



WESTERN MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE
SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION
FOUNDED 1938

Western Views

Official Publication of the Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association

March / April 2002

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Upcoming Events:

WMGCSA Meetings:

April 22: Pilgrims Run GC
"Summer Stress / Turf Quality"

May 13: Gull Lake CC
"Planning for Retirement"

June 17: Point O' Woods CC
"USGA Update: Latest technology"

President's Message

I really appreciate the West Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association.

I came to this conclusion while I was in Florida, attending the GCSAA Conference & Trade Show. Through conversations with other superintendents and vendors, I realized how special of a group we have here. You can call anybody in the roster book(which, by the way, looks great with thanks going to John Fulling and Joe Jehnsen) and get information and helpful hints from everyone. Nobody is out there trying to keep all the tricks and secrets to themselves. If you have a particular question or concern, call a peer – young – old, rookie – seasoned veteran, all are out there to help each other.

We have a few good meetings planned over the next couple of months:

March 6: Blythefield CC
Spring Roundtable Meeting

April 22: Pilgrims Run GC
Golf Meeting

May 13: Gull Lake CC
Golf Meeting

June 17: Point O' Woods
Golf Meeting

Try to attend as many of these as possible, you are sure to get something out of them that you can take back to your own course.

By now you have all received your 2002 Roster Book. It is just chock full of helpful information and numbers. If there are any errors, and I say IF, please notify Jeff Hopkins or John Fulling

so we can take care of them before next time. E mail addresses are changing constantly, so please check them closely.

It is that time of year where you start spending a little bit more time on the course, less in the office and you are coming in earlier along with leaving later. I can almost hear my mowers starting up – no, not yet.

Til it thaws,

Jeff Hopkins



WMGCSA Education Programs Strong for First Half of Season

The WMGCSA education committee has a strong line up of education for the first half of the season. Following the round table meeting there are 3 regular meetings; April 22, May 13, and June 17. The April meeting will be at Pilgrims Run GC, and the featured speaker is Dr. David Spak of Aventis / Chipco. David will do a 1 hour presentation entitled "Summer Stress and Turf Quality." The information will be very timely as we head into the season. Thanks to Joe Grippi and Aventis for picking up the cost in getting Dr. Spak to Michigan for us.

The May 13 meeting will be at Gull Lake CC. Our featured speaker is Robert Jansen, CPA. Bob is the principal partner of his accounting firm Jansen, Furgason & Valk PC, and was the Secretary / Treasurer of Kalamazoo Country Club from 1994– 2001. Bob will discuss tax and retirement options available to you and your club. He'll outline programs available to your club that allow **you** to maximize your investment potential. He'll touch on industry trends, and how they might effect us specifically.

Continued on page 2...

Education Programs cont' from pg 1

Bob Vavrek of the USGA Green Section will be our featured speaker for the June 17 meeting at Point O' Woods CC in Benton Harbor. Bob will talk about the latest technology that is being used throughout the country. He'll also discuss potential turf issues for the upcoming season. Bob visits more than 100 clubs a year, and is a great source for current information.

We hope you plan on attending all these meetings. The education and fellowship are a great part of being a WMGCSA member! *wv*

Bill Madigan and Clem Wolfrom Receive distinguished service awards at GCSAA show in Orlando

Bill Madigan and Clem Wolfrom received distinguished service awards from the Western Michigan GCSA and the Greater Detroit GCSA at the Michigan room during the GCSAA conference and show. Bill has been superintendent at the Country Club of Jackson for 33 years. Clem has been superintendent at Detroit Golf Club for 40 years. Many friends and colleagues from Michigan and elsewhere were in attendance to pay tribute to these gentlemen, and rightly so... Both have had great careers at their clubs. They are both responsible for the growth and strength of the Michigan golf course superintendents associations... And both Bill and Clem worked for many years (and continue to work) on the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation boards and committees, helping to perpetuate what has become the strongest state turf association in the country.

It was a treat to hear them speak about their careers. Not once did either say the word "I," except to thank all those who have helped along the way. Both gentlemen stressed the importance of education, selfless volunteerism, and giving back to the organizations they helped get us where we are. They called for our young members to get involved and stay involved.

If ever you have an opportunity to sit and talk with either of these gentlemen, do so. Their wealth of knowledge is staggering. Their desire to teach is inspiring, and their commitment to this profession is unsurpassed.

Congratulations to both Bill and Clem.

wv

Membership News!

Mark and Allyson Ostrander (the Moors Golf Club) had a baby girl born on February 1st. Her name is Molly.

Joe Grippi of Aventis / Chipco and his wife Jackie had a baby boy on November 27th. His name is Jordan.

Steve Osborn of Lesco and his wife Lucinda are expecting their second baby in October.

Andy Albertson of Grand Rapids Golf Club and his wife Deana are also expecting a baby in early summer.

If you have any more good news, please let us know. You can either

Call John Fulling: (616) 345-5013
Or

e-mail John Fulling: kccjfull@voyager.net

Or

E-mail wmgcsa@hotmail.com

Corrections:

Pat Mertz was left off of the Turfgrass ad in the Roster. Pat's # is (517) 819-1191.

Steve Osborn of Lesco was left out of the roster book entirely. Steve's # is (616) 560-7168.

Ron Calhoun of MSU didn't make it either. Ron's # is (517) 353-3275 calhoun@msu.edu

Sorry for these blunders. There are still more. Keep me informed of changes!



Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendent's Association

MEMORANDUM

3-01-02

To: All WMGCSA Class A, B, C, Affiliate, and Retired Members

From: WMGCSA Scholarship Committee

W. BRUCE MATTHEWS 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 grand children 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 an accredited college for the next academic year. Their field of study must be any area outside of the turf industry. You must be at least a 3 year member of the WMGCSA for your child to be eligible.

Your child or grandchild will be sent an application upon your 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.

An independent panel of college professors will judge the applications and essays. One winner will be chosen, and a check presented to that winner at one of our spring regular meetings.

We urge you to take advantage of this great opportunity. All of your children, stepchildren, or grand children are eligible. Each individual student can win the award only one time. They can re-apply every year until they either win the award or leave school.

Please call John Fulling at (616) 345-5013 for an application and for more information. You can also request an application through e-mail at jfulling@wmgcsa.org. The deadline for returning the applications will be April 26, 2002, so please call soon.

News from the:

MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION

A Summary of Research Projects 2002

The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation continues to develop partnerships that fund a variety of research projects related to turf. These partnerships leverage MTF money and thus create a much larger research impact. Projects span the various segments of turf, and projects focused on one segment often have an impact in other segments as well. A good example of this is seen in research related to wear. While the project may focus on athletic fields, results are usually applicable to most other segments.

Research work in turf is a blend of both applied and basic research. It is important not to lose sight of the need for both. Applied research helps us deal with our problems today. It tends to be more reactive. Basic research strives to answer fundamental questions that will prevent problems. It is proactive in its nature.

University support for turf continues to be strong. Turf is recognized as an important commodity in Michigan. At MSU, turf is recognized as providing leadership for all of agriculture. Because of this role, we have been able to attract faculty interest in turf. Currently, thirteen faculty members are involved in turfgrass teaching, research and extension, including two department chairs. Graduate students and support staff add over twenty more professionals working in turf. It is this involvement that makes the turf program at MSU so dynamic and exciting.

Following is a sampling of projects funded in 2002. This is by no means a complete list but gives a good representation of work being conducted. MTF funding is listed as well as the total funding for the project.

Environmental Stewardship:	MTF	Total
Michigan Environmental Stewardship Program for Golf		\$125,000
Lawn and Landscape Management Stewardship Program	\$ 8,000	\$ 62,000
Long Term Fate of Nitrogen	\$10,250	\$ 43,250

Turfgrass Cultural Management:

Lightweight Roller Weight and Frequency to Reduce Diseases, Moss, Black Cutworms and Broadleaf Weeds	\$10,000	\$ 10,000
Sloping Green Construction and Improved Water Management	\$ 3,000	\$ 34,000
Enhancing Turfgrass Growth Under Reduced Light	\$ 3,000	\$ 11,000

High Wear Turfgrass Management:

Athletic Field Systems Research	\$ 7,000	\$ 44,000
Modular Systems for Golf Greens and Athletic Fields		\$ 7,000
Athletic Field Renovation and Regeneration Techniques	\$10,000	\$ 50,000

Turfgrass Weed Ecology and Management:

Best Management Practices for Weed Control	\$ 5,000	\$ 10,000
Managing Difficult-to-Control Weeds in Michigan	\$ 2,500	\$ 12,500
Biology and Management of Annual and Rough Bluegrass	\$12,000	\$ 20,000
Moss and Algae	\$ 3,500	3,500

Insect Management:

Long-term Solutions for Outbreaks of European Chafer and Japanese Beetle	\$12,000	\$ 77,000
Introduction of Two New Pathogens of Japanese Beetle to Leading Edge Infestations in Michigan	\$ 5,000	\$ 40,000
Management of Ants and Earthworms on Golf Courses	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000

Disease Management:

Weather Factors Influencing Pink Snow Mold		\$ 22,000
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Turfgrass Breeding and Genetics:

Center for Turfgrass Breeding and Genetics - Developing Dollar Spot Resistant Bentgrass; DNA Fingerprinting of Dollar Spot; Understanding the Mechanism of Dollar Spot Infection	\$30,800	\$ 79,800
Introgression of <i>Festuca mairei</i> Genome Into <i>Lolium perenne</i>	\$25,540	\$ 25,540
Bentgrass Breeding for Snow Mold Resistance		\$ 20,000
Bentgrass Genetics		\$ 10,000
TOTALS	\$152,590	\$711,590

This represents almost a five-fold return on MTF funds. The partnerships we develop as a foundation make this return possible. As we look to the future, the scope and cost of research will continue to increase. Our ability to develop a variety of partnerships is critical to the continued success of this program. As a partner, we thank you for your continued support.

Dr. Frank Rossi Lined up for October GCSAA Seminar

We're very fortunate to have Dr Frank Rossi present "Poa annua ecology and maintenance" for our October 22 GCSAA seminar, held at the Highlands in Grand Rapids. This is the most requested seminar on the GCSAA seminar circuit, and routinely sells out whenever offered. .7 GCSAA CEU's will be awarded for attendance at this program.

This will be a chapter administered GCSAA seminar. The chapter will be responsible for paying the instructor directly, booking the venue, setting up lunch, making the manuals, advertising, and handling the registrations. Sounds like a lot, but it's worth it. We should be able to offer the seminar to our members for substantially less than the normal \$120 seminar cost. The Western Michigan group is the second in the country to do a chapter administered seminar.

In addition, last month the WMGCSA board voted to allocate money toward supplementing this GCSAA seminar for it's members. The board wants to provide real value for membership in the WMGCSA. The money will offset some of the costs associated with the seminar and help in reducing the price to around \$60, or half the standard rate.

The seminar is open for all to attend, but the half price offer is extended only to WMGCSA members. All others must pay the standard \$120 rate. This is to discourage others from choosing a Western Michigan seminar over their own chapter's, simply because of pricing.

Make plans to attend this great GCSAA seminar featuring Dr. Frank Rossi on October 22 at the Highlands. Look for registration forms within the next 60 days.

wv

Letter from WMGCSA turf award winner Brian Jenks

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the members of the Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendent's Association. It is truly an honor for me to be chosen as the recipient of your scholarship award. I am looking forward to starting my career in West Michigan and becoming an active member of the WMGCSA. In closing, I would like to especially thank the members of the selection committee. The class and congratulations you shared were greatly appreciated.

Very Sincerely,

Brian D. Jenks

WMGCSA Future Meetings

March 6: Blythefield CC (Round Table)

April 22: Pilgrims Run GC

May 13: Gull Lake Country Club

June 17: Point O' Woods C C

September: Gull Lake View (Golf Day)

October: Kent CC (Annual Meeting)

October 22: GCSAA Seminar @ the Highlands in GR

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