



# Turf Times



The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

BI-Monthly Update May/June Volume 31, No. 2

[2002]

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## President's Message

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Keeping it simple for this President's message might be a problem for me, but here it goes anyway.

Grassclippers verses Clerks. Shirt fluffers and dirt farmers. Shoe salesmen or boot wearing outdoor custodians. Both at opposite ends of the golf spectrum, yet both depend on each other for their own professional livelihood. The question is why do some golf professionals and golf course superintendents get along and some do not. The problem may be a personality difference, a one way ego trip to nowhere, or miscommunication between the two parties. The answer may come in the form of acceptance for what each profession does and how they compliment each other. The people in this golf business that do get along and help each other out are the ones that have accepted what each profession has brought to the game of golf. The others, well it's quite simple, go back to fluffing and clipping.

Hey, what about this weather? It's enough to smack your ass and call you Sally. We're just waiting for the sunshine. Maybe cloudy in the 70's wouldn't be bad either. But on the bright side, drainage has moved up the priority list. Snow in the forecast for this weekend. Sweeet!

The New Augusta Syndrome: Four hundred fifty yard dogleg right par three. Hootie, go blow a fish! What have you fellas down there done to the game of golf? There is no way on earth that you have done the game a favor. As the saying goes, "Play it as it lies" not "play it as it flies". Do golfers need more length on a course to prove that their 28 handicap is really legit? Will golf courses have to attach a tape measure to the ball washer next to the first tee so we can make sure a golfer "measures up" before he tees off? And who is going to hold on to the tape? ☺

This kind of golf course design gives new meaning to Golf Trail. How about a Michigan Golf Trail?

**Hole #1 Par 4** - First tee in Detroit with the landing area in Flint. Dogleg right to the Thumb region with a green in Bad Axe.

**Hole #2 Par 3** - Tee off in Port Austin, hit 42 miles over the Saginaw Bay with the green in Omer.

**Hole #3 Par 5** - Tee off in Skidway Lake, first landing area in the town of Ossineke (Hi Brian). Watch for the water on your right. Up to Cheboygan for the second shot. Yes, the Mackinac Island green will finish off this lovely par five.

**Hole #4 Par 4** - St. Ignace to Cedarville, stop at Bill Madigan' place for a cocktail, and fly it on to the green at Drummond Island. Watch out for the passing freighters, they are part of this course.

**Hole #5 Par 5** - Tee off from Drummond to Brimley (site of the NMTMA Upnorth Scramble event Sep-

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tember 5 at Wild Bluff) dog leg left to Germfask (ask me how the town got it's name sometime), over to the double - tiered green in Negaunee just outside of Ishpeming.

**Hole #6 Par 4** – Now every course has one long cart path ride and this one is no different. Set the peg in the ground in Copper Harbor and hit a “be da man” shot to Sidnaw. Follow that up with a very accurate shot over Escanaba to the peninsula that boosts the village of Stonington guarded by the watery graves of Little and Big Bay de Noc.

**Hole #7 Par 3** – Hike up your shorts on this one. A stellar Gap wedge from Manistique will get you pin high on this Beaver Island green. It kind of reminds you of Sawgrass without the walkway.

**Hole #8 Par 5** – Tee it high and let it fly from Ponshevaing (find this on the map) to the tight landing area in Greilickville (suburbs of Traverse City). On your second shot south of the Ludington and Big Rapids line, be sure to lay up short of the Muskegon River. This is Michigan's answer to Augusta's Amen Corner. Finishing on this 220-mile par five to a tulip laden green in Holland is spectacular.

**Hole #9 Par 4** – Every great architect has one of these poorly designed holes when they run out of land on their course and we're no different. Short par four, sharp 90-degree bow-wow left. Tee nestled in the southwestern most corner of the state in Michiana. Rip your tee shot just past the town of Pulaski near Jackson. Don't roll through the fairway or you'll end up in Ann Arbor. A strategically designed deep “waste” area that even the best golfer couldn't “pay” enough money to chip out of in one shot. Finish out the round to this states only movable green located in Spartan Stadium.

When you make the turn in Hell, Michigan, we have refreshments in our trailer - soon - to - be 90 million dollar clubhouse. As you can see we are still working on a back nine But we ran out of room. (USGA hint)

Well, I have now burned bridges with the golf pros, architects, the USGA and Augusta. This two page P.M. is long enough, so I don't get the chance to rip on any of our own NMTMA members this time. By the way, thanks to those members who did attend the mini-conference, as it was a good one. But make no mistake about it; I have a few more verbals to get out before I'm impeached from office. Have a great summer.

Green Side Up,  
Daniel J. Bissonette

**Moss Control on Greens**  
**Dr. Joe Vargas, Jr., Nancy Dykema and Ron Detweiler**  
**Department of Plant Pathology**

A moss control study was established and maintained on a creeping bentgrass green in 2001. Plots measured were 2'X3'. Treatments were applied as indicated in table 1 with the 7 day treatment applied on 6/22, 6/29, 7/3, 7/13, 7/19, 7/27, 8/3, 8/9, 8/15 and 8/29 and the 14 day interval treatments on 6/22, 7/3, 7/19, 8/3, 8/15 and 8/29 and the 14 day interval treatments on 6/22, 7/3, 7/19, 8/3, 8/15, and 8/29. Fertilizer was applied on 5/28 (1/2#N), 7/20 (1/8#N) and 8/17 (1/8#N). Plots were rated for percent plot area with moss throughout the season and mean percent moss reduction was calculated (see Table 1). Data were analyzed using ANOVA and means separated with LSD (p=0.05).

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# Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association MTF Update

Jim VanAntwerp

It is a day after our MTF Fundraiser at beautiful Arcadia Bluffs. For those of you who donated your time and money, you may be wondering where all that money goes. I have only been on the MTF Board a short time, but I can assure you that those funds are working for you. It is great to see the amount of respect that this organization receives from Michigan State University and the Turf Program.

The MTF recently held an All-Boards meeting at the Hancock Center which was attended by our President and Vice President, Mr. Bissonette and Mr. Hammon, and Jim VanAntwerp. It was great to hear from a number of Professors (Buhler, Rogers, Frank, Calhoun, Sorochan) on their research that the MTF has had a hand in funding. It was also a pleasant surprise to see the number of studies that are being done for the direct benefit of NMTMA members.

Thanks to a survey done by Mrs. Kim Olson a few years ago, NMTMA members expressed their views on what they wanted studied and funded. With this input, the MTF and the NMTMA are able to use their funds (which you members raise) to get this done. This is a long process, but if the NMTMA continues to support the Turf Programs, and you members continue to voice your opinions, the NMTMA will continue to be a major player in the research projects related to turf.

With our new website, NMTMA.ORG, it will become even easier to get your ideas and concerns for research heard. I think I speak for most members when I hope that the hard earned money we make and donate will help make us better turf managers. By that I mean make our job easier, because truthfully, that is the bottom line.

Keep it in the short grass and see you at the next meeting.

## Attention Lawncare Professionals

In an effort to educate more turf managers of the NMTMA association, we are promoting our association to all lawn care professionals in the industry. If you know of anyone involved with the lawn care industry and would like to join the NMTMA, please have them contact Kay Patrick at 517-327-5474 for an application or they can fill out an application on the NMTMA website at [www.nmtma.org](http://www.nmtma.org)

### Correction:

Terry Newton A-049 (Kathy)  
6750 E. Higgins Lake Dr.  
Roscommon, Mich. 48653  
Res: (989) 821-5631 Fax: (989) 821-5631

### Omission:

John Holberton A-775 (Candie)  
Bay Mills Indian Community  
1401 W. 12th St.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783  
Bus: (888) 422-9645 FAX: (906) 248-5863  
Res: (906) 632-3403  
Email: [jdholberton@hotmail.com](mailto:jdholberton@hotmail.com)

## Schedule of Events 2002

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| August 13     | MSU Field Day, Lansing MI              |
| August 20     | The Tribute                            |
| September 5   | NMTMA Fundraiser - Wild Bluff's        |
| October 2     | Tuck Tate Championship - Kingsley Club |
| Jan. 22, 2003 | MTF Conference in Lansing              |

## Equipment For Sale

- Hahn multi-pro 44 sprayer. 150 gallon tank, 16 ft. boom. Manual boom control. 1987. \$3,800.00
- Pul-tank rears, 200 gallon tow behind sprayer, P.T.O. drive pump, 25 ft. boom. 1985. \$1,200.00

Contact: Jim Olli - Michaywe Pines G. C.  
989-939-8714

# Measure of a superintendent: ability to foster relation-

In our profession, there are many relationships that are significant, but perhaps none is more important on a daily basis than that of the course superintendent and the golf professional. The quality of the relationship between the pro and superintendent is critical not only to these professionals but to the golfers, members and guests who frequent their facilities.

In various cases, this relationship ranges from great to horrible. It is not surprising that a large percentage of superintendents admit they have a poor working relationship with their golf professional. The course can, and should, be a positive common denominator from which both professions derive their income. Why the tension? Why the bad feelings?

## **Managing for success**

Unfortunately, many employers and managers do not position their pro and superintendent to succeed as a team. Rather, they actually set them up for potential failure. No procedures are put in place to ensure these two individuals are working together. Many managers just let the relationship take its course, hoping everything will be fine and dandy. There are no measures taken to ensure both parties are involved equally in decisions regarding tournament scheduling, special outings or tee-time policies. They fail to implement a management structure in which professionals are expected and required to work together for the good of the facility and the enjoyment of the golfer.

The PGA of America has produced a video entitled, "Vital to the Game." It describes the credentials and responsibilities of the superintendent and what he or she contributes to the facility and to managing and protecting the facility's most valuable asset, the course.

Certainly both professionals are important to any golf facility. Is any one more important than the other? No. Isn't there enough responsibility, work, credit, recognition and accolades to go around? You would think so.

At the heart of every relationship lie these basic questions: What are the individuals' core values? How do they treat others? Where do the characteristics of pride, ego, power, authority, friendliness, goodwill, fairness, etc. enter into the daily lives of these two professionals?

There is no exact equation for what personal qualities guarantee success. Far too often our supervisors stay "far away" from monitoring this important relationship. Perhaps some of the past conflict has resulted from personality types that entered both professions. In the past, many superintendents were quieter and content with staying in the background. Today, many superintendents strive for the same visibility and recognition that the golf professional traditionally has garnered. Depending on personality types, it can be easy for one professional to try to overshadow another.

## **Team Play**

Some individuals have personalities and agendas that do not include team play. They worry about themselves and how they will get ahead and benefit, giving little or no thought to how their actions will affect others. I see the most frustration from a superintendent when the golf professional questions a frost delay, cart path restrictions, or the necessity of aeration, I am not saying the blame for poor relationships is confined to either profession. But there are some real issues and examples of where these relationships start to go bad.

Putting ourselves in the other's shoes might help us see the other side of the story. Conversely, those superintendents who do little in the form of golfer and member communication and public relations have to understand that the golf professional is quite visible, and he or she fields many questions about the course.

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An effective method for avoiding a poor professional relationship is to research the golf professional staff we will be working with before we accept a position. We could save ourselves a lot of grief and frustration if we knew what we were getting into. There are some jobs worth rejecting just because of the other people employed at the course.

We are not obligated to like everyone with whom we work. But we should be professional enough to co-exist in a manner that contributes to a great golfing experience for every golfer who visits our facility. It takes a great deal of character to endure a poor relationship. It takes even a greater person to go the extra mile to make it work. Our jobs and reputations depend on this key relationship.

*Tommy D. Witt, CGCS, director of operations and special projects at the Kiawah Island (S.C.) Club, is the*

#### *Moss Control*

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The moss that was in most of the plots was not totally eradicated by the treatments tested. Throughout the study, the moss would go off-color (turn brown) only to return to its green color again. This happened in various treatments as well as in some of the controls and seemed to be independent of treatment. Although based on the data in Table 1, some of the treatments provided significant moss reduction compared to the control, none of the treatments totally eradicated the moss. In addition, some phytotoxicity was observed over the course of the study. Spotrete exhibited mild phytotoxicity as a slight darkening of the turf. The high rate of Junction showed no damage early in the trial, but by the end of July, some slight browning was visible. In early September, moderate phytotoxicity was observed in the plots treated with the high rate of Junction only.

Table 1. Moss 2001

Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, E. Lansing, MI

Rating Scale: Mean percent reduction of moss

Date: June 15 - Sept. 5, 2001

<b>Treatment Rate/ 1000ft<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Interval (Days)</b>	<b>Mean</b>
Spotrete 7.5 fl. Oz.	7	75a
Junction 6 oz	14	37.5ab
Junction 2 oz.	14	35.4ab
Junction 4 oz	14	0 ab
Control (Fertilized)	—	51.3 b

This year another study will be conducted. Plots have been established on a creeping bentgrass green and will be mowed at 1/8". Fertility will be maintained at 1/4# nitrogen/1000ft<sup>2</sup>/month. The following treatments will be included in the study:

Treatment and Rate/1000 square ft.

1. TD 2390 4 oz.
2. TD 2390 8 oz
3. TerraCyte 8 lbs.
4. Ultra Dawn Detergent 4 fl. Oz
5. Moss Master 1 lb in 35 gal-drench
6. Junction 6 oz.
7. Kocide 6 oz

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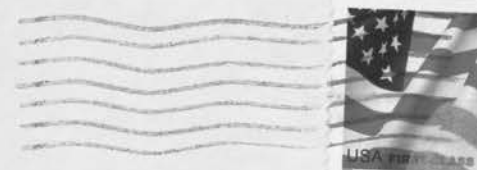
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*...and we encourage you to support them*

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