



GCSAA AFFILIATE

# Turf Times

Monthly Update  
March 1995  
Vol. 24, No. 3

The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

## GAM/NMTMA Green Seminar in Gaylord March 14

The NMTMA and the Golf Association of Michigan are teaming up for another informative seminar, set for Tuesday, March 14, at the Treetops/Sylvan Resort in Gaylord. You are encouraged to bring your club officials, as well as other interested parties to this event.

The seminar speakers and topics include:

**Dr. J.M. Vargas** - Michigan State University  
*Snow Mold Research*

**Robert Vavrek** - United States Golf Association  
*Year In Review*

**James Sweeney** - United States Golf Association  
*Course Marking*

**Ken DeBusscher** - Wabeek Country Club  
*Bunker Renovation Project*

**Bob Kelly** - *Tree Trimming to Reduce Shade*

**Karen O'Dell** - Treetops/Sylvan Resort  
*Composting and Recycling*

**Tom Drenth** - Sondee, Racine & Doren  
*Labor Laws*

**Peter Markham** - Golf Association of Michigan  
*Superintendents Affect on Ratings*

**Jon Maddern** - Elk Ridge, MTF Update

To register, you may use the form that the GAM is sending to you, or complete the information on the registration form to the right.

Coat and tie are required. We hope to see you there!

### NMTMA Bylaw Revisions

The following Bylaw revisions will be voted on at our April Mini-conference. Watch *Turf Times* for further details. (Revision or addition indicated in bold print).

Addition: Sec. V

**I. Class "M", Mechanics.** To qualify for class M membership, an applicant, at the time of application, must be employed by a regular member of NMTMA. Class M members shall have all the rights and privileges of the Association, except that such members may not vote or hold office.

Revision: Sec. V

**K. Annual Dues.** The annual dues shall be the sum fixed at any regular meeting of the Association as approved by the voting membership in attendance thereat. The annual dues shall be payable on or before the first day of October. The annual membership year shall begin on the first day of January. Any member or members who have failed to pay dues by December 31st shall be automatically dropped from the membership of this Association and all rights and privileges benefited from the Association shall be terminated. Any member dropped from the membership in this manner shall be notified thereof by the membership committee. Reapplication for membership can be made at any time, as long as the application is accompanied by the annual dues for the year along with any assessments and all accounts in arrear.

Revision: Sec. V

**E. Class "E",** any Class A, B, D, F, or G member reaching the age sixty (60), who is retired and no longer seeking employment within the scope of his activities of any membership class of the Association, may apply to the Board in writing for Class E membership, the annual dues for which shall be one-half (1/2) the amount

### 1995 Green Seminar Registration Form

**8:30 - Registration and Continental Breakfast**  
**9:00 am - Green Seminars Begin**  
**Lunch is included**

( ) Treetops/Sylvan Resort  
Tuesday, March 14  
Fee: \$30.00/person (member)  
\$40.00/person (non-member)  
Deadline date: March 10

Names \_\_\_\_\_ Titles (Supt./Pres./Green Chrm., etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return form (BY THE DEADLINE DATE) with the check payable to: Telephone reservations will be accepted, but no-shows will be billed.

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### NEXT MEETING:

Annual MSU Mini-Conference  
Tuesday, April 11th  
Grayling Holiday Inn  
Watch *Turf Times* for details

paid by a Class A member. Retired Class EA, EB, or EG member have all rights and privileges of this association including that of voting, but not that of holding office in the association. Retired Class ED or EF or any other retired member of "Class E" have all the rights and privileges of this association but can not vote or hold office.

Revision: Sec. IX.

Class "EA", "EB" or "EG" members will be permitted to vote but not hold office.

## GCSAA presents writing award

The 1995 Leo Feser Award will be presented to Pat Holt, CGCS, director of maintenance of American Golf Corporation for the eastern United States.

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) presents the award annually, honoring the author of the best superintendent-written article published in the association's monthly magazine, *Golf Course Management (GCM)*. GCSAA's Publications Committee chooses the article believed to most benefit golf course superintendents and the golf community.

In his article, "Team-building fosters success," which was published in the May 1994 issue of *GCM*, Holt discussed a team efficiency management system believed to help superintendents reduce operating costs by improving employee motivation, productivity and efficiency.

Holt said most companies can benefit from using the team management system. "The employees gain by acquiring more control over their work environment and experience less management interference than with other management systems," Holt wrote.

GCSAA will honor Holt for his article during the Opening Session of GCSAA's 66th International Golf Course Conference and Show in San Francisco on Thursday, February 23, 1995.

The award honors Leo Feser, a pioneer golf course superintendent and a charter member of 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, Minn.

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 14,000 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.

### Classifieds

**WANTED:** Assistant Golf Course Superintendent. Call Charles Menefee at *Little Traverse Bay Country Club*: 616/526-9512.

### MEETING SITES NEEDED FOR '95

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### Safety in the Work Place:

## OSHA and Responsibility

I am not a member of the NMTMA but I do read the *Turf Times* because although I am not a Superintendent, I do work in the Golf Course industry and I find the articles informative. However, I feel that I need to voice my concerns regarding the "OSHA Safety Laws . . . Are You In Compliance?" article in the February 1995 Issue. I believe that this is a very misleading, uniformed article and that it is not the professional quality that I am used to seeing in this publication. As requested by the author, here are my experiences with OSHA and my views toward OSHA and the contents of his article.

First of all, I would like to clarify one item: companies are given a chance to comply with the violations they are cited for before they are required to pay for those violations. In a recent inspection done by MiOSHA on our property, we had our eyes opened to a lot of regulations: the use of improper gas cans (as stated in the article); electrical violations such as the removal of a grounding plug and a cracked casing on a trouble light exposing the wires inside; personal protective equipment violations such as soiled "community use" eye protection and damaged elastic bands; all lifts and jacks must be permanently and visibly marked with their capacity ratings and we must always have an auxiliary jack on hand in case a hydraulic jack fails. Some of these we were already in compliance with but not necessarily because we knew the Standard. Following the inspection, we were sent a summary of our violations and the fines for each. We were given 30

(Continued on Page 3)

## OSHA and Responsibility

(Continued from Page 2)

days in which to pay these fines or set up an arbitration date. In arbitration, we were given the chance to provide proof that we had complied with some violations and we were able to greatly reduce the amount we were required to pay. It is uncommon for a company to be completely absolved of its fines because MiOSHA no longer draws monetary support from State or Federal agencies, it is completely funded by its fining process. The majority of our fines were for around \$700 each, however, if we stated that we complied with those violations and MiOSHA comes back to discover that this is not the case, we are then in "willful violation" and those same violations can jump up as high as \$7,000 for each instance.

To accomplish their everyday tasks, it seems that most Superintendents would need to be perceptive, observant and very conscious of their surroundings. Some of the items that Mr. Kepple has been fined for are so basic that even a new Superintendent has to be at least aware of them. Many of the Standards are in the very least common sense, covering belts and pulleys should be somewhat obvious: if you have ever worked with a piece of equipment and even subconsciously noted that you could probably accidentally get your finger caught in it, maybe you should cover it. The printing of the Standards in regard to pulleys and belts in this article draws away from this simple concept. Storing oxygen and acetylene tanks together or near flammable substances? Not securing them properly? Isn't that just inviting an accident to happen? As stated earlier, a lot of these are just common sense and any Superintendent should be able to walk through his/her shop and note many of them. As for some of the others, such as required postings, safety gas cans and the OSHA 200 reports, these can be learned in any one of the multitude of seminars, trades publications and even those safety catalogs that incessantly come to you in the mail quote the Standards for you and explain exactly what you need.

In regards to Mr. Kepple's Hazard Communication Program, there are two points I would like to make. First, how can it be that there is only **one** copy of the Haz Com program on premises? If he "had actually been developing a written program" himself he should have been well aware of the fact that there must always be a copy on the premises and that his Assistant should have taken home a copy and not the original. On that note I make point two. If a Superintendent is aware and familiar enough with Regulations to be creating a Haz Com program (this is no small task!) he/she must also be aware of regulated postings, OSHA 200 reports and a multitude of other requirements.

Expanding further on the OSHA 200 Recordable Injuries report, I would like to know what month this course was inspected, because although the Log must be maintained for one year the requirements for posting it for employees states that while the Log must be posted by February 1 of that year, it must remain up only until March 1 of that same year.

I understand Mr. Kepple's desire to inform other Superintendents of the potential problems and violations of an OSHA visit, however overall I believe that the way in which

he has presented himself and his situation is extremely unprofessional and tactless. It seems as though he is using the column more to complain about the "myriad of potential violators" which were discovered at his Course that to actually "discuss (his) violations so that you may be aware of a few things OSHA may cite you for." In actuality there wasn't a whole lot of "discussing" going on, mostly just a lot of complaining and focusing on the fines he received.

This article makes me wonder if Mr. Kepple really understands what he is saying when he states in his closing paragraph that "While my OSHA inspection was not a pleasant experience, it was a learning one. The Department of Labor is simply trying to protect employees." Besides trying to maintain the perfect Golf Course, isn't that what everyone should be trying to do? I know that the last thing a Superintendent wants to see is an injured employee, especially a badly insured employee, it creates a level of immediate stress and anxiety that is incomparable. I certainly hope for the sake of his employees that Mr. Kepple really has become "more aware of safety problems in the work place."

*Roberta O'Dell, Treetops/Sylvan Resort*

(Editor's Note: *Turf Times* welcomes all responses or concerns regarding the information we print).

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# Landscape CAT Alert Newsletter Now Available by FAX

Throughout the spring and summer, turf and landscape managers combat insect pests, weeds, and plant diseases. MSU Extension's *Landscape CAT* (Crop Advisory Team) *Alert* newsletter is designed to give managers timely recommendations to prevent and respond to pest problems. For 1995, subscribers can now choose from FAX or mail service to increase the timeliness of the recommendations.

"I think our landscape subscribers will find the new FAX service will help them stay ahead of many pest problems," said *Landscape Alert* Editor Joy Landis. "Subscribers to the *Landscape Alert* include golf course superintendents, landscapers, foresters, nurserymen, and lawn care professionals. They have a wide range of pest problems that can develop quickly in the landscape setting and *the Alert* serves as a reminder as well as a source of new information."

On Fridays from April to September, faculty and Extension agents from across Michigan meet through a conference phone call. A typical issue includes:

- Recommendations from managing insects, diseases, and weeds in ornamental plants, turfgrass, conifers and other landscape items.
- General management of turfgrass for golf courses, athletic fields, and lawns.
- Reports on pest status and plant health from across the state and from the MSU Multidisciplinary Diagnostic Clinic.
- Home environment insect management.
- Updates on pesticide products and new regulations.
- the impact of current weather patterns and weekly forecasts.

Agents report on pest concerns and plant development in their regions. Faculty give plant maintenance and pest management recommendations keyed to the time of year and the particular conditions of the current growing season. The resulting recommendations are compiled as articles for the *Landscape Alert* newsletter. The issue is then either FAXed to subscribers on Friday evening or printed and mailed on Monday.

"Golf course superintendents and others who manage turfgrass will appreciate the advice from MSU turf experts like Paul Rieke, Dave Smitley, and Greg Lyman," commented Landis. "But an additional plus is that readers also get advice about ornamental trees and shrubs that are an important part of grounds maintenance. We also have home environment articles that address pest problems such as carpenter ants, boxelder bugs and mosquitoes which can plague people and structures."

A 1994 survey of *Landscape Alert* readers showed they've found a range of benefits by reading *the Alert*:

"The *CAT Alert* gives a detailed time frame through the growing degree day chart which helps pinpoint exact spraying windows. This information along with the reports of pests that are in my area at any given month has saved me probably hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars. It helps you get it right the first time. You avoid overuse of pesticides."

"Rather than make blanket insecticide treatments for grubs at \$6000, we now only treat where populations warrant at an approximate cost of \$1,500."

"Reading about pest threshold levels helped my IPM (in-

tegrated pest management) program last year. We had ateneus grubs, but the levels were low and we did not spray."

"Because of *the Alert*, we've made changes such as less watering of the turf, watering at a different time of day, use of fewer insecticides, and we keep mowers sharper as a preventive to fungus invasion."

"We use pesticides a lot less, allowing many insects pests to 'dine in peace' as long as they don't contribute to plant mortality."

The first issue of the *Landscape Alert* will be published in early April. The length of the newsletter is 8 to 12 pages and approximately 18 issues are printed each year. Anyone who subscribes after the start of the season, receives the back issues from the current publishing year. the subscription fee for mail service is \$30 and for FAX, \$55. In addition, FAX subscribers will have access to a toll-free phone number to request that weather information and certain Extension Bulletins be FAX-ed to them.

To subscribe, send your request for the *Landscape Alert* with a check (made payable to Michigan State University) to: *CAT Alert*, MSU, 11 Agriculture Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824-1039. Enclose your mail address, phone number and FAX number (if requesting FAX service). More information about the *Landscape Alert* and the activities of the advisory team can be obtained by calling 517-355-0117 at MSU.

Joy N. Landis, editor  
Michigan State University

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# THE LOST MANUSCRIPT OF ALISTER MACKENZIE

Entitled *The Spirit of St. Andrews* and written over 60-years ago by the architect of Augusta National, Cypress Point and Royal Melbourne, the manuscript has been discovered by MacKenzie's step-grandson and will be published this March by Sleeping Bear Press. Peter Alliss, noted player, commentator, author and architect, calls it "a masterpiece. . . I've never read a more interesting book on golf . . . page after page of common sense and information . . . a bit of magic to lift the spirits."

MacKenzie shares with you his insight on great golf holes (MacKenzie built many), the golf swing (he was a pupil of the Jones— Bobby & Ernest), technology and equipment (including his thoughts on limiting ball flight), putting tips, maintenance, slow play— essentially every important area for golfers today. An additional feature of interest in the book is the foreword written by Robert Tyre "Bobby" Jones, Jr., founder of Augusta National and golf's only grand slam winner.

*The Spirit of St. Andrews* has been produced exactly as MacKenzie wrote it, with photographs from that era added to bring the great golf holes and golfers discussed in the book to life for the reader. George Peper, Editor-in Chief of Golf Magazine, calls MacKenzie "one of the most provocative characters the game has produced." *The Spirit of St. Andrews* is written in a wonderfully entertaining style, full of great anecdotes of his contemporaries such as Hagen, Sarazan, Jones and other friends of MacKenzie that teach valuable lessons to all golfers.

The book is available for \$24.95 directly from the publisher, Sleeping Bear Press, 121 South Main Street, P.O. Box 20, Chelsea, MI 48118, 800/487-2323, or from your

local bookstore.

Peter Allis on "The Spirit of St. Andrews":

Having been part of a family closely associated with the game of golf for more than eighty years I suppose it's not unreasonable to feel that as far as the game goes there is nothing left to surprise, you've seen it, done it and are on the verge of, dare I say, becoming bored. You look at the world and nothing is the same, life is but a shadow of what it was, sport is seemingly no longer played for enjoyment, commercialism is everywhere, which, according to some, is progress. But when you're just about to reach for the solace of a large whisky mac on a dreary winter's day along comes a bit of magic to lift the spirits. It arrived in the form of a manuscript written by Dr. Alister MacKenzie entitled simply "The Spirit of St. Andrew's". Perhaps the discovery of this manuscript written in the gallant doctor's own fair hand was not quite as dramatic as Lord Caernarvon discovering the burial ground of Tutankhamen, but for lovers of golf it must run damn close. Written in the early thirties it provides page after page of interest, common sense and information. I've never read a more interesting book on golf, for it not only covers the art of creating a course, stressing the importance of building it so people of all levels of competence may enjoy playing, it also transports the reader in his mind's eye to many far flung venues that over the last forty years or so have become so much a part of golfing folklore.

I'm honored to have been allowed to introduce this masterpiece, for that is what it surely is.

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