

# COURSE CONDITIONS

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FEATURE PROFILE:  
AL BATHUM, CGCS,  
SUPERINTENDENT AT  
CASCADE HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

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FEATURE ARTICLE:  
MICHIGAN TURFGRASS  
CONFERENCE SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

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THE 2016 MiGCSA STATE  
CHAMPIONSHIP

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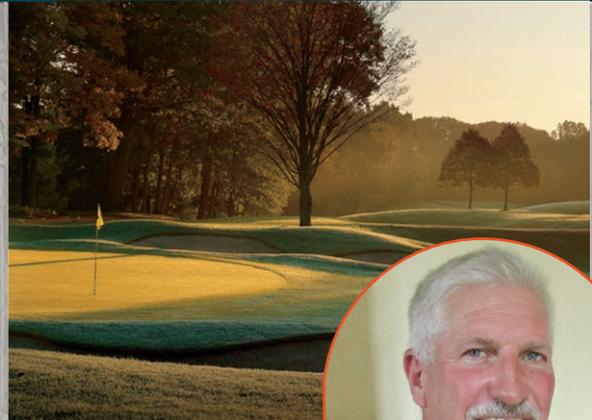


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# CONTENTS

- 4 MiGCSA Membership Report
- 5 President's Perspective
- 6 Michigan Turfgrass Conference Speaker Spotlight
- 8 Calendar of Events
- 11 MiOSHA is On-Site
- 13 The 2016 Big Event Fundraiser
- 14 2016 Western Golf Day Fundraiser
- 15 Coming to a Land Parcel Near You
- 16 A Call from Campus
- 18 Superintendent - Al Bathum, CGCS
- 22 Industry Profile - Chad Kempf
- 26 2016 US Amateur Recap
- 29 From National
- 30 Kevin Peck - Assistant Superintendent
- 35 A Message from MTF
- 38 The 2016 MiGCSA State Championship
- 42 Morning Buzz?
- 46 Association Update

18



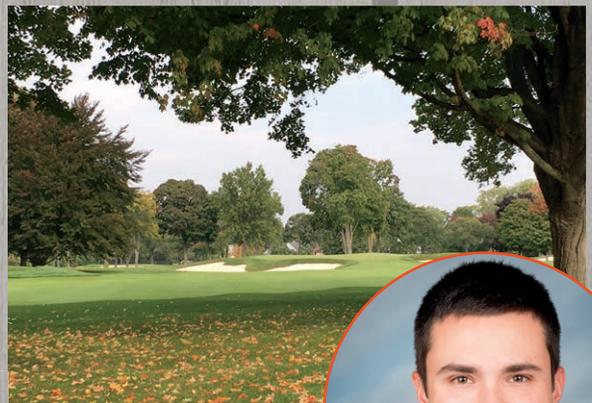
*Al Bathum, CGCS,  
Superintendent at  
Cascade Hills Country Club*

22



*Chad Kempf,  
Golf Sales Specialist,  
Rain Bird Services*

28



*Kevin Peck,  
Assistant Superintendent,  
The Country Club of Detroit*

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# MIGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

## SUMMARY OF CLASSES

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	FALL 2015 MEMBERSHIP
<b>Class A</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>Class SM</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>Class C</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Class AA</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Class AFF</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Class EM</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Class E</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Class H</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Class R</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Class SA</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>703</b>

Please log in to your account at [www.migcsa.org](http://www.migcsa.org) to renew your membership for 2016. If you are unsure of your status contact us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org) or 1-888-3-MiGCSA.

Course Conditions is published 4 times a year by the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association. Opinions expressed by guest writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the MiGCSA. For more information on Course Conditions or the MiGCSA please contact us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org), 1-888-3-MiGCSA or 316 Glencarin Dr. NE, Rockford, MI 49341.



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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



JUSTIN BICKEL, CGCS

## FALL PERSPECTIVE

Happy Thanksgiving fellow MiGCSA members! The last month has given us some amazingly warm weather as we have all been in the process of prepping our courses for the winter ahead. Hopefully this weather has also allowed many of you to knock a couple extra projects off the "To Do" list, and enjoy the subsequent feeling of removing that item from the list. As we all look ahead to next year and formulate plans and programs, the fall of 2016 really acts as a springboard for the 2017 season. Similarly, your association is formulating a plan for 2017 and creating necessary action items to achieve its goals. On October 20th, the MiGCSA Board of Directors met with MiGCSA Executive Director Adam Ikamas, to discuss agenda items from the summer and to lay the groundwork for 2017. This fall meeting acts as both a catalyst and a guide to continue to move the association forward on an organized and upward trending path. This organization and the ability to stay ahead on tasks, better strengthens the association to handle any unforeseen issues that may arise throughout the year. Looking beyond 2017, the Board of

Directors will be holding a strategic planning meeting in January with Adam Ikamas, GCSAA Chapter Outreach Director Steve Randall and GCSAA Chapter Liaison Shane Conroy to discuss the long term goals of the association. Our last strategic planning meeting was in 2014 and I am happy to report that all action items have been achieved. The discussion during this meeting, and action items created, guides the board members and Adam on a unified path for the association.

In the spirit of the season, I would like to express some thankfulness to everyone that helps move this association forward. I am thankful for my fellow Directors that have devoted their time and energy to this great association. I truly enjoy all of our meetings and discussions together. I have to assume that the cumulative superintendent experience of the Board surpasses 250 years. When that much experience unites for a common goal amazing things can be achieved. Over the last six years, every meeting and conversation with these industry professionals has aided me in serving this association as your President. I am also thankful for our Executive Director Adam Ikamas. He has an amazing passion for the golf industry and he is a leader within his own profession. The MiGCSA is fortunate to have him as its Executive Director.

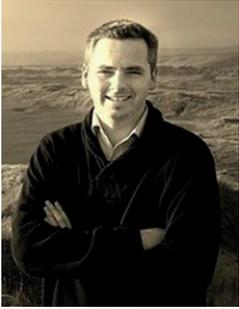
I am thankful for the generous support of our Industry Partners and the commitment of our dedicated committee members. The Scholarship Committee is currently reviewing Heritage Scholarship applications and later this month they will be interviewing the Student Scholarship applicants. The Education Committee is currently finalizing the educational speaker lineup for the three spring management meetings. At the MTF Conference, the Communication Committee will be meeting to finalize the content for the Course Conditions magazine. I am thankful for our event attendance committee. Never heard of this committee? Well, I just made it up. However, that does not mean it is not important. This committee refers to all the members of our association that support events for our wonderful industry including the MTF and the Wee One. If you added up the golf industry experience at just one event, the number would be staggering. At these events, the interactions and conversations I have with fellow industry professionals is priceless. Last but not least, I am thankful for the GCSAA. I attended the Chapter Delegates Meeting at GCSAA headquarters in mid October. The energy in that building is contagious and the information is vast. The best way that I can sum up the experience is through the words of another attendee. During the town hall discussion he stated, "I have acquired a greater appreciation for all the GCSAA does on behalf of superintendents in the last day and a half than I did in my 15 years of membership leading up to this meeting". Also, while at the meeting, President Peter J. Grass, CGCS quoted Col. John Morley, the first GCSAA president. Col. Morley stated, "Life is not self existent, we depend on each other". It's my belief that the passion and efforts of all the aforementioned people truly embodies that statement. To all my fellow golf industry professionals, I wish you and your families a safe and Merry Christmas! I look forward to seeing you all at the MTF Conference.

Respectfully,

Justin Bickel, Golf Course Superintendent  
The Dream, The Nightmare, and West Branch Country Club  
President, MiGCSA

P.S. Don't forget to renew your MiGCSA membership for 2017. It's a great opportunity to take another item off your "To Do" list. Just visit [migcsa.org](http://migcsa.org) or e-mail Adam Ikamas at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org). If you have ever been interested in volunteering for the association now would be a great time to hit two birds with one stone. During renewal there is a box you can check if interested or simply state your interest in your e-mail.

# MICHIGAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT



**John Bambury,  
Ballybunion Golf Club:**  
“The renovation of  
Ballybunion Golf Club”,  
10:00 am Tuesday and  
“European vs. American turf  
management: does a hybrid  
model work?” Wednesday  
10:00 am

John Bambury is a Golf Course Turfgrass Management professional specializing in agronomic implementation, project delivery & team development. John has a particular passion for grow-in, renovation & strategic planning. He is a graduate of the Penn State University Turfgrass Management Program. John is now working with the stunning Ballybunion Golf Club. Working with the General Manager, club chairman, treasurer, golf pro, greens committee and wider membership we are developing all surfaces to world leading standards.



**Steve Cook,  
Oakland Hills CC:**  
“Climbing in the Himalaya:  
the gifts of taking a risk”  
Tuesday 2:30 pm

Steve Cook, CGCS and Master Greenkeeper, is the Director of Agronomy at Oakland Hills CC since 1997. Prior to joining Oakland Hills CC, Steve held positions at Medinah CC in Chicago, Golf de Joyenval in Paris, and Wakonda Club in Des Moines. Steve’s experience at Oakland Hills CC has included hosting 2 U.S. Amateur championships, the 2004 Ryder Cup, and the 2008 PGA Championship.



**Dr. Fred Whitford,  
Purdue University:**  
“Responding to a pesticide  
spill” Tuesday, 11 am and  
“Adjuvants and the power  
of the spray droplet in pest  
control” Tuesday, 1:30 pm  
Fred Whitford is the coordinator  
of Purdue Pesticide Programs of

the Purdue Cooperative Extension Service. He received a B. S. in wildlife management from Louisiana Tech University, and an M.S. and Ph.D. in entomology from Iowa State University. He has authored more than 200 research, extension, and regulatory publications, and has delivered over 2000 presentations to a wide array of audiences. He has written three books: *The grand old man of Purdue University and Indiana Agriculture: a biography of William Carroll Latta*, published in 2005 by Purdue University Press; *The complete book on pesticide management: science, regulation, stewardship, and communication*, published in 2002 by Wiley & Sons; and *The complete federal and state compliance guide for Hoosier businesses*, published in 2001 by Purdue University Press. Dr. Whitford’s prior professional activities include lab and field research, extension outreach, regulatory work, and commercial pesticide application.



**Dr. Frank Rossi, Cornell  
University:**  
“What have we learned from 6  
years of pesticide ban on K-12  
playing fields” 8 am Thursday,  
“More questions than answers –  
high performance putting surface  
management” 10 am Thursday,  
and “Weeds and seeds:  
developing alternatives  
to traditional herbicides” Thursday 1:00 pm

Dr. Frank Rossi (@fsr3) is an Associate Professor in the School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell University where he teaches a variety of horticultural science courses. His research and extension programs focus on maximizing turfgrass performance while preserving environmental quality. He has a short list of important research articles and long list of extension publications including co-authoring the 5th Edition of Turfgrass Science and Management with his Mentor Professor Bob Emmons. Frank has been recognized as among the most influential people in the turf and green industries on several occasions in his career by publications such as Golfweek and SportsTurf Magazine. Recently he was awarded the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Metropolitan Golf Course Supt. Association.



**Pat Jones, Golf Course Industry:**

**“The good, the bad, and the ugly of 2016”  
Thursday 11:00 am**

For three decades, Pat Jones has been known for his insights into the golf and

turf business and his candid, tell-it-like-it-is approach.

As publisher and editorial director of GIE Media’s *Golf Course Industry* magazine, Pat runs the leading independent publication in the business and contributes his award-winning “Parting Shots” column each month. He is a prolific writer, blogger and social media commentator and a frequent presenter at regional, national and international turf conferences.



**Dr. Doug Soldat, University of Wisconsin:**

**“Manipulating potassium tissue levels to manage bentgrass/ Poa populations”, 9:00 am  
Tuesday and “Calcium, sodium, and iron layering in USGA putting greens – problems or not?”  
Wednesday 9:00 am**

Doug Soldat is an associate professor and turfgrass extension specialist in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Doug completed his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Soil Science from UW-Madison. He earned his Ph.D. in Plant Science from Cornell University in 2006. Doug advises the turfgrass management students at the UW, and teaches courses in the fields of turfgrass management and general soil science. His research and outreach programs are focused on improving nutrient and water use efficiency of turfgrass.



**Mark Hollis, MSU Department of Intercollegiate Athletics:**  
**“Leadership” Wednesday 1:30 pm**

*“We gather and engage our community to teach, support and celebrate our student-athletes in their quest for excellence.”*

This is the vision Michigan State Athletics Director Mark Hollis has for Spartan Athletics. Hollis, who was named the 2012 Athletic Director of the Year by Street & Smith’s SportsBusiness Journal/

Daily, is in his ninth year leading the MSU Athletics Department. He officially assumed the role of MSU’s 18th athletics director on Jan. 1, 2008, succeeding Ron Mason. Hollis has more than 25 years of athletics administration experience, either at the school or conference level. His well-rounded background has led to his knowledge of all areas within an athletics department, including marketing, financial administration, television negotiations, fund-raising, game operations, facility management, personnel policy, corporate interaction, sports management and public relations.



**Bruce Williams: “Skills that set you apart” Wednesday 9:00 am, “Managing change” 11:00 am Wednesday, and “Crystal Ball for the Future of Golf and Sports Turf”, 2:30 pm Wednesday**

Bruce Williams has been making presentations to golf and turf groups for over 45 years. Born

and raised on a golf course he is the son of a renowned golf course superintendent, Bob Williams. Bruce is a graduate of Baldwin-Wallace College and also Michigan State University in the Turfgrass Management Program. He spent 21 years as the golf course superintendent at Bob O’Link Golf Club in Highland Park, IL and 14 years as Director of Golf Courses and Grounds at The Los Angeles Country Club. Bruce has been involved in leadership positions for 4 decades in golf and turf. He has been the president of the following chapters: Midwest, Chicagoland, Southern California and California. In 1996 he was the President of the GCSAA as was his father in 1958. Currently Bruce serves as a Director for the California Alliance for Golf. He also serves on the USGA Green Section Committee and is the Executive Director of The California Turfgrass and Landscape Foundation.



**Paul Albanese: “Contracting vs. Construction Management” 9:00 am Thursday**

If there is a word to describe Paul, it is passion. He has a passion for golf architecture, and this passion is evidenced by the golf designs he has created and the dedication he shows to the profession. Paul

prides himself on being able to envision concepts and transform creative ideas into reality. Paul was recruited

by Cornell University to play on the golf team, and his senior year he was captain of the team. Paul received a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University's engineering college, where he specified his studies in environmental and agricultural engineering. By the time Paul finished up at Cornell, he knew had the technical skills to create golf courses, but in order to create truly memorable golf spaces, he wanted to learn the creative side of design. So, he proceeded to Harvard University where he received a Masters in Landscape Architecture. Subsequent to his education, Paul headed to Lansing, Michigan as an associate designer with

the prolific golf architect Matthews & Associates in Lansing, Michigan. His designs for Hunters Ridge and Timberstone (3rd best upscale public course, Golf Digest, 1998) were widely praised and he jumped at the chance to start a new firm with a fellow colleague, building the company from a start-up enterprise to an internationally recognized, award winning firm. Paul has lived and worked by a very simple philosophy – Exceed Expectations. All of his past clients have benefited from his design talent and leadership, and he looks forward to continuing the challenge of creating memorable golf spaces.

### Innovative Superintendents Session, 1:30 pm Thursday



Steve Hammon,  
Traverse City CC



Greg Pattinson,  
Highland Meadows CC



Brian Moore, Forest  
Dunes Golf Club



Craig Kooengia,  
Indian Trails GC



Jared Milner,  
Meadowbrook CC

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 - DETROIT HOLIDAY PARTY (THE LODGE AT KEEGO HARBOR, KEEGO HARBOR)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 - WEST HOLIDAY PARTY (CASCADES SPORTS BAR & GRILL, GRAND RAPIDS)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16 - MID HOLIDAY PARTY (BOTTOMS UP, HOLLY)

TUES-THURS, JAN. 3-5 - MICHIGAN TURF CONFERENCE (KELLOGG CENTER, EAST LANSING)

TUESDAY, JAN. 3 - MIGCSA ANNUAL MEETING (KELLOGG CENTER, EAST LANSING)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20 - CURLING FUNDRAISER FOR ICE RESEARCH (DETROIT CURLING CLUB, FERNDALE)

MON-FRI, FEB 4-9 - GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW (ORLANDO)

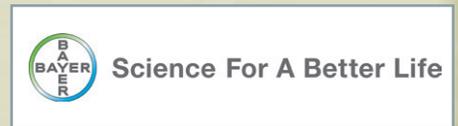
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8 – MICHIGAN GATHERING (ORLANDO)

Please visit [www.MiGCSA.org](http://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](mailto:info@migcsa.org)

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JEFF SWEET

# MiOSHA IS ON-SITE.



**N**ot the call you want to receive on a Monday morning. In late September, we had a surprise visit from a Safety Officer with MiOSHA. The inspection was based on our NAICS code (our industry code) through federal OSHA. I will detail the day's visit and the subsequent follow-up to help you understand what to expect if you ever find yourself in the same situation.

The first item on the docket is to complete paperwork. This includes your Federal Tax ID, address, and presenting your injury reports for the past three years (OSHA 300, 301 Forms). From there, you can anticipate a full, wall-to-wall inspection of the entire facility.

Starting in the clubhouse, we inspected fire extinguishers, exit doors, breaker boxes, and the M(SDS) binder. The officer also interviewed a member of the kitchen staff. This interview was conducted one-on-one, without anyone else present. If you are adequately training your staff in proper procedures and safety, the employee interviews should not be an issue. In addition, you should instruct all staff to be open, courteous, and honest. That goes for you, as well. If you are argumentative or uncooperative with the officer, you can expect a long day. On the flip side of that, you should not be afraid to ask questions or ask for clarification during the inspection. The officer was a very personable individual, who really made the process go extremely well. I am very appreciative of that.

From the clubhouse, we headed to the Maintenance Facility. I was actually relieved to head to the shop because that's my "wheelhouse" and I know that we work very hard to keep our employees safe every day. Our clubhouse does, as well, but the shop is our area. The officer completed another interview, and then inspected ladders, eye wash stations, equipment guards, bench grinders, labor posters and training documentation. All items that were inspected in the clubhouse were also inspected in the shop, as well.

Overall, the visit was very positive and ultimately it helped reinforce Fisher Companies' commitment and my commitment to safety to the Bucks Run Team. Did we have a couple of warts? We sure did, and we corrected them immediately. The officer came back a week later for the closing conference, this is where we go over the initial visit and any citations or areas of concern are brought up. From that point, we will receive a certified letter in 6-8 weeks. If the letter contains any citations we need to post that letter in a high traffic area for three days, so our employees can see the citation.

## What should you do during the visit?

During the visit you should take detailed notes of everything you and the safety officer discuss. When the safety officer takes a picture of something you should do the same. Also as stated above be respectful and ask questions, use the inspection as a tool to make your workplace safer. At the end of the visit the safety officer will go over everything that was discussed during the day but you do not get a written report, this is where your notes and pictures come in. Also as you correct items (abatement) after the visit, I would suggest you correct any items as soon as possible, take pictures of the corrections and save any related documentation. Everything you correct, document it and take pictures, this will help in the closing conference or any future paper work that you need to complete. After the inspection if you are in disagreement with any part of the inspection use your appeal rights. Do not ignore the inspection; it will not go away until there is a resolution through appeal, having abated citations and payment of penalty if applicable.

## What changes are we making?

We have developed a checklist that an empowered employee will use to inspect the facility each month. In addition, we created a new training and standard operating procedure for tree trimming/chainsaw use, and renewed our continued focus on safety. The officer also informed me about MiOSHA's Consultation Education and Training (CET) Division. You can learn more about CET at [www.michigan.gov/cetra](http://www.michigan.gov/cetra). The CET Division offers free, statewide safety audits to employers and employees. It is the same inspection process, but there are no penalties associated with the inspection, unless the employer does not correct identified issues. Moving forward, we will invite the CET Division on-site to complete an audit and help ensure we are doing everything to help our employees go home safely each day.

I encourage you to take a look around your facility to ensure your employees are working in a safe manner. If you see a hazard or potential hazard eliminate it, if you can't eliminate it try to reduce the hazard by training and communication with employees. If you are not the point-person for safety at your facility, you should be. This will not only show your employer that you are protecting their investment, but it will also show the entire staff that you are a leader and want everyone to have a safe, injury-free work environment.



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# THE 2016 BIG EVENT FUNDRAISER

**M**ore than 90 played golf and more than 100 came for dinner on Monday October 10th after the original date of October 3rd was washed out. This event is the last of the three fundraisers the MiGCSA has every year. All of the proceeds from these events go to fund the future of our industry by the way of scholarships, philanthropic causes related to turf and funding research at Michigan State by way of donation to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF).

A sold out field of 92 golfers participated in the event. Winners of A very special thank you to our 2016 Premier Fundraiser Sponsors BASF, Bayer, F.I.P. Irrigation Services, Jacobsen, Matt LaFontaine Automotive, Residex, Spartan Distributors, Syngenta, and Tri-Turf. Also, a thank you to the hole sponsors J.W. Turf and Site One Landscape Supply. Residex also supplied the Hot Dogs for the day and thank you to Beverage Sponsors Harrell's and Herman & Associates. There were 9 proximity prizes thanks to the Premier Sponsors and Sue Shockey & Rich Locke from Residex hosted the Texas Hold Em' poker game contest. The MSU Turf Club President Garrett Haller along with Kiko & raised \$280 for the Turf Club at the putting contest won by Doug Ware, Dave Klemstine and Matt Kelly who all made the putt and split the 50/50.

Thank you to Superintendent John Sabat, Assistant Superintendent Robert Faria, General Manager Mike Bageris, PGA Golf Professional John Jawor and the Membership of Plum Hollow Country Club

especially GAM Green Committee Chairman Jay Hultz for helping to make this such a great event.

## Here are the results:

### Closest to the pins:

Josh Teitsma, John Sabat, Alex Piotrowski, Team FIP's E.J. Martin

### Long Drives:

Team FIP's Matt Kelly, Dave Creager, Maggie Gdula, Al Perkins, Jeff Romsek

### Winning Scramble Teams:

#### 1st place

61 – Mark Galbraith, Sean Clauw, Dave Coin and Jim Schmidt

#### 2nd place

61 – Andrew Gilroy, Chris Sobek, Terry Poley, Maggie Gdula

#### 3rd place

63 – Derek Carroll, Nathan Beech, E.J. Martin, Matt Kelly

Our host  
John Sabat



The winning team of Mark Galbraith, Sean Clauw, Dave Coin and Jim Schmidt



## 2016 WESTERN GOLF DAY FUNDRAISER

*Our host addresses the attendees with MiGCSA President Justin Bickel*

Close to 100 attendees took part in the 2016 Western Golf Day Fundraiser at Kent Country Club on Monday September 19th. This event is the second of the three fundraisers the MiGCSA has every year. All of the proceeds from these events go to fund the future of our industry by the way of scholarships, philanthropic causes related to turf and funding research at Michigan State by way of donation to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF).

A very special thank you to our 2016 Premier Fundraiser Sponsors BASF, Bayer, F.I.P. Irrigation Services, Jacobsen, Matt LaFontaine Automotive, Residex, Spartan

Distributors, Syngenta, and Tri-Turf. Also, a thank you to the hole sponsors J.W. Turf and Site One Landscape Supply. Great Lakes Turf supplied the Hot Dogs for the day and thank you to Beverage Sponsors Harrell's and Herman & Associates. There were 9 proximity prizes thanks to the Premier Sponsors and Chad Kempf hosted the Texas Hold Em' poker game contest.

Thank you to Superintendent Keith Paterson, Assistant Superintendent Bill Farrell, General Manager Scott Ninemeier, CCM, PGA Golf Professional Ted Tollefson and the Membership of Kent Country Club for helping to make this such a great event.

### Here are the results:

#### Closest to the pins:

Kirk Carls, Marc McCoy, Wes Eklund, Jon Jay

#### Long Drives:

Justin Bickel x 2, Jeff Hopkins, Josh Teitsma, Kate Heffron

#### Poker Game:

Jason Schwieters, Jim Chappell & Jake Slaydon with a full house, 2's over Jacks

#### Winning Scramble Teams:

##### 1st place

62 – Corey Parmalee, Shawn Pranger, Steve Shultz & Josh Teitsma

##### 2nd place

63 – Jim Johnson, Mike Johnson, Mark Wilson & Steve Tedhams

##### 3rd place

63 – Kate Heffron, Jon Jay, Jim Higgs & Joey Smallwood



*Keith Paterson and Bill Farrell*



*The winning team of Corey Parmalee, Shawn Pranger, Steve Shultz, Josh Teitsma*



## COMING TO A THEATER LAND PARCEL NEAR YOU

BY PAUL ALBANESE, ASGCA

The first three issues in 2016, I described the parallels and similarities of two artistic processes: movie making and golf course creating. I analogized movie directors with golf course

builders, writers with golf architects, and owners with producers, shapers and actors. Below, I continue this idea via the comparison of other parallel entities within these respective creative endeavors:

### Lighting and Sound/Drainage and Irrigation

The lighting and sound of a movie and the drainage and irrigation of a golf course are similar since they are the technical parts of their respective projects. Lighting and sound is essential to a movie being seen and heard well.

Unfortunately, for both these professions, the only time their craft seems to be noticed is when it is not done well. It is rare to hear someone leave a movie and applaud the great sound or lighting, but many have lamented parts in movies when the scene is less than stellar because it was too dark to be viewed or the voices could not be heard.

Similarly, the drainage and irrigation of a golf course are essential to making a golf course function, so the golf experience can be enjoyed and fulfilling. Unfortunately, many nice golf holes have been essentially ruined due to poor drainage and/or irrigation execution. And, regrettably, and similar to the lighting/sound professionals on a movie production, it is a rare occurrence for a golfer to go into the pro-shop after a round of golf and extol compliments upon the drainage or the irrigation systems. Although, they might appreciate how dry a course is after a rain event, or how easily they found their ball in the fescue, which is a direct result from well done irrigation.

### Cinematographer/Superintendent

The cinematography of a movie can be compared to the maintaining of the golf course. The cinematography of a movie will create a "feel" to a movie, using different techniques, just as the turf type and quality of a golf course will create a different "feel" as well.

Cinematography utilizes different angles, film types, and styles to create an atmosphere that will best suit the story being told. Whether trying to create an old world tone by using black and white film or creating suspense with camera angles that continually change, the cinematographer enhances the mood to make the story more believable, enjoyable and interesting.

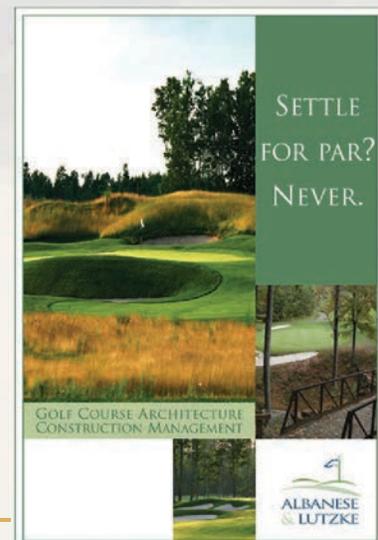
The superintendent of a golf course will also enhance the entire landscape palette golfers experience. Utilizing the appropriate plant types, along with specific maintenance regimes, will give a golf course a unique and special feel. The superintendent is essential to a golf course endeavoring to generate a prairie, parkland, heathland or "linksland" flavor, by utilizing the correct grass types that will emulate this look. The landscaping of a golf course is the background the entire golf narrative will play out upon, and the superintendent is critical to tying the entire golf course together into a well-formed experience.

### Special Effects/Special Features

The special effects in a movie may sometimes be the most memorable part of the film. The special features built on a golf course, as well, are sometimes the most notable part of the golf experience. After leaving many films, I find myself thinking about the special effects more than the story line. Many golf courses built in the desert have careening waterfalls and extravagant flowerbeds, which will often leave a larger impression on a golfer than the golf hole routing or the green complexes, which are the essence of the design story.

Special effects, although fun and exciting, are rarely the key component to a great movie or great golf course. Many times, the special effects of a movie and golf course overshadow a high quality project. Classic movies, such as Casablanca, and classic golf courses, such as Crystal Downs, rely much less on special effects than a modern movie, even modern classics. Almost every movie today, whether good or bad, seems to have a least one scene where the unbelievable comes to fruition. Modern golf courses too, seem to have a least one hole where the special features dominate the experience. The technology to create the wondrous is available, and both movies and golf courses are using it to make people say "wow!"

The creative process — whether making a golf course or a movie — is rewarding. And, we in the golf development business should feel fortunate to be able to create in order for people to recreate.



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 on golf course projects in many countries.

# A CALL FROM CAMPUS

## IMPROVING ICE STRESS SURVIVAL OF ANNUAL BLUEGRASS

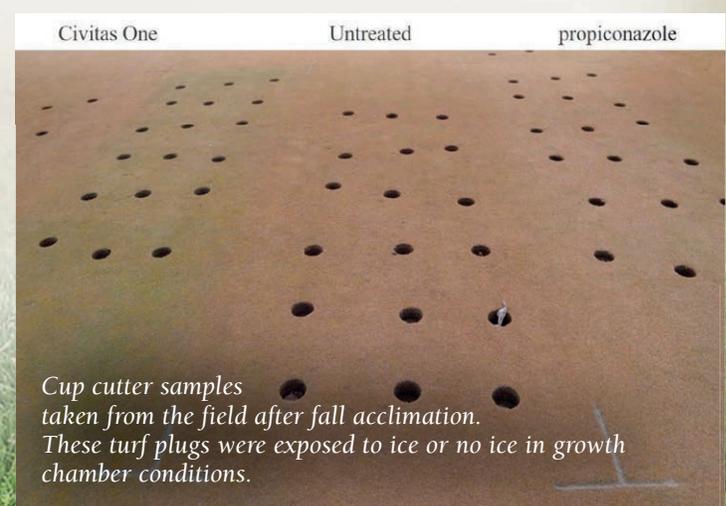
BY: DR. EMILY MEREWITZ, DR. KEVIN FRANK & KEVIN LASKOWSKI

Annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) is highly susceptible to ice damage and it is a predominant species found on MI golf course greens. Creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera*) has been shown to survive 120 days of ice cover without significant injury while annual bluegrass was killed somewhere between 75 and 90 days of ice cover. It seems that cultivar or ecotype variation of how long creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass can persist under ice cover does exist. In Canada, annual bluegrass greens were damaged in as few as 45 days under ice. The primary cause of death to turfgrass under ice sheets is most likely from oxygen depletion and toxic gas accumulation under the ice sheets from soil microbes and turfgrass respiration.

Reestablishing turfgrass in winterkill-damaged areas can be very challenging in the spring due to cool, cloudy conditions that often persist. At least 10 weeks are required to reestablish putting greens from seed following winterkill. Although the time required for sodding a putting green and having it open for play is significantly less, the cost can be prohibitive. Many golf courses cannot afford to reseed their greens let alone resod them. Thus, the costs to turf managers associated with recovery from winter are high and include the labor and supplies directed towards recovery as well as the loss of money from patrons and members in the spring due to limited or restricted play on winter damaged greens. Other than ice removal or covering of turf, both of which have pros and cons, no widely accepted management practices exist that can prevent extensive damage due to ice cover.

The objectives of the study were to evaluate whether different chemical treatments may promote ice survival of annual bluegrass. Annual bluegrass field plots (4 x 15 ft) were treated in late summer through fall with Civitas, mefluidide, propiconazole or trinexapac-ethyl at recommended label rates. After acclimation in late fall, annual bluegrass turfgrass plugs were taken from each plot and transferred to a low-temperature growth chamber (-4 °C) where they underwent ice-cover or no-ice-cover treatments. Turfgrass plugs were removed from the low-temperature growth chamber after 20, 40, and 60 days. Half of the plugs

An example of severe winter damage caused by ice accumulation on mixed stand putting greens at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center in East Lansing, MI.



underwent destructive sampling for fatty acid analysis and the other half were used for a regrowth assay. Annual bluegrass plants treated with mefluidide, propiconazole, and Civitas all had a higher percent of regrowth after 20 d of recovery in a greenhouse than trinexapac-ethyl and untreated control plugs after 20 and 60 days under ice cover. Mefluidide, propiconazole, and Civitas treated plants had a greater percentage of polyunsaturated fatty acids compared with trinexapac-ethyl and untreated samples, with linoleic acid being the most increased fatty acid due to chemical treatments. Shifts in unsaturated fatty acid content may be associated with ice tolerance and linoleic acid content changes could be related to jasmonic acid stress signaling; however, future work is needed to elucidate these findings associated with ice tolerance. These results provide valuable

insight on how common management practices may promote or reduce annual bluegrass survival of ice cover. Ongoing work is aimed at evaluating species level differences in ice responses between creeping bentgrass and annual bluegrass.



*Experimental ice treatments (0.5 in. thick) covering turfgrass plugs that are maintained in a low temperature growth chamber.*



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# AL BATHUM

*Al Bathum, CGCS has been the Superintendent at Cascade Hills Country Club in Grand Rapids since 1992. Al lives in Rockford with Karen his wife of 29 years and their son Cam who is 21.*

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

I grew up in the Flint area and had no knowledge of golf prior to getting a job at a local apartment complex with a 9 hole par 3 course. A friend of mine got a job there and told me about it, so I applied. We were only 15 years old so his dad would drop us off and pick us up on the way home from work. Most of the time we trim mowed around trees, ponds, apartment buildings with push mowers. It was a bit before string trimmers were common. The mowers were Jacobsen commercial 20 rotary mowers. They weighed a ton early in the day and two tons by the end of the day. They weren't self-propelled. As you can imagine my favorite job the first few summers were lunch and the end of the day. I progressed and after a few summers started learning more about the golf course. The last few summers I did all the mowing on the course and cup cutting etc. At the end of high school I moved to a new job at Warwick Hills Country Club. After a couple summers in Junior College the superintendent suggested I check into the turf grass management program at Michigan State.

## 2. WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

Mott Community College in Flint and then MSU. **What part of that education do you use most often on the job?** Using the common-sense approach that most of the MSU professors taught us Dr. Payne, Dr. Vargas and Dr. Rieke to name a few. **What course did you go to after college?** I returned to Warwick Hills after I graduated.

## 3. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS RELATED MOVIE?

Caddyshack. **What is your favorite non-golf sport?** Hunting Deer. **What do you like do in your spare time?** Golf, watching sports, and I enjoy pretty much any outdoor activity.



#### 4. DO YOU PLAY GOLF?

Yes. **What is your handicap?** 17 to 25 at most clubs. **What is your favorite golf hole?** Too many to name just one but if I must I would say the par 3 12th at Augusta National. **What is your favorite golf course that you have played?** Pinehurst #2. **What is the toughest golf course you have played?** Probably the quarry course in Las Vegas. **What golf course you would love to experience once in your lifetime?** Of course, Augusta National. **What is your favorite golf club in the bag?** My Putter. **Where did you shoot your best round of golf and what was the score?** At the GCSAA National Tournament, I don't recall my score but it was good enough to win a plate! **Who is your favorite touring professional?** I have always liked Fuzzy mainly for his great sense of humor.

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

I think the focus should be on education and comradery and to strive to include people from every type of golf course operation. **What are your expectations from the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation?** Continue to fund research at MSU and to make sure that the research applies to most turf managers and to get more publicity of their work out to past and future to golfers.

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

I was the president of the Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association from 1999 - 2000 and served as the newsletter editor. I am currently serving on the MTF Board.

#### 7. WHAT DO YOU FIND TO BE THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

I think one of the most difficult and most rewarding parts of my job is dealing with people. We have daily

conversations with a variety of employees, young, old, middle aged, skilled, unskilled, highly motivated and not motivated at all. We get to teach direct and correct, motivate and discipline on any given day. Along with the golf course maintenance personnel we also get to work with clubhouse staff, golf shop staff and outside contractors and vendors. This doesn't even include the members that pay the bills and give support to the grounds operation. It can be fairly challenging especially when Mother Nature is not cooperating.

#### 8. WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART?

I think the actual work and seeing the end result of a great product when the team puts it all together. Even when it only lasts a few days before some other weather event or equipment failure throws another challenge your way. I've always enjoyed the work. Changing cups and course set up is one of my favorites.

#### 9. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT?

Our 648 aerifier. **What piece of equipment would you like to add to your arsenal for golf course management?** Two more 648's! **Who makes you laugh the most on your crew?** Our Irrigation Technician, Roger Varhaar. **If you had a mulligan in a totally different career choice, what would it be?** Sales or professional Gigolo (kidding)

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

Watch the water and no detail is too small to attend to. **How do you rate importance of the superintendent's role and influence in the golf industry?** I'd say it ranks at the top with most. **What percentage of your time is devoted to non-agronomic golf course management?** 60 percent or more on some days. **What is your opinion of the role of an assistant superintendent?** Ranks equal



to the superintendent & mechanic. **What is your opinion of the role of the golf course mechanic/technician?** Huge, couldn't do it without them.

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

Don't take yourself and the job too serious, laugh a bit, learn early to treat people how you would like to be treated. **How many crew members do you have?** Not enough, 25 to 30 at the height of the season. **What type of irrigation system do you have?** Toro site pro 1300 heads on 18 holes, Toro hydraulic on 9 holes. **What cultural practice you could not do without?** Topdressing

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

Camping, fishing, hunting and still working on a course somewhere, doing course setup. **How would you like to be remembered 100 years from now?** I would like to be remembered as honest, fair and fun! **Who are the greatest influences on your personal life?** My wife and son. **Who would make up your dream scramble team?** My dad, Arnold Palmer, Cam Bathum & myself.

#### 13. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Living up to customer's desires and staying in budget. **What research would you like to see accomplished for turfgrass management?** Genetics work for grass plants. **What do you see for the next generation of superintendents?** Dividing dollars for better conditions.

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

I was with the Superintendent as his new assistant and we were riding the course in Atlanta turning some irrigation on from the satellite boxes to water the winter greens we had over seeded. At one of the satellites we could not see one of the greens because of a hill. After he turned the head on an older lady member who was golfing on her own came riding out of the valley in her cart. She was about 300 yards from us and didn't see us. I may have thought to drive off for a brief second but the super drove over immediately and apologized. The lady's hair was up and hanging off the side of her head and her makeup was running. It was a direct shot from the irrigation. We got her a towel and wiped down the cart and clubs as the super continued to apologize. She said that it was ok she was going to get her hair done the next day and seemed pretty calm about getting drilled. I learned a lot about his character that day and it was a great example for me. We all screw up, learn from it and take your lumps. People respect that. It was quite a site though. Ha-ha!

### 5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU.

1. Born and raised in Flint, MI and very proud of the working-class heritage of that area and Michigan.
2. Love to listen to blues, jazz, rock and country music.
3. Took lesson in Piano, drums and Tuba in my youth.
4. Enjoy art. Like to draw and use other mediums to create art.
5. Enjoy outdoor activities, boating, hunting, and fishing.



# For its ninth U.S. Open, Oakmont trusted **Lexicon**<sup>®</sup> **Intrinsic**<sup>®</sup> brand fungicide



*John Zimmers,  
Superintendent,  
and David Delsandro,  
Director of U.S. Open  
Operations and Projects,  
Oakmont Country Club*

The pressure was on. As David Delsandro prepared for Oakmont's ninth U.S. Open, he turned to **Lexicon Intrinsic** brand fungicide. This foundational product for greens provides control of 27 diseases for up to 28 days, plus plant health benefits. John Zimmers said, "In my 17 years here, we produced some of the best roots, which helped deliver exceptional turf."

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We create chemistry



**RAIN BIRD**



## CHAD KEMPF

*Chad Kempf is the Michigan Golf Sales Specialist for Silver Industry Partner Rain Bird Services. Chad lives in Wyoming with his wife of 15 years Anita with their two girls Hailey and Hannah.*

### HOW DID YOU AND ANITA MEET?

We met in Chicago when I was working as an assistant at Hinsdale Golf Club. I was living in a community with 10 sand volleyball courts, a small ski hill, a White Hen, and a Pub. When I was not on the golf course, I was on the volleyball courts and that is where we met. We had a large group of friends we played volleyball with and many within the group got married as well. We still try to keep in touch with those friends as they have kids about the same ages as ours.

### HOW OLD ARE HAILEY AND HANNAH?

Hailey is 13, and Hannah is 10. I could not be more proud of how smart and beautiful they have become and love to experience the world through their eyes. I can only hope we do a good enough job getting them prepared for the world ahead of them.

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

At age 13, I accepted a summer job at West Bend Country Club. This was

my first exposure to golf and I loved it. I caddied for three years and worked my way up to the bag room. When I turned 18, my buddy and I decided to apply for the grounds crew, not realizing at the time that I was hooked. Our crew worked hard, but we had fun doing the work. I have a lot of good memories from my summers working on the crew at West Bend Country Club, but had yet to learn this was going to be my calling. I went off to college to become a business major, but after a few days of attending my second economics class, I decided to drop the course. Since I did not have enough credits and wasn't sure what I really wanted to do, I sought out a career counselor to get some help deciding what to do with my life. We looked into many different possibilities and after describing the work I did on the golf course he asked me, "What don't you like about that job?" After some thought, I could not come up with anything I disliked about the job so we looked into finding a course of study that would relate to the golf industry. We were both surprised to find that there was a turf degree offered at UW-Madison. The next day,



I met with Dr. Wayne Kussow, the Advisor for the turf students, and we set my course schedule for a Degree in Turf and Soil Science.

### WHAT IS YOUR BEST ADVICE TO DECISION MAKERS WHEN DOING BUSINESS?

When I got started with Rain Bird, I heard a comment that has stuck with me, "People buy based off of either their head or their heart." Looking back over the last five years, I have found this comment to be true as I believe the most intelligent decisions have been made when people buy with their head. When superintendents take the time to understand and learn the differences in products available to them, they make the best decisions for the course in the long haul. Companies are always looking to improve their products and come up with new innovations and it is difficult for superintendents to keep on top of the technology. When faced with purchasing decisions, use your sales specialist to help you understand the differences in products and which ones are best for you. I look at my role as more of an educator rather than just sales. If I can help someone understand the benefits of our products, they will better understand if it fits with what they are trying to accomplish and make better decisions for their golf courses.

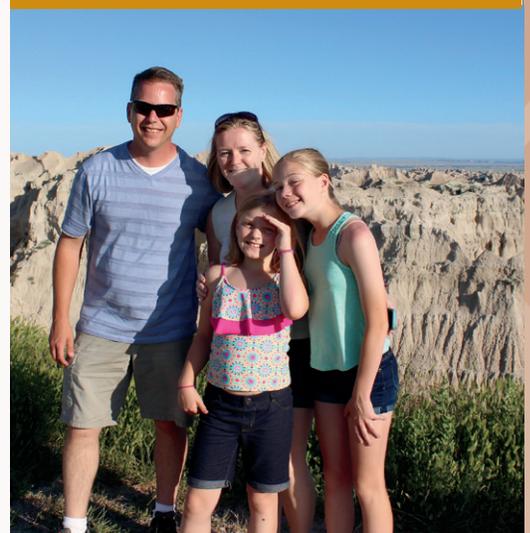
### WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF BEING IN AN INDUSTRY SUPPORT ROLE?

Superintendents have to wear a lot of different hats each and every day and I enjoy helping them become more knowledgeable about irrigation; it is so vital to their job, yet they don't have the time to fully dedicate themselves to understanding all the new technology and technique's now available. Don't get me wrong, I am not saying superintendents don't know how to irrigate turf; on the contrary, they do a fantastic job. I just know that in past years when I was managing the irrigation on the golf course, I knew how to control the system in a limited way to get the result I wanted. Had I known then, some of the things I know now, I would have been a much better irrigation manager. One of my goals is to help superintendents get more out of their irrigation systems. As the resources that golf courses use become more scrutinized, irrigation will definitely be on that list. I hope to help superintendents get ahead of that curve and to be leaders in irrigation management.

### WHAT IS YOUR BEST SUCCESS STORY?

My first visit to a particular golf course, the Superintendent was not in the mood to deal with a new salesman and kicked me off the course; telling me not to come back. I left and was five minutes down the road when he called. We talked, and I came back to finish the visit. After that, he was a good customer until he decided to take on a role on this side of the business. He really helped me to understand not to take things personally and to always do my best to help out in any way I can.

## INDUSTRY PROFILE



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

Having spent some years outside of Michigan working within the industry, I have experienced first-hand just how great our association is! Please continue to be passionate about providing MIGCSA members with the tools and support necessary to be the very best they can be.

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

The best day for me is when I get to spend some time helping out a customer; whether it is troubleshooting an issue, understanding how to use the product better, or educating them on something new. As an assistant superintendent, I always enjoyed the irrigation part of the job. I now take the time to really focus and understand irrigation better and being able to sharing that with superintendents, assistants and students, is really fulfilling to me. Anytime you want to talk irrigation, I'm in!

### HOW MANY DAYS OF THE YEAR ARE YOU ON THE ROAD?

I spend less time on the road than I used to. My previous position with EPIC Creative gave me the opportunity to travel to golf courses around the country. I met many great superintendents and saw many wonderful golf courses. Although I enjoyed getting to visit with superintendents all around the country, the time away from my family was definitely hard, especially with younger children. In this role, there are definitely nights I need to spend on the road and away from my family but I find it easier to plan around family events in this position, as I am driving instead of flying. I don't miss air travel but experienced it enough to know how to handle it better the few times I do fly to attend GIS or sales meetings.

### HOW MANY MILES DO YOU DRIVE IN A TYPICAL YEAR?

I have been averaging about 40,000 miles per year the last couple of years. I don't mind the extra miles I put on if it means I can be home for the evening with the family.

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING OUTSIDE OF WORK?

I spend most of my time outside work with my family. Since moving to Michigan over five years ago, we have tried to spend time exploring different things to do here. Going to the beaches in summer is definitely one of our favorite things to do, but we don't get there often enough. We have done a lot more camping since moving to Michigan as there are a lot of great places to enjoy nature. We have also explored many different cool places like Meijer Gardens, as well as, several zoos and museums. There is still a lot on our list to explore.

As our girls are getting older, they are getting into more activities so it is important to me that I attend as many of these functions as possible. I like to get involved when I can, and have been coaching a Lego League team the last four years; starting with my oldest daughter's team and now coaching my youngest daughter's team. I find getting involved helps me get to know their friends better and connect with them more.

Between work schedules and the kid's schedules, my wife and I appreciate and enjoy any quality time we can spend together. Now that the kids are getting older, we find it easier to do spontaneous date nights and even enjoy just going to the store together (without kids!) With my wife's love for wine and my love for beer, Michigan is a great place to explore some of the many wineries and breweries. We also keep talking about getting back on a volleyball team together but just have not found a team to join yet.



### WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER THE VERY BEST PRODUCT YOU OFFER AND WHY?

I have always been impressed with the Rain Bird product line. They continuously look to make the product better, but always have “backward compatibility” in mind; meaning new products often work in conjunction with older product. I believe Rain Bird’s best attribute is being on the leading edge of irrigation technology; the Rain Bird IC System is a good example of that. Without getting into a lot of detail, they have taken the best of satellite and decoder systems and brought it into today’s technology. When I get the opportunity to talk with superintendents about the differences between satellites, decoders and the IC System, they quickly see the great benefits and features the IC System offers.

### WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLFER AND WHY?

I have always liked and rooted for Phil Mickelson. He’s a family man, highly respected, and a great role model for the sport of golf in general.

### HAVE YOU EVER HAD A HOLE IN ONE?

I have been working on or around golf courses since I started caddying at the age of 13. I quickly learned how to golf and would like to think that I play slightly better than average. Although I don’t find it hard to believe that I have never had a hole in one (I’ve been close a few times), I am surprised that of all the years I’ve spent on golf courses, I have never personally witnessed a hole in one either. I do hope that when I finally witness one, it will be with my dad, as golf is one of his favorite things to do in his retirement.

### HOW DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY WILL BE DIFFERENT IN 10 YEARS?

As an irrigation guy, I believe irrigation will be regulated with how much superintendents are allowed to water. But I also believe, as an industry, we are going to get better at how we irrigate and will be on the forefront of showing others how to irrigate efficiently. I think superintendents will need to change the way they look at irrigating by running their systems based off of precipitation rates and not using run times. As we become regulated, we will need to show or justify how much irrigation we are putting down. Whatever governing body is doing the regulation, they will need to know how much irrigation we are using; run times are not going to be accepted. You won’t be able to tell them you ran 6 minutes of irrigation; that doesn’t mean anything to them. You will be able to show you ran your system to put down .08” of irrigation, which is something they will be able to relate to.

### ARE THERE ANY NEW PRODUCTS ON THE HORIZON?

Of course Rain Bird is always working on new innovations, as we have come out with some pretty neat things in the past. I can confidently say that irrigation is going to get better with new technology coming out. Irrigation has come very far over the last 20-30 years as we’ve created more precise control and improved distribution uniformity. It’s pretty cool to look at the things we can do now and even more exciting to think about the things we will be able to do in the future.

### INDUSTRY PROFILE



### 5 THINGS PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I am missing one full toe and a half a toe on my left foot due to a fly mow injury.
2. I was fortunate to have earned an Evans Scholarship.
3. I own a 1979 Trans Am, 10 year anniversary edition.
4. I used to produce GCSAA.TV and SVW (Superintendent’s Video Workshop) videos.
5. A good IPA is my beverage of choice.

# 2016 US AMATEUR RECAP

BY MIKE MAUSOLF, OAKLAND HILLS C.C. SOUTH COURSE



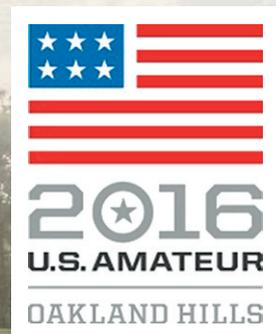
*The MiGCSA was proudly represented at the Players Dinner by President Justin Bickel and Detroit District Board Member Doug Ware*

The 116th United States Amateur was held at Oakland Hills Country Club on August 15 - August 21. The tournament started with 312 players who played 2 rounds of stroke play to determine the field of 64 that moved on to match play. Both the North and South Courses were used for stroke play while only the South was used for match play.

In preparation for this event the USGA was on-site 2 years prior to conduct a walkthrough of the venue and facility to get an overview of what we had to offer. This allowed them to put plans together for TV infrastructure, leaderboards,

hospitality, logistics of player transportation and housing. At this time we created a "punch list" of items that we needed to take care of both for playability and aesthetics. The list included such items as aeration, drainage and increased topdressing. As Advance Week approached, (the week prior to the tournament), and punch lists dwindled, we had to maintain what we had and focus on the things that were within our control. We were fortunate leading up to the tournament that it had been a dry summer. We spent ample hours throughout the summer hand watering greens and bunker banks to make sure they were healthy and consistent for the tournament.

With tee times starting at 7:30 am, the morning shift was on-site and out the door no later than 4:30 am, while the afternoon shift started at 5 pm. As the tournament approached and



volunteers arrived, the rain wasn't far behind. We had rain during the practice rounds both Saturday and Sunday followed by more rain on Tuesday and Wednesday. Overall, during the course of the tournament, we had about 3 inches of rain causing a few delays during the week. Delays were minimized in part due to the great team of staff and volunteers assembled. Our team consisted of 55 Oakland Hills' employees and 40 volunteers. The volunteers were primarily Michigan superintendents, assistants, vendors and interns, but there were a few from places like Iowa, Minnesota, Indiana and Illinois.

The tournament was a success. A champion was crowned and handed a trophy. Curtis Luck from Australia beat Brad Dalke of Oklahoma 6 & 4. The trophy presentation on 14 green was an exciting culmination of 2 years of preparation. As I stood there enjoying the presentation, it dawned on me that the tournament was over. It was a fun and exciting tournament that went by extremely quick.

Some observations if you host a tournament. Above all else, coffee is a necessity at 4 am. Food isn't necessary but is highly recommended. Uniforms add a nice touch to the experience and help build team morale. Have a good team in place that knows and understands what is at stake. Perform timed trial runs weeks or months prior to the event so equipment needs and volunteers can be determined while also establishing mowing routes.

Expect the unexpected! There is no telling what may arise during the week. Enjoy the tournament and take a step back during the week to realize what you and your team have accomplished. Lastly thank all of your staff, volunteers and vendors for their dedicated work and support. Without them, a successful tournament wouldn't be possible.



A TOAST,  
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## FROM NATIONAL



SHANE CONROY

## BY SHANE CONROY

In mid-October, the 2016 Chapter Delegates Meeting took place in Kansas City, MO and at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, KS; MiGCSA president Justin Bickel was in attendance representing the chapter. There was a lot of information provided during the two-day meeting, with membership growth and advocacy being a major focus.

Shelia Finney, GCSAA's Senior Director, Member Programs updated the 82 delegates on hand regarding GCSAA's plan to increase membership. Focusing on all domestic classifications, as well as international members, GCSAA will work with chapters and allied associations to reach potential members and offer them the same value and benefits currently received by the 17,500 GCSAA members. Focus will also be aimed at the equipment manager and student classifications as we continue to increase value to these important members of our industry. For the equipment manager classification, two additional certificates are being offered: metal working and agronomy. As equipment managers continue to expand their role at the golf course, it's important both EM's and superintendents understand what the goals of each department are. With equipment managers more active in GCSAA, this will help both parties increase communication and continue to promote the team atmosphere. Additional education for equipment managers is also being offered at GIS and through the GCSAA website. Students will also receive additional resources to become more involved in GCSAA. Emphasis will be focused on student chapters working directly with GCSAA local chapters to create valuable relationships which will aid students as they transition into the workforce.

Advocacy has been a main focus of GCSAA for some time, and Chava McKeel and her team are not slowing down. During the Chapter Delegates Meeting, Chava updated the delegates on the successes from National Golf Day in Washington DC, and from GCSAA's Grassroots Ambassador program. In 2016, GCSAA had the largest turnout to date at National Golf Day, and was the most represented group from the 'We Are Golf' Coalition. Part of this success is due to the Grassroots Ambassador program, which is paying great dividends. We currently have 246 Grassroots Ambassadors across the nation. Five states presently have all their ambassadorship positions filled, with an additional six states looking for only one more ambassador. Michigan currently has five of the 16 available grassroots ambassador position filled, which means we are continuously looking for individuals to get involved. The program is open to any class A, B or C member and requires a minimal time commitment from the ambassador. GCSAA arms you with all the necessary information and provides regular updates and resources. Please contact me if you are interested in getting involved in this worthy program.

The GCSAA Golf Championships and Golf Industry Show are both slowly creeping up on the calendar, housing and registration are currently open for the two events. This year's Golf Championship and Golf Industry Show is taking place February 4-9 in Orlando, FL. With new seminars, sessions, field trips and trade show experiences, it's well worth the trip! The GIS is a great way to better yourself, your facility and create new relationships with industry peers, please plan on attending as your presence is highly valued and vital to the success of the event. More information can be found at: <http://www.golfindustryshow.com/home>, as always please feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

I know 2016 was a season which provided many challenges, and it was great to see so many courses in outstanding condition regardless of what mother nature threw at you. I am always impressed, but never surprised at the exceptional work and professionalism displayed by our industry throughout the season. I truly hope you all enjoy the upcoming holidays and winter months.

I Look forward to seeing you all soon.

All the best,  
Shane Conroy



## KEVIN PECK

*Kevin Peck is the Assistant Superintendent at The Country Club of Detroit where he has worked for a total of 9 years.*

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

I was midway through my freshman year at Michigan State University when two of my friends convinced me to attend a career fair. I was undecided on a major at the time, but a turfgrass booth caught my eye. Golf was already a passion of mine so I had to investigate further. My future advisor explained I would need to experience labor on a golf course before choosing this major. I suited up, drove my mom's minivan to Grosse Pointe Farms, and applied for a grounds crew position at Country Club of Detroit a few weeks before school was out. Hired on the spot I was told my first day would be a long one because of greens aerification. I had no idea what I was getting into! Walk-mowing greens definitely was my favorite job during my first summer.

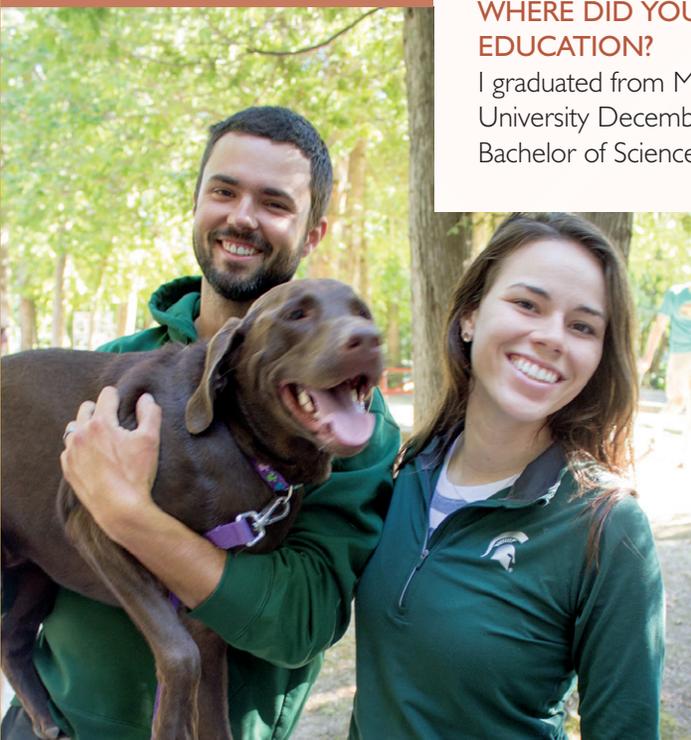
### WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

I graduated from Michigan State University December 2010 with a Bachelor of Science, Crop and Soil

Sciences – Turfgrass Management. After college I returned to Country Club of Detroit as a 2nd assistant. Bob McCurdy was the Superintendent at the time. We were in the middle of a shop re-build from a fire in August 2010; I gained valuable experience from Bob regarding his shop planning and organization skills. Creating a highly efficient workspace improved daily operations throughout the entire property at CCD.

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT YOUR CURRENT COURSE?

I have been at Country Club of Detroit for a total of 9 years. I worked each summer as I was earning my degree. I had one season off in 2009 for my internship at Baltimore Country Club, which was an incredible experience working in the Baltimore area and splitting my summer between the East and the West courses at BCC. I then returned to CCD and worked a large scale renovation including USGA green construction, building of new square tee boxes, re-grassing of fairways, and installation of Klingstone bunker liners.



After graduation I was hired full time as a 2nd Assistant. Three years later I was promoted to Senior Assistant, a position which I currently hold.

#### **WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES AS ASSISTANT AND WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE ON?**

I am responsible for developing and running daily operations with crew members. Along with managing the staff, I multi-task work including chemical and fertilizer applications, irrigation troubleshooting and repairs, and water management throughout the property. It is my job as assistant superintendent to be creative and carry out daily, weekly, and yearly goals. I have to make to quick decisions on a daily basis to provide premier course conditions when adversity arises. In the off season I perform necessary tree trimming and removals and develop future ideas for course improvement and efficiency. I would like to increase my role in the formation of a chemical and fertility program.

#### **ARE YOU MARRIED IF SO HOW LONG?**

My beautiful wife Lauren and I have been married a year already! We were married last fall on October 16th. I met Lauren at MSU through friends when I was a junior. She now is a high school math teacher at Stoney Creek High School, and is a coach for both the cross country and track teams. I am so lucky to have such a driven and supportive wife.

#### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT AND TEAM?**

I am a huge Detroit Red Wings and Detroit Tigers fan, but my favorite time of year is fall when Michigan State and Big Ten football starts. It's on my bucket list to attend away games at each Big Ten stadium.

#### **WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?**

My free time usually starts with a nap! Then when I am recharged I enjoy golfing with Lauren since she recently picked up the game last year. I also live very close to Lake St. Clair and fish whenever I get a chance. Additionally we like exploring Northern Michigan along with the Bruce Peninsula in Canada, an August tradition since I was a baby. I also like making improvements

around the house. I am proud to say that this summer I built a deck which was definitely challenging.

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

A few years ago I visited my college roommate on Long Island, New York to play Friars Head G.C. The course was in fantastic shape and the overall experience was premier. Our caddies truly made the round memorable with their extensive course knowledge and professionalism. **What is your favorite golf club in the bag?** My favorite club in the bag right now is my blue Nike Vapor Fly driver. I purchased it the day after Nike announced it was no longer producing golf equipment. It was a bargain deal.

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

Our sand injection Graden is hands down my favorite piece of equipment that we use. It is a brute to operate, but the results are well worth the work.

#### **WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW AND WHY?**

Enrique usually will get the entire crew laughing each morning. He supposedly speaks Spanish but other fluent employees beg to differ. His gibberish jokes usually start with Rocky Balboa and end with an exaggerated yes sir!

#### **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT?**

Imperial in Ferndale MI is my favorite restaurant. They have great authentic tacos and delicious bacon wrapped Sonoran hot dogs. The chips and salsa flight is also a must.

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

During peak season we have 22 crew members on staff. A couple of the guys started the same week I did 9 years ago! Our crew is very diverse and I enjoy putting in the hours with everyone. In recent years

staff turn-over has increased. At CCD we are transitioning to be more flexible with employee hours and days available to work. We might end up with more employees working less hours but we always offer more work and overtime!

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

We have a Rainbird irrigation system and use the cirrus control platform. I would estimate that we have 2000 irrigation heads over 27 holes and on the clubhouse grounds.

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

I could not do without venting greens. It is crucial to vent greens throughout the summer especially when stress levels are high. It is always a relief to see high traffic areas bounce back following a vent.

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

Expectations for green speeds can get carried away. The push for faster speed is not necessarily better for the game. All types of players want lower scores and to enjoy the sport. If the ball rolls consistently over the course of a round I am happy. It's always great to hear a complaint about slow greens from a player on the 15th hole. They should have adjusted their putting on the first or second hole. Each course is different.

## 5 THINGS PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I am very competitive when it comes to games like corn hole, darts, ping pong, etc.
2. My two adult front teeth were knocked out in the 5th grade while playing dodge ball. Another player elbowed me in the mouth trying to catch the ball.
3. After work I maintain a bentgrass green with two bunkers for a member, along with a bentgrass croquette court for another.
4. I have more than 30 work polo shirts from Country Club of Detroit. They add up when you get five new ones each season. My wife gets frustrated when I don't change out of my uniform and we are out to dinner or with friends.
5. I am a secret eater after work. Sometimes after a long day, I will pick up food and eat on my way home. Lauren will then have dinner ready and I eat again.





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**Brad Fry**  
Golf Course Superintendent  
Harbor Shores Golf Club  
Benton Harbor, Michigan  
Host of 2014 Senior PGA Championship



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# A MESSAGE FROM MTF

2016 LAFONTAINE GOLF BENEFIT –  
COYOTE PRESERVE GOLF CLUB — AUGUST 4, 2016

2016 MTF FIELD DAY — AUGUST 10, 2016



Each year in late summer the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation hosts two events that mix comradery, education, MTF updates and fundraising for the Foundation. These two events, The LaFontaine Golf Benefit (held August 4th) and The MTF Field Day (held August 10th) are essential to the operation of the MTF for different reasons.

The LaFontaine Golf Benefit provides funding to the LaFontaine Endowment which is one of the three Endowments that the MTF oversees. The Endowment spending policy is purposeful upon both the amount that may be used and that all funds dispersed be used for basic research. Dr.'s Merewitz and Vargas were both allocated funding this fiscal year jointly with matching funds provided by MSU.

Thank you to all who participated this year and have been a part of the growth of the Endowment. It is because of your support research much like that mentioned above continues to make MSU one of the

most advanced turf research facilities in the world. Our 90 participants and 16 tee sponsors of different levels were able to play golf, mix with friends and encourage future turf research. As with any fundraiser sponsorships are crucial to an effective event and our Executive Director and Benefit Chair, Gordie LaFontaine, expresses his sincere thanks to all who helped make this occasion such a success every year. Thank you also to The Coyote Preserve Golf Club who once again hosted the event. The Coyote staff of Jason Raney (Pro/Manager) who kept things in order and Superintendent E.J. Martin who provided excellent playing conditions for the day. A special thanks as well to the Osburn Family for hosting the event as well as being a spirited part of the turf industry.

## 2016 Field Day

Field Day this year had a significant increase in participation and much of the credit for this can be given to Dr. Kevin Frank who has worked diligently to improve this experience every year. Total numbers at this writing were not yet available, however it is estimated 400-450 people were in attendance. Each session had large turnouts and some filled to capacity. The presentations on the warm sunny day by all professors is much appreciated and we are continuously thankful for all the hard work they put into

*The new hoophouse used for disease propagation purchased with funding from the MTF*



the day and all year long. The proceeds from this event are invested back to the Professors to help fund research at MSU.

The morning welcome included the introduction of the new Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dr. Ron Hendrick who was in attendance for one of his initial meetings since taking on his new position. Opening remarks from Gordie LaFontaine also included a presentation from Carl Schwartzkoph who was on hand to present a pledge to the Rieke Endowment of \$20,000. Carl was also instrumental in funding the Cold Temperature Growth Chamber and the lab at the Hancock Center where research is currently being conducted. The MTF is greatly appreciative of Carl's benevolence and how he has committed to the Foundation for future generations. Mark Collins who directs the Hancock Turf Research Center is to be congratulated for all his durable work and coordinating so much with his dedicated staff. MTF Vice President, Amy Fouty, was the coordinator from the Board of Directors of the MTF and provided valuable input and kept all functions orderly. Our new Foundation Administrator, Jennifer Maszatics, spent many hours synchronizing the day and her first go at this important function was well done and we would like to acknowledge her determination as well.

Finally, a much deserved thank you to the MiGCSA Board and Executive Director, Adam Ikamas. Our current transition to a new membership software left a temporary gap in our communications with our membership and Adam stepped in to provide us with a platform to register and incorporate all those who were looking forward to attending Field Day this year. The collaboration between



## COYOTE PRESERVE GOLF CLUB

MiGCSA and MTF is significant and certainly one of the reasons the State of Michigan is well respected in the Turf Industry. We are currently planning for next year's Field Day and will be adding some new twists to entice those who haven't always been able to put this on their busy schedules. That said, we hope to see you there next year!

Carey Mitchelson  
President – Michigan Turfgrass Foundation



*A huge turnout for the 2016 MTF Field Day*



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# THE 2016 MIGCSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

MiGCSA Class A Member Robert King had the Orchards Golf Club set up for a Major Championship. The 9th Annual State Championship, the MiGCSA Major, was a great success. This event is not just for those competing for the trophy there is also a 2 of 4 net team game so everyone can get in the game. The torrential rains that postponed this event one week were not even noticeable thanks to the great work by Bob and his staff. At the end of the day Aaron McMaster shot an even par 72 to win his first State Championship.



*Our Host Superintendent Bob King*

## HERE ARE THE REST OF THE WINNERS:

### Team best 2 of 4 net

- 1st place: Score of 121 – Andy Gilroy, Doug Mozal, Todd Arnott & Chris Livingston
- 2nd place: Score of 122 – Kris Early, Mike Casey, Tom Gill & Jim Higgs
- 3rd place: Score of 127 – Dan Billette, Bob King & Kevin Frank

### Individual:

2016 State Champion – Aaron McMaster    2016 Low Net Champion – Eric Davey



*The Pro Shop sure enjoyed having us there*



*Dr. Vargas updates the group on the brutal summer stresses*



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### For more information, contact:

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# MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS NOW OPEN

**Y**ou can renew in many ways, the fastest and easiest is to log in to your account at [www.migcsa.org](http://www.migcsa.org) and click on the "Renew your MiGCSA Membership Here" link. If you would rather print and mail in your membership renewal you can [Click Here](#) for the renewal form. This form can be mailed to MiGCSA 316 Glencarin Dr. NE Rockford, MI 49341 or faxed to 1-888-364-4272. You may also scan and email the form to [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org).

Your membership dues and continued support within the MiGCSA has helped make all of the items below possible, so thank you for your support of the largest single state chapter in the country.

## In 2016 your Association has:

- Hosted over 1,000 members at our Meetings, Golf Events & Fundraisers.
- Donated \$20,682.32 to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation to support Turf Research at MSU
- Donated \$3,500 to the Wee One Foundation
- Awarded \$10,000 in Scholarships to MSU Turf Students and MiGCSA Member Dependents
- Produced four issues of the industry leading Course Conditions Magazine
- Produced the Membership Directory
- Partnered with the Michigan Golf Alliance (MGCOA, PGA, GAM, MTF, and CMAA) to host the Michigan Golf Day in Lansing
- Received more than \$100,000 in Industry Partner Support
- Year to date over 100,000 visitors to [migcsa.org](http://migcsa.org)
- Hosted three Fundraisers to support the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Research, The Michigan Golf Hall of Fame, The Wee One Foundation, The Environmental Institute for Golf, MiGCSA Member Scholarships & MSU Student Scholarships.
- Worked hard every day to provide value to our members through programs and services that enhance and promote our profession.



## Membership Renewal Cycle

**October 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**Membership Renewal**  
**for all 2016 Members**

**June 15<sup>th</sup>**  
**All 2016 Memberships**  
**Expire**

Membership Renewal from 2016 to 2017 Membership

October November December January February March April May June July August September

Below is a chart of how the renewal cycle works with the MiGCSA. You are free to renew at any time in the red bar without losing your membership. As you approach the right side of the bar your notifications of renewal will become more frequent and your membership will eventually expire on 6/15/17.



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# MORNING BUZZ?

**NO NOT CAFFEINE OR CANNABIS.**

BY DOUG JOHANNINGSMEIER

**T**here has been lots of chatter lately about the decline in pollinators like honey bees, being caused in part to pesticide use, particularly insecticides. Merit, and other post patent imidacloprid formulations, is the most commonly known and widely used insecticide on golf courses that are suspect in this link with pollinator decline.

Imidacloprid is a systemic insecticide which acts as an insect neurotoxin and belongs to a class of chemicals called neonicotinoids. Neonicotinoids act on the central nervous system of insects, and are much lower in toxicity to mammals than many other insecticides. Some of this criticism may be justified. Honey bees are very sensitive to most insecticides.

The indiscriminant use of insecticides, mostly in the residential and commercial property management areas, is problematic for bee populations. Imidacloprid often ends up in flower beds and can move through the plant including flowering parts. Bees collect pollen and unknowingly may come into contact with imidacloprid or any other systemic insecticide that has been used. Golf course use of these products has little impact on bees when used properly- (not applied to flowering plants or trees), as honey bees do not forage on turf. If planning to use neonicotinoids on turf for destructive insect control, flowering weeds like clover should be avoided and or herbicides used to control flowering weeds. Where eliminating the weeds is not an option a close mowing will remove blooms and lessen the impact of a neonicotinoid application on bees. Bees navigate with

sunlight and generally are back in their hives after sundown.

Pesticide applications early morning or late evening will also reduce exposure to your or neighbors honey bees. One option may be Syngenta's chlorantraniliprole

(Acelepryn), classified by EPA as a reduced risk pesticide. Results of toxicology work with chlorantraniliprole concluded it is a low risk to honey bees.

To help combat some of the negative media coverage, a few golf courses have decided to either maintain or have a contracted Bee Keeper maintain honey bee hives at their courses. Bee keeping is generally perceived as a "good thing" since pollinators are, and are, perceived by most as beneficial insects and a indispensable part of our lives . Some of the clubs that harvest honey also

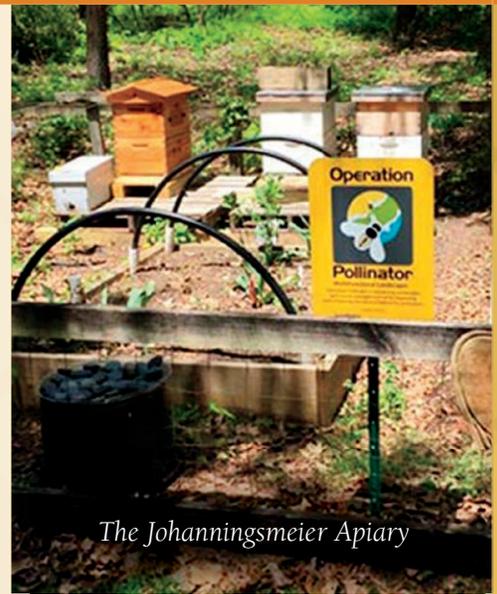


*Kids sometimes find Bee Keeping interesting*

publicize to members when their “local” honey is used in food preparation as well.

**In my travels the topic of honey bees sometimes gets discussed as I am and have been an off and on Bee Keeper. Several folks have expressed interest in the idea of maintaining honey bees. So what’s involved?**

1. Start with a good book on beekeeping. Here are some suggestions: *The Backyard Beekeeper* by Kim Flottum or *First Lessons in Beekeeping* by C.P. Dadant. You can also subscribe to one of the magazines geared towards beekeeping. Try *The American Bee Journal* or *Bee Culture*. Local Beekeeping Associations can be an invaluable resource for local information, group orders of bees and equipment, and for borrowing equipment (like an extractor). Find local Beekeeping organizations here: <http://www.beeculture.com/>.
2. Check your local city codes. There may be a limit on the number of hives allowed, or a minimum amount of space allowed between your hive and the property line.
3. Location. You can locate a colony almost anywhere but keep in mind that while some members may like the idea of honey bees other folks may be allergic and or very scared of bees of any kind. Member education of Honey bees at a basic level may be advised. Other than that an out of the way spot that gets morning sun, yes just like turf, will work. Morning sun will warm the hive and let your bees get to work. Locate out of the line of flight of balls but other than that a boundary of about 20-30 feet is all that’s needed. Locate your hive where they have an open flight path. There will literally be thousands of bees coming and going out of the hive. A high fence will raise their flight path for neighbors. Your bees will need water as well. Club pool is not where you want your bees going for a drink.
4. The best time to start a beehive is in the spring. This is when bees are just starting to get busy. You want to start them up as soon as the weather warms up so that they will have plenty of time to build up a strong hive before winter.
5. Get your gear. Here is the short list: (1) A bee suit, complete with hood and gloves. You may look funny, but believe me, you will be glad when those bees are buzzing all around you. (2) Beehives. This consists of boxes, supers, bottom boards, covers, and frames with patterned wax foundations. (Each beehive will cost you approximately \$100.) (3) A smoker (4) A hive tool (which is a mini pry bar specifically for beekeeping) Hives can be purchased pre assembled as well.
6. Buy your bees. Of course, you can go out and catch a swarm, but if you are just beginning, I would order what is called a “nuc.” \$150-\$175. A nuc is a queen with bunch of worker bees and a frame of capped brood and couple frames of honey. Let the nuc sit alongside the hive for a day or two to allow the bees to get familiar with their new surroundings. Install the frames from the nuc to the hive and you are now a beekeeper!
7. Keep your bees healthy. This means different things for different beekeepers, climates, seasons, etc. Ideally, you would be able to let your bees do their thing and then you just come back in the fall to gather honey. Unfortunately, it rarely works that way. You might need to feed them in the spring. It takes a while for the nectar to start flowing in the spring, so you sometimes need to provide a little bit of food to keep the bees alive until the flowers start opening up. In addition, you may need to treat for mites or other parasites like Hive beetle or Wax moths. Beekeeping



*The Johanningsmeier Apiary*

also means monitoring for diseases also. There are problems with bacterial infections that can be devastating to bee colonies.

8.



*My Flow hive waiting for "nuc" installation.*



*New type of hive called "Flow" No extraction needed!*



9. Check on your bees periodically to make sure that they are doing okay.

10. Harvest your honey. I usually do this in the fall but you can take out honey at other times but remember – honey is bee food also so leave enough for them. If you have access to an extractor, then you can separate out the honey from the wax. An extractor is basically a centrifuge, or spinner. The frames are put in the extractor and spun. The honey flows out the spigot in the bottom and into a collection container. Place a simple metal strainer there to catch any wax pieces or bug parts.



*Beautiful raw honey.*

**There are lots of resources for bee supplies. Here are a few:**

- Dadant: <https://www.dadant.com/>
- More Resources: Great article in Mother Earth News: <http://www.motherearthnews.com/Modern-Homesteading/2008-02-01/Keep-Bees-Naturally.aspx?page=3#ixzzI KyDAsg9f>
- Honeybees and Beekeeping: <http://www.i4at.org/lib2/bees.htm>
- About.com - How to Keep Bees: <http://smallfarm.about.com/od/farmanimals/tp/How-To-Keep-Bees.htm>

# Xzemplar® fungicide keeps reputations spotless

For unmatched dollar spot control, top courses  
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*Jimmy Devaney,  
Superintendent of  
the Upper Course,  
Mark Kuhns,  
Director of Grounds,  
and Dan Kilpatrick,  
Superintendent of  
the Lower Course,  
Baltusrol Golf Club,  
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To keep your own fairways as spotless as your reputation, visit [betterturf.basf.us](http://betterturf.basf.us) for more details.

  
We create chemistry

*Always read and follow label directions.  
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ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

# THE ANNUAL CALL TO ACTION!

It is cold and spitting a light rain maybe snow today here in Rockford just north of Grand Rapids. As I write this I am taken back to this time of year pouring over budget numbers in the office as a Superintendent. The deluge of early order programs and picking them apart to maximize the dollars saved. I am betting there are more than a few people reading this doing the same thing, looking at the monitor of spreadsheets and paper laid out over the desk.

If so I am honored that you took a break from that to read this. I am also now going to make my annual call to action to add one more consideration into your decisions this fall. To consider the companies and individuals who partner with your Chapter. This is the critical part of the circle of support I often speak about. These partners are the main funding source of the MiGCSA. They do this because they believe in the Chapter and you, but they also do it because they want your business. The margins on many products you use are not a large as

you may think, especially during early order. If these partners lose business to other companies that are not participating in the MiGCSA Industry Partner Program then it makes it harder every year to support you.

So please, when the early order information starts to come in, when the salesperson makes the appointment, when you make those commitments, please use the information on these signs to help keep the circle of support intact. The Industry Partners support everything the MiGCSA does and the Fundraiser Sponsors help fund the future of our industry. This is one of the most important ways to support your Chapter and all of the members in it, thank you.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS  
MiGCSA Executive Director

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