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FALL, 2003



INSIDE:

*Clarence H. Wolfrom Golf Championship
Chapter Delegates Meeting*

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on par ^{with}_{the} president



Looking back on my career in golf course management brings a smile to my face. I've truly been blessed to have a job that I looked forward to getting up each morning and going to work. In the 25 years that I was superintendent at Bogie Lake Golf Club I can count on one hand the number of sick days I was absent from work. Part of it was the fact that I have been lucky to have good health. But for the most part if I wasn't feeling well when I got up in the morning, I knew that by the time I got to the course and got busy with the day's activities I'd forget about being ill and start feeling better. There's no better prescription for a minor illness than to take your mind off yourself and concentrate on the tasks at the course.

I've also been fortunate to work with some great people over the years. From my first job raking bunkers and pushing a lawn mower at the age of 14 at Woodlands G.C. in Brighton through my years at Bogie Lake there have been mentors and colleagues who have shown me great kindness and given of their time and knowledge that I might benefit. For that I shall be forever grateful. Ours is a somewhat unique profession in that we as superintendents are competitors in one sense, competing for a limited clientele and at the same time a group of people willing to share information or equipment to help their neighbor. It's a good feeling to know that if your in a bind when you have an irrigation leak on a Sunday and the suppliers are closed that you can call the course down the road and chances are the superintendent can help you out with a fitting or a length of pipe. Or the occasional meeting with your fellow superintendent at the local watering hole after work just to talk about the challenges of the week and how you overcame them. I've gotten more from a casual chat with fellow superintendent at times than from some one day seminars I've taken.

Some of my fondest memories are those times spent early mornings watching the sunrise over the golf course. The crew would be starting their duties and I would be on my first tour of the course for the day. I'd stop on a hill for a moment just to enjoy the sight of the sun beginning to light up the eastern horizon. Or watching the sunset on the course while the first sprinkler settings began after we converted our manual irrigation to automatic. The peace of mind I had knowing the course would be irrigated to my specifications and not left unwatered because the nightwaterman fell asleep or decided to party with his buddies allowed me many good nights sleep.

But the things for which I am most grateful are the friendships I have formed over the years. I have had a great group of people with whom to golf and spend time, some two dozen or so guys who have supported Golf Day from my club for over 20 years now. They never let me forget about the Big Event because it seems that as soon as the last one is finished they're asking me where we are playing next year and they keep reminding me throughout the year. Golf Day is a great opportunity for daily fee players to play some of the finest clubs in our area at a very reasonable rate and at the same time contribute to turfgrass research.

It's been a most rewarding career up to this point and hopefully there will be many more years to come. I'm looking forward to a few more friendships made and quite a few more sunrises over the golf course.

Ron Abbott

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Clarence H. Wolfrom Golf Championship

September 17, 2003

This year's annual Clarence H. Wolfrom Golf Championship was again held at Maple Lanes on Wednesday September 17th. A wonderful day in the low 80's greeted the 50+ vendors and superintendents who left their wilting, aerated golf courses to come out and join in on the fun, competition, and most importantly, the tremendous camaraderie that takes place at all of our meetings.

As usual the cream rises to the top in these events, and this year proved it yet again. The winners in each of the divisions were as follows:

First Place - Low Gross Score
Jerry Prieskorn Jr. with a 67 (\$50 winner)

Second Place - Low Gross Score
Jerry Prieskorn Sr. with a 68 (\$25 winner)

First Place Low Net Score
Jerry Prieskorn Sr. with 68-9 = 59 net (\$50 winner)

Second Place Low Net Score
Mike Casey with 87-24 = 63 net (\$25 dollar winner)

Closest-to-the-Pin Winners (\$25 each)

#3 - Tom Gill
#5 - Mike Casey
#15 - Tom Mason

One Skin Winner (\$245)
Jim Angeloff with a birdie on the par three #2

Special thanks to Paul Kolbe for having the course in fine shape again this year. Also, thanks to all the GDGCSA members who came out to support this great event that traditionally marks the coming of fall. It's this type of support from the membership that is needed to make these events successful.

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- Places that were chronically wet and bare, due to waterlogged soils, have healthy turf cover the entire season.

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Chapter Delegates Meeting

By Tim Dorner, CGCS
Chapter Delegate

The Annual Chapter Delegates Meeting was held on September 6th & 7th at the Kansas City Marriott. This year's meeting was less controversial than the last two that I attended. PDI is now in effect and so far is running smoothly. GCSAA is on solid financial ground and they expect a large turnout for this year's conference and show. We were briefed on all committee activity and all current programs in effect. The following is a synopsis of some of the more important discussion issues that took place.

Organizational Audit

This past spring an organizational audit of GCSAA was conducted. They try to do one of these every five years. The Board is committed to following the findings and recommendations from this audit.

The audit revealed that the GCSAA Board was spending too much time and effort on administrative details and not enough effort to strategic planning and goal setting for the organization. The organizational audit gave GCSAA high marks for establishing four strong goals and a clear vision held by the board and staff. However, the audit also highlighted a need to improve on the clarity of the progress GCSAA expects toward the four goals. The four goals are:

Goal I - To enable our members to achieve career success.

Goal II - To be a powerful and influential advocate for the interests of our members, the profession and the industry.

Goal III - To be the recognized authority on continuing education, information and issues related to golf course management.

Goal IV - To be a strategically positioned, dynamic and responsive organization.

Each goal has a list of strategic indicators. These indicators will be used to measure the performance of staff and the board on how well each goal is being met.

Chapter Affiliation Agreement

In 1993, chapters and GCSAA did not have a formal agreement regarding affiliation. In an attempt to serve the chapters better, a Chapter Relations Resource Group was formed. From this group the current affiliation agreement was born. The current agreement is set to expire December 31, 2004.

The major discussion points that continue to come up with the current agreement are dual membership and conformity of classifications. We will be discussing the affiliation agreement with the board and the membership over the next few months. A vote of the membership will be taken at the December meeting.

Headquarters Relocation

After many of the members and Delegates expressed displeasure and felt blindsided by the steps that the Board took last year to investigate the relocation of headquarters, the board formed a Headquarters Location Resource Group.

The HLRG is a group of members who will be responsible for studying this issue and will report their findings and make recommendations to the board once they have completed the process. The group will be operating independently from the board. The HLRG Members are: Pat Finlen, CGCS, Chairman; Tom Mason, Co-Chairman; Bob Alonzi, CGCS; Ray Davies, CGCS; Kevin Downing, CGCS; Mark Esoda, CGCS; Jim Fitzroy, CGCS; Keith Ihms, CGCS; Todd Lupkes, CGCS; Sandy Queen, CGCS; Bob Randquist, CGCS.

The group has met on three occasions and has formulated the process on how they will proceed from the following comments/statements:

- Board operated with a lack of trust.
- Board did not develop a consensus.
- We do not need to sell anything.
- Member input into key decisions will foster trust.
- Member input - where in the process do they get input?
- We should place our efforts into a process that will first and foremost foster stronger trust.
- Articulate the mission, vision and strategic goals to the stakeholders.
- Show the members early in the process and respect their disparate views.

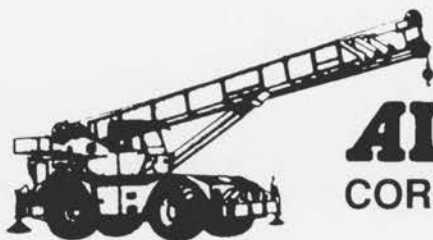
The process is divided into two phases. Phase I will focus on the reasons to move/stay, who will be affected by a potential move and what risks are associated with a potential move. Phase II will use the criteria developed from Phase I to work through the specifics of potential location costs, positive and negative impacts on operations and specific risks and rewards.

The HLRG will finalize a report with the answer to the question, "Does location have a material impact upon the ability of GCSAA to achieve its stated mission, vision and long-term strategic goals?" They will not move to Phase II unless the answer is yes to an "acceptable degree."

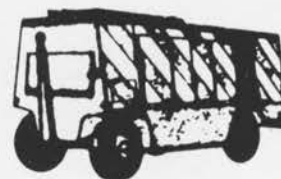
For more information about the HLRG and this topic, go to www.gcsaa.org, click on community, then click on headquarters location study.

The presentation made to the delegates and the outcomes from the meeting can be viewed on the GCSAA web site. A presentation will be made to the membership about the delegates meeting at the GDGCSA Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Country Club of Detroit on October 13th. If you have questions, comments or ideas regarding GCSAA, please contact me.

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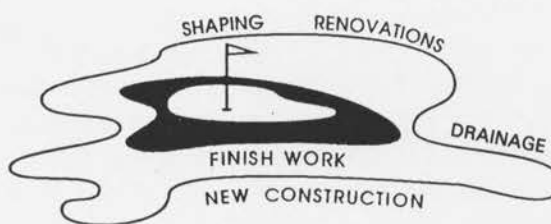
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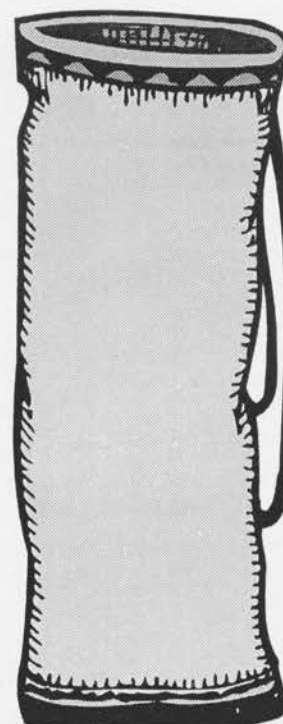
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Recovery

By Bob Vavrek, Agronomist

USGA North Central Region Update

After a slow start to the season due to cool weather, the playing surfaces at most golf courses across the upper Midwest have been pushed quite hard to meet the golfers' ever increasing expectations for near perfection. Greens are being mowed a little shorter each season, even at low-budget courses, to meet the unreasonable expectations of the vocal minority of golfers who desire and demand fast greens for day-to-day play. The quest for speed and perfection typically requires more frequent grooming operations, such as double cutting, vertical mowing, rolling, and brushing. Cultivation for speed generally thins out and stresses the turf. The result is more *Poa annua*, moss, algae, and disease activity on greens.

Mid-September is an excellent time to allow the turf to recover from summer stress, especially if your greens are affected by moss and algae. Core cultivation operations should be well on their way to healing over by now. Raise the mowing heights and provide a little extra fertilizer to encourage a denser stand of turf. Allow the plants to accumulate the carbohydrates reserves that will be needed to initiate and sustain growth next spring.

Raise the heights of cut now, while there are still several weeks of good growing weather before cooler temperatures and frost set back the topgrowth of bentgrass and *Poa annua*. However, it will take a considerable amount of education, communication, and lobbying to convince golfers that maintaining the playing surfaces in peak summer condition through October is not in the best interests of the course. No doubt this will be a considerable challenge at facilities where revenue from green fees has been down the past several years.

If your idea of *raising* the height of cut means adjusting the bench setting from 0.115" to 0.120", you might not garner much benefit from these recommendations. The height of cut on old bent/*Poa* push-up greens generally needs to be increased to at least 0.150" to 0.160" if you expect noticeable improvements in turf density.

The speed issue is so out of control that our perception of mowing heights has been drastically altered, perhaps *warped* is a better word. "Raise the

height to 0.150"...I might as well roll out a shag carpet for golfers to putt across." Yet, 0.150" is still slightly lower than a 5/32" height of cut - what used to be considered a low mowing height at most courses just 5 to 10 years ago.

Granted, this update is not for the courses with the new designer bentgrass varieties that need to be maintained at or below 1/8". It is primarily intended for your basic high-play/low budget operation, though most high end clubs with old greens would benefit from giving the putting surfaces a well deserved rest as well.



Board Meeting Highlights

Tuesday, June 29, 2003

FINANCE (King)

June Assn. Svgs: \$25,687.51; June Fdtn. Svgs: \$2,154.83
June Assn. Chkg: \$2,681.32; June Fdtn. Chkg: \$1,776.28

MEMBERSHIP (McMullen)

Total membership - 403; Reclassifications - 1

AWARDS (Ford/Fouty)

Turfgrass Scholarships:

Announcement letter to be sent to MSU in September.

EDITOR (Dorner)

POG - Mid-Summer issue to be mailed August 1st. Reduced to 24 pages due to lack of advertisers. Due to the economy, many advertisers have reduced ad size, etc. Some have completely dropped their advertising from our publication. Fall issue - to be mailed October 1st. Reduced.

Winter issue - This will be the final issue of *A Patch of Green*. Reduced.

Beginning in 2004 we are planning to publish info on the web site and mailing out a newsletter to those members who aren't on the internet.

EDUCATION (Schweihofer/Cooney)

Oct. 13 - Annual Meeting

Site: Country Club of Detroit

Agenda: Golf, Dinner, Business Meeting/Election

Nov. 10 - GCSAA Seminar

Site: Novi Doubletree Hotel

Topic: #1 - Management of localized dry spots and water repellent soils. #2 - Understanding biostimulants.

GCSAA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD (Abbott)

Michigan is supporting the nomination of Gordie LaFontaine, former Ex. Dir. of MTF, for the DSA. A number of people throughout the state and from our assn. are writing letters on his behalf.

GOLF DAY (Ford/Fouty)

2003 - Oct. 6 - Flyers will be in Mid-Summer POG. First committee meeting in August.

Sites: Bay Pointe G.C., Lochmoor Club, Orchard Lake C.C., Polo Fields G&CC.

2004 - McMullen and King making inquiries for next year's sites. Would like to announce at this year's event.

MICHIGAN ROOM (Shreve/Fouty)

2003 - Unfortunately, costs for the room were greater than the donations received. Each assn. donated an additional \$430 to close the books "in the black".

SOCIAL (Billette/McMullen)

Family Tiger Baseball Game -

Reservations - 57 adults, 18 children

Positive response. Successful event. New venue to be considered for next year.

Holiday Party - Date: Friday, Dec. 5 (tentative)

Site: Canterbury Village

WEB SITE (Schweihofer)

Members who do not pay assessment will not be allowed to attend assn. meetings/events. 75 members who have not paid their assessment will see it included on their dues statement. Must be paid to renew membership for 2004.

WELFARE (King)

Carolyn King, Bob King's (The Orchards) wife, has been very ill and in the hospital with lung problems. She's now home, on oxygen and getting around with the help of a walker.



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Summer's Gone and It's Time For Your Fall Checklist

By Stanley J. Zontek, Director
USGA Mid-Atlantic Region Update

The middle of September traditionally has been associated with the coming of fall. The days are shorter, the nights become longer, and more importantly, cool nights are the norm. The worst is over!

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Now is the time to begin your fall checklist. The list could include:

• **Extra Fertilizer.** With all of the rainfall the region experienced this year, the fall is a good time to replenish soil fertility levels. Be generous (but not excessive) with these fertilizer applications. The grass should respond with better color, density, and with new roots.

• **Fall Renovation.** Now is the best time to fix what was damaged this summer. Increasingly, we are seeing more use of sod simply because golfers seem to lack patience associated with the seeding operation. Obviously, each situation is different but with lower soil temperatures and more rainfall, sod roots quicker and seed germinates better.

• **Weed Control.** The fall is the best time to control most broadleaf, narrow leaf weeds, and clover. With few exceptions (like crabgrass and knotweed), weeds are perennial. Consider the other option of waiting until spring. Dandelions are in full bloom, golfers are complaining they can't find their golf balls in the rough, it's cloudy, cool, windy and rainy. No doubt you would say to yourself, "why didn't I spray last fall?"

• **Tree Work.** The fall is a good time to plant trees and to mark trees for removal over the winter and also, to map out areas where underbrush needs to be cutback. *Providing the turf with good grass growing environments is one of the most important tasks a turf manager can perform in order to grow healthy grass during periods of weather extremes.*

Now is the time to develop your Fall Maintenance Checklist. It is a true "To Do List" for your golf course.

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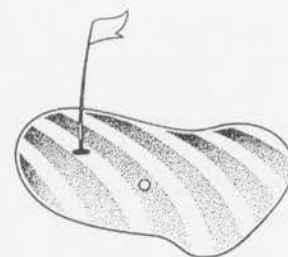


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Roster Changes

Please make these changes to your roster:

Class (pg. 33)

BENHAM, DONALD R.
Retired

E-mail (pg. 40)

FISETTE, JEFFREY L.
fisettej77@aol.com

Phone

GUSTRAFSON, STEFAN R.
O-(248) 644-2500, x430

Class (pg. 43)

HAMMETT, D. TRUMAN
Class AA

E-mail (pg. 45)

HUBBARD, ROBERT J.
oxfordhillsgolf@aol.com

Address, Phone, E-mail (pg. 50)

KULL, MARC S.
1317 21st St.
Pt. Huron, MI 48060
H-(248) 459-8994
kullmarc@msu.edu

Class (pg. 52)

MALBURG, RANDY J.
Class A



Christopher Furness
President

1176 B M-75 South
Boyme City
Michigan 49712
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fax 231.582.5269



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Roster Changes

Address (pg. 54)

MESSERLY, BENJAMIN T.
14818 Atwater Dr.
Sterling Hts, MI 48313-1203

Club, Phone (pg. 54)

METZNER, CARL O.
Huntmore Golf Club
O-(810) 229-8406

Club, phone (pg. 55)

MURPHY, DAMON A.
Warwick Hills Country Club
O-(810) 694-4952

Fax (pg. 58)

PLAGUE, MICHAEL J.
Fax-(586) 314-0229

Phone (pg. 59)

PRIESKORN, GERALD C.
H-(248) 371-1852

Class (pg. 62)

SABGASH, SCOTT J.
CLASS A

Class, E-mail

STRANGE, CURTIS A.
Class A
cstrange91@hotmail.com

Club, Address, Phone (pg. 67)

TYRPAK, JOEL
Lakes of Taylor
47658 Vistas Circle South
Canton, MI 48188
O/Fax-(734) 946-1673

New Member

Please add this new member to your roster:

MAVIS, BRIAN A.
(JONI)
AFFILIATE
Mavis Consulting
P.O. Box 51
Farmer, OH 43520
H-(419) 658-4057
O-(419) 212-1639
Fax (419) 658-2039
bmturf@hotmail.com



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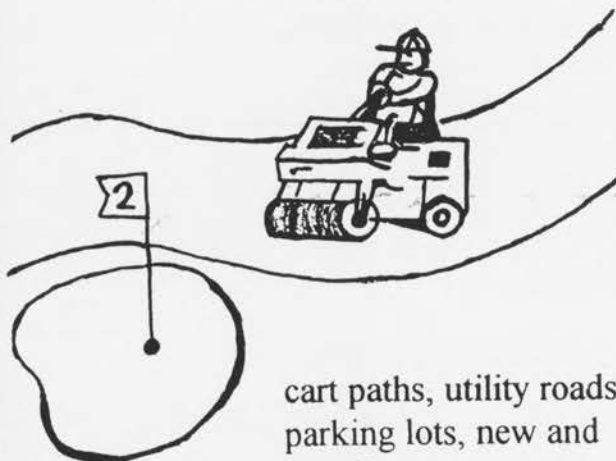
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GREATER DETROIT GCSA

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Orchard Lake C.C., Polo Fields G&CC
- Oct. 13 Annual Business Meeting - Country
Club of Detroit
- Nov. 10 GCSAA Regional Seminar - Novi
Doubletree Hotel
- Dec. TBA Superintendents Only Roundtable
Discussion - Site TBA
- Dec. 5 GDGCSA Holiday Party (Spouse
outing) - Canterbury Village

MID-MICHIGAN TURF ASSOCIATION

- Oct. 15 Annual Meeting @ The Fortress

NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOCIATION

- Oct. 7 Tuck Tate Championship - Annual
Meeting @ Red Hawk Golf Club



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