



GCSAA AFFILIATE

# Turf Times

Monthly Update  
July 1995

Vol. 24, No. 7

The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

## *Golf Course Mechanic's Meeting Thursday, July 27 at Alpena Country Club*

The Northern Michigan Golf Course Mechanic's Group will be holding their second meeting of the season at Alpena Country Club on Thursday, July 27th at 9:00 a.m.

The host mechanic is Craig Roland. The Golf Course Superintendent is Rick Warren.

The guest spaker will be Ed Pizola of the Fauver Corporation. Ed will be speaking about hydrostatic drive transmissions. This is one seminar you won't want to miss.

The cost for lunch is \$6.00, and for golf afterward is \$10.00. For reservations and directions, call Craig Roland at (517) 356-3740. Upcoming Mechanic's Meetings will be held on: August 16 at Matheson Greens, (diesel troubleshooting and hydraulics); and September 13 at Shanty Creek (grinding).

## **July Golf and Meeting: White Pine National**

We hope many of you made it to our last meeting at White Pine National. Golf and speaker were exceptional. Thank you, Clem and Bruce, for having us.

## *Greenspeed: A Test & Some Thoughts*

A small experiment designed to show the influence of greenspeed on downhill putts reveals some interesting data that should help put the issue of greenspeed in proper perspective.

We all know how to use the stimpmeter and in doing so we look for level areas to determine greenspeed. Things get distorted however, because the golf ball is usually not played to or putted on level ground during a round of golf.

To conduct uphill and downhill tests sections of my practice green were mowed at various heights and frequencies to achieve 8', 9' and 11.5' stimp-meter readings. The 8' section tested to an average of 7' uphill and 12.5' downhill on approximately a four degree slope. On the same slope the 9' section showed 8' uphill and 18.5' downhill. The

(continued on page 4)

CLIP AND SAVE

### **1995 Meeting Schedule**

August 14 .....	Grayling Country Club
September .....	The Natural, Gaylord NMTMA Fundraiser
October 10 .....	The Legend, Bellaire Chapter Championship

### **1996 Meeting Schedule**

February 21 & 22 .....	NMTMA/GCSAA Seminars: .....
	Human Resource Management & Drainage Systems-Gaylord

## **- NOTICE - NEXT MEETING:**

Monday, August 14  
Grayling Country Club  
10:00 a.m. Shotgun  
Brian Conklin, Superintendent

Watch *Turf Times* for details

# '95 Michigan Turfgrass Field Day Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Registration & Coffee
- 9:15 a.m. Introduction:  
**Dr. Bruce Branham, Moderator**
- Welcome:  
**Jon Maddern**  
*President, Michigan Turfgrass Foundation*
- Dr. Fred Poston**  
*Vice Provost and Dean  
 College of Agriculture and  
 Natural Resources  
 Michigan State University*
- 9:30 a.m. Research On Tour  
 2 Concurrent Tours:  
 1. Lawn/Athletic Field  
 2. Golf Turf
- 11:00 a.m. Trade Show Opens
- Noon Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Equipment Auction

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*I've met a few people in my time who were enthusiastic about hard work. It was just my luck that all of them happened to be people I was working for at the time. - Bill Gold*

## The 1995 Michigan Turfgrass Field Day

The 1995 Michigan Turfgrass Field Day will be held Thursday, August 17, at 8:30 a.m. at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, East Lansing, Michigan.

Advanced registration (includes lunch and tour book; non-refundable) by August 10th: \$15.00. On Site Registration: \$25.00.

### THE 1995 TURFGRASS FIELD DAY ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

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# Fazio to receive superintendents' highest honor

Tom Fazio, one of golf's top course designers, has been named the recipient of the Old Tom Morris Award from the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Fazio, a resident of Hendersonville, N.C., will be presented the award in a special ceremony during the annual banquet and show of GCSAA's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show on Feb. 10, 1996, in Orlando, FL.

GCSAA established the Old Tom Morris Award to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the game. The award is named in memory of Old Tom Morris (1821-1908), greenkeeper and golf professional at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland. Morris, a four-time winner of the British Open (1861, '62, '64 and '67), also was ranked as one of the top links designers of the nineteenth century.

"GCSAA is honored to pay tribute to Tom Fazio's lifelong contributions to the game," said GCSAA President Gary T. Grigg, CGCS. "His commitment to the game and to his community - especially all the personal time he devotes to the Boys and Girls Clubs - is a great example of the spirit that Old Tom brought to golf."

Fazio, a native of Norristown, PA., began his career as a golf course designer in the suburban Philadelphia office of the Fazio family firm in the 1960s, assisting his uncle George Fazio in course construction. In 1972, he established his own firm with an office in Jupiter, FL.

Fazio has been involved with the detail design and construction of golf courses all over the United States. Most noted of those courses are: Shadow Creek, Las Vegas, Nev.; Black Diamond, Lecanto, Fla.; Wade Hampton, Cashiers, N.C.; The Quarry at La Quinta, Calif.; Wild Dunes, Charleston, S.C.; World Woods, Homosassa, Fla.; and many other prestigious courses. In 1995, he was voted the best present-day architect by *Golf Digest* magazine.

Fazio joins Arnold Palmer (1983), Bob Hope (1984), former President Gerald Ford (1985), Patty Berg (1986), Robert Trent Jones Sr. (1987), Gene Sarazen (1988), Juan "Chi Chi" Rodriguez (1989), Sherwood Moore (1990), William Campbell (1991), Tom Watson (1992), Dinah Shore (1993), Byron Nelson (1994) and Dr. James Watson (1995) as recipients of the award. The GCSAA board of directors selects the Old Tom winner.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education, information and representation to more than 14,500 individual members from more than 50 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession, and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.

## REMINDER:

**1995 Clean Sweep** - The MDA 1995 Clean Sweep Program implementation is underway. Program application forms have been mailed and preliminary publicity initiated. Tentative collection sites and dates are listed below:

SITE	COUNTIES	DATE
Cadillac	Manistee, Missaukee, Osceola Wexford	Aug. 26
Watervliet	Berrien, Cass, Van Buren	*Aug. 28
Traverse City +	Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix Emmet, Gr. Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau	Aug. 26
Clarksville	Barry, Ionia, Mecosta Montcalm	Sept. 20
Hart	Lake, Mason, Muskegon Newaygo, Oceana	*Mid Sept.
Hudsonville +	Allegan, Ottawa	Aug. 22
Kalamazoo	Branch, Calhoun, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph	*July 29
Mich U.P.+	Delta, Mackinac, Menominee, Schoolcraft, Iron, Dickinson	*Mid Sept.

\* Date not finalized

+ Location(s) not set - to be determined by participant response. Michigan U.P. committee plans on using milk-run format used last year.

If you are not one of the counties listed above, but you know growers who want to participate, call the Extension agent in the nearest county that is part of the '95 program. Otherwise, call Chuck Cabbage, MDA, at (51&0 373-9744, and he may be able to make arrangements.

## Responsible Chemical Use How the Public Views It

There's no question in the minds of consumers about the benefits of specialty pesticides (used on turf and ornamentals), but there are concerns about their responsible use, according to results of a public opinion survey commissioned by RISE Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment).

The study assessed public attitudes toward the value and risk of specialty pesticides and was conducted among the general public, rather than consumers who specifically purchase and use pesticides.

The survey consisted of qualitative and quantitative research. Eight focus groups were conducted at four different locations. The key findings show:

- Many Americans clearly see the benefits of pesticides and are willing to balance their personal and environmental health and safety concerns with these perceived benefits.
- The most trusted sources of information on pesticides are local government agencies, extension services, poison control centers and departments of health.
- Professional applicators are thought to be safer with pesticides they apply, even though they are thought to use stronger pesticides than homeowners.
- The majority of people use some form of pesticides. Controlling household insects/rodents ranking first with 64 percent. Garden care/outdoor insect control ranked second with 48 percent, while lawn care ranked third with 38 percent. One in 10 respondents indicate they currently use a lawn care company.
- Approximately half of those surveyed believed pesticides made available to the public are thoroughly tested, with the remaining respondents indicating they are unsure if pesticides are thoroughly tested. (From The Label, 3/1995)

# Greenspeed: A Test & Some Thoughts

(continued from Front Page)

11.5' section gave readings of just over 10' uphill and 31.5 downhill. Obviously, the significant numbers here are the downhill measurements. A ball putted downhill on a 11.5' green will roll almost twice as far as a ball putted downhill on a 9' green when putted with the same amount of force. The 2.5' difference the level ground measurement would indicate is misleading.

Do we really want downhill putts to roll 30' when hit with stimpmeter testing force? It seems unlikely that the early golf course architects, whose styles we revere and copy, had extremely slick surfaces in mind when they designed the green contours or planned the approach shots.

We've all heard club members beam with pride that their greens are firm and rolling 11' or more while describing the hapless efforts of players tortured on these greens. Do the golfers really understand just what has been created? The golf course has been redesigned by adding a penalty to shots that finish above the hole which changes the playability away from the golf course architects original intent. Aggressive play becomes foolish and the target changes from the hole to the area below the hole. This may be justifiable to some extent for professional or top amateur competitions. A steady diet of extremely fast greens for 8, 15 or 25 handicap players seems misguided.

We all saw what happened at Pebble Beach during the 1992 U.S. Open. rock hard extremely fast greens combined with high winds did a good job of embarrassing most of the world's best players. A great golf course went from being challenging to being unplayable. Should we make a difficult game that much more difficult and more frustrating?

When the U.S.G.A. and the P.G.A. of America strive for stimpmeter readings of 9.5' to 10.5' for their national championships, should golf course superintendents or club officials in an attempt to protect their golf course from low scoring maintain their greens at excessive speeds? Good golf holes reward good shots and penalize bad ones but they don't indiscriminately penalize all shots that have to roll downhill. Maybe some holes and some golf courses are just plain meant to yield low scores to good play.

Where will this quest for greenspeed end? A 9' reading on the stimpmeter used to mean fast greens. Now it's only average. Possibly in a few years we'll just spray greens with Roundup and water them every other day to keep the dust down. The point of my thoughts is to suggest that we strive for the smoothest, healthiest surfaces possible where the ball rolls true. Not the hardest fastest surfaces where the ball will not stop rolling.

—Richard Spear, *The Hole Nine Yards*, Dec. 92 issue

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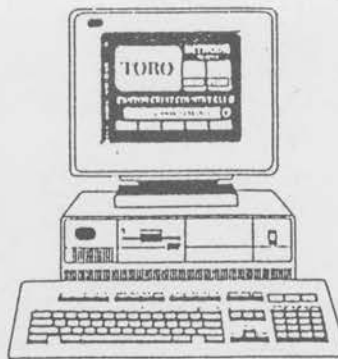
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# Irrigation Maintenance Ideas... by Keith Allenbach

Golf course irrigation can be a very time consuming task with newer systems becoming larger and more complex. Even the existing systems cost a lot of time. To help free up some hours, here are a few methods you may want to incorporate into your maintenance routine.

On a daily basis:

- Use your entire crew to help spot trouble. The fairway mowers and the rough mowers see every square foot out on the course and are a good source of information for wet spots and dry areas. A few wire flags on each vehicle go a long way in time spent searching for any particular reported trouble spot (a worker spots something and simply plants a flag in the ground and reports it). A single wire flag also prevents a lot of ruts in a hidden wet spots.

- Cup cutting personnel provide excellent feedback on the moisture content of the greens' soil. A small amount of time in training to identify wet plugs is a good investment.

- Tune in to reading dew patterns. If you can spot problems the first thing in the morning, chances are you will only miss one watering because you have all day to make the repair.

- And don't forget the obvious; cart paths will show "what was watered last night."

Also periodically check your irrigation equipment.

Check your pump station for adequate pressure. Install a pressure gauge for a quick visual if need be. Keep your filters clean and lubricate the motors and bearings. A pressure gauge attached to a quick coupler key is a convenient tool for spot checks on the course.

If you have a central controller, test the communication to the field satellites. Look at your field controllers to see if they are keeping correct time. Send a signal to your station to check the sprinklers. Check each sprinkler for proper rotation and proper pattern from nozzles. A quick removal of a nozzle obstruction can keep your turf from stressing and turning brown.

Using these techniques may save some time and trouble for the one who is responsible for the irrigation system. A routine of checks and tests can involve more than just that person. And, most importantly, your golf course can remain green and growing.

(Credit: Central Ohio GCSA News, Sept. 1994)

## Classifieds

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