



QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION | FALL 2009

COURSE CONDITIONS

ROY SZYNDLAR, CGCS
FROM SOUTHGATE
MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE



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COURSECONDITIONS

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Vanessa Crocetto

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Robin Rings

Course Conditions is published 4 times a year by the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association. Opinions expressed by guest writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the MiGCSA or Eurich Management. For more information on *Course Conditions* or the MiGCSA please write to the address below or email: news@migca.org

MiGCSA 3225 West St. Joseph Lansing, MI 48917
Telephone: 517.327.9207 Facsimile: 517.321.0495

WELCOME TO THE MiGCSA BOARD

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AND

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



STEVE HAMMON

LOADS OF FALL EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Summer sure does fly by fast doesn't it? It's a crazy business we are in, we work for nine months trying to get the course ready for three peak months then suddenly, it's over. I really enjoy the fall season though, most years the weather in September is nicer than June's weather can be. It also can be tough trying to keep up with the golf course in the fall with less staff while still accomplishing, aerification schedules, course projects, and leaf removal. Since my last Course Conditions message we have had some great MiGCSA events. Back in June, Paul Galligan at the Grand Traverse Resort hosted 74 players for the Northern MTF fundraiser. With your support the MiGCSA raised funds for the MTF. The Bear was in the best condition I have ever seen it in hats off to your staff Paul. In July, 62 players enjoyed a wonderful day at Fritz McMullen's famed Forest Lake CC, the narrow fairways and fast greens were enjoyed by everyone. Roy Szyndlar, CGCS took home the district trophy. The 2nd annual MiGCSA state championship was hosted in August at Eagle Eye in Lansing; Steve Fiorillo, CGCS and his staff had the course in championship shape for 61 enthusiastic attendees. Jay Eccleton, CGCS shot a 73 and walked away the winner of this year's state championship, great round Jay. The low net winner was Tim Topolinski from Quail Ridge Golf Course.

Fall events start out with the GAM Member Relations Day at the historic Western Golf & Country Club designed by Donald Ross. This is a fundraiser for the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and the Evans Scholars Foundation. Vicki Fifer and John Ringholz are looking forward to a great day with the GAM, MTF and MiGCSA members. Monday September 14th is the annual MTF Fundraiser at Egypt Valley Country Club where Jeff Holmes, CGCS and co. are preparing to host another fabulous day of raising money for the world class research at Michigan State University. Besides the great golf course conditions, the Chef at Jeff's club really puts on a great show for us, the food is fabulous. The following Monday on the 28th is the Tuck Tate district championship at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. We will be competing on the Masterpiece, designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. in 1987, the first of all the great courses at Treetops. Scott Pulaski is the host course superintendent.

In October the MiGCSA fall tour swings in to see Tim Dark, CGCS at Barton Hills on the 5th. Another Donald Ross gem, Barton Hills is celebrating their 90th year and last year hosted the women's USGA Amateur. On the 19th of October the MiGCSA is hosting the second annual assistant's golf day. This year Jay Eccleton, CGCS and Troy Looney are hosting this education and golf filled day at The Emerald in the middle of the state. This is a fabulous opportunity for all the assistants in the state to pick up some fresh education and network with their peers. Sign up your assistant today, they deserve it.

The chapter has education for everyone! All equipment technicians are invited to attend an event at Crystal Mountain on October 20th. Adam Ikamas and Jeff Nordbeck are hosting this yearly fall education. Last year's speaker line up was excellent.

Stay tuned for the new education conference partnership with the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association and the MiGCSA. December 1-3 will be a wonderful conference with all of the latest turf, business management and technology trends for the golf industry. GCSAA credits will be available.

Remember, everyone is invited to play in any of the MiGCSA scheduled events throughout the year and all of the event information and registration is available at www.migcsa.org.

Steve Hammon

STEVE HAMMON, MiGCSA PRESIDENT

IS YOUR CUSTOMER SERVICE “SATISFACTORY?”



BY DONN EURICH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Is the customer service at your course or club satisfactory? Yes, you believe so? Do you realize you just gave your course a grade of “C” in customer service? I believe the word “satisfactory” is the most overused and underachieving marketing promise in existence. Have you ever thought about what “satisfactory” means? What if someone asked your spouse, “So, how is your marriage going?”, and your spouse answered, “It’s satisfactory.” Is that a ringing endorsement

of your relationship? Doesn’t that statement represent average performance, a “C” student? Or better yet, your spouse prepares a spectacular dinner for you and asks afterward if you enjoyed it. “It was satisfactory, honey,” is your response. You’ll be in the doghouse for a year!

The term “satisfaction guaranteed” only means you promise customers that they won’t be mad at you!! I think in this day and age, with our economic woes and competing leisure activities, we need to be more than satisfactory. We need to Exceed Expectations. One of the best ways to do this is to **ask** for your customer’s opinions, **listen** to what they say and **act** on those recommendations. Here are some ideas on how to exceed expectations and generate more revenue.

SURVEY YOUR ACTIVE GOLFERS. Ask their opinion on their golf experience with you. How were the fairways, greens, etc?

Were the rangers friendly? Did the refreshment cart come by often enough? Did they eat at the course and how was the food? Were the clubhouse employees friendly and helpful? You get the picture. Asking one’s opinion makes them feel like you really care about the quality of their experience. When you find areas that can be improved upon, act! Make sure to communicate these changes and thank those golfers who responded to your survey. Give them ownership of their golf experience.

RE-ENGAGE YOUR INACTIVE GOLFERS. Membership clubs can easily determine who is or is not golfing regularly. Hopefully, public courses maintain a mailing list of golfers and can determine who is or is not regularly playing their course. Write to your list of inactive golfers. Tell them you miss them and want them back. Give them a discount, free cart or other incentive to play. Make the targeted golfer plus one guest of the golfer eligible for the incentive, as most golfers prefer to play with a friend. Demonstrating your desire to regain their business through such an offer exceeds expectations. Once you reintroduce them to the routine of playing again, it’s much easier to gain their repeat business.

GIVE AWAY FREE SAMPLES. My best friend recently received a letter from a country club in his community which was inviting him to join. The letter basically told how long the club had been in existence, that they needed members and that there was a discount on the initiation fee. The message in that letter didn’t even make a dent. If they had invited him to play a round free of charge, or invited him to a free or discounted lunch or dinner, he absolutely

would have utilized that offer. What would you guess the odds would have been of that club successfully recruiting him as a new member after he experienced the course and the club’s amenities? Don’t be afraid to give away free or discounted samples of your services to gain new business. The goodwill created by this free or discounted offer would have exceeded the expectations of the recipient and made him much more likely to join.

Competition for the leisure dollar and the golfer’s dollar has never been more fierce. How will you feel if you don’t act on these suggestions and then discover your primary competitor has? Hey, as long as your course’s level of play is satisfactory, it’s not a problem, right?



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SOMETIMES IT'S GOOD TO VENT

PRESENTED BY THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

It's a perfect, sunny morning and you've just reached the first green in regulation. You feel great and you know you're within birdie range. Then, you see them, those little holes in the green. Arrggh! They've just aerified the course, and it's going to ruin your round, right?

Well, maybe not. Consider the fact that PGA TOUR legend Tom Watson shot a sizzling record 58 at his then-home course, Kansas City Country Club, just days after the greens had been aerified.

Consider also that aerification is merely a short-term disruption that has long-term benefits for the course. When you see them, remember that without those little holes, the greens would eventually die.

Preventative maintenance is an integral part of successful golf course management. Golfers view aerification as an inconvenience that takes the greens out of play for a day, pulling cores from the greens and leaving holes that can affect putting for many days before heal-

ing. In good soil, they get the oxygen from tiny pockets of air trapped between soil and sand particles.

Over time, the traffic from golfers' feet (as well as mowing equipment) tends to compact the soil under the putting green - particularly when the soil contains a lot of clay. When soil becomes compacted, the air pockets on which the roots depend are crushed, and the roots are essentially left gasping for air. Without oxygen, the grass plants become weaker and will eventually wither and die.

Aerification is a mechanical process that creates more air space in the soil and promotes deeper rooting, thus helping the grass plants stay healthy. In most cases, it's done by removing $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cores (those plugs you sometimes see near a green or in fairways) from the compacted soil, allowing for an infusion of air and water that brings a resurgence of growth. The spaces are then filled with sand "topdressing" that helps the soil retain air space and makes it easier for roots to grow downward.

Older greens often are constructed of soils with significant amounts of silt, clay and fine organic particles that are prone to compaction. Filling aerification holes with sand improves drainage and resists compaction. The periodic introduction of sand to a green's top layer can over time, avoid or postpone expensive rebuilding or renovation of greens.

Finally, growing of turf adds to a layer of organic matter on the surface. This layer, called thatch, is an accumulation of dead stems, leaves and roots. A little organic matter makes for a resilient green, but too much invites diseases and insects. Topdressing with sand can prevent thatch buildup, and aerification is one of the best ways to reduce an existing layer and prevent an excess of thatch from becoming established.

Other aerification techniques use machines with "tines" or knives that simply poke holes through the soil profile. A new technique even uses ultra high-pressure water that's injected through the soil profile to create small holes that relieve some compaction but heal quickly.

ing. To add insult to injury, aerification is best done in many parts of the country during mid-summer, at the height of the playing season and when most greens are in prime condition.

But a golfer needs to understand how important aerification is to producing healthy turf.

Aerification achieves three important objectives. It relieves soil compaction, it provides a method to improve the soil mixture around the highest part of a green's roots and it reduces or prevents the accumulation of excess thatch.

Like so many things, the quality of a good putting green is more than skin deep. In fact, the condition of a green has a lot to do with what goes on below the surface. In order for grass to grow at 3/16-inch, it must have deep, healthy roots. Good roots demand

There are many types of aerifying machines with different attachments that address different problems in the various stages of the life of a green. So the next time you're ready to scream when the aerifiers are brought on the course, remember that a little preventative maintenance produces the best greens over the long haul.

The bottom line is that aerification is a necessary practice. But before you curse the superintendent for ruining your day, just think of Tom Watson.

For more information regarding golf course management practices, contact your local superintendent or the GCSAA at 800-472-7878 or www.gcsaa.org.

Sources: USGA's Green Section

KEY POINTS:

- Aerification is a short-term disruption that has long-term benefits for golf courses.
- For grass to grow at 3/16-inch, they need to have deep, healthy roots. Good roots demand oxygen.
- Aerification is a mechanical process that creates more air space in the soil and promotes deeper rooting, thus helping the grass plants stay healthy.
- In most cases, aerification involves removing 1/2-inch cores. The spaces are then filled with sand "topdressing" that helps the soil retain air space and makes it easier for roots to grow downward.
- Other aerification techniques use machines with "tines" or knives that simply poke holes through the soil profile.
- A newer technique even uses ultra high-pressure water that's injected through the soil profile to create small holes that relieve some compaction but heal quickly.

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**Tom Leahy, Superintendent
Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Scarborough, New York**

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A FULL ROUND



ROY SZYNDLAR CGCS

Opened in 1977, The Southgate Municipal Golf Course is a very popular test of golfing skills.

The beautiful 18-hole layout features challenging par threes, accented with four par four holes. This executive golf course has made a niche for themselves in the community, the course's clientele consisting mostly of ladies, seniors and juniors. The course may have an urban setting but wildlife is still found prowling the greens. They have spotted foxes, pheasants, hawks, coyotes, herons, egrets and swans. The Gate has had several bald eagle sightings and has even seen the occasional deer wondering though.

Roy arrived at Southgate Golf Course after completing his degree in Chemistry and Biology from Western Michigan University. He arrived early enough to do the grow-in but too late to have any input with the design or construction. The site was part farm land and part landfill. Unfortunately most of the native topsoil was buried from the three ponds excavations. The soil is mostly clay and the terrain is flat. Most of the early years were spent installing several miles of drain pipes and trying to add some features to enhance the playability and aesthetics of the course.

Roy now makes his home in Belleville, Michigan with his wife of 34 years, Cathy. They have two grown sons, Ryan and Erik. Roy has been a long time member of GCSAA and the Greater Detroit District.





HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

My parents built a Par 3 course when I was 13 years old. I grew up helping my father on the course and work there through college.

WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT PROFESSION?

Superintendents have a unique professional relationship because they are willing to share so much information with each other.

WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEW SUPERINTENDENT? You'll never make everyone happy, and that is okay.

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT, WHAT WOULD IT BE? Golf courses that are perfect, pristine and immaculate should not be our goal.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE? Ball marks and divots, this is a simple fix and golfers should take time to repair them, it would save everyone's time.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE IN YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT? We have a hand held radio for irrigation.

WHAT IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT IS STILL BEING UTILIZED IN YOUR FLEET? 32 year old Rodgers Leaf Sweeper

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS RELATED MOVIE? The Natural

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NON-GOLF SPORT? Basketball of course, I played during college and I still play on a league.

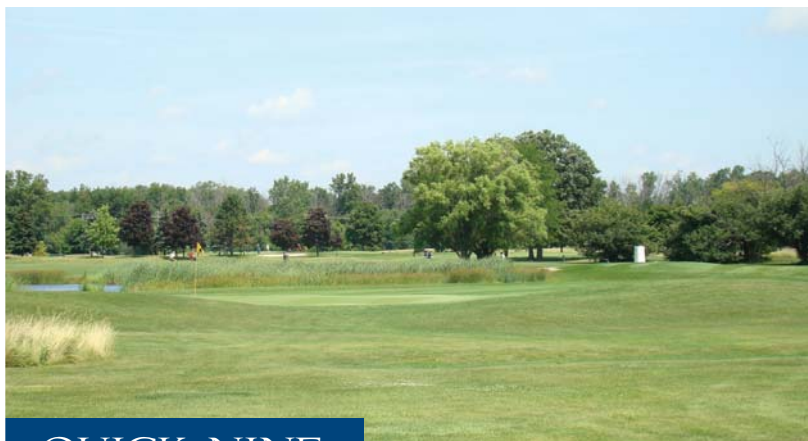
WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME? I enjoy gardening, hoops and golf on weekends with my wife.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW? I hope to be retired and hacking up other golf courses.

IF YOU HAD A MULLIGAN IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT CAREER CHOICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE? Veterinarian

WHAT VEHICLE WOULD YOU DRIVE IF YOU HAD A MONEY TREE GROWING IN YOUR YARD? Lamborghini

DO YOU PLAY GOLF? WHAT IS YOUR HANDICAP? I do play, my handicap is 14.



QUICK NINE

1. DRIVER, WEDGE OR PUTTER? Wedge
2. CARDBOARD BOX, PAPER OR PLASTIC? Paper
3. DOLLAR SPOT, SNOWMOLD OR PYTHIUM? Dollar Spot
4. BEEF, CHICKEN OR FISH? Beef
5. SUN, RAIN OR SNOW? Sun
6. WEEKEND IRRIGATION BREAK, BUDGET MEETING OR ICE CREAM HEADACHE? Ice cream headache
7. E-MAIL, SNAIL MAIL OR FACE TO FACE? Face to Face
8. MOWING GREENS, MOWING FAI WAYS OR MOWING ROUGH? Mowing greens
9. DECIDUOUS TREE NEXT TO GREEN, EVERGREEN TREE NEXT TO GREEN OR NO TREE NEXT TO GREEN? No tree next to green

WELCOME

NEW 2009 MiGCSA MEMBERS

CLASSIFICATION	NAME	COMPANY
Class A	Andrew Butterfield	Grand Hotel, The Jewel
Class A	Terry Hall	Bay Valley Resort
Class A	Alan Southward	Dunes Club
Class C	Ryan Godard	Apple Mountain Golf Club
Class D	Ron Sanders	Bucks Run Golf Club
Class AFF	Tim Baxter	Great Lakes Turf
Class AFF	Alan Clark	Automatic Supply Michigan
Class AFF	Aaron Cochrill	Great Lakes Turf
Class AFF	Doug Herrema	Procure Tree Service, LLC
Class AFF	Alistair Lynch	U.S. Golf Cars
Class AFF	Tom Mead	Tom Mead, Golf Course Consultant
Class AFF	Ted Oviatt	High Grade Materials
Class SA	Thomas Ham	MSU
Class SA	Dylan MacMaster	Winged Foot Golf Club

MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 7/23/09

	JULY 2009 CURRENT	JULY 2008 COMPARISON	TOTAL 2008 MEMBERSHIP	PERCENTAGE RETAINED
Class AA	20	20	20	100%
Class A	278	267	267	104%
Class SM	69	58	58	118%
Class C	89	79	80	111%
Class D	41	24	24	170%
Class E	20	20	20	100%
Class AFF	135	134	134	101%
Class H	10	12	12	83%
Class SA	10	3	3	333%
Class R	6	5	5	120%
Class I	5	4	4	125%
Class FM	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL	683	626	627	109%

PATRICK SULLIVAN

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN, ARCADIA BLUFFS GOLF CLUB

Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club was founded in 1999 in Arcadia, Michigan. The course is built on the bluffs above the shore of Lake Michigan and sits on approximately 245 windswept acres of lakefront property. The course drops 225 feet from its highest point down to the bluff, 180 feet above sea level and has 3,100 feet of Lake Michigan shore frontage. Arcadia Bluffs resembles a seaside links course, with rolling terrain and windswept natural fescues throughout. The course is laid out with 18 holes which feature breathtaking views of Lake Michigan. A Warren Henderson/Rick Smith design, Arcadia Bluffs offers players a golfing experience unlike anything in Michigan or the United States.

Arcadia Bluffs has again been ranked as #0 in the Top 100 Public Courses, 2009-2010 by Golf Digest and Pat Sullivan is the man keeping the motors running smoothly. Pat works along side golf course superintendent, Paul Emling and assistant superintendent, Mike Nielson and Custer Carland. Pat has been the equipment manager since they built Arcadia Bluffs.

Pat calls Beulah home with his wife of 34 years, Trish and their dog Sara. When Pat is not on the course, he is currently keeping himself busy building a Lancair 360 single engine aircraft and refurbishing his 1950 Willy's jeep. He also enjoys radio control sailplane competitions.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS AND WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION? Our golf course superintendent and I knew each other from repairing snowmobiles and when they decided to build Arcadia Bluffs he approached me about coming on as the equipment technician. At the time he offered me the job I was working at a marina. That was 12 years ago. As far as my mechanical abilities I would have to attribute them to helping my uncle put together snowmobiles starting at the age of 14. Since then I have continued my education by attending many brand specific training schools and seminars.

HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION? I have a couple of local golf courses that periodically come to me for help and I get frequent calls from others asking questions about certain pieces of equipment. I expect the MiGCSA to help us keep the communications lines open between the technicians and help us network with each other.

WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT PROFESSION? Since I have learned about and utilized synthetic oils, my work day has not been totally taken up by oil changes and that allows me to concentrate on other aspects of maintenance. Right now we recycle our used oil. The quantity of waste oil has been reduced by about 4 times with using synthetic oils. Now we only generate about one 55 gallon drum of waste oil a year.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB? Other than not committing murder when I see equipment being abused, I would have to say getting parts can sometimes be a struggle. My biggest pet peeve concerning golf course equipment is seeing people hurrying too much and abusing equipment.

WHAT TYPE OF EQUIPMENT MAKES UP THE MAJORITY OF YOUR FLEET? We have 16 walking greens mowers in our fleet along with 3 fairway mowers and 4 triplex mowers, so I would have to say reel mower comprise most of our fleet. Along with that we have 24 members on our crew.

WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT? Can you still produce a great putting green without all that sand?!?!?

WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF EQUIPMENT MANAGERS? They are going to have to keep up with newer technology and probably not too far down the road, robotic equipment.

WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Can't beat the view.

UNDER THE HOOD



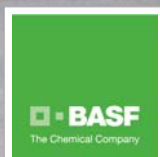


INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

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INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

BAYER ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



Bayer Environmental Science offers the products you need and the service you trust. The success of our products is driven by the industry's leading experts and scientists at our state-of-the-art Research and Development Facility

in Clayton, NC—to ensure your business uses the best, most advanced products available.

In addition to proven products, Bayer offers interactive training opportunities throughout the year, either at our Technical Center, at Bayer sponsored events or at-your-

door—to help you understand the industry's latest advancements, experience Bayer products and tools, interact with peers and discover newer, better ways to satisfy customers and build your business.

To learn more about Bayer products and services, contact Mike Hirvela at (248) 514-7027



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

TURFGRASS, INC.



Founded and based in Michigan since 1970, Turfgrass, Inc. has supplied quality products and exceptional service to the professional turf market. Focusing

primarily on golf, landscape, sports turf & parks, Turfgrass, Inc. has built a solid reputation as a market leader in the industry by carrying leading edge technologies and combining them with proven products to provide the best solution at a fair price.

Turfgrass, Inc. is committed to leading the industry in environmentally responsible initiatives. In 2004, Turfgrass, Inc. along with the Northern Michigan Turfgrass Managers Association (now part of the MiGCSA) and the Michigan Department of Agriculture, collectively designed and implemented the first container recycling program in our industry. To date, this program has collected nearly 60,000 pounds of plastic containers

destined for landfills.

With this same commitment to environmental stewardship, Turfgrass, Inc. has actively sought to incorporate environmentally responsible products into our portfolio. Among these are DuPont's, Acelepryn insecticide and PetroCanada's, Civitas fungicide. These products are but the first of many to come from our manufacturing partners in the next few years. Turfgrass will continue to seek out cost effective products that are also safe for our environment.

With the continued support of the MiGCSA, we are confident we can collectively bring value to the industry, conserve our environment and allow the game of golf to be played at the highest standards.



THE BETTER HALF

NICK
NATE

Chikaming Country Club is an 18-hole private course located in Lakeside, Michigan. Chikaming golf course opened in 1913 and was designed by Harry Callis.

Nick attended Indiana University where he received his bachelor's degree in business. He then returned to college at Rutgers University where he received a two year turfgrass degree. Upon completing his education he began working in the golf course industry. Nick spent one year on the grounds crew at Morris Park Country Club and two years grounds crew at the University of Notre Dame Golf Course, both of these courses are in Indiana. After that he had an internship at the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland. Nick then spent four years as the assistant superintendent at Medinah Country Club in Chicago. As of a year and half ago Nick joined the team at Chikaming Country Club.

Nick and his bride of 2 months Laura share their home in Mishawaka, Indiana with their dog, Sophie and cat, Neil.



1. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

Eddie Adams who was my boss in Scotland on the 10th Course at St. Andrews. He really influenced me and showed me how to succeed in this industry and gave me the tools I needed to do so.

2. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CAREER PATH?

I picked it because I loved the game of golf and loved being outside, and once I was involved in it I realized the people in this industry are such a close group and it made me want to be involved in that.

3. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I feel I have given back by working tournaments at other golf courses as well as my own. By volunteering or just working a tournament you are helping to show people the product that we all try to achieve. It benefits the industry when you work a tournament because the host course can use your help and you benefit yourself by learning something new, and meeting new people. I feel it is a good thing for everyone in the industry.

5. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE THAT YOU HAVE PLAYED?

Kingsbarns Golf Club in Scotland.

6. WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW?

We have a great group of guys and they are all funny in their own separate ways, and I can get a laugh out of all of them.

7. IF YOU HAD A MULLIGAN IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT CAREER CHOICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would have wanted to do something in the finance industry.

8. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY GOLF HOLE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE WITHOUT REPERCUSSION, WHICH ONE WOULD BE THE FIRST?

Number six because it's back in the trees and not much air movement.

9. WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

My Wife. She has always been there for me and known the right things to say to me. I wouldn't be where I am today without her.

10. NAME ANY THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD MAKE UP YOUR "DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM?"

Bobby Jones, Jack Nicklaus, and Tiger Woods.

4. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

18th hole on the 10th Course at St. Andrews, Scotland.



11. WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?

My expectations are for them to provide us with the most up to date knowledge for us to do our jobs and bring all of us into contact with each other so that we can learn from one another, and in the end provide better golf courses.

12. WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

I would like more research to be done on safer chemicals that are better for the environment as well as the person spraying them.

13. WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

I see myself as the superintendent of a golf club somewhere in lower Michigan as well as being a father of 2 kids.

14. HOW DO RATE IMPORTANCE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?

I rate it very high and I feel the role is being recognized more now a day as the superintendents in the industry are involving the assistants in more things which are leading to a more important role in the industry.

15. WOULD YOU RATHER BE A WELL COMPENSATED ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OR A POORLY COMPENSATED SUPERINTENDENT?

I would rather be a poorly compensated superintendent because I would be given the opportunity to prove myself on a course and prove to my owner or membership what I should be compensated.

16. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF FLOWERS ON THE GOLF COURSE?

I don't think they belong on a golf course. Only up around the clubhouse. They take notice away from the golf course.

17. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF WALKING A GOLF COURSE VS. RIDING A GOLF COURSE IN TODAY'S GAME?

I feel walking in today's game is better for the golf courses as well as being able to see more of the golf course when your walking instead of riding.

18. WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?

People not fixing ball marks. It's a very simple task, and it frustrates me when you get on a green in the morning and there are so many unfixed ball marks.



QUICK NINE

1. GOLDOM MAGAZINE, GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY MAGAZINE OR USGA GREEN SECTION RECORD?
Goldom Magazine
2. I-POD, CD PLAYER OR 8 TRACK TAPE?
I-Pod
3. CELL PHONE, PORTABLE PHONE OR ROTARY DIAL?
Cell Phone
4. E-MAIL, SNAIL MAIL OR FACE TO FACE?
Email
5. DRIVER, WEDGE OR PUTTER?
Wedge
6. CIGAR, CIGARETTE, OR NON-SMOKING?
Non-smoking
7. MOWING GREENS, MOWING FAIRWAYS OR MOWING ROUGH?
Mowing Greens
8. RAKING WASHOUTS IN BUNKERS, FIXING BALL MARKS AFTER A TOURNAMENT OR CLEANING OUT THE WASH PAD GRASS PIT?
Fixing ball marks after a tournament
9. LOCAL MiGCSA EVENT, GREAT LAKES TRADE EXPO OR GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW?
Local MiGCSA event



FROM NATIONAL



STEVE RANDALL

How many of you as members of both the MiGCSA and the GCSAA have made the effort to value your membership? Here's a better question, how many of you understand all that's offered?

When I travel and meet members across the country, provide a presentation, and answer questions, a consistent comment I hear is, "Wow, I never knew that was provided. Do you have a contact name?"

For those of you who have heard me speak, the phone number 800/472-7 878 is etched in your minds! While there have been some good humor stories in that regard, any questions you have related to your profession can be answered by making the phone call.

So, you're interested in what services are offered? I won't exhaust the entire list, but the top-10 will give you an idea:

TAP IN TO THE TOP 10

BY STEVE RANDALL- GCSAA SENIOR MANAGER, CHAPTER OUTREACH

1) COMMUNICATIONS

- a) Through surveys, member needs assessment, compensation and benefits report. GCM, GCM NewsWeekly, GCSAA This Week and GCSAA TV, among others. There is a myriad of chapter communications vehicles as well. Chapter connection is a great way to learn from other chapters, share stories and stay informed.

2) YOUR MEMBERSHIP INCLUSIONS

- a) Professional development
- b) Career Services
- c) Web Site
- d) Life Insurance
- e) Research
- f) Scholarships
- g) TGIF
- h) Chapter Resources and Support

3) GCSAA EDUCATION CONFERENCE AND GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW

- a) February 8-12 in San Diego
- b) Newly condensed schedule - allows for focused education and trade show floor opportunities

4) GROWTH OF THE GAME

- a) Everyone is responsible
 - i) Get Golf Ready
 - ii) Play Golf America
 - iii) Working with allied organizations and your local facility is important

5) ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- a) Golf Course Environmental Profile Surveys
 - i) Visit EIFG.org for more information

6) GCSAA PUBLIC OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

- a) Promoting GCSAA members
- b) Targeting employers and influential/avid golfers
- c) TV, print, interactive media, editorial and expert positioning are included in the effort

7) ADVOCACY

- a) National Golf Day
- b) Bill Tracking
- c) Lobbying
- d) Legislative Action Center
 - i) Call Chava McKeel - the phone number? 800/472-7878!!

8) RESOURCE CONSCIOUS EFFORTS

- a) Reducing expenses for our membership while delivering high-quality programs
 - i) Also looking for opportunities to generate revenue

9) SUCCESS OF THE FACILITY

- a) Surveys from Golf Digest, Links Magazine and the National Golf Foundation indicate golf course condition the No. 1 driver of golfer satisfaction and course selection. GCSAA serves as a clearinghouse of information for you!

10) THE TOUGH ECONOMY

- a) Tap into GCSAA's resources to help during these difficult times
 - i) For you: Career services, career counseling (if needed)
 - ii) For your facility: Economic Survival Kit, Articles in GCM, GCSAA TV and web site tools

As you can see, not only are 10 items listed, but numerous items within each category. In addition, the MiGCSA office provides the local and regional tools that are specific in your area to help you succeed. Become engaged. Value your membership and utilize your benefits.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The second, annual MiGCSA State Championship was a great day hosted by Eagle Eye Golf Club and host superintendent Steve Fiorillo, CGCS. The weather was perfect for the sixty-five MiGCSA members who showed up to compete. The award winning course proved to be a challenge for many of those competing in the Championship, yet many exceptional scores were posted. At the end of the day, the low-gross winner for the day was Jay Eccleton from The Emerald Golf Course with a score of 73, and the low-net score winner was Tim Topolinski of Quail Ridge Golf Club, who shot a 69.

The MiGCSA would like to extend a very special thank you to the day's sponsors. A great lunch was provided by Automatic Supply Michigan. We also had two tee sponsors for the day in BASF and Turfgrass Inc. and our contest holes were sponsored by Midwest Golf and Turf and Weingartz Golf and Turf. We can't say it enough: Thank You! Without our sponsors, none of this would be possible. Also, thank you to the tremendous staff at Eagle Eye for helping the day go off without a hitch!



MiGCSA President Steve Hammon and Jay Eccleton, GCGS

Mike Hirvela, Marc McCoy, Tim Topolinski, and Trent Bartman



Scot Gardiner, Steve Rebhan, Jim Johnson, and Jeff Hopkins, CGCS

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MTF FUNDRAISER AT THE BEAR, GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT, TRAVERSE CITY

On June 22, 2009 the MiGCSA was fortunate enough to hold a MTF Fundraiser at the beautiful Grand Traverse Resort. We played the Bear Course, often described as one of the toughest courses in the Midwest. Huge thanks to Paul Galligan for hosting this event, as well as to Midwest Golf & Turf, Bayer, Quali Pro, Syngenta, Weingartz, BASF, Great Lakes Turf, Lebanon Fertilizer & Seed, Automatic Supply and Turfgrass Inc. for their sponsorship.



Dr. Kevin Frank, Dr. Thom Nikolai, Ron Calhoun and his son



Jay Eccelton, Jeff Holmes, Gerry Huseman and Marc McCoy



Jim Olli, Brian Klebba, Mike Hirvela and Kim Olsen



Scott Pulaski, Jason Roznowski and Doug Hoeh



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or gerald.husemann@basf.com.

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GREEN SIDE UP

THE FIRST TEE OF DETROIT

OUR MISSION

The First Tee of Detroit was created in 1998 to impact the lives of young people by providing learning facilities and educational programs that promote character development and life-enhancing values through the game of golf. Our goal is to develop a foundation of strong values in children and young people through a nationally-validated curriculum, The First Tee Life Skills Experience™, which highlights nine core values that make the game of golf a training ground for success in all areas: honesty, integrity, responsibility, respect, courtesy, judgment, confidence, sportsmanship and perseverance.

HOW THE FIRST TEE OF DETROIT MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

The First Tee of Detroit plays an important role in preparing young people for the next phase of their lives as contributing, productive members of society. With Detroit's unstable economic climate and high unemployment rate, the need to shape our future leaders is critical. In The First Tee's programs, children and teenagers enjoy healthful exercise, fun, and companionship, while building golf skills and discovering how the skills and character traits essential to success on a golf course can also help them flourish in life. The First Tee Life Skills Experience™ teaches critical skills in the areas of self-management, interpersonal communication, goal-setting, mentoring and effective conflict resolution.

The First Tee of Detroit is committed to making the game of golf and associated life skills accessible to children with a wide range of abilities. Our adaptive golf program allows young people with a variety of physical and mental disabilities the opportunity to participate in the game of golf. Since 2008, the adaptive program provided golfing opportunities for 60 participants.

At a time when children in the City of Detroit and surrounding communities too often lack opportunities for safe, healthful outdoor recreation and exercise, The First Tee of Detroit provides access to golf courses throughout southeastern Michigan and provides opportunities for teaching, practice and affordable opportunities to play.

THE 2009 PROGRAM

In 2009, over 1,000 children will participate in The First Tee of Detroit sponsored programs. Programming takes place at 12 locations throughout the metro Detroit area. All children ages 7-17 are invited to participate. In 2009,

The First Tee of Detroit instituted golf classes for the parents of children in the program. To date, over 50 parents have taken the opportunity to learn the game of golf along with their children.

LISA WOODCOX
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THE FIRST TEE OF DETROIT
10100 W. 10 MILE RD.
HUNTINGTON WOODS, MI 48070
TEL 248-545-4929, FAX 248-543-2829
LWOODCOX@THEFIRSTTTEEDTROIT.ORG
WWW.THEFIRSTTTEEDTROIT.ORG



ASSISTANT UPDATE

BY TAVIS HORTON, ASSISTANT BOARD LIAISON

WHERE HAS THE SUMMER GONE? HERE ARE THE UPDATES FROM THE ASSISTANT COMMITTEE.

The MSU's searchable database, the Turfgrass Information File, is now open to GCSAA Assistant Superintendents (Class C). It contains free access to more than 320 journals and magazines, research reports, conference proceedings, extension bulletins, books and book chapters, theses and dissertations, scanned golf course plans, photos and much more.

Class C members (Assistant Superintendents) of the GCSAA can also now access TGIF via the GCSAA's website at <http://www.gcsaa.org>. Many assistants have used TGIF during their degree programs in school, and this will now provide ongoing access to TGIF's many resources in support of their continuing professional development.

The Greater Detroit area assistants organized another MiGCSA assistant shoptalk this summer. It was a great afternoon of education, networking and a behind-the-scenes look at the Country Club of Detroit and its first class maintenance facility. I want to extend our thanks to the host superintendent, Bob McCurdy for opening up his facility and allowing assistants to learn from each other. I would also like to thank the host assistant superintendents Dan Koops and Jason Zaleski for organizing and leading this great event.

These shoptalks provide an opportunity for assistants to learn from one another including networking with and meeting the course superintendent and perhaps the mechanic and the assistant. Please contact me if you are interested in hosting an assistant shoptalk for your area. An assistant shoptalk template is available to guide you through hosting a shoptalk event from beginning to end.

There will be an Assistant column debuting in the August issue of Golf Course Management (GCM). Please take a few minutes to read the column written by Kevin Breuker, MiGCSA's Assistant Superintendent Committee member and Assistant Superintendent at Traverse City Golf & Country Club. It's a monthly column written by assistants for assistants, all from different sectors of the industry, public, private and resort and management companies. GCM currently has assistants from across the U.S., Canada and China committed to writing the next 15 columns. The column is called "The Insider: Assistants". Many phone calls, e-mails and conversations have taken place over the past year or so convincing the GCM of the need for an Assistant column. Kevin Breuker, who is co-coordinator of this feature column along with another GCSAA assistant, Kevin Knoblauch from Milwaukee Country Club in Wisconsin have done a great deal to make this happen. Other key members that made this possible included GCSAA's Dave Fearis, CGCS, and Scott Hollister, GCSAA Board of Director John O'Keefe, CGCS, and the GCSAA's 2009 Assistant Superintendent Committee.

We are planning our 2nd Annual Assistant Golf event for this fall. The MiGCSA Assistant Superintendent Committee would love to hear your thoughts and ideas for a guest speaker, education topic

Assistants walking the course at Country Club of Detroit.



Assistants getting a tour of the maintenance facility and equipment.

or golfing format. Please email me your ideas and suggestions at horton31@aol.com. This is your event and your opportunity to share your ideas. I look forward to hearing from you.

Planning the 2010 Assistant Superintendent Symposium continues to move forward. We have the Director of Golf Operations from Winged Foot Golf Club in New York lined up as one of the guest speakers. Many of our industry peers have been supportive in providing me with contacts to line up the other guest speakers. Remember, the ideas for the 2010 symposium came from you and we continue to work hard at following through with those ideas so we can provide another great event for assistants across the state.

Good luck with your fall projects and please remember to mark your calendars to join us on October 19, 2009 for the 2nd Annual Assistant Golf event at the Emeralds in St. Johns. Please watch for more information to follow via email and remember you can register on-line at www.migcsa.org.



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INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

SYNGENTA



Syngenta Professional Products is a global leader in the research and manufacturing of industry-leading herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, and plant growth regulators for golf courses. Our extensive portfolio of plant-protection products, experienced territory and technical managers, and services such as the GreenCast® Web-based technology are all designed to help us partner with golf course superintendents everywhere to create outstanding course conditions.

Through the decades, our products have delivered value, quality, and performance. In 2009, we introduced Heritage® G, a high performance granular fungicide that controls more than 21 diseases during a 28-day window. Its highly soluble carrier allows the active ingredient to quickly and thoroughly reach plant leaves, which virtually eliminates granule pickup into mower clippings baskets, product residue on shoes or golf balls, and granule “wash away” during heavy rains.

Syngenta also manufactures market-leading products such as Primo MAXX® plant growth regulator, the revolutionary systemic herbicide Tenacity®, and The Turf Essentials™ line

of combination fungicides—which is a unique agro-nomic philosophy toward disease management that delivers effective and efficient preventive disease control.

Golf courses also have the opportunity to earn points for Syngenta purchases through GreenPartners®, one of the industry's most flexible rewards programs. The points golf courses earn automatically through the program can be redeemed for computers and other equipment, motivational awards for employees, and even GCSAA program fees and membership dues.

For more information regarding Syngenta and their products, please visit greencastonline.com or contact Scott Trbovich at Scott.Trbovich@syngenta.com or 248.830.6065



A CALL FROM CAMPUS

WELCOME TO MSU TURF TEAM

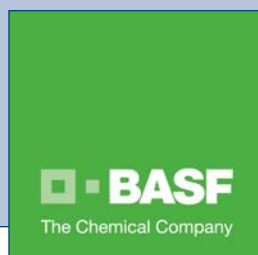
This month Dr. Kurt Stanke joined the MSU turf faculty. Previously, he was on the turf faculty at Texas A&M University. Dr. Stanke earned his PhD at University of Wisconsin- Madison. His research interests lie in Turf Ecology—along the lines of the position the turf team was seeking in various stages over the last 2 years. Kurt's wife also took a faculty position in Veterinary Medicine here at MSU.

The MiGCSAA would like to welcome Dr. Stanke and his wife to Michigan and we are very excited about his joining of our team.



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

BASF PROVIDES PROVEN AND NEW SOLUTIONS FOR MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS



BASF Turf & Ornamentals helps superintendents address turf challenges year-round with technical support and current and upcoming innovative turf protection chemistries.

Rainfast in 30 minutes for application flexibility, Drive® XLR8 herbicide's liquid formulation boasts exceptional broad-spectrum, postemergence control of grassy and broadleaf weeds, including crabgrass, clover and dandelions.

Trinity® fungicide's demethylation inhibitor (DMI) formulation gives superintendents preventive and curative control of patch diseases (brown, take-all and summer), anthracnose and dollar spot, as well as pink and gray snow mold. Superintendents

seeking even broader-spectrum control can economically tank mix Trinity fungicide with pyraclostrobin-based



Insignia® fungicide, which provides up to 28 days of control on more than 15 major turf diseases.

This fall, BASF will launch two more innovative products to help Michigan superintendents: Honor™ fungicide and Tower® herbicide.

Honor fungicide combines proven active ingredients, pyraclostrobin and boscalid, for broad-spectrum control of leading greens and fairway diseases, including dollar spot, anthracnose, patch diseases and leaf spots.

Tower herbicide's formulation features active ingredient, dimethenamid-p, for broad-spectrum, preemergence control of small-seeded and annual sedges, grasses, kyllinga species, spurges, doveweed and yellow nutsedge.

Both products are available from BASF on October 1.



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, September 14	MTF Fundraiser (Egypt Valley CC)
Monday, September 28	Tuck Tate Championship (Robert Trent Jones Masterpiece, Tree Tops Resort)
Monday, October 5	The Big Event (Barton Hills CC)
Monday, October 19	Assistant's Golf Outing (The Emerald)
Tuesday, October 20	Equipment Tech. Meeting (Crystal Mountain Resort)
Mon-Tues, Nov. 2-3	MiGCSA Education (TBD)
Tuesday, December 1	North Christmas Party (TBD)
Monday, December 7	East Superintendent only meeting (Birmingham Country Club)
Friday, December 11	West Christmas Party (Cascade Sports Bar, Grand Rapids)
Saturday, December 12	East Christmas Party (Motor City Casino, Detroit)
Thursday, December 17	Mid Christmas Party (TBD)



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INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

MIDWEST GOLF AND TURF



Midwest Golf & Turf was formed in 2006 when a private equity company from Cincinnati, Ohio purchased the Jacobsen dealership from the previous owner. Since that time Midwest has expanded its operations to four states serving as the Jacobsen dealer for Indiana, Kentucky, Southwest Ohio, and Michigan. In 2009, Midwest expanded its product offering becoming a Club Car distributor for territories in Indiana and Michigan. In addition to Jacobsen and Club Car products, we also bring you products from other leading manufacturers in the industry including SmithCo, Buffalo Turbine, Tycrop, Ventrac, Redexim, Aerway, Cushman and Neary.

Midwest continues to expand operations, redeploy resources, and look at new ways to better serve our clients. Our industry is changing, our customers are facing challenging economic conditions, we must adapt to a new paradigm, one that looks at new ways of

providing customer service, new ways marketing our products, and most importantly ensuring our customers are successful using our products and services.

Midwest Golf & Turf remains committed to the golf industry and will continue to find ways to innovate and improve the way we sell and service our customers. We are all in a partnership, one that promotes the game, be it providing turf equipment for maintaining the course or golf carts for enjoying the ride.

For more information regarding Midwest Golf & Turf please contact Dan Raver (513) 881-7055.



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



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CONGRATULATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The MiGCSA would like to thank all applicants to the 2009 Heritage Scholarship. **Congratulations to the winners.**

WESTERN WINNER:

Alyssa Hopkins, daughter of Jeffrey Hopkins

NORTHERN WINNER:

Megan Ann Little, daughter of David Little

GREATER DETROIT WINNER:

Katie Ford, daughter of Scott Ford

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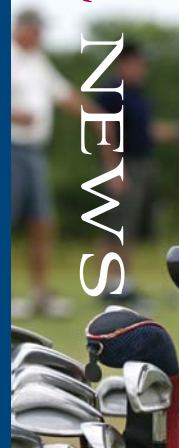
LOOKING FOR A WAY TO GIVE BACK TO THE YOUTH IN YOUR DISTRICT?

The MiGCSA is starting a used golf ball donation program with your help. Bring the extra golf balls you have laying around your golf course to the next MiGCSA Golf Event and we will donate them to a youth group in your District. If you have any questions or know of a youth group that would like a donation please contact a board member or the MiGCSA office.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

It's that time of year again! Your annual dues notice will be sent to you by October 15th. Please watch for your notice via mail or by email. Your MiGCSA looks forward to serving you in the coming years!

IN THE NEWS



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