

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION | SPRING 2016



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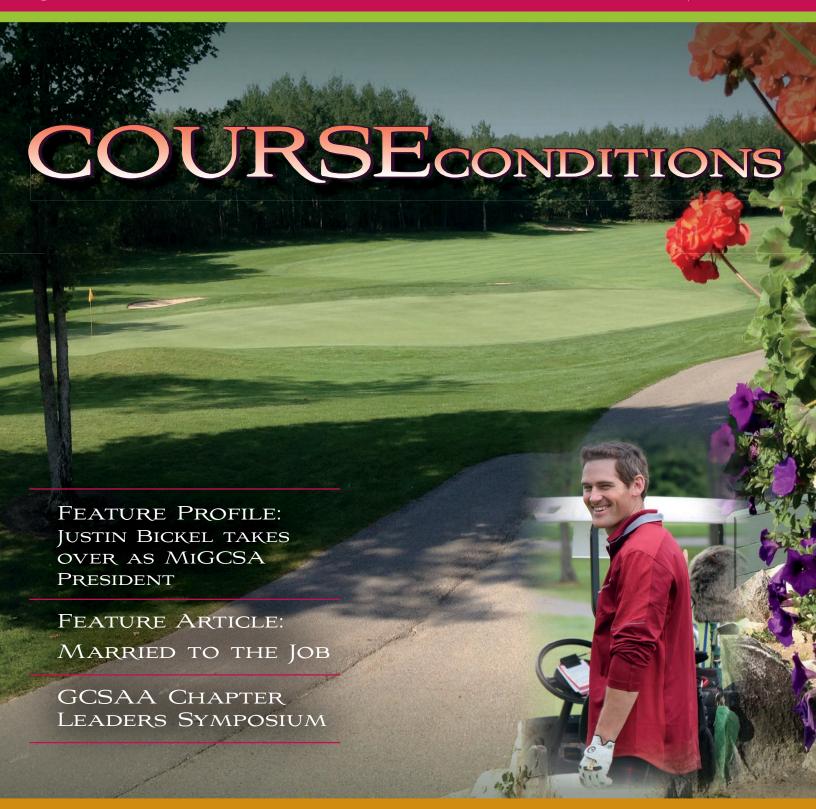
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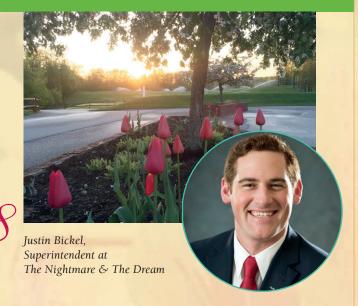
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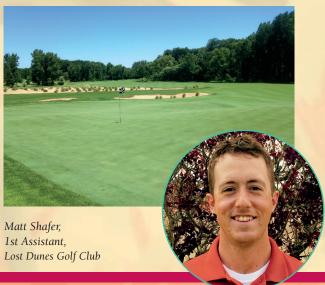
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#### **COURSE** CONDITIONS

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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 MiCGSA. For more information on Course Conditions or the MiGCSA please contact us at info@migca.org, 1-888-3-MiGCSA or 316 Glencarin Dr. NE, Rockford, MI 49341.

## **MIGCSA** MEMBERSHIP REPORT **SUMMARY OF CLASSES**

	CURRENT	SPRING 2015			
	MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP			
Class A	249	259			
Class SM	73	70			
Class C	106	114			
Class AA	37	31			
Class AFF	168	176			
Class EM	54	46			
Class E	16	16			
Class H	30	31			
Class R	8	12			
Class SA	26	37			
TOTAL	767	792			

Please log in to your account at www.migcsa.org to renew your membership for 2016. If you are unsure of your status contact us at info@migcsa.org or 1-888-3-MiGCSA.

# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



JUSTIN BICKEL, CGCS

Its 2016! This is my 16th year in the golf industry and my 6th year serving on the MiGCSA Board of Directors and I don't know that I have ever been as excited as I am for this year. So what is driving this excitement? My job has not gotten any easier. I have multiple positions on my crews to fill. The equipment is another year older. A reflection of last years' events can't be the reason. My father passed away unexpectedly and the largest hail in northern Michigan history devastated the greens at two of the courses I manage. I have no way of predicting what Mother Nature or pure fate has in store for me this year. So where does this optimism stem from? I tell you, it comes from a positive and growing momentum within our association. It's an intangible feeling I get when I speak to fellow members at conferences, meetings, or on the phone. Those conversations continually affirm to me the camaraderie that our profession endears. It is that camaraderie which is the backbone of our great association.

In 1925, the first association of greenskeepers was formed in Michigan. Over the last 91 years, the structure of that camaraderie has taken different forms but it has always been growing into what is currently your MiGCSA. The state of our profession would be much different without those passionate efforts. I know that I have benefited from the hard work of individuals that I have never met and many that have long since passed. It is that knowledge which drives me to give back to my profession. I can never thank them all but I can make every effort possible to carry on that momentum. Momentum is not a constant. As encouraging as the current state of the association may seem it can quickly be lost without the continuous efforts of its members. The association currently has eight committees and I would like to thank the 35 different committee members that devote their time and energy, some of them to multiple committees. Those committees are absolutely vital to the continued prosperity of the association. Please consider volunteering for a committee. Please visit www.migcsa.org/migcsa-committees-35 for the list of committees and their current members. The committees that require the most volunteers are the communication, education, scholarship, membership, and assistant superintendent. For further information you can contact Adam Ikamas at info@migcsa.org. It only takes one e-mail to start the process.

Attending Legislative Golf Day on June 9th is another way for members to advance their profession by communicating the benefits of the entire golf industry to our state representatives at the Capitol. Unfortunately, there are still misconceptions about golf that affect us negatively. Continually informing our representatives of the huge benefit that golf has on the state of Michigan must be a constant focus of our association. The impact of the day will grow with every member that can attend. Imagine our lawmakers walking out of the Capitol to a large gathering of golf industry professionals that are equipped with statistics that support our message. If you have not already done so, please visit www.michigangolfalliance.com for a better understanding of the alliance. The message is clear and it is profound. If you plan to attend please make every effort to encourage a fellow member to make the trip. I look forward to seeing you there.

I would like to thank our Industry Partners for their continued support of not only the association but me personally. They are another vital component of this growing momentum. I know that should any issue present itself to me at my courses, their expertise and kindred passion are only a phone call away. I do not believe that the level of service and support that we receive in this state is the same throughout the entire country. Let us not take it for granted. Please thank our Industry Partners and support those that support us. We are all in this together. Thank you Spartan Distributors, Syngenta, Residex, Jacobsen, Bayer, and BASF for your Platinum Partnership, thank you Site One Landscaping and J.W. Turf for your Gold Partnership, and thank you Great Lakes Turf, Harrell's, Tri-Turf, and Rain Bird Services Corp for your Silver Partnership.

Let's keep this momentum going and make 2016 a year of continued growth for the MiGCSA and the entire golf industry.

Respectfully,

Justin Bickel, Golf Course Superintendent

The Dream, The Nightmare, and West Branch Country Club

President, MiGCSA

# Married TO THE JOB

Article and Intro Provided with Special Thanks to Mychal Brown, Founder of Wives of Turf www.wivesofturf.org



eing a Turf Professional is more than a career, it's a commitment that the entire family has be be behind for it to work. The Wives of Turf have been working to make that commitment a little easier for the people who sometimes need to take a backseat to the turf.

Today, they want to give you a glimpse at what the Turf Lifestyle looks like at different stages in life. We have someone who is a newlywed, someone married less than ten years, someone who has passed that ten year mark and finally, someone who has been happily married for over twenty years.

We hope you enjoy our stories and see some of your own life reflected there too. Us Wives of Turf have found that we may live miles apart but the lives we live are quite similar.

The Newlywed: Kelsey Rainone-Rustad & James Rustad Quidnessett Country Club, North Kingstown, RI



Five and a half years of dating a Man of Turf was trying but I was ready to live this lifestyle forever. We got married in October of 2015. It was the most amazing day of my life! The biggest role the turf lifestyle played in

our wedding was that it dictated when it would be, not during the season.

Turf has also decided many other things along the way and taught me many things. I'm lucky to say not too much has changed since we got married. I'm truly blessed to have married a hard working, dedicated man.

The most important thing I've learned and try to keep prevalent in my marriage is patience. I know there won't be summer trips, I know we don't make concrete plans from May to September, I know that fifteen minutes could and usually does mean at least an hour. It makes me appreciate the time we do get to spend together during the season even more.

I've also learned that communication is key. Aeration schedules, tournaments and events live on our family calendar, it is better to know than assume and I have assumed far too many times. Due to my assumptions generally, I probably complain more than the average wife. Luckily for my husband I have a fabulous group of friends I've gained from this lifestyle who understand.

#### Less than 10 Years: Aleah & Jared Milner

Meadowbrook Country Club, Northville, MI



The "Turf Lifestyle" as those of us in it call it is a lifestyle, like others out there that not many really understand. It's a unique one and one that can be the test of what true love really is. My husband and I have only been in this lifestyle together from the time we started dating in 2008 to now, married

with two kids three and a half and 8 months. There are times when it can really rip a person, relationship and family apart, but there are times that it can bring you so close together.

Jared was hired straight out of college with Baltimore Country Club where he did his internship and worked his way up as far as he could go there. We have been together since he was the low man on the totem pole. Some would describe those early years as miserable, but I can never say it enough, his boss at BCC was one of the best I think anyone could ever have, in any industry. He was a family guy himself, and supported that with his entire staff, but also got the job done. This totally helped keep our relationship growing and moving forward through the dating, engagement, married and now with kids process.

I would be lying if I said it's all glorious, which it's not, but it's something I knew what I was getting into. In Maryland we had no family around to help, therefore I made sure

to establish good relationships and friendships with others to help keep me busy while he was working. The LONG hours for them are just as long for their significant other during the peak season. Our girls and I always make it a point to visit when his time allows and I can't stress how thankful I am that his past and current boss allows/ed this. Something as simple as a ride around the course or a quick picnic lunch with daddy on days the girls normally wouldn't see him at all made a significant difference in everyone's attitude at the end of the day and throughout the busy season.

We had been through two big course projects together and are now on our third together. When Jared is home we really makes it a point to do as much as a family as we can to help offset those times where he can't be here. We are now back in Michigan, closer to family just by the grace of a job opening and he's even busier now than ever before, but we make it work.

#### More then 10 Years: Monica & Ryan Cummings Elcona Country Club, Bristol, IN



I was raised as an only child in fairly quiet house. As with all families, we had our little routine that most people didn't understand the dynamics of unless they spent copious amounts of time with us. The same is true of my family today.

I have a colleague and

friend who didn't believe the crazy schedule that my husband keeps, until she came to visit one evening, and witnessed the demanding schedule of aerification for herself. My "Man Of Turf" (MOT) arrived home around 9 p.m., took a quick shower and said good night. Both of the kids were still awake, and I remember my friend holding my then four month old out to him asking simply, "Don't you want to spend some time with your kids?" It wasn't that he didn't want to spend time with his kids, it was that he knew what his schedule was demanding of him that particular week and spending the quality time he wanted wasn't in the cards.

I had always been an individual, and all of a sudden it felt as though the happiness of everyone rested solely on my shoulders, and the weight of that as a golf course superintendent's wife was becoming heavy. We all know the daunting schedules, challenging weather and everyday struggles of managing a golf course are enough to drive our husbands insane, let alone the women who take care of them. So, Mommy



As I swam in solitude in the pool during my most recent MV, missing my family and the loudness of the house, I remembered what has gotten me through almost I I years of this crazy life style. It is my strength: I just need the simple reminder that I can do this. I stayed in the pool and embraced my strength, despite my internal struggle of wanting time to myself and wanting to have snuggles with the kids.

We all need these moments of clarity, and we need to be the ones to remind ourselves. It might come in the form of a too peaceful weekend by ourselves, or being forced out of our comfort zone taking a vacation alone with our children. We are the drivers of our own destiny. No one has control over our happiness like we do, and that is what we as Wives of Turf need to remember first and foremost as we navigate through the many years of marriage to these Men of Turf we love. I am proud to say that I am I I years and counting this year thanks to us having an understanding of each other's needs, and I know that we can see another I I years too.

#### More than 20 Years: Laurie & Ed Mitchell

The Legacy by Arthur Hills Golf Club, Ottawa Lake, MI



Being married for over 21 years to someone who works in the turf industry has impacted our relationship in ways I have never imagined. I think maturing in age and relationship, has changed my attitude and therefore enhanced our relationship.



Whereas in the past, when I was young (and especially when I was a young parent), I sometimes held a resentment towards the industry and the time it took away from my family, today I have an appreciation for the long hours and dedication and work ethic my husband possesses.

I have learned several lessons along the way. First, I was shocked that the moment I embraced the turf life, our life changed for the better. I met my husband on a golf course for Pete's sake! (I was the beverage gal and he was on the grounds crew). I knew what I was getting myself into. But I did find my younger years resulting in some resentment and bitter feelings not only towards the industry but also towards my husband. This meant that his long hours at work were sometimes met with anger and frustration from his wife. The moment I realized that he wanted to be with us as much as we wanted to be with him, I started to embrace the turf life. I embraced being independent. I realized I was more independent than I ever imagined and that the turf life was bringing out a side of me that I never knew existed.

I have also approached things a bit differently and made more of an effort to go to him. This resulted in some of the best memories we have as parents because I decided to take the kids up to the course and bring lunch. The days in the shop and riding around in golf carts have become some of the fondest family moments. I learned that when he cannot leave his job, I can make effort to bring family to him.

After, 20+ years, I am still amazed and encouraged by how hard my husband (and all men of turf) work. Where I used to resent this, now I love and appreciate it! Changing my attitude about the turf life means I am able to tell my husband how much I appreciate his efforts. He still works the same hours he used to back in the day when I would be resentful of his time away. But my attitude turning from resentment to appreciation has enhanced our relationship in ways that I couldn't have imagined I 5 years ago. We are at a point in our relationship where he feels appreciated and I feel I have a husband that is dedicated and committed and hard working. We are at the best point of our marriage to date.

Over the past several years, he hasn't changed what he does for a living or the hours he does it. But my efforts to change my attitude and embrace and appreciate the turf life have made a world of difference in our marriage and relationship. So I say, embrace the turf life and live well!

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JUNE 9 – LEGISLATIVE GOLF DAY (CAPITOL BUILDING, LANSING)
SUNDAY, JUNE 5 – NORTHERN FUNDRAISER PRACTICE ROUND (ARCADIA BLUFFS, ARCADIA)
MONDAY, JUNE 6 - NORTHERN FUNDRAISER (ARCADIA BLUFFS, ARCADIA)
THURSDAY, JULY 7 – MID GOLF EVENT (SAGINAW C.C., SAGINAW)
WEDNESDAY, JULY 27 – TUCK TATE PAR 3 SHOOTOUT (TREETOPS, GAYLORD)
THURSDAY, JULY 28 - TUCK TATE CHAMPIONSHIP (TREETOPS, GAYLORD)
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4 – LAFONTAINE OUTING (COYOTE PRESERVE)
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10 – MTF FIELD DAY (HANCOCK TURFGRASS CENTER)
MONDAY, AUGUST 22 - MIGCSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP (THE ORCHARDS, WASHINGTON)

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

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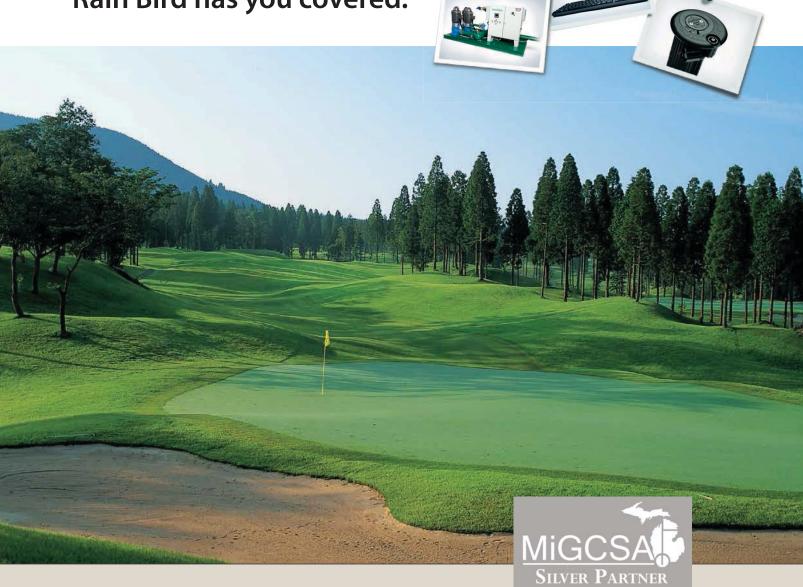








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# GCSAA LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM

By: Dan Dingman, Golf Course Superintendent, Birmingham Country Club, MiGCSA Secretary/Treasurer

erving on the Board of Directors for the MiGCSA continues to be a rewarding experience. Last month, Adam Ikamas and I traveled to Lawrence, Kansas, to attend the Chapter Leadership Symposium at GCSAA Headquarters. The invaluable knowledge gained and insight into this massive organization which supports us, was a clear reminder of why I volunteer to serve the members of the MiGCSA.

Chapter Executives and Chapter Leaders from across the country gathered for two days of networking and leadership strategizing, while enjoying some good BBQ. In addition to the standard event agenda, my realization of just how big a role the GCSAA has in the game of golf was by far my biggest takeaway. Whether it's marketing the Golf Course Superintendent, bringing awareness to the positive impact golf courses have on the environment, or supporting the efforts of golf courses and the Golf Course Superintendent in Washington DC each and everyday. The GCSAA is clearly the leader in the promotion of golf among all the golf affiliations with regard to government affairs. Your GCSAA dues dollars are hard at work everyday for the Golf Course Superintendent.

The Symposium attendees were invited to tour GCSAA Headquarters and I would not be alone in saying that it was the most memorable experience of the trip. We saw



everything from Antique green mowers, aerifiers, and hand tools, a historical library, as well as eighty employees that work tirelessly to support and promote our industry.

Board members and committee volunteers, past and present, have worked hard to serve our membership, and it was a pleasure to see that other chapters are following the lead of the MiGCSA. Our chapter is highly respected and viewed as a leader from all across the country, and this was evident during roundtable sessions that discussed creative ideas for chapter improvement. Challenges that all chapters face were openly shared and Adam and I have brought back with us many great ideas to improve the value of your membership.

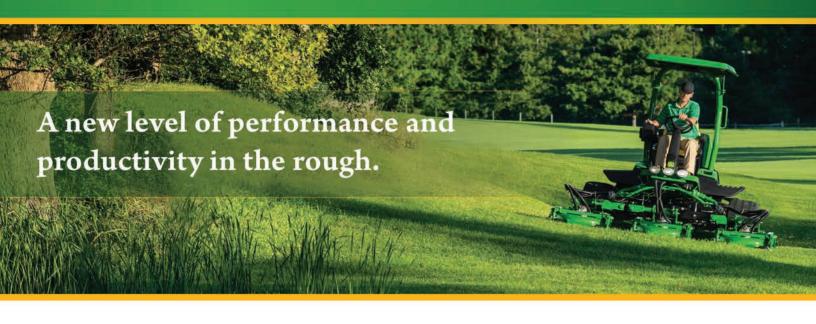
There are many opportunities to get involved with the MiGCSA that will lead to a rewarding experience. Contact Adam Ikamas or one of your Board members if you are interested in volunteering to help our Golf Course Superintendent Association. We have a fantastic event

calendar this year and I hope to see you at one of our fine MiGCSA events. Hope you all have your best year yet!

Steve Randall, Director GCSAA Chapter Outreach with Course Conditions at the top of his to do list







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# 2016 SPRING OPENER



MiGCSA Board Member Jeff Hopkins presents Jesse Shaver with the appreciation plaque

he 2016 golf season kicked off with a great day at Gull Lake Country Club in Richland with our host Jesse Shaver and his Assistants Jason Larabee & Drew Boike. The threat of rain was replaced by a beautiful sunny warm day for more than 60 attendees. The shotgun start went off at 10:00 and the group was in by 2:30 and treated to a fantastic spread of food prepared by the GLCC staff. The golf course and service was phenomenal all around. Here were the results from the day.



MiGCSA Past Presidents Jeff Holmes, CGCS & Greg Pattinson catching

Closest to the pins winners:

Ty Bowens & Jason Larabee

#### Long Drive:

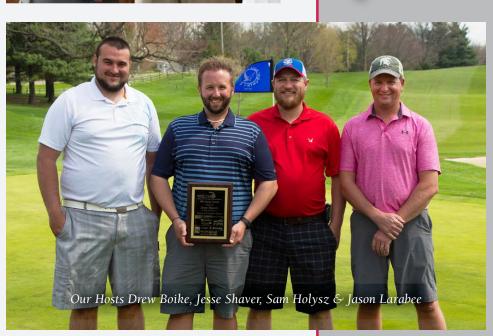
Brian VanderPloeg

#### Winning Teams:

Ist place Joe Rebone, Bob Stipcak, Joey Stimac & Andy Vondra.

**2nd place** Scott Rettmann, Rob Steger, Eric Davey & Kevin Welp.

3rd place Matt VanAcker, Mark Bush, Mark Fink & Craig Whitbeck.



# 2016 GAM SUPERINTENDENT AWARD OF MERIT WINNER STEVE COOK, CGCS, MG



MTF President Carey Mitchelson, GAM Green Committee Chairman David Baughman, Steve Cook, CGCS & MiGCSA President Justin Bickel

he 2016 Golf Association of Michigan Superintendent Award of Merit was presented to MiGCSA Class A Member at Oakland Hills Country Club Steve Cook, CGCS, MG at the GAM Annual Meeting on May 2nd at Spring Meadows Country Club. Steve was presented with this award during lunch served from 12:00 – 2:00. Steve joins Ted Whorle, Clem Wolfrom, Fritz McMullen, John Fulling and Jay Eccleton as recipients of this award.

This award was created by David Baughman, GAM Green Committee Chairman. David has worked tirelessly on this committee and has been a fantastic advocate for our industry. He is moving on to other

committee work but on behalf of all of the Members of the MiGCSA we want to thank David for his amazing work.





# Coming to a Theater Land Parcel Near You

BY PAUL ALBANESE, ASGCA

#### Writer/Architect:

The producer of a movie knows the story they want to tell, but often, they do not know how to express it. So,

they look for someone to put words to a story idea: a writer. A gifted writer can tell a story in a way that will inspire people to feel and emote. A well-written story is critical to how a film will be reviewed by those who watch it. The true essence of a good story relies on how it is told – not simply the content. Different storytellers, with drastically different results, may tell identical stories. The story of the Titanic has been told at least 4 times on the movie screen, yet it never evoked as much emotion as when described by James Cameron in the 1997 film version.

The architect of a golf course is also telling a story, but through the landscape. As a golfer traverses over a golf course, they are being proscribed a perspective of that landscape -- a story in effect--- created by the golf course architect. This golf "story" may have been told in different ways by different people (i.e different golf routings by different architects), which would greatly alter the experience. The golf course architect, by routing the golf course over the land the way they see fit, creates a specific path/storyline for the golfer to follow, and is critical to the enjoyment of the patron.

#### Land/Plot:

The raw land of a golf course is analogous to the plot of a movie. A 250 acre piece of land with rolling terrain, woods, streams and trees is akin to a good story with twists, turns, suspense, action and good characters. Both are great starting points. Taking these respective elements and putting them together coherently and creatively is the charge given to the writer of a movie and the architect of a golf course.

Sometimes, there is only so much a writer or an architect can accomplish, given certain constraints. A boring story (or bad piece of land), whether being told on the screen or on the landscape, will often cause disappointment. Conversely, a well-written story or interesting golf routing can be the key ingredient to accolades. In fact, it takes more talent for a writer to create an interesting plotline from an inherently boring story, just as it takes more talent for an architect to create an interesting routing from a boring piece of land.

In both cases, in order to create the requisite amount of zest, the writer/architect needs to embellish the story or the land through other means. The writer will rely upon character development to make a boring story interesting, just as the golf course architect will rely on bunkers and interesting green contours to make up for the lack of natural interest in the land.

#### **Special Effects:**

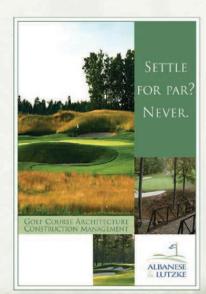
Even though a well written story and well crafted routing are key elements to their respective art forms, it must recognized that a non-talented writer or architect may have a strong enough supporting team to make up for their lack of creativity. As much as I would like to think that only a great architect could create a great golf course, I know the pure value of the story itself (i.e the site) will often suffice to

create a well-received product.

For example, take a banal story told in a movie such as Armageddon or Independence Day, yet realize that due to the special effects created on screen, the box office receipts did not suffer, and the movie was generally well received. The economic success of this movie was not due to the talent of the writing, but to the talent of other supporting factors, such as special effects, good acting, or inspiring music. Comparably, there are many golf courses, especially in resort locations, that command grossly high greens fees, simply due to the "special effects" created on the landscape, such as towering waterfalls, 50 foot high mounding or even the exquisite fare and personal service at the half way house.

Next edition......Shapers and Actors.....cut from the same cloth.

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.



1551.0



Amy Fouty, CSFM Athletic Turf Manager at MSU at the Western Meeting



Dr. Kevin Frank discusses the 2015-16 Ice Survey results at the Detroit Meeting



# 2016 Spring MANAGEMENT MEETINGS

The 2016 education season started in Plymouth on March 2nd on a very snowy day. Thankfully many of the 70+ attendees made it to the Inn at St. Johns for a great lineup including Julie Stacheki, Site Specific Inc., How to care for the trees you want to take care of, Brett Goecke, U of M OSEH, Building your Golf Course Health & Safety Program, Eric Davey, Prestwick Vilage C.C., Drones, Kevin Frank, MSU, Ice Update, Robert Palmer & Megan Bonanni, Pitt McGehee Palmer & Rivers, P.C., Understanding the FLSA: The Changing Definition of An Employee and Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG, Golf Agronomy International, LLC: Buying/Leasing/ Replacement of Equipment, How Long Does Equipment Last and The Equipment Wish List & Travels with Terry.

The second of the three Spring Management Meetings was the following week at Egypt Valley Country Club in Ada on March 9th. Much better weather greeted the 70+ members who attended to see Brian Schweihofer, Franklin Hills C.C., Establishment and Management of Unmowed Fescue Rough, Bill Brown, Turf Republic, Using Drones on the Golf Course, Brett Goecke, U of M OSEH, Building your Golf Course Health & Safety Program, Rebecca Strauss, Miller Johnson - the upcoming changes in the FLSA regulations, and exemption status of employees in general, Erwin McKone, Director of Golf Operations at Briar Ridge Country Club, The ABC's of Bees and Amy Fouty, CSFM Athletic Turf Manager, Michigan State University Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, Have you prepared your staff for success or failure?

Unfortunately, the third and final meeting at Treetops on March 24th was cancelled because of a severe winter storm. But we plan to have the same speaker lineup next year around the same time with hopefully better weather!

#### FROM NATIONAL



CLIANIE CONIDOV

#### BY SHANE CONROY

National and local advocacy is essential in any profession, but it's especially true in the golf industry. GCSAA and the MiGCSA are leaders on the national and local advocacy fronts, with each organization participating in National Golf Day and Michigan Golf Day at the Capitol respectively.

The ninth annual National Golf Day, which is organized by the We Are Golf coalition, took place earlier this month on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. In attendance were over 30 superintendents from across the country, as well as the GCSAA Government Affairs team, select staff and members from the GCSAA

Board of Directors. Other attendees included leading members from the United States Golf Manufacturers Council, National Golf Course Owners Association, Club Managers Association of America, LPGA, USGA, PGA of America, PGA TOUR and World Golf Foundation.

The goal of National Golf Day is to present golf's economic, environmental, charitable and fitness benefits to congressional leaders. Some of the information relayed is golf's economic impact to the tune of \$70 billion annually, the \$3.9 billion donated to charity each year, the 2 million jobs the game supports and the 2 million acres of green space provided from golf courses. GCSAA helps lead National Golf Day by scheduling direct appointments with over 100 congressional leaders. GCSAA utilizes this event to communicate the impact certain regulations have on golf courses across the country and how these regulations effect superintendents some of the issues focused on this year were WOTUS, the Fair Labor Standards Act, H-2B and the STARS Act. We also use this platform to highlight golf's reduced use of water and promote environmental programs put in place by superintendents throughout the country. This event is truly a fantastic way to promote golf and the progressive work superintendents do on a daily basis to congressional leaders. GCSAA's Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents also took part in the hands-on-exhibits which were set up in the Rayburn House Office Building Foyer.

National Golf Day is also making its presence felt on social media. From the 2015 event, there were nearly 40 million impressions using the #NGD15, up from 16 million in 2014 and 7 million in 2013. The event was also covered on major news outlets including Fox Business, CBS Sports Radio, The Wall Street Journal and The Golf Channel to name a few.

A little closer to home, and coming up in a couple weeks is the Michigan Golf Day at the Capitol, which will be held on Capitol Hill in Lansing on June 9th. The Michigan Golf Alliance, which includes the MiGCSA, leads the event and helps promote the game of golf in the state of Michigan. Similarly to National Golf Day, the objective of Michigan Golf Day at the Capitol is to communicate golf's economic, charitable, environmental and fitness benefits, and support the game at the local level.

I attended this event last year for the first time, and was thoroughly impressed with the experience. David West, Vice President of Travel Michigan opened the event by reading the proclamation from Governor Rick Snyder declaring June as Michigan Golf Month. MiGCSA members were in attendance throughout the day, and meetings were attended with state congressional leaders as well as MDARD officials. This experience allows the opportunity to create relationships with key individuals which will further benefit the turfgrass industry. Please plan on attending this important event, as your presence will have a direct impact on the day's success. You can sign up to attend on the Michigan Golf Alliance website at: <a href="http://www.michigangolfalliance.com/sign-up">http://www.michigangolfalliance.com/sign-up</a>, I look forward to seeing you there. Best of luck this season as we head into the summer months! As always, if there is anything I can do to help, please contact me.

Thank you,
Shane Conroy





# BICKEL

Justin Bickel is entering his ninth season at The Nightmare & The Dream and his third also managing Westbranch Country Club and took the helm of the MiGCSA as the 8th President in the Chapters history at the Annual Meeting in January. Justin recently got married to his wife Mary on January 2nd of this year. He actually entered the four-year program having never worked on a golf course. His first two majors at MSU (Vet Med and Secondary Education) weren't stoking his fire so he had to change his major again. Having grown up working outside on his parent's farm and a love of sports made working outdoors on a golf course a logical choice.

#### I. WHERE WAS THE FIRST COURSE YOU WORKED ON?

The Fortress in Frankenmuth, MI. What was your first job on that course? Either bunker raking or hand mowing tees. What I do remember is that me and another guy spent all day every day hand watering for two months straight because of an extreme drought that year. I could roll a hose into the back of my cart faster than a cowboy can wrangle a calf. When did you know that this was a job you wanted to do as a career? After I got my first superintendent position. Being an assistant is a very difficult job and I am not too proud to admit that I had my doubts. What was your favorite job that first summer on a course? Looking for golf balls in the ravine that ran through the course, LOL. After a big outing, you could fill a bucket in five minutes as long as someone else hadn't already raided the area. Seriously though, my favorite job was walk mowing greens.

#### 2. WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

Michigan State University! What part of that education do you use most often on the job? That is a tough question to answer. I look at education like rungs on a ladder. The first one is just as important as the next one. I say "next" and not "last" because I hope to never stop learning or continuing my education. My education in Crop and Soil Science and Turfgrass Management never stops due to the efforts of the MSU faculty and their research at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center.

#### 3. WHAT COURSE DID YOU GO TO AFTER COLLEGE?

Saginaw Country Club. Who was the first Superintendent at that course? Troy Rice. What did you learn from that Superintendent in the first year? That I was grossly inexperienced and that I needed to get my priorities in order.

#### 4. DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN? WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES AND AGES?

Yes, our dogs Lola and Sage. Lola is a six year old Lab/mix that I adopted from the Humane Society when she was a puppy. Sage is a two year old German Shepherd that we inherited from my wife's parents. Hopefully someday soon they will have another family member to protect in the house.





It's Caddy Shack. I love a good comedy and that movie still makes me laugh to this day. It has an all-star cast of comedians and it doesn't disappoint. I loved it before I entered the golf industry and that has not changed.

#### 6. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NON-GOLF SPORT?

Basketball. As a child I used to play basketball all the time. My basketball hoop was inside the maintenance building on my parent's farm so I could play all winter long. I would shoot hoops for hours on end to the point that my fingertips would begin to split open. Then I would put on a Band-Aid and keep shooting. Biggest issue was making sure errant shots didn't hit the equipment.

#### 7. WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

What is spare time? Just kidding. I have a garden that requires a lot of attention but the payoff is great. There is nothing better than fresh vegetables from the garden. I have also been a basketball coach for the last 9 years. I love sports because they allow me to indulge my competitive nature. For exercise I play basketball and run. There is nothing more peaceful than taking a jog at the golf course especially as the sun is going down. Most importantly though is spending time with my family. It always feels good to take a trip back home to see how much my nieces and nephew have grown since the last visit. There are five of them and they range in age from 3-6 years old. They are quite the crew.

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

This will be my ninth season. Hard to believe it has been that long already. Upon looking back on each season separately I have begun giving each season a label like a title in a book. For example, 2012 was "The longest summer ever". 2013 was "The summer of winter kill and the Tuck Tate". 2014 was "The summer of more winter kill and getting shingles". 2015 was "The summer of devastation caused by the largest recorded hail in northern Michigan history". As you can see that most are labeled by some sort of trial or tribulation. I guess that's when we learn the most about ourselves and our capabilities. Maybe 2016 will be "The summer of the Presidency". I have no idea what this summer might end up being titled, but I keep hoping for "The summer of new equipment".

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

The most difficult hole I have ever eagled of course! #6 at the Nightmare. From the men's tees it is 544 yards. Your second shot is all uphill. It is the first hole that customers see as they enter the golf course. It is a beautiful view. Where did you shoot your best round of golf and what was the score? In the fall of 2009 I shot a 73 at Pineview Highlands in Houghton Lake, MI. Thanks Gordie!

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

#15 at the Dream. Any pin location on the right side of the green has the possibility of displeasing a golfer. There is a shelf on the back third of the green for pin locations. It is protected by a bunker behind the green and one in the front of the right half of the green. Any chip or approach shot left short will roll back off the green. If your approach shot goes long into the rear bunker, good luck keeping your bunker shot on the green. Any time I hear that a golfer is upset about a pin location, I immediately have a good idea which hole caused the problem.

# II. WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW? My father-in-law. He is a buckeye fan.

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

A development officer for MSU athletics. I love watching MSU beat UM in basketball and football year after year after year after year. Pay me to raise money for that cause and I would be a very happy man. Once again, Go Green!

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

Serving on the Board of Directors and serving on committees has been a great way to give back. In Michigan, there has been an organization of superintendents since 1925. The hard work of many great superintendents over the last 90 years has had a monumental effect on the current state of my profession. Could you imagine if there had been no association of superintendents for the last 90 years? I assure you that things would not have progressed as far as they have today. I feel that I have benefited from all their hard work and dedication and the least that I can do is pay it forward in the same way. It is hard to believe that this is my sixth year on the Board. It goes fast. I have also enjoyed





being the chairman of the Communication committee the last five years. It was somewhat bitter sweet stepping down as chairman this year but Rob Steger is doing a great job bringing new ideas to the committee as the new chairman.

#### 14. WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS?

I enjoy anything that keeps me active and stokes my competitive spirit. For that reason, I have played in many different leagues over the years including golf, basketball, bowling and softball. The last nine years I have coached junior high and high school boys' basketball. My greatest passion is easily MSU athletics. I love being a part of the Spartan family and showing my support. Go Green!

#### 15. WHAT VEHICLE WOULD YOU DRIVE IF YOU HAD A MONEY TREE GROWING IN YOUR YARD?

I have always had a love for the Chevy Corvette. Last year I was driving a utility cart through the parking lot at the golf course. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed a car that made me stop immediately and turn around to check it out. Sure enough, it was a gorgeous brand new Corvette.

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

This is very difficult to limit to just one. I guess I would advise any new superintendent to become an active member of your local superintendent association. Start out keeping it simple. At the least attend just one event that first year. Maybe over time increase your involvement by joining a committee. Every individual has to weigh the amount of involvement that is best for them, but you can't truly gauge that until you get it started. I can attest that the relationships you build and the information you take from each meeting or conversation are invaluable.

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

First of all I would want people to have enjoyed speaking with me. The manner in which you speak to another person can have a negative or positive impact. Even if the influence is small I would prefer it to be positive. Secondly, I want to be remembered as a trusted and respected human being that left this earth having helped make it a better place. Lastly, and most importantly, I want my family to remember me as a loving, caring, and loyal son, brother, husband, and father.

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

I am obviously biased, but I feel there is no one more important. The golf industry is a business and the golfing experience is the product. That product includes hospitality, customer service, amenities, etc, but the most important feature of that product is the golf course. At the end of the day golfers want to golf the course and superintendents are responsible for the care of that product. Marketing, advertising, and pricing may help bring golfers to the course which is good, but the condition of the golf course in relation to the cost is what brings them back.

# 19. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT?

If the superintendent acts primarily as the brain and the crew are the hands and feet then the assistant is everything in between while also acting as the hands and feet as well. Analogies aren't perfect but they allow for a quick overview. The job of the assistant is very difficult and one paragraph is not suffice to mention how important they are to the operation.

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

The technician is the doctor of the equipment fleet. The technician's practices can prevent equipment failure and when failure does occur they can quickly diagnose and fix the problem. Maintaining the course requires tools and those tools will not operate properly if at all without a quality equipment technician. Equipment technicians have a very specialized skill set that is invaluable and makes them a vital cog in the entire golf course operation.

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

Fixing ball marks!!! I equate it to taking dirty shoes off when you enter a house. You are being considerate of the person that maintains that area, you don't want to scuff their floor, and you are keeping it clean for those that come after you. No one likes wet, dirty socks and no one likes putting on a green full of dead spots. I could drag this out further but I think I have made my point.





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

Mother Nature. Michigan is beautiful but I really get sick of checking the weather constantly, every day, sometimes multiple times/day! Weather is the ever changing variable in every superintendents daily, weekly, and seasonal game plan. Can you imagine if that variable was a constant like a business office with the heat set at 65 degrees every single hour of every single day? Definitely Mother Nature!

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

My entire family. I don't think I could single out any one of them. I have truly been blessed with amazing grandparents, parents, two older brothers and an amazing wife. Their hard work, love, and support have all played a part in me becoming the man that I am today.

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

Tom Izzo, Mark Dantonio, and Draymond Green.

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

- I. I grew up showing steers in 4H at the Tuscola County Fair. The first year I showed I was only 9 years old. It is crazy to look back at those pictures of a little nine year old holding onto a 1200# animal. What were my parents thinking? LOL!
- I grew up cheering for that other school in the state. I
  even attended their youth basketball camp. Please don't
  judge. I was young and impressionable. Luckily, it was
  a feeble relationship. One month as a student at MSU
  and I officially bled green.
- I have been diagnosed with both epilepsy and narcolepsy.
- 4. In addition to our garden, my wife and I also have 3 laying hens, Greta, Winnie, and Penelope. We had four but unfortunately this spring Isa went to the big coop in the sky. It is amazing how much better home grown eggs taste than store bought eggs.
- As an assistant superintendent I was having doubts about my career choice. I applied for a position with the city health department doing health inspections.
   Thank God I did not get the job. My life would be much different today.
- 6. My first golf club that I ever swung was a seven iron that my grandfather gave me when I was maybe 10 years old. He found it lying in the middle of one of my family's sugar beet fields while he was out hoeing weeds. Apparently golfers will get angry and throw their club even when hitting balls into a huge field. Just kidding, but that golf club was the start of my love for golf. It can be interesting and fulfilling to look back on the different events and decisions that have shaped your life. Guess I will finish by saying, "Thanks Grandpa!"









# A CALL FROM CAMPUS

EFFECTS OF GRAVEL LAYER PARTICLE SIZE AND SUB-GRADE SLOPE ON THE MAGNITUDE AND SPATIAL PATTERN OF SOIL WATER IN A VARIABLE-DEPTH USGA-SPECIFICATION PUTTING GREEN

BY THOMAS O. GREEN, JAMES R. CRUM, AND JOHN N. ROGERS, III



niformity is the key. Whether it is an athletic field, or a putting green, the players want uniformity. They want the assurance that when they take a foothold anywhere on the gridiron turf the stability will be there, rain or shine. They want the assurance that when they stroke the ball, whether it is the first or last green, ball performance will be the same across the turf surface. Likewise, the superintendent desires uniformity from a turf maintenance aspect; in regard to soil moisture retention, they want a predictable, uniform soil water distribution across the root zone profile. This is a major concern particularly on high-sand content putting greens.

Since water has become a precious global commodity due to climate pattern changes, population center shifts, and urban development, environmental quality issues will continue to dictate water usage and regulatory practice for future generations. Therefore, water restrictions will only increase as water sources degrade in quality. While some researchers have evaluated the effects of root zone permeability and slope on soil water content, and others have assessed the role of variable-depth root zone (8 and 16 inches within the slope apex and base, respectively) on soil moisture content across the slope of an undulating putting green, our proposed study will determine if altering the gravel particle size distribution increases soil moisture uniformity throughout the undulations of a variable-depth USGA putting green.

In as much as golf course superintendents strive to maintain high quality turf, water will always be an influential factor on course playability as well as the growth and development of the grass plant. The purpose of the modern putting green soil profile design is to provide drainage following a rainfall and irrigation event, but retain a sufficient volume of plant-available water. Although sand, a primary component of a root-zone medium, provides stability, resists compaction, and allows for rapid water percolation and infiltration, the contour and slope in putting greens significantly affect the hydraulic properties of sand soils due to gravity. As a result, coarse-textured soils become prematurely dry in the higher elevations and excessively wet in the lower elevations. This non-uniform wetting of soil hampers putting green performance.

The USGA green (two-tiered) consists of a gravel layer (4 inch depth) underlying the root zone with the coarse-textured gravel material acting as a check valve for the "principally vertical streamlines of drainage"—from overlying rootzone into the gravel layer. However, despite the observations of soil scientists who noted higher water retention when a sand-based root zone overlays coarse-textured gravel material, and others who determined that increases in particle size difference between the root zone and the underlying gravel layer significantly increases water retention in the upper root zone profile, there have been those who noticed that increased green slope, regardless of a gravel layer, significantly contributed to upslope drying due to "slope-induced lateral water movement".

One of the impending challenges our society must address is resourcefully meeting the growing demand for water. An 18-hole golf course in California could spend between \$400,000 and \$600,000 annually on water usage. Our study will not only address potential reductions in water consumption, but also, reductions in water expenditure. Moreover, this project will investigate the effects of gravel particle distribution and subgrade slope on soil water content in a variable-depth, USGA-specification putting green, and is designed with the express purpose of enhancing the competiveness of golf courses and benefitting the golf course industry as a whole.

The experimental putting green soil profiles will be constructed within wooden modules. However, before field trials begin, we will computer simulate, or model soil-water retention using a software package, Hydrus 2D, from University of California Riverside in order to better understand the dynamics of soil-water relations, and to acquire an optimal experimental design and protocol. In this study, we will analyze volumetric soil water content in an experimental putting green soil profile using moisture sensors in several locations and depths within nine gravel particle size and root zone depth treatment combinations, and the following green slope treatments: 0, 4, and 6%.

The study will be run as a series of individual experiments consisting of all combinations of gravel layer particle size, root zone depth, and slope treatments for the three replications. The magnitude and spatial pattern of soil water within the experimental soil profile units will be evaluated through a series of irrigation and dry down periods. An automated irrigation system will be programmed to apply 1.7 in water per hour, or a sufficient amount to saturate soil profile, prior to each dry down cycle. Soil moisture readings will be taken hourly for the length of the cycle, ending when the upper root zone profile reaches 3-4% volumetric water content.

Our experimental results will detail the magnitude and spatial pattern of soil water across the undulations of a variable-depth, high-sand content putting green profile

affected by modifications of the particle size difference between the gravel and root zone layers. Currently, specifications regarding gravel particle size and root zone depth for construction of a sand-based putting green are too broad with little research to support USGA Green Section Staff (2004) recommendations. Moreover, these performance factor recommendations are based on laboratory testing with little accountability for slope variation found in most putting green surfaces. Findings from this research project will determine that increasing the particle size difference between the gravel and root zone layers, in combination with a variable-depth rootzone, will improve soil moisture uniformity in an undulating putting green. It is important to note that an improved performance standard for selection of a gravel layer is not only necessary to prevent moisture-related plant health issues often seen in sloped putting greens, but also, to conserve our global water supplies and reduce water use expenditures.











# ERIC COWAN

Eric Cowan and his wife Deborah will celebrate their 9th wedding anniversary this September. They have two children Mason, 7 and Kinley Jo, 3. Eric entered the golf business while looking for a summer job in college at MSU and his good buddy Jeff Sweet told him about a job opening that he thought Eric should apply for in golf course construction. He spent the next 13 years in building and renovating golf courses across the country and Canada. Eric is an account manager with Gold Industry Partner J.W. Turf and lives in Grand Blanc.

#### WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOU IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIFF?

I have had several colleagues over the years that have influenced my life in different ways. My parents led by example of what a strong work ethic is and always pushed me to do my best at sports, 4H, school work and be a good person. That carried over to my career and I always try to do the right thing.

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

When working in Arkansas as a construction manager, it wasn't uncommon to have bussed in inmates clearing brush or other manual labor. I struck up a conversation with the officer on a horse, carrying a shotgun. I finally asked him if he ever had someone try to run away with a smile on my face. He said yes, with no smile. I had to know what happened next, so I asked. He said "I shot him." That was the end

of the story and I still don't know if he was serious, but I wasn't asking anymore questions.

#### WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES **FACING SUPERINTENDENTS** TODAY?

Finding good help! The labor force doesn't seem to be as strong as it used to be. Being able to find hardworking, responsible people seems to be challenge these days.

#### WHAT IS YOUR MOST **EMBARRASSING MOMENT DEALING** WITH A CUSTOMER?

An early morning equipment delivery led me to slip on my frosty trailer. The superintendent asked me if I was ok. I didn't know, but my pant leg was covered in blood and he offered to wash them for me

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

Look at all your options. What do you enjoy most about your position? I enjoy doing something different every day.



# WHAT ARE YOUR TRAVEL TIPS FOR THE LESS SEASONED TRAVELER?

Be patient! How many days of the year are you on the road? Around 75 overnight stays/year. How many miles do you drive in a typical year? 70,000 miles/year

#### WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS?

I love archery hunting for whitetail deer, turkey hunting, fishing for Salmon and Walleye, ice fishing, snowmobiling, College sports, and spending time with my family!

# WHO HAS THE NICEST SHOP THAT YOU CALL ON AND WHY?

Midland Country Club has a brand new state of the art facility.

# WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING OUTSIDE OF WORK? I enjoy playing sports with family in back yard.

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

Wiedenmann Super 600. It is four machines in one and every golf course should one.

#### WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE PROFESSION YOU ARE IN?

It was an opportunity to stay in the golf industry and stay in Michigan more consistently with my family.

#### HOW LARGE IS YOUR TERRITORY?

As a Territory Sales Manager, I spend most of my time throughout Michigan, Northern Indiana, and Northwest Ohio.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE TO PLAY?

The Coore - Crenshaw Red Course at Stream Song.

#### WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLFER AND WHY?

Phil Mickelson. It is enjoyable to watch him get out of tough situations.

# DO YOU HAVE A NICKNAME AND IS THERE A STORY BEHIND IT?

Big E or E. I don't know how it ever came along, but it is natural for people to call me this.

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

No! I am happy just being on the green, even with an 80 foot putt, for my second shot.

# WHO HAS THE BEST MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT DOG? WHAT IS ITS NAME?

Turf, from Bucks Run Golf Club, he was the first golf course dog I knew and he was awesome!

# HOW MANY CONFERENCES/EDUCATIONAL EVENTS DO YOU ATTEND PER YEAR?

10-12 How many rounds of golf do you play a year? 11-15 rounds

#### INDUSTRY PROFILE







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

I think there will be fewer golf courses

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

GPS and chlorophyll reading technology, on equipment.

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

- I. I AM A PACER, WHEN TALKING ON THE PHONE, I WILL JUST START WALKING.
- 2. I AM A SUCKER FOR ANIMALS, IN A CARTOON, OR A COMMERCIAL WITH AN ANIMAL IN IT. I LOVE THE SMOKEY THE **BEAR BILLBOARDS**
- 3. BEING INVOLVED IN 4-H, I HAVE HAD GRAND CHAMPION. STEERS, HOGS, GOATS, TURKEYS.
- 4. I ENJOY ALL KINDS OF MUSIC, IN A NORMAL DAY, IT IS NOT **UNCOMMON TO LISTEN TO 4** OR 5 TYPES, BUT MOSTLY OLD COUNTRY.
- 5. I HAVE WORKED IN MANY PARTS OF CANADA AND THE U.S., BUT FIND THAT THE STATE OF MICHIGAN HAS THE BEST TO OFFER OF EVERYTHING, FAMILY THINGS TO DO, LIKE, CAMPING, FISHING, HUNTING, GOLFING, AND ENDLESS RECREATION, AND SPORTING EVENTS.

# **GREAT LAKES TURF**





FLORATINE Rooted in Science

### WHAT DOES MICHIGAN STATE ANTHRACNOSE RESEARCH SAY ABOUT FLORATINE NUTRITION?

#### MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

#### **RESULTS SUMMARY**

- · Two years in a row, Floratine's foliar nutrition program combined with low-dose contact fungicides offered better resistance to Crown Rot Anthracnose than fungicides alone.
- · A program using CONTACT fungicides with a targeted foliar nutrition plan will not only offer excellent disease protection but also reduce SYSTEMIC fungicide resistance.



Recently completed research done at Michigan State University by Dr. Joseph Vargas clearly demonstrates that combining a Floratine foliar nutrition program with low-dose contact fungicide applications provides superior control of Crown Rot Anthracnose, as well as providing exceptional turfgrass nutrition. The study attributes this to Floratine's foliar uptake technology combined with the proven efficacy of the low dose of the fungicide.

To see the full research report, visit www.floratine.com/research FLORADOX KNIFE Patented Biostimulari Defensive Stress Natration Rapid Green • PATENTED TURFGRASS Liquid Gunshine



FLORATINE Rooted in Science

• MADE FROM THE HIGHEST MADE FROM THE HIGHEST QUALITY RAW MATERIALS • ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND

# 2016 CAN-AM

he 40th year of Can Am competition was hosted by MiGCSA Member Ryan Moore, Superintendent at Forest Lake Country Club and his Assistants Tyler Cooper and Shannon Storey. A perfect spring day bloomed for the close to 70 OGSA and MiGCSA members in attendance. Breakfast was followed by a 10:00 shotgun start with cocktails and a steak dinner to follow. The format is a two man best ball net score for one point on the front one on the back and one for the totals. The final outcome was a rout fir the Canadian team 33 to 18. The other winners from

the day were:

OGSA President Mark Prieur

Long Drive: Charles Ihrig

Closest to the pins: Tim Hornick, Bob King, Gary Thommes & Eric Davey

Two skins were won worth \$340 each by the team of Brown & Kuhn with a net 2 on hole #14 and a net 1 on hole #3 from the team of Vargas and Wolfrom.

Looking forward to the 2017 Can Am at the newly renovated Essex Golf & Country Club.



Season to season, make the right call. Apply Velista®, spring—summer—fall.



Spring and fall are the perfect seasons to clean up your greens, tees and fairways. Velista® fungicide is the broadest spectrum SDHI that protects against anthracnose as well as dollar spot and brown patch and more. And when used in rotation with Briskway® fungicide, Velista delivers excellent control of summer stress diseases on greens when temperatures shift from warm to hot. Velista is the right call.

GreenCastOnline.com/Velista

For more information, contact:

Adam Garr (248) 914-4902 adam.garr@syngenta.com







# A MESSAGE FROM



ost of you are familiar that the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation purpose is to provide the Michigan State University Turf Team with funding that can be used for turf research. Additionally, the Foundation has established endowments over the years that are specific to certain needs of the Turf Team and Hancock Turf Center. The Board of Directors is comprised of 12 individuals from different regions and affiliations of the Turfgrass industry. Our team also includes Executive Director, Gordie LaFontaine and our Turf Team Leader, Professor Kevin Frank. The current Board is well balanced and each individual volunteers his and her time to the Foundation to ensure its success and future. We strive to meet monthly as schedules allow to discuss the wants and needs of turf related research. Our goal is to keep MSU Turf a prominent player in the turf industry nationwide. As simple as it all seems, there are a lot of moving parts to the Foundation and it requires a great deal of planning and time commitment from individuals to make it the most prominent Turf Foundation in the country.

Some may ask, "Why is that important?" It is a fair question and there is no correct, simple answer. For the golf course superintendant in today's world, information ...any information, can be readily available on your phone in seconds....from multiple sources and places. Today's work world requires one to be a bit more selfish with their time and attending local meetings can be a difficult choice. Throw in personal time with family and friends and one week of 90 degree days with 90 % humidity... and it's no wonder someone may perceive the MTF as an unneeded addition to an already crowded table. And perception is important. It has meaning in many decisions we make daily and can influence someone to make good...or poor judgment calls. That said, at a recent board meeting the discussion turned to how the MTF and MSU are perceived by other institutions. The dialogue wasn't started in order be self promoting...but rather one to discuss what is needed to do to expand our representation in our industry. Ultimately, it was brought to our attention by others we often take for granted the apparatus available in our state regarding the turf. The common bond of the MTF,

MiGCSA and MSU is a very unique, organized and envied coalition. Keeping it that way not only requires

effort by those you have chosen to lead each organization, but an understanding of how fortunate Michigan is to have these relationships.

Can the MTF improve? Certainly it can. Can the MTF make your jobs easier? Ask someone who called MSU when turf issues needed addressing. Is the MTF worth paying attention to? Depends on how you might feel about the golf industry. Many of you received your start at MSU or have relied on the University at one time or another. We all make our own successes. The Turf Team and the Foundation want to provide information that can help along the way and want all the tools available when the time comes that they may be needed.

In the upcoming weeks there are many MTF that will be on the calendar. Hopefully you can find some time in your busy schedules to plan to attend.

#### Tee Times 4 Turf (May 1 - 15)

Thanks to all those who donated courses, posted

#### LaFontaine Golf Outing (August 4)

Coyote Golf Club, Fenton - Proceeds to the LaFontaine Endowment

#### Field Day (August 10)

Hancock Turf Research Center, East Lansing

#### MTF Turf Conference (|an 3, 4 &5 2017)

Kellogg Conference Center, East Lansing

Finally, the MTF is proud to inform everyone that Dr. Joe Vargas will be inducted into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame - June 5th, Katke Golf Course, Big Rapids. Our congratulations to Dr. Vargas. It is a honor well deserved.

#### Carey Mitchelson

President – Michigan Turfgrass Foundation

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH, McKinley Park

BY: TROY EVANS, ASSISTANT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

he Assistants Committee organized a community outreach event for Migcsa members to join in and give back to one of the state's local communities. With consultation from Dr. Thom Nikolai we were able to continue the progress he has started at McKinley Park in Flint. Several years ago, he began the cleanup phase at the park and has made enormous strides in the overall appearance and safety of the baseball diamond. After removing the trash of what was considered a dumping ground, and removing trees that were growing through the fence of the backstop he began to mow the field down and now has a decent field that the kids in the area can enjoy. The progress he has made at McKinley Park has been incredible achievement which has led to the Genesee Valley Parks and Recreation Department to establish a routinely maintenance program at the park.

The group of volunteers was made up of local Assistants and interns who came together to provide the park and specifically the ball diamond with a little spring cleanup. We edged the base paths and the concrete walkways around the diamond. We also cleaned the leaves and debris from

the tennis courts. The event was a great success and the Assistants Committee is committed to opportunities that profit our community. Thank you to the gentlemen who volunteered their time Mike Bartlett, Colin Zegarzewski, and Dylan McMaster from Oakland Hills Country Club; Kevin Peck and Bryan Kiel from CCD; TJ Leblanc and Nick Freeman from Meadowbrook Country Club; Dave Makulski from Franklin Hills Country Club and Troy Evans from Bloomfield Hills Country Club. Also a huge appreciation goes out to Jim Moore of Flint Golf Club and Thom Nikolai for their guidance, support and help overseeing the day! We look forward to making this event a staple for years to





# Standing water?



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# OFF COURSE SNOWMAKING IN THE MID-WEST

BY MIKE ROSEN he ski industry is a big part of Michigan's recreational offering and economy, especially at northern Michigan resorts. As we cannot rely solely on natural snowfall for adequate coverage of the ski slopes, we are required to produce artificial snow. Like anything else, there are many factors that play into producing a quality product. Snowmaking combines science and art to deliver essential "man-made" snow. The snowgun is what most people are familiar with, as they are the most visible component on the slopes and come in various configurations. From tower mounts, portable units, stick, etc., the basic concept is to combine air and water to begin the snowmaking process. Many facilities' water pressures start at 250 psi, and use 480v electrical to power the fans and compressors. Sometimes cooling towers are used for the water before it hits the pump station, depending on how it's temperature is affected by friction in the water lines. As water and air are delivered, the snowgun breaks the water into small particles, cools to 32°F, removes the heat of fusion, and nucleates. Nuclei are the natural particles in the water, tiny ice crystals formed by the expanding compressed air and sometimes additives that facilities inject into the irrigation system. Each snowgun has a nucleator that is adjustable by human hands or automation, according to the environmental condition at that particular machine. Nucleation is essential to make snow efficiently at reasonable temperatures. Reasonable temperatures are determined by the wet bulb. Wet bulb condition factors on both ambient temperature and relative humidity to help define the coldest condition a water droplet can obtain. So, although 32°F is the actual freezing point of water, the humidity may not allow snowmaking to commence. This is commonly the most misunderstood factor by those itching to hit the slopes. "Why aren't you making snow?"





Like any industry, the snowmaking process has evolved immensely over the years. High end programs look like air traffic control centers with fully automated guns, water valves, pump stations and the like. That being said, there is no substitute for the human element, as trained snowmakers ultimately observe the micro-climates. inspect snow quality coming from the snowguns, fine-tune the machines and move them if necessary. This is a 24/7, high stress operation when temperatures are favorable, and physically demanding as well.

The snowmaking planning process requires a lot of effort, depending on the facilities' recourses, timeframes and expectations. Smaller resorts may have

Snow SNOWMAKING WET BULB																	
П		TEMPERATURE *F															
RELATIVE HUMIDITY	R.H.	37	36	34	32	30	28	27	25	23	21	19	18	16	14	12	10
	90%	36.3	34.7	32.9	30.9	29.3	27.5	25.5	23.9	22.3	20.7	18.9	16.9	15.1	13.5	11.7	9.9
	80%	35.2	33.6	31.8	30.0	26.2	26.4	24.8	23.2	21.6	19.8	18.1	16.5	14.7	12.9	11.1	9.3
	70%	34.0	32.2	30.7	28.9	27.3	25.3	23.7	22.1	20.7	19.0	17.4	15.6	14.0	12.2	10.6	8.8
	60%	32.5	30.7	29.5	27.9	26.2	24.6	23.0	21.4	19.9	18.3	16.7	15.3	13.3	11.8	10.0	8.4
	50%	31.1	29.7	28.0	26.6	25.2	23.5	21.9	20.5	19.0	17.4	15.8	14.2	12.7	10.9	9.3	7.9
	40%	29,7	28.2	26.8	25.3	24.1	22.6	21.0	19.6	18.1	16.7	15.1	13.5	12.0	10.4	9.0	7.3
	30%	28.4	27.0	25.7	24.3	23.0	21.6	19.9	18.7	17.4	15.8	14.4	12.9	11.5	9.9	8.4	6.8
	20%	26.8	25.7	24.3	23.0	21.7	20.3	19.0	17.8	16.3	15.1	13.6	12.2	10.8	9.1	7.7	6.3
	10%	25.7	24.3	23.0	21.9	20.7	19.2	18.0	16.7	15.4	14.2	12.9	11.5	9.9	8.4	7.2	5.7
www.snowmakers.com																	

limited snowguns, which demand laser-like time management to allow for curing of the snow and push-out. The early stages of snowmaking may dictate a wetter snow to produce a base that can withstand some of our winter warm-ups. Snow is blown into large piles, allowed to cure and freeze, then pushed out and tilled by the Snow Groomers. Subsequent snowmaking events may warrant a drier snow for a better skiable product. These alterations are made by adjusting nucleators and potentially switching nozzles on the snowguns. The final product is prepared by the groomers for that consistant, smooth surface we love to carve up.



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# MATT SHAFER

Matt Shafer is starting his fourth season as the 1st Assistant at Lost Dunes Golf Club in Bridgman. Matt has been married to his wife, Lindsey, for 5 years and they have two children. A daughter, Lucy, is 3 and a son, Jay, is 1 and an ill-behaved golden retriever, Brady, who is 8.

- I. HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? My Dad was a golf pro so I was always around the game and played a lot of golf growing up. I was not really interested pursuing a career in golf until I decided to get a summer job at The Fort Golf Course in Indianapolis. I was taking summer classes in business management at IUPUI and I knew the golf pro at The Fort and he connected me with Randy Brehmer. He is the long time Superintendent there and is still very passionate about the profession. He really got me excited about a career in Turf Science that summer and allowed me to gain experience in a wide variety of jobs on the course. He encouraged me to transfer from IU to Purdue and I haven't looked back. Boiler Up!
- 2. WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

  Most of my spare time is spent with my kids and watching sports.

3. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS

MANAGEMENT, WHO ELSE INFLUENCED YOU PERSONALLY? I have been fortunate to have worked under some great Superintendents so far in my career. I have learned a great deal from each of them and they all have impacted my views on golf course management. Randy Brehmer at The Fort Golf Club, Matt Burrows at Winged Foot Golf Club, Matt Morton at Riviera Country Club, Chris Hague at Broadmoor Country Club, Chase Walden at Old Oakland Golf, and now Steve Jotzat at Lost Dunes. Each one of them have different views on turf management and managing their respective crews. They all have impacted how I approach each and every work day.



It's a tie between Toro 648, Dakota 414 Topdresser, and a chainsaw.

- 5. WHAT IS THE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE YOU COULD NOT DO WITHOUT? Topdressing!
- 6. NAME THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD MAKE UP YOUR "DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM"?
  Bill Murray, Dave Ramsey, and Fred Couples

### 7. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

The biggest issue facing Assistant Superintendents is being able to take the next step in their careers. There are an abundance of qualified Assistant Superintendents looking to become Superintendents but only a limited number of quality Superintendent jobs opening up annually.

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

A financial analyst

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

Riviera Country Club. So many fantastic holes on that course and hitting off kikuyu fairways is like hitting every shot from a tee.

# 10. WHAT GOLF COURSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO EXPERIENCE ONCE IN YOUR LIFETIME? Cypress Point

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

Creating top-notch conditions with an entry level workforce.

# 12. HOW MANY CREW MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE STAFF? 26 in peak season.

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

Watching 20+ handicaps get out their scope for every single shot. We have caddies, 150 yard markers, yardage on every head, and we still have to watch you shoot a pin from 225.

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

I would like to see continued development of improved turfgrass cultivars. Genetic engineering of turfgrass is still a young science and the improvements that have been made in recent years are very impressive. Who knows what we could be growing years into the future.

# 15. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY GOLF HOLE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE WITHOUT REPERCUSSION WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE?

The fourth green at Lost Dunes has 9 foot drop from back to front. I would like to see that monster redesigned.

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

I actually enjoy the challenge of getting our greens as fast as possible for several events a year and pushing them on weekends without too much sacrifice to plant health. I have been in the industry less than 10 years so for me that's always been the discussion. Managing golfer's perception that we should be able to keep them at championship speeds on a daily basis is the big challenge. My answer to this may change if can reach the next step in my career.

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

To provide educational opportunities, research, and representation for its members.

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

- I. I'M A NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL FAN, IU BASKETBALL FAN, BUT PURDUE ALUMNUS
- 2. MY HIGH SCHOOL MASCOT WAS A ZEBRA
- 3. I'VE ALWAYS WISHED
  I COULD PLAY AN
  INSTRUMENT
- 4. I CLOSELY FOLLOW

  BOTH STATE AND NATIONAL POLITICS
- 5. I'VE HAD 5 SPEEDING TICKETS











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# 2016 MICHIGAN SKINS GAME SAN DIEGO

BY DAVE PAWLUK, CGCS









nce again the great tradition of the Michigan Skins was played in sunny south California. We had excellent golf courses, fun golf and a lot of camaraderie with all of the people participating in the skins game. The courses we played this year were Mt. Woodson CC on Thursday and Carmel Mountain Ranch CC on Friday. The weather was just picture perfect to play golf with the temperatures in the mid 70's with not a cloud in the sky!!!!!

We had players join us from different area once again from all over the US. Some of the new players were from Texas, Florida and the Director of Golf from Pierce County who help run the US OPEN at Chambers Bay last year. Plus, a few more players form Michigan.

Would like to thank all the vendors that helped contribute to the skins game. Shaun Watson form Watson Golf, Derek Carrol from FIP and Dave Hermann from Hermann & Associates. I almost forgot to thank Adam Ikamas from the MIGCSA for donating the Pro-V I golf balls for the closest to the pins on both courses.

Thursday started out to be wonderful day at Mt. Woodson Country Club, would like to give thanks to the Superintendent Steve Sheffied and the Pro Nick Cormier for all there help on set up the course. Again we had a number of returning player from the skins game last year and a few new faces this year. We had 10 golfers playing on the first day and we did a Low Gross and Low Net individual for 1st & 2nd place. Once again it was Matt Cielen with low gross at 80 and Phil Owen 84, on the low net side was Tony Bubenas with 70 and Anne (Phil's wife) Owen with a 75. For the closest two the pins were Matt Cielen, Erik Guinther and long drive was won by Gary Thommes. We had a lot of birdies and pars that day, but when we were finished we had 5 skins that day. They were won by Matt Cielen on holes #8 & 17, Phil Owen on #13, Chris Andrejicka #18 and Dave Pawluk on hole #1. We finished up the day at Chilies Bar & Grill with a few refreshments and to chat about the day!!!!



hopefully we can get a few more Michigan superintendents, MSU alumni in turf or turf people that are from the state and or friends of Michigan roots. Thanks to everyone who played or contributed to the 2016 skins.

One the second day it was more beautiful than the day before, the temperature was in the upper 70's and again not a cloud in the sky!!!!!! The only bad thing about the day, there was a nice cool breeze we had to play in (but we all handle it). On Friday we increased are players by 6 golfers to give us a total of 4 groups and a bit more fun. There were 2 GCSAA board Members (John Fulling & Rafael Barajas), vendor Doug Middleton from Ocean Organics and a supers form Texas & California. We tried a modified scramble to make it more fun of an outing, everybody enjoyed the game (I learned the game from Fritz McMullen a number of years back). We had two man teams and one couple's team that played at Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club. Once again we would like to thank the Superintendent David Buckles and Assistant Pro Evan Biundo for again setting up everything for us. Now getting back to golf, we were paying 1st, 2nd & 3rd places for the two person teams. Ist place was again Matt Cielen (who is getting re-rated on his hcp for next year!!!!!) and Erik Guinther with a 71. 2nd place was lorge Croda and (yes) Dave Pawluk with a 73. 3rd place was Chris Andrejicka and Tony Bubenas with a 76. The closet two the pins were won by (AGAIN) Matt Cielen, Rafael Martinez and the long drive was won by Chris Andrejicka. With the format we had we thought that there would not be too many skins out, we were wrong. We had 8 skins on Friday, Al Bathum & Rafael Martinez on hole #8, lim Naugler and Gary Thommes on hole #11, Chris Andrejicka and Tony Bubenus on Hole #13, two skins by Jorge Croda and Dave Pawluk on holes #2,4 and the last 3 skins were won again by Matt Cielen (we may need to call this Matt Cielen skins game next year) and Erik Guinther on holes #1,14,17. After golf everyone was treated to a great lunch and refreshments by Adam Garr from SYNGENTA. Would like to give him a BIG THANK YOU!!!!!!! That was very nice of him to do that and each and every one thanked him numerus times for the lunch.

Too wrap up the two days, every one enjoyed their time playing in the skins game this year!!!!!! It was very fun and two great courses!!!!! Next year we will be doing it again in Florida, but we have not made a decision on where it is going to be played. We will be sending out an email in late October or early November to notify every one and













### **IRRIGATION** TRAINING DAY

BY: TROY EVANS, ASSISTANT

In March the Wyndgate hosted an Irrigation Training day for MiGCSA members and guests. Host Superintendent's Phil Hopper and Ron Betz along with the Assistant Superintendent Alex Wilson organized the seminar with three great topics and speakers. Attendees got trained in three areas of irrigation; irrigation scheduling, irrigation troubleshooting, and pump house maintenance. Chad Kempf from Rain bird Services, Mike Casey and Jim Higgs from Spartan Distributors, and John Schlegel and Jason Franzen from Pro Pumps were our speakers who gave us their thoughts and expertise in irrigation maintenance. The day was filled with "hands on" learning experiences and opportunities to engage with peers and industry leaders. Thank you to all who participated in the day and a special thank you to Joe Tignanelli GM of the Wyndgate and his staff for giving us an exceptional venue to host the training day.











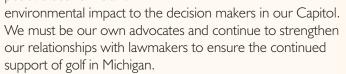




### LEGISLATIVE GOLF DAY 2016

This is one of the most important events the MiGCSA is a part of all year. The impact this day can have on legislators in Lansing is immeasurable. It is very important that the Golf Industry show our strength in numbers on the Capitol lawn on June 9th.

As a \$4.2 Billion dollar industry in Michigan that generated more than 58,000 jobs it is critical that we carry our positive economic and



When you attend everything is handled for you. The visits with your representatives can be set up with the MGCOA and all of the information and handouts are prepared in advance. Directions are simple and experienced attendees will be paired up with new attendees. Breakfast and lunch are provided and there is no cost. Please sign up today at www. michigangolfalliance.com to represent our industry.

### Schedule for the Day:

9:00 a.m.

Registration / Light Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m.

Welcome and Introductions

9:45 a.m.

Speakers, Bill Schuette Invited

10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Legislative Visits

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

"Lunch on the Lawn" with Legislators and Staff Members, PGA Swing Analysis and Putting Tips



### Golf Industry Scorecard Golf's total economic impact in the United States\* Golf's total economic impact \$76 Billion in Michigan Golf's contribution to \$4.2 Billion wage income in MI \$1.4 Billion Jobs generated by golf in MI Average calories burned 58,000 walking an 18-hole course Michigan's charitable impact 2,350 of golf \$118 Million Acres of forest/wetlands providing wildlife habitats for local communities on an 18-hole course Golf facilities generate 28,000 in total revenue (more than ALL other sports in the state, combined) \$1.2 Billion What golf courses spent to maintain almost 100,000 acres of open space \$210 Million Michigan Golf Alliance

#### 2:00 p.m.

Visit House Chamber Session and Capitol Tour (optional) Please indicate on Registration Form if you would like to attend this portion of the day.



Do you have a mission statement at your facility or business? Can you recite it right now from memory? If not then I would guess it is not used to make decisions on a daily basis. If it is not a good mission statement then that is probably a good thing, but also a bad thing. If your mission statement is old or was not poured over in a strategic planning meeting then you may be better of not knowing it by heart and letting it help guide your decisions. However if it is good and well thought out it can be one of the most valuable tools in the entire business. I say this not just for us but from so many successful business leaders.

# Our mission: The MiGCSA is dedicated to providing value to our members through programs and services that promote and enhance our profession.

I can say that this was a very thought out mission and has evolved with the growth of the chapter. I can also say that I personally run any decision or directive through the "mission filter". If an idea or directive does not succeed in helping us in this mission it will likely not get to the light of day. It helps me on a daily basis make operational decisions for the Board and Membership. It helps the Officers and Board make large decisions to help to continue on an upward path.

The latest addition to our mission is the word promote. We are doing some things this summer to promote our

members. The biggest is an entire episode of Michigan Golf Live dedicated to Superintendents and the MiGCSA. The debut of the show is scheduled for the week of Saturday, May 21st. It will air 3 times that week, including Sat/Sun at 9:30 a.m. The second week of airtime is Sept 10th on Fox Sports Detroit. We work hand in hand with media outlets like the Free Press in this article about our winter damage survey. We now have a seat on the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame Board to help to promote the lifelong work of so many of our members like Dr. Joe Vargs who will be inducted this year. A seat with the Michigan golf Alliance to help promote our members to allied golf groups and associations. Before we added the promotion to the mission these ideas and directives may never have come to fruition.

Take a look at your mission at your business or facility and ask if it is part of your decision making process, should it be? Or does it need to change to reflect your current business model? Or can adding one word open up so many opportunities to be more efficient and productive? It is more than just a few words if you allow it to be.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS

MiGCSA Executive Director



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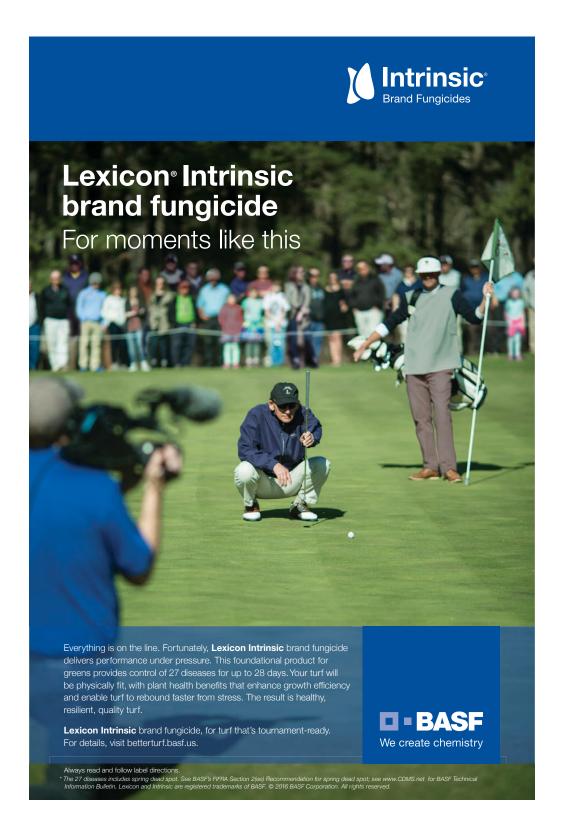
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