

Distinguished Service Award

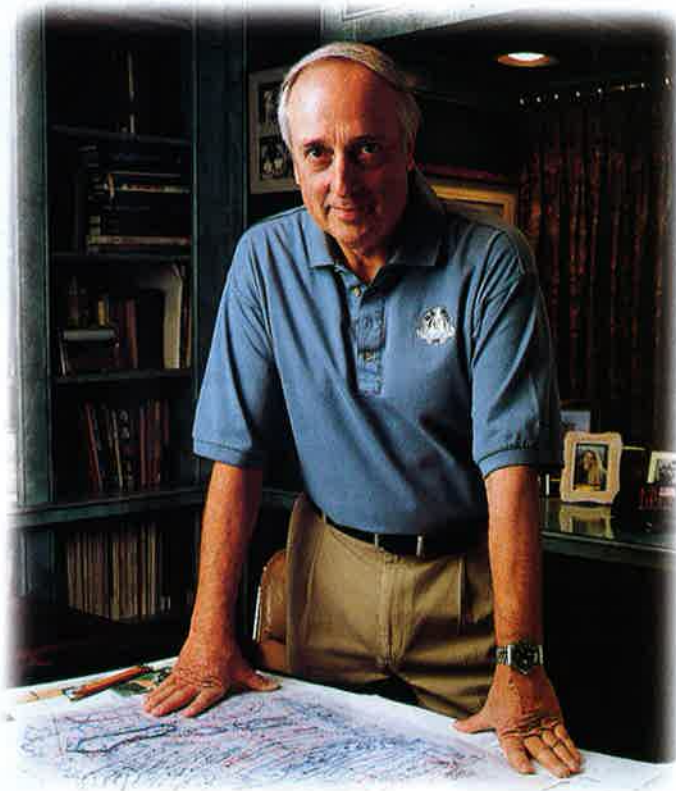
The Son Also Rises

Rees Jones, the prolific son of Robert Trent Jones, is the 1998 winner of the MGA's most prestigious honor

This apple didn't fall far from the tree. Soon after leaving Harvard University's School of Design in 1964, Rees Jones went to work for his father, the legendary golf course architect Robert Trent Jones. A decade later, he went into the design business for himself—as his father had done long before. And now he has won the MGA's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award—exactly as his father did seventeen years ago.

Rees Jones is known for many things. He designs golf courses from scratch—Atlantic Golf Club in Bridgehampton, on Long Island, is his pre-eminent local design while Ocean Forest in Georgia, Haig Point in South Carolina, Nantucket Golf Club in Massachusetts, and the No. 7 course at Pinehurst, in North Carolina, are among his acclaimed works in other parts of the country. He also has renovated and upgraded courses for U.S. Opens, such as Congressional, outside Washington, D.C., Hazeltine, in Minnesota, Baltusrol (upper and lower courses), in Springfield, NJ, and The Country Club, in Boston. In all, he has worked on more than 100 courses worldwide.

But while Jones's work has earned him praise over the years, he has given far more to the game than fairways and greens. Throughout his career Jones has also helped raise environmental awareness. In 1974, for example, he wrote a guidebook for real estate developers called "Golf Course Developments" which dealt with the environmentally sensitive issues. He has served on numerous American Society of Golf Course Architects committees and was ASGCA



president in 1978. Jones also has served on the USGA's Environmental and Turfgrass Research Committees, on the Board of the New Jersey State Golf Association, and he is a member of the Urban Land Institute and the Golf Writers Association of America.

Jones has been especially active in recent years with the MGA, serving on the Long Range Planning Committee and acting as a lecturer and contributor at Presidents Council Educational forums. He has given freely of his time as a consultant on the MGA Foundation's "Natural Golf" project, which plans to develop short,

no-frills golf courses for kids. He donated his time and talent to a junior facility near East Lake Golf Club outside Atlanta, which helped rejuvenate an entire minority community. Most recently, however, Jones has received national attention for his meticulous restoration of the Black Course at Bethpage, site of the 2002 U.S. Open—work he donated because of his strong commitment to seeing a U.S. Open played at a public facility.

"I'm truly honored to receive this award for a number of reasons," Jones says. "I'm pleased to receive an award that has been previously won by so many people I have truly admired in golf, such as Red Hoffman, Ann Beard, Jim Hand, and Tony Wimpfheimer. Of course, my father won it, too, and I'm very honored to follow in his footsteps.

"I've also been happy to have had so many meaningful opportunities to give back to the game that has been so good to me and to my family. I'm honored that my contributions have been recognized."