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Official Publication
of the
Minnesota Golf Course
Superintendents' Association

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From Your President's Desk



Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
MGCSA President

75th Anniversary Banquet Was a First Class Evening

What an event the 75th Anniversary Banquet turned out to be!! With 215 members and guests in attendance, it was a spectacular night to be at the Golden Valley Country Club. The honorees were picked up at their residence in Limos and when they arrived, their college rouser was played. After an elegant social hour, Jack Kolb led us in a very appropriate invocation written just for our profession. If there was any doubt that this was going to be a first class evening, the dinner certainly erased those. After the dessert was served, introductions were made and the history of our great association was given. When Maynard Erickson was introduced, people were surprised to find out that he had started his career caddying at the Golden Valley Country Club in 1937. Maynard has been a member of our association for 51 years now!

We then moved into the awards. Dr. Brian Horgan made the introduction and presentation to Andrew Carlson, MGCSA Scholarship recipient. Next, Mike Ligday presented a nice timeline of Jim Nicol, CGCS with some interesting anecdotes mixed in. Jim received the Distinguished Service Award. Jack MacKenzie, CGCS, presented an insightful look at Dr. Don White. Jack, being a previous graduate of Dr. White's tutelage, told of his mentor's teaching and filing system while attending the University. Of course the evening would not have been complete without a slide tray of Dr. White's favorite slides and quips. Jim Nicol came back on stage to introduce and present Dr. James Watson. It was interesting to learn the impact Dr. Watson has made worldwide on turfgrass and how he was involved in our association. Both Dr. White and Dr. Watson received the President's Lifetime Achievement Awards.

The closing comments of appreciation came from Jack MacKenzie. He spoke of the commitment our significant others make to our career and the understanding they have. He spoke of our appreciation for their support and asked the gentleman at each table to take the rose and bud vase that had been placed there earlier, and give it to their significant other.

It was an event fitting of our 75th Anniversary. The opportunity to greet and meet our peers and their significant others reminded me of when we used to hold an annual awards banquet and show. As I watched our honorees accept the awards and see how proud their families and guests were of them, it made the time and effort put forth by our Board well worth it.

I would like to give special thanks to the people who helped plan and organize the event: Jack MacKenzie, whose resourceful and creative ideas made the 75th Anniversary Banquet special for everyone who attended; Scott and Jeff Turtinen who organized the Power Point presentations, handled the invitations, arranged the banquet accommodations, and provided photography; and the Board of Directors for their commitment to support an event of this size.

-- Rick Fredericksen
r_fredericksen@msn.com

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2003 MGCSA CALENDAR

- WED. - FRI., JANUARY 8-10
 MINNESOTA GREEN EXPO
 MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER
 MINNEAPOLIS
- THURSDAY, JANUARY 9
 MGCSA ANNUAL MEETING - 4:45 P.M.
 MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER
 MINNEAPOLIS
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 28
 GCSAA SEMINAR:
 "Strategic Planning for Golf Course Operations"
 RADISSON SOUTH HOTEL - BLOOMINGTON, MINN.
 INSTRUCTOR: JOHN MILLER, CGCS
- WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29
 GCSAA SEMINAR: "Effective Use of Soil Amendments"
 RADISSON SOUTH HOTEL - BLOOMINGTON, MINN.
 INSTRUCTOR: MAX SCHLOSSBERG
- THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13
 MGCSA HOSPITALITY NIGHT
 GCSAA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AND SHOW
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA
- THURSDAY, MARCH 13
 MGCSA MINI-SEMINAR
 MIDLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB
 HOST SUPERINTENDENT: SCOTT AUSTIN, CGCS
- MONDAY, MAY 19
 SPRING MIXER
 VALLEY HIGH GOLF CLUB
 HOST SUPERINTENDENT: JEFF NORMANDT
- MONDAY, JUNE 30
 SCHOLARSHIP SCRAMBLE
 NEW RICHMOND GOLF CLUB
 HOST SUPERINTENDENT: TOM JOHNSON
- MONDAY, AUGUST 18
 MGCSA CHAMPIONSHIP
 THE LEGACY COURSES AT CRAGUN'S
 HOST SUPERINTENDENT: MATT McKINNON
- SEPTEMBER 8
 STODOLA RESEARCH SCRAMBLE
 OAK MARSH GOLF COURSE
 HOST SUPERINTENDENT: ROBERT PORTER
- OCTOBER 13
 FALL MIXER
 LONG PRAIRIE COUNTRY CLUB
 HOST SUPERINTENDENT: JOHN MONSON

Gala Galore—

(Continued from Front Cover)

Andrew is working towards his four-year degree in environmental horticulture with an emphasis on turf management at the University of Minnesota. At the University he was described by Professor White as "a talented, intelligent conscientious student, has been an excellent president of the school's Student Chapter and is looked to for leadership by other turf students."

The **2002 Distinguished Service Award** was presented to James J. Nicol, CGCS, an active association member since 1982 and MGCSA president in 1998. Nicol was honored for "his outstanding contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendents' profession."

Nicol, superintendent at Hazeltine National Golf Club in Chaska where he was cited for the manner in which he and his staff prepared for, then maintained their course for the 2002 PGA Championship, also has been a 22-year member of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association and has served on several committees on the national level.

Presidential Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented to Dr. Donald White, an agronomy professor at the University of Minnesota, who plans to scale down his workload a bit, and Dr. James Watson, vice president at The Toro Company and a frequent lecturer at national and international turfgrass conferences.

They were described by Fredericksen as a "well-deserved pair who have dedicated their lives to the betterment of our profession."



MGCSA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT JIM NICOL, CGCS, with his wife, Barbara, and his mom, Marguerite, at the MGCSA's 75th Anniversary Banquet.



DR. DONALD WHITE, received a framed University of Minnesota flag autographed by many of his former students who were in attendance at the 75th Anniversary Banquet at Golden Valley Country Club on December 3rd. Dr. White also received a Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from the MGCSA.



DR. JAMES WATSON, right, received a Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award on behalf of Rick Fredericksen, CGCS, left, and the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association.

MGCSA Nominates E. Paul Eckholm, CGCS, For GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Award

(Editor's Note: The following is the information sent to the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America endorsing E. Paul Eckholm for the 2002 GCSAA Excellence in Government Relations Award.)

Late in the 1999-2000 Minnesota Legislative Session, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture presented a Bill restricting the sale and use of phosphorous fertilizers. It had been determined by Governor Ventura, under the direction of the Commissioner of Minnesota Planning Dean Barkley, that phosphorous in our lakes was contributing to their rapid decline. Furthermore, the MDA resolved on their own that the real issue was the misapplication of fertilizer products, primarily upon homeowner property.

The Minnesota Golf Association's legal team brought this information to the attention of then President of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association, Paul Eckholm. At the time of the first legislative draft, the application of phosphorous was not going to be allowed in the seven county metropolitan areas. Seeing the ramifications of the denial of using a macronutrient upon our fine turf surfaces and the long-range implications of the potential expansion of the bill to restrict all fertilizer applications upon golf courses through out the state, Mr. Eckholm immediately began work to improve upon the rapidly proceeding legislation. There was no time for a presidential creation of a committee to investigate the issue, thus he went into battle alone.

After much discussion with the MGA's lobbyist Doug Carnival, Mr. Eckholm realized he had to develop a professional rapport with the sponsors of the bill and explain the impact upon the multi-million dollar golf course industry. And furthermore, the limited environmental impact when used properly. Extensive meetings with Jerry Spitzman, Rick Hansen and Greg Baziky of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, followed by testimony in front of the legislator resulted in the table of the issue until the 2000-2001 sessions.

Paul Eckholm appreciated that he had to convince the legislators, swayed by the environmental "anti phosphorous" group, that the golf course industry was a steward for the environment and handled phosphorous in a responsible fashion so as not to impact the balance of the natural ecosystem. During the summer of 2000, the MGCSA President attended a two-day seminar designed to bring all parties together. A challenge at best as the opinions were so vastly divergent.

Three different pieces of legislation were proposed during the 2000-2001 session. After many hours of testimony, of which Mr. Eckholm was present and active in lobby efforts, a general consensus was forming. Through out this process, Mr. Carnival of the MGA and Mr. Eckholm of the MGCSA were quietly working in the background to get an exemption written into the bill as an out for the MGCSA members and their courses.

At the end of the 2000-2001 session, a bill was almost passed, and in fact, the House version was approved. However, at the last minute, the Senate decided to table the material for another year.

Redundantly, Mr. Eckholm continued his lobbying efforts

through the summer of 2001, again in the effort to strengthen the position of the MGCSA.

And even more repetitive, the 2001-2002 session again brought three versions of the Phosphorous to the legislature. Again, copious amounts of testimony were required to establish the importance of phosphorous in the turf management industry and the continued environmental stewardship promoted by superintendents at large. And again, Paul Eckholm stepped up to the plate, testifying in front of the legislature, conducting personal meetings in the halls of the State Capitol and soliciting votes via email and phone conversations.

Just prior to approval by the Senate and House, a streamlined bill went to conference committee for final review and passage. Mr. Eckholm's presence was critical at this juncture. And the final product, approved by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Jessie Ventura is as follows:

S.F. 1555 prohibits the use of phosphorous turf fertilizers in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennipen, Ramsey or Washington counties unless:

1) A tissue, soil or other test performed by a laboratory in the last three years indicates that the levels of available phosphorous in the soil is insufficient to support healthy turf growth:

2) It is being used on newly established or developed turf and lawn areas during the first growing season; or

3) The fertilizer is used on a golf course under the supervision of a person licensed or certified, or approved by an organization with an ongoing training program approved by the commissioned.

Without the championship of Paul Eckholm, superintendents across the state of Minnesota would have been impacted either immediately or in the near future. By being a strong and persistent advocate for the industry, Mr. Eckholm prevented the potential for many turf related challenges. Without his interdiction, phosphorous would not be available to many golf course superintendents.

Currently Paul Eckholm is chairing a committee with Dr. Brian Horgan, Turf Extension Specialist at the University of Minnesota, to develop a plan centering upon training and continued education of all golf course fertilizer applicators in the state of Minnesota. It is understood by the committee that not only is it necessary to focus upon phosphorous, but all plant nutrients as well so as to be proactive in a state and perhaps even nation wide fertilizer applicator program.

On behalf of the Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association and the Board of Directors, I endorse E. Paul Eckholm as the 2002 recipient of the Excellence in Government Relations Award in the category of Advocacy. No finer example of putting forth an effort to influence laws and regulations affecting golf course management, including but not limited to work with law makers, regulators, alliances, coalitions and other entities can be found beyond E. Paul Eckholm.

Thank you considering this application.

*—Rick Fredericksen, CGCS
President, Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents' Association*



**AT THE
MGCSA'S
75TH
ANNIVERSARY
BANQUET**

Turf Supply Co.'s John Wiley, left, chats with Jack and Rajah Kolb. Jack set the tone for the evening with a thoughtful invocation before dinner.

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SOCIALIZING AT THE BANQUET are, from left to right, Kevin Clunis, CGCS, Tanners Brook Golf Course, Butch Greeninger, MTI Distributing, Inc., and Nancy Clunis.

MGCSA Membership Report

New Members: December 10, 2002

Timothy J. Bulow
Vintage Golf CourseB - GCSAA
W: 763-271-5008

Matthew J. Cavanaugh
Rolling Green Country ClubD - GCSAA
W: 763-478-2179

Justin Ellison
University of MinnesotaStudent
H: 763-535-0267

Kyle Fick
University of Minnesota.....Student
H: 763-427-4677

James Ellis
Precision
Industries.....Affiliate
W: 651-688-7777

Jim Fahey
Fahey Sales Agency, Inc.....Affiliate
W: 320-587-3520

Patrick Selter
Professional Lake
Management.....Affiliate
W: 218-825-3773

Duane Sibbet
Crane Creek Turf ProductsAffiliate
W: 507-526-2321

RECLASSIFICATIONS

Brian Brown
Ferndale Country Club.....B to A - GCSAA

Michael Kelly
Edina Country Club.....B to A - GCSAA

Shawn Swenson
Madelia Golf CourseC to A - GCSAA

*Submitted by Daniel Swenson
Membership Chairman*

Scenes from the 75th Anniversary Banquet At Golden Valley CC



MGCSA SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT Andrew Carlson, center, pictured with the University of Minnesota's Brian Horgan, right, and MGCSA Director Jack MacKenzie, Jr., CGCS, Superintendent at North Oaks.

PICTURED AT THE RIGHT are Minnesota Golf Association President Tom Ryan, right, and MGCSA Director Jack MacKenzie, Jr., CGCS.



ENJOYING THE FESTIVE EVENING are Tom Johnson, Superintendent at New Richmond Golf Club in western Wisconsin with his wife Mona. Tom will be hosting the MGCSA Scholarship Scramble on June 30th.



USGA PRESIDENT REED MACKENZIE, right, with his wife, Jane, president of the Fairway Foundation, along with MTGF Executive Director Larry Vetter, left, and his wife Carol.





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RELAXING WITH CASUAL CONVERSATION are Dean Chaltas, MTI Distributing Inc., his wife, Janelle, on the right, and Beth Almquist, wife of MGCSA member Jon Almquist.

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