

COURSE SUMMER 2018 COnditions

Quarterly Publication of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association

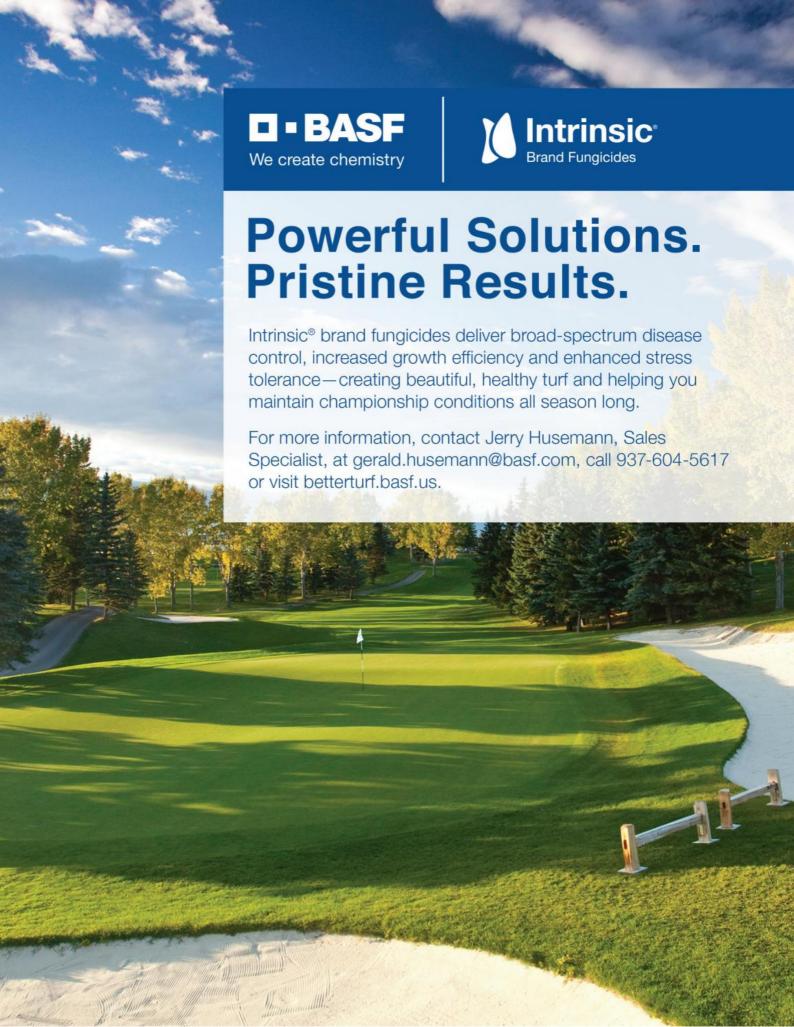


INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FEATURE: Exploring the use covers on putting greens over the winter

Industry Partner Profile: Eric Denoyer, Advanced Turf Solutions

Assistant Superintendent Profile: John Caliguire, Grosse Ile





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FEATURE SUPERINTENDENT Seth Britton



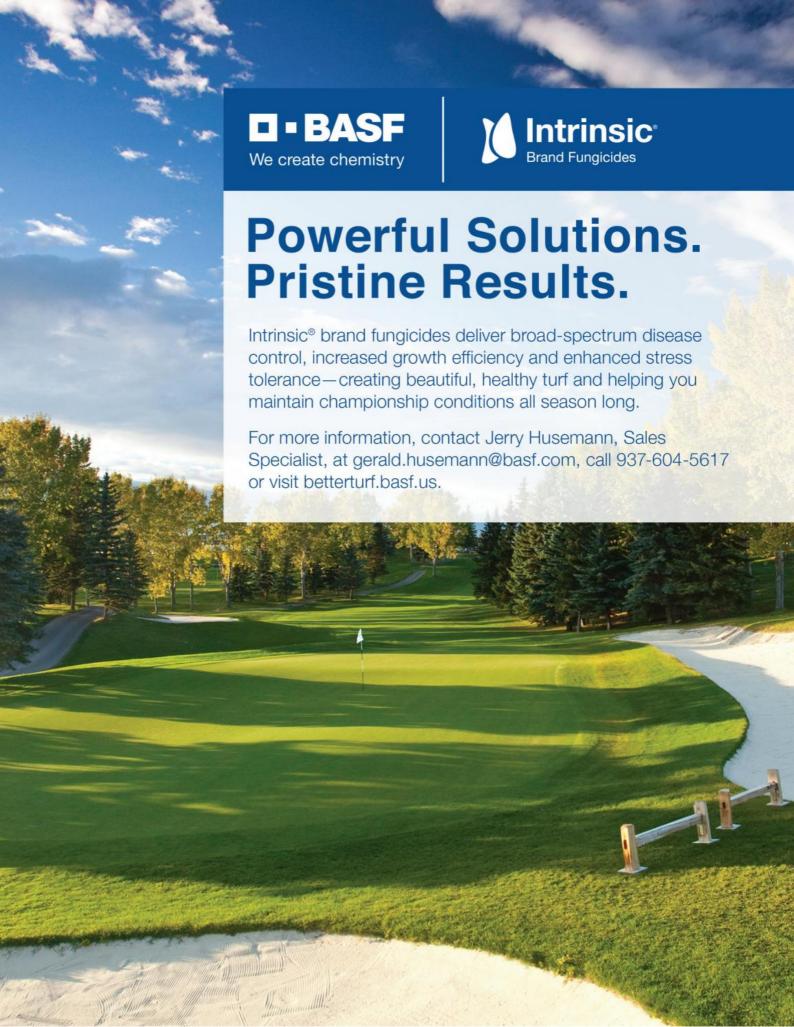
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JOE ETTAWAGESHIK Lochenheath Golf Club CALENDAR OF

EVENTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 -

Western Golf Day (Blythefield C.C., Belmont)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8 -

The Big Event

(Walnut Creek, South Lyon)

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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Profile interviews conducted by Greg Johnson, Greg Johnson Media L.L.C.

President's PERSPECTIVE

he 2018 season has been a challenge for all of us turfgrass managers. A wet spring that brought flooding conditions was quickly followed up by the early arrival of summer. Since mid-June, I can't remember a more difficult stretch of being a Golf Course Superintendent. We have had similar years, but this one is fresh on the mind. Labor shortages, drought, high nighttime temperatures, high humidity, and the difficulty of working in the heat, has taken a toll on our turfgrass, our staff, and our families. Reprieve is on the way where we can catch our breath, get the kids back to school, and recover from a difficult season.



Chapter activity is relatively quiet during the summer season as we all focus on our jobs. One event that was very popular this year was the Match Play Championship. We have received great feedback and support to continue the event for years to come. I hope many of you had the chance to play a new course you haven't played and met a few new fellow members along the way. The Match Play Championship will conclude in September.

As we move into the early fall, we have our annual fundraisers at two great facilities this year. The Western Golf Day will be held at Blythefield Country Club on September 17th, and The Big Event will be held at Walnut Creek Country Club on October 8th. These important events raise money to support Turfgrass Research at Michigan State University that we can all benefit from. If you have never played in these events, please consider forming a team and get signed up.

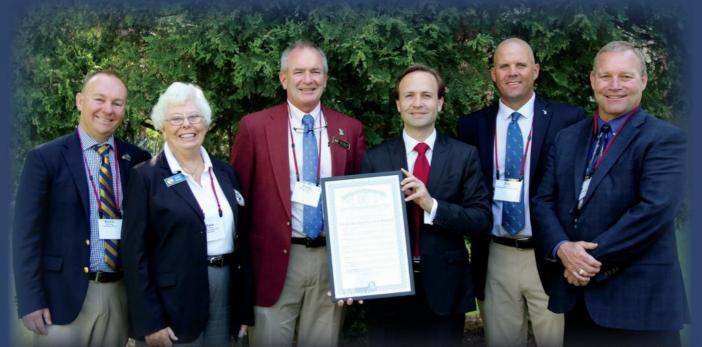
In closing, I would like to give recognition to our family members who do so much to care for our personal lives as we all devote so much time to our jobs during the season. The kids are off school and need to be taken here or picked up there and a lot of the time we as turf managers are so committed that we are unable to help manage family life. We miss out on spending quality time with our family and place enormous burden on everyone to keep the ship afloat. So when you get a chance, thank everyone who works as hard at home as we do at our facilities – you just may get a free pass to take a nap!

See you all soon.

Sincerely Yours,

Daniel P. Dingman MiGCSA President

Golf Course Superintendent Birmingham Country Club



The leaders of the Michigan Golf Alliance with Lt. Governor Brian Calley (L to R: Kevin McKinley, PGA, Sara Wold, GAM, Doug Johanningsmeier, MTF, Brian Calley, Dan Dingman, MiGCSA, Bill Fountain, MGCA)

GOLF DAY AT THE CAPITOL:

Legislators Learn Golf Industry's Impact

LANSING – Lt. Governor Brian Calley presented the proclamation from the Governor's office declaring June is Pure Michigan Golf Month, and then he told the members of the Michigan Golf Alliance that they are having a great impact.

"The generosity in the \$118 million in charitable impact from golf in Michigan alone is so great," he said at the Michigan Golf Industry Legislative Day on the Capitol Lawn Thursday.

"You are using your facilities to make communities across the state stronger. The utilization of your facilities makes an impact far beyond the impact of people playing rounds of golf. The economic impact is massive. Golf is providing quality of life enhancements to our communities. It is really great what you do."

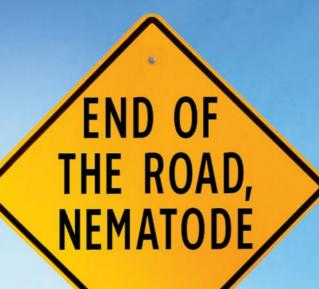
The Michigan Golf Alliance is made up of the Michigan Golf Course Association, the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Michigan Section PGA, the Golf Association of Michigan, and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. Members of the Alliance spread out around the Capitol to visit each legislator in their Senate and House offices, and legislators and staff members were also treated to a "lunch at the turn" in a large tent on the Capitol Lawn.

Part of the message presented was the numbers; \$4.2 billion in total economic impact in Michigan from the industry, wage contributions of \$1.4 billion, 58,000 jobs and the \$118 million in charitable impact.

The other part was in regard to legislation of concern to the golf industry.

Kevin McKinley, director of golf at Treetops Resort in Gaylord and the President of the Michigan Section of the PGA, said the legislators listened, enjoyed lunch and offered advice for dealing with political issues. He called it a rewarding event that helps legislators and golf industry members.

"I talked with one of the legislators about the minimum wage law and he looked at me and asked 'What are you going to do? What are you going to do to make sure that bill fails?" McKinley said. "It made me kind of take a step back and I realized it really does matter if I write a letter. It really does matter if my employees who work for tips write letters. That does matter to the legislators. It was refreshing to hear, that me, not as the Michigan Section president, but as an employee of a business in Northern Michigan, that my voice is actually being heard by legislators."



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Exploring the use of covers on putting greens over the winter

BRETT ROBERTS, TARGET SPECIALTY PRODUCTS

Managing turfgrass in Michigan means managing turf during the changing of the seasons during spring, summer, fall and winter. The changing of the season is something that a lot of Michiganders love about our great state. With that each season brings challenges. In the spring it may be the "spring flush" or battling seeding varieties of turfgrass. In the summer it may be the "summer grind" of dialing in just the right amount of moisture for your liking during droughty periods. In the fall it may be trying to manage for healthier turf in shaded environments when the days are shorter and sunlight intensity is lower. And lastly, in winter it may be deploying tactics to mitigate winter kill of putting greens. In particular, on putting greens with higher populations of annual bluegrass. In this article we will explore the use of both permeable and impermeable covers over the winter to improve the survivability of poa annua putting greens over the winter. And specifically we will look into the forms of winter kill that covers help mitigate.

Permeable covers have been employed at multiple courses here in Michigan throughout the years, with increasing popularity since winter kill incidence during the infamous winter of 2014. Permeable covers provide protection from winter desiccation or cold winter winds that can dehydrate and weaken turf over prolonged periods of winter weather without snow cover or precipitation. Furthermore, they can add an additional layer of protection during the dreaded freeze and thaw events which can be dangerous to poa annua with the potential to cause crown hydration. We chose to evaluate and look into a few golf courses that are using permeable covers during the winter months. In each instance we gathered information pertaining to the manner in which they are used and how they have worked performed.

At Tam O'Shanter Country Club, superintendent Kyle Barton and staff, have been using permeable covers on their greens for the last 3 winters as well. They have adopted the following tactics in conjunction with the use of the covers: Increase height of cut on greens prior the onset of winter, apply a generous layer of topdressing sand, and generally have the turf on greens as healthy as possible leading into winter. After the covers are placed on the greens snow is typically

not removed during the winter, but the greens are monitored on a regular basis. Thus far, the turf team has been happy with the health of greens in the spring time.

At Forest Lake Country Club, golf course superintendent Ryan Moore and staff, have been using permeable covers on putting greens for the last 3 winters. They have adopted the strategy of covering just before the onset of winter, ideally after the turf has begun to show dormancy and top growth has stopped for the season. Then throughout the winter the snow is removed from the putting

greens prior to warmer temperatures and/or melting events that can lead to any potential ice formation on the greens. Subsequently, when the snow is cleared from the greens the cover provides a layer of protection vs. leaving the green exposed to the elements. This covering strategy also promotes higher canopy temperatures in late winter and early Spring, which can lead to earlier green up for the season. An important item to note is the wear and tear on the permeable covers that does take place. A long term replacement plan is necessary as covers will get damaged beyond repair after extended use. Moore feels that this strategy does mitigate winter desiccation and help prevent crown hydration injury.

Another course in Michigan that has decided to battle the elements in the winter with permeable covers is Plum Hollow Country Club. Similar to Forest Lake and Tam O'Shanter, golf course superintendent John Sabat and team have been using permeable covers for a few years now over the winter. The permeable covers get put

on just before the first snowfall after greens have been prepared for winter with proper snow mold prevention treatments and sod channels cut in the edges of the greens to accelerate surface run off. According to Sabat, occasionally it is necessary to remove snow and slush from covers to prevent refreeze that can move down through the cover which can cause the dreaded crown hydration event.

Moreover, at Lakelands Golf and Country Club, golf course superintendent Chris Koval, has successfully used impermeable covers for multiple seasons. They have an extensive process used for each green. After the greens are prepared for winter with final mowing and snow mold applications. an insulation layer is first laid over the greens. Next, the top impermeable tarp is placed over the entire greens surface and complex, making sure to eliminate any potential free flowing water (ice) that could find its way beneath the cover over the winter. Lastly, the insulation layer and top 320 Lb. tarp is carefully





secured with stakes and sandbags. Thus, it can handle the winter winds and ensure the green is protected. They have seen success with this impermeable cover system by eliminating the potential for crown hydration injury and wind desiccation injury. With that being said, there is a risk for sealing off the green by limiting air and gas exchange for the turf underneath the cover. To battle this, backpack blowers are used on an as needed basis throughout the winter to replenish the turf underneath the cover with adequate oxygen levels. The overall goal with this covering system is to

completely eliminate crown hydration by preventing all water from getting to the turf as well as completely eliminating wind from potentially desiccating the turf. While doing this they are also sure to make sure that the turf underneath the covers has enough oxygen to survive the winter. So far, Koval and his team have been satisfied with the results.

There were a few common observations from these golf courses using covers. A healthy rate of snow mold prevention mixes was applied to these greens just prior to covering to completely prevent any snow

mold incidence because the covers do have the potential to create an environment for snow mold. In a few cases, golf courses started with only covering a couple problem child greens over the winter. There is a huge need for labor at the very end of the golf season to put the covers in place and to pull them off at just the right time in the Spring. Sometimes mother nature wins and the covers become damaged and/ or fly off the greens in winter winds. Lastly, similar to a lot of strategies in turf management, it is not a flawless strategy with perfect results but it can be a tool that is used to help











prevent winter kill. If a superintendent is looking for another option to improve the chance of winter survivability, a cover might be a viable option.















Turfgrass Summer Swoon

DR. KEVIN FRANK MSU TURFGRASS EXTENSION SPECIALIST

he weather in July was definitely one for the record books with extreme heat and dry conditions throughout much of the state. The combination of drought and high temperatures stressed cool-season turfgrasses and in some areas the verdict has yet to be delivered on whether it was life or death. Where does this summer rate on your scale of difficulty? I've heard some say it's been as tough as any in recent memory and several references to a couple different years in the 1990's, which I can't personally attest to since I wasn't living in Michigan at the time. I did however dig up some of my favorite quotes offered up by superintendents from over a decade ago that I thought were particularly relevant and entertaining. I'll keep the sources confidential as time has passed and some times discretion is the better part of valor.

"If you've got the time, I've got the extra hose."

"Seed is cheaper than fungicide...paint is cheaper than both."

When a superintendent was told they should consider killing crabgrass. The response was "Sir, we don't kill anything green around here."

Finally, you know it's been a really tough summer when you hear, "When daylight savings time switches back at least we'll have an hour less of daylight."

In retrospect here are some thoughts and observations from the summer.

1. Stick with your program.

I've said before in reference to dealing with winterkill recovery that the hardest thing to do, is to do nothing. However, in dealing with summer stress a better approach may be to stick with your program. I'm not saying you shouldn't be flexible in giving the turf what it needs when it needs it but I think in some cases as the weather ramps up the stress, the

tendency is to back off. Don't skip a topdress, fertilizer application, or venting, it may just be the piece of the program that helps the turf pull through.

2. When it comes to irrigation, timing may be everything.

I'm not sure there was a week this summer where more turf wilted than July 4th week. It was a tough weather week and with the 4th smacked right in the middle and everyone looking to take a break, there was plenty of turf lost that week. I don't think the turf was lost due to negligence but if anything due to timing of irrigation or syringing events. Turf that was relying only on over-night irrigation or late morning/early afternoon syringing may have not had enough water to get through the day. Evapotranspiration rates were high (approximately 1/4 inch/day) combined with high temperatures in the 90's stressed turf, especially





late in the afternoon. Late afternoon irrigation touch-ups could have been the difference between turf life and death.

3. Once it's gone, moderation and consistency is the key to recovery

I've never actually quoted myself before, but from a tweet I posted on July 13, "trying to revive what's already lost with excess water right now will probably only result in the living joining the recently departed." The point of this snappy tweet was simply to emphasize that over watering following severe wilt/ death won't bring back the dead any sooner or as Dr. Lee Miller from the Univ. of Missouri described it, "If the soil is wet during the heat of the day, boiled root soup occurs." Moderate. consistent amounts of irrigation will aid in recovery, not excessively saturating the soils.

4. Mow, roll, alternate and repeat

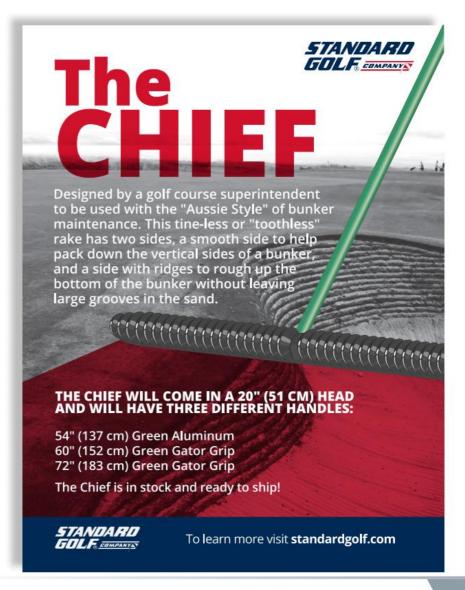
Many superintendents have used an alternating mow and roll schedule during high stress periods. Skipping a mow and replacing with a roll gives the turf a break from mowing stress and possibly a little more leaf surface to enhance photosynthesis while at the same time not significantly reducing green speed.

5. Wetting agents are invaluable

Wetting agents are commonly used on many golf courses, but as I toured low-budget public courses this summer, more than once I thought that if they could have added a wetting agent to their program it would have made a huge difference this year. Many courses struggle with aging irrigation systems and lack the resources and personnel to syringe

throughout the day, for these courses wetting agents could be a huge help in reducing localized dry spots on putting greens.

It's been a tough summer, hopefully the autumn will be a time for the turf and you to recover.











THE WRENCH

It has been great to get feedback from the MiGCSA membership and I love the input and submitted articles from my fellow Equipment Managers (EMs). I hope that this article will continue to inspire, encourage innovation, and start conversation about what we do in this very cool industry.

Backlapping:

his word brings on many different opinions, ideas, and in many cases arguments. Hopefully this word has grabbed your attention and perked your interest. In my opinion it is an important part of equipment maintenance and turf health. There is no set schedule for backlapping or grinding. The turf will tell you when something needs to be done so listen to it. Simply put, a sharp and properly adjusted reel will use less horsepower, wear less, and produce a better more consistent quality of cut.

When I attended Toro school in 2012. they taught that backlapping should be done to all reels after they are ground regardless of the grinder make or if you believe in light contact or no contact. They emphasized that backlapping is an important technique used to maintain a cutting edge between grindings. At this year's Golf Industry Show, GIS18, I attended a class regarding quality of cut and after cut appearance, where they also said reels should be backlapped after grinding and throughout the season. Most recently, while listening to Frankly Speaking, a podcast on Turfnet, they too discussed the importance of backlapping and its effect on putting surface playability. Moral of the story, there seems to be a reoccurring theme of the importance

of backlapping. So, let's start by talking about what backlapping is.

First off, lapping is a technique used in some machining processes to achieve a fine tolerance between surfaces. As an example, when working on small engines a lapping compound is commonly used to mate valves to their seats, creating a reliable mechanical seal. I have also used fine compounds to mate new bushings and shafts to ease installation and allow for smoother operation. Barbers use a fine lapping compound rubbed into a leather or cloth strap to hone their straight razor. Notice I did not say sharpen, there is a big difference between sharpening and honing, understanding the difference will help vou use backlapping more effectively and achieve better results.

Backlapping put simply, is turning a reel backwards against the bedknife, this process mates the surfaces and helps maintain a keen (honed) edge. There are varying grits of lapping compounds, some work better than others depending on the reel configuration and use. Backlapping is a very quick procedure and relatively inexpensive. In my experience, excluding setup and washdown, it takes about 5 minutes per reel on a lapping machine and around 10 minutes or less for a set of reels on a

This article will be in every issue

of Course Conditions featuring a new idea and author. If you have a helpful tip and would like to provide a contribution please contact Sam Holysz, Equipment Technician at Gull Lake Country Club by E-mail: sholysz@gmail.com or on Twitter: @GLCCTurfMec. Is your Equipment Technician an MiGCSA Member? They can be for only \$25 a year.

traction unit with a backlap feature. If you need to lap longer it is probably time to think about grinding.

Grinding:

Sharpening of a reel, also known as grinding, is commonly done with some very cool equipment, sometimes modern and sometimes not so much. Some golf courses have grinders onsite, for those who do not, grinding can be done by a mobile service, a dealer, or another course that has the equipment. It is very important to start the season with sharp reels and it is important for equipment longevity and turf health to sharpen the reels as needed. Prior to grinding it is important to check that the bearings and seals, the rollers, and the reel frame are in good working order and repair them as needed. This allows the grinder to bring the reel back into spec, removing any cone, barrel, or hourglass shape. The reels are ground true, then to a sharp edge, and finished when the diameters of the reels match one another. This grinding will leave

a burr that can be removed with a piece of hardwood. Once the ground reel and ground bedknife are setup, you should be able to cut paper.

No Replacement:

Backlapping is not a replacement for grinding. Backlapping is used to lengthen the interval between grindings and to remove imperfections caused by picking up sand and other non-turf materials or impacts while mowing. In a pinch. backlapping can get you through until you have time to grind but again, it is not a replacement. If there is an imperfection in the reel such as a cone or barrel shape. lapping will only serve to increase the imperfection, grinding is the only repeatable method used to remove defects and keep reel diameters true and consistent.

My Thoughts:

Over the Last 9 seasons I have learned that if I send a freshly ground set of reels out to mow greens and bring them back in after only one or two greens, the reels will no longer cut paper to my satisfaction and need more adjustment that I am comfortable with. If I backlap that same set of reels before I send it out to mow after a fresh grind, that mower returns from 19 greens still cutting paper well and needing very little adjustment if any. No surprise it is very similar with the fairway, approach, and tee reels. When I backlap after the grind I am removing what is left of the burr, this allows for better initial setup and better quality of cut the first time out.

I use 120, 180, and 220 grit lapping compounds, and I use them all for different purposes. The 120 is fast and is great for that moment when you need to get a mower back out quickly or have very little relief left. The 180 is slower but works very well for a quick touchup and small nick removal. The 220 has become my favorite compound. It is excellent for a final tune up or getting rid of a slight noise in a reel. I would compare it to a buffing compound used on a truck's paint job, it just smooths out the scratches and leaves the rest alone.

In the end I look at backlapping as that fine tuning that makes the difference between a good cut and a great cut. It is about maintaining clearances and a keen edge not about making a dull edge sharp again.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, suggestions and ideas. If you want to share something with the other EMs, write it up, include pictures, send it over, and if I put it in an article you will receive full credit for your contribution.

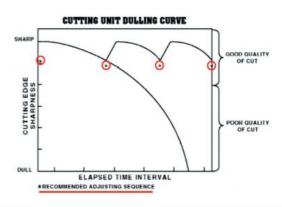


Image from Toro University reel mower basics



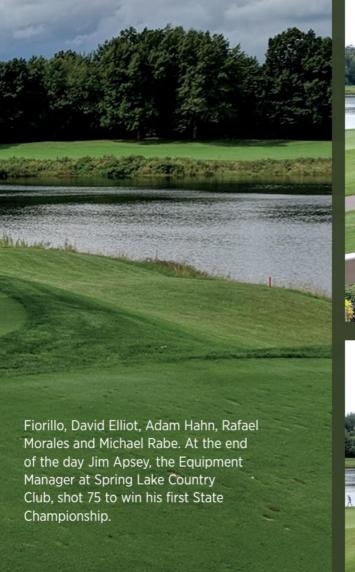




Thank you host Superintendent Jeff Zeman

Hawk Hollow Properties Head Superintendent Steve Fiorillo thanks the staff and attendees after golf









MiGCSA Board Member Ryan Moore thanks our valued 2018 Industry Partners for their support



Here are the rest of the winners:

Team best 2 of 4 net

1st place: Doug Ware, Skip Connolly, Ryan Maxwell and Jim Priebe **2nd place:** Jim Aspey, Matt Gaver, Derek Koster and Bill O'Connell 3rd place: Terry Poley, Trey Rogers, Steve Forrest and Shaun Maher

Individual:

2018 State Champion - Jim Apsey 2018 Low Net Champion - Jim Priebe



Seth Britton, 36, is the superintendent at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, and has worked for the resort for 20 years. He is married and he and his wife Christy have four children; Jonah. 7, Berkley, 5, Tate, 4, and Sam, 2. He is a graduate of the commercial turfgrass management school at Michigan State University.





Seth

- HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? I grew up around it. My father was a superintendent for 21 years. It was something that was a part of our lives. I had an opportunity to get a job in the summer at a course. I kind of fell in love with it, and never left it.
- WHEN DID YOU DECIDE YOU WANTED GOLF TO BE YOUR CAREER? I really made the decision after my fourth season. I had the opportunity to work as assistant superintendent and I wanted to give it a try. I knew then what I wanted to do. That's when I started looking into the education options.
- WHAT ARE SOME OF THE COURSES YOU HAVE WORKED AT? I have been at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa from the beginning. I started as summer help and I've been here since then. This is an area I've never wanted to leave, and the resort has helped with my education and the people here have guided me through my education. I've been here for

20 years, 16 full-time. I became the superintendent 11 years ago, the year I got married. I was the Bear golf course superintendent first, and then five years ago Paul (Galligan, executive director of golf and grounds) put me in charge of all three of them with three assistant superintendents that work on each golf course.

WHAT PART OF YOUR **EDUCATION DO YOU USE THE** MOST? It seems as though I use a lot of the irrigation knowledge that I gained in school. We have been revamping the system we have on the Bear from a hydraulic system to a more state-of-the-art electric system. We are really just adding on to the existing system, pulling wire, changing satellite boxes. We are not removing or replacing pipe, but doing everything else except for that. We are doing three holes each year, and have a few more to go. A lot of the information I learned in school has helped me with this a ton, especially in preparing and installing.







- How has your Job at your current course progressed? Over the years different opportunities opened up, and I've always just wanted to be here. I became an assistant super, and in that process started my college education. Then when the superintendent slot for the Bear opened, I applied for it. I've been I guess Paul's right-hand man ever since.
- WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS
 OF THE MICHIGAN GOLF
 COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS
 ASSOCIATION? What they really
 do for me is provide opportunities
 to get involved in the industry in
 ways I normally would not have,
 and also network with other
 superintendents. I've met so many
 great people who do what I do,
 and they are great resources. Also,
 the education opportunities we
 have through association have
 been a great help in boosting my
 career.
- DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE GIVEN BACK TO GOLF? Yes, thanks to the MiGCSA. I had the opportunity to join the scholarship committee. This last year was my first year and I helped hand out scholarships to turf students. It was neat to get to be involved in that process, so in that way I feel I give back a little bit.
- B DO YOU HAVE HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS AWAY FROM THE GAME? I am a hunter, fisherman and all-around outdoorsman. I do a lot of bird hunting and deer hunting, and try to fish whenever I can. I do more of that than golf. One of the main reasons I stayed in this area is the vast opportunities for hunting and fishing where we live.
- WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB? Probably finding the time to accomplish some of the out-of-the-ordinary detail projects. We have a large property, but not a huge staff. You are busy trying to get the primary things done each day so finding time to do the out-of-the-

- ordinary we want to get done is a challenge.
- WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB? By far it is managing the people. I have such a top-shelf group of people to work with, and I have a core group that has been around since I've been here. Working with those people is as easy as it gets, and it's a great part of the job.
- WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST **ISSUES FACING GOLF? From a** turf management standpoint. from what I've experienced, it is staffing. Finding seasonal workers is tough. The number of people available has declined. I've seen it go from stacks of applications to a situation where we are just begging for an application to come in. I know a lot of superintendents are dealing with the same thing. It's a pretty serious issue. The younger generation isn't looking for that kind of work any longer. They don't seem to want summer jobs that involve physical labor.









- When I was little, my father would bring me to work at the golf course with him on

 waskends.

 **The course of the course o
- I sang in choir from sixth grade on through part of my college years.
- I absolutely hate spiders.
- 4. I shoot sporting clay and love bird hunting.
- 5. My wife Christy and I met at a mutual friends wedding.

- WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS? I hope to see myself still here at Grand Traverse Resort doing what I'm doing. I can also see myself more involved with MiGCSA with taking on more to help out in the industry.
- HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED? When people think back I hope they remember me as a caring and compassionate person, a good, positive leader in the industry.
- WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST IN YOUR TURFGRASS CAREER? For starters - it was my dad Rob Britton. He got me





into it. He took me to work on the weekends and taught me so much about golf maintenance and life in general. He's an amazing person and really influenced me. Also my direct boss Paul Galligan has influenced me. He has seen me go through the stages of my career. Education is fantastic. but learning on the job from somebody adds so much more. Paul has pounded me full of knowledge through the years. and I'm so appreciative of that. Finally, Gene Davis, who is now the general manager and superintendent at Elk Rapids Golf Club, has been a great help. We started our careers together. He has been a huge benefit to me growing up in the industry and still today. He helped shape me into the superintendent I am today.

- WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU'VE LEARNED THAT YOU USE ALL THE TIME? I think patience is one of the most valuable things I've learned, and also to show compassion to people because things change every day in the job. You have to be patient. Everybody lives differently, so to manage a large group of people you have to be compassionate and patient to make it work as one unit.
- HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF A SUPERINTENDENT IN A GOLF **OPERATION?** I think it should be rated highly. It takes a lot of knowledge, planning and execution every single day. You have to have that base knowledge to make the right decisions to even get through an individual day. Leadership is also important.

- WHAT PERCENTAGE OF TIME DO YOU DEVOTE TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE **MANAGEMENT?** It varies every single day. Yesterday it was 90 percent, but the day before it was 90 percent on the golf course. It fluctuates with the time of the season, up and down. When you wash it all out it is probably pretty close to 50 percent.
- WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT **SUPERINTENDENT?** I kind of see it as an extension of the superintendent. It is an incredibly crucial position. The vast amount of the training is done by assistants, and they have a huge roll in irrigation. The communication between staff is really fluid. You need those extra eves and ears on the course seeing and hearing things that you may not be hearing and seeing. It's a very important role.
- WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE GOLF COURSE MECHANIC OR TECHNICIAN? I see them as the backbone of our operation. Without equipment we can't do our job. They keep us afloat and keep us moving. The ability to get things moving again is so crucial. I've also learned over the years, and not only with my own staff, but there are some maintenance techs that come up with amazing ideas and innovative ways to change things and do things. They make a great impact in making things more efficient.
- WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE IN GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE? I have quite a few, for I group them in mistreatment of the property. Fixing ball marks, people taking cars where they shouldn't, taking divots out of greens, overall mistreatment.

WHAT OPINION DO YOU HAVE OF GREEN SPEEDS IN TODAY'S GAME?

I think people get too focused on a number. People want that high number, fast greens, but I feel they should focus on consistency from hole 1 through 18. We have 54 holes of golf where we try to maintain a consistent, and smooth true putting surface. We have goals in mind, but we are not too concerned about crazy speeds.

DO YOU HAVE A HUMOROUS OR INTERESTING STORY YOU CAN SHARE FROM YOUR CAREER? It happened when I was working my fourth season here. There was an

assistant superintendent – Micah Wise who now works with Site One Landscape – working at the time

where somebody had the idea to play a joke on. We had rainstorm on a Thursday night and we decided to fill a Styrofoam cup with earth worms and put him in his desk for when he came in the next morning. Well, he didn't notice them the next day, and they were in the whole weekend. They baked in that desk. Paul was the first one in on Monday. and when we got there he had the doors open, was taking out every bit of trash and trying to identify the source of the smell. It smelled horrible for a handful of days through the entire facility. It's funny now, especially when you remember Paul going crazy trying to find the horrendous smell.





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What is Fair?

BY PAUL ALBANESE, ASGCA

e hear it a lot in golf......fair. The hole was "fair". The bunkers play fair. The slope and rating are fair. But, what is fair? Fair for who? Who is the arbiter of "fair"? The USGA? The R&A? The Michigan Golf Association? Architects?

As an architect, I can easily create an interesting green complex that could have some bumps and rolls that define different and "fair" pinnable areas. But. If a superintendent decides to put a pin on top of one of these mounds, then I would quickly claim the green just became "unfair". Who is the decider?

When the USGA or MGA rate a golf course, do they accurately account for all the pin positions? All the ways a golf hole can be played?

How about bunkers? Some people have argued that bunkers are meant to be more penalizing, and maybe not even raked or maintained. Others believe that being in the sand versus grass is penalizing enough, and that maintaining bunkers, in order to at least provide a flat lie for the ball, is only fair. Who is the referee of fair?

There are many facets by which a golf course may be judged, such as it beauty or it environmental sensitivity. But, "fairness" may very well be the term by which golf courses are considered, from a playability standpoint. And, just like beauty, "fairness" may be somewhat in the "eye of the beholder". Everyone will likely have a different take on what is considered fair. Just as people differ on what is considered beautiful. And, just as in judging beauty, there will often be some universally held concepts regarding fairness as well. Most people agree that a sunset over the Pacific ocean while driving down the coast of California is beautiful. And, similarly, most golfers would agree that a forced carry over a water feature of 260 yards to a 20 yard wide humpback fairway with no bailout options is unfair. The real debates come from the spaces between the extremes, and that makes the discussions engaging and fun. Deciphering what makes something beautiful or fair is the essence of art and golf design criticism, which only helps to elevate the profession.

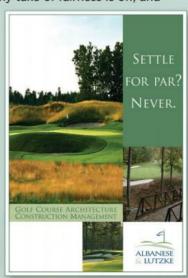
I was recently in Scotland with my colleague from GEO, Sam Thomas, and he reminded me that the Scots recognize that the game of golf – like life – is inherently un-fair. That part of the essence of the game is to test one's mettle and resolve when un-fairness occurs. There is a lot to be said for that concept, and is why the sport of golf builds character like no other.

This philosophy is why the golf courses in Scotland are considered more sustainable; they don't spend the time, money and resources endeavoring to ensure what many in the USA and other countries consider "fair". The Scots believe golf is inherently not fair, and therefore don't try to design un-fairness out of the sport. In the USA, the golf industry spends inordinate amounts of money trying to ensure "fairness". That is not to say designers and/or superintendents should pay no attention to fairness. I have my owe pet peeves regarding "fairness". The biggest one in my book being overly irrigated secondary rough, which becomes "gunch". When "gunch" is directly adjacent to nicely groomed low-mown turf, in contrast to the secondary rough further out that is "wispy", that creates a situation where a slightly off the mark shot is penalized with maybe a lost ball, and the exceptionally off the mark shot is rewarded with a fine lie. That seems unfair to me.

Again. Some may argue that my take of fairness is off, and

they believe all putting surfaces should be perfect monocultures. Who is to say? Who is the final judge? In golf – like art – it is in the eye of the "player". That is what makes golf so unique and like no other sport.

Paul Albanese, ASGCA is a principal with Albanese & Lutzke, Golf Course Architects/ Construction Managers. www.golf-designs.com paul@golf-designs.com









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Eric Denoyer

is 54, a sales representative for Advanced Turf Solutions, and has been working in industry sales for 28 years. He is the father of two adult children, Sara, who is 27 and Matthew, who is 24. He does not hold a formal education degree, but through the years has completed many training sessions, classes, seminars and soils classes at Michigan State University. "And I learn something new every day," he said.

ADVANCED TURF SOLUTIONS



Eric **Denoyer**

IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? My ex father-in law hired me. He needed to grow the business. At that time it was called Tri Turf. He

needed to grow the business. At that time it was called Tri Turf. He hired me as his first on-the road salesperson beside himself. That was 28 years ago. A year ago, July 1, his company was purchased by Advanced Turf Solutions. So, I guess you could say I worked with Tri Turf 27 years and the current company one year.

- WHO WAS YOUR GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE? My greatest influence was definitely my father. He had a very strong and diligent work ethic. He was up early every day and he put in long hard day. Then he came home, and he did it again the next day. It was the same thing each every day. He worked for the U.S. Postal system.
- WHO WAS YOUR GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE? I can't name just one. There are many people that I have come to know and admire over the last 28 years. All of them have been influential in my professional life.
- THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

 There are a few I feel are very much an issue to every superintendent in the business.

 The first one is wages and salaries. I believe many superintendents are underpaid. There have been

WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE

a couple of salary surveys over the last several years, but I don't think there was a large enough group of superintendents that were able to participate to really get a good feel for where the wage range really sits. Budgets keep getting cut as well, and the number of crew or staff members has been greatly reduced. So I feel a lot of small things or tasks are not getting done, such as project renovations, those extra visual things that the golfer may see. Also aging equipment, especially irrigation systems are an issue. This season has been a great test for many of the antiquated deteriorating watering systems that superintendents are continuing to contend with.

- WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS WHEN WORKING WITH THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS **ASSOCIATION? MiGCSA does** a great job providing many opportunities to its members, and they have throughout the years, such as educational opportunities. including continuing education credits, fundraising events at many of the awesome courses we have in Michigan as well as many programs and services to promote our profession. I want them to keep up the good work.
- 6 WHAT IS YOUR BEST ADVICE TO DECISION MAKERS WHEN DOING BUSINESS? Be open-minded, do your homework and do your research.

- WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF BEING IN AN INDUSTRY **SUPPORT ROLE?** Bringing to the table newer technologies, educational opportunities and better communication.
- WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST **ABOUT YOUR POSITION? I truly enjoy** being able to help a superintendent address, evaluate and find a solution to a turf problem he or she has been having.
- DO YOU HAVE SOME TRAVEL TIPS? Honestly, I've been staying at the same places for 28 years, so I don't have many travel tips. Maybe that - stay at the same places.
- HOW MANY DAYS OF THE YEAR ARE YOU ON THE ROAD? It is 250 days plus.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE BEST

PRODUCT YOU OFFER AND WHY? Foliar-Pak allows us to provide more than nutrients. It provides solutions. Foliar-Par products prevent plant stress from environmental factors, accelerates turfgrass establishment and enhances soil biology, encourages controlled growth and alleviates difficult soil conditions. It is made in the USA. and they are dedicated to inventing.

synthesizing and formulating specialty plant fertilizers that maximize the genetic potential of plants while reducing chemical inputs. Foliar Park uses Patented Technologies that can increase nutrient uptake by as much as 30 percent.

- WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE **GOLF COURSE TO PLAY? I** don't play golf. Honestly I don't have time. Life is busy. One of my favorites I would play if I did play would be Hawk's Eye Resort in Bellaire. I like the layout, the great design and the superintendent does a great job taking care of
- IF YOU HAD A DIFFERENT PROFESSION, WHAT WOULD IT BE? If it is fast and loud, it's for me. Whether it has two wheels or four, I have always been a gear head. So I believe I would have my own shop and build high-end street rods.
- DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE **GOLFER AND WHY? I just** don't watch it.

- DO YOU HAVE A NICKNAME AND IS THERE A STORY BEHIND IT? The nickname I have had for many years is Roadie. It partially comes from my profession - being on the road daily and taking care of my awesome customers - as well as enjoying being on two wheels with my close group of Harley friends.
- WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM **GOLF?** My hobbies would include working in the yard. which I truly love, riding my Harley Road glide CVO, traveling, hunting and playing in the woods on my side-byside.
- AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS DO YOU ATTEND PER YEAR? Educational events, well, I don't attend enough. Life personally and work are very busy. I attend probably two to four events each year.

HOW MANY CONFERENCES





- WHICH ONE IS THE BEST TURF CARE PROFESSIONALS CAN ATTEND? I believe a great, very educational event that everyone should attend at some point is the week-long school that is offered usually in December at the Kellogg Center at Michigan State. A lot of the two-year degree program is plugged into one week.
- HOW DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY WILL BE DIFFERENT IN 10 YEARS? I would like to think it would be closer to where we were six to eight years ago with more people graduating from the two or four-year programs at MSU, more of the millennial generation getting into the game of golf and definitely more restrictions on chemistries and inputs in general to turf.
- ARE THERE ANY NEW PRODUCTS ON THE HORIZON? That is hard to pinpoint. There are always new and better products in the pipeline. There is definitely a trend with manufactures to generate new active ingredients, also more choices coming that suppliers should look at to address plant health in place of chemical inputs - like Advanced Turf Solutions' Foliar-Pak line of synthesized nutrient solutions.



DO YOU ENJOY YOUR WORK? I have awesome customers.

They do a great job supporting the industry and supporting me. I'm pretty happy where I





- 1. I was in the Fire Service for 20 years. Paid volunteer, I worked my way through the ranks from newbie to Lieutenant to finally Captain.
- 2. I am definitely a gear head, if it's fast and loud it's for me.
- 3. I am a huge supporter of Veterans, their families and their related organizations.
- 4. I am a member of the American Legion Riders.
- 5. I played the drums for several years. I was involved in Jazz band and Marching band. I played at many of the Trojan football games.



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2018 Northern **Fundraiser** Results

ith 230 tee times for members, friends and families taking part in the 2018 Northern Fundraiser at Arcadia Bluffs on Sunday and Monday the fundraising year is off to a great start. Another spectacular day at Arcadia Bluffs welcomed the players on Monday.

A very special thank you to our 2018 Premier Fundraiser Sponsors BASF, Bayer, F.I.P. Irrigation Services, Matt LaFontaine Automotive, Rain Bird, Site One Golf, Spartan Distributors and Target Specialty Products. Also, a thank you to Target Specialty Products for the hot dogs on tee #7 & #15. There were 8 proximity prizes for the day, four closest to the pins and four long drives thank to our Premier

Sponsors; the winners will each get \$25 in Gift Certificates to Arcadia Bluffs. Finally thank you to our other hole sponsors Control Dynamics, Eco Green Supply, Golf Cars Plus, Harrell's, Jacobsen, Nufarm, Syngenta, The MSU Turf Team, Rhino Seed and J.W. Turf.

Thank you to Arcadia Bluffs MiGCSA members Paul Emling, Vice President of Operations, Jim Bluck, CGCS, Director of Agronomy, Trevor Nash, Bluffs Course Superintendent, Ryan Williams, South Course Superintendent, Bryan Kiel & Nick Michalek Assistant Superintendent's & Pat Sullivan, Equipment Technician. Also special thanks to PGA Professionals Bill Shriver, COO, Zack Chapin, Director of Golf, Josh

Dickson, Bluffs Course & Eric Dye, South Course, Director of Food & Beverage Donna Dickson & Ketty Zamora Director of Lodge Operations.

2018 Results, prizes will be mailed out.

Closest to the pins:

#2 - Nick Myers

#6 - Joey Mitchell

#13 - Craig Kooienga

#17 - Joe Ettawageshik

Long Drives:

#3 - Jim Stoll

#7 - Adam Schumacher

#16 - Jon Lamb

#18 - Doug Kjoekl

Skins:

Eagle 3 on #3 - Copley, Fulling, Barajas & Collins

Poker Game:

6 through 10 Straight Flush, Cowan, Hoeh, Sisk & Fairchild

Winning Scramble Teams:

1st place (Scorecard Playoff) 59 - Team BASF - Holmes.

2nd place

59 - Team Fortress -Sabgash, Martin, Martin & Sears

3rd place (Scorecard Playoff) 60 - Team Spartan Distributors - Rings,



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A Message From



n October 24, 1956 eleven turf managers met at the MSU Memorial Union Building to finalize incorporation of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. Those individuals built the framework of the current MTF and the basis on which it would operate.

On October 11, 1979 ground breaking for the current Hancock Turfgrass Research Center took place at the corner of Mt. Hope and Farm Lane near the campus of MSU.

In 1993 the Board of Directors of the MTF adopted the "Mission Statement" for the Foundation.

"The Mission of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation is to work in partnership with Michigan State University, supporting ongoing programs in research, education and extension in the area of professional turfgrass management that will benefit all individuals who manage turfgrasses or derive pleasure from the results of such management."

"Study the past if you would define the future."

Most of you reading may not be aware of these short snippets of history regarding the MTF. What you should understand is the determination they provided to put together the Foundation was extra ordinary, and they did so for future turf mangers. They understood the importance research would provide to our industry both from the agronomic aspect and the professional perspective. Over the years golf courses and turf have improved and with that so has the stature of those who are assigned to maintaining large acreages of land and assets.

Those that have taken a role on the MTF know one constant element defines the MTF and its objective of funding research and that is that research requires time....and repetition. Proper research understands Twitter can't speed it up and Facebook can't forecast results before they are concluded. Scientific research requires standards that must be met before being approved as results. Whenever an unproven method of maintaining turf takes place (and most of us have tried something on our own at some point in time) the results can vary. If the method doesn't work so well, one of the first places we reach to is the MSU Turf Team hoping they will offer help/suggestions or explanations that may provide the insight needed to prevent future issues.

It is sometimes taken for granted how fortunate we are in Michigan to have not only the Turf Team in place and willing to help courses throughout the state, nation and world, and we also have a facility (the Hancock Turfgrass Research Facility) that remains one of the finest in all of turf and it is in our own back yard. Thankfully, the state of Michigan had individuals 60 years ago who had the foresight to put together a plan for success.

"I believe in innovation and that the way you get innovation is you fund research and you learn the basic facts. "

-Bill Gates

Bill Gates understood the importance and his track record for discovery is pretty good.

We are often asked about the importance of fundraising and use of these funds by the MTF and simply put - we fund research to learn basic facts.

Scientific research is the primary purpose for supporting the MTF and the MSU Turf Team. Not all understand that Turf Team is responsible for funding their own Graduate Students for research. It is the Graduate Assistants that are the key to ongoing research. Our Professors lead the process, but it is the GA's that preform the work. MSU offers the opportunity for the research to take place, however, providing the funding rests solely upon the Professors and that is where the current board of Directors have begun to discuss proper funding on an annual basis for the Turf Team.

Overall, this has been a good year for the MTF and our operations.

The LaFontaine Golf Outing was held once again at Coyote Preserve Golf Club and the Osburn Family were again great hosts. Thanks to Jeff Holmes (Committee Chair) the event had attendance of over 100 players and netted over \$9,000 for the LaFontaine Endowment. Gordie, the newly enshrined Michigan Golf Hall of Famer acknowledged and thanked all that help make his event a success.

The 2018 version of the MTF Field Day was also a success with approximately 500 attendees. Included in days event were two recognitions. Mark Collins

was acknowledged at the event and MTF President Amy Fouty presented Mark with a plague thanking him for his years of service as the Hancock Research Center Manager. Mark was in integral part of MTF's Field Days and we thank him for all he has done and wish him well in his future adventures.

Dean Ron Hendrick (CANR) was on hand to join in and welcome all attendees. Highlighting the opening remarks included a presentation, to retired Executive Director Gordon LaFontaine. Gordie was presented a plague on a permanent monument rock near the entrance to the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center. MTF President Amy Fouty provided the leadership of a much-deserved recognition for Mr. LaFontaine and made the presentation with the help of Dr. Jim Kells (Chairperson - Plant, Soil and Microbiological Sciences MSU), Dr. Doug Buhler (Director of Ag Bio Research MSU) and Chuck Reid (Director of Land Management MSU). This illustrious group represented many years of partnership between Michigan State University the MTF. Gordie has been a significant part of the MTF / MSU relationship and his impact will be visibly noticed for those who visit the Hancock Turf Research Center for generations to come.

Coming soon will be our MTF Conference in January. The MTF has found its home again at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, this time with a more appealing date of January 22- 24. You will be receiving update information on speakers, dates and events in the upcoming weeks. We hope to see many of you at the Conference this year.

Carey Mitchelson Executive Director - MTF



John Caliguire,

48, has been the assistant superintendent at Grosse Ile for the last four years, but he started working there at age 16 when his brother, Tom, now a superintendent at Forest Glen, in Naples, Fla., recommended him. Caliguire chased the golf playing dream first, and after college at Lake Superior State. played mini-tours, did some apprentice teaching and became an assistant golf professional. He's from Southgate. lives in Flat Rock and is the divorced father to two daughters, Ciana, 13, and Kaylah, 11.



Caliguire

- WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR FIRST JOB IN GOLF? It was at Grosse Ile, and the biggest thing I learned was how to be meticulous in any and all of the jobs that are on the golf course. That would be the key thing I learned especially for working at a high-end country club.
- WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THAT FIRST JOB? The first job was driving the threewheeler on the bunker rake, and that was kind of cool. Driving a three-wheeler was fun, especially when you are 16.
- WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT **RESPONSIBILITIES?** Assigning job duties daily, helping Todd (Probert, superintendent) come up with a plan. We are also pretty much hands-on with everything here, too. We have a short staff, so Todd and I are doing something every day, all of the jobs. We are do-it-all guys.

ON THE JOB. WHAT PIECE OF **EQUIPMENT WOULD YOU LIKE** TO HAVE IN YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

> I would have to say a material hauler would be great to help in being able to top dress fairways. It would help make the golf course better. Having a material hauler to help top dress greens would be great.

- WHAT IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENTY STILL BEING **UTILIZED IN YOUR FLEET? We** have a 2653 John Deere that is probably one of oldest pieces. I don't even know how old. We use it to do the intermediate cut around fairways and the walkways from tees to fairways. It is hanging in there. It struggles to climb hills sometimes. It has to be a model from the 90s. It has been around at least 20 years.
- WHO ON YOUR CREW MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST? We have a lot of characters, but one of the old timers here, Frank, always has







something to say. He has a Santa Claus beard and he is just funny.

- IF YOU HAD A MULLIGAN ON A DIFFERENT CAREER CHOICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE? TREVOR:
 It would definitely be PGA Tour player. The first dream was actually hockey. I was pretty athletic, and hockey was the focus for a long time. I wish now I would have gone to college for golf instead of hockey.
- IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY **GOLF HOLE ON YOUR COURSE** WITHOUT REPERCUSSION, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE? It being a Donald Ross design, there are not too many that need any changes. I would say No. 13, and I wouldn't change the hole really, just soften the green complex. It is severe and doesn't allow us to even use the right half of the green. The way it was designed so long ago, it wasn't made for 11 on the Stimpmeter. I would soften up the green some to allow some pin placements on the right side of the green.
- 9 WHAT IS THE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE YOU COULD NOT DO WITHOUT? I would have to say aerification. We couldn't do without that. With rolling the greens at least three or four times a week we have compaction to deal with. We have to aerify.
- WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS
 FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF
 COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS
 ASSOCIATION? To continue giving
 superintendents the resources
 and networking, and bringing
 superintendents together for golf
 tournaments and comradery.
- HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK
 TO YOUR PROFESSION? I guess
 you could call helping the kids
 who work for us learn stuff and
 get ready to go to Michigan State
 for turfgrass. I help them out in
 different ways. I guess that would
 be giving back in a way.

- WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY? For me it would be finding enough time for my kids. I'm working seven days a week and 65 hours, so balancing family time is hard. That's my situation anyway.
- WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE JOB? I would say the most difficult this is just trying to get everything done within that week, and staying on track if you have rain day or get behind. It's so hard to catch up. There's never enough time in the day.
- WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF THE JOB? The easiest part of the job is being out in nature, being on a beautiful piece of property and seeing the animals that are out there.







- 1. Played hockey in Maple Leaf Gardens Arena when I was 10 and Bobby Orr came in the locker room and signed my hockey stick.
- Need the TV on when I go to sleep at night
- 3. Played on Lake Superior State University's hockey team.
- Played professional golf on the Jack Nicklaus Golden Bear mini tour down in Florida.
- 5. Was a PGA teaching pro in Florida.

- WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS? I see myself in 10 years getting my two-year turfgrass certificate from Penn State on-line and hopefully becoming a superintendent somewhere. WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT? I have to say my brother Tom. He got me into the job, and then taught me. WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED? The most valuable thing is being patient with employees, trying to explain how you want things done and getting them to work their best without getting frustrated. HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE? It's pretty important. He makes the superintendent's job easier by running the crew and making sure everything is done to the standards that are set. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE MECHANIC? The mechanic is a very important part of the operation. He is giving you your quality of cut. He is one of the most important guys on the staff. It's not an easy job lifting those wheels, grinding and keeping sharp.
- WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF **COURSE ETIQUETTE?** Ball marks on greens - fixing them properly, or not fixing them. Also I wish people would replace divots instead of pouring sand in a big hole. Get the divot, put it back, stomp it add a little sand around it. That gives it a chance.
- WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF **GREEN SPEEDS AND THE GAME** OF GOLF TODAY? With our course being such an old course and design, when you start exceeding 11 ½ or 12 it becomes unfair. At that speed the members are not having fun. They are three-putting. We try to keep them 10.5 or 11 for our tournaments, and 10 or 10.5 on a daily basis. We try to find that happy medium for the undulation we have.
- IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT, WHAT WOULD IT BE? It would have be having the ability to get better equipment and more staff - those two things.
- AWAY FROM GOLF, WHAT IS YOUR **FAVORITE SPORT?** Probably hockey would be my favorite. I grew up playing, and started about age six. One of my athletic highlights is playing in Maple Leaf Gardens when I was 10-years-old. Bobby Orr signed by stick. I still have it.
- WHAT TYPE OF HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE AWAY FROM GOLF? TREVOR: I like to go snowmobiling, and do a little bit of fishing when I get time.

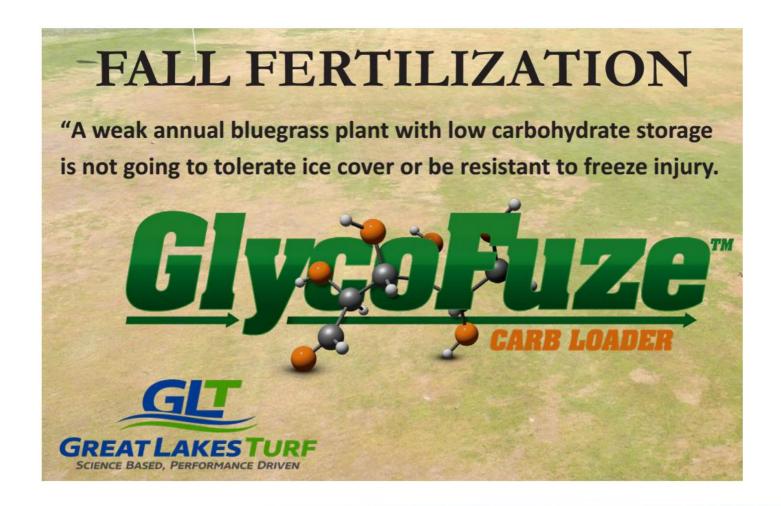
- DO YOU HAVE A BUCKET LIST **COURSE?** It would be Augusta National.
- WHAT IS THE FAVORITE CLUB IN YOUR BAG? My favorite club would be my driver. In my prime I was an excellent ball-striker. I grew up playing persimmon woods. Driving the ball was one of my strengths. Putting was probably my weakness.
- WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL

LIFE? My father John was the greatest influence in every way. He was in the military and gave me structure, discipline, a hardwork ethic and taught me if there is something you want, work hard and go for it.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT?

> TREVOR: Favorite food would be mostaccioli and meatballs, and I would give a shout-out to Sibley Gardens in Trenton.

- WHAT VEHICLE WOULD YOU DRIVE IF YOU HAD A MONEY TREE GROWING IN YOUR YARD? TREVOR: I would have to say a Porsche.
- WHAT IS YOUR DREAM **SCRAMBLE TEAM?** Dustin Johnson, Jason Day, Phil Mickelson with me.





Eight and Four.

ight and four. That's how many certificates are available for equipment managers and assistant superintendents respectively between the Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program (TETCP), and the Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series. The certificate series were developed to give equipment managers and assistants the platform to continue their education, and show proficiency in key areas of the industry.

The Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program - Level 1 is a series of exams designed to demonstrate proficiency in key competency areas related to turf equipment. This certificate program is available to any and all turf equipment technicians. The program is made up of eight exams covering the key competency areas of:

- cutting units
- drivetrain systems
- · electrical systems
- engine technology
- hydraulic systems
- metalworking and fabrication
- spray systems
- fundamentals of turfgrass operations

Each exam is closed book and taken online. You must have a proctor for each exam; information for proctors can be found through GCSAA.org. The exams range from 30 to 60 questions and study guides and webinars are available to help you prepare. The Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program - Level 2, and certification for equipment managers is currently in the works and will be available soon.

The Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series is composed of certificates covering the key competency areas of:

- Principles of Golf Course Agronomy
- Principles of Golf Course Business
- Leadership and Communication
- Environmental Management/Best Management Practices

Unlike the Turf Equipment Technician Certificate Program, the Assistant Superintendent Certificate Series is an open book exam and does not require a proctor; however, like the TETCP, the exams are taken online. Both the Principles of Golf Course Agronomy and



Principles of Golf Course Business certificates are earned by completing a two-part exam. Candidates will have three hours to take the exam, with a five-minute break offered between parts one and two. The Leadership and Communication certificate, along with the Environmental Management/Best Management Practices certificate are still in development through the task group and will be available in late 2018.

I encourage each equipment manager and assistant superintendent to complete the certificates. I would also like to recognize and thank the committees and task groups who have worked tirelessly to create and continually improve the certificate series.

I would also like to encourage each of you to take advantage of the Member-Get-A-Member program. This program allows any GCSAA member to recruit a peer in the industry who is not a GCSAA member, and for their recruitment efforts, earn \$50.00 in GCSAA gift certificates. The gift certificates can be used on dues, merchandise, etc. online, or at the Golf Industry Show. The program allows the recruitment of any membership classification, so please take advantage of this program when bringing a peer, your assistant or equipment manager into the GCSAA family.

Best of luck to each of you as the season presses on!





All of the modules were created with help from the DEQ, MDARD and DNR and are reviewed on a yearly basis to keep them compliant with new laws and regulations.

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Registration and modules are available at <u>no cost</u>. Fee for Site Visits only.

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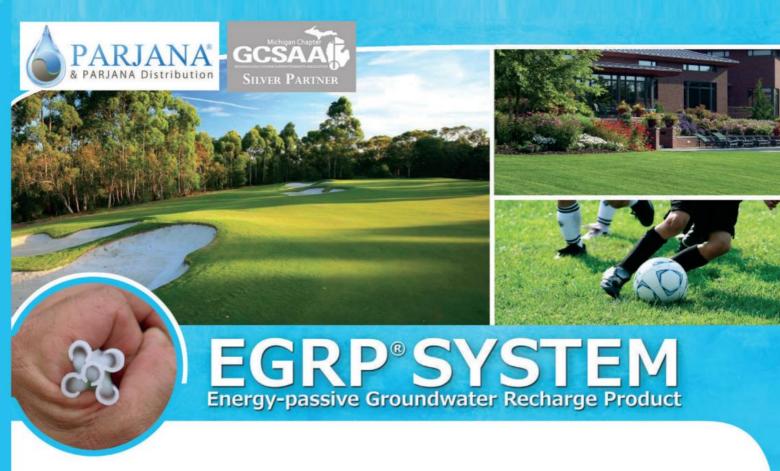
- Program Overview
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- Wellhead Protection
- Pesticide and Fertilizer Storage
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 - Equipment Wash Pad
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The Road to Ford Field

BY CHRIS BALLOSH GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT APPLE MOUNTAIN GOLF CLUB

y long road to Ford Field started in the fall of 1996 when my former coaches, Chuck Koons, Rich Bell, and Ken Bourbina asked me to help out the coaching staff. I jumped at the opportunity because like many former football players, the desire to be part of Friday night lights, never completely leaves you. I have coached for 20 seasons, 19 at my Alma mater Swan Valley, and 1 year at Harbor Spring when I was the Assistant Superintendent at Little Traverse Bay.

The 2017 season started off with a lot of high expectations with the implementation of our new offense and a talented group of young men. Our season was put to the test when we were put in our place by Zeeland East, a school twice our size, in the season opener. We lost that game and although the kids and coaches hung their heads in disappointment, it turned out to be a blessing in disguise. It lit a fire under the team

and made the kids realize they were not invincible. The coaches and kids worked harder in practice and the coaches made the necessary adjustments to the new offense and those efforts began to show as the season progressed. We ended the season 8-1, winning the conference title.

On Selection Sunday, the day the playoff pairings came out, the team gathered in the school library with faculty, friends and family. When the bracket was announced, we were surprised at some of the potential match ups in the later rounds. We opened our post-season play with Bridgeport, a team that is just 10 miles away and that Swan Valley has never before played in school history. The coaching staff had some concerns with the talented QB as he could keep plays alive with only his feet. However, our kids were fired up after a very successful season, and we won the game, 59-22, but at a cost. We lost

our top running back to a knee injury and top receiver/defensive back to a fractured bone in his arm. So as we celebrated our victory, the coaching staff had apprehension about how long our post-season could stay alive and knew that a lot of long hours and hard work lay ahead.

We played our second game, the District Championship round against Carrollton, a team we beat early in the season on the final play of the game when our offense was struggling. Our kids came together with a vengeance and we defeated them a second time despite they had one of the leading rushers in the state. We held him to 31 yards and we won the District Title 42-7. This was a great all-around effort from our 6 running backs that rushed for 246 yards and our receivers who scored two touchdowns, all performed in the absence of our two best weapons on offense who were out on injury.





Our kids continued to put their all into practice and work hard and on a cold November Saturday afternoon. we gathered at Viking Stadium to play Muskegon Oakridge to vie for the Regional Title. This was an advantage to Oakridge who runs the T-formation and runs the ball 90% of the time. Once again, we were without our two most explosive players, neither who were cleared to play but with hope the doctors would release them the following week. That morning there was something about the kids at the team breakfast and in the locker room, as if they were playing for our starters who were hurt. That afternoon I don't think we could of played a better game on offense. Our starting running back rushed for 102 yards and scored 2 touchdowns, and as a team, we rushed for 280 yards and scored 4 touchdowns. Our quarterback was 15-24 for 301vds, and 3 touchdowns, and rushed for another TD and we won the game 48-14. But once again, it came at a price; our starting running back and ended up with a broken bone in his foot along with our top lineman and our best fullback/linebacker was having groin troubles.

Down to the Final 4 teams in Division 5, our opponent was Reed City, for our chance to get to Ford Field. Swan Valley has been to three Final 4s in 2006, 2009, and 2012 and we came up short in each of those games. The forecast for that Saturday afternoon in Greenville was cold rain! Again, this was a huge advantage for Reed City who runs the T-formation and runs

90-95% of the time. During the week of practice, it was the same as always. Then Tuesday came around and we got a pleasant surprise; we received news that our best defensive back and receiver was going to be able to play in the Final 4 game. But, with the weather, we knew we were not going to be able to throw the ball for 300 vards as we had in previous week. We went back to old school Swan Valley football and ran the Power-I and I formation for the entire game. This was what our injured running back was used to and loved to run downhill. The weather forecast kept getting worse and worse for Saturday and it would be tough to pound the ball without him. At Friday's pregame, we were walking on the field when our running back whom had just returned from the doctor, came onto the field holding paperwork that stated he was released to play in the game! So now we had all of our players back, but we were still pretty banged up from post season play. However, when the game started, the boys came out on a mission and any sign of injury was soon forgotten as the kids had one goal in mindgetting to Ford Field. It never stopped raining during the entire game and we had to go back to old Power-I Viking football! We rushed for 348 yards and passed for 0, that resulted in a 29-14 win for the Vikings! Our best running back rushed for 100 yards and the first touchdown of the game and had to play a lot as a fullback because of our starting fullbacks injury the previous game. Our starting quarterback injured his throwing arm in late in the third

guarter and finished the game with it hanging down by his side. This was the hardest hitting game I had ever been a part of and after the game, almost every one of the kids who was on the field from both teams had a limp, was taped/bandaged up, or had a bag of ice icing an injury. My hat goes off to the kids from Reed City as they played hard!

And there it was, we had won our first semi-final victory in Swan Valley history; our kids had done it-they had punched their ticket to Ford Field! This was the first team in school history to get to the championship game in football! Unfortunately, despite a lot of hard work, sweat and tears, we fell short in that final game. However, I couldn't have been prouder of our boys! I will always be grateful for the season these young men gave to our Swan Valley Football program and to the community! They made one of my dreams come true-getting to coach at Ford Field. And I know now that there will be more opportunities as we have a great group of coaches, a strong supportive community and the best group of players a coach could be blessed to have. Although there is still work to be done this season, we are fortunate to have all of our skilled players, with the exception of our starting running back, return! I love the start of football season and am counting down the days; this means the long hot dog days of summer for us are coming to an end!!!



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Dave Stephens and Scott Sabgash

THE MID **GOLF EVENT**

Thank you to Scott Sabgash for hosting the 2018 Mid Golf Event at The Fortress in Frankenmuth. This was a scramble event and the more than 40 members in attendance were greeted with excellent conditions during this very challenging summer and a great day for golf and networking with their fellow members.

The winning home team of Scott Sabgash, Nick Sears, Dave Stephens shot an amazing score of 54! Second place went to Jim Higgs, Alex Greenacre, John Francour and Rob Bergwith a score of 60 and third place went to Steve Young, Gary Brookshire, Adam Garr and Andy Gilroy with a score of 61. The proximity prizes were won by Dr. Kevin Frank, Al Perkins and Nick Sears.

Dr. Kevin Frank spoke at the event about the summer stress and heat that affects every member regardless of budget or size of operation. He also covered some of the research going on at MSU that was shown at Field Day in August.



Dr. Kevin Frank updating the group on what the summer has been doing



Host Superintendent Scott Sabgash thanks the staff and attendees for the great day



MiGCSA Past President Justin Bickel thanks the 2018 Industry Partners for their support











MDARD Inspections on Golf Courses on the Rise

ver the last three to four years the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Pesticide and Plant Pest

Management Division (PPPMD) have been increasing their focus on the Golf Industry here in Michigan. Many members have noted a drop-in visit from these inspectors across the entire state this summer.

This started heating up in 2015 and we did publish letters from the MDARD and PPPMD folks in the magazine, online and in this blog, but based on some recent reports from MiGCSA Members I thought going over some of the facts again would be a good idea.

The Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division (PPPMD) is responsible for the implementation of programs and enforcement of laws

Environmental Stewardship concerning agricultural products, export

commodities, pesticide sale and use, pest management and groundwater protection. Here is a quote from them in 2015 on why their focus on golf has emerged: "MDARD has made a renewed effort to conduct inspections at golf courses in the last 3 years. MDARD began by

identifying golf courses in Michigan that did not have a certified applicator

as an employee in MDARD's records. Of the approximate 900 golf courses in Michigan MDARD identified 322 golf courses who did not appear to employ a certified pesticide applicator. Over the past 3 years, 113 inspections have taken place with a high rate of non-compliance with MDARD's regulations, 81 golf courses or 72% of the 113 inspected golf courses received an immediate stop order with enforcement action taken after the inspection was completed." The goal of the

PPPMD inspectors is not to fine but to help get compliance to protect our groundwater. I have many, many personal meetings with the PPPMD and MDARD and it is a very common theme among all of them.

Thankfully we here in Michigan have tools available to us to make sure your facility is following the rules and regulations. The Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program (MTESP) has been around as long as these regulations that came about in the late 90's. Many MiGCSA Members probably still have their MTESP binders in their offices to this day. When I took over the MTESP in 2013 we went through a full digital conversion of this booklet along with a review from the MDARD and PPPMD folks. It is an easy to navigate online survey style modulebased program that is FREE. The funding for this program comes from the Michigan Water Stewardship Program. The website www.MTESP. org is always improving as is the program. The individual information is only accessed by me and John Johnson the MTESP Stewardship Specialist and not shared with any government regulators beyond overall website traffic and statistics to show use and viability.

So, if you're not already go get an account set up at MTESP.org and identify where you may be lacking or in violation, ignorance is not an acceptable response if you are inspected. Know where you stand, inform your ownership or management, be proactive not reactive. The tools are free and easy to use. As always let me know if you have any questions at adamikamas@migcsa. org or adam@mtesp.org.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS

MiGCSA Executive Director



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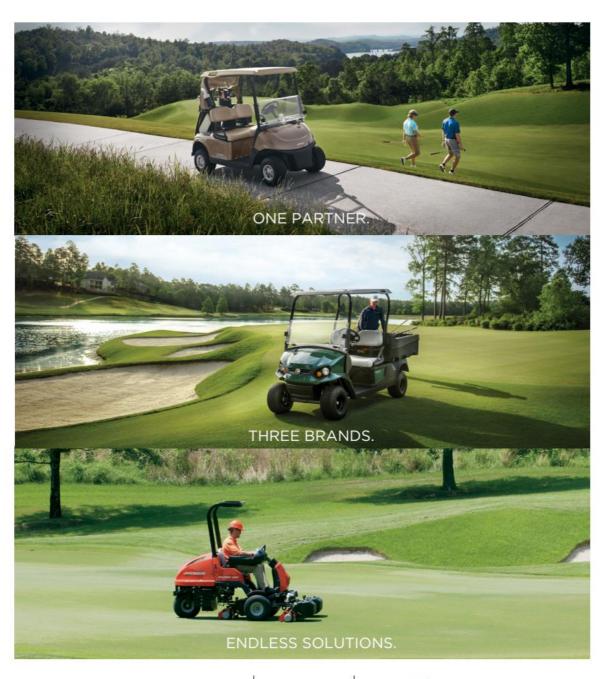
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