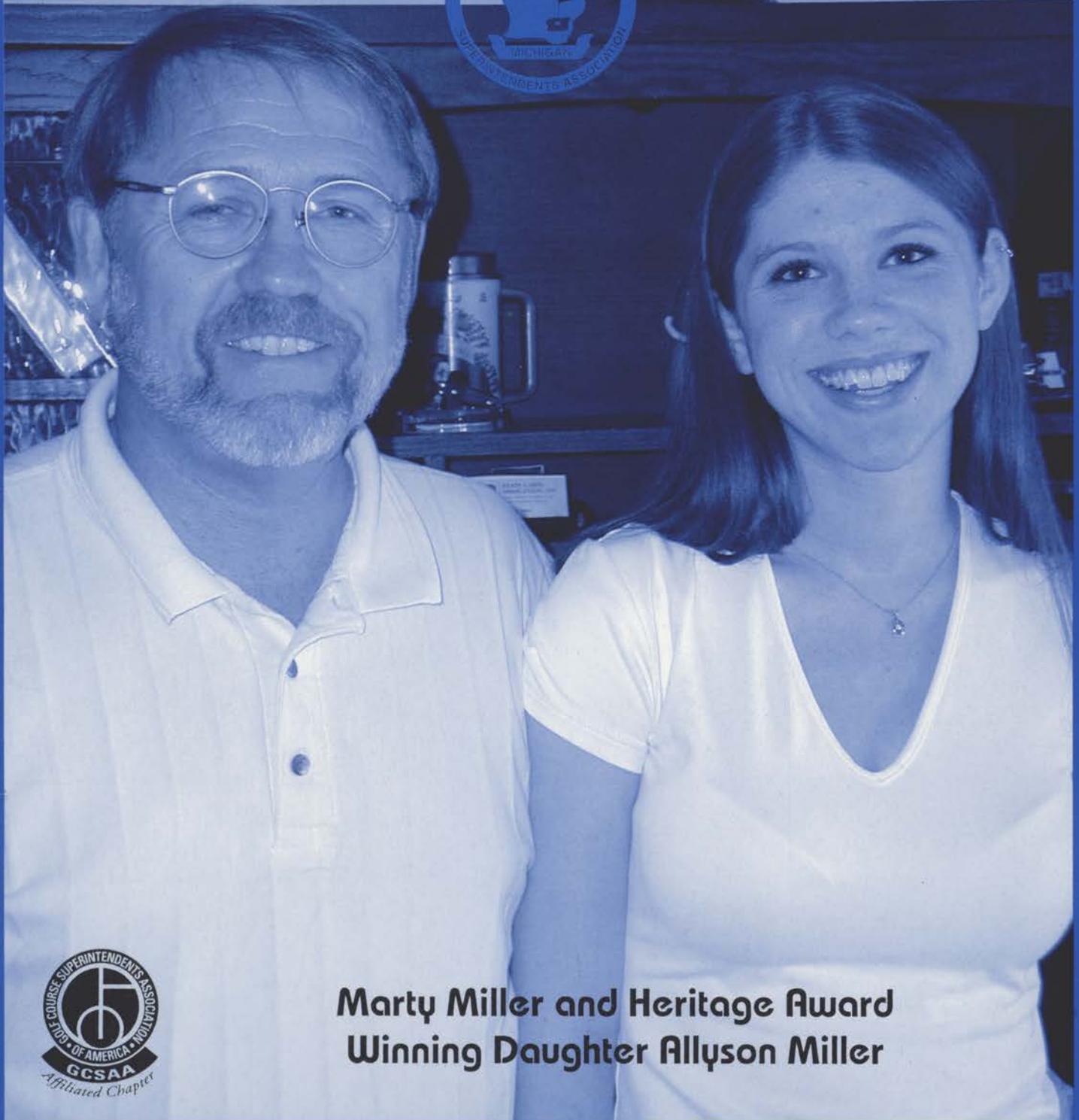


# A PATCH OF GREEN



MID-SUMMER, 2002



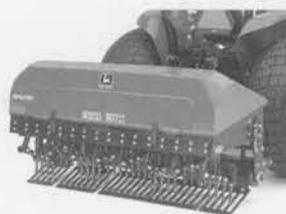
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Greater Detroit Golf Course  
Superintendents Association

The Official Publication of the Greater Detroit  
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# on par <sup>with</sup><sub>the</sub> president



What a month! You thought I meant the dry, hot weather. No, I'm talking about the events our association gave us the opportunity to participate in. First, we had the Couple's Golf Outing fun and the first time I can remember being cold! Next, the Association Golf Championship was hosted by Mike Fouty at Lake Forrest. Thanks to both for beating us. Last, the Tiger Baseball Event had over 100 tickets sold. Thanks to all the committees that set up these fun events.

This message has been hard to write. All month I thought about writing on stress, but I was too busy and stressed to write. I hoped I could encourage you with the enlightening experiences I've had in this great business, but its that time of year...

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark McKinley". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized.

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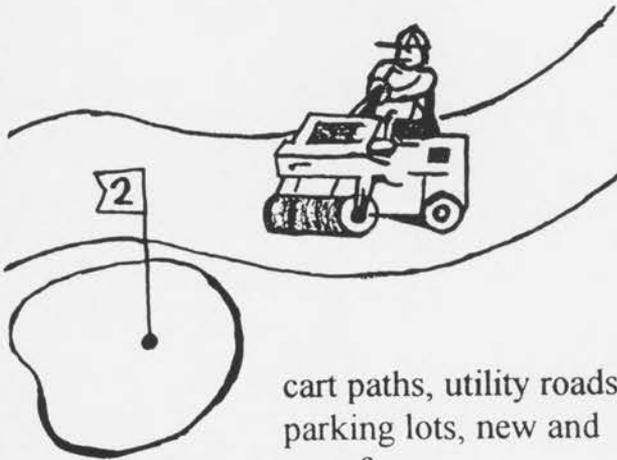
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# 2002 Greater Detroit G.C.S.A. Annual Golf Championship

by Robert King

This year's championship was held at the new Lake Forest Golf Club in Ann Arbor. Superintendent Mike Fouty had worked hard to prepare this rather new course for the event. The large greens were well groomed, smooth and true. The wide and closely-mowed Bluegrass fairways allowed for extra ball length off the tee, but only when you hit it good enough to remain in the fairway. If you missed the fairway you were most likely to be nestled down in the long and difficult secondary rough, comprised of a fescue and rye grass mix. This links style turf was pleasing to the eye, but many players found this rough difficult to navigate and some were forced to lay up or take a drop if they were fortunate enough to find their ball.

It would also appear as though Mike had prepared his golf game for this outing, as he posted a 2-under par 70 to win the championship by two strokes over last year's winner, Aaron McMaster. This is Mike's fourth win for this tournament, which is now the most wins by a GDGCSA superintendent. This may also be the first time the host superintendent has won. Congratulations to Mike and everyone else who participated and won prizes. Other winners include:

## **Championship Flight**

(0-10 handicap)

*Low Gross Winner and  
GDGCSA Champion*

Mike Fouty

Score of 70

*Low Net Winner*

Mike Fouty

Score of 70-3 = 67

## **Flight B**

(20 and above handicap)

*Low Gross Winner*

Joe Singles

Score of 98

*Low Net Winner*

Joe Singles

Score of 98-26 = 72

## **Vendor Flight**

(All Vendors)

*Low Gross Winner*

Doug Middleton

Score of 84

*Low Net Winner*

Dan Johanningsmeier

Score of 91-24 = 67

## **Closest-to-Pin**

Hole #8 - Bob King

## **Closest-to-Pin**

Hole #17 - Jim Higgs

## **Skins**

Hole #1- Mike Fouty

Hole #3 - Aaron McMaster

Hole #4 - Kris Early

Hole #5 - Dave Plummer

Hole #6 - Jay Eccleton

Hole #8 - Roy Szyndlar

Hole#10 - Howard Altman

I would like to thank all of those who attended and give a special thank you to Mike Fouty, his maintenance staff, the pro shop staff headed by Brent Veestra, P.G.A. Director of Golf, Brad Spathelf, P.G.A. Head Professional and the food and beverage staff for a great day of golf and friendship. We hope to see all of you at the Invitational at the Links of Pinewood on July 25, 2002 and the Clarence Wolf from Sr. Classic at Maple Lanes on September 17, 2002.





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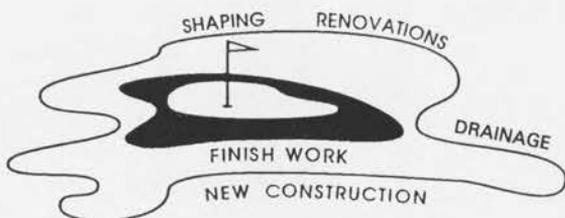
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# Fairy Ring - Too Much Partying on Your Lawn?

Dr. Kevin Frank  
MSU - Crop and Soil Sciences

Are you lucky enough to have fairy rings in your turf this year? Okay for those of you who now think I have completely lost my mind take note, at one time these dark green circles of grass that sometimes have mushrooms associated with them were thought to be good luck. Folklore had it that the worn circle of grass with accompanying dark ring was caused by the little people or "fairies" dancing on the grass. In Germany they are called "Hexen Rings" and are attributed to witches dancing and in France they are called "Ronds de Sorcieres" and legend has it that toads with bulging eyes appear inside the magic circle. Whatever explanation that has been given to the appearance of fairy rings, I would bet that most superintendents don't view fairy rings as a sign of a great party by fairies on the greens.

So what causes these fairy rings? Fairy rings are caused by soil inhabiting fungi of the species *Basidiomycetes* or what could commonly be referred to as the mushroom group of fungi. The fungi that cause fairy ring are further classified into two groups: edaphic fungi which primarily colonize the soil and lectophilic fungi which colonize thatch and leaf litter. Edaphic fungi most commonly cause fairy ring observed in higher cut turf while lectophilic cause what occurs on putting greens.

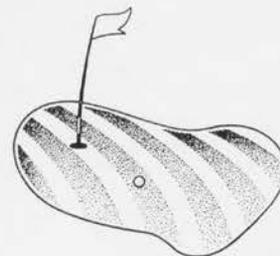
Identification of fairy rings is usually rather simple. Fairy rings are commonly identified by a ring of dark green grass. The diameter of the fairy ring may be only several inches or it could up to 50 feet. The ring may often display three different zones. The inner zone of the ring is characterized by lush, green growth. The middle zone of the ring may look dead or dying, usually looks like drought stress. The outer zone may have some stimulated growth. Not all of these zones may be apparent at all times.

The fungi that cause fairy ring do not really attack the turf directly but rather it is the result of the fungi's growth and metabolism that results in the damage/symptoms we see on greens. The dark green rings of growth observed are the result of nitrogen being released by the fungi as they break down organic matter in the soil. The zone of dead or dying turf occurs when the fungal mycelium in the soil coats the sand and soil particles with a hydrophobic material thereby resulting in drought stress on the plant. In addition the mycelium may physically hinder turfgrass root growth and limit the roots ability to acquire nutrients and water. Some fungi that cause fairy ring may also produce hydrogen cyanide which is toxic to plant roots. As you can see there are many different ways in which the turf can be damaged by fairy ring.

Now for the tough part - how do we try to control fairy ring or at least suppress the symptoms? In most cases suppression of symptoms is the route that most will take in trying to manage fairy ring. If the problem you're dealing with is mainly the cosmetic concern of covering up the dark rings, fertilizer applications can be used to mask the symptoms. If you're seeing the rings die out and look drought stressed, core aeration of the affected area and applying wetting agents may help the turf recover. If you are going to core aerify, make sure to extend the aeration to at least 2 feet outside of the current ring to ensure you are modifying the entire area that may be affected. Finally, two fungicides, flutolanil (ProStar 7OWP) and azoxystrobin (Heritage) are labeled for control of fairy ring. Research results on the effectiveness of these treatments appears to be mixed, not surprising considering the wide diversity of fungi that may cause fairy ring. Usually wetting agents will be applied with the fungicides to ensure that the product penetrates to the fungal mycelium where it needs to get to be effective. Please remember to read and follow all label directions when applying fungicides.

Now for the more radical approaches in dealing with fairy ring: antagonism and eradication. I doubt many, if any at all, would attempt these procedures to deal with fairy ring. There is a natural antagonism known to exist among fairy ring fungi that prevents the rings from competing with each other. Tactics to use this antagonism include stripping the turf from the area and rototilling the soil in several directions to mix the fungi and therefore prevent fairy ring development. The final remedy would be complete excavation of the rootzone to a 12 inch depth and replacement with a new rootzone mix.

I don't think any of us are really sure why we may see more fairy ring develop in some years than others. Some may point to the cool, wet weather we had this spring but I've also observed fairy ring in other regions of the country experiencing a very dry year. It appears those fairies like to party all over the place, whether it's wet or dry.



## ASGCA Offers One-Day Golf Course Reviews

Members of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) are available to spend a day reviewing a golf course and then providing a written analysis without obligation. The only cost is a donation to the ASGCA Foundation.

"We found that many people attending our Remodeling University seminars were interested in having a member visit their course and make specific recommendations on what needed to be done," ASGCA President Jay Morrish stated, "so we decided to formalize a one-day visit process that would provide the course with definite ideas for a remodeling plan. The ASGCA member will forego his/her normal fee for this service in return for a donation to our Foundation."

The offer applies to both public and private courses, and Morrish hopes that many municipally-owned courses will take advantage of the opportunity to have a qualified ASGCA member analyze their facility.

To request a visit, or learn more about the process, please contact the American Society of Golf Course Architects, 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60601. Or, call 312-372-7090. You can learn more about the Society, which is comprised of leading golf course architects in the U.S. and Canada, by visiting the organization's web site at [www.asoca.org](http://www.asoca.org).

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# It's Always Something

By Jon Shreve, CGCS  
Lakelands Golf & Country Club

When I volunteered to write this article I had no clue what I should write about, except maybe to ramble on about things that I have observed over the years in the golf course business. I am inspired by Dick Matthew's article about how maintenance was done years ago and by Jim Keller's article about what makes us want to do this kind of work for a living.

I started working at Flint Golf Club in 1974 when I was 18 years old. My next-door neighbor's dad was the club manager and he got me a job there when I got of school for the summer. I worked there for three summers. Jim Tilley was the superintendent and did a great job and the course always looked great. I remember on really hot days we used to syringe the greens a lot in the afternoon to keep them healthy. My days mostly consisted of walk-mowing my set of greens in the morning, then grabbing a push rotary mower and walking the course as I trimmed around every tree. When that was done we did a lot of hand trimming of bunker edges with scissor shears. Although slow and tedious there wasn't a lot of sand flying in our faces and eventually we got things looking good.



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Spraying of greens was done with a John Bean type spray gun attached to a hose from the spray tank. The guy in charge of spraying simply sprayed the green in a back and forth motion until it was covered. That would be pretty scary today with some of the growth regulators that we use. Fairways and roughs were mowed with big pull-behind reel gangs, and tees, collars and surrounds were mowed with triplex mowers similar to what we use today.

Our irrigation system was all manual, single-row quick coupler, which required a night waterman. During my third summer at the course I was asked if I would be willing to night water. I said that I would do it for three dollars an hour. I was making \$2.60 at the time. For the rest of that summer I was trained by the current night waterman, and then trained someone to replace me. It was nice that there were always two people there at night, as that job gets lonely and boring. I can remember sitting out in the middle of the range between sets and watching the planes fly into Bishop airport. We had an old postal jeep to use for a watering vehicle that was too fast for the job and too tempting to use as a "Rat Patrol" jeep. Somehow the boss always new when we spun out or jumped over bunker faces in our travels. Nowadays it is very rare for a course to need a night waterman, but us older guys remember when it was common practice.

Towards the end of my third season at Flint Golf Club I had an opportunity to work for General Motors at the Fisher Body Plant in Grand Blanc. My cousin was a tool and die guy and had some pull to get me a job. The bad thing was that they called me in for an interview in the afternoon and told me to start at 6:00 the next morning. I didn't want to call Jim Tilley to tell him that I wouldn't be able to water that night but I had no choice. He was obviously upset and only said that he "would never forget it". I'm not sure if he has forgotten it, but as time passes challenges and problems don't seem to be such a big deal.

I worked at that factory for a year and decided that I had enough. Then I enrolled in the Ornamental Horticulture Technology program at Ferris and was having so much fun at school that I stayed for another two years and got a Bachelor's degree in small business management. I did my internship at Warwick Hills then stayed there during the rest of my summers while attending Ferris. Through saving my money from my job at the factory and working summers at Warwick, I was able to pay for all of my education on my own. I even had a little money available to join the ski club at Ferris and go out west to ski a couple of times. I was also a Resident Assistant for two years,

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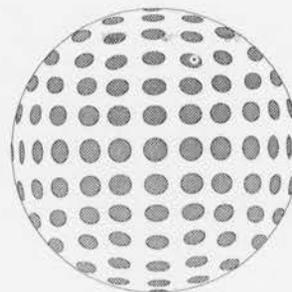
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which helped with expenses. Ask any RA why they do that job and hands down they will tell you "for the money". It's certainly not to be a policeman and bust everyone for having keggers and parties in their rooms. When on duty during the weekend we had to keep our door open until 2:00 A.M. I always made sure that I was sound asleep at 2:05 A.M. because that's when the real action started - after the drunks got out of the bars.

After college I worked another year at Warwick, then got my first Assistant Superintendent job working for Steve Kolongowski at Godwin Glen. I can't say enough about how hard Steve worked and how much patience he had with me as I was learning the ropes of managing a golf course. After two and one-half years I decided that I was ready for my first Superintendent job. I got my chance at Raisin River Golf Club in Monroe when Steve Vasher moved on. This was a major step for me, as I was moving from a 27-hole public course to a 36-hole

public course. I knew I could do the job but wasn't quite prepared for that first morning when I had a lunchroom full of seasoned veterans waiting for their marching orders from the new boss.

My management style was gleaned from working with the different bosses that I had had over the years and I'm constantly learning how to do things better and to be more prepared and organized. The bosses that I have admired the most have been the ones with integrity, honesty and fairness and I've tried to pattern my style after these desirable qualities.

I worked at Raisin River for 5 years, then moved on to where I am today at Lakelands. I remember thinking that going from a 36-hole course to an 18-hole course would be a snap. But, guess what. I now had to treat fairways like greens so they would not die during the heat of the summer. If anything, my workload increased due to the high demands for quality that a private membership entails.

This brings me up to where we are today. With all of the advances that we have made in the last 30 years it is the simple things that attract us to the profession and keep us going. Watching the morning sun burn off the haze and dry the dew or watching sprinklers fly in the light of the moon reminds us why we like to do what we do. When a hydraulic line blows in the middle of the first fairway or Japanese beetles are devouring the Linden trees we need to remember that things can and will get better. Despite all the headaches that come with the job, getting to work outside and take care of a beautiful piece of property makes it worthwhile.

Learning from our past failures and striving to do better at staying ahead of the game should be our top priority. I am excited to see what the future will hold for golf course management but will always remember where we came from and how hard the superintendents ahead of us worked. I hope I have said some things that you can relate to and maybe inspired some of you to write an article for the *Patch of Green*.

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# Greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Association

*Announces*

## The Heritage Award

### The Award

Two awards are available at \$1,000 each.

The basis for selection is an essay competition and the applicant's level of involvement with student or community affairs.

The association reserves the right to cancel the award if there is an insufficient number of applicants.

### Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a son or daughter (dependent as per IRS definition) of a current GDGCSA member.
- Must have successfully completed high school prior to submitting an application.
- Must be enrolled in a post secondary educational institution on a full-time basis. ***Applicant's chosen field of study must be unrelated to golf course management.***
- This award is not offered to students in post graduate college curriculums.
- Must have exhibited involvement in student activities or community service.

### Application

Please call (248) 362-1108 to request an application.

**The DEADLINE for submitting applications is NOVEMBER 1, 2002**

# 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 the American society today, and how your life has been impacted by your parents' involvement with this industry.** In this issue, 2001 award winner Allyson Miller shares her article with us. If you have questions about the Heritage Award, contact Co-Awards Chairmen Mike Fouty or Scott Ford.

by Allyson Miller

Fore! With a seemingly effortless swing, a titanium club strikes a small, white dimpled ball and sends it gliding through the air towards a hole marked by a brightly colored flag, some 200 yards away on a green. The game of golf appears simply recreational and straightforward in nature and yet it exemplifies significant principles that can be applied to everyday life. Because of my father's involvement in the industry, I have personally seen the impact that the game of golf has made in both American society and in my own family.

Golf provides many Americans with a way of escape from the constant pressures and concerns of everyday life. It is a source of relaxation and recreation for all alike. The game also allows people to focus on an immediate goal, i.e. getting the ball in the hole, rather than on one of the many long-term goals that hang over their heads. Furthermore, by accomplishing the objective of the game, individuals gain a renewed focus and determination when approaching personal goals in life.

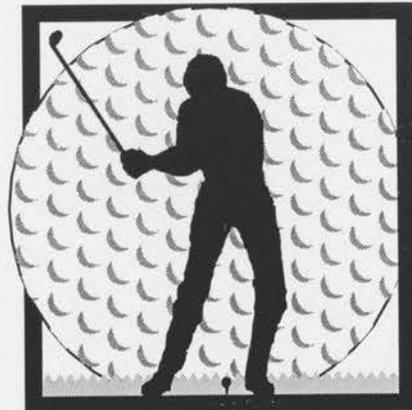
Golf holds another important analogy for living life. The game begins with the ball resting on top of the tee and ends when it sinks into the 18th hole. Although every player has the same starting point as well as the same ending point, there is no same way in which to get from one to the other. The strokes that lie between the two are what constitute the game of golf. This holds true in life as well. We all begin with birth and we will all end with death, and there is no same way in which to get from one to the other. What lies between these two dates in time is what defines the game of life.

Golf also teaches individuals to use perseverance. Often the ball does not land in the fairway or on the green where it was intended to, but rather in the rough, or even worse, in a sand trap. The rules of the game prevent one from bodily moving the ball in order to be in a position for a better shot. A player must work with what shot they have. The same is true in life. Whatever lot one is dealt is what they must work with. There is no "re-do" in golf, just as there is no "new deal" given in life. This is where a player learns how to wield a sand wedge.

Along with all of the valuable principles that the game of golf has impressed upon me, it has also given me so many treasured childhood memories with my family.

Growing up as a little girl, my dad held a superintendent's position at a local country club. I remember climbing up the enormous piles of gravel and stones in the storage bins with my two brothers trailing close behind. Then we would slide down, causing rocks and clouds of dust to fly everywhere; and my dad would just stand there grinning and shaking his head at us. I remember my dad and I racing around the course together in a golf cart, with the wind whipping through my hair and leaving its cool kiss on my cheeks. We would stop to look for snapping turtles and tadpoles in the ponds or to pick bunches of Black-Eyed Susans in the fields. I remember poring over the blueprint grounds map of the course posted on the wall of my dad's office and the endless games of tiddlywinks that my brothers and I played on the carpeted floor of that office using my dad's coffee mug and a few bingo chips. And in the winter, when the golf course was closed, and the snow blanketed its sloping hills, my dad would bundle all of us up and take us sledding. It became our own sort of personal playground. Although we never played a single game of golf on that course, I believe that we enjoyed it more than any member belonging to the country club.

Because of my father's involvement with the golf course industry, I have been able to see the many sides to the game of golf, as well as the lasting impressions it has left on my individual family and American society as a whole.



# Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program Events



**A New Way to Join the Program** - With the 2002 season already in progress the Stewardship Program is proud to present two new services we will be providing for members and others interested in joining the program. For starters, anyone interested in joining the program may now do so by contacting the Stewardship Office at 517-355-8361. Greg Lyman, Marc McMullen or Debbie Swartz will explain the program system, send you the program materials and schedule a time to meet with you to go over the details in person at your course. It will be necessary for you to come to one of the fall/winter workshops to get fully oriented; however, this will give you a significant head start in the program.



**A New Service for MTESP Members** - For folks who are currently members, in addition to the information provided via the workshop series or direct mail, we are embarking on a schedule of "update visits" over the next few months. We will be stopping by every course that has joined the program to provide the latest stewardship information and tips. Our goal is to ensure that our members are getting the information and assistance they need to meet their environmental protection goals while understanding the existing and new environmental laws and regulations. We will also provide many new materials to assist with management practices that elevate environmental protection that are not required by law, but just make good sense.



**Stewardship Golf Outing!** Another piece of exciting news is that we are in the midst of organizing our first Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program Golf Outing! Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program members will be offered an exceptional opportunity to spend **October 14, 2002**, at Egypt Valley Country Club, golfing with fellow members and their guests. Jeff Holmes, superintendent and Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program steering committee member, has generously offered his course for this fine event. Stay tuned for more information as details become available.

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# "The Big Picture"

Brian Mavis  
Certified Brookside Agronomist  
Mavis Consulting

How well do I know what is really happening on my golf course? In order to answer this question I have to look at the "Big" picture and determine what exactly the turf is seeing below and above the surface. How is my water quality? What is the status of my soil chemistry? How have the years of maintenance impacted the physical characteristics of my greens? How are environmental conditions impacting plant health and my maintenance programs?

## Water Quality:

Not monitoring irrigation water quality is like telling a staff member to apply 2000-lbs of mystery material (that may be toxic to turf) to the greens once per month. Start by determining if the water is a "building" or "stripping" water. If the pHc value is less than 8.4, then the water will deposit salts as it moves through the soil profile. If the pHc value is greater than 8.4, then the water will remove salts from the soil. Remember that "Salts" are a metal attached to an anion (Calcium-Sulfate, Calcium-Bicarbonate, Sodium-Chloride, etc...) and not just Sodium.

Conductivity or Salt Concentration levels should be below 1.5 and 640 ppm respectively. Shallow and frequent irrigation cycles can build up salts in the upper soil profile. As the water evaporates out of the root zone a layer of salts can be left behind, just like that water droplet leaving a white ring on your car after washing it. Deep flushing and rinsing cycles are needed to break this layer and push the salts out of the root zone. If there is a perched water table, it can be flushed by filling that root zone to field capacity (tension point at which the water will release into the choker/gravel layer). I should be able to see the water flowing freely out of the drain after a flush. In order to rinse the salts out of a non-perched or push-up green several sets may be needed to push those salts out of the upper profile (water until it puddles repeatedly). Venting the greens with a solid tine (quad-tines, star/cross-tine, bayonet, etc...) will also help break apart that layer of salts that may have created a seal or hydrophobic environment.

High Bicarbonate levels (>125-180 ppm) may cause a couple of problems for us. If the Residual Sodium Carbonate (RSC) level is positive, then Calcium and Magnesium will be removed from plant availability. This allows for Sodium to take the place of Calcium and Magnesium, which will weaken the turf and soil structure. Also, when Bicarbonates saturate a profile (especially sand) they can bind together and form a seal. In turn, this may lead to the ever popular hydrophobic condition also known as localized dry spot.

*Has my irrigation water been evaluated recently?*

## Soil Chemistry:

I can evaluate my irrigation water by sending a sample to a credible laboratory, but what is actually happening when my water is irrigated and moving through the soil profile can be determined by running a **Saturated Soil Analysis** on the soils. This test utilizes distilled water or irrigation water rather than an acid extractant to determine what nutrients are available in soil solution. It can measure Soluble Salts, Chlorides, Nitrate, Bicarbonates, Sulfur, Phosphorus, Calcium, Magnesium, Potassium, Sodium, and all micronutrients. In a lot of situations the nutrients measured by the Standard Soil Analysis may not be plant available, and the Saturated Soil Analysis test is the next step in determining what corrections need to be made and what maintenance practices should be utilized.

Remember that when taking soil samples it is important to be diligent about the sample collection. If I take a three inch sample and send it to a laboratory with a nutrient measuring machine (ICP Spectrometer) calibrated for six inches, then my data is already skewed by fifty percent.

Using a silica or highly calcareous sand for my root zone or top-dressing material will also make a difference in data results. Most sands being utilized in the tn-state area (MI, OH, IN) are highly Calcareous, and this can skew the results of a standard soil analysis. When the acid extractant utilized for standard soil analysis is added to Calcareous sands, Calcium is precipitated and results in an erroneously high amount of Calcium reported (85-90%). In this case it is best to run the Saturated Soil Analysis to determine what amount of Calcium is actually available in soil solution. Once accurate data has been delivered, the next step is to interpret this data.

Just like people need a balanced nutrient intake in their diet, there is an ideal balance of nutrients for soils. For most soils and plants this balance is 68-70% Calcium, 12-15% Magnesium, 4-5% Potassium, <1% Sodium, and 5-10% Hydrogen. After seeing the results of my soil reports, I would adjust my fertility program accordingly to reach this balance. One of the most common issues that I have found is that superintendents are seeing less and less results from their inputs from year to year. Remember that we fertilize to feed the soil colloid, the soil colloid and microbes feed the soil solution, and then the turf may utilize the nutrients. If the nutrient reserve has been depleted, the percentages may be out of balance and decrease the efficiency of my inputs.

For example, most irrigation waters tested in the tn-state area (MI, OH, IN) show a Ca:Mg ratio of 1:1 or 2:1 and

soils should be balanced at 5.5:1 (70% Ca: 12% Mg). In most cases the Magnesium levels are above twenty percent and negatively impacting nutrient availability, Nitrogen efficiency, soil structure, and water movement. In these cases, a form of lime is needed to supply Calcium ions to the soil colloid. The lime is not applied to "correct" pH. While it is an indicator of nutrient availability, pH is not an indicator of soil health.

*Do I have recent and accurate soils data and interpretation, and do I have a plan for correction based on this data?*

#### **Soil Physical Characteristics:**

Years of maintenance impact the physical characteristics of my greens. If I continually aerify at the same depth, I may be creating a compaction layer just below this depth. Deep-tine aerification may be needed in this situation. If there is a compaction layer at a six inch depth, then the tines (Vertidrain or Soil Reliever) should penetrate seven inches and kick into the compaction layer for maximum fracturing.

If there is excessive thatch build-up or organic matter striping my profile, regular verticutting may not be sufficient. Deep verti-cutting units such as the Graden or Sisis or a more stringent coring program may be needed to aggressively combat any layering. Again, venting the greens (quad-tines, star/cross-tine, bayonet, etc...) to ensure that fresh Oxygen is available for microbial activity will aid in removing any layers. Also, if there is a layering problem, I can top-dress more aggressively but not too fast. Top-dressing too quickly may bury the layers before they are corrected and cause more problems in the future. Of course membership and play has to be taken into consideration before implementing these practices.

One or two top-dressings with an incompatible sand is all it takes to create a layer that will cause problems for years to come. A physical analysis by a credible (USGA/A2LA accredited) laboratory is inexpensive insurance to know that I am not creating a problem that I will have to fight in the future. A basic rule is that I can always place a coarser material on top of a finer material, but never place a finer material on top of a coarser material.

*Do I have recent and accurate physical analysis for my root zone and top-dressing material?*

#### **Environmental Conditions:**

Environmental conditions impact plant health and maintenance programs. Remember that most of what is needed to grow healthy turf (and microorganisms) is what we get for free- water, light, and air. In most situations we are able to apply water where needed when it is not provided for us. Water creates problems where it is improperly managed or where there is poor drainage. Installing proper drainage can save time, labor, money and headaches. Countless problems such as weak turf, unsightly scalping, and even decreased amount of play can be related back to poor water movement.

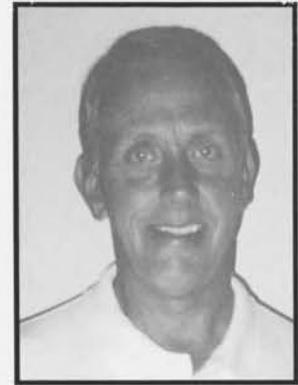
In some situations, air and sunlight problems may be related back to the same source, trees. Thinning, trimming, or removing trees can greatly improve the health of turf. There are companies that specialize in selecting the trees that should be trimmed or removed for restoring the most amount of sunlight. Remember that a little sapling may be a significant source of shade and wind block in ten years. Where removal or trimming is not an option, implementation of fans will aid in air movement.

*Have I thoroughly inspected current environmental conditions and possible future environmental conditions?*

All golf courses are different and so too should be their cultural management programs. As turf professionals it is very difficult to manage what we may not know. Brian Mavis, owner of Mavis Consulting, provides this information by utilizing Brookside Laboratories, Inc. and without selling any products. I am currently assisting golf course superintendents in Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana with the development of nutritional and cultural management programs. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (419)-212-1639 or [bmturf@hotmail.com](mailto:bmturf@hotmail.com).



**Greater Detroit G.C.S.A.**  
Board of Directors Nominee



**Name:**

Ron Abbott, CGCS

**Spouse/Family:**

Jay (son), Heather, Julie (daughters)

**G.D.G.C.S.A. Office Nominated For:**

President

**Present Place of Employment/Number of Years:**

Bogie Lake Golf Club - 24 years

**G.D.G.C.S.A. Involvement:**

Board of Directors, five years; Vice President, one year; Chairman, Golf Day, Michigan Room, Social, Special Olympics. Served on Finance, Education and Golf Day Committees.

**Election Statement:**

I am very encouraged about the future of the G.D.G.C.S.A. Your Board of Directors will be offering many excellent educational and social events in the upcoming months. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to meet with fellow members and share in the knowledge and comradeship.

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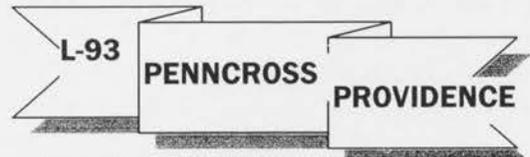
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## Greater Detroit G.C.S.A. Board of Directors Nominee

**Name:**

Robert A. King

**Spouse/Family:**

Carolyn (wife), David (son)

**G.D.G.C.S.A. Office Nominated For:**

Vice President

**Present Place of Employment/Number of Years:**

The Orchards Golf Club - 10 years

**Past Positions/Number of Years:**

Sycamore Hills Golf Club - 1 year Internship

Scalawags Country Club - 4 years, Assistant Superintendent

**Community Involvement/G.D.G.C.S.A. Involvement:**

St. Clement Church of Rome in Romeo - usher, volunteer leader for MCREST homeless shelter

Current G.D.G.C.S.A. Secretary/Treasurer. Co-Chairman Education, Historian, Volunteer for Golf Day

Sponsor/Chairperson of several fund-raising events

**Election Statement:**

I am very optimistic that our future can be bright with the involvement of our membership. We are a strong association and have a rich history, yet we lag behind other associations when it comes to computer related or on-line capabilities and marketing our profession to maintain a positive image. We need commitment and new ideas from our members. As Vice President, I will listen and implement those new ideas, fulfill my duties professionally and to the best of my abilities, and continue to work hard to make us the association that stands above the rest.



## Greater Detroit G.C.S.A. Board of Directors Nominee

**Name:**

Fritz McMullen

**Spouse/Family:**

Dorinda (wife), Marc, Todd (sons)

**G.D.G.C.S.A. Office Nominated For:**

Vice President

**Present Place of Employment/Number of Years:**

Forest Lake Country Club - 30 years

**Past Positions/Number of Years:**

Member of G.D.G.C.S.A. from 1968 to 2002 (35 years).

Director, 1979-80, 1986-89, 2002.

**G.D.G.C.S.A. Involvement:**

I have been Committee Chairman of the following committees over the past 35 years: Golf, Education, Membership, Social, Picnic, Golf Day and the Christmas Party

**Election Statement:**

To follow our mission statement:

**The Purpose:**

To advance the rights and sciences attendant upon pertinent or related to the profession of greenkeeping, to unite the golf course superintendents of the Detroit Metropolitan area into a cooperative group for the collection, preservation and dissemination of scientific and practical knowledge and information, thus effecting more efficient and economical maintenance of golf courses and thereby improving and enhancing the individual and collective prestige and efficiency of the members; the creation of an instrumentality or entity of record capable and susceptible of procuring all benefits to the members both individually and collectively.



# Greater Detroit G.C.S.A.

## Board of Directors Nominee

**Name:**

Dan Billette

**Spouse/Family:**

Linda (wife), Erin (daughter), Danny and Jacob (sons)

**G.D.G.C.S.A. Office Nominated For:**

Secretary/Treasurer

**Present Place of Employment/Number of Years:**

Bloomfield Hills Country Club - 4 years

**Past Positions/Number of Years:**

Superintendent, Lenawee C.C. - 11 years

Assistant Superintendent, Bloomfield Hills C.C. - 3 years



**G.D.G.C.S.A. Involvement:**

Board of Directors: one year; Committees - Social, GAM Seminar, Special Olympics. Served on the Board of Directors of the NW Ohio GCSA for six years, including President

**Election Statement:**

We have a great association, but we need to find ways to get more people involved. An association is only as strong as its membership. We have a strong membership; however, many members are not taking advantage of the educational and social activities offered. I will continue to work hard and help facilitate changes where necessary to increase the participation level at our functions.

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# Greater Detroit G.C.S.A.

## Board of Directors Nominee

**Name:**

Mike Fouty

**Spouse/Family:**

Amy (wife), Lauren (daughter), Scott (son)

**G.D.G.C.S.A. Office Nominated For:**

Director

**Present Place of Employment/Number of Years:**

Lake Forest Country Club - 5 years

**Past Positions/Number of Years:**

Superintendent, Downing Farms - 2 years

Assistant Superintendent, Stonebridge - 1 year

**G.D.G.C.S.A. Involvement:**

Board of Directors: one year; Committees - Golf Day, Awards, Michigan Room  
Coach for Little League Baseball, Past Board of Directors for Chelsea Area Players

**Election Statement:**

I feel the association offers many different opportunities to get involved, yet many members do not take the time to participate. My main goal when I was first elected to the board was to help find a way to increase the participation level at our events. I believe we have made some progress, but we have a long way to go. If elected again, my main goal will still be working with the other board members to get more members involved at our functions.



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Greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Association  
Statement of Financial Position  
December 31, 2001

ASSETS	2001	2000
Current assets:		
Cash	\$57,506.00	\$69,267.00
Accounts receivable	4,246.00	4,540.00
Dues receivable	480.00	280.00
Prepaid income taxes	800.00	500.00
Total current assets	\$63,032.00	\$74,587.00
Equipment (net of depreciation)	1,039.00	1,455.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$64,071.00	\$76,042.00
 LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$134.00	\$208.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$134.00	\$208.00
 EQUITY		
Membership equity	63,937.00	75,834.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$64,071.00	\$76,042.00

Greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Association  
Statement of Revenue and Expenses  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2001

	2001	2000
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Advertising	\$51,204.00	\$53,242.00
Dues	41,180.00	42,155.00
Interest	1,549.00	1,799.00
Miscellaneous	10.00	-
Meeting fees	36,750.00	42,112.00
	<b>\$130,693.00</b>	<b>\$139,308.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Awards	\$4,000.00	\$2,000.00
Depreciation	416.00	771.00
Income taxes	2,300.00	2,612.00
Insurance	1,435.00	1,075.00
Magazine production and mailing	57,561.00	56,273.00
Meetings	55,010.00	42,948.00
Membership welfare	400.00	845.00
Postage	2,057.00	2,469.00
Printing and supplies	2,391.00	2,293.00
Professional fees	11,775.00	10,400.00
Repairs and maintenance	2,873.00	2,831.00
Telephone	1,342.00	1,753.00
Miscellaneous	1,030.00	537.00
	<b>\$142,590.00</b>	<b>\$126,807.00</b>
Change in membership equity	(11,897.00)	12,501.00
Beginning membership equity	75,834.00	63,333.00
Ending membership equity	\$63,937.00	\$75,834.00

Greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Foundation  
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2001

	Golf Day	Special Olympics	2001 Total	2000 Total
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Donations	\$26,100.00	\$18,289.00	\$44,389.00	\$39,999.00
Event fees	24,830.00	7,800.00	32,630.00	39,325.00
Interest	205.00	66.00	271.00	275.00
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$51,135.00</b>	<b>\$26,155.00</b>	<b>\$77,290.00</b>	<b>\$79,599.00</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
Research/scholarships/donations	\$27,500.00	\$17,016.00	\$44,516.00	\$42,063.00
Event fees	29,963.00	9,580.00	39,543.00	37,889.00
Miscellaneous	57.00	57.00	114.00	118.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$57,520.00</b>	<b>\$26,653.00</b>	<b>\$84,173.00</b>	<b>\$80,070.00</b>
Fund balance decrease	(\$6,385.00)	(\$498.00)	(\$6,883.00)	(\$471.00)
Beginning fund balance			31,161.00	31,632.00
Ending fund balance *			<b>\$24,278.00</b>	<b>\$31,161.00</b>

\* This balance is not included in the assets of the association.

July 2, 2002

We have examined the bank reconciliations for the above-listed bank accounts for the year ended December 31, 2001. We found that all book balances were properly reconciled to the bank statements, as provided by First Federal of Michigan and in our opinion, the December 31, 2001 book balances are correctly stated. We have also met with Dale Bender, CPA and reviewed the Financial Statements and Tax Returns and all of our questions have been answered to our satisfaction.

Audit Committee

Fred S. Green, Superintendent - Dearborn Country Club

Paul A. Reising, CGCS, Superintendent - Prestwick Village Golf Club

Edward J. Hock, CGCS, Superintendent - Walnut Creek Country Club

Richard S. Murphy, CGCS, Superintendent - Bay Pointe Golf Club

Robert A. King, Superintendent - The Orchards

## Roster Changes

Please update your roster with the following:

*Address (pg. 34)*

**BROOKSHIRE, GARY W.**  
2158 Fox Hill Dr. Apt 1  
Grand Blanc, MI 48432

*Business, Address, Phone (pg. 42)*

**GOETHE, ALLAN M.**  
Golf Course Construction  
6323 Custer Ave. S.  
Rockwood, MI 48179  
O-(734) 216-4473

*Address, Home Phone*

**REDMAN, TIMOTHY A.**  
2500 Woodrow Wilson Blvd #6  
W. Bloomfield, MI 48342  
H-(248) 431-2406

*Office Phone (p.63)*

**SMITLEY, DAVE**  
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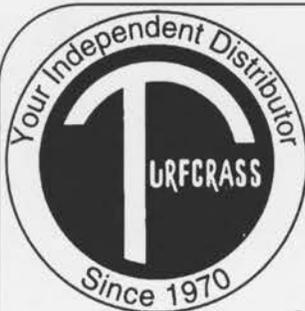
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| <b>5</b> Dar Howard<br>248-640-3379           | <b>6</b> Bruce Wotring<br>419-466-9177       |
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## New Member Roster

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### GRILL, BRYAN A.

CLASS CN  
Indianwood Golf & Country Club  
428 Kensington #152  
Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
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# Board Meeting Highlights

## Bogie Lake Golf Club

### Thursday, May 30, 2002

#### **Roll Call:**

Present- Abbott, Billette, Ford, Fouty, King, McKinley, McMullen, Shreve, Szyndlar  
Absent - Schwehofer

#### **FINANCE** (King)

Apr. Assn. svgs: \$26,536.69      Apr. Fdtn. svgs: \$3,856.56  
Apr. Assn. chkg: \$770.02        Apr. Fdtn. chkg: \$149.00

#### **MEMBERSHIP** (McMullen)

Total membership - 417; Applications - 4  
By-law Change - Vote will be taken at June 17 meeting, changing Class B to SM (Supt. Member), duplicating GCSAA's classifications. Absentee ballots have been mailed out.

#### **FUNDRAISING**

*SPECIAL OLYMPICS* (Billette/Schwehofer)  
Raised \$15,500. Donations to be made when all pledges have been received.

#### *GOLF DAY* (Ford/Fouty)

2002 - 3 sites confirmed - Bay Pte. GC, Burning Tree, Edgewood.  
Flyers will be in Mid-Summer *POG* issue.  
Committee will be formed and meet first week in August.

#### **EDUCATION** (King/Schwehofer)

June 17 meeting - Site - Lake Forest GC, Event - Assn Golf Championship; Speaker - Danny Quast  
July 25 - The Invitational @ Links @ Pinewood  
Sept 17 meeting - Maple Lane GC; Clarence Wolfrom Classic; Topic - Roundtable  
Oct. 14 meeting - Indianwood G&CC; Annual Business Meeting/Election

#### **MICHIGAN ROOM** (Shreve/Fouty)

2003 - Committe formed of each assn.  
Site: Atlanta, GA  
Date: Thurs, Feb 13, 6-10 pm. Honor Gordie LaFontaine, retiring from Ex. Dir. of MTF.  
Fri, Feb 14, 6-10 pm. Honor Jon Maddern's Presidency.

#### **SOCIAL** (McMullen/Billette)

*Summer Couples Golf Outing* -  
Date: May 24.  
Site: Fox Hills CC in Plymouth  
Agenda: \$30/couple - Dinner and drinks on their own  
Attendance: 15 couples  
Hope to hold another golf outing in the fall  
*Tiger Baseball Game* -  
Date: July 12  
Site: Comerica Park  
Deadline: June 10

#### **WELFARE** (Shreve)

Jacob Shreve had heart surgery again. Doing well. Sent cookie gram.  
Ron Murdock had serious arterial surgery on his knee. Ron is home. Doing well.  
We sent small bouquet of flowers.

# Board Meeting Highlights Polo Fields G&CC Tuesday, June 25, 2002

## Roll Call:

Present - Abbott, Billette, McKinley, McMullen, Schwehofer, Shreve, Szyndlar  
Absent - Ford, Fouty, King

## FINANCE (King)

May Assn. svgs: \$33,834.14      May Fdtn. svgs: \$15,322.07  
May Assn. chkg: \$950.68        May Fdtn. chkg: \$167.00

## MEMBERSHIP (McMullen)

Total membership - 420; Applications - 1; Reclassifications - 5  
By-law change - Class B changed to SM (Superintendent Member) at June 17 meeting at Lake Forest GC. Vote: Approved 22 to 1 (9 Absentee ballots)

## SOCIAL (McMullen/Billette)

### *Tiger Baseball Game -*

Date: July 12  
Tickets Ordered: 120  
Reservations: 94  
Tickets will be mailed out ASAP.

*Holiday Party - Date & Site: TBD*

## FUNDRAISING

### *SPECIAL OLYMPICS (Schwehofer/Billette)*

Donated: \$13,000 to Special Olympics Michigan and  
\$2,100 in furniture to the Flint Group Home.

### *GOLF DAY (Ford/Fouty)*

Limiting sites to 4 this year: Bay Pointe, Burning Tree, Edgewood and Tam O'Shanter  
Flyers will be inserted in Mid-Summer Issue of *POG*.

## CREDIT CARDS (Abbott)

Board investigating possibility of accepting credit cards for dues, meetings, etc.

## NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD ELECTION (Szyndlar)

President - Ron Abbott  
V.P. - Bob King and Fritz McMullen  
Sec/Treas - Dan Billette  
Director (2) - Mike Fouty, Andy Dalton, Aaron McMaster



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## 2002 STATEWIDE CALENDAR

### GREATER DETROIT GCSA

- Aug. 13 MSU Field Day (education)
- Sept. 17 Wolfrom Classic Tournament @ Maple Lane GC (golf)
- Oct. 7 The Big Event, sites TBD (golf/fundraiser)
- Oct. 14 Annual Meeting, @ Indianwood (golf/election)
- Nov. 12 Regional GCSAA Seminar @ Novi (education .7 CEU)
- Dec. TBD Social: Holiday Party (Spouse outing)
- Dec. 10 Superintendent Only Roundtable Discussion @ TBD

### NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

- Aug. 20 Meeting @ Otsego Club, The Tribute
- Sept. 5 NMTMA Fundraiser @ Bay Mills Resort, Wild Bluff
- Oct. 2 Tuck Tate Chapter Championship @ The Kingsley Club

### MID-MICHIGAN TURF ASSOCIATION

- Aug. 19 Meeting @ Port Huron Elks
- Sept. TBD Meeting @ Wolverine GC
- Oct. 7 MTF Fundraiser @ Buck's Run
- Oct. TBD Annual Meeting @ Warwick Hills CC

### WESTERN MICHIGAN GCSA

- Sept. 17 Turf Fundraiser Day @ Golf Lake View
- Oct. 7 Annual Meeting @ Kent CC
- Oct. 22 GCSAA Seminar @ TBD



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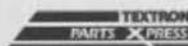
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