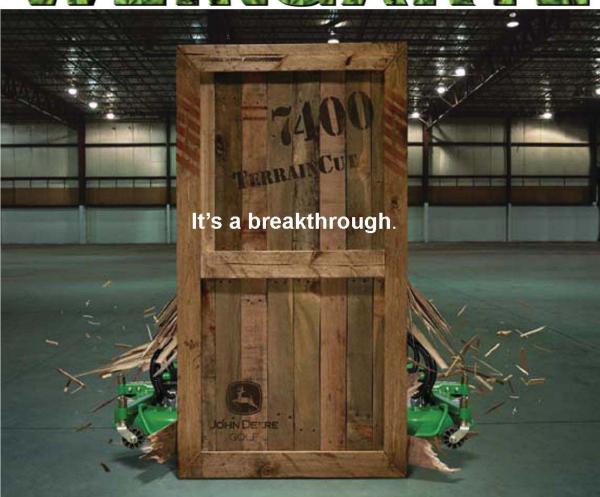


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| EALL 2009

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION





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#### President's Perspective



Dear MiGCSA Members and Friends,

As the golf season winds down for another year, I'm hoping it was a safe and successful one for you! This year was reminiscent of Michigan summers of years past. There was a lot of great golf weather and only a few times when we really had to buckle down. We take these when we can get them because as we know, they are few and far between... in fact, I'll bet if we asked every superintendent out there which years in the last 20 were the good ones, we'd get virtually identical results from everyone.

I'm thrilled to report that the state of your association is excellent. We had a very successful first edition of Course Conditions, good participation in our events around the state and membership numbers that continue to increase each month. I want to thank all of you for taking time out of your busy schedules to participate in all of the fundraisers around the state too. As you know, these fundraisers are a critical part of research funding at Michigan State University through the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. We still have a number of meetings coming up this fall, including Greater Detroit's "Big Event" at Pine Lake Country Club on October 6, Northern's Tuck Tate Championship at Traverse City Golf and Country Club on October 8, Western / Mid District Championship at Pilgrim's Run to be held October 14. We also have a new event, the first ever Assistant Golf Day, will be held October 16, look for more details inside.

"One voice" was one of the most important reasons for the formation of the MiGCSA. We believed that we could achieve all of our goals if we were united. We wanted to communicate our message to the world with one voice and most importantly we wanted to have a seat at the "table" to represent you, our professional members, on the issues of the day. We recently were asked to participate in the PGA of America's press conference on "Golf in Michigan" to communicate the great things we have to offer as a state. As environmental leaders in the nation, we were asked to highlight the great things Michigan's golf industry is doing on the environmental front. It was a great honor that the PGA asked us to participate along with our friends from the Michigan PGA, the GAM and the Golf Course Owners Association. We're making an impact as an association, and together with our great allied partners we will achieve great things for the game of golf in Michigan!

Environmental stewardship is a priority for the golf course superintendent in the state of Michigan. Our very own Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program (MTESP) is the nation's model for stewardship in the golf industry. Recently some great changes were made to the program that will make it accessible and affordable to every golf course in the state. Thanks to a lot of hard work by all the partners making up the MTESP, including the MDA, MDEQ, MTF, GAM, MSU, MGCOA and the MiGCSA there is a new sense of excitement for the program. Two of the most important changes are that our MSU Turf Team is once again fully engaged in the program and the program will be given to all members of the partners associations free of charge. The new program will be rolled out a little later this fall!

As we enter the fall season, we need to remember the most important thing in all our lives, our families. We have all just spent the last 5 or 6 months working 60 - 70 hours a week and missing breakfast with the kids on the weekends, etc. Take some time while we've got the beautiful fall weather and get away with family for a long weekend. It doesn't matter whether you head up North to Charlevoix or Petoskey to see the fall colors, to Detroit for a great big city shopping trip or to the western lakeshore for beaches and relaxation... just spend some quality time together!

Have a fantastic fall and I will see you at an MiGCSA event very soon!

JOHN FULLING, CGCS
KALAMAZOO COUNTRY CLUB



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JAY ECCLETON, CGCS-2011 Mid-Class A The Emerald

JEFF HOLMES, CGCS-2011 Western-Class A Egypt Valley C.C

ADAM IKAMAS-2011

Northern-Class A Crystal Mountain Resort

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MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR Robin Rings

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Course Conditions is published 4 times a year by the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association. Opinions expressed by guest writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the MiCGSA or Eurich Management. For more information on Course Conditions or the MiGCSA please write to the address below or email: news@migca.org

MiGCSA 3225 West St. Joseph Lansing, MI 48917 Telephone: 517.327.9207 Facsimile: 517.321.0495

# My Father Thanks You

#### BY DONN EURICH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

When I was growing up, my father taught me how to play golf. Both of my older brothers were hunting enthusiasts, but tromping through the woods toting a rifle never appealed to me. My father and I spent our time together playing golf. He was a decent golfer in his day, with a handicap under 10, and plenty of patience with a son who needed lots of coaching.

One of the things he tried to teach me was the wonderful partnership between the game and nature. The natural beauty of a perfectly groomed fairway with pine trees lining both sides on a sunny, blue-skied summer day was



unmatched in his eyes. Almost every time we played, regardless of the course we were on, there would be one moment, one fairway, when he would simply stop the cart and look around. "Isn't this beautiful?", he would ask. We might sit there for several minutes if there was no group pushing our play. It wasn't until I had been playing for several years that I understood the point he was making.

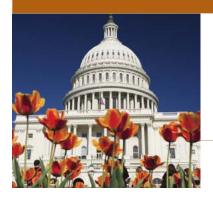
The enjoyment we were experiencing wasn't from scoring well or competition. It was from the unspoken and unrecognized work of professional superintendents who had made our surroundings so attractive that the game itself was secondary to our personal bonding and enjoyment of nature.

It's hard for me to believe he has been gone for twenty years. To this day, every time I play golf, I am always looking for that one special place on every course, where the fairway, trees and horizon meet, and I can imagine my father admiring that scene.

As a professional superintendent, you may find yourself focusing on grass, weeds and trees. Please never forget that your work has an impact on people's lives much greater than you may realize.

On behalf of an appreciative father and his grateful son, thank you for all you do.





## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MIGCSA DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY AND FUNDRAISING VANESSA CROCETTO

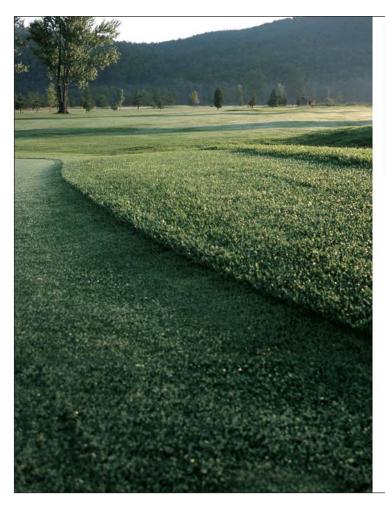
#### MIGCSA MEMBER NAMED TO STATE COMMITTEE

Recently the legislature passed, and Governor Granholm signed into action the Great Lakes Compact agreement. The Compact is an alliance between all of the Great Lake states, as well as part of Canada with the goal of working toward protection of the Great Lakes ecosystem. The focus of much of the Compact is the Great Lakes Basin and water withdrawal and usage of the Basin.

In an effort to ensure the success of the Great Lakes Compact, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has formed the Water Resource Advisory Council. The WRAC will work with the DEQ to establish and maintain new water withdrawal management practices and assist in their implementation. MiGCSA member, Craig Hoffman was appointed to the WRAC in early August and will be representing the interests of nonagricultural irrigators in the state of Michigan.

#### MICHIGAN'S TRAVEL AND TOURISM CAMPAIGN PROMOTES GOLF AND TURFGRASS

Over the past year the State of Michigan has launched a campaign to increase travel and tourism in the state. The Pure Michigan Campaign boasts television and radio advertising -narrated by Tim Allen- all with the goal of promoting everything that tourism in Michigan has to offer. Along with a television ad promoting golf in Michigan, the latest addition to the Pure Michigan family of radio spots is a ninety-five second promo entitled "Games on the Grass." The ad does a very nice job of highlighting the game of golf with friends and family as one of Michigan's favorite pastimes as well as drawing attention to the turfgrass industry. The advertisement can be heard on most FM radio stations at one time or another, but if you want to here it sooner visit the Pure Michigan website at www.michigan.org.



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#### UP AND DOWN











Images from a remodel of the 9th hole on Betsie Valley Course at Crystal Mountain.

# SWEATING THE DETAILS

BY PAUL ALBANESE

Although the golf course architect is credited with the design of the golf course, unbeknownst to many golfers, the superintendent will determine the final design of a golf hole on any given day. Many of the seemingly routine, daily tasks a superintendent and the crew will make often have a significant and deterministic affect on how a golf hole will play. The decisions a superintendent will make regarding these tasks are equally as important and significant as the architect's larger scale design gestures.

The golf course superintendent can affect the design of a golf hole in many different areas, but the following ways are the most pronounced and noteworthy: turf height, pin position, tee placement.

Golf is a game of inches, literally. When designing a golf hole, an architect will usually make certain assumptions about the heights of turf that will be maintained throughout the golf course, based on input from the superintendent and client. Changing or modifying these heights by only fractions of an inch will have a dramatic affect on the playability of every golf hole. For instance, when designing a golf green on a short par four, an architect might decide to defend the hole using significant breaks in the green surface. And, these breaks would be fine graded based on the assumption of a specific minimum and maximum height of cut for the green. Therefore, if the superintendent decides to lower the height of cut below that assumed minimum, they may unsuspectingly make parts of the green unplayable. The same is true for the reverse. If the superintendent keeps the green height above the assumed maximum, the golf hole will be viewed as one that does have much defense.

The next two areas in which a superintendent has considerable influence, pin position and tee placement, are like a hand in a glove; they need to be thought about together.

In fact, on some golf courses, the superintendent may be able to make the highest and lowest handicap hole fall into the middle of the pack via the selection of the pin position and tee placement for that given day. This is especially true on golf courses that have significantly large greens and tees. By moving the tees and the pin to their respective fronts, a superintendent can knock 50 yards off of some holes. Keep in mind, yardage is a primary factor in determining the difficulty of a golf hole.

On many golf courses, when the wind is blowing, if a superintendent does not properly place the tees, the hole may literally become unplayable at worst or not enjoyable to the paying customer at best. It is critical that the superintendent check their wind gauges before sending out their pin cutters.

Equally as important to the placement of the tees is the position of the pins. All superintendents know where their "Sunday" pin positions are located for each green. But, knowing the proper relationship between the tee locations and pin positions is critical to creating the best recipe for the course. Instead of simply implementing the standard rule of thumb of six easy, six medium, six difficult pin positions, the superintendent, in conjunction with the architect, should create a matrix, based on the various combinations of tee placement and pin position.

Mies van der Rohe, a famous building architect from the early part of the 20th century, coined the phrase, "God is in the details". If that is truly the case, you might consider saying a few prayers to your superintendent.

Paul Albanese is one of the Principals of Albanese & Lutzke Golf Architecture. For more information please visit www.golf-designs.com.









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# 23RD ANNUAL

# TUCK TATE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

WHERE: Traverse City Golf &

Country Club

WHEN: October 8, 2008
HOST SUPERINTENDENT: Steve Hammon

**AGENDA:** 11:00 am to 12:45 pm

Registration, Range and

Lunch
1:00 pm
Shotgun Start
DINNER AND PRIZES

TO FOLLOW GOLF.

FORMAT: Stroke Play. Participants are

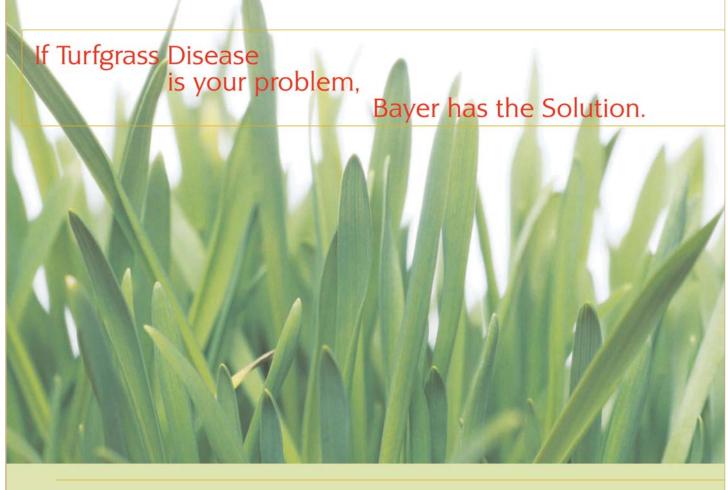
not able to win in both low gross and low net. Handicap required to qualify for

trophy eligibility.

**SUGGESTED DRESS:** Prope

COST:

Proper golf wear: no jeans \$50.00 per player, includes range, lunch, golf and dinner























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#### A FULL ROUND

Phil Owen, GCSA is the superintendent at the prestigious Warwick Hills Country Club in Grand Blanc. Warwick Hills has become famous over the years because every year they play host to the PGA Tour's Buick Open. The

# PHILOWEN

Buick Open started off as a hit, they had the largest prize purse of any professional tour tournament of at the time, approximately \$,000. The par 3 17th hole has become famous for its rowdy crowds that show up before daylight to get seats around the green, and cheer loudly for good and bad shots. Many tour player admit to being somewhat intimidated by the prospects of facing this sometimes brutally honest, and usually inebriated crowd. Owen says, "Things still tend to get a little crazy every year when

the tournament comes to town. Parts of the course take an entire year to recover from spectators and the press, which line the fairways."

Warwick Hills has the unique ability to be a member friendly golf course and yet be challenging enough to host a PGA Tour event. This is mainly attributed to golf course architect, Joe Lee. The course has a spectator friendly

design with the front and back nines running parallel. Warwick Hills is an 18 hole, member owned, private club, with about 260 golfing members. The golf course and surrounding housing development was originally a dairy farm that was developed in the mid 1950's. Half of the current maintenance facility was once one of the original barns, whose walls and ceiling are still being utilized. Our bathroom really is a stall!

Phil currently lives in Goodrich, Michigan with his wife, two children and golden retriever.

#### . WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

Kearsley Community Schools, Goodrich Community Schools, Spring Arbor College, Spring Arbor, Michigan, Lee Hendrickson Superintendents Atlas Valley Country Club. Al Bathum former assistant Warwick Hills Country Club and Jim Naugler former Superintendent Goodrich Country Club. Ron Brandon former Superintendent Warwick Hills Country Club. Various sales reps, various seminars, books, friends, family, and colleagues, School of Hard Knocks.

#### 2. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME?

Without proper perspective I believe it could and maybe has lead to an increase in the cost of golf, which I don't think is good for the growth of the game.

#### WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

Could you have a golf course in Michigan (that golfers would play) without use of water, fertilizer, and pesticides, if not what would be the minimum inputs necessary? I see the major challenges for the next generation to be maintaining adequate playing conditions with the use of less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.

#### 4. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Golfer's course condition expectations.

#### 5. WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT PROFESSION?

There is no "right way" to manage turf. Many methods can be used to accomplish the same goal. Good people are the key to success.



# 2 Greenbush G C, Greenbush Michigan and my favorite course would be Atlas Valley Country Club.

- 7. WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME? Hunt, fish, golf, yard work, go out with friends.
- 8. HOW DO YOU RATE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?

Very Important. The advice we give to our employer, if taken, has the potential to shape the direction of golf course maintenance at our course. If our advice as a group is the same or similar, then it can influence the direction of golf course maintenance, state, nationally, and internationally.

9. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS DEVOTED TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

About 50% of my time.

10. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT?

It depends on the golf course, but ultimately the assistant's role is to assist and support the superintendent in the maintenance operations of the golf course. My opinion of my assistant's role, I can say in one word; invaluable. I am fortunate to have two of the very best.

II. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE GOLF COURSE MECHANIC/TECHNICIAN?

One of the most valuable roles at any golf course. Equipment is the backbone of golf course maintenance. Without properly operating and adjusted equipment most golf courses can not be maintained to their full potential. The golf course mechanic/technician is one that must have the ability to make this happen.

12. WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE? Unrepaired ball marks.

13. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF WALKING A GOLF COURSE VS. RIDING A GOLF COURSE IN TODAY'S GAME?

Walking is a great way to enjoy the golf course, and get some exercise. Carts however have become part of the game and I'm as guilty as the next guy of using one when I could be walking. Carts are here to stay and most new courses are being designed with this in mind so for me carts are OK, it's the people

driving them that cause most of the problems associated with their use. Maybe you should be required to get a golf cart driving license and have police enforcing the laws.

#### 14. DESCRIBE YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM.

We recycle our grass clippings and tree leaves by scattering our mulching them back into the turf. Our pesticide containers are picked up by Turfgrass Inc. as part of their pesticide container recycling program. All of our waste oils, antifreeze and yard wastes are stored, then picked up by a companies for recycling and/or disposal. Paper disposal is the next biggest area we need to work on.

- I5. WHAT IS YOUR
  FAVORITE PIECE
  OF EQUIPMENT
  YOU HAVE IN
  YOUR ARSENAL
  FOR GOLF
  COURSE MANAGEMENT?
  Irrigation Computer.
- 16. WHAT IS THE
  OLDEST PIECE OF
  EQUIPMENT
  THAT IS STILL
  BEING UTILIZED
  IN YOUR FLEET?
  Maple Lane Spiker
  pre 1970.
- 17. WHAT ONE
  PIECE OF ADVICE
  WOULD YOU GIVE
  TO A NEW
  SUPERINTENDENT?

Be patient, but persistent. Remind yourself that it is not your golf course. Remember it's just grass and just a sport.

18. NAME ANY THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD

WOULD
MAKE UP YOUR "DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM"?

Tiger Woods, Jack Nicklaus, Bill Murray.



#### QUICK NINE

- I. FISH, DOG OR CAT? Dog
- 2. SODA, COFFEE OR TEA? Soda
- 3. THE MASTERS, U.S. OPEN OR BRITISH OPEN? British Open
- 4. DOLLAR SPOT, SNOWMOLD OR PYTHIUM? Love them all!
- 5. E-MAIL, SNAIL MAIL OR FACE TO FACE? Face to Face
- 6. DRIVER, WEDGE OR PUTTER? Driver
- 7. DECIDUOUS TREE NEXT TO GREEN, EVERGREEN TREE NEXT TO GREEN OR NO TREE NEXT TO GREEN? No Trees.
- 8. DIRTY DIAPER CHANGER, TEENAGE TAXI DRIVER OR GRANDPARENTS? Taxi Driver
- 9. RAKING WASHOUTS IN BUNKERS, FIXING BALL MARKS AFTER A TOUR-NAMENT OR CLEANING OUT THE WASH PAD GRASS PIT? Fixing ball marks

# The MiGCSA Greater Detroit District invites you to attend the

# THE 43RD ANNUAL BIG EVENT GOLF DAY



#### Monday | October 6, 2008 Pine Lake Country Club

Host Superintendent | Terry Poley

Cost per golfer: \$125.00 (includes lunch, diner, golf, and cart)

Format: 4 person scramble | low net and low gross winners | door prizes | optional skins game | mulligans available for purchase | prizes for closest to pin and long drive | other optional on-course games

Attire: Proper golf attire—no denim, cargo pants or shorts.

Hats are not allowed in the clubhouse and must be worn forward on the golf course. Shirts must be tucked in at all times on the golf course.



#### **AGENDA**

10:00 am Arrival/Registration

Range Available

11:00 am Lunch (box lunches)

Noon Shotgun Start with dinner

and awards to follow

#### **DIRECTIONS**

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North of Long Lake Road, Between Middlebelt and Orchard Lake Road.

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ATTENDEE NAME		HANDICAP	_	
ATTENDEE NAME		HANDICAP	PAYMENT O CHECK ENCLOSED (Made pay	vable to MiGCSA)
ATTENDEE NAME		HANDICAP	CREDIT CARD: O VISA O MAST	
ATTENDEE NAME		HANDICAP	CREDIT CARD NUMBER	
PHONE	FAX		AMOUNT \$	EXP. DATE
EMAIL ADDRESS			SIGNATURE	

#### UNDER THE HOOD

#### DAVE WILLIS

#### **EQUIPMENT MANAGER SPRING LAKE COUNTRY CLUB**

Dave Willis is the Equipment Manager at Spring Lake Country Club and has been for the past 10 years. He works along side superintendent, Kirk Carls. Dave is a self taught equipment technician with almost 16 years experience in the golf industry. Dave was born and raised in the Spring Lake area.

#### HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

I started washing mowers at the age of I4 at Spring Lake Country Club and by the age of 20, I was the equipment manager there.

#### WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUE FACING EQUIPMENT MANAGERS TODAY?

Member's demands for conditioning are always a big issue we deal with. I would also say staying educated on the ever changing technology so that you can troubleshoot and repair the equipment.

#### WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS DEVOTED TO NON-EQUIPMENT RELATED TASKS?

My duties also include overseeing the maintenance of the heating/ cooling units at the clubhouse and the pumps at the pool. We just hired a general maintenance person for the clubhouse, who I oversee. Before we hired this person, I was spending approximately 50 percent of my time away from my equipment duties.

#### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE TOOL IN THE TOOL BOX?

I never go anywhere without my cordless impact.

#### WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

For the past four years have I been involved with competitive garden tractor pulling. If you have ever seen a tractor pull at a county fair it is just like that only on a smaller scale. Very competitive and a lot more to it than meets the eye.

#### IF YOU HAD A CHOICE IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT CAREER CHOICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I would really like to own my own small engine repair business someday.

#### WHAT IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT IS STILL BEING UTILIZED IN YOUR FLEET?

I would say it is our 1974 Cushman Truckster that still runs about 40 mph. They sure don't make them like that anymore.

#### SNAP-ON TOOLS, CRAFTSMEN TOOLS OR KOBALT TOOLS?

Snap-on, I have Snap-On tools that my grandfather gave me and they still look like new.

#### **HUNTING, FISHING OR READING?**

Hunting, every year my dad and I go deer hunting together on Drummond Island.





greatlakesturf@ameritech.net

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Kevin Fuchs (248) 515-9880



#### 2008 NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS SINCE JUNE

NAME	COMPANY	CLASSIFICATION
Gene Kaye		Class AA
Nate Cahill	Woodlands of Van Buren	Class A
Pedro Cuevas	Siga Corporation	Class A
John Ewasek	Rogers City C.C.	Class A
<b>Charles Fisher</b>	Indian Run	Class A
Greg Ordakowski	Links of Novi	Class A
David Plummer	Hickory Creek	Class A
Randall Teichman	The Heathlands G.C.	Class A
David Weidenbach	City of Southfield	Class A
Mark Wildeman	Treetops Resort	Class A
Brad Fry	Harbor Shores G.C.	Class SM
David Moritz	The Wyndate Golf Club	Class SM
Paul Sutter	Apline G.C.	Class SM
James Apsey	Mistwood G.C.	Class C
Ronald Betz	The Wyndgate Golf Club	Class C
Scott Rettmann	Links of Novi	Class C
Terry Kramer	Commerce Corp.	Class Aff
Perry Mundy	Commerce Corp.	Class Aff
Sally Geeting	Briar Hill G.C.	Class I

#### MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

#### **SUMMARY OF CLASSES 8/28/08**

	2008 CURRENT	2007 COMPARISON	PRECENTAGE RETAINED
Class AA	20	20	100%
Class A	267	392	68%
Class SM	56	86	65%
Class C	79	123	64%
Class D	24	23	103%
Class E	20	13	154%
Class AFF	134	62	215%
Class H	12	11	108%
Class SA	3	9	33%
Class R	5	32	16%
Class I	4	3	133%
Class FM	0	0	0%
TOTAL	624	774	81%

#### THE BETTER HALF

# Jay Wheatley

Jay Wheatley is the Assistant Superintendent at Walloon Lake
Country Club. Jay began his golf career raking bunkers at
Walloon Lake and now has 15 years experience. After completing
his education at Michigan State University, he returned to serve
under Superintendent, Dan Bissonette. Jay lives in Petoskey,
Michigan with his wife, Jamie and their son, Andrew James.
When he is not hard at work on the golf course he enjoys
salmon fishing and spending time with his family.



The Rock at Drummond Island Resort. I like the fact that it's in the middle of nowhere and nature is part of the golf course. Deer are the only hazards that get in your way. My favorite golf hole would have to be the 16th at Belvedere Club in Charlevoix, Michigan.

WHAT IS THE TOUGHEST GOLF COURSE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

Crooked Tree in Petoskey, Michigan has a lot of forced carries in the layout.

3. WHAT GOLF COURSE WOULD YOU LOVE TO EXPERIENCE ONCE IN YOUR LIFETIME?

Augusta would be kind of cool to play once in my lifetime.

4. DOES YOUR GOLF COURSE HAVE ANY INTERESTING AND UNIQUE HISTORY?

Ernest Hemingway grew up on the shores of Walloon Lake and some of his famous novels were written here. Professional golfer, Tom Watson won the Club Championship at the age of 14 years old. As one of the oldest Clubs in Michigan, many famous people stayed on Walloon Lake from President Woodrow Wilson to Walter Hagen.



- IF YOU HAD A MULLIGAN IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT CAREER CHOICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE? An attorney so I could play golf and not work there.
- 6. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY GOLF HOLE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE WITHOUT REPERCUSSION, WHICH ONE WOULD BE THE FIRST?

  Sixteen... it's a better place for a down hill inter-tube run.
- 7. WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO YOUR SUPERINTENDENT THAT YOU WORK WITH? There is always tomorrow.
- 8. NAME ANY THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD MAKE UP YOUR "DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM"
  Chevy Chase, Bill Murray and Tom Izzo
- Dealing with golfers that are not well educated in what I do.

  These are the people who think it is easy to grow grass, but at the same time come to you when it dies.
- 10. WHAT IS THE BIGGEST ISSUE FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?



Showing how important assistants can be to the success of a facility and to a superintendent's success.

- 12. WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT? How to eliminate ants on a longer term basis.
- 13. WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS?

I see assistants staying in one place longer with better pay and more education.

14. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS DEVOTED TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT? Fifty percent of my time is spent dealing with employees or

15. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE MECHANIC IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT?

Both positions are very important to a golf courses success.

Mechanics as well as Assistants should be able to step into each other's shoes in certain instances.

mechanical issues.

16. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF WALKING A GOLF COURSE VS. RIDING A GOLF COURSE IN TODAY'S GAME?

> Walking is better but today there is just too many people riding in carts. People are too lazy to walk. Carts are a necessary evil in the business today. That will be that.

17. WHAT IS YOUR
BIGGEST PET PEEVE
CONCERNING GOLF
COURSE ETIQUETTE?
Dropping the flag stick on the green.

18. WOULD YOU RATHER

BE A WELL COMPENSATED ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

OR A POORLY COMPENSATED SUPERINTENDENT?

I would rather be a well compensated assistant then a poorly compensated superintendent. The days of abundant jobs are well behind us. The idea that assistants are trained under someone to become a superintendent is backward thinking. It is as simple as supply and demand. The only way to protect our industry is to compensate all levels of the maintenance department fairly. Turn over only hurts everyone including superintendents and the facilities they work for.

#### QUICK NINE

- I. SPRING, SUMMER OR FALL? Spring
- 2. FISH, DOG OR CAT? Dog
- 3. THE MASTERS, U.S. OPEN OR BRITISH OPEN? The Masters
- 4. CLASSIC GOLF COURSE, MODERN GOLF COURSE OR MODERN/CLASSIC GOLF COURSE? Classic golf course
- 5. LIONS, TIGERS OR RED WINGS? Red Wings
- 6. DOLLAR SPOT, SNOW MOLD OR PYTHIUM? Dollar spot
- COLD BEER, FINE WINE OR MIXED DRINK? Cold beer- Bud Light or should I say Belgium Light
- 8. LOCAL MIGCSA EVENT, GREAT LAKES TRADE EXPO OR GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW? Local event
- 9. DIRTY DIAPER CHANGER, TEENAGE TAXI DRIVER OR GRANDPARENTS?
  Dirty diaper changer







#### IN THE ROUGH

#### TIPPING THE SCALES

BY TRENT BARTMAN

In the middle of farm country in Western Michigan, runs a beautiful stream with soft cascades and swirling pools overflowing with wildlife. Birds live and feed in the trees and underbrush, deer and fox drink from its cool spring-fed waters, and speckled trout dart in and out of the current, feeding on insects and spawning their descendants. In one stretch of this waterway you can also hear the sounds of

people enjoying this oasis golfing and camping. These sounds can be found on the banks of Tyler Creek Golf Course and Campground.

Following a heavy rain during the summer of 2006, there were sounds of panic as over 2,000 fish began floating to the surface and lay motionless in the crevices of its banks. While it was obvious to the residents of the campground and the employees at Tyler Creek, what had happened was not the fault of the golf course. The location of the dying fish put the golf course right in the middle of the proverbial microscope. And although we share the watershed with an exploding dairy farm operation upstream, the connection to our namesake stream was undeniable.

Since the 1960's public perception has condemned our nation's agricultural community for its agronomic practices. Forty six years after the release of Silent Spring, by Rachel Carson, the friction between conservationists and agronomists is still strong. As televised golf tournaments make us the most visible members of the agricultural community, golf courses have received much of the criticism regarding agronomic practices. Although as turf managers we know that positive changes have been made to minimize the risks associated with our industry, many others are skeptical of the reality of these changes.



The fallout from the 2006 event presented Tyler Creek Golf Course and Campground with a unique opportunity. While we were suffering from the odors and inconveniences of the nearby concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO), we now had dead fish as a clear victim of the nearby factory farm's practices. Downstream, the members of Trout Unlimited had previously been enjoying the brown and rainbow trout fishing on their property, the Dolan Preserve.

Our involvement began with the visit from one of these members, Ron Barch. Even Ron was hesitant confronting our management due to the lingering reputation of our industry. Soon new fruitful relationships were underway in the formation of the Tyler Creek Watershed Commission in which we as managers of Tyler Creek Golf Course were active members beginning in the spring of 2007. While it was unclear what action could be taken with concern to the nearby farm, it was clear that a battle could be won in the form of public opinion. With the funds provided by the water-

shed commission and Trout Unlimited, a plan of action to improve the health of the stream was initiated. While the central goal of the effort was to improve the trout habitat following the 2006 fish kill, the indirect effect was to use the attention from the event to improve public opinion of our property.

As new members of Trout Unlimited, we would donate funds (often funds we would see in use back on our property), attend meetings and use the resources of the conservation group. Hiring a contractor who was well respected for other restoration projects in Western Michigan, the watershed commission organized three volunteer days in 2007 where rock and wood structures were built to narrow and speed up the pace on our stretch of the creek. In 2008, we organized our own volunteer day with students from Grand Valley State University's Soil and Water Conservation Society to come and work in the creek. Using rocks from local farm fields, our own rock piles and rocks from an employee's property, as well as using tree brush from an ongoing course project, materials were seldom purchased.

This year we have continued having volunteer days filled with eager workers coming from Lansing, Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, and even a full day of Chicago area Trout Unlimited volunteers. Labor costs are as cheap as the cost of lunch and an occasional round of golf. Also, local elementary and high school students began regular visits to count insects and invertebrates, thus monitoring and learning about the creek habitat. To increase the awareness of the project we sent out a

press release to all of the local and regional media outlets and have had great coverage on television and in newsprint. While many of the areas of attention are not directly a part of the golf course, the final "showcase" area is our I Ith hole where rocks were placed and wood structures are planned. A new golf cart bridge and new sets of tees are underway at the creek on this hole providing a pleasant, babbling window into the effort that we have committed to in and around the creek. Ideally our scorecard for next year will have a picture of this hole on the cover

in the last two years.

Less than one year following our first work in the creek, numbers and size of brown trout have increased. As a result of our productive relationships with Trout Unlimited and the watershed commission, other land owners bordering the stream have allowed work to be done on their sections of the waterway. This spring, Tyler Creek Golf Course and Campground was proud to receive the first "Steward of the River" award presented by the Tyler Creek Watershed Commission.

highlighting the product of the relationships formed

As management of Tyler Creek Golf Course, we took this effort on with a more selfish goal of not only fighting the historically poor opinion of golf course maintenance practices, but also as a piece of our marketing puzzle. Adding the attraction of large, healthy trout has improved our marketing power. While the golf course numbers may not be affected, the effect on the reputation of our property was seen as invaluable. Although we at Tyler Creek may not be able to completely separate ourselves from our cousins in agriculture, we have been able to improve public opinion concerning our stewardship of our environment. By co-operating with the local community, Tyler Creek Golf Course and Campground has turned a devastating event into a great opportunity to practice what we preach and truly be "green lungs against the urban plow" (RTJ Jr.).

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CALL YOUR TERRITORY MANAGER TODAY

# The MiGCSA Greater Detroit District invites you to attend the

# INAUGURAL ASSISTANT GOLF DAY

#### Thursday | October 16, 2008 Boulder Pointe Golf Club

MiGCSA Host Superintendent | Scot Gardiner, CGCS

Current MiGCSA Assistant Superintendent Members are free of charge to this event. Non MiGCSA members \$50.00. ATTENTION ASSISTANTS: Join the MiGCSA as an assistant for \$50.00 and the event is free. Membership applications will be available.

#### **AGENDA**

11:00 am Registration

11:30 am Education Session: "Charting the Future - Engaging Assistant Superintendents"

1:00 pm Golf

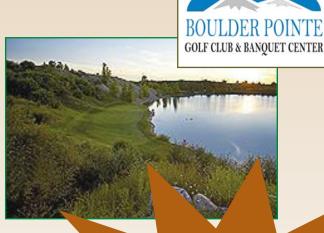
EDUCATION: STEVE RANDALL, GCSAA LIAISON

Price includes: Lunch at the turn and golf with cart

Format: play own ball

Golf attire: No jeans





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REGISTRATION

ATTENDEE NAME		HANDICAP		
ATTENDEE NAME		HANDICAP	PAYMENT O CHECK ENCLOSED (Made po	ayable to MiGCSA)
ATTENDEE NAME		HANDICAP	CREDIT CARD: O VISA O MA	STERCARD
ATTENDEE NAME		HANDICAP	CREDIT CARD NUMBER	
PHONE	FAX		AMOUNT \$	EXP. DATE
EMAIL ADDRESS			SIGNATURE	

#### FROM NATIONAL



# SO...WHAT IS YOUR GCSAA MEMBERSHIP DOING FOR YOU?

BY STEVE RANDALL, GCSAA CHAPTER LIAISON

Value... Many times, this is a loosely used noun. But the Golf Course Superintendent's Association of America puts the strength back into this term. So, how does the GCSAA define value?

Value is getting the most from your membership. Value is being engaged with product and service offerings. Value is knowing the GCSAA, along with the Michigan GCSA is here to help you in your profession. Both the GCSAA and the MiGCSA have programs in place to serve as your guide. I will call it a "vision."

#### SO WHAT IS THE GCSAA DOING ON YOUR BEHALF?

Let's start with advocacy. The GCSAA is working with state and national agencies to fight for facilities across the country. Whether it is water rights, the economic impact of golf, worker's rights or other legislation key to the vitality of the game and the economic success of the facility, GCSAA, along with local chapters, are there for you.

How about outreach? Roughly \$1.3 million has been put in to promote the Class A superintendent by targeting employers and avid influential golfers through promotional efforts on the Golf Channel, influential employer magazines, among others. GCSAA's television ad on the Golf Channel has received great reviews.

Your work is valued. Remember, data gained through surveys issued by Golf Digest and Links Magazine indicates a well maintained facility is far more important than the difficulty of the course.

As a superintendent and member of both the GCSAA and MiGCSA you drive success. Research proves you are most likely the most educated member of the staff at your facility. You are responsible for the highest budget at your facility and the golf course drives the revenue of the pro shop, golf cars, driving range and food and beverage. Success of the facility is at your fingertips!

Your efforts in participating in various GCSAA surveys are vital. This data is being published in various mediums and points out the overall importance the golf course superintendent has within the



industry. The golf course environmental profile project includes everything from turfgrass, landscape and environmental stewardship to water and nutrient use, along with pesticide use. Coming up in 2009, the environmental practices/energy use survey will continue to provide data important when working with industry opposition.

The GCSAA thanks you for participating and providing relevant data. It is proof that superintendents work together, share resources and help provide relevant data crucial to the success of the industry.

So, what are other areas of focus at GCSAA? Mark Woodward recently took over at CEO, replacing Steve Mona. Mark brings a wealth of experience to the position and served as president of the GCSAA in 2004.

The chapter delegates meeting will be held in New Orleans, October 24-26. This is a change from previous years when the event was held in Kansas City. Having New Orleans serve as host will provide the opportunity for members to see the rebuilt New Orleans first hand. The Golf Industry Show will be in New Orleans February 2-7 so the GCSAA is anxious to have members see the city up close and personal.

Membership recruitment and retention is a major focus. New members may become future leaders. Retained members synergize efforts at both the national and chapter levels.

To prove the importance of developing new leaders, Toro and Syngenta have teamed to sponsor the inaugural leadership academy, to be held at GCSAA headquarters September 23-24. 25 chapters have been identified in this first year to enroll a future or potential leader. A tour of GCSAA headquarters along with leadership presentations highlight the event. Keep that in mind for 2009 as the MiGCSA may be asked to participate!

As always, please contact me or any staff member should you have questions. I have only reached the tip of the iceberg when in comes to identifying the services offered to you, as well as explaining how your membership monies are used. The most important fact? Everything is put back into the game and your industry. Tap into the wealth of information. Get as much out of your membership as possible. Engage both the GCSAA and MiGCSA staff to help you. We will answer any question!

Make your membership valuable and have a great remainder to the 2008 season!



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# MiGCSA EVENTS



Mike Normand, Karen O'Dell, Mike Brown, Mark Normand are ready to tee off on the 18th hole of the Sundance Course at A-Ga-Ming Golf Resort.



Adam Ikamas of Crystal Mountain Resort, Paul Emling of Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club, Scott Trbovich, Syngenta and Steve Hammon from Traverse City Golf and Country Club



Everyone setting back for a nice dinner off the grill and prizes presented by Paul Galligan.



Dan Bissonette from Walloon Lake Country Club, Dr. Kevin Frank and Jay Wheatley are cruising in their carts.



AJ Rings, Spartan Distributors; Joel Comstock, Great Lakes Turf; Gabe Ross, Spartan Distributors; Brian Klebba from Grandview Golf Club.



Our hosts for the A-Ga-Ming golf outing, Steve St. James, Superintendent on the Torch Course and Jim Tollefson, CGCS, Superintendent on the Sundance Course.

# AUGUST 18TH AT MAPLE LANE GOLF COURSE

Host superintendent, Paul Kolbe with Dave Pawluk



Dave Pawluk and Aaron McMaster

Aaron McMaster won the Detroit District Superintendent's Championship with a low gross score of 73. Dave Pawluk won the Wolfrom Classic low net portion of the event with a round of 61. Closest to the Pin awards went to Dave Pawluk on hole #3, Doug Palm on hole #5, and Dan Dingman on hole #16. We would like to thank Spartan Distributors for providing everyone who attended with a wonderful lunch. We would also like to thank Midwest Golf & Turf who provided a great steak dinner for everyone, and last but not least we would like to thank Syngenta for providing beverages on that beautiful, hot August day. A great time was had by all and as always there was a tremendous sense of camaraderie among the group. A special thanks goes out to those who helped with the event: Gregg Matthews, Doug Johanningsmeier, Kathy Hilbert, and of course host superintendent Paul Kolbe and everyone at Maple Lane who helped make our day so enjoyable.

Thank you,

MIKE MULKEY CGCS LOCHMOOR CLUB



Doug Palm is being awarded for closest to the Pin by Gregg Matthews.



Dan Dingman is being awarded for closest to the Pin by Gregg Matthews.

KATE M. MOORE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE

OWNERS ASSOCIATION

#### GREEN SIDE UP

# FELLOWSHIP TO IMPROVE PROFITABILITY

The vision of the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association is of a fellowship of owners and operators sharing ideas to improve profitability and staying ahead of changes affecting the golf industry. We are a community of experienced owners and operators of all types and sizes of golf facilities. The MGCOA is charged with the mission to promote and preserve the best interest of the Michigan golf industry. That is a sweeping generalization and a broad task in these trying economic times.

A major focus of the MGCOA is to represent the golf industry legislatively. Intense efforts that put lawmakers on notice about industry issues matters most to owners and operators, especially today, in this economy. We offer a multitude of resources that guide our members and the golf community on legislative issues affecting them.

Every successful golf operation has hands on a variety of tools from POS systems, turf equipment, F & B procurement to human resource management. The NGCOA (National Golf Course Owners Association) and the GCSAA realized this crossover relationship some years ago when creating the Golf Industry Show, combining the trade shows of both organizations. Here in Michigan, the Michigan Section PGA, MiGCSA, GAM and the MGCOA have partnered on many projects realizing there is crossover for many individuals at a given property within our industry. This knowledge allows each of our organizations to be a resource so the individual golf property has as much opportunity for success as possible.

The Michigan Golf Course Owners Association is dedicated to helping the golf industry. Whether it's educational seminars, networking opportunities, group purchasing discounts, or protecting your business at the Capitol, we're here to see all golf courses in the State succeed. The MGCOA serves exclusively to promote, protect and educate members of the golf industry in our beautiful State of Michigan.

Best wishes for continued sunny skies in 2008 and an early spring in 2009.

KATE M. MOORE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Voice: 517.482.4312 Fax: 517.267.8984 MI Toll Free 1.800.860.8575 General Contact E-mail: MGCOA@mgcoa.org

#### THANK YOU TO MIGCSA FOR **MONEY DONATED FROM THE CAN-AM GOLF TOURNAMENT**

On behalf of the Ontario Turfgrass Research Foundation (OTRF), I would like to take this opportunity to thank the MiGCSA for their generous donation to support turfgrass research. Your commitment, when pooled with other industry contributors, ensures a strong research team based at the Guelph Turfgrass Institute. Ultimately, our supporters benefit from this financial assistance by knowing that turf research is continued. In time, valuable and useful information for improved turf production will be available for your industry.

Thank you for your generous support of the OTRF initiatives by pledging a corporate donation to ensure Ontario's Turfgrass industry continues to grow through research and ultimately, by providing consumers with new and enhanced varieties of turf.

In appreciation, KEVIN FALLS, PRESIDENT, OTRF

#### **CONGRATULATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

The MiGCSA would like to thank all applicants to the 2008 Heritage Scholarship. Congratulations to the winners.

Mid-District Winner: Rebecca Moore, daughter of James Moore Western Winner: Hannah Richter, daughter of Paul Richter

> Matthew Hesselink, son of Tim Hesselink Sara Steinhurst, daughter of Robert Steinhurst

Greater Detroit Winner: Lorena Nowakowski, daughter of

John Nowakowski.

#### **BERNHARD & CO. TO SEND 10 GCSAA CLASS A MEMBERS TO ENGLAND... FREE!**

Enter today to win a free trip to England and see how it's done on the other side of the pond!

For the third year running, Bernhard and Company, manufacturers of Express Dual and Anglemaster grinders, is sending 10 GCSAA Class A members to the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association's (BIGGA) Turf Management Exhibition (BTME), January, 18 - 22, 2009 in Harrogate, England.

Winners will have the opportunity to attend the conference and exhibition, participate in education seminars, network with greenkeepers from the UK and Europe, and visit golf courses in England.

Register online at http://www.bernhard.co.uk/gcsaa-registration.0.html or call (888) 474-6348. Deadline for applications is November 14th, 2008. Bernhard and Company will notify the winners by December 5th, 2008. Bernhard and Company will cover expenses for airfare, accommodation, conference registration, education seminars and transportation.

#### **CORRECTION FROM SUMMER 2008 ISSUE**

Matthew Kraemer is the superintendent at Pine Trace Golf Club in Rochester Hills, Michigan.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### **OCTOBER**

NEW **EVENT**  Northern Winner:

Monday, Oct. 6 The Greater Detroit District Big Event, Pine Lake Country Club Wednesday, Oct. 8 Traverse City G & CC: Northern Tuck Tate Championship, I p.m. Shotgun Tuesday, Oct. 14 Pilgrim's Run Country Club: Mid & Western District Championship, 10 a.m. Shotgun Ist Annual Assistants Golf Day, Boulder Pointe Golf Club, Oxford, MI Thursday, Oct. 16

Education at 11:30 a.m., golf at 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 22 Technicians Seminar, Crystal Mountain, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 22 Technicians Seminar, Gaylord CANCELED Monday, Oct. 27 Greater Detroit Annual Meeting CANCELED

#### **DECEMBER**

Tuesday, Dec. 2 Northern Christmas Party Thursday, Dec. 4 Greater Detroit Meeting Friday, Dec. 12 Cascade's Sports Bar: Western District Christmas Gathering Saturday, Dec. 13 Greater Detroit Christmas Party Wednesday, Dec. 17 Mid District Christmas Party





# 2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DUES STATEMENT

MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

3225 West St. Joseph
Lansing, MI 48917
Phone: (517)327-9207
Fax: (517)321-0495
www.MiGCSA.org

#### PREFERRED MAILING ADDRESS:

- O Home
- O Work

#### DISTRICT:

- O Greater Detroit
- O Mid
- O Northern
- O Western

#### **MEMBER SINCE:**

#### PREFERRED COMMUNICATION:

- O E-Mail
- O Fax
- O Postal

#### WILL YOU VOLUNTEER FOR A COMMITTEE?

- O Yes
- O No

#### TYPE OF OPERATION:

- O Private
- O Public
- O Municipality

#### NUMBER OF GOLF HOLES MAINTAINED:

PAYMENT INFORMATION

NAME			
CGCS: O Yes			
	GCSAA Member #		
HOME ADDRESS			
СІТҮ		STATE	POSTAL CODE
HOME PHONE		CELL PHONE	SPOUSE
COMPANY		TITLE OF POSITION	
COMPANY ADDRES	SS		
CITY		STATE	POSTAL CODE
WORK PHONE		FAX	
EMAIL		WEBSITE	
PLEASE All membership of	web site for the Detailed Definition	PROPRIATE MI Membership Committee and	approved by the Board of Directors
PLEASE All membership of the seded, check www.migcsa.org	categories will be reviewed by the web site for the Detailed Definition	PROPRIATE MI Membership Committee and	approved by the Board of Directors
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PLEASE All membership of the needed, check	categories will be reviewed by the web site for the Detailed Definition g Life Member Golf Course Superintendent Superintendent Member Assistant Golf Course Superi	PROPRIATE MI Membership Committee and ns of the following Classes a  = \$0 t = \$75 = \$75 intendent = \$50	approved by the Board of Directors

= \$0

= \$37.50

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SIGNATURE				
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O Class E

O Class SA

O Class I

O Class R

O Class FM

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Inactive

Retired

Student /Associate

Facility Membership

## PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

= \$25 (Student or employee that doesn't fit a listed class)

= Will be set by the Board per Individual Case

= Will be set by the Board per Individual Case

MiGCSA 3225 W. St. Joseph Lansing, MI 48917 www.MiGCSA.org Anthracnose Brown Patch Copper Spot Dollar Spot

syngenta Microdochium Patch Gray Leaf Spot

Melting Out Leaf Spot Patch Gray Leaf Spot

Pink Patch Rust Stem Ru

Brown Patch Copper Sp

Patch Gray Leaf Spot Ma

Mildew Red Thread Pin

Smut Anthracnose Brov

Spot Microdochium Patch

#### Control 13 major diseases. How lucky is that?

Efficient and economical, Concert® fungicide prevents and controls 13 prevalent turf diseases. Dollar spot, brown patch, and anthracnose are just a few of the diseases controlled with dual modes of action: contact and systemic. The performance of Concert makes it an attractive option to use on greens and fairways.

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