

A PATCH OF GREEN

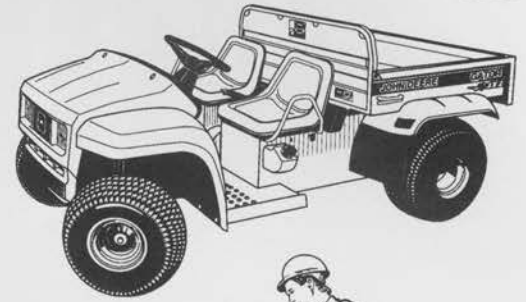
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1994



- MBCGCSA Elections
- Turf Winterization
- Member Profile: Mike Jones, Lochmoor Club



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Cover Photo: Newly renovated 13th hole at Lochmoor Club.
by Tim Davis
(see profile of Lochmoor Club's superintendent Mike Jones on page 14.)

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New Editorial Committee

Formed for A Patch of Green

Bringing more pertinent information to the readers of *A Patch of Green* is the goal of a newly formed editorial staff. Made up of MBCGCSA members, committee representatives are: Paul Kolbe (Maple Lane Golf Club), John Cooney (Gowanie Golf Club), Tim Dorner (St. Clair Shores Country Club), Jane St. John (Heather Hills Golf Club), Steve Sump (Rouge Golf Course) and Ted Woehrle (The Orchards Golf Club). When asked why they volunteered to become committee members, the new group's answers varied from wanting to contribute ideas to wanting to ensure more practical feature material.

The Editorial Committee will meet regularly to review content and suggest material for the magazine. Committee members will divide the state into regions. Each committee member will be responsible for editorial material from their district.

Your ideas and comments are welcome. Contact any committee member or Katie Elsil, Kolka & Robb Publishing, Inc., (810) 642-9580. (fax: (810) 642-5290).



(L. to R.) Steve Sump, Paul Kolbe and Jane St. John, members of the new editorial committee, review material for the next issue.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



FALL CALENDAR

OCTOBER

3

The Big Event:

Bay Pointe Country Club

Dearborn Country Club

Great Oaks Country Club

Lochmoor Club

Wabeek Country Club

14

GAM Seminar
East Lansing

25

Annual Meeting
Maple Lane Golf Club

DECEMBER

2

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Following the Rules Keeps Up Morale



Unfortunately, in the 90s, the dog-eat-dog world has become a way of life in many professions. However, we often comment on the positive attitude and camaraderie among members of the MBCGCSA. Our association prides itself on sharing new techniques and ideas in order to develop and maintain our turf to the high standards demanded by golfers today. Following procedures and regulations should be regarded as an important commitment of all superintendents.

One key to a successful turf program is hiring a well-balanced, experienced staff. As we all know, we prefer to hire an employee with prior knowledge of golf course management and equipment operation. But if this person is experienced, who trained him and why is he available? While we endeavor to find those answers, we must remember to honor our professional relationships.

Early this spring, I received an impressive application from an individual who had greenskeeping experience. As is normally the case for many of us, I needed another employee, and he seemed to be an ideal addition to my staff. I hired him immediately; a few days later his former employer called me to express his displeasure at my hiring "his" worker."

Was I wrong to hire the man? No.

Was professional courtesy compromised? Yes.

This situation has occurred before to many of our peers. Recently, the problem has surfaced with more regularity. If this scenario continues, we will encounter bidding wars for crew members, and there will be discontent among superintendents and staffs.

We must remember proper interview and follow-up procedures when hiring our crews, to avoid jeopardizing our professional ethics. I would like to address this subject and invite you to share your thoughts and comments at a future superintendents meeting. Please send your stories or ideas to the MBCGCSA office.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. M. DeStefano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

IF YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE FOR ONE WEEK DURING THE SUMMER, WHERE WOULD YOU GO?



1. To Traverse City to golf and water ski with my wife... **Scot Gardiner**

2. Bermuda, it's beautiful, seaside golfing, pink beaches... **John Skaife**

3. North Carolina and East Tennessee to play golf... **Bob Borgman**

4. Northern Michigan to play golf... **Mike Plague**

5. New Hampshire, no one to bother you and it has nice lakes... **Ted Woehrle**

6. Somewhere where I could snow ski... **Greg Seago**

7. To the Jersey shore with my wife... **Tim Barno**

8. To Scotland to golf... **Doug Palm**

9. To Dublin to golf... **John Shannahan**

10. To the Upper Peninsula and bum around the State Parks... **Greg Lyman**

11. Banff and enjoy the lakes with my family... **Bob Rosbury**

12. Scotland to golf... **Al De Grazia**

13. Newport Beach, California, to golf... **Larry Obey**

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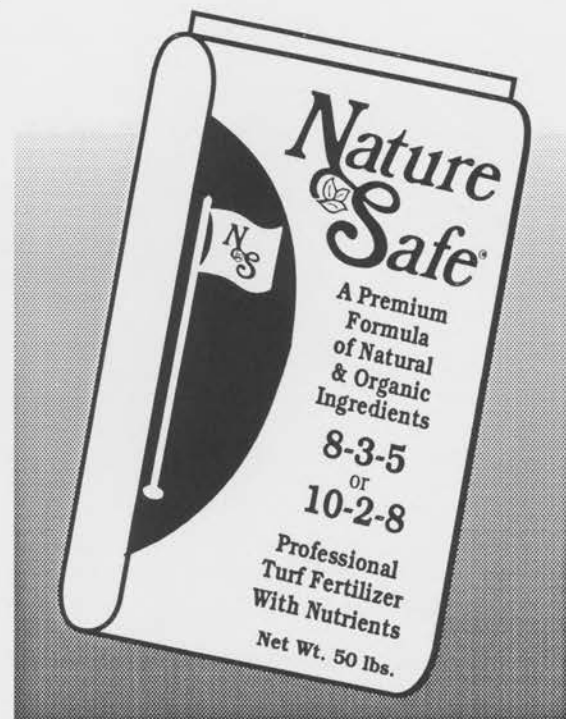
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"What's up, Pete."

"Just wanted to verify something concerning the Christmas Party."

"Oh, sure. Hope you still can make it. I got your reservation and check last week. Thanks for responding so quickly. Makes things much easier for the committee."

"Actually, I guess I want to verify everything. I lost the invitation. My wife's not too happy. Hate to admit I didn't write down the date or the site on the calendar."

"Oops! Sounds bad."

"Yeah. I'm in the dog house."

"Well, your problem I can remedy. The date is Friday, December 2. It's at Lakelands Golf and Country Club and begins at 6:30 p.m. Plan on having a great time, as usual. We've got a great band, great food and great company."

"Sarah and I always look forward to it. Will you and Tom be there?"

"Sure will."

"Great! Thanks, Kate. See you December 2nd."

"Anytime, Pete."

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MBCGCSA ELECTIONS to be Held at Annual Meeting

With our Association's election coming up at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 25 at Maple Lane Golf Club, the MBCGCSA is proud to list the candidates for next year's Board of Directors. Following is the slate of candidates for 1995 officers and directors.

One year terms

President Jay Delcamp
Vice President Carey Mitchelson
Secretary/Treasurer . . . Paul Dushane
. Paul Kolbe

Director Terms Expiring

Secretary/Treasurer Gary Thommes
Paul Dushane
Fritz McMullen

Director — three year term
(vote for two)

Timothy J. Dorner
Edward J. Hock, Jr.
Mark McKinley
Thomas V. Scholl, Jr.

Timothy J. Dorner

Background: Has worked in the metro Detroit area since 1987. Was assistant superintendent at Lochmoor Club and old course superintendent at Indianwood Golf & Country Club. Has been golf course superintendent at St. Clair Shores Country Club for the past three seasons.

Received the two-year degree in turfgrass management from Michigan State University and currently is pursuing a B.S. in administration through Central Michigan University of Greater Detroit.

Served on the 1993 MTF Conference Planning Committee, 1993 Big Event Committee and currently is serving on the Patch of Green Editorial Committee.

He and his wife, Pamela, have three children.

Goals: Try to get more people involved because an association is only as strong as its members. There are a lot of people out there with good ideas, and it is our job as board members to find those people and get them involved.

From my perspective, the MBCGCSA allows us to gain a lot of good information through meetings and seminars, but the contacts that we make and the ideas that we exchange with other members are among the greatest benefits, both professionally and personally.

Edward J. Hock, Jr.

Background: Has been a golf course superintendent for five years. Was assistant at Meadowbrook Country Club, then superintendent at Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club for three-and-one-half years. Currently is superintendent

at Walnut Creek Country Club.

Graduated from the Michigan State two-year turf program in 1985 and received a bachelor of science degree in 1987. "None of this would have been possible without the support of Annie, my wife of 18 years." The couple has three children.

Goals: "I feel I can offer MBCGCSA a positive attitude and a willingness to serve in any capacity that is needed. It is an honor to have been nominated, and if elected I will do the best I can for the organization."

Mark McKinley

Background: Nineteen years of experience on golf courses, including: 10 at Farmington Hills Country club; an internship for one year at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs; one year at Bay Pointe Golf Club, and the last seven at Detroit Golf Club.

Degrees from Eastern Michigan University in marketing and Michigan State University in turfgrass management. Married for 13 years, Mark and Kim McKinley have lived in the Wixom area all their lives.

Goals: There is no more important mission of this organization than to continue to promote recognition of our group as professionals. Another goal is to get all superintendents involved in this organization. Too often, superintendents feel uncomfortable or feel that it is unimportant to participate. Every time a group of superintendents meet, there is so much knowledge shared. Therefore, I will work with you to improve the quality of commitment to our association.

Thomas V. Schall, Jr.

Background: Has lived in southeastern Michigan all his life. Began career by working at Willow Golf Course in New Boston. After graduating from Michigan State University's Turfgrass Management Program, Tom experienced the U.S. Senior Open while working at Oakland Hills Country Club. In 1982 he became assistant superintendent at Dearborn Country Club. Became superintendent at Chemung Hills Country Club in 1985. As the development and golf courses at Oak Pointe began to grow, Tom was hired to take care of the Honors Course in 1987. He became superintendent of all three courses and grounds maintenance for the condominiums.

Tom received an award from Club Corporation (the owners of Oak Pointe) for producing one of the Top 10 quality conditioned courses.

Tom and his wife, Heidi, have two children.

Goals: "The most important thing I can contribute to the association is to give 100% to whatever I do."

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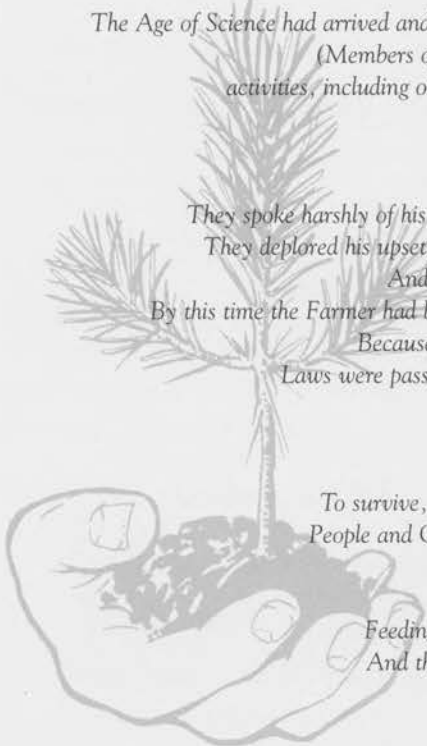
In Balance with Nature

by Tim Doppel

I was going through one of my many (too many, some would say) files on pesticide safety issues and found some interesting information. Never one to re-invent the wheel, I am happy to share the following with you. While it is starting to get a little old, I find it quite amazing how poignant it seems. It was written in 1970 by the late Dr. John Carew, former chairman of the Horticulture Department of Michigan State University. As I think you will see, Dr. Carew read the situation very clearly. I just hope that his final analysis is wrong.

In Balance with Nature

In the beginning
There was Earth, beautiful and wild;
And then man came to dwell.
At first he lived like other animals
Feeding himself on creatures and plants around him.
And this was called IN BALANCE WITH NATURE.
Soon man multiplied.
He grew tired of ceaseless hunting for food;
He built homes and villages.
Wild plants and animals were domesticated.
Some men became Farmers so that others might become Industrialists, Artists or Doctors.
And this was called Society.
Man and Society progressed. With his God-given ingenuity, man learned to feed, clothe, protect
and transport himself more efficiently so he might enjoy Life.
He built cars, houses on top of each other, and nylon.
And life became more enjoyable.
The men called Farmers became efficient.
A single farmer grew food for 28 Industrialists, Artists and Doctors.
And Writers, Engineers and Teachers as well.
To protect his crops and animals, the Farmer produced substances to repel or destroy
Insects, Diseases and Weeds.
These were called Pesticides.
Similar human substances were made by the Doctors to protect humans.
These were called Medicine.
The Age of Science had arrived and with it came better diet and longer, happier lives for more members of Society.
(Members of Society learned to enjoy themselves with many leisure
activities, including outdoor pastimes such as camping, picnics, and sports like baseball and golf.)
Soon it came to pass
That certain well-fed members of Society
Disapproved of the Farmer using Science.
They spoke harshly of his techniques for feeding, protecting and preserving plants and animals.
They deplored his upsetting the "balance of nature;" They longed for the Good Old Days.
And this had emotional appeal to the rest of Society.
By this time the Farmer had become so efficient, Society gave him a new title: Unimportant Minority.
Because Society could not ever imagine a shortage of food,
Laws were passed abolishing Pesticides, Fertilizers and Food Preservatives.
Insects, Diseases and Weeds flourished.
Crops and Animals died.
Food became scarce.
To survive, Industrialists, Artists and Doctors were forced to grow
People and Governments fought wars to gain more agricultural land.
Millions of people were exterminated.
The remaining few lived like animals.
Feeding themselves on creatures and plants around them.
And this was called IN BALANCE WITH NATURE.

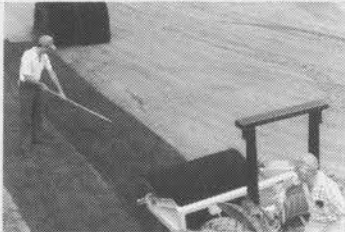
A line drawing of a hand holding a small tree with soil. The hand is shown from the side, with fingers curled around a mound of soil. A small, young tree with several needles is growing out of the soil. The drawing is simple and uses fine lines for shading and texture.

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Turf in Spotlight at Buick Open

The 1994 Buick Open was held at Warwick Hills Country Club, August 1-7. Superintendent Phil Owen saw the first rain delay in the six years he has been involved in the tournament.

A Patch of Green editorial committee members John Cooney and Tim Dörner interviewed Owen for a look at the tournament from the superintendent's view.

Q: How does the membership react to the tournament?

A: It's like most memberships. It depends on the member. Those who like the notoriety of the tournament are tolerant of any inconvenience.

Q: How long before the tournament do you shut off play?

A: Play is allowed until Sunday night. The course must be ready Monday at noon for tournament players.

Q: What changes do you have to make in your regular maintenance routines?

A: We try to peak the course for that week. We mow tees, greens and fairways daily, instead of three times per week, and the greens are rolled daily. The fairways and tees are rough prepped, garbage removed and divots filled in the evening. Tee to green has to be dew-free in the morning, squeegees and dragging hoses are used to accomplish this. Tee to fairway walkways are maintained all year. Greens fertilization is stopped three to four weeks before the tournament to allow for even growth throughout the day.

Q: Does the PGA require certain things?

A: The PGA tour agronomists visit us about a few months ahead of time and make (strong) suggestions. There aren't major changes. More likely they are things like subtle mowing changes, such as widening fairways that may have crept in over the year. But, for tournament purposes, for example, they didn't appreciate our membership's decision to lengthen the 13th hole.

Q: How much extra crew do you have for the tournament?

A: Our peak summer crew is 15; then we add three for the tournament. Even with those three extra people, the crew averaged 55-70 hours in the weeks around the tournament.

Q: Did you get volunteers?

A: We try to handle the responsibilities ourselves, but our vendors helped us a great deal. They brought in all the fairway mowers for the tournament.

Q: What are you going to do if it rains again during the tournament? How will you handle the mowing?

A: The PGA works closely with us, but lets us make the call. Yesterday, was a zoo. I was up in their trailer trying to give them the answer that they wanted. They were asking when I could have the course ready and it was still raining.

Q: How old is the course?

A: It was built in the 1950s, and the greens were rebuilt in the 1960s.

MEMBER FOCUS

Mike Jones, the new superintendent at the Lochmoor Club in Grosse Pointe Woods, and his employer are a good fit. Mike was looking for a club he could enhance with his horticultural skills, and Lochmoor was looking for a superintendent who could add to its existing beauty.

"Of course, the turf is my number-one priority," says Mike, who began his new job in March. "But, the ornamental aspect is just as important, especially in a club like Lochmoor." Mike feels that the 18-hole, 77-year-old, private club doesn't get the respect it deserves because of its urban setting and flat topography. But, its strength is in its length and in its natural beauty," he analyzes.

Mike plans to accentuate that natural beauty with landscaping. His strategy ranges from perimeter planting (the club is surrounded by four, well-traveled roads) "possibly with weeping pine trees which would have the effect of an opera curtain along the fence" to dressing up the clubhouse entrance and surroundings, "perhaps with hollies and perennials."

In working with the greens, Mike was more concerned with trueness and smoothness than with speed. His program included the generous use of potash, including 15 pounds of actual product per 1,000 square feet during his first week at the club. He followed an extensive topdressing program of light and frequent applications every two weeks. He also double verticut with triplex verticut units with a light overseeding each time. "If I can get one or two percent catch, it's better than nothing," he believes. "Over time, it's going to be a benefit. I have seen a nice increase in bent grass population."

Mike then drew up plans for areas that needed immediate attention and began to address the improvement of specific holes. (See photos.)

Though Mike views the club grounds from a horticulturist's point of view, he plays the course weekly with his assistant, Brian Schwehofer, to experience it from a golfer's perspective. Once or twice a month, he tries to play with members, too. He says he's just a bogie golfer, but really enjoys the game.

When interviewing for the Lochmoor job, the young applicant thought his age might be a deterrent. But he has not found that to be the case. "Everyone at Lochmoor has been very supportive and has dealt with me in an extremely professional manner." He adds, "The crew is great, too. Everyone is solid."

Mike has had to make some major career decisions since graduating from the University of Illinois turf program in 1987. Right out of college he had several impressive job offers, including third assistant at

Augusta or first assistant at Olympia Fields in Chicago. He decided on Olympia Fields, but during his second year there his boss, Brian Chalfoux, accepted a job at the Fort Wayne Country Club in Indiana and asked Mike to move with him. Having to decide between the course or the golf superintendent, Mike chose the latter. It turned out to be a good decision.

"Fort Wayne was one of those little sleeper clubs," he says. "Their budget was in the upper 10% of clubs. Nothing was spared. It was great to be in a situation where everything was done professionally and right. When I moved on to my next job at South Bend Country Club, they got more of a golf course than their budget showed because I had learned so much from Brian." Although Mike was happy at South Bend, which is ranked fifth in Indiana, he felt he wanted increased opportunity to practice his horticultural skills. "I love the way plants can be used to create a different environment for people," he says.

Mike is new to this area and looks forward to becoming more active in MBCGCSA as he gets acclimated. He served as vice president and newsletter editor of the Michiana chapter. "I've had a chance to go to a few membership meetings, and people have been very friendly and helpful," he says.

Meet Lochmoor Club's New Superintendent — Mike Jones

by Katie Elsila



Planted with shasta daisies and dianthus, this decorative bed was purposely kept low since it is directly in front of the 10th tee.



Three river birch replace the American elms which died from Dutch Elm disease. The course is losing approximately 14 each year.



A whole lot of pruning going on!



The 13th hole was improved this summer. For the results, see the cover of this issue.



With mounding and the planting of trees, Mike created some height on the previously flat 10th tee complex.



Members especially enjoy the 11th tee with its great par three. Wildflowers have been planted along the water's edge.

**TURF
WINTERIZATION**

Do you ever wonder how other golf course superintendents are handling their courses? The new editorial board members of *A Patch of Green* questioned a random sampling of MBCGCSA members about how they approach turf winterization. Those surveyed were:

Ed Hock,
Walnut Creek Country Club

Mike Edgerton,
Meadow Brook Country Club

Steve Sump,
Rouge Golf Club

David Hollens,
Woodlands Golf Club

Tim Dark,
Barton Hills Country Club

Jim Keller,
Raisin River Golf Course

Scott Buzzell,
Romeo Golf Club



**Informal Survey Shows
How Superintendents
Prepare for the
Season Ahead**

I. What type of fungicide do you use and why?

"I use Calo-Chlor and Calo-gran "
Mike Edgerton, Meadow Brook Country Club

"I find that FFII works well. PCNB/chlorothalonil combination (8 oz. PCNB to 4 oz. chlorothalonil per thousand." **Steve Sump**, Rouge Golf Club

"I have not made a decision because the greens have not been seeded." (Woodlands Golf Club will open in the spring of 1995.) **David Hollens**

"I use PCNB on greens and tees."
Tim Dark, Barton Hills Country Club.

"I am using PCNB and/or Chipco-Daconil 2787 to get away from Mercury." **Jim Keller**, Raisin River Golf Course

"I use PCNB because it is the best inexpensive product available." **Ed Hock**, Walnut Creek Country Club.

"I use FFII at the double rate. Past experience has proven the product to be excellent. **Scott Buzzell**, Romeo Golf Club

II. How do you handle fall fertilization?

"I fertilize in late fall with Ag (1#/M-N) because of the cost/results."
Mike Edgerton

"I fertilize the greens, tees and fairways in early September (2# 0-0-50/M. In October, I fertilize the greens and tees (14-0-28 100% nutralene.)
Steve Sump

"I fertilize in early October with slow-release nitrogen and high potassium." **David Hollens**

"For late fall fertilization I use Urea and Potassium Chloride (bulk) on fairways and roughs (#1 N/M2) for turfgrass nutrition." **Tim Dark**, Barton Hills Country Club

"In the late fall I use 17-3-21 (1#K) to strengthen the turf and allow later fertilizer application in the spring."
Ed Hock

"I fertilize in late fall with Slow Release N (1#)" **Jim Keller**

"I fertilize in early-mid fall with 21-3-20 on the fairways and 15-0-28 on the greens/tees (full rate). This has given me excellent plant hardiness over the winter." **Scott Buzzell**

III. When do you aerify in the fall?

"in Sept/Oct" **Mike Edgerton**

"in mid-September"
Steve Sump

"early October" **David Hollens**

"in late October or November."
Tim Dark

"in October" **Ed Hock**

"Compaction and thatch are a severe problem. We begin immediately after Labor Day and aerify into October and even November." **Jim Keller**

"mid-September to early October" **Scott Buzzell**

IV. Do you have a service contract for the pump house?

"Yes. They check system, remove CLA valve and tubing, remove pressure relieve valve and tubing, blow all water out, shut off city water supply, pour RV antifreeze into system wherever water may have a tendency to lay in piping." **Steve Sump**

"This year the pump is still under warranty. Next year we'll have a contract." **David Hollens**

None of the other superintendents in the survey had a service contract.



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(It's about time.)

Mulching Tree Leaves into Turf

by P.E. Rieke, B.E. Branham, R. N. Calhoun and T.A. Nikolai
Department of Crop and Soil Sciences
Michigan State University

The state regulation which prohibits sending yard wastes to land fills has created a problem for homeowners and others who want to dispose of tree leaves each fall. One alternative is to compost the leaves, either in the yard or at a local composting center. The latter requires collection, bagging and a means of transport to the compost center. The former necessitates a portion of the yard devoted to the composting. Another means of disposal is simply mowing the turf often enough to pulverize the leaves so they fall into the turf. A legitimate question is what effect does this have on the turf, both short-term and long-term?

With these questions in mind, a study was initiated in October 1990 to evaluate the effects of mulching tree leaves on a Kentucky bluegrass turf. Leaves from a mixed stand of trees but predominantly maple were collected. Three leaf rates applied were: none, light (about three inches of dry leaves) and heavy (about six inches of leaves). The leaves were mulched into the turf with a mulching mower using two passes. With the heavy rate, much of the grass was covered with the mulched leaves. Two nitrogen rates were used as well: two or four pounds N per 1,000 sq. ft. annually with 1/4 of the total applied at the time

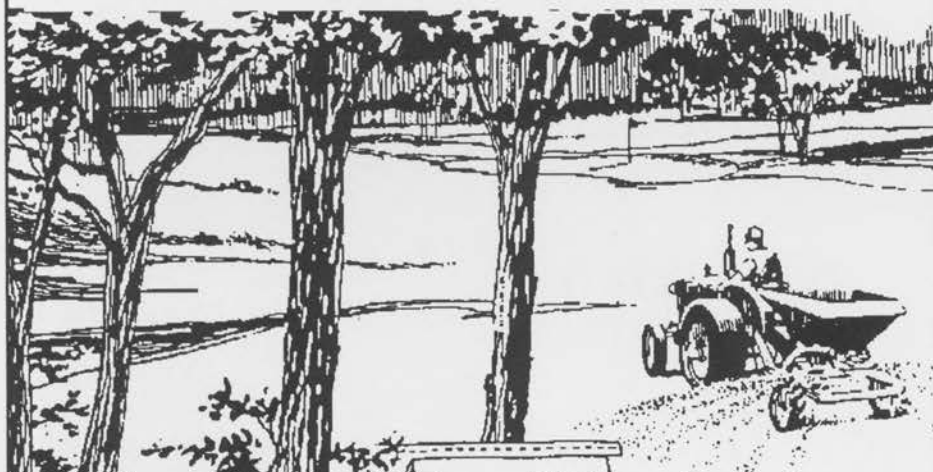
of leaf mulching.

A second study was initiated in October 1991 in which oak and maple leaves were applied to a Kentucky bluegrass turf. A single rate of leaves was applied. There were four replications of each treatment in each study. Both studies were conducted on turfs in the open sun.

As we have evaluated the turf throughout the growing seasons, there have been no meaningful differences observed in turf quality ratings, turf density, thickness of the "thatch" layer, amount of organic matter in the thatch layer or the number of dandelions in the plots. The nitrogen applications provided some improvement in turf quality ratings, but there was no apparent effect on the rate at which the leaves decompose.

From the data collected to date, it appears that returning leaves to the turf is not harmful to the turf if the mulching is done regularly. It is important to use a mower which pulverizes the leaves well and that the leaves are dry when mowed. Sharpening the mower blades will help to grind the leaves finer. The finer the leaf particles, the more easily they fall into the turf, leaving grass/leaves exposed to the sunlight. Our observation is that the pulverized leaves will settle into the turf within a day or two, particularly if followed by a rain. Take care that the pulverized leaves do not cover the grass blades entirely. Although additional nitrogen has not shown any major benefit, we still suggest 1/2 pound nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. in addition to the normal fall and late fall nitrogen fertilization to enhance decomposition of the tree leaves.

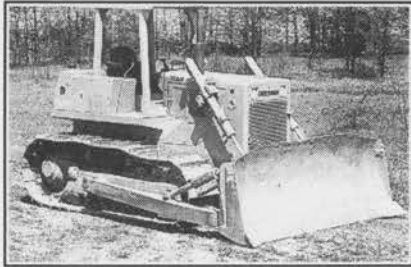
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DAVEY 
TREE AND LAWN BEAUTY

Greg Lyman, turf grass environmental education specialist from MSU's Department of Plant/Soil Sciences, was the featured speaker at MBCGCSA's August Membership Meeting at Great Oaks Country Club. Superintendent John Nowakowski hosted the event.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING UPDATE

August Membership Meeting Features Talk by Greg Lyman and the Superintendents Championship

Photos & Report
By Tiffanie Howell

Lyman reported on a study which was commissioned by the GCSAA and conducted by the University of Iowa. The study compared the death records of 750 members who belonged to the association between 1970-1992 and compared them to the death records of the general population. The data was then analyzed statistically.

Lyman cautioned that, although the topic is of keen

interest to association members, occupational hazards of cause and effect can't be drawn from this study since the research was not set up to evaluate these parameters. He explained that the purpose of the study was to see if there were any types of cancer which were elevated when compared to the general public.

The most striking conclusion is an elevated incidence of lung cancer within this population. The authors of this study attribute this to smoking, and we will most likely see some educational programs in that regard from the GCSAA.

Results of Annual Superintendent's Championship

Par Three

Steve Sump
Bob Rabideau
Kurt Kraly
Mike Plague
John Shannahan
John Nowakowski

2nd Flight Vendors

Ed Stesney
Kurt Kraly
Ray Manion
Dan Donohue

1st Flight

Tom Stark
John Nowakowski
Ron Adams
Steve Sump

Championship Flight

Fritz McMullen
Tim Barno
Gary Thommes
Mark Policht -
*Winner second
year in a row*

Skin

John Cooney
Rich Kaiser
Bob McNab
Howard Ellis
Tom Stark
Ron Adams



(L. to R.) Dan Shemon, John Nowakowski, Rick Murphy and Steve Rebhan.



(L. to R.) Jay Delcamp, Kurt Kraly, Tom Mason

Continued on next page

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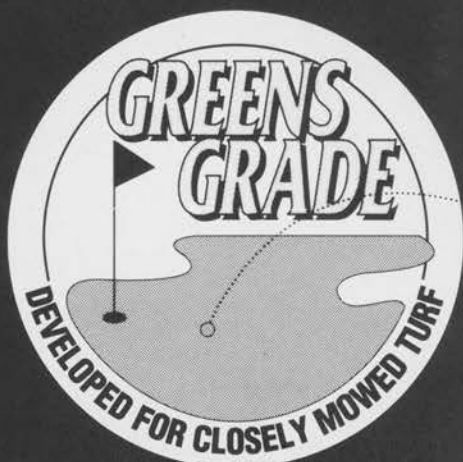


Superintendent Mark Policht, Inverness Country Club, accepts Championship Flight trophy for second year in a row.



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Host superintendent, John Nowakowski, takes a practice swing before his turn on the 13th hole.



Tom Stark tees off.

Around the Course

Member Activities



David Hollens, CGCS, has been named project manager and grow-in superintendent for the American Golf Corporation at Woodlands Golf Course. Located in Wayne, Michigan, Woodlands Golf Course was designed by Jerry Mathews and will open in the spring of 1995. Hollens was previously superintendent at Rackham Golf Course in Huntington Woods.

MBCGCSA welcomes Ed Carmody to Rackham Golf Club. Ed assumed his new position in June. He had been superintendent at Fremont County Club in Fremont, Ohio prior to coming to Rackham and was previously an assistant at Red Run. Ed plans to continue the restoration of the Donald Ross design at Rackham. New projects include automating the fairway irrigation.

Romeo Golf Club has just completed the second season with its additional 18 holes. According to Superintendent Scott Buzzell, the response has been excellent and the course is full every day.

Congratulations to new parents..... Great Oaks Country Club Superintendent John and Martha Nowakowski on the birth of their son, Lewis Joseph, on August 22. And Rattle Run Golf Club Superintendent Greg and Tamara Seago on the birth of their daughter, Lauren, on August 23.

Around the Course will continue to include informative news items about MBCGCSA members. Please send information to: Editor, A Patch of Green, 30700 Telegraph Road, Suite 1401, Bingham Farms, MI 48025-4531 or call (810) 642-9580.

Dawn S. Johnson became the president of Spartan Distributors in July. She will oversee Spartan's three divisions: consumer, turf and irrigation.

Founded in 1947, Spartan Distributors acquired the Wilkie Turf Equipment Co. of Auburn Hills in October 1993. Its territory now covers all of Michigan, making it the state's exclusive Toro distributor.

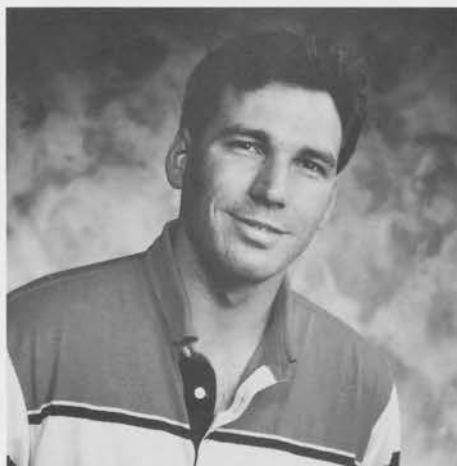
"We'd like golf club superintendents to consider us a reference point for products and services and to view us as a consultant," says Johnson. "Spartan's staff has a long history of working with golf course personnel on a variety of concerns and offers a wealth of experience on issues ranging from turf analysis to water and energy conservation."

Johnson says that the biggest continuing change in irrigation and turf technology is in computerization. That makes her company's role as consultant even more critical, she believes. "Educating our customers on how the new technology can provide them even more options in managing their courses is a very important focus for us," she says.

Johnson was vice president, North American Sales & Distribution for Herman Miller, Inc. before assuming her present position. She is a native of Michigan. When asked if she plays golf, she responded, "No, but I'd better learn quickly!"



Meet Spartan Distributors' New President— Dawn Johnson



Dan Billette, Superintendent,
Lenawee Country Club, Adrian, Michigan

"WORST-EVER" SNOW MOLD DAMAGE HITS UNTREATED FAIRWAYS HARD; TEES AND GREENS "COME OUT CLEAN" WHEN TREATED WITH DACONIL 2787® FUNGICIDE.

The winter of 1993-94 was a tough one in Southern Michigan with bitter cold and snow cover that stayed put until March. Then, as the days warmed and the ground thawed, the Snow mold hit. "On the fairways, where I don't treat, it was the worst I've ever seen," recalls Dan Billette, Course Superintendent at Lenawee Country Club in Adrian, MI. On tees and greens, however, where Dan had used Daconil 2787® Flowable Fungicide from ISK Biosciences Corporation, "we didn't have any problem at all."

Built in 1920, Lenawee Country Club lies on hilly terrain. It has mature trees and small, undulating, heavily bunkered greens that make very challenging targets. The turf is a 50/50 mix of bentgrass and *Poa annua*. Snow mold is always a concern. That's why Dan's been on a preventive program since 1990. And on the tees and greens treated with Daconil 2787, "I've come out real clean every year."

Daconil 2787 all year long

You might say that Daconil 2787 is the cornerstone of Dan's turf management program. "I use it steadily through the growing season on tees and greens, and on fairways, too. It gives me excellent control on both Brown patch and Dollar spot. I've even used it for Red thread.

"What I really like about Daconil 2787, though," Dan continues, "is the sticker they use. It's incredible. Once it dries, it's on the leaf. And even after it rains, you can still see it. It's really impressive to me how well it hangs on. It's been a very reliable product for me."

For control of both Gray and Pink snow mold, Dan uses Daconil 2787 in a tank mix with Chipco® 26019. He watches the long range weather forecast through mid-November and then, just before the first real snows, he applies 8 oz of Daconil 2787 and 6 oz of Chipco 26019 per 1000 sq ft. When possible, a second application during a mid-winter thaw is also recommended.

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No rain in the forecast. Finally, the MBCGCSA picnic would transpire without rain. What a great day for a picnic! You walk out of your home and right back inside. You look at the calendar and the picnic is August 8, the middle of summer. You look outside and don't see any snow, so you try it again. You drive to Kensington Metro Park and you're thinking "What a beautiful day for a picnic, no rain." Finally, it will be a nice day for the annual picnic. **WRONG!!!** Granted this year the raincoats were not essential, but members needed to bring their long johns and winter coats. One smart picnic-goer actually had on mittens. The day was not a waste, though. Members came out and braved the cold for a day of fun-filled activities. The delicious food was prepared by Fritz McMullen, and, of course, everyone

1994 MBCGCSA Annual Family Picnic A Shivery Success

Photos & Story
By Tiffanie Howell

wanted to help; there is heat in numbers.

You definitely wanted to keep moving, otherwise your lips would turn blue and your fingers would have frostbite. Okay, maybe I'm exaggerating a little, but games were played without delay. That was one way to stay warm. Kim and Mark McKinley came up with a great array of games, from a rubberband around the ankles, ball between the legs, water sponge and bucket to the famous peanut game that involved pigs, cows, dogs and horses. By the way, the pigs won with 53 peanuts in the bag.

Fun was had by all, and everyone is looking forward to a heat wave and no rain for the MBCGCSA picnic in 1995.



Michael Weaver (Roger Gill's grandson) Going...



Going...



GONE!!!



Fritz McMullen - Hamburger anyone?



Kim McKinley gives instructions for the games.



Roger Gill looks on as Sandy Weishaar bundles up for the cold day's activities.



Parents and children prepare for the peanut game. Teams are Pigs, Cows, Dogs and Horses. The outcome: The Pigs have it by a mudslide (53), Cows (35), Dogs (32) and Horses (32).



Aw Shucks...shucking corn to keep warm?



Oink, Oink, Oink...Mike Plague and daughters oink for peanuts.

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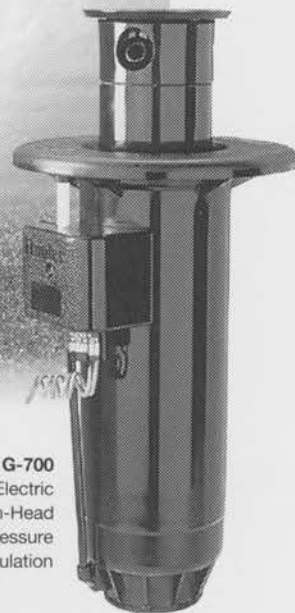
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Michigan State University Field Day —Another Success

The Michigan Turfgrass Field Day, Trade Show and Auction was held on August 18. The sunshine drew a large number of MBCGCSA members, who were greeted by Jon Maddern, president, Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and Dr. Gail Imig, associate vice provost, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and director, MSU Extension.

Tours of the latest research on golf turf took place in the morning, followed by the trade show, lunch and an equipment auction.

A Patch of Green will reprint research highlights from Turf Day in forthcoming issues.



Greg Lyman, turf grass environmental education specialist from the Department of Plant/Soil Sciences at Michigan State University, answers a question.



Turf Day always draws a crowd.



(L.) Dr. Eldor Paul, past chairman of MSU's Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, and current chairman Dr. Boyd Ellis greet participants. (Below) Don Alexander, of W.F. Miller, discusses equipment with A Patch of Green advertising sales representative Lisa LaRaia.



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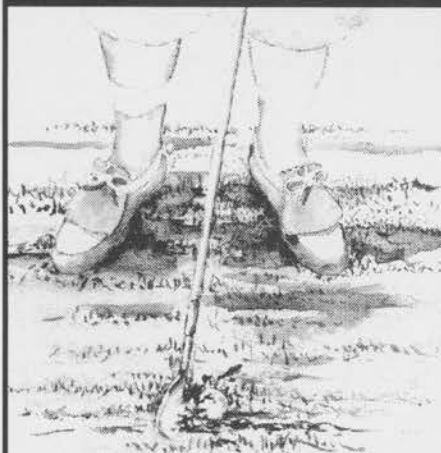
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