



Turf Times

Bi-Monthly
Update
August, 1994
Vol. 23, No. 4

The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

President's Message: In the Thick of It



Michael Meindersma

With this change in the weather, we have all seen increased disease pressure. I know from recent personal experience that the dollar spot, brown patch and pythium fungi are active.

As the season rolls on, we all have special events that require special treatment. Invitationals, member guest

WOW! What a roller coaster ride the last few weeks have produced, from a fairly dry spring, in regards to both humidity and precipitation, to a hot, rainy and humid period the last couple of weeks. The one thing we can't control is the weather, and we are certainly having some fun with it now.

tournaments, Pro Ams and other events give us a change to showcase our work. We just had one of those opportunities in the case of the Michigan Open, played on the Bear course here at the Grand Traverse Resort. The most rewarding aspect of the of the Open was watching our team pull together and put a great amount of pride and commitment into the preparation of the course and property. Another positive experience was working closely with the Michigan Section of the PGA, truly a very organized, hard working professional organization.

One other thought is a sincere thank you to our industry vendors who offered their support during the tournament. Although I remain advised not to mention names of those who helped out, the use of demonstrator equipment to assist in preparation of the golf course is appreciated.

I hope everyone has many successes during the rest of the season and have a good time doing it!

Use of Native Grasses for Low Budget Improvements

When looking to improve a course on a limited budget, the best possible scenarios are practices that not only add to the experience, but reduce labor time. We have incorporated one of these practices here at Cadillac C.C., and I would like to share it with you.

First, let me set up the situation here at Cadillac. We are an older club with some large areas of unirrigated, flat, virtually unplayed fine fescue roughs. Mowing these roughs with gang mowers was a very time-consuming practice, especially when the fescue was seeding. Operators would have to make several passes in different directions to get an acceptable cut.

I knew that if allowed to grow up naturally, these fine fescues make an attractive grass. In the spring the seed heads turn a light purple and later the whole plant goes straw brown. When allowed to grow in fairly large areas, both make a striking contrast to the maintained grass.

What we have been able to do is allow selected areas to grow this way and the results have been dramatic. What was a flat, blast it anywhere course was changed to a more shot-making course with vastly improved aesthetics and greatly reduced mowing time.

The real success of this project revolved around the gradual introduction of this philosophy. I knew that a wholesale grow-up similar to the conditions one would find at Crystal Downs had been tried in the past with negative reactions. Also, with the whole interior of the golf course being in-bounds and playable for years, the membership was not used to being penalized for errant shots.

We adopted a little-bit-at-a-time approach combined with educating the membership about the reasons. Honestly, the reduced labor costs, esthetic improvement, and increased strategic playability did not have as much positive effect (on attitudes) as the possibility that a seed base could be created (from allowing the fescue to go to seed) that might increase the density of the turf in the rough. Who can figure? The first year, only a couple way out of play areas were allowed to grow. Questions from the membership were dealt with and education continued. After three years we have been able to involve enough area to reduce our rough mowing time from 24 hours to 16 hours, and I hope to continue expansion even further.

During this time we found several techniques that helped the introduction. Instead of allowing vast areas to grow up, small contour mowed "islands" were done, producing better aesthetics and the possibility of an errant ball not being in the tall grass (creating easier acceptance from golfers). These "natural areas" were staked as lateral hazards to give more options for relief when the ball can not be played as it lies, which is most of the time. The density of the grass was higher than expected. One golfer (my greens chairman), broke his hand trying to hit from it. Also, the interior of some of the larger areas were seeded with wild flowers, creating cheap, low maintenance color and improving acceptance from our female members.

All in all, the project has been a great success and the labor/money saved has funded other positive projects.

Jeffrey T. Dorrell, Cadillac Country Club

1994 Calendar of Events

TENTATIVE Schedule & Locations

(* NMTMA Golf and Meeting)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
August TBA	MBCGCSA Family Picnic	Kensington Metro Park
August 4-7	BUICK OPEN	Warwick Hills G & C.C.
August 9	WMGCSA Coffee Roundtable	Forest Hills C.C.
August 10	WMGCSA Coffee Roundtable	The Moors C.C.
August 11	WMGCSA Coffee Roundtable	Marywood C.C.
August 11-14	FIRST OF AMERICA CLASSIC	Egypt Valley C.C.
August 11-14	PGA Championship	Southern Hills C.C.
* August 15	NMTMA Meeting	Alpena C.C.
August 15	MBCGCSA Meeting	Great Oaks C.C.
August 18	MSU TURFGRASS RES. FIELD DAY	Hancock Res. Ctr.
August 21-24	Michigan PGA Championship	Garland Resort
August 24	MMTMA Meeting	Pine River G.C.
August 28	Michigan PGA Shoot-out	Garland Resort
Sept. TBA	MBCGCSA Meeting	Moravian Hills C.C.
* Sept. 12	NMTMA ANNUAL FUNDRAISER	Marsh Ridge Resort
Sept. 12	WMGCSA MTF FUNDRAISER	Battle Creek C.C.
Sept. 19	MMTMA MTF FUNDRAISER	Flint Elks Club
Oct. TBA	MMTMA Annual Meeting	TBA
Oct. 3	MBCGCSA MTF FUNDRAISER	5 Clubs TBA
Oct. 4	WMGCSA Annual Meeting	Silver Lake G.C.
* Oct. 6	NMTMA Annual Meeting	Mistwood G.C.
Oct. 14	GCSAA Seminar - Employee Safety	E. Lansing Holiday Inn
Oct. 25	GCSAA Seminar - Equip. Managers	Blythefield C.C.
Oct. 25	MBCGCSA Annual Meeting	Maple Lane G.C.
Nov. 4	WMGCSA FALL PARTY	Spring Lake C.C.
Nov. 26	MMTMA CHRISTMAS PARTY	Frankenmouth



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Turf Industry Loses Mentor: "Doc" Kenyon T. Payne



Dr. Kenyon T. Payne

Dr. Kenyon Thomas Payne, Ph.D., age 76, passed away Wednesday, June 15, 1994 after a long illness. He was born January 3, 1918 in Amherst, MA, the oldest son of seven children of Loyal and Mary Payne. He grew up in Manhattan, Kansas, where his father was on the faculty of Kansas State University.

He received a Ph.D. in Agronomy and plant genetics in 1948 from the University of Minnesota. From 1948 to 1952 he taught at Purdue University as Assistant Professor with specialties in teaching and breeding of turfgrasses and forage crops. In 1952, he joined Michigan State University as head of the Department of Farm Crops. In 1984, he went to the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, as Dean of Agriculture in conjunction with the MSU/AID program for developing that university. On returning to Michigan State in 1986, in addition to his work in turfgrass breeding, he took over a program of training students for careers as turfgrass superintendents.

During his career, Dr. Payne was named a fellow in the American Society of Agronomy, and in the Crop Science Society of America. He was the recipient of the Meritorious Service Awards from the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America. He was a member of the Golf Collectors' Society and the International Turfgrass Society. In February, 1994, he was the recipient of the 1994 Green Section Award from the USGA. After retiring, Dr. Payne and Mr. Gerald Fauber formed Executive Golf Search, an industry service for golf course superintendents.

Dr. Payne loved the game of golf almost as much as he loved working with students and continually encouraged his students to hone their golf skills as much as possible. In addition to teaching, Dr. Payne collected antique golf course equipment which he and his students restored and which is part of the Michigan State University Museum Collection.

Dr. Payne will be remembered for his love of life, his rapport with students, and his bad jokes and good Scotch.

Beloved family man, Ken is survived by his wife of 51 years, Jane; sons, William (Jackie) of Lansing, Christopher (Virginia) of Evergreen, CO, Martha of Muncie, IN; grandchildren, Katie, Kristy, Molly and Megan O'Neil; 3 sisters, Ellen Payne Paullin, Martha Payne Howe and Nell Payne Nutter; and a brother, William V. Payne.

Contributions may be made to Michigan State University in memory of Dr. Kenyon T. Payne in support of the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, Golf/Turf Management Program, 4700 S. Hagadorn Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823.

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Employee Golf League

I'd like to share a program we have found to be very beneficial at Shanty Creek; our employee golf league. Our league was initiated three years ago with the idea that playing golf and working on the crew should go hand in hand. It gave crew members answers to many of their questions, such as "Why do we rake bunkers so meticulously, fix ball marks, fill divots, mark ground under repair? Why are pin placements so critical?" In the beginning, I found that many of the crew members had never played the game of golf, much less understood the rules, which explained many of the questions they were asking about maintenance procedures. The benefits the course and employees have gained from this program are remarkable. It not only has given them a good understanding of turfgrass procedures and the rules of golf, but has reinforced "Team Spirit" to its fullest.

Now to the nuts and bolts. The set up of your league is very critical to its success. You must play by the rules of Golf (this particular rule works because it compels everyone to learn the rules of golf). We play a two-man scramble, this helps the less talented golfer and takes away any intimidation the first time golfer may have. Teams are picked at random each week with the rule that you cannot play with the same partner two weeks in a row. This rule creates a good employee relationship and gives everyone on the staff the chance to meet crew members from all four departments (which includes mechanics). We alternate playing on all three golf courses; giving crew members the chance to see various turfgrass management practices. A point system is used to keep the competitive spirit alive and a dollar is charged each week to participate (all money is put in a kitty and used to purchase gifts from the pro-shop at the year-end party).

The really interesting part of our program takes place the following day when everyone shares their golf game and ideas to change or better the golfing conditions. This program may not be for everyone, but it surely has its merits and everyone here at Shanty Creek is hopeful it will continue. Good luck and enjoy your summer!

David J. Faucher
Superintendent, Shanty Creek Legend Golf Course

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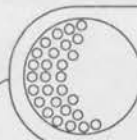
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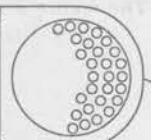
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A Superintendent's Rules Test

By James A. Sweeney, Regional Affairs Manager, North Central Region, United States Golf Association

1. A legal hole location
 - a. is at least 4 paces from any fringe area
 - b. must not have more than a three-to-one slope
 - c. is not defined in the rules of golf
2. A player's ball is in a lateral hazard. How many options does he have?
 - a. three
 - b. five
 - c. one - stroke and distance
3. A player's ball rolls into a hole made by a groundskeeper. It is not marked "ground under repair." What should the player do?
 - a. declare the ball unplayable and drop within two club lengths of the spot where the ball lay, not nearer the hole, and add one penalty shot to his score
 - b. play it as "ground under repair."
 - c. put another ball into play under stroke and distance
4. During a stroke play competition, the green crew wants to get a head start on the course for the next round. They may:
 - a. mow fairways or roughs but not greens between groups
 - b. mow anywhere on any hole behind the final group, keeping distance between themselves and the players
 - c. do any necessary maintenance without regard to the players
5. During play of a hole, the cup is damaged so as to make it unplayable. Who may fix the hole?
 - a. any player
 - b. a member of the green crew
 - c. a tournament official
6. The right side of a hole is wooded with thick underbrush. Lost balls in this area slow down play. The green committee can:
 - a. declare that any ball hit into that area is automatically lost
 - b. encourage use of the provisional ball rule
 - c. mark the area a lateral hazard
7. The teeing ground is defined as:
 - a. the area between two tee markers
 - b. an area measured from the outside edge of two tee markers which is two club lengths in depth
 - c. a closely mown area specially prepared for teeing the ball
8. Under the rules, the major areas of the golf course are:
 - a. The teeing ground of the hole being played; the putting green of the hole being played; any hazard on the course; all other areas in play which are termed "through the green"
 - b. tees, greens, hazards and grassed areas
 - c. tees, greens, water hazards, bunkers, fringes, aprons, rough, fairway, waste areas, woods and obstructions
9. Out of bounds is an area from which play is not permitted. In order to protect oncoming golfers on an adjacent hole, the committee erects in course out of bounds on a hole. The O.B. applies only to the hole being played. The committee:
 - a. acted in accordance with the rules
 - b. acted outside the rules; in course O.B. is illegal
 - c. acted outside the rules; the O.B. must apply to both holes
10. A mysterious disease has attacked the fringes around all the greens on the course. The city championship begins play tomorrow. The committee should:
 - a. mark all the affected areas "ground under repair"
 - b. do nothing; the areas of concern are so widespread that they have become part of the course conditions
 - c. adopt a local rule prohibiting play from the fringes
11. A water hazard is so situated that a player's options under the water hazard rules are limited. The committee elects to install a ball drop behind the hazard. The player:
 - a. must use the ball drop if his ball goes in the water
 - b. must use the ball drop if he elects to drop behind the hazard
 - c. may consider the ball drop as an option in addition to those provided in the rule
12. A pile of grass clippings has been accumulating in a disposal area adjacent to a hole. A player's ball comes to rest next to the pile. The player may:
 - a. take relief under the "ground under repair" rule
 - b. play his ball as it lies or declare it unplayable
 - c. take relief under the immovable obstruction rule
13. When both stakes and lines are used to mark a water hazard:
 - a. the stakes identify the hazard & the line defines its margin
 - b. the lines identify the hazard & the stakes identify its margin
 - c. the lines and stakes are there only as a courtesy to the player; the water hazard margin begins at the water's edge
14. A player's ball comes to rest in a divot hole. The divot is lying, roots up, adjacent to the hole, but still partially attached to the ground. The player may:
 - a. remove his ball from the divot hole, repair the divot and then replace his ball on top of the repaired divot
 - b. play the ball as it lies or declare the ball unplayable
 - c. detach the divot, cast it aside, and then play the ball
15. A violent though brief afternoon storm has left the golf course wet but playable. Some areas have standing water, others are soft but a player cannot see water around his feet when at address. Players:
 - a. will get relief from casual water in both situations
 - b. will get relief from the standing water but not from the soft areas
 - c. will get casual water relief from the standing water and relief from "ground under repair" in soft areas
16. A pile of brush in the left rough of a hole will be removed later in the day. A player's ball comes to rest near the pile. The pile interferes with the player's follow-through. The player:
 - a. may take relief from the pile, which is deemed "ground under repair"
 - b. must play the ball as it lies or declare it unplayable
 - c. may move his ball only enough to allow a free swing
17. Player A's ball comes to rest in a water hazard. The player can play the ball, but an immovable obstruction in the hazard interferes with his swing. Player B's ball comes to rest outside the hazard, and his swing is restricted by the same obstruction.
 - a. both player A and player B get relief from the obstruction
 - b. neither player gets relief from the obstruction
 - c. player B gets relief; player A does not
18. A player's ball comes to rest on a putting green other than the one of the hole he is playing. The player must:
 - a. play the ball as it lies
 - b. drop the ball at the closest point which is off the putting surface and not closer to the hole
 - c. proceed under stroke and distance
19. A player's ball is embedded in rough. The local rule allowing relief in this situation is in effect. The player lifts his ball, drops it according to the rules, and the ball rolls almost two club lengths, coming to rest in the fairway. The ball:
 - a. is in play
 - b. must be redropped, and must remain in the rough
 - c. such a local rule is not allowed; the player must replace his ball in its original pitch mark and add one penalty stroke
20. Player A's ball lands short of the green and spins backward, making a pitch mark in the fringe between the ball and the hole. Player B's ball subsequently lands on A's line, also making a pitch mark in the fringe. Player A is entitled to:
 - a. fix both pitch marks
 - b. fix neither pitch mark
 - c. fix B's pitch mark, but not his own

Answers on Page 7

Internship Responsibilities: A Two-Way Street

As the first weeks of summer come and go, it marks the half-way point for many student's summer internship at many of Northern Michigan's finest golf courses. With as many as seven students (from MSU's 2 year turfgrass program alone) among us, let us review some of the basic responsibilities of both the student toward his employer and golf course, and that of the superintendent toward his intern.

To take on an intern is no small matter for a superintendent. Most students will only enjoy one summer internship, and it is vital it succeeds. A minimum of 20 to 30 minutes a day should be spent in direct communication between the Golf Course Superintendent, or his assistant, and the student. Knowing your intern's objective list, the main link of communication between the two, will help you in scheduling your intern's jobs and projects. At least once a month, the Golf Course Superintendent should take a couple of hours and tour the golf course with his intern.

For the intern, you must make sure your superintendent knows your needs according to your objective list, while at the same time respecting the fact that your superintendent is very busy, and has a lot to accomplish. Most never have enough time in any given day to do all the things he or she would like on the golf course. Remember, you are an employee of your golf course. You get paid good money while receiving an education, and dedication to your golf course and its superintendent is above all else in priority.

Rich Fadely, Legend Golf Course

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...Rules Test Answers

Continued from Page 5

1. (c) The rules of golf do not define a "legal" hole location. In fact, technically, the hole doesn't have to be on the green! However, a minimum of four paces from any fringe and a reasonably level area of six or more feet in diameter is a well-accepted rule of thumb for hole selections.
2. (b) The five lateral hazard options are 1) play it as it lies, 2) stroke and distance, 3) keeping point where the ball last crossed the margin of the hazard between you and the hole, 4) using the point of last entry as reference, drop a ball within two club lengths of that point no closer to the hole, and 5) on the opposite margin of the hazard, find the point equidistant to the hole from the point of last entry and drop within two club lengths of that point, not closer to the hole. (Rule 26)
3. (b) A hole made by a greenskeeper is "ground under repair", whether or not so marked. (Rule 25)
4. (b) This doesn't directly relate to the rules, but in stroke play, mowing between groups changes the playing characteristics of the course, and is inequitable. In match play, there would be no problem because each match is a separate competition.
5. (c) Tournament officials should be called in to assess the damage and make repairs. Often a cup cutter is called in to assist. In the absence of an official, the players may attempt to fix the cup. In an extreme case, the hole may be repositioned in a similar area. (Rule 16; Dec. 16-1a6)
6. (b) Lateral hazards are water hazards. (Rule 26) Wooded or overgrown areas may not be marked as lateral areas unless they carry water. Losing your ball is, unfortunately, part of the game. The provisional ball rule helps to alleviate the slowdown of play.
7. (b) It is important to note that tee markers of the hole being played are fixed parts of the golf course, just like an O.B. stake. Tee markers on other holes are moveable obstructions.
8. (b) The rules may apply differently in each area. (Definitions)
9. (a) Other in course O.B. situations include the clubhouse area and the driving range. Although discouraged, in course O.B. can protect golfers and force the player to play the hole as it was designed. (Dec. 33 - 2a12 and 14)
10. (b) "Ground under repair" is an abnormal ground condition. Generally poor conditions, regardless of cause, are simply that - poor conditions which the golfer must deal with. (Rule 25)
11. (c) The player should always have the option to play the game under the rules. The only exception is for "ground under repair" from which play is not permissible. This may refer to flower beds or newly seeded or sodded areas. (Dec. 33 - 834)
12. (b) Grass clippings or other material which is abandoned (i.e. will not be removed) isn't "ground under repair"; it is in play. (Rule 25)
13. (a) In USGA championships, we avoid using stakes when possible.
14. (b) Attached divots are deemed to be fixed or growing. Therefore, the ball must be played as it lies, and the divot may not be fixed until after making the shot. (Dec. 13 - 25)
15. (b) In order to get relief from casual water, a player must be able to see water around his feet or the ball at address. Soft or muddy ground without visible water is not casual water. (Definitions)
16. (b) "Ground under repair" extends vertically downward but not upward. Since the piled material interferes only with the player's follow-through, which is above ground, the player is not entitled to relief. (Definitions)
17. (c) Relief is granted only if the ball lies outside the water hazard. There is no relief from immovable obstructions if the ball lies in a water hazard. (Rule 24)
18. (b) The player must take relief from the wrong putting green. Wrong putting greens include practice greens, but no turf nurseries. The player may stand on a putting green to play a shot from off the green. A local rule requiring dropping away from a fringe area may be adopted. (Rule 25; Dec. 33 - 833)
19. (a) Both rough and fairway areas are "through the green"; thus, the ball is in play. The ball must be redropped if it rolls more than two club lengths, or stops in a hazard, putting green, or out of bounds. (Rule 25 - 2; App. I "Lifting An Embedded Ball"; Rule 20)
20. (c) A player is entitled to the lie and shot which is the natural consequence of the preceding shot. Since A's ball created a pitch mark, A can't repair that pitch mark. But B's ball altered the conditions of A's next shot. Thus, A may repair B's pitch mark. (Dec. 13 - 28)

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GCSAA Staff realigns to provide improved member services

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has announced a series of changes in its management structure and staffing designed to reflect a renewed commitment to outstanding member service. The changes resulted from months of strategic planning and analysis involving the association's board, member-driven committees and the entire GCSAA headquarters staff.

GCSAA CEO Stephen F. Mona, CAE, called the new structure "more efficient, more effective and more reflective of the needs of today's superintendent." He added, "Our objective is to become one of the nation's finest service organizations by the year 2000. These changes create the structure needed to accomplish that goal."

Among the key changes announced were:

- Creation of three new departments in the areas of chapter relations, career development and technical information services.
- Consolidation of public relations, government relations, publications and advertising sales functions into a single communications department.
- Merging marketing functions with management of the annual GCSAA Trade Show and Golf Championship.

"The new departments will help us fulfill critical member needs," Mona said. "Our members told us they wanted stronger ties between GCSAA and chapters, more employ-

ment assistance and a "one-stop" source of technical information, so we put people and resources in those areas."

Two of three leadership roles for the new departments have already been filled. Don Bretthauer, formerly manager of Pacific Rim operations, has been named manager of chapter/international relations. David Bishop, formerly director of education, has been appointed manager of technical information services. A manager of career development will be named in coming months.

Pat Jones, formerly director of development, has been appointed director of communications. He succeeds Clay Loyd, who has announced his retirement after 11 years with GCSAA. Chris Caldwell, formerly managing editor of GCSAA's Golf Course Management (GCM) magazine, has been named editor-in-chief. Terry Ostmeier, formerly special projects editor for GCM, has been appointed managing editor. Sharmion Linseisen, formerly assistant editor, has been appointed associate editor.

Robert Shively, formerly director of marketing and sales, has been appointed director of marketing/conference and show. Bonnie Stephenson, formerly conference coordinator, has been appointed manager of conference events. Pam Owens, formerly manager of exhibit sales, has been appointed manager of expositions and tournament.

Patricia McCarthy, formerly director of administration, has been appointed director of central services. Marc Lim, formerly computer operations coordinator, has been appointed manager of management information services. Gwen Denton, formerly administrative assistant, has been appointed manager of human resources. Beverly Schuster, formerly production clerk, has been appointed supervisor of the mail and production center.

Dr. Jeff Nus, technical editor for GMC, has assumed the additional duties of manager of research.

Carol Hayes, formerly manager of communications, has been appointed manager of executive communications.

Jennifer McCaughey, formerly membership coordinator, has been appointed manager of membership.

Betsy Evans, formerly regional seminar coordinator, has been appointed manager of regional seminars.

Nationwide searches are underway to fill five new management positions and vacancies created by the realignment.

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