



# Turf Times

Bi-Monthly  
Update  
Sept./ Oct. 1996  
Vol. 25, No. 4

The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

## *President's Message*

It's important we keep in mind the decisions made by this association in the past may have long term consequences. This is especially important in our recent affiliation with the GCSAA and the by-law changes we will be voting on at our annual meeting. This is also a factor when voting for new board members. Many of the decisions and choices faced by the recent board include a lot of fore thought, thus the association moves forward but at a slow pace. Most of the current decisions and policies will not be measurable in many ways for years to come. Take your voting privileges seriously and take the time to consider the issues you are voting on.

The celebration of the NMTMA 25th Anniversary will stand out as a milestone for this association. We had great member participation, an excellent educational speaker, a great golf course, and a beautiful day. Thanks to Jeff Dorrell and his staff for providing great playing conditions. The NMTMA members have by their participation shown a continued commitment to education and professionalism.

Our next meeting will be the NMTMA fund-raiser at Treetops, on the Rick Smith course. The money we raise at this event will allow us to promote our scholarship program. I am looking forward to the same participation level we had at our anniversary celebration for this meeting.

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

## *My Summer Vacation*

Just kidding, but what a great year! After the heat and humidity of 1995, then an early and deep snow for the winter months, it was a wonderful summer to grow grass. Some of us even had time to spend with our families.

I was blessed with a great crew this year. I have renewed hope for our younger generation. The young men working for me were competent, conscientious and even polite! Also joining my staff were five retired men from downstate that moved to this area. I have come to rely on their help more and more. Not only are they good workers, but they have positive, cheery dispositions. It has been such a pleasure to be surrounded by people who really enjoy coming to work each day.

I am leaving the board of directors of NMTMA this fall. It has involved some work and a lot of enjoyment. As with many things in life, we get out of it what we put into it. It has been rewarding working with my colleagues and being informed as to what is going on both at the local and national levels. It has been good for me to see how people contribute behind the scenes to make our organization run smoothly. Please consider serving the association at least once in your career.

As our season closes, be sure to communicate your appreciation to your staff and your family for their effort. Our success depends greatly on their support. □

*Patrick Mertz*

# Over 100 People Attended the 25th Anniversary of NMTMA on August 13th.

It was an outstanding day in more ways than one. First the weather was great, our hosts The Rose Golf Club and Jeff Dorrell and his staff did a great job, the speaker was world renowned Dr. James Beard, the turn out was overwhelming, and we awarded our first members scholarship. Everyone who attended had a great time and learned more about the NMTMA and its history.

We even had eight of the charter members of this association in attendance. C.E. Tuck Tate talked about how this association was started and its purpose. Dr. Beard discussed the old, present and new bentgrasses and then reflected on his memories of this association and his work with it.

Kim Olson did a great job of getting this meeting organized and thinking up ideas for fun prizes geared around 25. This definitely turned out to be a meeting not to have missed. □

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## The Big Three

No, it isn't Ford, Chevy or Chrysler, but three words - Passion, Perspective and Priority - that are as important in real life as Ford, Chevy or Chrysler are to the automotive world.

### Passion = Enthusiasm

In today's society it is estimated we spend nearly 1/2 of our waking hours or 1/3 of our life working. This is a substantial amount of time spend away from home. Taking a closer look at these facts, you will begin to realize the importance of finding a profession you love, where enthusiasm is an important driving force to return to work each and every day. How often have we heard professional athletes comment on how fortunate they are to be able to love their career and make a living at the same time? Those of us who find ourselves in this position should be relishing in our good fortune.

### Perspective = Balance

Golf course superintendents are constantly discussing how stressful our profession can be. Stress can come from several factors: family concerns, budgets, equipment, diseases, tournaments, or weather. But our main concern or worry is to keep the grass alive and healthy. I remember a past conversation with a former golf course superintendent/mountain manager who had just finished his first winter as mountain manager. The conversation was primarily the comparison of responsibilities of a golf course superintendent to those of a mountain manager. He stated, "In the summer I worried about keeping the grass alive and in the winter I had to make sure the several

hundred people riding a chairlift stayed safe and alive." Simply stated, grass can be replaced. There are many things in this world that cannot. Placing our concern into perspective can save ourselves from undue stress.

### Priorities = Who Comes First?

Who comes first: work, community, or family? We are all familiar with the old cliché "time flies, enjoy life while you can." You will do well to heed those words. The small painstaking decisions we make on a daily basis, for example to hand mow versus triplex, weed eat or start a new project, edge a cart path or trim irrigation heads, will not stand out in your memory as you're reminiscing in later years on your front porch swing. It will be memories of your spouse, your children, and your success with your career that will bring a smile to your face. So the question "Who comes first?" isn't so very difficult to answer. Your children grow rapidly. Families need nourishing to stay strong. Neglecting them will only give you memories of your career. Will those memories be enough to bring a smile? □

*Dave Faucher*



**Do you have an address change, or do you need some information on NMTMA, or do you need to call in your reservation for a meeting?**

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

**(517) 327-5474**

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

# Committee Reports

**Golf (Kendziorski)** • Had a good turn out and great day at Alpena G.C. Thanks to Bob Aube and the staff for all their help and hospitality. We played a 4 person scramble with modified handicaps. We had a rare happening of 2 hole in ones from the same group. Dick Spenny on #5 a 130 yard old and Jerry DeWitt on #13 a 17 yard hole both from Fox Run G.C. We are planning a unique game for The Rose to honor our 25th anniversary. Hope to see you there.

**Education (Olson)** • David Kosbar was speaker at Alpena Golf Club discussing the uses of satellite weather systems. Our next speaker is the world renown turf researcher Dr. James Beard. Dr. Beard was helpful in providing education and research plots to Northern Michigan Turf Managers. It is because of his work and innovation that spearheaded NMTMA in getting organized. He will discuss the past, present, and future.

**Finance (Maddern)** • As of 7/30/96 we have \$17,700.00 in the checking account. This includes money from MTF fund-raiser. And questions please feel free to contact me.

**Membership (Pretznow)** *Nothing to report*

**MTF Fund-raiser (Mertz)** • We had 138 golfers participating at The Loon Golf Club on June 3rd. A special thanks to host Supt. Jim Olli and his staff as well as Pro Mike Husby and his staff for all their work and help. It was a great day, great course, and a good time was had by all. We would also like to thank all the tee sponsors. We would like to have more participants for this important event. If you have any suggestions or would like to host this event next year, please contact myself or any Board member.

**NMTMA Fund-raiser (Mertz)** • This event will be on Wednesday, September 18th at Treetops Resort at the Rick Smith Signature Course. More details will be out soon so mark your calendars and plan to attend. These fund-raiser proceeds will be used to fund members scholarship donations.

**Mechanics Course (Ross)** • We are looking for site and host meetings in September and October. If you are interested in hosting or have a topic, please contact me.

**GCSAA (Maddern)** • We are working on affiliation agreement with regards to information that is to be included. Chapter plans to send representative to chapter meeting at headquarters in September 7th and 8th. I have also been nominated and accepted nomination for Director of GCSAA to be voted on at annual meeting in Las Vegas in February, 1997. GCSAA in cooperation with the MSU Museum have reached an agreement to display the collection of more than 120 pieces of antique equipment collected by Dr. Ken Payne. Look for more information

to come on this great addition.

**MTF (Maddern)** • The process of filling Dr. Branham's position is moving along. Slower than most people would like, but moving. The extension to the Hancock Center is underway and you should see a great deal at the Field Day. Speaking of the Field Day, this important day is Thursday, August 15th. Look forward to seeing you there. □

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## 25th Anniversary of the NMTMA

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of NMTMA. It has been a great pleasure to watch your organization grow both in numbers and in professional stature. The early leaders are to be commended for their vision for the need for this association, and the pioneering effort required to make it happen. Congratulations, too, to all those who have provided key leadership since the beginning.

Thank you for the invitation to speak at your 25th anniversary celebration in August. Unfortunately, I was already committed that day to the Biotech in Breeding Conference here at M.S.U. Since I was chair of the organizing committee for this national level workshop I felt I should be here. I regret not being able to attend your meeting. It would have been fun to share in some of the stories about the early days. In those early years I spent a lot of time on the research plots at Traverse City Country Club along with Jim Beard and Joe Vargas. Ed Karcheski and the club were always very supportive and helpful with our research as well as the field days and other meetings. During that time I developed a great appreciation for the beauty of northern Michigan and the down to earth, enthusiastic members of NMTMA.

I hope your members appreciate what you have in your association and that they are enthusiastically involved. The strength of the group will be as strong as the commitment of the individual members and the leaders to the association. At M.S.U., we very much appreciate the support we receive from NMTMA. As I speak around the country I hold up the Michigan industry and M.T.F. as examples for groups in other states to follow. Best wishes for a most successful 25 years in NMTMA. I am sure the association will continue to grow as golf and all fields of turf grow in northern Michigan. □

*Paul Rieke*

### SUPERINTENDENT POSITION AVAILABLE

Traverse City Golf & C.C.  
Contact or send resume to James Cartwright,  
Manager at Traverse City Golf & C.C., 1725 S.  
Union, Traverse City, MI 49684, (616) 947-9140

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*...and we encourage you to support them.*

Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association  
P.O. Box 80086  
Lansing, Michigan 48908



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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*  
Tom Reid - *Executive Secretary*