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INDIANWOOD GOLF &
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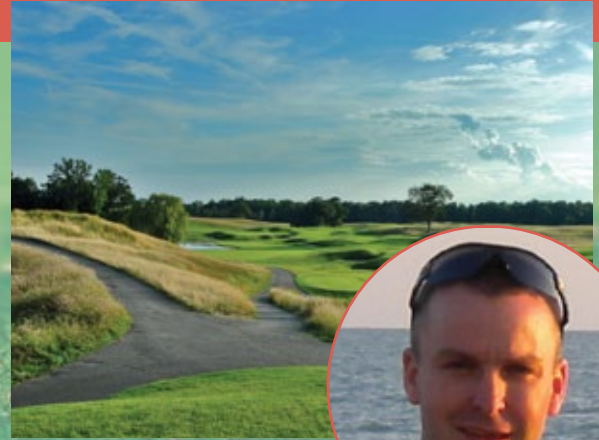
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Greg Pattinson,
Superintendent,
Indianwood Country Club



Chris Boyce,
Equipment Technician,
Wuskowhan Players Club



Kevin Risch,
Assistant Superintendent,
Saginaw Country Club



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MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 05/08/13

| | CURRENT MEMBERSHIP | SPRING 2012 MEMBERSHIP |
|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Class AA | 29 | 27 |
| Class A | 251 | 240 |
| Class SM | 76 | 75 |
| Class C | 107 | 99 |
| Class D | 43 | 39 |
| Class E | 17 | 20 |
| Class AFF | 163 | 159 |
| Class H | 25 | 23 |
| Class SA | 33 | 21 |
| Class R | 10 | 9 |
| Class I | 1 | 4 |
| TOTAL | 755 | 716 |

Please log in to your account at www.migcsa.org to renew your membership for 2013. If you are unsure of your status contact us at info@migcsa.org or 1-888-3-MiGCSA.



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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



GREG PATTINSON

I would like to thank you for electing me as president of the MiGCSA. It is truly an honor to represent all the turf professionals in our chapter. We have one of the best chapters in the country and are routinely used as a sounding board for other GCSAA chapters. We are regarded as a leader because of the members that have served in years past on our chapter boards as well as our national association. I can not thank these individuals enough for making a commitment to serve as a volunteer and put the time and effort forth to make our profession stronger and more unified. I can also assure you that the current leaders are working closely with the GCSAA to help grow not only our chapter but our profession and the industry as a whole.

Nine years ago I joined the Mid-Michigan board of directors. I didn't really know what I was doing or why I was doing it but I looked at the opportunity to network and help the chapter. I knew most of the board from attending meetings and events and felt that it was my time to pitch in.

The next year I was asked to be a representative on a committee that was looking to merge the four chapters in our state. During this time I had the opportunity to meet so many great people with great ideas. The committee worked for over two years on providing the best possible product to take to our members. We tried to think of every possible pro and con of merging the chapters and trust me there were some heated discussions and lots of great opinions of what to do. Ultimately we worked together to create the product that you see before you today. We have made mistakes and we have made some great decisions together.

I urge every member to be involved in the chapter. It can be by serving as a director, on a committee, or just simply by attending one of our many great meetings and educational events. We are a continual work in progress and are open to every suggestion that is brought to us. This is why we send out annual surveys to all of our members so we know we are heading in the right direction. We work closely with our industry and allied partners to provide value to them as well as our members. We are financially stable and continue to look at new revenue sources to help fund our chapter and provide us with more money to continue to give to the MTF as well as student scholarships. This is a great association and I ask that you take advantage of the work that has gone into creating it.

Look for our MiGCSA ad in the GAM Links Course Directory that conveys our message to the general public of who we are. We were able to do this with funding from the GCSAA chapter outreach grant program designed to help promote the superintendent to the public.

As I finish my first president's message, the weather has taken a turn for the better and some of the courses in the state have begun to open to play. It is an exciting time of year, all the work and planning of the winter will now be put into use. The grass will begin to turn green and soon we will have the first mow of the year and that unmistakable smell of fresh cut turf will fill the air. Golfers will begin to fill the course and before you know it you will be blowing out the irrigation systems and spraying for snow mold. Enjoy the season at work and enjoy your time with your families, it always seems to go that fast. Take a step back and take a look at your work and your lives, soak it in and be proud of all that you do.

Enjoying the start of a new season,

Greg Pattinson



WATER, THE WHAT WHY AND WHEN

Water Use and Restrictions

By: Eric Rank, Chickaming Country Club, Lakeside

Chikaming Country Club is located a quarter of a mile from Lake Michigan between the small, lakeside towns of Bridgman and New Buffalo. When people hear where we are located many of them assume we have an unlimited water source. This is couldn't be further from the truth.

Our only source of water for irrigation is by rainfall or snow melt. The extensive drainage system that snakes through our heavy clay soils collects water and dumps it into our 6 ponds on the course. Eventually, this water works its way to our entrance pond where we have a transfer pump that moves the water up to our irrigation reservoir. The entrance pond is our last opportunity to utilize our onsite water, for, after it goes over the overflow it quickly flows into Lake Michigan.

I am often asked, "Why don't you drill a well?" Well, we have had a number of test wells bored on the site with no success. Not at least anything close to what we would need to meet our watering needs. The most successful well only showed signs of supplying 25-30 gallons per minute.

Fortunately, as mentioned before, we are mostly clay and we don't require as much water as a sandy course. But, when summers like 2012 occur we are forced to buy water from our local township. This issue was made worse by the water restrictions the township placed on us due to the high demand for water from the nearby residents at that time of the year. At times we were getting 30,000 gallons a day and we were putting out in the form of over-head irrigation or hand-watering 350,000 over a 24 hour period. Eventually, the rains came in early August and we were able to limp through the remainder of the year.



Planning for water use in the future has been a topic of discussion for us, as you can imagine. After this past year we revisited the idea of deepening our 5 acre reservoir. This was last done in 2009 and the end result was a 30% increase in usable water. Presently, the columns of our vertical turbine pumps are maxed out for depth. We pump out of a wet well which is directly under our pumphouse and any deepening of the reservoir would require a lengthening of our pump columns. This in turn would force us to move or rebuild our pumphouse.

We have also discussed using soil sensors to help more accurately control the amount of water we place on the turf. Obviously, this is a sizable cost, but definitely a justifiable option when considering a potential water savings with sensors versus buying water from our township. Currently, we use a portable soil moisture probe to tell us the VWC (volumetric water content) in our soils. We will most likely buy another one this year to expand our capabilities.

Soil Sensors

By: Mark Ostrander, Superintendent at The Moors Golf Club, Kalamazoo

We have used the Turf Guard moisture sensor at The Moors for the past several years. I was skeptical at first but decided to try one for a season. My primary concern was that the sensor was placed in a stationary location rather than having the ability to check multiple locations. What I found was that this exact concern was what I appreciated the most about the sensor.

I placed the sensor in an average green in the middle of the golf course. I monitored the information daily at first and then it became more frequent as I determined the value of the information provided. The sensor can't tell me what is going on all over the golf course, however, it can tell me what the conditions of that day are doing to the greens all over the course. All of the information is provided to you on a real time graph that can be accessed from any internet connection whether it was from your office, phone, or home. This graphed information can then help you determine at what point your greens are going to wilt. Have you ever driven around your course for two hours late on a sunny afternoon wondering when your greens were going to wilt and they never did? This graph can help you predict that exact scenario based on that day's conditions and the trends over the past couple of days. The graph also stores all past data for you so you can access any date since you have owned the sensor.

The graph also makes nighttime watering less of a guess. We made a spreadsheet based on what percentage moisture we had going into the nighttime watering, the percentage we planned on irrigating that evening, and the resulting moisture percentage the next morning. The goal was always to provide enough water so that the greens would make it until late in the afternoon the next day without wilting or overwatering. This optimizes the firmness and health while still providing enough moisture to avoid drought stress. Through trial and error and the use of a spreadsheet, we were able to increase our irrigation efficiency and reduce the number of hours of hand watering.

On more than one occasion, I have checked the graph first thing in the morning to find out that the moisture level had not increased as much as predicted. This gave me an opportunity to run additional minutes on the greens or be

aware that we were going to have wilt earlier in the day. This has saved me aggravation and many hours behind a hose.

Last year, we purchased an additional sensor for a fairway. We found that there was far less of a pattern or predictability with the fairway sensor. What we did find was running a single cycle of water on the fairway was not as successful at providing moisture. However, a double cycle with the same net time, increased the moisture sensor following the second watering. In other words, running two cycles for five minutes per cycle was more effective than one ten minute cycle. An additional observation was the moisture loss and gain is much less drastic on a daily basis than greens. This made it easier to determine when we needed to begin watering again following a rain event.

In summary, I use the sensors as another tool to make informed decisions. In my opinion, nothing will replace the act of being on the surfaces to obtain the information. However, in today's age of reduced labor, we have found the sensor to be an extremely valuable tool to water more efficiently and reduce labor used for hand watering. I prefer the stationary sensor to the mobile sensor because it graphs and stores all of the information on the internet for immediate or future use. More importantly, I can see exactly what is going on with the greens even when I am not at the course.



Moisture Meters

By: Greg Zumdahl, Turf Products Specialist, Spectrum Technologies

Over the past several years, moisture meters have gone from a novelty item to a must have at every golf course. Many people have the initial notion that they “know” their course and have no need for these devices. Although, if you speak to superintendents who have operated one regularly, the typical responses are, “Best tool I’ve ever bought” or “Not sure how we managed without one.”



These meters cannot replace the education or local knowledge that has been learned along the way. Yet, they can help you to refine your management practices and help to promote a healthier turf.

Over watering can have a negative effect on plant health and creates a negative image to the public, who see golf courses as water wasters. Moisture meters allow for a golf course to more effectively and efficiently hand water certain areas, during those long summer months, when most superintendents and their staff, spend long afternoons chasing wilted turf. The use of moisture meters can help eliminate the guesswork in determining when and where to water.

The continued use of meters and sensors, can also lead to a more uniform and consistent playing surface. By using the meters extensively, one can determine a threshold moisture value to gauge, when and where exactly, to apply water. Doing this, the crew can accomplish a consistent moisture level throughout the playing surface, which makes a more uniform playing surface for the golfer.

Along with the turf being more uniform and consistent, using moisture meters can lead to disease suppression, increased rooting and a more aesthetically pleasing surface. Most turf diseases need a warm, moist environment for infection

to occur. Using meters, the superintendent can easily control the amount of moisture at the surface, thus aiding in the suppression of many detrimental diseases that might have occurred from over watering. One aspect that is often overlooked is the aesthetic value that a moisture meter can give. The goal of using moisture meters is to push the turf to the edge, yet hand water prior to the visual symptoms of wilt. Those visual symptoms of wilt can last on a putting surface for a number of days, making for an unappealing playing surface for a course's members and guests.

Moisture meters provide many benefits to the superintendent. Managers can make better decisions when it comes to irrigation budgeting, save money by watering less, promote fast and firm playing conditions, and promote a healthier plant. This is just one more tool that superintendents can use to help lessen the stress of the position.



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MEET AND GREET

On April 26th the MiGCSA Assistant's Committee held its first annual Meet and Greet event at Tam-O-Shanter Country Club in West Bloomfield, Michigan. The event started at 1:00 at the Maintenance Facility of host Superintendent and MiGCSA Vice President Gregg Matthews. The event was highlighted by cornhole games, darts, and a low country boil cooked by Assistant Superintendent and Assistant Committee Member Rodney Crouse and MiGCSA Equipment Technician Member Tom Mungons. The event was a huge success with over 50 MiGCSA members attending. A special thank you to all of our 2013 Industry Partners including Residex, Harrell's and Syngenta for some extra help with this event. We would also like to thank the Tam-O-Shanter staff for hosting the event.



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DON'T GET LOST – HAVE A GOOD MAP

"If you fail to plan, you plan to fail"
– Benjamin Franklin


This adage is more relevant today than ever as golf facilities – public, private and municipal – continue to figure out how to navigate these trying times. The operative word in that sentence is "navigate". Have you ever been driving in a new city, and not have a map, or a GPS system? There is usually a lot of wasted time, driving in circles, wrong turns, and overall frustration. At a minimum, you would have written down some directions, telling you the right way to travel. You would do something to help figure out where you want to go. It is common sense.

The same simple concept should be applied to all businesses, including the operation of a golf course. Where do you want to go? And, what is the best way to get there? Those are the two foundation questions that will create a good map or plan. The first question is easier to answer than the second. Although, it may not be as simple as it first appears. Going back to the map analogy, one will often start with a simple goal: somewhere warm in the winter. Once that general idea is determined, there are a lot of different options to choose from, all with different implications. Going to Palm Springs is not the same as going to Orlando. So, simply touting the goal of "we want to be sustainable", or "we want to grow revenue", may not be defined enough. It is imperative to be specific about where you want to go. Set tangible goals. Be realistic. Be patient.

Once you have set the goal, how to get there is a little more difficult question to answer. Does it make more sense to spend money on planet tickets for five people, or take the family vehicle on the trip? Orbitz or Travelocity? Motel or rent a house? There are usually pros and cons to different routes or paths to reach a destination. And, the key to answering the question well is to envision, analyze and compare each path. Try to develop as many alternatives as possible, and then narrow the strategies down to about two to three. Once you have a few good ideas for how to get to the goal – it is time to test them. That is an integral part of the planning process. Tough questions are to be asked. Poke holes. Going back and forth between ideas is a good thing. Revisit concepts. Revise. Refine. Revisit again. This is called iteration, and anyone that plans (or designs) will tell you that this part of the process is what makes for a cogent and cohesive final plan. (Often called a Master Plan in the design world.)

There are good maps and there are bad maps. Some get outdated, include wrong information, and are just plain hard to read. Others indicate clearly the destination; tell you best way to get there, how long it will take, and the costs involved. These maps are invaluable. A good Master Plan will enable a golf facility to reach its goals in the best manner possible. Developing, operating, managing and maintaining a golf facility is no longer like driving in the middle of the day, on an open road, with lots of signs. It is more like driving on a moonless night with one headlight in a thunderstorm. You better have a good map telling you where to go.

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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THE 2013 SPRING OPENER



MiGCSA Class A Member Ken Hunt hosted over 40 attendees on April 22nd at Pilgrims Run G.C. in Pierson. Day after day of cold wet weather leading up to the event had many worried if we would be able to gather at all. But the morning of the 22nd was beautiful for the 11:00 shotgun, 65 degrees and sunny, the course was in amazing condition considering the cool spring.

After the golf while the scores and prizes were being calculated Dr. Kevin Frank gave everyone and MSU Turf Team update on what MTF funded research is going on at the Hancock Center and answered questions from the group about current issues and thoughts on their properties. We will have a member of the MSU Turf Team speak at every event this year to help with a connection to the world class research being done at MSU and to make sure they are available for any on course issues our members may have.



After Kevin finished MiGCSA Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Holmes, CGCS thanked our valuable 2013 Industry Partners for their support of the MiGCSA and updated the group on the chapter. Jeff handed out the prizes to all the winners that day including a long drive prize won by Jim Higgs on hole #11, a closest to the pin by Jim Higgs on #4 and a closest to the pin by Jeff Holmes on hole #15. There was a skin game that every team participated in that was won by the team of Dr. Kevin Frank, Bob Borgman, John Francour and Chad Kempf. In the team scramble third place with a score of 62 went to the team of Jim Johnson, Jeff Hopkins, Al Bathum and Matthew Zick. The second place team of Jim Higgs, Chris Wilczynski, and Ted Oviatt shot 61 and the first place team of Jeff Holmes, Lee Collins, Rob Pylar and Adam Ikamas shot a 13 under score of 60.

A special thanks to Ken Hunt and his Assistant Jason Marquardt for the fantastic golf course. Thank you to PGA Professional Jeff O'Malley and his Assistant Professional Andrew for the top notch service.

A FULL ROUND



GREG PATTINSON

Greg Pattinson is the 5th President in the history of the MiGCSA and is the Superintendent at Indianwood Country Club in Lake Orion. Greg started in the golf business after seeing a flyer for caddies posted at his middle school for Warwick Hills Country Club, he started at age 11 at Warwick Hills as a caddy and continued until he was 18 he also worked in the bag room for three years. Greg inquired about working on the grounds crew when he turned 18, Phil Owen and his assistant at the time Jeff Goetz hired him and little did he know it was the start of his career. Greg graduated from MSU in 1999 and worked for Davey Golf as the Superintendent of The Captains Club until last fall. He and his wife of 10 years Chandra live in Flint with their 12 year old son Daniel.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE JOB THAT FIRST SUMMER AT WARWICK?

I enjoyed walk mowing greens. It was the first job that was taught to us when we hired in. It was always nice looking at the straight lines after you were finished, most of the time.

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

The chemistry and effects of the plant protectants that we use on the golf courses. With new technology and chemistries always coming to the market this is also the most important in our continuing education classes that we take every year.

WHAT COURSE DID YOU GO TO AFTER COLLEGE?

I worked at Oakland Hills after college. I was hired as a Second Assistant. Who was the Superintendent at Oakland Hills? Steve Cook was and still is the Superintendent at Oakland Hills. **What did you learn from Steve in the first year?** Steve taught me professionalism and how to properly portray yourself to the membership as an asset to the club.

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

I expect the MiGCSA to provide leadership and a voice to superintendents in the state of Michigan. To promote the superintendent and educate them on changes in the industry. **Where can the MiGCSA improve?** I see the most room for improvement by getting more members, and finding ways to get current and future members involved in the association.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I really do not have much spare time. I ref hockey, take my son Daniel to hockey, board work for MiGCSA, attend auto races.

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

My expectations for the GCSAA are similar to the MiGCSA but on a national level. I applaud them for the advocacy that they provide and the programs provided for education and chapter growth. **Where can the GCSAA improve?** The GCSAA can improve the most by getting new members. I don't have the perfect solution for this as I feel it is an economic issue around the country that is bringing membership down.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

Little Traverse Bay hole #1. We have a group that used to go up at the end of September and the trees were all turning colors at this point in the fall. You could see the bay in distance from the elevated tees. Just a great view.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION?

I expect the MTF to provide financial support to Universities and continue research that is pertinent to the Turf Industry. **Where can the MTF improve?** Getting more people involved in the MTF. The MTF is on the right track with the movement of the conference back to Lansing.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE THAT YOU HAVE PLAYED?

Arcadia Bluffs or Forrest Dunes. These are two courses that I look forward to playing as often as possible.

WHAT IS THE TOUGHEST GOLF COURSE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

Pinehurst #2. I played before the recent renovations; most greens are table tops and have very few pin positions. Very hard to hold greens and even harder to get a shot close to the pin. One of the few courses that I enjoyed playing even though my score was awful.

HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

The easiest to say is by being involved with the MiGCSA board of Directors for almost 8 years now. The greatest return on the profession is developing careers and bettering lives of employees by training them and providing jobs.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME?

I honestly don't give it much thought. I feel that as superintendents we strive to provide the best possible product that we can to our members and customers that play our facilities. Continuing to educate golfers as to why we do certain things and the benefits and costs is our biggest PR challenge that we face.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Times have changed and it is all about business today. No matter the facility, everyone is trying to do more or the same with less. This requires thinking outside the box and prioritizing, figuring out what you can let go and what standards have to stay high.

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

Anything that makes our jobs easier. Plants that are resistant to disease and require less water, don't grow as fast...you know the magic pill that will revolutionize the industry.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

I would have to say Phil Owen and Steve Cook. They both are great superintendents that have been at their facilities for extended periods of time. They have both taught me similar things and each has taught me specific things that have made me a much better superintendent and person.

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

I actually went to MSU to become a biology teacher. That is why I like this job so much, due to the fact that I train and teach people in a field that they know practically nothing about. One of the best rewards for me is to see an \$8 or \$9 an hour employee better themselves by moving on to college or finding a job or career that fulfills them.

WHAT IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT IS STILL BEING UTILIZED IN YOUR FLEET?

A 1990 Toro 3000 that is used to mow Mr. Aldridge's bentgrass lawn. Very nice looking piece of property.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Trying to keep a balance between work and home. I have a 45 minute drive to and from work and I value this time to get ready for the day, but also to wind down before I get home to my family.

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIGGEST ISSUE WILL BE IN THE FUTURE?

Keeping the number of golfers viable to support the industry. We need to grow the game and get more people playing at our courses.

WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS?

I see a tough road ahead. The days of movement and new course openings are gone and the superintendents at facilities are staying in their positions much longer than before. Longer stints as assistants will be the norm; they will have to be creative to set themselves apart from the rest of the superintendents vying for similar positions.

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

Be honest and accountable for your actions. If you make a mistake, learn from it and admit it.

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

Learn from your mistakes. You are going to make them and the key is to not make the same mistake twice. I enjoy thinking outside the box and trying to do new things on the golf course. Sometimes they work for the better, and sometimes not. You never know if you don't try.

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

I feel that we have some room to improve our position in the industry as a whole. In the last five years or so we have been asked to step up to the table and help promote the game and be involved in decisions that effect the game of golf with our allied partners such as the PGA, NGCOA, CMAA.

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

The assistant superintendent should be 100% in tune to the superintendent. Take direction and know how the superintendent wants things done. When I was an assistant and I faced a difficult situation I would always think how the superintendent would handle the situation or answer the question. The assistant should also be a buffer between the crew and the superintendent. It is a very difficult position but a dependable and capable assistant is one of the most important positions on staff.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE GOLF COURSE MECHANIC/TECHNICIAN?

This is one of the most important positions at any facility. The technology that is being put into equipment is changing so rapidly that it is a very skilled and technical position. The equipment technician is the behind the scenes person that makes superintendents look good and provides us with working equipment that allows our staff to complete tasks.

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

I do not believe that fast is always better. I think consistency should be the goal. Each property is different and green speed should be adjusted to the type of customer that you have at your facility.

WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

My family, especially my wife Chandra. Between our careers and our sons schedule she is able to take care of all of the little things that come up. Our parents help out as well and it is one less thing to worry about when we know things are covered.

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

Wes Bond, Dave Yates and my son Daniel.

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

We were dragging greens after aerification last year and an employee had a towel fall onto the engine of the ezgo he was driving. The towel caught fire and melted a few wires. He called the mechanic over the radio and asked if he could come out to #1 green. Of course anyone with a radio made their way to one green to see what had happened. We pushed the cart off the green and picked up the smoldering towel out of the rough. The next day when he came to work we left a fire extinguisher on the seat of his cart. He walked into the shop and four of us were staring at him, it took a minute for him to see the extinguisher sitting on the seat. We all had a good laugh and he handled the joke very well.

5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT GREG PATTINSON

1. WAS AN EVANS SCHOLAR AT MSU
2. OFFICIATE 200-300 HOCKEY GAMES PER YEAR.
3. ENJOY DIRT TRACK RACING
4. HAVE 4 GIVEN NAMES
5. WAS THE STANDARD BEARER IN THE FINAL GROUP OF THE BUICK OPEN IN 1992



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SPRING MANAGEMENT MEETINGS, 2013



Pat Jones from GCI in Detroit



Jim Bluck, CGCS at the Northern Meeting.

This year we hosted over 200 members at the three Spring Management Meetings. The first held in the Detroit District on February 25th at The Inn at St. Johns, thank you to host Superintendent and MiGCSA Board Member Dave Pawluk, CGCS. The day started off with Dr. Frank Wong of MiGCSA Platinum Partner Bayer Crop Science on Waitea Patch Control, Dr. Trey Rogers followed up with Topdressing the Good the Bad and the Ugly and before lunch Pat Jones Editorial Director and Publisher of Golf Course Industry Magazine gave everyone "A Candid Look at the State of the Golf Business". After lunch Mike McCartney from McCartney Consulting on behalf of Gold Industry Partner Residex got everyone up and motivated as he spoke about The Superintendent as Leader. And Dr. Emily Merewitz had her first stop of the three meetings to talk about the new possibilities of Turfgrass Physiology at MSU.

On March 11th the Western meeting was hosted by MiGCSA Secretary/Treasurer Jeff Holmes, CGCS at Egypt Valley C.C. in Ada. Dollar Spot Sensitivity was the first topic from Dr. Rob Golembiewski of MiGCSA Platinum Industry Partner Bayer Crop Science. Lyne Tumlinson Put the 'ME' in 'TEAM' for Success, Lyne was the director of career services for the GCSAA and Now Team Leadership Coach at Career Lift, LLC. MSU Soils Professor Dr. Jim Crum informed everyone on Topdressing the Good the Bad and the Ugly and Dr. Merewitz updated the Western group on Turfgrass Physiology at MSU.

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Education Committee Chairman Jeff Holmes, CGCS.

The final meeting was held at its traditional spot at beautiful Treetops Resort in Gaylord. Thank you host MiGCSA Members Mark Wildeman, CGCS, Doug Hoeh, Mark Frisbe, Mark Lauret, and Mike Walker. Due to weather issues in Kansas City we had to adjust the schedule a little, thank you to Dr. Rob Golembiewski for doubling his presentations to help us fill in the blanks. Dr. Rob spoke about Waitea Patch Control and Dollar Spot Control to start the day. MiGCSA Executive Director Adam Ikamas, CGCS spoke about Modern Communication for the Superintendent and the MiGCSA and Dr. Ron Calhoun of Gold Partner Residex gave everyone Ten Timely Turf Tidbits. After lunch it was Dr. Kevin Franks turn to inform the group on Topdressing the Good the Bad and the Ugly and helped us fill in the second empty hour with The Golf Industry in China. And Dr. Emily Merewitz finished her Spring Management tour with the Turfgrass Physiology at MSU information. Thank you to all who attended these meetings and a special thanks to Jeff Holmes, CGCS Education Committee chairman and his committee of Rob Pylar, Jim Bluck, CGCS, Dave Pawluk, CGCS, Dr. Ron Calhoun and Mike Rosen for putting these days together.



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CHRIS BOYCE

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN AT WUSKOWHAN PLAYERS CLUB

Chris Boyce is the Equipment Technician at Wuskowhan Players Club in West Olive. Chris has been married to his wife Michele for 23 years this September and has three children, Kelsey 20, Austin 16 and Jaymee 15. They have two dogs, Heisman an 8 year old Sheltie/Golden retriever mix and Ila a 6 year old Sheppard/Husky mix. Both dogs were rescued from the streets. He received his education from Wyoming Park High School and attended Grand Valley State for 2 ½ years

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

As a kid my grandparents lived on a golf course and I loved to play golf. When I graduated High school, my dad said "what are you going to do this summer" I said "lay around the pool" no get a job he told me, and I went to a course by my house and they hired me on the grounds staff.

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

Being a University of Michigan fan in a Spartan dominated world, It has also had its fun times too, Go Blue!

3. WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIGGEST ISSUE WILL BE IN THE FUTURE?

Frustration, I see glimpses of it from my peers. Budgets will get smaller, equipment will have to last longer, repairs go up, and our hands will get tied. I know of courses with 25 year old greens mowers.

4. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT?

My dad. He showed me at a young age that strong work ethic and courage can repair anything.

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

We are shrinking in numbers. And the cost of equipment and repairs puts us at a need not a luxury. So if we stay professional, educated and have a great work ethic, our influence in golf will be vital.

6. WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT?

The guys I work with will all tell you something different, so maybe I have too many. The biggest probably is "hi engine speeds, while coming into the shop to park equipment". Nothing positive can come from a fairway mower turning 4000 rpm's, to back it into its parking space.

7. WHAT TYPE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION DO YOU FEEL IS VALUABLE TO EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS?

Local round tables are important. Distributor sponsored classes. And manufacture training on a regional level.

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

We were having trouble with some ground squirrels on the course. So me and another guy grabbed a jug of water and would pour it down their holes and they would swim out into the jugs, where we had collected about 10 of them. We brought them back to the shop to release them across the street, but I said lets paint a couple neon yellow and let them go on the course. Hour later the superintendent said "ride with me a minute to the pump house" on our way we saw a neon ground squirrel running towards its hole and the boss said " what was that" I said "must be all the chemicals your spraying, please take me back to the shop".

UNDER THE HOOD



FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS – GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

As I write this it is late March and I look out the window and I still see piles of snow from the most recent storm, what a contrast from last year when we had seen temperatures already in the 80's by now! Rounds of golf are not even close to what they were at this time last year and it makes you wonder what type of year 2013 will be. No matter the year, hot and dry, cool and wet or something in between GCSAA will be here serving our members. Remember that whatever you need from GCSAA we are just a phone call away at 800-472-7878 or an email away at jmiller@gcsaa.org to help you. We are also just coming away from a very successful Chapter Leader and Executive Symposium that had 46 participants. These participants learned many different leadership skills and what challenges other chapters are facing and what they are doing to meet these challenges head on. There was an ample amount of networking time at the day and a half session which was capped off by a great motivational talk by John Jensen. John has worked with many Fortune 500 companies to improve their bottom line by improving their employees and helping them to better understand how they can be better leaders and in turn improve the company they work with. The Michigan Chapter was well represented by Adam Ikamas and Greg Pattinson who shared some great ideas with the rest of the group.

On April 16th, National Golf Day was held at the United States Capitol and GCSAA was there representing all of its members and meeting with members of Congress and letting them know how the decisions they make affect golf course superintendents. This is a day where all of the allied golf associations get together in Washington and discuss all of the great attributes of the game of golf with legislators. We have a seat at the table now and this helps us keep that seat and put the game of golf in a great light. Not only will key GCSAA staff members attend National Golf Day but the government relations committee will also be in attendance and be able to discuss issues with the legislators. It is a great day and is similar to the event the state of Michigan has each year. We encourage golf course superintendents to pick up the phone or write letters to their Senators and Representatives on both the state and national level. It is so important that they hear from you and you express your concerns to them and more important, give them the facts they need to make important decisions. They are definitely hearing from the other side and many times the other side is driven by pure emotion and they do not have facts and science to back up their claims. Make sure your voice is heard.

The EIFG continues to gain support from GCSAA members and I would like to thank all of you who have made donations. We are well on our way to getting over 51% of GCSAA members donating. If you have not made a donation but would like to please visit either the GCSAA website or the EIFG website and you can follow the leads and make a donation right there online. It is easy and only takes about 5 minutes. Thanks again for all of the support and know that the EIFG continues to support programs and services for GCSAA members, fund research and scholarships and help GCSAA produce some of the finest education available to superintendents.

Best Wishes for a great summer season,

John



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THE BETTER HALF



KEVIN RISCH

Kevin Risch is the Assistant Superintendent at Saginaw Country Club for the last three years, and has worked for Superintendent Rob Steger since graduating from the Penn State online program in 2008. Kevin started in the golf business raking bunkers at Bird Creek Golf Club in Port Austin Michigan. Kevin is engaged to be married this June to his fiancé Nicole.

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

I was going to school to be an accountant and was working at the golf course at the same time. I realized that I would much rather work outdoors on a golf course than being in a cubicle 8 hours a day.

2. WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM ROB IN THE FIRST YEAR AT SAGINAW?

Water Management. It was a tough summer that first year and learning how to properly water the course was a must, it has been a valuable knowledge ever since.

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

Maintaining a golf course at a high level while dealing with unfavorable weather would be the hardest part of my job. Proper water management and planning is a must when dealing with harsh weather. It requires a lot of time spent at the course which limits the amount of social life outside of work.

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

My favorite course I have played would have to be Kingsley Club. We went and played last fall and I have never seen such a beautiful layout. I am used to a pretty much flat golf course, when I got to Kingsley I was amazed by the hills and undulations throughout the entire property. We had the pleasure of playing with Golf Course Superintendent Dan Lucas, he and his staff do an exceptional job maintaining the course.

5. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT, WHO ELSE INFLUENCED YOU PERSONALLY?

Rob Steger has influenced me the most with turfgrass management. He is a great Superintendent, and has a strong passion for golf course management. Rob has spent a lot of time with me teaching me about the profession and everything that comes with being a successful Superintendent. His hard work ethic and willingness to work alongside the crew is a trait that not only the crew admires, but also the golfing membership.

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

An assistant's position is an important position not only to the superintendent, but also as a way for the individual to gain experience on how to maintain a golf course. By being an assistant, you can gain the knowledge of the head superintendent to be used later in your career. It is a great way to gain confidence in what you are doing, while still being under the supervision of a superintendent. At the same time, it is a great way for the superintendent to have a day off once in a while, putting the long hours in really can wear a person down and having a little bit of a social life is crucial in keeping your sanity.

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

Our rollers. We have 3 Tru-Turf rollers, and we use them quite often. The trend now is to have greens firm and fast, and with the use of these rollers daily, we are able to keep our greens fast pretty much every day of the season.

8. DESCRIBE YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM.

We take in a little over 2000 lbs of steel each year to a local scrapyard. Another thing that we take in to a local dealer would be oil and fluids, which amounts to the total of around 100 gallons a year. We use wood chips from tree removals in some of our beds as well.

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

I would love to play with my parents and Arnold Palmer. He is one of the all time greats and I think it would be a great time.

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

I have worked on a golf course since the age of 14. It wasn't until the age of 22, when I decided that I wanted to change my career to a turfgrass management career. The main reason why I switched was because I love the atmosphere of being on a golf course and working outdoors. I get to enjoy the beautiful landscaping all day and know that I was a contributing factor to its beauty and playability.

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

I believe that green speed is a important part to the game of golf today. I look at it as more of a challenge for the golfers and throws a little more fun into the game. A big part of the game of golf is about changing to the conditions, so to me a true test of a good golfer is being able to play on different levels of speed.

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

This is an important relationship and the main role should be communicating with each other. We fortunately have a great mechanic who also has a degree in turfgrass management. With the knowledge he has, he is able to look for and see things that most of the crew wouldn't notice. It is a true team effort and he contributes a big part with his knowledge of golf course management.



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT KEVIN RISCH

1. ENJOYS COLD WEATHER MORE THAN HOT WEATHER.
2. WILL NOT GO SWIMMING IN THE OCEAN.
3. DISLIKES ALL TYPES OF WINE.
4. ONLY A FEW CLASSES AWAY FROM OBTAINING AN ASSOCIATES DEGREE IN BUSINESS MANAGEMENT.
5. I ENJOY ALL SORTS OF OUTDOOR SPORTS, BUT ENJOY BOWHUNTING THE MOST.



A CALL FROM CAMPUS

RON DETWEILER RETIRES AND SEVERAL NEW FACES IN THE MSU TURF PROGRAM

Ron Detweiler after 43 years working on the turfgrass pathology project with Dr. Vargas at MSU has decided to retire, but not completely. Ron has decided to come back part time to handle the off campus disease projects like summer patch, Waitea patch and the snow molds. In addition and most importantly to the turfgrass industry he has agreed to continue to handle the turfgrass disease samples sent into the Vargas lab. Working part time will allow Ron to concentrate more on some of the side projects he has been working on over the past few years.

As the 2013 summer field research season gets rolling there are several new faces that have recently joined the MSU Turf Team.

Kevin Laskowski will begin a Masters program with Dr. Emily Merewitz in May. Kevin is a native Michigander growing up in Memphis (about 20 miles west of Port Huron). Kevin's undergraduate degree is in Biochemistry and Molecular biology from Michigan State University and he has worked as an undergraduate student with Drs. Vargas and Frank at the HTRC from 2011-2012. Kevin's research thesis will investigate the effects of drought and traffic stresses on physiological characteristics of creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua*. This research was recently selected for funding by GCAA's Environmental Institute for Golf and MSU's Project GREEN.

Nick Binder began a Masters program with Dr. Thom Nikolai in January. Nick is also a native Michigander from Mason. Nick has a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management and a certificate from the Sports and Commercial Turf Management program from MSU. Nick played soccer at MSU and is currently the boys varsity soccer coach at Mason High School. Nick's research thesis will investigate the effects of routine light-weight rolling on athletic fields.

Dr. Vijaya Shukla is a postdoctoral research associate working in Dr. Merewitz's lab. Dr. Shukla earned her PhD from Max-Planck Institute for Plant Breeding and Research in Cologne, Germany. Most recently she was a visiting scholar at the USDA Sustainable Agricultural Systems Lab in Beltsville, Maryland. Dr. Shukla has expertise in plant molecular biology, plant transformation, genetic engineering and transcription/translational profiling.



Dr. Sanal Krishnan is a postdoctoral research associate working in Dr. Merewitz's lab. Dr. Sanal earned his PhD from the University of Rhode Island in plant science. Dr. Sanal worked at Texas A & M as a postdoctoral research associate in the Institute for Plant Genomics and Biotechnology. Dr. Sanal has expertise in evaluation of plant physiology parameters, plant transformation and evaluation, molecular plant microbe interaction assays and evaluation, and tissue culture techniques.

Eric Galbraith recently started working with Dr. Vargas as a research assistant I. Eric is from Holt, Michigan and has a Bachelor of Science in Entomology from MSU. Eric assisted in the curation of specimens and maintenance of the A.J. Cook Arthropod Research Collection at MSU. Eric has a keen interest on pest identification and management strategies.

One new face that will be showing up soon is our new irrigation technician. Interviews were recently completed and the Turf Team looks forward to welcoming the new irrigation technician just in time for the upcoming field research season.



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ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

The Circle of Support

As a Superintendent I remember trying to decide who to do business with among the myriad of companies that sell products and provide support in Michigan. It is a tough task as in my experience I never had a "bad salesperson" and personally they all seemed to be very helpful and sincere. The

products were all pretty comparable and I never had a major company try to sell me "snake oil". So it was my gut reaction was to buy the least expensive product that will be effective. I think this is somewhat common as probably we are among most cost conscience set of consumers I have ever seen. This is all done with the goal of stretching the thin dollars in the budget to maximize the effect on the course conditions. But as I became involved in the NMTMA, and later in the formation of the MiGCSA and as a board member and especially now as Executive Director I started to see the direct effect of industry support. I know the term Industry Support is used often by myself and our Board Members, but I did not know the true reach until I became more involved. I am not sure if there is a good way to get the same deep understanding of how important it is to you without the years of exposure that comes with a seat on a board, or working from the sales side of things but I think I will try.

First and foremost, the MiGCSA would simply not function at this level without the support of our Industry Partners. If we lost the close to \$90,000 a year in industry support and passed that cost on to our Class A and SM members it would increase dues by \$275 per person. At our current cost of \$75, and even with the increase to \$100 for renewal 2014 we are the lowest cost of membership for a single state chapter in the country at the same time being the largest and the support from our partners is the reason. I often try to give a visual of what I call the circle of support when I speak to anyone in the circle (if you are reading this you are in the circle).

It starts with the Industry Partners; they give various amounts to the chapter, \$5,000 for Silver, \$7,500 for Gold, and \$10,000 for Platinum. These levels each come with a set amount dedicated to advertising in this magazine and on our website along with other benefits throughout the year. These funds help us to keep all of the moving parts of the MiGCSA (the second part of the circle) moving and create opportunities for members to interact within our community at events and education sessions. We also lobby on behalf of Superintendents and golf to many outlets including Legislators in Lansing and we work with the other allied golf associations in Michigan with the Michigan Golf Alliance. All of this is at the benefit of you as a member, the third part of the circle.

So in order to keep the cycle going it falls on you as a member to then support the first part of our circle and whenever possible support the companies that support you. Now our goal is not to take any business away from the companies that do not

“ SO I AM ASKING YOU AS A SUPERINTENDENT AND AS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THIS FANTASTIC CHAPTER THAT WHEN YOU SIT DOWN TO DECIDE HOW TO SPEND YOUR VALUABLE BUDGET DOLLARS THAT YOU CONSIDER HOW THE COMPANIES YOU DO BUSINESS WITH DECIDED TO SPEND THEIRS. ”

partner with the chapter, but rather have our members let them know how important the MiGCSA is to them and thus how important it is to support the chapter. And of course to thank and support the companies that have and will continue to support us **Platinum:** BASF, Bayer, Syngenta, **Gold:** Spartan & Residex, **Silver:** Tri-Turf, Harrells, Great Lakes Turf, Rain Bird, J.W. Turf, Lakeshore Golf & Turf, Direct Solutions, and WinField.

I know that many of our members may not consider the support of the MiGCSA when making decisions on purchasing. But I think that may be starting to change, and hopefully this article will help you understand that when any part of that circle is weakened it shakes the foundation of this industry. So I ask you on behalf of the MiGCSA to do your part to help us continue our climb to be one of the best GCSAA Chapters in the country. Thank you to our Industry Partners, to our Members and to our Board for keeping the circle tight. So I am asking you as a Superintendent and as the Executive Director of this fantastic chapter that when you sit down to decide how to spend your valuable budget dollars that you consider how the companies you do business with decided to spend theirs.

Adam Ikamas

Adam Ikamas, CGCS
MiGCSA Executive Director





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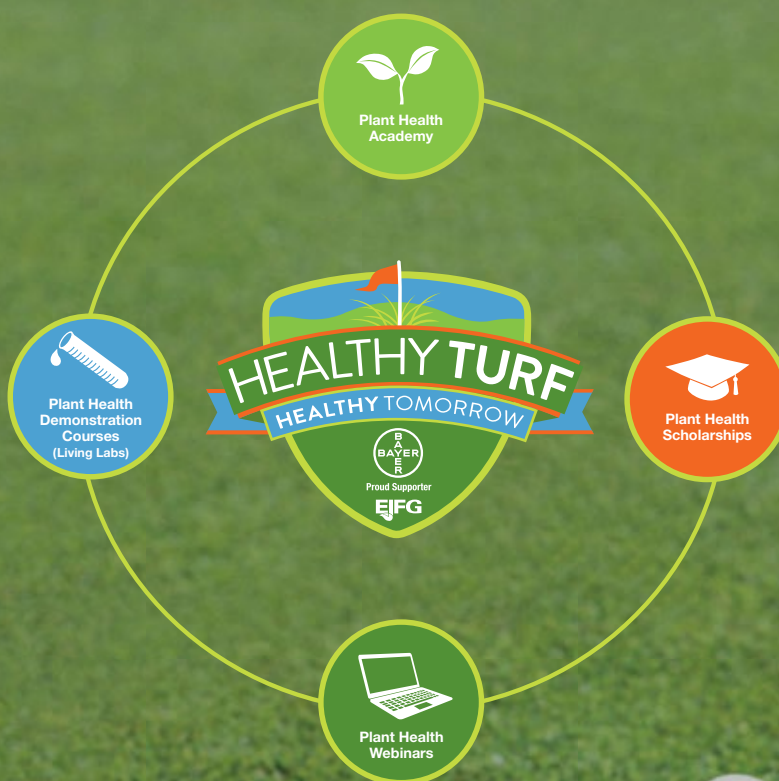


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