



# Turf Times

Bi-Monthly  
Update  
March/April 1996  
Vol. 25, No. 1

The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

## *President's Message*

It seems almost impossible that another winter has gone by. Most of us are gearing up for another golf season and are frantically (or at least I am) trying to determine the who, what, where and why of all the things that need to be done. More specifically, who is going to get it all done? What happens if it isn't all done? Where are the people coming from to get it all done? And why did I ever get myself into this mess anyway? I really feel there is no other time of the year when we all become so aware of how quickly the time passes and how soon the seasons go.

There are in the future, and there has been some very good educational opportunities available. The NMTMA and GCSAA sponsored seminars on human resource management and drainage are good examples. The GAM seminars this year will provide a host of golf course superintendents as speakers. This is a chance for all of us to hear what some of the best in the industry have to share. This will be a joint seminar, which will give us an opportunity to exchange some ideas and thoughts with our professional colleagues from the Mid-Michigan Association.

Our annual mini-conference in April always provides that last kick right before the season starts and I encourage you to attend. The education committee has worked hard to provide topics and speakers relevant to our interests. The available information can increase our professionalism in both our community and jobs.

The goal of the NMTMA has always been education. It's worth repeating because it keeps us focused as an association and provides us with some direction. So as I am frantically trying to answer these questions on how all this is going to get done by spring; I am reminded of what this association has to offer and what it has done for me...I'll be ready opening day.

Mark R. Wildeman, C.G.C.S.

## *TO: Members of N.M.T.M.A.*

I would like to open this letter by giving the scholarship committee and the membership of the N.M.T.M.A. my deepest appreciation for awarding me the 1996 Scholarship. This award means a great deal to me not only financially, but has given me a sense of pride that my peers have recognized me for my accomplishments.

I know that the members of the N.M.T.M.A. have given a great deal of their time to help promote research and education in our industry and I hope to follow in their footsteps as I move on with my own career. The course I am currently

employed at is scheduled to host the 1996 N.M.T.M.A. - M.T.F. Fund-raiser and I am very excited by this, because it will allow me to return something to an industry that has been very good to me, while raising money for research at the same time. In closing, I look forward to seeing you throughout the upcoming season and would like to THANK YOU again for this wonderful award.

Sincerely,  
Michael Normand,  
1996 N.M.T.M.A. Scholarship Winner

## New Format For Turf Times

Jon Maddern, C.G.C.S.

As most of you are aware, Mike Morris is no longer editor of "Turf Times." I would like to take this time to Thank him for all his work on this, over the past years. Just getting into it I can see how he put a lot of time and effort into it.

With Mike gone and no one volunteering to take over, your board discussed and discussed this issue. It was agreed that a committee approach would be tried. The committee appointed was Karen O'Dell, Kim Olson and myself. We discussed the "Turf Times" and what members liked and disliked about it and came up with a plan. We are going to bi-monthly issues and have five total issues a year. Meeting notices will be handled as a separate mailing. This was to improve the notice of meetings and not to pressure the "Turf Times" schedule around meeting deadlines.

We also discussed advertising. We appreciate the great support of our vendors, but decided to keep the format short and to the point, and not include ads in "Turf Times" except for listings on the back page. Please support these companies who show their support for us.

Content of "Turf Times" will be four pages which will include President's Message, report of committees, classifieds for members, newsworthy updates, and an article from two board members. Articles from members are welcomed. Our goal will be to have this to you around the 20th of March, May, July, September, and November. We envision using this to keep you informed and up to date with what is going on in Northern Michigan, the state, G.C.S.A.A., M.T.F., and N.M.T.M.A. Again meeting notices will be done as a separate mailing on its own notice so you can get it sooner.

If anyone has any suggestions, comments, or articles please contact Karen, Kim or myself. We hope you like this format. The Membership Directory is being printed and should be out in April. □

### Treetops Wins

#### Environmental Steward Award

Treetops Resort received the Environmental Steward Award in the Resort Division national competition. This award is presented to proven environmental leaders in the golf industry who incorporate innovative and outstanding management efforts in preserving and enhancing the environment. The award was presented during the Environmental Session of the 67th International G.C.S.A.A. Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida. Treetops is not unfamiliar with this award, as they were selected regional winners in 1992 and 1993.

Accepting the award was Bruce J. Wolfrom, C.G.C.S., Golf Course Manager at Treetops and a driving force behind this award. Congratulations to Treetops, Bruce, Mark, Karen, Dan, Brian, and Roberta for all your work showing how golf enhances properties, benefits wildlife, golfers, and surrounding communities. □

## It's Your Association

by Karen O'Dell

I look back at what this association has meant to me and I have a big list. Education, research results, improving our professional image, improving public speaking skills, fun at outings/parties, knowledge of the game and improving my handicap, working with a group to solve problems, meeting people, the list could go on and on. I feel the only reason I have gained so much out of the association is because I got involved. I go to most every meeting, help out when needed, and offer my help and opinion all the time. How can we keep our association strong if each and every "member" doesn't do the same thing? Just going to a meeting and adding nothing to it, or taking nothing from it is just as bad as not going at all. I was not happy with every decision the board had made in the past, I didn't feel they cared about "me," the "member." But then I realized that "they" didn't know what I wanted from the association. Well, I started to tell them, I let them know what topics I was interested in, what was important to me. Then I took the next step and ran for the board. I have felt better about the association since then, at least now the board knows how I feel.

Granted, everyone can't go to every meeting and everyone is not interested in running for the board, and you may not even have an opinion on every subject brought up, but some of our "membership" doesn't get involved at all. At our annual meeting last October when the floor was open for comments and discussion, only one person stood up and stated an opinion. Out of 300+ members, everyone is so happy with our association, our profession, that no one needed to say a word? I DON'T THINK SO! You have got to speak up if you want something changed, if you're not happy. Just because you state an opinion or let someone know that you're not happy does not mean you're whining. It means that something is important enough to you to get some action, get some change.

Being a member of the board, I feel it is our responsibility

## Classifieds

### GOLF COURSE MECHANIC WANTED

at Crystal Mountain Resort. Involves maintenance and repair of all golf course related equipment. Must have own tools. Contact Michael Call or Michael Burguard at (616) 378-2000, ext. 650.

### WANTED

Leland C. C. is looking for a certified applicator and other experienced maintenance people. Wages D.O.E. Send resume to Jim Balamucki, 9219 Blackburn Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684.

to take all of your thoughts, ideas and opinions and act on them. If we don't or won't address them then you need to voice your opinion again, either verbally or by changing the board through voting at the annual meeting. I ask each of you that are "members" to assess what you give to the N.M.T.M.A., what you get from the N.M.T.M.A., and what you want changed. Think of all of the items that you discuss with your fellow superintendents, all of your complaints, and consider if the association can help in any way. There are several topics that can be addressed and they don't have to be strictly "turf" related. The board tries to come up with speakers for the meetings and we never receive phone calls or letters on what you, the "member" wants addressed.

Please consider getting more involved and help make your association stronger. It will only help improve our professional image, make us better superintendents and help us grow as people. Only by having strong "member" involvement and commitment can we improve the association. I, and all board members, look forward to hearing from you, the "member." □

## Committee Reports

**Program & Golf (Kendziorski)** - We have an exciting line-up of wonderful golf courses to play in the 1996 season. The tentative meeting schedule, locations, and hosts are: May 8th @ Marquette Trails G.C., Joe Balulis; July 16th @ Alpena G.C., Bob Aube; August 13th @ The Rose G.C., Jeff Dorrell; and the Annual Meeting and chapter championship, October, @ Boyne Highlands, Joe Breighner. If you are interested in hosting a meeting for the 1997 season, please contact me at (616) 938-9083.

**Education (Olson)** - GAM meeting program is planned as is the April Mini-Conference, which will be April 8th at Grayling Holiday Inn. A full and diverse program is planned. We are looking for speakers and topics for monthly meetings if you have any ideas please contact me.

**Scholarship (Olson)** - see letter from 1996 recipient

**Scholarship Interview (Meindertsma)** - nothing to report until later on

**Finance (Maddern)** - The board has hired Kay Patrick to handle membership services. She will be mailing out meeting notices, dues invoices, and receiving payments and making corrections and changes to the mailing list. She will also be keeping track of and printing monthly to the Board a financial statement. All checks will be sent to and deposited by her, however checks from account to pay bills will be the treasurer's responsibility. This should speed up the process and will make your board more aware of where the association stands financially. We are reviewing the use of left over money from past years and N.M.T.M.A. Fund-raisers to be invested so interest earned can be used to fund the members scholarship.

**Membership (Pretznaw)** - Roster book is in print and should be out in April. Look for updates of membership information for the roster in '97 Dues Notice. O'Dell is in charge of committee working on a survey for the association. Look for more information on this soon.

**M.T.F. Fund-raiser (Mertz)** - 1996 event will be held at The Loon Golf Club in Gaylord on Monday, June 3rd. Look for more information concerning this event in late April. MARK YOUR CALENDARS and form your team(s).

**Public Relation (Faucher)** - nothing to report at this time

**N.M.T.M.A. Fund-raiser (Mertz)** - The site for the 1996 event is Treetops Resort, the Rick Smith "Signature" course on September 18th.

**Bylaws (Meindertsma)** - nothing to report at this time

**Winter Party (Kendziorski Co-Chair)** - Unfortunately, we were unable to have the 1996 Winter Party. Due to lack of MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION and prediction of unseasonably warm temperatures the party was cancelled. Hopefully we will be able to discuss this party at the next annual meeting and see if members really are interested in a party of this nature.

**Mechanics Group (Ross)** - Tentative meeting set for May 7th at Garland Resort. Topic and times should be out in April. If anyone is interested in hosting a meeting or topic to cover please contact me.

**Environmental (Maddern)** - The president and I wrote letters to both United States Senators and House of Representative Stupak asking for their help in getting an Interpretative Guidance Group of E.P.A. to change its interpretation of the 1992 Worker Protection Standard which golf courses are exempt. However this group stated that nurseries for sod and trees were not and must comply with this regulation. This will result in us having to purchase products labeled specific for application to nursery and more paper work.

**G.C.S.A.A. (Maddern)** - We will be discussing affiliation agreement at the March meeting and voting at the Mini-Conference. This is an important issue and I encourage you to attend both meetings and hear the facts. Our vote at national will be published shortly and any questions concerning how or why we voted the way we did, please contact me. We are looking to use the Speaker's Bureau for speakers at monthly meetings. This cooperative program should allow us to get some outstanding speakers for a nominal fee as G.C.S.A.A. is helping with travel costs. Topics and dates for the 1997 Regional seminars are as follows - March 4 & 5, 1997. Seminar topics are *Stress Management* and *Lake and Aquatic Plant Management*, each is a one-day seminar. Mark your calendars.

**M.T.F. (Maddern)** - Another very successful conference. Mark Wildeman was elected on the board of directors as your representative. I will remain on the Board for a couple of years. I would like to thank all of you for your great support. Expansion of Hancock Center and getting the Branham position filled are the Board's priorities for 1996.

**Nominating (Conklin)** - Nothing to report at this time. If you have ever thought about running for Board of Directors, contact myself or any Board Member.

**Membership Scholarship (O'Dell)** - The Board will be reviewing proposals at the March Board Meeting. Look for information and application forms sometime in April. □

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Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association  
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**NMTMA Executive Committee**

Mark R. Wildeman, C.G.C.S. - *President*  
Dave Faucher - *Vice President*  
Brian Conklin - *Secretary*  
Jon Maddern, C.G.C.S. - *Treasurer*  
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