

COURSE CONDITIONS

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Beat Summer Stress With These Proven Signature Brand Fertilizers

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Made for best turf color possible, with 1:1 iron to magnesium ratio and a balanced micro pack



8% Calcium

Stabilized Silica Technology (SST) provides increased cell strength to help turf withstand traffic and a defensive shell to protect against stress factors

Silstar
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Unique potassium phosphite fertilizer with SST to protect and improve plant health

Sirius
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Premium foliar feed with 60% slowly available nitrogen, and fortified with potassium phosphite, potassium acetate and SST



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COURSE CONDITIONS

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MIGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 07/23/13

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	SUMMER 2012 MEMBERSHIP
Class AA	29	27
Class A	230	219
Class SM	67	58
Class C	95	82
Class D	33	31
Class E	17	17
Class AFF	144	139
Class H	25	25
Class SA	21	16
Class R	10	7
Class I	0	1
TOTAL	671	622

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 hope the summer is treating everyone well, your courses and businesses are busy and golfers are reaping the rewards of your crews work. The summer can be hectic but Mother Nature seems to be taking care of us this year. We all know that can change from week to week or day to day for that matter.

The MiGCSA has some great events planned for the 2nd half of the year and I hope everyone can make some time to get away from their home course and join us. July 29th was the 28th Annual Tuck Tate at The Nightmare in West Branch, August 19th the state championship at The Emerald in St. Johns, the Assistant and Student Networking Event on September 9th, September 23rd is Western Golf Day at Egypt Valley, and October 7th is the Big Event at Great Oaks in Rochester Hills.

The MiGCSA also will be hosting lunch and learn sessions around the state with Dr. Joe Vargas as the speaker. We hope that these provide valuable education to all of you while not taking up your entire day. The MTF will be hosting the LaFontaine Outing at the Coyote Preserve in Fenton on August 7th as well as Field Day on August 14th at the Hancock Center.

The events that are put on around the state are great ways to get together with old friends, make new ones and reap the rewards of networking with peers and suppliers. To see other facilities other than the one you take care of is educational. You have a chance to see how your peers manage their course. You may see something that you are able to implement at your facility that will make an impact to your owners or members/golfers.

This is one of the few industries where members are always happy to share new ideas or more efficient ways of doing things. We help each other with equipment if needed, if a storm hits a certain course and caused damage we offer help. When a major tournament comes to an area we volunteer to help out or provide meals for the crew. We are a very unique industry that helps it peers and very often never ask for anything in return other than to know that you will be there to return the favor if ever needed. These are all results of networking and being involved in the industry.

Last winter we revised our mission statement and added the following: The MiGCSA is dedicated to providing value to our members through programs and services that enhance our profession. Please take advantage of the vast knowledge that our members have and attend the events that are scheduled throughout the state. You never know what you may learn.

Greg Pattinson

MICHIGAN'S TOM DOAK SITS DOWN WITH THE MIGCSA

*With special thanks to Dave Richards of
Resort and Golf Marketing
www.resortandgolf.com*

How important is it for architects to understand turf management?

I think it's important for an architect to understand all facets of the business and integrate them into the design of the course. I would include in that engineering, clearing and tree management, drainage, construction management, irrigation, turfgrass selection, and turf maintenance. Each area will have some influence on the best possible design.

How did you learn about turf? Who were your mentors in that part of the business?

I took two turf management courses at Cornell, which was all they offered at the time, so I had a bit of background but no practical experience on a maintenance crew. But one of the great experiences of my life was to work in St. Andrews the summer after my senior year of college. I had an introduction to the head greenkeeper, Walter Woods – he couldn't put me on his crew because there was a recession and he had to keep townspeople employed, but he arranged for me to caddie, and told me I was welcome to hang around him as much as I wanted. So I did! Walter was one of the great superintendents of his time. He was a very good golfer, and right away impressed upon me that golf course maintenance was about establishing a playing surface, not about having a perfectly green sward of grass. He was expert in sustainability before anyone used the term – he used to collect kelp off the rocks in the harbor, and compost it with sand in his maintenance yard to make fertilizer for the courses.

When I started on High Pointe, my first solo design, I knew I needed to get a good superintendent involved, and luckily for me, Tom Mead who had been at Crystal Downs was just deciding he wanted to do something other than be a day-to-day superintendent anymore, so we worked together for two years to get the course built. Tom was especially keen on the idea of trying to grow fescue fairways in northern Michigan – he'd seen



it growing at the edges of his fairways at Crystal Downs where the irrigation didn't cover well, and thought it was a good choice for a course that couldn't afford a big spray budget. That right there is a lot different approach than most projects today take – there are way too many that want to build and maintain everything to “world class standards” without figuring out if they can really afford it over the long haul. That's one reason so many projects go under. The other thing Tom taught me was to think through the budgeting very carefully, because if we had it all spelled out up front and everything ran as planned, we'd have the client's confidence in other matters along the way.

I also learned a lot about turf just from traveling so much. Seeing how they maintained a tight couch (Bermuda) surface on the Sand Belt courses in Melbourne was a real eye-opener. The first time I saw paspalum was a native version that was the turf for greens and bunkers at Durban C.C. in South Africa, which I saw in 1991, long before it started getting any notice over here.

How do turfgrass choices influence design?

Turfgrass choices influence how the golf course will play, and design is really all about how you want the course to play. A friend of mine who works in the southeast complains often about how easy we have it up here, because there are so many good choices of grasses in cool season climates. We can use bentgrass or bluegrass or fine fescue for fairways, and bluegrass or fescue or fine-leaved natives for the roughs, which provide

great color and texture contrast and allow you to find a ball pretty easily. That's a whole lot different than down south, where you're working on heavy, fertile soils and the palette is limited to Bermuda grasses, which aren't all that different from one another. That's one reason that so many of the world's best courses are in northern climates, rather than the deep South.

What do you think it would take for more clubs to adopt some version of Matt Shaffer's (Superintendent at Merion) maintenance regime?

I can't say I'm an expert on Matt's program, but I've been fortunate to work with his last two top assistants, who are now the greenkeepers at Chicago Golf Club and Shoreacres, where we've been consulting for years. And it's just been amazing to see how they have transformed those courses in short order, by cutting back the water and doing their magic. In turn, they have been enabled by a knowledgeable membership – they got hired because those clubs were ready to go to a new program, and the members haven't turned on them when the fairways started looking a bit brown at the edges, or when an approach shot bounced through the green.

What role do you like to see the Golf Course Superintendent play in your new course and renovation projects?

We hope to get a superintendent involved in a new project very early during construction, so they have input on what gets built and can point out any problems before they're set in grass – and then we hope they stay on to take care of that course for years and years to come, because they understand what our intentions were. One of the problems at High Pointe was that Tom Mead hadn't wanted to stay on, and in the twenty years the course was open, I think they had six or seven different superintendents, each of whom had his own ideas about golf. Even though I spent some time with all of them, there was just no consistency of management.

One of the great clichés of golf course design is that your courses are like your children – most guys use it to avoid picking favorites of their courses, so they don't offend all their other clients. Anyway, when we were building Pacific Dunes, our turf consultant Dave Wilber was just so impressed with Ken Nice, who was then the assistant superintendent for the grow-in at Pacific Dunes – and Dave extended the analogy, saying that if the course was like one of my kids, Ken was the guy I wanted my daughter to marry! And that's really how it is; find a good guy, and hope he'll stay because he loves the place.

For a renovation project, it's a bit different, since the superintendent is already on board, and much more familiar with the problem areas of the course than we are [not to mention the politics of the club!]. So, we rely on them to speak up and tell us where there are drainage problems and shade problems

that hold them back, and what will or won't work in that particular setting.

How heavily do you weigh long term maintainability in your designs?

I probably don't think about it as much as you might expect, but only because I know that the more we work with the natural land forms, the easier the course is going to be to maintain. In fact, I've seen first hand that one of the great advantages of the minimalist style of design is during the grow-in process – because we've disturbed the soil much less during construction, it's a much healthier environment for the turf. I've been amazed at how easily some of our courses have gone from dirt to playable, though there were some great superintendents at the helm, too.

One thing I had to learn the hard way is that once the course is open, it's not mine anymore, it's the client's; so I can't interfere too much in how it is maintained. If they want to change fairway lines or cut the greens tighter, I can't stop them – it's just like raising kids in that way, too. That's another reason we like to work with the superintendent from the start of construction, to hopefully ensure that he's on the same page we are. But he has a client to answer to, as well.

How do you feel about the current state of the golf business?

I feel like no one has learned anything from the recession. We built thousands of courses in the boom that were unsustainable, where the budgets for construction and maintenance were set in the interest of what sells houses, and don't correlate with the revenues generated from playing golf. But nobody is cutting back maintenance to levels that might be profitable, and all those consultants that ought to be out of work are over in China, telling them how to build courses that will go bankrupt. Turf conditions are way, way better than they were thirty years ago, but I don't see that golfers are having any more fun because of it. Instead, some are quitting because they can't justify the cost.

If you had your choice how would you change golf to improve the future of the game?

I would encourage match play, to speed things up and let everyone have more fun. I would encourage more people to promote nine holes as a round, so that more parents could justify getting out to play without ditching their family for most of the day – heck, for nine holes, maybe their kids could even tag



along without getting bored. And I would encourage people to walk the course instead of using carts. The game is so much more fun when you walk and get into a rhythm for playing. In short, I'd think about what I saw in Scotland thirty years ago, and try to make golf more like that – fun and affordable.

What is the difference between renovation and restoration of a classic course?

To me, a restoration means rebuilding details of the course that have been lost over time – putting bunkers back where they used to be, getting the greens and fairways mowed out to where they were originally to restore hole locations and angles of approach, and taking a good look at tree encroachment and what views may have been lost over the years. I think it's okay to add new tees (both back tees and forward tees) as part of a restoration, because not many clubs want to play their course from the yardage it played in 1929.

However, moving bunkers 50 yards downrange because “that's what Donald Ross would have done if he was alive today” is NOT a restoration – it's a design change being sold as a restoration so the membership won't question it. There's a lot of that going on nowadays, too.

Regardless of rankings, what project are you the most proud of?

I've been fortunate to work on a lot of beautiful pieces of ground, and it would be hard to single one of them out. I'm proud of all of them, as far as the course we were able to build. But, from the standpoint of impact, I'm especially proud of the course we built in Denver for the Colorado Golf Association, Common Ground. It was the site of the old Lowry AFB golf course, and we did a total redesign on a relatively flat site. Their goal wasn't to make more money – they wanted to build the best \$40 public course they could, and it turned out well enough that they used the course alongside Cherry Hills for the stroke play qualifying for last year's U.S. Amateur. But, I'm proud of it for everything they're doing in the community. We built a little nine-hole par-3 course there for the local kids to learn the game, and they've developed a tremendous junior program around it. They've developed a caddie program to employ local kids and give them a chance to apply for an Evans scholarship, and now there's a foundation to provide pre-paid caddies to golfers, so that more kids will have a chance to qualify for the scholarships. It's amazing what can happen when people have good intentions.

What percentage of the total time are you personally on site during a typical project?

For most of our projects in recent years, it's been less than you'd imagine; I might be there 10 days or so over the course of 3-4 visits to sort out the plan for the course, and then 25-30 days during the construction process – out of typically nine months of construction. That's only possible because I've got one of my associates watching the project full-time, and because

I've got three of the best and fastest shapers in the world on my payroll, building the greens and bunkers, instead of relying on an outside contractor that isn't as familiar with what we are trying to do. Generally, what I do is come in for 4-5 days at a time during construction, and work with the shapers to get 3-4 holes edited and approved for irrigation. Then before I leave I'll walk the next 3-4 holes with them and talk through the details, and I'll come back in a month or two to make my edits on the next batch.

You have been extremely successful, what do you believe are the main factors in your success?

First and foremost, I love what I do, so it's never seemed like work. Also, I found my own niche in the business, by stressing the importance of working with good pieces of land. Some friends advised that it was stupid to say anything that might limit my base of potential clients, but by saying what I really wanted to do, I attracted clients who were on the same page. And as it's turned out, when the business contracted, my niche was about the only one left standing. The only projects that are being built now in the U.S. are by those who are in it to build a really special course, not to make money off the real estate.


To be perfectly honest, though, I became successful in part because I didn't have much of a life away from my work. I thought about golf and design 24/7 for many years, neglected family and friends, and really neglected myself, too – I wasn't taking time to enjoy what I was doing. I'm working on finding a better balance now. I've already had more opportunities to work on great sites than I ever imagined I could, but I'll be happier from here out if I'm only working on one or two at a time. The hard part of that is trying to be loyal to all the people who have helped me build those courses, and find a way to keep them happy and productive, without me having to hop from one continent to the next until I'm exhausted.

How many days a year are you on the road?

For the past 20 years, I've been on the road an average of 150-160 days a year, which is really too many. This past year, that's been spread over working on four continents – China, New Zealand, France, and the U.S. I am really looking forward to working closer to home again.

What made you choose Traverse City, MI to establish the home of Renaissance Golf Design?

When I started the company, I'd built High Pointe and Black Forest, and I figured clients would want to come and see them. Plus, Traverse City is a great place to live, and relatively affordable, and my family loves it here. But since I bought a house here in 1989, I haven't worked within 200 miles of home. We may have a chance to change that next year, and that would be terrific.



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The winning team of Dick Osborn, Craig Kooienga, Paul Osborn and Ryan Osborn

On yet another picture perfect pure Northern Michigan day the 2013 Northern Fundraiser was held at Arcadia Bluffs for the 4th year in a row. This year we hosted more players than any event we have ever had, with 46 playing on Sunday evening for the sunset practice round and 147 on Monday for the fundraiser. In total more than \$10,500 was raised at this event from the tee times, 50/50 and Poker game for MTF Turf Research, Scholarships, Wee One Foundation and the EIFG.

This was a scramble event for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place prizes. Third place went to the team of Kevin Haak, Eric Davey, Randy Burgess and Scott Meyer with a 61, a scorecard playoff went to a birdie 3 on hole #10. Second place went to the team of Scott Trbovich, Marc McCoy, Jason Farah and MiGCSA Past President Jay Eccleton with a score of 60. And first place with a score of 58 was won by the team of Paul Osborn, Ryan Osborn, Dick Osborn and Crag Kooienga.

There were 6 proximity prizes out on the course thanks to our 6 Premiere Foundation Sponsors Syngenta, Bayer, BASF, Tri-Turf, FIP Irrigation and LaFontaine Automotive. The Syngenta closest to the pin on #2 was won by Matt LaFontaine. The Tri-Turf long drive on #3 was won by Matt Thalen. The proxy on #6 sponsored by BASF was won by Doug Spiller. On hole #11 the LaFontaine Automotive long

drive was won by Andy Gilroy. The FIP Irrigation proxy on #13 was won by Bill Bielen and #17 sponsored by Bayer was won by Brandon Jabara.

A special thanks to our hole sponsors J.W. Turf, Spartan Distributors, Residex and V.B. Controls. J.W. Turf had a 50/50 raffle going on hole #5 and a raffle for a John Deere grill. The 50/50 of \$280 was won by Al Bathum and the grill was won by Lee Collins. V.B. Controls Scott Inman raffled off 4 Best Buy Gift cards in the amount of \$25 each, congratulations to MiGCSA Past President Steve Hammon, Alex Greenacre, Gene Davis and Adam Hansen. The poker game on hole #9 run by Chad Kempf of Rain Bird raised a total of \$1,260 which was a 50/50 split. The winning hand of a Full House 8's over 9's was won by the team of Lee Collins, Al Bathum, Mike Leavitt and Matt Chapman. Thank you to Residex and Turf Fuel for the hot dog sponsorship on hole #7 and #15, they also had a long drive for \$100 in Residex bucks that was won by MiGCSA Past President Jay Eccleton.

The scramble skins game had three winners this year of the 20 teams who participated for a total of \$400. An eagle 3 on hole #5 by the team of Paul Osborn, Ryan Osborn, Dave Ross and Crag Kooienga. A birdie 3 on hole #8 by the team of Wayne Sieggreen, Steve Miller, Randy Meyer and Rich Saulve. The last skin was an eagle 2 on hole #14 by the team of Paul Osborn, Ryan Osborn, Dave Ross and Crag Kooienga.

This event is always so well run thanks to the staff at Arcadia Bluffs. Thank you to MiGCSA members Paul Emling, Vice President of Operations, Mike Nielson, Superintendent, Daniel Hess, Assistant Superintendent, Phil Kluesner Second Assistant Superintendent, and Pat Sullivan, Equipment Technician. Thank you also to Chief Operating Officer Bill Shriver, Head Golf Professional Zack Chapin and Assistant Golf Professional Jay Waltrip and Director of Food & Beverage Rick Dewling for the excellent box lunch.

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TIM DARK RETIRES AFTER 24 YEARS AT BARTON HILLS C.C.



MiGCSA Board Member Tim Dark, CGCS retired on June 1st from Barton Hills Country Club after 24 years. MiGCSA President Greg Pattinson and the Board of Directors are very grateful for his service to the board and to the industry, he will truly be missed. Tim is a 1981 graduate from the Turf Management program at MSU and went on to obtain his Bachelors in Ornamental Horticulture also from MSU in 1984.

Tim started in the business as a Caddy at Kalamazoo Country Club in the 1970's, from there he moved on to lawn service in

Indianapolis Florida. While in Florida he heard about the MSU Turfgrass program and applied. However, he was told he needed to work on a golf course before being accepted into the program. So in the fall of 1978 he secured a job at Ridgeview Golf Course in Kalamazoo and in the Spring of 1979 was hired at the Moor's in Portage MI working for Harry Schumann. After completing the Turf Grass Management Program at MSU he went on to his first superintendent's position at Lakeview Hills Country Club in Lexington MI. In 1987 he moved over to take the superintendent's job at Marywood Golf Course in Battle Creek MI and finally Barton Hills CC in 1989. Tim has three children, Caitlin Severin an MSU Graduate and middle school Spanish teacher in Calabasas CA, married to John Paul Severin. William Dark a U of M Graduate in computer science engineering is relocating to Madison, WI to work for Epic. And Lauren Dark a scholarship athlete diver in her Junior year at EMU.

Tim has moved to Florence, Montana in the beautiful Bitterroot Valley south of Missoula MT to live and recreate with longtime girlfriend Susan Thraen. Tim said "I've had a very rewarding career as a Golf Course Superintendent, I would like to thank the people who impacted me throughout my career, particularly Jeff Hnatow Assistant Superintendent at BHCC and Richard Pomorski a 30 year employee at BHCC. If any of you are in Western Montana please look me up."

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, August 19	State Championship (The Emerald Golf Course, St. Johns)
Friday, September 6	Assistant & Student Networking Event (College Fields, Okemos)
Monday, September 23	Western Golf Day (Egypt Valley C.C., Ada)
Monday, October 7	The Big Event (Great Oaks C.C., Rochester)

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



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TIPS AND TRICKS

ERIC RANK, SUPERINTENDENT AT CHIKAMING COUNTRY CLUB

Have fairway bird baths? Try the Hillbilly Water Vac. This is of our homemade contraption that we call the "Suck-O-Vac". We started using this machine 6 years ago before our recent drainage improvements. Although the responsibilities of the machine have lessened dramatically over the years, we still have a number of small areas on the course that hold water.

The Suck-O-Vac is an old 200 gallon sprayer tank mounted to a trailer. We then added a wet/dry vacuum to the top. The vacuum sits in the opening for the tank almost perfect and after a little silicone the machine was airtight. The vacuum is plugged into a generator in the back of our cart. After the tank is full a 2" ball valve is opened to drain the tank into an existing drain inlet.



A FULL ROUND



ALAN SOUTHWARD

Alan Southward knew before he finished High School that he was going to be in the golf industry in some way. He started playing golf around six years of age and eventually went to work in Ypsilanti when he was 15 at Green Oaks Golf Course. After graduating from Michigan State in 1998 he went to work for Paul R. Latshaw at Congressional Country Club. Alan has been married to his wife Jamee for 13 years and they have two children Allison, 6 and Jack, 2. Although many people think it is crazy in his spare time he likes to golf and plays to a 2 handicap. Alan has been the Superintendent at the Dunes Club in New Buffalo for the last 10 years.

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM PAUL AT CONGRESSIONAL?

The true meaning of overtime. I think I had more overtime hours on my check than regular hours in the first four months. It was a very educational experience working for Mr. Latshaw and he showed me a lot of things which I use in my management skills today. Most of all he showed me how to stay calm under pressure and understand that you can only do one thing at a time. I'm a big fan of making lists daily and picking items off one at a time and making sure they are done right.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MIGCSA AND MTF?

I feel that the MIGCSA does a fine job at keeping us Superintendents well informed in our ever changing field. The MTF is one of the best tools for us Superintendents in Michigan. They are always keeping us well informed on all the latest research and weather related topics.

HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

Personally I try and share as much information and experiences I've had with others in the industry. I try to encourage staff members that I've worked with at other courses that this profession can be very rewarding and a wonderful way to make a living. I'm proud to say that some of those people are now Superintendents and Assistants.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

I would have to say time management. It always seems like you're trying to fit so much in on that one day that you forget about tomorrow. **What is the easiest part of your job?** Getting up in the morning and going to work. I truly love what I do and who I do it for.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

I've been very fortunate to have learned and worked for some great individuals so far in my career. Just to name a few it would have to start with Dr. Rogers, Paul R. Latshaw, Mike Keiser and Tim Kennelly. **Who is the greatest influence in your personal life?** My parents, wife and my two children. They are truly the sunshine in my life that shines every day.

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

That's an easy one for me since we are an all walking course here at the Dunes Club. You get a whole different approach to the game when walking. I always seem to notice more of the courses features and concentrate harder on my shots.



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

The construction end of our business. I've had the opportunity to be involved in a total master plan renovation at the Inverness Club and I have rebuilt the greens here at The Dunes Club. I think seeing how a green is built from the ground up really gives you an understanding of how all the components work together. **What one piece of advice would you give to a new superintendent?** Always continue your education and network with as many people you can in the industry.

HOW MANY CREW MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE STAFF?

I have 14 staff members including myself. **What is the cultural management practice you could not do without?** Aerification is where it all starts and ends. **What is your favorite piece of equipment you have in your arsenal?** The Hydroject is the machine that truly helps you in times of stress. **What piece of equipment would you like to add to your arsenal for golf course management?** I just got a new spiker and slicer for greens and can't wait to use them. **If only one plant protectant were available on the market, what would you have in your tank?** Honor or Headway, I think both are great products.

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

Assistant superintendents are Superintendents in my eyes today. They are far more than an extra set of eyes on the course. They are truly the back bone of the crew in the sense that they represent everything this industry stands for and is trying to achieve. I personally think I have one of the best in Paul Ciccarelli.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

My favorite golf hole would have to be the 4th hole here at the Dunes Club. **Your favorite course?** My favorite golf course is Old Macdonald at Bandon Dunes Resort.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?

Ball marks and divots. Nothing is more deflating than walking up on a green yet to be mowed and seeing giant ballmarks near the cup. I understand that some divots won't grow back but give the next guy behind you a chance and make some kind of effort.

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

I think it's one of those things where people relate to a lot of what they see on TV. I feel that 10 is an accurate number for private clubs. Tournaments along with special events should exceed that number as weather permits. I've played a lot of courses where speed is a huge focal point and watch playing partners putt balls off the green. It takes the fun out of the game in my opinion.

DESCRIBE YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM.

Here at The Dunes Club we are very involved with recycling at the maintenance building. My assistant has taken it on and does a great job with making sure we separate all cardboard and metal. We have a service that comes and gets paper goods and guys on the crew take the metal and cans to be recycled.

5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT ALAN SOUTHWARD

1. I'M GREAT IN THE KITCHEN.
2. WATCHING THE RIGHT MOVIE OR SHOW I ALWAYS SEEM TO GET SOMETHING IN MY EYE.
3. I STILL OPERATE THE SPRAY HAWK ON MY GREENS.
4. I LOVE ALL MOTOWN MUSIC.
5. I DANCE LIKE BILL COSBY.



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TWO FLAGS...TWO HOLES... MORE FUN

It is a well-known fact that golf participation rate in the U.S.A is not like it was in the past. Time is at a premium for families and golf is competing with many other activities. And, one of the main reasons golf does not gain traction with families and young beginners is that it is the belief the game is too difficult, and therefore not as much fun as other sports. And, it is hard to disagree. Golf, as played by the official USGA rules, and using the standard golf hole, is not an easy sport to play.

But, just as we lower the rim for beginners to learn basketball, and shorten the distance between bases for baseball, the golf world should embrace a larger hole for beginner golfers. This is not a new idea. The greatest golfer to play the game, Jack Nicklaus, has endorsed this idea, and has even created a tournament over Labor Day at Muirfield Village where they use oversized, 8 inch holes. Nicklaus understands that golf needs to be more attractive to families and young people in order to sustain.

From Jack Nicklaus about using 8 inch holes: "I think the game is a great game and in no way am I trying to change it. There are few bigger traditionalists than me, but I realize we need to start thinking out of the box. So I ask all the traditionalists to be tolerant while we try something new, something fun to hopefully help us grow the game. It's too important for us not to try."

Therefore, why not have two holes cut on every green on certain days of the week? Golf course operators could have one cup being regulation, and the other cup being 8 inches in diameter. This would allow golfers an option to play either the regulation hole or the non-regulation hole. No new scorecard would need to be created. Besides cutting an additional 18 cups, there is no other construction or maintenance needed. (The course would need an additional 18 flagsticks.) Overall, it is a small

investment toward growing the game and creating golfers.

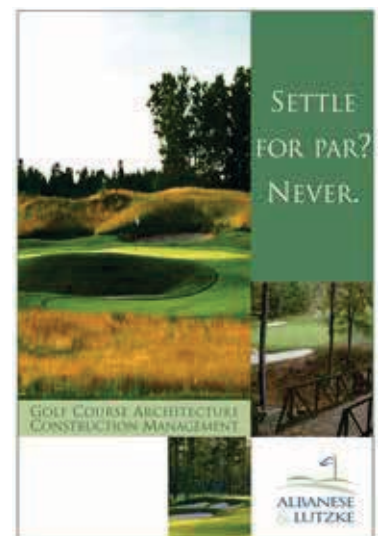
In addition to being more fun, and attracting new golfers, the larger holes would also speed play, which has been cited as a key factor to the waning popularity of golf. Putting takes too long in general. With a larger hole, golfers will get around the course in much less time. As Jack Nicklaus II said,

The time has come for the golf community to make a fresh start for the benefit of the future of the game, and show new people that the game of golf can be about makeable putts, camaraderie and enjoyable competition played out in a timely manner."

Also, I hesitate calling the 8 inch hole the "beginner" or "novice" holes, because I think many accomplished golfers might enjoy playing to the larger hole as a way to speed up their round, and simply enjoy making more putts. I can easily envision men/women golf groups and leagues, at first, playing a few rounds to the larger cups as a novelty. But, as time goes on, after realizing the fun to be had making more putts, playing to the larger cups becoming the norm.

We all know about the need to grow the game. And, there are ideas out there. We now need to implement them.

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. Feel free to email Paul at paul@golf-designs.com or visit their website at www.golf-designs.com



WEE ONE OUTING



After weeks of cold, wet weather Mother Nature cooperated for this year's Wee One outing, held at Lost Dunes Golf Club in Bridgman on May 6th, with an absolutely perfect day for golf. A sellout field of superintendents and industry supporters helped raise more than \$30,000 for the Wee One Foundation, an organization that helps

turf industry professionals who have experienced financial challenges because of medical hardship.

The event was highlighted by several contributions to the Wee One Foundation. Mike Cavanaugh, President of Floratine Products Group, announced his company's \$50,000 commitment over the next 10 years to the Wee One Endowment fund. Pat Jones, Editorial Director and Publisher of Golf Course Industry, made a \$5,000 contribution that was raised for participation in a survey conducted by his publication. Lastly, Adam Ikamas, Executive Director of MiGCSA, presented a check for \$650 for matching contributions that individual MiGCSA members made to the Wee One Foundation.

"The Wee One Foundation is very happy to have the support of the golf industry in Michigan. The event at Lost Dunes is testament to all of the individuals, associations, and companies coming together to help those in need," said Dave Radaj, CGCS and superintendent at Green Acres Country Club in Northbrook, IL. Radaj, Treasurer of the Wee One Foundation, added, "This is the fourth annual event hosted in Michigan, and each year, the success of the event continues to grow. Thanks to all the volunteers and those who came out to give back to the Wee One Foundation."



Laura Ikamas and Daniela Moritz helped with the event representing the Wives of Turf.

The golf event was dominated by attendees from outside of Michigan. In the 2-best ball net event, the winning teams were:

- 1st place – Mark Norville, Matt Kiser, Jerrard Grinstead and Matt Mantei (Shoreline Sand).
- 2nd Place – Nick Baker and Jason Funderburg (Chicagoland Turf), Dustin Hugen (Poplar Creek CC) and Curtis James (Old Elm Club).
- 3rd Place – Dan Marco (Ruth Lake CC), Dave Radaj (Green Acres CC), Dave Blomquist (Twin Orchard CC) and Dave Schlagetter (Indian Hill CC).

Closest-to-the Pin prizes were won by:

- Hole #3 – Jim Granfield (Tullymore Golf Club)
- Hole #5 – Joe Tignanelli (The Wyndgate)
- Hole #13 – Bob Resteiner (Sand Sales Company)
- Hole #16 – Jim Eccleton (Country Club Turf)

Andy Gianino, assistant superintendent at Oakland Hills CC, assembled a standout team of volunteers who manned the registration table, sold raffle tickets, and generally kept the day's events running smoothly. Event volunteers included Jeff Starke (Blythfield CC), Nick Nate (Chickaming CC), Taylor Doorlag (The Moors Golf Club), Daniela Moritz (wife of Dave Moritz, The Wyndgate), Laura Ikamas (wife of Adam Ikamas, MiGCSA), Brian Mavis (Mavis Consulting), Jeff Hopkins (Muskegon CC) and Jim Johnson (Great Lakes Turf, LLC).



Jason Tyson was presented with a check to continue to support his family and their battle with a rare genetic disorder called X.L.P.

The event would not be successful without the generosity of the sponsoring companies and organizations listed below:

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Arcadia Bluffs GC	The Wyndgate
Crystal Mountain Resort	Tim Yokel (Toro)
Gurley Leap Automotive	Weirs Golf Carts
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A date and location for the 2014 event will be announced later this year. For more information about the Wee One Foundation or to become a member, please visit www.weeone.org.

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ORCHARD LAKE SHOP TALK

On May 14, the MiGCSA Assistant Superintendent Committee held a Shop Talk at Orchard Lake Country Club, hosted by Superintendent Aaron McMaster. More than 20 participants were given a course tour of the recent renovation that began late summer 2012 by Orchard Lake Assistant Superintendent and MiGCSA Assistant Superintendent Committee Co-Chairman, Travis Fox. Renovation work included the expansion and re-grassing of greens to Pure Distinction creeping bentgrass, as well as tees and fairways to 007 creeping bentgrass. Every bunker was rebuilt in a new style and 19 new bunkers were added. The Club also added 20 acres of native fescue grasses, installed over two miles of drainage, and built a new short game practice area, and a new chemical building and material storage area. The architect for the renovation was Keith Foster, with MacCurrach Golf Construction, who was responsible for all construction work. Thielen Turf Irrigation was responsible for all irrigation changes and upgrades. We would like to thank Aaron McMaster and the membership at Orchard Lake Country Club for hosting the event. The Assistant Superintendent Committee is committed to providing our Association with opportunities to learn and communicate golf course management strategies. In the future, we would like to have more of these opportunities available and if you are interested in joining or hosting a Shop Talk, contact Travis Fox or Troy Evans.



2013 CAN-AM

While the temperatures dipped just in time for the 37th Annual Can Am Challenge, Essex Golf & Country Club was in great shape and the event started on time despite the frosty morning. Special thanks to Superintendent Chris Andrejicka and his Assistant Greg Brown. The sun brought some warmth in between the cloud and the winds and it turned into a great day.

In the end the Canadians finally brought the cup back to Ontario, with a close victory of 26.5 points to the American score of 24.5. The low gross prize on the American side went to the team of Kevin Frank and

Gary Thommes with a total score of 151, while the Canadian low gross team of Gavin Worden and Jason Crawford scored a 159. The American

low net team was won by John Cooney and Brain Schwehofer, and Canadian low net team was Greg Brown and Chris Lecour both teams shot a net 130.



OGSA
President
Rob Gatto
and MiGCSA
President Greg
Pattinson with
the Can-Am
Cup.

Second place for low gross went to Todd Genske and Jim Higgs and low net to Steve Loveday and Terry Poley for the Americans. Chris Andrejicka and Jeff Alexander took second in the low gross and the team of Greg Anderson and Robbie Robinson won second in the low net for the Canadians. MiGCSA President Greg Pattison won the 50/50 draw. The individual proxy prizes were won by Brain Schwehofer, Graeme Calder, Dave Cours and Ryan Moore.

Participants from both OGSA and MiGCSA thoroughly enjoyed their day at Essex. Both groups look forward to continued renewed enthusiasm for this event in 2014 when the MiGCSA will host the event back on American soil.

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Through a partnership with Nike Golf the MiGCSA is proud to be able to offer staff uniforms to our members at wholesale pricing which is 1/2 off the retail MSRP price. To see the entire current Nike collection you can go to:

https://www.nike.net/portal_refs/GolfeCat/USA/2013_Fall_NikeGolf_TourPerformance/flipviewerxpress.html

To place an order please contact us at info@migcsa.org with your custom logo and your order, minimum run of 8 pieces per logo. MiGCSA Logo merchandise will be available soon on our website and at events.

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FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS – GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

Welcome to summer! The extended cool spring has left and the typical warm summer weather is now in place so superintendents are trying to survive until cool weather returns.

GCSAA is here to help get you through the summer, we have webinars on issues you may be going through and don't forget, if you need information or articles you can print, you have access to the Turfgrass Information Files (TGIF) at Michigan State University as part of your GCSAA Membership. If you are not familiar with the TGIF files, MSU has and is in the process of digitizing all turfgrass articles that have ever been written. You can search them by topic and the articles that have been written over time will then be available to you. It is a great resource and a great benefit for being a GCSAA member!

Legislatively there is always a lot going on in the golf industry. GCSAA is watching out for you as well. Chava McKeel, our government relations expert is watching Washington very closely on matters that affect golf course superintendents. Immigration reform, NPDES (yes we are still battling that issue) and many other items are at the forefront of our fight. Chava's plate is so full GCSAA has decided to give her an assistant to help her and also to better assist the membership. From time to time GCSAA will send out a legislative alert when we need our members help. These alerts are on the website and you can click on the alert, a prewritten letter will be there, you can read it, add your comments if you like, enter your zip code and it will be sent to your legislators on your behalf. It is a great way to tell your legislators how the decisions they make affect you and your golf course. They are definitely hearing it from the other side; they need to hear your side of the story too!

The first Round For Research auction ended June 16th with great results. There were 748 rounds donated for 2013. In the June auction we offered 669 rounds and 483 (72%) were sold raising \$106,000. \$79,256.80 went back to the chapters and \$26,889.20 went to the Environmental Institute for Golf. There were also cash donations by golf courses totaling \$1,450.00. It was a great auction for Rounds for Research and we are very excited about the upcoming August auction. We are looking for similar results.

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. Thank you for your consideration in donating to the EIFG.

Best Wishes,

John



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The above depiction is exaggerated. Refer to the safe operating angle for proper hillside operation.

THE BETTER HALF



PETE THOMASMA

Pete Thomsma is the Assistant Superintendent for Doug Hoeh at Treetops Resort in Gaylord. Pete started at L.E. Kaufman in Wyoming Michigan in the fall of 1989 where his brother, Jack Thomsma, was the Superintendent. He started out mowing roughs with a pull behind gang mower and with a groundsmaster mower. The next year he fell in love with the work. Pete is married to Terri the love of his life for 12 years this July. They are parents to Donnevon, 12, Peyton, 5, Braelynn, 3, & two stepchildren Rick, 31 and Randi, 27. Pete has been at Treetops since May of 2006.

1. WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

I am kind of a throwback. I never attended college; it was all on the job training under my brother. He taught me to "Never be afraid to make a decision and stick with it" and "If you're not making mistakes you are not doing anything". I continue my education through chapter meetings and seminars.

2. WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MIGCSA AND THE MTF?

The MiGCSA is doing a good job, keep up the good work. I feel the MTF does an outstanding job helping us in the turf industry. Their fundraising, lobbying, and support of MSU's turf program benefits us all. Well done!

3. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I try to mentor the "turf heads" out of school to use practical knowledge in daily maintenance practices. When possible, I convey to the public the benefits of our industry.

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

Irrigation... enough said. **WHAT IS THE EASIEST?** Working with Doug Hoeh, the Superintendent of the North Properties. I feel fortunate to be working for a person I respect who has the same philosophy on how to manage turf.

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

Frank Fluery – He used to work at Chrysler – or as he call it's Chryslers with an S. Now I know why the big three almost went under.

6. HOW MANY CREW MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE STAFF?

48 crew members for three 18 holes and one 9 par 3 course. **What type of irrigation system do you have and approximately how many irrigation heads?** Rain Bird. Two pump houses and between all of the golf course and landscape areas it's over 3500 heads. **What is the oldest piece of equipment that is still being utilized in your fleet?** Old Toro GM 300 - I think it from the 1980's.

7. WHO WOULD MAKE UP YOUR "DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM"?

Dad, Mom and my brother Jack at the old Green Ridge Country Club.

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

Persistence and never be afraid to try something that goes against conventional wisdom.

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

Probably the fact that superintendent positions are harder to come by. My advice, have some patience, learn as much as you can and be ready for an opportunity. **What do you believe the biggest issue will be in the future?** Water restrictions; even though we live in Michigan and are surrounded by water, we must use it wisely.

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

Hopefully still in the golf turf industry. **How would you like to be remembered 100 years from now?** A great husband and father. Someone you could count on to get the job done right.

11. DO YOU PLAY GOLF, IF SO WHAT IS YOUR HANDICAP?

Yes, I'm a 12 but I play to a 24. **What is your favorite golf hole you have played?** #17 at Crystal Downs. **What is your favorite golf course that you have played?** The old Green Ridge Country Club in Grand Rapids. Lots of great memories. **What is the toughest golf course you have played?** Crystal Downs. **What golf course would you love to experience once in your lifetime?** The Old Course, St. Andrews. **What is your favorite golf club in the bag?** An old forged Powerbilt 1 iron. I can't hit it a lick, but it has such a thin top line. **Who is your favorite touring professional?** Tom Watson.

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

The biggest influence in turfgrass is my brother Jack. He is a tremendously hardworking and talented superintendent who always puts a good product out there for the golfers. Personally, first and foremost God, as well as my wife Terri, she is an amazing woman who keeps the family running smoothly, especially with the long hours I put in at the courses.

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

Believe or not, you can put Primo down at 4x's the label rate and not kill your greens. I wouldn't recommend it, but I did it for more than half a season.

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

I feel it's pretty high up on my scale. Like the superintendent, you have to be proficient in many areas.

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

Bunker maintenance!!! It's ridiculous how much time, labor and money we spend on "hazards".



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT PETE THOMSMA

1. I STILL DRINK STROHS BEER (YES, THEY STILL MAKE IT, SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO FIND).
2. I CAN WIGGLE MY EARS WITHOUT USING MY HANDS.
3. I WON A JELLO WRESTLING CONTEST AGAINST TWO GIRLS ON MY 21ST BIRTHDAY, AND I STILL HAVE TROPHY TO PROVE IT.
4. I AM A HISTORY BUFF, ESPECIALLY WWII
5. I AM THE UNDISPUTED KING OF JEOPARDY IN MY FAMILY, ONLY BECAUSE I KNOW RIDICULOUS AMOUNTS OF USELESS TRIVIA.



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**@ 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.

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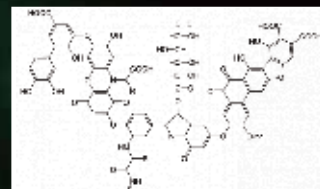
Meth-Ex is a multi-chain length, methylene urea nitrogen source that delivers consistent, extended release nutrition when the turf needs it most. This high-activity nitrogen delivers excellent color response and maximum long-term feeding.

Stress-Buffering Biostimulants

Country Club MD contains both Sea Plant Kelp Meal and Humic Acid which helps the turf grass plant achieve optimum performance by helping it prepare for the onset of stressful conditions. Turf treated with Sea Plant Kelp Meal and Humic Acid will outperform untreated turf in overall quality and playability during stressful conditions.



*Harvesting Ascophyllum
Nodosum in the Bay of Fundy*



Humic Acid

See “MD” at Work

When Country Club MD comes into contact with water, the sea plant kelp meal and humic acid quickly release from the particles during dispersion, becoming immediately available to the plant.



The “MD” Advantages

Stress Protection

The stress-buffering biostimulants incorporated in Country Club MD fertilizer will assist your greens in preparing for the inevitable periods of stress that come in every growing season. These fertilizer and soil enhancers help maintain the high-quality and playability of your putting greens by aiding the turf plant to achieve optimal performance levels before biotic or abiotic stress conditions occur.

No Mower Pickup

Country Club MD rapidly disperses into the putting green's canopy after irrigation to virtually eliminate the possibility of being picked up by the greens mower during the next mowing. This delivery system ensures that the exact amount of nutrients you intended to feed your greens with actually become available to the turf.

No Particle Migration

Due to its maximized dispersion technology, Country Club MD moves into the turf canopy so efficiently that it practically eliminates the threat of particle migration in situations of over-watering or heavy rain events. Ensuring the nutrients reach and stay where they are intended is another MD advantage.

THE MID GOLF EVENT



The winning team of Jim Higgs, Chris Koval, Kris Early and Mike Casey (not pictured) with MiGCSA President Greg Pattinson.

This year the annual Mid event was hosted by MiGCSA Class A Member Andrew Dalton at Metamora Golf & Country Club. With 68 registrants this was the largest Mid Event that the MiGCSA has hosted, thank you to all of you who attended. This was a shotgun scramble that teed off at 10:00 and was followed by an update from Dr. Kevin Frank on the MTF research at MSU, John Miller, CGCS GCSAA Great Lakes Field Staff on the National Association and an update from MiGCSA Executive Director Adam Ikamas, CGCS on the Chapter.

Our 2013 Industry Partners sponsored the three proxy prizes on the course special thanks to Platinum: BASF, Bayer, Syngenta. Gold: Spartan and Residex. Silver: Tri-Turf, Harrell's, Great Lakes Turf, Direct Solutions, Jacobsen, J.W. Turf, Rain Bird, Winfield, E-Par and John

President Pattinson thanks Host Superintendent Andy Dalton.



Deere Landscapes. The closest to the pin on hole #17 was won by Mark Pena from Silver Partner Jacobsen and the proxy on hole #4 was won by Flint Elks Superintendent Steve Rose. The long drive prize was won by Rob Pylar from Platinum Partner Bayer.

Three separate teams shot a total of 59 and the winners were decided by a scorecard playoff. Third place went to the team of Mark Pena, Barry Beard and Charlie Coffin. Second prize was the team of A.J. Plaskey, Dr. Kevin Frank and Doug Johanningsmeier. The winning team of the 2013 Mid Event was from Gold Partner Spartan Distributors made up of Kris Early, Mike Casey, Jim Higgs and Chris Koval.

In addition to Andrew and his crew the MiGCSA would like to thank Rick Fleming, General Manager, Jim Angeloff Assistant Professional, Jeff Baker Executive Chef, and Angela Mortimore Director of Food & Beverage.

Dr. Kevin Frank with an update on the MTF and MSU research.



The Mount Rushmore of the Mid, Phil Owen, CGCS, Steve Rose, Jim Naugler and Doug Spiller.



John Miller, CGCS Updates the group on the GCSAA



A CALL FROM CAMPUS

MSU TURF TEAM 'TURF TIPS & CLIPPINGS' BLOG

DR. KEVIN W. FRANK @MSUTURF

Earlier this spring I decided it was time to hit the refresh button on our turf blog. I was inspired after attending Dr. John Kaminski's (@iTweetTurf) Social Media Workshop at the turf conference in January to enhance, let's be honest, create a social media presence for the turf team.

The MSU Turf Team blog 'Turf Tips & Clippings' went live with our first blog post on April 15. It is easy to follow at [www.msuturf.blogspot.com](http://msuturf.blogspot.com/) and you can also see all of my tweets from @MSUTurf

displayed on the right hand side of the page in the event that you haven't engaged in the twitter sphere but want to read our tweets. The blog contains information for all turf sectors. For superintendents that maintain blogs and/or provide home lawn care tips for their members feel free to share the info and/or point them in our direction. A few examples of the topics you may or may not have seen so far in 2013 are below. Go to the blog to read more on any of these and more.

Postemergence Crabgrass Control in Turf Dr. Kevin Frank & Aaron Hathaway

The recent warm temperatures have pushed crabgrass to the surface in many areas. Crabgrass I've observed has progressed quickly from emergence to 3-4 leaf stage or beyond quickly. Thin turf areas, low cut turf (such as golf course fairways) or turf near sidewalks, driveways, and roadsides, where



<http://msuturf.blogspot.com/>

temperatures are warmer are usually the first place to look to find crabgrass. The best defense against crabgrass invasion is...

Selection and Timing of Grub Control Products for Homeowners

Dr. David Smitley and Terry Davis

If you are one of those lucky people that found part of your lawn was dug-up and turned-over by skunks or raccoons last fall or this spring, then you may want to consider applying one of the 'Best Choices' listed below, to protect your lawn from grubs this year (next fall and spring). If you had a raccoon party in your yard, then it is almost certain your lawn was heavily infested with C-shaped white grubs...

Particle-Size Distribution of Topdressing Sand

Dr. Jim Crum and Dr. Trey Rogers

Nearly twenty years ago we initiated research to determine the engineering and agronomic properties of high-sand content root zones used in golf putting greens, athletic fields, and as topdressings to these surfaces. We found to increase the strength and stability of surfaces it was necessary for the sand to have a wide distribution of sand particle sizes; including relatively significant proportions...



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WESTERN LUNCH & LEARN

On June 12th MiGCSA Secretary/Treasurer and Education Committee Chairman Jeff Holmes, CGCS hosted the first of a new education session called Lunch & Learn. The goals of these sessions are to provide timely education topics in a compressed format to fit into our members busy schedules in their district. This event featured Dr. Joe Vargas from Michigan State discussing what you should have done already this year and what you can do now. The inaugural Lunch & Learn was a success with over 40 members coming to hear Dr. Vargas, and network among their fellow members during lunch. The MiGCSA plans to roll out more of these in other districts this year and the next.



MIGCSA MID YEAR REVIEW

BY: ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

The MiGCSA Fiscal year runs with the calendar from January 1st to December 31st so I thought I would give a little 1/2 way update on the 2013 year for the Association.

Of course the #1 priority for the MiGCSA is our members, but just like a golf facility we can not service our members without a successful budget. Thanks mainly to overwhelming Industry Partner support including two new 2013 Silver members in Epar and John Deere Landscapes and an increase in level by Residex to Gold. As well as continued support from long time partners like Platinum: Syngenta, Bayer, BASF. Gold: Spartan Distributors, and Silver: Tri-Turf, Direct Solutions, Harrell's, WinField, J.W. Turf, Jacobsen, Great Lakes Turf and Rain Bird.

We have had a very successful membership renewal cycle as well and are up 36 members from the same time last year and up 91 from 2011. Our renewal starts in October of each year and we try to renew everyone throughout the winter.

With our largest ever Northern Fundraiser in the books it looks like a banner year for the MiGCSA Foundation as well. All of the funds raised at our three golf fundraisers go directly back into the turf industry in Michigan, and a vast majority goes directly to turf research at MSU with a donation to the MTF.

As of June 30 the financial report for the Association is positive, we are about \$5,000 ahead of June 2012, and almost \$15,000 ahead of budget. Thank you to all of our members and Industry Partners for making the MiGCSA one of the best chapters in the country, we hope to see you soon at one of our events.

THANK YOU 2013 INDUSTRY PARTNERS

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Spartan Distributors Residex

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TRI-TURF J.W. TURF DIRECT SOLUTIONS WINFIELD Harrell's Growing a Better World GREAT LAKES TURF

RAIN BIRD JACOBSEN JOHN DEERE LANDSCAPES



Think people don't notice the accessories?

On a golf course, every detail is important when it comes to course conditions. That's because "poor course conditions" is the No. 1 reason golfers give for not returning to a golf course. But there's more to course conditions than greens, tees fairways and bunkers. Consider accessories – something golfers see, touch and feel on every hole.

Having appropriate, well maintained golf course accessories is crucial at a time when you have to wow golfers with course conditions. It makes an important lasting impression on golfers and reinforces the course's (and your) reputation. So choose quality accessories from Par Aide to improve course aesthetics and playability. (While saving you time and money.) They work as hard as you do to enhance the image of your golf course. Find out how today.

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ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

Michigan Golf Alliance Summit

On Tuesday 5/28 the Michigan Golf Alliance held our first ever Golf Summit. Normally this group plans and participates in Legislative Golf Day, but this year we decided to change things up a little. This was a 9 hole mixed scramble in the

morning followed by lunch and a keynote speaker. After the keynote each members of the alliance spoke about their groups and their individual goals. The attendees were made up of Board Members and managers of the groups in the MGA. We were unfortunately rained out for golf, but still had a productive lunch and meeting. Jim Baugh spoke to everyone about the Get Golf Ready program that is making some great strides to capture and keep new golfers. If you would like to see his entire presentation filled with great stats on the golf industry and where we can improve you can download it on our website. Every group in the MGA is working hard toward a common goal of growing the game of golf, below is the introduction I gave to the group on the MiGCSA.

"Good afternoon and thank you all for taking the time to join the Michigan Golf Alliance today to continue to promote the game of golf in our great state. First off I want to personally thank Kate Moore and Jada Paisley from the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association, today's event simply would not have happened if it were not for those two. My name is Adam Ikamas and I have been the Executive Director for the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association for the last two years. Before that I was the Golf Course Superintendent at Crystal Mountain Resort for seven years and I still consider myself more of a Superintendent trying to do the job of and Executive Director than an Executive Director doing a job for Superintendents. I started in the golf business when I was 17 and am very proud to be here today to represent the MiGCSA.

Our Association was formed in 2008 from 4 separate affiliated local chapters of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America the GCSAA. The oldest of these four chapters was started in 1924 in Detroit, so although the MiGCSA is young our associations are not. In these 5 short years we have grown our membership to over 750 golf industry professionals from Superintendents, Assistants and Equipment Technicians to sales people and students. Our mission statement and a daily working goal is that "The MiGCSA is dedicated to providing value to our members through programs and services that enhance our profession." As many of you know the Superintendent can be one of the greatest assets to a golf course operation. The number one reason most golfers come back or go away is the

condition of the golf course. Our hope is to make sure our members have access to all the resources they need to be successful, which more often than not is access to one another. The Superintendents in the MiGCSA are advocates for one another and regardless of facility type or market position they are a tight knit group always willing to lend a helping hand. It is an amazing part of the industry that is often not well understood from the outside. We also hope that we can get the message of the Superintendent as an integral part of a professional operation out in front of more golfers and others in the industry. Events like today are a great way to do this. I see the members of the MiGCSA as the front line in protecting our environment and dispelling the myths about golf courses being harmful to wildlife or the land, as we all know in this room that could not be farther from the truth. This is a powerful point for all of us to take home that every MiGCSA member golf facility no matter how big or small has a highly educated expert caring for the property every day and making decisions that are environmentally sound. There are few other places in our great state where such an abundance of wildlife and nature can be seen in such a relatively small area.

Personally I look at the Michigan Golf Alliance as a macrocosm of an individual golf facility. As you all know without communication between the managers at a facility there can be no hope for overall success. In the MGA we have the PGA representing the golf professional, the MGCOA representing the owner, the GAM as the member or golfer, the CMAA representing the Club Managers, the MTF representing the research that is so important to our MiGCSA Superintendents. Just like a golf facility it is imperative that we all work together for our one common overriding goal, more golf being played by more people. Regardless of our individual needs and goals this is the tie that binds us all together. I hope that when we all leave today we can carry the message of golf and of our allied associations back with us to our own corner of the state of Michigan and of golf. Thank you very much."

Adam Ikamas, CGCS
MiGCSA Executive Director



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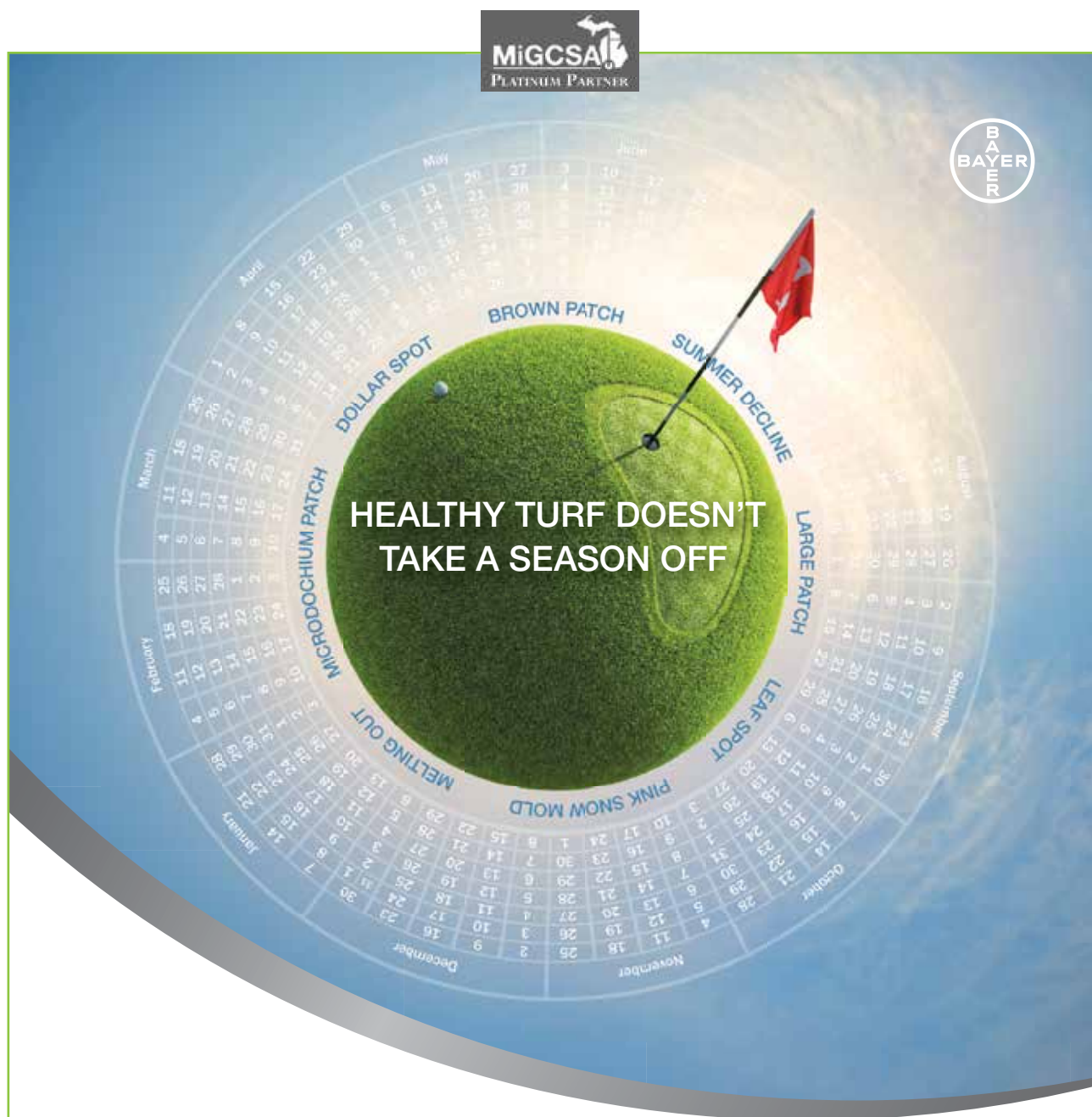
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