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2013 GCSA Board  
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MiGCSA at the GIS  
Pg. 24

# 2013 BASF Turf and Ornamental Pillar™ G Intrinsic Granular Fungicide Snowmold Program



## 2013 BASF Turf and Ornamental Pillar™ G Intrinsic Granular Fungicide

### 3 SIMPLE STEPS

1. Purchase at least 10, 30 lb. bags (300 lbs.) or 15, 30 lb. bags (450 lbs.) in one transaction, on one invoice.
2. Complete entry on website.
3. Submit valid invoice through the website.

**WEBSITE:** [offers.basf.us/pillarsm](http://offers.basf.us/pillarsm) (BASF will only accept invoices in PDF format).

**TARGET:** Golf Course Superintendents, Sports Field Managers or Lawn Care Operators that want to protect or clean-up their turf from devastating Winter or Spring Snow Mold.

**PROGRAM:** Any qualified end-user that purchases 10, 30 pound bags (300 lbs.) or 15, 30 pound bags (450 lbs.) of Pillar G Intrinsic, on one invoice, with one transaction, is eligible for the Pillar G Snowmold Program. The end-user needs to complete the contact information on the provided website and submit a valid invoice from an authorized BASF distributor in order to receive a \$25 or \$40 Gift Card. BASF will supply 1 Gift Card for each qualifying purchase of 10, 30 lb. bags (300 lbs.) or 15, 30 pound bags (450 lbs.). There are NO RETURNS on BASF products.

**DATES & AREA:** December 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013. Purchases made between November 15-30, 2012, will retroactively be eligible for this program. The website will become active for submissions on December 1, 2012. Area is defined as the United States and Puerto Rico.

**DELIVERY:** The Gift Card(s) will only be delivered to the qualified end-user per the address provided on the website entry. The Gift Card(s) will be shipped within 90 days of BASF receiving a valid and complete entry and authorized distributor invoice.



x 10 = 300 Lbs. = 2.3 ac = \$25



15 = 450 lbs = 3.4 ac = \$40

**Gerald (Jerry) E Husemann**  
**Senior Sales Specialist II**

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# COURSECONDITIONS

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Pg. 24



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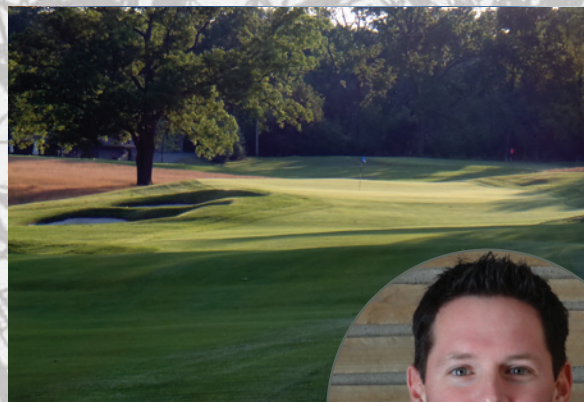
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Assistant Superintendent,  
Franklin Hills Country Club





## COURSE CONDITIONS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Emerald

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	JEFF HOLMES, CGCS-2014 Western-Class A Egypt Valley C.C.	MIKE ROSEN-2015 Northern-Class A Otsego Club
	DAVID J. PAWLUX, CGCS - 2012 Detroit-Class A The Inn at St. John's	JUSTIN BICKEL - 2014 Northern - Class A The Dream and The Nightmare
	MARK OSTRANDER-2015 Western-Class A The Moors G.C.	

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	ERIC RANK Vice Chairman	

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## MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### SUMMARY OF CLASSES 01/09/13

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	WINTER 11/12 MEMBERSHIP
<b>Class AA</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Class A</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>232</b>
<b>Class SM</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>69</b>
<b>Class C</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Class D</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Class E</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Class AFF</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>154</b>
<b>Class H</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Class SA</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Class R</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Class I</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>682</b>

Please log in to your account at [www.migcsa.org](http://www.migcsa.org) to renew your membership for 2013. If you are unsure of your status contact us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org) or 1-888-3-MiGCSA.

*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. For more information on *Course Conditions* or the MiGCSA please contact us at [info@migca.org](mailto:info@migca.org), 1-888-3-MiGCSA or 7113 Demerly Rd. Benzonia, MI 49616.



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



JAY ECCLETON, CGCS

*Isn't it amazing how time flies? In June of 2000, I accepted an opportunity to serve on the WMGCSA board of directors. Nearly Thirteen years later, I am writing my last President's Perspective column for the Course Conditions Magazine. I can tell you that every minute serving these two associations has been well worth my commitment. The people I have had the opportunity to meet, the friends I have established and the networking I have created with all of my colleagues has been priceless.*

*As I look back at the progress we have made as an association since the inception of the MiGCSA, I see many obstacles, many up's and down's, and changes in leadership that our board had to endure. Although, without these challenges, I feel we would not be as strong as we are today.*

*I have been fortunate to have worked with such a strong and dedicated core of board members over my time served. The future looks to be even stronger with energetic and knowledgeable board members and a new slate of officers ready to take control. Greg Pattinson is the perfect choice for President to lead our association through 2013. Gregg Matthews will serve as Vice President and Jeff Holmes, CGCS has accepted the nomination of Secretary/ Treasurer. Mr. Holmes brings a long history serving on the NMGCSA, WMGCSA, MTF and numerous committee assignments.*

*I would also like to express my appreciation to all those who graciously contributed to our Industry Partner Program. Without their commitment and dedication to the MiGCSA, we would not be able to operate efficiently and provide all the services and support to our members. Please visit [www.migcsa.org](http://www.migcsa.org) and click on Industry Partners to view all of the vendors and their level of participation in the program. I would ask all of our members to please make a point when possible to offer a hand of gratitude to those who have participated in the IPP program. Please take a moment to show your appreciation for all of their support towards the MiGCSA.*

*I also want to acknowledge all of our host sights for the past year and thank them for allowing us the opportunity to stage an event at their location. Networking and meetings are critical in keeping a solid core of membership informed and linked into a network of individuals that as a whole make all of us better at what we do on a daily basis. I would like to extend my appreciation to Mr. Chad Corp, CGCS (Crystal Mountain Resort), Mr. David Pawluk, CGCS (The Inn at St. Johns), Mr. Jeff Holmes, CGCS (Egypt Valley Country Club), Mr. Doug Hoeh (Treetops Resort), Mr. Ron Dahlin, CGCS (The Meadows Golf Club at GVSU), Mr. John Kulka (TPC of Dearborn), Mr. Greg Pattison (The Captains Club), Mr. Gregg Matthews (Lakelands Golf and Country Club), Mr. Greg Bishop (College Fields Golf Club), and Mr. Brent Nelson, CGCS (Shanty Creek Resort). Thank you for your hard work and behind the scenes planning to make these events possible.*

*Our Foundation events are crucial for allowing us a vehicle to raise money for scholarships, research, and other special causes. I would like to thank Mr. Paul Emling (Arcadia Bluffs), Mr. Kevin Dushane (Wuskowhan Players Club) and Mr. Dan Dingman (Birmingham Country Club) for allowing us the opportunity to have our foundation fundraisers at your facilities in 2012.*

*I also would like to acknowledge Adam Ikamas, CGCS who will be entering his third year as our Executive Director. His hard work and determination has catapulted the MiGCSA into a whole other level of existence. He has continued to raise the bar and has focused his energy on the complete operation of the MiGCSA and upholding the mission*

continue on pg. 6



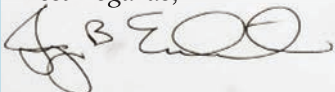
statement "The MiGCSA is dedicated to providing value to our members through programs and services that enhance our profession". I cannot say enough about the job that Adam has performed and continues to find new ways to strengthen the MiGCSA.

I want to also acknowledge the help of GCSAA field staff, Mr. John Miller and Mr. Steve Randall who have helped map the way to a successful chapter relationship with GCSAA. The resources that GCSAA offer us as an affiliate chapter have allowed our chapter the opportunity to stay plugged into the national scene as we continue to be progressive in our commitment towards research grants and environmentally charged issues with the help of the EIFG.

I would also like to thank my Board of Directors of The Emerald, Mr. Mark Pirie, Mr. Bud Klooster, Mr. Doug Thielen, and Mr. Dave Thielen, without their support, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to serve this great association. Also Troy Looney, my Golf Course Superintendent and his staff for keeping The Emerald in such great shape through hard work and dedication. Thank you to my golf shop and food and beverage staff for working so hard to keep The Emerald guests satisfied on a daily basis. It has been such a pleasure to have such a dedicated core group of individuals at The Emerald. They made it possible for me to get away when needed. I look forward to spending more time with them in the upcoming years as we continue to make The Emerald the best kept secret in Mid-Michigan.

I would be remised if I didn't thank you the member of the MiGCSA for your continued involvement and feedback that you provide as we continue to build an association that is looked upon nationally as a key GCSAA affiliate chapter. I am proud to be a part of such a great association and I look forward to a continued involvement as Past President and various committee assignments. As we turn the corner on 2012 and now look 2013 straight in the eyes, let's take time to reestablish relationships with our families. Time to take a temporary time out and reevaluate the way we do things on a daily basis. The future looks brighter than it has in a long time. Let's take advantage of every moment we have and live every day like it is going to be the best day ever.

Best Regards,



Jay B. Eccleton, CGCS



# 2013 MiGCSA EVENT CALENDAR

All events are subject to change in date and/or location.  
Please check [www.MiGCSA.org](http://www.MiGCSA.org) for all the latest event information

MTF Events in Green  
GCSAA Events in Purple  
Wee One Events in Blue

Mon-Thur, Jan. 21 - 24 Michigan Turf Conference (Kellogg Center, East Lansing)

Wed, Jan. 23 MiGCSA Annual Meeting (Kellogg Center, East Lansing)

Mon-Fri, Feb 4 - 8 - Golf Industry Show (San Diego Convention Center)

Wednesday, February 6 - Michigan Gathering (Busters Beach House, San Diego)

Friday, Feb 15 - Bowling Fundraiser (Galaxy Lanes, Grand Blanc)

Monday, Feb 25 - Spring Mgmt Meeting (The Inn at St. Johns, Detroit)

Monday, March 11 - Spring Mgmt Meeting (Egypt Valley CC, Ada)

Monday, March 25 - Spring Mgmt Meeting (Tree Tops, Gaylord)

Monday, April 22 - Spring Opener (Pilgrims Run Golf Club, Pierson)

Monday, April ?? Can-Am Tournament (TBD OGCSA)

Monday, May 6 - Wee One Golf Outing (Lost Dunes Golf Club, Bridgman)

Sunday, June 2 - Northern Fundraiser Practice Round (Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia)

Monday, June 3 - Northern Fundraiser (Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia)

Tuesday, July 10 - Mid Golf Event (Metamora Golf Club, Metamora)

Monday, July 29 - Tuck Tate Championship (The Nightmare, West Branch)

Wednesday, August 7 - MTF LaFontaine Outing (Links of Novi, Novi)

Tues./Wed., August 13&14 - MTF Field Day (MSU Hancock Center, East Lansing)

Monday, August 19 - MiGCSA State Championship (The Emerald, St. Johns)

Friday, September 6 - Assistant & Student Networking Golf Outing (College Fields, Okemos)

Wednesday, September 25 - Equipment Tech. Meeting (Crystal Mountain Resort, Thompsonville)

Monday, September 23 - Western Golf Day (Egypt Valley Country Club, Ada)

Monday, October 7 - The Big Event (Great Oaks C.C., Rochester)

Wednesday, December 4 - Superintendent Roundtable (Birmingham Country Club, Birmingham)

Friday, December 6 - West Christmas Party

Friday, December 13 - East Christmas Party

Friday, December 13 - Mid Christmas Party



# THANK YOU

## TO MiGCSA'S 2013 TOP INDUSTRY PARTNERS

SUPPORT THE COMPANIES  
THAT SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION







# Join us!



## Wee One Golf Event

**Monday, May 6, 2013**  
**11:30am shotgun**

### Lost Dunes Golf Club

Bridgman, Michigan

Host Superintendent: Steve Jotzat



### Cost: \$250 per person

Plus required forecaddie for each foursome.

Includes lunch, dinner, drinks & various golf contests.

### Etcetera...

#### Sponsorships available:

Call Mike Plague @ 586.915.9281 or Steve Cook @ 248.433.0680 for more information.

#### Lodging with/without golf on Sunday, May 5, at the club's on-site cabins.

Sunday afternoon round of golf/cart and room overnight: \$200 p/p, double occupancy, \$260 single. Room only: \$160 per room. Call Bill or Christine @ 269.465.9300 to book.

**REGISTER  
NOW**  
[weeone.org](http://weeone.org)

#### Wee One Foundation

##### The Core Purpose

The Wee One Foundation exists as a tribute to Wayne Otto, CGCS to provide financial support to members of the golf course maintenance industry due to medical hardship.

##### Statement of Values

The Wee One Foundation is a friend to the people of the golf maintenance industry, building community & providing unconditional support.

For more information,  
go to [weeone.org](http://weeone.org).

**Wee One Foundation**  
11855 Archer Avenue  
Lemont, IL 60439





JULIE STACHECKI

# GOLF COURSE TREES— STRUCTURAL CARE HIGHLIGHTS

BY JULIE STACHECKI, CERTIFIED ARBORIST AND OWNER OF SITE SPECIFIC, INC.

Trees are essential components of a golf course property's character. Even a links style course typically has trees around entrance drives or in clubhouse landscapes. The health and condition of these trees contributes to the players' perception of the property. Even though the greens stimp consistently at 11, the fairways are impeccable and the rough is dense, poor quality trees can negate the golf experience for the player. Although, not consciously evaluated, shabby trees send undesirable subliminal information about the golf property that influences the judgment, behavior and attitudes of the people playing the course.

Implementing some basic tree care can positively impact your property and the information subconsciously processed by your golfers. This discussion highlights a few key points about structural issues for deciduous tree pruning and installation that influence the quality of trees over their lifetime.

## PRUNING

Pruning is likely the most common tree maintenance practice. If you're fortunate to have large, 'mature' trees "less is more" regarding pruning. Prune mature trees *only* with good cause, i.e., storm damage, large pieces of deadwood, a structural hazard. The resources necessary to heal pruning wounds are limited in mature trees. Wounds that don't close can, and often do, lead to decay and cavities in mature trees. This can seriously compromise the *structural* integrity of the tree.

Limit mature tree pruning to deadwood removal. Removal of live tissue reduces the tree's food production (foliage = photosynthesis). Resist pruning off all watersprouts.

Pruning 'semi-mature' trees on golf courses is often done with the goal of improving the quality of turfgrass in the area. "Thinning" of trees is often performed to



*Cavities have developed at old pruning wounds on this mature maple. Limit mature tree pruning to deadwood, and broken or hazardous limbs.*



*Make a clean cut to the storm damage (right edge) on this mature American elm, but resist removing the watersprouts that support food-producing foliage.*

increase light penetration and air circulation. Correct tree 'thinning' is done by pruning the *outer edge* of the canopy. Retain foliage and varying sized twigs and limbs distributed evenly throughout the canopy. Foliage dampens the energy of the wind passing through the canopy and is needed to prevent storm damage. *Do not* cleanout the canopy interior leaving only a shell of foliage on the outside - this leads to multiple structural problems including poorly tapered limbs prone to breakage. A properly 'thinned' tree should not look pruned, but retain its natural growth habit.



Proper pruning of 'young' trees is desirable and encouraged, but often overlooked on golf course properties. Small cuts do less

*This semi-mature shagbark hickory has the start of a good canopy with well-spaced branches.*



damage to the tree than large cuts. Correcting issues when a tree is young reduces the need for severe pruning later. Co-dominate stems are common and typically develop into structurally weak unions and 'break-out' as the two trunks enlarge. This weakness, and structural failure can be avoided with early detection and corrective pruning.



*The multiple, tight branch attachments on this semi-mature maple are prone to breaking out, yet would be difficult, if not impossible to correct now. Structural pruning when it was young would have improved the quality and longevity of this tree.*

A few years after planting, begin pruning young trees to establish a desirable structure. Multiple, small doses of pruning during the first 10-20 years of a tree's life establishes a strong structure without compromising tree health or aesthetics in the process.

Several references on the principles of young tree pruning are available from The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). Another useful reference is found on the University of Florida's website based on the work of Dr. Ed Gilman. (<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/woody/pruning.shtml>)

Very briefly, the goal is to establish a strong, central trunk with sturdy, well-spaced branches both vertically and radially. When training young, deciduous trees:

1. Select the dominant upright leader, remove or subordinate competing upright growing limbs.
2. Prune secondary limbs so those remaining have large branch attachment angles and are adequately spaced.
3. Consider the ultimate clearance necessary at your site; golf carts, line of play, etc. Elevate the canopy in small increments. It is preferable to retain some lower limbs temporarily. Limbs contribute to the development of a well-tapered trunk. Consider reducing the length (subordinating) of the temporary limbs to minimize their development and thus the wound that will be left behind once they are removed. Excessive elevating of lower limbs distorts the dynamics of the tree's canopy and can lead to structural failures at any stage of development.
4. Young trees are vigorous growers. Re-visit them frequently to prune and develop a desirable

structure. If properly pruned when young, trees require limited intervention during their middle-aged and mature stages of life.



*This full-canopied oak was planted 3 years ago and requires structural training now. The yellow paint lines at the branch attachment points indicate 2 limbs to be removed now. The yellow paint 'spots' indicate temporary limbs that need to be subordinated now (shortened to reduce growth) and removed within 1-3 years.*

## PLANTING

All-too-often I encounter the consequences of poor planting techniques; stem girdling roots, rootballs heaving out of the ground, too much mulch or not enough, and young and semi-mature trees in decline. A few thoughtful steps during the planting process will ensure a long-lived tree that provides desirable features.

- First, select a tree species that will tolerate your soil conditions and not out-grow the available space or infringe on golf play as it matures. Proper location of golf course trees incorporates many considerations and is beyond the scope of this article. "A Guide For Selecting and Planting Golf Course Trees" in the 2009 November-December Green Section Record provides a nice discussion: <http://gsr.lib.msu.edu/2000s/2009/091101.pdf>.
- What size tree should be planted? Size significantly influences a tree's ability to survive transplanting. Trees that are 2-4.5" DBH provide the greatest chance for success and overcome transplant shock more readily than larger trees. A 'rule-of-thumb' to consider is that which states, "For every inch of trunk diameter, the tree will require that number of years to recover from transplanting." Therefore, a 3" DBH tree will take 3 years to overcome the stress of transplanting if given proper post-planting care. I have witnessed 3-3.5" DBH trees quickly out grow 5-6" trees transplanted at the same time.



- Next, once the tree is at your site, locate the trees' **trunk flare** – where the roots spread at the base of the tree. This is often several inches below the soil level *inside* the rootball packaging. Either pull back the packaging material, or gently probe with something to determine the depth of the trunk flare. Once located, the level of the trunk flare dictates the depth of the planting hole. *Correct planting hole depth keeps the trunk flare slightly visible after the tree has been planted.* Soil removal from the top of the packaged rootball may be required. The planting hole should be at least *twice as wide as the rootball.*
- After the tree is placed in the hole, ignore the canopy shape and straighten the tree so the trunk is vertical. Stabilize with some soil, and then *remove the rootball packaging.* Using bolt cutters, remove at least the top two to three tiers of wire basket.
- Manipulate roots so they are growing out, away from the trunk. Cut or remove roots growing in a circular direction (common in container grown plants). Distorted, or circling roots will become stem girdling and life-limiting for the trees as both the trunk and roots grow in diameter.
- Continue to backfill and settle the soil with water during the backfilling process. Remove all tags and trunk wraps.
- Apply 2-3" of mulch over the rootball *without* piling it against the trunk. Keep the trunk and root flare injury-free for all aged trees. While mulch is not embraced on golf courses, thoughtfully incorporated it can be a non-offensive element to golf play, and very beneficial for trees both young and old.
- Provide post-planting care until well established.



Mulch is beneficial for trees of all ages. Thoughtfully incorporated into golf courses, mulch contributes to tree health and protection, thereby improving the golf property as a whole.



The two red maple trees near this green (A) were purchased in 25-gallon containers and planted about 5 years ago. They were pruned 2 winters ago and need additional structural pruning now. The yellow lines indicate limbs to be removed (B), and the yellow spot marks an upright-growing limb that needs subordinating so it will not compete with the central leader (C). Unfortunately, girdling roots (D) are an issue for both trees. The girdling roots must be cut and removed now.

Too many trees will not live to their full potential due to shortcuts and improper techniques used at planting time and the years that follow. Don't let that happen at your course. Leave a legacy of healthy, well-structured trees by planting properly, pruning at the appropriate stages of growth and mulching where possible.

Julie Stachecki is a certified arborist and owner of Site Specific, Inc. Julie has completed tree inventory, assessment and management plans for several Michigan golf courses. She has a Masters degree in turfgrass management, which offers a unique understanding of golf course tree-turf relationships. She consults with a variety of property owners who have tree and landscape concerns, helping with diagnostics and providing solutions. Site Specific, Inc. is based in Howell, MI.



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\*Payload includes 200lb (90.7kg) operator, 200lb (90.7) passenger and loaded attachment, 2WD with Heavy Duty Suspension, Wide Rear Tire & 4-Post ROPS. Payload tested in accordance with ANSI / ITSDF B56.8 – 2006 standard. ROPS tested in accordance with ISO 21299-2009.  
\*\*@ 3600 rpm. Engine Manufacturer Gross Power. Tested in accordance with SAE J1349. Engine horsepower and torque information are provided by engine manufacturer for comparison purposes only. Actual operating horsepower and torque will be less. Refer to engine manufacturer's website for additional information.

49646

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# CLEM WOLFROM, CELEBRATING OVER 50 YEARS!

Clem Wolfrom, who marked his 50th year as golf course superintendent of the Detroit Golf Club in March 2012, announced his plan to retire on March 1, 2013, and celebrated with a luncheon in his honor on December 5, 2012, at the Detroit Golf Club.

Mr. Wolfrom is a second generation golf course superintendent. His father, Clarence Wolfrom, was the golf course superintendent at the Maple Lane Golf Club in Sterling Heights, Michigan for 54 years. Following his graduation from Michigan State University with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture, Clem served as the golf course superintendent at the Dearborn Country Club for six years before coming to the Detroit Golf Club in 1962. With his passion for the game and detailed record keeping, Mr. Wolfrom has overseen the maintenance, nurturing and continuous improvements that have made the Detroit Golf Club's North and South courses great tests of golf and a pleasure to play by its members and guests.

During his long and distinguished career in golf course management, Mr. Wolfrom has been active in various professional associations related to the golf course management industry. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation for 12 years and was president for 2 years. He served on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendent's Association for 22 years and was president for 4 years. He also served on the Board of Directors for the Midwest Regional Turfgrass Association for 3 years and was instrumental in forming the Founders Society



for the Michigan Turfgrass Association that includes golf course superintendents in metropolitan Detroit and Windsor, Canada.

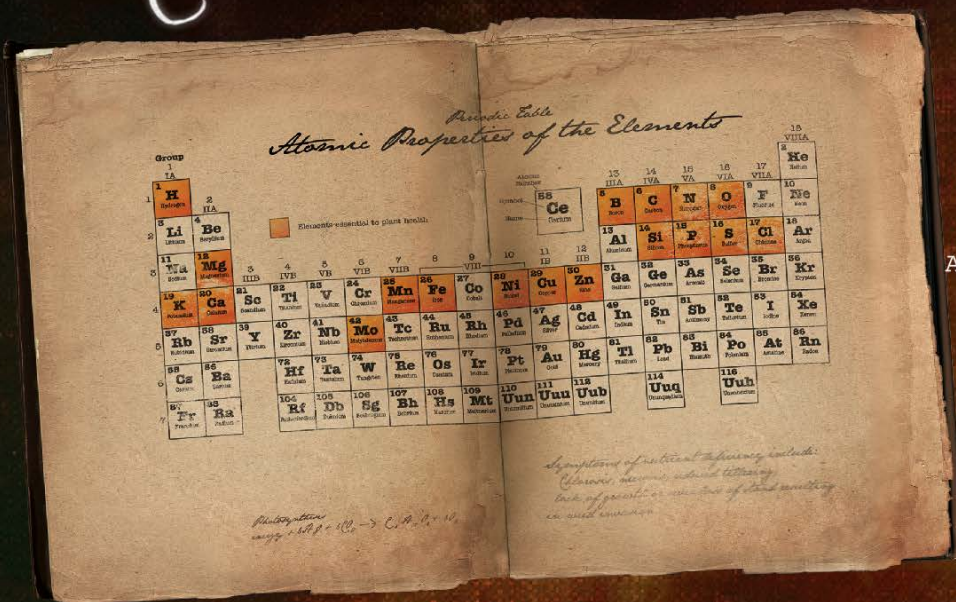
Detroit Golf Club is one of America's great golf and country clubs. The beautifully wooded 219 acres located within the city limits of Detroit contain two Donald Ross designed 18-hole courses and a rambling Old English style clubhouse designed by Albert Kahn that are a standing tribute to the prominent group of forward-thinking Detroiters who formed the Club in 1899. Horton Smith, one of golf's great legends and winner of the inaugural Masters Tournament served as head golf professional from 1946 to 1963. The tradition and heritage that was established in those years has been preserved through a diversified membership that continues to carry forward those venerable traditions.

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We saw a lot of changes in 2012, from the belly putter ban to the remodeling of the revered Old Course at St. Andrews. I am confident that the motivation behind all changes is for "the good of the game." But, I do ponder the question of "where does golf draw the line with regard to change?"

Golf is a traditional game with a history of over four hundred years. Even the formalized game of golf can be traced back over two centuries when the rules

of golf were first created. In that year (1744), I presume there were debates about whether golf even needed rules or should it continue to be played informally as it had been since the sport's inception. And, there is clear evidence the introduced rules resulted in modifications to the ancient game, such as most golf courses standardizing to 18 holes, standardization of the hole size, and equipment regulation, among other things.

As the game progressed through the ages, there have been many changes to the sport. The ball controversy is not unique to the Pro VI. The feathery ball was replaced by the gutta-percha, which caused uproar at the same place that is now the center of change controversy, St. Andrews. The Haskell ball, which again caused outrage and created significant changes to the game, subsequently superseded the gutta-percha. Balata balls also created consequences to golf in the post WWII era. Argument and change is nothing new to golf.

The USGA and the R&A have both understood their role to protect the integrity of the game, and to this end have implemented rules to stem change from going too far. Decades ago the constraint on change was technology itself. Golf equipment makers could only do so much. Now, if desired, the golf ball could be made to fly distances once thought impossible. So, where do we draw the line when regulating change?

A common question is, "Why not make golf easier so more people will want to play the game?" This is a fair question, but a faulty assumption. People don't necessarily want to play games that are considered easy, even if they themselves cannot master the game. It is an odd thing, but many people are not attracted to a sport that seems "masterable". The recently retired USGA Senior Technical Advisor Dick Rugge described bowling as an example. Bowling over the years, due to changes in bowling lane and ball technology, had become easier for the professional. Perfect games of three hundred, which were once a rarity, had become more common. And, with this trend of perfection by the pro, came a decreased interest in bowling by regular folk. Even though most people could not bowl a perfect game, they felt the game had become more "masterable", and interest waned. As the USGA was dealing with the issues of ball flight in golf, they were aware of these type trends in other sports.

On the other side of the coin are people that believe nothing should change in golf, which is also a faulty strategy. All sports have evolved over time. Therefore, to keep golf relevant in modern society, it also must adjust. My previous article describes the changing family dynamic as an impetus toward the creation of unique and alternative golf facilities. Golf cannot rigidly sit in the traditional trenches. Baseball, football and

## CHANGE


basketball have all changed their rules in order to keep their sport entertaining and desirable to larger and modern audiences.

The tension over change in golf is now being stretched over the globe. The changes being proposed at St. Andrews have many traditionalists up in arms. At the same time, there is a proposed project in China, which would include mini-golf-style hazards, including a giant panda bear, replica Mayan ruins and man-made gale-force winds. My colleague and architect for the project, Brian Curley, assumes "traditionalists will probably hate it".

So, where is the balance between progress and tradition in golf? I don't have an answer, but I have opinions. (which I often share in other forums.) Both the traditional and the contemporary views on golf need to be understood and evaluated. No idea should be dismissed as being simply non-traditional or too historically deferential. For the good of the game, I believe we need to have impassioned people in both camps. The traditionalists will keep the game infused with the history and legacy of the sport. And, the modernists will continue to ensure golf stays relevant and entertaining to contemporary society. As long as there is a fair tussle between these divergent philosophies, golf will sustain.....at least through 2013.

Happy New Year.

*Paul Albanese, ASGCA is a principal with Albanese & Lutzke, Golf Course Architects/Construction Managers. They have an office in Plymouth, Michigan and are currently working in seven countries on small and large projects.*




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## A FULL ROUND



# DAN LUCAS

Dan Lucas started in the Golf Industry as a caddy at Kalamazoo Country Club for three summers in high school. After registering for the Turf Program at MSU, he joined the crew at Gull Lake Country Club. Dan is a 1982 graduate of the Two-Year Turf Management program at MSU. After Graduation he went to work for Ted Woehrle at Oakland Hills Country Club for two years, and then moved north as a construction foreman at Grand Traverse Resort under Jon Scott preparing for the opening of the Bear. From there he went on to Superintendent jobs at Twin Birch in Kalkaska, Mistwood in Lake Ann and finally the Kingsley Club in November of 1998. Dan has been married to his wife Petra for 27 years. They have two children a daughter Courtney 23 and son Ethan 21.

## WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME?

I believe it is ruining the game by driving costs up and emphasizing looks over playability. In today's economy we need to emphasize how much more it costs to keep things perfect. Most courses are counting their pennies and it costs money to maintain that flawless, emerald green sward. Also greener grass is not necessarily healthier. Many courses are trying to protect every blade of grass. I believe it is better to "thin the herd" by allowing some diseases to work on the weaker plants before using controls. This way the weaker plants are killed off resulting in a tougher, more resilient turf that is way more resistant to stresses.

## WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Controlling irrigation

## WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

I have a great crew. They make my wishes reality almost painlessly

## WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Water and thatch control.

## HOW DO YOU CONTROL THESE AT THE KINGSLEY CLUB?

We do a lot of verticutting and topdressing with one aerification per year. We use soil probes to help monitor soil moisture. Most diseases are favored by the presence of abundant moisture and organic matter. By controlling them you minimize the need for chemical control. I feel there is way too much emphasis in our industry, from the University level on down to the Superintendent, on chemical control first without addressing the root cause of the disease which is overwatered thatch.

## WHAT TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM DO YOU HAVE AND APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY IRRIGATION HEADS?

Toro Site Pro with 1200 heads.

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

Verticutting

## HOW OFTEN DO YOU VERTICUT?

We verticut in 2 directions from 1-4 times a month depending on growth and weather patterns.



### WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

My Wife, she is very organized and very focused on our family as well as working full time. She is the one who holds our family together. When any one of us needs something, we know she is two steps ahead taking care of us.

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

Disease control by limiting water and thatch

### WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS?

Career advancement is exponentially more difficult now than when I started in the business.

### WHEN YOU ENTERED THE BUSINESS HOW LONG WERE YOU EXPECTING TO BE AN ASSISTANT? OR WERE YOU A SUPERINTENDENT RIGHT OUT OF MSU?

After college I spent 3 years on crews and 1 as an Assistant before I got my first Supt. job. Michigan alone was opening 10-15 NEW golf courses every year so jobs were plentiful. Now we lose a few courses every year, there are more schools nationally pumping out Turf professionals and every decent Superintendent job that comes open has 100 plus applicants.

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

If you don't love what you do, find something else to do.

### WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?

Speed of play. Way too many golfers with "routines" pretending they're playing for Tour money. Golf should be fun, not a 5 hour + grind.

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

Cypress Point, National Golf Links, Royal County Down, Royal Dornoch

### WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

Hopefully retired, finding out what it's like to travel during the summer. Till now, all our vacations have been south because they are in my off-season. I would love to see the American west and the northeast. As well as more of Europe.

### WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEW SUPERINTENDENT?

Learn everything mechanical that you can. My first Supt. job was at a small 9 hole course with nothing but old, abused equipment. Nobody was going to fix it if I didn't. I had worked with some good mechanics and had tried to help them whenever I could so I knew some basics. There I learned by trial and errors, but I learned. Since then I have hired several mechanics but none were trained golf course mechanics. I taught them all the basics of golf equipment especially reel maintenance. I have always asked my assistants to help the mechanics whenever possible. It really helps both mechanic and assistant to work together and understand the problems and time frame involved in different repairs and prep work. It really changes the relationships when you forge that level of mutual respect.



## 5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT DAN LUCAS

1. I'VE BEEN SUPERINTENDENT AT 3 DIFFERENT COURSES WHILE LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE FOR 23 YEARS.
2. I'VE CONTINUED TO SUPPORT MSU THROUGH TUITION MONEY. MY DAUGHTER IS A FEW CREDITS FROM A PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE. MY SON IS A DRUMMER WITH A JAZZ MAJOR.
3. I'VE HAD 13 (THAT I CAN REMEMBER) CREW MEMBERS THAT WENT ON TO BECOME SUPERINTENDENTS.
4. I READ A LOT IN THE WINTER. LOUIS L'AMOUR IS MY FAVORITE AUTHOR.
5. I'VE HAD ONE HOLE-IN-ONE. IT HAPPENED ON THE 20TH HOLE OF A MATCH PLAY GAME WITH A FELLOW EMPLOYEE ON THE 2ND HOLE AT MISTWOOD ENDING THE MATCH.



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## MICHIGAN STATE TURF CLUB PRESIDENT NAMED VICKERS SCHOLAR

Michigan State University student Rodney Crouse has been selected as the 2012 Vickers Scholarship winner among 14 students earning 2012-13 scholarships from the Trans-Mississippi Golf Association. Crouse, 31, will receive a \$7,500 scholarship as he completes his golf turfgrass education in March. He also receives a bronze sculpture of Old Tom Morris and other gifts from the Trans-Miss.

"The monetary support is crucial for me, but the recognition from such a prestigious organization I could never put a dollar amount on," said Crouse, a North Carolina native now living in Lansing, Mich. "It's such an honor to win an award from an organization that has been doing this as long as they have and helped so many people. Like I tell my wife every day, I can't believe that they chose me to win this award."

Crouse has a 3.9375 GPA in Michigan State's highly regarded turf program and currently serves as president of the MSU Turf Club. He has worked on the maintenance staffs at Roaring Gap (N.C.) Golf Club and Forest Akers Golf Course in Lansing, Mich., and interned at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, Fla. Crouse served as a volunteer on the maintenance staff at The Players Championship in May.

"Rodney Crouse has come to the program at Michigan State University and made the absolute most of the situation," says John N. Rogers III, turf professor and Crouse's academic advisor at MSU. "He has strived to become a leader, and has displayed this leadership attribute every day by putting the group ahead of his personal needs. It has been quite impressive and will serve him well."

Crouse, who was on the Michigan State President's List last spring, also earned a Jacobsen Turf Scholarship and the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America Award.

Eight students were selected for \$3,000 Trans scholarships including Rodney's classmate Alex Lincoln.



*Dr. Trey Rogers and Rodney Crouse*

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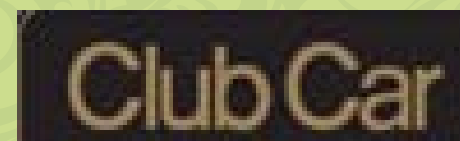




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## MIGCSA MEMBERS DONATE MORE THAN 100 TOYS TO THE TOYS FOR TOTS FOUNDATION

At the three MiGCSA Holiday parties in December the MiGCSA asked our Members to bring a toy to donate to the Toys for Tots Foundation. The first two events were held on December 7th, one at The River Rock Bar & Grill in Holly. Special thanks to Jim Naugler for taking care of all of the details and planning this event. The second event was also held the same day in the Western District at The Score in Grand Rapids. Thank you to Steve Tedhams, CGCS and MiGCSA Board Member Jeff Holmes, CGCS for the planning and toy collection at this event. The final party was held on the 14th of December at The Moose Preserve in Bloomfield Hills. MiGCSA Board Member Dave Pawluk, CGCS helped to plan and collect for this event. Thank you to the more than 100 members who attended these events and made a child's Christmas a bit brighter by dropping off a toy. The MiGCSA plans to do this again next year so please stay tuned to [www.migcsa.org](http://www.migcsa.org) this fall to see where the parties will be in 2013.



Packing up the toys at The Score.





# THE 2012 BIG EVENT

The annual Big Event Fundraiser lived up to its name this year at Birmingham Country Club. Golf Course Superintendent, and Detroit District Committee member Dan Dingman, Assistant Superintendent Victor Morales-Rios had the course in perfect condition. A special thank you to General Manager Joe Basso and Assistant General Manager Henry Amaya for the incredible attention to detail in the planning and production of this event. Golf Professional Mike McGonigal and his staff were fantastic from the minute we walked in the door until we left that evening. Chef Louis Sharkas, Kelly Tilma, Catering Director, and Gordon Lacy, Logistics Manager are to thank for the amazing Filet Mignon dinner and the much talked about taco bar at the turn.

These events would not be successful without the support of our 2012 Premiere Foundation Sponsors, they sponsored all of the closest to the pins and long drive holes. Thank you to Jerry Husemann with BASF, Mike Hirvela with Bayer, Derek Carroll owner of FIP Irrigation, Bob and Tom Reed with Tri-Turf, Scott Trbovich with Syngenta and Matt & Gordie LaFontaine with LaFontaine Automotive. There were three Hole Sponsors for this event, Barry Beard with Jacobsen, Terry Kerkstra & Scott Inman with V.B. Controls, and Ron Bently & Eric Cowan with J.W. Turf. The 50/50 raffle was conducted by J.W. Turf and helped to raise \$190 for the Foundation. The 50/50 putting contest was won by A.J. Plaskey of Osborn Industries who took home ½ of the \$460 pot. A very special thank you to John Gray of Stonycroft Hills Club who brought the putting contest volunteer Lori, she did a great job with the contest. And MSU Turf Club Vice President Paul Jacobs gave out ½ of the Club 50/50 drawing of \$122. There was a poker game thanks to Residex and Sue Shockey, the winning hand was four 2's and was won by the team of Terry Traynor, Jeff Kovich, Dave McKee and Tim Harmon. Todd Griebbe, owner of Residex also donated an additional \$250 to the Foundation. There were three on course Beverage Sponsors, thank to Deep Roots Aerification Service, Osborn Industries and Mike's Tree Surgeons.

The prizes for the golf event went out for the four closest to the pins, and two long drives. There were also prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the scramble format. The closest to the pins were won by Jim Smartt on #3, Don Knop on #7, John Hodges on #11 and Gary Johnson on #15. Both long drives were won by Jarred Barley on holes #1 and #14. In the overall scramble the 3rd place team was Scott Sabgash, Gary Brookshire, Lom Pounthana and Gene Bone. Second place was the team of Mike Plague, Dave Pawluk, CGCS, Jim Smartt and Gary Johnson. And the winning team of the 2012 Big Event was Charles Gaige, Doug Rusiecki, Gary Hodges and Jarred Barley this team also won the only skin worth \$520 with an Eagle 3 on hole #14.

Funds raised from this event are used for many things including Student Scholarships, Heritage Scholarships, Wee One support in matching member donations, and the largest beneficiary of these events is the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.



*The winning team Charles Gaige, Doug Rusiecki, Gary Hodges and Jarred Barley.*



*Host Superintendent Dan Dingman's group of John Cooney, CGCS, MiGCSA Secretary/Treasurer Gregg Matthews, and Dr. Trey Rogers.*



*MTF President and GCSAA Board Candidate John Fulling, CGCS addresses the attendees.*



## MR. CARL SCHWARTZKOPF DONATES TURF LAB TO HANCOCK CENTER

Michigan State University with donations made available by the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF) and Mr. Carl Schwartzkopf dedicated an addition to the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center in East Lansing on Friday December 7th.

A new position has also been added which allows MSU to have a molecular biologist, Dr. Emily Merewitz, at the facility and conducting research at the turf diagnostics lab. Dr. Merewitz will begin her appointment at MSU on August 16. Dr. Merewitz received her PhD from the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in 2012. Previously, in 2005 she earned two Bachelor of Science degrees from Rutgers University in Plant Science and Plant Biotechnology. This expansion is a turf diagnostics lab that will affect the future of turfgrass science and will help turf managers around the world. With this expansion of the lab new and much needed equipment will be purchased for the expansion and other area of the world

*The MTF Board with Mr. Schwartzkopf.*

renowned facility just south of the MSU campus.

Over 35 were in attendance on Friday including MTF President and GCSAA Board Candidate John Fulling, CGCS, MTF Executive Director Gordie LaFontaine, representatives from the University including Dr. Doug Buhler, the Dean of the College of Agriculture, Dr. Joe Vargas, Dr. Trey Rogers, Dr. Jim Kells, and Dr. Emily Merewitz. Jay Eccleton, CGCS President of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association as well as Greg Lyman and John Miller from GCSAA.



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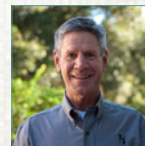
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## THE MIGCSA AT THE GIS



2013 GCSAA Director John Fulling, CGCS

The MiGCSA had a lot on the plate at the 2013 Golf Industry Show in San Diego. Two of the main events for the Chapter and our Members were the Michigan Gathering in Wednesday the 6th at Busters Beach House and the 2013 GCSAA Annual Meeting. This year the GCSAA Annual Meeting included the election of

three new directors, MiGCSA Past President John Fulling, CGCS was running for one of these open spots for the first time this year.

Wednesday the party got under way at 8:00 at Busters Beach House. Busters is just a short walk down the bay from the San Diego Convention

Center. Over 80 MiGCSA Members and friends were signed up to attend, and by 9:00 the room was close to capacity at over 100. There were some fantastic appetizers compliments of our 2012 Industry Partners. It was a great evening for friends old and new to catch up while in San Diego. Stay tuned for the site in Orlando for next year's show.

On Thursday afternoon the 2013 GCSAA Annual Meeting was held. This marked the end of a fantastic year as President for Sandy Queen, CGCS and the beginning of a new one for Pat Finlen, CGCS to



Over 100 Members attended the 2013 Michigan Gathering in San Diego.



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take the helm. Pat Finlen, CGCS and GCSAA Vice President Keith Ihms, CGCS were both voted in by unanimous vote. The race for Secretary/Treasurer was between Pete Grass, CGCS and John O'Keefe, CGCS the vote was in favor of John O'Keefe, CGCS who will be the new GCSAA Secretary/Treasurer. This was the end of the term for Pete Grass so he was nominated from the floor to run again. Darren Davis, CGCS new director from last year was also up for re-election after his one year term. John was running as a new director against John Walker from Texas and Mark Jordan, CGCS from Ohio. As is usual the two incumbents won their spots handily, Darren had and Pete had had the most votes. So the real race was between John, Mark and John Walker for the remaining open spot. John took had the most votes of the three, Mark took the second most and John Walker ended up with the least in a very close vote for three great candidates. With this John won a board position on his first attempt to the 2013 GCSAA Board of Directors. Congratulations to the new GCSAA Board Members, the Board and Members of the MiGCSA are very proud to see John representing us at the National level.







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# DAVID SOMERS

## EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN AT AG-A-MING GOLF RESORT

*David Somers is the Equipment Technician at Ag-A-Ming Golf Resort in Kewadin. David is not married at present, but he has been in a relationship for the last 12 years with a wonderful lady named Marti. He has a son named Joshua and has two lovely grandchildren, David and Nathaniel. David and Marti have two small puppies which fill the void of no children at home.*

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

Well I first got into the golf industry when I was 16 years old and was still in High School. I worked for Owosso Country Club during the summer of my senior year in high school, then continued on to a career in golf maintenance and worked my way up the ladder to what I've achieved today. I enjoyed playing golf and at the cost of the equipment and the cost of playing the game, working at a golf course and being able to play for free, seemed to be a good tradeoff. I have been working in the golf industry ever since. I love doing what I do, I work

### 2. WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Communication and budget. Between the Operators, Superintendents, Assistants and Owners, there seems to always be a lot of miscommunication. From what happened to the equipment, to what equipment is needed for a particular project, or how to cut costs for repairs on equipment. Being the only mechanic for a 36 hole golf facility and having two maintenance facilities on the property, the toughest job I have is knowing what equipment is operational and what needs to be repaired at the other facility.

### 3. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING EQUIPMENT MANAGERS TODAY?

Maintaining a flexible Budget and keeping informed of the ever changing specifications of emission standards, engine specifications fuels and bio-fuels, disposal of waste products and hazardous chemicals, and maintaining a facility operating within the guidelines of OSHA.

### 4. WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT PROFESSION?

Safety first, safety always. Not only in the shop area, but also having the operators being safe on the equipment. I won't send out equipment that isn't safe to the operator. The other valuable thing I've learned is to document all work performed and all parts used. Not only for the keeping of history of a particular piece of equipment, but also in case of an accident, has it helped determine the cause of the accident. I have had a few cases where documentation helps determine the outcome of a law suit.

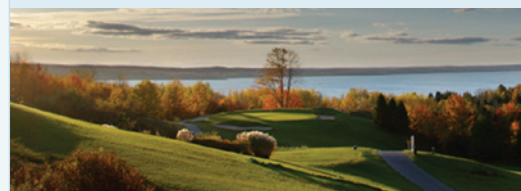
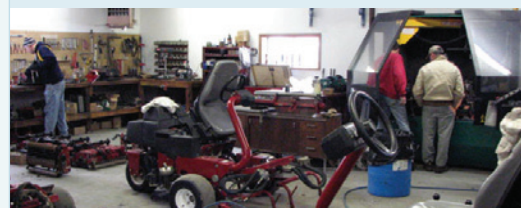
### 5. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT?

I would have to say that my service manager, Alan Clark, at Gulf Shore Turf Supply had a huge influence on my management skills along with my technical skills. Alan was not only my boss, but was a great friend in the off time from work; he helped me get on my feet while transitioning from my move down to Florida, a man I looked up to. Most of the way I do things in my shop, mirror what he drove me to learn and achieve, Alan saw more to me than I realized at the time. When I left Florida, I took all I had learned and applied it to what experience had already taught me.

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

You need to have good equipment maintenance and documentation. It doesn't matter if you are out in the field driving around in a company vehicle, or even in a shop or warehouse. You need to have not only regular maintenance, but also have preventative maintenance. Equipment managers and technicians are out in the field, we can see what changes or improvements need to be done to equipment to improve productivity. Times are changing fast for equipment nowadays, with new emission standards, bio-fuels, computer module integrated components etc. What I'm saying is, we see how the changes in the field are applied, if they work, don't work and what needs to be done to make it better and more efficient. I would say we as managers and technicians play an important role in the influences of the golf industry to present a good product to the public in today's standards.

## UNDER THE HOOD





## FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

## GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS — GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

*As this is the first communication of the year, I want to take a second to wish everyone Happy New Year. As I am writing this it is a very busy time at GCSAA Headquarters with the Conference and Show only weeks away. I will give you an update on the conference and show in the next edition. As the snow has been around for a while, I hope everyone is getting some much needed rest and time away from the golf course. After the past three seasons, golf course superintendents deserve a break. This is also a time when there is a lot of education sessions taking place and there are a lot of opportunities for superintendents to get the education they need to keep or attain their GCSAA Class A or Certified Golf Course Superintendent status. I would encourage you to take time and visit the GCSAA website and check your transcripts. You can check your renewal date and see how many credits you need to attain or maintain your status. You can also see when those credits need to be completed by and see what education sessions you have attended that are on your transcript or possibly missing. If you have problems or are missing education points please send me an email or give me a call and I will be happy to help you get them recorded.*

*With a new year will undoubtedly come new regulations out of Washington. Please know that GCSAA will be there fighting on behalf of all superintendents. We will also keep you in the know as to what to expect and what is happening in the regulatory world. We also need your help, Michigan GCSA has a great program set up where superintendents can go to the Michigan State House and meet with their Senators and Representatives. If you have never attended put the date on your calendar and make plans to attend. It is important that you let your members of congress know how the laws and regulations they pass affect you. They are surly hearing from the other side and they make decisions based on information they receive from their constituents. Please get involved, the next product taken away or hoop to jump through may just affect you!*

*The Environmental Institute for Golf needs your help too. The EIFG helps golf course superintendents by providing funds for research, education, scholarships and GCSAA programs. The money raised directly impacts GCSAA members. GCSAA is constantly soliciting industry partners and friends of golf to make a difference but it is a difficult sale when only about 12% of GCSAA members now donate to the EIFG. The amount of the donation is not at issue, it is the number of GCSAA members that donate to please take 5 minutes to donate \$5 to the EIFG today. Your donation is tax deductible and easy to do at [eifg.org](http://eifg.org). Thank you for your consideration in donating to the EIFG.*

*Best Wishes for a great upcoming season,*

*John*





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## THE BETTER HALF



# DAVID MAKULSKI

*David Makulski is the Assistant Golf Course Superintendent at Franklin Hills Country Club. He has been married to his wife Trista for 15 years after meeting in college. They have two boys, Nathan 7 and Evan 4 and a daughter, Caroline who is 2. Dave became involved in the golf business as a caddie at the Dearborn Country Club at that same time they were building the Tournament Players Club of Michigan across town. When he went to check on the possibility of caddying there and happened to wander into the maintenance facility. They informed him that it was a carts only club, but handed him an application for the grounds crew. He was in high school at the time and wasn't sure on a career choice, but after that first summer it became clear turf was for him.*

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

The continuation of Assistant specific activities such as shoptalks and the symposium at the annual conference. The information gained from these is invaluable and I encourage all superintendents to get their assistants involved.

## 2. WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA?

I am still waiting for Class C to be added to the complimentary admission list for the Masters.

## 3. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

As you start to become involved, you realize how much volunteer effort it takes to put on the quality events we all attend. Through the years, I've helped out with this effort by moderating several times at the GLTE and currently serve on the Assistants Committee with the MIGCSA.

## 4. WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Trying to keep somewhat of a work-life balance. In this business, you have to accept the fact early on that you're not going to be around much with the family during the summer holidays, and forget about summer vacations. However, you also need to learn when to be able to say enough is enough at the course. I feel I've been pretty good with this from early in my career, still it is battle that never ends.

## 5. WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Winter. The number one question I get when I tell someone what I do is 'What do you do in the winter?' Well, I do not have to manage 20 different personalities, deal with shotgun starts or sizzling greens, work weekends or 12 hour days. It is a nice change of pace.

## 6. NAME ANY THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD MAKE UP YOUR "DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM"

I never really cared much about celebrities. I think a round with my three friends Ken Debusscher, Jon Cuny and Matt Burrows would be quite entertaining.



###### 7. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED 100 YEARS FROM NOW?

Well, I think you have two ends of the spectrum. On one hand you have men like Jack Breslin and Gerald Ford. On the other hand are Capt. Joseph Hazelwood and Bernie Madoff. Somewhere in the middle is fine for me.

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

Airline Pilot, I like flying and I could sit and watch planes take off and land all day.

###### 9. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

I started in the business in 1990 and since then have worked at six different clubs. Mike Guiffre, John Nowakowski, John Kulka, Steve Kolongowski, Tim Johnson, Martin Fuchs, Steve Glossinger, Terry Poley, John Cooney, Ken DeBusscher, Rob Pylar, Phil Owen and Brian Schwehofer are all guys that I worked for who were either the Super or Assistant. I've been able to mold a philosophy through them and owe them all.

###### 10. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE MECHANIC IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE ASSISTANT?

Communication is key as it is definitely a two way street. Both positions have enough to worry about with their own responsibilities to have to deal with 'surprises' due to poor planning on the other's part. The mechanic is also an extra set of eyes and ears which I appreciate.

###### 11. DESCRIBE YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM?

We yearly recycle over 2,000 lbs. of ferrous scrap metals as well as recycle most of the cardboard and plastics generated by our department. Waste oil and antifreeze too.

###### 12. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

The 9th at Yale, you do not see greens built like that anymore.

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

I've been fortunate enough to play at a few nice clubs, but it probably is Shinnecock Hills. It was a perfect day the year prior to the U.S. Open and we were the only group on the course.

###### 14. PLEASE DESCRIBE IN DETAIL ONE TRUE FUNNY STORY FROM YOUR CAREER THAT YOU SHARE WHEN IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY.

Years ago, I and two others were fertilizing tees and we all finished at the same hilltop tee. While standing off to the side talking, a full bag of fertilizer slid off the seat and onto the accelerator on one of the Carry-alls we were using. The cart took off full speed and there was nothing we could do. To steal a line from Chris Farley in Tommy Boy, 'I swear I've seen a lot of stuff in my life, but that...was...awesome!'



## 5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT DAVID MAKULSKI

1. DISLIKE ALL KINDS OF SEAFOOD.
2. EASILY STARTLED.
3. HAVE COME TO APPRECIATE LIVE THEATRE PRODUCTIONS (THANKS TRISTA)
4. I WON THE 27-HOLE CHALLENGE AT THE 2003 GCSAA CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA. IT WAS A \$16,000 TRIP TO SPAIN.
5. DEER HUNTED FOR SIX YEARS WITHOUT EVER TAKING A SINGLE SHOT (HAVE SINCE MOVED ON TO OTHER SPORTS).





# MICHIGAN TURF CONFERENCE



Scholarship Committee Chair Jim Bluck, Greg Pattinson, MiGCSA Student Scholarship Winner Sam Weber, Scott Pulaski, Adam Ikamas, and Ron Dahlin



John and Ali Fulling, Heritage Scholarship Winner.



MTF President John Fulling, MSU President Lou Anna Simon, MiGCSA President Greg Pattinson, and MiGCSA Executive Director Adam Ikamas

The Michigan Turf Conference came home to Lansing this year at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. This event is a joint effort from all of the allied turf Associations around Michigan, but the vast majority of the work was done by the MTF. Conference Committee Chair Brian Schwehofer and his committee did a fantastic job in planning the event with MTF Executive Secretary Rebecca Schoch.

The MiGCSA was well represented at this year's conference. Starting with our display in the lobby featuring the State Champion plaques, our 2012 Industry Partners, and Premiere Foundation Sponsors, and a slide show of all of the 2012 events in which we hosted over 1,000 attendees!

On Wednesday at the Annual MTF Celebration Luncheon the MiGCSA awarded the 2012 Scholarship winners. The two MSU Turf Student winners were Sam Weber and Dan Lusty. These two students applied for the MiGCSA Student Scholarship and were interviewed by the Scholarship Committee chaired by Jim Bluck, CGCS and made up of Scott Pulaski, Mike Rosen, and Doug Hoeh. Congratulations to the 2012 winners.

At this lunch the MiGCSA Heritage Scholars were also awarded. this scholarship is open to any dependents of MiGCSA Members in good standing pursuing a degree at a post-secondary educational institution as a full time student during the next academic year. These were also awarded by the MiGCSA Scholarship Committee based on an essay and application and a blind judging. Congratulations to Tyler Owen son of Phil Owen, CGCS, Megan Little Daughter of David Little, Ali Fulling Daughter of John Fulling, CGCS and Stephanie Holmes Daughter of Jeff Holmes, CGCS.

But the highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of a check for \$16,830.03 to Lou Anna K. Simon, President of Michigan State University written to the MTF. Since 2008 the MiGCSA has donated over \$85,000 to the MTF.

All of the funds dispersed in 2012 were from the three golf Fundraisers held last year. These Fundraisers would not be close to successful without the support of our 2012 Premiere Foundation Sponsors. Jerry Husemann and BASF, Mike Hirvela and Bayer, Scott Trbovich with Syngenta,





Jeff and Stephanie Holmes, Heritage Scholarship Winner.

Derek Carroll and FIP Irrigation, Bob and Tom Reed of Tri-Turf, and Matt LaFontaine with the LaFontaine Automotive Group. Thank you!

Thank you to Northern Fundraiser host Arcadia Bluffs and MiGCSA Members Paul Emling, Mike Nielsen, Custer Carland, Trevor Nash and Mike Sullivan. Western Golf Day at Wuskowhan Players Club, Ryan Osborne & Craig Rhule. And the 47th Annual Big Event at Birmingham Country Club, Dan Dingman, Victor Morales, & Joe Basso.



2013 MiGCSA President Greg Pattinson

## MI GCSA ANNUAL MEETING

On Wednesday, January 23rd the MiGCSA held its 5th Annual Meeting since inception in 2008. This year the meeting was well attended to vote in the 2013 slate of candidates. The slate for officers consisted of Greg Pattinson, Superintendent at Indianwood Country Club for President, Gregg Matthews, Superintendent at Tam-O-Shanter Country Club for Vice President, Jeff Holmes, CGCS for Secretary/Treasurer. All three were voted in unanimously by voice vote. Jim Bluck, CGCS and Eric Rank were also up for re-election to their respective director positions, and were also voted in unanimously.

Also up for vote was a proposal to increase dues to \$100 for all Class A, SM, and AFF members starting with the 2014 dues cycle. This vote was started by online survey and passed with a margin of 55 yes votes to 16 no, with no votes being cast at the meeting. Starting in the fall of 2013 dues for these members will increase to \$100.

The financial reports are as follows. The MiGCSA had a net loss of \$768.01, and the Foundation took in \$63,933.05 in 2012 and had expenses of \$63,933.05, with \$30,330.03 in total donations to the MTF, Wee One, EIFG, and Scholarships. If you would like a full financial report please visit [www.migcsa.org](http://www.migcsa.org) or email us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org).





# A CALL FROM CAMPUS

## IRRIGATION AND STRESS PHYSIOLOGY RESEARCH FOR 2013

By Dr. Emily Merewitz and Dr. Kevin W. Frank


The research grant "Effects of drought and traffic stresses on physiological responses and water use characteristics of creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*)" was recently selected for funding by GCSAA's Environmental Institute for Golf for 2013-2014.

### Introduction

A significant amount of research has been devoted to understanding the interaction of the two predominant turfgrass species on golf course greens, creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua*. Much research has been tailored to identifying the faults of *P. annua* in order to kill the species by targeting its physiological weaknesses. From research using the perspective that *P. annua* is a weed, it has been determined that the weaknesses of *P. annua* include being sensitive to numerous abiotic, biotic, and management stresses. *P. annua* relies on aggressive growth and frequent seedhead production and highly viable, quick germinating seed for survival under both optimal conditions and during times of stress. Under stressed conditions, golf course superintendents do not desire the characteristics inherent to *P. annua* stress escape strategies such as prolific seed heads. During stresses such as heat and drought stress, *P. annua* viability is significantly reduced.

The physiological cause of the poor stress tolerance of such a widespread, viable plant is largely unknown. In a recent review, it has been characterized as a "ubiquitous and enigmatic plant species" (Mao and Huff, 2012). Preliminary research at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center (HTRC) at Michigan State University in the summer of 2012 found that the water use rates and rates of surface drying were significantly different for *P. annua* and bentgrass greens maintained under the same conditions. During July and August at the HTRC, *P. annua* greens required greater amounts of irrigation than creeping bentgrass greens to maintain adequate soil moisture and prevent turfgrass stress. Researchers also observed a significant difference in rooting depth between the two species. Under drought stress conditions, the lack of deep roots is often cited as a primary cause of the susceptibility of *P. annua* to drought stress symptoms.

The cause of poor rooting is still largely unknown. With this research we aim to determine if differential hormone production may be a significant cause of differential decline of *P. annua* and creeping bentgrass to soil moisture/drought and traffic stress conditions. In addition to improving our understanding of the drought response, differential hormone accumulation, particularly ethylene, may be a valuable indicator of differential organic matter accumulation and tolerance of other stresses such as traffic. Greater organic matter accumulation increases moisture holding capacity at the soil surface. Since *P. annua* primarily has surface roots, this is advantageous to its survival under drought conditions. Whereas other turfgrass species, such as creeping bentgrass may have a relatively deeper root system and are able to extract water





from deeper in the soil profile. Thus, management strategies may be a major factor in determining differences in stress tolerance between the two species.

The goals of this research are to understand water use characteristics and hormonal fluctuations in response to soil moisture stress and varied levels of traffic stress in both species. Creeping bentgrass is cited to generally be more tolerant of stresses than *P. annua* however it is still relatively drought sensitive compared to other turfgrasses. During times of drought stress, golf course traffic due to golf play still occurs even when turf is under duress. Research on the effects of traffic and drought stress simultaneously is lacking. Traffic stress can cause great damage alone, but when combined with drought stress may severely damage turf, as the cells are in a weakened state.

### Research Objectives

The objectives of the research are to evaluate physiological responses and water use of creeping bentgrass and *P. annua* to different volumetric soil moisture contents (8, 12, and 16%) and traffic to detect whether there are significant differences in water use characteristics, water use efficiencies, rooting, and hormone production.

### Research Site and Methodology

The research will be conducted at the HTRC on the 24,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> irrigation putting green that was built in 2008 according to the United States Golf Association recommendations for putting green construction. Within the entire putting green there are eighteen, 36 ft. by 36 ft., blocks with independent irrigation control. Nine of the irrigation blocks are *Poa annua* and nine are A4 creeping bentgrass. Thanks to a significant donation by Rain Bird, eighteen Rain Bird TSM-I soil sensors were installed at a 3 inch depth within each irrigation block in the summer of 2012. Using the Rain Bird Integrated Sensor System (ISS), three different volumetric soil moisture targets will be set (8, 12, and 16%). The irrigation system will automatically schedule irrigation to maintain these soil moisture levels by recording soil moisture levels every 20 minutes and adjusting irrigation rates for nightly irrigation cycles to maintain the soil moisture targets. The TSM-I soil sensors also record soil temperature and salinity. A Spectrum Technologies Fieldscout TDR 300 will also be used to measure volumetric soil moisture content in the rootzone at two depths, surface to 2 inches, and surface to 4 inches. Strip plots (16 x 36 ft) of low and moderate traffic stress will be imparted to each irrigation block.

### Benefits to Golf Course Superintendents

This research will directly benefit golf course superintendents by understanding why *P. annua* may edge out creeping bentgrass and vice versa under stress conditions. In addition, this research will directly benefit superintendents that have resolved to maintain the *P. annua* or those that want to get rid of it by providing them with a understanding of the physiological response to soil moisture deficit within and between the two species. For those that will manage the *P. annua* there is a lack of adequate understanding of how this species responds to drought and other stresses. Methods to improve the drought tolerance of this species would be extremely beneficial in various future applications. Creeping bentgrass is more tolerant of stresses than *P. annua*, but it is also relatively stress sensitive compared to most other plant species and other grasses. In addition to the benefits of understanding the physiological response differences between the two species, this research will also improve the understanding of how in-situ soil moisture sensors can be used to automatically schedule irrigation to maintain a target volumetric soil moisture and quantify water use.



## ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

As we close the book on year five of the MiGCSA I feel we have reached a cruising altitude. I have to admit that during those five years there was some turbulence and possibly some engine failures that put us into a stall that brought us closer to the ground than we ever imagined. But you cannot succeed without some failure, and learning from your mistakes is one of the finest ways to progress. Combining four chapters into one was a first of its kind undertaking, a grand experiment that has worked out to the benefit of all of our members. As with all new ventures diverting from the status quo there was opposition and doubt, and for good reason no one had done this before and everything seemed to be working well at the time. As we stand today we have over 700 members and are one of the largest chapters in the country. The MiGCSA and our Members are seen as leaders and have created a road map that is being looked at by many other GCSAA Chapters. On a personal note I have to say it was a big risk for my family and I when we decided to leave the security of Crystal Mountain as the Golf Course Superintendent to take on the MiGCSA as my full time position. At the time there was only a scattered financial history with no guarantee of future success. But sometimes you have to have a little faith, and I did. Faith that the Board of Directors had a clear vision for the future, faith that our Members would continue to support our Chapter, faith that the support from our Industry Partners would continue to fuel our success. I know I could not be happier with my decision, and I hope that our members feel the same way.

This faith in the success of the MiGCSA has grown even stronger now as my wife Laura and I welcomed our first child into the world on December 17th. Adalyn Grace Ikamas was born at 11:01 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City via emergency C Section. It was by far the scariest 20 minutes of my life when the calm and somewhat serene hospital room rapidly filled with nurses and doctors. The amazing team work of the staff at Munson had my wife into the operating room and me standing in an empty hospital room struggling with a set of scrubs in a matter of minutes. During contractions the baby's heart rate was dropping to extremely low levels which prompted the swift action to a C section delivery. One of the most amazing sounds I have ever heard was the extremely loud cry Adalyn let out within seconds of coming out. Her umbilical cord was wrapped around her neck and body causing the heart rate drop with the compression from each contraction. Everyone is now home and healthy; I am extremely blessed to have such a great family and the professional satisfaction of serving the Members of the MiGCSA on a daily basis.

Please remember that is what we are here for, to serve you and the profession to the best of our abilities. The Board and I are always open to new ideas for our chapter to continue to succeed. You will see the 2013 event calendar is inserted into this issue; these are all subject to change so keep an eye on our website for the most up to date details. The coming year is sure to bring challenges on the course and in all aspects of our lives, but have faith, learn from and embrace our mistakes and let's all have a happy new year and a great 2013.

*Adam Ikamas*

Adam Ikamas, CGCS  
MiGCSA Executive Director





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