



GCSAA AFFILIATE

# Turf Times

Update  
March, 1992  
Vol.21 No. 2

The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

## Two Educational Seminars set for March, 1992...

The NMTMA kicks off the 1992 season with two educational seminars for its members. Certification credits will be available for Certified Pesticide Applicators and GCSAA continuing education.

### NMTMA/GAM Meeting - March 10th at Sylvan Resort

This meeting will be the annual joint program sponsored by the NMTMA and the Golf Association of Michigan. The meeting will be held on March 10th at Sylvan Resort, located east of Downtown Gaylord on Wilkinson Road. Call (616) 732-6711 if you need more directions.

Cost of the meeting, including lunch, is \$16.00 per person at the door. Please make checks payable to the Golf Association of Michigan.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.. Below is a list of speakers and topics to be presented on March 10.

SPEAKER	TITLE/TOPIC
Jeff Rivard:	<i>Gam Executive Director</i> "Welcome". Also GAM Coming Events and Regional Affairs
Dr. David Smitley:	<i>MSU Entomologist</i> "Ant Control"
Robert Vavrek:	<i>USGA Agronomist</i> "Year in Review"
Jim Sweeney:	<i>USGA Regional Contact</i> "USGA Regional Affairs"
Michael Morris:	<i>Golf Course Superintendent</i> <i>Crystal Downs Country Club</i> "1991 Senior Amateur Golf Tournament"
Ann Hiles:	<i>MSU District Extension Agent</i> <i>for Hazardous Waste Management.</i> "Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal, both Household & Workplace"
Keith Jones & Associate	<i>Gaylord DNR</i> "Rules & Regulations that Affect Golf Courses"

Adjourn, 3:00 p.m. (approximately)

### NMTMA/MSU Mini-Conference, March 31st at Grayling

Our next meeting will be held on March 31st at the Grayling Holiday Inn south of Downtown Grayling on Business 75. This will be our annual MSU Mini-Conference.

Cost for this meeting, including lunch, is \$11.00 per person at the door. Please make checks payable to NMTMA.

Registration will begin at 8:30, and the seminar will last from 9:00 until 3:30.

Our proposed agenda may include:

SPEAKER	TITLE/TOPIC
Dr. Paul Rieke:	<i>MSU Crop &amp; Soil Sciences</i> Suggested Material - "Using Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR) for Determining Irrigation Requirements." "Water Management"
Dr. Joe Vargas, Jr.:	<i>MSU Botany &amp; Plant Pathology</i> Suggested Material - "1991 Turf Disease Research Report & Fungicide Resistance." "Did IPM Fail?"
Dr. Trey Rogers:	<i>MSU Crop &amp; Soil Sciences</i> Suggested Material - "Soil Modification & Putting Green Management."
Dr. Robert Wilkinson:	<i>MSU Ag. Department</i> Suggested Material - "Sprayer Calibration With His Portable Boom Spray Pattern Unit." Emphasis on cost of wasting chemicals through poor calibration.
Dr. Jim Crum:	<i>MSU Ag. Department</i> Suggested Material - "Soils & soil testing - How to understand & read a soil test - How often to test - Understanding C.E.C. - What effect do micronutrients have on grass and its development?"

Continued on Next 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.

## NMTMA/MSU Mini-Conference...

...Continued From Previous Page

- Ed Herndon *State of Michigan MIOASHA Inspector*  
Suggested Material - "What can MIOASHA do for our industry? Services & materials available for use."  
Typical case scenario for our industry.
- Dr. Dave Smitley *MSU Entomology*  
Suggested Material - "Entomology Research"

Watch for your next issue of *Turf Times* for more details about the March 31st meeting and an April Seminar!

## Understanding the Urban Tree

A two-day seminar featuring 3 of the country's leading experts

### Exploring Tree Roots in the Urban Forest

Dr. Thomas Perry - Root Specialist/Urban Forester  
North Carolina State University - Emeritus

### Understanding The Urban Soil To Promote Tree Health

Dr. Phil Craul - Soil Scientist/Urban Forester  
State U. of New York and Harvard.

### Denouncing The Generic Tree: Matching Care to Species

Dr. John Ball - Arboriculture/Urban Forester  
South Dakota State University

Day 1 will spotlight Dr. Thomas Perry, Dr. Phil Craul, and Dr. John Ball, showing detailed illustrations on roots, soils and how they relate to tree health in the urban setting. This day long seminar will focus on showing how we might be better at impacting that health through new tree care strategies.

Day 2 will feature Dr. Thomas Perry and Dr. John Ball. Although the planting and care requirements vary for different trees, too often they are treated as though they are identical species. We need to know the differences and how they impact the planting, pruning, fertilizing and care we provide.

Michigan Pesticide Applicators can receive up to 9 Recertification Credits. Pending approval: Indiana Continuing Credit Hours (CCH's); International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist Recertification Credits; and CEU's for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The seminar will be in the Chicago area at Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois, March 26th and 27th, 1992. The cost of this program is \$130.00 for the two days or participants may choose to attend a single day at a reduced cost. For group rates and more information contact Rainbow Treecare at (612) 922-3810 or 1-800-369-3810

## CLASSIFIED:

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE: '88 Jacobsen G4, 550 hrs., like new, with 72" rotary deck; '88 Kubota L4150 (41 h.p.), like new. Call Mike Fairchild at The Rock: (906) 493-5658.

TRADE: Want 7-bladed Reels for Ransome 180, in exchange for 5-blade. Call Doug Sarto at High Pointe G.C.: (616) 267-5769.

SUPERINTENDENT POSITION AVAILABLE: Greens Superintendent for the Grandview Challenge. Duties include coordinating the completion of an 18 hole course, including the seeding of 4 holes. Also supervising and coordinating activities of workers engaged in constructing new areas and preserving grounds and turf of the golf course. Must be certified to apply golf course chemicals as required.

\$28,000+ annually. Must have superintendent experience. Application deadline is March 9, 1992 and the position is available immediately. Send Resumes to: Grandview Golf Club, 3003 Hagni Rd., N.E., Kalkaska, MI 49646

## USGA Green Section Offers Support to Public Courses...

**Far Hills, N.J.** - The United States Golf Association's Green Section has announced a one-time offer to public golf courses to provide a full-day Turf Advisory Service (TAS) visit by an expert agronomist for only \$700, the normal price of a half-day visit.

This offer is available only to public golf courses, defined as courses that accept green fees from the general public and do not have a membership that owns the course. Only public courses that have not used TAS during 1989, 1990, or 1991 are eligible. More than 50 of them have already taken advantage of this special offer.

"It actually costs the USGA \$1,500 per visit to provide this service," Raymond Anderson, chairman of the USGA Green Section Committee, said. "We hope that providing our expert agronomic advice to public courses at a reduced price, we can help to improve the quality of playing conditions for many of the nation's public golfers."

"Public courses shouldn't be afraid that a TAS visit will increase costs in maintaining their facility," Anderson continued. "On the contrary, a TAS visit usually shows a facility how to get the most out of a limited budget."

The USGA Green Section features a staff of 16 highly trained and experienced agronomists located throughout the country. They provide consulting services to more than 1,600 courses each year.

In 1992, the USGA will fund \$2 million of turfgrass and environmental research at major universities. Its agronomy staff has access to all this information to help golf course superintendents in maintaining their facilities.

For more information about this special program, contact the USGA Green Section, Public Golf Course Offer, P.O. Box 708, Far Hills, NJ 07931-0708; or call (908) 234-2300.

## Attention Golf Course Mechanics:

Last year, several of our N. Michigan Golf Course Mechanics paid dues to begin a new mechanic's group in our area.

In order to avoid duplicating the efforts of the mechanic's group and the NMTMA, the NMTMA board of directors decided to make the mechanic's group a part of the NMTMA.

Anyone who has paid dues to the mechanic's group will become a class D member of the NMTMA for the 1992 season, will be included in our membership directory, and will receive the NMTMA newsletters. Any mechanic wishing to renew a membership in the future will be billed at that time.

We encourage all Northern Michigan Superintendents to inform their mechanics about this opportunity to join the NMTMA as a class D member. For membership information you may contact either Tom Heid at (616) 922-0502 or Tom Reed at (616) 943-8343.

Matt Hinkle from High Pointe Golf Club and Dan Stratton from Crystal Downs Country Club will represent the mechanic's group on the NMTMA Executive Committee. They will be organizing the meetings for 1992. If you have an idea for the meeting or would like to host one you may contact Dan at (616) 352-4241 or Matt at (616) 267-5769.

The goal of the group is to encourage the exchange of ideas and techniques among golf course mechanics in Northern Michigan. The mechanics will be able to stay in touch with the use of our directory and through the "Mechanic's Corner" in our newsletters. And, finally, the mechanics will benefit by belonging to a first-rate professional organization.



Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association  
3733 Apollo Drive  
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

**Attention:**  
**Golf Course Mechanics**



Recycled Paper

March 3, 1992

Dear Golf Course Mechanic:

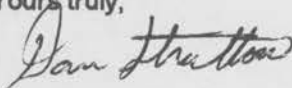
You might be wondering what happened to the mechanic's meetings that were initiated last season. Please let me explain. Ed Eauclaire of Grand Traverse Resort was going to head our organization, but due to another job offer, Ed is no longer in the area.

Some of the mechanics who attended the meetings last season paid dues to start up a mechanic's association. That money has been turned over to the NMTMA (the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association to which the superintendent of your club belongs). Anyone who paid dues is a member of the NMTMA for the 1992 season, and will receive mailings from the NMTMA and occasionally from the mechanics' group.

Matt Hinkle of High Pointe Golf Club and Dan Stratton of Crystal Downs Country Club are going to be organizing meetings for the mechanics' group. We would like your ideas about what topics to cover in our meetings this season. Please fill out the attached form and mail it back to us, and then Matt and I can go to work setting up the meetings.

We hope to see you this season. Watch for meeting announcements.

Yours truly,



Dan Stratton

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Please list your ideas for meeting topics, and sent this form to:

Dan Stratton  
Crystal Downs Country Club  
1286 Frankfort Highway, P.O. Box 329  
Frankfort, MI 49635

#1. \_\_\_\_\_

#2. \_\_\_\_\_

#3. \_\_\_\_\_

#4. \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



# CLOSE-UP ON WINTER KILL...

"Winter Kill" generally refers to any turf injury that occurs during wintertime. It's particularly destructive in the areas where warm season grasses predominate, although it may also be the source of severe damage to cool season turf under the certain conditions.

## What causes it?

Winter kill can be traced to several causes: *low temperature stress* - a sudden drop in temperature or low temperatures over a period of time; *winter desiccation* - a loss of water within the plant; *low winter hardiness* - inability of plant to survive a deep ground freeze before it has hardened off; or *fungi activity*. Once identified, all but the last cause can be eliminated from your turf.

Low temperature stress is common to both cool and warm season turfgrasses, though it does more damage to warm season turf due to its susceptibility to cold weather. Low temperature stress can lead to either immediate kill of the entire plant or partial injury.

Two of the most common times for injury are 2-3 weeks before winter begins and 2-3 weeks before the spring warms up. That's when temperatures often vary widely, causing the turf plant to alternate between its resting stage and active growth. Too much of either for too long or too soon can wipe out a healthy turf stand.

No matter where it's growing, turf begins to slow down when temperatures drop below the level needed for growth. Cool season varieties maintain a very low level of activity, while warm season varieties shut down completely.

At this stage, plant damage can occur inside and outside individual cells. As the temperature drops below freezing, ice crystals may form within plant tissues, especially in plants full of water.

Crystals may also form outside of tissues and grow large enough to crush internal structures. In the end, whether damage occurs in individual cells or to tissue structures, it can cause injury or death.

Winter desiccation, a major cause of winter kill, is a problem for semi-dormant turf. It's usually most severe on elevated sites and on areas exposed to excessive wind or where surface runoff of water is high. It may also be caused by dry conditions in the soil or atmosphere.

Desiccation due to dry soil conditions is common in areas of low rainfall or when precipitation is unseasonably low in winter. Without a snow cover, soil water can be lost, leading to deep, wide cracks developing in the turf.

Turf injury may also result from dry air conditions, even though soil moisture is present. This occurs when rapid water loss exceeds uptake due to restricted root systems, decreased root permeability or water being in a frozen state, unavailable for uptake.

Some degree of turf injury may not be permanent. "Wind Burn" commonly occurs after snow thaws, causing blades low in moisture to turn brown. The turf may survive if the crown isn't badly damaged. If the crown is injured, recovery depends upon the surviving rhizomes and stolons.

Low winter hardiness is most likely to affect warm season grasses, as injury occurs as soon as ice forms. Cool season varieties, on the other hand, can make metabolic changes under low temperature conditions without the help of outside aids, such as turf covers. This ability to "harden off" allows the turf to withstand some amount of ice formation.

When a mature cool season grass plant hardens off, shoot growth slows gradually, stopping when the soil's temperature drops below 45° F. Overall, soil and air temperatures must remain slightly above freezing for 3 to 4 weeks for cool season turf to achieve a maximum hardiness level. This level varies through the plant part; the crown, tiller and stolons are more likely to survive than young leaves and roots. Also at risk are young seedlings which haven't achieved the four-leaf stage and are unable to harden off.

The majority of turf damage to both warm and cool season turfgrasses takes place in early spring when plant hardiness levels are at their lowest. At this time, thawing snow frequently results in standing water and increased water intake by plants.

A period of warmer temperatures may touch off a spurt of growth which can lead to serious injuries. This is particularly true with warm season varieties, should temperatures drop below 20° F.

## What prevents it?

Winter kill damage can be avoided or reduced by following a few basic turf maintenance practices. Each of these practices assumes that the turf is healthy, disease-free and well-rooted going into winter.

- Maintain *low water level* around the turf crown.
- Utilize *coarsely textured soils* which offer more favorable infiltration and percolation rates to reduce standing water.
- Design surface contours to assure maximum runoff and *adequate surface drainage*, both necessary since internal drainage is often lacking due to impervious frozen soil.
- *Aerify* turf in early fall so water can drain easily from crown area. Remember that if aerification is done too late, severe desiccation may occur around coring holes during open winters with minimal snow cover.
- Supply *adequate nutrient levels* to ensure necessary plant vigor and metabolic activity to complete hardening off process. Maintain adequate potassium levels to build winter hardiness and help assure winter survival.
- Adjust *fall irrigation* to maintain adequate soil moisture to avoid winter drought, d soil and standing water.
- Reduce *thatch accumulation*, which may elevate crown's root-producing area above soil level, exposing it to temperature extremes.
- Watch *fall mowing heights*; lower heights may increase low temperature injury in certain species, especially warm season grasses.
- Keep *traffic* on frozen or slush-covered ground to an absolute minimum as it can cause permanent damage.
- Provide *low temperature insulation* with synthetic covers, organic mulches or straw where time, money and labor are available.

# Superintendents' environmental expertise urged at GCSAA conference

Establishing and maintaining the superintendent's credibility as an environmentally-concerned "authority" is key to successful government and public relations programs, GCSAA liasons were told during a two-day seminar held here in late January. More than 30 superintendents from 26 GCSAA chapters attended the organization's first annual Legislative and Regulatory Training Conference, a series of sessions which:

- Stressed the need for understanding local government organization and personalities while creating "win-win" situations in dealing with regulatory issues;
- Explained the process of creating, altering and enacting state regulatory statutes, as well as fostering legislative information sources;
- Demonstrated how to use the media to shape public opinion; and
- Examined environmental issues of regional importance to various GCSAA chapters.

"The consistent theme of all presenters was that we should take a more active role in informing officials and the general public," said Randy Zidik, CGCS, GCSAA board government relations liason. "Our education and hands-on experience with turfgrass management techniques, including the use of chemical enhancers and pesticides, gives us a high level of credibility. As the presenters suggested, we

need to promote our credibility as authorities at all levels of government and within our own publics. Hopefully, this will allow lawmakers to use us as consultants when they draft legislation and regulations."

"The program showed that there is enthusiasm, energy and interest for local chapters to be more involved in government issues," said Charlie Passios, CGCS, GCSAA board government relations liason. "We hope the energy, coupled with the knowledge gained at this conference, will spark increased involvement at the local level. The end result will be better membership representation on issues that affect golf course superintendents."

Robert Ochs, GCSAA general counsel and one of the organizers of the conference, said superintendents who attended the sessions were "pleased with the quality and quantity of information exchanged." "This program is another excellent example of GCSAA's leadership in establishing networks in all 50 states to address issues of concern to the game of golf," he added.

Presenters during the legislative and regulatory training session included Shirley Fulton of Capital Communicators, Madison WI, a former TV anchorwoman; Kansas State Representative Kathleen Sebelius; Jerry W. Johnson, a consultant to the Menninger Foundation and former city planner; and Paul Mechling, CGCS, of Northwestern Ohio GCSA.

## Membership Directory to be mailed in early April

You can expect you 1992 Membership Directory to be in the mail soon.

In order to make sure your name and address are correct, please check the card attached to your next *Turf Times*. We will print your information as we have it on file. You will be asked to contact BaySide Printing of any changes to be made.

Your input will be needed in order for us to have an accurate directory.



Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association  
3733 Apollo Drive  
Traverse City, Michigan 49684



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P.O. Box 1575  
Frankfort, MI 49635