

WESTERN VIEWS

Spring 1993

Official Publication of the West Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association

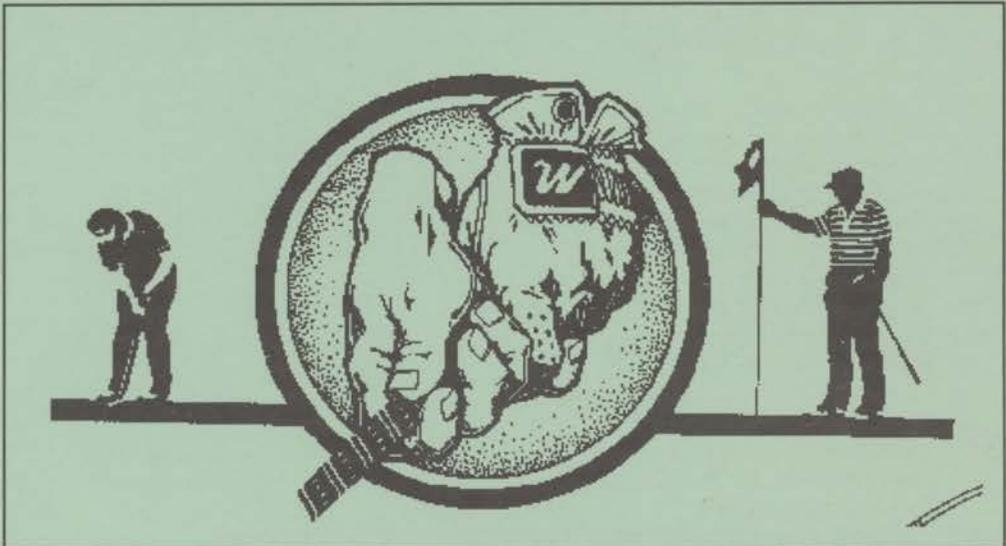
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Changes

The superintendent for Cedar Run Golf Course will be Gary Spahr, CGCS

Bill Fountain will be leaving RAILSIDE Golf Course to help build a new course. He will be replaced by his assistant, Jeff Hopkins. Bill has agreed to finish his term as Secretary/Treasurer for WMGCSA

Upcoming Dates

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Joint Meeting w/Mid Mich Turf	Pohl Cat	May 18
Benefit Day NMTMA	Elk Ridge	June 21
Monthly Meeting	Glen Eagle G.C.	June 28
Morning Coffee	Various Clubs	July-August*
Golf Day	Egypt Valley C.C.	Sept. 13
Mid Mich. Turf Assoc. Annual	Midland C.C.	Sept. 20
Annual Meeting	Thornapple	September 28
Fall Party	C.C. Jackson	November 6

Editor's Note:

For those who have written articles for this publication, thank you. If you have anything you care to write about or if there are any personnel changes you wish to see mentioned, please contact me in writing at:

Western Views
1447 Hope S.E.
Grand Rapids, Mi.49506

Welcome To New Members

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Location</u>
Andrew Albertson	B	Grand Rapids Golf Club
Ray Bowers	D	Soil Improvement Technology
Larry Hulburt	D	Hosty Sales and Service
Pat Boylan	D	Boylan Sales
James Atchison	D	Boylan Sales
James Johnson	D	Parmenter and Andre
Mary Taylor	A	Iyopawa Island Golf Course
Doug Thielen	D	Thielen Turf

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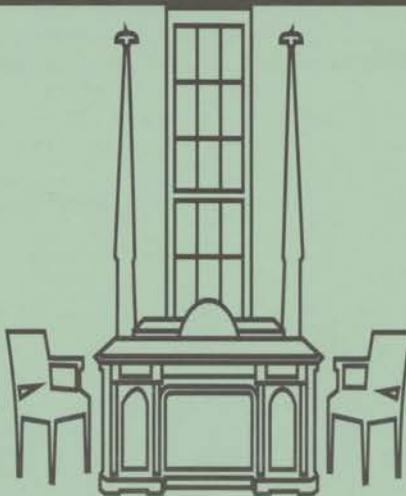
President's Message

Bill Clinton and I have two things in common: We are both presidents of powerful and influential organizations (OKAY, his presidency has a slightly greater impact on the course of our lives than mine does); and we both have an insatiable appetite for more money.

Brother Bill will be asking for an increase in taxes. Similarly, I will be seeking an increase in dues. Sweet William has the reluctant luxury of cutting spending to make his budget work. I have no such luxury. Our budget has no fat in it. The Western Michigan G.C.S.A. does not purchase bolts for \$600@ or toilet seats for submarines that exceed \$1,000. We do not give out research grants in the hundreds of thousands to study the fecal materials of the three-toed sloth to determine if it is getting a balanced vitamin intake and how that might influence it's sex drive. We do not give out millions to countries to better their way of lives only to be rewarded with such comments as "Yankee go home".

Our expenditures have been very frugal and necessary to the efficient operation of our association. Our last dues increase was in 1987. With that increase we were able to operate at a small net profit...we were in the black. But for the past three years we actually spent more than we took in. That was okay while we had a little surplus to draw from. That surplus is now depleted, so a dues increase is now inevitable.

Our board has decided to begin presenting this issue to you well before this change will actually take place. A formal



notice of this by-law change will be sent to you 30 days before our annual meeting in September. This present notice is so that any questions and concerns may be addressed and discussed and we are thinking clearly when the vote is taken. We have not yet determined the amount of the increase and more board meeting discussion will be spent on this topic. Your input would be greatly appreciated.

Unlike Slick Willie, I do not have to talk out of both sides of my mouth to get re-elected for another term. This is my last year anyway, so I can just tell it like it is. Straight talk from a politician. Now isn't that a unique concept?

Chris Fochtman CGCS

The Honors Course Makes Major Gift to GCSAA S&R

Lawrence, Kansas, March 12, 1993-- A Tennessee golf club has contributed \$5,000 toward an important new study sponsored by the GCSAA Scholar-

ship and Research (S&R) foundation.

The Honors Course, the Chattanooga-area club known for it's extensive efforts to preserve wildlife habitats around the course, made the donation in support of a new pesticide exposure study being sponsored by the foundation. The gift was made by course owner Jack Lupton on behalf of the club and its membership.

"We feel strongly that this type of study is critical to the future of the game," said Lupton. "People who work, live and play on golf courses have to feel confident that golf is a healthy, beneficial activity."

David Stone, superintendent at The Honors Course, said that he was pleased that the club was able to support a study that would benefit all superintendents. "I think it's great that my professional association is taking a hard look at this issue and I'm proud that our club can be a national leader in the effort," Stone said.

GCSAA President Randy Nichols, CGCS, called the donation "A wonderful example for golf clubs all over the country to follow."

The study will examine mortality rates and causes of death among superintendents over the past two decades. The goal of the study is to determine whether or not the superintendents had any unusually high rates of cancer that could be linked to chronic pesticide exposure.

GCSAA S&R is the national professional foundation for educational and scientific advancements in golf course management. For more information about the study, or to make a contribution to the effort, call the GCSAA Development department at 913/841-2240.

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Hiring Retirees for the Golf Course

Finding quality seasonal employees on the golf course is a difficult task every year. Early Spring is a time when you need a variety of manpower to prepare your facility for the season that will be going full tilt in only a short period of time. The fall is also a time when leaf removal, aerification and special projects are started. Your concern is: Which employees to hire for these key times of the year?

A great resource for your staffing needs are retired individuals. The retiree offers a tremendous asset to any facility. Their experience, care of equipment, work ethic and enthusiasm are contagious throughout your entire staff and they take pride in any project that is assigned to

them.

The golf course offers many retirees a working atmosphere unlike any that they have had in previous careers. The outdoors, with beautiful scenery and fresh air is the perfect environment for anyone to work in.

We have used retired personnel in all aspects of our golf maintenance program. From construction, mowing, cup changing and watering, retired employees can fill any staffing needs you may have. When fully trained, your retired staff can do their daily routines with efficiency and expertise.

These individuals bring a variety of backgrounds and history from previous careers that can enhance your practices as a superintendent. Their experience in the work force is an asset to both you and your younger staff members.



Retiree Advantages:

- Reliable
- Available in spring and fall
- Longevity
- A variety of trade skills
- Excellent care and operation of equipment
- Value fringe benefits, such as golfing
- Financial needs reduced

Golfing privileges are recommended for your entire staff. Many retired personnel offer constructive criticism after playing the course, thus allowing you to address each situation accordingly.

The ability to find quality seasonal help is a burden we experience every season. Retirees come back season after season, making your job as a superintendent easier and much more enjoyable. You will build a solid relationship with these individuals that will last a lifetime.

Retired staff members are a great asset to your facility. Be sure to consider them when determining your staffing needs this season.

Yours in Turf,
William J. Fountain

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Dr. Beard Outlines 9 Vital Trends

Dr. Beard outlined 9 trends he felt vital during a presentation at the Michigan Turfgrass Conference, just a few miles from Michigan State University where he taught from 1961 to 1975.

"Some of the things I say will probably be wrong, but the challenge is to think of the future," said Beard, who was visiting from Texas A&M University.

1. More computer use in turfgrass management. You're going to come in and turn that computer on and you're going to get a series of readouts, that there is a high probability of this disease in the next four days, or the prime time for winter overseeding is coming up, or a period of root stress is approaching," he notes. Computers, networked to libraries, will provide an immediate source of information for turfgrass managers.

2. Reduced pesticide use. More corrective and fewer preventative applications. More

pesticide applications will be target specified.

3. More emphasis on pest management approaches. The key to solid turfgrass management? "Understanding and manipulating the environment in favor of the growth of the turfgrass plant, and minimizing the chances of stress," says Beard.

4. Water conservation. Expect less water available for turfgrass use, higher water costs, increased use of effluent water, government control or allocation, noting that the industry has had a hard time convincing the public that turfgrass is actually vital in preserving and protecting groundwater.

5. More use of controlled-release fertilizer products. The presence of nitrates will continue to be an issue. He asks for improvements in slow-release fertilizer carriers.

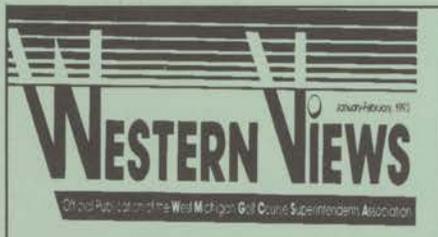
6. Less energy waste. Expect steadily rising costs for petroleum-based products and internal combustion machinery, causing turfgrass managers to plan their programs with energy savings in mind.

7. Improved stress tolerance in turfgrass cultivars. Plant breeders will accelerate their efforts to develop grasses that provide quality turf while requiring less energy, water fertilizer and pesticide.

8. Innovative rootzones for turfgrass getting lots of traffic. Beard refers to a mesh element in place in the upper six inches of turfgrass rootzone at the 14-acre Santa Anita, California, Race Track. He said it significantly reduced divoting and improved turf at the track. Systems based on similar principles might be developed for golf course tees/greens and sports fields.

9. More education needed to keep abreast of technological advances. Turfgrass managers will have to be well-versed in turfgrass, and also in cost control, system organizations, personnel management, budgeting, etc.

The heart of this message? "Efficiency through better management of water use, pesticide use, energy use, equipment use, labor use and fertilizer use," says Beard.



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