

# A PATCH OF GREEN

WINTER, 2003



**INSIDE:**

**HERITAGE AWARD WINNER  
THE BIG EVENT A SUCCESS**





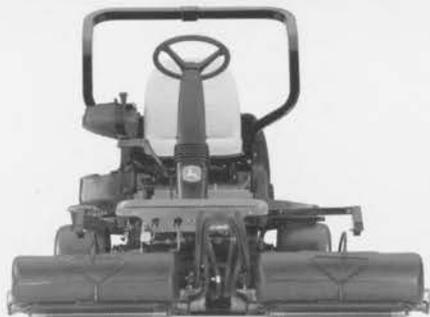
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# A PATCH OF GREEN

Greater Detroit Golf Course  
Superintendents Association

The Official Publication of the Greater Detroit  
Golf Course Superintendents Association

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## Contents

5	On Par With The President
7-8	Heritage Award Winner
9	38 <sup>th</sup> Annual Big Event
11	September Board Meeting
12	October Board Meeting
13 & 14	New Member Roster
15-17	Roster Changes
18	Calendar of Events



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



As the year winds down and I find myself preparing to write my last message to you as President I'm having a tough time getting started. Before taking office last January I spoke to some past presidents and asked for their advice concerning this office and each of them said these letters would be one of the most challenging parts of the job. They said get them done by the deadline or early, (I think that was the editor's advice) and just write what you feel, so here goes.

As you have probably already heard this will likely be the last issue of the *Patch of Green* in its current form. Much of the information you will be getting from the association in the future will be on the website, by e-mail or in the form of a newsletter. For those of you who don't already have a computer do yourself a favor and get one. Not only will you find it a very useful tool that you will use every day in your professional and personal life, but also you will save the association money in postage by receiving updates electronically.

Speaking of the *Patch of Green* I'd like to thank our editor, Tim Dorner, for an excellent job with the magazine these past 10 years. Through his direction the *POG* has become one of the finest chapter publications in the country. Tim, we appreciate your dedication and hard work in producing the magazine.

Jon Shreve will be leaving the Board after serving his second term. Jon stepped in to fill a vacancy in 2000 and went on to be elected to another term later that year. His service as chairman of his committees has been outstanding and he will be missed. Mark McKinley will also be concluding his service to the Board this year. Of all the positions Mark has held in this organization I will always associate him with Golf Day. His steadfast dedication to the Big Event as chairman and later simply serving on the committee after his chairmanship was done has been inspiring. We could sure use more people like Mark in the GDGCSA.

Finally I'd like to thank Kate Mason for her 11 years of service to the Greater Detroit GCSA. Her duties have expanded considerably since she first started but she has accepted each new responsibility and handled it with enthusiasm and professionalism. I am grateful to her personally for the help she has given me during my time on the Board and I wish her much success in her future endeavors.

Ron Abbott

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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 participants' 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.** The recipient of the 2004 Heritage Award is Lauren Elizabeth Murdock, daughter of Affiliate member, Ron Murdock of Valley Turf. Lauren is 19 years old and a graduate of Pinckney High School. As a sophomore she attends Arizona State University, where she majors in Communications and Advertising. She has inherited a great gift from her Dad...Lauren's a "people person". Congratulations, Lauren! We wish you well and much success in the future. The following is Lauren's award winning essay.

*by Lauren Murdock*

It's early morning, the sun is just beginning to rise, and I can just see through the morning fog enough to make out the flag on the 8th hole. Every morning for two summers I would sit on the tee box at a beautiful golf course and have my morning coffee before it was time to start to work. The natural beauty and stillness of the morning at a golf course is something everyone should be able to see, not just golfers or golf course employees. There is nature all around you, surrounding you, and inviting you in; that to me is what golf is all about. Since my father has been involved in the golf industry for many years, I have seen that it is not only a part of my life, but how many people in American society today also welcome golf as a big part of their lives.

Golf seems to be a relatively easy game to a person who has never tried to play before; you just hit the ball into a little cup—that's it? Actually, golf takes a lot of skill and I admire many people for playing as well as they do. Trying to get a small white ball into a 4" round cup that is about 300 yards away takes skill, practice and patience. People who play golf in our society today use it as a time to catch up with friends, relax, and get away from it all. Life has too many daily pressures, but people seem to forget their troubles on the golf course and just play. When I think about what golf means to me, I can picture in my head a poster my dad has had hanging in our garage for as long as I can remember. It is a poster of the Three Stooges all in golf attire, that says at the bottom "Golf with your Friends". I see that poster and think that golf is really all about getting together with your friends after a busy week, letting loose, and relaxing on the course. I love that poster and think that it really does a great job of representing golf the way it should be.

Ever since I was a little girl, my parents have hosted an annual golf tournament, and this year was the 20th Anniversary of The Turtle Bay Invitational. The golf outing is always something that my whole family and I look forward to every year. People come from all around the country just to participate; it is a really big thing. My dad started the golf outing with just a few friends and each year it gets larger than the last. After the golfing is

finished, everyone brings their families over to our house on the lake, and we have a huge party with prizes, food, and lots of fun. Each year my dad tries new ideas to make the golf outing better, and about four years ago, he asked me to get up with the golfers and take team pictures for each foresome. My cousin Lindsey and I gladly get up at 6:30 am. to go to the course, and we have so much fun, driving around the course in a golf cart taking snapshots of all of the teams. Then, we drop them off at a one-hour photo lab and go out for breakfast while we wait, so that all of the golfers can have their team pictures when they get back to the house. The golf outing really brings my entire family closer, and not only do we get to have fun at the golf course, but we also get to see all of our old friends and relatives we haven't seen in a while. No matter how far away I live, I will always want to be a part of this family tradition.

Because my dad works in the field of golf course management, I have had the opportunity to work at a golf course for two summers, and I would not have traded these summers for the world. I have learned about how much hard work and effort it actually takes to maintain a golf course, and working at the golf course during the



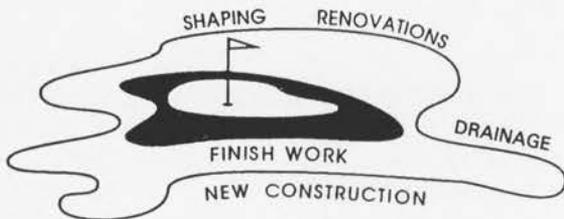
*Ron and Lauren Murdock*



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**HERITAGE ESSAY** *(continued)*

summer has been a great experience for me. It has taught me how to work hard and have lots of fun while doing it, and it has made me appreciate the game of golf much more than I ever had before. Even though I am definitely not a morning person, every day for eight weeks I would get up and be at the golf course by 6:00 a.m. It would be so cold; all of us would have our layers of clothes on, and then we

would get onto our machines and do the morning work. Even though many people did not enjoy this chore, I loved to rake the bunkers. I would go round and round in circles making patterns in the sand, and I would not be satisfied until it was perfect. I took great satisfaction and pride in seeing a really well-done hole before I drove off to the next. Once, when I was raking the bunkers for one of the first times, I got out of the bunker, parked my machine, and started to hand rake the outside edge. One of the very first rules you learn about using mowers and other maintenance equipment is to never, ever park it on a hill. Well, this time I forgot that rule and was on the other side of the bunker when my machine started to roll down the hill! I ran through the bunker, trying to chase it down the hill, and then I see it roll into the pond. It took about four guys, including my boss, about an hour to get it out...I was mortified, but we all had a good laugh about it because it wasn't the first time that this had happened!

As you can see, golf has impacted not only my life, but also many lives of people in society today. Without the game of golf many people would not be able to enjoy those relaxing Sundays with friends at the golf course.

Golf is a sport that has brought families all around America, including mine, closer together and will continue to do that for many years to come.

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# 38th Annual Big Event a Big Success

By Scott Ford

Monday, October 6th was a beautiful fall day loaded with anticipation of golf and the opportunity to be surrounded by Michigan's emerging coat of fall colors. A short frost delay seemed to be Mother Nature's way of once again proving who really runs the show.

This year's hosts were Aaron McMaster of Orchard Lake CC., Mike Jones of Lochmoor Club, Mark McKinley of Polo Fields and Rick Murphy of Bay Pointe. All four courses were in tremendous shape. Thank you for all of your hard work preparing your courses to host this important event.

After golf, all the participants went to Bay Pointe for dinner and awards. Once again, the staff at Bay Pointe was top notch and every year provides us with quality food and service.

The Big Event is one of the largest fundraisers in the state for turfgrass research. This could not be successful or be held each year without the hard work of the many volunteers, host clubs and committee members.

#### 2003 Big Event Committee

Mike Fouty, Co-Chair; Scott Ford, Co-Chair

#### Committee Members

Jeff Fisette, Rich Locke, Mike Bay, Paul Kolbe, Tavis Horton, Carl Metzner, Jim McLean, Ron Murdock Tim Johnson, Tom Schall, Sue Shockey

A special thank you goes out to Executive Secretary Kate Mason and incoming Executive Secretary Kay Patrick for all their hard work in making the event the success that it

always is. This was Kate Mason's last Big Event. Without Kate's hard work and effort over the years, this event would not run as smoothly as it always does and been as organized as it has been. Thank you Kate for all your dedication and hard work. You have left Kay Patrick with some pretty big shoes to fill.

#### Winners of the 2003 Big Event

Bay Pointe Golf Club

First Place - Net

Bill Bass, Brad Sexton, Chuck Dixon, Joe Sharpe

First Place - Gross

Gary Kline, Greg Todd, Dave Aldons, Peter Ziegler

Closest to the Pin

Sam Fisher & Janet Schrade

Polo Fields Golf & Country Club

First Place - Net

Kevin Sustic, Shawn Weeks, Dave Whyte, Tom Lindholm

First Place - Gross

Don Hunt, Eric Stephan, George Preisinger, Carl Hunt

Closest to the Pin

Ed Craven & Jim Gross

Lochmoor Club

First Place - Net

Don Fields, Bill Zanetti, Fred Butki, Dean Blevins

First Place - Gross

Jim Timmerman, Derek Brown, Rick Smith, Brad Host

*(continued on page 11)*

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# ***THE BIG EVENT***

## **THANKS TO OUR HOST SUPERINTENDENTS AND CLUBS**

Rick Murphy, Bay Pointe Golf Club  
Aaron McMaster, Orchard Lake Country Club

Mike Jones, Lochmoor Club  
Mark McKinley, Polo Fields Golf & Country Club

## **THANKS TO OUR COMMITTEE**

Co-chairs: Scott Ford and Mike Fouty

Mike Bay	Rich Locke
Jeff Fisette	Jim McLean
Al Goethe	Carl Metzner
Tavis Horton	Ron Murdock
Tim Johnson	Tom Schall
Paul Kolbe	Sue Shockey

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# BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Maple Lane Golf Club  
Wednesday, September 17, 2003

## Roll Call:

Present - Abbott, Billette, Cooney, Ford, King, McKinley, McMullen

Absent - Fouty, Schwehofer, Shreve,

## FINANCE (King)

July Assn. svgs: \$21,042.86 July Fdtn. svgs: \$2,156.20  
July Assn. chkg: \$2,418.01 July Fdtn. chkg: \$1,382.42

Aug. Assn. svgs: not avail Aug. Fdtn. svgs: \$2,574.79  
Aug. Assn. chkg: \$1,178.31 Aug. Fdtn. chkg: \$564.42

## MEMBERSHIP (McMullen)

Total membership - 403; Applications - 1;  
Reclassifications - 4

## AWARDS (Fouty/Cooney)

Heritage Award - Application deadline is Nov. 1.

No application requests to date.

Distinguished Service Award - Donald Benham of Simplot Partners has been chosen as recipient.

## EDITOR (Dorner)

2004 Roster - Roster will be mailed out January 2004.

## EDUCATION (Schwehofer/Cooney)

Sept 17 - Wolfrom Classic Golf Championship  
Site: Maple Lane GO

Oct 13 - Annual Meeting/Golf/Election/Web site  
Presentation

Site: Country Club of Detroit

Agenda: Golf, Annual Business Mtg, Election,  
Web site Presentation

Nov 10 - GCSAA Regional Seminar  
Site: Doubletree Hotel, Novi

## GOLF DAY (Ford/Fouty)

Reservations - 281

## MICHIGAN ROOM 2004 (Shreve/Fouty)

Plans are in The works for San Diego, CA. WMGCSA in charge.

## SOCIAL (Billette/McMullen)

### HOLIDAY PARTY -

Date: Friday, December 05

Site: Canterbury Village

Cost: tbd

Invitations to be mailed by November 1

Reservation Deadline: November 17

## WEB SITE (Schwehofer)

New web site will be presented to the membership at The Annual Meeting.

## WELFARE (King)

John Cooney and Jackie had a baby boy.

## CHAPTER DELEGATE (Dorner)

Delegates met in Kansas City on Sept 6&7.  
Concise report presented to Board.

A written report will be made available at the Annual meeting and discussed at the Superintendents Only meeting in December.

## MTF RESEARCH PROJECTS (Doug Johanningsmeier)

As MTF Research Chairman, Doug presented the Board with a list of 26 pro-proposals, asking the Board to rate them in terms of priority. A synopsis of each project will be made available to the Board for consideration.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (Billette)

Greg Lyman will be working for GCSAA. Debbie Schwartz and Mark McMullen will be sharing Greg's responsibilities until a replacement can be found.



## The Big Event (Continued)

Closest to the Pin

Lou Jahnke & Brad Host

Orchard Lake Country Club

First Place - Net

Jim Rector, Dennis Hart, Dennis Rector, Dan Kasischke

First Place - Gross

Dr. Kevin Frank, Doug Johanningsmeier, Mike Kuhn,  
Aaron McMaster

Congratulations to all the winners and thank you to everyone who participated for your support. The committee has already contacted possible hosts for next year's event. We plan to continue to improve this event so that even more players can enjoy the opportunity and the fundraising tradition can continue to grow. Thanks again to all the vendors, clubs, participants and committee members that spent their valued time and money to support this cause.

## BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Country Club of Detroit  
Monday, October 13, 2003

### ROLL CALL:

Present - Abbott, Cooney, King, Mckinley, McMullen,  
Schweihofer  
Absent - Billette, Ford, Fouty, Shreve

### FINANCE (King)

Aug. Assn. Svgs: \$20,448.96  
Sept. not available.

### MEMBERSHIP (McMullen)

Total membership -403; Applications - 6;  
Class Change - 4

### EDUCATION (Schweihofer/Cooney)

Oct 13 - Annual mtg. @ CC of Detroit

### GOLF DAY (Ford/Fouty)

285 golfers  
138 prizes given away  
Raised approx. \$14,500 for donation.  
Board to consider recipients.

### HOLIDAY PARTY (McMullen/Billette)

Date: Fri., Dec. 5, 2003  
Site: Canterbury Village, Lake Orion  
Cost: \$60 per person

### AWARDS (Fouty/Cooney)

Heritage Award - No apps. received. Deadline: Nov. 1.  
Turfgrass Scholarships - Email via Rogers will be sent  
to MSU students.

### MICHIGAN ROOM (Fouty)

Dates: February 12, 2004  
Site: San Diego, Hdqtrs. Hotel



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# Roster Changes

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**READ, JOHN**

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Club, Class, Phone, Fax (pg. 61)

**REMER, JAMES**

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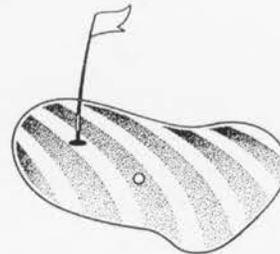
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*Canterbury Village  
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- December 10, 2003 Superintendents Only Meeting  
*Forest Lake CC  
Roundtable Discussion*
- March 2004 Superintendents Leadership Series  
*Salt River CC*
- May 2004 Annual Can-Am Meeting  
*Port Huron Golf Club*
- June 2004 Annual GDGCSA Golf Championship
- September 2004 C.H. Wolfrom Classic  
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- October 2004 The Big Event
- October 2004 The Annual Meeting



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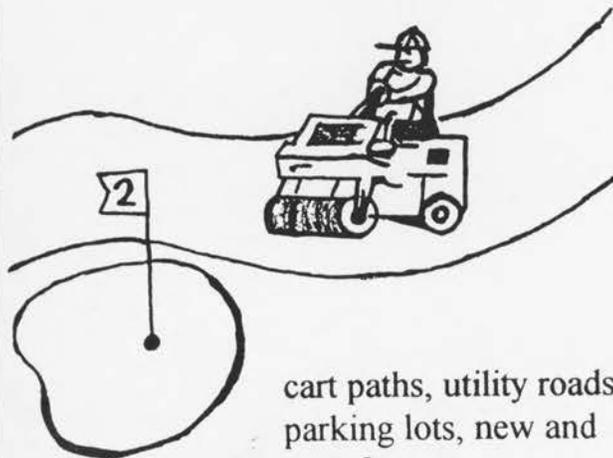
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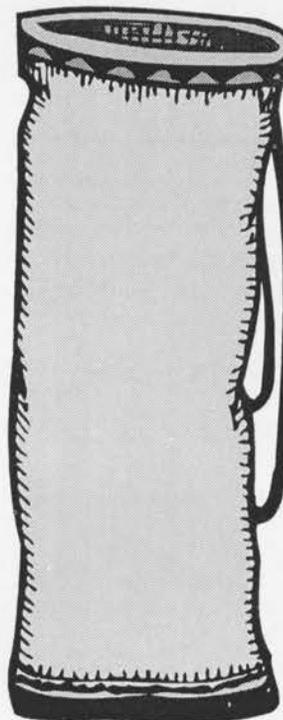
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