



Turf Times

Bi-Monthly
Update
June, 1994
Vol. 23, No. 3

The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

Michigan Turfgrass Benefit Day to be Held June 20th at Matheson Greens G.C.

Dear Golfing Friend;

The Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association is proud to announce that the 1994 Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Benefit Day will be held at Matheson Greens Golf Course on Monday, June 20th. Steve White and Gary Pulsipher have done an outstanding job designing the scenic course that traverses 330 beautiful Leelanau Peninsula acres that vary in topography from large cedar areas to orchard meadows and hardwood hills with wonderful views. The natural beauty and design of the course was complemented by the addition of Pat Mertz as golf course superintendent in April of 1991. His attentive concern over the past few seasons has helped Matheson Greens mature into a truly fine golf course. Our hosts for the day, who have established the tradition of excellence and friendly hospitality at Matheson Greens, are owners Dave Warm Senior and Dave Warm Junior. With the success generated from previous MTF benefit tournaments and the fine reputation Matheson Greens Golf Course has already earned, we are anticipating that

our 1994 Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Benefit Day will be a continued success.

This is a great event for you as a NMTMA member to support. The funds generated at this year's and at previous MTF Benefit Days have been donated to the MTF to help fund projects and research that benefits all of us in the jobs we perform. This is our only fund raiser for the MTF and your attendance will help us reach our donation goal. If you have not attended recently make a commitment to attend this year's event and if you're one of the regulars we depend on so heavily, make sure to get your foursome registered early for your preferred tee time. This is a great place to bring members of your board or club to meet some of the members of your association and learn about the worthy causes we support.

Sincerely,
David J. Little, CGCS
(MTF Benefit Chairman)

Note: see enclosed entry form.

GCSAA Response to the Wall Street Journal

To: GCSAA Leaders and Other Interested Parties
From: Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, GCSAA President
Re: Wall Street Journal Article

Attached is a copy of the GCSAA's response to the article that appeared in the May 2 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*. We hope the response helps you and your colleagues answer questions from your members and the media about the story. We plan to distribute a fact sheet designed to help members respond to these questions soon. In the meantime, we urge you to distribute this to anyone in your area to whom it may be helpful.

We also encourage you to respond appropriately to this or any other article that tends to misinform the public about our practices. Please keep in mind that we are professionals and that it's important that these responses be well-documented, reasonable and calm.

Feel free to contact any member of the board or the following GCSAA staff members, with your questions about the article or ways in which the association can help you respond:

Steve Mona, CEO
Joe O'Brian, COO
Pat Jones, Director of Development
Scott Smith, Public Relations Manager
Kirk Kahler, Government Relations Manager

(Continued on Page 3)

Classified Advertising

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT NEEDED: Call Joe Hancock at The Rose in LeRoy, Michigan: (616) 768-4037.

FOR SALE: '83 Ford Tractor with seven (7) unit Roseman hydragang. Call Martin Fuchs at Oakland Hills Country Club: (810) 433-0679.

SALE OF WORLD CUP FIELD: Soil - \$8.00 per ton. Sod - \$.63 per square yard. Modules - \$100.00 each (module only). Complete Modules - (includes soil, sod and module). Sale begins June 29th and lasts through July 1st. For information, call (810) 456-0905.

1994 Calendar of Events

TENTATIVE Schedule & Locations

(* NMTMA Golf and Meeting)

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
June 13	WMGCSA/MBCGCSA Meeting	Arbor Hills C.C.
June 16-19	U.S. OPEN	Oakmont C.C., PA
* June 20	NMTMA/MTF FUNDRAISER	Matheson Greens C.C.
June 23-26	FORD SENIOR PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP	TPC of Michigan
June 26-29	MICHIGAN OPEN	Grand Traverse Resort
June 30-July 3	U.S. SENIOR OPEN	Pinehurst C.C.
* July TBA	NMTMA Meeting	Hidden Valley G.C.
July 12	WMGCSA Meeting	Winters Creek G.C.
July 18	MBCGCSA Meeting	Heather Hills G.C.
July 21-24	U.S. WOMEN'S OPEN	Indianwood C.C.
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



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GCSAA Response...

(Continued from front page)

May 5, 1994

Mr. Ned Crabb
Letters to the Editor
Wall Street Journal
200 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10281

Dear Mr. Crabb:

Your publication has always led the way in debunking eco-myths (e.g., the Alar scare), so I was surprised at Timothy Noah's article on the environmental criticism that has been leveled at golf courses of late.

Instead of highlighting the remarkable efforts being made to ensure that golf courses are environmental assets for communities, the article failed to identify the underlying motivation behind the criticism, revived a questionable New York "study," and suggested that those in my profession were irresponsibly using pesticides merely to make courses green and pretty. That's unfair and here's why!

1. The great majority of the criticism directed at golf courses has been generated by local interest groups who wish to stop a particular development. We agree that communities should have the right to control their own destinies, but it often seems to be at the expense of our industry's reputation. In short, golf courses everywhere have been victimized by feverish anti-growth rhetoric in a few communities.
2. Golf course superintendents are widely recognized by the regulatory community as being among the best-educated, most judicious users of pesticides. These professionals are leading the way in the use of integrated pest management practices, high tech application systems and new generation chemicals and biological controls. As the United States Golf Association's forthcoming research report and numerous previous independent studies show, the products we use on our existing golf courses do not tend to migrate into ground or surface water - despite some dire and often undocumented claims to the contrary.
3. The report on golf course pesticide usage on Long Island issued by former New York attorney general Robert Abrams contained a great deal of alarmist language with little or no scientific documentation. It cannot be considered to be a valid representation of real-life golf course management practice.

(Continued on Page 10)

Letters to the Editor

You can communicate directly with the NMTMA and your fellow members by writing to:

Turf Times

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

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GCSAA goes "Prime Time"

Golf course management and a different view of the world of golf are the feature attractions in a new weekly television show airing on PRIME, a national sports cable television network, and its affiliates.

The show, entitled "Par for the Course," produced by the GCSAA, debuted March 28 on PRIME. GCSAA President Joseph G. Baidy, CGCS, made the announcement.

Every week, "Par for the Course" will take an innovative look at the world of golf by presenting topics on the game's cutting edge. Each episode is 30 minutes in length and the entire series will run for 13 weeks.

"Par for the Course" is unique in its format because it seeks to entertain and educate viewers not only about how to play the game of golf, but also what it takes to make the game enjoyable," said Baidy.

Because most golfers and other casual observers are not fully aware of the benefits a golf course can provide, "Par for the Course" will spotlight regular features about golf's environmental attributes and other course management issues. Education on etiquette, golfers' responsibilities and rules of the game will also be emphasized.

In addition, each week "Par for the Course" will highlight great places anyone can play, conversations with major figures in the world of golf, practical golf instruction, and trends shaping golf's future.

"Par for the Course" will be written and produced by GCSAA. GCSAA Public Relations Manager Scott Smith will produce the show and veteran sportscaster Duke Frye will serve as co-producer and host of the show.

PRIME is distributed to 22 regional sports networks nationwide, serving more than 40 million subscribers. PRIME's global division, Prime International, currently distributes programming around the world to affiliates in Asia, Europe and South America.

At this time, 19 of the 22 affiliates and the international division have agreed to distribute "Par for the Course."

"Par for the Course" represents an excellent investment by GCSAA to increase awareness and enhance the image of golf course superintendents around the country and around the world," Baidy said. "Plus, it's yet another opportunity for viewers to discover what makes golf such a great game."

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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Turfgrass Diseases

When it comes to controlling turf diseases, "timing is everything." Some diseases can destroy entire greens or fairways in a matter of hours, leaving little time to react. Understanding the life cycles, symptoms and solutions to major turf diseases can put you a step ahead in the pursuit toward healthy and attractive.

Pythium Blight is characterized by slow-growing, thinned or discolored turf and a general decline of turf. Under hot, humid conditions, Pythium Blight can destroy entire turf stands in a matter of hours.

Because of its ability to spread rapidly, Pythium must be stopped before it gets started. Since the disease is virtually always present in the soil, fungicide applications should be made whenever conditions are right for disease emergence. Using the "150-rule," Pythium is understood to be most likely to emerge when the sum of temperature and relative humidity are "150" or greater. For example, a temperature of 75 degrees and a relative humidity of 75 would total exactly 150. The greater the number, the greater the chance of Pythium problems.

One way to increase a turf's ability to withstand Pythium infection is to ensure that it has good surface and subsurface drainage. Deep, infrequent watering and the use of a balanced fertilizer are also good cultural practices. Watering should never be done in late afternoon or evening, however, and grass should never be mowed when it is wet.

Drechslera fungi cause one of the most common diseases in nearly every species of grass: leaf spot. These fungi can infect turf in a matter of hours when temperatures range between 70 & 90 degrees and humidity is 70 percent or higher.

Leaf spot is characterized by small, purplish-black spots on the leaf blades and larger spots with brown centers and darker brown to purple borders. Severely affected leaves turn reddish-brown to straw color. In advanced stages, Drechslera will cause turfgrass areas to thin and die, producing yellow-brown patches.

Maintaining a cutting height of 1.5 inches or higher and avoiding application of soluble nitrogen fertilizers until the end of early-spring growth flush are important cultural controls for leaf spot. Consistent irrigation can also protect turf from Drechslera fungi.

Fusarium Blight Complex is composed of fusarium blight, summer patch and necrotic ring spot. The pathogens responsible for these diseases can lie dormant in soil for extended periods, with the disease generally emerging during dry summer periods when temperatures range from 70-100 degrees. Outbreaks can also occur during the fall, and drought-stressed turf in full sun is especially vulnerable to the disease.

Fusarium blight complex produces small, round areas on turf where all plants have root rot. Plant crowns and stems turn brown or black and feel tough or hard, and large circular areas or rings of bleached turf appear as the disease progresses.

To protect turf from fusarium blight, thorough irrigation during spring and fall is necessary to reduce the potential for drought stress. Nitrogen should be applied in a balanced formulation, and heavy nitrogen applications should be avoided during the spring. It is also important to clean machinery thoroughly, so that infection will not be spread by spores.

Lanzia and Moellerodiscus are the pathogens responsi-

ble for dollar spot disease, one of the most persistent fungal diseases in managed turf. Dollar spot emerges when daytime temperatures range from 60-80 degrees, with cool, dew-producing nights.

Dollar spot can attack all turfgrasses but is particularly likely to infect turf on soil that is dry and low in nitrogen. Turf symptoms include round, one-to-three inch sunken patches that join to form large, patchy areas as the disease develops.

Deep, infrequent irrigation and improved air flow across turf can help protect turf from dollar spot. It is important to avoid watering in late afternoon or evening, and to maintain adequate nitrogen and potassium levels during summer months.

Rhizoctonia is the pathogen responsible for brown patch, a common warm-weather disease characterized by purplish-green, circular patches that fade to light brown or tan. Brown patch strikes all grass species, with bentgrasses usually suffering greater damage from disease infestations than coarser grasses.

Outbreaks of brown patch are promoted by extended periods of 75-90 degree temperatures and 99-100 percent humidity. Cloudy weather and dew formation also encourage disease development.

To protect turf from brown patch, good drainage and air flow should be maintained. Deep, infrequent irrigation is another important cultural practice to follow, while watering in late afternoon or evening should be avoided.

Pink Snow Mold is a turf disease characterized by circular or irregular-shaped patches with whitish-pink spores on leaves, as well as whitish-pink mycelia which is visible early in the morning. This highly destructive disease is prevalent in areas that experience heavy snowfall or extended periods of cool, wet weather - usually ranging from 30-60 degrees.

Pink snow mold patches typically appear in late fall, winter or early spring, and are often first noticed when snow cover begins to melt. Snow mold usually only attacks grass leaves, but may also cause rotting of the crowns, which in turn kills the plant.

If snow mold has been a problem in the past, it is advisable to avoid excessive fall fertilization. Balanced fertilizer applications and an increased exposure to sun on affected areas are important to maintaining healthy turf. Improving drainage and air flow, as well as preventing heavy snow buildup in susceptible areas will also protect turf from pink snow mold.

Red Thread is characterized by small patches of tan, dead leaves interspersed with healthy leaves. In advanced stages, the disease can be identified by red, pink or orange mycelial 'threads' that grow from leaf tips and sometimes connect several blades of grass in the affected patch.

Outbreaks of red thread usually occur in the spring or fall, when temperatures range from 60-75 degrees. Dew, fog and light rain can also prompt emergence of this disease, which often attacks grass that is drought-stressed or is growing slowly due to inadequate nitrogen levels.

In addition to increasing levels of nitrogen, cultural control of red thread includes keeping a soil pH of 6.5-7.0 and maintaining adequate levels of potassium, phosphorus and lime. Deep, infrequent irrigation and increased air flow across turf can also help to protect it from disease.

Credit: ChipCo® Turf Brief

Mechanic's Corner

Have you ever come across a bolt or hex head screw in a tight position where the only tool that would work was a socket? Then, to make matters worse, the hex head was stripped or the corners were rounded so the socket slipped.

Try putting a layer or two (depending on the size of the head) of aluminum foil over the head of the bolt. Lightly tap the socket over the foil and bolt head. When the socket bottoms out over the head keep your fingers crossed and turn slowly. Replace screw before retightening.

Gregory J. Riley, Mechanic
Huron Breeze Golf & C.C.

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Dave Marr to Speak at GAM's 75th Anniversary

The Golf Association of Michigan is pleased to announce that Dave Marr, one of the most respected golf television analysts and former PGA champion, will be the keynote speaker at the Association's 75th Anniversary black-tie dinner on October 18, 1994, at the Ritz-Carlton in Dearborn.

"We are indeed fortunate and happy to have such a widely recognized and respected national golf figure to be our featured speaker," said John Standish, current president of the Golf Association of Michigan. "Dave Marr's accomplishments as a player are quite impressive and his long tenure as a noted TV golf analyst place him at the top of his profession."

Marr, 60, currently resides in Houston, Texas. His PGA Tour career was highlighted in 1965 when he won the PGA Championship and was named to the Ryder Cup Team the same year. In 1981, he was honored by being selected to Captain the Ryder Cup Team for the United States.

His long list of accomplishments include being a member of the Collegiate and Texas Golf Halls of Fame, a member of the Captain's Club at the Memorial in Muirfield Village, Ohio, and in 1990 was the recipient of the prestigious Met (N.Y.) Golf Writers Gold Tee Award for his contributions to golf.

Marr will long be remembered for his 21 seasons of being the expert analyst of the U.S. Open and other major events on ABC-TV, from 1970-1991. He now is a golf announcer for BBC (London) Sports. He has been the Director of Golf at Princeville, Hawaii and served as the Tournament Director of the Nabisco-Dinah Shore LPGA event.

Marr is expected to address a group of more than 600 people in the Michigan golf community who will be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Golf Association of Michigan, formerly the Detroit District Golf Association. Founded in 1919, the DDGA changed to its current name in 1960.

The DDGA was started in 1919 with 14 charter clubs. The Golf Association of Michigan membership now numbers more than 250 clubs and courses and over 56,000 individual members.

Of the 14 original clubs, 11 are still in existence. The clubs include: Auto Country Club (now Pine Lake Country Club), Brooklands, Essex, Oakland Hills, Detroit Golf Club, Grosse Ile Country Club, Meadowbrook, Phoenix, Birch Hills, Country Club of Detroit, Riverview, Lochmoor, Red Run and Bloomfield Hills Country Club.

The GAM conducts numerous championships, including the state's most prestigious amateur event - The Michigan Amateur. Education is among its highest priorities, with

(Continued on page 8)

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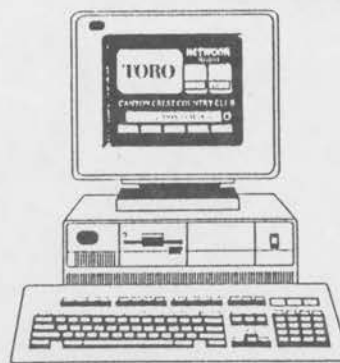
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Dave Marr to Speak at GAM's 75th Anniversary...

(Continued from page 7)

seminars covering topics ranging from those for golf courses superintendents, to rules of golf, handicapping & course ratings, club leadership and public golf operations.

In general, the GAM promotes and preserves the traditions of the game of golf in Michigan. It is the recognized United States Golf Association (USGA) representative for USGA Handicapping and Course Ratings in Michigan. Some of its activities involve support of the Evans Caddie Scholars Program at both the University of Michigan and Michigan State University and financial support of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

Ticket information on the 75th Anniversary Dinner will be available soon. Inquiries should be directed to:

The Golf Association of Michigan
37935 Twelve Mile Road
Suite 200
Farmington Hills, MI 48331
(810) 553-4200

Nominations Sought for the Golf Association of Michigan (GAM) Distinguished Service Award

The Golf Association of Michigan's Distinguished Service Award recognizes those individuals who have contributed to the Game of Golf in Michigan. Character and sportsmanship are important considerations.

Nominees for the Award are solicited from golf clubs, golf organizations and individuals. Names should be sent to the Golf Association of Michigan accompanied by a cover letter and a summary sheet which highlights the nominee's contributions and accomplishments.

Each nominee will be placed on file with the Association's Club Relations Committee which will then select the honoree. **Please submit your nomination(s) in writing no later than Friday, July 15, 1994.**

Presentation of the 1994 Distinguished Service Award, the highest to be given by the GAM, will take place on Monday, August 29, at the annual Club Representatives Day at Forest Lake Country Club.

Previous winners of the Distinguished Service Award include:

- 1988 John Brennan, Oakland Hills Country Club General Manager.
- 1989 Warren Orlick, Golf Professional at Monroe & Tam O'Shanter and past-president of the PGA of America.
- 1990 Gerald Faubel, golf course superintendent at Saginaw Country Club and a past-president of the GCSAA.
- 1991 Nancy Koustas, Dearborn Country Club, active participant in general golf, president of the Women's District GA, member of the USGA Women's Committee until her death in May, 1991.
- 1992 Betty Richart, Ann Arbor, active in the Women's District GA, the Women's Michigan Golf Association and a former chair of the USGA Women's Committee.
- 1993 C.E. "Tuck" Tate & Ray Maguire. Tate was a founder of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, and Maguire was the long-time professional at Birmingham Country Club and died just weeks before the awards presentation.

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GCSAA Response...

(Continued from Page 3)

4. The quote suggesting that golf courses are "naked" with chemicals "to get the grass looking real nice" goes to the heart of the biggest fallacy about golf course management practices – that these products are used for purely aesthetic reasons. This is simply not true. The primary reason to prevent pest damage is to ensure the playability of the course and the value of the property and as community green space. They employ hundreds of thousands of people, dramatically increase the value (and therefore the tax base) of the adjacent property and provide recreational and physical fitness opportunities for more than 25 million Americans each year. In short, they are more than just pretty playing fields.
5. As the author correctly noted, the study our association commissioned to gather information on causes of death among GCSAA members over the past 25 years cannot and should not be used to imply that a cause-and-effect relationship exists between occupational chemical exposure and human health. We asked the University of Iowa to conduct the study simply to establish a baseline for a long-term, in-depth study of all health and safety questions facing our current members. We are piloting that study this year. As for the lead investigator's statement that it's a "prudent strategy" to reduce opportunities for pesticide exposure among golf course workers, the GCSAA agrees wholeheartedly. That's just common sense.
6. Finally, I felt that the illustration that accompanied the article (a cartoon that depicted golfers in "moon suits") was not reflective of the content. Return to the Alar scare for a minute. The most unfortunate part of that whole unsavory story was that people stopped a very healthy activity (eating apples) because of an extremely remote health risk. Your illustration flippantly creates an impression that golfers have something to fear. Nothing in our study or any other credible scientific research indicates that golfers are at risk.

In closing, I urge any golfer who has a question related to this article to contact his or her local golf course superintendent to find out the real story. Ask your superintendent about wildlife on the course, about the realities of chemical management practices, about the course's environmental philosophies. I think golfers will find the real story much more positive than the one presented recently in these pages. I also urge the *Journal* to revisit this subject in the future and to take a much more comprehensive approach.

Sincerely,

Joseph G. Braidy, CGCS
President
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America

Stop Snow Mold

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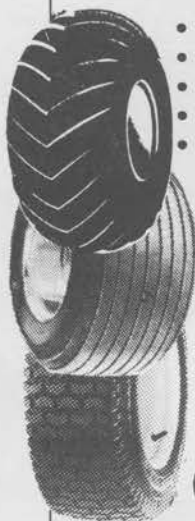


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