



GCSAA AFFILIATE

Turf Times

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The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

Golf and Meeting at Grayling C.C. August 10th

Brian Conklin is the host superintendent for our August meeting. Michael Hoffman is the golf professional.

The day will begin with a 1:00 p.m. shotgun start. The game will be best two balls of four (with handicaps).

Golf is limited to 80 players, so reservations are a must. Call Brian at (517) 348-6853 to reserve your spot in the golf event.

Our meeting will follow golf at 5:30, Dr. Beard will speak on selected topics, and dinner will follow at 6:30.

Cost for dinner only will be \$10.00; Golf and dinner will be \$20.00. Please make checks payable to the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association.

The Grayling Country club is located 1/2 mile north of the Holiday Inn on Business I-75, just south of downtown Grayling.

See you there!

Next Meeting-

September 22nd at the new Fazio course at Sylvan Resort: Bruce Wolfrom, superintendent.

Dr. James Beard to Speak at August 10th Meeting

The NMTMA is proud to have Dr. James Beard as our guest speaker at our August meeting in Gaylord. As you know, Dr. Beard is a world renowned scholar and researcher in turfgrass management, and has written definitive books on this field.

Dr. Beard will present a slide program and will address numerous topics, including: Turfgrass stress management, environmental considerations in turfgrass management, and more.

Even if you will not be playing golf, you will want to attend this meeting and dinner at the Grayling Country Club. Reservations for dinner only are required: call Brian Conklin at (517) 348-6853. See details at left.

NMTMA Mechanics Meeting August 12th

A meeting of the NMTMA golf course mechanics will be held at Crystal Downs Country Club on August 12th. The speaker will be Ron Gillison of Gillison Variety Fabrication. Ron will speak to the group about sprayer maintenance, hydraulics, welding and fabrication.

Please call Dan Stratton if you plan to come: (616) 352-4241.

The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m., lunch will be served at noon, and then there will be an open house/discussion after lunch. Please bring \$5.00 cash for lunch.

Crystal Downs is located 5 miles north of Frankfort on M-22. Drive past the main entrance, and turn onto Sutter Road. The maintenance building is just off Sutter Road, 1/4 mile from the corner of Sutter and M-22.

The Game of Golf is Played on Grass

By Stanley J. Zontek, Director, Mid-Atlantic Region, USGA Green Section

When the Golf Course is in good shape, everything at the club seems to go well. How obvious... or is it?

Why is it, then, that today's golf course superintendent must compete - perhaps struggle is a better word - for the machinery, manpower, materials, and *the budget* to do his or her job? Sometimes clubs and courses appreciate the obvious. If the golf course is in good shape, the rest of the facility hums. People bring guests who pay guest or green fees. This factor impacts favorably on the food and beverage portion of the club, and it helps the facility's cash flow. Members and guests buy logo shirts and sweaters, benefiting the golf professional. Everyone is happy and the club or facility is healthy.

Consider what happens, though, when several greens or fairways are lost, tees are divoted and devoid of turf, the roughs and stream banks are not well cut, and trash, tree limbs and litter are scattered about the course. Who is happy then? Would you bring guests or sponsor business outings at your club or course? Probably not, or only with a multitude of apologies and excuses.

With less play, food and beverage sales suffer and golf carts go unrented. Golf shirts remain on the shelves and everyone begins to grumble. Attention is then focused on, you guessed it, the golf course superintendent.

Do you think a golf course superintendent wants to present a shabby golf course? Is that individual, as a professional, pleased with what he or she sees out there? No, not in the least. So why does it happen?

(Continued on Back Page)

"Represent your organization with class. Nice sport clothes are required for all golf outings no blue jeans, t-shirts and the like. Sweaters or jackets with ties are recommended for all dinners and meetings. Good golf etiquette, fairness and sportsmanship are expected at all golfing events."

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Golf is Played on Grass. . . (Continued from front page)

I submit it often is a question of budget priorities. The golf course is not given its fair share of the golf course income.

Specifically, what percentage of golf course income is being used to maintain the golf course? Do you think it is 20%, 33%, or 50%?

Figure it out. If the club has an income of, say, \$2 million per year and the golf course maintenance budget is \$400,000 per year, then the maintenance budget is 20% of the entire club or course income. 20% does not sound like much, and often it isn't. Where is the other 80% going?

Only you can know. It bothers me that golf course maintenance budgets often do not receive their fair share of the club income, and when the course isn't perfect, the superintendent is criticized. I submit the real culprit is the budget policy.

Perhaps a better sales pitch is needed. Hopefully, these comments will help people realize the obvious. . . the game of golf is played on grass, and providing properly for it's maintenance should be a course's number one priority.

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