



WESTERN VIEWS

November - December, 1998

Official Publication of the West Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association

1999 Meeting Schedule Western Michigan GCSA

January 12	The Highlands
February	GCSAA
March	*Roundtable
March	*GAM
April 27	Heritage Glen
May 11	St. Ives (Joint with Mid)
June 14	Country Club of Jackson (Joint with Detroit)
July 20	Boulder Creek
August	Open
September 13	Kent CC
October 5	Walnut Hills (Annual Meeting)
November 6	*(Fall Party)

* Location and/or dates to be determined.

SERIALS

00170

Editor's Note: Please write me if you have any corrections or if you are interested in doing an article for us at:

Western Views
3725 Cascade Rd., S.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

President's Message: *Another Year Older*

Another year wiser? Let's hope so. We'll need to be. That counts for your professional institutions and your business ventures.

The WMGCSA has made "progress" over the last few years and I feel good about "where we are" on the Board and what we do as an association. We've streamlined many of the things we do and standardized how we do events. I'd like to thank those on the current board for their efforts and especially our Secretary/Treasurer, Keith Paterson, and the last two presidents, Paul Schippers and Harry Schuemann, for their decades of hard work in fine tuning the WMGCSA.

There is still plenty to do, of course, and it will take some participation from the members. The more we "network," the easier it will be to address the needs of the membership. Job security issues,

club management training, golfer etiquette (golfer training!), equipment sharing and Superintendent "Politics" are topics that come to mind. We must participate in our own success, and through the WMGCSA and the GCSAA is the way to do it. Get to know who is on your board and what they do. Feel free to raise your hand at a meeting to ask a question. Talk to Jon Maddern when you see him at the MTC and ask him about what GCSAA is doing for you. You may be surprised that they really are thinking about the average superintendent and not just running with the "fat cats." We need not be afraid to share information and experience. Call me anytime (I can give you Al's number!).

Have a fine '99,
Doug Boyle C.G.C.S.
President

Michigan Room

In Orlando, at the National Conference this year, the Hospitality Room for Michigan will be located in the Omni Rosen Hotel. It will be open on the 10th, which is Wednesday, after the opening ceremonies. It will also be open on the 11th and 12th. The room and format will be similar to last year's. Each night, a superintendent from one of the Michigan Associations will be recognized by their chapter for service or achievements. The room will be

supported through the generous contributions of venter members and individuals. Financial support in any amount will be greatly appreciated. Donations will be accepted at the door or in advance. If you would like to contribute in advance, please send your donation to:

G.D.G.C.S.A. The Michigan Room
c/o Kate Mason
P.O. Box 173
Troy, MI 48099

Clean the Skeletons Out of Your Closet!

A Safe Way to Dispose of Unwanted Pesticides

Have you got some yellow ooze starting to show through that old jug of stuff (who knows what it used to be) in the back of your pesticide closet? In a crowded room, rarely do you get anyone to raise their hand to that type of question. Having some pesticides hang around a grounds maintenance operation is not uncommon. What is uncommon is the ease with which you can now dispose of these products, thanks to the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program at the Michigan

Department of Agriculture (MDA).

There seems to be a variety of ways in which pesticide products can accumulate in the turf and ornamental "green" industry. Inheriting old products, changes in the scope of the business operation, label changes and new products emerging on the market are a few ways that pesticide products can become unwanted, fall out of favor and get pushed to the back of the storage room.

Clean Sweep Program

The MDA has been aggressively building a mechanism to move old, unusable or unwanted pesticides off your storage shelves and into the hands of disposal professionals. We have conducted several Clean Sweep projects in the past five years for the green industry, but the system just became even easier. The Groundwater Stewardship Program has been establishing permanent Clean Sweep disposal sites. A total of 11 sites are now operating.

Clean Sweep Pesticide Disposal Sites

John Grochot
Berriert County Dept. of Planning,
Public Works & Land Description
811 Port Street, Room 105
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(616) 983-7111, Ext. 8617

Brian Horst
Treasurer, Delta Solid Waste
Management Authority
1100 Delta Avenue
Gladstone, MI 49837
(906) 428-2311

Randall Smith
Grand Traverse County
400 Boardman Avenue
Traverse City, MI 49684
(616) 527-5357

Donald Lehman
Ionia County Resource Recovery
Project
100 Library
Ionia, MI 48846
(616) 527-5357

Dawn George
Isabella County Recycling Program
4208 East River Road
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
(517) 733-9631

Tom Dewhirst
Kalamazoo Co. Human Services
Dept., Household Hazardous Waste
Center
1301 Lamont Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(616) 383-8741

Chip Hughes
Lapeer County Health Department
1575 Suncrest
Lapeer, MI 48446
(810) 667-0391

Elwin Coll
Macomb County Health Department
43525 Elizabeth
Mt. Clemens, MI 48043
(810) 469-5235

Darwin J. Baas
County of Ottawa Health Dept.,
Environmental Health Division
12251 James Street, Suite 200
Holland, MI 49424-9675
(616) 393-5645

Thomas G. Waffan
SOCRRA
3910 West Webster Road
Royal Oak, MI 48073-6764
(248) 288-5150

Steve Kunselman
Sumpter Township
23480 Sumpter Road
Belleville, MI 48111
(313) 461-6201

For further information on Clean Sweep or the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program, contact Jack Knorek at (517) 335-2874.

The System

Now for the incredible news. There is no cost for those operations that are considered end users of the products. These include ground maintenance, golf courses, athletic fields, municipalities, and

...continued on page 3



*Did you hear about the
cannibal who passed his
friend in the park?*

Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the following people to our organization!

Brian Beridon

Assistant Golf Course
Superintendent,
Lawton Golf Club

Erik Frazier

Sales & Marketing,
Rhino Seeds

Bob Foster

Assistant Golf Course
Superintendent,
Fieldstone Golf Club

Randy Lane

Sales Representative,
Century Rain Aid

Allen Rigns

Scott Lake Country Club

Mark Tschirhart

Golf Course Superintendent,
Branson Bay Golf Club

Clean the Skeletons Out of Your Closet, *continued*

homeowners. Those who are in the business of selling pesticide application services will be charged a nominal cost: around one dollar per pound. This is a fraction of the cost if you tried to arrange this yourself. Program costs are covered by the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program, a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and services provided by the local cooperators. This includes unknown pesticide products — those packages which have no label. To take advantage of this system, simply contact the site that is closest to your operation, let them know what you have, follow their packing and transport directions, make arrangements to drop them off at the site, and then drive away with a smile, knowing that you have helped your company, the environment and the industry.

In general, green industry

operations don't have large quantities of unusable or unwanted pesticide products hanging around in storage sheds. More commonly, small amounts of a few products accumulate over time. This project enables everyone to easily dispose of those few jugs of product that you just don't plan to use any longer, or those that have a big drum of "stuff" in the corner. Make it work for you. A tip of the hat is in order for the MDA and the Groundwater Stewardship Program for this proactive approach.

Persons interested in participating in the Clean Sweep program should contact the site coordinator at the location nearest to them.

*Gregory T. Lyman,
Turfgrass Environmental
Education Specialist,
Department of Crop
and Soil Sciences*

Advertisers

Please patronize our advertisers as they have made this newsletter possible.

Benham Chemical	(810) 474-7474	Peerless-Midwest	(219) 272-9050
Boylan Sales	(616) 685-6828	Professional Lake Management	1-800-382-4434
Commercial Turf Equipment	1-800-231-5296	Rhône-Poulenc	1-800-334-9745
Ellis Sales	1-800-962-4128	Spartan Distributors	(616) 887-7301
Haz-Stor	1-800-727-2067	Standard Sand	(616) 842-5180
Kubota of Grand Rapids	(616) 364-7031	T.C.I.	(517) 725-7145
Lebanon Fertilizers	(810) 673-7146	Terra International Inc.	1-800-412-1300
Lesco	1-800-321-5325	Turfgrass, Inc.	1-800-421-8873
Michigan Turf Equipment	(616) 554-3310	Turf Services	(616) 842-4975
J. Mollema & Sons	1-800-234-4769	Valley Turf	(616) 532-2885
O.M. Scott	(616) 361-2106	Van Manen Oil	1-800-654-4244
Parmenter & Andre	(616) 458-1546	W.F. Miller Co.	1-800-555-8189

Assistant's Perspective

With 1998 behind me, I have finally taken the time to stop, breathe and reflect on last year. What a start to my first job as an assistant! I had just completed MSU's turf school, moved cross-state and then I got married in mid-May.

What an exhausting way to learn so much. Hot, dry weather created high ET rates and plenty of wilting. Lots of hand-watering was required, which proved to be tough. I had to learn to work, yet be a manager and supervise our employees. I had always thought my transition from labor to management would be easy — boy, was I wrong!

Management, I learned, not only includes dishing out orders, but motivating employees, daily and weekly scheduling, inventories, ordering supplies, and IPM management, just to name a few. It involves long hours and a great deal of stress. School can teach you an awful lot, but I seemed to get a crash course in this subject. These factors

seemed to wear on me as the summer went on.

The summer took its toll on the turf as well. Early August came and we discovered that several of our greens were infected with crown-rot anthracnose. We prepared to battle this disease using both cultural and chemical control — all of this while preparing for Golf Day, only a mere couple of weeks away. This needed to be treated late into the Fall.

With Fall came the loss of college help. There was lots to be done — pruning, fall projects, leaf cleanup and mowing through November?! A warm late fall that lasted through most of December

gave golfers great opportunity for play. However, keeping up with everything and only having limited help proved to be challenging.

Being as "green" as I was, I didn't do everything right, and some days I was a pain. But mostly, I tried to keep a stiff upper lip, learn all I could, and do my best. I learned by example and also from my mistakes. For those of you who are "green" and those that are "seasoned," I hope your summer was as productive and educational as mine.

Aaron Cochrell
Assistant Golf Course Superintendent
Cascade Hills Country Club



*It's not very important
where you've been...*

*...Life is about
where you're going.*

1999 Committee Assignments

Education	Richter, Antaya, Litogot
Scholarship	Barton, Fulling, Thuemmel, Fulling
Monthly Meeting.....	Bathum (dates) Paterson (notices) Thuemmel (activities)
Fall Party	Paterson, Hopkins, Fulling, Host
Golf Day	Paterson, Hopkins, Litogot, Fulling, Host
Hospitality Room	Bathum, Fulling
GAM	Bathum, Hopkins
GCSAA	Bathum, Hopkins
MTF	Antaya, Fulling
Newsletter	Bathum, Antaya
Bylaw and Policy	Bathum, Boyle
Finance/Membership Notification	Paterson

1999 W. Bruce Matthews Legacy Award

~ PURPOSE ~

To offer educational aid to the children of WMGCSA members as an additional membership benefit. We are looking to reward the well-rounded, thoughtful and charitable student.

~ DESCRIPTION ~

Upon confirmation of eligibility, an independent committee of college-level educators will review and judge the candidates' applications. If the WMGCSA Board determines that no student meets the minimum criteria standards, no award will be given that year.

~ ELIGIBILITY ~

1. One of the applicant's parents/stepparents/grandparents must be a currently active A, B, C or Affiliate class member, and has maintained this membership for three consecutive years.
2. Applicants must be studying or planning to study in a field unrelated to golf course management. (Outside the scope of the Turf Student Award.)
3. Students must be enrolled full-time in an accredited institution of higher education, or accepted at such an institution for the next academic year.
4. An applicant may reapply if they do not win, but there is a limit of one award per student.
5. All other siblings in the family of a winner remain eligible.

~ CRITERIA ~

1. 500- to 700-word essay on parents' involvement with the WMGCSA and/or the turf industry.
2. Community service activities, including school or religious volunteer work, neighborhood activities, etc.
3. Academic achievements and honors.
4. Extracurricular activities and leadership skills, including work, sports, hobbies, clubs, etc.

~ DEADLINE ~

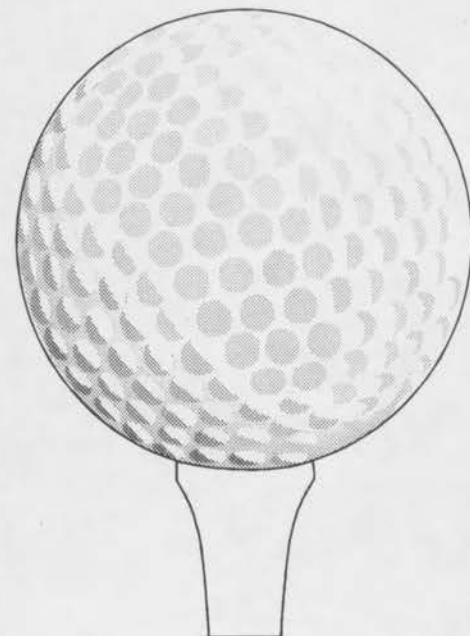
For more information or applications, call Roger Barton at 517-773-4331. Completed application forms must be received by **April 1, 1999**. Send forms to:

W.M.G.C.S.A.
8585 Winter Forest
Rockford, MI 49341
(616) 363-6728

Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program

Please join us in the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program! Everyone enters the program by attending a workshop where you will receive the materials and information on how the program can work for you. If you missed the workshop at the M.T.F., the next one will be held March 18 at the Treetops Sylvan Resort in Gaylord. It is a day-long seminar, starting at 8:30 a.m. and concluding around 3:00 p.m.

This program is gaining momentum throughout the state and getting attention at the national level. We welcome your participation and input to make this program grow and develop. A registration form is located in the M.T.F. Turf Conference packet, or to receive additional registration forms or information, please contact Debbie Swartz, Michigan State University, at swartzd@pilot.msu.edu, or at 517-353-3208.



Classified Ads _____

Toro Reelmaster 223-D - Bad motor, reels ground once, new bearings, hoses throughout. Good for second set of reels and parts. \$2,300.00 or best offer, or possible trade. Dan Litogot 616-657-2553.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE - Jacobsen 5-gang or 7-gang Blitzers, good shape. \$1,500 for 5-gang, or \$1,700 for 7-gang. - Lesco Bunker Rakes, good shape, some new, others three seasons, 150 rakes, \$900. - Roseman 5-gang Verticutter with Hydraulic Power Pack and Parts, \$250.00 or best offer. - Call Al Bathum, 616-493-6419.



3725 Cascade Rd., S.E. • Grand Rapids, MI 49546

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
PERMIT NO. 582

Pete Cookingham
MSU Main Library
W - 212
East Lansing MI 48824