



Turf Times



The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

Bi-Monthly Update March/April Volume 33, No. 1 [2004]

President's Message



Well, are you ready? Even though I have a job where I can plan and organize for four months, I don't feel ready for the season. With all of the planning, ordering and office work, I still don't feel ready. I think it's kind of like having a baby, you never really *feel* ready until it finally happens, and then you shift gears and go for it. When I call my staff back and finally get outside for a change, I'm sure I will be ready.

I want to thank my fellow board members for their hard work and planning during our winter board meetings. Some of the topics we discussed were; current and future financial planning, scholarship interviews and awards, membership levels, web site changes, fundraisers, education, mechanics programs, GCSAA affiliation agreement and HQ location study, by-law changes for 2005 and newsletter articles. I would also like to thank Dan Hunt for his time serving on the NMTMA board of directors for the past six years. Dan was a key element for the associations continued financial stability; thanks for all of your time Dan.

The mini-conference agenda looks outstanding, thanks to Craig Hoffman and Jim Bluck. GCSAA education points and MDA credits will be available, see the insert for more information.

Our first golf event of the year is always the MTF fund-raiser. This year, Kings Challenge Golf Club in Leelanau County will be hosting the event on June 8. Pick your team and sign up now at nmtma.org. While you are on the web site, check out all of the 2004 events and the new NMTMA history section.

Speaking of events, stayed tuned for information on this year's Golf Association of Michigan, "Super GAM Day," the date is June 1. This special event is geared towards educating owners, members, influential golfers, committees and boards. All superintendents are encouraged to bring a group of their decision makers. The day begins with a one-hour tour of the Hancock Research Center then the participants play golf at Forest Acres Golf Course. The education of the day will be "*All Things Green Speed*." There will be on course questions and answers for you and your group to discuss regarding green speed issues. Here is your chance to educate your ownership about the current issues relating to green speed. The GAM moved the starting time back from 7:30 to 9:00 just to accommodate our northern drive time. Please talk with your employer about attending this great event. An official announcement will be coming soon.

I hope your golf course comes out of winter in great condition and I will see you at the mini-conference.

Steve Hammon



2004 Schedule of Events

GAM Super Day

06-01-2004

Location: Hancock Center - Forest Acres

MTF Fund-raiser

06-08-2004

Location: Kings Challenge Golf Club

MTF Field Day

07-21-2004

Location: MSU - Hancock Research Center

August Golf Outing and Education

08-12-2004

Location: Gaylord Country Club

NMTMA September Fundraiser

09-14-2004

Location: The Nightmare

Tuck Tate Chapter Championship

10-13-2004

Location: Walloon Lake Country Club

October Equipment Technician Meeting

10-20-2004

Location: Forest Dunes



Member's Scholarship Application Forms Available

NMTMA member's scholarship application information will be available at the Mini-Conference in Grayling at the Holiday Inn on March 31, 2004, on the NMTMA webpage, or by contacting Jim Bluck. The purpose of this scholarship is to offer financial aid to children of NMTMA members and also as an additional benefit to our members. Eligibility requirements are as follows: One or more of the applicant's parents or step-parents must currently be an active member of the NMTMA for at least the past two years, the student must be studying or planning to study in a field **unrelated** to golf course management and there is a limit of one scholarship per level of education (e.g. undergraduate, graduate, and doctorate. Criteria for selection is as follows: The student must be enrolled full-time at an accredited institution or higher learning or, in the case of a high school senior, must be accepted at such an institution for the next academic year and the student must complete an essay. The award will be in the amount of \$1,000 and will be awarded at the September meeting.

Have you hugged your Sales Representative lately?

As we become consumed with the everyday pressures ranging from going to work, dressing our children for school, finishing winter equipment repairs and managing a golf course with 5 less employees, we often forget what certain areas of our lives would be like without the things we assume will always be there.

A constant that we seem to have taken advantage of is the education and financial support of our distributors and their sales representatives. I reflect on the past 14 years that I have been in this business and try to remember when a golf event or educational seminar was not supported in some way through sponsorships. I recall attending events in which it seems the attendees (superintendents) think it is the obligation of the distributors to give up their profits for the enhancement our experience. This sponsorship in my opinion is 100% voluntary and yet goes, at times, unappreciated. If company XYZ didn't sponsor an event and you needed a product they sold, would you still purchase this product? This is just one example of giving money to our profession as being voluntary. We all need the products they sell and the information they possess and where would we get it if they weren't there?

How many of you have taken advantage of or have benefited from any of the following, NMTMA directory, NMTMA turftimes newsletters, fundraisers, MSU field day, Michigan Hospitality Room, GCSAA conference, GCSAA website, MTF conference and the list can go on and on? These are just a few of the areas that are supported with voluntary donations.

I have had the fortunate opportunity to see this business from the other side of the superintendent's desk and have taken a new found appreciation for the trials and tribulations our sales representatives go through daily. Until each of you have had this experience, I suggest that you do not view any sales representative that calls on you as an inconvenience or nuisance because it is what they and the companies they work for do, that make our job experiences much easier. I am not suggesting that one must purchase products from everyone that stops by, but a mere suggestion that each person is treated with dignity and respect and offer them a few minutes of your time.

As the economy continues to weight heavily upon the golf industry, let's make a commitment this season to say thank you to the distributors you do business with that sponsor all the things we take advantage of before they are gone.

A hug may be a little much!!!

Jim Bluck
Golf Course Superintendent
Forest Dunes

Attention Members

If you have any problems with receiving e-mails, invoices, Turf Times, meeting notices etc., please contact Kay Patrick at 517-327-5474 or e-mail her at nmtma@comcast.net. Her information is only as current as you keep it.

The 2004 NMTMA Members Directory will be arriving shortly.

If you are interested in signing up for events early for 2004 you may do so online at nmtma.org.

2004 NMTMA MINI CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, March 31, 2004
HOLIDAY INN: GRAYLING, MI
Registration: 8:00am - Conference Begins @ 8:30am

Welcome - NMTMA President, Mr. Steve Hammon
Past board member service recognition - Mr. Dan Hunt
Retirement recognition - Mr. Dave Longfield
Program host - Mr. Craig Hoffman

Distinguished Service Award Presentation – Mr. Jonathon Scott
Presented by Mr. Jeff Homes

Mr. Andy Norman, MSU Extension Agent – Turfgrass Research Trials at the Leelanau County Experiment Station

Mr. Greg Lyman, GCSAA Environmental Specialist
The Environmental Institute for Golf

Mr. Tom Smith, Executive Director of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation - The State Phosphorus Issue and Future Legislation

Mr. Larry Aylward, Editor of Golfdom Magazine - How to Promote Yourself to the Press

Mr. Ron Calhoun, Michigan State University
Weeds, PGR's and the MTESP

Lunch provided

Mr. Dave Barrons, Chief Meteorologist, 9 & 10 News
The Weather and Your Turf Industry

Mr. Paul Galligan, Director Golf & Grounds, Grand Traverse Resort
Hosting and the History of the PGA Michigan Open

Mr. Dan Bissonette, Superintendent, Walloon Lake Country Club
Mr. Steve Hammon, Superintendent, Traverse City Golf & Country Club
The NMTMA Web Site and You.

COST: \$35.00 - Includes morning coffee, rolls, lunch and afternoon soft drink.

Registration is online at
nmtma.org
the deadline is March 26.

New Member Incentive: Sign up a new member at the door and they will receive complimentary admission to the mini conference. Please call Kay prior to the conference at (517) 327-5474 if you will be taking advantage of this new membership opportunity.

Your 2003-2004 Board of Directors and Committees

President.....Steve Hammon
Vice President.....Craig Hoffman
TreasurerJoe Breighner
SecretaryJim Bluck
Executive SecretaryTom Reed Sr.
Director.....Craig Hoffman
Director.....Scott Pulaski
Director.....Mike Normand
Director.....Steve Sump
Director.....Steve Shane
Director.....Jim VanAntwerp
Director.....Paul Emling
Director.....Steve Princinsky

Committees:

Program & Golf: Mike Normand, Joe Breighner, Steve Shane
Student Scholarship: Jim Bluck, Scott Pulaski
Members Scholarship: Jim Bluck, Scott Pulaski
Membership: Jim VanAntwerp, Steve Princinsky
By Laws/Ethics: Steve Shane, Scott Pulaski
Finance: Joe Breighner, Steve Hammon, Paul Emling
Education: Craig Hoffman, Steve Princinsky, Jim Bluck
MTF Fundraiser: Steve Hammon, Mike Normand, Joe Breighner
NMTMA Fundraiser: Mike Normand, Joe Breighner, Paul Emling
Environmental: Craig Hoffman, Steve Sump, Jim Bluck
Publications/Website: Scott Pulaski, Steve Hammon, Joe Breighner
Hospitality Room: Steve Hammon
Membership Welfare: Jim Bluck
Mechanics: Steve Hammon, Paul Emling, Bill Hughes

Website Items for sale @ nmtma.org

The following items are available to be viewed at the NMTMA website.

John Deere 2653
Company: Walloon Lake Country Club

Irrigation Materials
Company: Walloon Lake Country Club

721 Lastec Articulator
Company: Little Traverse Bay Golf Course

Toro Greens Master 300
Company: Traverse City Golf & Country Club

Terra Topdresser
Company: Crystal Downs CC

The NMTMA appreciates the support from the following businesses...

SOD, SOIL, & CONSTRUCTION

Tri Turf Soils, Inc.

Tom Reed, Sr.
(231) 943-7806 / (888) 616-7806

Huggett Sod Farm

Bent & Bluegrass Sod, Shade & Ornamental Trees
(989) 635-7482

Beck Sod Farm, Inc.

David Beck
(800) 968-2325 / (989) 864-3549

Great Lakes Golf Construction, Inc.

Christopher Furness
(231) 582-6783

CONTRACT SERVICES

Turf Services, Inc.

Matt Heiss
(616) 842-4975 / (616) 638-5819

EQUIPMENT/IRRIGATION

Spartan Distributors

John Read or Jeff Rogers
(800) 822-2216 / (616) 887-7301

FERTILIZER, CHEMICAL & SEED

Sweeney Seed Company

It Pays To Plant The Best
(989) 773-5391 / (800) 344-2482

Rhino Seed and Supply

Next Day Delivery Guaranteed!
(800) 790-1898 / (800) 677-1006

UHS/Verdicon

Steve Fent
(989) 277-4704

Lesco, Inc.

Mark Hensley / Jason Pettus
(800) 321-5325 / (248) 789-8315

Tri-Turf

"A Warehouse On Wheels"
(231) 943-8343 / (800) 636-7039

Turf Chemicals

Russ Hancock
(989) 725-7145 / (800) 733-7145

Cleary Chemical Corporation

Scott Trbovich - "There When You Need Us"
(248) 830-6065 / (248) 236-9435

Lebanon Fertilizers and Seed

Better Technology For Today's Turf
"Mesa"- SR N & "EXPO" - SR N-K

GOLF CART SALES & SERVICE

Kodiak Equipment Company

Golf Cart Sales, Parts and Service
(888) 746-0800 / (231) 264-9900

Boylan Sales—Yamaha Golf Cars

Jim Atchison
(269) 685-6828 / (616) 437-2602

TIRES & TUBES

Tire Wholesalers Company, Inc.

Dan Cress
(231) 775-6666

EQUIPMENT, SERVICE & SUPPLIES

WEINGARTZ GOLF & TURF

John Deere One Source
(877) 465-9040 / (616) 696-2913

W. F. MILLER COMPANY

Mark Vogler
(800) 555-8189 / (248) 349-4100

...and we encourage you to support them

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



Dr. James B. Beard
International Sports Turf
Box 10065
College Station, TX 77842

NMTMA Executive Committee

Steve Hammon	President
Craig Hoffman	Vice President
Joe Breighner	Treasurer
Tom Reed, Sr.	Executive Secretary



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