

WESTERN VIEWS

January-February, 1993

Official Publication of the West Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association

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CHANGES

The New Jacobson Dealer for this area will be *Valley Turf*

Kathy Antaya C.G.C.S. will be the superintendent for *The Meadows*, G.V.S.U.'s new course in Allandale

Bob Murphy is the superintendent at Tyler Creek in Alto

Al Batham is the new superintendent for Cascade Hills C.C. He comes to us from *The Bear* in Acme, Mi.

Rod DeSmet is the superintendent at *Thoroughbred* in Montigue, Mi.

Fred Pastoor C.G.C.S. is the Superintendent for *Old Channel Trail* in Montigue, Mi.

Congradulations to *Bill and Kay Fountain* on the birth of Helen on Dec. 3

Editors Note: Please write me to have any changes included at: Western Views, 1447 Hope S.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49606

UPCOMING DATES

| <u>EVENT</u> | <u>LOCATION</u> | <u>DATE</u> |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| MIOSHA Meeting | Forest Hills | February 25 |
| Round Table Disc | To be Selected | March 24 |
| G.A.M. Meeting | Egypt Valley C.C | March 3 |
| Spartan Univer. | Spartan Dist | March 10-11 |
| Golf Outing | Grand Haven | April * |
| Joint Meeting w/Mid Mich Turf | Pohl Cat | May 18 |
| Golf Outing | Fairway G.C | June * |
| Morning Coffee | Various Clubs | July-August* |
| Golf Day | Egypt Valley C.C. | Sept. 13 |
| | Mid Mich. Turf | |
| Assoc. Annual | Midland C.C. | Sept. 20 |
| Annual Meeting | Thornapple | September 28 |
| Fall Party | C.C. Jackson | November 6 |

* Date to be set

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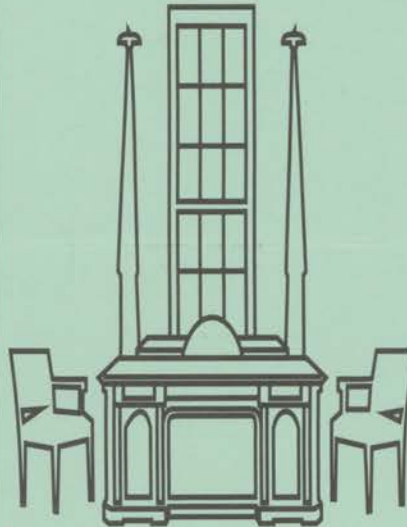
The President's Message

Winter for us is really a love/hate relationship. We hate it because it takes us away from that work that we really enjoy. We love it because it gives us a chance to catch our breaths after another busy and hectic season and to regroup for next season. Many of us use this time to re-acquaint ourselves with our families.

It is this re-grouping period that is so critical to our success. In retrospect we can evaluate our previous year's performance; what went well and what failed us or did not live up to our expectations. It is important to realize that we are in an industry that is not exact. Our decisions are based on many variables, some of which are out of our control. We have problems that need to be addressed and following our investigation we realize that there are several possible solutions to just one problem. We try to determine the one solution that will be the solution at our facility. Sometime we're right and sometime we're something else. Okay, maybe not so right. Okay, wrong! There, I said it.

It is through education that we are able to arrive at many of these answers to these problems. This always sounds like such a simple solution. Yes, there are many formal opportunities that avail themselves to us over these blustery months, which includes the M.T.F. Turf Conference, the G.C.S.A.A. Turf Conference and Trade Show, the G.A.M. Seminar, and our monthly meetings, especially our March round table discussion. But besides having educated turf experts and researchers giving us well documented and well prepared presentations, there is one common denominator that exists at every one of these; that is

...superintendents. We learn so much from each other. And why is that? First of all, we hold nothing back. If someone has a problem and starts talking about it, others will freely volunteer their experiences with him. If they have had a bad experience, then they will warn him. If they have had a success, then they spill their guts to help. It is a unique industry. I have often heard it said that we are in compe-



tion with each other. I don't believe that. It seems to me that we are in more of a partnership where all the partners end up in a tie for first. I like that!

Winter also gives us the time to visit with our fellow superintendents at their clubs. We can see how well they maintain their shops and maybe pick up some valuable information or technique that will help us. You might even drop some pearl of wisdom on your host. In about ten minutes that is exactly what I'm going to do. I am going over to Cascade Hills to visit with their new superintendent, Al Batham. Al is from "The Bear" and I have seen his course during the Michigan Open and each time it has

been in immaculate condition. My facility has many similar features and I am hoping to gain some insight that will help me in the upcoming season. You can see if I learned anything from him when you come to Egypt Valley for this year's Golf Day in September.

By the way, we also hate winter, because it's cold outside of our nice, warm beds.

Chris Fotchman CGCS

Thanks:

To the following members for their time and effort working the hospitality room at the National:

Charlie Scott
E.J. Harrington
Kevin Henley
Steve Adamczyk
Paul Schippers
Harry Schuemann

Turf Conference Recap

The number of people registering for the 1993 Turf Conference was 1300, about the same as last year. It is expected that the "Proceedings" will be out by May 1. The 1994 Turf Conference will be held on January 17th thru the 19th. The conference was well received and well organized. The overcrowding for some of the basic schools is being addressed, and more attention will be paid to availability of materials. Many thanks to the Conference Planning Committee for all the hard work they've done throughout the past year in planning and organizing this important event.

Harry Schuemann, CGCS

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W.M.G.C.S.A. NEWS

Appointments for 1993

| <u>Committee Name</u> | <u>Chair</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Education | Harry Schuemann |
| Membership | Bill Fountain |
| Nominations/Elections | Fred Pastoor |
| Scholarship | Paul Hoag |
| Notification | Bill Fountain |
| Fall Party | Paul Schippers |
| Golf Day | Gary Spahr |
| Newsletter | Tom McGuinness |
| G.A.M. | Chris Fochtman |
| M.T.F. | Harry Schuemann |
| Golf Events | Steve Tedhams |
| Morning Coffees | Charlie Scott |
| Hospitality Room | Paul Schippers |
| Environmental | Steve Tedhams |
| By-Laws and Policy | Harry Schuemann |
| GCSAA | Pat Meersman |

The M.T.F. Board for 1993

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Pres. | Jim Bogart |
| V.P. | John Maddern |
| Sec. | Lon Anderson |
| Treas. | Harry Schuemann |
| Directors | Bruce Wolfrom |
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| | Jim Timmerman |
| | Gary Bartsch |
| | Jim Brockelhurst |
| | Bruce Jacobs |
| | Tom Smith |
| | Chuck Cole |

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 Valley Turf

1993 WMGCSA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

In mid December, Charlie Scott, Paul Richter, and myself traveled to East Lansing to interview two-year students for the 1993 WMGCSA scholarship award. After ten interviews over a five hour period, and following much discussion, the committee decided that the recipients of the two six hundred dollar scholarships would be Tony Gieb and Cameron Kern. They received their checks January 5 at the Michigan Turfgrass Conference.

Tony is from Big Rapids and worked at Winters Creek G.C. for five years before entering Michigan State. During his internship he worked for Don Fitz at Cascade Hills C.C. Tony hopes to find an assistant superintendent position in either western or northern Michigan for the upcoming season.

Cameron hails from Cadillac, has experience at McGuires Resort, and did his placement training at Crystal Downs G.C. Cameron also has a four-year teaching degree. He too is looking for employment in Michigan, but is willing to relocate out of state if necessary.

It is a pleasure to meet and talk with the quality people that are coming out of Michigan State University's two-year program and into our industry. The membership of WMGCSA has reason to be proud of their continuing commitment to turf management education in the State of Michigan.

Paul Hoag, Scholarship Committee Chairman

PLEASE NOTE:

SERIALS

1993 Membership Dues are now overdue. Please pay them as soon as possible!

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WESTERN VIEWS

TAKE YOUR STEP TODAY!

Certification will designate you as a professional pacesetter. Golf course superintendents recognize the value of a meaningful certification program. They know such a program will add dignity and prestige to their profession and increase the prospects of acquiring additional recognition. Certification is an opportunity to expand your knowledge of your profession, your industry, and your association.

As you advance in your profession, you will not only have a resume and a good recommendation to give a future employer, you will also have the

distinction of being a Certified Golf Course Superintendent.

To be eligible for the GCSAA Certification Program, applicants must: 1) document 5 years' experience as a golf course superintendent. 2) be currently employed in that capacity. 3) have completed one year (30 semester credit hours) of college course work or 10.5 CEUs from GCSAA Division 1 seminars. You do not have to be a member of GCSAA to be eligible.

Of prime significance to the GCSAA Certification Program are the comprehensive six-part examination and the attesting process. Although you prepare for the test at your own pace, the entire test must be completed within one year of the date that your application is approved.

You can obtain the list of study materials from the GCSAA Education Department. The sections of the test are:

- I) Knowledge of GCSAA and the Certification Program.
- II) The Game and Rules of Golf.
- III) Turfgrass Management.
- IV) Pest Control, Safety and Management.
- V) Financial Management.
- VI) Organization Management. You may retake individual sections of the test.

The attesting requirement is fulfilled by having your golf course operation reviewed by two currently certified superintendents of your choice.

So, don't put it off another day. For more information call (913) 832-4444.



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