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MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 3/25/10

| | CURRENT MEMBERSHIP | TOTAL 2009 MEMBERSHIP |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Class AA | 25 | 20 |
| Class A | 231 | 267 |
| Class SM | 57 | 64 |
| Class C | 79 | 84 |
| Class D | 33 | 40 |
| Class E | 20 | 20 |
| Class AFF | 126 | 117 |
| Class H | 11 | 10 |
| Class SA | 7 | 9 |
| Class R | 11 | 6 |
| Class I | 1 | 5 |
| Class FM | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 601 | 642 |



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



RON DAHLIN

Welcome to a new year, a new decade and a new way of doing business. I am honored to be your president in 2010 as it allows me to be the one to introduce some of the great changes in the MiGCSA. The men that comprise your board of directors are a talented group of leaders who have worked very hard to make your organization run as smooth and effective as possible. After learning that running the organization in house and by committee was the most effective way to manage the affairs of your organization, they rolled up their sleeves and started the business of doing the bulk of the work themselves. While this was not the way that we all envisioned doing it a few years back the business climate that we find ourselves in today dictated a call to action and a change in the traditional thoughts of how to best manage an association with nearly 700 members. These changes are much like the way many of us have had to change our way of thinking about the management of the properties that we are responsible for. While few have changed who manages the day-to-day operations, many have changed the way that we reach out to our clients, how we treat them, what we offer them along with the realization of who our clients really are. The MiGCSA has changed from a management company back to the volunteer board to manage day-to-day operations, implemented the use of a full functioning web-site and efficient electronic communications, instituted a policy that puts members requests directly to board members, offered nearly a dozen educational opportunities along with over 2 dozen networking opportunities and realized that our clients are not only superintendents but also assistants, technicians and affiliates. We have forged new alliances (MGCOA) and strengthened old ones (MTF), learned to pull from the strengths of those we are associated with (MSU & GCSAA) and started looking at better ways to do business in the new decade.

What gives me the desire to contribute to this organization is the collective strength of its board and membership. We have those whose dedication to the strength and structure of your organization is astounding (Sec/Tres Jay Eccleton), those whose abilities to sort out and effectively use new technologies (VP Adam Ikamas) are unmatched, those who have the drive and network to provide a dynamic learning experience for the membership they serve (Director Jeff Holmes) and those whose leadership has delivered us from some trying and unfamiliar territory and placed us on a solid foundation (Past President Steve Hammon). There are examples of this type of caring and dedication in all of the men who serve on your board and so many more instances from you and your fellow members. I have no extraordinary ability to lead this organization but I do find that I have the time to dedicate to it and the desire to give back to the group of people who have helped pave the path that I walk to achieve the successes that I enjoy in the golf industry. I also find that there is no better example to show my children than the importance of giving back to the organizations that help you to succeed. Should you find yourself in a position to give back, either helping a little or maybe even taking that step out to serve on the board, please feel free to contact me or one of your board members and offer to spend a little time working with great people who care about you and your organization. I am looking forward to meeting you and sharing a great new year and the start of a new decade filled with strong potential for the golf industry in Michigan.

Sincerely,

RON M. DAHLIN, CGCS
'THE MEADOWS GOLF CLUB' AT GVSU



WINTER INJURY – TIPS FOR RAPID RECOVERY

BY BOB VAVREK, USGA SENIOR AGRONOMIST, NORTH CENTRAL REGION



Significant winterkill to greens and fairways always sets the stage for a very difficult year. The loss of revenue and golfer satisfaction during spring causes stress to the superintendent and the golf facility that tends to linger throughout the season and this stress is magnified many times due to the sluggish golf economy across the north central tier of states.

Unfortunately, winterkill is a fact of life at northern golf courses, especially at courses that have a significant amount of *Poa annua* in the playing surfaces. I've been making Turf Advisory Service visits for 20 years and have visited courses with winter damage somewhere in the Region every spring. Perhaps climate change is partly to blame, perhaps the damage is cyclic, but it seems as though the winter injury has been more severe and affecting a wider range of courses these past 5 years or so.

You have little, if any, control regarding when winter injury occurs. Granted, turf covers used in certain situations can help protect turf from some types of winter stress, but if a specific type of cover truly worked all the time, then just about every course in North Central Region would be using them. On the other hand, you can definitely influence how quickly the damage recovers. Here are a couple of general concepts to keep in mind to help you through the recovery process.

GET A CLUE

I'm always amazed by how much time and effort is spent by some superintendents to remove ice and snow from greens throughout the winter. Not just once, but twice or more depending on the weather patterns. They are never really sure it's the right thing to do and never really sure they aren't causing more harm than good, but hours and days are spent plowing, scraping, chipping and spreading black sand, Milorganite, whatever to remove ice. Yet, they won't take an extra couple of minutes while they are already out in the cold to obtain a few plugs of grass from high risk areas of greens to determine the health of the turf.

Like the Geico insurance commercial... so simple, even a caveman can do it. That's how I pictured myself when sampling some nearby frozen greens on March 5th, last Friday afternoon. If this sometimes mechanically challenged agronomist can effectively sample a snow and ice covered green, then how difficult can it be for someone who has the skill to grind mowing reels?

You don't need many tools, just the right ones. Snow cover is easy to remove, but ice is more of a challenge. You may need a chisel, ice spud, or a hand ax to chip away the ice. Remove as much ice as you can without damaging the turf, say with 1/4-inch of the putting surface.

Then remove a sample of turf. My choice is a 2-inch diameter hole cutter on a cordless drill using the hammer drill setting. A standard drill requires extra effort to bore into ice, but a hammer drill will easily cut through surface ice and frozen soil. Stop drilling before the base of the hole cutter contacts the green or it may cause mechanical damage to the turf. Wedge a screwdriver into the perimeter of the hole and apply a little sideways pressure to crack the frost at the base of the plug. Remove the frozen plug, thaw out the turf and place it under a fluorescent grow light, which can be installed easily and inexpensively anywhere in the maintenance facility.

Apply water to keep the turf from drying out and you will know what is dead and what is alive within a week or so. I documented live bentgrass and dead *Poa* from my March 5th samples within 5 days using a simple, inexpensive grow light.

Don't get overly excited about samples that live because you may have been lucky when sampling and hit a spot with a high percentage of bentgrass. You should be able to differentiate bentgrass from *Poa annua* in the samples after a week of growth. Healthy *Poa* in the samples is a positive sign, but never proclaim that all the greens survived winter just because a few random plugs of turf are alive.

In fact, turf samples that are clearly dead or damaged will always provide more useful information than samples that are alive. Turf that is alive from an early February sample can still die before spring. But once you document some dead turf in the putting surface, you can begin communication and preparation for recovery.

WOE IS ME AND THE WAIT FOR 55 DEGREES

Some superintendents decide to wait until Mother Nature provides good growing conditions for recovery and they might still be waiting well into June some years. Golfer patience is usually gone well before soil temperatures are high enough to support bentgrass establishment from seed. They don't want to hear that placing seed in cold soil is a waste of time, even if it is true.

Doing nothing is a big mistake and the next biggest mistake is trying to convince golfers that doing nothing is the proper course of action. Don't wait, with early warning about dead turf you will have at least several weeks to a month to make recovery progress before play begins. Let's discuss a few of the common mistakes made when attempting recovery from winter injury.

YOU DON'T WATER EARLY AND DON'T WATER ENOUGH

It's difficult for most superintendents to water turf during early spring. There is an unwritten rule somewhere that if you keep the turf extra dry all spring you will develop this massive, deep root system as roots look for water deep in the soil. Springtime bragging rights are always in order for the last person who waters the greens and fairways.

Forget about winning the annual irrigation contest if turf experiences winter damage. Get the irrigation system up and running as quickly as

possible. Some of the Poa may look dead a week after snow melt, but then again it might only be severely weakened. Add some moisture stress to weak turf and that might be the straw that breaks the camel's back. Timely irrigation throughout a dry spring can help the weak Poa recover and give immature bentgrass a chance of survival if the damaged areas are overseeded...

Moisture stress is rarely at the top of the list of considerations during spring because of the low temperatures. Early irrigation doesn't mean keeping the turf sopping wet and watering won't be needed during a wet spring. Moisture stress may be the most underrated and overlooked factor that slows down the rate of turf recovery.

INADEQUATE SEED TO SOIL CONTACT

A light verticutting and dropping some seed over the top of the shallow slits is not going to cut it. Beg, borrow or buy a piece of equipment that can get seed into the ground. Carbide tipped verticut blades can work if you can go deep enough. A Graden with 2 mm blades makes an excellent seed bed. Job Savers or TIP spikers can be fairly effective but be sure seed is getting in contact with soil. Core cultivation is better than nothing, but it doesn't affect a great deal of surface area. Many superintendents claim seeding bentgrass into a damaged green during early spring is a waste of time and they will be correct 100% of the time unless the damage is seeded properly.

RELUCTANCE TO EFFECTIVELY RAISE THE HEIGHT OF CUT

In olden days, raising the height of cut on greens meant a change from 5/32" (0.156") to 3/16" (0.187"). Tell someone to raise the height of cut these days and they go all the way from 0.105" to 0.120" and then act like it really makes a difference.

You will need to raise the height of cut to approximately 3/16" if you have any hopes of achieving a successful overseeding operation. After all, who would build a new green, seed it with bentgrass and then set the mowers at 0.125" for the first mowing operation? Yet many damaged greens are repeatedly seeded with bentgrass and mowed at or near 1/8" all spring. Is it any wonder that you find tiny bentgrass seedlings growing in slits or aeration holes one week and they disappear the next week? It's likely they never had adequate time to mature and survive the initial mowing operation.

RELUCTANCE TO USE COVERS

Covers can significantly raise the soil temperature and provide favorable conditions for bentgrass germination and establishment during early spring. Most of the time covers are put on too late and taken off too early. Occasionally, they are left on too long during an unusually warm, sunny and the buildup of heat damages the turf. They are tricky to use, but effective.

There are a variety of cover materials to consider and each has unique strengths and weaknesses. For example clear 4 mil plastic sheeting or woven Evergreen-type covers work well during the cold weather of early spring, while thinner, more breathable materials, such as DeWitt Seed Guard, are better during the higher temperatures of late spring and early summer.

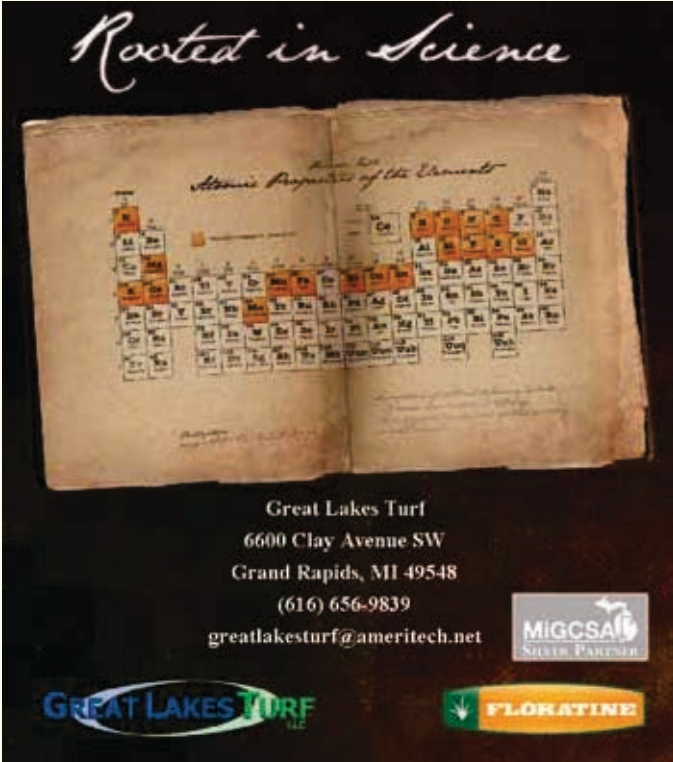
RELUCTANCE TO TAKE DAMAGED TURF OUT OF PLAY

Allowing play on turf affected by winterkill definitely prolongs the recovery process. Yet, closing a damaged green or fairway is always the very last resort because of the potential loss of revenue. No doubt, closing a green is easy to say and hard to do.

Closing a severely damaged green provides an opportunity to avoid all the common mistakes discussed above. Close a green and you can cover it to increase soil temperature, you can disrupt the surface sufficiently to ensure adequate seed to soil contact, you can raise the height of cut enough to make a difference and you can water the turf as often as necessary to give bentgrass seedlings an opportunity to mature. Keep the green open and you cannot cover it. Then you can't water it as needed due to afternoon play. Furthermore, you are reluctant to annoy golfers by raising the height of cut or by disturbing the surface to overseed properly.

Hopefully these general guidelines provide food for thought should you experience winter damage in the future. Keep in mind that the USGA Green Section is always available for Turf Advisory Service visits to provide site specific recommendations regarding winterkill recovery or any other turf maintenance related issues or concerns at your facility. A site evaluation and/or educational presentation to golfers is always a good investment. A link to the USGA website that discusses the cost and scope of services covered in a Turf Advisory Service visit is:

http://www.usga.org/course_care/turf_advisory_service/Turf-Advisory-Service/



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INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



STEVE HAMMON

INDUSTRY PARTNER UPDATE SPRING 2010

This year's Industry Partner Program is off to another fabulous start! As of press time we have 9 tiered sponsors. These tiered sponsors are recognized as Platinum \$10,000, Gold \$7,500 and Silver \$5,000. As a tiered financial partner all of the companies receive advertising space in the MiGCSA Course

Conditions magazine, membership directory (coming soon) website banner ads and sole sponsored MiGCSA Enews.

All of the tiered IP sponsors are also the exclusive event partners for all of our 2010 MiGCSA chapter events with the exception of foundation fundraisers. Please support these suppliers who support our association. These partners are recognized on the homepage at www.migcsa.org, in the Industry Partner section of the website, and announced to the membership via email when they commit to a

tiered level of support. Each partner will also be featured in Course Conditions with a profile of their company.

The board of directors, your president Ron Dahlin and I want to thank these companies for their early and generous financial participation. These partners help us keep the cost of our events and membership dues down to some of the lowest levels in the country.

Steve Hammon

IP Chairman
231-645-2318
steveh@tcgcc.com

2010 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY



P.O. Box 64 St. Johns MI 48879
PHONE/FAX: 1-888-3-MiGCSA www.MiGCSA.org

The 2010 membership directory is in the process of being produced. Please log in to your account at www.MiGCSA.org to make sure your information is correct. You can log in with your username which is by default your email address and your password which is the last 4 digits of your phone number on file. If your information is not up to date on MiGCSA.org it will not be up to date in the directory. Please take the time to log in and be sure all of your information accurate.

SOME GREEN WAS FOUND ON THE GREENS!

BY DAN BOAK, PRESIDENT, MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION



True commitment and dedication to turf research within our turf industry again has shown its enthusiasm for the professors that perform turf research at Michigan State University. The MiGCSA raised \$15,000.00 through three golf outings in 2009 that will help the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation support turf research at Michigan State University and the Turf Department. The MTF

would like to Thank Paul Galligan of Grand Traverse Resort, Jeff Holmes of Egypt Valley Country Club, and Tim Dark of Barton Hills Country Club. Their outstanding support as well as all the attendees' support is greatly appreciated. These events will be repeated again this year. Whether you played a round, helped out at the event, or sponsored a tee, we appreciate your commitment and look forward to your support again in 2010. Mark your calendars for June 7 at Arcadia Bluffs, September 13 at Blythefield Country Club, and October 4 at The Wyndgate. See you on the greens!

Dan Boak

MTF President
Owner of Lawn Tech Michigan



Left to right: Dan Boak, MTF President; Dr. Doug Buhler, Associate Director; Associate Dean for Research for College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and MiGCSA Past President, Steve Hammon, and Gordie LaFontaine, MTF Executive Director.

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Tuesday, April 13 | IPP Appreciation event / Chapter golf event (Kalamazoo Country Club) |
| Monday, April 26 | MiGCSA Spring Opener (Point O 'Woods, Benton Harbor) |
| Wednesday, April 28 | Equipment Tech Education (The Wyndgate GC) |
| Monday, May 3 | Wee One Golf Outing (Indianwood G & CC) |
| Tuesday, May 11 | Can-Am Tournament (Gross Ile Golf and Country Club) |
| Monday, June 7 | MTF Fundraiser (Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia) |
| Monday, July 12 | MiGCSA Golf Event (Saginaw CC, Saginaw) |
| Tuesday, August 3 | MiGCSA State Championship (Buck's Run, Mt Pleasant) |
| Wednesday, August 18 | MTF Field Day (MSU Hancock Center) |
| Monday, September 13 | MTF Fundraiser (Blythefield Country Club, Belmont) |
| Tuesday, September 21 | Tuck Tate Championship (Tree Tops Jones Course, Gaylord) |

Please visit www.MiGCSA.org for all of the latest and most up to date information. You can quickly and easily register for events, view past issues of Course Conditions, browse and post items for sale, post and browse classifieds, and so much more. If you need help logging in email us at info@migcsa.org.

A FULL ROUND



RON DAHLIN CGCS

Ron Dahlin, CGCS has been the superintendent at The Meadows Golf Club at Grand Valley State University for nearly nine years. The golf course was designed by Dr. Michael Hurdzan and built in 1994 on the campus of Grand Valley State University. This public course has been the host of six NCAA Div II National Championships, 10 Michigan High School State Championships and numerous regional competitions.

Ron's passion for our industry started before college while golfing at Highland Hills golf course in Greeley, Colorado twice a week. While in college at Colorado State University he continued to grow his love for the game and the art of caring for golf courses. Ron graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelors degree in biology/agriculture in 1989 and received a masters in horticulture studying turfgrass management in 1992 and became a certified superintendent in 1999. Ron has been married to KaLee Dahlin for over 20 years. They live north of Grand Rapids with their son Bryson who is 12, daughter Caitlin now nine and two African Tree frogs that are three years old.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

As a college student I spent a lot of time on courses in Colorado looking at problems that folks were having.

WHAT PART OF THAT EDUCATION DO YOU USE MOST OFTEN ON THE JOB?

Trying to look at issues with a critical eye.

WHAT COURSE DID YOU GO TO AFTER COLLEGE?

Egypt Valley Country Club, in Ada Michigan

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB ON THAT COURSE?

Sodding the range.....yep 5 semi loads of Kentucky Bluegrass Sod.

WHEN DID YOU KNOW THAT THIS WAS A JOB YOU WANTED TO DO AS A CAREER?

While I was at school and spending time with the people who cared so much for what they did on the golf course.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE JOB THAT FIRST SUMMER ON A COURSE?

Thinking about what I was going to do after that dam range was done!

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE GCSAA?

To continue in the manner that they are in providing resources for turf managers.

WHAT RESOURCES DO YOU USE OFTEN WITH THE GCSAA THAT OTHER MEMBERS MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT?

The network of professionals that are willing to share information, from the staff in Lawrence to the members all around the country.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION?

To work on insuring the viability and dominance of the turf program at MSU.

WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE FUTURE? WHAT TYPES OF RESEARCH DO YOU THINK WILL HELP THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE MTF AND MIGCSA THE MOST?

Resource management is huge, along with the work on improved fungicides available to the golf market. I think that most of the time we are so focused on what we do in our own little slice of the world that others never really know what a key role we play and how phenomenal we are as stewards of the environment. I don't know what type of research would be needed to get that message out?

WHERE CAN THE MTF IMPROVE?

Clone Gordie, the man is one of a kind.

HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

Striving to always be honest in all that I do and with all the people that I come into contact with. Oh yea and a little board service also.

HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE CHAPTER, BOTH THE MIGCSA AND THE FORMER WESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER?

I have been involved with board service for almost 10 years starting with the Western board. I must admit that the most fun, and the scariest, moments have been in combining the 4 Chapters into one. That is when I got to see the passion rise in some great leaders in the golf business in Michigan. There was a day that Rick Hakken stood up, raised his voice and pointed his finger and let those in the board room know in no uncertain terms just how it was going to go, it was fantastic! Wow, what a group to be associated with, I am SO lucky!

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME?

It is a tough act to follow but I also believe that attitudes are starting to change.

HOW ARE THEY CHANGING? HOW CAN WE EDUCATE

THE GOLFER ABOUT THE DESIRE FOR UN-MAINTAINABLE CONDITIONS?

We are starting to see an effort to educate those that are leaders in the golf & business world on the playability vs. aesthetics of golf. I really believe that this will spread to others and coupled with the impact on the pocketbook of those that want immaculate groomed grounds will lead to a different style of golf grounds. It won't happen over night.

WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Growing turf.

WHAT IS THE HARDEST, OR THE ONE PART THAT YOU COULD LIVE WITHOUT?

Lately it has become management as it relates to the bottom line. We have come to the point that all of the easy answers are gone and big impact decisions are left.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Resource management such as money, water, labor and the perceptions of those that are not truly informed on what it is that we do.

HOW CAN WE ALL AS INDIVIDUALS HELP THE GCSAA AND MIGCSA CHANGE THAT PERCEPTION?

Public relations are a great place to start.

WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS?

The way that information is now available and shared will make us better managers. New fungicide technology is also a plus.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THE TECHNOLOGY CHANGE? LOWER RATES, LONGER CONTROL, LESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT?

Yes along with ways to lessen inputs. If we can find some clear cut ways to strengthen sustainability and allow the plant and its environment to survive the stresses that we put on it that would be ideal.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

Retired, maybe on that Ranch out west, A person is allowed to dream, right?





WHERE WOULD YOUR DREAM RANCH BE? HOW WOULD YOU FILL YOUR DAYS OF RETIREMENT?

I don't know, probably in the Colorado Rockies or along the Western Slope of Colorado. I'm going to be retired right? I would like to golf more, learn how to fly fish and I need a bigger elk mount on the wall. I would camp out more under the stars.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS DEVOTED TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

Easily 60%.

WHAT MAKES UP THE 60%? IN A PERFECT WORLD WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE PERCENTAGES TO BE?

Being part of the university means that the level of bureaucracy is greater but I pretty much knew that coming into this position. It would be great to get the percentage flipped to 40% non-agronomic.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT?

Absolutely vital, invaluable. They are often the one who gets to be closest to the turf and can be the best objective pair of eyes that you have in the field. Jeff Bodziak is the Assistant here at the Meadows and he does a spectacular job and a key reason that I can dedicate time to the MIGCSA.

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

Depends on the game, a scramble for a good cause means riding, a contest of real golf is best enjoyed walking.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU WALK THE MEADOWS?

I typically ride when I golf at The Meadows but I would like to use the Jay Eccleton's weight management plan in 2010 which involves walking more when you golf. I do get to walk it more when I can do a greens route in the mornings.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF GREEN SPEED AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY?

It seems to have gone a bit to far but you must admit - It is fun to play on a set of quick greens.

DO YOU HAVE A TARGET GREEN SPEED AT THE MEADOWS? IF SO HOW DID YOU DECIDE THIS GOAL?

I have a great working relationship with the club professional, who also happens to be the GVSU men's golf coach. He is afforded the luxury

of talking to more golfers than I am and we talk about speed and adjust accordingly. We like to keep things moderately fast but put a premium on smooth ball roll over speed.

IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

The hours are tough, especially when you have young children and you realize how important it is to be a big part of their formative years.

HOW DO YOU MAKE TIME FOR FAMILY? DO YOU GO ON VACATIONS TOGETHER? IF SO WHERE DO YOU LIKE TO VISIT?

Trying to make time for family and getting time with family are often very hard things to achieve together. I like to get as much time with my children in the winter months as I can. My wife and I are starting to realize that we are putting a lot of "I owe yous" into the date jar but we try to get out as often as we can, at least to talk without being interrupted. We try to vacation and working at the university coupled with the talents of The Meadows assistant allow us to sneak away a little in the summer. We get a camping trip in and now that Bryson is boarding and Caitlin is skiing we have been getting a ski trip in as well.

DO YOU PLAY GOLF? WHAT IS YOUR HANDICAP?

I love the game but my handicap is as big as a house.

HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAY? DO YOU THINK IT IS IMPORTANT TO PLAY YOUR OWN COURSE ON A REGULAR BASIS? WHY?

I used to play twice a week and then I went to school to learn how to be a superintendent and then dropped back to about 6 times/year. It is important to see your course from the perspective of your clients and that is a goal in 2010 and beyond for me.

WHAT GOLF COURSE YOU WOULD LOVE TO EXPERIENCE ONCE IN YOUR LIFETIME?

The next time that I get to walk the Old Course at St. Andrews I want to have some clubs in my hands.

WHEN WERE YOU ABLE TO WALK THE OLD COURSE? WHY DIDN'T YOU HAVE YOUR CLUBS?

My wife is Scottish so we had a goal of taking a trip to Scotland after graduate school. We were broke and did not schedule anytime to golf but we did have a great time visiting her relatives. I had a darn hard time understanding what they were saying.

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

Number 11, that green is the size of a postage stamp and it limits the speed that we can make all the other greens for tournament play.

HOW WOULD YOU CHANGE IT?

Let's start by taking the old green out expanding it (back I think) and putting some better drainage under it. We can keep the general undulations but we need some more surface area for cupping.

QUICK NINE

1. **SPRING, SUMMER OR FALL?** With out a doubt it is Fall.

WHY FALL? CRISP AIR, END OF THE GOLF SEASON, DO YOU REALLY LOVE BLOWING LEAVES?

There is that feeling of accomplishment of making it thru another season coupled with the realization that your hours at work will shrink and my mother always calls to ask if I will be out to hunt some birds soon.

2. **FISH, DOG OR CAT?** None of the above right now. We do have 2 African tree frogs in an aquarium in the living room. They are about 1" long and don't leave much of a mess to cleanup and never want out to do their business in the middle of the night.

HOW DID YOU DECIDE THAT AFRICAN TREE FROGS WOULD BE A GOOD PET? Our cat finally gave it up at 19 years old and KaLee and I were not ready for a dog just yet. Caitlin wanted a pair of turtles, have you priced out what a pair of turtles and their habitat costs lately, its insane! She saw a pair of these little frogs at her favorite book store and the pleading began. We finally caved and we went in to get her a pair. After the shock of paying for them wore off (they cost about \$25 per ½ inch) they have been kind of fun to have around and there is no dog poo in the yard to pick up yet.

3. **CLASSIC GOLF COURSE, MODERN GOLF COURSE OR MODERN/CLASSIC GOLF COURSE?** Classic, I love the tradition of golf and what it means.

WHAT IS THE TRADITION OF GOLF IN YOU OPINION? Honesty, integrity and a test that is won or lost by one person, YOU. It is enjoyed because you are with others and outdoors on a great stretch of open land.

4. **MIGCSA COURSE CONDITIONS MAGAZINE, GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY MAGAZINE OR USGA GREEN SECTION RECORD?** Being part of the creation of Course Conditions I choose it.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE COURSE CONDITIONS IMPROVE? I think that this periodical needs to find a wider audience and should sit on the counter or in the lounge of every golf club in Michigan. Having it on the counter of every state legislators office in Lansing would be a nice accomplishment as well.

5. **LIONS, TIGERS OR RED WINGS?** It is really hard to beat a good football game.

I ASSUME BY A GOOD FOOTBALL GAME YOU MEAN GVSU NOT THE LIONS RIGHT? I feel that the salaries of professional sports athletes has lead to a decline in the enjoyment that I find watching them. Now GVSU sports are fun to watch, the enthusiasm is awesome.

6. **DOLLAR SPOT, SNOWMOLD OR PYTHIUM?** I am much more familiar with Dollar Spot.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HELP REDUCE THE DOLLAR SPOT PRESSURE AT YOUR FACILITY? We have worked hard on the management of fertility, dew and players expectations of what they see vs. the quality of the playing surface.

7. **SPORTS CAR, PICK-UP TRUCK OR WATER CRAFT?** I'll take my Harley for a 3 day cruise please!

WHAT MODEL AND YEAR DO YOU RIDE? I have a 1996 Springer, kind of a throw back style of bike. My wife's is quicker off the line than mine but that's OK as I really like to just cruise. If you have a couple of days I'll tell you about some rides thru, Yellowstone, the Black Hills, the Colorado Rockies and around the Grand Canyon. Our next extended trip will be around Lake Michigan. Do you want to see some of the pictures? Got time?





Tri Turf would like to thank all of those who participated in the
2009 Gordon LaFontaine Snow Mold Program.

Raising money for the MTF

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| A-Ga-Ming GC | Jim Tolefson | Forest Lake CC | Fritz McMullen | Pine River CC | Warren Burhans |
| Alpena GC | Steve Goike | Fox GC | Robert Pray | Pineview Highlands GC | Mike Barnum |
| Angels Crossing | Roger Barton | Franklin Hills CC | Brian Schwehofer | Pleasant View GC | Bruce Eccleton |
| Ann Arbor CC | Jim Racine | FVGC Assc. LLC | Steve Whaley | Plum Hollow CC | Adam Garr |
| Antrim Dells GC | Carl Vanniman | Garden GC | John Lucas | Pohicat GC | Jason Clark |
| Arcadia Hills GC | Jeff Poor | Gladwin Heights GC | John Schumacher | Polo Fields | Mark McKinley |
| Arrowhead G&CC | Tim Kreiger | Glen Shores GC | Charlie Fines | Prarriewood GC | John Forman |
| Arrowhead GC | Cliff Cowden | Gracewill CC | John Wilson | Pro Golf Discount | Roger Briggs |
| Back Nine GC | Don Pfifer | Grand Hotel GC | Mary Stancik | Raisin River GC | Steve Sarnowski |
| Bay Meadows GC | Mike Verhage | Grandview GC | Bryan Klebba | Rammier GC | Brian Burton |
| Bay Pointe GC | Gary Brookshire | Grayling CC | Bob Grimm | Ravenna Creek GC | Andy Buckner |
| Bay Valley GC | Terry Hall | Greenbush GC | David Golm | River Bank GC | Dino Deluca |
| Beech Woods GC | Dave Weidenbach | Hampshire CC | Steve Wells | River Bend GC | Denny Storrs |
| Beeches GC | Pat Irey | Hastings CC | Matt Kirkendall | Robert Borst | Bill Begley |
| Beechwood Greens GC | Ron Jinowski | Hawk Meadow GC | Colby Pace | Rogers City CC | John Ewasek |
| Bellaire GC | Alonzo Sick | Hawks Eye / The Chief | Matt Wooten | Rolling Hills GC | Ben Bernee |
| Belle River GC | Randy Paul | Hessel Ridge GC | Paul Hitchens | Rolling Hills GC | Matt Morris |
| Benona Shores GC | Brian Hukill | Hickory Creek GC | Dave Plummer | Royal Oak LLC | Eric Goodman |
| Birch Pointe CC | John DeCarlo Jr. | Hickory Hollow GC | Craig Roggeman | Saginaw CC | Rob Steger |
| Birch Valley GC | Josh Bay | Hickory Knoll GC | Doug Bromely | Salem Hills GC | Jon Shreve |
| Birchwood Farm CC | Tom Brogger | Hickory Sticks, LLC | Brad Stowe | Sanctuary Lake GC | Troy Farnum |
| Black Forest GC | Don Nichols | Homestead Resort GC | Mark Malocha | Sand Creek GC | Jerry Zahm |
| Black River CC | Mark McDougall | Huntmore Club | Cory Seedorf | Sandy Ridge GC | Ray Kleinbriel |
| Bloomfield Hills CC | Dan Billette | Indian River GC | Pat Whitman | Scenic GC | Brad Neal |
| Blue Heron GC | Wendall Handrich | Indian Run GC | Charlie Fisher | Schuss Mountain GC | Tom Forester |
| Blythefield CC | Collin Romanick | Indian Springs M.P. | Anne Loncar | Silver Lake CC | Tom McGuinness |
| Boulder Creek GC | Rick Krampe | Indian Trails GC | Bruce Hanna | Singing Bridges GC | Bill Brown |
| Braeside GC | Craig Kooienga | Indianwood G&CC | Bryan Grill | Spring Lake CC | Kirk Carls |
| Branson Bay GC | Tim McNamara | Inkster Valley GC | Jim Naugler | Spring Valley GC | Gordy Lutz |
| Briar Hill GC | Dick Content | Inverness CC | John Hibbs | Springbrook GC | Rich Bay |
| Briarwood GC | Jeff Leatherman | Ironhorse | Marty Mason | Springport Hills GC | Dave Hansen |
| Bridgeport GC | Kevin Pringle | Island Hills GC | Rick Laux | St Joe Valley GC | Don Powell |
| Broadmoor CC | Mike Leatherman | Kalamazoo CC | John Fulling | St. Johns | Dave Pawluk |
| Brookside GC | Mike Johnson | Kensington M.P. | Paul Dushane | States GC | Erik Jasiak |
| Cadillac CC | Jeff Stanton | L & M Golf Inc. of Clio | Lee Morgan | Stonegate GC | Jeff Knowlton |
| Carlton Glen GC | Rob Milosh | Lake Ann Golf LLC | Sherm Barstaad | Stoney Creek GC | Bob Alderden |
| Cattails GC | Doug Palm | Lake Forest GC | Mike Fouty | Stoneycroft Hills CC | James Timmerman |
| Cedar Glen GC | Tim O'Linn | Lake Michigan Hills GC | Chris Nosich | Stony Point GC | Tom Tevelde |
| Cedar Valley GC | Virginia Holberton | Lakeside Links GC | George Townes | Sugar Loaf | Kris Wakeman |
| Champion Hills GC | Jim Cole | Lakewood Shores GC | Rick York | Sycamore Hills GC | Craig Roggeman |
| Charlevoix Mun. GC | Tom Heid | Leelanau Club | Gary Pulsipher | Sylvan Glen GC | Jim Vandenberghe |
| Chase Hammond GC | Mark Disslekoen | Lesly Park GC | Scott Spooner | Tamaracks GC | Tom Hawkins |
| Cheboygan CC | Jeff Mushlock | Lincoln GC | Steve Schultz | Tanglewood GC | Brad Lazroff |
| City of Dearborn | Steve Sonoga | Links at Whitmore Lake | Eric Delano | Terra Verde GC | Jordan Terpstra |
| College Fields GC | Greg Bishop | Links of Bowen Lake | Darrell Wiles | The Crown GC | Pete McCall |
| Copper Creek GC | T.C. Decker | Links of Edmore | Bernie Schirle | The Dunes GC | Chris Wall |
| Copper Hills G&CC | Andy Dalton | Links of Novi | Greg Ordakowski | The Falls at Barber Creek | Harvey Cole |
| Coyote GC | Pat Naszradi | Lost Lake Woods GC | Brian Holmes | The Hawk GC | Jim Gross |
| Cracklewood GC | Jerry Penzine | Manistee Golf Services | Joel Swanson | The Heathlands GC | Randy Teichman |
| Crystal Lake GC | Corky Norman | Maple Hill GC | Steve Beld | The Intimidator GC | Mark Lenahan |
| Crystal Mountain Resort | Adam Ikamus | Maple Leaf CC | Dan Jezowski | The Jackel GC | Bob Mateja |
| Dama Farm GC | Colby Pace | Marquette Trails | Joe Balulis | The Jewel of Grand Blanc | Mike Ginder |
| Davey Golf | Bob Budzik | McGuire's Evergreen GC | Dave Pretznaw | The Kingsley Club | Dan Lucas |
| Davey Golf | Ryan Schlessleman | Meadowbrook CC | Mike Edgerton | The Mackinaw Club | Jack Carter |
| Davey Golf | Kyle Ceimer | Meceola CC | Larry Baccalli | The Orchards GC | Bob King |
| Detroit GC | Clem Wolfrom | Metamora G&CC | Marty Brandt | The Quest GC | Pete Mclean |
| Devils Ridge GC | Bob Blitchok | Michigan State University | Amy Fouty | The Rose GC | Bob Johnson |
| Diamond Springs GC | Britt Adamczyk | Mid Channel GC | Jon Manos | Timber Wolf GC | Gordie LaFontain Jr. |
| Drummond Twp GC | Paul Hammers | Missaukee GC | Bucky Harris | Traverse City G&CC | Steve Hammon |
| Dunmaglas GC | Steve Kniat | Mission Point Resort | Allen Freese | Twin Birch GC | Randy Ottgen |
| Eagle Crest Mgt Corp. | Dan Matwiczky | Moss Ridge GC | Matt Wurm | Tyler Creek GC | Trent Bartman |
| Eagle Glenn GC | James Halstead | Mountain Lakes GC | Fred Miller | Udly Heights CC | Brad Hunt |
| Eagle View GC | Don Manke | Mulberry Fore GC | Norm Kinney | Vasser G&CC | Andy Reinert |
| Eaglecrest GC | Dan Matwiczky | New Hawthorne Valley CC | Frank Mourtos | Village Green GC | Larry Range |
| Eastwynd GC | Dave Moritz | Newberry CC | Mike Herbst | Walnut Creek CC | Ed Hoch |
| Edgewood CC | Judd Hudnut | North Kent GC | Rick Kurlenda | Warren Valley GC | Mike Bay |
| Edgewood Greens | Rick Weaver | North Star GC | L.D. Wise | Waterloo GC | Keith Haglund |
| Eldorado GC | Chris Everett | Northport Pte. GC | Mark Hanson | Wawashkamo GC | Brian Lents |
| Elmbrook GC | Kevin Brown | Northwood GC | Rick St. Peter | Westburn GC | Kim Richardson |
| Emerald Vale GC | Jim Bagget | Orchard Hills GC | Mike Leatherman | West Branch CC | Bob Steinhurst |
| Fairview Hills GC | Rick Stone | Orchard Lake CC | Aaron McMaster | Westwind GC | Reggie Pratt |
| Farmington Hills GC | Dave Montgomery | Overbrook GC | Brad Baltimore | Westwynd GC | Phil Hopper |
| Fawncrest GC | Lee Pumford | Petoskey Bayview CC | John Mastenbrook | White Birch Hills GC | Jeff Steinpres |
| Fenton Farms GC | Paul Woodward | Pigeon Creek GC | Mike Kuyers | White Deer GC | Kelly V-any |
| Firefly Golf Links | Darrel Loar | Pine Croft GC | Jim Cole | Winding Brook GC | Nick Cononico |
| First Tee of Michigan | Dave Coy | Pine Lake CC | Terry Poley | | |

RECAP OF LEGISLATIVE DAY IN LANSING

BY RON DAHLIN, CGCS, MIGCSA PRESIDENT

The day started early for all involved as the contingent from the North District left early enough to make it to Lansing by 9 am. Vice President Adam Ikamas and Past President Steve Hammon were drove down the night before to strategize and be ready for that first meeting. I had the privilege of getting ready early so I could do a radio interview about the Legislative Day in Lansing on the "The Big Show" hosted by Michael Patrick Shields and heard all across the state on the Michigan Talk Network before I headed east.

The collaboration between the MGCOA and the MiGCSA resulted in over 60 representatives from the two organizations that assembled across the street from the capital building. This is quite a difference from the 7 owners who assembled the first time that this day was organized 8 years ago. The MiGCSA was well represented with 6 of the board of directors present along with superintendent, assistant superintendents and affiliate members. Steve Randall, the Sr. Manager of the GCSAA Chapter Outreach Program was able to join us from Kansas, his wisdom and insight was great to have on this important day. Spartan Distributors had a very strong showing and it was nice to see that segment of the industry so well represented. The group listened to Mr. John Dodge who laid out the real reason for us putting forth all of this effort is to be "present at the negotiating table in Lansing". After listening to the political insights of Mr. Bill Ballinger the group split up and headed out to shake the hands and talk with our state legislators. Lunch was set and our legislators and their staff were invited to join us. Many of the participants from the golf industry were able to enjoy a meal and a great conversation with those that craft the laws and govern the finances of the state. After lunch we listened to the comments from the president of both the MiGCSA (see Ron's comments below) and the MGCOA, along with a great explanation of the current budget process by Mr. Howard Ryan the Senate Majority Fiscal and Budget Advisor. Many then went out to meet with the state senators after they came out of their extended morning session.

"I am excited to represent the men and women who care for the golf courses in Michigan and I can tell you that we are proud to be part of the solution for the economic worry that has gripped us all," Ron Dahlin, president, MiGCSA said.

"In this time, when we seem to be a little battle weary from the daily barrage of less than good news, the golf course industry in Michigan has seen an increase in rounds played across the board, an increase that means that more families are taking the time and spending the resources to use golf as a means of recreating, to use the public

and private courses as a means to spend time with their spouses, their children, their friends or even using this as a way to have their clients ears for an extended period of time.

The highly successful Pure Michigan campaign chose golf as one if it's first bright spots to show the rest of the nation the wonders that Michigan has to offer. With golf's ability to use resources like the Environmental Stewardship Program, research provided by Michigan State University and our allied industries like the Owners, the industry of golf has positioned itself as one of the guiding lights showing the way out of our economic tunnel.

Michigan ranks in the top five states in the nation for number of golf courses and first in the number of public courses. Research shows we directly employ nearly 30,000 people and are responsible for a positive fiscal impact of 4.2 billion dollars annually. Nationally, we know that golf is responsible for nearly two million jobs paying \$61 Billion in wages.

A new initiative called We Are Golf is a national partnership of the Superintendents, owners, PGA and managers which will make it easier for you as our legislators to find answers and build alliances. It will make it easier to bring you information on the financial, environmental, philanthropic & recreational impact of golf nationally, regionally and in the state of Michigan. Please contact the MiGCSA or the MGCOA to find out ways that we can help you tap into this new resource."

The largest A-Ha moment was the realization that nearly 50% of our state legislators will be new in 2011! We have 35 members of the house that have reached the end of their tenure due to term limits and another 12 who have announced, so far, that they will not seek a second term. That is 47 of the 110 representatives. When you combine that with the fact that 28 of the 38 seats in the state senate will be vacated due to term limits means 75 of the 148 people in the capital building will be newly elected this fall. Do you think that this is all that we need to worry about this fall? No, we also will elect a new person to all 4 of the constitutional offices such as Governor, Attorney General and new Supreme Court Members as well.

As important as this day was, we will need more support next year to get our message out to those who will be new to our state government. So get ready to join us in 2011.





INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

THANK YOU

TO MiGCSA'S 2010 TOP INDUSTRY PARTNERS

SUPPORT THE COMPANIES
THAT SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION



BILL BRANTLEY

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN, THE EMERALD GOLF COURSE

For the last fifteen years Bill Brantley has worked at The Emerald Golf Course in St. Johns, Mich. Bill started out as a motorcycle mechanic before coming across an ad in the paper for an equipment technician at The Emerald Golf Course during its construction and the rest, some say, is history.

His technical training came from Motorcycle Mechanics' Institute in Pheonix, Az with the majority of his turf equipment background as self-taught. "I have a very good habit of reading service manuals to guide me during repairs, now I have over 14 years experience," Bill said.

Bill resides in Riverdale, Mich. with his wife, Libby and 13-year-old son, David.

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

To keep me informed in the business of turf and to keep me connected with my peers as we experience new technologies in the turf industry.

2. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

Attend as many meetings as possible with my fellow technicians and by providing feedback and new innovative ideas to my peers as we learn about advancements and improvements in the field.

3. WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF EQUIPMENT MANAGERS?

Never stop learning. Technology is advancing at an alarming rate. Learning to do more with less has become a priority not an option.

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

Hopefully still "turning my wrenches" I love what I do and I can never see myself retiring.

5. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT?

John Garlets from Spartan Distributors has taught more about turf maintenance and I remember the first time I ever met him fourteen years ago. If I remember correctly, John came from a motorcycle background as well.

6. HOW DO YOU RATE IMPORTANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?

I believe the equipment manager's role is second to none. The fleet of equipment that you are responsible for has become more advanced than ever and the demand for perfection has increased throughout the years. All equipment must be ready to perform at a moments notice.

7. WHAT IS YOUR FUNNIEST STORY FROM ALL OF YOUR YEARS MAINTAINING EQUIPMENT?

Short of all the rollovers, finding equipment in waterways such as ponds or creeks, mowing areas at the wrong height of cut due to wrong equipment selection, as well as damaged equipment. We find that this all happens by itself. There is never an explanation because we seem to never find anyone accountable. Most common phrase is "I dunno what happened, it just happened" But all and all, I keep a smile on my face and I reply with my most famous saying of all "Always something....Never nothing".

UNDER THE HOOD



FROM NATIONAL



STEVE RANDALL

SAN DIEGO SUCCESSES – ORLANDO OUTLOOK GCSAA'S OBJECTIVES 2010

BY STEVE RANDALL- GCSAA SENIOR MANAGER, CHAPTER OUTREACH

As I've traveled to various chapters to kick off 2010, I've been asked – a lot – about the 2010 Golf Industry Show. I've also heard feedback from members on their thoughts, specifically with the schedule change. I can say, the comments regarding the new show schedule have been very positive. For more concrete data, we are awaiting to receive surveys from show attendees. That will help shape any changes for the 2011 event in Orlando.

If you are on the fence about Orlando, make sure you attend. For those of you who have visited Orlando, you can appreciate the venue. In addition to being a great site for the event, it is family friendly venue, offering a great experience. The dates for Orlando are February 7-11, 2011. Don't forget the GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic. More information will be out on that event shortly.

Let's get back to San Diego. Here have been the most frequently asked questions:

How was attendance? Overall attendance was 16,156. That was better than our forecast budget and roughly 900 fewer than New Orleans in 2009.

Did the buyers attend? Absolutely. Qualified buyers totaled 7,029. That is 17 more than in New Orleans in 2009.

Exhibit Space? Nearly 205,000 square feet of exhibit space was sold. While that is lower than 2009 in New Orleans, the figure is better than what was budgeted for the event.

Education Seminars – How well were they attended? Final numbers for our seminar seats were better than forecast. Overall numbers were slightly below 2009 figures in New Orleans.

So, what does all that mean? GCSAA heads into 2010 very excited and optimistic. We hope you are feeling the same at your facility. I heard many comments of optimism at the show in San Diego, and heard your comments while at the Oakhurst education session March 1.

As GCSAA looks for continue advocating on your behalf, and to provide premium member services, here are areas of focus for the coming year:

International Membership Opportunities: Staff is researching information on the opportunity and may hire a consultant to assist in the effort. Asia and Europe show great potential and value GCSAA programs and services. More information will be discussed by the GCSAA Board of Directors during the summer board meeting.

We are Golf Campaign: This is a coordinated effort at the national, state and local levels to promote equitable legislation and create the correct impression on golf and its impact among government leaders. All major golf associations have joined in this effort

GCSAA Sustainability Initiative: The Environmental Institute for Golf will work with the golf industry to focus on sustainability, and continual improvement with the advancements in areas such as water conservation, water quality protection and energy conservation. The EIFG has used results from the Golf Course Environmental Profile as the foundation for the initiative. The message is golf is an environmental and community asset.

Get Golf Ready: This is an adult player development program launched in 2009. The 2010 program has a strong base of facilities. Survey results show 89% of the participants said they were like to continue playing golf. 76% have already played an average of eight (8) rounds.

It was great to see many of you at Oakhurst in early March and hope to see many of you in my travels to the great state of Michigan. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Our outreach efforts are here to support YOU!



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

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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

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THE BETTER HALF



ROB FALCONER

Forest Dunes Golf Club's 18-hole course is located in Roscommon, Mich. Forest Dunes not only blends golf and home ownership unobtrusively with nature, but also acts as a diligent steward of its environment. As an Audubon International Certified Gold Signature Sanctuary, one of only 16 in the world, Forest Dunes is formally entrusted with the conservation and preservation of this Great Lakes gift.

Assistant Superintendent Rob Falconer is currently enrolled in the on-line turf management program at Penn State University. He has worked at Forest Dunes Golf Club for five years under the supervision of Superintendent Jim Bluck. Rob is currently serving on the Assistant's Committee for the second year. He resides in Waters, Michigan with his wife of six years, Leanne."

1. HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

I raked bunkers at Lincoln Hills Golf Club

2. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME?

The Augusta syndrome is just our American way; we always want the best of everything.

3. WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

The most difficult part for me is finding people willing to take ownership and pride in their work. To promote ownership of the job, the management team and I really focus on relaying to the staff just how important every job that we do is, then we empower them to make some decisions that they feel will help in the guest's satisfaction. Then we follow up to make sure the job is done to our standards.

4. WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Having such a wonderful piece of property to work with.

5. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Because of the saturation of the job market, it will be difficult for assistants to have the opportunity to advance.



6. WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?
Ideally, I'd like to manage my own course in northern Michigan.

7. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

I have learned so much from all of the superintendents that I have worked for, but after five years with Jim here at Forest Dunes he has been the most influential. He told me on my first day that it all really comes down to two things, water management and attention to detail in everything. I just hope that I learn to do these things as well as he does.

8. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE MECHANIC IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT?

Having well-maintained equipment allows us to keep a well-maintained course. Good mechanics are crucial; great mechanics are invaluable.

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

Native flowers in native areas enhance the aesthetic quality of a course.

10. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NON-GOLF SPORT?
Football

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

The complete disregard for common sense when operating a golf cart. Why golfers think they can drive them anywhere is beyond me.

12. WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF GREEN SPEED AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY?

Players equate green speed to good conditions, and we have to find the balance between proper green speeds and fiscal realities.

13. WHAT IS THE TOUGHEST GOLF COURSE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

Crystal Downs

14. WHAT IS THE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE YOU COULD NOT DO WITHOUT?

Core aeration



QUICK NINE

1. THE MASTERS, U.S. OPEN OR BRITISH OPEN? The Masters
2. CLASSIC GOLF COURSE, MODERN GOLF COURSE OR MODERN/CLASSIC GOLF COURSE? Modern/classic
3. LIONS, TIGERS OR RED WINGS? Tigers
4. DOLLAR SPOT, SNOWMOLD OR PYTHIUM? Snowmold
5. E-MAIL, SNAIL MAIL OR FACE TO FACE? Face to Face
6. DRIVER, WEDGE OR PUTTER? Driver
7. MOWING GREENS, MOWING FAIRWAYS OR MOWING ROUGH? Fairways
8. RAKING WASHOUTS IN BUNKERS, FIXING BALL MARKS AFTER A TOURNAMENT OR CLEANING OUT THE WASH PAD GRASS PIT? Grass Pits
9. LOCAL MIGCSA EVENT, GREAT LAKES TRADE EXPO OR GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW? Local event. I like getting to know new people.



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



TRI-TURF

TRI-TURF

Forty years ago Tom Reed, Sr. started working in the Turf and Ornamental industry in Michigan. He began working with turf professionals helping them weave their way through one of the most rapidly changing aspects of their profession-the chemical and fertilizer aspects. In 1982 he formed Tom Reed, Inc. and has since brought Tri-Turf to the forefront of T&O distributors in Michigan.

The growth and success of Tri-Turf can only be measured by our service to our customers. We are very pleased to have assembled the very best sales and support staff in the industry today. We appreciate your patronage with Tri-Turf and pledge to continuously try to earn your business each and every day always remembering that you, our satisfied customer, are truly..... our most precious asset.



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SPRING MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

BY RON DAHLIN, CGCS, MIGCSA PRESIDENT

Nearly 200 people participated in the always popular Spring Management Meetings held across the state in March. Thank you to Oakhurst Golf & Country Club (Jerry McVety), Egypt Valley Country Club (Jeff Holmes, CGCS) and Treetops Resort (Scott Pulaski) for hosting. There was education for everyone from superintendents to assistants and even equipment technicians. Once again the education committee did a fantastic job of lining up some first class education that will help us to better manage our facilities and get the most from ourselves and the employees that we manage.

Nearly 25 speakers donated their time and shared their expertise to the MiGCSA membership and the topics covered ranged from how to manage the ever increasing pesky goose population to how to transform your facility into a fully sustainable operation. Kudos go out to Dr. Kurt Steinke for doing the whirlwind tour. He made the swing of the state to participate, meet our membership and he even spoke at all 3 meetings. Dr. Steinke even made sure that he brought a different professor to each meeting starting with Dr. Vargus at Oakhurst, followed by Dr. Nicoli at Egypt Valley and Dr. Frank at Treetops. All of the professors from the turf team had relevant information to share and each one had their own distinct style to share with the participants. We were treated to the latest in pesticide research, new aerification techniques, drought tolerance studies of differing turf grasses, a review of winter kill injury and some new thoughts on what might be the direct cause along with a review of a study on how maintained turfgrass might have an affect on an urban society.

Chris Wilczynski of Arthur Hills/Steve Forrest & Associates gave a very timely talk on "The Evolution of Course Design & Master Planning into the Future". He offered up some great information on where course design came from and, more importantly, where it is today. He tied it all in to the new equipment designs, the new inclusion of family in golf, which set of tees the normal golfer is playing despite the expanded distances we are seeing, what it means for maintenance and how this all tied into the ever present Sustainability of Golf.

Mr. Scott Blecke of Great Lakes Energy presented a very timely discussion on Strategies to Improve Your Bottom Line which was a talk centered on your energy consumption. While many do not believe that we have the power to change our energy consumption or how we are billed, Scott went on to show that we do and can implement many things to effectively change our energy costs. Scott offered many ways to save on our energy bills with some being a



Over 60 members attended the great meeting at Oakhurst Golf and Country Club.

simple as having your energy provider visit your site and explain how you are billed to as complex as capital improvements that change how your machines use energy.

What a great way to start the spring, such a great mix of information and not enough room to share it all with you here, visit www.MiGCSA.org and click on the news and information section for a complete recap of all the events.



Dr. Kurt Steinke finished his Spring Management Meeting tour at Treetops Resort in Gaylord.



The 4th annual Assistants Roundtable.



Joe Hancock filled in at the last minute with a great topic at Egypt Valley.

TEE TIMES 4 TURF

Our purpose for correspondence today is to solicit your help in our latest fund raising effort for turfgrass research, Tee Times 4 Turf, (www.TeeTimes4Turf.com). This endeavor, sponsored by the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, is an on-line auction for donated golf rounds with the majority of the donated golf stemming from either Michigan golf courses or you, our alumni. This is an idea originating and supported by the MSU turf faculty. We feel as though this is an excellent way to raise monies through the golfing sector and at the same time recognize our alumni for their efforts in soliciting contributions.

What do we want from you? Basically, golf rounds donated to be auctioned. The auction will run from May 10 - 26, and we will accept golf course donations through May 3. We will also be marketing this effort to drive the golfers to the auction site to bid. We need you to consider donating foursomes (or threesomes if they must be accompanied) to raise money for turfgrass research. Your efforts will go a long way toward ensuring the continued success of the MSU turf program, and upholding the value of an MSU education in turfgrass science.

We urge you now to go to the website, www.TeeTimes4Turf.com, and browse. Click on the donate icon and fill in the form. Everything is electronic and streamlined to ensure minimal fuss and maximum



success. All donations are tax deductible and eligible for recognition as a contribution to Michigan State University.

On behalf of the MSU turf faculty, thank you for your considerations and efforts in this matter. If you have any questions at all, do not hesitate to contact us.

Trey Rogers
Jim Crum

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ASSISTANT UPDATE

BY TAVIS HORTON, ASSISTANT BOARD LIAISON

2ND ANNUAL ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT SYMPOSIUM

The 2nd annual Assistant Superintendent Symposium was held Tuesday, January 5, 2010 at the Great Lakes Trade Expo in Grand Rapids. The MiGCSA Assistant Superintendent Committee, in partnership with the MiGCSA and the Michigan Turf Foundation, provided an informative event for Assistant Superintendents this past winter. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a great line up of guest speakers that included:

- ▶ Matthew Burrows, director of Golf Courses from Winged Foot Golf Club whose presentation titled "Climbing the Ladder of Success" provided strategies and advice on how to successfully plan and attain career objectives.
- ▶ Todd Beals, chief operating officer / general manager at Detroit Golf Club whose presentation titled "Bullet Proofing Your Career" provided insight on how to get promoted, prove yourself invaluable to your employer, get and keep your dream job and how to have some fun along the way.
- ▶ Raymond Hearn, president and founder of Raymond Hearn Golf Course Designs, Inc., whose presentation titled "Enhance your Marketability by 200%" provided insight on some hot topics in the golf industry related to Master Plans, strategies for reducing fairway and primary rough acreage and how committing two years of your life to industry hot jobs will enhance your future marketability by 200%. Mr. Hearn also gave a sneak peek of the upcoming job postings across the country including a few international postings.

The 2nd Annual Assistant Symposium lived up to the promise again this year to be a great educational event. The room was at capacity with many people standing in the back of the room enjoying the networking and educational insight provided by our guest speakers.

It is with sincere appreciation and gratitude that the Assistant Superintendent Committee thanks Matthew Burrows, Todd Beals and Raymond Hearn for unselfishly sharing their knowledge and experience for the benefit of all who attended. "Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it." (Marian Wright Edelman) We thank you for contributing to the success of the 2nd Annual Assistant Superintendent Symposium.



Todd Beals, G.M. from Detroit Golf Club and Tavis Horton

Raymond Hearn from Raymond Hearn Golf Course Designs

WHAT'S NEW IN 2010

I would like to take this opportunity to announce that Dan Koops, assistant superintendent from Country Club of Detroit and Kevin Breuker, assistant superintendent from Traverse City Golf & Country Club are the new co-chairs of the MiGCSA's Assistant Superintendent Committee for 2010.

It is time to pass the position of chairman of the assistant superintendent committee to other leaders in our industry. Dan and Kevin will now co-chair the statewide assistant committee; everything from planning and organizing shoptalks, roundtables and symposiums to implementing current and new programs for engaging assistants across the state. They will continue managing the model past assistant committees have developed that has now become a model for other assistant committees across the country.

We have come a long way in improving assistant involvement and retention across the state and have become a road map for other states across the country. With that said, I would like to thank the MiGCSA Board of Directors for their continued support and Steve Hammon, MiGCSA past-president and Golf Course Superintendent at Traverse City Golf & Country Club for taking something from nothing and having a vision to create the assistant superintendent committee. I would also like to thank all the assistant committee members from 2008 and 2009 for volunteering your time to improving and creating opportunities for engaging assistants.

Dan Koops and Kevin Breuker will represent all assistant members of the MiGCSA for 2010, protecting assistant opportunities and events the assistant committee has put into place for Assistants across Michigan. I will continue to serve as the assistant board liaison and communication liaison between the assistant committee and the board.

If you wish to join the 2010 Assistant Superintendent Committee, please send Dan and Kevin an email at koopdsan@hotmail.com and kevinb@tcgcc.com.



Kevin Breuker and Dan Koops.



MIGCSA SCHOLARSHIP BOWLING FUNDRAISER RAISES OVER \$1,000

The MiGCSA held its annual scholarship bowling fundraiser on Friday, February 26th at Galaxy Bowling Lanes in Grand Blanc. We would like to thank all of the individuals who attended despite the poor road conditions. A special thank you to Dan Bissonette, Steve Hammon, Ron Dahlin, Adam Ikamas, Dr. Ron Calhoun, Kirk Carls, Mark Frever of Dryject Michigan, Dave Johanningsmeier of Turfgrass Inc., and Jeff Holmes who could not attend but chose to donate towards scholarships. Thank you to Ron Dahlin, our President, for his 10% matching efforts with donations. We raised \$685 at the event, \$300 in donations, and an additional \$30 from the 10% by Ron Dahlin for a total of \$1,015 towards our \$7,000 that we give in scholarships annually. Steve Rose of the Flint Elks Club was by far the class of the field, his games of 203, 206, and 211 were the best 3 game series of the day. Daniel Johanningsmeier of Turfgrass Inc. won the 50/50, he had to leave before we held the drawing and when contacted to notify him of his winnings he happily donated his take in the form of a round of drinks for all participants. Sadly, there was no change. Greg Pattinson won the Pistons tickets that were donated by Dave Pawluk of The Inn at St. Johns, thanks for the donation Dave. Finally, Shaun Maher won a \$100 gift certificate to Sports Turf Irrigation which was donated by Derek Carroll of Fuse It Piping. The event was a great time, if you have not attended before please plan on attending in 2011. It is nice to get away from the day to day operations and have fun and network with our peers. And finally a huge thank you to Greg Pattinson who makes sure this event runs smoothly every year.



Dick Klumpp



Andy Miller, Dan Johanningsmeier and Tim Tuohy



*Mike Urquhart,
Jeremy McAbee,
Damon Murphy
and Jeff Kingsley*



*Phil Owen, Squirrel, Jim
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A CALL FROM CAMPUS

MSU CHINA TURFGRASS PROGRAM USONG MU – COORDINATOR

In 2003, Michigan State University signed an agreement of cooperation in higher education in turfgrass management with four Chinese agricultural universities. Students enrolled in the MSU China Turf Program have the opportunity to obtain a Bachelor of Science degree from MSU and from their Chinese university. Qualified students are enrolled by MSU as off-campus transfer students beginning their junior year. Junior and senior students take MSU turf classes in China and perform an internship in the U.S. in the fall semester of their senior year. During the 2008-09 academic year 14 MSU faculty members traveled at various times of the year to China to teach students courses in a condensed two-week time frame. Including the 2009 Fall Semester, 119 Chinese students have traveled to the U.S. for internships. Most students perform golf course internships while a smaller number of students conduct university-based research internships. The MSU China Turf Program is preparing the first generation of native Chinese golf course superintendents for China.

My Experience in the MSU-China Turf Program **Miyuan Xiao “Nancy”, MSU Graduate Research Assistant**

I graduated from the MSU-China Turf Program in 2009 and began a Masters program under the direction of Dr. Kevin Frank in the fall of 2009. I believe the most exciting part of the China Turf Program is that students have the opportunity to do an internship in the United States, which I believe for most students is the longest trip they've ever had. We've already had three cohorts of students finish their internship in the United States. Many of the students don't have experience working on golf courses in China. When they arrive in the summer there is an intensive two-week equipment training session at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center. Following completion of the equipment training the students depart for their internships.

The students have had a great experience working on golf courses and at universities as research assistants. In addition to all the internship locations throughout the country we had several students conduct internships in Michigan. Special thanks to Steve Cook at Oakland Hills C.C., Carey Mitchelson and Greg Bishop at College Fields Golf Club, Sean O'Connor at Forest Akers, and Todd Griebel from Turfgrass Inc. for supporting interns in the fall of 2009. Without their support, the students would not have been able to gain the hands-on experience necessary for them to be successful working in the industry in the future. By the end of 2009, we've had two cohorts of students graduate. Many of the students have chosen to stay involved in the turfgrass industry either by working on golf courses or attending graduate school. Cohort two currently has 14 students (out of 44) that are enrolled in graduate programs throughout the United States, many of them in turfgrass science programs. As the number of students grows in the following cohorts, we believe there will be more and more students who are interested in turf and will devote themselves to careers in the turf industry in China.



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INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

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THANK YOU WEINGARTZ FOR BEING A PLATINUM SUPPORTER OF THE MiGCSA FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS

Weingartz was founded as a feed and farm supply store in Utica, Michigan in 1945 by Raymond Weingartz Sr. The store had a simple philosophy - to be fair and honest and provide exceptional service. Sixty-four years later the farm supplies are gone and have been replaced with one of the broadest selections of power equipment anywhere. There are now four locations in Michigan (the original in

Allen, Lely, Bernhard-Express Dual, Greensgroomer, Exmark, Stihl, RedMax and TurfEx headline their offering. In addition, they are the exclusive distributor of John Deere Golf Irrigation Systems featuring the most advanced control system in the industry. While their product lineup is impressive, Weingartz has earned their share of the market by providing custom, creative solutions to meet customer's needs. They understand that no two golf courses are identical and tailor programs to meet the needs of individual customers. This involves working with John Deere Credit to tailor operating leases for the shorter northern seasons; offering parts consignment to minimize downtime and cash outlay; full maintenance service programs to reduce operating costs and keep equipment at peak performance; high quality, assured used equipment - essentially anything that helps a golf course efficiently meet their maintenance needs.

The after-sale support at Weingartz is similarly world-class. They are exceptionally proud of the professionalism and efficiency of their staff and are proud to have many employees that have been with them for over 20 years! The technicians at Weingartz have over 350 years of combined industry-technical experience and they stock over \$2.5 million in repair parts. Every company claims to have exceptional service, Weingartz believes that you have to put your money where your mouth is.

Weingartz is proud to be a Platinum Partner of the MiGCSA. They fully believe in supporting the industry that supports them.

Utica, Farmington Hills, Waterford and Cedar Springs). The founder has passed away and now the company is owned and operated by the third generation of Weingartz ownership. Despite all of these changes, the commitment to be fair and honest and to provide exceptional service has never wavered.

The selection of golf course maintenance products offered by Weingartz is as extensive as you will find anywhere. Brands like John Deere, Lastec, Dakota, Salsco, AgriMetal,



Ron Weingartz, President



Wee One Foundation

Benefit Golf Outing

Monday, May 3, 2010
Indianwood Golf & Country Club
1081 Indianwood Road, Lake Orion, MI

*The Wee One Foundation was founded in 2004 when friends of Wayne Otto, CGCS banned together to financially assist him in his battle with cancer. Since its inception, the organization has donated more than **\$300,000** to golf course superintendents and turf professionals experiencing economic hardship due to overwhelming medical expenses.*

When friend and former Golf Course Superintendent Greg Seago (currently President of Advance Pest Management, Inc.) started his battle with Synovial Sarcoma cancer, I knew that I wanted to help him in any way I could. Last October, a flyer was sent out through MIGCSA regarding a fundraising dinner for Greg. A couple days later, I received a call from Rod Johnson, Vice President of the Wee One Foundation, who had seen the flyer. Rod told me about the Foundation and how it helps golf course superintendents and turf professionals who are fighting cancer and other debilitating health issues. Within two weeks, the Wee One Foundation made a generous donation to Greg and his family to help them with their increasing medical costs. An organization like the Wee One Foundation, that steps up to help fellow golf industry professionals in a time of need, is one that truly deserves our support!

John Cooney, CGCS
Tam-O-Shanter CC - West Bloomfield, MI

Entry: \$150 per player
Includes Golf, Lunch, Dinner & Contests

Format: 4-Player Scramble

Schedule: 11:00 a.m. - Arrival and Check-In
Noon - Shotgun Start
Lunch on the course (*hot dogs, brats, chips, beer, water, soda*)
5:00 pm. - Dinner & Awards (*Hot hors d'oeuvres and cash bar*)

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Bayer Environmental Science

SUPERINTENDENTS LOSE LONG-TIME ADVOCATE: REBECCA “BECKY” TATE

Rebecca Tate passed away Sunday, January 31st in Sarasota, Florida. She was the wife of C.E. “Tuck” Tate, and was known to all her friends as Becky. She worked side by side with “Tuck” at the Frankfort Golf Club, running the grill and golf shop, and faithfully attending the national Superintendent conferences with “Tuck”.

Becky impacted the lives of many young people who worked at the Frankfort Golf Club. She instilled a positive work ethic and upheld the highest standards for customer service. Having no children of their own, Becky and “Tuck” imparted their love for golf and business, as well as their strong personal values, to their “kiddos” who worked with them. A number of these young people have gone on to careers in the golf business, and many have found success in other fields, which pleased Becky very much.

Becky continued to support the annual Tuck Tate Scholarship until her death. She always looked forward to hearing from the recipients of the scholarship, as she was interested in their experiences and their future plans. She was thankful to have a part in their success, and also to give back to the business of golf. The Tuck Tate Scholarship is endowed, and will continue to support students in the future.

Memorials can be given to the Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital Foundation in Frankfort, MI or the Tidewell Hospice in Sarasota, FL.

2010 HANCOCK TURFGRASS RESEARCH CENTER WISH LIST

We all know the importance of the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center to our businesses and our careers. The 56 acre facility is the center from which all of our Michigan State University research emanates. Recent state budget cuts have affected all of us but University funding has been especially hard hit.

We asked Mark Collins, Director of the HTRC and his fine staff to get us a list of supplies and equipment that they need to maintain the Center for the year. None of this includes any products that the professors use in their research. This is just the maintenance and upkeep of the center, the grounds and the plots.

Together, we should have no problem getting everything on the list. Our goal is to share the load. If you have a case or two of something, it all adds up.

MiGCSA Members please call or e-mail John Fulling to donate something or for any questions. He can be reached at 269-998-9748 or john@kalamazoocc.com. To view the full list, please visit: www.migcsa.org/uploads/HTRC-wish-list-2010-Sheet1.pdf

Every club / business will get full face value credit as a donation to the MTF for items donated.

JOHN H. DODGE 1950-2010

Government Affairs Coordinator of the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association, passed away Friday, March 5.

Donation in John's name can be made to: Greater Lansing Food Bank.
P.O. Box 16224
Lansing MI 48901



GREGORY SEAGO

1965 - MARCH 7TH, 2010

Gregory George Seago, age 44, passed away March 7, 2010 peacefully at home in Armada after courageously battling a long illness. Born in Mt. Clemens, Greg was owner of Advanced Pest Management and a leader within Michigan's mosquito control industry.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Tami and children Lauren, Benjamin, Joshua and Sarah, and by his beloved mother, Frances (the late David A.) Seago. Dear brother to Christopher (Cathy) Seago, Christine (Mark) Burrows and David E. Seago. Mother-in-law, Eunice Leinaar-Crawford, sister-in-law, Pam (Chuck) Mullins and brother-in-law Rick (Joann) Leinaar. Uncle and great uncle to numerous nieces and nephews. A graduate of New Haven High School and Michigan State University, Greg was an Armada enthusiast and president of the Armada Athletic Boosters Club and an avid outdoorsman and sportsman who enjoyed bicycling, hunting, fishing, boating and camping with his family. He and his family attended Harvest Fellowship Church of Romeo.

A CELEBRATION OF MARC CULBERTSON

James “Marc” Culbertson, 57, was born Jan. 26, 1953, in Sandusky, Ohio. He passed away in his sleep on March 20, 2010, at his home in Wolverine, Mich.

Marc is survived by his loving wife, Linda; his son, Kyle (Karen) Culbertson and their daughter, Gabriela; his son, Kam (Kathy) Culbertson and their children, Quinn and Lucy. Marc is survived by his siblings, Kevin (Christine) Dendy, Debbie Andreas, Greg Culbertson and Sean Schmidt.

Some thoughts about Marc from his friend Keith Kaiser “He was in golf for near 20 years starting with Petoskey Bayview Country Club. He made a big difference in my life as a great friend. He worked with me for 13 of his years in golf as an Assistant Superintendent and he made those years very enjoyable. Marc was someone you could always count on.”

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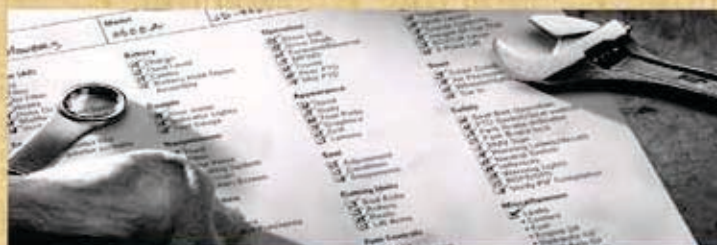
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