

COURSE CONDITIONS



MiGCSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP HOST
SUPERINTENDENT, KEN HUNT, CGCS

 **Know The Sign™** Greater Than Or Equal To.



Quali-Pro products feature formulation quality second to none for performance results equal to the competitive brands they replace.

Quality Control in High Tech Formulations.

Protect your course from dollar spot, brown patch, anthracnose and many other turf diseases with proven power from the wide selection of Quali-Pro fungicides — delivering quality and value since day one.

For more information, contact Doug Suttor at 616-403-3983 or any of these authorized distributors: Turfgrass Inc. • Tri-Turf • Commerce Corporation

QUALI-PRO

Professional Turf & Ornamental Products

©2009 FarmSaver.com, LLC. Quali-Pro is a registered trademark of FarmSaver.com. Know The Sign is a trademark of FarmSaver.com. Always read and follow label directions.

CONTENTS

- 5** President's Perspective
- 6** Are You Ready For Tomorrow?
A Note from MiGCSA Executive Director

- 8** Giving the Golf Course a Tune Up

- 8** Legislative Update

- 12** Welcome New Members and
MiGCSA Membership Report

- 20** A Call From Campus

- 22** Developing and Implementing Plans
For Your Future

- 23** Assistant Update

- 25** Automatic Irrigation Supply

- 26** Quali-Pro: No Compromise

- 28** It's Time To Get Out of the Box

- 29** In the News

- 30** Calendar of Events

10



Ken Hunt, CGCS, Superintendent
Pilgrim's Run Golf Club



Ron Sanders, Equipment Technician
Bucks Run Golf Course

13



Phil Kluesner, Assistant Superintendent
Crystal Mountain Resort

16



COURSECONDITIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT STEVE HAMMON-2010
Northern-Class A
Traverse City Golf & Country Club

VICE PRESIDENT RON DAHLIN, CGCS-2012
Western-Class A
The Meadows Golf Club at GVSU

PAST PRESIDENT JOHN FULLING, CGCS
Western-Class A
Kalamazoo Country Club

**SECRETARY/
TREASURER** JAY ECCLETON, CGCS-2011
Mid-Class A
The Emerald

BOARD MEMBERS GREGG MATTHEWS -2010
Detroit-Class A
Lakelands Golf and Country Club

ADAM IKAMAS-2011
Northern-Class A
Crystal Mountain Resort

GREG PATTINSON-2010
Mid-Class A
Captains Club

RICK HAKKEN-2012
Mid-Class A
The Pines GC at Lake Isabella

TIM DARK-2011
Detroit-Class A
Barton Hills Country Club

SCOTT PULASKI-2012
Northern-Class A
Treetops Resort

JEFF HOLMES, CGCS-2011
Western-Class A
Egypt Valley C.C.

TAVIS HORTON-2012
Detroit - Class C
Birmingham Country Club

MiGCSA STAFF

MiGCSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Donn Eurich

**DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION
AND EVENTS**
Jenny Fedewa

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
Donna Devereaux

**DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND
FUNDRAISING**
Vanessa Crocetto

**DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
AND NEWSLETTER**
Rebecca Holloway

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
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



State Championship at Pilgram's Run

SPECIALIZING IN POND RESTORATION SINCE 1991

Got Muck?

**RESTORE & ENHANCE
YOUR POND**

REMOVE ACCUMULATING MUCK

**PROTECT YOUR
IRRIGATION SYSTEM**



Restore ponds to their original bottom by removing bottom sediments without disturbing existing aquatic life or damaging existing landscape. SRS will dramatically reduce weed and algae problems, greatly increasing water quality for a healthier environment while costing up to 75% LESS THAN CONVENTIONAL DREDGING.



NO DAMAGE
TO LANDSCAPE
NO MECHANICAL
DREDGING
NO DRAINING
OF POND

STINGRAY
aquatics

FOR INFORMATION, SALES OR
SERVICE CALL 1-815-793-9496

AN DISTRIBUTOR

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE HOW WE DO IT...
WWW.STINGRAYAQUATICS.NET

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



STEVE HAMMON

Welcome to the 2009 golf season! I hope your season is off to a fantastic start and that everybody is happy to be back outside after a very long, cold winter and spring! Your MiGCSA is beginning the 2009 golf season in great shape thanks to the hard work of a very committed Board and staff. They all worked very hard throughout the winter season planning for 2009 and hosting numerous events around the state this spring. Our membership numbers have never been better! As of the end of April, we surpassed 100% retained and returning members. Our spring education sessions were all well attended and our MiGCSA spring golf opener at the Country Club of Lansing was a big success, despite the inclement weather. Thanks to our host Mark Magee, and his fine staff, for making the golf course playable in such wet conditions. We had 54 players who braved the rainy, cool weather.

Thirty MiGCSA members traveled to Canada on April 27 for the annual Can-AM Tournament held this year at the Essex Golf & Country Club. The weather was fabulous and this year, our United States team prevailed and brought the trophy back home! Congratulations to Team MiGCSA USA. Next year's event will be held in our country. All MiGCSA members are invited to compete in the CAN-AM Tournament.

Upcoming MiGCSA June and July events include: The Ravines Golf Course in Saugatuck, hosted by John Tuckerman, where Steve Allen of Geum Services will be speaking on native grasses and plants in the golf landscape, the Northern MTF fundraiser at The Bear at the Grand Traverse Resort, hosted by Paul Galligan, and a great day at Forest Lake Country Club with our host Fritz McMullen. For more information and registration to these events, visit the MiGCSA website at www.migcsa.org. There are two other MTF Fundraisers scheduled this year, one at Egypt Valley in September and the Big Event at Barton Hills in October. These fundraisers are great opportunities to spend a day with your owner, green committee, board member, GM, or golf pro. Understandably, it's not always possible to attend your local MTF fundraiser so we have included a spot on each registration where you can still make a donation and support the world class turf research at Michigan State University.

Your Board held its first strategic planning session since the formation of the state chapter at its spring meeting at Crystal Mountain Resort in March. GCSAA Chapter Liaison, Steve Randall, facilitated this very important and positive planning session for the board and staff. Please take a minute to read Steve Randall's article on page 22; he has provided a very valuable review of our strategic planning outcomes. One of the highlights from the strategic planning session was the development of a new education partnership between the MiGCSA and the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association. Through this great partnership, the MiGCSA will be able to offer more business and management classes so that MiGCSA members can remain competitive and offer more resources to help support their entire golf facility. Each class will have GCSAA approved education points, stay tuned for more details.

That's it for now. Have a fantastic summer season and thanks for your continued support of the MiGCSA.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Hammon".

STEVE HAMMON, MiGCSA PRESIDENT

ARE YOU READY FOR TOMORROW?

BY DONN EURICH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If you look back five years, consider how much things have changed since then in the way you do business, communicate, buy products and do your job. Experts agree that the changes coming in the next five years will be at twice the pace of what we have experienced to date. Will you have the skills needed to compete for a job in that market? What are you doing today to improve and expand your skills in anticipation of more changes in the golf industry?

There is an old saying which goes, 'a mind, once stretched with a new idea, never regains its original shape.' That same analogy applies to our economy. We will never return to the 'good old days', or conduct business exactly the same way we did before the current economic meltdown. Companies will be leaner. Employees will need to be even more multi-task oriented. While prosperous times are sure to return eventually, it will be in a different form and model than is being currently used.

I am certainly not predicting the demise of the superintendent as we know him today. There will be many courses which will still be operating as they do now. But the overall golf industry is gradually moving beyond the superintendent just being a turf guy. Many clubs have had to make difficult personnel decisions. Superintendents are in the best position to survive and actually grow from staff reductions. If you can learn marketing, finance, how the catering and dining services function and other management skills, you bring more value to yourself and can hopefully justify a higher salary and gain more job security.

MiGCSA and the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association (MGCOA) agree that diverse continuing education is an important service we need to offer. We are already planning business core courses for later this year, both at the MGCOA management conference in December and at the GLTE.

GCSAA reports that there is already a surplus of qualified professional superintendents chasing a limited number of industry jobs. Put yourself in the position of a course owner or search committee from a club. If you are hiring a superintendent, and assuming several applicant's turf knowledge and experience are similar, wouldn't the candidate who has diverse skills beyond just managing the course be the best hire? Even if those extra skills aren't needed in everyday activities immediately, I guarantee you the smart hire is the multi-skilled candidate.

What can you do? Take classes or seminars on marketing, business management and finance. Attend MiGCSA events where our educational sessions include business topics. Tell us what you need with regard to training and education so we can help you achieve your goals. By demonstrating initiative and asking what skills you can acquire to help your employer, you establish yourself as part of the solution to some of the issues your club or course currently faces.






Insignia
F U N G I C I D E


Emerald
F U N G I C I D E


Trinity
F U N G I C I D E

You have enough things to worry about. Don't let turf disease be one of them. Trust BASF for a full line of innovative, effective fungicides to keep your most troublesome diseases under control. With some of the most efficacious chemistries on the market, BASF has a fungicide that's perfect for your rotation. So don't get alarmed about turf diseases — get BASF.

For more information, contact Jerry Husemann at 937-604-5617
or gerald.husemann@basf.com.

 **BASF**
The Chemical Company

Always read and follow label directions.
Emerald, Insignia and Trinity are registered trademarks of BASF.
© 2009 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved.

GIVING THE GOLF COURSE A TUNE UP

PRESENTED BY THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Unlike an old set of clubs, a golf course can't be traded in for a new model. However, it can be renovated or remodeled to be brought up to modern standards.

Mature golf courses often undergo renovations or restorations as a means to improve conditions for golfers. The passing of time and effects of weather may necessitate rebuilding bunkers; or the desire for better drainage could be the reason for a conversion from "push-up" greens to those built to USGA specifications. Developments in turfgrass science have produced new grasses that may be more suitable for the facility's traffic and climate.

The superintendent is the point person in leading the project from the idea stage to completion. As the on-site representative, the superintendent is an ongoing, integral part of the planning and development team on any construction project. Even before the first spade of dirt is turned, he/she assists with final design decisions. In fact, many superintendents have designed and built their own courses.

On the same lines, constructing a golf course from scratch and transforming a tract of land into a golf facility requires the input of many individuals. Once again, the superintendent is a key player and extremely vital to the development of a golf course.

Regardless of the ownership and management arrangement, the superintendent is often the first person brought on board to oversee what is called the "grow-in." Working with the golf course architect and the golf course builder, the superintendent assists in creating a facility that will serve the needs of the consumers, yet be an aesthetic and environmental asset. After the architect and builder have performed their obligations, the superintendent continues his role as the project manager in preparing the facility for opening.

Once past the initial differences between constructing a new course from ground zero or remodeling a current one, the superintendent's roles are very similar.

To begin, a master plan provides the structure for the superintendent's participation in a golf course construction or remodeling project. It is designed to be a long-term framework to which plans and specifications conform. Not only does the plan provide for the long-range needs of the facility, but it also may detail preparations for future projects.

Most importantly, the master plan should incorporate the superintendent's input, which ensures that maintenance has been taken into account. When considering a master plan, a superintendent will keep these basic, but important, factors in mind:

- Budget
- Staff
- Equipment

Keeping the lines of communication open among the superintendent, the architect and the builder ensures a thorough understanding of a design's maintenance implications. For example, elevation, a critical dimension in the design of a golf hole, can be achieved through the creation of hazards. But these are also often the cause of maintenance headaches. The parties will discuss the maintenance capabilities, types of players and vision for the course before construction or remodeling begins to eliminate any foreseen problems.

The number, shape and style of bunkers on the course have a dramatic effect on maintenance and are critical components that

KEY POINTS:

- Mature golf courses often undergo renovations or restorations as a means to improve conditions for golfers
- Whether a new course is being built from the ground up, or an existing one is just getting a fresh makeover, the superintendent plays an integral part in the process.
- A master plan provides the structure for the superintendent's participation in a golf course construction or remodeling project.
- Keeping the lines of communication open among the superintendent, the architect and the builder ensures a thorough understanding of a design's maintenance implications.
- The number, shape and style of bunkers on the course have a dramatic effect on maintenance and are critical components that require the superintendent's input.

require the superintendent's input. Bunkers with intricate fingers require difficult maintenance work while more open-shaped bunkers with shallow faces are easier to maintain, but have less aesthetic value.

Tees may not always receive a great deal of aesthetic attention, but they require a great deal of maintenance. Tees are often the most difficult features to construct properly because they must be as level as possible and drain properly at the same time. Surface drainage on and around the tees is crucial to the health of the turf. Like tees, fairways can dramatically affect the playability of a course. Drainage is key fairway maintenance. All areas of the fairway and rough should be sloped to provide drainage. A superintendent will make sure these three elements are designed correctly during construction to prevent future problems.

Continue on page 19

NEW CHIPCOO TRITON® FLO WORKS BEST IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:



Okay, so maybe it doesn't work in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Or the Gobi Desert. But thanks to our exclusive StressGard™ formulation technology, new Chipcoo Triton® FLO fungicide can be used just about everywhere else. On roughs, greens, tees, and fairways. In most disease situations, including anthracnose, brown patch, and dollar spot. It even works under stressful summer conditions when other fungicides simply don't. And since it plays well with others by mixing easily with existing fungicides, it gives you the flexibility to use it in the way that works best for you.

As always, you're Backed by Bayer. Which means our team of professionals is your team of professionals. All of our research and support is to ensure you have the most effective products available. To create the healthiest, greenest turf possible for you. No matter where it is. Unless, you know, it's in the middle of Antarctica. To learn more about Chipcoo Triton FLO and StressGard, go to www.BackedbyBayer.com/TritonFLO.

 Bayer Environmental Science

©2009 Bayer Environmental Science, a business unit of Bayer CropScience U.S. LLC. All rights reserved. Bayer, the Bayer logo, and Backed by Bayer are trademarks of Bayer CropScience. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Bayer CropScience is not responsible for the use of its products in any manner not intended by Bayer CropScience.



TRITON FLO

A FULL ROUND



KEN HUNT

In golf course terms Pilgrim's Run Golf Club is a fairly new course. The front nine opened in July, 1997 and the back nine the following July. Ken Hunt, CGCS, has been at Pilgrim's Run from design to today. The course was established by owner Robert Van Kampen.

He had 6 employees, each of whom had 3 holes that they were responsible for designing. Superintendent Kris Shumaker was responsible for the routing and to help with the overall design and construction. Mike Devries of Devries Design was brought in to consult on design issues and to design and cut in the green complexes. The whole project was done in house by Kris Shumaker, Ken Hunt, who was then the assistant superintendent and 5 other employees. This internal team helped us to maintain the quality the ownership desired. They were responsible for all grade work, irrigation and drainage installation, final grade, and seeding. Today the course sits on 400 plus acres of natural wooded terrain in Pierson, Michigan. The fairways are Creeping Bentgrass and roughs are Kentucky Bluegrass.

Ken went to Michigan State University and received his 2 year certificate from the turfgrass program. He completed his internships at the Country Club at The Legends in St. Louis and at Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail in Birmingham. He has also worked at Clearbrook Golf Club in Saugatuck, and at Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail.

Ken is the happy father of three children; Kaiden is 5, Conner is 4, and Natalie is 8 months and he now makes his home in Cedar Springs with his lovely wife of nine years, Sarah.





1. **WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?** I expect them to improve education for myself and fellow superintendents. Also to educate the public about what our jobs entail, how a golf course is maintained and to help the public understand that we are good stewards of the lands we work.
2. **WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIGGEST ISSUE WILL BE IN THE FUTURE?** I think regulations on what we can use for pesticides and how we can use our natural resources.
3. **WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT PROFESSION?** To have lots of patience and let things just roll off. (this is really hard sometimes)
4. **WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS DEVOTED TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?** I would say about 90% of my time is dealing with non-agronomic issues.
5. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF WALKING A GOLF COURSE VS. RIDING A GOLF COURSE IN TODAY'S GAME?** Riding is part of the game now a days and we need to just accept it, whether we like it or not. I feel you do tend to enjoy the game walking and are able to prepare yourself for the next shot. But riding gives the feeling that you can be more relaxed and comfortable.
6. **WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?** At Pilgrim's Run and still loving what I do.
7. **HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED 100 YEARS FROM NOW?** As a good husband, father, person, and superintendent.
8. **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF GREEN SPEEDS AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY?** I think as long as greens roll true, pins are fair and the speed is consistent from one green to the next speed is not a big deal. A good golfer should be able to change his or her game to fit the course not the course fit to their game. Wouldn't it be a boring game if every course was the same in both speed of greens and design. The fun and challenging thing about golf is figuring out the greens.
9. **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NON-GOLF SPORT?** Tennis. It is great exercise, family time, and it does not cost much to play.
10. **WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?** Play with my kids in the back yard. I savor the time now because I know when they get older they are not going to want to spend as much time with me but with their friends.
11. **WHAT GOLF COURSE YOU WOULD LOVE TO EXPERIENCE ONCE IN YOUR LIFETIME?** Augusta National, I went down to The Masters this year and that was great experience. I am not one who gets excited about the tour because of the expectations that get put on us but this course is really awesome and it would be fun to play there once.

12. **WHAT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD TO YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?**

A 300 gallon sprayer, with 42 acres of fairway the 160 gallon sprayer is a little small but we make due.

13. **WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW?** Probably my equipment technician, Don Vandenberg, he has a great sense of humor and he also makes my job a lot easier. He is a great man and takes pride in what he does and he has a heart of gold.
14. **IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY GOLF HOLE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE WITH-OUT REPERCUSSION, WHICH ONE WOULD BE THE FIRST?**

I would change the #4 green. It is too small for a short par 3 and just gets beat to death by high shots into the green. The big pine just to the left that should come out for the health of the green and surrounding turf. The bunkers around the green are too deep and I can not get the golfers to stop walking up the face. This is a constant problem and repairing it is a pain.



15. **WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEW SUPERINTENDENT?** Be patient, organized, and ask for help when you need it. Remember that it all does not have to be done in one day.
16. **WHAT IS THE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE YOU COULD NOT DO WITHOUT?** Aerification is one of the most important practices that I do here. It's either spiking, hollow tine, or deep tine aerifying.



17. **WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?** My wife Sarah. She is a strong woman and I look up to her.

18. **NAME ANY THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD MAKE UP YOUR "DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM?"** My two brothers, Jeff and Todd Hunt and my Dad.

WELCOME NEW 2009 MiGCSA MEMBERS

NAME	COMPANY	CLASSIFICATION
Curt Bentrum	Davey Tree Expert Co.	Class A
Terry Hall	Bay Valley Resort	Class A
James Halstead	Eagle Glen Golf Course	Class A
Michael Schrade	Bello-Woods Golf Course	Class A
Mark Jackson	Davey Golf Course Maintenance	Class SM
Seth Britton	Grand Traverse Resort & Spa	Class SM
Gene Davis	Grand Traverse Resort & Spa	Class SM
Katie Heffron	Blythefield Country Club	Class C
Rob Falconer	Forest Dunes Golf Club	Class C
Jeffrey Naeyaert	College Fields Golf Club	Class C
John Rinehart	Oakland Hills Country Club	Class C
Ryan Underwood	Shanty Creek Resort	Class C
Benjamin Walters	Whispering Pines Golf Club	Class C
John Wessels	Forest Dunes Golf Club	Class C
Lloyd Seese	Thorn Apple Pointe	Class C
Gene Brauninger	Polo Fields Golf and Country Club	Class D
Heath Bronkema	Kalamazoo Country Club	Class D
Tom Brown	Treetops Resort	Class D
Stan Bulmer	Blythefield Country Club	Class D
Jack Cook	Wequetonsing Golf Club	Class D
Bob Cymes	Barton Hills Country Club	Class D
Fred Girdley	Cedar Creek Golf Course	Class D
Keith Havlerson	Cedar Creek Golf Course	Class D
Ron Kellog	Treetops Resort	Class D
Tyler Megill	Leland Country Club	Class D
Tom Mungons	Tam-O-Shanter Country Club	Class D
James Novack	Lakelands Golf & Country Club	Class D
Mike Salkovich	Egypt Valley Country Club	Class D
David Somers	A-Ga-Ming Golf Club	Class D
Martin Thompson	Travis Pointe Country Club	Class D
Dave Wallis	Spring Lake Country Club	Class D
Brian Hoyle	Brookview	Class AFF
Joseph Schneider	Sanco Industries	Class AFF
Derek Carroll	Fuse It Piping	Class AFF
Keith Kaiser	Hidden River Golf & Casting Club	Class SA
Benjamin Yocic	Polo Fields Golf & C.C.	Class SA
Clint Cabbie	Fuse it Piping	Class SA

MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 4/21/09

	2009 CURRENT	APRIL 2008 COMPARISON	TOTAL 2008 MEMBERSHIP	PERCENTAGE RETAINED
Class AA	20	19	20	100%
Class A	267	265	267	100%
Class SM	64	58	58	110%
Class C	84	77	80	105%
Class D	40	24	24	166%
Class E	20	20	20	100%
Class AFF	117	121	134	87%
Class H	10	12	12	83%
Class SA	9	3	3	300%
Class R	6	5	5	120%
Class I	5	4	4	125%
Class FM	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL	642	608	627	102%

RON SANDERS

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN, BUCKS RUN GOLF COURSE

Ron Sanders worked for the Fisher family as a heavy equipment operator long before Bucks Run was a golf course. Prior to being developed as a golf course the 290 acres was a busy mining operation for gravel, rock, and sand. Operations halted in the early 1990's leaving the site quiet and undisturbed for nearly a decade. But you can still see the remains of the of the mining in the lakes and flowing design today.

Construction of the golf course began in the spring of 1999 and the golf course opened for play on July 1, 2000. Well known architect Jerry Matthews designed the course. Ron worked at Bucks Run during the construction of the course, as construction came to a close Ron decided that he was interested in staying at the course as their equipment technician.

Ron has been working with superintendent Jeff Sweet, CGCS, through the construction of the course until today. Since opening, Bucks Run received 4 1/2 stars out of a possible 5, in 2004 and 2006, Golf Digests Places to Play. The course also received a Top 50 ranking for "Course Condition", "Pace of Play", and "Service". Bucks Run has hosted three United States Amateur qualifiers, and four Powerbilt Junior Tour events.

Ron is originally from the Mt. Pleasant area and now makes his home with Joyce, his lovely wife of 33 years on a centennial farm in Clare County. He has spent his whole life working with equipment, from his days on a farm with his father to the 30 years that he spent working as a heavy equipment operator. Ron is happy to call Bucks Run home.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? Many of the years I spent operating heavy equipment was for the Fisher family. I was very involved in building Bucks Run. When construction was almost done I decided I might want to stay. Now I work at the course, like my job a lot and still work for the Fisher Companies.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB? Trying to prevent a mechanical problem before it occurs.

WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB? Going out on the course and seeing a quality cut that anyone would be proud of.

WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF EQUIPMENT MANAGERS? They will have to be up on their electrical knowledge with the advances in equipment.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT? My dad. He took very good care of his equipment.

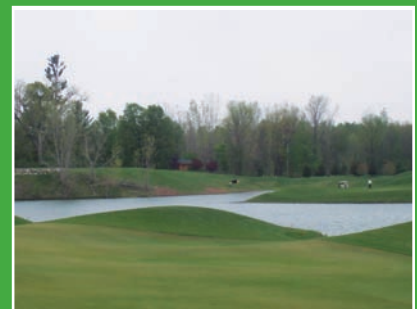
WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT PROFESSION? Pay attention to the small things. They usually add up to bigger problems.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TOOL IN THE BOX? L.E.D cordless trouble light. It's bright, doesn't get hot and you don't have to drag a cord around. You can use it anywhere.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT? Toro 5200 Pro Sweep. It picks up all of the cores on greens and fairways after aerating.

WHAT IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT IS STILL BEING UTILIZED IN YOUR FLEET? 1999 Toro 1000 L with a 52" deck that has had a lot of hard use and still runs great.

UNDER THE HOOD



Bucks Run 2008 Crew

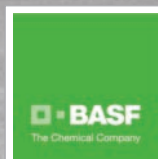


Ron and Superintendent Jeff Sweet, CGCS



THANK YOU TO MiGCSA'S TOP INDUSTRY PARTNERS

SUPPORT THE COMPANIES
THAT SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION





INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Dear MiGCSA Member:

The MiGCSA is now fully immersed in the second year of the Industry Partnership Program (IPP). Many members of the association are still relatively unfamiliar with the exact purpose of the IPP and how it works. With this in mind, I thought it would be appropriate to share the success and vision of the program.

In its first year the IPP raised over \$90,000. This money goes towards all sorts of member benefits. First and foremost, the IPP dollars raised make it possible for membership dues to stay incredibly low and affordable. Our membership retention and recruitment numbers speak for themselves on this one. We have nearly perfect membership retention, and new memberships are coming in steadily each and every month.



Secondly, IPP dollars help maintain the financial security of the association. Since the statewide chapter is extremely young, relatively speaking, the best and most effective ways to build a credible association are through its members and by being committed to fiscal responsibility. Without the IPP, this would not be possible. The MiGCSA board of directors, as well as office staff works very hard to make sure that everything we do is cost effective and stays within budget parameters. Our hope is that sometime, hopefully not in the too distant future, we will all be a part of an association that is both financially secure and lucrative for all parties involved.

It is also important that we recognize that by having financial security, the association is able to support turfgrass research through the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF). In our first fiscal year as a statewide association, the MiGCSA was able to give \$15,000 to the MTF. That money will be applied to the research that is a driving force behind our association.

There are numerous other contributions that the IPP makes to the MiGCSA. The money helps provide scholarships to students, keeps otherwise costly events affordable, contributes to our annual Day at the Capitol, and gives industry leaders a powerful vehicle to show their support of the MiGCSA.

In our second year of the IPP we are well on our way to surpassing last year's accomplishments, and look forward to making each year to come even more successful! Our association owes much of its success to our Industry Partners; make sure you thank them for their support by supporting their companies.

As always, feel free to call me at the office with any questions or concerns you have about this program, encourage the companies that you do business with to support your association by becoming an Industry Partner.

Sincerely,
VANESSA CROCETTO
DIRECTOR, ADVOCACY AND DEVELOPMENT

THE BETTER HALF

PHIL KLUESNER

Crystal Mountain offers an exceptional northern Michigan golf experience. With two distinctly different golf courses, Crystal Mountain's Mountain Ridge golf course offers panoramic vistas of our northern Michigan vacationland. Its fairways wind through stately forests and ascend to high elevations, providing a true northern Michigan golf experience. Crystal Mountain's Betsie Valley golf course, which recently underwent a \$1 million renovation, will challenge the ability of any golfer with its protected greens, tree lined fairways and challenging bunkers

Crystal Mountain was a well know ski resort but with a vision to make it a year round resort designation golf entered into the picture in 1977. This was the year that the resort's first nine holes open, and an additional nine holes two years later.

Since then, assistant superintendent Phil Kluesner has joined the team at Crystal Mountain. He works under the supervision of superintendent Adam Ikamas. Phil is currently finishing his education by attending MSU through the University Center at Northwestern Michigan College.



1. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF GREEN SPEED AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY?

Green speeds are going to be different from course to course, the real question is what green speed is practical for the individual course and their clientele.

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

I would like to see more players fix their ball marks.

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

Flowers and any other type of landscaping should be well out of play.

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

I think that it is going to be increasingly important for assistant involvement in the industry. We are the next

generation of superintendents, let's get proactive and help shape the industry.

5. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I am currently serving my second year as a volunteer on the MiGCSA assistant committee.

6. WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS?

I see a lot of changes in the skill sets that will be required to be successful in the golf industry.

7. WHAT IS THE BIGGEST ISSUE FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Job market saturation

8. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE IN YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

I can't get enough of the Multi Pro sprayer.



9. WHAT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD TO YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT? I would like to add a Goossen Versa-Vac to the fleet.

10. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME? I think that Augusta Syndrome is something that should be addressed through player education rather than an increase in budget and maintenance.

11. HOW MANY MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE STAFF? Our crew size varies, in the peak of the golf season we have twenty seven.

12. WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW? We are collectively funny; I work with a great crew.

13. HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? I had my first experience in the industry helping a crew clean-up after aerification. A few years later I had another opportunity to work seasonally on another course, and from there my love for the work guided me to where I am today.

14. IF YOU HAD A MULLIGAN IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT CAREER CHOICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE? I think that graphic design would have also been a good fit for me. I usually have a sketch pad or two around the house to keep me busy.

15. NAME ANY THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD MAKE UP YOUR "DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM". My uncle Mort, my uncle Clarence, and my father.

16. WHAT GOLF COURSE WOULD YOU LOVE TO EXPERIENCE ONCE IN YOUR LIFETIME? I would like the opportunity to play at St. Andrews on the old course.

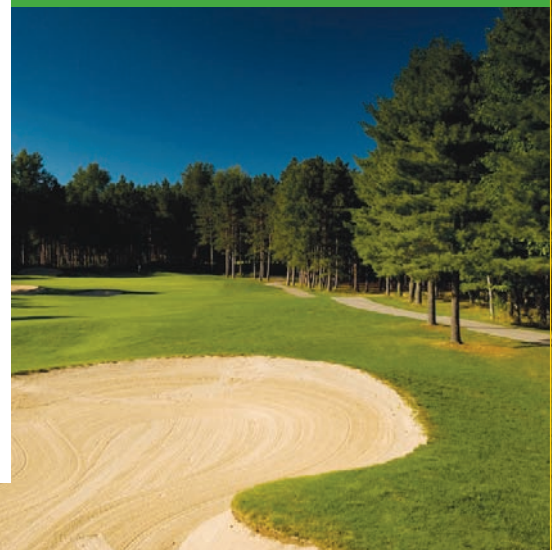
17. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED? Number five at Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club.

18. WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME? I have recently discovered that I really enjoy woodworking. I also spend a lot of time with friends and family.



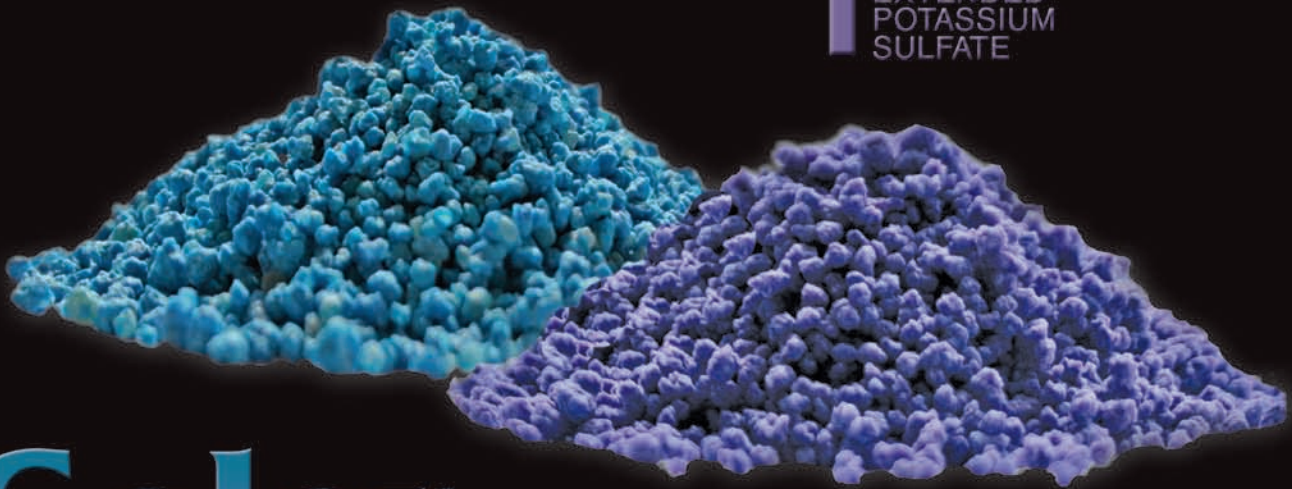
QUICK NINE

1. **SPRING, SUMMER OR FALL?** Spring.
2. **FISH, DOG OR CAT?** Dog.
3. **SODA, COFFEE OR TEA?** Red Bull.
4. **THE MASTERS, U.S. OPEN OR BRITISH OPEN?** The Masters.
5. **CLASSIC GOLF COURSE, MODERN GOLF COURSE OR MODERN/CLASSIC GOLF COURSE?** Classic golf course.
6. **LIONS, TIGERS OR RED WINGS?** Red Wings.
7. **COLD BEER, FINE WINE OR MIXED DRINK?** Cold beer.
8. **MORNING SUNRISE, SUNNY DAY OR BEAUTIFUL SUNSET?** Morning Sunrise.
9. **SPORTS CAR, PICK-UP TRUCK OR WATER CRAFT?** Motorcycle.



MESA
Patented Slow Release Nitrogen

expo
EXTENDED
POTASSIUM
SULFATE



Color Does Matter

MESA, a major advantage in turf health and maintenance costs

- Fast response
- Long feeding
- Brilliant color
- Microbial release
- Reduce or eliminate flush leaf growth
- More cost effective than SCU
- 35% to 45% less clippings

EXPO premier slow release N & K that feeds upwards of 3+ months

- 20-0-25 available in SGN 145 & SGN 195
- Dual slow release of N & K
- Denser more upright growth
- Cleaner cut with less top growth
- Enhances soils and microbe population
- Less disease, reduced thatch
- Beautiful color with surprising longevity
- Best turf. Best value, Best for your budget
- Talk to your Distributor Sales Rep about performance, value, and the cost savings of EXPO today

LebanonTurf

Improving the Way Professionals Care for Turf

Randy Rogers • rrogers@lebanonturf.com • 517-339-1987 • www.LebanonTurf.com

GOLF COURSE A TUNE UP Continued from page

Golf course construction and remodeling is a complicated process, involving a team of golf industry professionals and regulatory bodies, not to mention owners and green committees, and a variety of other wide-ranging opinions. Some of the things a superintendent can do to influence the process include:

- Meet with the architect as soon as possible.
- Prioritize course needs. The superintendent understands the positive and negative characteristics of the site more than anyone.
- Understand that they're the experts. The architect relies on the superintendents for intimate knowledge such as drainage problems, golf car circulation patterns and misplaced trees on a course set for renovation.
- Offer input for each master plan redraft and proposal.

Whether a new course is being built from the ground up, or an existing one is just getting a fresh makeover, the golf course

GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION AND REMODELING IS A COMPLICATED PROCESS, INVOLVING A TEAM OF GOLF INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS AND REGULATORY BODIES, NOT TO MENTION OWNERS AND GREEN COMMITTEES, AND A VARIETY OF OTHER WIDE-RANGING OPINIONS.

superintendent plays an integral part in the process. He/she holds the key to a finely tuned golf course.

For more information regarding golf course maintenance and etiquette, contact your local superintendent or the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America at 800/472-7878 or www.gcsaa.org.



**Three Michigan Locations
to Serve You!**

Novi (800) 521-TURF

Wayland (616) 877-3744

Gaylord (866) 705-8180

www.turfgrassinc.com

**Quality Products,
Agronomic Advice &
Excellent Service
at a Fair Price!**

- ◆ **Onsite Consultations**
- ◆ **Knowledgeable Sales Team**
- ◆ **Fertilizer**
- ◆ **Grass Seed**
- ◆ **Herbicides**
- ◆ **Fungicides**
- ◆ **Insecticides**
- ◆ **Accessories & More....**

A CALL FROM CAMPUS



THE MYTH OF FINE LEAF FESCUES AND SUSTAINABLE GOLF

J. M. VARGAS JR., PROFESSOR

My original intent was to write an article dealing with the timing of fungicide applications for disease control. However, after reading the article about sustainable golf, I feel it is necessary to present the other side of the story before we go rushing head long into disaster based on folklore. The European Union is in the process of trying to force this same nonsense on golf courses throughout Europe. The fine leaf fescues are adapted to northern, oceanic climates and do not perform well when planted in other climates. They are also adapted to sandy soils and do not grow well in fine-textured soils that are susceptible to compaction. Planting them in environments they are not adapted to is one sure way to guarantee the invasion of annual bluegrass. Yes, they do fine in the sandy golf course roughs of Northern Michigan, but they are certainly not in pure stands, and they are not mowed at fairway heights.

IRRIGATION WATER

I will grant the author that the fine leaf fescues require less water than many other grass species, and water is certainly a precious commodity. It can also be a limiting commodity and, as the author points out, many golf courses are being forced to use effluent water for irrigation of their golf turf. The problem is the fine leaf fescues do not survive well when irrigated with effluent water. So, whereas seashore paspalum is a good choice for warm season climates where effluent water has to be used, fine leaf fescue is not a good choice in cooler climates where effluent water has to be used.

IRRIGATION PRACTICES

In cool, oceanic climates where fine leaf fescue is best adapted, limiting irrigation helps the species survive. In continental climates, like Michigan, the option is to either irrigate or not irrigate because any irrigation that keeps it green will lessen its competitive ability and favor grasses like annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass. Rains, like those we experience in Michigan, will, likewise, only favor the encroachment of annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass because the fine leaf fescues are not adapted to this climate or soil type.

LINKS GOLF COURSES

I have been fortunate enough to visit many links style golf courses in the UK and Ireland, and I have enjoyed playing these courses. This, of course, is one of the places where fine leaf fescues are well-adapted. These golf courses are certainly low maintenance and, as near as I can tell, fairways on these courses receive 1 pound of nitrogen or less a year, with some receiving none or maybe a pound of ammonium sulfate every 4 or 5 years. So, following the theory of sustainability, these fairways should be predominately fine leaf fescue. But what one finds instead is a mixture of the fine leaf fescues, annual bluegrass, many small-leaved broadleaf weeds, and moss. This certainly is sustainable because of the tremendous genetic diversity of the plant species in the fairways, but they do not even come close to being pure fine leaf fescue fairways. These fairways generally also have one or more of the following diseases in them: dollar spot, red thread, and/or Microdochium patch. Is this the type of fairways we want to have on our golf courses in Michigan? This is a question that needs to be asked before we go rushing head long into this pipe dream that

you can have pure fine leaf fescue fairways that are sustainable, with minimum inputs of water and fertility, and that receive no pesticide applications.

THE DISEASE MYTH

Another fallacy perpetuated by people promoting fine leaf fescue as a cure-all is that this species has fewer diseases than any other turfgrass species and therefore fewer fungicides will have to be applied. This is simply not true. Fine leaf fescue is susceptible to many diseases. Even in areas where it is well-adapted it gets dollar spot. (The disease was originally discovered on the fine leaf fescues in the UK and the pathogen identified by F. T. Bennet, a UK mycologist, hence the name of the fungus and author, *Sclerotinia homoeocarpa* F. T. Bennet). It is also susceptible to leaf spot, red thread, Microdochium patch, and Typhula blight. When grown in the warmer regions of the continental climate, it is susceptible summer patch, brown patch, and Pythium blight.

Like any species growing in a climate it is not adapted to, fine leaf fescue is susceptible to diseases that do not normally occur in such a region. Let me give you an example. I have consulted on a golf course in Southern France where the fairways were seeded to a mixture of fine leaf fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, and perennial ryegrass. Typical of a Mediterranean climate, it normally does not rain from mid-May until mid-September. Dollar spot is not typically a problem in this part of the world because inland golf courses grow in an environment of low humidity. However, dollar spot is a problem on this golf course, but only on the fine leaf fescues. Dollar spot does not occur on the Kentucky bluegrass or the perennial ryegrass in these fairways. In other words, the only reason the superintendent has to apply fungicides all summer long is because of the dollar spot on the fine leaf fescue. So much for the argument that less fungicide applications are needed when you plant the fairways to fine leaf fescue! This is what happens when a species is grown in a climate to which it is not well-adapted. Whereas Kentucky bluegrass and perennial ryegrass are not ideally suited for that climate either, they have wider of adaptation than the fine leaf fescues and are better suited for this climate.

HUMAN TOLL

What bothers me most about this theory that the fine leaf fescues will solve all your problems and provide an excellent playing surface is the toll it has taken, and will continue to take, on the lives of golf course superintendents. I personally know of 2 cases of former students who were fired from golf courses where this nonsense about the fine leaf fescues not having any disease problems was promoted by the architect. On one course, located in Northern Michigan, where this fallacy was promoted that the fine leaf fescues were not susceptible to any diseases, the fairways were decimated

by leaf spot in the spring. When I informed the superintendent that he needed to apply a fungicide, he said he couldn't because he did not have any money in his budget for fungicides. He explained to me that the owner was told by the architect that fine leaf fescues were not susceptible to any diseases. This disease outbreak was followed by severe snow mold damage that winter. As a result of the tremendous turf loss from the unchecked disease outbreaks, the golf course is now predominately annual bluegrass. The other course was located in Northern Indiana, not too far from Lake Michigan, where the high humidity caused dollar spot and brown patch to be a problem that severely damaged the fairways. The reason both of these superintendents were fired was because the architect who sold the "owners" the bill of goods about the fine leaf fescues not being susceptible to any diseases kept insisting that if the superintendents knew what they were doing, the fescues would not get any diseases. Architects should stick to architecting and let knowledgeable consultants in conjunction with experienced golf course superintendents choose the species and cultivars best adapted for their climate and soils.

SEASHORE PASPALUM MYTH

Concerning seashore paspalum, the author has obviously not visited many courses with this grass species on them. It is very susceptible to dollar spot and a new disease called small patch. Granted it may be the only choice for the warm season, grass-growing regions of the world where effluent irrigation water has to be used or where salt water has invaded a freshwater aquifer. I have nothing against this species and have consulted on seashore paspalum golf courses. What I am opposed to is the nonsense in the article claims that seashore paspalum does not get any diseases. Actually, bermudagrass is the most disease-resistant, warm season grass species available, especially when grown at fairway height.

Fine leaf fescues will not survive very well on fine-textured fairway soils in a continental climate. Traffic will cause compaction on the fine textured soils leading to the invasion of annual bluegrass. Contrary to popular belief, fine leaf fescue will also require fungicide applications otherwise diseases like dollar spot, brown patch, red thread, leaf spot and the snow molds will decimate the fairways leaving voids in the turf that will be filled in by annual bluegrass, other weedy grasses, and broad leaf weeds. If you like the combination of fine leaf fescue, annual bluegrass, creeping bentgrass, crabgrass, and broad leaf weeds then by all means, convert your fairways to fine leaf fescues and eliminate pesticides and then, because of the tremendous genetic diversity, you will have truly sustainable fairways.

FROM NATIONAL



STEVE RANDALL

On March 24-25 I had the privilege to facilitate a strategic planning session for the MiGCSA. I have been fortunate to work with various chapters in this endeavor. The ultimate goal for these sessions is simple. Provide a direction

focused on you, the member. This was the first strategic planning session since the MiGCSA was formed in 2008.

As we went through the session, many points were evident. First, the MiGCSA board of directors is an extremely dedicated group. They have your best interests in mind, especially during difficult times for many of us. In addition, the group is not only dedicated to enhancing present programs and services, but is looking forward to the future and maintaining your viability in the golf industry. Also take note, your staff at Eurich Management is there to serve you!

What unfolded during our strategic planning session was to maintain programs that have proven successful. That includes enhancing the quality communication tools in place, including this publication. Also, the relationship the MiGCSA has with its industry partners is a vital piece to functionality. It must also be noted that the MiGCSA was formed to provide quality, affordable educational programs and serve as a network for members to exchange ideas. The association will not lose sight of this.

THE MiGCSA DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING PLANS FOR YOUR FUTURE

BY STEVE RANDALL- GCSAA SENIOR MANAGER, CHAPTER OUTREACH

Education is a primary focus. There is a desire to not only maintain programs in place, but to evolve educational opportunities that add a focus to business, communications and leadership skills. We all know that agronomics and course conditions are the focal part of your position as a member of the MiGCSA. This will not change.

Providing a solid financial plan, including contingencies during good and bad times is essential. While this is already in place, letting you as members hear that and see that effort is important. Secondly, enhancing the brand of MiGCSA and placing MiGCSA at the forefront of the Michigan golf industry is necessary to promote golf. This allows the MiGCSA to work with other allied golf organizations to grow the game.

Part of that process includes the development of an outreach proposal that may include matching funds from GCSAA. This effort is geared to enhance your standing and presence among everyday golfers, owners and managers.

To be at the forefront of emerging trends in golf is vital for the MiGCSA and its members. I have been honored to see the progress of the association and want you to know that the MiGCSA and the GCSAA are here for your success. If you ever have questions, contact a member of your board. Give your staff a call. Contact any of our 100 staff members at GCSAA headquarters. We are here for you!

**MIDWEST
GOLF & TURF**



MIDWEST GOLF & TURF

25125 TRANS-X | P.O. BOX 605 | NOVI, MI 48376

(800) 555-8189 | FAX: (248) 349-0406

WWW.MIDWESTGT.COM

ASSISTANT UPDATE

BY TAVIS HORTON, ASSISTANT BOARD LIAISON

Where does the time go? It feels like yesterday that I wrote the March Assistant Update. Since then a lot of networking opportunities have been happening around the state. I feel it's important to communicate these things to keep everybody up to date on what assistants are doing around the state or within their respective districts. You never know, something a group of assistants are doing in one district might be of interest to others around the state.

A number of spring management meetings were held around the state recently. The Polo Fields' and Treetop's spring meetings both included assistant superintendent roundtables. After lunch, the assistants at the Polo Fields' event broke off to join in on the 3rd Annual Assistant roundtable, this year lead by veteran superintendents Clem Wolfrom and Jerry Faubel. The agenda for this event was the strongest yet as Mr. Clem Wolfrom and Mr. Jerry Faubel shared their years of experience and wisdom with the attending assistants. All the assistants present walked away having learnt something new. Clem Wolfrom and Jerry Faubel shared some exciting stories, giving them some insight into the past, present and future of the golf industry.

Clem Wolfrom, superintendent at Detroit Golf Club shared his 54 plus years of experience and answered questions on career development and advancement. Jerry Faubel, past president of the GCSAA, retired superintendent and current partner with Executive Golf Search Company that has placed over 100 superintendents in jobs across the country, shared his knowledge on resume and cover letter building. He answered questions on what it takes to succeed in the interview process and on what search committees are looking for when hiring a golf course superintendent. This was a wonderful opportunity for all assistants in attendance to learn and network with two veterans with over 100 plus years of combined experience.

The Treetops spring management meeting also saw a good showing of assistants joining their peers for a day of education and networking. A group of assistants took this opportunity to organize a roundtable meeting during lunch to communicate what was going on around the state with the Assistant Superintendent Committee and to recruit assistant committee members.

The Assistant Superintendent Committee has already started planning for the 2010 Assistant Superintendent Symposium by sharing ideas with the GLT Expo Committee lead by Brian Schwehofer, superintendent at Franklin Hills Country Club. The GLTE planning committee has been very supportive and excited about the ideas we are bringing forward in order to create another great event for assistant superintendents across the state. I must say that most of the ideas for the 2010 assistant symposium came from you, the assistants, who shared your thoughts and suggestions with those in attendance during the roundtable discussion immediately after the Assistant Symposium this past winter. Assistants shared what worked and didn't work and made suggestions on what they would like to see happen in 2010. Watch for more information as we continue moving forward with the plan. If you have any thoughts or suggestions on something you would like to see introduced as part of the Assistant Symposium or that would improve the 2nd Annual Assistant Symposium, please feel free to send me an email at horton31@aol.com. I will pass along

your ideas to the Assistant Superintendent Committee for review and discussion.

On Thursday, April 2, 2009 we had the first Assistant Shoptalk of the year in the Greater Detroit area. There were 16 assistants who joined our host superintendent Dan Billette and assistant superintendent Troy Evans at Bloomfield Hills Country Club for a 2 hour shoptalk from 4-6 pm that included networking and education. The agenda for the 2 hour event included a power point presentation by Dan Billette and Troy Evans on bunker renovations, a site visit to several bunkers to examine and discuss the bunker renovations, a tour of the maintenance facility and at the end of the event refreshments and pizza courtesy of Dan Billette.

The Assistant Committee believes that these events are important for the future of our Industry, our Association and most importantly for the growth and development of Assistant Superintendents across the state. 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. If you are interested in learning more about Assistant Shoptalks and believe this is something you and the course superintendent would like to share with fellow assistants, please don't hesitate to send me an email.

Good luck with the upcoming season and please remember to mark your calendars to join us on October 19, 2009 for the 2nd Annual Assistant Golf event to be held at the Emeralds in St. Johns.



Polo Fields' Assistant Roundtable



Treetops Spring Management Meeting



Bloomfield Hills Country Club Shoptalk

 **Know The Sign.™ Greater Than Or Equal To.**



"After three seasons of using Quali-Pro products, there's no sacrifice of quality and the economy is very evident."

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

Today, superintendents need both quality and value. And that's exactly what Quali-Pro has been delivering since day one. Proven plant protection products featuring the newest formulation technologies at an unprecedented value.

Unsurpassed Quality. Outstanding Value. Get to know Quali-Pro.

For more information, contact Doug Suttor at 616-403-3983 or any of these authorized distributors: Turfgrass Inc. • Tri-Turf • Commerce Corporation

QUALI-PRO

Professional Turf & Ornamental Products

©2009 FarmSaver.com, LLC. Quali-Pro is a registered trademark of FarmSaver.com. Know The Sign is a trademark of FarmSaver.com. Always read and follow label directions.

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

NO COMPROMISE



DOUG SUTTOR



quality formulations. We currently manufacture materials for a host of Agrochemical companies.

In 2004, Quali-Pro was formed, and has steadily grown in the golf industry. Recently an innovative group was formed that will be responsible for bringing new active chemistries to the market. We continually participate with major Land Grant Universities to verify our efficacy compared to the

Quali-Pro® is the Professional Turf and Ornamental product division of Makhteshim Agan of North America, whose parent company is Makhteshim Agan Industries of Israel. We are a worldwide manufacturer of over 500 labeled plant protection chemistries. We have been in business since 1948. Today, MAI is sixth largest manufacturer of plant protection products worldwide. We currently do business in over 140 countries and employ over 3000 people. Our legacy is

original registrant. Superintendents are acutely aware of the economics of the control products they buy. "If we can save Supers' \$5,000 or \$6,000 over the course of a season, we've done our job", says Doug Suttor of Quali-Pro. "We want to make sure that the superintendents' experience positive results with our materials the first time they use them. Both superintendents and universities alike champion our formulations and efficacy as a simple, cost-effective alternative to the original registrant. We will not compromise on quality", says Suttor, "that is why we claim to be equal to or greater than."

Currently Quali-Pro makes brand alternatives to Banner®, Daconil®, Cleary 3336, Subdue® Maxx, Primo® Maxx, Chipco GT®, Merit® and over 8 herbicides for the golf market. For more information regarding Quali-Pro and their products go to quali-pro.com or contact Doug Suttor at 616-403-3983.



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

AUTOMATIC
IRRIGATION SUPPLY

Automatic Irrigation Supply was founded in 1980 in Fishers, Indiana. In 1987 Dave Wheeler, left Rain Bird to join the Automatic team in Indiana. Five years later he and a partner purchased the company from the previous owners. The company grew from the single location to multiple locations over three states in a period of fifteen years. In 2008, the company was divided into two units, with Dave keeping the Michigan operations. "Michigan is where I was born and raised and it is where I want to spend the rest of my life." After ten years in Michigan the new company, Automatic Supply Michigan was born. Although the name is different, the company remains committed to high standards of professionalism, quality products and service levels to all of their customers. "We continue to remain very positive about the future for us and our customers; Michigan is where we want to be!"

Dave has been President of the company since 1993 and in 1998 moved to the Grand Rapids area to manage the location there. As a Rain Bird Golf Distributor since 1980,

covering Indiana and western Kentucky, Automatic was then awarded western and northern Michigan

in 2005, and began to reestablish the Rain Bird name and great customer service. Having been awarded several key jobs such as Traverse City Golf & Country Club, Grand Haven Golf Club, Petoskey-Bay View Country Club, and Harbor Point Golf Course it is evident that the confidence level in Rain Bird and Automatic Supply Michigan has never been better!

The company has made major investments to establish itself now and for the future as a key player in the golf industry in Michigan. It started with the move into a new facility in Grand Rapids with 20,000 sq. ft. of warehouse space, plenty of office space, conference rooms and over 20,000 sq. ft. of yard space. Next, they hired Mike Saliwanchik as service manager. Mike has over 20 years in the irrigation industry, having worked for Rain Bird Golf as an Application Engineer and for the last several years led the service division for a Rain Bird distributor in the Great Lakes area, including Michigan. Mike brings a wealth of troubleshooting knowledge to the Automatic team and also is qualified for board level repairs. Mike is well known in this area for his customer first attitude.

This early spring, Automatic Supply added Alan Clark to the golf team. Alan was a 20 year veteran of the Rain Bird Golf Division as a Golf Manager and is well known by many in the Michigan golf industry. "Alan's experience, product knowledge and professionalism adds a tremendous amount of credibility to what we are doing in Michigan", says Dave Wheeler, ASM president. Along with Rick Olsen working the western part of the state and Mark Powers in the north, Automatic Supply is well positioned to take care of all golf course needs for Michigan and is looking forward to representing the great Rain Bird name throughout the state.



The Grand Rapids Office



Automatic Crew: Mark Powers, Rick Olsen, Dave Wheeler, Alan Clark and Mike Saliwanchik



AUTOMATIC SUPPLY
MICHIGAN

Bragging Rights



Sure you'll have the right to brag about using a rotor that lasted a phenomenal 10 times longer while using up to 23% less water...

...or you could just let the playability of your course and your bottom line do the talking.

bragging

The best just got even better...**FREE JACKETS!**

Introducing the NEW Rain Bird EAGLE™ Rotors.

In head-to-head field and lab testing among leading brands, Rain Bird EAGLE Rotors lasted up to 10 times longer under the harshest operating conditions than the next closest competitor-and-had the best distribution uniformity over the widest range of variables, while using up to 23% less water to deliver a more playable course. **For the 2009 season for every 4 Rotors you purchase you will receive a FREE jacket.**

Call or contact us today at www.rainbirdgolf.com.

RAIN BIRD

When performance matters...Call Automatic Supply Michigan...from Source to Course

www.rainbirdgolf.com * 3961 Roger B Chaffee Dr SE, Wyoming, MI 49548 * 877-222-0240

GREEN SIDE UP

MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION IT'S TIME TO GET OUT OF THE BOX

Boy, how times have changed our business. It wasn't long ago when we would spend all of our education resources on programs on how to make our greens faster, reducing seed head production and other turf specific seminars. Defining and implementing the perfect turf maintenance plan was a full time operation and we could spend all of our resources providing tournament conditions from May 1st to October 15th. Money was flush and our biggest complaint was that it was nearly impossible to get all of our work done because there were "too many golfers."

When our courses were busy, many of us did not have to pay close attention to the outside influences of our course operations. Legislative issues that could impact our ability to irrigate or apply the proper fertilizer or pesticide were on the radar, but many of us paid little attention. The current lack of financing opportunities has significantly hindered the ability of owners to cash flow their seasonal business. These are just two areas that have had an impact on the sustainability of our courses.

So what can we do? First of all, remember that we are all in this together. Second, continue to grow with education. Many of us, myself included, made a career decision in college on the "turf" side, choosing a livelihood that deals with manipulating the climate conditions and working with Mother Nature to offer a consistent, rewarding golf experience. Understanding a financial statement or keeping abreast of what our legislature is working on was far from our minds as superintendents.

About 6 years ago a group of golf course owners recognized the need to have a voice at the Capitol for our golf courses and issues that arise. In a few short years we are now a strong voice and have an annual legislative day in Lansing. The information below is a synopsis from this year's program, which we are pleased to have had several superintendents attend. The following is submitted from John Dodge, our Government Affairs Director. These are highlights of this year's legislative day. Our main goal was to meet face to face with our legislators and our mission was accomplished.

The March 4 legislative day was a huge success. Between the Golf Course Owners and Superintendents, attendance rocketed to over 65. The day allowed staff, government affairs committee members, board members and sponsors to get to know new lawmakers, as well as acquaint themselves with returning legislators.

The golf business, as well as many other service industries will become more streamlined and forced to be much more efficient to survive. Employers will be looking for their team members to do many tasks, especially in a seasonal business. Consider beefing up your skills in business, marketing, financing and management.

One option for continuing education is the community college. There are at least 28 community colleges across our state. Go to www.mcca.org to find one close to you. Many classes are offered at convenient times for busy people and are quite affordable. Use your time and resources in areas that may offer ideas and ways for your course to be viable. Although these classes may not be exciting on the surface, learning new ways to streamline your part of the business will have great returns to the bottom line, which will surely get the owner excited.

Now is the time to get out of the box and take your future into your own hands. Look at your role at your course from the big picture and obtain information and knowledge that will put you in a position to succeed. We hope your season goes well and your greens roll true.

Warm Regards,

BILL FOUNTAIN

**OPERATING PARTNER, THE MAJESTIC, HARTLAND, MICHIGAN
MGCOA PRESIDENT**

COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONTINUING EDUCATION

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Alpena Community College | Alpena |
| • Bay de Noc Community College | Escanaba |
| • Delta College | University Center |
| • Glen Oaks Community College | Centreville |
| • Gogebic Community College | Ironwood |
| • Grand Rapids Community College | Grand Rapids |
| • Henry Ford Community College | Dearborn |
| • Jackson Community College | Jackson |
| • Kalamazoo Valley Community College | Kalamazoo |
| • Kellogg Community College | Battle Creek |
| • Kirtland Community College | Roscommon |
| • Lake Michigan College | Benton Harbor |
| • Lansing Community College | Lansing |
| • Macomb Community College | Warren |
| • Mid Michigan Community College | Harrison |
| • Monroe County Community College | Monroe |
| • Montcalm Community College | Sidney |
| • Mott Community College | Flint |
| • Muskegon Community College | Muskegon |
| • North Central Michigan College | Petoskey |
| • Northwestern Michigan College | Traverse City |
| • Oakland Community College | Bloomfield Hills |
| • Schoolcraft College | Livonia |
| • Southwestern Michigan College | Dowagiac |
| • St. Clair County Community College | Port Huron |
| • Washtenaw Community College | Ann Arbor |
| • Wayne County Community College | Detroit |
| • West Shore Community College | Scottsville |

THE HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIPS

The MiGCSA Scholarship Committee is happy to announce the 2009 scholarship applications are now available. These scholarship applications are for students studying or planning to study in a field unrelated to golf course management or students which fall outside the scope of eligibility for the regular turfgrass scholarship. Each District has its own scholarship funds and applications. The deadlines also vary by District. All applications are now available online at www.migcsa.org. If you have any questions please contact Rebecca Holloway, Scholarship Committee Staff Liaison.

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO:

Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association
Attn: Rebecca Holloway
3225 W. St. Joseph, Lansing, MI 48917
Phone: (517) 327-9207, Fax: (517) 321-0495

Good luck to all the applicants!!!

MT. PLEASANT SUPERINTENDENT RENEWS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Jeff Sweet, GCSAA certified golf course superintendent and general manager at Bucks Run Golf Club, Mt. Pleasant, Mich., has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Sweet has been at Bucks Run Golf Club since 1999. A 13-year GCSAA member, he initially achieved his certification in 2004. Approximately 1,900 golf course superintendents worldwide currently hold "CGCS" status.

DETROIT AREA SUPERINTENDENT RENEWS PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Thomas V. Schall, GCSAA certified head golf course superintendent at Oakland University Golf and Learning Center, Rochester, Mich., has completed the renewal process for maintaining his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Schall has been at Oakland University Golf and Learning Center since 2003. A 29-year GCSAA member, he initially achieved his certification in 1994. Approximately 1,900 golf course superintendents worldwide currently hold "CGCS" status.

According to GCSAA CEO, Mark Woodward, CGCS, "Twenty-five percent of GCSAA's Class A members have elected to earn the highest level of recognition through the professional designation "CGCS" by completion of the GCSAA Certification Program. This program requires their demonstration of a higher set of competencies in golf course management through testing and practical application. Employers can feel confident they employ a career professional who will increase their chances of having consistently superior course conditions."

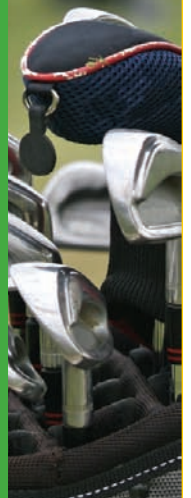
GCSAA was among the first associations to institute a professional certification program, establishing its program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents. In 2005, GCSAA completed a restructuring of its certification program in order to raise the level of documented professionalism through comprehensive continuing education. The restructured program was recognized by the National Certification Commission as "one of the most extensive and comprehensive certification programs for any profession."



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.

IN THE NEWS



2009 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, June 1, 2009	MiGCSA Golf Event (The Ravines Golf Club)
Monday, June 22, 2009	MTF Fundraiser (The Bear)
Monday, July 13, 2009	MiGCSA Golf Event (Forest Lake CC)
Tuesday, August 4, 2009	MiGCSA State Championship (Eagle Eye GC)
Wednesday, August 19, 2009	MTF Field Day (MSU Hancock Center)
Monday, September 14, 2009	MTF Fundraiser (Egypt Valley CC)
Monday, September 21, 2009	Tuck Tate Championship (Robert Trent Jones Masterpiece, TreeTops Resort)
Monday, October 5, 2009	The Big Event (Barton Hills CC)
Monday, October 19, 2009	Assistant's Golf Outing (The Emerald)
Tuesday, October 20, 2009	Equipment Tech. Meeting (Crystal Mountain Resort)
November 2-3, 2009	MiGCSA Education (TBD)
Tuesday, December 1, 2009	North Christmas Party (TBD)
Monday, December 7, 2009	MiGCSA Roundtable meeting (Birmingham Country Club)
Friday, December 11, 2009	West Christmas Party (Cascade Sports Bar, Grand Rapids)
Saturday, December 12, 2009	East Christmas Party (Motor City Casino, Detroit)
Thursday, December 17, 2009	Mid Christmas Party (TBD)



Rooted in Solutions

GREAT LAKES TURF

Great Lakes Turf
 6600 Clay Avenue SW
 Grand Rapids, MI 49548
 PH: (616) 656-9839
 FX: (616) 588- 6252
greatlakesturf@ameritech.net

Visit our award winning website to learn more about our solutions and find a Floratine distributor near you.
www.floratine.com

Turf Equipment & Irrigation Solutions



Spartan Distributors, Inc.

487 West Division Street
Sparta, MI

1050 North Opdyke Road
Auburn Hills, MI

800-822-2216

One great result.

visit www.toro.com



Count on it.