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Turf Times



The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

BI-Monthly Update March/April Volume 34, No. 1 [2005]

President's Message



Spring, where in the heck is it? As I sit in my plow truck working my way around the resort I have to think about that Mother. No not my mother, not your mother, that Mother upstairs. Yes the one that lead the charge on all the east winds we have gotten off Lake Huron. Mother Nature has dumped a fresh 12-15 inches these last two weeks to put a total around 2ft on the ground. Well that's great for all you sled heads out there, but I've been living in this truck since we got back from the G.C.S.A.A. National Conference in Florida. What ever happened to winter in January? I'm not sure what everyone else has seen, but January on Drummond wasn't pretty. We saw very little snow with 3 to 4 rainstorms that came through and one being a heavy ice storm. This reminds me of the winter we had a few years back when we were hit with some ice damage. I am trying to work my way out to the course to remove some of the snow in the shaded areas. This may or may not help but it sure does ease my mind of that Mother.

As this newsletter hits the stands the mini conference will be right on top of us on March 30, 2005. We have another great agenda again this year and I hope every one can make it. One of the topics is the formation of a State Association. This has been a topic for years, but in recent times it has become hot and heavy. We have sent a number of board members to these meetings. They are planning another state meeting in April with some key folks coming in from GCSAA. John Fulling is on the agenda in the afternoon to discuss this very topic, as a member of NMTMA I would like to see how we fit into this process.

The board has put together a great program for golf this year, and the August meeting will feature Dr. Frank Rossi from Cornell University. I would like to thank the NMTMA board for their support along with Western, Mid and Greater Detroit, during these HOT times with WATER.

I would like to thank everyone that helped me be awarded the GCSAA Government Relations award in February. It is indeed an honor to receive this award and at the time I didn't realize how big it was until I went to Orlando.

I have some dates for you for the MTF conference in January. The 2006 Great Lakes Trade Expo and the 76th Annual Michigan Turfgrass Conference will be held at the Devos Place in Grand Rapids, Michigan January 9-11, 2006. The Environmental Stewardship Program is looking for a course in Northern Michigan to host a workshop, If you would like to host a workshop please call Marc or Deb at Michigan State University @ 517-355-0271 Ext 145

I can now tell that spring is in the air. No, not buy the fresh 3 inches of snow we received last night, but it's the view while waiting in line on the mainland to catch the boat back to the island. The fleet of ice breakers have arrived in the lower St. Mary's river to start ice breaking as the locks are to open the 25th of March for the start of the of the new shipping season. So as I see it you folks downstate have the birds to watch for and we up here on the island have the ships. Can we please start thinking SPRING?

The Rock
 Craig A Hoffman
 Director of Golf & Grounds
 Drummond Island Resort

TOP 10 IDEAS FOR A LESS STRESSFUL SEASON

1. **I will encourage feedback from the golfers:** You know the member who is the head of the top law firm in town or the guest (duffer) who scrounges up enough money to play 3 times a year, the individuals who know a lot more about growing turf than we ever would? Do yourself a favor and listen with respect and acknowledge their vast wisdom of our profession as this will be a far less painful way to handle these situations.
2. **I will not cut cups in impossible places:** We need to find other ways to express our deep appreciation and concern for those individuals who pay our paychecks and destroy our work. It is much more pleasant to place the pins in assessable locations as it will only expedite their round and shorten your stress period.
3. **I will not cut the grass to the height of the organic layer:** The lawyer's and dufer's expectations of greens speeds similar to those on the PGA Tour is a great opportunity for us as professionals to explain politely that the grass has a right to live. Explain the extra costs involved in maintaining slick putting surfaces and equate it to an assessment or increased greens fees next year. If that doesn't work send them to Mr. Morris' green speed seminar.
4. **Acknowledge that everyone is not created equally:** This refers to the individuals who seem to get lost if they don't follow the two track that is starting to form around your 5th green, or to the one who seems to believe that the extra foot and a half they pull off of the cartpath next to the tee will save them time or add another day onto their lives. It can also refer to those who think that fixing ballmarks is their caddy's responsibility or those who try to play moving basketball with their trash and your trash cans. A deep sigh and this acknowledgment will go a long way in reducing stress.
5. **Get involved in the NMTMA Board of Directors:** With all of the characters that presently sit on the board (yours included), how can it not relieve stress hearing the tales from the different sides of the fence.
6. **I will attend all the chapter meetings:** This one only applies to those who are not employed at the host site! Get away, leave your work at work and tell the powers to be at home it is men's /women's day and that you need to feel more manly/womanly. Has anyone lost a stand of turf in one day that wouldn't grow back?
7. **I will not put up with the employee who continues to test my patience:** The new immigration laws and the lack of qualified help may make this one especially difficult to carry out. Think about the frustration, anger, extra work and most importantly what it is doing to the moral of the "good" employees and part ways with this individual. Look at it like you may finally get to do the job tasks that first got you interested in this profession.
8. **Pretending it's a slot machine:** When you are on your way home from a stressful day and you need to fill your vehicle full of gas, pretend that those fast moving numbers on the pump are actually dollars you have won from hitting the jackpot. If this actually helps anyone, please contact me and let me in on your secret.
9. **Appreciate the hot windy days:** As you sit on top of a hill overlooking your course and watching the lawyer, dufer and shades of purple emerging from what was that morning brilliant shades of emerald green, remember the March snowstorm or the -31 degree ride into work in February.
10. **Remember why you chose this profession:** When all else fails, ask yourself how and why did I get to the place I am? Undoubtedly things like the lack of office walls, fresh air, sunrises, morning dew, wildlife (including your crew), love of the game of golf, pride in a job well done and the smells of the fall season will quickly (or at least should) remind you that you are happy where you are.

Jim Bluck - Superintendent
Forest Dunes

WE ARE GOLF

Some of us had the opportunity to attend the Golf Industry Show in Orlando in February and I came away with a better feeling of what my profession means to golf. I can sum it up in three words **WE ARE GOLF!!!**

Think about it. The role of the golf course superintendent encompasses a lot of different responsibilities in the successful operation of a golf course. We are budget managers, personnel managers, spray technicians, mechanics and so on.

There are two challenges in front of us to make us a better organization both on the local level as well as nationally. One is to better educate our owners, which we have started to do by combining the NGCOA with GCSAA and second is to better educate the golfing public and bring the role of the superintendent to the forefront of the golf industry and not the golf professional. Sorry professionals.

How do we do this? First become involved with your local chapter (NMTMA). Our chapter has a reputation as being one of the best run chapters in the nation and our website is terrific. Second, make yourself available to your membership or customers. How many of you frequent the proshop and listen to comments about the course? If you don't you should because you can pick up good information and effectively communicate with the customer or member if there are problems thus educating them about what and why we do things. Thirdly, the superintendent needs to have a good working relationship with the golf professional. Communicate, communicate, and communicate. I can't say that enough.

The golf course superintendent (us) has the largest impact on the successful operation of a golf course, the golf professional does not. Yes he is in the public's eye more than we are but you as the superintendent control the destiny your course. Budgets are tight and members/customers want playing conditions like they see on TV. Our job's can become very stressful at times and sometimes we need help. For those of you with internet access please start using the NMTMA website and the forum section. Don't be afraid ask for help. There are no stupid questions.

In closing be proud of your profession, take pride in your work and have a successful season.

Joe Breighner
VP Northern Michigan Turfgrass Managers Association
Boyne Mountain Resort

2005 NMTMA Schedule of Events

NMTMA MINI-CONFERENCE

03-30-2005

Location: Grayling Holiday Inn

NMTMA Equipment Technician Meeting

3-30-05

Location: Grayling Holiday Inn

THE 2ND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP GOLF OUTING

05-16-2005

Location: Travis Pointe Country Club

MTF FUND-RAISER

06-14-2005

Location: Black Lake Golf Course

AUGUST GOLF OUTING AND EDUCATION

08-03-2005

Location: The Loon Golf Course

NMTMA SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

09-13-2005

Location: True North Golf Club

TUCK TATE CHAPTER CHAMPIONSHIP

10-05-2005

Location: Mistwood Golf Course

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP - WHAT'S REQUIRED IN TODAY'S ENVIRONMENT

Dates - TBA

**2005 NMTMA MINI CONFERENCE
WEDNESDAY, March 30, 2005
HOLIDAY INN: GRAYLING, MI**

Registration: 8:00 am - Conference Begins @ 8:30 am

Agenda

8:30 Welcome by NMTMA President - Mr. Craig Hoffman
Past board member service recognition - Steve Hammon &
Jim VanAntwerp

8:45 Greg Siemienkiewicz New Hope Counseling Center
Stress and Depression on the Job

9:15 Stephen Mona, CAE Chief Executive Officer GCSAA
State of the Association, Environmental Institute

10:15 Break

10:30 Dr. Bruce Branham, University of Illinois
Plant Growth Regulators

11:00 Jon Maddern, CGCS, Past President GCSAA
A Year as President

11:30 Distinguished Service Award, Community Service Award,
Presented By: Scott Pulaski, Craig Hoffman, Jim Atchison

12:00 Lunch

1:00 Dr. Kevin Frank, Michigan State University
Nitrogen Research Update

1:20 Marc McMullen, Michigan State University
Jeff Spencer, Department of Environmental Quality
Environmental and State Update

1:50 John Fulling, CGCS
State Association

2:20 Round Table

COST: \$35.00 - Includes morning coffee, rolls, lunch and afternoon soft drink. Registration is online at nmtma.org the deadline is March 25.

Items For Sale @ NMTMA.ORG

Ransome 180

Company: Traverse City Golf & Country Club
Description:
This Ransome 180 is in very good condition. We installed a new engine on it three years ago. We have used it to mow our intermediate cut around the ... [DETAILS](#)

Contact: Steve Hammon
Email: steveh@tcgcc.com
Phone: 231-947-0487

Ransome Deck

Company: Lakes of the North
Description:
60" rear discharge mower deck. taken off a 728D tractor. PTO driven. Missing front castor wheels. ... [DETAILS](#)

Contact: Scott Brown
Email: lnmaint@avci.net
Phone: 231-585-6129

Jacobsen LF100

Company: Eagle Glen Golf Course
Description:
This is a used Jacobsen LF100 for sale. We have replace this fairway mower with a new one and need the space in the shop. This mower does come with ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: George Shepherd
Email: gshep@glcccomputers.com
Phone: 9895886599

Jacobsen LF100

Company: Private seller
Description:
Complete working unit. Reels w/groomer. 4WD 3,700 hours. Will sell complete, part out reels, or trade for Turf Cat.. Will consider offers or other tr ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Louie Bauer
Email: lbauer@ameritech.net
Phone: 419-872-3191

Rainbird Eagle 700 series

Company: Eagle Glen Golf Course
Description:
6 new Rainbird eagle 700's
Complete bodies with heads
A little dirty but never used ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Dudley Strauch - George Shephard
Email: dudleystrauch@yahoo.com
Phone: 1(989)588-6599

TurfCo Topdresser

Company: Walloon Lake Country Club
Description:
Runs good and still in great shape. It was purchased in 1989 and used very sparingly. Not many hours on this machine. ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Daniel J. Bissonette
Email: dan@upnorth.net
Phone: 231-535-2373

1984 Cushman Truckster

Company: Crystal Downs CC
Description:
3 wheel, no dump ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Mike Morris
Email: mmorris@crystaldowns.org
Phone: 231-352-4241

Toro Sandpro with Spiker

Company: Crystal Downs CC
Description:
no rake attachment ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Mike Morris
Email: mmorris@crystaldowns.org
Phone: 231-352-4241

FMC 300 Gallon Sprayer

Company: Crystal Downs CC
Description:
18' Boom; PTO driven; no foam marker; stainless tank ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Mike Morris
Email: mmorris@crystaldowns.org
Phone: 231-352-4241

Peerless 1000 Automatic Bedknife Grinder

Company: Crystal Downs Country Club
Description:
Automatic, pneumatic traverse with coolant system ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Mike Morris
Email: mmorris@crystaldowns.org
Phone: 231-352-4241

Foley Manual Bedknife Grinder

Company: Crystal Downs CC
Description:
Very good condition ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Mike Morris
Email: mmorris@crystaldowns.org
Phone: 231-352-4241

721 articulator

Company: Little Traverse Bay Golf Course
Description:
pull behind articulator mower pto driven \$1,800.00 ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Darin Brooks
Email: darin@lbtaygolf.com
Phone: 231-526-9512

5300-D Fairway mower

Company: Little Traverse Bay Golf Course
Description:
Toro 5300-D fairway unit, 2380 hours \$4,000.00 ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Darin Brooks
Email: darin@lbtaygolf.com
Phone: 231-526-9512

Toro 450-D fairway mower

Company: Walloon Lake Country Club
Description:
A great piece of mowing equipment. This machine was purchased in 1990 and has 3,462 hours. ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Daniel J. Bissonette
Email: dan@upnorth.net
Phone: 231-535-2373

Varitime II

Company: Chestnut Hills G.C.
Description:
Main clock with 6 panels, (2 syringe) ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: D. Carter
Email: dcarter1@voyager.net
Phone: 231-889-4785

Toro Core Pulverizer

Company: Little Traverse Bay Golf Course
Description:
Toro Core pulverizer ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Darin Brooks
Email: darin@lbtaygolf.com
Phone: 231-526-9512

Cushman Truckster

Company: Walloon Lake Country Club
Description:
Cushman 3-wheel with hydraulic dump box and standard transmission This unit was purchased in 1991 and has 3510 hours on it. ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Daniel J. Bissonette
Email: dan@upnorth.net
Phone: 231-535-2373

Power Quint II

Company: Little Traverse Bay Golf Course
Description:
5-gang hydraulic lift, pto driven pull behind reel mower ... [DETAILS](#)
Contact: Darin Brooks
Email: darin@lbtaygolf.com
Phone: 231-526-9512



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

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P.O. Box 80086
Lansing, MI 48908



James B. Beard
Internatational Sports Turf Institute
P.O. Box 10065
College Station, TX 77842

MTMA Executive Committee

Craig Hoffman President
Joe Breighner Vice President
Paul Galligan Treasurer

