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Turf Times



The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

Bi-Monthly Update May/June Volume 28, No. 2 [1999]

President's Message

Recently I had the opportunity to participate in a resource group at the G.C.S.A.A. headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas. It was a very enlightening experience for me. I would like to speak about two points that I became aware of at this meeting.

I was very impressed with the professionalism of the staff. They are all very dedicated and diligent in their areas of responsibility. Their focus is in the best interests of the G.C.S.A.A. Membership input is encour-

aged and supported by the staff.

The resource group I am involved with is called the LIMITED-BUDGET RESOURCE GROUP. The group was asked to identify ways the G.C.S.A.A. could better serve limited budget facilities. The main idea focused on how to grow the game of golf. The group felt when the game of golf grows, everyone from the smallest to the largest club benefits in some way. In the near future, the ideas of the group

will be compiled and sent to the membership. There will be suggestions of what we can do to help make the game of golf grow.

I believe the growth needs to begin at the local chapter level and be supported by the G.C.S.A.A. Starting at the local level might be contacting a fellow superintendent and offering your help. This help could be in the form of advice on a problem they have, offering to tour their course with them, or inviting them to tour

your course. Both parties would benefit from this type of information exchange. Maybe you could lend them equipment or offer to sell them used equipment instead of trading it in on the purchase of new equipment. Call and invite them to a chapter meeting, offer to drive to the meeting. Let us reach out to all superintendents even if they are not members of the N.M.T.M.A. or the G.C.S.A.A. Let's all help golf grow!

Brian Holmes

Editor's Note.....

I hope everyone has received their 1999 Directory. If not, please let myself or Kay Patrick know and we will get you a copy.

Correction:

On page 7 of the directory, Steve Hammon from Traverse City Country Club should be

listed as one of the Directors. My apologies to Steve for making this error.

If anyone would happen to come across an error in the directory, be sure to let me know and I will publish the correction in the next issue of "Turf Times"

Congratulations to **White Pine National Golf Club** on

completing the requirements to become a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary"

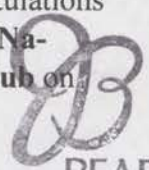
Mark your calendars. On **June 14** join your fellow colleagues for an enjoyable day at Hidden River Golf & Casting Club for the MTF Fundraiser.

Looking for a break from your daily routine? Plan on at-

tending the NMTMA Family Picnic on **July 11** at Beaver Creek in Gaylord.

Thank you to all who advertised in this years Directory and "Turf Times". Without you, these publications would not be possible!

Any articles you would like to submit for the next issue please e-mail them to me by **July 11, 1999.**



BEARD COLLECTION

Pooch sniffs out golf course's elusive PVC

Brutus, Mich.- Think dogs are just good for chasing geese off golf courses? Well, Steve Sump, Superintendent at Hidden River Golf & Casting Club here has a PVC-seeking missile of a Labrador Retriever that can find clogged drainage caps through the deepest, murkiest standing water allowing Sump to get the flooded parts of his course back in play in two shakes of a dog's tail.

Buddy is an 18-month old, 80 pound yellow lab who had lived in the Sump household since he was six weeks old. Buddy began accompanying Sump to work almost immediately, riding on the superintendent's cart and quickly developing into a top-flight goose deterrent.

"I originally

brought him out here to chase the geese," Sump said. "We don't have any geese now. We've got more turkeys than anything, and a few ducks. I got him to understand not to chase the turkeys or the ducks."

Being a retriever, Buddy loved to pick things up and bring them to Sump. One of the items Buddy would frequently carry back was an extra 4-inch, green drainage cap that fit over a drain tile. The cap quickly became one of his favorite toys.

Following a particularly heavy rain last June, parts of the Hidden River course were flooded when the drainage caps scattered around the course clogged with debris and clippings. Sump removed his shoes, rolled up his pant legs and

started poking around through the water and clippings trying to find the caps. Meanwhile, Buddy splashed in the dark green liquid.

"For some reason I said 'Bud, find your drain,' the name we'd given his cap toy," Sump said. "All of a sudden he starts looking around, paws under the water and pops out one of the drain caps.

"I thought maybe it was a fluke, that he'd just happened to step on it. So we went to another area and I said 'Hey Bud, go find a drain.' He starts sniffing around, paws under the water again, lifts out another drain cap and the water starts to drain down the hole. He must have found 10 caps that day."

Sump knew there were other caps he'd been unable to

find that had grown over with grass. "I'd take him out in dry conditions and say 'Find a cap.' He'd begin sniffing and then go from cap to cap to cap, pulling them out, something it would have taken me hours to do. On other courses, I'd sent guys out for hours at a time with a pitch fork and shovel looking for those things. Now I have a dog that can go out and find them."

To keep his PVC senses honed, Sump occasionally sends Buddy off in search of a cap, whether he needs to find one or not.

"Last week [late February] we got 15 inches of snow," Sump said. "I went out on my snowshoes and I started wondering if Buddy could find a cap through the snow. Sure

(Continued on page 3)

Think Snow

Yes, that's what it says. For those of you turf grass sled heads, winter was too short. But it's not too early to register for the February 1st and 2nd meeting at Drummond Island next year. Space is lim-

ited to 60 riders. We have approximately 30 signed up.

Cost will be determined as we approach our limit of riders. To be included are speakers, some meals, room packages

for one to four nights (in case of a long business trip), two day trail permit to Canada, trail guides, and lots of fun.

Snowmobile rentals are available. You do not have to be a golf course superinten-

dent to attend this meeting. Anyone who loves to snowmobile is welcome.

For more information about the Drummond Island/Canada Excursion, please call: Craig Hoffman 906-493-

(Continued on page 3)

White Pine National Golf Club Recognized for Environmental Excellence!

Spruce, MI – White Pine National Golf Club has achieved designation as a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon international, endorsed by the United States Golf Association. White Pine National Golf Club is the 9th in Michigan and the 149th course in the world to receive the honor.

In 1994, White Pine National Golf Club joined the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses which provides information and guidance to golf courses to help them preserve and enhance

wildlife habitat and protect natural resources.

“To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that they are maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas,” explained Zeh. These categories include: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management. Golf courses from the United States, Canada, and Europe have also achieved certification in the program.

The design of White Pine National was conceived with the quality of the environ-

ment in mind and everything we have done, from the concept of today’s maintenance and next year’s game plan has environmental impact on the top of the list”, declares Bruce Wolfrom, who with his brother Clem, designed and built White Pine. Bruce continues to be “hands on” in the day to day operation of the course to ensure the best playing conditions available and continued attention to environmental impact.

“Environmental issues can be addressed and top playing conditions can be achieved at the same time. This has been our goal and our mission and we are committed to continually strive to better our best efforts. The site we

chose to construct White Pine National had to lend itself to those environmental concerns. It took 10 years to find the right piece of property. After that was taken care of, we knew exactly what we wanted to do. Now we’d like to share what we’ve learned with the community at large in order to maintain the beauty and ambience of Northern Michigan.”

In addition to golf courses, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System also provides programs for schools, individuals and businesses. For more information, contact Audubon International, 46 Rarick Rd., Selkirk, NY 12158, USA, (518) 767-9051, e-mail them via the Internet at acss@audubonintl.org, or visit their website at www.audubonintl.org.

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enough, in 30 seconds he had his head down in a snow bank and out pops a drainage cap... If he sees one sometimes he’ll go and pop it out on his own. That’s the only downside. He’ll bring it to you and sit there, waiting for his treat.”

Last fall while blowing out his irrigation lines, Buddy helps find numerous lost quick couplers, locating the brass sprinkler heads by scent of their small, PVC tops.

Basically we trained Buddy by just playing with him when he was a puppy here in

the shop,” Sump said. “He’d be bored, I’d hide his drainage cap somewhere here in the shop and give him his treat when he located it and brought it back to me.”

Article written by:
Peter Blais
Golf Course News
April 1999

(Continued from page 2)

5658
Dan Bissonette *616-535-2373 (new area code as of June 5th is *231*)

Your Voting Delegate

I have heard in the past from several members and through the "grapevine" that GCSAA doesn't do anything for me. All I get for my membership money is a magazine subscription. Well, maybe I am a bit bias, but I do not agree. I have had the great fortune of being on a GCSAA committee for the past 3 years and so maybe I have a little different perspective, but I don't think that matters.

Some of the responsibility needs to be put on your own shoulders. Have you ever picked up the phone, called GCSAA for help, and not got help??? Have you ever called Steve Mona to express your opinion of the job they are doing at GCSAA? Have you ever got online to use the chat board that is in place, not only to express your opinion, but to get help from your fellow superintendent? Have you ever volunteered for a committee? Have you used the resume' critiquing service? Have you called and asked if they have "that certain form" that you have

been trying to find? Have you asked them if they have any information on policies, procedures, negotiating benefits, career development, professional development, interview skills, communication, rating your own golf operation, hiring a professional staff? Well, that is the kind of stuff that they do and have for YOU, the GCSAA MEMBER. I have used a lot of it and it is helpful. You just have to ask. The people at GCSAA are not mind readers, they can't help if you don't let them know what you want help with. I have even called there when I was looking for a product that I wasn't sure where to purchase it, they pointed me in the right direction. It is as easy as a phone call.

The reason I chose to tell you that information is because again this year I am the voting delegate for NMTMA and I will be going out to Kansas in September for the Chapter Delegate meeting. At this meeting each chapter has the opportunity to express their concerns about the organization, its future direction and any needs that

should be addressed. I ask you all to think about this over the next couple of months and let me know what you want me to talk about as I represent YOU out in Kansas. Feel free to call me or E-mail with your questions and concerns.

One of the "hot" topics at this years meeting is going to be the membership standards initiative. This is going to be discussed at this forum so that each chapter has a fair chance to give their opinion. I got a good taste of it when I was in Kansas about a month ago for my committee meeting and we started to discuss the topic then. There were as many opinions as there were people in attendance. In case you are not aware of what this is, I will explain. The membership standards initiative is going to be put in place so that our bosses (owners, green committee, board of directors, etc.) will know exactly what they are getting when they hire a GCSAA Class A member. Right now it is just a matter of years of service in a certain position and paying your dues. "Skills" as a superintendent are not part

of the package. The "skills" that we possess or should possess are what will be discussed in detail. Also how to "rate" these "skills", and how strict they should be, to be considered a Class A member. It is going to be a big deal and I feel each of you should read whatever you can on this matter. Again, if you have any questions feel free to call or e-mail me.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen O'Dell
Superintendent
Black Bear Golf Resort
Net:
kodell31@hotmail.com



Employee Evaluations

These individual quotes were taken from actual employee performance evaluations in a large US Corporation.

- (1) "Since my last report, this employee has reached rock bottom.....and has started to dig."
- (2) "His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of morbid curiosity."
- (3) "I would not allow this employee to breed."
- (4) "This employee is really not so much of a 'has-been', but more of a definite 'won't be'."
- (5) "Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap."
- (6) "When she opens her mouth, it seems that it is only to change feet"
- (7) "He would be out of his depth in a parking lot puddle."
- (8) "This young lady has delusions of adequacy."
- (9) "He sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them."
- (10) "This employee is depriving a village somewhere of an idiot."
- (11) "This employee should go far, and the sooner he starts, the better."
- (12) "Got a full 6-pack, but lacks the plastic thing to hold it all together."
- (13) "A gross ignoramus - 144 times worse than an ordinary ignoramus."
- (14) "He certainly takes a long time to make his pointless."
- (15) "He doesn't have ulcers, but he's a carrier."
- (16) "I would like to go hunting with him sometime."
- (17) "He's been working with glue too much."
- (18) "He would argue with a signpost."
- (19) "He has a knack for making strangers immediately."
- (20) "He brings a lot of joy whenever he leaves the room."
- (21) "When his IQ reaches 50, he should sell."
- (22) "If you see two people talking and one looks bored, he's the other one."
- (23) "A photographic memory but with the lens cover glued on."
- (24) "A prime candidate for natural deselection."
- (25) "Donated his brain to science before he was done using it."
- (26) "Gates are down, the lights are flashing, but the train isn't coming."
- (27) "Has two brains: one is lost and the other is out looking for it."
- (28) "If he were any more stupid, he'd have to be watered twice a week."
- (29) "If you give him a penny for his thoughts, you'd get change."
- (30) "If you stand close enough to him, you can hear the oceans."
- (31) "It's hard to believe that he beat 1,000,000 other sperm to the egg."
- (32) "One neuron short of a synapse."
- (33) "Some drink from the fountain of knowledge;..... he only gargled."
- (34) "Takes him 2 hours to watch 60 minutes."
- (35) "The wheel is turning, but the hamster is dead."

Scott Pulaski

* You may want to hang on to these for your next evaluations

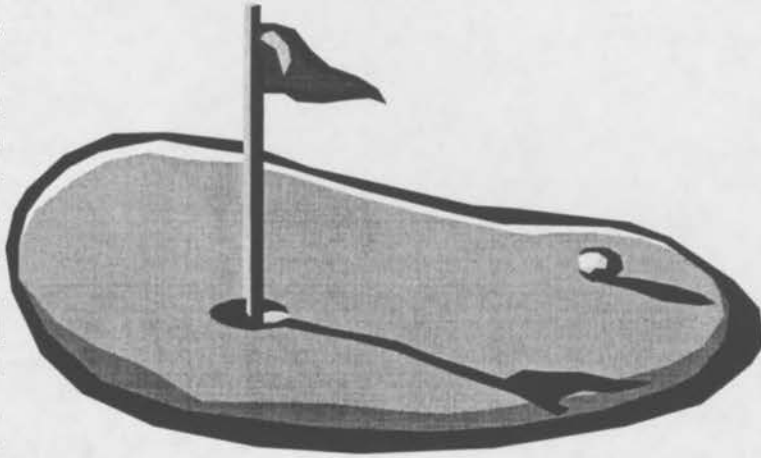


Janzen, Michelson, Nicklaus, Floyd to tee off in PGA Tour at Treetops

Dover TWP.- The circle is complete. Two-time U.S. Open champion Lee Janzen will tee up with Professional Golf Association (PGA) golfers Phil Michelson, Jack Nicklaus and Raymond-Floyd Monday-Tuesday, July 26-27 at Treetops-Sylvan Resort in Dover Township.

This event has been called a "feather in everyone's cap" for the Gaylord Golf Mecca. The players will golf nine holes during the day both days, and ESPN will televise the event during primetime 8 to 10 p.m. at night.

"I'm really pleased that two of the best young players in golf (Janzen and Michelson), two players I have been



working with, are joining two of golf's all-time greats in Jack Nicklaus and Raymond Floyd," said Rick Smith, Treetops director of golf.

This event is an eagle for the Gaylord Golf Mecca, which will receive national exposure. Bringing in these four celebrities of golf is no small matter. According to officials at Rick Smith Enterprises, Inc. Nicklaus, Floyd and Janzen have 26 major champi-

onships between them, and Michelson has the longest current victory streak on the PGA Tour with at least one victory in each of the last six years.

Treetops has a three year commitment to host the PGA-sanctioned tournament which will be played at the resort's "Threetops" par three course.

This event is definitely on par with a \$1 million bonus for holes-in-one during

the tournament. Each hole will be worth \$20,000, with a \$10,000 bonus on each hole for the player whose tee shot is closest to the flag. If a hole is not won, the \$20,000 will carry to the next hole. Potentially, the last hole each day could be worth \$270,000.

Tickets must be purchased through Treetops at \$30 for a one-day pass and \$50 for both days. There will be a limited number of tickets available, but there is no limited number of tickets a person can buy at this time. To reserve tickets now, call 732-6711, ext. 2499. Anyone interested in corporate packages should call 732-6711 and ask for Jerry Albert.

*By: Shelly R. Burgess
Staff Writer for: HER-
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Slow play – golf's timely curse

Etiquette, course grooming, environment topic of superintendents' survey

Golfer disdain for slow play is shared by the professionals responsible for the beauty, performance and upkeep of the nation's golf courses, according to a survey released today.

The 1999 GCSAA Golf Leadership Survey was conducted at GCSAA's 70th International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, Florida, from February 9 - 12, 1999. The computer-based survey probed 1,275 golf course superintendents on trends in golf and golf management. The survey reveals slow play is a function of golf's popularity, golfer inexperience, and golf course conditioning. The 1,200 respondents overwhelmingly cited increased course traffic (33 percent), high rough and fast greens (26 percent) and decline of golfer eti-

quette (23 percent) as the primary causes of slow play.

Superintendents said they have combated slow play by either lowering the rough (46 percent), or widening the fairways (25 percent).

Unlike efforts to control slow play, superintendents are not reacting to the distances achieved by new golf balls or advances in golf club/shaft technologies. 84 percent of superintendents said they were not grooming their courses to compensate for increasing distances of golf balls.

Superintendents identified failure to repair ball marks on the putting green as golfers' worst breach of etiquette (60 percent), followed by failure to rake bunkers (18 percent) and to repair divots (8 percent).

Moving violations on the golf car paths were also a concern of superintendents.

More than 40 percent cited golfers for driving on or too close to greens as the most common violation, while ignoring daily posting of golf car restrictions was next (33 percent).

Asked how playing conditions have changed in the last five years, respondents identified increased green speed (40 percent), improved fairway conditions (23 percent) and height of turf (15 percent) as the most significant.

The survey also revealed increased television exposure is affecting how golfers think their course should look. As picture perfect golf courses have become the norm rather than exception, it is little surprise that 70 percent of superintendents say TV golf has heightened expectations of golf course conditions.

In predicting changes in course opera-

tions over the next five years, the environment figured prominently. The three most common predictions were an increase in environmental regulations, improved environmental management techniques, and a decrease in water usage.

Environmental issues have been a major focus for superintendents for several years. The survey found there is no economic penalty for environmental compliance on the course. 60 percent of respondents claimed not to have increased operating costs to pay for environmental compliance.

Weather has a large impact on the work of superintendents. Perhaps the most far-reaching example of this in the past several years, was the El Niño phenomenon of 1998. 44 percent of superintendents said its effects increased operating costs at their golf facility.

1999 Meeting Schedule

June 14	MTF Fundraiser	Hidden River Golf & Casting Club— Brutus, MI
July 11	NMTMA Picnic	Beaver Creek Resort— Gaylord, MI
August 4	Lakes of the North	Mancelona, MI
September 14	NMTMA Fundraiser	Indian River Golf Club— Indian River, MI
October 5	Tuck Tate Championship/ Annual Meeting	Red Hawk – Tawas, MI

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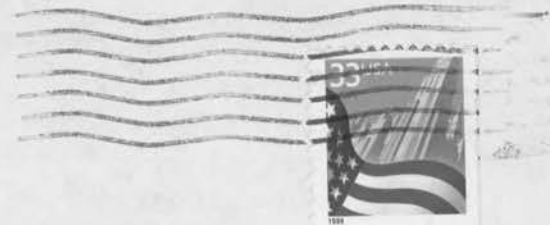
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