



Turf Times

Monthly
Update
September 1995
Vol. 24, No. 9

The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

Annual Meeting and Chapter Championship Tuesday, October 10, The Legend at Shanty Creek

Our 1995 Annual Meeting and Chapter Championship will be held at The Legend on Tuesday, October 10.

The day will begin with the Annual Meeting: from 11:00 a.m. until 12 noon, lunch will follow. Golf will begin with a 1 p.m. shotgun start: medal play, gross and net.

Cost for the day is \$40.00 per person, \$12.00 for lunch only. Rooms will be available for those wishing to stay over: \$80.00 a night, double or single.

Call 616/533-8621, ask for "reservations", and specify your golf lodging and meal plans, **before October 6**. The Legend is located off M-88, south of Bellaire.

Weather plays major part in turf loss

... By Professor J.M. Vargas Jr., MSU and Professor P.E. Rieke, MSU

Having visited many courses where turf loss occurred, we decided to write this informational letter to try and put this summer into perspective.

Weather has been a major contributing factor to turf loss this year. The spring was cool and cloudy. Because of the lack of sunlight, the grass did not build up carbohydrates during this period and it was not very hardy as we moved into the dry, hot weather of early June. Golf courses in Michigan are fortunate that in most summers, we are blessed with cool night time temperatures, which allow the turfgrass plants to recover from the heat of the day. However, every so often we experience summers with warm night time temperatures like this past summer and the one that occurred in 1988. Turfgrass plants have little chance to recover when night time temperatures stay above 70F°. Turfgrasses surviving under such conditions have very poor root systems and are susceptible to many stresses.

Plants cool themselves through a process known as transpiration. During this process, the plants cool themselves through the release of moisture. The

process works best under conditions of low humidity and good air movement. In the drought year of 1988, even though the temperatures may have been higher than this summer, the humidity was lower which allowed the plants to cool themselves more efficiently through transpiration. This was not the case this year. In addition to the humidity, the warm temperatures caused soil temperatures to reach 95-99 F° at a 2" depth. cool season grasses don't tolerate high temperatures in the root zone. Turf was lost due to the combination of high temperatures and humidity causing the turf to over heat and die.

The turf lost from conditions of high humidity and temperature are most evident in areas of limited air movement, usually greens, tees, or fairways surrounded by trees. Trees, unfortunately, become sacred cows on many golf courses. Removing them is often impossible because of the way members have come to love them. That should be kept in mind when the question of tree removal arises. What is the primary purpose for having the golf course? Is it to play golf on healthy turf or for hiking among the trees or picnics, etc.? If the primary purpose of a golf course is for playing golf on healthy turf, then tree removal should be an easy decision. Installing fans will help compensate for lack of air movement, but they will not alleviate the shade factor or the tree's roots competing with the turf for nutrients or water.

1996 Meeting Schedule

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

(Continued on Page 2)

Weather plays major part in turf loss

(Continued from Front Page)

We see very few problems with Pythium blight or brown patch diseases in Michigan most summers. This season both diseases were a problem from the beginning of July through mid August. Since most golf courses don't normally budget for such diseases, I would assume most golf courses have exceeded their chemical budgets.

As bad a year as we were having, most golf courses held their turf through the heat during the early summer when the weather was dry and relative humidity was relatively low. Then the heavy rains occurred which pushed the oxygen out of the root zone. The combination of low oxygen and high soil temperatures caused death of turf roots. Without roots the turf cannot long survive. Poor drainage was a major factor in much of the turf loss. Because of poor drainage, turf roots sat in the hot soil without oxygen, speeding up root loss. Poorly drained areas are very evident and point out where improvement in drainage is needed. Poorly designed irrigation systems may also have contributed to the excess water problems.

As a result of the unrelenting high temperatures and humidity, the grass not only had few roots, but it was very succulent. It was very susceptible to traffic injury, ball marks and spike injury. This also made the grass susceptible to wilting when the weather turned

dry in late August. Being so succulent, it did not adjust well to the high sunlight intensity and warm, dry winds.

Hopefully, we will not have another summer like this one for many years. The only good news out of the summer is that it has allowed many golf courses to identify their problem areas including the need for improved drainage or irrigation systems. These areas can be corrected so that if a season like this occurs again, turf loss can be minimized.

Classifieds

FOR SALE: Jacobsen 7-gang Blitzers, \$3500. Call Dan at 616/275-5999.

GREENSMAN WANTED: Cadillac C.C. Write or Call Bob Kukla or Bill Smith 616/775-8586, c/o Cadillac C.C., P.O. Box 367, Cadillac, MI 49601.

FOR SALE: Toro 7-gang Parkmaster, Toro GM300. Call Mike at 616/352-4241.

WANTED: Newsletter Editor for NMTMA *Turf Times* and Membership Directory. Call Mike Morris at 616/352-4241.

A View from the Rough

A View from the Rough is an elegant, 4-color, coffee table book with photographs by Mike Klemme, considered by many to be the best golf landscape photographer in the business today. Klemme was the photographer for Abraham's *Grand Slam Golf and Golf Resorts of the World*.

Klemme's photographs depict the world's greatest golf courses as a natural and integral part of their environment— elk, deer, fox, eagles, native grasses and wildflowers— all thriving on such top courses as Cypress Point, St. Andrews, Banff, Prairie Dunes, Pebble Beach, Ballybunion and other famed courses. Klemme's distinctive images are a blend of experience, artistry and patience.

Captions for the photographs come from the entire golfing world as well as the environmental community— from top professionals, such as Gary Player and Tom Weiskopf, to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Friends of the Earth.

The beauty of golf and of nature itself will make *A View from the Rough* a must-have for all serious golfers.

The publishing date is October, 1995 and will cost \$39.95.

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Turfgrass Environmental Education Program Schedule

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST

This 2-3 hour seminar is designed to review the Michigan Department of Agriculture laws and regulations for turf maintenance operations including golf course, lawn care, athletic field, and grounds maintenance. Participants will be able to assess the status of their operations and prioritize any adjustments.

Cost-\$30.00 per person or \$75.00 for 3-5 participants from one company.

Sept. 27	Schoolcraft	Pine View G.C.
Sept. 28	Gaylord	Marsh Ridge Golf Course
Oct. 3	Flint Area	Site to be announced
Oct. 5	Traverse City	Site to be announced

PESTICIDES AND NUTRIENT FATE IN TURF SYSTEMS

This seminar will explain the turfgrass growing environment and the potential for pesticides and nutrients to move past the plant zone. The latest environmental research, including the MSU studies will be presented and explained. You will be able to assess your own operation based on site conditions and products used. The program will include presentations from Dr. Paul Rieke. This seminar will benefit professionals involved in all facets of the turfgrass industry.

Cost-\$75.00 per participant. Includes notebook, materials, lunch, and refreshments.

Oct. 13	MSU Campus, E. Lansing	Kellogg Conf. Cnt.
Oct. 27	Grayling	Grayling C.C.
Nov. 10	Detroit Metro Area	Site to be announced

For more information, contact Greg Lyman at 517/353-0860.

GCSAA joins pesticide partnership program

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has announced it will participate in the federal government's new Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program. Under the program, GCSAA will work in partnership with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to develop a strategy that further reduces risks from the use of pesticides on golf courses.

"We are absolutely committed to using responsible management practices that pose little, if any, environmental risk," said GCSAA President Gary Grigg, CGCS. "Through this partnership, we'll be able to work with the leading federal authorities to find new and innovative ways to use pesticides effectively and safely and to minimize any potential harm to people, wildlife and the environment."

The framework for the strategy emphasizes education, training, research and continued development, and careful use of pest control products that pose risks.

Plans call for the strategy to be developed in 1995 and announced during the Environmental General Session of the GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show next February in Orlando, Fla.

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School of Turfgrass Management

Kellogg Center, MSU-Nov. 27 -Dec. 1

The MSU School of Turfgrass Management is an intensive five day course designed to teach the basics of turfgrass science as well as the practical techniques of managing turfgrass. The school will be "team taught" by MSU turfgrass faculty and staff. The curriculum is designed to deliver a wide range of turfgrass management topics including basic soils and soil management, turfgrass species identification, selection, and physiology, turf establishment and renovation, fertilization, proper pesticide use, safety procedures, and sprayer calibration. A significant portion of the school is dedicated to weed, insect, and disease identification and management. The pest management section in lecture and laboratory settings with hands-on learning emphasized.

The strength of the school lies within the depth of the turfgrass faculty at Michigan State University. This will provide an excellent opportunity for one-on-one interaction between participants and the MSU turfgrass faculty.

This school will benefit professionals from a variety of disciplines in the turfgrass industry including golf course, lawn care, grounds or landscape management, as well as those involved in sales of turf management products. It is particularly useful for professionals already in the industry who are interested in enhancing their technical expertise as well as those individuals who are just entering the turfgrass industry.

This years school will be held from November 27 through December 1 at the Kellogg Center on the cam-

pus of Michigan State University. The laboratory sections will be conducted at various locations on campus.

Registration will be held on Sunday, Nov. 26 from 6-8 p.m. and Monday, Nov. 27 from 7-8:30 a.m. The school begins at 8:30 a.m. on Monday.

There will be lab and workshop sessions scheduled after dinner until approximately 9 p.m. each evening. It is recommended that lodging arrangements be made in the Lansing area to avoid long commutes each day. Local lodging information will be forwarded upon receipt of registration. A limited number of dorm rooms are available at a low cost.

Complete the form on the bottom of this page to register. The cost is \$595 per participant and includes tuition, instructional materials, reception, breaks, and most meals. A \$50 nonrefundable deposit will confirm your registration with the balance due on Nov. 1, 1995. Lodging arrangements are to be made on your own. For more information, call Greg Lyman at 517/353-0860.

Instructors include:

Dr. James Crum, *Soil Fertility and Identification*; Mr. David Gilstrap, *Soil and Plant Water*; Mr. Gregory T. Lyman, *Turf School Coordinator*; Dr. Paul E. Rieke, *Soil Management and Fertilization*; Dr. John N. Rogers III, *Turfgrass Establishment*; Dr. David R. Smitley, *Turfgrass Insect Management*; and Dr. Joseph M. Vargas, Jr., *Turfgrass Disease Management*.

SCHOOL OF TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT

Registration is \$595 per person. Fee included tuition, instructional materials, break refreshments and most meals (2 dinners on your own). A \$50 nonrefundable deposit will confirm your entry to the program. The balance is due on November 1, 1995. Lodging arrangements are to be made by each participant. Local lodging information will be forwarded upon receipt of registration.

Make checks payable to: Michigan State University
Complete form and sent to: Mr. Greg Lyman
Michigan State University
Crop and Soil Sciences Department
East Lansing, MI 48824-1325

Register soon to hold your spot!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (____) _____

NMTMA loses longtime member and friend

ORIN M. FREDRICKSON

Died Aug. 30, 1995

TRAVERSE CITY— Orin M. Fredrickson, 82, of Traverse City, died Wednesday at home.

A builder and superintendent at Northport Point, he was superintendent of the Northport Point Golf Course for eight years after his retirement.

He was a member of Trinity United Church of Christ in Northport. Northern Michigan Turf Management Association and a past master and life member of Northport Masonic Lodge No. 265 F&AM. He also served as a volunteer firefighter. He was an excellent golfer.

Born March 14, 1913, in Northport, he was the son of Ole and Mary (Holton) Fredrickson. On Oct. 14, 1938, in Northport, he married Jeanne Mervau who survives.

Also surviving are a son Charles and a daughter-in-law Karen of Suttons Bay, and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be given to the Grand Traverse Area Hospice, Leelanau Township Foundation or the Northport Masonic Lodge NO. 265, P.O. Box 516, Northport.

Penn State Golf Turf Conference Nov. 7-9

Nittany Lion Inn, University Park, PA
Contact:

Dr. Peter Landschoot, Dept. of Agronomy
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