



Turf Times



The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

BI-Monthly Update September/October Volume 29, No. 4 [2000]

President's Message



Wife of the President's Message

Have you found yourself in the middle of an interesting conversation with your spouse, when all of a sudden, they are no longer paying attention to you, and instead, veering their neck out the window to admire the lush greens they just went past and your conversation then turns to "I wonder what program they are running?"

How about the phone call at 11 o'clock at night from a concerned neighbor letting you know that they thought they saw someone out on the golf course in a vehicle or snowmobile? This leaves you to try and figure

out whether to call someone or assess the situation in the morning. Either way, sleep has been seriously interrupted.

What is it like to take a family vacation in July?

How about the phone call at 5 o'clock in the morning from another employee that won't be able to make it in today?

What is it like to plan a date in the middle of the week, only to be pre-empted by irrigation trouble?

Have you decided that the little grubs in magazine ad's are kinda cute, and maybe they shouldn't be sprayed with an insecticide?

How come we are the only wives in the world that know what snow mold is?

Here's to the coming winter and the joy that it brings.....

...No more greens or tees to see from the roadside

...No more 5 o'clock phone calls cause everyone's pretty much laid off

...Wonderful vacation planned for the UP and maybe the conference

...Irrigation is blown and put away for the winter

...The grubs and snowmold have all been sprayed, so now all we can do is sit and wait until Spring

...Time to reflect on what you might have missed and appreciate the cycle for what it is.....A Cycle

Green Side Up...

Reflections on the Michigan Turfgrass Field Day

Wednesday, August 23rd was a fantastic day. (You know the scenario if you were involved.) Get up at 4:30 am, read some and ate, gathered my thoughts and left at 5:30. Arrived at the Trowbridge exit at 8:40 and spent the next 20 minutes in stop and go traffic to travel the remaining 3 miles. Finally arrived at the Hancock center by

9:00 am sharp.

Whether you have been involved with turf for 3 months or 32 years as I have, one thing we have in common is that we all have something to learn. The most effective people in any profession are those that are constantly seeking to increase their knowledge, and improve their skills. I realize that each of you

have other important responsibilities outside of the N.M.T.M.A. (that of a mother, father, husband, wife, employee, employer, etc.) and that these other responsibilities take a good chunk of your available time. Yet to be effective in any sphere of influence we need to be growing. In the corporate world, this is called

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2000 MTF Fund-raiser – Shanty Creek Resort – Cedar River Golf Course

This year the NMTMA / MTF fund-raiser was held at The Shanty Creek Resort on the Cedar River Golf Course. Steve Shane and his entire staff had the golf course in excellent condition! Fifteen, five person groups played and finished in very cold wet weather. Prizes were given to first, second and last place finish. We also gave out nearly 35 raffle gifts. Everyone raved about the golf course and the incredible food following the event. Thanks to Shanty Creek Resort, Steve Shane, Brent Nelson, the participants and our regional sponsors, together we raised \$9,500.00 for the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

Next year's event will be held at Treetops, Sylvan Resort on the Tradition Golf Course. If you would like your facility to host an event contact any of your NMTMA board members, 2001 is full and 2002 is filling up.

Steve Hammon – MTF Fund-raiser Chairman

Sponsor Contributions

**Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association
MTF Fund-raiser – June 20, 2000
Shanty Creek Resort – Cedar River Golf Course**

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NMTMA Fundraiser

Sunny skies finally prevailed at one of our outings held at Emerald Vale Golf Course. The seventeen teams participating in this year's fund raising event helped raise enough money for this year's scholarship while having fun doing it. The four person scramble was won by a team from Maple Leaf Golf Club made up of Dan Jezewski, Steve Jezewski, Brian Shark, and Andrew Norman. Second place was decided by a chip off. The sand baggers from The Loon

comprised of Contreras, Luczak, Normand and White ended up chipping closest to the pin. The team from Red Hawk – Little, Hanson, Myles and Santina – wound up third with Hanson trying to keep his wedge shot low and out of the wind.

A final chip off of all teams that were in the skins pot was held after the event, with the team from The Loon sneaking away again with all the ill gotten

booty.

Jim Baggett and his staff had the course in excellent shape. Dave Cornelius, the golf pro, was very helpful in making this tournament a success. A fun day was had by all.

Remember to support the tee sponsors, as they play a major part in this fundraising effort.

Thank You NMTMA Tee Sponsors!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

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"professional development." Organizations have learned that investing in their workers by helping them attend classes, conferences, and other training events, will greatly benefit their corporation and help them accomplish their goals.

It is unfortunate for those who weren't able to attend because of "being too busy, forgetfulness, slothfulness, or not wanting to drive the seven plus hours" because you missed great opportunities to learn, ask questions, meet old friends, and the list goes on and on.

As I prepare myself for another eighteen hole construction project, it appears there are more questions than answers to remedy them. One of these areas of question is in what type of greens construction to use. There are plenty to pick from, from the USGA approved construction method to everything else in between to the push up green. One thing I have noticed as I have played other courses this summer with high sand content greens, is the plague of algae and moss. I battle this myself on a continuing basis with the greens with a high sand content. A plus for me in attending the Field Day was getting to speak with Bob Vavrek Jr. from the USGA Green Section and Phil Dwyer Jr. from M.S.U. about this problem. Both gentlemen gave me new insight as to the causal agents of algae and moss, of which I plan on following up on. If either of these ideas pan out, I will let you know in the months ahead.

Dr. Kevin Frank gave a presentation on water movement in a sloped green. The problems addressed here were to try and remedy localized dry spots (LDS) and black layer; commonly seen on USGA greens. Specifications for the rootzone mix of USGA greens require the sand mix to be placed at a uniform depth of 12" across the entire surface of the green. On a flat green this works very well, however, in reality only a few of us have them. Most of us have greens ranging from slight to extremely sloping greens which causes high areas to become dry and low areas to become saturated, potentially leading to turfgrass decline. At the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center the traditional 12" soil mix is used as well as a modified method which incorporates 16" of soil mix on low areas and 8" over the peaks (high) areas of the green. Different rootzone materials are used as well: sand, sand/peat mix, and sand/soil mix). One thing I noticed was less evidence of dollar spot on the sand/soil mix than on the 100% sand or the sand/peat mix.

At another stop Joe Vargas Jr. and Phil Dwyer Jr. spoke about dollar spot (*Sclerotinia homeocarpa*) management using reduced fungicide inputs. Even though I have been fairly consistent in using this approach for the past twelve years, there was still more to learn. Our poa fairways used to get "hammered" in late July - early September. Dr. Vargas paid me a visit in the late 80's and told me to get on a program of using chlorothalonil at a greatly reduced rate but on a

regular schedule. So, every year, depending on weather conditions conducive for *Sclerotinia* development, we spray 1 oz. chlorothalonil/1000 ft. sq. and repeat every 10 days. Sometimes it just doesn't work out for us to spray that often, BUT when we do the results are nice . . . green turf and no mycelium from *Sclerotinia*.

Tom Nikolai gave an interesting discussion on the historical and current fertilizer management practices for golf course greens. In 1964 Dr. James Beard of M.S.U. released three suggested fertilization programs for golf course greens. His "Intensive Fertilization" programs suggested 8.5 lbs. N/1000 sq.ft. annually while his "Los Budget Greens Program" suggested a mere 4.25 lbs. N/1000 sq.ft. annually. We have come a long way since 1964 !

If you are like me, you most likely find yourself at that lower figure. This year I tried going with all liquid fertilizer with the exception of a dormant IBDU application in the fall and a granular applied during late spring. As I write this (August 29) I am here to inform you that I got hit pretty hard on my greens with dollar spot, something that I fortunately haven't experienced in many years! The important thing to note here is not to only use granular or only use liquids but to experiment, try new things, even if it is only on a part of your nursery. Meet with your bosses and let them know of the benefits of these types of experiments on your own turf. Will it take extra time and record keeping? Yes. But it will also

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 18, 2000

TO: GCSAA Board of Directors, Past Presidents, GCSAA Chapter Leaders,
Allied Associations

FROM: Steve Mona, CA

RE: Unfortunate News

The purpose of this correspondence is to inform you of the tragic death of GCSAA Executive Assistant Lisa Bland, who was killed in an automobile accident, this past Saturday evening.

On behalf of the GCSAA membership, I wish to extend my deepest condolences to Lisa's husband Jim, their daughter Kylie, the Bland family and their friends. Lisa was an exemplary staff member and co-worker for 18 years, most recently serving in the executive office as an assistant to Chief Operating Officer Joe O'Brien, CAE. Many GCSAA members had the good fortune to interact with Lisa, but countless others were positively impacted by her dedicated service. Her presence will be missed.

A rosary will be said at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 20, at St. John's the Evangelist Catholic Church in Lawrence. Services are set for 10 a.m., Thursday, Sept. 21 at the church, located at 1229 Vermont St. Donations are requested in lieu of flowers for the Kylie Rodriguez Bland Educational Fund at Capitol Federal Savings, sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary (120 W. 13th St., Lawrence, Kan. 66044).

Should you have questions or wish to contact GCSAA staff, please call Jeff Bollig, director of communications at 800/7472-7878, ext. 430.

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benefit you and your fellow Superintendents as you gain this type of information.

Even though we are all currently in full swing with fall projects with less laborers to do the jobs at hand, don't forget to mark on your January 2001 calendar TODAY with the date for the annual MTF Conference in Lansing. The date is January 15-18, 2001. Hopefully we will meet each other and discuss our successes and failures over this past year. We will all be the richer and wiser as a result.

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