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Greater Detroit Golf Course
Superintendents Association

The Official Publication of the Greater Detroit
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Contents

5	On Par With The President
7	75 th Anniversary Party
9	The View From M.S.U.
10&11	Michigan Room Report
13	The Shape of Things To Come
15	Member Viewpoint
17&18	How About a New Chapter?
19&20	Leadership: More Than You Think
21&22	Heritage Award Essay
23	Michigan Turfgrass Foundation Board
25	January Board Meeting
27	February Board Meeting
28	Roster Update
29	New Member Roster
30	Calendars of Events

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on par ^{with}_{the} president



Spring is in the air and each of us has a favorite indicator of this season. Whether it is the appearance of the first robin, the blooming of the crocus, or my personal favorite, March Madness, they all represent spring, which means good weather is on the way. Whatever indicator you prefer, it is sure to get your heart pounding with the anticipation of a new season. It is the kind of excitement that comes with new challenges, new ideas and hopefully some new equipment. It is also the time to either implement, or at least solidify the programs and strategies that we have been formulating all winter long. Each of these holds the promise of improving of our golf courses and making the season successful. I hope that you were also able to take advantage of the educational opportunities that were available via a conference, trade show or seminar. I also hope that all of you took the opportunity to do something for yourselves that will assist you in becoming a better spouse, father, friend and superintendent. I purposely put superintendent last because I believe having a meaningful relationship with my family and friends will allow me to become the best superintendent that I can be. Here's wishing all of you green grass, straight drives and a successful season.

P.S. I am also hoping for a successful Spartan NCAA repeat.

Respectfully yours,



Roy Szyndlar



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Holiday and 75th Anniversary Party a Success

by Rick Murphy and Terry Poley, Co-Chairmen

On Saturday, December 2, 2000, the GDGCSA held their Annual Holiday and 75th Anniversary Party at the newly restored GEM Theatre in downtown Detroit. It was a wonderful night, as 120 people were treated to an evening of entertainment which included the jazz sounds of the Ed Wells Trio Jazz Band and the comedy of "Sister" in the play *Late Night Catechism*. We were especially entertained by several of our members who readily cooperated with "Sister" when called upon. You were all fantastic!

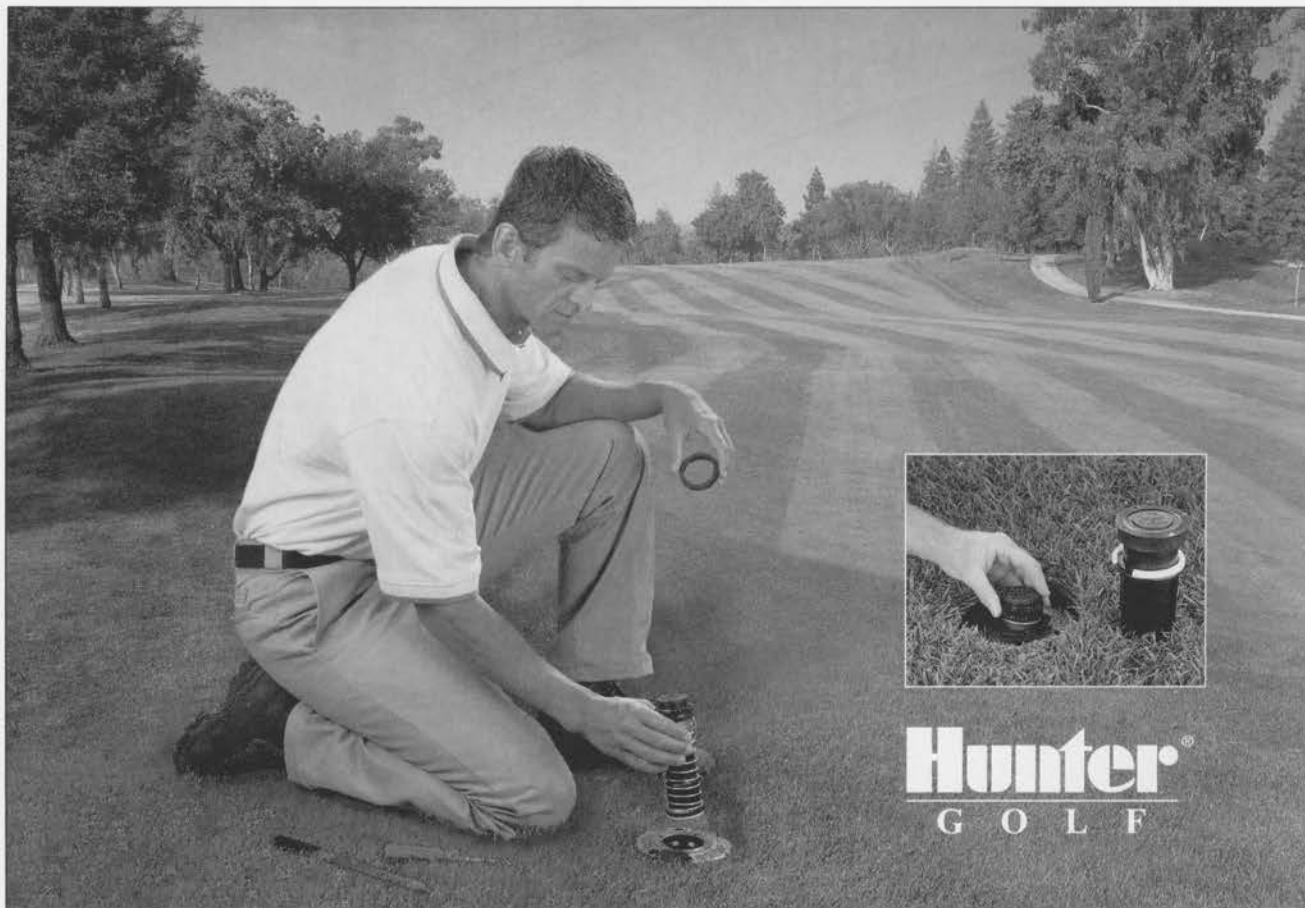
The evening was further highlighted by Mr. Gordy Lafontaine, who spoke about the history of our long-lived association. Gordy's memories of the last 30 years were colored with good humor, good wit and a lot of laughter. They also included a very accurate account of just how much has changed in the world of turf management and the role of the superintendent. Gordy, thanks for sharing your memories and views with us.

To help celebrate this occasion, Mr. Dave Fearis, past president of the GCSAA, presented GDGCSA President Roy Szyndlar a plaque honoring those men who pioneered our association in its early inception and others who were instrumental in advancing our profession. After graciously accepting the plaque, Ray proposed a toast to honor those individuals responsible for building our association and to encourage the current membership to build a strong legacy that will be left for the next generation of superintendents. It was a nice moment. Indeed, it was a grand evening.

We'd like to extend our many thanks to all those involved in planning and organizing this event, including Roy Szyndlar, Mark McKinley, Paul Kolbe, Jim McGuire and Rosalee, Kate Mason, and our wives Cathy and Amy. In addition, we'd like to thank Carol Glasson and Sherry of D&C Distributors for again contributing the Christmas ornaments that they hand-crafted.

Lastly, many thanks go out to the GEM Theatre and their staff for all their efforts in helping to make this night a memorable one.

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Extension Forecast for 2001: Snow Mold, Fertilizer Costs and Field Day

Kevin W. Frank

Crop and Soil Science Department, Michigan State University

Spring is on the way and after a long snowy winter many people are anxious to get out and hit the links. As the snow melted and the turf was uncovered our good friend snow mold has revealed itself once again. To understand the current conditions let's begin by first looking at how the winter began in December.

In many areas of the state conditions were rather mild and the ground unfrozen when the big blizzard hit on December 11th. The 15-plus inches that many areas received on top of unfrozen ground resulted in an ideal micro-environment for the development of snow mold. Unfrozen ground, a nice blanket of snow to insulate the turf, and obviously a nice moist environment appears to have resulted in a bumper crop of snow mold. The damage we are currently seeing is the result of both *Microdochium* patch (pink snow mold) and *Typhula* blight (gray snow mold). At the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center, Dr. Vargas commented that this is quite possibly the most severe case of snow mold damage he's ever seen, with some areas entirely blighted. We have seen some cultivar differences with respect to pink snow mold infestation. The sloping green, which is cultivar L-93, has virtually no pink snow mold, while greens in surrounding areas and throughout the turf center are heavily infested. I cannot attribute the difference to simply a cultivar effect, as the sloping green is definitely a little different than the average green. The sloping green is elevated and tends to hold less snow than other greens at the turf center. This might contribute to the lack of snow mold incidence seen on the sloping green.

Okay, so if you have some snow mold damage, what can you do now? First of all it's important to stay on your preventative fungicide treatment schedule throughout the spring, because if we have another wet, cool spring as we did last year, *Microdochium* patch can remain active through Memorial Day. There are several options for fungicide applications. Ron Detweiler, MSU Botany & Plant Pathology, recommends Chipco GT (Iprodione) + Fore (Mancozeb). Remember to always follow label directions when applying fungicides. Ron also recommends to avoid using PCNB products, as they can result in foliar burning and subsequent slower spring greening. There has also been evidence of PCNB's causing root pruning in other crops. From a management aspect, brushing the turf to stand it up and applying a light fertilizer application to

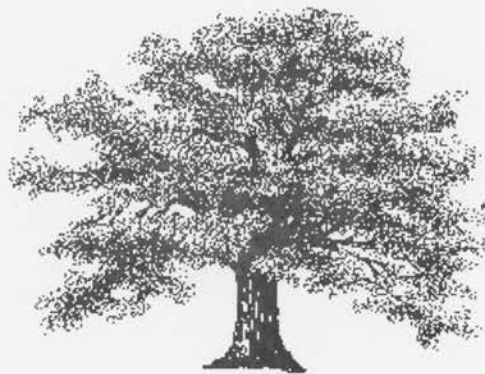
stimulate growth and recovery will help the turf to recover from damage. Be careful on the fertilizer though, as we don't want to over-stimulate the turf and encourage "lush" growth.

Energy Costs May Affect Fertilizer Prices

Remember not too long ago when a gallon of gas was less than a dollar and heating your home didn't cost a fortune? Well, unfortunately the high costs of energy, in particular, natural gas, are forecast to cause a possible doubling in fertilizer prices this year, according to a recent *Golfdom* article (February, 2001). The culprit is the high price of natural gas, which is used to produce anhydrous ammonia, the key component of all nitrogen-based fertilizers. However, Doug Johanningsmeier of Turfgrass Inc. indicated that the cost increase would be more modest than the doomsday predictions. Doug thinks that more realistically fertilizer prices will rise about 5%. No one seems to be exactly sure how high the price will go but all parties seem to agree fertilizers will cost more than last year. Best advice if you're concerned about prices is to place your orders now.

Michigan Turfgrass Field Day

It's never too early to mark your calendars so grab a pen. The 2001 Michigan Turfgrass Field Day will be held on Wednesday, August 22 at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center on the MSU Campus. This year's field day should be particularly exciting for those interested in seeing the new modular field that will be moved into Spartan Stadium in time for the 2002 football season. In addition to the morning turf tours we'll continue the popular afternoon workshops that were offered in 2000. I hope to see all of you there!



A warm "thank you" goes out to the vendors who contributed to the Michigan Room's success at the Golf Course Superintendents Association Conference and Show, February 14-16 in Dallas, Texas

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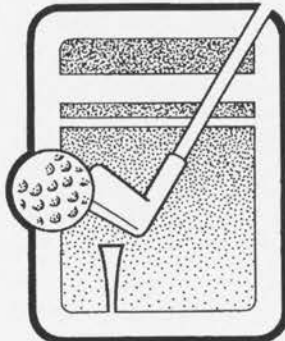
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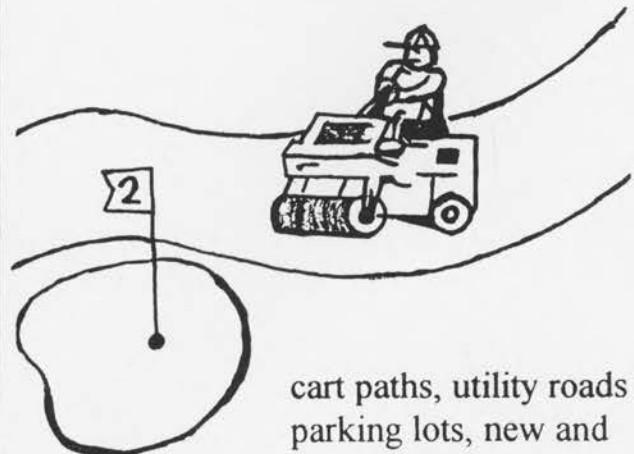
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Michigan Room Report

Terry L. Poley / Jon Shreve, CGCS

The Michigan Room was a great success again, thanks to all the vendors and donors who continue to support this event. Without their support, this room would not be possible. The room for this year's event was one that everyone from the state of Michigan could be proud of, even those who were not able to attend.

The room was open Wednesday, February 14th through Friday, February 16th. People from all areas Michigan were in attendance, including alumni from across the nation, their families and friends.

Thursday night there was a special presentation to recognize Greg Lyman. Greg received the "Presidents Award for Environmental Leadership" during the conference. We were honored to have special guests from MSU to help celebrate Greg's achievement; Dr. Ian Grey, Director of MSU Experiment Station; Dr. LouAnna Simon, Provost at MSU; Dr. William Taylor, Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Keith Creagh, Deputy Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture; and James Obear, Director of the Development Office at MSU. Also mixed into the crowd was GCSAA President Tommy Witt. Later in the night, Carey Mitchelson was greeted with warm applause when he was awarded for his years of outstanding service to the Greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Support for the Michigan Room is strong across the nation. Superintendents and MSU alumni who have left Michigan look forward to attending this event just as much as the conference itself. Throughout the nights, people gathered around to catch up with old friends, meet new friends, share ideas and tell stories and jokes. But most of all, they gathered there to be around familiar faces and share in the pride of being from Michigan.

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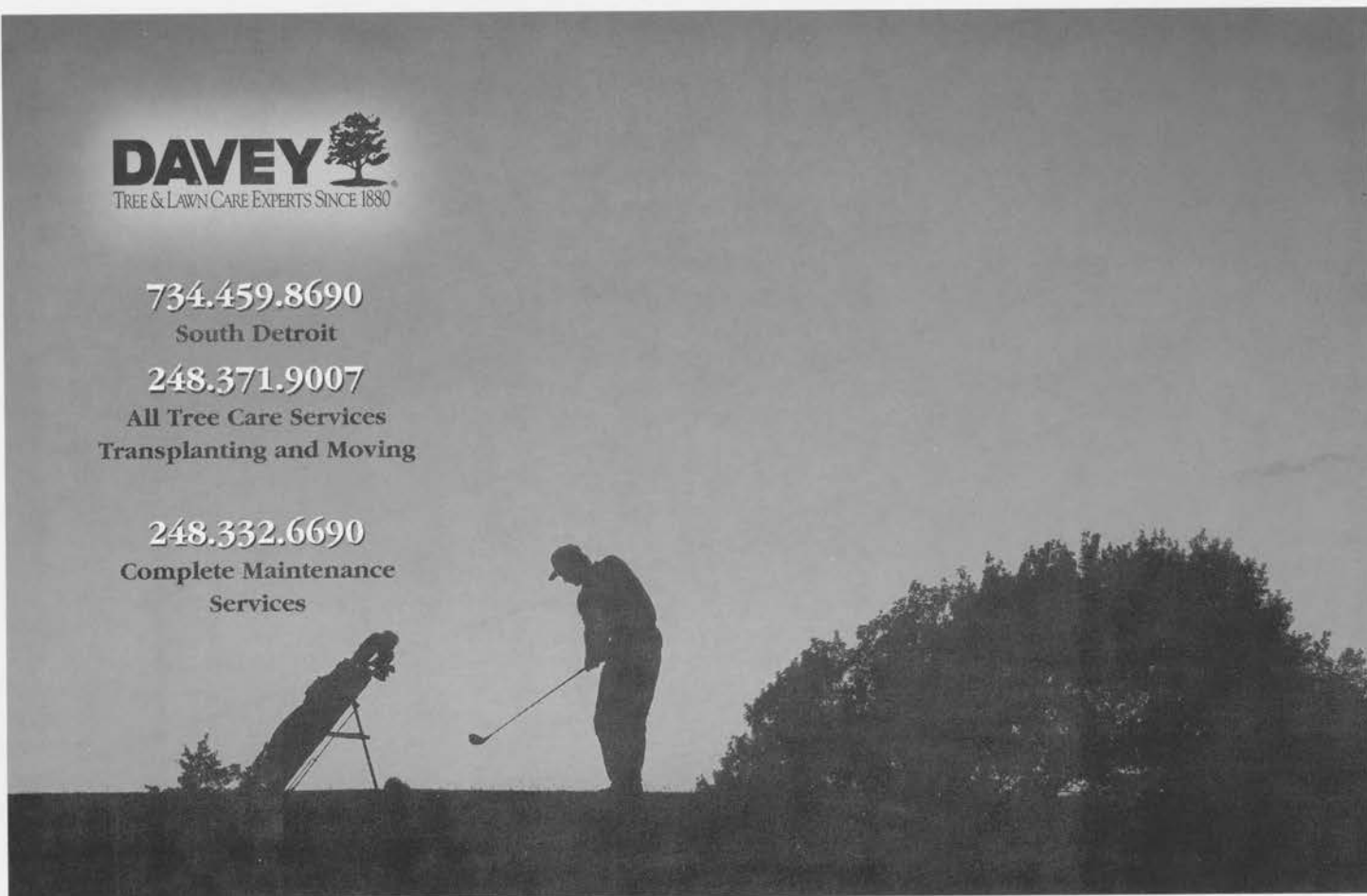
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The Shape of Things to Come — 2001

Bob Vavrek, USGA Agronomist, North Central Region

I was asked to look into my crystal ball and discuss potential problems that superintendents in the North Central Region might encounter during the upcoming season. At first, issues such as chlorothalonil use restrictions came to mind or the steady westward march of gypsy moths and Japanese beetles across Wisconsin into Minnesota. However, I decided to discuss a more general concern, one that most of us in the upper Midwest tend to take for granted - water.

The abundance of fresh water lakes/streams, readily available groundwater, and over 30 inches of precipitation each year across Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota are the reasons why we rarely consider water to be an issue on the golf course as long as a relatively dependable irrigation system exists. Too little water or too much water (mostly too much), however, can have a considerable impact on the health of the turf and the quality of the playing surfaces.

Water impacts the golf course even before it is born. The presence of wetland habitat can limit the amount of land available for development at a particular site. Protecting wetlands and wetland mitigation can significantly increase the cost of building a course. Only time will tell what impact, if any, the new Bush administration will have on wetland development and other environmental issues.

Once construction begins, the washouts and erosion associated with heavy rainfall events can throw a monkey wrench into the timetable for opening a course. On the other hand, a lack of consistent rainfall during grow in will hinder the germination and development of turf across slopes, mounds, in roughs and other areas that lack supplemental irrigation. Rough turf quality can be set back a year or more during a droughty grow in.

Water continues to be an issue after turf establishment. An increasing number of courses are experiencing the problem of moss encroachment on greens. The ability of moss to compete in turf is enhanced by excessively close mowing heights, low fertility and overwatered playing surfaces. Sometimes an extended period of wet weather causes a surge of moss growth, but most often it was related to too much irrigation and/or poor surface/subsurface drainage through or across the green. I see a few more home remedies in my crystal ball, but don't expect any long-term success regarding moss control until the grass is a little higher and the greens are drier.

Heavy rainfall events during the 2000 season caused

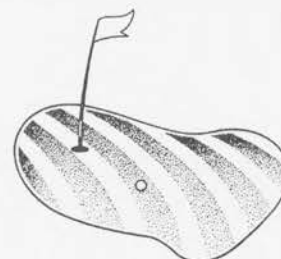
some of the most severe bunker washouts I have ever encountered. I see more superintendents experimenting with new erosion control materials, such as Bunker Wall, in severely sloped cavities. Experience will dictate how and where to employ these materials to minimize bunker erosion, but I doubt any material will be a panacea for erosion problems in all architectural styles of bunkers.

On a final note, I encourage everyone to have their irrigation water tested at least once this year. A number of reputable independent labs are available to determine pH, soluble salts, bicarbonates, and other characteristics of water that can, under some circumstances, have a significant effect on turf quality, especially during extended periods of drought.

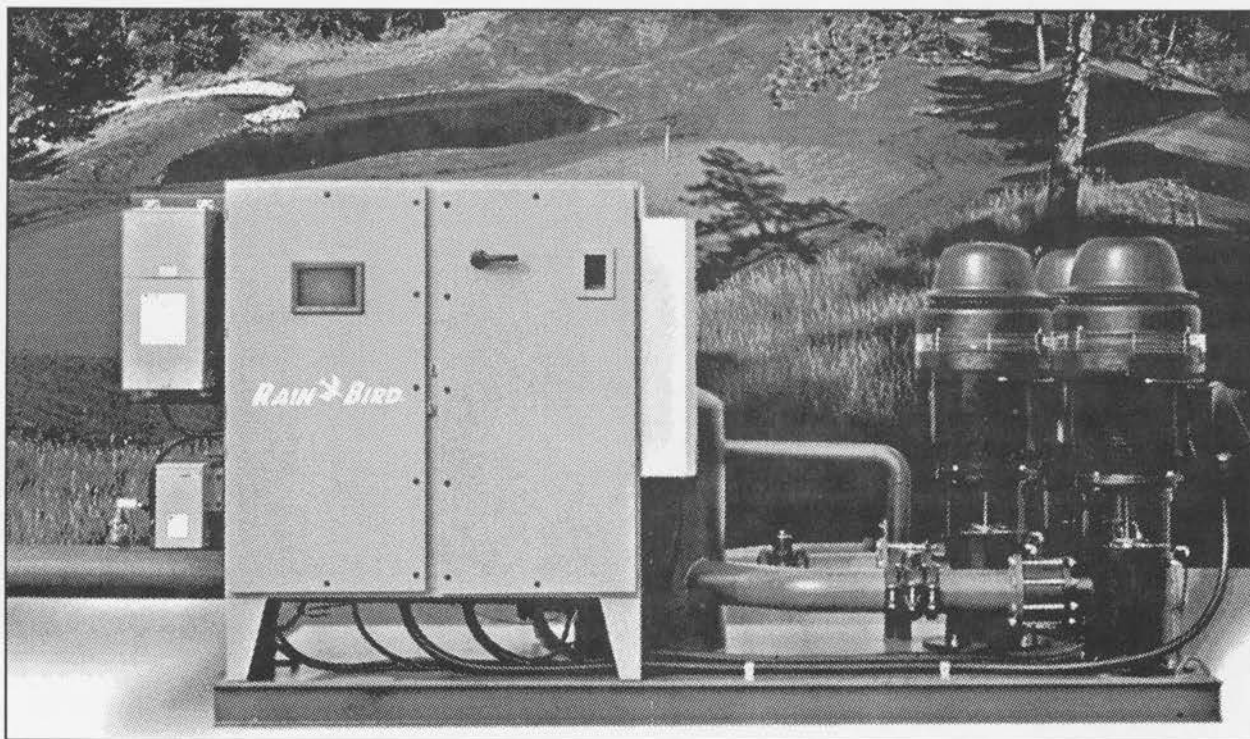
Superintendents in the more arid regions of the country and those at courses where effluent water is used for irrigation will never take water quality for granted. The water is tested frequently and the steady buildup of salts near the surface of greens during dry weather is constantly monitored. Sand based greens are subjected to long irrigation cycles at appropriate intervals to flush the accumulation of salts from the upper soil profile - a stress that can cause injury to *Poa annua* playing surfaces.

Salt accumulation is not a common problem at courses in the upper Midwest because the frequent thundershowers that occur throughout the summer provide a natural flushing action through a green. On the other hand, the unusual weather patterns over the past several years have provided the type of conditions where damage to greens from excessive salts did occur at several courses. Damage that could have been prevented by simply testing the irrigation water and monitoring the soil profile with an inexpensive conductivity meter during periods of hot, dry weather.

Feel free to call the North Central Regional office in Wisconsin (262-797-8743) anytime for information regarding water testing labs and conductivity meters, along with any other water or non-water related turf concerns you may encounter during the season.

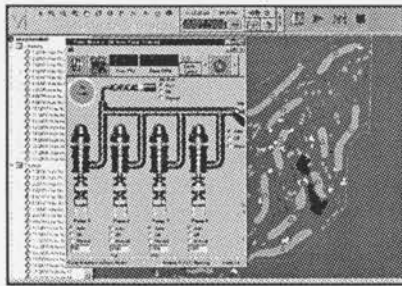


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Management Companies: The Superintendent's Worst Enemy?

By: Tim Dorner, CGCS

Back in October of 2000 the GDGCSA Board of Directors received a letter from the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents voicing its concern about management companies and the strategies being used to secure more courses in its area. It also included a copy of a letter sent to GCSAA asking the board to take some type of action against what it believes is a breach of the GCSAA Code of Ethics with regards to many of the tactics used by many of these companies.

The opening statement in this letter says, "We in Chicago are offended by the blatant attempt by management companies to cut our throats and take over our clubs. We've stood by and watched these companies infiltrate our area by attacking the management practices of veteran superintendents. We need to stop riding the fence on this issue and take a stance." They go on to state, "They are growing and have a corporate mentality where they will not stop until they own all of us! Their niche is getting bigger and you may be next. It is estimated that in 1993 there were 600 courses under group management. Today, that number is closer to 1,600."

In conclusion, a reference to a quote by a management company official taken from Superintendent News was made. "Golf is no longer driven by passion, it is driven by economics.... it's no longer a sport.... and the bottom line counts." "We in the Chicagoland Association find this attitude offensive. Our profession is an art form, a study in science and nature. Yes, financial responsibility is paramount on the list of skills required, but first and foremost we grow grass. We deserve to be judged on the merits of our playing surfaces by the chairman of the green committee or course owner/operator, not by the regional agronomist, whose primary concern is what lies on the financial statement, not the lie of the ball."

While I don't condone unethical methods of obtaining a job by any individual or entity, it unfortunately does happen. The call to rally against this perceived threat is a noble one; however, it is extremely naive. Ask any local or national board member who has had to deal with an ethics violation and they all will tell you the same thing. Our code of ethics are not worth the paper that they are written on. They will never stand up in the court of law, which unfortunately is the final arbitrator should parties involved choose to push it that far.

If you think that the GCSAA could or would do something about this, you are crazy. Like it or not, golf is a big business and it is driven by economics. I don't believe there are many operations out there where the bottom line doesn't matter. Management companies are

not a new phenomenon. Although they only control a small percentage of the market, they continue to attract more and more "accounts" each year. Obviously, management companies exist because there is a need that they meet in the marketplace. The sales pitch being thrown out there by most management companies is that "we can do it cheaper and not compromise conditioning." Anyone who is concerned about the bottom line would be a fool not to listen to such a proposal.

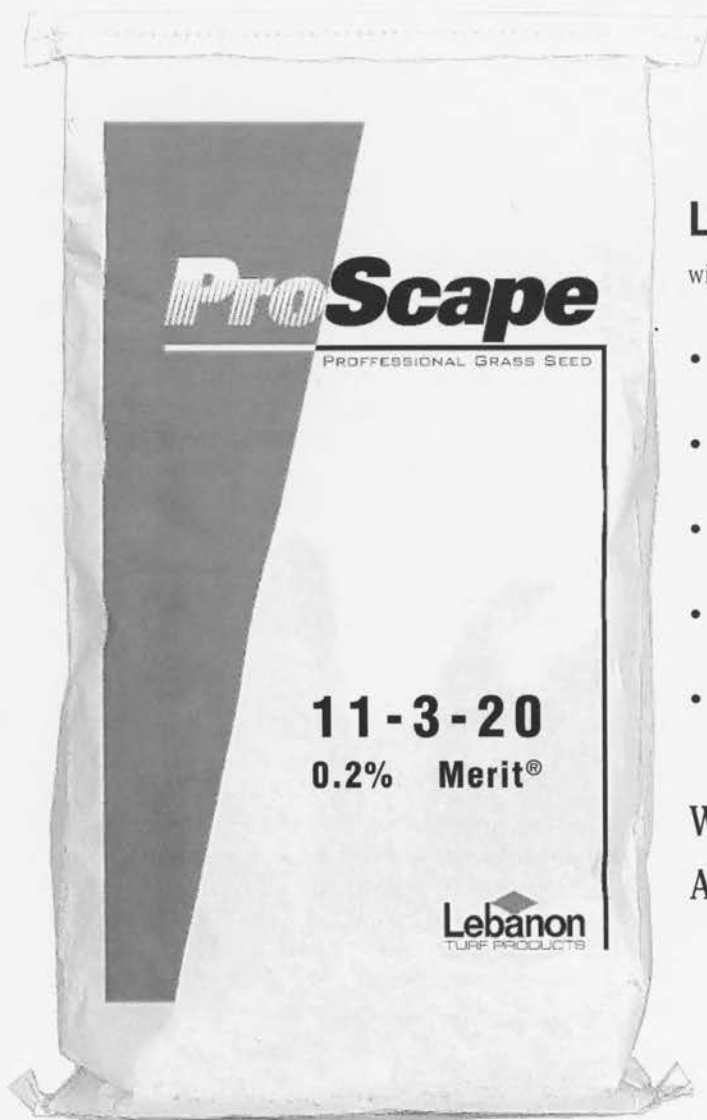
We as professionals should look to ourselves to secure our positions from "outside influences", not the GCSAA. We should be evaluating the way we run our operations and determine if we are operating as efficiently as possible. Budgets continue to escalate. Where will it stop? We need to reaffirm the expectations of the board or owner each year at budget time and find ways to cut costs without compromising the goals and objectives of our operations. If you are running your operation in this manner, you won't be looking over your shoulder at an individual or management company that's trying to get a foot in the door at your course.

We don't need the GCSAA to take a stand against management companies. What we need from the GCSAA and the USGA is an effort at high profile golfing events, through their various publications and television time, to counteract what has been referred to by some people as the "Augusta Syndrome." Golf course owners, club officials and the general golfing public need to fully understand the resources required and the man-hours needed to maintain a course at the highest level. They need to get the message that you can't have "Augusta" without being prepared to pay for it. They also need to recognize that the top-level courses are not the real world. The elite are the elite for two reasons; course layout and the resources required to be on top.

Finally, we need to get away from the "us vs. them" mentality with this subject and become proactive. We need to look at ourselves to see where we can get better, individually and as an association. We need to work smarter, not harder. Working harder than the next guy may have gotten you the job; working smarter than the next guy will allow you to keep the job and leave on your own terms.

Editors Note: If you wish to read the letters from the Chicago Association, contact any board member or Executive Secretary Kate Mason to receive a copy.

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NEW CENTURY! HOW ABOUT A NEW CHAPTER?

by Tom Mason

Golf course superintendents have to be perceived as professional by everyone's definition of what is a professional. The obvious place to start this endeavor is by making our local chapters more in tune with the profession educationally and more effective organizationally.

Today, chapters suffer from all the problems associated with an organization that changes its leadership annually. For example: volunteers tend to do their jobs like the persons who preceded them. Chapters are often inconsistent in the services they provide. Information is typically slow to circulate and often less than complete. Leaders often fail to properly delegate tasks to others. Usually, chapters are lacking specific goals or a mission. Typically, there is very little thought put into preparing the organization for the future. Rarely are they perceived by their membership as responsive.

In many cases chapters hire a person to serve as chapter manager in order to overcome many of the mentioned problems. Boards and committees then meet and are quick to realize that more could be accomplished since the new employee is now doing the work. After a period of time, the organization is more complex and more expanded and therefore much harder for a simple chapter volunteer to understand, let alone maintain a competent leadership role. This situation results in the chapter manager becoming indispensable and the central hub of the whole association. Furthermore, the leaders of the association know less and less about how the association really works. The association becomes a small business that needs to run as a business. Unfortunately the real mission of the organization (education) becomes secondary, or even less than secondary. When education becomes less than the primary reason for existing, then participation wanes.

I would like to throw out my vision of what my chapter should be. It means nothing more than a place to start the discussion that has to occur, if we are serious about improving our profession.

"What Chapters need to become"

1. Develop a mission
2. Prepare objectives for each committee
3. Prepare objectives for each year
 - A. Seek out and list the top issues that concern members
 - B. Inform all members and attack the issues
4. Create value for being a member
 - A. Orientation programs
 - B. New member induction
 - C. Concerted effort in association building
5. Create value for serving
 - A. Board of directors and committee service
 - B. Student memberships
6. Eliminate programs and committees that are not needed
7. Keep all tasks and assignments small, workable, manageable and accountable
8. Develop a Mentor program
 - A. New members
 - B. Young and older members
 - C. Student members
 - D. Have defined goals and objectives
9. Recognize the different kinds of members and help them organize themselves and benefit from each other
10. Train and prepare for the future in everything that is done
11. Encourage innovation and independent thought
12. Facilitate discussion about being a "golf course superintendent"

I know that there will be many members that will say, "This can't be done" or "We could never do this" or "We don't have the time or resources" or "We can't get there from here". Yes, we can! We just have to change our thinking and our

priorities. We also have to look at things as they really are, things as they could be, and things as we need them to be if we are to be effective and thrive in our jobs.

I submit this "vision" recognizing that we have older members who began their careers without the need for business skills. We have many younger members who have come to the business via the college course catalog and only minimal apprenticeships. We have members from private clubs, municipal courses, privately owned courses, military courses, management companies and at infinite levels of funding and expectations.

We need an association that is vigilant to what is going on in the golf business. We have to have an inkling about what is going to be needed of us in our jobs. Superintendents need a resource for understanding the history of golf course maintenance and how that history can affect our future. Our members have to have a mechanism to consistently and coherently communicate with GCSAA and its departments, so that our national association can be effective in its programs and initiatives.

Right now, we as golf course superintendents lack the mechanism to teach and enlighten our members, particularly our younger members with "what it means to be a golf course superintendent". Knowledge of these kinds of things is the price tag that is associated with a profession that is respected and a membership that is paid what they think they are worth.

If we have an agronomic problem, we have university turf programs, GCSAA seminars, consultants and the USGA Green Section as resources. If we have a management problem, we have local schools, consultants and GCSAA seminars as resources. Countless superintendents have suffered because there is no resource to simply guide a person to being a "superintendent". One that ties turf, management and golf together.

There is no mechanism that constantly looks at our profession and informs our members that their world is changing and they need to become acclimated, at least on a local basis. When it is done nationally, it is typically missed or dismissed as "not applicable to me."

Being a golf course superintendent has never been easy, but it should be a lot easier. The demands of our jobs often require us to think differently as we see what it takes to be successful. Our local superintendents' chapter should just be another tool for us to use in our attempt to be the best that we can be.



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Leadership: More Than You Think

by Tom Mason

When a person starts a new job the issues that are associated with that person are all about "what you do". Can you grow grass? Do you know about golf? Can you manage money? Can you communicate? Do you understand the desired quality level? Do you manage the golf course or does the golf course manage you?

Most of these issues are addressed in the turf school curriculum and networking. In fact, turf related issues dominate what is taught in the school. Basic management issues are talked about simply because one will obviously need to know how to manage a staff of employees to be a "superintendent" and grow turf.

After a period of time (honeymoon period), when your customers understand that you can do the job, then you, whether you like it or not and whether you know it or not, will be taking on a whole new level of issues. The "who you are" issues...such as:

Are you trustworthy?
Are you responsive?
Do you do what you said you would do?
Can you forecast problems?
Can you get along with other employees?
Do you make other people better?
Do you elevate yourself at the expense of others?
Do you return your phone calls, mail and e-mail promptly?
Do your customers perceive that you work to improve the quality of their product?
Or, do they think that you work for the convenience of yourself and your staff?
Are your budgets and reports on time and correct?
Can you write and spell correctly in your correspondence?
Can you speak to a group and get your point across?
Do you see the big picture for your facility?
Can you teach and inspire attention-to-detail?
Can you handle problems? Do other people think that you can handle problems?
Can you handle pressure? Do your employees think that you can handle pressure?
Can you handle adversity? Do you have a plan for handling adversity?
Do you develop your employees?
Can you have an idea, sell the idea, develop the idea and then implement the idea?
Do you know how to formulate an opinion?
Are you consistent in your opinions and beliefs?
Are you consistently polite and courteous to everyone, even to difficult people?
Can you separate professional positions from personal positions?

Are you perceived as accountable? Do you act like you are accountable?
Are you quick to handle uncomfortable situations?
Can you hide anger and frustration?
Can you admit it when you are wrong? Do you apologize when you are wrong?
Do you have good table manners?
Do you know how to introduce people?
Do you know how to make people feel included?
Do you think people are comfortable with you representing their facility?
Do your employees feel that you are effectively representing them?
Do people at your facility think you hold a grudge and have to get even for things?
Do women at your facility sense that you respect them and treat them fairly?
Do you understand synergy?
Do you understand and incorporate delegation?
Do you understand and utilize empowerment?
Are you perceived as innovative? Do you reward innovation on your staff?
Can you manage a meeting so that everyone has a clear understanding of what occurred?
Do you have a "Bad News" action plan?
Are you perceived as proactive, or, are you perceived as reactive?
Are you perceived to have vision?
Do people think that you have a good understanding of quality?
Do your customers know anything about you outside of golf or your job?
Do you feel as though you are part of your community?
How good are you at seeing the point of view of others?
Do others think of you as a good listener?
Do you understand your power as the golf course superintendent at your facility?
Do your customers think that you use your power wisely?

I'm not advocating that golf course superintendents should be taught or told how to conduct themselves. What I am advocating is that we as a profession start talking about these kinds of things as issues. We have to make our colleagues cognizant that these kinds of issues and/or perceptions exist and are often expected from us. Superintendents have to understand that these "who you are" issues contribute to how effective you are in your job. "Who you are" issues are often the reason that superintendents get tired, even when the golf course looks great. Often, they are the reason that owners and boards of directors feel no real passion to show the

superintendent respect or raise their pay. Often, they are the reason fellow employees and customers fail to show superintendents the respect that they deserve and criticize their product. Often, they are the reason superintendents can't seem to get the resources they feel they need to improve their product.

Isn't it conceivable that if every golf course superintendent knew and practiced an understanding of these issues, then our profession would be enhanced and many of the concerns that we have as a profession would be addressed?

To my way of thinking, golf course superintendents have to become professional by everyone's definition of professional, not just by our definition.



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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: ***What are your life goals and how have your parents influenced you in those choices?*** Award winners for 2000 were: Valerie VanNetten, daughter of Marc and Linda VanNetten and Lisa Matthews, daughter of Dick and Jill Mathews. One of the winning essays will run in each issue of *A Patch of Green*. Applications for 2001's award will be available from Kate Mason after August 15th. If you have questions about the Heritage Award, contact Awards Chairman Terry Poley or Dick Matthews.

Life Goals and Parental Influence: The Motivation to Succeed

by Valerie VanNetten

Throughout my life, I have always been an extremely determined and independent person. I set my goals high, and constantly reached to achieve them. I enjoyed being challenged. Much of this determination has stemmed from my parents' encouragement. Even in my life goals today, I can rely on the support of my parents. Whether it is in academics, athletics, or career possibilities, my parents have always been there to guide me along the way.

Since the eighth grade, I have been extremely interested in athletics. My father ran cross-country and track during most of his high school and college years, and I would often find myself up late at night, mesmerized by his stories of courage and camaraderie. I decided to run, eager to experience the fun and be a part of a team. That decision has changed my life more than I ever expected. I ran track, thinking it was just for fun. I never realized what an impact this would have. I continued running both cross-country and track throughout high school, and decided to run in college as well. As a long distance runner, I have learned many things about myself. I do have what it takes to succeed, if I only believe in myself. I became more self-disciplined, and realized the significance of getting involved and being involved in a positive activity.

Because of that simple decision, my family has come closer together. My brother also began to run in middle school, and my parents always attended as many of our meets as possible. Over the summer, my dad and I would often be found winding down dirt roads, our feet stirring up dust with each stride. Running with my dad has repeatedly motivated me to run farther, and run faster. Because of this motivation, I am running at the collegiate level for a school with a chance of winning a division-II national championship this year. I never dreamed of this. It never would have happened without the supportive influence of my parents.

One of my primary goals throughout high school was to graduate with honors. I was persistent with my studies and always searching for a challenge. My parents encouraged me throughout, always willing to help with homework or projects when asked. They wanted me to do my best, and

I thrived on their encouragement. With their support, I graduated summa cum laude, having maintained a 3.925 grade point average, and graduated third in my class.

As thoughts of college began to enter into the horizon, I was bewildered by all the choices I had. There were so many decisions to be made, decisions that could potentially affect the rest of my life. Did I want to stay close to home, or study out of state? What exactly was it that I wanted to study? But most importantly, it was this question that weighed on my mind the most: how was I ever going to be able to pay for college?

Realizing that these were important choices, my parents allowed me the freedom to choose, while simultaneously guiding me through the process. When I had finally come to the conclusion that I wanted to major in something medical-related, they were supportive. I contemplated going to the University of Michigan, but decided it was too close to home for my liking. I wanted to experience something different. And since both of my parents are alumni of Michigan State, they had told me ever since I was little that if I wanted to go to U of M, they would disown me. Eventually, I narrowed my college search down to two final choices: Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan; and Cedar Crest College, a private all-girls school in Allentown, Pennsylvania. I decided on Grand Valley, a school that was far enough away but close enough that I could still come home easily. While my parents told me that it was my decision and that they would support me either way, I know that deep down, they're happy I chose Grand Valley State University.

When I was young, I dreamed of being everything from a model to a lawyer, from a veterinarian to a doctor. Currently, I am studying biomedical science, although I am unsure of exactly what direction I want to go with it. I have always been interested in science and the medical field, and would like to do something that would benefit all of us, whether it is as a researcher or a doctor. Fully aware that I may change my mind at a moment's notice, my parents are still extremely interested in whatever it is that I'm doing. My parents have repeatedly shown that they are concerned with my well being, whether it is by calling



Heritage Award winner Valerie VanNetten, with dad, Marc, excelled in high school, where she was a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the varsity cross country team, the varsity track and field team and graduated third in her class. She now attends Grand Valley State University, where she is studying biomedical science.

simply to say hello, or calling to see how I'm doing in my classes. They have made it clear that they're already proud of me, and just want me to be happy.

I am a firm believer that a simple word of encouragement can produce astounding results. If not for the love and

support of my parents, I would not have achieved the things I have. I'm sure we both wonder what the road ahead holds for me, but one thing is certain: with the support they have given me throughout my life, they have provided me with the ability to believe in myself. And when this occurs, the possibilities are endless.

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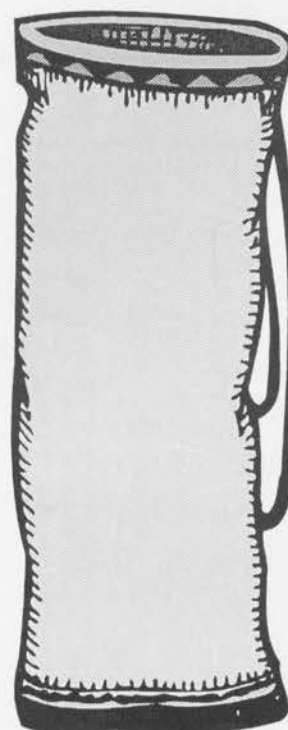
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**Board Meeting
Bay Pointe Golf Club
Tuesday, January 30, 2001**

Roll Call:

Present - Abbott, Dorner, King, Kolbe, McKinley, Murphy, Poley, Szyndlar

Absent - Matthews, Shreve, Doug Johanningsmeier*

*Appointed to position of Vendor liaison. Only attends when he has concerns to bring before the Board.

FINANCE (Murphy)

Dec Assn svgs: \$66,430.33

Dec Assn chkg: \$3,019.74

Dec Fdtn svgs: \$30,835.00

Dec Fdtn chkg: \$384.79

AWARDS (McKinley)

Heritage Recipients:

Valerie VanNetten and Julie Matthews

Turfgrass Scholarship Recipient:

Greg Matz (2-yr student)

EDUCATION (King/Shreve)

2001 Schedule sites to be finalized. To be posted in POG

March meeting - Tuesday, March 6. Site: Salt River GC

Agenda: Aquatrols (.35 CEUs) and Bowling

MEMBERSHIP (Dorner)

Total membership -413; Applications - 3;

Class Change Requests - 2

Reinstatements - 3; Honorary -4

MICHIGAN ROOM (Poley)

Plans complete. Rec'd approx. \$16,000 in sponsorship donations.

SOCIAL (Murphy/Poley)

HOLIDAY/ANNIVERSARY PARTY:

120 attendees - Balance (\$6,700)

2001 - Venues being considered.

PICNIC:

Removed from schedule due to lack of participation.

Spouse outing being considered for July.

EDITOR (Dorner)

Roster - used previous format. To be mailed by Feb. 1

POG - Deadline for articles, Feb. 23.

FUNDRAISING

2000 GOLF DAY(Abbott/Matthews)

Donations made from "Big Event" revenue -\$27,000.

MSU Turfgrass Awards:

2-year: \$1,000

Michigan Turfgrass Foundation:

Research - \$20,000

Rieke Foundation - \$500

O.J. Noer Foundation - \$500

GCSSAIPatinum Tee Club - \$5,000

2001 SPECIAL OLYMPICS (King/Abbott)

Date: Friday, May 18, 2001

Site: Bald Mountain GC

First meeting today of chairmen and E.S.

2001 GOLF DAY (Matthews/Murphy)

Date: Monday, Oct. 1, 2001

Sites: TBD

GAM SEMINAR (McKinley/Shreve)

Date: Saturday, March 24, 2001

Site: Detroit GC

Working on agenda and speakers.

WELFARE (Murphy)

Donation sent to Make-a-Wish in Ken McRae's memory.

Get-well gift sent to Jacob Shreve, who underwent heart surgery. Doing well.

DETROIT CLUB MGS ASSN (Szyndlar)

In an effort to cement relationships with the managers,

Pres. Szyndlar will be meeting with Jerry McAuliffe, his

counterpart. The DCMA has supported our Special

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work together in our support of turfgrass research

through our turfgrass fundraiser, The Big Event and

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Board Meeting

Bogie Lake Golf Club

Wednesday, February 28, 2001

ROLL CALL:

Present- Abbott, Dorner, King, McKinley, Murphy, Shreve, Szyndlar

Absent - Kolbe, Matthews, Poley

FINANCE (Muphy)

Jan Assn svgs: \$57,272.19

Jan Assn chkg: \$5,654.99

Jan Fdtn svgs: \$2,852.73

Jan Fdtn chkg: \$6,376.79

2001 Proposed budget - \$140,600 approved.

MEMBERSHIP (Dorner)

Total membership -417; Applications -4; Honorary -1

GAM SEMINAR (McKinley/Shreve)

Agenda and speakers finalized.

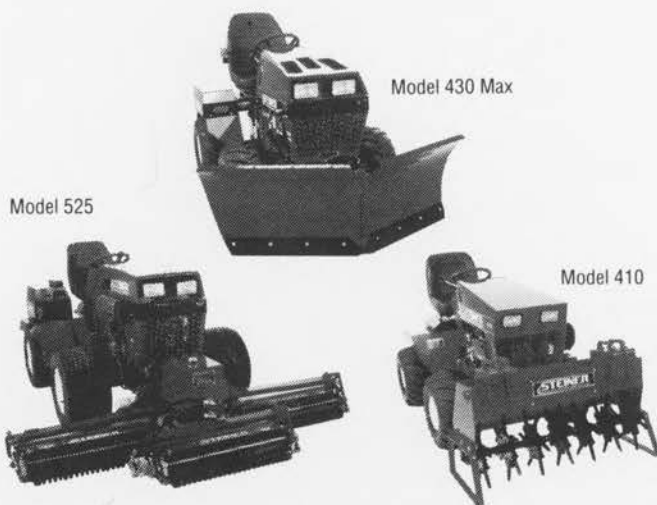
New format to be used in future GAM Seminars.

Survey soliciting Supt. concerns will be sent out in Oct. to establish topics for monthly meeting education and GAM Seminar.

WELFARE (Murphy)

Mike Plague's (Green & Grow) mother passed away. Card sent.

Jerry Penner (W. F. Miller Co.) has throat cancer. Card sent.



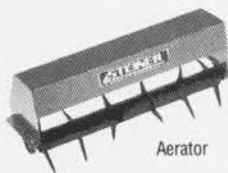
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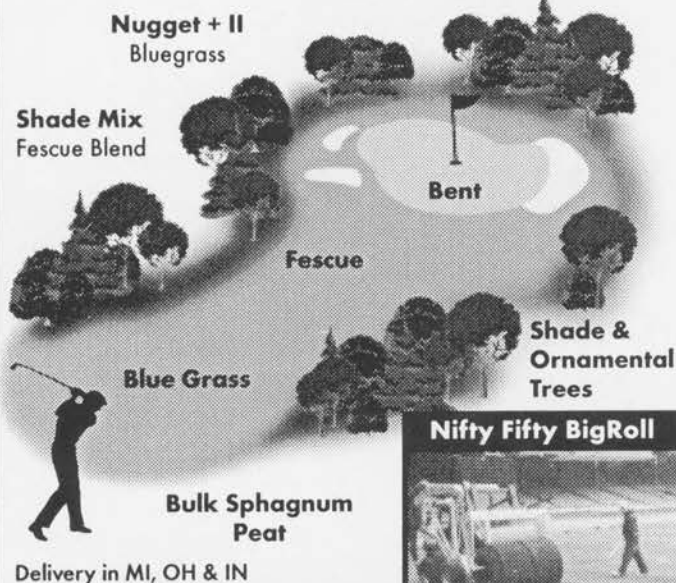


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Greater Detroit GCSA 2001 Calendar

- April 23 Joint Meeting with Ontario GCSA @ Sarnia Golf & Curling (golf)
- May 18 Special Olympics @ Bald Mountain (golf/fund-raiser)
- June TBD Annual Golf Championship @ Boulder Pointe GC (golf & education)
- July TBD Social: TBD (spouse outing)
- July 26 The Invitational @ Links of Pinewood (golf/fund-raiser)
- Aug. 22 MSU Field Day (education)
- Sept. 17 Wolfrom Classic @ Maple Lane GC (education & golf)
- Oct. 1 The Big Event, sites TBD (golf/fund-raiser)
- Oct. 15 Annual Business Meeting, site TBD (golf & Assn. election)
- Nov. 13 Regional GCSAA Seminar @ Double Tree Novi (education)
- Dec. TBD Social: Holiday Party (spouse outing)
- Dec. 11 Superintendent Only Roundtable @ Birmingham CC (education)

Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association 2001 Calendar

- Apr. 2 Mini Conference @ Grayling Holiday Inn
- June 19 MTF Fund-raiser @ Treetops Sylvan Resort, The Tradition
- July 22 Annual Picnic @ Beaver Creek Resort
- Aug. 14 Meeting @ The Rock, Drummond Island
- Sept. 13 Fund-raiser @ Black Lake GC
- Oct. 2 Tuck Tate Chapter Championship @ Michaywe Hills, The Pines

Western Michigan GCSA 2001 Calendar

- May 7 Meeting @ Thornapple Point, Grand Rapids
- June 12 Meeting @ Candlestone, Belding
- Sept. 17 MTF Golf Day @ Thousand Oaks, Grand Rapids
- Oct. 9 Meeting @ Moss Ridge, Muskegon

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