

MINNESOTA SECTION PGA AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Minnesota Section of the PGA announced their Section award winners for 2007. Mike Malone, General Manager at The Ridges at Sand Creek will be awarded Minnesota PGA Golf Professional of the Year for the first time October 29th at the Minnesota Section Fall Meeting. His overall performance as a golf professional, leader, service and promotion of the game of golf has been outstanding.

PGA Teacher of the Year will be awarded to Greg Schulze, Master Professional of Instruction at Loggers Trail & Sawmill Golf Course in Stillwater, MN, for his excellence in golf instruction. The Horton Smith Trophy will be awarded to PGA Member Doug Hoffmann, Master Professional of Executive Management, and Tournament Director for the Minnesota Golf Association in Edina, MN. Hoffmann has provided outstanding contributions to developing and improving educational opportunities in the Minnesota Section.

Michael Zinni, Head Professional at Mankato Golf Club in Mankato, MN is the winner of the Bill Strausbaugh Award, recognizing Zinni for his efforts and contributions to his Section and fellow professionals. The PGA Junior Golf Leader Award will be presented to Marshall Hoiness, Assistant Professional at The Minikahda Club in Minneapolis, MN. Hoiness has been a leader in junior golf programming, and continues to provide opportunities for juniors to learn and play the game of golf.

The PGA President's Plaque recognizes individual PGA member professionals for their extraordinary and exemplary contributions and achievements in the area of Player Development. The President's Plaque will be presented to Lori Money, General Manager at Rush Creek Golf Club. Assistant Professional of the Year will be awarded to Kristen Nelson of Brackett's Crossing Country Club, recognizing Nelson for her leadership, promotion of the game of golf, responsibilities at a facility and image as an Assistant Professional.

Minnesota PGA Facility Promoter's of the Year will be awarded to those professionals who provide outstanding contributions to their facility. Criteria considered for this award include golf programs offered, tournament operations, merchandising, rules, promotion, and history at facility. The 2007 Minnesota PGA Facility Promoter's of the Year are, in the private facility category, Joe O'Connor, Northland Country Club in Duluth, MN, in the public facility category Dan Dols, The Legends Club in Prior Lake, MN, and in the resort category Peter Kurvers, Dacotah Ridge Golf Club in Morton, MN.

The Steve Weidner Award is presented to individuals in the Minnesota Section who have made outstanding contributions to the game of golf and to their community. Larry Nelson of Braemar Golf Course is the 2007 recipient.