



GCSAA AFFILIATE

Turf Times

Update
MARCH, 1993
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The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

Three MDA Recertification Credits for ¹⁹⁹³ February Meeting

If you attended the February NMTMA educational meeting *Personal Safety in the Workplace* you are eligible for three credits toward your Pesticide Applicator Certification. To apply these credits to certification, you had to attend the meeting and sign the attendance sheet with your certification number.

Remember to keep track of your own credits, and to make note of the February meeting.

Next Meeting: NMTMA Mini Conference April 5th at Grayling Holiday Inn

All golf course mechanics are encouraged to attend this educational session along with superintendents and assistants. Topics will include grease and oil technology, sprayer maintenance and calibration, paint by-products and safety, pump station start up and maintenance, toxicology, aerification, regulatory updates, and a panel discussion. Watch for details in your next *Turf Times* monthly.

Annual GAM/NMTMA Meeting to be held March 9th at Michaywe'

This year's Golf Association of Michigan Green Seminar will be held at Michaywe' Hills Golf Club in Gaylord on Tuesday March 9th. This session will be very interesting and informative as the slate of speakers and topics suggests below. You are encouraged to invite owners, green chairman, or any club official to this meeting. MDA recertification credits may be offered.

Important! You must pre-register to attend this meeting. **The deadline for registration is March 5th.** Please detach the form at the bottom of this page, and send it with your payment to the Golf Association of Michigan.

The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. with sign in and continental breakfast, and the seminar begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$22.00 per person, including lunch. **Please note!** Coat and tie are requested for this meeting.

Michaywe' is located east of I-75 on Brink Rd., from Brink Rd., turn south on Opal Lake Road and proceed to the Michaywe' Clubhouse.

GREEN SEMINAR

- Speakers:** Thomas Drenth, *Americans with Disabilities Act*
 Brian Anderson, Wilbur Ellis Co., *Rinse Pads*
 James Sweeney, USGA Regional Affairs, *Common Misconceptions about the Rules of Golf*
 Skip DeWall, Lewis Publishing, *Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses*
 GAM, *Controlling Slow Play - The Superintendents Role*
 Dr. Bruce Branham, MSU, *Annual Bluegrass and the Fate of Agro-Chemicals*
 Jim Bogart, MTF, *MTF Update*

1993 GREEN SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

Michaywe' Hills Golf Club • Tuesday March 9

Fee • \$22 each • Deadline date: March 5

Names: _____ Titles (Supt./Pres./Green Chrm. etc.) _____

Club: _____ Amt. enclosed: _____

Signed: _____

Please return form (BY THE DEADLINE DATE) with the check payable to:
GOLF ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN • 37935 TWELVE MILE RD., SUITE 200
FARMINGTON HILLS, MI 48331 • (313) 553-4200

"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."

TURF ROLLING OF GREENS – BENEFITS, AND PRECAUTIONS

Dr. James B. Beard, Chief Scientist
International Sports Turf Institute, Inc.
College Station, Texas

Historically, turf rolling was one of the most basic cultural practices utilized in maintenance of turfs and was regularly utilized for many centuries. To this day, frequent rolling at intervals ranging from 7 to 3 times weekly is practiced on high quality bowling greens around the world. In their book "Turf for Golf Courses" published in the 1920's Piper and Oakley stated "Rolling is a treatment that should be employed in moderation, especially on putting-greens. The popular belief that rolling appreciably promotes the growth of grass has been largely responsible for the liberal use of the roller." A scientific understanding as to the negative effects of turf rolling on the root zone and indirectly on turfgrass growing conditions evolved in the 1950's. This resulted in a strategy to minimize rolling of putting greens in order to avoid soil compaction problems and resultant lack of aeration that restricts root growth and weakens the turf. These effects are of particular concern on greens constructed of fine-textured, clayey soils.

Turf rolling reentered the cultural program as an option with the extensive use of high-sand root zones in the construction of putting greens, and this renewed interest is being driven by the desire for fast putting greens. Use of the proper sands, such as the Texas-USGA Method, in root-zone construction results in minimal susceptibility to soil compaction problems. Such root zones may be rolled without imparting detrimental compaction effects; thereby accomplishing improved smoothness and speed of roll. This is of great interest in the putting speed may be enhanced via turf rolling, which reduces the need to utilize an excessively close mowing height that results in turf thinning and subsequent development of moss and algae problems.

The effects of turf rolling on ball roll distance were assessed with (a) a 3-gang powered mechanical roller by S. Hammon and M. Morris at Crystal Downs C.C., Frankfort, Michigan and (b) a single weighted powered mechanical walking unit by D. Kenuziorski and J. Holmes at the Grand Traverse Resort, Traverse City, Michigan. The pressure applied was 2.2 kg (4.8 lb) per lateral 25 mm (1 inch) for the former and 5.4 kg (11.9 lb) per lateral 25 mm (1 inch) for the latter. Both experimental sites were constructed of a well-drained, high-sand root zone. The turf was composed of mature *Agrostis stolonifera* subsp. *stolonifera*, (creeping bentgrass), that had a minimum mat accumulation. The nonrolled putting green ball roll distance at the test sites ranged from 2.8 to 3.3 meters (9.3 to 10.7 feet) during the duration of the study conducted in September of 1992. Five experiments were conducted to assess the effects of: (a) one-time rolled verses not rolled and (b) 4 intensities of rolling. A single turf rolling resulted in a 300 mm (1 foot) increase in ball roll distance at both locations when assessed in mid-morning of the same day, with an 150 mm (0.5 foot) increase in ball roll distance persisting through late afternoon of the same day. Comparisons of rolling intensities of 1, 2, 3, and 4 times resulted in enhanced ball roll distance ranging from 10 to 20 percent at both experimental locations. There basically was no significant difference in effect on ball roll distance between the two pressures of 2.2 and 5.4 kg per lateral 25 mm. These data demonstrate a substantial enhancement in putting green ball roll speed from turf rolling, while also greatly improving the smoothness and uniformity of ball roll. These investigations will be continued during 1993.

Two alternatives to turf rolling that may achieve increased putting green speed include (a) excessively close mowing and (b) frequent topdressing. However, very close mowing eventually introduces problems in terms of a weakened turf, with resultant thinning that provides openings for moss and algae invasion. Topdressing is more expensive and disruptive of play.

This author first observed a newly developed mobile, mechanically powered turf roller for putting greens over 7 years ago in Melbourne, Australia. It led to authorship of a turf rolling article in the January 1986 issue of *Grounds Maintenance*. Now after 6 years, the interest in turf rolling of high-sand root zone greens has increased to the point that US turf equipment manufacturers are developing powered mechanical models of turf rolls specifically designed for putting greens. A prime time for use of a turf roller to achieve increased smoothness and distance of ball roll is just prior to tournaments. There is a learning curve of proper utilization of a turf roller, as with any cultural practice being considered for routine use. A significant portion of this technical information remains to be generated.

A primary precaution in the routine use of turf rolling is to employ it primarily in situations where potential soil compaction is minimal, such as high-sand root zones of the proper particle size distribution. Soils with significant clay contents have a much greater potential for soil compaction from turf rolling, plus associated problems in maintaining turfgrasses. This may limit turf roller use at a minimal frequency if at all on clayey soils, and if used the turf roller selected should impose a lighter pressure than on high-sand root zones.

Based on the studies reported herein, and especially in view of the golfer's desire for fast putting greens, it is evident that turf rolling will become a more important and perhaps a significant routine component in the cultural maintenance program of high-sand putting greens. As with any cultural practice, turf rolling should not be viewed as a panacea to solve a multiplicity of problems. Rather, it is one additional component in a range of cultural practices available to turfgrass managers to produce the highest quality surface on a cost-efficient basis, particularly in relation to the smoothness and distance of ball roll.

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*Abstract of paper presented at 64th GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show, Anaheim, California, Jan 27, 1993.

REMEMBER!
Annual GAM/NMTMA
Meeting March 9th
and
NMTMA
MINI-CONFERENCE
APRIL 15TH

Welcome New Members

Dale Brockway, Brian Maynard, Rodney Pafford, Michael Powers and Gabe Ross..

If you know anyone interested in becoming a member of the NMTMA— i.e., mechanics, assistants, club officials, golf professionals— please contact Tom Heid at (616) 922-0502; or David Pretznaw at (616) 775-9947.

Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Honor Outstanding Students

At the 1993 Michigan Turfgrass Conference conducted in Lansing on January 5-7, the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation presented its annual student awards. The MTF sponsors a total of four awards. A student from each of the three turfgrass programs offered at Michigan State University (4 year Turfgrass Management, 2 year Golf and 2 year Lawn Care) is named as the outstanding student of that program.

Additionally, one student from the overall program is named the overall outstanding student. The Norm Kramer Award is given to the student with the highest grade point average while showing leadership characteristics and potential for future development.

The 1993 MTF Student Award Winners are:

The Norman Kramer Award (The Outstanding Scholar)— Ms. Karen S. O'Dell (see related article); Robert Hancock Award (4 year Turfgrass Management program) — Mr. Robert A. Traver; Kenyon T. Payne Award (2 year Golf program)— Mr. Michael P. Powers; Lawn Care Manager Award (2 year Lawn Care program)— Mr. Gerald P. Lavendar.

Fuller receives MTF's Meritorious Service Award

Ernie Fuller, prominent golf businessman and owner of The Links at Pinewood Golf Club, West Bloomfield, MI received the highest honor from the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation when he was awarded the Meritorious Service Award January 6, at the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation's 63rd annual luncheon.

Ernie's love for the game of golf and his desire to want to help people through golf has resulted in Ernie becoming a pioneer in the field of fund raising to benefit the turfgrass and golf industries of Michigan.

The Links at Pinewood along with Bay Point Golf Club, previously owned by Ernie, have been the sites of many golf tournaments which have raised in excess of \$250,000 for the Turfgrass Research and Junior Golf in Michigan. Furthermore, The Links at Pinewood, at no cost to the participant, host yearly tournaments which benefit Evans Scholars, Juvenile Diabetes and The Foundation for Excellence Walled Lake Schools.

Ernie has served for the past eighteen years as Chairman of the Advisory Board, Michigan Section PGA and for the last eight years has been a member of the National PGA Advisory Board. He is also a Trustee of the National PGA Scholarship Fund. In 1992 Ernie was named a Business Person of the Year in Commerce Township.



Left to right: James Bluck, Jeffrey Holmes CGCS, Karen O'Dell.

O'Dell and Bluck Receive NMTMA Scholarships

The NMTMA is proud to announce the two recipients of the NMTMA scholarship: Karen O'Dell and James Bluck. Each received \$1,000 for their outstanding performance as employees and students, and for their potential as turfgrass managers. O'Dell also received the GCSAA national scholarship. Congratulations to you both and good luck in the future. O'Dell's and Bluck's appreciation is expressed in their thank-you's reprinted below.

* * *

Dear Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association:

To begin I would like to thank the scholarship committee for giving of their time to the interviews and the selection process. I appreciate their involvement in this process during the busy holiday season.

I also want to thank the NMTMA for believing in the MSU turfgrass management program and the students so much that you would provide this award. As we all know education is an absolute necessity in this industry and for the association to support it only proves the integrity and dedication to these values.

I was very proud to be chosen as one of this years recipients of the award. I only hope that I can repay the NMTMA with my involvement in the association and by doing my best in all aspects of my career. The members of our association have always given me support and friendly advice whenever needed. I have met a great deal of the members through meetings, golf outings and the Christmas party and I have enjoyed and learned a great deal from all. The NMTMA has a very good reputation of being friendly, knowledgeable and supportive and I am proud to be a member of such a fine organization.

Once again, I would like to thank all that were involved and the association for sponsoring the award.

Respectfully,
Karen S. O'Dell

Dear Members:

I am writing to extend my gratitude to the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association and to express a special thank you to the scholarship selection committee for selecting me as a scholarship recipient.

Upon application for this scholarship, I evaluated my intentions on pursuing this award. I realized that even though the financial award would be very beneficial, the real award for me personally is to be recognized by my peers as a future leader in this profession. Being selected a recipient by a committee of members who are leaders in the turfgrass profession has increased my confidence as a person and excelled my desire to join the turfgrass field.

It is an honor to be recognized as a representative of the values upheld by the NMTMA. Again, Thank you and I look forward to carrying out these values to the very best of my ability.

Sincerely,
James L. Bluck
MSU Student

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 Phone: (313) 354-5644

303 1/2 Hawthorne St. Cadillac, MI 49601
 Phone: (616) 775-6666

We Need Your Input on GCSAA Concerns

On March 9 a subcommittee of the NMTMA Board of Directors will meet to draft a letter to the GCSAA expressing our concerns about the future of the association. Some of the issues to be discussed include certification, membership services, and the like.

If you have something you would like this committee to consider— positive or negative— please write it down and send it to Michael Morris, P.O. Box 1575, Frankfort, MI 49635.

Notice of Proposed By-Law Changes

The members present at the March 9th meeting at Michaywe' will vote on the following proposed bylaws changes. This information was published earlier in the January quarterly *Turf Times*.

ARTICLE II ADDITION:

Now reads— ". . . with a view toward efficiency, economy."

Change would read— ". . . with a view toward efficiency, economy, a responsible concern for the environment;"

SECTION V - G. SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Now reads — ". . . including those of voting and holding office as now specified under Article IV."

Change would read— ". . . including those of voting, and holding office after acquiring (3) years membership with the Association, as now specified under Article IV."

SECTION VII - F.

Now reads — "The annual meeting of the Association will be held in October at which time election of board members will take place."

Change would read— "The annual meeting of the Association will be held in October at which time election of board members, from qualified candidates, will take place."

Complimentary Mailing of Turf Times available

If you would like your owner, green chairman, or any club official to receive a complimentary copy of *Turf Times* please send their name, title and address to Michael Morris, P.O. Box 1575, Frankfort, MI 49635. You **must** renew the complimentary mailing **each year**.

Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association
 C/O Tom Reed
 3733 Apollo Drive
 Traverse City, MI 49684



Michael DeVoe Morris
 A-271
 P.O. Box 1575
 Frankfort MI 49635

