



# WESTERN VIEWS

May - June, 1998

[March April]

Official Publication of the West Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association

## 1998 Meeting Schedule

### Western Michigan GCSA

<b>June 29</b>	Travis Point CC (Joint with Detroit)
<b>July *</b>	(Joint with Northern)
<b>August 1</b>	White Caps Stadium Day
<b>August *</b>	Mullenhurst GC
<b>September 21</b>	Golf Day Cascade Hills CC
<b>October 13</b>	(Annual Meeting) Wuskowhan Players Club
<b>November 7</b>	Fall Party Kent CC

\* Dates and/or sites tentative.

## President's Message: What's new? What isn't!

You know, about two months ago we had snow on the ground, and now we haven't had but 1/4 inch of rain in the last three weeks. Part of this seems familiar and yet, oh, so new!

It's been seven years since we've had a hot spring, and yet just last year we had a mini drought. Last year not much play or grass, and now... Holy Cow!

Enough about the weather already, let's talk about the upcoming meeting schedule and what's new! How about a Vendor/Member-sponsored meeting! In July, Brian Anderson is putting on a Novartis/WMGCSA meeting with Charles Scott as host. Every member is welcome of course, and the talk will be limited to one hour. I have high hopes for this meeting and ones like it in the future. By saving the vendors time getting information out and by saving members some costs to attend a meeting, we will all benefit.

Also new is the Whitecaps tickets,

etc.. on August 1 through Valley Turf. Again, all members are welcome. So call up Keith, get some tickets and take the crew or family out to the ball game! (Still working on the education portion of this one!)

You'll hear more of the other meetings, but let's talk a second about what isn't new and it will come as no new news, lack of time! Or maybe better said, too much time on the job. Did you get the latest GCSAA salary survey? The average hours worked per week was 63 hours. Divide that into the average salary and you'll see only one thing... we should have been plumbers! But I'll take the heat of battle over winter. And that's not new to you either.

P.S. Remember to carpool over to Travis Point on June 29 for the Joint Meeting.

Sincerely,  
Doug Boyle C.G.C.S.  
President

## Spring Meetings Well Attended!

The April and May Meetings were very well attended even with the majority of Superintendents being fairly busy. Both golf courses were in great shape.

We would like to thank Pat Fifer and his crew at Duck Lake and Paul Richter and his crew at Spring Lake for

inviting us and putting out the effort needed to host a meeting at their respective clubs. If you wish to host a meeting in 1999 or 2000, please contact a board member. We are always looking for meeting sights and it's a good chance to showcase your talents to your peers.

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**Editor's Note:** Please write me if you have any corrections or if you are interested in doing an article for us at:

**Western Views**

3725 Cascade Rd., S.E.  
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# GCSAA board approves certification program changes

The Fall 1997 meeting of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America's (GCSAA) Board of Directors has resulted in changes to the association's certification program.

GCSAA's certification program, implemented in 1971, is designed to elevate professional standards, enhance individual performance and distinguish those who have demonstrated knowledge essential to the practice of golf course management. Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) designation indicated the highest standards of professional excellence and must be retained through continual training and education.

The following recommendations were made by the certification committee and approved by the board:

**Effective immediately:**

*Eligibility.* Criteria must be met as it relates to the November 1996 change in GCSAA's Standing Rules for Membership for the director of golf, director of golf course maintenance operations and construction superintendent. Individuals holding these positions at the time of application must have three years of experience as a golf course superintendent prior to assuming their current position. The construction superintendent also must have primary responsibility for the grow-

in of the constructed golf course.

*Exam improprieties.* If a candidate engages in any form of impropriety during the certification process, the documents in question cannot be scored and the results cannot be accepted. Furthermore, the candidate must appeal to the certification committee for reentry to the GCSAA certification program.

**Effective July 1, 1998:**

*CEUs and PDUs.* Change the terminology of tested CEUs and untested CEUs to Continuing Education Units (CEUs) and Professional Development Units (PDUs), respectively. This was done to simplify and clarify to members

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## Follow-up on Acid Injection

*Submitted by Jon O'Connor,  
Superintendent,  
Gull Lake Country Club*

After reading the article by John Mastenbrook in last month's Western Views, I thought it might be helpful to add a few comments about the pH airway acid injection system.

My first full year using the system was 1997, and I was quite pleased with the results. The main reason behind purchasing the system was to offset the high bicarbonate levels in my irrigation water source. Due to the high sand content of the greens' root zone, and prolonged periods without rain (nine weeks), a "scaling off" condition was occurring from bicarbonate accumulation in the soil, resulting in low infiltration rates and weak color. After two weeks of daily 15-minute water cycles, the greens improved dramatically. Water was penetrating the surface and moving into the soil profile. What a relief!

Our system was purchased from Prime Turf in South Chicago, and I believe Harry Schuemann and myself are the only ones in Southwest Michigan using it. I would be happy to show the system to anyone interested or answer any questions you may have.

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TOURNAMENT TURF LABORATORIES, INC.		DAVID W. YORK, Ph.D.		
IRRIGATION WATER ANALYSIS REPORT				
Account #A39		Date: August 16, 1995		
Gull Lake Country Club				
Sample ID# Irrigation water				
ANALYSIS	UNIT	RPM	lbs/A-Ft	meq/l
Nitrogen:				
Nitrate	mg/l NO3-N	<0.1	<0.3	<0.01
Chloride	mg/l Cl	9	24.3	0.25
Sulfate	mg/l SO4	18	48.5	0.38
Sulfate-Sulfur	mg/l SO4-S	6	16.2	0.38
Carbonate	mg/l CO3	<1	<2.7	<0.03
Bicarbonate	mg/l HCO3	198	534.6	3.25
Calcium	mg/l Ca	37	99.9	1.85
Magnesium	mg/l Mg	22	59.4	1.80
Sodium	mg/l Na	6	16.2	0.26
Potassium	mg/l K	1	2.7	0.03
as K2O (Calc.)	mg/l K2O	1.2	3.2	
Boron	mg/l B	0.020	0.1	
Total Dis. Solids (Calc.)	mg/l	230	622.1	
Hardness (Calc.)	mg/l CaCO3	183.1	494.2	
Hardness (Calc.)	grains/gal CaCO3	10.7		
Alkalinity (Calc.)	mg/l CaCO3	162.4	438.4	
Electrical Conductivity	mmho/cm EC	0.36		
Sodium Absorption Ratio (SAR)		0.2		
Adj. Sodium Absorption Ratio (SARa)		0.3		
Sodium, % of Cations		6.6		
Water pH		7.10		
Water pHc		7.72		

# Superintendent goes home!

Its often been said that you can never go home again. Well one of our former Board members, Jon O'Connor did get fairly close to his home in the state of New Jersey with his recent job move. Jon was hired by the Marriot people and will manage a 36 hole facility on the coast. We wish Jon luck and are somewhat sad to see him go. Thanks for the hard work in the Western and we will see you at the national.

## Welcome New Members

We would like to welcome the following people to our organization!

### Michael Robart

Assistant Superintendent,  
Grand Haven Golf Club

### Christopher Boyle

Mechanic,  
Wuskowhan Players Club

# Note from the Editor:

Can you imagine losing a month out of a year? A year with only 11 months in it... How time would fly! Although, to get the same effect the next year, you would probably have to lose another month. And then you would have a year with only 10 months in it.

If you had a choice, which month would you pick to lose? April or maybe May? And really, would you even want to lose a month?

On occasion this spring, I could actually wish away a little time, maybe a day or two. Like the day the deep well guy said, "I think you might have a little problem here." Or the day or two after

that, the weather man said the temperature should only top out in the high eighties.

Well, needless to say, things have been pretty good at times at Cascade Hills this spring and there have been days when it's been a bit hectic. I'm sure all of you have had your hills to climb this spring. It's what many of us in this profession somehow enjoy, even if we complain about it.

The bottom line is, that's why this newsletter is a month late also. If you have any complaints, send your address and we will put it down as the next candidate for Newsletter Editor.

## Local Toro turf experts recognized

Minneapolis (May 7, 1998) -- Spartan Distributors, Inc. was recognized recently as a preeminent distributor of Toro products. Spartan was the recipient of the Partners in Excellence, Gold Level of Excellence award for outstanding service in all business categories: Overall, Commercial, Consumer, Irrigation and Parts.

"Spartan Distributor's commitment and investment in the customer has consistently earned them high customer satisfaction ratings and makes them a standard bearer for quality," said Ken Melrose, chief executive officer and office of the president, The Toro Company. "We are proud to recognize their achievements and to be their partner in excellence."

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## Certification program changes, continued

what is required for certification application or renewal of certification and to better reflect the description of the categories being awarded credit toward renewal.

Audubon participation. Certified Golf Course Superintendents (CGCSs) will be awarded .5 PDUs for participation in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Schools upon completion of an established checklist of activities that have been agreed to with the sponsoring school.

Attestor visitation and procedures. To continue to strengthen the GCSAA certification attesting process by ensuring a valid, equitable attesting evaluation for every certification applicant, the current scoring of "pass," "pass with recommendation," or "fail" by each certification attestor will now be combined and tallied by GCSAA to

determine a final score. An 85 percent cumulative score will be required for passing.

The committee also made plans for development of an attestor training video scheduled for production this spring. Plans are for the video to be distributed through GCSAA's more than 100 affiliated chapters with some form of documented training required to be an eligible attestor.

The GCSAA certification committee focuses its efforts on reviewing and upgrading the certification program in order to further the professionalism and education of the golf course superintendent. The committee consists of: Ken Magnum, CGCS (chairman); R. Terry Buchen, CGCS, MG; Mark Kienert, CGCS; Lee McLemore, CGCS; and J. Mark Black, CGCS.

Since 1926, GCSAA has been the leading professional association for the men and women who manage and maintain golf facilities in the United States and worldwide. From its headquarters in Lawrence, Kan., the association provides education information and representation to more than 18,000 individual members from more than 50 countries. GCSAA's mission is to serve its members, advance their profession and enrich the quality of golf and its environment.



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