



# TURF TIMES

C H R I S T M A S 1988

Volume 17 No. 9

*There is no time quite like Christmas for  
remembering the friendships we cherish,  
and there are no wishes like the tried and  
true ones ... MERRY CHRISTMAS  
and a HAPPY NEW YEAR ;*

\*\*\*\*\*

The 59th ANNUAL MICHIGAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE will be held Monday through Wednesday, January 16 - 18, 1989 at the Clarion Convention Center in Lansing. Please reserve these dates on your calendar now. Key issues facing the turf industry will be addressed. Some highlights are:

1. There will be a new format for the Tuesday morning opening session this year. Michael Hiller, from All-Green Management in Columbus, Oh. will open the session discussing "Communication and Planning - Keys to Success". This will be followed by 1988 updates from each of the turf professors. A joint session on Tuesday afternoon will address problems of major concern in 1988: "Crabgrass" and "Patch Diseases."
2. Our out-of-state speakers have very important messages for us based on current information. Dr. Patricia Sanders, Penn State University (disease management; resistance to fungicides); Dr. Don Waddington, Penn State University (fertilization for healthy turf; athletic field management); Dr. Don White, University of Minnesota (what's new in annual bluegrass; athletic field construction); Dr. Tom Watschke, Penn State University (new herbicides and PGRs, how turf protects the environment).
3. There will be 11 Basic Schools from which to select topics of interest - 5 on Monday afternoon and 6 on Wednesday afternoon. Consider these when making your hotel reservations for Monday night. Two of the schools will be oriented specifically for pesticide certification and up date.
4. A new session, Lawn Maintenance, will be added this year to address issues of interest to those who provide all maintenance practices for lawns and grounds. We have also increased programs for athletic field maintenance. Please call this information to the attention of your local school district.
5. Another outstanding luncheon speaker, Grady Jim Robinson of Kirkwood, Mo. will provide entertainment and thoughtful challenge for us at the Awards Luncheon Tuesday noon.
6. Special functions will include a buffet dinner Tuesday evening with entertainment from the MSU Glee Club and an Alumni breakfast Wednesday morning.

Any further information, contact Michael Saffel, Department of Crop & Soil Sciences, MSU, E. Lansing, 48824. Phone: 517/355-9022



# NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

3733 APOLLO DRIVE • TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN 49684 • 616-943-8343

## BEHIND THE GREENS A Monthly Message From the Board by Tom Brogger, President

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and an extended warm welcome from your NMTMA Board of Directors. Yes, it's that holiday time of year again and time for us to focus more interest on the traditions of Christmas. As we turn away slightly, we can't help but look back and reflect on what happened during the "Summer of '88". It seems like only yesterday we were wrestling with drought, high temperatures and humidity. The amount of stress our courses were put under was tremendous and from many directions. Early on, it was hot and dry, turning to hot and humid and finishing with cold and wet. Sure, on paper that's typically how our seasons go. You would expect a certain number of, let's say, hot, dry days in June. To have so many of them though and to such an extreme was really the determining factor. Could it be that these patterns will become the norm? If so, budgets will need to be adjusted as we continue to provide high quality playing surfaces. There's nothing worse than getting caught with your budgets down. Meteorologists have given us their predictions for what lies ahead. Good management, though, might be to prepare for the worst while hoping for the best.

"The Best" is also how I would describe our monthly meetings this past year. As the NMTMA continues to grow, it's only natural that we learn and further provide new opportunities for the membership. In our first meeting as a new Board, we have already discussed possible changes for next season. More on that in the future. Right now, I'd like to go back and highlight some of the happenings within the organization this past year. As you know, for three years now, we have added another meeting to the beginning of our schedule. Last March we had the opportunity to meet with the Golf Association of Michigan (GAM) and covered a wide range of topics, much of which dealt with the rules of golf and how they pertain to the Superintendent. It was a fun and enlightening seminar with an especially active question and answer period. The seventy-five or so in attendance all seemed to get involved and make it a great start to a new season.

The Traverse City Mini-Conference in April is to me probably the neatest thing the NMTMA does each year. We are so very fortunate to have such expertise at our disposal. I'm not sure who the original brainchild behind this was, but certainly it has been a huge success and I'm sure will continue for years to come. If you recall that day (April 12th), the hot, dry weather was already upon us. Our May meeting took us to Ag-A-Ming Golf Club and included a tour of the new High Point Golf Course with Tom Mead and Designer, Tom Doak. We played a scramble that day and I've always thought this works best in May with many of us picking up our sticks for the first time.

Next came the Big Extravaganza! By that I mean, of course, the MTF Benefit Day at Garland Golf Club. This committee has been together for a while now, and it seems as though we're really getting the hang of it. A few changes were made but we never lost track of the idea that this is our #1 fundraiser for turfgrass research. Although there were more prizes given, we all were winners just by participating. Our MTF donation will be made at the MSU Turf Conference in January. The July meeting at West Branch Country Club, got us together with the Mid-Michigan Turfgrass Association. Once more, the turnout was great from both groups and this winter we're going to see about doing it again next year, and possibly turning it into some sort of grudge match between the two chapters. Cheboygan Golf and Country Club was our next stop on tour and brought us Dr. Paul Ricke with his talk on water management. With the wide variety of weather conditions we had experienced by then, this topic was very timely. The other two things I remember were how good our steaks on the grill tasted and that Charlie took three 1's off me that day, "Ouch", on the shutout.

In September, we started something new when Treetops hosted the NMTMA fundraiser for further turfgrass research. There are many opportunities for us to get involved while helping further research and development. The \$700.00 raised that day will allow us now to be more supportive with a larger number of organizations within the turf industry. The idea was well received and we expect this basic format to continue next year. Our final meeting took us to Indian River Golf Club for the Tuck Tate Chapter Championship/Annual Meeting. I could go on and on about this year's champion and what a terrific individual he is, but, of course, you already know that and besides, it would embarrass him, he's so humble . . . OK! More importantly, the Board of Directors' election was held that day and I would like to thank all of those who ran this year. It was an extremely strong field and I feel confident anyone of these candidates would have represented their organization in a very positive way.

In a capsule, I would say it has been an outstanding year for the NMTMA. We, as a Board, try to stay open-minded and this, I feel, is partly responsible for our ongoing success. Feedback from the entire membership has been our guiding light and we look for your continued support in the future. It's Christmas in Northern Michigan. The kind of stuff they turn into fairy tales. So, let's enjoy ourselves and look forward to an even better 1989.

\*\*\*\*\*

At the annual Board of Directors meeting, the same officers for 1989 have been re-elected to serve another year. They are:

Tom Brogger, President  
Paul Holmes, Vice-President  
Damian Kurkowski, Treasurer

Elected to the Board for 3 years: Brian Holmes  
Charles Menefee  
Bob Steinhurst, Jr.

Vender elected to Board for 2 years:  
Jim Bogart

\*\*\*\*\*

#### WINNERS AT OCTOBER TUCK TATE CHAPTER GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Low Net- Jim Olli received a trophy and was presented a leather travel bag by Tuck Tate.

Low Gross- Tom Brogger received a trophy and was also presented a leather travel bag by Tuck Tate.

Straightest Drive- Charlie Menefee

Longest Drive - Charlie Manefee

Closest to Pin 13th Hole- Bill Ferrell

Closest to pin 9th Hole- Chuck Snyder

Skins Won 2nd Hole- Tom Brogger

" " 4th & 17th Hole- Chuck Snyder

" " 8th Hole- Chris Wakeman

" " 13th Hole- Bob Aube

\*\*\*\*\*

#### NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATES

Turf Times will be published during the following months in 1989. In case that you would like to publish something, please have it available to the editor, at least three weeks in advance. The months are Feb., April, May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct. and Dec.



# GCSAA

1617 ST. ANDREWS DRIVE • LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66046-9990 • 913/841-2240  
FAX: 913/841-2407

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John A. Segui  
President

Dennis D. Lyon  
Vice President

Gerald L. Faubel  
Secretary Treasurer

Donald E. Hearn  
Immediate Past President

### Directors

Joseph G. Baidy  
Stephen G. Cadenelli  
Randy Nichols  
William R. Roberts  
Kenneth A. Sakai

### Past Presidents

Chester Mendenhall  
Robert M. Williams  
Sherwood A. Moore  
David S. Moote  
Edward Roberts Jr.  
Walter R. Boysen  
James W. Brandt  
John J. Spodnik  
Richard C. Blake  
Robert V. Mitchell  
Clifford A. Wagoner  
Charles G. Baskin  
Palmer Maples Jr.  
Richard W. Malpass  
Theodore W. Woehrlé  
George W. Cleaver  
Charles H. Tadge  
Melvin B. Lucas Jr.  
Michael R. Bavier  
James A. Wyllie  
Robert W. Osterman  
James W. Timmerman  
Eugene D. Baston  
Riley L. Stottern

### Executive Director

John M. Schilling

June 1, 1988

Tom Reed, Secretary  
Northern MI Turf Managers Association  
3733 Apollo Dr.  
Traverse City, MI 49684

Dear Mr. Reed:

It is my pleasure to inform you that Brian R. Hamilton has successfully completed the requirements of the GCSAA Certification Program. Mr. Hamilton has earned the right to use the title, Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS), and all the privileges and honors associated with this title.

To earn the title of Certified Golf Course Superintendent, the applicants must have their golf courses reviewed by two currently certified golf course superintendents. Applicants must also prove academic capabilities by passing a comprehensive six-hour written examination covering every facet of the profession.

Attaining certified status is no minor accomplishment. Successful completion of the certification process indicates an individual's willingness to be judged by the standards of fellow professionals and assume a position of leadership in the game of golf.

We believe Mr. Hamilton's attainment of certified status demonstrates both desire for personal advancement and also a commitment to provide Lincoln Hills Golf Club with the highest level of golf course management expertise available.

This is a significant achievement in Mr. Hamilton's professional career. Please join with his colleagues in congratulating him on this accomplishment.

Sincerely,

Colleen Smalter Pederson  
Director of Education

CSP/ph

NOTE: We too would like to congratulate Brian on achieving this higher step in professionalism of his vocation. It is something that we hope, more will achieve from our Association.

# REMEMBER THIS

IF YOU WORK FOR A MAN, in Heaven's name, WORK for him. If he pays you wages which supply you bread and butter, work for him; speak well of him; stand by him and stand by the institution he represents. If put to a pinch, an ounce of loyalty is worth a pound of cleverness. If you must vilify, condemn and eternally disparage—resign your position, and when you are outside, damn to your heart's content, but as long as you are part of the institution do not condemn it. If you do that, you are loosening the tendrils that are holding you to the institution, and at the first high wind that comes along, you will be uprooted and blown away, and probably will never know the reason why.

# FM Radios on the Golf Course: The Next Best Thing to Being Two Places at the Same Time

by JAMES F. MOORE

Director, Mid-Continent Region, USGA Green Section

**W**HETHER you choose to admit it, you live in and are part of a hi-tech society. You can't start your car without activating a series of micro-computers beneath the hood. Remember when your television set was full of vacuum tubes, and how much fun you had with your father testing them on a machine at the drug store? Or how about sitting in a quiet library and suddenly hearing a wide assortment of bells, chimes, and beeps as everyone's digital watch reached the top of the hour?

Well the computers under the hood may baffle you, you may not have looked in the back of your TV lately, and your old Timex may still be merrily ticking away, but even if you are shy of technology, as a golf course superintendent you need to take a hard look at FM two-way radio communication, one of the most useful and sensible hi-tech tools ever introduced to the golf course. Radios are not new to golf course maintenance; they have been around in one form or another for years. In the past, however, they have been inefficient, costly, and bulky. Although they occasionally accomplished their goal of allowing voice communication between two parties, their use was limited to this sole function. If you think this is all radios can do today, you are in for some surprises.

The most obvious application of a radio system on the golf course is helping the superintendent better manage his crew. Piercing whistles and bullhorns have obvious limitations, particularly during the member-guest or club championship. Citizen-band radios occasionally meet this need. Unfortunately, CBs are limited in their range, and are not very portable because they need antennae. There is also the very real problem of unexpected visitors to the channel you may be using. A CB blasting out, "How about ya, Sugar Bear? You got your ears on?" could really prove embarrassing on ladies' day.

Fortunately, highly compact and portable FM radios have solved these problems and many others. They have plenty of range for the typical golf course.

If communication is necessary over a larger area, the signal can be strengthened by a repeater extending the range to many miles. A repeater is actually an amplifier that takes your transmitted signal, makes it stronger, and re-transmits it to the various receivers on your frequency.

FM systems allow you to communicate privately with your crew since you are assigned your own frequency. They are small and easily carried, with some units being as little as 6 × 3 × 1 inches. They are quickly rechargeable and extremely reliable. And now the really good news — they are finally affordable!

Two types of FM units should be acquired.

1. Base station. This unit is usually the same or similar to the type of FM two-way radio installed in a vehicle. As a base station it is equipped with a dc power supply, an external antenna, and a desk microphone. The base unit is typically installed in the mechanic's area of the shop or in the superintendent's office, if a secretary is employed.

2. Portables. These are the small, handheld units. A minimum configuration for most courses would provide a unit to the superintendent, each assistant superintendent, the irrigation technician, and the mechanic.

A touch keypad for making and receiving telephone calls is a valuable and inexpensive option for the superintendent's unit. Similar in operation to a mobile or cellular car phone, it helps the superintendent stay in touch regardless of his location. This allows him to meet his often conflicting duties of direct supervision of the crew and managerial responsibilities in the office.

The advantages of reliable and immediate communication between the superintendent and the crew are too numerous

to cover fully. Obvious applications include:

1. Testing, repair, and adjustment of the irrigation system.

2. Avoiding lost man-hours due to equipment breakdown.

3. Constant adjustment of the daily maintenance schedule to make the maximum use of available man-hours.

4. The coordination of activities such as tournaments, chemical applications, and special projects.

5. Since the maintenance workers are almost constantly on the course, they are usually close by when an accident or medical emergency occurs. Once equipped with radios, they can quickly summon help.

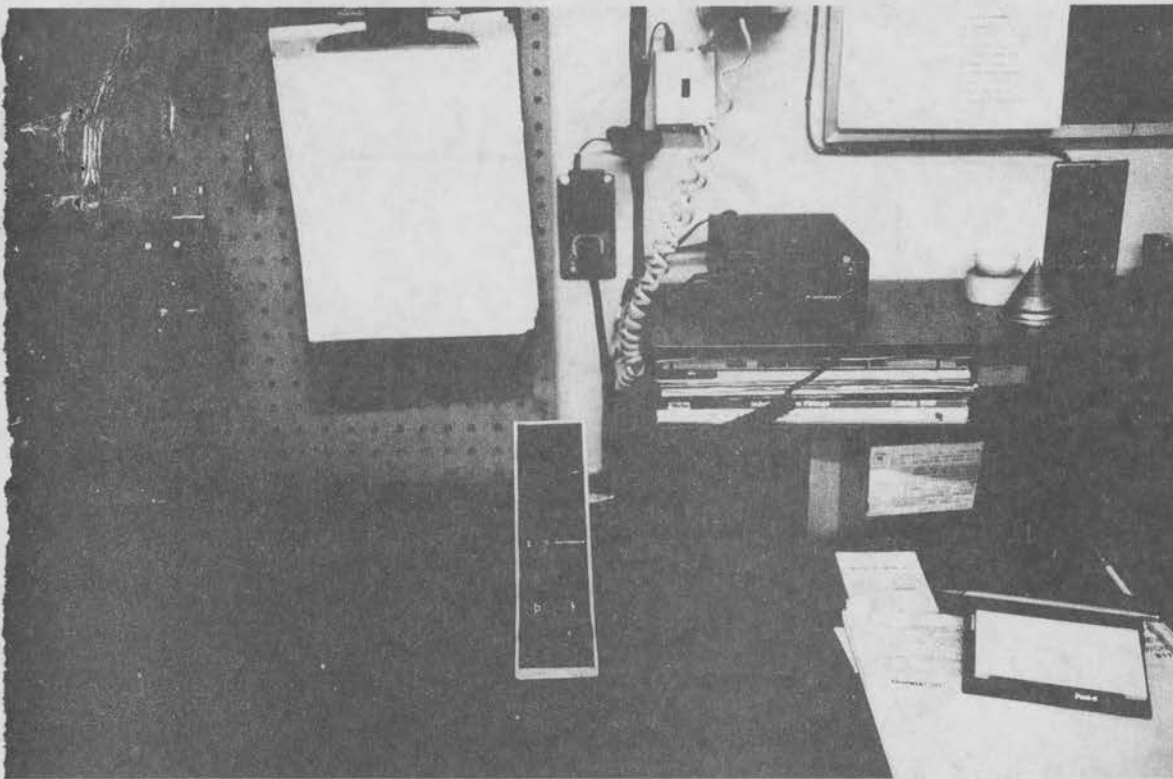
**T**HE TECHNOLOGY is already available to make FM radio systems work for you and your club in other ways as well as talking to the crew.

Many clubs have installed phones on the course in case of medical emergencies and to prevent long delays between nines as players stop for food and drink. Conventional phone lines require costly installation and often ditching across the golf course.

FM radio call boxes are used on many state highways to aid stranded motorists. Similar units can now be installed on the golf course in various locations, powered either by conventional means or by solar cells, which, of course, eliminate the need to install costly wiring. Access to the call box can be limited by a combination or key lock if necessary.

Many industries use FM voice reporter units to monitor and report on the function of specialized equipment. These units are triggered by an event such as low pressure, high temperature, etc., and a call is made to the portable base station or even a pocket pager. A recorded message is then played announcing the event.

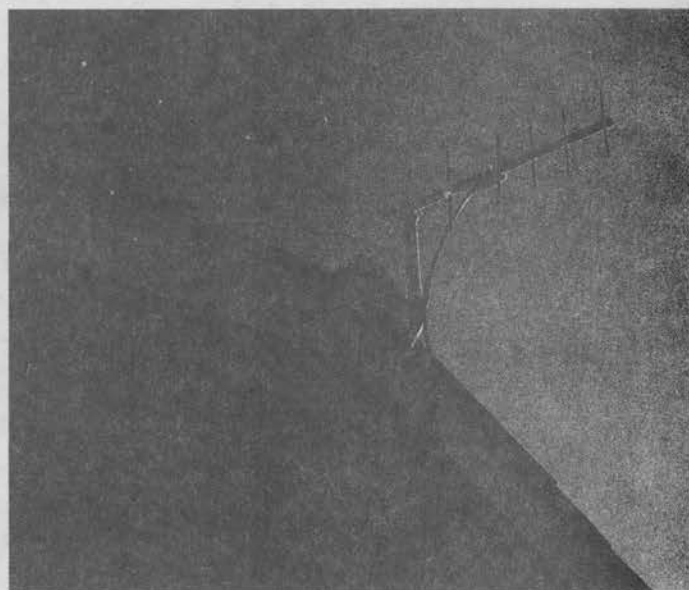
There are many uses for such a system on the golf course — particularly regard-



*(Left) The base station is equipped with a desk microphone. Usually it is installed in the mechanics' work area.*

*(Below left) Portable units let the superintendent almost be in two places at once.*

*(Below right) The external antenna for an FM system is small, yet it is capable of receiving and transmitting over a large area.*



ing the irrigation system. Imagine the savings of water and electricity (as well as turfgrass) that could be realized if the monitor detected power lost from the pumping station. The superintendent would be notified by the voice reporter unit with a message such as "pump station power off."

Since many events can be monitored (each with a specific message), the superintendent could be notified when a low-pressure condition exists (a bad leak), when the irrigation system is activated, or when lightning has knocked the irrigation computer into the twilight zone. A warning that temperatures have dropped

below freezing would allow the superintendent to shut down a planned irrigation cycle and prevent large-scale damage to the course. Intrusion alarms for the maintenance building can also be linked to these units.

I mentioned that two-way FM communication systems are now affordable. Although the prices will vary according to the system you choose and your dealer, listed below are some rough estimates of what you will currently need to spend.

Base station	\$1,000 - \$1,200
(including antenna and desk microphone)	
Superintendent's portable	\$600 - \$700
(with telephone option)	

Crew's portables (each)	\$500 - \$600
Repeater service	\$20 - \$25
(if necessary, per unit per month)	

At first glance, the cost may seem high even though these numbers are significantly lower than they were one or two years ago. Actually, most courses would recover the cost of the system quickly as man-hours are saved and work is carried out more efficiently.

For most golf courses, the year's capital equipment purchases are just around the corner. Give strong consideration to acquiring a two-way FM radio system. It is a purchase you will find well worth the cost.



G C S A A • 89

# International Golf Course Conference & Show

February 6-13, 1989

Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California

*60th  
Anniversary*

- **Trade Show**
- **Golf Championships**
- **33 Seminars**
- **Annual Meeting**

For conference, seminar or exhibitor information, call  
800/472-7878 or 913/841-2240



Golf Course Superintendents  
Association of America  
1617 St. Andrews Drive  
Lawrence, KS 66046-9990

Above is listed the greatest show in golf. This is something that every superintendent should see especially if there is any chance that new equipment will be purchased. Only here are you able to see the various makes, but you can compare prices and get from factory personnel inside information that is not always available at home. Everyone should make an extra effort to see these shows and attend the wonderful educational seminars. Being a member of GCSAA and attending these educational seminars is the key to professionalism in this industry. Please meet us at ANAHEIM.

\*\*\*\*\*

1989 dues are now due and should be paid. If there is any question or if you do not know the amount that you should pay, please contact our Executive Secretary Tom Reed or one of the Board members. Your cooperation on this subject will be greatly appreciated by your fellow members.