

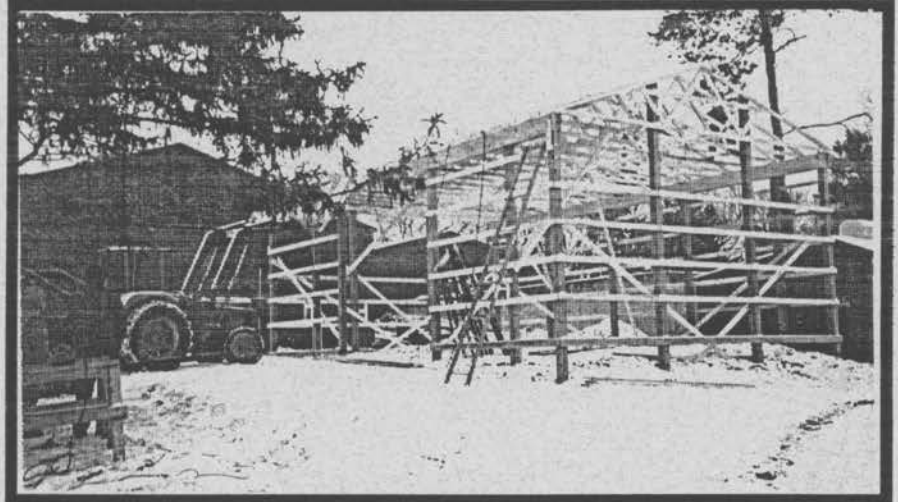
# WESTERN VIEWS

February 1994

Official Publication of the West Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association

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## 1994 Meeting Schedule

- March 1 . . . . Cascade Hills C.C., Roundtable meeting
- March 15 . . . Kent C.C., G.A.M and WMGCSA meeting
- April 18 . . . . .Blythefield C.C., meeting and golf
- May 11. . . . .Grand Haven G.C., meeting and golf
- June 13. . . . .Arbor Hills, joint meeting with MBCGCSA and golf
- July 12. . . . . Winters Creek G.C., meeting and golf
- Aug. 9 . . . . . Forest Hills G.C., afternoon coffee
- Aug. 10 . . . . .The Moors G.C., morning coffee
- Aug. 11 . . . . .Marywood G.C., afternoon coffee
- Sept. 12 . . . . . Battle Creek G.C., Golf Day\*
- Late Sept. . . . Silver Lake C.C., Annual Meeting and golf\*

\*Date or sight still pending

**Editors Note:** Please write me if you have any corrections or if you are interested in doing an article for us at: **Western Views**  
1447 Hope S.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI. 49506

## Cascade Hills Builds Spray Pad

At Cascade Hills Country Club we recently constructed a mixing, loading, chemical containment structure. This brought our club into compliance with Act 637. This act became affective one year from the date of October 29th 1992 when it was passed by the Michigan State Legislature. As you know this legislation was passed to help prevent the release of pesticide containing material into the environment during the mixing and loading operation.

When I talked to Tom McGuinness, editor for *Western Views*, about contributing an article on rinse pads to the newsletter, I thought about going through an itemized list of the process we followed to construct ours. After some thought I realized that this maybe helpful to some, but that there are many ways to come into compliance with Act 637 and every operation may not take the same route. I guess you would use the old saying of there is more then one way to catch a mole. (No offense to the animal rights activists intended.) I did have a few general thoughts on the project that I would like to share with you, however after constructing a rinse pad.

--- The Michigan Department of Agriculture came up with a detailed set of rules pertaining to rinse pads but they left out the specific instructions on how to build a rinse pad.

---Fire marshals or chiefs in different municipalities have varied opinions of what is right concerning pad and building site locations.

--- Building inspectors also have various opinions on the subject.

--- Special Use Permits, if they pertain to your property are gained from your township planning commission. But before that you must have a public hearing and every property owner within 300 feet of your property is invited to attend. Any questions the planning commission or property owners have are addressed at the

See *Sray Pad*, page 4

## Changes

- The new superintendent at Kalamazoo Country Club will be John Fulling from Berrien Hills C.C.
- Congradulations to E.J. Herrington on the birth of his daughter, Catharine Mary

### G.A.M. Meeting Date Set

The West Michigan Golf Course Superintendent Association and the Golf Association of Michigan will hold their joint spring meeting at Kent Country Club on March 15th. All superintendents are encouraged to bring their assistants, club officials and/or owners. The program will be geared to inform all who attend on such issues as the Audubon Society, golf research in Michigan, and various other topics that relate to Michigan golf. The U.S.G.A., G.A.M., and M.S.U. will all have speakers in attendance. It should be an interesting program. Please support these organizations with your attendance. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. The cost will be \$25.00/person. A mailing will be sent to all members with details.

### Mechanic's Corner

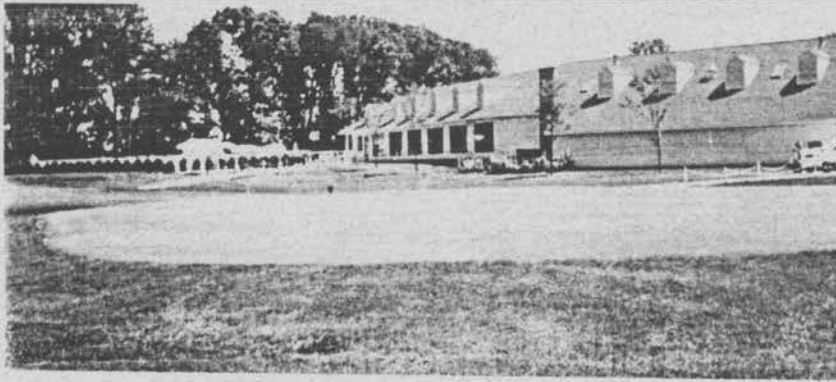
Hello, my name is Mike Salkovich. I am the mechanic at Crystal Springs Country Club. I thought I would take the time to share a few ideas that seem to make my job a little easier.

You can save set-up time by moving the mounting centers from the outside the cutting unit to inside. The reason behind this is to push outward on the cutting unit frame, keeping the bearings tight. A truer grind is accomplished and the need for a bar is alleviated.

Secondly, if you maintain an older LF 100, you can triple bearing life by drilling and installing zerks into the bearing housing where the seal and bearing cup sets. It will allow for fresh grease to purge the old skank grease from the bearing that would otherwise just set there. (The factory design has now been changed)

That's it for now. Until next time, keep the reel finger pitch to a minimum.

Mike Salkovich



### Building a New Practice Green

When the new clubhouse was placed in service, in August of 1992, at Silver Lake Country Club, the old practice green was left a quarter mile away. The original prints had indicated a sight for the new practice green hundreds of yards from the pro shop. It was to be approximately 3500sq. ft., sand based, and seeded to bentgrass.

Fortunately, I was allowed to make some adjustments. Since we still have 16 of our original, 70 year old, poabent greens in play, I wanted a similar green for practice. The sod would come from one of the original greens due for demolition and from the old practice green. I took soil samples from these old greens and used them in an effort to make the new greens mix compatible with the sod. The company that would be mixing the soil agreed on 60% sand, 20% peat, and 20% native soil (a sandy loam), a much "heavier" greens mix than is normally used today.

First, the sight was selected, taking into account convenience to the golfers, traffic patterns, drainage, sunlight, etc. The new sight would be directly in front of the pro shop, one of the highest traffic areas at the club. A bonus of a "heavier" soil would be less watering, thus less water thrown into this area.

Second, the size and shape were selected. The shape was basically oval. It would be 5200 sq. ft. and elevated an average of two feet above the surrounds. The actual contours of the putting surface would consist of a few subtle humps as the whole green gently sloped in the direction of best drainage. (I would be relying on natural slope and elevation for drainage on this "heavy" soil). From this information we could estimate the amount of greens

mix needed.

A soil shredder was brought on sight and mixed the soil, making enough for 12 inch layer of topsoil on the green and enough to topdress it several times afterwards.

Next the actual bulldozer work was done. Using native soil the general shape was formed, leaving a definite slope for drainage on this subgrade. This was allowed to settle. Next, the shredded topsoil mix was spread and shaped, with the final contours literally created on sight. This was allowed to settle for several weeks. I feel that this settling time was the key to achieving a consistent surface in the end. Next, the surface was regraded by a lightweight rake prior to sodding. The irrigation was installed and connected to the existing system.

We were fortunate to have sod on sight. It would be minutes from the time it was cut to when it would be gently laid on it's new home. A special crew of experienced sod layers was hired to help in the cutting and laying of the sod. As the pieces of sod were cut, they were numbered, so they could be laid out in the same order. Hopefully, this would eliminate the "patchwork" appearance sodded greens sometimes have. The surface of the new green had to be handgraded just prior to laying of the sod and each piece carefully set to get the surface absolutely smooth. The bulk of the sod came from the old twelfth green, making up about 80% of the new green. We used about half of the old practice green to fill out the edges on the new green. I was amazed at the difference in the two types of sod! See **Green**, page 4



## January Meeting at the Highlands

Many thanks to Gary Peters and the club staff at the highlands for the lunch, which was outstanding once again. Participation by the members was excellent with about 60 people attending.

After lunch, Pat Meersman and Paul Skippers gave us a short talk on the new bylaw changes with the National Association. They reminded us that though the votes representing our association are generally voted as a block at the National, anyone can vote as an independent, or our delegates can split their votes. Our delegates indicated their intention to vote for all the various bylaw changes being considered this year.

When the meeting was over, about 16 people took the chance to go bowling. Kevin Barton got lucky and bowled a 231. Not bad for a 135 average bowler! Louie Krepp was the lucky winner of the strike pot. Bob Borgman had high series, easily topping the 600 mark.

## An Assistant's Perspective

Imagine this: you are spraying number one fairway and notice that two of your staff seem to be in a daze. You finish spraying the fairway and head over in their direction. As you approach, their intensity seems to pick up but you notice they are doing exactly what you told them not to do.

I am sure this situation has arisen at everyone's club. What do you do? I begin by asking what they are doing, and then follow up by inquiring why they did not ask me to explain further if they did not understand.

Their answers always seem to be the same, "We understood when you told us, but once we started the job, we found that we did not understand."

Communication is the key to good productivity and employee relations. We not only explain the job at our club, we also draw it, and

physically show them what we mean. This practice seems to alleviate most indecision with our staff. But there is still something that just requires a trained individual to supervise the operation. For this reason, most assistant superintendents are extremely busy.

Superintendents are busy enough with putting out fires, controlling their operations, and evaluating programs for effectiveness and efficiency. They can't be everywhere at once.

Thus they rely on their assistants to

See *Assistant*, page 4

## Roundtable Meeting Date Set

A Roundtable Discussion will be held at Cascade Hills Country Club on March 1st. A wide variety of topics will be discussed, with group involvement encouraged. A continental breakfast and lunch will be served. After lunch, guest speaker Greg Lyman, from M.S.U., will be updating us on rinse pads and other upcoming environmental concerns. Please join us and help support our continuing education. Don't hesitate to bring up any questions or concerns of interest to you or your golf operation. Superintendents or golf course personnel attendance only please.

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## **Spray Pad, cont.**

hearing.

--- This is a capital purchase and although a large benefit to the environment it will take money away from other capital improvements in your operation.

--- Ben Darling with the M.D.A. and Greg Lymond with M.S.U. have been very helpful with the programs they have put on covering this topic.

--- There are many suppliers that are up to date on the products they sell to help you comply with act 637.

In conclusion, the project was not as difficult as it first appeared. It helped to have owners or members that realized that even though it was not a new tee box or greensmower, it was a requirement that would benefit future generations.

Al Bathum, Superintendent  
Cascade Hills Country Club

## **Green, cont.**

The old twelfth green was primarily bentgrass while the old practice green was almost entirely annual bluegrass. (The soil beneath the old twelfth green was superior and that green had had no foot traffic for two years.)

After sodding, in mid-October, the new green was soaked and lightly rolled. Once the roots had started to take, in about two weeks, it was rolled with a heavier roller. We topdressed it once, heavily, with the same greens mix. The green banks were seeded, fertilized, and rolled at the end of October, then covered with an erosion mat. The seedlings were an inch or two tall by first snowfall.

The following spring, we topdressed twice and kept the cutting height higher till May. We returned cutting height gradually to normal and opened the green. You could hardly see the sod lines! Through 1993 this was one of my healthiest greens.

TIM

## **Assistant, cont.**

communicate what is happening in the day-to-day maintenance of the course. As an assistant, I found that clear, concise communication is the key to a better work environment. If operations are conveyed clearly to the superintendent, decisions can be made correctly, thus saving time, effort and money.

On the other hand, superintendents need to make sure their assistants understand their directions so that precise explanations can be conveyed to the staff. Saving in countless ways, making everyone's job a little easier.

Kevin Henley, Assistant  
Superintendent  
Crystal Springs Country  
Club



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