



# Turf Times

Bi-Monthly  
Update  
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The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

## *President's Message*

At the April board meeting all the past presidents of the NMTMA were invited to share with the current board members their insight, concerns and the general direction of the NMTMA. Not all of the past presidents were able to attend; however, all of them did voice their opinions and thoughts. I would like to thank them for their participation, whether in person, written or otherwise.

These are professional people who know that member involvement makes things happen. They also realize that communication is not an end in itself, but a process based on membership needs and wants. They all exhibit a genuine sense of caring about the members of this association, something they carry on into all aspects of their lives. This provides them with great credibility which has helped determine the success of this organization in the past, and gives all of us some direction for the future.

The board of directors have worked hard throughout the winter and deserve great credit for their dedication and efforts. This is evident in both the GAM seminar and the mini-conference, which again proved to be great learning experiences. Our meetings through the summer will continue to emphasize education. Please take the opportunity to attend.

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

## *A Good Time for Improvement*

Since it's spring (at least the calendar says it should be) it seems like a good time to contemplate how nature renews itself each year. Having said that, it makes me want to take time to reflect on myself and my profession. As we go about our lives and duties as turf managers, it is important to continue moving forward, not becoming complacent, stale, or just being satisfied with the "Status Quo." This is important because the world we live in is changing so rapidly that it would be very easy to be left behind. Moving forward can mean many different things. What it means to me is striving to continually improve myself and my profession. Professionalism is a word which comes to mind while I write this article. "Professionalism is the term or word which should describe how we conduct ourselves in our daily

activities as turf managers and members of our communities. I have heard many excellent speakers within the last few months whose topics what professionalism was and how to practice it.

Professionalism is attained and enhanced by the practice of some basic principals. I will just touch on some of the most important ones that I've heard discussed most recently at a few of our meetings. One would be projecting oneself in a professional manner by dressing appropriately for work, and especially for meetings and functions which expose us to the public or other professionals. How can anyone take you seriously if you don't project yourself in a serious manner? Don't attend a meeting that requires a coat and tie by showing up in a sweater, or worse yet in blue jeans and a

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flannel shirt. Another very important way to enhance our professionalism is through continuing education. Since the turf industry is changing so rapidly we must continue to stay on top of current research, laws and regulations, etc., if we want to be successful down the road. There are many levels of continuing education that are available to all of us. One way to do this is to read trade and professional publications on a regular basis. This is very easy to do since most of these publications are available free of cost through complimentary subscriptions. Another way is to belong to local and national professional associations, NMTMA, MTF and GCSAA for example. Simply joining may not be enough, but attending educational meetings and seminars offer excellent opportunities to learn. Getting involved in associations and local community based organizations would be another level of personal and professional growth. Possibly the ultimate level of continuing education would be accomplished by returning to school to either receive a college degree, or to advance one's degree further. This is usually time consuming and requires a substantial financial commitment. The other choice could be taking advantage of the GCSAA's certification process if you qualify. While not for everyone, those who have gone through the process highly recommend it as a method of personal professional growth.

At this point I bet that I can read your mind. You're thinking "If I do all of these things or even just some of them, what's in it for me? How is dressing in a coat and tie, or being certified going to get me a better job or higher pay?" The answer.....it may not. However, it is certain that your chances for advancing yourself are much greater by doing these things, and certainly much worse if you don't or do nothing at all. To be respected, we must practice being professionals. Growing good turf is one thing, but projecting oneself as a professional can be the most important and possibly the hardest aspect of who we are and what we do. □

David W. Pretznov  
McGuire's Resort


## NMTMA Apparel

Hey! Would you like to look more professional and wear some NMTMA Logo apparel? Well, you can by calling Karen O'Dell at (517) 732-6711, ext. 2463 and ordering it. The following items are available:

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You can do all of this now by calling Kay Patrick at:

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Write this number down, it will come in very handy!

## The Name of The Game

by Brian L. Conklin

If you could name one personality trait that the successful people in our business share, what would it be? I recently posed this question to myself, as so far this spring there haven't been too many other people around to talk to, and presented, then discarded many answers. My solutions ranged from Master's degrees to bulldog determination, but none seemed complete.

I was at about this point in my deliberations that the telephone rang and I snatched it like a drowning man grabs a lifeline. "Grayling Country Club, Brian speaking," I chirped, thankful for any distraction from watching clubhouse paint dry. As it turns out it was the club President calling to ask the age-old question, "When do you think we will be able to get on the course?" Gazing out across the frozen tundra of Crawford county, I could think of but one reply....."Mr. Jansen, if I could tell you that, I'd be making the big bucks answering some Psychic Hotline." Fortunately for me he accepted the remark in the spirit it was intended and laughed.

Following a brief conversation, I returned the phone to it's cradle, thinking how I'm pretty lucky to be working for a club with a sense of humor. "That's it!" I cried, startling myself with the sound of another human voice in such close proximity. "That's the answer to the question of success." Considering the excitement many of us experienced last summer, I fail to see how anyone lacking this key ingredient could remain sane, much less effective.

So as the snow makes its slow retreat this spring, and it becomes evident that Teddy Typhula has invited a few hundred of his closest friends over for a winter party on whatever green that provides the best view from the clubhouse, take a deep breath. Experience tells us that the turf will return, the course will be played,

and the players will forget. While this outlook may not be practical for everyone, it has worked well for me. I've found in the past that panic breeds only more panic, and a well timed chuckle combined with a self-confident look can stop an entire stampeding greens committee in their tracks. CAUTION! This technique should not be tried for the first time on the Every Other Monday Morning Ladies Golf & Luncheon League as they are storming the maintenance building looking for the person responsible for turning the irrigation on. A much better idea is to return home about three hours late, and try the technique out on your significant other. When you have practiced enough that three hours tardiness no longer automatically relegates you to the cot in the garage, you are ready.

I'm sure that you are now asking yourself, "What do I do now with the extra time that I used to spend worrying?" I suggested that you spend your free time wisely like I do. My resume has never looked better. □

## Committee Reports

**Program & Golf (Kendzioriski)** - See box in this newsletter for 1996 Meeting Schedule. Anyone interested in hosting a meeting in 1997, please contact myself or any board member.

**Education (Olson)** - The April Mini-Conference was a huge success, we had almost 90 people in attendance. Topics were wide verse and hopefully helped each attendee both personally and professionally. The May 8th meeting at Marquette Trails G.C. heard Tom Smith of Grass Roots talk to us about the use and varieties of native grasses. Next educational time will be the July 16th meeting at Alpena G.C.

**Finance (Maddern)** - We are still working out the kinks in transferring responsibility and wrapping up last year. With spring (or summer) coming on so quick I have not been able to get this done. I will have more to report in next letter.

**Membership (Pretznov)** - I am told by the publications committee that the 1996 Roster is about to be mailed along with membership cards. At our April meeting we welcomed the following new members: Mark Culberson, Springbrook Hills; Doug Palms, Cattails G.C.; Robert Birdsall, Cadillac C.C.; Ann Blight, Grand Traverse Resort; David Burchett, Birchwood Farms C.C.; Gerald Covitz Jr., Treetops Resort; Paul Emling, Crystal Downs G.C.; Douglas Gapinski, Gaylord C.C.; Thomas Gray, Franklin Hills C.C.; Lawrence Lavelly, Agaming G.C.; Garret Waller, Country Highlands G.C.; Jeffrey Wilson, Treetops Resort; Matthew Wooten, Pineview Highlands G.C.; Jason Roznowski, Elk Ridge G.C.; Russ Jernberg, Century Rain-Aid; William Madigan, C.C. of Jackson; Robert Johnson, The Rose G.C. Welcome one and all to this association and we hope to see you at another meeting soon.

**M.T.F. Fund-raiser (Mertz)** - You should have received your registration form. The date is Monday, June 3rd at the Hidden Valley Resort "The Loon Golf Club" in Gaylord. We hope for a great turnout and another successful day.

**Bylaws (Holmes)** - At the April meeting the bylaws vote on whether the NMTMA should remain an affiliated chapter of

GCSAA was overwhelmingly passed. The board is proceeding with the affiliation process. There will be some more bylaw changes that NMTMA will have to vote on. This will probably take place at the Annual Meeting in October.

**Mechanics Group (Ross)** - The first meeting was held at Garland Resort on May 7th with 10 people attending to hear and round table discuss various issues. The outside speaker for this was John Garletts of Spartan Distributors. Anyone interested in hosting a meeting this year please contact me. We would like to have two more meetings this year.

**G.C.S.A.A. (Maddern)** - The affiliation vote was approved and we are proceeding with the affiliation process. 'PAR FOR THE COURSE' continues to show stories from our members here in Northern Michigan. The Chapter meeting is scheduled for September 7th & 8th. If you have any concerns or questions please let me know prior to this meeting. The plans for the conference are being worked on and finalized. It should be another great program. There will be sessions for the day after the opening session for those who are not attending seminars. This will include the PUBLIC GOLF FORUM.

**M.T.F. (Maddern)** - The board has been involved in the interview process for the replacement of Dr. Branham. Hopefully this will be done and the person on board by field day. The expansion of the Hancock Center should be started soon.

**Membership Scholarship (O'Dell)** - Applications are being reviewed. The winner will be presented at the August 13th meeting at THE ROSE.

**Publication (Maddern)** - This issue is very late, the reasons are numerous and no one person's fault. Some articles were late when the season hit and I had other priorities to get done first. We will do better with the remaining issues, you should see your next issue around the 20th of July. The Annual Directory and Roster should be in your hands soon along with your new membership card. If you see any errors or things that should be changed please contact any committee member or Kay Patrick. □

### 1996 Tenative Meeting Schedule

May 7th	<i>Mechanic's Meeting</i> , Garland Resort
May 8th	Marquette Trails G.C., Baldwin
June 3rd	<i>MTF Fundraiser</i> , Hidden Valley's Loon G.C., Gaylord
July 16th	Alpena Golf Club, Alpena
August 13th	<i>25th Anniversary of NMTMA</i> , The Rose Golf Club, Leroy
September 18th	<i>NMTMA Fundraiser</i> , Treetops Rick Smith, "Signature," Gaylord
October 8th	<i>NMTMA Annual Meeting &amp; Tuck Tate Championship</i> , Boyne Highlands, Harbor Springs, MI

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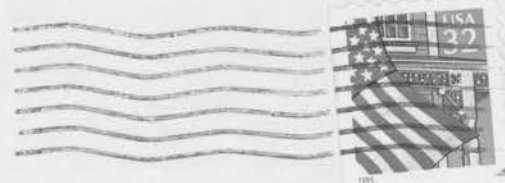
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