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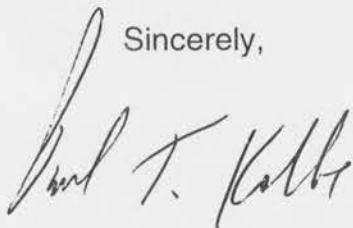


The last two meetings, at Country Club of Detroit and Special Olympics, made me reminisce on my childhood and how fortunate I was growing up around golf. Seeing caddies at the Country Club brought back memories of my caddying days at Franklin Hills Country Club. Mondays were always the best day of the week, playing golf 'til the sun went down and going home to watch Monday Night Baseball while eating some hot dogs. Also, the ability to see such great club pros - Tom Deaton, Ron Fox, and during my last year, current senior tour player Buddy Whitten was an assistant.

Playing golf with Special Olympics athlete Chris and his father, Bernard, made me appreciate the hard work my parents did during my upbringing. They were always supportive: even when I changed my college major from Pre-Dentistry to Turfgrass Management!

As our busy season is upon us, don't forget about your family and your parents. Give them some quality time. The best place is on the golf course, when the sun is setting. The game of golf has been good to me and the memories will last a lifetime.

Sincerely,

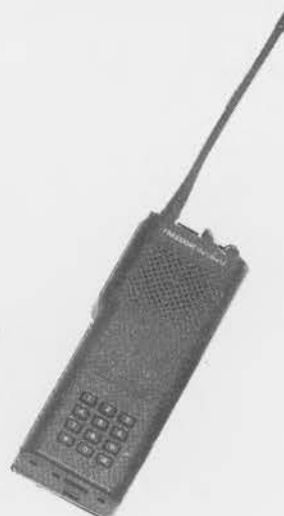


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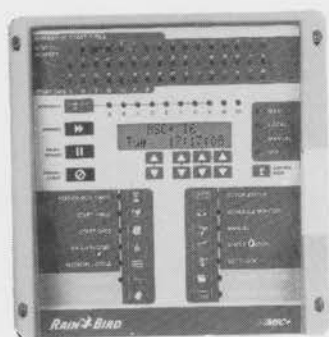
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Golf Spike Alternative Survey

by Thomas A. Nikolai & Paul E. Rieke

The number of golf courses that have banned metal spikes continues to grow. In January of 1995 there were 55 golf courses that had banned metal spikes. By January of 1998 over 3,000 golf courses had banned metal spikes. However, there was growing concern that some of the alternative spikes might be more damaging to the putting surface than metal spikes. In response to this concern it was decided to conduct a golf spike/sole survey at the 1997 Michigan Turfgrass Foundation/MSU Turfgrass Field Day.

The survey was conducted at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center on a two-year-old Pennncross creeping bentgrass putting green. The site was divided into 20 greens, each measuring 6'x15'. Beginning in May they were mowed five times per week at 5/32" with a walk behind mower. The greens were also put on a light-frequent sand-topdressing program at that time.

On August 27, the day before Field Day, cups were set in the middle of each green. Early the next morning the greens were mowed. Nineteen of the twenty greens had a pair of golf shoes designated for play on that particular green. The remaining green was a check plot that received no play.

All golf shoes were size 11. Sixteen pairs were Foot-Joy® DryJoys®. Each pair had a different type of golf spike inserted into them. The remaining three pairs were Etonic® Stabilites™, Etonic® Difference® with DSS-1™ Spikes, and NIKE® Zoom Air™ with the Nike® waffle spike.

Eight individuals trafficked each green. 120 rounds were simulated by the time the survey began.

The Survey

The rating scale used was:

- 5 = No visible foot traffic.
- 4 = Indistinct foot traffic (very hard to see the foot traffic).
- 3 = Visible foot traffic, but acceptable wear.
- 2 = Apparent foot traffic that appears damaging.
- 1 = Would recommend banning these from the golf course.

Participants in the survey were asked to rate the effect of the different types of spikes or soles on the greens. Among the evaluators were 36 golf course superintendents, 43 assistant golf course superintendents, 34 golf course crew members, and 52 other (turf supply distributors, greens committee chairman, etc.) for a total of 187 participants. The overall means are reported in Table 1. Product names are presented in descending order of their ranking in "The Green Survey" column.

TABLE 1

	Average Rating From The Green Survey	Average Rating From The Board Survey
Etonic® Stabilites™	3.8	4.8
GreenKEEPERS™	3.7	2.7
Turfmates™	3.6	3.4
Gripper™	3.5	2.2
FLATSPIKES™	3.4	4.5
NIKE® Zoom Air™	3.3	3.8
Waffle Spike		
FLEXI-GRIP™	3.2	2.3
SoftSpikes® XP™	3.2	2.5
TRED-LITE™ SP	3.2	3.2
Turfmates™ Plus	3.2	1.7
SOFTWALK™	3.1	2.1
Greenspike®	3.1	4.7
SoftSpikes® XT™	3.0	2.9
TRED-LITE™ MT	3.0	3.7
Etonic® Difference®	2.9	4.7
DSS-1™ Spike		
SoftSpikes®	2.7	4.1
SmartspikeS™	2.4	3.1
6 mm metal	2.0	1.0
8 mm metal	1.2	1.0

Results

The only treatment averaging a number suggesting banishment from the golf course, conforming to the survey scale, was the 8 mm spike. The Etonic®, Stabilites™ had the lowest damage rating among the trafficked greens. Alternative spikes in the survey with a metal component include **Turfmates Plus™** and **SOFTWALK™**. Both had averages greater than 3 and even the all-metal 6 mm spike earned an overall average of 2. Many golf clubs currently have a non-metal policy. This policy impacted **SOFTWALK™**'s recent decision to replace its metal retractable spike with a ceramic one.

In the capitalistic war for market share the alternative spike companies are continually attempting to improve their product. This is reflected in a positive manner for the superintendent with the three *Softspike®* and two *Tred-Lite™* products included in the survey. The newer version of each product received a more green-friendly rating than its predecessor.

As mentioned, the research greens were Pennncross creeping bentgrass on a light-frequent sand-topdressing program. There have been reports that some turfgrass species do not spike up with the 8 mm spike. It is also assumed that greens lacking a light-frequent

sand-topdressing program would produce deeper indentations from some of the alternative spikes because the greens have a greater thatch thickness. In 1998 we will conduct similar surveys as the one in 1997 but on greens seeded with different types of grass with varying amounts of thatch.

Damage to infrastructure is another reason metal spikes have earned disfavor. In a survey developed for the 68th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Conference golf course superintendents and other turfgrass professionals were asked to rate boards that had been trafficked with different golf spikes/soles. In preparation for the survey fur planking was cut into 20 separate 18" length boards. Each board had a pair of golf shoes with different spikes/soles assigned to it. Afterwards, an individual put on a pair of shoes, traversed the assigned board 250 times, removed his shoes put on another pair of shoes, traversed the next board 250 times, etc. until each board was trafficked 250 times each with a different soft spike/sole. One 190 lb. person did all of the trafficking over a two day period.

During the conference nearly one hundred persons rated the boards for damage. The survey simply asked the participant to "Please rate the boards for wear" given the following scale:

- 5 = Excellent (No visible wear)
- 4 = Very Good (some visible wear but I am being picky)
- 3 = Good (Visible damage but acceptable)
- 2 = Fair (Visible damage, definite impact)
- 1 = Poor (Wish I owned a lumber mill).

The results are given in the right hand column of Table 1. The 8 and 6mm spikes received the lowest ratings.

An ongoing traction/comfort survey is being performed by the male and female MSU golf teams. Results will be submitted at the conclusion of the survey.

Conclusion

All alternative spikes/soles outperformed the 8 mm spike in both surveys. The results imply there can only be an improvement on the putting surface and infrastructure after a golf course bans metal spikes; therefore, alleviating the headache of having to police alternative spikes.



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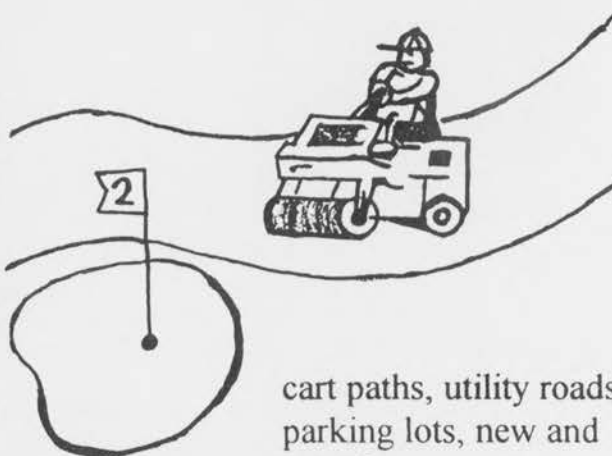
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Canadian-American Joint Meeting

April 27, 1998

Country Club of Detroit

It was one of those few joint meetings with the Canadians where we had nice weather to play golf. Golf is what we did and we did it well!

This year's team winner of the Can-Am trophy, with a total of 325 gross, included:

Aaron McMaster	79
Lowell Weaver	80
Mike Fagan	83
Trey Rogers	83

They defeated the Canadian team consisting of:

Ray Manion	81
Bob Heron	83
Robbie Robinson	83
Thomas Charters	81

Low Net winners were:

Bob Heron - Canadian	- 72
Brian Schwehofer - American	- 73

The golf course at the Country Club of Detroit, managed by Superintendent Mark Jackson, CGCS, was in excellent condition. The new greens rolled so true! A special thanks needs to go to Mark, his staff, and his club for their generous hospitality and fine work with such short notice. Thanks, Mark!

For the education portion of the meeting, the topic of skin cancer was discussed. Dr. Blank had some great information on how we should protect ourselves from the sun, as well as what to look for in a preventative diagnosis of skin cancer.



IT DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!

The Greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Association held it's 17th Annual Special Olympics Golf Outing on May 15th at Bald Mountain Golf Course in Lake Orion.

Mother Nature provided us with a "picture-perfect" day. Bald Mountain provided us with an excellent golf course and dinner, and with the help of the vendors, fellow Superintendents, Club Officials and other businesses, our association was able to provide Special Olympics with a donation of \$18,000.

Included in that amount were funds raised from the 50/50 drawing, raffle for prizes, and the verbal auction. The pool of items included everything from golf packages from golfing facilities throughout Michigan to autographed sports memorabilia. Thanks to you who donated items and prizes and to you who bought chances and bid on those items offered. This year we added a new event. Our thanks to Tom Muir of the Goalie's Den, in Troy, for his help in running the Silent Auction.

There were two flights that won in the 5-man scramble. Congratulations to the Red Flight Tom Penzien, Dan White, Al Trainor, Harry Burleson and Dan Paszek, who scored 56. The winning Blue Flight team with 60 was Bill Zanetti, Ron Demers, Don Fields, Jeff Carson and Dale Bauer.

If you haven't heard yet (or didn't pay attention to the cover this month), **YOU MUST HAVE BEEN OUT OF TOWN!!!** Howard Altman, Superintendent at Stony Creek G.C., made a hole-in-one on #8 and won a brand new 1998 Dodge Truck! Also, thanks to Howard for donating \$375 to the Michigan Special Olympics- the money he won FROM the one and only skin. Thank you, Howard, and congratulations! And thanks to LaFontaine Bros. Arbor Dodge for sponsoring the four Hole-in-One events.

An extra Special thank you goes to our guests from the Group Living Facility in Flint, for reminding us what this event is all about. Thank you to Rex Bailey, Todd Carriere, Patty Davis, Matt Heidel, Richard Levely and Andy McCay for raising almost \$1,000 on the Hit-the Green and Putting Challenge events. Thanks to Julie Murray and Aaron Klein for your dedication to Special Athletes, Special Olympics and this event. More thanks go to Chris Audretsch and his dad, Bernard, for playing in the fivesome with our Executive Board. Over the past few years, Chris, with his smiling face and big hugs for everyone, has brought extra special memories to this day.

Sincere thanks to all who attended, those who sponsored

tees, who worked contests, who donated prizes and funds, and the Special Olympics Fundraising Committee: Co-Chairs Gary Thommes and Tom Schall, Kate Mason, Tom Bradshaw, Don Fields, Tom Gill, Doug Johanningsmeier, Jim Koziatek, Carey Mitchelson, Tim Osburn, Mark Powers, Joe Singles and Jim Vandenberghe. Your diligence and dedication have made this event a success!



Jeff Kovich

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EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

By: David B. Beck, P.E.
David B. Beck & Associates, Inc.
Ann Arbor, Michigan

To quantify water used out of a soil profile a combination of water evaporation from the soil surface and water consumed by the living plant material are measured and combined in evapotranspiration or ET. It is difficult to distinguish between the amount of water which is used by the plant and that which is lost to the environment from evaporation. From an irrigation standpoint, it makes no difference. Any moisture lost from the soil to the environment must be replaced naturally with rainfall or artificially with irrigation. ET, like many other factors influencing irrigation scheduling is highly variable based on the type of turf cultivar, climate, local geography, and other characteristics found on a particular site. (1)

Variations on turfgrass ET occur on a seasonal basis since they are based on climatic factors such as temperature and hours of daylight. Table 1 provides historic average daily ET information for the months during the irrigation season and provides a reference base for ET rates during specific times of the year. Note that during the months of March, April, October, and November, the average daily rainfall exceeds the average daily ET rate. In all but the driest seasons little or no irrigation is required in these months due to natural rainfall.

Table #1
Historic Average Daily ET Data for Southeast Michigan. (Inches/Day)

Month	Average Daily ET (in)	Avg. Daily Rain(in)
March	0.02	0.07
April	0.06	0.10
May	0.12	0.11
June	0.18	0.09
July	0.21	0.09
August	0.19	0.10
September	0.12	0.09
October	0.06	0.08
November	0.02	0.07

Reference 2): Toro Rainfall - Evapotranspiration Data. 1966.

ET rates shown in Table 1 represent average historic values. These average ET rates do not account for daily variations in weather patterns which drive ET. As an example, an entire month's rainfall may fall on a single day during that month requiring irrigation every day of the month except during and right after the rainfall event. Conversely, we may have a particularly wet season as we had in 1992 where rainfall occurred frequently and in enough quantity to nearly eliminate any need for irrigation. Actual daily ET will vary dramatically, even during peak irrigation in July. Stormy days during the peak irrigation season will result in no cumulative loss in soil moisture or even an increase in the soil moisture level. Although defining all elements which influence evapotranspiration on a daily basis is beyond the scope of this discussion, it is

imperative that a reliable daily measurement of ET be found to insure optimum irrigation efficiency. Simply guessing on ET and irrigation applications will result in overwatering. There are many sources of measured and published daily evapotranspiration such as from onsite weather stations, weather stations from nearby courses, other onsite ET devices, computer software, or agricultural extension services. Once a reliable source of daily ET is located, the irrigator using experience can learn how to apply the ET information to a specific site or golf course. Over time the irrigator will learn that their site uses generally more water than the reference ET or generally less water than the reference ET. The relative difference will typically remain unchanged and adjustments to irrigation depth can be applied accordingly. Remember, irrigation is a science, not an art.. By monitoring ET on a daily basis and adjusting water applications accordingly, irrigation will be more efficient and reduce operating costs and improve the turf growing environment.

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- 1) Schwab, G.O.; Frevert, R.K.; Edminster, T.W.; Barns, K.K., 1981. Chapter 3-Infiltration, Evaporation, and Transpiration, Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, John Wiley and Sons, Inc.
- 2) Toro Rainfall - Evapotranspiration Data. 1966.

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Establishing An Intern Program

A valuable activity that can benefit the student and your course

by George Hamilton

The role of the golf course superintendent has changed dramatically over the past 30 years. Not only has turfgrass management evolved into a very technical discipline, but the superintendent's role has expanded to include many responsibilities far removed from turf related topics. These changes have created a seasonal demand for experienced workers within the golf course industry.

Turfgrass management students are helping to meet this demand. Many colleges and universities offering a turfgrass science curriculum make internships a requirement or elective for their programs. Internships can vary from being project-specific to an on-the-job training or apprenticeship. For project-specific internships, the students develop a plan of action for a particular project with the help of their academic advisor and the golf course superintendent for whom they will be working. The student completes a report upon returning to campus and is given academic credit for the experience.

The on-the-job training internships may or may not be for credit. Although there is no particular project to complete, the students usually have general guidelines to follow and certain goals to achieve.

Internships in either form can be of great benefit to both the student and the internship provider. Some graduates return to their internship golf course to gain additional experience or to fill vacant supervisory positions. This hiring practice is usually successful because the graduate is familiar with the people and the operation, and vice versa.

Important Accommodations and Considerations for an Internship Program

The most important accommodation of an internship program is housing. The housing can be on- or off-site, although on-site housing is much more convenient and efficient. If housing is not provided, the intern must locate and secure housing before the employment begins and then must consider a lease, furniture, and other necessities. Most students don't have the time during school to take care of all of these arrangements, especially if the golf course is a great distance from school. It's much easier for students to show up at the internship site with a trunk load of dirty laundry.

Other accommodations that courses can provide are meals, golfing privileges, limited or unlimited overtime and a competitive wage. The hourly wage is always an item for consideration, but most interns do not make it the most important factor of their decision. They do, and rightfully so, contemplate the type and quality of experience that they are going to receive.

The superintendent can attract potential students by defining and developing an intern position within the management hierarchy. It is very important that management characterizes the intern position as one very different from a regular crew position. **If management does not utilize students differently from other seasonal employees, the turf students are really just seasonal employees.** Superintendents need to structure internships so that the students not only gain new knowledge and experience, but also contribute to the operation with their knowledge and experience.

Internship positions should have some level of responsibility associated with them. After all, most interns should only be a year or so from being in a position of responsibility. They should be put in a position that requires long hours and an *on-call* status. The interns should realize they will be the ones who will be expected to come in early, stay late, or work weekends in order to get tasks completed. Too many students have gravitated into assistant and superintendent positions believing the work week consists of 40 hours during the week and three hours on Saturday morning! When interns experience true-to-life working conditions, they have fewer surprises early in their careers.

Interns should also be involved in chemical and fertilizer applications to some extent. They should be far enough along in their education that they have a good understanding of equipment calibration and pesticide handling. Students should also be exposed to irrigation system operation and repair and water management philosophies and techniques. Interns also could spend a couple of days with a mechanic and in the shop to gain mechanical experience. All of the golf course management staff can provide educational opportunities for interns.

One thing that most interns are interested in is spending time with the golf course superintendent. They like to have the opportunity to discuss *why* things are being done or *how* things are being done. Students appreciate the opportunity to have good lines of communication between themselves and the upper-level management. It allows them to learn more and makes them feel like they are part of the *team*.

Interns can learn and benefit by being a part of another team as well. Many times golf courses rely on volunteers or crew members from surrounding courses for tournament preparation. Allowing interns to work at local, regional or national tournaments broadens their experience and gives them an opportunity to meet and work with other people in the industry.

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Tips on Recruiting Interns

First, management should develop a true internship program with some of the aforementioned components. Students have more interest in internship programs that are well developed and organized. Some schools have abundant requests for interns. For example, at Penn State University, we had more than 150 requests last year. Our students were seeking internships that were well-established and had a reputation for providing good experience.

Students have different internship objectives and requirements. However, most interns are seeking a mentor. Interns want someone who will take interest in the needs of a developing professional. They want to work for someone who will go out of their way to teach and train them. This point sounds good and seems easy enough to do, but it is very difficult to implement in the hectic world of golf course maintenance. The company line can quickly become "we don't have time for that now; we'll do it later on in the season." But the season is never long enough to have those learning opportunities happen, and the intern ends up dissatisfied. The golf course may have difficulty getting interns in the future if it establishes that type of reputation.

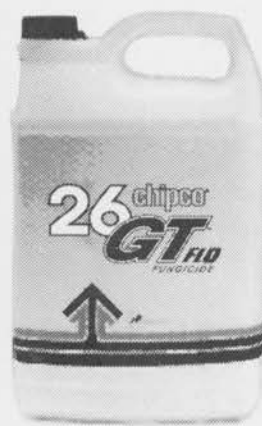
Golf courses can seek interns by communicating with academic institutions that offer a turfgrass management curriculum. Some schools place their interns, and others provide their students with internship opportunities and allow the students to select for themselves. Also, some schools have active student turf clubs that have booths at state and national trade shows. Many times the turf clubs will have a binder of student resumes of those who are looking for employment.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America is offering an internship referral service for members who are seeking interns. The World Wide Web is another resource that can be used to locate students looking for internship opportunities. TurfNet (www.turfnet.com) is one of the turfgrass-related sites that posts employment opportunities.

Developing a quality internship program takes time and dedication. It doesn't happen in a year or two. It takes planning and aggressive recruiting to get started. Once your program has been viewed as successful, word-of-mouth will send students to you. However, the competition for interns is on the rise and even the best programs will not get all of the interns they need every year. An internship program is a valuable activity that benefits both the student and the golf course.

GEORGE HAMILTON is a Senior Lecturer of Turfgrass Science and a Technical Advisor to the Golf Course Turfgrass Management Program at Penn State University. In his capacity at Penn State, George also administers the Intern Program.

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Team Michigan Wins Challenge Cup

By Paul Richter, Spring Lake G.C.

After a disappointing zero for the first trip to the International Golf Course Challenge Hockey Tournament, cunning Captain Ken DeBusscher (Wabeek C.C.) said "Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me," and vowed to assemble a stronger team for the 1998 edition of golf course superintendents on ice. And assemble it he did. The 1998 model of the Michigan team was tougher than any Chevy truck. Disembarking from various locations, the team of mostly golf course superintendents and a few well chosen purveyors headed across the 402, 401, 403 and QEW to Niagra Falls, New York to show the world hockey wasn't just for Canadians, Russians, Finns and Swedes anymore. The Americans have arrived. Last summer's World Cup, and now a quest for the prestigious Challenge Cup.

No time for an easy warmup game. Toronto, the runner-up in 1997, was the first draw in the round robin for Michigan. The pace was fast from the drop of the puck, with Toronto holding a 3-1 lead after two periods. Furious forechecking by Tim DeBone (Monroe G.C.), Pete Hahn (Bruce Hills) and John Nowakowski (Great Oaks C.C.), and steady defensive play by Rick Hayes (Pine River C.C.) and Joe Costello (AIS Rental), wore the opposition down, and a comeback was mounted. Four minutes left and the score was knotted at three each. Three minutes remaining found Toronto on top 4-3. One minute to go, and the goalie is pulled for the sixth attacker. Five ticks of the clock remaining and Eddie Heineman (Waters Edge C.C.) buries a rebound to salvage a hard fought 4-4 tie.

Due to the relentless rushes of Rick Osburn (Osburn Trucking), deft stick handling by Tim Osburn (Osburn Trucking), the yeoman work of centerman Jim Eccleton (Arbor Hills C.C.), winger Chris Allard (Sugar Bush G.C.), not to mention rock solid defense from Gary Johnson (Pheasant Run G.C.), Michigan racked up wins over its last two opponents, squelching the comeback attempts by North Toronto (prevailing by a score of 5-3) and London (by rolling over them 5-1) on a solid performance between the pipes by netminder Jack Asher. However, in all it was the depth of the Michigan icers that wore down the tenacious Canadian opposition.

With the cup one victory away, the championship game would find formidable opposition in the twice-scored-upon-in-three-games Kitchner team. Midway through the first period found the boys from the Wolverine state down 2-1, when Paul Richter (Spring Lake C.C.) lit the lamp with an off-speed snap shot from the point to set into motion a rally with unanswered scores by DeBusscher, Matt Costello, Jim VanAntwerp (Waterway Irrigation) and Rick Osburn, after which Kitchner never recovered. An 8-4 victory gave the Michiganders the privilege to sip suds from the cup as champions.

Not to be fooled with anymore, the crafty Captain Ken DeBusscher did gather a team capable of turning a few heads in the superintendent hockey world, by becoming the first American team to win the International Golf Course Challenge Hockey Tournament.

Local Toro Turf Experts Recognized

MINNEAPOLIS (May 7, 1998) - Spartan Distributors, Inc. was recognized recently as a preeminent distributor of Toro products. Spartan was the recipient of the Partners in Excellence, Gold Level of Excellence award for outstanding service in all business categories: Overall, Commercial, Consumer, Irrigations and Parts.

"Spartan Distributors' commitment and investment in the customer has consistently earned them high customer satisfaction ratings and makes them a standard bearer for quality," said Ken Melrose, chief executive officer and office of the president, The Toro Company. "We are proud to recognize their achievements and to be their partner in excellence."

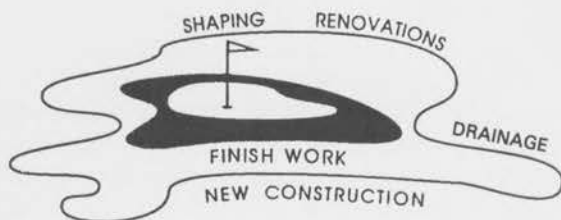
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PRESIDENT

Condolences to:

Craig Roggeman, Superintendent member, Sycamore Hills Golf Club, and his wife, Beverly, upon the death of their son, Gary Beauchamp. Gary was killed in a car accident on March 27th.

Get Well Wishes:

Cy Davis, Affiliate member with Club Car, Inc. was hospitalized with cancer of the esophagus. The surgery was successful and Cy is doing well.

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Heritage Award Essay

In 1996 GDGCSA initiated the Heritage Award to recognize individuals in non-turf related post graduate secondary education, whose parents are members of our association. The recipients are selected on the basis of an essay. This year's participants' essays were based on their response to the following question: *The impact of golf on the environment has received much press during the past couple years. Please describe your views, positive or negative, on how the sport of golf and its playing field effects our environment.* Award winners for 1997 were: Kelly Renee Ashworth, daughter of Craig Ashworth and Megan Lynn Kirtland, daughter of John Kirtland. If you have questions about the Heritage Award, contact Awards Chairman Rick Murphy, CGCS.

Essay by Kelly Renee Ashworth

Five years ago, if you had asked me about the positive or negative effects golf courses had on the environment; you would have been met with a blank look. I truly had no idea that the golf course industry had been met with so much criticism and controversy. However, after working as a groundskeeper at Meadowbrook Country Club for the past five summers, I feel that I can now answer the question of environmental impacts in a clear and well-educated manner.

In my opinion, the positive aspects of a golf course far outweigh those of a negative nature. There are many things that today's superintendents practice to maintain earth friendly courses. Some of these practices include green waste recycling, water conservation, wildlife preservation, and integrated pest management. Besides these practices, golf courses have also proven to benefit economies.

Green waste recycling is presently a very commonly used practice among superintendents. This form of recycling entails returning grass clippings to the earth, mulching leaves during the autumn season, chipping brush, and composting regularly. Making use of clippings and mulching dead leaves have proven to return vital nutrients and organic matter back to the soil. Chipping brush found on the course is beneficial because it makes for excellent landscape mulch that can be used around walkways and flowerbeds. And besides adding organic matter to the soil, this mulch conserves soil moisture and prevents unsightly weeds. Composting serves as another earth friendly practice, as it promotes quick germination and can reduce excessive fertilizer use.

Water conservation is another practice found on many golf courses around the world. Because of the constant threat of population growth and long-term drought, superintendents are encouraged, and sometimes required, to act wisely and to water only when necessary. With today's technology, many superintendents have switched from manual to computerized irrigation systems and are able to monitor the weather through on-site weather stations. With these advances they are then able to avoid watering if they know that rain is approaching. And many times, a superintendent will water at night or early in the early morning hours, when wind and evaporation speed are low.

Wildlife preservation also plays a key role in maintaining a golf course. With the cooperative efforts of the Audubon Society and various other organizations, golf courses also serve as wildlife sanctuaries and wetlands preservation areas. Meadowbrook, for example, introduced the idea of using nest boxes throughout the course that not only provided a habitat for threatened species of birds, but also allowed for community participation in monitoring. Because of these added benefits, a golf course then becomes multi-functional. No more is the course simply a playground for golf lovers, it now provides recreation to walkers, joggers, and birdwatchers, therefore attracting a vast amount of outdoor enthusiasts.

It wasn't until I had enrolled in a biology class at Michigan State that I discovered the important role that integrated pest management plays in managing a golf course. I had always assumed that a superintendent used dangerous pesticides to eliminate the spread of disease, insects, and weeds on the golf course. The reality is that today more and more of our nation's greenskeepers rely on natural methods of disease control and prevention. In my own experiences at Meadowbrook, I was introduced to the idea of using pseudomonas, a naturally occurring soil bacteria, to compete with destructive fungi found in the soil to prevent and control turf disease. Other areas have used BT, another naturally occurring bacteria, to kill swarms of Gypsy moths, which were defoliating many trees at an alarming rate.

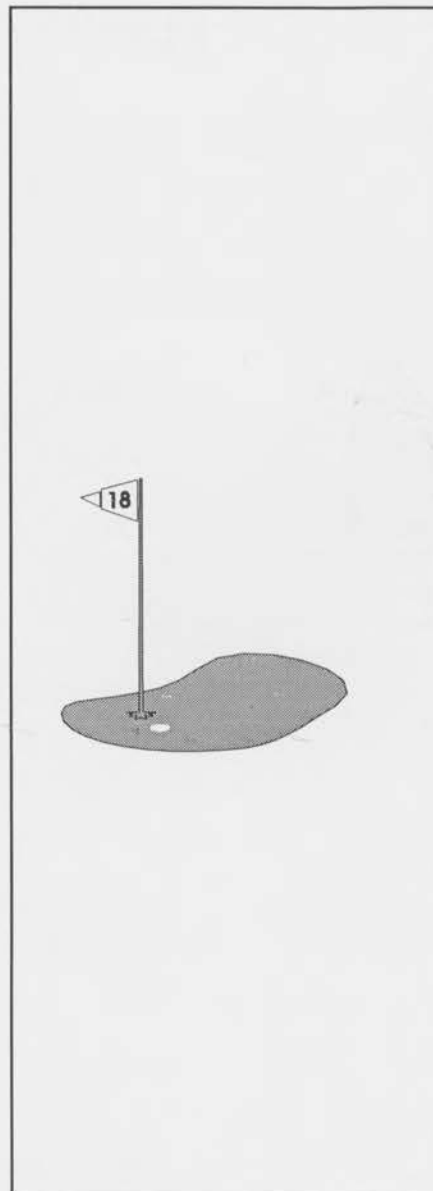
Although many superintendents are now using naturally occurring substances more and more to maintain an attractive and healthy course, pesticides remain widely used. Many controversies have arisen because of regular pesticide use, especially in the golf course industry. But if you refer to the facts and not ignorant individuals who make uneducated assumptions, you will see that the use of pesticides can be beneficial. For starters, contrary to popular belief, various university and government studies indicate that pesticides and fertilizers that are properly applied do not leach into groundwater. Also, many of these products are only applied on certain areas of the course while other areas are natural and are not maintained with turf care products.

Besides having a generally beneficial impact on the

environment, golf courses also offer many economic benefits. Today's irrigated golf courses generate millions of tourist and property tax dollars for state economies. Golf courses are also thriving businesses that provide many skilled and semi-skilled jobs, and provide a place for social interaction and community events. Besides that, courses are also civic benefactors that give major contributions to charities.

As you can see, a well maintained golf course could definitely benefit the environment. According to the USGA, a golf course is actually an "air conditioner that will produce vast amounts of oxygen while cleansing the air of pollution and cooling the atmosphere." Many independent university research projects also support the idea that a well-managed golf course does not pose significant risk to the environmental quality, wildlife, or human health. And many employees of the golf course industry are very well educated individuals who are themselves nature lovers and avid wildlife conservationists.

It is a fact that new developments deplete our airable land, but unfortunately, developments will never come to a halt. So it is the responsibility of all course developers and golf course superintendents to be careful with the land they use, and give back to the earth as much as possible. This was definitely the case in my experiences at Meadowbrook. I first looked at my job as just a way to make money during the summer, but the more I have learned, the more pride I take in my work. So my once ignorant views of golf courses and their impact on the environment have finally been replaced with a mature and educated view of the reality: golf courses do not affect the environment negatively when the proper practices are put to use.



JOHN WALTER AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

A great way to contribute to the association is by writing an article for *A Patch of Green*. Each one of us can benefit from an article that shares an experience, opinion or area of expertise. Articles that are published in *POG* are eligible for the John Walter Award (plaque and \$100). In addition, the Board has decided to continue giving a \$50 credit towards meeting expenses or dues for each article published (maximum \$100 credit) in a *POG*. The criteria is an article of 500 words or more on any topic that would be beneficial to the membership. This is a good opportunity not only to save some money for yourself or your club, but to give back to your association. Contact Awards Chairman Rick Murphy, CGCS for more information.



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Board Meeting Highlights Knollwood Country Club Monday, March 31, 1998

FINANCE (McKinley)

Assn. Checking: \$3,530.63; Savings: \$40,937.97
Foundation Checking: \$98.03; Savings: \$1,509.26

MEMBERSHIP (Thommes)

Membership - 412. Applications approved - 2.

MEMBERSHIP RELATIONS (Thommes)

The association will be sending out a recruiting letter to local public courses.

EDUCATION (Murphy/Jones)

April meeting - Joint Canadian

Date: April 27

Site: CC of Detroit

Cost: \$40 for golf/dinner or dinner only. \$35 for caddie (no carts)

Format: CANAM Tournament

Educational Topic: Skin Cancer

July meeting - Burning Tree for Association Championship

GOLF DAY (McKinley/Dorner)

5 sites: Barton Hills, Bay Pte., Katke-Cousins, Lochmoor and Oak Pte.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS (Thommes/Schall)

Assn. donated logoed shirts from the clothing inventory for raffle prizes.

GAM SEMINAR (Szyndlar)

Was held March 21 at Detroit Golf Club.

Ward Swanson received the Distinguished Service award. Event was very successful.

NEW EQUIPMENT (E.S.)

Board approved copier to be purchased from Gestetner for approx. \$4,000. Savings of \$900 per year in maintenance fees.

DR. PAUL RIEKE RETIREMENT (TOM MASON)

Celebration planned for Rieke's retirement at 1999 MTF Conference. Endowment fund to be established in his name. Rieke will administer. Alumni will be solicited. Associations are being asked to support a possible annual golf fundraiser.

WOMEN'S AMATEUR (McKinley)

Date: August 20. Board agreed to place an ad in the program. More details to come.

PHONE CHAIN (Kolbe)

Association needs to establish a phone chain to notify members of deaths, illness, crises, etc. affecting our membership. Kolbe to contact Vendor Liaison John Skaife for assistance.

INDUSTRIAL/ENVIRONMENTAL RELATIONS (Murphy)

Proposed name change of committee to Government Relations approved by Board. This is name used by GCSAA.

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Board Meeting Highlights Knollwood Country Club Monday, May 5, 1998

FINANCE (McKinley)

Assn. Checking: \$539.05; Savings: \$27,776.43
Foundation Checking: \$94.03; Savings: \$2,471.87

MEMBERSHIP (Thommes)

Membership - 416. Applications approved - 2.

EDUCATION (Murphy/Jones)

April meeting - Joint with Canada. Successful. Good attendance. Good speaker. Next year's site: Essex
June Meeting - Joint with WMGCSA Site: Travis Pte.
Date: June 29.

Board hopes to utilize the proposed Rieke Foundation golf fundraiser as a forum for statewide interaction between associations, as they work together and function as area host associations for the event.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS (Thommes/Schall)

Plans going well. Golfers 100. Sponsors have filled tee sponsorships. Auction and raffle items coming in. Have enlisted the services of an auctioneer for the event.

AWARDS (Murphy/McKinley)

Turfgrass Scholarship to be offered in Sept. Recipients will be announced at Golf Day.

SOCIAL (Schall/Abbott)

Picnic: Being planned for an August weekend. Sites being considered. Clarence Wolfrom Classic will be held at Maple Lanes GC. Date TBD.

WELFARE (McKinley)

Phone Chain to be formed.

O.J. NOER FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT (Kolbe)

Kolbe to cc Board on info relevant to Midwest.

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"No mobile phones allowed on course", will be placed on all meeting notices.



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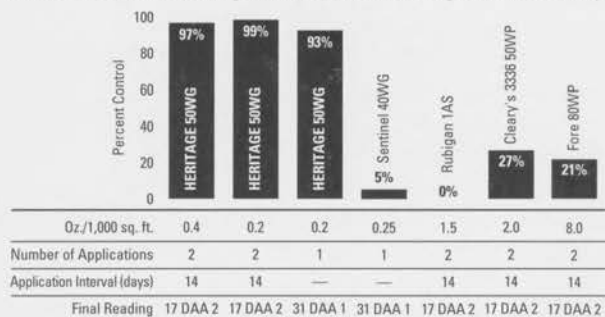
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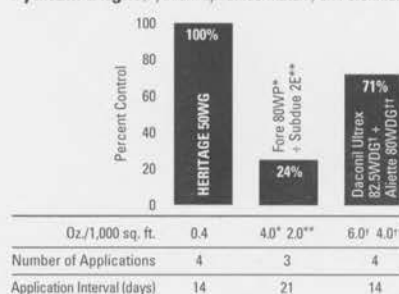


Dr. Don Scott, Purdue University, 1995

US 67-95-P354

¹ Also isolated from plots: 2 species *Rhizoctonia*; 3 species *Pythium*; and several species *Phytophthora*.

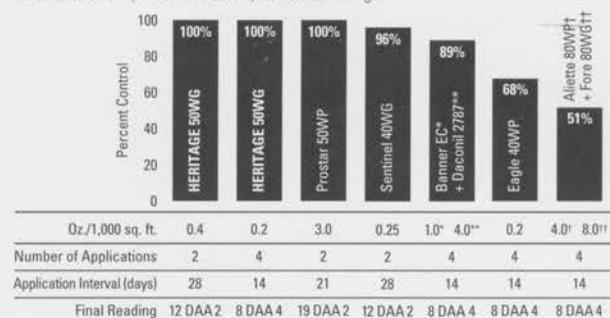
Pythium Blight (*Pythium aphanidermatum*) on Perennial ryegrass



Dr. John Watkins, University of Nebraska, 1996

USNP-96-P030

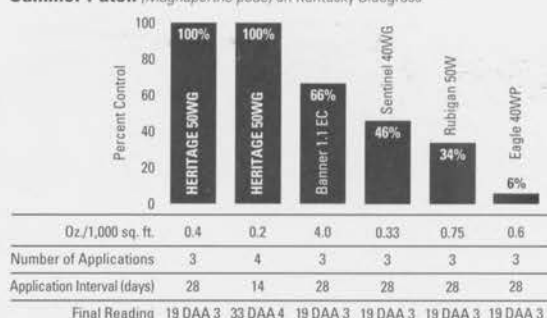
Brown Patch (*Rhizoctonia solani*) on Colonial Bentgrass



Dr. Pat Sanders, Penn State University, 1994

US 66-94-P356

Summer Patch (*Magnaporthe poae*) on Kentucky Bluegrass



Dr. Bruce Clarke, Cooke College, Rutgers University, 1994

US 66-94-P362

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FOUTY MICHAEL (pg. 40)

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FAX-(734) 662-0861

MYERS, DONALD (pg. 56)

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PAWLUK, DAVE (pg. 58)

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SCHALL, THOMAS V. JR. (pg. 62)

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SCHWEIHOFFER, BRIAN (pg. 63)

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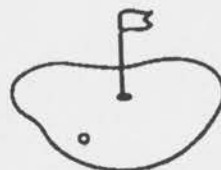
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GREATER DETROIT GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 1997 & 1996

GREATER DETROIT GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION
Statement of Revenue and Expenses
For the Years Ended December 31, 1997 & 1996

	1997	1996
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash	\$41,923.00	\$35,163.00
Accounts Receivable	6,560.00	3,545.00
Dues Receivable	440.00	165.00
Total Current Assets	\$48,923.00	\$38,873.00
Equipment (net of depreciation) ..	1,172.00	2,127.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$50,095.00</u>	<u>\$41,000.00</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 686.00	\$ 407.00
Income Tax Payable	1,000.00	900.00
Unearned income	460.00	0.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 2,146.00	\$ 1,307.00
EQUITY		
Membership Equity	47,949.00	39,693.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY ...	<u>\$50,095.00</u>	<u>\$41,000.00</u>

	1997	1996
REVENUES		
Advertising	\$ 54,612.00	\$ 44,055.00
Dues	34,559.00	33,898.00
Interest	849.00	757.00
Meeting Fees	43,125.00	28,208.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$133,145.00	\$106,918.00
EXPENSES		
Awards	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Depreciation	995.00	759.00
Income Taxes	2,200.00	1,500.00
Insurance	1,090.00	1,090.00
Magazine Production & Mailing ..	39,905.00	42,534.00
Meetings	46,061.00	34,349.00
Membership Welfare	291.00	236.00
Postage	2,832.00	2,671.00
Printing & Supplies	1,317.00	1,942.00
Professional Fees	24,372.00	20,158.00
Repairs & Maintenance	2,154.00	1,989.00
Telephone	1,407.00	1,428.00
Miscellaneous	305.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$124,889.00	\$110,656.00
Change in Membership Equity ...	8,256.00	(3,738.00)
Beginning Membership Equity ...	39,693.00	43,431.00
Ending Membership Equity	<u>\$ 47,949.00</u>	<u>\$ 39,693.00</u>

GREATER DETROIT GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS FOUNDATION
Statement of Revenues and Expenses
For the Years Ended December 31, 1997 & 1996

	Golf Day	Special Olympics	1997 Total	1996 Total
REVENUES				
Donations	\$30,830.00	\$20,952.00	\$51,782.00	\$49,295.00
Event Fees	27,205.00	9,647.00	36,852.00	36,610.00
Interest	292.00	101.00	393.00	162.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$58,327.00	\$30,700.00	\$89,027.00	\$86,067.00
EXPENDITURES				
Research/Scholarships/Donations	\$27,000.00	\$20,647.00	\$47,647.00	\$47,500.00
Event Fees	31,476.00	9,632.00	41,108.00	40,184.00
Miscellaneous	33.00	33.00	66.00	30.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$58,509.00	\$30,312.00	\$88,821.00	\$87,714.00
Fund Balance Increase (Decrease)	(182.00)	388.00	206.00	(1,647.00)
Beginning Fund Balance			21,980.00	23,627.00
Ending Fund Balance*			<u>\$22,186.00</u>	<u>\$21,980.00</u>

*This balance is not included in the assets of the association

NOTE: The financial statements presented herein have not been audited. However, the association's Audit Committee (Past Presidents Ken DeBusscher, Jay Delcamp and Jim Timmerman) conducted their annual audit of our financial records and have noted no problems. We have presented these statements based on the accrual basis of accounting.

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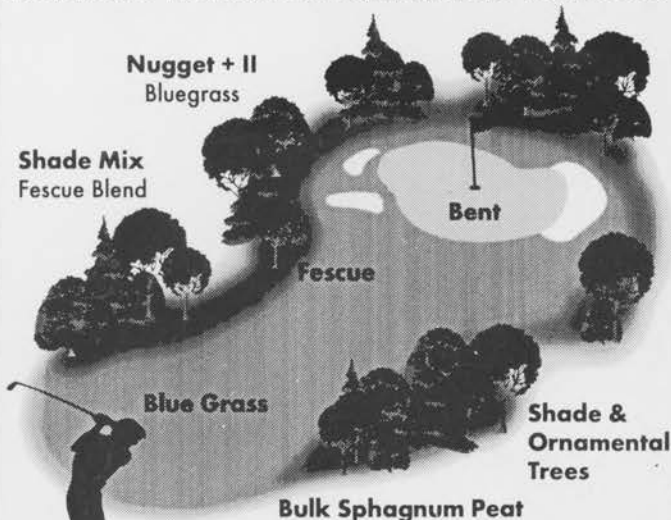
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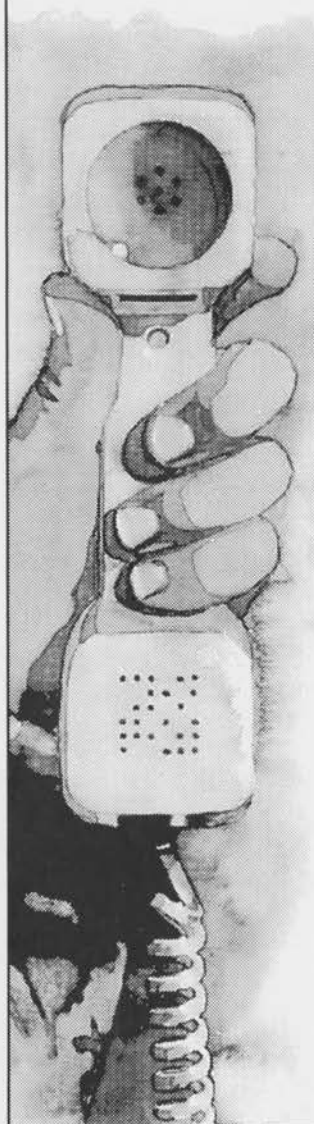
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GDGCS 1998 Calendar

June 29	Travis Pointe CC	
July	Site & Date TBA	
Aug. 6	Links of Pinewood	"The Invitational"
Aug.	Site & Date TBA	Picnic
Sept.	Site & Date TBA	Annual Meeting
Oct. 5		Golf Day "The Big Event"
Oct. 29	Novi Hilton	Management Meeting
Nov. 10		GCSAA Regional Seminar
Dec. 8	Birmingham CC	Superintendent Only Meeting

Mid-Michigan GCSA 1998 Calendar

June	Site & Date TBA	
Aug.	Site & Date TBA	
Sept. 28	The Dream - West Branch	Golf Day MTF Fundraiser
Oct.	Site & Date TBA	Annual Meeting

Western Michigan GCSA 1998 Calendar

June 29	Travis Pointe	Joint Meeting with GDGCSA
Aug.	Mullenhurst	
Sept. 21	Cascade Hills	Golf Day MTF Fundraiser
Oct.	Site & Date TBA	Annual Meeting
Nov.	Kent CC	Fall Party

Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association 1998 Meeting Schedule

June 8	The Dream- West Branch	MTF Fundraiser
July 19	Beaver Creek	Picnic
Aug.	Site & Date TBA	
Sept. 15	Charlevoix CC	NMTMA Fundraiser
Oct.	The Heathlands	Onkama

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