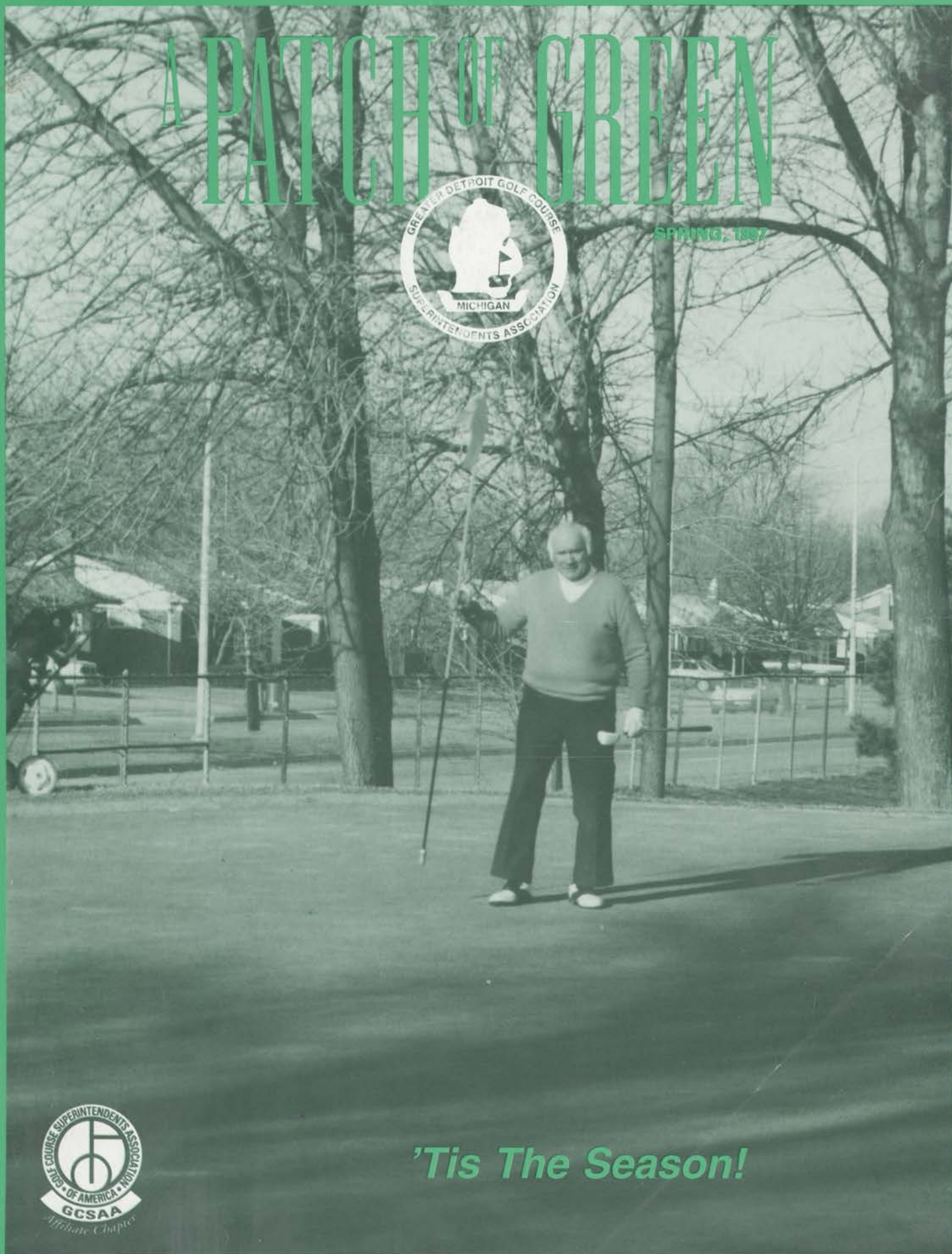


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# on par <sup>with</sup> the president



Ever wish that you had a personal advisor to aid you with difficult decisions or difficult situations that arise every day in the workplace? I may have found the next best thing to an advisor. I take that back- probably better; this advisor doesn't say "I told you so". It is a book, a reference of sorts, that I happened upon atop a friend's coffee table and after a glance at the forward and table of contents couldn't put it down.

Before I tell you the name of this book, allow me to make a brief explanation about self help books and the like. I never before put much stock in them. I had an American Thought and Language class in college whose professor required the students to read and comment on a number of these types of books and I could never quite understand them. It seemed to me that each author spent too much time trying to devise a new and fashionable "quick fix" to human dilemma and that each never actually gave you any solid information or cases to integrate into real life situations. These books would brush over conflicts and resolutions very briefly and then come up with some cock and bull solution that no one would ever try to use without some sort of apprehension or outright embarrassment. That is the main reason I never pursued this type of literature beyond my ATL class and probably never would have seen the book: Yes You Can!, by Sam Deep and Lyle Sussman, had it not been on my friend's table.

If you have ever felt or still do feel this way about self-help or motivational books, please set these feelings aside and consider reading this book. Yes You Can! is chock-full of suggestions that you can put to use in real life situations almost immediately upon taking just a quick glance at the contents and checking out how to use the book as its authors recommend. The chapters cover such topics as: "Think Positively", "Communicate Effectively", "Motivate Others" and "Prosper at Work". Under each of these chapters is listed a number of scenarios that may confront you at any given time during your career or your lifetime. Under each of these scenarios is listed a number of suggestions, or as the authors call them, "advisements" to help you to resolve the situation in a multitude of ways. Besides excellent ideas for solutions, there may also be listed other references that could be pertinent to the situation to give you even more choices for a resolution.

In a day and age that places more and more demands on our time each and every day, we can all use some sound advice on how to quickly and easily resolve conflicts and to help each of us make those difficult decisions a little easier. I keep this book handy just to glance through occasionally, to keep my mind open to suggestion for solutions and advice while dealing with everyday life. I write this to each of you now as just a suggestion, just some friendly information to pass along that you may or may not find helpful.

Don't get me wrong, I don't believe this book is "all knowing" or the answer to everyone's prayers, but it has helped me a time or two already, and it is my hope that it may do the same for you. Check it out, give it a glance, you may be surprised at how useful a simple book can be.

Here's to 1997 being a good season for each of us. Thanks to each of you, Michigan turf is, and shall always be, the best to play on.



Paul Dushane

## John Walter Award Announcement

Mike Jones, superintendent at Lochmoor Club, was presented the John Walter Award at the Salt River meeting. This award is for the best article written by a superintendent and which is published in the *Patch of Green*. Mike's article, Producing Quality Putting Surfaces Through Overseeding, exemplifies the importance and benefits of superintendents sharing their experiences with others. There is much we can learn from each other, and through these articles, we can advance the professionalism of our association and profession.

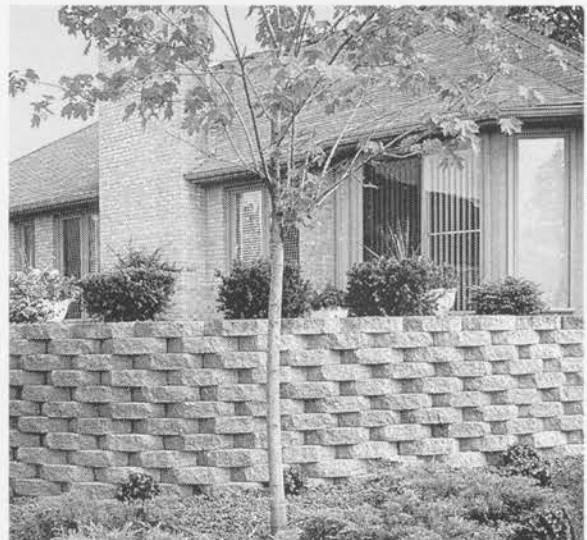
This year, Tim Dorner, editor of the *POG*, has initiated some incentives to encourage us all to contribute to the magazine. In addition to being eligible to win the John Walter Award (plaque and \$100), any article of 500 words or more that is published will receive a \$50 credit toward dues or any of our meeting costs. There is a limit of two articles per year; however, a potential of \$100 could offset all the dues money, as well as a part of one meeting expense.

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## The View From M.S.U.

# Tips for 1997

Gregory T. Lyman

Turfgrass Environmental Education Specialist

Let me pass along a few tips from the legislative area as you launch the 1997 golf season in southeast Michigan. The three areas I want to discuss include information on pesticide labels, "ready-to-use" pesticide products, and concrete coatings for mixing and loading areas. First, let's dissect a few of your labels. I received many calls last year concerning labels that had restricted re-entry times listed on the label of 12, 24, or 48 hours! There was obvious concern about this language on the label and wonderment evident in the callers' voices. Here's the skinny. You may remember a system that applies to traditional agriculture called the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). This is a federal law that is intended to protect employees who work at the following operations - farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses. It *does not* apply to golf course turf operations. The areas that need to comply with the WPS are required to conduct certain training programs for the employees, have protective equipment available, and are required to restrict entry of employees into pesticide treated areas for the interval listed on the label. The minimum re-entry period is 12 hours. The confusion arises on those labels that have a wide spectrum of pests and sites that can be treated. For example, some fungicides can be effective for disease control on golf turf, sod farms, ornamentals grown in landscapes or nurseries, and even on potted plants grown in the greenhouse. In this case, the WPS is imposed on those sites defined as a farm, forest, nursery or greenhouse... but not on golf or home lawn turf sites. Other labels that you use are dedicated strictly to turf application and in that case there will be no WPS language located on the label. I suspect that over time labels will get more and more specific so the "Directions for Use" sections can be tightened down to specific instructions. The conclusion - read the label and raise your eyebrow when you see WPS directions. You can then declare "This area does not apply to us!"

Now, let's review ready-to-use formulations. The MDA has refined the regulations slightly and a person who uses a ready-to-use formulation of a pesticide is not required to have any applicator credential (certified applicator, registered technician). This only applies to non-licensed business such as golf course or grounds maintenance operations. All applications conducted by lawn care businesses need to be done by certified personnel. For example, a spray bottle of Roundup to spot spray weeds around trees may be performed by anyone on the crew. Remember however, this only applies to ready-to-use materials. No products can be used that require mixing, repackaging, loading, etc. by these individuals without being certified.

Finally, those who are interested in concrete sealers for mix/load pads or storage areas may give me a call. I have a list of products from Mr. Ben Darling at the MDA who has been reviewing the performance of many of these products. Some are available locally and the cost is reasonable, about \$1.00 per square foot. Just contact me and I'll fax you the list, along with some tips.

Enjoy the 1997 golf season.





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## Golf Courses and Liability

Reprinted from December/January, 1996-97 *Fairway Forum*

A major concern for golf courses and golf course operators today is liability in its various forms. The golf course has been "discovered" by the legal profession and individuals who are looking for a quick way to feather their nests. An out-of-court settlement is usually the desired procedure, even though a considerable amount of saber-rattling goes on prior to such a resolution. As a result, the golf industry is under attack and needs to be informed of potential liability issues. Areas we look at are generally broken into two major categories.

### On-Course Injuries

In the past, if you were hit by a golf ball while playing golf, you accepted it as part of the risk of being on the golf course where high speed projectiles are flying. Today, we must be aware of the potential for a golfer's ball hitting another golfer. Ample opportunities for errant shots include tee areas that are too close to an adjacent green. Another situation may be an approach shot that wanders to the side of the intended green or the tee shot that is "toed," "heeled," or "shanked". Usually, there isn't enough time to yell "fore". A golf course should identify these potential hazards and provide berms, trees, and screens to stop balls. A more substantial change might be to move tees or greens farther away from the congested area.

Access to the tee also has been a problem. If you encourage access to the tee by stairs, ramps, between ropes, etc., make certain the accessing golfer is safe while someone is teeing off.

Additionally, those stairs, ramps, or slopes might result in a slip, with the result being broken bones. Steps seem to be disasters waiting to happen. A cleat can easily catch on a worn step or the edge of a step. Carpeting is often worn and loose. Steep, smooth, hard surfaces are something to avoid or replace. Ricochets off ball washers, signs, rocks, walls, etc. can result in eye injuries as well as all kinds of bodily bruises and cuts.

Sunken trenches over irrigation lines, irrigation heads, animal burrows, and other imperfections on the course are lurking and should be repaired to avoid sprains and broken bones. Low branches from trees should be pruned. Remove broken limbs that could fall on someone.

Golf carts are necessary and welcome revenue generators, but they do create additional dangers. Many golf course architects will not design cart paths due to the injuries that can occur with irresponsible golfers. Make certain that approaches to bridges do not allow a cart to miss and tumble into a creek, lake, or ravine. Watch for curves that are too sharp or that are banked the wrong way. The driver may know where he is going, but the passenger usually does not.

Curbs can help control play and cart circulation, but they can also create tipping problems. Carts should be prohibited from dangerous slopes or areas of the course where they could hydroplane on early morning dew or after a rain.



## Off-Site Injuries and Damage

While many older courses are not designed with golf holes running through housing developments, we still have found boundary scenarios that create safety problems. A case in point occurred at a 70-year-old country club in the Midwest. A back tee was redesigned and built closer to the boundary line (street) and the hole was lengthened. A neighbor across the street claimed that golf balls were being hit onto his property. It is very difficult to prove one way or another, since no accurate records were kept before the alleged problem arose. This example should warn us to study the potential consequences of any changes to a golf course that relate to adjacent land uses. Most courts are not friendly when existing land uses appear to be suddenly suffering from golf-ball-itis. Plaintiffs seem to easily find expert witnesses who will testify that the problem area is a design error or an operational issue.

Properly placed trees, shrubs, mounds, or temporary screens might well resolve the situation if it is rectified before it reaches the courts. Most problems become serious then communication between the parties ceases or if the golf course is not willing to mend the situation.

Not only should we be concerned about property damage to adjacent areas of courses, we also must be concerned about personal injuries that could occur. We have been made aware of many cases where people are afraid to use their decks, patios, backyards, etc., due to the number of golf balls entering their property. Unfortunately, while it is not possible to prevent every golf ball from leaving the course, efforts should be made to reduce the likelihood. Some shots in the direction of housing may be inevitable; others may not originate from a tee, but may be coming in on second or third shots. Ultimately, the golfer is responsible for his actions and must be made aware of such through signage on the course.

Some other areas of potential liability include whether early warning systems for lightning or storms have been installed; whether the course meets ADA legislation (if required); what types of liability releases are in place for spectators at tournaments; and the use of chemicals on the course that may be harmful to golfers with allergic reactions.

In summary, every existing golf course should have a qualified golf course architect, insurance adjuster, or perhaps an attorney review their potential areas of exposure. The old saying still applies: an ounce of prevention...

*Richard M. Phelps is president of Richard M. Phelps, Ltd., Golf Course Architects, Evergreen, Colorado, and is a past president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects.*



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## TEAM MICHIGAN

*By: John Nowakowski*

As the cold January winds blew across the frozen ponds, hockey players from Team Michigan anticipated the start of the hockey tournament. The 3rd Annual Golf Course Hockey Challenge was scheduled January 22 at Niagara University. Teams representing the golf industry were comprised of Kitchener, Toronto, Western New York, Niagara, London and Team Michigan.

Team Michigan was comprised of talented hockey players coming from different parts of the state, as well as Guelph, Ontario. On the cold, blowing morning we all gathered at the Windsor tunnel to start our travels, led by Coach/player Ken DeBusscher.

Much was questioned as we traveled to the hockey tournament. The quality of play, were our new jerseys flashy enough, would the Canada teams be out to win their pride back after the loss in the World Cup?

Once the puck was dropped, our many questions were answered. We met our toughest challenge in game one against the young Kitchener team. Our jet lag caught us in the last five minutes of the game, where we came up short. Our flying center, Tim Osburn, had a great start by scoring the hat trick. Eddie "Boom Boom" Heineman and Ken "The Rocket" DeBusscher both blasted shots past Kitchener's goalie.

Our second game was again a big challenge. Team Toronto was experienced and aggressive, to give us our second loss. It was by no surprise Coach Ken sent out our toughman, Mark McKinley, to mix things up a little. Mark showed the Canadian boys we were not going down



*Team Michigan players Ed "Boom Boom" Heineman, Steve Tate and Jim Eccleton in the locker room*

easy. The loss was quickly suppressed, as we were greeted by the Club Car representative with new hats, pizza and ice cold refreshments.

Our third game against Niagara started on a bad note. Not only did they steal our locker room refreshments, but unlocked our "left wing lock" play. We gave them a hard fight right to the end, only to come up short.

The long trip home was shortened by the conversation in the vans. How we enjoyed ourselves at the new Niagara Casino, the Awards Banquet, meeting new friends and how next year's team will win the trophy.

Many thanks need to be mentioned: Coach/player Ken DeBusscher for organizing the team along with Rick Murphy, Jim Eccleton for gathering our team sponsors, player's participation and the support from our wives, girlfriends, children and places of employment.

If you are interested in next year's hockey team, please contact Ken DeBusscher. Again, thank you to all of our wonderful sponsors who helped make this event happen.

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*Team Michigan player Rick Murphy*

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# Member Viewpoint

by Bob McMurray

## Whatever Happened to Maintenance?

"Doing work that has to be done over and over again helps us recognize the natural cycles of growth and decay, of birth and death, and thus become aware of the dynamic order of the universe. 'Ordinary' work, as the root meaning of the term indicates, is work that is in harmony with the order we perceive in the natural environment."

-- Fritjof Capra

Mowing turf, changing cups, raking traps, providing water and nutrients: these are some of the more prominent tasks that have to be done daily during the golf season. As I am well-versed in these activities, I admit some pleasure in the foregoing words.

What some people call ordinary, I call maintenance. I enjoy being able to say I work in golf course maintenance. Now that I'm in a position of management, I have the the pleasure of greater control in maintenance decisions.

As I perceive it, I manage the activities of employees. I help them to understand the goals of work and provide directions on how to be successful. In relation to the golf course, I consider myself a maintenance person. To suggest that I manage a system I can't begin to comprehend is the definition of arrogance.

How we communicate reflects our unspoken beliefs. No man in his right mind would say he manages a relationship with his wife. The implicit assumption of power would be offensive. Amongst equals, relationships are maintained. It isn't simply a linguistic matter. Consider the continuum of our values, and ask yourself where we place maintenance. To say we could give a rodent's hiney for maintenance is mild.

On the golf course, I feel best about my work when I maintain healthy turf. When I'm forced to manage a breakdown, I figure I've made a mistake somewhere. Hopping from one crisis to another might be an interesting premise for a Steven Segal movie, but I prefer a calm life.

Similar to other mental shortcuts, the prejudice against maintenance is destructive in subtle, chronic ways. The recent controversy over air-bags killing children is an instructive lesson in management values pushing aside maintenance. Only a devoutly technological society could define the issue only in terms of equipment. What the hell are we doing riding our kids around like this? Rather than build a better air-bag, couldn't we work towards a better world where one parent stayed home with the kids? Whatever happened to walking to a neighborhood school? Parenting is a maintenance value, two incomes

to live in a modern suburb with two new cars is a management lifestyle.

Cooperation is considered better than competition when maintenance is a priority. One of the most significant effects of this is a wide dispersion of benefits. Everyone in the community wins when you take good care of your equipment. Golfers don't pay higher greens fees due to capital purchases and parts suppliers are often smaller, local operations. Fewer people win bigger prizes when the equipment is neglected in favor of a replacement schedule that benefits large equipment suppliers.

Respects for others is another subtle good nourished by maintenance. People engaged in maintenance practices routinely get their hands dirty. Soil under your fingernails would be an admission of failure to a manager. Highly paid professionals are white-collar; therefore, a lawyer charging \$150 an hour is unchallenged, but we feel justified in griping if a plumber charges \$65 dollars an hour. Somewhere it has crept into our minds that anyone with dirty hands possesses a lower grade of knowledge than someone who went to college.

People who do maintenance are not viewed as professionals, because it is based upon common knowledge. If you're not riding the wave of new technologies and ideas, those who are -- and those who are in awe of them -- look down upon you as backward, or quaint. The presumption of good rests with the new. The culture of scientific infallibility is so prevalent that anyone who has doubts is actively discredited, or discreetly ignored.

In maintenance, there are plenty of opportunities for everyone to do well. In a management system, people rejoice at the failure of others and look for ways to exploit it. Complaints of unethical behavior, job insecurity and lack of loyalty are common today because we're trying to be business managers.

Where management dominates, information and  
(continued on page 13)



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## GDGCSA / GAM Seminar

The Detroit Golf Club was once again the host for the annual GDGCSA/GAM seminar, that was held on March 22nd. As always, it was a well-attended seminar that covered several golf industry topics.

The non-metal spikes issue and greens maintenance were discussed by Dr. Rieke and Chris Andrejicka, superintendent of Essex Golf and Country Club. Studies to compare steel spikes with other types of shoes have been conducted in 1948, 1958, and 1983. The recent 1996 study by Thom Nikolai at M.S.U. on Pennlinks putting greens showed an increase in stimpmeter readings from three inches to over 12 inches using Greenspikes and Soft Spikes. Chris mentioned that turf quality improvement was immediate on greens, and tee boxes were also improved by the reduction of the twisting and ripping that occurs with steel spikes. They also discontinued the practice of changing cups twice a day to accommodate the 30,000 rounds played and were able to use the better pin position more often. Those who have not used spikeless shoes are missing the comfort they provide without losing the stability. Expect the GDGCSA to have a spikeless shoe policy in effect before our first golf meeting. The GAM is going spikeless in all sponsored tournaments and over 1,300 courses across the nation have implemented spikeless policy.

Joe O'Brien and Tommy Whitt, CGCS, both representing the GCSAA, talked on the GCSAA's role with the superintendent and with your club and how the golf course is the revenue generator for clubs. The superintendent role influences many aspects of the club operations - golf carts, driving range, recruitment of new members by the condition of the course.

Biological control is another growing trend which was discussed by our members Mike Edgerton, Meadowbrook C.C., Paul Dushane, Knollwood C.C., Mark Jackson, CGCS, C.C. of Detroit and Dr. Joe Vargas. The Bioject machine with the *Psuedomonas* bacteria was discussed. The advantages are less pesticide usage, less exposure to golfers and workers, and non-sprayed areas are healthier (roughs, bunker banks, etc.). Paul Dushane showed the differences in bacteria population between the non-treated and treated areas and the irrigation system is an excellent vehicle in spreading the product. There are other biological control products in the market and testing them can add another tool to our turf management practices.

Greg Lyman talked about grass clippings disposal and how to avoid disposal into drainage systems. Some tips were: blow off clippings with air, use screens inside catch basins for collection and the new recycling centers that are coming out in the market. Always use common sense and avoid washing directly into a water source.



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James Moore, Director USGA Golf Course Construction, went through his report card on greens. You should individually rate each green upon many criteria and Jim has his own grading scale for different conditions. It's like a agronomical slope rating for your course. You should do this report before any reconstruction project is considered. To receive his report card and guidelines, call his USGA Construction office at (817) 776-0765 or web site [www.usga.org](http://www.usga.org).

Thanks to Detroit Golf Club and Clem Wolfrom for hosting this annual educational event.

## GDGCSA/GAM Seminar



*Tommy Witt, CGCS, Wynstone Golf Club, Illinois, talked on superintendents' role in revenue making*



*Chris Andrejicka, superintendent at Essex Golf and C.C., talked on the benefit of spikeless shoes*



*Dr. Vargas explained how biological controls worked using *Pseudomonas bacteria**

## Member Viewpoint *(continued)*

technology becomes standardized: what works in research labs is assumed to be universal. What is good for one golf course is good for all others, and what is required of one superintendent becomes necessary for others. Due to this homogenization of expectations, managers can be plugged into positions, regardless of circumstances. Maintenance superintendents require a few years on a course to be effective. The very word implies a long-term relationship.

As I've hinted several times, there is a lottery mentality driving our choice of management over maintenance. Everyone is hoping to strike it rich in management world, in part because money will allow us to escape the consequences of our values. If I can get wealthy enough from catering to golfers demands for slick greens, you'll find my home far away from the chemical plants necessary to keep greens alive.

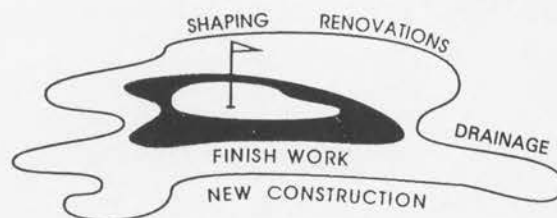
Nobody is going to get exceptionally wealthy in the maintenance field. Many people accept that, and I try to do the same. Golf course superintendents probably never had a heyday such as what I've envisioned in comparisons of maintenance versus management. We likely never will, because we're all different. Given the relatively short history of golf, I suppose there isn't much of a tradition to golf course maintenance. Yet I can't help being baffled that we're not defending maintenance values more actively. When management-type norms define success, those of us who want to do maintenance wind up feeling like Amish tourists in Los Angeles.



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## Salt River Meeting

On Monday, February 24, 1997 the annual educational/bowling meeting at Salt River took place. Jerry McVety, host superintendent, and the Salt River staff provided everything for a wonderful meeting. Attendance was great with approximately 70 members in attendance.

The educational topic was "Computers and the Internet", presented by Mike Plague and Tom McGilligan. With the use of a computer projector they took us right onto the world web and helped us understand the basic principles of the internet and ease of its use. The main theme of the day was not to be intimidated by the internet and to just get on and play with it. Even after the meeting Mike and Tom were answering questions.

Bowling followed the meeting and everyone had a great time. The big winners were as follows:

- High Individual Gross Game - Ron Adams (248)
- High Individual Gross Series - Brian Birdwell (569)
- High Individual Net Game - Mike Jones (268)
- High Individual Net Series - Mike Casey (717)
- High Team Gross Series - Brian Birdwell, Steve Hanson, Todd Gierke, Jim Vanatwerp
- High Team Net Series - Ken Egler, Jerry McVety, Marty Dominick, Don Knop
- Mystery Game - Bob Pylar
- Strike Ball Pot #1 - Ron Adams (\$77)
- Strike Ball Pot #2 - Ron Adams (\$77)



*Rick Murphy (left) and Jim McGuire bowl at Salt River*



*John Cooney, Keith Richards and Dan Johanningsmeier*



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# LEGAL BRIEF

By Bruce M. Hug  
Attorney and Counselor

*If you have a question or topic that you would like Bruce to address, please fax or mail suggestions to Tim Dorner, Editor A Patch of Green.*

**Question:** Recently, my neighbor unexpectedly passed away. He did not have a will and the family is now experiencing legal problems settling his estate. What can be done to avoid a similar situation happening to my family?

**Answer:** Years ago (really, not so long ago), when people didn't earn much, and owned even less, a person either wrote a will before he died, or he didn't, and it didn't make a lot of difference. It was sufficient to serve as a guide for who was to receive the dead person's meager belongings. Then people started earning enough money to actually acquire property to leave to their heirs and, of course, the government created taxes to make sure it got its share. At that point, even average wage-earners began to seek ways to pass their property on to their immediate families, rather than to Uncle Sam. What follows is a general introduction to some of those ways, which are referred to in general as estate planning.

When doing estate planning, people generally have three goals in mind, although there are many others:

1. Insuring that their property passes to the right people, in such a manner that best fits the family's needs. This can be extremely important if the heir is a minor child or has a physical or mental disability.
2. Eliminating unnecessary income taxes and federal estate taxes. Federal estate taxes usually affect those estates which have a value of greater than \$600,000, (which includes the value of life insurance).
3. Minimizing expense, delay, inconvenience and unnecessary loss of privacy.

There are, in general, three ways that property can be transferred at death:

First, property will be automatically transferred which already is in more than one name. A common example of this is joint ownership of real estate by a husband and wife. Title has the virtue of simplicity--the property will be transferred with a minimum of expense, delay and inconvenience, but it has the disadvantage of failing to meet the other two goals--property held in joint name can

fail to be transferred to the proper people, if the owners of the property don't die in the order expected, and transfer by title will do nothing to minimize or eliminate federal estate taxes and can cause greater income taxes than inheritance by will or other methods.

The second way in which property can be transferred at death is through probate. Whether or not an individual has prepared a will, property held solely in the name of the individual must be transferred through the probate process. Probate is a public court procedure designed to transfer a deceased person's property at death. While a will is simple and inexpensive to prepare, and probate will accomplish the first goal, a simple will does nothing to minimize taxes. In addition, while probate is not as horrible as it used to be (or as you may have heard), nevertheless, it can often be a time-consuming and expensive process.

The third way in which property can be transferred at death is through contract. One common form of contract is the beneficiary designation on life insurance policies and pension plans. Another form of contract which has become very popular is the Living Trust. A Living Trust is a contract which has been designed for the purpose of meeting all three goals set forth above, and will usually simplify the legal steps that must be taken by your heirs when you die, saving money which would otherwise be spent in probate court. Also, for estates that would be subject to federal estate tax, the use of Living Trusts often saves substantial taxes.

The choice of a will, title, or a Living Trust is a personal decision which must be made on an individual basis, and there is no blanket rule of thumb as to which is the best method under all circumstances. Only after a thorough analysis of your estate will you be able to decide which method is best for you.

---

Bruce M. Hug is a tax and estate planning attorney in West Bloomfield, Michigan. If you have questions about this topic or any other legal matter, contact Bruce at (810) 360-4950.

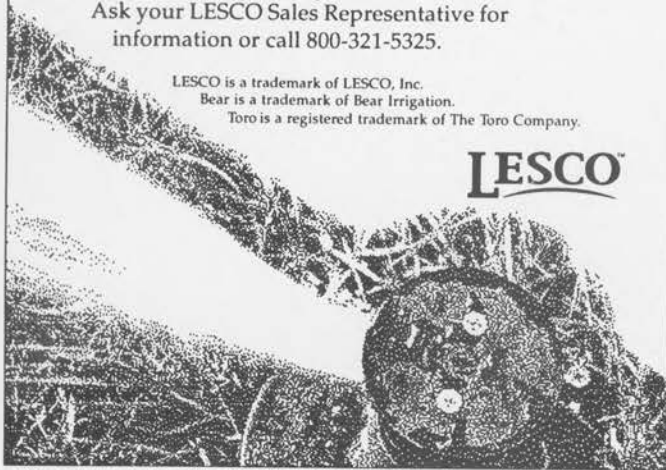
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John and Jackie Cooney on the birth of their first child, Alison

Jim Timmerman for bowling his first sanctioned 300 game

To the staff and contributors of *A Patch of Green*, which finished first runner-up in the 1996 GCSAA Chapter Newsletter contest

## Recovering:

Mary Woehrle, wife of Ted Woehrle, from heart by-pass surgery

Eric Edgerton, son of Mike Edgerton, from injuries sustained in a skiing accident



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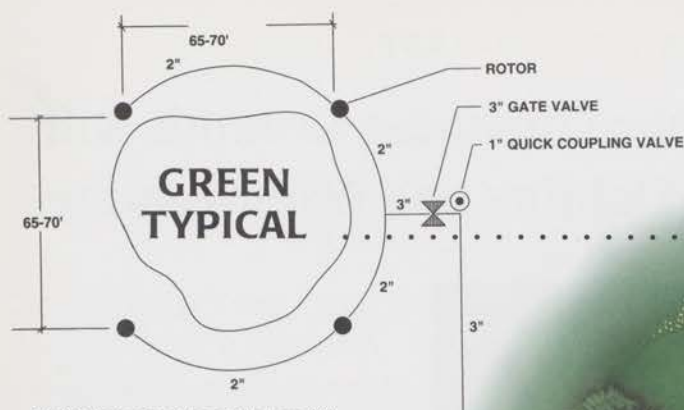
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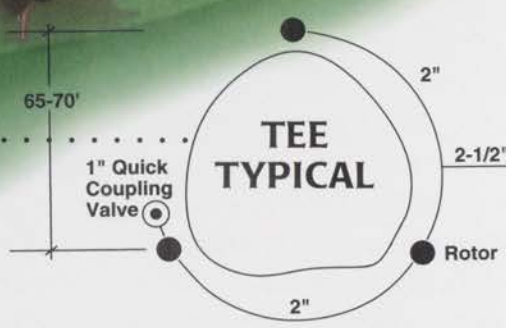
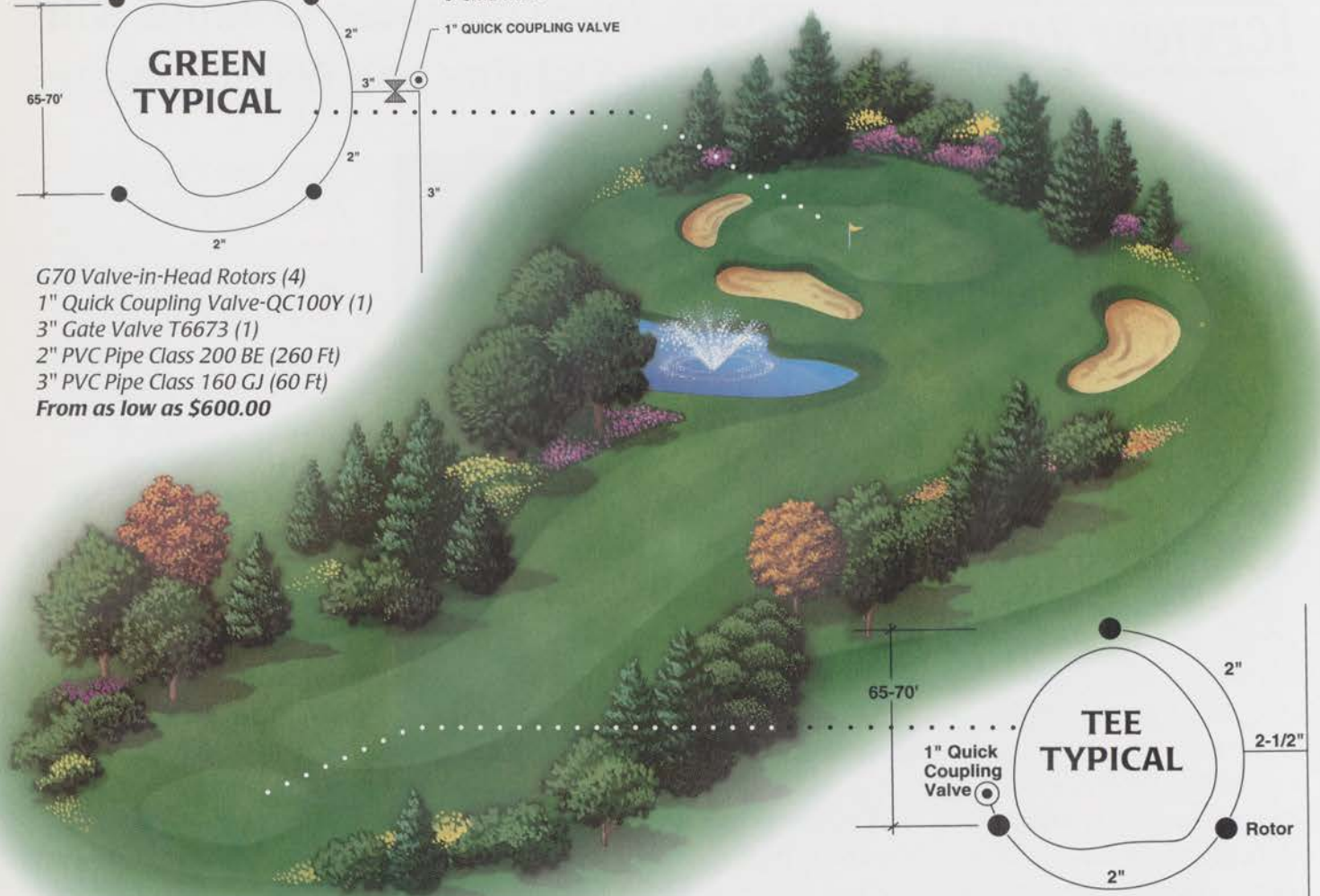
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# Heritage Award Essay

In 1996 GDGCSA initiated the Heritage Award to recognize individuals in non-turf related post graduate secondary education, whose parents are members of our association. The recipients are selected on the basis of an essay. This year's participant's essays were based on their response to the following question: ***Describe your own perceptions of the role of golf in American society today, and how your life has been impacted by your parents' involvement with this industry.*** Award winners for 1996 were: Alison Dushane, daughter of Kevin Dushane; Elizabeth Edgerton, daughter of Mike Edgerton; Jetty Fields, daughter of Don Fields; Kerry Skaife, daughter of John Skaife. One of the winning essays will run in each issue of *A Patch of Green*. Information regarding the 1997 Heritage award will be published in a future issue of *A Patch of Green*. If you have questions about the Heritage Award, contact Awards Chairman Rick Murphy, CGCS.

## *Essay by Alison Dushane*

Not too long ago, when most people from my generation heard the word "golf" they associated it with an activity where a middle-aged guy would aimlessly swing at a dinky ball in an attempt to land it in a hole. Golf, in other words, was perceived as a boring, purposeless sport which lacked physical contact (a quality that arouses the attention of a typical sports fan who watches a sport for the "blood, guts and glory"). As time progressed, many people's perceptions, including my own, about golf altered. Golf is finally beginning to gain acceptance in American society.

I believe golf has evolved as a respectable sport as a result of the diversity linked to it. People from all age groups, sexes and ethnic backgrounds are emerging in displaying an interest in golf. School-aged youth to senior citizens use golf as an outlet for leisure. I am able to vouch that my generation is actually getting out and playing golf. Over half of my friends have swung a golf club at least once. In this respect, I perceive golf as a sport that exhibits a common ground between youth and their elders. It is much more conceivable to play 18 holes of golf with your grandfather than engaging in an intense game of football. Professional athletes who play baseball, football and basketball are being seen out on the golf course. These are the same athletes who are getting bruised and beat up on the field or court and at the same time are glorified by American society. Perhaps when a fan sees their favorite basketball player taking a swing at a golf ball, he might say to himself, "Hey, maybe golf isn't so bad after all!"

I feel that golf is a game that exhibits great sportsmanship. Though it is a competitive game, the players appear to be engaged in a friendly match. It is rare that you would see a golfer take a swing at a fellow golfer or harrass the people in the gallery. I believe many sports have gained negative press as a result of the childish behavior some players exhibit. Golf, on the other hand, is usually perceived as a "gentlemen's sport" as a consequence of the player's positive image on and off the golf course.

I believe my dad's involvement in the golf industry has had both a slightly negative and positive impact on my

life. The negative aspect linked with my dad's job is that it consumes a great deal of his time. The hours my dad works, especially in the summer, are usually unpredictable. He would often leave for work in the early morning hours and not return home until dark. As a result of his long hours, it was difficult for my dad to get away from work. Our family would go on a camping trip each summer and my dad was never able to go.

Though there is a negative aspect linked to my dad's involvement in the golf industry, I feel the positive aspects outweigh the negative. My dad's stamina at work encouraged me even more to attend college. He has an amazing work ethic, which I attempt to model myself after. Over the span of several years my dad has also been very involved in his industry, on and off the golf course. My aspiration is that after I graduate from college, I can achieve the exact success in my career that my dad has in being involved in the golf industry.

Another positive impact my dad's job has had on my life is that his knowledge and resources have proved to be quite useful in aiding me with my school work. Over the years, I have taken courses such as biology, chemistry and ecology, where my dad has been able to help me with homework and with projects. My first year in college I was assigned to create a web page for my ISB (Integrative Studies in Biology) course. The topic of my web page was pesticides and I was certain that my dad would be able to help me. I had obtained some information about pesticides from other web sites on the internet. My dad looked over the information and he was able to expand on some of the pesticide information that was already presented. As a result of using my dad as a resource, I ended up getting a good grade on my web page.

The sport of golf, overall has had a positive impact on my life. It has supplied a career for my dad and even has enabled employment for me for the past two summers. I never had an interest in golf until recently. My friends and I enjoy getting out and playing a round of golf every once in awhile. I predict that the game of golf will evolve even further when people begin to see it for what it really is.



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And Members and Friends visiting the room, who made door donations.



## Michigan Hospitality in Las Vegas

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America had its annual convention and show in Las Vegas and Michigan superintendents were there as well. This year the hospitality room was on the main floor of the hotel, Bally's. The room was well attended each night. It started off on Saturday, February 8 and continued through Monday February 10 at the times of 6PM - midnight.

Saturday the room was well attended after the opening session. The Michigan room was the place to meet old friends and make new ones. Sunday the place was hopping. That night around 9 pm time was taken to give special recognition to our honorable guests. Dr. Rieke, Dr. Vargas, Jerry Faubel and Jon Maddern. Monday was probably the slowest night, but the Michigan room was still the place to meet up with friends.

We, the four Superintendents Associations of Michigan-Western Michigan GCSA, Northern Turf Managers Assn., Mid-Michigan Turf Assn., and Greater Detroit GCSA want to extend a big thank you to those individuals and vendors who helped with contributions to make this all possible. Without the immense support that we received, this type of camaraderie could not be enjoyed by so many.

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*Dr. Paul Rieke was honored for receiving the U.S.G.A. Distinguished Service Award*

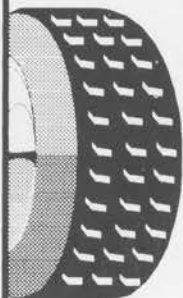


*Jon and Bev Maddern were recognized and supported for Jon's running for the GCSAA board of directors*



*Gerald Faubel, CGCS and Past President GCSA was honored for the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award*

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## GDGCSA Member Receives Professional Certification

Steven Sump, superintendent at Hidden River Golf & Casting Club, has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America.

To become certified, a candidate must have five years experience as a golf course superintendent, be employed in that capacity and meet specific educational requirements of college credit or continuing educational units. The candidate must then pass an extensive six-hour examination covering all aspects of golf course management.

As part of the certification process, it is required that two certified superintendents inspect the candidate's facility. Attesting for Steve was David Montgomery, CGCS at The Links of Novi and Jonathon Shreve at Lakelands Golf & Country Club.

GCSAA instituted the certification program in 1971 to recognize outstanding and progressive superintendents. More than 1,600 active GCSAA members currently hold "CGCS" status.



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## The Cutting Edge

by Stu Cavendar

A short time ago, my son came home with an assignment from his teacher. His assignment was to write a saying using only words that started with the letter "J" and the letter "W". The idea was that by using only words that begin with a certain letter, you would wind up with a tongue twister (e.g. Wally wooed Wanda with wildflowers). This is much more difficult than you might assume. Can you imagine how difficult it would be to have to use only two of the twenty-six letters of the alphabet? Can you imagine how silly we would sound if we limited ourselves in this manner when we spoke?

By now you are probably wondering where I am going with this. I believe this is analogous to the way we limit ourselves when repairing equipment to using only the tools we have purchased from tool suppliers. Using only the mechanical tools available to us restricts what we can do. There are other tools available such as manuals, videos, technical seminars, and others around you that may have information you need to repair or maintain equipment properly.

With every piece of equipment, there should be an owners/parts manual provided by the manufacturer. The owners manual is the most important information source pertaining to that machine. It covers proper setup, operating instructions, and recommended service intervals. It may also list the limitations of that particular machine so that it is used in the proper application. Many times there is a shop or overhaul manual available for certain machines. This is a necessity for anyone who is responsible for repairing and maintaining today's more sophisticated equipment.

In addition to the written information made available by manufacturers, many now offer operating and in some cases repair techniques on video cassette. Operator training videos lay a good foundation for the operator to understand the machine and learn its limitations. The theory being that proper training on the front end will reduce the number of operator caused breakdowns. In the case of repair videos, it is always a help to be able to see certain techniques in addition to reading about them.

Technical seminars also provide an immeasurable amount of information. From specific component manufacturers' representatives, brought in to share their knowledge, to hands-on excersises, to other attendees who have experienced what you may have not. All seminars share a commonality and that is that you must participate to benefit from them.

Just as those sitting around you at seminars may be able to share some experiences with you, so might those working around you, starting with the people who operate the equipment, who have the most influence on the condition of the machine. They can communicate items that need attention before they become failures. Keep your eyes, ears, and mind open to the ideas, comments, and knowledge of your co-workers.

Knowledge and information have become as important in the maintenance and repair of today's equipment as the mechanical tools used to perform these tasks. Surround yourself with as much information as you can and know how to access it. Putting all of this together will benefit the entire operation. Remember that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.



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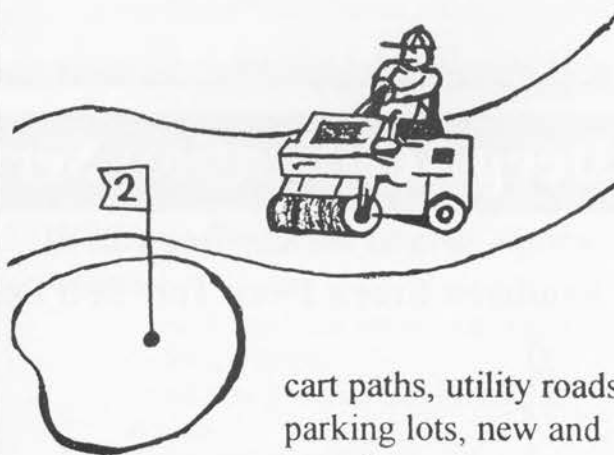
- P. 4 Robert Prieskorn  
1964-65 Clarence Wolfrom, Jr.
- P. 49 LaBelle, Patrick  
Club name changed to The Heathers Club of Bloomfield
- P. 50 LaFontaine, Gordon  
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- P. 59 Prieskorn, Robert  
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- P. 68 Vandenberghe, Jim  
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*The Board of Directors usually meets the last Tuesday of every month. If you have any concerns you wish shared with them, contact: President Paul Dushane at (810) 855-9716 or Vendor Liaison John Skaife at (810) 698-2358*

## **Board Meeting Knollwood Country Club Tuesday, January 28, 1997**

### **Finance (Szyndlar)**

Association Checking - (\$2.51) Savings - \$35,261.23  
Foundation Checking - \$277.98 Savings - \$21,757.09

### **Membership (Hock)**

Membership 411. Applications approved - 2

### **Member Relations (Hock)**

Hock to develop orientation procedures for new members. Presently he calls and talks to applicants. Goal is to have a quarterly orientation coffee with new members meeting the board. New members to learn first-hand expectations of the association regarding ethics, participation, procedures, etc.

### **Editorial (Dorner)**

#### **'97 Patch of Green -**

1. New articles featuring Legal and Financial concerns by an attorney and financial planner.
  2. MSU will continue to contribute regularly.
  3. Members encouraged to submit articles. Will receive \$50 credit for meeting expenses or dues for articles published.
- Roster** being mailed next week.

### **Education (Murphy/Jones)**

Committee working on the 1997 schedule of meetings. Finalized calendar to appear in Spring POG.

Next meeting:

Date: Monday, February 24

Site: Salt River G.C.

Topic: Computers and the Internet

### **Awards (Murphy)**

**Heritage** - 4 winners: Allison Dushane, Elizabeth Edgerton, Jettie Fields, Kerry Skaife. \$500 scholarship.

### **Hospitality Room (McKinley)**

Dates: February 8, 9 and 10.

Site: Bally's, Palace, Rooms 6 & 7

Time: 6 PM to Midnight

Recognition Night: February 9, Sunday, for Faubel, Maddern, Rieke and Vargas.

### **Survey (Szyndlar)**

Important to the future of the association. Questions regarding educational needs, social needs, etc. Finalized survey questions. Will be mailed to A, B and AA members Feb. 15. Board to call those who don't respond by deadline date of Feb. 28 for their answers.

### **Student Chapter (Dushane)**

A Student Chapter has been formed of 2- and 4-year students at MSU. GDGCSA has been asked to sponsor it. Dushane to investigate the possibility of shared sponsorship with the other associations.

### **MTF (Dushane)**

\$17,500.00 was donated at the MTF Conference. (\$10,000 will go to Dr. Vargas' research). MTF was very appreciative and acknowledged work done by all the associations to raise research monies.

### **Welfare (Szyndlar)**

Cards to be sent: Mary Woehrle (wife of Ted Woehrle) is undergoing bypass surgery. Eric Edgerton (son of Mike Edgerton) severely injured in skiing accident.

**Board Meeting  
Knollwood Country Club  
Monday, February 24, 1997**

**Finance (Szyndlar)**

Association Checking - \$1,080.25 Savings - \$25,932.33  
Foundation Checking - \$123.78 Savings - \$2,191.01

**Membership (Hock)**

Membership 412.

**Member Relations (Hock)**

Orientation procedures still in planning stages.

**Editorial (Dorner)**

**'97 Patch of Green -**

Criteria for member submitted articles:

1. Must be 500 words.
2. Must be of benefit and interest to the membership (Need not be turf related).
3. Only two articles published per member per calendar year.

Compensation for member-submitted articles:

1. \$50 credit for dues payment or meeting expenses.
2. Will be considered for John Walter Award (Prize of \$ 100).

**Roster** has been mailed.

**Ethics (Delcamp)**

Committee to finalize new Code of Ethics. Will be presented to membership for consideration.

**Hospitality Room (McKinley/Jones)**

Recognition night well attended. Use of the reception room over a suite considered a plus.  
Board congratulated co-chairs on a job well-done.

**Survey (Szyndlar)**

Received only 34 responses out of approx. 210.

Board to call those who don't respond by deadline date.

Results to be in May/June issue of POG.

Will schedule a Chapter Planning Session with GCSAA after the results have been tabulated.

**Education (Murphy/Jones)**

Schedule to be finalized.

**Special Olympics (McKinley/Thommes)**

Date: Friday, May 16

Site: Bald Mountain GC

16th Annual Fund Raiser

Goal: \$16,000.

Entry fee: Increased to \$100

**GCSAA Computer Class for Ex. Sec. (E.S.)**

Software will be given to association by GCSAA.

Mason Wordprocessing will purchase new computer.

**Volunteers ( Dushane)**

Results of the Volunteer Survey will be distributed to committee chairs to be utilized on their respective committees.

**Picnic (Thommes)**

Event under consideration: Date: Summer Site: Detroit Zoo



# New Member Roster

## ANDERSON, CRAIG

CLASS BN

Cherry Creek Golf Club

52000 Cherry Creek Dr.

Shelby Twp, MI 48316

H-(810) 254-0458

O-(810) 254-0136

FAX-(810) 254-7794



## BURROWS, MATTHEW

STUDENT N

Country Club of Lansing

11471 Terry St.

Plymouth, MI 48170

H-(313) 453-7642



## CALL, MIKE

(PAM)

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Metamora, MI 48455

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Pinckney, MI 48169  
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**KASCHNER, DAVID**  
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O-(810) 651-9159

**O'KANE, BRIAN**  
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Utica MI 48317

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FAX-(810) 468-5304

### PATTON, THOMAS

CLASS BN

(ANITA)

Marion Oaks Golf Club

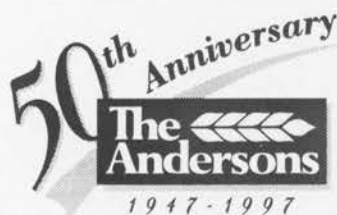
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FAX-(313) 420-3523

### SOWATSKY, ERIC

HONORARY N

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Saginaw, MI 48603

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## GDGCSA 1997 Calendar

April 28	Joint Meeting with Canadians	Grosse Ile
May 16	Special Olympics Fund Raiser	Bald Mountain
June 16	Superintendents Championship	TBA
July 8	Joint w/Western MI GCSA	Hawk Hollow-Lansing
August 7	"The Invitational"	Links of Pinewood
August 19	Annual Picnic	Detroit Zoo
Sept. 22	Annual Business Meeting	The Wyndgate
October 6	"The Big Event"	TBA
October 27	Superintendents Roundtable	TBA
Nov. 11	GCSAA Regional Seminar	Novi Hilton
	Wetlands and Golf Courses	
Dec. 9	Superintendents Only	Birmingham CC
Dec. 13	Annual Christmas Party	TBA

## Mid-Michigan Turf Association 1997 Schedule

May 13	St. Ives Golf Club, Stanwood
June 17	Holly Meadows G.C., Capac
July 23	Devils Ridge, Oxford
August 6	Currie Municipal G.C., Midland
September 29	PohlCat Championship G.C., Mt. Pleasant (Fundraiser)

## Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association 1997 Meeting Schedule

May 14th	Schuss Mountain - Bellaire
June 2nd	M.T.F. Fundraiser - Garland Resort, Lewiston
July 15th	Green Briar - Lupton
August 18th	Eagle Glen - Farwell
September 9th	Belvedere - Charlevoix
October 8th	Mistwood - Traverse City

## Western Michigan GCSA 1997 Calendar

April 22	Grand Haven Golf Club
May 13	St. Ives (w/Mid-Michigan)
June	Open
July 8	Hawk Hollow (w/Detroit)
Aug. 18	L. E. Kaufman
Sept. 15	Blythefield CC (Golf Day)
Oct. 6	The Moors (Annual Meeting)
Nov. 1	PohlCat (Fall Party)

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