesota, has finally achieved the greatest Minnesota Golf Association recognition by being the 2013 recipient of the Warren Rebholz Distinguished Service Award. Dr. White is indeed an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the game of golf in Minnesota, and elsewhere, and whose dedication has exemplified the spirit of the game at its highest levels.

Knowingly or unknowingly, players across the state of Minnesota, nationally and even internationally have been impacted by Dr. White's scientific and educational persistence. As a professor, he taught many, many of today's finest golf course superintendents. As a scientist, he developed a commercially viable turf from what most consider a weed, *Poa annua* (annual bluegrass). As a consultant, his visits to courses in the upper Midwest are well documented. As a speaker, he was in high demand through his career at state, national and international conferences. As an environmentalist he was a big proponent of prairie grasses and reduced impact grasses...later to be called "sustainable" turf.

Very few individuals can lay claim to leaving a living legacy of mentees who have become extremely successful in their industry. Dr. White provided tutelage, encouragement and support to some of the best of Minnesota's golf course superintendents. Here are just a few:

Superintendent

John Steiner, CGCS,

Norma O'Leary, CGCS

Doug Mahal, CGCS

James Gardener, CGCS

Current or former club

White Bear Yacht Club

Silver Bay Golf Club

The Jewel Golf Club

Rochester Golf and Country Club

James Bade	Somerset Country Club
Jeff Johnson	The Minikahda Club
Pat Walton	Meadowbrook Golf Course
Ben Just	Midland Hills Country Club
E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS	Heritage Links Golf Course
Drew Larson	Rolling Green Country Club
Erin McManus	Medina Golf and Country Club
Matt Rostal	Interlachen Country Club
Brad Klein	Detroit Lakes Country Club
Jack MacKenzie, CGCS	North Oaks Golf Club
Chris Tritabaugh	Hazeltine National Golf Course

Of course, this list is incomplete. If you had or know of someone who had a relationship with Dr. White please let MGCSA Executive Director Jack MacKenzie know so they can be notified of the celebration to be held in his honor.

On November 4, 2013, at Brackett's Crossing Country Club, the MGA will be conducting their Annual Meeting and Banquet. At that time Dr. White will be honored with the reception of the highest Minnesota Golf Industry recognition, The Rebholz Distinguished Service Award. Please mark your calendar and plan to help celebrate this outstanding accomplishment.

The second item is the possibility of the MGCSA combining membership with the North Central Turf Foundation (North Dakota Superintendents). At their current level of membership they do not reach the required number to have a GCSAA affiliated chapter. Therefore, they are not as well represented nationally as they should be. Having them join our association as the North Dakota Chapter of the MGCSA would allow them to have a stronger voice at the national level. Jack MacKenzie, Erin McManus and myself drove to Fargo where we met Steve Randall, our GCSAA Regional Representative. We all met with the North Dakota superintendents at their annual golf benefit and this was a hot topic of discussion. We are obviously in the initial phase of working out how and if this could happen. I see it as a win/win for all associated. They have a voice, we gain members and that equals more funds for our member driven research! Stay tuned for updates as we progress through these negotiations.

As I said earlier, I love fall golf! I hope everyone takes advantage of the great weather and spends some time enjoying the game we all respect and love.

Enjoy your game-