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COURSE CONDITIONS

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MIGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 7/27/10

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL 2009 MEMBERSHIP
Class AA	25	20
Class A	242	267
Class SM	62	64
Class C	86	84
Class D	42	40
Class E	20	20
Class AFF	128	117
Class H	11	10
Class SA	8	9
Class R	10	6
Class I	1	5
Class FM	0	0
TOTAL	635	642

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



RON DAHLIN

It is already Summer of 2010, Wow! Congratulations for making it to the "Best" season in Michigan. It is a time of outside activity and wonderfully long days that start with beautiful sunrises. A time when our course are filled with those enjoying the fruits of all of the planning and work that we do. The thoughts of how long that winter was have faded. Who could of guessed that would turn into the heat and humidity that was dished out in July? The bustle of getting the golf course ready for the 2010 season has calmed down to a dull roar and we are enjoying the almost routine days of mid-season. We all empathize with those who had to contend with the ugliness that winter handed out but pat you on the back as you now look out at that strong stand of new grass. Take pride in knowing that your talents and dedication produced those great playing conditions that your clients desired.

Your organization is standing strong as well. We find ourselves on solid financial ground, strongly supported by our Members, our Industry Partners and our Allied Associations. Yes, great things are happening in Michigan! And here is but one example; The CEO and the president of the GCSAA decided that they would like to come here to see why the MiGCSA works so well. They asked if they could hold their summer board meeting at Crystal Mountain Resort and they asked the board of directors of the MiGCSA to join them. It was a golden opportunity to introduce to the national board those men who guide your organization. The potential to get a MiGCSA member back into the national spotlight is great! Please read more on page 16 in the update on this important event.

Take the time today to plug 1-888-3MiGCSA (1-888-364-4272) into your cell phone. It is a number that gives you direct access to your board of directors and access to the answers on any association question as well. It is also a great way to let your board know if you would like to become involved with your association at a new level.

Have a wonderful last half of summer and don't forget to dedicate time just for yourself and your family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ron M. Dahlin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

RON M. DAHLIN, CGCS
'THE MEADOWS GOLF CLUB' AT GVSU

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF ANTHRACNOSE DISEASE ON ANNUAL BLUEGRASS PUTTING GREEN TURF

BY CHARLES SCHMID M.S., JAMES MURPHY, PH.D., BRUCE CLARKE, PH.D.
DEPT. OF PLANT BIOLOGY & PATHOLOGY, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ

Anthracnose (caused by *Colletotrichum cereale*) is a fungal disease of cool-season turf that occurs throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe, but is particularly damaging on weakened annual bluegrass (ABG; *Poa annua*) turf (Smiley et al., 2005). Anthracnose was identified as early as 1928 on ABG turf in New Jersey (Sprague and Eval, 1930). However, anthracnose was not a major issue on ABG until two decades ago when the frequency and severity of anthracnose epiphytotic increased. The proliferation of this disease has been associated with some of the management practices adopted to improve playability such as lower mowing heights and low nitrogen fertility.

C. cereale persists in turf in infected plant material or as a saprophyte in thatch and can become pathogenic when optimal environmental conditions coincide with plant stress. Most often, severe disease outbreaks occur during warm, humid weather but may also occur throughout the year. Symptoms of the disease first appear as orange to yellow – colored spots that range in diameter from 0.25 - 0.5 inches. The spots may coalesce to form large, irregular patches of infected turf as the disease progresses (Fig. 1). Infested tissue is often covered by distinctive black acervuli (fruiting bodies; Fig. 2 & 3) that produce numerous conidia and dark hair-like structures known as setae (Fig. 4) (Smiley et al., 2005).



Fig. 1

As mentioned previously, several common management practices influence the severity of anthracnose including N fertilization, mowing, rolling, chemical plant growth regulation, verticutting, topdressing and irrigation. The turfgrass research program at Rutgers University



Fig. 3



Fig. 2

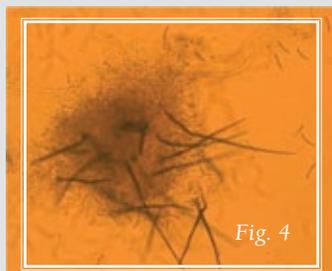


Fig. 4

has investigated these important cultural management practices over the past seven years. This research was possible with contributions from many people including Dr. Bruce Clarke (turfgrass pathologist at Rutgers), Dr. John Inguagiato (turfgrass pathologist at University of Connecticut), Mr. Joseph Roberts, and Mr. James Hempfling (both graduate students at Rutgers). Ultimately, the goal of this continuing research project is to develop a set of best management practices (BMPs) for anthracnose disease control on ABG putting green turf. This article will summarize our current understanding of BMPs for this disease.

Nitrogen Fertilization

Nitrogen fertilization is one of the most important cultural management practices that influence anthracnose severity. Inadequately or excessively fertilized turf is more likely to be affected by anthracnose due to inhibited growth and reduced tolerance to environmental stress (Turgeon, 2008; Inguagiato, 2008). Nitrogen fertilization should be applied to maintain turf vigor without over-fertilizing.

Findings from a recently completed study indicate that nitrogen fertilization at 0.1 lbs 1000-ft⁻² every 7-d or 0.2 lbs 1000-ft⁻² every 14-d during the growing season had the greatest reduction in anthracnose severity compared to lower rate N fertilization treatments. The same study also demonstrated that N fertilization initiated before symptoms of the disease (mid-May) resulted in reduced anthracnose severity compared to N treatments that began at the onset of disease (mid-June), most likely due to the fact that more cumulative N was applied throughout the season when initiating N fertilization in mid-May. These findings indicate that greater rates of soluble N throughout the growing season can help to reduce anthracnose severity.

Currently, we are conducting three studies that further investigate N fertility. The objectives include examining the effects of:

- i. High-rate soluble-N fertilization during the growing season,
- ii. Sources of soluble-N during the growing season, and
- iii. Annual N-programming factors on anthracnose severity.

The annual N-programming study (Fig. 5) was designed to investigate interactions between the factors of:

- i. Season of granular-N applications,
- ii. Granular-N rate, and
- iii. Soluble-N rate during the growing season.

Mowing and Rolling Practices

Over the past two decades, lower cutting heights, increased mowing frequencies and light-weight rolling of putting greens have been adopted to attain increased green speed (ball-roll distance). It has been hypothesized that frequent use of double-cutting and rolling to improve playability intensifies wounding of leaf tissue, increases plant stress and possibly enhances susceptibility to anthracnose.

Research conducted in 2005 found that increasing mowing height by as little as 0.015-inch (0.110 to 0.125 inch or 0.125 to 0.141 inch using a fixed-head mower) can dramatically reduce anthracnose severity (Inguagiato et al. 2009). Contrary to speculation, neither increased mowing frequency (daily double-cutting) nor lightweight rolling (every other day) increased anthracnose severity. In fact, these factors occasionally caused a slight reduced in anthracnose severity under moderate disease pressure.

Therefore, we recommend the use of increased mowing frequency and lightweight rolling to replace lower mowing heights as the primary method to increase or maintain green speed (ball-roll distance) and avoid an increase in anthracnose severity.

Plant Growth Regulators

Plant growth regulators (PGR) such as mefluidide (Embark), ethephon (Proxy), and trinexapac-ethyl (Primo MAXX) are commonly used to suppress seedhead formation, increase turf density and improve uniformity of putting green turf. Research evaluating trinexapac-ethyl (applied at 0.125 fl. oz. 1000-ft⁻² every 14-d) and split applications of mefluidide (applied two weeks apart in April at 0.69 fl. oz. 1000-ft⁻²) had inconsistent effects on anthracnose but did not significantly increase disease severity (Inguagiato et al., 2008). Interestingly, plots that received the combination of trinexapac-ethyl and mefluidide sometimes reduced anthracnose severity compared to plots that only received one of these PGRs during the last two years of the study. In other research trials, the use of ethephon (twice in the spring at the label rate) and trinexapac-ethyl (at rates ranging from 0.1 to 0.2 fl. oz. 1000-ft⁻² every 7- or 14-d) have not increased and occasionally reduced disease severity.

Therefore, the use of these PGRs to suppress seedhead formation, increase turf density, and improve uniformity of putting green turf is consistent with BMPs for the management of anthracnose.

Topdressing

Sand topdressing is a practice commonly used to manage organic matter accumulation and smooth putting surfaces. Some have suggested that topdressing operations could cause injury to the plant and thus contribute to anthracnose epiphytotic. Research was conducted at Rutgers to determine the effect of rate and frequency of sand topdressing on anthracnose severity (Fig. 6). Initially, topdressing slightly increased anthracnose, but as the disease progressed and topdressing sand accumulated in the soil profile disease severity was reduced. The



Fig. 6

greatest reduction in disease severity was observed in plots that received light, frequent applications of topdressing sand (every 7- or 14-d at 1 or 2 ft³ 1000-ft⁻²). It is thought that anthracnose severity was reduced because topdressing provides a protective layer of sand around the crown, which slightly raises the effective cutting height and provides a better growing environment. Plots topdressed less frequently (every 21- or 42-d) and at a greater rate (4 ft³ 1000-ft⁻²) did not have as rapid a reduction in disease severity compared to light, frequent topdressing; however, disease severity was reduced by August compared to non-topdressed plots.

Sand incorporation techniques (stiff or soft bristled broom, light-weight vibratory rolling and non-incorporated) were also studied to assess any effects on anthracnose severity. Results indicate that incorporation method had no effect on anthracnose severity; therefore, methods that best incorporate sand without severely damaging the turf should be used. Moreover, a recent study indicated that foot (golf shoe) traffic over turf topdressed with sand every 7-d did not increase anthracnose; in fact, foot traffic and topdressing decreased disease severity and improved turfgrass quality.

Two additional topdressing studies have recently been initiated with the objectives of determining:

- i. Whether infrequent topdressing applied at the initiation of disease symptoms affects anthracnose severity and
- ii. Whether spring topdressing can affect anthracnose or influence the effects of summer topdressing on the severity of this disease.

Fig. 5



Irrigation

Proper irrigation management is vital to limit disease incidence, maintain wear tolerance, and limit the susceptibility to environmental stresses. A trial was established to determine the effect of irrigation quantity (daily replacement of 100%, 80%, 60% and 40% of reference evapotranspiration, ET_0) on anthracnose severity. Greater anthracnose severity and poorer turf quality was observed on ABG that was consistently subjected to wilt stress (40% ET_0) or maintained at high soil wetness (100% ET_0). Irrigation that replaced 80% or 60% ET_0 with supplemental syringing (hand watering) to minimize drought stress yet allowed the soil to dry provided the best turf quality and lowest disease severity.

Summary

Cultural management practices such as low-rate frequent applications of soluble-N fertilizer from late spring through the growing season can reduce anthracnose severity. If feasible, replace a lower mowing height strategy with double-cutting and/or lightweight rolling at a higher mowing height to improve green speed and reduce anthracnose severity. PGRs such as Embark, Proxy and Primo can be safely used to suppress seedhead, reduce vegetative growth and improve overall quality of turf. Weekly or bi-weekly applications of topdressing sand will smooth the playing surface, protect the crown and reduce anthracnose severity. Finally, irrigation practices should limit wilt stress yet allow the soil to dry (avoiding overwatering and saturated soil) to decrease anthracnose severity.

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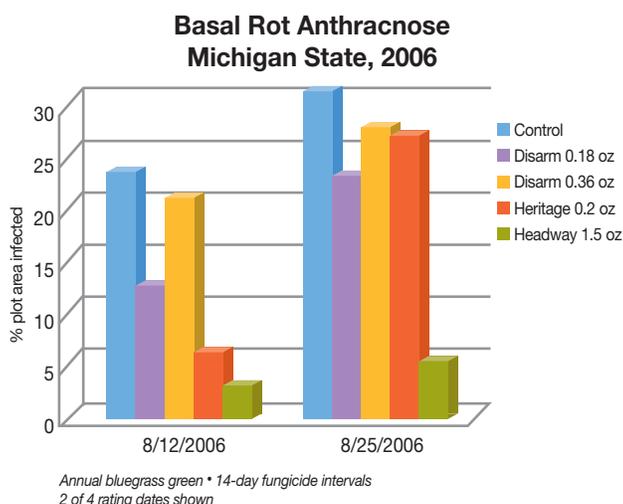
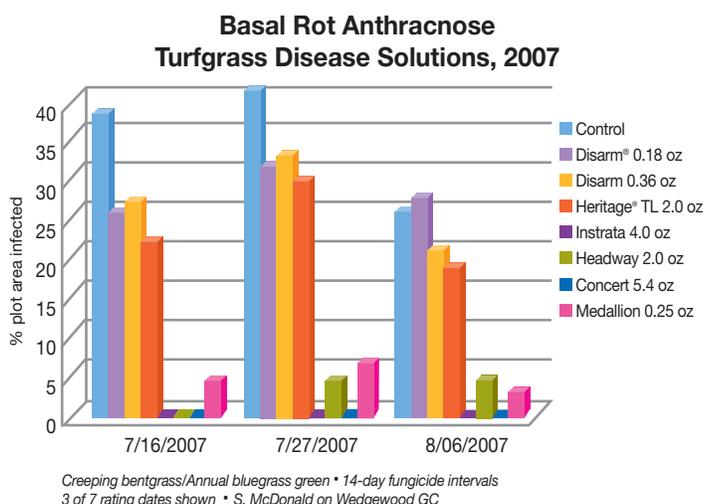
Because of increasing customer demands for closely mowed, firm, and fast-playing surfaces, anthracnose is becoming one of the most severe and difficult to treat diseases of *Poa annua* and creeping bentgrass. Reducing turfgrass stress in conjunction with a sound preventive fungicide program is essential for managing anthracnose. Headway®, Instrata®, Concert®, and Medallion® fungicides are all strong options for season-long anthracnose control.

Below is a summary of current management practices for controlling anthracnose, as well as links that offer more in-depth information.

You can view research demonstrating the efficacy against anthracnose for the fungicides mentioned at right at <http://bit.ly/AnthracnoseControl> (case sensitive).

Anthracnose Application Rates

Product	Rate per 1,000 ft ²
Headway	1.5–3.0 fl oz
Instrata	2.75–6.0 fl oz
Concert	4.5–5.5 fl oz
Medallion	0.25–0.50 oz
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INDUSTRY PARTNER APPRECIATION SCRAMBLE RECAP

On a windy and chilly start the second annual Industry Appreciation scramble hosted almost 60 MiGCSA members at Kalamazoo Country Club. This was a 5 person tough man scramble hosted and set up by MiGCSA Past President John Fulling, CGCS. The day got off to a great start with current MiGCSA President Ron Dahlin, CGCS in a presentation to the supporting companies and partners that help the MiGCSA operate and to keep our membership dues and event cost to some of the lowest in the country. Ron was followed by comments from MiGCSA Past President and current Industry Partner Chair Steve Hammon. The staff at Kalamazoo served a fantastic buffet lunch and then the tough man scramble began. The pin placements were treacherous and the early spring conditions were fantastic. And the weather turned after nine holes, it was a great day for golf and to give our thanks to the MiGCSA Industry Partners. Congratulations to the team of Scott Trbovich, Craig Kooienga, Mike Leavitt, and Lee Collins who won the only skin in the entire group. A special thanks to MiGCSA members and Kalamazoo Country Club staff Duane Daam, Vern Slager, Glenn Hokenmeier, and Heath Bronkema. PGA Professional Dick Stewart and his staff had everything ready for a great day at a great golf course. Please plan on joining the MiGCSA at our next golf event at historic Point O' Woods Country Club in Benton Harbor where Ron Fox, CGCS will host the Spring Opener Scramble on April 26th.

TOP LEFT PHOTO: Jon Shreve, Doug Palm, Jim Higgs, Tom Stark and Dave Plummer; SECOND DOWN: Paul Holmes, Dan Bissonette, Mike Allison, Mike Rosen, and Tom Brogger

SAGINAW GOLF RECAP

On Monday July 19th over 40 MiGCSA members were treated to a great day of golf, a fantastic cookout, on a beautiful invitational quality golf course at Saginaw Country Club. The event for the day was a net best two of four best ball that saw Matt Van Acker, Mark Fink, Eric Cowles, and Scott Bowersox take home the top team honors. Dr. Kevin Frank won the closest to the pin with a great shot on the Par 3 12th hole. Did he make the putt? You'll have to ask him. The MiGCSA would like to thank Rob Steger and his staff for providing our members with a fantastic venue for our meeting. Thanks to David Tokarsky, PGA professional for helping with scoring and especially for the pizza's that he purchased for us after the event, and Gary Minard CCM the general manager and all of his staff for the fantastic cookout that awaited our members as they were making their turn. Finally, thank you to all of our members and guests that attended, we hope to see you at one of our fall fundraisers.



Dr. Kevin Frank, Doug Johanningsmeier, MiGCSA Secretary/Treasurer Jay Eccleton, CGCS, and Dr Thom Nikolai



Caption 2



Caption 2

3RD ANNUAL MiGCSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE FROM BUCK'S RUN

Sixty one players gathered at Buck's Run on a great August day to enjoy each others company and vie for the coveted MiGCSA state championship trophy. The day dawned with the sun masquerading as a huge ball of fire in the sky and the relative humidity trying hard to hit triple digits. While we were only 20 miles from St Louis, Michigan it felt more like we were 20 miles from St Louis, Missouri.

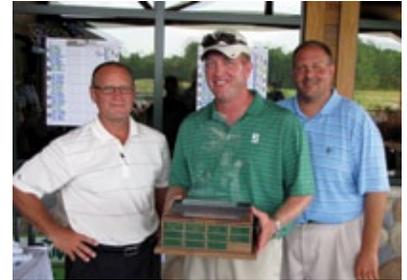
The format for the event was designed to allow everyone a chance at the championship honors and yet allow for a great team event as well. Low gross score was used to crown a champion and a 2 best ball of 4 team score using handicaps was used to crown a team champion and a runner up. First place with a score of 122 went to the team of Rick Hakken, Lowell Weaver, Ted Oviatt & Chris Wilczynski followed by a 123 turned in by the team of AJ Rings, Gabe Ross, Steve Fiorillo & Bob Stipcak. Much to Jay's dismay a new champion was crowned on this day. While Jim Bluck and Mike Leavitt charged hard with even par scores of 72 they could not best the 2 under par score of 70 posted by Dr. Kevin Frank.

A team skins game was played and all of the teams participated in the quest for one of the 5 net skins that were paid out;

Hole #1 (net 6) to the team of Lynch, Welp, Tuckerman & Haack
 Hole #3 (net 7) to the team of Farah, Higgs, Harwood & Pattinson
 Hole #9 (net 5) to the team of Kooienga, Leavitt, Osborn & Osborn
 Hole #11 (net 5) to the team of Carroll, McVetty, Grills & Peckens
 Hole #12 (net 7) to the team of Hopkins, Bluck, Falconer & Mitchelson

The closest to the pin on #8 was won by Derek Carroll who graciously accepted the honor.

Thank you to superintendent/general manager Jeff Sweet, CGCS and professional Jon Conklin and the staff of the club for hosting what was a fantastic event. A special thank you to the wait staff for keeping us in cool beverages during the post event wrap-up held on the patio overlooking #9 and #18 green.



MiGCSA President Ron Dahlin, CGCS, 2010 State Championship winner Dr. Kevin Frank, and MiGCSA Past President/Events Czar John Fulling, CGCS

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JOHN DEERE
GOLF

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A FULL ROUND



JEFF SWEET CGCS

Jeff Sweet, CGCS, has been the superintendent at Bucks Run Golf Course in Mount Pleasant, Mich. for 11 years and a GM since 2008. The course was designed by Architect Jerry Matthews. Bucks Run received 4-½ stars out of a possible 5, in Golf Digest's Places to Play in 04/05, 06/07 and 08/09. It was 2010 Golf World Readers Choice #30 best public golf course in country. The course also received a Top 50 ranking for "Course Condition", "Pace of Play", and "Service". Bucks Run has hosted three United States Amateur qualifiers, and four Powerbilt Junior Tour events since it's opening.

Jeff received his Bachelors of Science – Crop and Soil Science, Turfgrass mgt. from Michigan State University. He resides in Mount Pleasant with wife of eight years (nine in November), Melissa, and daughters Alexis (23 months, will be 2 on Sept 19) and Ava 3 months.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

Just by chance. Grew up on a farm and loved working outside, found out MSU had a turf program and I thought that would be a pretty cool profession. Enrolled in MSU to study crop and soil science/turf mgt. I had never worked on a course before enrolling.

WHERE WAS THE FIRST COURSE YOU WORKED ON?

Barton Hills Country Club

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME?

I don't think that it is a huge issue, most golfers know that they spend a tremendous amount of money to get those conditions. I admire what they do down there. That is the top of the top in terms of turf management.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Budget shortages. We have cut labor and fertilizer expense. We don't get as many projects done such as drainage, we'll spot edge bunkers as needed instead of doing the entire course at once. I have gone to soluble urea on fairways and have good success while keeping good conditions.



WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

At Bucks Run. I work for a great family and organization. The Fisher family owns Bucks Run. I have been here since 1999 when it was under construction. I was relatively young when they hired me so I felt they took a chance on me so I try to give them the best everyday. We have a great relationship and they respect what we do.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

John Seefeldt and Mark Magee

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF CLUB IN THE BAG?

My Scotty Cameron putter.

HOW DO YOU RATE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?

We have one of the biggest roles if not the biggest in the industry. Golfers may not know that quite yet but I feel the decision makers know that we take care of their biggest asset and we are an integral part of the success or failure of an operation.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?

Less and less people are fixing ball marks. Also less people follow cart restrictions or direction.

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

Discounted greens fees.

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

Assistant's are pivotal in the success of a Superintendent. They need to try to learn as much as possible and realize what they learned in school or at another golf course might not work where you are at. Be open to change. My assistant Dudley Straugh has taken on everything that I give him and does a good job.

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

I feel that they are one of the most important people at a facility. Ron Sanders is my mechanic and he was my first hire. He does a great job and I am very thankful to have him. We tend to even each other out at times.

PLEASE DESCRIBE IN DETAIL ONE TRUE FUNNY STORY FROM YOUR CAREER THAT YOU SHARE OFTEN WHEN IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY.

My first year in the industry at Barton Hills. Mark Jackson (Timber Chase) was driving the Cushman that I was riding in. I was talking to him not really paying attention. He made a hard left with the cart, I continued to go straight on my chest sliding in the dew. I stopped near the feet of a four some of ladies. Mark and I really had a great time that summer. We worked hard too though, Tim.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Labor shortages. More growth regulators, less fertilizer have enabled us to mow tees, approaches and fairways twice per week instead of three. We still roll greens everyday so sometimes we do not rake bunkers.

**QUICK NINE**

1. **SPRING, SUMMER OR FALL?** Summer
2. **THE MASTERS, U.S. OPEN OR BRITISH OPEN?** The Masters
3. **CLASSIC GOLF COURSE, MODERN GOLF COURSE OR MODERN/CLASSIC GOLF COURSE?** Modern/classic
4. **DOLLAR SPOT, SNOWMOLD OR PYTHIUM?** Dollar spot
5. **COLD BEER, FINE WINE OR MIXED DRINK?** Bourbon or Budweiser
6. **E-MAIL, SNAIL MAIL OR FACE TO FACE?** E-mail
7. **DRIVER, WEDGE OR PUTTER?** Putter
8. **TITLIEST, NIKE OR CALLAWAY?** Titliest
9. **MOWING GREENS, MOWING FAIRWAYS OR MOWING ROUGH?** Greens

WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Checking the course in the morning with my dog Turf. Turf is a Vizsla and has been with me since grow in, he's 11 years old. He comes to work with me everyday and is a great dog. He is fighting cancer right now so I don't have much time with him left. Hopefully one more season.

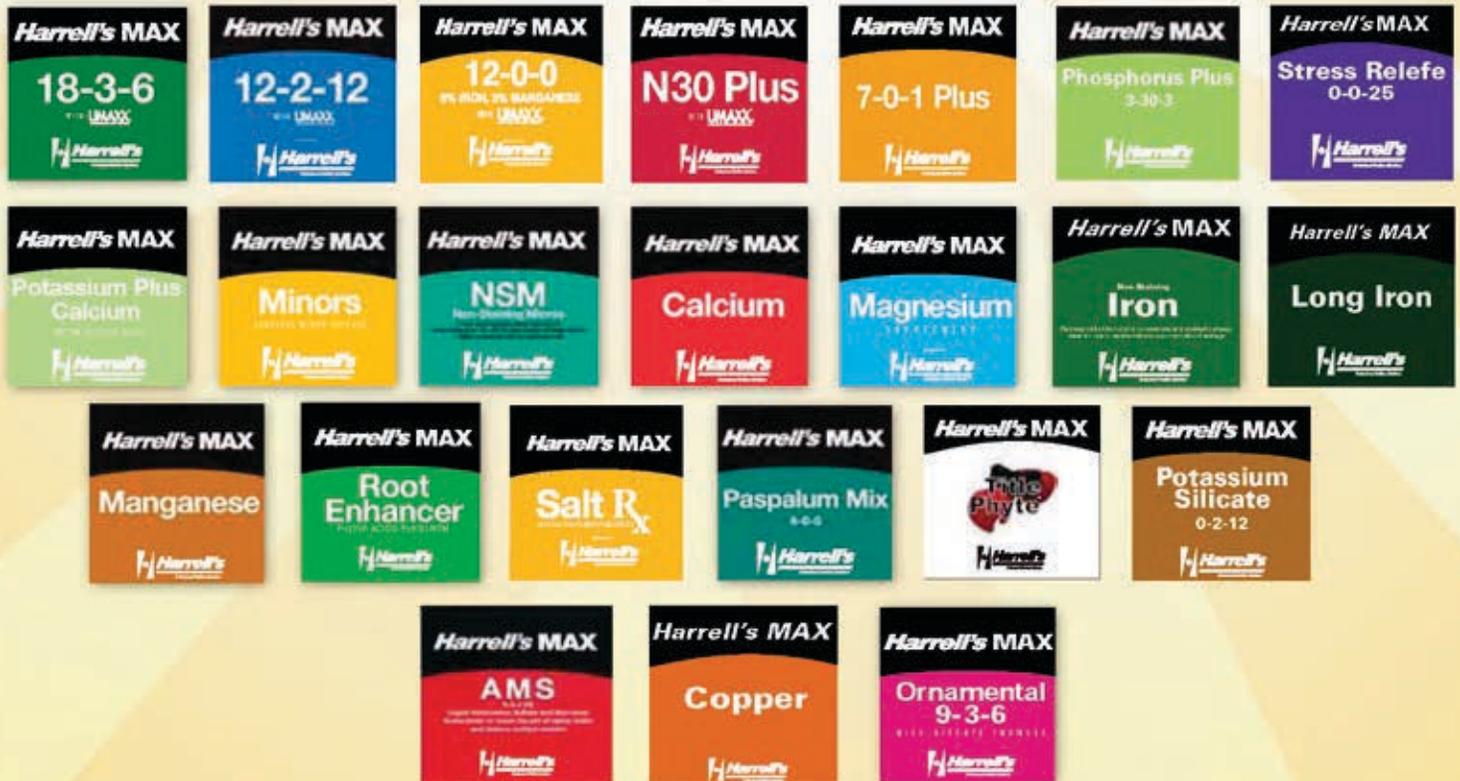
WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS DEVOTED TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

60 to 70%. I am also the General Manager so I spend time at the clubhouse and I have a fair amount of paper work and reports to review or prepare.

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FOREST LAKE COUNTRY CLUB SHOP TALK

On Monday, April 19, Assistant Superintendents from the Detroit area came together for a shop talk at Forest Lake Country Club. Host Superintendent Fritz McMullen and his Assistant Ryan Moore welcomed the assistants to their maintenance facility where he gave them an update on their ongoing fuel tank construction project. Fritz went through the planning and implementation aspects of the project and also gave his tips on working with all the parties involved to maintain efficiency and ensure project completion. Fritz went on to share his thoughts on how to run a maintenance facility

and also gave his insights on the industry based on his thirty plus years of experience. After a pizza dinner supplied by Fritz, the assistants were given a tour of Forest Lakes maintenance facilities and fuel tank construction site. The assistants were then offered to get in a few holes of golf before the sun set. A big thanks is in order for Fritz and Ryan for their hospitality. Their time, thoughts and food were greatly appreciated. All assistants are welcome these shop talks, we hope to see you at the next one.

FRANKLIN HILLS SHOP TALK

On Tuesday, May 18, assistant superintendents from the Detroit area came together for a shop talk at Franklin Hills Country Club. Host assistant superintendent Dave Makulski welcomed the assistants to the maintenance facility where he gave an overview of the technology that Franklin Hills employs to monitor the moisture levels in their greens. Dave explained the use of the in-ground moisture sensors that they have installed on three of Franklin Hill's greens. He also went through how they use a Fieldscout moisture meter in their everyday use to aid in handwatering. All of the attending assistants were able to give and take ideas and techniques that they use for monitoring greens moisture. After a pizza dinner supplied by Franklin Hills, the assistants were given a tour of Franklin Hill's maintenance facility. These tours are always beneficial to everyone that attends, each person comes

away with at least one idea that they can bring back to their course to make things run more efficient to produce a better product to their golfers. A big thanks is in order to Dave and Franklin Hills for their hospitality. All assistants are welcome and encouraged to attend the shop talks; we hope to see you at the next one. Keep your ears and calendars open for future shop talks in the Detroit area. We are currently planning two more shop talks for August and September. Also, mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Assistant Golf Day on Monday, October 18th at the Emerald in St. Johns. This promises to be a great opportunity for camaraderie, education and even a little golf. Stay tuned for more details.



MIGCSA AND GCSAA BOARDS MEET

BY RON DAHLIN, CGCS, MIGCSA PRESIDENT

Your MiGCSA board of directors was invited to join in the GCSAA summer board meeting held in mid July this year. Not only was the honor accepted but the GCSAA board and select staff traveled to Michigan to meet. Initial discussions started in December of 2009 at an informal gathering hosted by John Deere Golf in Palm Springs, California and it was soon decided that the meeting would take place at Crystal Mountain Resort near Thompsonville Michigan. The golf and meetings were hosted by VP Adam Ikamas, CGCS and the great staff at the resort. Despite the timing of mid July, the majority of the MiGCSA board was able to attend along with their significant others and children.

For two days the board was able to meet formally and informally to discuss matters ranging from the current state of the GCSAA and the MiGCSA to where we think we can put our efforts to make both stronger organizations in the future. It was a pleasure to let your national and state leaders spend time and share ideas. To have President Jim Fitzroy, CGCS, the officers and directors of the GCSAA board in Michigan for a nearly a week and accompanying your MiGCSA officers and board of directors for 2 full days was an indication of the national leadership the Michigan Chapter continues



GCSAA President Jim Fitzroy, CGCS and MiGCSA President Ron Dahlin, CGCS address both boards in the joint meeting.



Pete Grass, CGCS and Rhett Evans Interim, GCSAA CEO



Laura Queen, Sandy Queen, CGCS, and Past GCSAA President Jerry Faubel, CGCS

to hold and shows that others are looking to accomplish the same level of excellence. Discussion included the consolidation of chapters, how we are able to keep the district influence yet allow all members to attend any event, the role of the GCSAA field staff and specifically Steve Randall in helping to move our chapter forward. We were introduced to interim GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans and after a few moments we knew that we are currently in very capable hands at headquarters despite the change in leadership that we find ourselves. Informal discussions were held at a reception and dinner whose guest list included allied partners such as Kate Moore from the MGCOA, members of the turf team from MSU, representatives from the MiDNR&E and MiDEQ along with others from the GCSAA including Greg Lyman past GCSAA President Jerry Fauble, CGCS.

While the board members spent time in discussions the wives and children that were able to join in were treated to a great host of activities designed to allow for a little down time and some invigoration. Some worked hard to get in all in from the wonderful Spa, Alpine Slide, Paintball, Pool and Climbing Wall, Adventure Quest and Sculpture Park or even just a relaxing walk thru the immaculately manicured grounds admiring the many beautiful flower beds and gardens.

It was a great experience and it was a pleasure to introduce your board of directors to the men whose place they are capable of replacing in the future. It is time to get another one from Michigan on the national scene and, who knows, this may have been the first step in that direction.



Members of both boards discuss the MiGCSA and how we merged the 4 chapters.

ALLIED PARTNER - MICHIGAN PGA



Timothy Czelada, Director of Tournament Operations, Michigan PGA

PREPARATION FOR CHAMPIONSHIP STYLE EVENTS

Competing in Championship Golf Events can be stressful, especially for those players that are trying to make a living. As a tournament director, golf professional and golf course superintendent, your job is to make sure the players do not have added stress by adverse course conditions. Part of that job is thinking ahead, sometimes months or even years, in order to have the ideal conditions for the best possible event. Here are a few items that should be covered in pre-event planning (2-3 months out).

Rough Conditions

What type of rough do you want for your championship, U.S. Open Rough? Do you want fairway rough to be as long as green side rough? If you want fairway rough and green side rough, you will need to consider two additional items:

- ▶ **Primary Cut** - A player that misses the fairway by two feet doesn't want to be in 3 inch rough - consider a primary cut of 1 1/2" to 2".
- ▶ **Ropes** - Consider utilizing ropes up around your greens prior to the Championship. Those facilities with minimal cart paths will have matted down green side rough due to a heavy amount of play leading up to the Championship.

Ball Drops

This is something you can usually work around depending on the condition, but not always. On certain holes, a ball drop may only work in a certain location. If this is the case, what happens if this location is trampled by golf carts or has recently been re-sodded? In some cases you may want to utilize a forward tee, but what happens if the tee is covered in divots? A number of issues could happen and it is sometimes a good idea to locate ball drops early in the process, in order to preserve this area.

Green Speed

Some spectators and fans of golf in general think that greens should be "lightening fast" to have a great championship. The opposite could happen if you get the greens going too fast. Players will not enjoy the round as many hole locations become too difficult and cannot be used. On the other hand, smooth greens provide a true role and players enjoy this much more. Begin rolling the greens early in the summer to provide smooth greens by the time of the championship.

Weather

Weather is always the outside factor that only mother nature can control. However, have a plan for any weather conditions that might come. Have evacuation carts ready if carts are available. If heavy rains are predicted, be sure to set pins in higher green elevation locations in order to keep the course playable, even after a heavy rain.

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GARY HOUSEWORTH

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN, POINT O' WOODS GOLF COURSE

Gary Houseworth has spent the last **XX** years working at Point O' Woods Golf Course in Benton Harbor, Mich. Gary started his equipment technician career in **XXXX** when a friend recommended him for a mechanic position at Orchard Hills in Buchanan, Mich.

He spent three years at Ferris State University and when asked what continuing education is valuable for equipment technicians, Gary said, "Seminars and factory training help but most things you have to learn on your own, hands on."

Gary resides in **XXX**, Mich. with his wife, Marilyn, and four children ranging in ages from 21 - 32.

1. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

Active in revitalizing Michigan Superintendent Association (M.G.C.S.A.). Served on the board of directors for four years and then served as president. I have helped train many young people in the business and stimulate their interest in the development of it.

2. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING EQUIPMENT MANAGERS TODAY?

Economic factors such as purchasing new equipment and keeping up with the increased processes to maintain the golf course to meet today's standards.

3. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT?

Don Creed. He was the superintendent at Orchard Hills and then the manager at Chickaming.

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

You have to think outside the box. Figure out how to make it work to get the job done.

5. HOW DO YOU RATE IMPORTANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?

Equally as important as everyone on the team. Golf course maintenance is a team effort. You have to have a good superintendent, assistant superintendent, and crew if any of those is lacking the entire operation will suffer.

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

Standardize as many parts as possible. They could use the same filters, belts, cables, hoses, ect. This would mean less parts would need to be stocked in our inventory.

7. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Simplify the bunker design to lessen maintenance.

8. WHAT IS YOUR FUNNIEST STORY FROM ALL OF YOUR YEARS MAINTAINING EQUIPMENT?

One of our previous assistants backed our dump truck into the soil storage building and dumped a load of top dressing. Not realizing he only opened the door half way he proceeded to leave quickly with the truck bed up and the garage door half down needless to say he came to a very abrupt stop.

UNDER THE HOOD



FROM NATIONAL



STEVE RANDALL

GCSAA SUMMER 2010 SMORGASBORD

BY STEVE RANDALL- GCSAA SENIOR MANAGER, CHAPTER OUTREACH

The summer season is here. While many members are tending to their facilities, getting golf course conditions primed for general play, or maybe even a major state, regional or national event, work at the GCSAA headquarters continues to focus on programs and tools for you to utilize as a member.

More discussion will begin regarding Golf's Drive Toward Sustainability. This is an effort supported by all major golf associations, with the GCSAA and the Environmental Institute for Golf being the main drivers. The concept is simple. Sustainability is about ensuring profitable businesses while making decisions that are in the long-term interest of the environment and communities.

The focus is on continual improvement by professionally managing and conserving resources and inputs, reducing waste while providing quality playing conditions to satisfy golfers.

Do you remember taking the numerous surveys sent out over the past few years by the GCSAA? Believe me, I have heard numerous comments. As we mentioned, that data is crucial to provide information on water, pesticide and energy use, among others. This information is the key driving force within the sustainability initiative.

Your golf facility serves as a recreational, environmental and financial asset to your community. Many facilities are taking positive steps toward sustainability. That, combined with incorporating golf's economic value shows golf is much more than a game played at 16,000 facilities across the United States. It is a vital activity.

What are the goals looking forward? First is to establish baseline information. In addition voluntary, industry-specific Best Management Practices will be developed to serve as a foundation for golf facilities to implement change and operate with continual improvement in mind. A set of tools and resources will be provided to include a variety of programs, systems and services to evaluate performance (look for those to be announced in the near future!).

Awards will be created to recognize sustainable performance. The awards and communications will position golf facilities as sustainable leaders in the community. Partnerships with sponsors and the media will ultimately reach a wide audience. As more information is announced, we hope you take advantage of another tool in your toolbox!

Summer GCSAA Board Meeting

In July, the GCSAA Board of Directors met in the great state of Michigan. In addition to regular business, the GCSAA board met with the MiGCSA Board of Directors and held discussions about chapter effectiveness and ways the GCSAA and the MiGCSA can continue to enhance it's partnership.

On Line Renewals

Does your GCSAA membership need to be renewed?

The on-line membership renewal tool was soft launched in January 2010 to approximately 900 members whose renewals expired in March. Since then, we have continued to promote the tool to all members as they come up for renewal. Roughly 1,000 members have now renewed on line!

General Chapter Outreach

It was great to see many of you during my spring visits back to Michigan and look forward to working with the MiGCSA on various issues to make the chapter the best it can be. I wanted to share a few other outreach examples. In Nebraska, the chapter held "Nebraska Golf Day" April 29. This event is similar to Michigan's Golf Day at the Capitol, which was held in March. It is important to note the MiGCSA, along with other chapters across the country are beginning to see the value working with allied golf organizations on a variety of issues.

Strategic sessions have also been held in Utah (Intermountain Chapter), California and Minnesota. The essence of these meetings is to improve program offerings. We have also working with assistant superintendents at various chapters to assist with their professional development.

The work put forward by members in Michigan has a widespread impact on the vision of chapter services provided for all 100 chapters across the country. Your vision and engagement is important for all members. We are all in this together!

To a continued exceptional 2010 season! You can always contact me if you have questions.

Steve Randall, GCSAA Senior Manager, Chapter Outreach
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WEE ONE FOUNDATION OUTING RECAP

Heavy overnight rains turned into beautiful blue skies to greet the participants of the first "Michigan Version" of the Wee One Foundation fund raising golf outing held at Indianwood Golf and Country Club in Lake Orion, MI. Ninety six golfers came out to play in the scramble event which not only featured golf industry members from throughout the state, but the entire midwest region! Bryan Grill and Tom Ryder were our gracious superintendent hosts for the day who, in addition to providing a great golf course, gave everyone a peek preview of some of the changes in store for the "Old Course" before the Senior Open Championship comes to town in 2012.

Some good golf was played during the day as evidenced by a nine under par 61 from the winning team of Joe Jehnsen, Rick Laux, Denny Goodpaster, and Mike Sullivan, representing Island Hills Golf Club (Centreville, MI). For their fine play they were rewarded with gift certificates of \$100 dollars per player. Three teams tied for second place with scores of 62. Raffle prizes and winners included Webber Grill - John Fulling (Kalamazoo Country Club, Kalamazoo, MI), iPod Touch - Gary Brookshire (Bay Pointe Golf Club, West Bloomfield, MI), Callaway Range Finder - Steve Loveday (Great Lakes Turf, LLC) and custom-fitted Trek Bike - Doug Johanningsmeier (Harrell's LLC). A special thanks to Ken DeBusscher of Shaw's-Knox Fertilizer, Inc. for spearheading the raffle ticket push and showing what a true "salesman" he really is!

A hearty buffet style dinner was served after golf, and then Wee One Director Paul Bastron (Glen Flora Country Club, Waukegan, IL) spoke to the group regarding the origin of the Wee One Foundation and how it assists people in the golf management industry suffering from overwhelming expenses due to medical hardships. Paul went on to explain that in the 6 years the Foundation has been in existence, more than \$300,000 has been given to those in need! Lastly, John



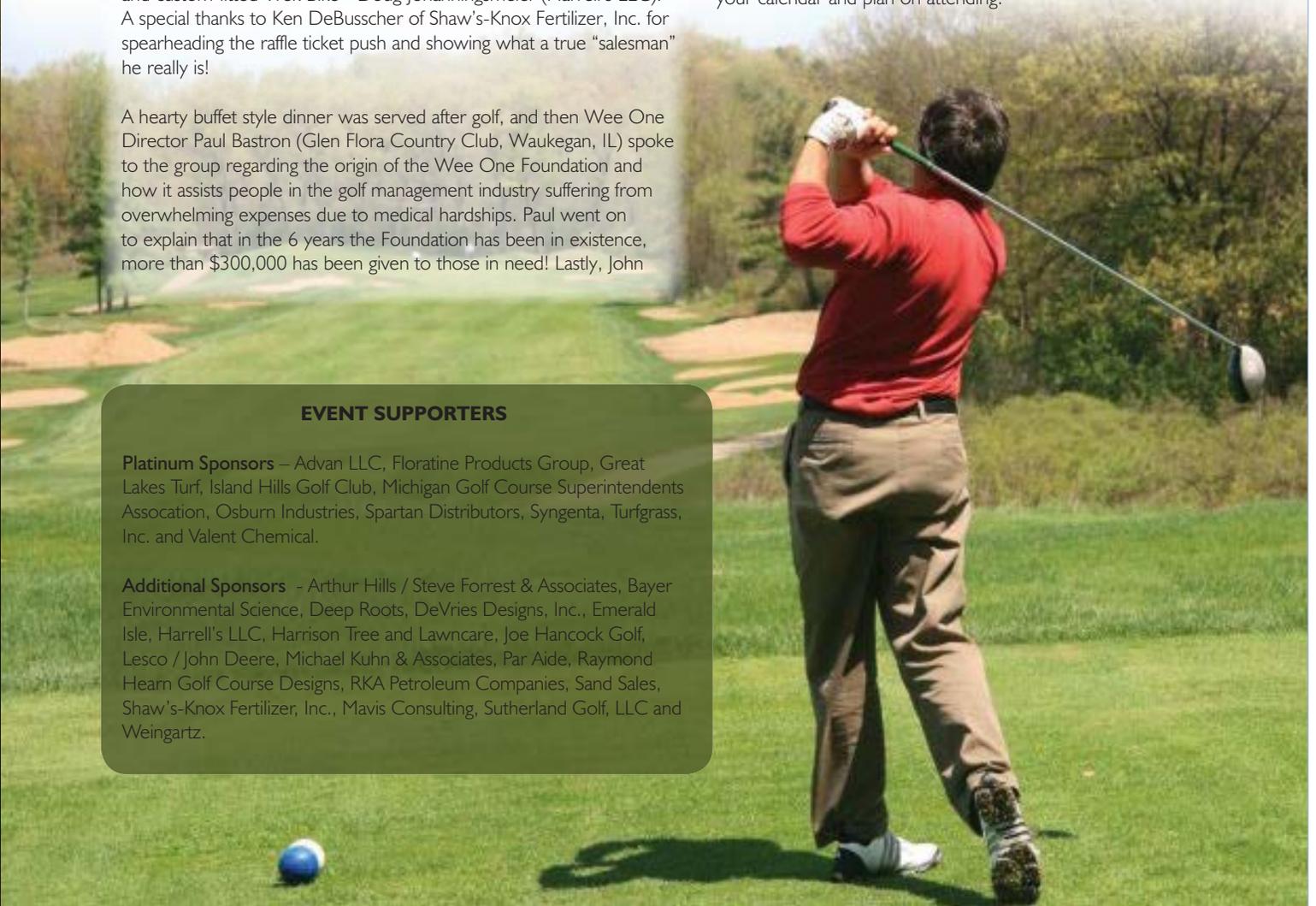
Cooney (Tam-O-Shanter Country Club, West Bloomfield, MI) spoke to the group regarding the Wee One's kind assistance to former superintendent and friend, Gregory "Benny" Seago who, unfortunately in March of this year, lost his three-year battle with cancer.

A special thanks to all who attended, as well as everyone else who helped make this inaugural Michigan fundraising event for this very extraordinary foundation a huge success. And thank you for donations from MiGCSA members through MiGCSA.org totaling \$550 which the MiGCSA Foundation matched for a total of \$1,100. The date for next year's event at Oakland Hills will be announced soon. Be sure to mark your calendar and plan on attending.

EVENT SUPPORTERS

Platinum Sponsors – Advan LLC, Floratine Products Group, Great Lakes Turf, Island Hills Golf Club, Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association, Osburn Industries, Spartan Distributors, Syngenta, Turfgrass, Inc. and Valent Chemical.

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**“Did you see the new tee on number 5?
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“I don't know how they do it”

**“They really care about the environmental
impact of our course”**

**“This course is in the best condition I have ever seen it,
I wonder how they do it”**

“They really saved us money this year”

**“They have the best conditions in the area
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THE BETTER HALF



JEFF SMITH

Cascade Hills Country Club, located in Grand Rapids, Mich., offers championship caliber golf along with peaceful serenity. Designed by golf professional Jack Duray under the tutelage of noted Scottish golf course architect Willie Park, each of the 27 holes has been designed to take full advantage of the beautiful, natural topography. The harmony and interplay between the course and terrain makes it playable for the beginner as well as challenging for the experienced golfer.

Assistant Superintendent Jeff Smith has worked at Cascade Hills for eight years. He received his education from Lansing Community College as an architecture major. The first golf course Jeff worked at was Spring Meadows Country Club and after college he went on to work at Timber Ridge. He resides in Grand Rapids, Mich., with his wife, Tracey, of eight years and children Aiden (six years-old), Peyton (two years-old) and Nicholas, who is also two.



1. **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NON-GOLF SPORT?**
Football - Go State!
2. **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?**
Hole #8 at Pebble Beach...made a 90ft. snake putt and Jack calls it the hardest hole in golf...please!
3. **WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE TOURING PROFESSIONAL?**
Phil Mickelson
4. **IF ONLY ONE PLANT PROTECTANT WERE AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE IN YOUR TANK?**
Daconil
5. **WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW?**
Kyle "Turtle Man" Slocum...YouTube "turtleman" and you'll know why
6. **HOW MANY CREW MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE STAFF?**
21
7. **WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?**
The job market for sure...if a job opens up you have to battle 200 to 300 other qualified people...its crazy!
8. **WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?**
I think Dr. Steinke from MSU is starting some of it with his planet aire research... something more than just chemical research.

9. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

My current super now Al Bathum...he's taught me the full package of being a superintendent especially the financial part of things.

10. HOW DO YOU RATE IMPORTANCE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?

Very high...with many supers doing double duty the importance of having a quality assistant to handle the day-to-day operation is more prevalent today than ever.

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

The mechanic must be able to respect what your trying to accomplish and he must be able to teach and help prepare you for being a superintendent.

12. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF FLOWERS ON THE GOLF COURSE?

Waste of money...plant a perennial.

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

A walking course would be a dream...carts have ruined the game.

14. WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?

That people think they can drive a golf cart anywhere.

15. NAME ANY THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD MAKE UP YOUR "DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM"?

Jim Carrey Jeff Daniels and my buddy Mike...it would be hilliarous to quote dumb and dumber for 18 holes...

16. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CAREER PATH?

Love the game of golf.

17. WHAT IS THE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE YOU COULD NOT DO WITHOUT?

Topdressing greens

18. PLEASE DESCRIBE IN DETAIL ONE TRUE FUNNY STORY FROM YOUR CAREER THAT YOU SHARE WHEN IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY?

Tim Topolinski, who is now the superintendent at Quail Ridge Golf Club was the asst. at Timber Ridge at the time and was mowing the 18th approach when he lost control of the mower on wet turf and plunged it in the pond on a 45 degree day...they had to call in a scuba diver and a tow truck to get it out...sorry Tim!



QUICK NINE

1. FISH, DOG OR CAT? Fish
2. WEEKEND IRRIGATION BREAK, BUDGET MEETING OR ICE CREAM HEADACHE? Ice cream headache
3. MIGCSA COURSE CONDITIONS MAGAZINE, GOLF COURSE INDUSTRY MAGAZINE OR USGA GREEN SECTION RECORD? Course Conditions
4. LIONS, TIGERS OR RED WINGS? Lions..I know I am sick
5. E-MAIL, SNAIL MAIL OR FACE TO FACE? Texting hello its 2010
6. DRIVER, WEDGE OR PUTTER? BullsEye Baby
7. DECIDUOUS TREE NEXT TO GREEN, EVERGREEN TREE NEXT TO GREEN OR NO TREE NEXT TO GREEN? No tree
8. RAKING WASHOUTS IN BUNKERS, FIXING BALL MARKS AFTER A TOURNAMENT OR CLEANING OUT THE WASH PAD GRASS PIT? Fixing ballmarks
9. LOCAL MIGCSA EVENT, GREAT LAKES TRADE EXPO OR GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW? Local event there's golf involved...

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2010 CAN-AM CHALLENGE

GROSSE ILE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

It was a long, wet day but the U.S. managed to keep the cup for the second year in a row with a 3.5 to 2.5 advantage over our neighbors from Ontario. The weather in the southeast end of town was rainy and cold making it unbearable for all but the 9 dedicated individuals who braved the weather and the challenging course. Only 3 Americans and 6 Canadians played the full 18 holes of golf allowing us to score using the Ryder Cup scoring format.

Overall, the day was filled with camaraderie and friendship as members from both sides of the border enjoyed each other's company while playing one of the many euchre games in the clubhouse or while enjoying the conversations at the bar. A few took advantage of the sauna and hot showers to warm up.

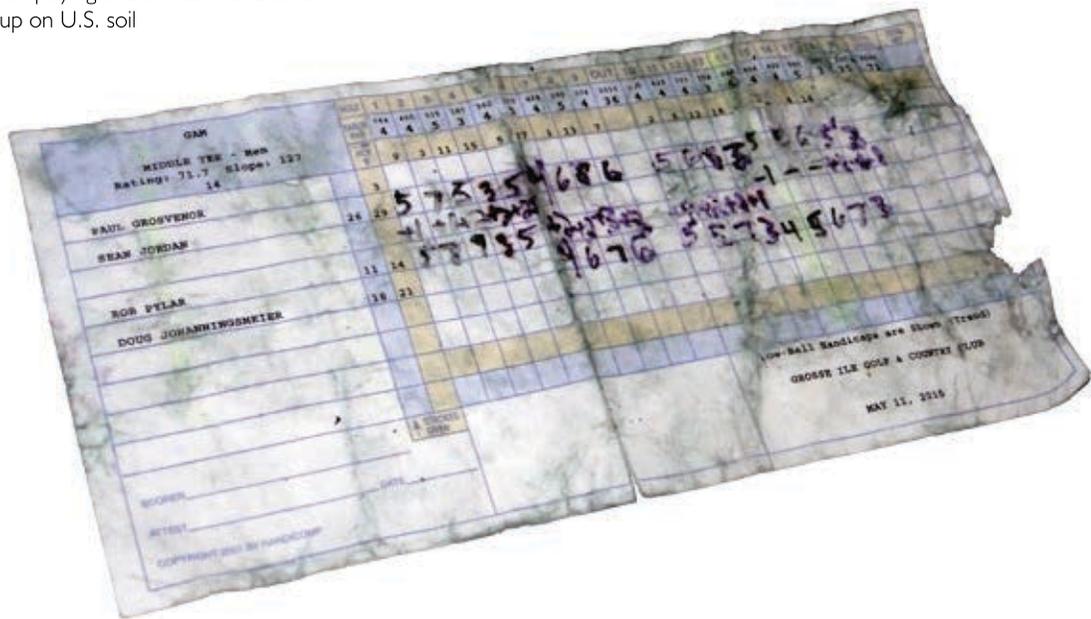
It is only fitting that we recognize the 3 Americans that played a full 18 holes of golf against our Canadian counterparts under these conditions. Doug Johanningsmeier, Jim Higgs and Dan Matwiczky are congratulated for playing under these conditions and keeping the cup on U.S. soil for the second straight year.

Everyone enjoyed a breakfast and an early dinner. Grosse Ile put on a great event and we were all grateful for their outstanding professionalism and dedication to making our day enjoyable.

Many thanks to our Host Superintendent Dan Dingman, general manager Jim Johnson and the entire team at Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club for managing a difficult day filled with bad weather. We all ate wonderful food and were able to stay warm and dry in the clubhouse.

We would also like to thank those members from both sides of the border who participated and helped continue this annual tradition.

Thanks to our IPP sponsors and prize donors who also made this day possible.



Doug Johanningsmeier, Dan Matwiczky and Jim Higgs

Doug Johanningsmeier, Jim Higgs and Dan Matwiczky

Host Superintendent, Dan Dingman, ? and ?

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ASSISTANT UPDATE

BY DAN KOOPS AND KEVIN BREUKER, ASSISTANT COMMITTEE

This past spring gave everyone an opportunity to attend the spring management meetings that were hosted around the state. The meetings held at Treetops and Oakhurst provided an opportunity for assistants to meet and discuss the upcoming year. During the Treetops meeting, the assistants held a roundtable discussion during the lunch hour where they discussed upcoming events, future shop talks, were updated assistant committee business and were provided an opportunity to join the committee.

The 4th Annual Assistants Roundtable, hosted in conjunction with the Detroit district spring management meeting at Oakhurst Golf and Country Club on March 1st was a success. After joint morning sessions, the assistants broke off to participate in assistant specific education. The first speaker was Pete Cookingham, project manager for the Turfgrass Information Center at MSU. He demonstrated how the Turfgrass Information File (which is the largest collection of turfgrass literature in the world) could be used as a tool and a resource in our positions. One of his suggestions was to never go into an interview without first searching the TGIF for the superintendent, golf club etc. Thanks for the tip Pete.

The second speaker for the afternoon was Mark Petzing, CCM. Mark is the general manager for the Country Club of Detroit. The title of Mr. Petzing's presentation was "Straight Talk About Budgets and Clubdom". Mark provided insight on budget preparation with an emphasis on labor budgets. He discussed the importance of establishing a good relationship between the general manager and the superintendent. Mark also gave tips on developing and strengthening relations with members. This was a great sessions for the assistants covering "real world" material that is essential for career advancement.



Caption to go here.



Caption to go here.

On Monday, April 19, assistant superintendents from the Detroit area came together for a shop talk at Forest Lake Country Club. Host superintendent, Fritz McMullen and his assistant, Ryan Moore, welcomed the assistants to their maintenance facility where they gave them an update on their ongoing fuel tank construction project. Fritz went through the planning and implementation aspects of the project and also gave his tips on working with all the parties involved to maintain efficiency and ensure timely project completion. He went on to share some ideas on how to run a maintenance facility and also gave his insights on the industry based on his thirty plus years of experience. After a pizza dinner supplied by Fritz, the assistants were given a tour of Forest Lake's maintenance facility and fuel tank construction site. They were even able to get a few holes of golf in before the sunset. A big thanks is in order to Fritz and Ryan for their hospitality. Their time, thoughts and food were greatly appreciated. All assistants are welcome and encouraged to attend the shop talks; we hope to see you at the next one.

Keep your ears and calendars open for future shop talks in the Detroit area. We are currently planning two more shop talks for August and September. Also, mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Assistant Golf Day on Monday, October 18th at the Emerald in St. Johns. This promises to be a great opportunity for camaraderie, education and even a little golf. Stay tuned for more details.



James Simmons, Mark Frever, Allafere and Tony Spink on #1

SPRING GOLF EVENT RECAP

Nearly 70 people gathered at The Point-O-Woods Country Club near Benton Harbor to enjoy a great day of education, a wonderful lunch and some fun golf on the 26th of April. Host, Ron Fox, CGCS, welcomed the association back in grand style.

The day started with a presentation from Dr. Ron Calhoun on some of the findings from his recently completed PhD work. He had the whole crowd of superintendents and industry partners on the edge of our seats for over 40 minutes waiting to hear what he learned after 13 years of work, 139 pages of dissertation and a rousing defense of it all. He was able to concisely wrap it all up with the following statement **"Poa is an aggressive and invasive weed!"** The other 39 minutes were spent listening to him expound on how **"The will of the poa to invade will outlast the will of the superintendent to keep it out"** and explaining the new word that he has penned to explain the life cycle of poa annua – and that is perennialized which means that it has changed from an true winter annual into a plant that exhibits true perennial characteristics. This is very evident by the biennial germination characteristics now found where we see 70-80% germination in the spring and 20-30% in the fall. These findings will lead us to look a different ways to manage the plant. Dr. Calhoun wrapped it all up with the latest GDD information and a rousing slide show on a burning RV? Yes, there was nothing boring about the start to the day!

Our host, Mr. Fox, followed with a great talk on the "True Team Concept" found at the Point-O-Woods. While he admitted that he is a true turf guy at heart, with his transition into the dual role of superintendent and general manager he has found that placing the right people in the correct position and letting them use their skills to manage the operation, coupled with a solid collaboration effort between all of the people involved has lead to a vastly improved operation. He also made a strong point on the value of friendships in the industry by explaining how he and Kevin Dushane, CGCS of the Wuskowhan Players Club use each other as a sounding board and may even commiserate on occasion over issues.

Did I mention the wonderful lunch? Before we were treated to a fantastically conditioned golf course (Thank you Kevin Krohne and Joel Larson) we had a great lunch prepared by Executive Chef Mark Smith and his staff. For those that have not had the opportunity to play at this great golf course that was built in 1958 please put it on your list as it is a great example of a course that is all about golf. While the wind

may have hampered some scoring the sun was a welcomed bright spot on this spring day. The greens were firm and fast and all the playing surfaces (yes even the rough that I found myself in!) were nearly perfect. 66 players vied for the prestige of being first, the prize money offered and the skins awarded. The winning team made up of Jim Bluck, Dan Lucas, & Dan Bissonette made the drive down from the Northern district and picked up Joe Hancock along the way. They combined to shoot a blistering 62 and walked away with the honor and prize money. Second place was determined by a tie breaker with the team of Jim Voldstadt, AJ Rings, Mike Thorsen and Nate Borth beating the team from The Meadows Golf Club.

A shining example of why the people in this industry are so wonderful was seen when it came time to award the skins money. When the team headed by Fritz McMullen and Charlie Scott was called to accept for an eagle on # 8, they questioned the validity of that score and corrected the scorer thus giving up a cool \$100 in the quest for honesty. Thank you men! There were 3 legitimate skins awarded; a Birdie on #5, and two eagle's one scored #2 and the other on #15.

Thank you to the entire management crew and their staff's for a great day. That team includes General Manager/Superintendent Ron Fox, CGCS, Golf Course Assistants Kevin Krohne & Joel Larsen, Executive Chef Mark Smith, Clubhouse and Events director Kim Vidt, Controller Glenda Chadwick, Golf Professional Tom Rose with his Assistants Kevin Benovic & Trent LaFountain.



Ron Fox and John Fulling

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A CALL FROM CAMPUS

SUMMER STRESS OF TURFGRASS

DR. KEVIN W. FRANK AND DR. J. M. VARGAS, JR.

2010 began as a stressful year for many golf courses that suffered winterkill injury; the summer has not been any easier for managing turf in Michigan. Precipitation patterns since June have been sporadic with many areas receiving excessive amounts of rainfall while others may actually be in a deficit. Grand Rapids recorded 8 inches of rainfall in June, 4 inches higher than average. In June higher than average rainfall was also reported in Detroit, Traverse City, and Gaylord. Much of this rainfall was from single events and despite the high monthly totals there have been turfgrass areas that are actually being stressed from lack of moisture. Rainfall in July has been closer to average but the combination of rainfall, high air temperature, and high relative humidity have been a perfect combination for enhanced disease activity and turfgrass decline.

Irrigation Systems Tested

2009 was an extraordinary year when many golf course superintendents discussed how long they had gone before or between using their irrigation systems. Frequent rainfall and cool temperatures resulted in optimal turfgrass growing conditions. 2010 has been less consistent and inefficiencies in irrigation systems have been revealed on many courses. Turfgrass areas that reveal poor irrigation coverage first are typically edges of fairways, banks of greens, tees, and bunkers, and the rough. Many of these areas are also high traffic areas that are subject to compaction. Some of these trafficked, compacted, heat stressed areas may need to be reestablished this fall. In an effort to compensate for poor irrigation coverage and improve water management, hand watering has become commonplace on golf course putting greens. In a time when most budgets have been shrinking, superintendents may be challenged to add hand watering to an already stressed labor budget.

Salty Irrigation Water

Another problem that occurs on some golf courses during dry summers is the effect of high salt content in irrigation water. The high salt content makes it difficult to prevent turf wilting. Roots take up water by a process called osmosis. Osmosis works on the principal of there being a higher salt content in the root than the soil causing the water to flow into the plant. The higher the salt content in the soil the more difficult it becomes for the plant to take up water. If the salt concentrations become high enough in the soil solution, the water will not flow into the root. If salt content becomes really high, the water in the root will actually begin to flow out into the soil. In any event, it makes it difficult for the turfgrass plant to survive. If you're been fortunate enough to receive adequate rainfall the rain will flush the salt out of the root zone so the salty irrigation water has minimal effect on the turf. If your course has not been receiving rainfall to flush the salts, when turf is irrigated with high salt content irrigation water it is important to flush the greens at least once a week to try to dilute the salt level in the soil. Golf courses should also consider switching to city water; either entirely or at least to dilute the salt content of the irrigation water. If you're unsure about your irrigation water quality, conduct an irrigation water test so you know where you stand.

Disease and insect problems

High air temperatures combined with high relative humidity and isolated heavy rainfall has resulted in some of the highest disease pressure we have seen on golf courses in several years. In June what started with nuisance fairy ring on fairways and greens has progressed to include anthracnose, summer patch, brown patch, Waitea patch and the sporadic case of Pythium blight. This year because of the high temperatures bacterial wilt has become a problem on many greens. There are two different bacterial pathogens involved one that is attacking annual bluegrass

and one that is attacking the creeping bentgrass. Unfortunately there is no available chemical control for either of these diseases, the best that can be done is to raise the mowing height and not allow the turf to go under drought stress. As the summer progresses other pests may become problematic. Black turfgrass *Ataenius* may begin to cause damage in late July and early August. These small white grubs can damage fairways, tees, and greens. Japanese beetle and European chafer grubs may also cause damage later this summer. Japanese beetle grubs are likely to be a problem in irrigated turf, like golf course fairways. European chafer is a problem in unirrigated turf such as golf course rough.

Poor environments

Golf course microclimates with shade, poor air circulation, and poor drainage are the toughest to manage disease pressure. Typically the worst turf damage occurs on greens surrounded by trees and underbrush. Trees and underbrush restrict air movement in green complexes and result in higher temperatures and the inability of the plants to cool themselves through transpiration. The lack of air movement in these areas often leads to greater incidence of turfgrass diseases, which can also lead to turfgrass loss. Another factor that contributes to turfgrass thinning on greens, especially during warm summers such as this year, is a lack of morning sun during July and August. A lack of morning sun on creeping bentgrass greens may be particularly devastating. The reason the turf may thin due to a lack of morning sun is because the turfgrass plant only photosynthesizes when temperatures are below 85 F. Especially this summer, temperatures have normally been below 85 F in the morning, not in the afternoon. If the plants cannot photosynthesize, they run out of energy, and will eventually die. Now is the time to document greens that may be suffering due to lack of morning sun, poor air circulation, and enhanced disease activity. Consider removing or thinning trees and underbrush on the east and northeast side of greens to facilitate morning light and air movement.



INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



POSTEMERGENT HERBICIDES FROM BASF GIVE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS FLEXIBLE, BROAD-SPECTRUM CONTROL

BASF Professional Turf & Ornamentals has a powerful portfolio of postemergent herbicides to help Michigan superintendents control sedges, broadleaf weeds, and grassy weeds in landscape beds and turfgrass.

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INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



AUTOMATIC SUPPLY MICHIGAN

David Wheeler, President,
Automatic Supply Michigan
(When he's not in the office
he's out on his boat.)



From its founding in 1980, Automatic has been a leader in golf irrigation supplies. At the helm since 1987 Dave Wheeler grew the company from a single location to multiple locations throughout Indiana and Michigan. More recently he chose to split the company and move back to Michigan, where his roots are, and establish Automatic Supply Michigan as the Michigan Rain Bird Golf Distributor. During this time the effort has always been to focus on quality products and leading the way in technology advancements in the industry. A strong advocate of water management and conservation led him to title an article "What You Going to Do When the Well Runs Dry?". Dave and the company believe that Michigan is blessed with tremendous resources of which water is one of them, but we should also be leading the golf industry in managing those valuable resources. Have you completed a water audit of your course? Do you know the efficiency of your irrigation system? Have you looked at ways to improve, update and reduce your costs of irrigation?

Automatic Supply Michigan has a full team of water management experts and works continuously with golf course superintendents to trouble shoot problems, complete water

audits and develop short and long term plans. This includes designs and strategies to update and renovate the many outdated irrigation systems we have on today's golf courses across the state, thereby improving course conditions and significantly reducing water usage and costs related to running those systems. ASM has shown courses that through simply changing out the heads on a course they can reduce their water consumption by over 20%.

The company has made major investments to establish itself now and for the future as a key player in the golf industry in Michigan. It started with the move into a new facility in Grand Rapids with 20,000 sq ft of warehouse space, office and conference rooms, and over 20,000 sq ft of yard space. As they worked to establish the Rain Bird name and demonstrate their philosophy of great customer service they were awarded several key jobs in recent years. Those included such projects Traverse City Golf & Country Club, Grand Haven Golf Club, Petoskey-Bay View Country Club and Harbor Point Golf Course. Automatic Supply is well positioned to take care of all golf course needs for Michigan and is looking forward to representing the great Rain Bird name throughout the state.

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, September 13	MTF Fundraiser (Blythefield Country Club, Belmont)
Tuesday, September 21	Tuck Tate Championship (Tree Tops Jones Course, Gaylord)
Monday, October 4	MTF Fundraiser The Big Event (The Wyndgate, Rochester Hills)
Monday, October 18	Assistant's Golf Outing (The Emerald, St. Johns)
Tuesday, October 19	Equipment Tech. Meeting (Crystal Mountain, Thompsonville)
Nov 30 - Dec 2	MiGCSA Education with MGCOA (Amway Grand, Grand Rapids)

Please visit www.MiGCSA.org for all of the latest and most up to date information. You can quickly and easily register for events, view past issues of Course Conditions, browse and post items for sale, post and browse classifieds, and so much more. If you need help logging in email us at info@migcsa.org.

THOMPSONVILLE SUPERINTENDENT RECEIVES PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATION

Adam Ikamas, GCSAA golf course superintendent at Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa, Thompsonville, Mich., has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

Ikamas, a 12-year GCSAA member, has been the superintendent at Crystal Mountain Resort & Spa since 2004. Approximately 1,800 golf course superintendents worldwide, currently hold "CGCS" status.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN NATIVE PLANTS GREENHOUSE OPEN FOR THE FIRST YEAR

The first native plants greenhouse in Northern Michigan is finally open for business. After years of planning and fundraising, the Otsego Conservation District (OCD) in Gaylord has opened the doors on a state-of-the-art greenhouse that will provide over 30 species of native wildflowers and grasses to the residents of Northern Michigan. From drought tolerant big bluestem and butterfly milkweed to shade tolerant cardinal flower and wild columbine, there is something for every garden. Plants available are especially suited for buffer strips along waterways and attracting pollinators.

COST AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUS SUPERINTENDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN DATA COLLECTION

The Great Plains Institute is looking for cost and environmental conscious Superintendents to participate in data collection. The project, conducted by the Great Plains Institute, is focused on helping the golf course industry become more sustainable in the areas of energy and nutrient management that will in turn beneficially impact the bottom line as well as the surrounding environment. The project involves creating biogas from common 'wastes' found on the golf course (grass clippings, food scraps and food grease). The biogas created can be used as an energy source for electricity generation, natural gas uses as well as vehicle fuel. We know superintendents are already pressed in areas of time and budgets so we want to compliment the work that is already taking place on their course. That is why we have established a couple of collection and documentation methods that would only be for ONE WEEK a month, approximately 1-2 man hours for the month until September. If interested please contact: Will Overly at woverly@gpisd.net or by phone: 612-767-7291

CONGRATULATIONS DEREK AND MONICA CARROLL

Derek and Monica welcomed their new baby boy, Tristan James Carroll, on April 20th. This is their third son. His older brothers are Riley (4) and Jacoby (2).

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Syngenta continues as the global leader in the manufacturing of fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and plant growth regulators for the golf industry. But our commitment to the golf course maintenance industry goes far deeper than products we produce, the world class technical support we offer, and the overall value we deliver to the industry. Our deep passion for the golf industry has led to unwavering support for superintendents and the crucial role they play in the golf world.

As a \$1 million Victory Club Level donor to the GCSAA, Syngenta's long-standing partnership with the association has helped demonstrate a commitment to the professional development and education of tomorrow's leaders.

From market-leading products such as PrimoMAXX® plant growth regulator and the revolutionary systemic

herbicide Tenacity®, to the Turf Essentials™ line of combination fungicides, Syngenta products consistently deliver value, quality and performance to the golf industry. In 2009, Syngenta launched GreenTrust® 365, one of the most innovative budget-saving pricing programs available in the industry. It enables superintendents to continue to earn rebates on annual purchases past the traditional early-order period and through the end of the Program Period. More information is available at greentrust6365.com.

For more information regarding Syngenta and their products, please visit greencastonline.com or contact Scott Trbovich at Scott.Trbovich@syngenta.com or 228.830.6065.



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