



Turf Times

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The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

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President's Message . . .



President
Michael Meindertsmas

Happy 1994 to everyone! I am looking forward to an exciting, educational and fun year for the NMTMA. Before commenting on 1994, let me touch on 1993 for a moment.

1993. It was a great year for your association. I hope that you all got as much from our offerings as possible. We had many educational opportunities, were able to experience many excellent golf courses at our summer meetings and fundraisers, and had many chances to share ideas and develop a strong camaraderie among our group.

Our successes in 1993 would not have been possible without excellent leadership. We all owe a big thanks to Jeff Holmes for his enthusiasm, vision and time spent to better our organization. Jeff's three-year term was filled with accomplishments that we can all be proud of. We must now continue on our mission that Jeff has guided us on for the past three years. Thank you, Jeff.

1994 will be filled with opportunity for all involved with the NMTMA. The Michigan Turf Foundation Conference is just around the corner. The GCSAA Annual Conference and Show will be held in Dallas in February. Also in February, the NMTMA & GCSAA are presenting a two day regional seminar on Protection of Water Resources to be held in

Gaylord. March and April offer our Golf Association of Michigan and Michigan State University Mini-Conference educational meetings. Before we know it, we will be attending our summer golf and educational meetings and our annual Association fund raisers. All educational meetings promise to offer diverse topics and opportunities to exchange ideas and experiences during the season that will soon be upon us.

Hopefully, you can, and will, take advantage of these opportunities. These events are easily the most valuable educational opportunities at our disposal.

I want to personally invite you, and encourage your participation, not only in our meetings and conferences, but also to offer your input and assistance in guiding the association. Don't hesitate to give your opinions and ideas to your board members. The strength of our group lies in our diversity and progressive attitude.

Finally, a simple wish that 1994 brings you health and happiness. Good luck in all you do.

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RECYCLED PAPER

NMTMA Will Subsidize Member Attendance at February Meeting

By David Little, CGCS

NMTMA will be sponsoring its first GCSAA Regional Seminar - *Protection of Water Resources* - Basic Hydrology for turf managers, on February 23 & 24 at Treetops Sylvan Resort near Gaylord.

Registration fees, which include luncheons on both days and take-home reference materials, will be \$200.00 for GCSAA members and \$230.00 for non-members. NMTMA members that are not associated with GCSAA are encouraged to attend this timely seminar. Our organization is willing to reimburse our non-GCSAA members \$30.00 at the time of registration at Sylvan Resort on February 23, 1994. You **must** be registered in advance with GCSAA to attend.

Seminar topics, instructed by Dr. Richard Parizek and

Scott Harrison, both from Pennsylvania State University, cover fundamental principles of hydrology of both surface and groundwater interactions of water - petroleum - agricultural chemicals. Also discussed will be contamination and degradation pathways. Completion of the course and passing of the test will earn a certificate and 1.4 CEUs toward recertification.

Seminar registration can be made by contacting GCSAA Regional Seminars at (913) 832-4444.

Overnight lodging is the individual's responsibility. Treetops Sylvan Resort will be holding 15 rooms at \$59.00 per night, single or double occupancy. Evening skiing will also be offered at a reduced rate. Reservations can be made by calling 1 (800) 444-6711.

Change of Address, Membership Application info available

Any member with a change of address should immediately contact

**Thomas J. Reed
3733 Apollo Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684.**

He should also be contacted if any person would like to apply for membership in NMTMA.

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Mechanic's Corner

By Brian Holmes, Superintendent, Lost Lake Woods Club

Spraying the bottom of cutting decks with liquid wax, such as car washes use, helps make the deck easier to keep clean and easier to clean off when maintenance is needed.

Letters to the Editor

You can communicate directly with the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association and your fellow members by writing to:

Turf Times

c/o Mike Morris
P.O. Box 1575
Frankfort, MI 49635

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Building a Pond

By Brian Holmes, *Lost Lake Woods Club*

What are we going to do with that large wet area in the fairway?

Every spring and fall, and after heavy rains, this area holds water for weeks. When golf carts travel through it the turf is damaged - sometimes beyond repair. Mowing also damages the turf. So what ARE we going to do with it? Let's dig a pond!

This is what we decided to do with our #8 fairway at Lost Lake Woods. The area was a depression at the bottom of a small hill about 80' X 120'. First, Miss Dig was called so any utilities could be located and marked. Next, the general shape of the pond was marked out and a transit was used to determine how level the area was for the pond, and where the water level of the finished pond would be. The water level needed to be determined so a ditch for overflow could be planned. It was determined that the bank at one end of the pond would need to be built up by two feet to attain the desired water level.

The usable sod from this pond area was then stripped off and saved. The sod was later used to resod the banks to the water level when the pond was finished.

The digging started with a test hole to determine if the material under the topsoil would hold water or if a liner

would be needed. With 16 plus feet of solid clay the need for a liner was eliminated. It took 32 hours to dig the pond, using a club-owned back-hoe and two five-yard dump trucks. The last ten yards of material from the pond was used to build up the low end of the pond.

The pond was then filled, using the irrigation system, to the desired level. A weir was installed at the overflow ditch to maintain the water level, and the banks were sodded to the water level.

The finishing touch to the pond was a "fountain". This consisted of a 1 1/2 inch PVC line off the irrigation system into the middle of the pond, with a cap drilled out to form a trumpet pattern. A gate valve was installed on the line to control the pattern and also to turn off the fountain.

The pond was built with all in-house labor and materials. Final cost of the project was \$435.00 - mostly for fuel and a few fittings for the fountain.

The pond has solved a maintenance problem, and adds aesthetically to the golf course.

The things that made this project worthwhile were all the positive comments made regarding the new pond. This has encouraged us to attempt other similar projects in the not too distant future.



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Who's in charge of keeping these amazing ecosystems in harmony with nature? Today's golf course superintendents. They're part troubleshooter, part business manager, part scientist and all environmentalist — dedicated to making our world a greener place.

WE KEEP GOLF GREEN.



NMTMA Member News

New Directors Take Office

Mike Meindertma.....President
 Brian Holmes.....Vice President
 Tom Reed.....Executive Secretary

New Directors are Mark Wildeman, Pat Mertz, and Dave Foucher (replacing Kathy Antaya).

Thanks to Jeffrey Holmes, Michael Morris and Kathy Antaya for their dedication in past years.

'93 NMTMA Chapter Golf Champs

Tom Brogger..... Low Gross
 Howard Altman.....Low Net

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Wear the NMTMA logo proudly on your sport coat with a new stitched pocket medallion. Cost is \$20.00. Contact Tom Reed for more information: (616) 943-6343.

NMTMA to host GCSAA Seminar

Mark your calendars for February 23-24 as the NMTMA and GCSAA present "Protection of Water Resources" in Gaylord. See enclosed article for more information.

93-94 NMTMA Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to **Scott Pulaski** and Best Wishes from the NMTMA.

New Newsletter Format in '94

In an effort to better serve the membership we will be sending our newsletter bi-monthly in a ten to twelve page format. Meeting announcements will be mailed on post-cards. Let us know how this works for you!

Golf & Meeting Locations Needed

Please contact Brian Holmes if you are interested in hosting an outing in May, July or September of 1994 or any time in 1995.



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The Religion of Golf

By Larry Gilhuly

It is my imagination or has there been a movement out there by a select number of golfers who actually believe the GAME of golf is more than just a game? These fanatics who insist that under all circumstances putting greens should be maintained at or above ten feet, that fairways should be maintained both firm and uniformly green, that bunkers should be maintained such that bad lies are never a possibility, and that tees should be maintained perfectly flat and mowed to a height that only a military barber can appreciate!

At the same time, they want roughs at 2" or higher and the golf course set up for championship competition. Oddly enough, these same fanatics seem to have forgotten that most golfers have handicaps of 16 and above.

Guess who's caught in the middle of this? You guessed it, the golf course superintendent. Regardless of the physical state of the irrigation system, topography, weather conditions, turfgrass species, amount of play, size of greens, soil type and countless other circumstances, they are expected by this vocal minority to perform miracles in turf care.

To this minority of vocal players, I wish you would remember one thing. That is, golf is a game that is supposed to be fun! Sure, it is exasperating and difficult, but it is not a matter of life or death. If your ball lands in a wet spot - play

it! If your ball is buried in a bunker - hit it and continue on your way! If your ball does not roll far enough on the first green - adjust your putting stroke for the rest of the round!

There are far too many golf course superintendents whose livelihoods are being threatened by those that look at golf as a religion rather than a game. For those of you that have still not gotten the message, allow your superintendent to do the following:

Maintain greens at a moderate speed that puts the turf first and the speed second. Most golfers truly prefer smoothness over speed with an 8'6" - 9' Stimpmeter reading being entirely acceptable for normal play.

Maintain conditions in the fairways such that large areas of turf are not lost due to deficit irrigation. Remember, the superintendent's main function is to keep players from messing up their own golf course!

Let us realize that golf course superintendents have an entire staff and family that rely on their decision-making skills. While golf should be a game to golfers, it is a livelihood to the superintendent. We should all try to remember this fact the next time we explode after missing a four footer and immediately blame everyone but ourselves! It truly does put the GAME of golf in its proper perspective. Hallelujah!

The Ohio State University Golf Course Maintenance Short Course

The eighth annual OSU Golf Course Maintenance Short Course will be conducted January 17-21 at the Holiday Inn on the Lane in Columbus, Ohio. This short course will provide current and valuable information on golf course turfgrass maintenance. Emphasis will be placed on principles of soils and fertility, weed control, entomology, plant pathology, and golf course design for tournaments.

The short course is designed for all golf course personnel including golf course employees, foremen, and superintendents seeking a more formalized training in turfgrass maintenance.

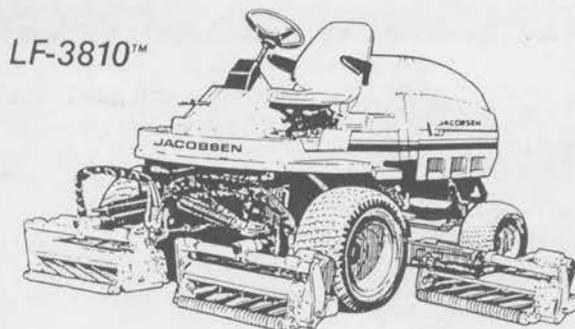
Attendees will qualify for recertification credits from the Ohio Department of Agriculture for Licensed Pesticide Applicators. Certified Golf Course Superintendents will qualify for continuing education units from the GCSAA.

The registration fee is \$350. The deadline to register is when 60 applications have been received. Lodging facilities are available at the Holiday Inn on the Lane, or other local hotels.

For more information, please contact Barbara Bloetscher at (614) 292-7457 for short course content, or the Department of Conferences and Institutions at (614) 292-4230 for course registration.

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DowElanco Awards Safety Items

DowElanco Specialty Products awarded nine turf and ornamental professionals with safety items from the company's *Responsibility Comes First* product stewardship program. Recipients were chosen from a random drawing during the Green Industry Expo in Baltimore, Nov. 15-18.

Winners of an Emergency Eyewash Station were: Doyle Watson, Belle Mead Country Club, Nashville, TN; Mark Spence, Lawn-Tech, Ltd., Tinley Park, IL; Ed McGuire, The Lawn Company, S. Dennis, MA; Mike Shaw, D.L. & L.S., Inc., Columbia, MD; and Les Wilshusen, Mike's Lawn Service, Storm Lake, IA.

Other winners, listed with their respective prizes, were: James Beaver, Landmaster, Gastonia, NC, Spill Response Kit; Dale Amstutz, Northern Lawns, Omaha, NE, Decontamination Kit; Scott Schrader, Service Master Lawn Care, Moline, IL, Personal Safety Kit; and Edward Lennon, Lennon Lawn Service/Lawn Doctor, Sanderstown, RI, Spill Response Station.

DowElanco developed the *Responsibility Comes First* program to assist businesses in responding to safety and regulatory issues in a responsible and cost-efficient method. By purchasing active ingredients available in DowElanco branded turf and ornamental pesticide products or formulated goods, businesses earn points to redeem for safety items.

For an information brochure about *Responsibility Comes First* or to participate in the program, turf and ornamental professionals should call 1-800-352-6766 or contact their local DowElanco sales representative.

Handbook of Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals

Lewis Publishers announce the release of the *Handbook of Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals*, an essential reference providing complete coverage of integrated pest management (IPM). With more than 40 recognized experts, the book details the rationale and benefits of employing an IPM plan, as well as providing technical information on each aspect of plan development. This handbook integrates research work on pest problems with information on the practical implementation of the tools, and provides case studies of successful operations.

Topics covered in the *Handbook of Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals* include the dynamics of the urban landscape, preparation for a healthy landscape, blemishes on the perfect landscape, integrated management of weeds, insects and disease, biological controls (current and those under development), and new generation chemical controls. Additional areas include special considerations for golf courses, and combining the pieces to develop an integrated pest management plan.

Handbook of Integrated Pest Management for Turf and Ornamentals is available for \$95 from Lewis Publishers, 2000 Corporate Boulevard, NW, Boca Raton, FL 33431, (800) 272-7737 (within the continental US) or (407) 997-0555 (outside the continental US).

Deadline extended for Golf Course Maintenance Book

Superintendents' Handbook for Golf Course Maintenance & Construction, which will consist of a "cookbook" format with the chapter topics including putting greens, fairways, roughs, wildlife management, equipment, IPM, etc., has extended its deadline for submission of entries to April 10, 1994. The entries sent in will then be used to develop the chapters on maintenance and construction practices that superintendents have successfully used at their golf courses.

"Contributions at all levels, from superintendents across the country, have been received," says editor Dr. Trey Rogers of Michigan State University. He added, "This is an excellent opportunity to give back to the industry, and to receive full recognition now and forever in a published form. Superintendents should bear in mind that what might be elementary to them may be a brand new page to others. To this end, they should consider all of their ideas bookworthy."

Contributions should be 1-5 pages in length, and include photographs to aid in describing the practice. Topics as diverse as tee marker strategy, philosophy for green committee meetings, and how to build a retaining wall are welcomed. All contributions will be reviewed by an editorial board of distinguished superintendents.

For more information and/or to receive a contribution packet, please write: **Handbook for Superintendents**, PO Box 799, Okemos, MI 48805-0799.

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GCSAA Names Writing Award Winner

The 1994 Leo Feser Editorial Award will be presented to Thomas A. Christy, CGCS, golf superintendent at Riverside Golf & Country Club in Portland, OR.

The award is presented annually to the author of the best article written by a member of the GCSAA and published in the association's magazine, *Golf Course Management (GCM)*. It recognizes service to the profession via excellence in writing for the professional journal.

Christy will be recognized Thursday, February 3rd, 1994, during the opening session of GCSAA's 65th International Golf Course Championship and Show in Dallas. The conference and show is hosted annually by GCSAA, whose Magazine Committee selects the winning article and author. *GCM* is GCSAA's monthly turfgrass and golf course industry technical publication.

Christy's prize-winning article, "Redesigning Equipment Washdown Pads," was published in the April 1993 edition.

In his article, Christy described an innovative system that he devised for wash water containment and recycling. The system was inspired by regulations put into effect by the federal Clean Water Act and local water-use restrictions enacted as a consequence of the Western drought.

The award is named in honor of Leo Feser, a pioneer golf course superintendent and a charter member of the GCSAA.

Feser is credited with keeping the association's official publication alive during the Great Depression. For three years he wrote, edited, assembled and published each issue of the magazine from his home in Wayzata, MN.

Largest Ever Donation Launches Internship Program

Students from around the United States will have an opportunity to earn while they learn, thanks to a new program created by a partnership between the O.M. Scott & Sons Co. and the GCSAA Scholarship & Research (S&R).

The O.M. Scotts Scholarship Program will offer students summer internships with Scotts corporate and field sales staff and on golf courses throughout the country. Students who successfully complete their internships will then be eligible for special Scotts/GCSAA collegiate scholarships. The goal of the program is to identify outstanding students from non-traditional backgrounds and give them a broad introduction to the industry.

"We're looking for ways to open doors for young people who traditionally haven't been well-represented within our industry," said Dick Stahl, general manager of Scotts Pro Turf Division. "Scotts and GCSAA have formed a unique partnership to accomplish that goal."

To fund the program, Scotts will provide grants totaling more than \$150,000 over the next three years. The gift is the largest ever made to GCSAA S&R by a corporation. GCSAA President Randy Nichols, CGCS, called the grant "a superb investment in the future of our industry."

"Scotts has always been tremendously supportive of

GCSAA and its membership. This program takes that support to new heights," said Nichols. "The company really is serious about being a leader in this industry and it's willing to back it up financially. I can't tell you how good it feels for a company like Scotts to make a commitment like this. It's a real vote of confidence for GCSAA and its membership."

To find out more about the new O.M. Scotts Scholarship Program call GCSAA's development department at (913) 841-2240. Complete details and applications will be available in early spring.

GCSAA Selects New Executive Director

Steve Mona has been named Executive Director/CEO for the GCSAA by the association's board of directors. Mona, of Marietta, GA, has been the Executive Director of the Georgia State Golf Association since 1983.

In announcing the GCSAA board's selection, GCSAA President Randy Nichols, CGCS, noted that the association is at the threshold of advancing to the next level in its 67 year history, and it is vital that leadership with a clear vision be on board.

"Steve Mona's experience has given him the kind of knowledge and perspective essential in guiding GCSAA to its next level of development," Nichols said. "The fact that his background has been focused within the world of golf associations is clearly a big plus for us."

"He brings to our top executive's position an established familiarity with the game's key organizations, an outstanding record as a leader, and the attitude of a genuine "people person". We look forward to having him represent GCSAA, and we anticipate continued success as we move ahead with him at the helm," Nichols said.

Mona, 36, has established a strong career record of service to the golf industry, beginning in 1980 with a two-year stint as tournament director of the Northern California Golf Association. He then spent a year as assistant manager of press relations for the USGA. In 1983, Mona became executive director of the Georgia State Golf Association.

In addition, Mona has served as president of the International Association of Golf Administrators, of which he remains a member. Besides sitting on the Golf Administrators board, Mona has been a director of the National Golf Foundation and an officer and member of several Georgia golf associations, as well as a leader among civic and association groups.

His background includes relationships with the turfgrass industry as well. He is a director of the Georgia Turfgrass Association, a trustee of its Foundation Trust and also a member of the advisory committee for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College's Turfgrass Management Program.

Mona received a B.A. in journalism (cum laude) from San Jose State University in 1980. He and his wife, Cindy, have three children.

Mona will be on the job at GCSAA headquarters by early January, in time for a quick orientation before the association's annual conference and show in Dallas.

GCSAA Names New Financial Officer

Julian Arrendo has been named chief financial officer (CFO) by the board of directors of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). Arrendo was formerly vice president and CFO of Midwest Titan Construction Co., in Olathe, KS.

GCSAA President Randy Nichols, CGCS, said of the GCSAA board's hiring of Arrendo, "The position of Chief Financial Officer for this association (a new executive at GCSAA headquarters) brings with it maximum responsibility and accountability to our membership. I am confident that Julian Arrendo's past success, fine reputation and deep-seated integrity all speak with consistent accuracy of what we can expect from him.

"The growth of GCSAA over the past decade has been paralleled by strong growth of revenues and our operating budget," Nichols said. "Julian comes to this position well-equipped to exercise the professional oversight required to effectively manage and monitor our finances."

Prior to his responsibilities at Midwest Titan - a commercial general contractor with a \$50 million annual budget - Arrendo spent several years in the Kansas City office of Touche Ross & Co., a leading national accounting firm.

Arrendo, 35, graduated from Rockhurst College, Kansas City, MO, with a business administration degree. He and his wife, Monica, have four children.

Arrendo began at GCSAA December 1, 1993.

GCSAA Announces New Operations Officer

Joe O'Brien has been named chief operations officer (COO) by the board of directors of the GCSAA. O'Brien formerly was the president of the American Hotel Foundation (AHF).

On the selection of O'Brien, GCSAA President Randy Nichols, CGCS, said, "Among the strengths Joe brings to GCSAA are the experience he gained with his previous employers and the many friends he has made in golf. His skills, talents, nature and background should mesh nicely with the other members of the GCSAA executive team."

O'Brien previously worked for the PGA of America from 1973 to 1990. He began as assistant director of education. Three years later, he became director of education. In 1983, O'Brien became manager of membership services. He was promoted to senior director for strategic planning in 1987.

O'Brien then went to Marriott Golf, Bethesda, MD, where he served for two years as senior business developer. For the past year, he has been president of the AHF, which advances the hospitality industry by providing financial assistance for education, research and developing travel awareness.

O'Brien, 48, holds a bachelor of science degree in marketing from the University of Illinois, and a master of business administration degree from DePaul University. He and his wife, Nancy, have two children.

O'Brien will start his COO responsibilities this month.

PLCAA Introduces New Certification Program for Turfgrass Professionals

At a November 17 press conference in Baltimore, the Professional Lawn Care Association of America announced the availability of the new *Principles of Turfgrass Management* training course and certification program.

The program, developed in conjunction with the Univ. of Georgia, leads to the designation of Certified Turfgrass Professional. It is the first comprehensive national training course and certification program for the lawn care industry.

Principles of Turfgrass Management is structured as a home study correspondence course. It covers 14 topics appropriate for all regions of the United States.

"In planning the course program, we wanted it to set a standard for the turfgrass industry in all parts of the country," said PLCAA Executive Vice President Ann E. McClure.

Course author Dr. Keith Karnok, Professor of Agronomy at the University of Georgia, says the program will allow lawn care operators to learn the technical aspects of turfgrass management without having to attend structured lectures or labs. "Along with the experience of working in the lawn care field, professionals receive valuable training on topics of great importance in today's industry," he said.

Topics covered include: Types of turfgrass; Adaptation to soil and climate; Fertilization; Mowing & irrigation; Insects, weeds & pesticides; Turfgrass diseases; Environmental issues & regulations; & customer relations.

In addition to earning the designation of Certified Turfgrass Professional, those who successfully complete the course (by passing two monitored exams) will earn 12 Univ. of Georgia Continuing Education Units (CEUs), equivalent to 120 hrs of training. CEUs are recognized as a standard training unit in business and industry.

Also, some states recognize completion of technical correspondence courses as having satisfied requirements for pesticide recertification credit. A list of states approving the course for such credit will be available after March 1994.

According to McClure, PLCAA member Steve Derrick of Orkin Lawn Care was instrumental in garnering support for the program through the association. "Steve's efforts made it possible for us to benefit from the expertise of the Agronomy Department at the Univ. of Georgia."

The course enrollment fee is \$275 per person. Discounts for multiple enrollments from the same company are available. Those interested in participating should call the University of Georgia at 706-542-1756. PLCAA members should call 1-800-458-3466 for information on special rates.

Program contributors include: Orkin Pest Control; Miles Specialty Products; O.M. Scott; Lesco; Lawnmark Lawn Care; Sandro Agro Inc.; The Andersons; PLCAA Education & Research Foundation; ISK Biotech; PBI Gordon; and Sunbelt Seeds.

GCSAA has developed correspondence courses on the following timely and important topics

Personal Stress Management

.7 CEU

Ways to deal effectively with stress are discussed in this course which explains the benefits of "good" stress and the warning signs of too much "bad" stress. Exercises include an assessment of your personal stress level and structured activities for managing stress.

Community Right-To-Know

.7 CEU

This correspondence course will help you understand and comply with the Federal Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act which may affect your golf course maintenance operation. You will also receive instruction on developing a chemical emergency preparedness plan specific to your workplace. Tips on crisis communication round out this course.

Time Management

.7 CEU

Emphasis is on both personal and professional time management. Exercises provide opportunities for uncovering the major culprits that cut into productivity and effectiveness. Time wasters and reasons for procrastination are identified, with clear methods for eliminating these stumbling blocks.

Media Relations

1.2 CEUs

This course focuses on providing techniques and procedures for you to deal effectively with the media. Story writing, establishing media contacts and public relations are discussed in detail.

Underground Storage Tank (UST) Monitoring and Recordkeeping

.8 CEU

A full discussion of the regulations regarding leaks and cleanup procedures is included. EPA compliance requirements and a plan for establishing and maintaining contact with state and federal agencies is also presented in detail.

Hazard Communication Program

1.5 CEUs

By completing a series of exercises and activities, you will develop the materials required for compliance with the Hazard Communication Standard, including a written program, employee training procedures, recordkeeping and documentation.

As demands on the time of golf course superintendents increase, options for accessible continuing education - particularly programs that allow superintendents to work at their own pace without requiring them to take time away from their jobs - are becoming more and more appealing.

No one can argue with the value of attending a seminar. Having the opportunity to learn from experts in a classroom setting as well as to share concerns and experiences with colleagues who best understand them can be extremely beneficial. However, correspondence course learning provides an often-needed alternative. These courses allow superintendents the freedom to work in their homes as their schedules allow.

These GCSAA correspondence courses are designed to be completed in 7 to 15 hours and contain extensive reference materials that can be added to your own professional library. This benefit allows you to refer to the materials whenever you want to refresh your skills or understanding. Upon successful submission of each course's exercises, the number of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) designated above and a certificate of achievement will be awarded. The cost of each course is \$50.

For more information or to register for courses, call the GCSAA Education Department at (913) 832-4444 or 1 (800) 472-7878.

Turf Beds Down for Long Winter's Nap

Michigan State University News Release

The Silverdome turfgrass is like a prizefighter after a big match.

It's laying around, growing, sucking down water and fertilizer. After all, it has gone where no athletic turf has gone before.

Inside.

The turfgrass that Michigan State University turf management scientists John "Trey" Rogers, James Crum, Paul Reike and research assistant John Stier created for the 1994 World Cup Soccer Tournament is getting ready for a long winter's nap.

Well-deserved, since it had a big summer.

After being successfully nurtured, the grass was planted in 1,850 hexagons, 88 triangles and 60 trapezoids and moved into the Silverdome to form a 232-foot by 375-foot field.

There, rolled and mowed into prime condition, fully withstood the pummeling of a U.S. Cup soccer game and other contests in June.

Now the MSU turf management team is gearing up for the latest challenge in its landmark project to provide high-quality turf for one of the world's biggest sporting events.

"One thing this grass has never done is go through winter on the Silverdome parking lot," Rogers said. "So no one really knows what will happen. We don't have a long history of performance of grass on Silverdome parking lots, so we're not going to take any chances."

The field has summered on the Silverdome parking lot, taking up 400 parking spaces that are worth seven dollars apiece.

But the high-priced real estate doesn't necessarily mean Utopia for turf. While the grass in our yards freezes mainly on top, the turfgrass also is subject to freezing from the bottom, thanks to the shallow trays in which it lives.

"It would be like going on a three-day drunk and not eating," Rogers said.

The turf team placed 1,200 sandbags across the field's perimeter to help block the icy winds that can rake across the lot. They then covered the field with a tarp for further protection.

Meanwhile, Rogers and crew continue their research at the "Silverdome West" - a domed mini lab they've built at the Hancock Turf Facility on the southeast side of campus. It duplicates the conditions at the Silverdome, allowing them to continue with their studies.

"What we do is pretty boring to most folks, but it makes our eyes light up," said Rogers.

There's little room for error in work done under a spotlight. Soccer is virtually religion across the globe. In 1990, 1.5 billion people tuned in to watch the World Cup. That's roughly a third of the world's population.

In Las Vegas on December 19, the FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association, soccer's world governing body) Final Draw placed the 24 World Cup qualifying nations in seeded brackets throughout the nine venues.

The event is expected to pull in as many as 1,200 journalists from around the world - and even more focus on the pioneering turf.

The Pontiac Silverdome will host six nations. The opening match will be on June 17, 1994.

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Pesticide News Briefs. . .

Pro Star 50WP (flutolanil) Receives EPA Registration

Nor-Am's Pro Star 50WP fungicide received EPA registration for use on turf to control brown patch, red thread, pink patch, yellow patch, Southern blight fairy ring, gray snow mold and large brown patch. It can be used on both warm and cool season grasses.

2,4-D Carcinogenicity found Inconclusive

A joint committee of EPA's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) and Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) found no conclusive evidence of a cause and effect relationship between 2,4-D exposure and non-Hodgkins lymphoma (NHL) in a draft report. Principal reviewer Dr. Margaret Kripke, an immunologist with the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas, asked the special joint committee to state explicitly that evidence is lacking both for and against any relationship between the herbicide and NHL cancer.

Special joint committee chair Dr. Genevieve Matanoski, Johns Hopkins University epidemiologist, replied that, while absolute risk from 2,4-D is small at best, she would recommend a continuation of ongoing studies because of widespread use of the herbicide.

Kripke called the SAB members' emphasis on rodent bioassays "misplaced" and suggested that animal studies of 2,4-D generally have been "pretty uninformative".

Additional follow-up of the farmers and lawncare operators does make sense, she said.

The special group down-played findings from a single epidemiological study of dogs exposed to the herbicide. The review **draft** cited evidence suggesting that "these animals are at risk from exposure to 2,4-D or use of a lawncare service." In the final draft, the finding is that dogs *may* be at risk from 2,4-D exposure, and reference to lawncare service is *deleted*.

The report recommended the following steps to help resolve the 2,4-D controversy:

- 1) completion of EPA-requested rodent studies
- 2) animal carcinogenicity studies that test 2,4-D with other substances that might reflect the human exposure situation
- 3) a replication of the dog epidemiology study
- 4) additional case/control studies, with careful attention to exposures, particularly multiple exposures
- 5) human studies, particularly cohort studies designed to assess both relative risk of NHL and comparative risk of all mortality (or all disease incidence, if possible)
- 6) additional follow-up and analysis of worker cohorts involved in production of 2,4-D.

Credit: Pesticide Notes, November-December 1993

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The 1800 Utility Vehicle brings benefits of hydrostatic drive to spraying & spreading jobs.



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Opinion Page: On Service

By Matthew Trulio

When my wife left her job and went back to school three years ago to pursue a Ph.D., I moonlighted as a waiter to make up for the lost income. Four days a week I'd leave my office and head for this madhouse restaurant in Los Angeles, wait tables until midnight, then drive home. I'd usually get to bed by one a.m., get up at 6:30 a.m., and be back at my desk by 7:30 a.m. For two years, that was my everyday schedule.

Now if this is starting to sound like one of those stories your grandfather used to tell about walking barefoot through snow to shovel coal 26 hours a day, forget it - I enjoyed it, at least for the first year. The money was great, the people I worked with, most of them younger than I, were full of life and promise. Plus, in many ways, being in the service business, and being good at it, is immensely satisfying and rewarding.

The restaurant was almost always crazy - line out the door every night, loud bar, louder kitchen, and many, many regulars. You would "turn" your six-table station no less than five times in a night, meaning you'd wait on at least 30 tables in a five-to-six hour period.

The regulars were often demanding and difficult. They

"... in many ways, being in the service business, and being good at it, is immensely satisfying and rewarding."

knew the menu better than most of the servers and felt perfectly comfortable making up their own dishes (one item became so popular the owner put it on the menu). They were also our bread and butter, especially on those rare slow nights.

One Friday evening, I waited on one of my favorite regular customers. He was one of the more popular regulars - he used "please" and "thank you," and if you served well, he tipped well. On this particular evening, he wanted something special from the kitchen, something we'd done before many times, but couldn't always do. There was a rather "gray" policy on special orders, usually left to the server's and the kitchen's discretion.

On this particular night, I said no. The customer went through the ceiling. He cited numerous instances where we'd done it before. I tried to explain that there were reasons we couldn't always make the dish, the primary one being the general craziness of the kitchen at the moment, but the customer challenged any explanation I tried to give. Being human, I eventually became defensive, and started to argue when he said, "This is the worst service I've ever had.

I can't believe you'd treat a good regular customer this way."

I stopped right there - it's amazing how a moment of lucidity can penetrate even the darkest rage. I knew I'd always given him excellent service before. I also knew that at this moment the past didn't matter. Service is a matter of today, right here, right now, not yesterday. I was saying no because I was busy, didn't want to make the extra effort, and because *I could*. It was my call, not his - he knew nothing about the business.

I was saying no for all the wrong reasons and probably would have kept on saying it had he not challenged my "service."

I apologized and brought him what he wanted. The rest of the night went beautifully. Most importantly, a regular customer was not lost.

How does this apply to sports turf management? We're all in the service business, folks, and it's easy to say no. Sometimes it pays to pause and take a look at why we're saying it.

Credit: Sports Turf

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1993-94 Calendar of Events

Dates Subject to Change
(* NMTMA Dates to note)

JANUARY

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
3-5	WISCONSIN TURFGRASS & GREEN INDUSTRY EXPO	Holiday Inn W., Madison
18-20	MTF 64th ANNUAL TURFGRASS CONFERENCE	Holiday Inn South

FEBRUARY

1-2	G.C.S.A.A. GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP	Austin Texas
3-7	G.C.S.A.A. ANNUAL CONFERENCE & SHOW	Dallas Texas
23-24	G.C.S.A.A. SEMINAR	Treetops

1994 NMTMA MEETING DATES (dates, times & locations to be announced)

March	GAM/NMTMA SEMINAR	
April	MSU/NMTMA MINI CONFERENCE	
May	OPEN	
June	MTF FUNDRAISER	Matheson Greens
July	OPEN	
August		Alpena C.C.
September	OPEN	
October		Mistwood Golf Course

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