



Western Views

April 2001

Editor: John Fulling

Official Publication OF THE WEST MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

President's Message

As I sit here looking out my office window it is snowing sideways and turning the ground white – sounds like a good time to write my first President's message.

I am looking forward to this upcoming year. We have many new faces on the WMGCSA Board for this year. We welcome Joe Jehnsen, Kevin Welp, Gary Peters and Joe Hancock. We also welcome back, Keith Paterson as Secretary/Treasurer. Keith is taking over the position as Paul Richter has accepted a sales position with J. Mollema Co. The board extends a THANK YOU to Paul for his work as Secretary and wish him the best in his new position. This is a board made up of good people with great ideas. One of the issues for this year is the declining member participation in monthly events and meetings. What are the reasons for this decline? Too busy with other things? Monday vs. Tuesday? Too expensive... It is not just one reason, but many. Your board is looking into making these great opportunities to learn a few things and have a great time networking with your peers. If you have any suggestions or comments on our meeting schedule, please contact me so we can discuss them. The number of summer monthly meetings is down from last year with the thought of really encouraging

our members to attend the great line up of courses that we have for this season.

Over the winter we lost a good friend and fellow superintendent, Fred Pastoor, CGCS. He passed away after a battle with cancer. At the GCSAA conference in Dallas, we acknowledged Fred with the Meritorious Service Award on behalf of our association. In May, at our first golf meeting at Thornapple Pointe Golf Club, we plan to present the plaque to Fred's wife, Sandy. Hope to see many of you there.

A FEW CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER:

- To Greg Lyman and Debbie Schwartz for receiving the 2001 President's Award for Environmental Leadership from GCSAA
- To Jeff Holmes for being elected to the MTF board of Directors.
- To Kevin Dushane and Pamela Smith who both were awarded Environmental Stewardship Awards from GCSAA
- To Keith Paterson for his 2nd place finish in the Senior Division in GCSAA's Tournament.

Well the snow has stopped and the green grass is showing again, this means that I have either taken way too long to write this message or we live in Michigan and the weather changes by the minute.

Respectfully yours,

Jeff Hopkins

WMGCSA MONTHLY MEETING DATES 2001

May 7 – Thornapple Pointe GC

June 12 – Candlestone GC

August 22 – Turf Field Day
@ MSU

September 17 – Golf Day
@ Thousand Oaks GC

October 9 – Annual Meeting
@ Moss Ridge GC

Editor's Note:

Please write or e-mail me if you have any corrections or if you are interested in doing an article for us at:
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\$75.00 Annual Dues

As part of **GCSAA'S 75th Anniversary** they are offering \$75.00 annual dues to first time members. The WMGCSA has also cut its yearly dues to \$25.00 for first time members during the celebration. Tell someone you know who aren't members yet!

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E-Mail Database!!!!

We're building an e-mail database. Please send your e-mail address to John Fulling at kccjfull@voyager.net.

Also watch for our new WMGCSA e-mail address in the next couple of months.

March Round Table Update

The annual round table meeting was held at Sunnybrook CC on Monday the 12th. Very special thanks to Tim Hoekstra for hosting the event. Attendance was approximately 65 superintendents and assistants. We had two speakers for the morning session. Brian Anderson of Syngenta lead discussions on chlorothalonil substitutes, cost effective methods of dollar spot control, industry mergers, and snow mold recovery. Greg Lyman, MSU environmental specialist, gave a detailed update on the environmental issues such as changes in fuel storage regulations, progress of the MTESP, and the new buffer strip program just under way. There was a group discussion in the afternoon. Topics included, greens overseeding, divot recovery, ball mark recovery / education, professional relationships between club management, etc.

The Board is hoping to have another round table meeting at the end of the season as a re-cap. Look for a posting later and try to attend.

W. BRUCE MATHEWS LEGACY AWARD

Dear Members and Friends:

One of the great many benefits we receive as members of the WMGCSA is the opportunity for our children, stepchildren, or grandchildren to win a \$1,000 scholarship award through the W. Bruce Matthews Legacy program. The eligible candidate is a current college student or has been accepted into a college for the next academic year. Their field of study must be any area outside of the turf industry.

Your child or grandchild will be sent an application upon request. The application asks the candidate to highlight academic achievement and honors, community service and volunteer work, and extra curricular activities. The candidate will also be asked to write a 500 to 750 word essay on their parent's or grandparent's (your) involvement with the turf industry and/or the WMGCSA.

One winner will be chosen and a check presented to the winner at our regular June meeting.

I urge you to take advantage of this great opportunity. All of your children, stepchildren, or grandchildren are eligible. Each individual child can win the award only one time. They can reapply every year until they either win the award or leave school.

Please call me at (616) 345-5103 for an application and for more information. The deadline for returning the applications is May 15th, so please call soon.

John Fulling



DAN MEERSMAN RECEIVES THE WMGCSA TURF STUDENT AWARD.

Daniel Meersman, son of long time WMGCSA member Mike Meersman, received the \$1,000 turf scholarship awarded by the WMGCSA each year at the MTF conference in January. Dan is a 4-year student in the MSU turf program. He has a great deal of golf course experience, having worked for dad for years. Dan is also an accomplished golfer, winning numerous local and regional tournaments. We're proud to have Dan as our award winner. We wish him the best of luck with his future in turf.

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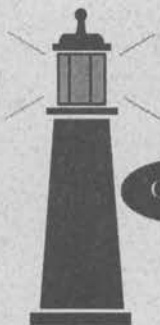
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Do you have anything you want to sell or buy? List it here for free. Just call John Fulling at (616) 345-5013, or e-mail me at kccjfull@voyager.net.



Attention Members and Advertisers:

We are working on the 2001 Roster and need your help. Please take a moment to check your listing in the roster and e-mail corrections, additions or changes to John Fulling at the e-mail address listed above. Thanks

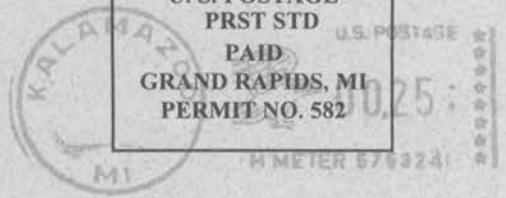


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