



WESTERN MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE  
SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION  
FOUNDED 1938

# Western Views

Official Publication of the Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association

Summer 2002

Editor: John Fulling

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## Upcoming Events:

### WMGCSA Meetings:

July 17: Dr. Joe Vargas  
"Golf Course Diseases"  
Hancock Turf Center

August 14: MSU Field Day  
Hancock Turf Center

September 17: Golf Day  
Gull Lake View Golf Club

October 7: Annual Meeting  
at Kent Country Club

October 22: GCSAA  
Seminar- Dr. Frank Rossi  
at the Highlands in GR

## President's Message

### WHERE DID SPRING GO?

48 - 96 - 128 - 164??

That's how many ounces of liquids I drank yesterday! I can't stop sweating and this humidity is making me crabby. My body is starting to twitch more than Sergio Garcia setting up over a tee shot. I got a phone call from John Fulling who said the humidity was 105% by him(maybe a slight exaggeration). But Hey, you can't change the weather so I guess I had better learn to deal with it. Did anyone else notice a bit of a gleam in the eyes of the chemical sales guys during this weather?

We would like to thank Ron Fox and Point O Woods CC for their wonderful hospitality. The golf course was in excellent condition and everything else was first rate. Our next golf event is going to be our Golf Day on September 17 at Stonehedge GC. There will be a morning and afternoon shotgun start. This is a great opportunity to take some of your members and chairmen.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Monday October 7 at Kent CC. This is the time when you elect new officers for the

board of directors. If anyone is interested in running for the board, please contact either Al Bathum or myself.

That is all I have for now, got to get back to handwatering.

Don't forget your sunscreen,

*Jeff Hopkins*



### In This Issue...

President's Message  
Upcoming events  
W. Bruce Matthews award winner  
Member news and classifieds

### Plus...

#### News from MSU

MTESP update  
What is Extension?  
Report on Fairyring

### Look for...

GCSAA Seminar sign  
up sheet in this issue!!!

## *Brit Adamczyk Receives the W. Bruce Matthews Scholarship Award*

Brit Adamczyk (son of long time member Steve Adamczyk) won the 2002 W. Bruce Matthews scholarship award. Brit is a Junior at Grand Valley State University studying to be an Engineer. He holds a 3.9 grade point average, and has made the deans list every semester. Brit is active in many sports and volunteers many hours in church organizations. Brit's essay is re-written for you below. Congratulations Brit and Steve!

### *A Little Essay on Golf*

As you can see in my application for this scholarship that I've played a lot of sports, and out of these sports, golf is the best. I'm not just saying this for the sake of the paper; golf is the most challenging, mind-oriented, and precise game I've ever played. It may not be the sport that I am most skilled at but it has had the biggest impact on my life. My dad has been around the game ever since I was a kid. My grandpa taught all of his sons to play golf, and my dad taught me. I guess that it's kind of a tradition where some day I'll teach my kids. My dad's passion for the game has carried over to my brothers and I. Golf has also taught us many lessons that are important in the game as well as everyday life, lessons such as patience, competitiveness, and respect. An example of using patience on the golf course is when you get ready to putt your ball on the green. It would be unwise to just walk up to the ball and hit it in the direction of the hole. A patient golfer takes the time to walk behind the ball and read the lay of the green in order to get a good estimate of how the ball will roll. I've applied this patience I've learned to college by not rushing through my homework but taking time to understand all of the material and so far it has paid off. Competition is another huge part of golf because without competition, let's face it, the game wouldn't be as fun. I'm learning as I get more information out of school that there is some high competition for top jobs in the engineering industry and it only makes me work harder. I can credit part of this to my dad's career because when I see how successful he is I feel that I can be just as successful. This thought is parallel to our rivalry in golf for the fact that when we play together my game level goes up trying to surpass his. Respect the faster players, respect the person playing his or her ball, and respect the course. These are just a few examples of how my dad teaching me the game has had an impact on the way I respect things. I'm not saying I'm perfect but I see a lot of my peers with no respect at all for authority, elders, or whatever else. I think this is the most important and valuable lesson I've learned through my dad and this great game. I love this profession and I guess that's why I work at a golf course in the summer. Since my dad has been in the golf profession my whole life I've always been around it and I think the values that are so important to golf became important to me also. I am so grateful that I've had the opportunity to be a part of this game and I know that my life wouldn't be the same without it.

## *Membership News!*

Congratulations to Andy and Deana Albertson of Grand Rapids Golf Club. They had a baby girl named Hannah Jean on May 20th.

Congratulations to Bob Stipcak, CGCS of Timber Ridge GC. Bob achieved his certification from GCSAA this spring.

If you have any more good news, please let us know. You can either

Call John Fulling: (616) 345-5013  
Or

e-mail John Fulling: [kccjfull@voyager.net](mailto:kccjfull@voyager.net)

Or

E-mail wmgcsa: [westmigcsa@hotmail.com](mailto:westmigcsa@hotmail.com)

### *Very Special Thanks...*

To the hosts of our first three meetings.

- Ken Hunt at Pilgrims Run
- Joe Jehnsen at Gull Lake CC
- Ron Fox at the Point O' Woods CC

We had great attendance for all of these meetings, as well as excellent education, and golf. We understand that you ask your clubs to extend professional courtesy for us and that it takes a great deal of work to get ready for your peers.

We appreciate your generosity!

## *News from MSU...*

### **Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program News**

**By Debbie Swartz**



**A New Service for MTESP Members** – We have been embarking on a schedule of “update visits” over the last few months and our objective is to visit all members by the end of the year. Our goal is to ensure that our members are getting the information and assistance they need to meet their environmental protection needs 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! 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 and Egypt Valley have generously offered the course at no charge for this fine event. A nominal fee will be set to cover food expenses. Stay tuned for more information as details become available.



**A New Way to Join the Program** - With the 2002 season already in progress the Stewardship Program is proud to present a new method to join the program for those that could not make the initial workshop series. Simply call the Stewardship Office at 517-355-8361 to get on board. Greg Lyman, Marc McMullen or Debbie Swartz will explain the program system, send you the materials and schedule a time to meet with you at your facility. 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

**Mark your Calendars!!**

**MSU / MTF TURFGRASS FIELD DAY** is Tuesday, August 13, 2002. Send in your forms today. See you there!



## Fairy Ring – Too Much Partying on Your Greens?

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. Folk lore 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 aerification 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 70WP) 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.

## What is Extension?

Dr. Kevin Frank  
MSU Crop and Soil Sciences

Okay don't be bashful now, how many of you when I say I have an extension appointment or am a Turfgrass Extension Specialist really know what it means or what I do. Extension covers a broad range of activities. I am involved in coordinating our summer turfgrass field days and the Michigan Turfgrass Conference. Those activities are classified as traditional extension programming. However, there is a whole other arena of basic service to all of the turf professionals in the state that I, along with my colleagues on the turf team provide. What I'm talking about here can be as simple as answering the phone or responding to email questions about anything in the turf world. As I always tell people, if I don't know the answer there's bound to be someone on the turf team who does that I can direct you to or find out the answer from. In addition to the simple phone and email queries, I am also available to travel to your site and help you try and diagnose what might be ailing your turf or simply visit about turf management practices. Granted, with all of the golf courses in Michigan it's impossible to visit all of you or always be available for site visits, but with enough notice I'll certainly do my best to make it. One of my favorite parts of my job is simply learning from you in the field, what is working, what isn't, this often leads to ideas for research projects. Also, don't hesitate to look to us for support if you're struggling with explaining to the membership/green committee/ownership why the turf might suffer a little when it's 95 and humid for 2 weeks in August. A site visit followed up by a letter explaining some causes of the problem might help smooth things over in some situations.

On a local basis don't forget about your local county extension agents who are in your communities and ready to assist you with problems as they arise. For a complete listing of county extension agents you can visit [www.msue.msu.edu/msue/ctyentpg/](http://www.msue.msu.edu/msue/ctyentpg/) or look in your phone book in the Government section under MSU Extension.

What about providing information on a regular basis? One of the best sources for keeping up to date on turf management recommendations and what's going on in the world of trees, insects, shrubs, flowers, and the long range weather outlook is to check out the Landscape Crop Advisory Team Alert Newsletter. The CAT is published weekly throughout most of the summer and biweekly in the spring and late summer. The CAT is available as a printed copy or via the web at [www.turf.msu.edu](http://www.turf.msu.edu), click on "This Week in Turf".

Diagnostic Services at Michigan State University is another valuable resource that is available for diagnosing that wacky weed, insidious insect, or pesky pathogen. For a nominal fee the experts in the Diagnostics lab will identify the pest that's giving you problems. For more information on Diagnostic Services please call (517) 355-4536 or visit their website at [www.cips.msu.edu/diagnostics/](http://www.cips.msu.edu/diagnostics/).

In addition to the MSU Diagnostic Services, Dr. Joe Vargas' lab provides diagnostic services for identifying turfgrass disease pathogens for a small fee. Please contact the lab at 517-353-9082 for additional information.

If you have questions about any of the services discussed in this article or any other extension questions feel free to contact me at any time either by phone at (517) 432-9461 or email [frankk@msu.edu](mailto:frankk@msu.edu).

## Connect with extension and your peers during the Dog Days of Summer!!

Editor's Note: John Fulling

During these days of intense heat stress to your golf course you might find yourself focusing so hard on the survival of your turf that you forget some of the resources available that may help you get through.

The two resources that I find help me the most are the extension services of MSU and my peers within this association. Dr. Kevin Frank wrote a nice reminder of the services available to the entire turf industry in Michigan. I would urge you to take advantage of them for any agronomic issue you may be facing. The turf team at MSU is aware of the current issues facing golf course superintendents all over Michigan and around the country. They can answer any question you might have about agronomics, and they do it free of charge. It's a powerful tool.

Equally important is our sanity during the stress of the summer season. Ours is a very unique profession. Sometimes the only people that are able to relate to what we are going through...is us. Stay in contact with your peers. Discuss problems you face in all aspects of your operation. More than likely the guy down the street is going through exactly the same problem you are. It helps to know that we are not alone when we face what seems to be impossible challenges. Solutions come through discussion and brain storming, knowing where to go to find answers, and being persistent. Building peer relationships was the foundation of our association when it began in 1938 and remains so today. The WMGCSA has 300 members. None alone has seen every problem. Together, however, there is no problem out there that cannot be solved. Call, e-mail, or visit your peers either down the road or across the state. Discuss issues and ideas, help someone through a difficult time, or let them help you. In the end, everyone wins. Have a safe and healthy second half of the season! And...Call me. I definitely need Help!

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# GCSAA EDUCATION

Brought to you by the Western Michigan GCSA



WESTERN MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE  
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## ANNUAL BLUEGRASS MANAGEMENT

Facilitated by: Dr. Frank Rossi, Assistant Professor Cornell University

**Tuesday, October 22, 2002**

8:00 am—5:00 pm

The Highlands Golf Club

Grand Rapids, Michigan

**Continuing Education Units: 0.7**

**WMGCSA Member Fee: \$60.00**

GCSAA Member Fee: \$130.00

Non-member Fee: \$195.00

### Description

Annual bluegrass is a highly invasive species that has colonized golf courses throughout the world. Effective maintenance or reduction programs rely on a thorough understanding of the biology and ecology and thoughtful integration into management programs. This seminar is designed to present the latest thinking on developing successful maintenance and control programs for putting greens and fairway turf.

**Reduced fee is limited to  
WMGCSA Members Only!!**

In Partnership with:



Cut along this line and send with payment

Annual Bluegrass Management **REGISTRATION:**

Tuesday October 22, 2002

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

WMGCSA Member ☒

FEE: \_\_\_\_\_

		\$
		\$
		\$

Make checks payable to **WMGCSA**

Send to: WMGCSA—8585 Winter Forest—Rockford, MI 49341

Total \$\$ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## E-Mail Database!!!

We're still building our member e-mail database. If I do not have your e-mail, and you'd know it if I did, please send it to me at:

**kccjfull@voyager.net**

or

**westmigcsa@hotmail.com**

## Classified Ads!

Got something to sell? List it here for free. Just send a list of the item(s) with your asking price to me at the address below, or e-mail me a list at:

**kccjfull@voyager.net**

## Classified Ads!

Used equipment for sale:

**Sunnybrook CC: Jason Schwieters (616) 667-1055**

- (2) Redmax BCV2500 string trimmers <20 hrs \$225
- '81 Toro GM 3 triplex runs good... \$300
- '86 Toro GM 300 triplex 6,200 hrs... \$750
- '82 Toro HTM1for parts... Free

**Pine River CC: Aaron Cochril (989) 463-4611**

- Ryan Greensaire 24s... Best Offer
- Metermatic walk behind topdresser... Best Offer
- Jacobsen blitzer parts... Best Offer

**CC of Jackson: Bill Madigan (517) 787-0650**

- 121 yellow handle Par-aide Bunker rakes... \$3 each

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 3509 Oakland Drive Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008  
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