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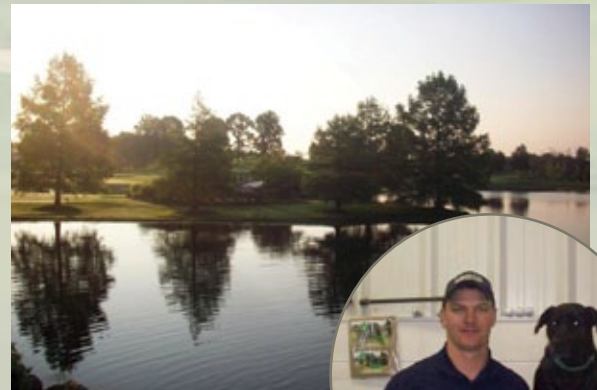
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COURSECONDITIONS

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MIGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 1/21/11

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	TOTAL 2009 MEMBERSHIP
Class AA	25	20
Class A	247	267
Class SM	72	64
Class C	95	84
Class D	48	40
Class E	20	20
Class AFF	140	117
Class H	15	10
Class SA	13	9
Class R	12	6
Class I	1	5
Class FM	0	0
TOTAL	688	642

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 MiGCSA. For more information on *Course Conditions* or the MiGCSA please contact us at info@migca.org, 1-888-3-MiGCSA or P.O. Box 64 in St. Johns, MI 48879.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



RON DAHLIN

Welcome to another great edition of Course Conditions

This edition allows you the chance to get an early peak at all of the great events planned for 2011 along with the opportunity to catch up on past events and gather some tips on how to get ready for the new season. The venues for events once again read like a who's who of great golf locations. Events are scheduled at Arcadia Bluffs, Warwick Hills, The Moores, Railside Golf Club, Oakland Hills Country Club and possibly Harbor Shores (to just name a few). Thank you to those who hosted such well attended and well run events in 2010 and to those who have worked to get your clubs into the rotation for 2011. If you would like to host a MiGCSA event in the future, just let one of your board members know, call 1-888-3-MiGCSA, or send us an e-mail at info@MiGCSA.org.

I have been fortunate enough to run an association that is filled with a great membership who has elected some great people to lead it. These men have been the architects who have allowed the MiGCSA to turn a corner, set up ways to stand on a firmer financial footing, made steps to be professionally run by an executive director who can keep a better handle on the day to day operation while never forgetting that this organization is set up to serve its members.

The annual meeting held during the GLTE conference allowed the members to see that we have swung away from a negative operating balance while still keeping our membership dues one of the lowest in the country. This is due in part to the generosity of our Industry Partners who have chosen to support you and the chapter. We enjoyed an increase in Industry Partnership support and gained in the number of partners that made it to a tiered status along with an increase in the total number of those that supported the MiGCSA. Please support those that support you whenever you can. The current membership report shows that the membership has grown over the past 12 months and we have also learned that the potential fears of moving to an all electronic format never materialized. Yes, good things happen in this industry even during some trying economic times in Michigan. You can see the entire presentation at www.MiGCSA.org under the News & Information tab. The board decided that we would hold the election of officers in the spring and not during the annual meeting. With the plan to bring an Executive Director on board early this spring it made sense to postpone the change in officers and thus allow them to teach the skills that they use to operate the MiGCSA to the new director. We expect the elections to be held in March and notification of the candidates and procedures will arrive via e-mail very soon.

Finally, but most importantly, it has been a pleasure to serve as your president this past year. It has been a golden opportunity for me to give back and offer many lessons in how to maximize the use of my time. I was stretched professionally more than I ever thought I could and I have been allowed to represent this great organization in such diverse places as my daughters 5th grade classroom to meetings at the office of the EPA in Washington DC and everywhere in between over this past year. I would say to anyone who has ever thought of serving this organization, take that first step. Thank you for allowing me to serve you!

Sincerely,

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

COMMUNICATION REVOLUTION

BY STEVE COOK, CGCS, MG, DIRECTOR OF AGRONOMY, OAKLAND HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

From Wikipedia:

"A **blog** (a blend of the term **web log**) is a type of website or part of a website. Blogs are usually maintained by an individual with regular entries of commentary, descriptions of events, or other material such as graphics or video. Entries are commonly displayed in reverse-chronological order. Blog can also be used as a verb, meaning to maintain or add content to a blog."

In the golf course community, think of a blog as your electronic bulletin board. But instead of requiring a member to walk by the board at the first tee or locker room, all that's needed is a computer or other communication platform for instant access. A phone, PDA, laptop or desktop computer.

Think of a blog not as a replacement of one on one communication ... but as an *enhancement*. You reach a wider and more importantly, a more modern audience. As we age, we tend to rely on older forms of communication, like lunch in the clubhouse with a table of members. Still pretty effective, perhaps even the most effective. But when younger members are relying on twitter, facebook and blogs as tools for information access, it is important to pay attention. If we can't participate in their world of communication, then we risk becoming outdated. And we all know what happens with outdated equipment.

There are art blogs, music blogs and video blogs. They are simply an online personal journal that lets you go public with golf course maintenance issues and opinions. There are several hosts that have templates. Some popular providers include TypePad, blogspot,




LiveJournal, Blogger, WordPress.com and Xanga. I set up my blog (www.ohccturf.blogspot.com) in less than 2 hours and spend no more than 2 hours per week updating and posting.

Blogging for me is still a distant second to "facetime" with members. But whether it's twitter, facebook, a newsletter article, posting on the locker room bulletin board or speaking at the annual tea and crumpet luncheon ... it's *expected* ... that we communicate with members. If we aren't communicating on the members level, then we aren't meeting expectations.

Steve Cook, CGCS, MG - Director of Agronomy

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2011



Colorado



I will be enjoying the mountains of Colorado for a few days, so look for a recap the week of January 31st. See you then!
(Thanks to Eric Foerster @ Ironbridge CC for his photo!)

POSTED BY STEVE COOK, CGCS, MG AT 9:14 AM 0 COMMENTS

Rain Shelters

The two remaining rain shelters - #14 tee North and #14 fairway South - have been rained. They were old and unsafe and with the new bathrooms on both courses in close proximity, they became unnecessary.

WE'VE ONE GOLF OUTING 2011


Oakland Hills will be hosting the **Wee One Foundation** golf outing on **May 16th, 2011**. Proceeds will benefit friends in the golf industry who are facing a challenging health and financial crisis.

TROBERT FOR THE DAY

Blow, blow, thou winter wind
Thou art not so unkind,
As man's ingratitude.

William Shakespeare

SADIE'S RULES OF LIFE



Rule #33. Don't make people wait for you.

Go to www.ohccturf.blogspot.com to see what Steve is up to at Oakland Hills C.C.

BY ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS, MiGCSA VICE PRESIDENT, GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT, CRYSTAL MOUNTAIN RESORT AND SPA



From Wikipedia:

"Social media are media for social interaction, using highly accessible and scalable publishing techniques. Social media uses web-based technologies to turn communication into interactive dialogues. Businesses also refer to social media as consumer-generated media (CGM). A common thread running through all definitions of social media is a blending of technology and social interaction for the co-creation of value."

Here at Crystal Mountain we have over 6,000 followers on Facebook. These are people that are interested enough in the resort that they have "liked" the Crystal page. This is a huge advantage to almost any other marketing outlet, a direct hit to someone who searched the resort out and asked for information. The best part about it is that it is free. I use Facebook not only in my personal life but also maintain and update the MiGCSA page which has over 150 followers that want to know what is happening with the Association sooner than an email or an article in the this magazine.

There is a school of thought out there I have heard that Facebook is a waste of time, or some sort of thing my teenage daughter does, not me. Or I don't care what my neighbor had for dinner. I will ask this question, "how do you get information now?". I would assume that most of you reading this have an email account, maybe internet searches, friends and colleagues, television, or print media? I will also assume that like me, there are certain information sources you check and rely on almost daily. But you have to sort through everything else you do not want to get to it, this is where social media can step in and simplify your life. Imagine one site that had updates from CNN, Golf Course Industry, your kids or grandkids vacation, MiGCSA events and recaps, your college roommate's new job, updates from GCSAA, and the best deal on that new TV from Best Buy you have been looking into. The best thing about these sources is that it is customizable. If you

don't care what your neighbor had for dinner block them from your information stream, or maybe they have a great recommendation on the new restaurant in town. It is only as much information as you want.

Now take this idea and apply it to your golf course. If you are at a private club your members have a personal stake in the conditions of the course, so if you had a Facebook page they would follow it. Now you have a direct real time line into your interested members and they have a direct line to you all in their personal information stream. They will likely never see the work that goes on in the morning before their 9:00 am tee time. But if you post some photos from your phone to the Facebook page that morning they can now see how the bunker renovation on #8 is coming and what you have been doing, even though when they play #8 there may not be anyone there. If you are a public course and you are not using Facebook to drive players to your facility then you are giving ground to the competition. A great tip I heard at the Golf Course Owners Conference was to ask one of your younger staff members to run the courses Facebook page. They are familiar with the functions already and would love to be able to get paid to be the Courses "Social Media Director" but you will probably want to check their content before they send it out. As the Superintendent at a public course you will probably reach the most interested players by sharing the page with the clubhouse, and posting to it from your account.



It is a new era of communication. The golfing community is starting to use these more and more. Look at the members of your club or the people who are playing, there is a new generation of consumer that will rely more and more on these lines of communication. Maybe you are still waiting to get these players and do not see the need now. There is no such thing as too early, but you can certainly be too late.

BY BOB MCCURDY, GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT, COUNTRY CLUB OF DETROIT



There is an old rule of politics, that "power abhors a vacuum". In the world of communications, this means that when there is a period of silence (i.e., the vacuum), some noise from somewhere will fill it. The key in politics and communications is to fill the void with information you can control vs. someone else's information you cannot. Fast forward to the year 2011...

In the last ten years, the number of people worldwide using the internet has grown from 360 million in 2000 to just shy of two billion people as we ring in the new year. That represents nearly a 450% growth in the last decade alone. It begs the questions, are your communication methods still relevant? Are you filling the vacuum or is someone else?

Let's be honest, by the time the monthly bulletin is printed it's out of date. As Superintendent's we must embrace what has become an instant gratification society. Tools, and that's exactly what they are, like Blogs, Facebook and Twitter are equally as important as the soil probe, stipmeter, or sprayer. They are a means to improve our communication and expand the audience we reach. Done effectively, they put us in control of the vacuum instead of the chasing the rumor mill.

During the 2010 renovation at Country Club of Detroit, we recognized early on that our membership wanted to be "included" in the project. We devised a communication plan that included weekly info sessions with the membership, monthly bulletin articles, face-time, course tours, e-blasts, and most importantly a blog (www.ccdgreens.blogspot.com). In a matter of days, this site became the primary communication vehicle for the project. Why? Because it was instantaneous! I controlled the information and didn't have to rely on others to distribute it – something our General Manager, Board and Governors and Oversight Committee trusted me to do.

Updated in less than 20 minutes per day, the blog made the membership feel as though they were out on the course with us. Through photos, our membership was able to live each and every step of the project. They were empowered to be active participants, not just spectators! The Blog was never more critical than immediately after the tragic fire at our shop. Instantly, the members knew everyone was safe, material for the project (seed, fertilizer, chemicals, Klingstone, etc.) were not involved and that the project would continue without delay! You can image their sense of relief. Prior too to the project, I would have never guessed the reaction and attention the site would receive. The results were overwhelming positive. If you don't believe me, below is a sampling of the numerous comments registered about the blog:

"I am writing to commend you on the effectiveness of the blog site you created in order to keep Country Club of Detroit members informed as to progress updates during the course renovation project in 2010.

In my opinion, one of the biggest challenges was in providing a sense of openness through current, informative channels so that all who were interested in this project could learn - and I know how difficult that was, serving as the Greens Chair and head of the Oversight Committee for the project. My monthly articles for the Member bulletin were eclipsed by your nearly-daily submittals to the blog site. Using visuals in the form of updated photos served to enhance the communications.

Again, thanks very much for your hard and diligent work on this vital component of the renovation"

Clark Standish, Chair, Golf Course Renovation Oversight Committee

"...is a great idea, very dynamic!"

Gary Glenn, Board of Governor, Country Club of Detroit

"The Project Blog was the main key in keeping the golfing membership informed as to the scope and size of our Renovation project. I do not know what else we could have done in place of it. The membership came into the shop informed and comfortable with every step of the process."

Matt Bodde, Head Golf Professional

"As a member, I found the Golf Course Renovation Blog very valuable in that I was able to see what was being done and the progress being made on the project in what seemed like real time. It helped to bring the written updates from the Greens Committee to life and let me see and understand the scope of what was being done. As a Board member, I think it was very valuable as a communications tool and I would highly recommend using a Blog to keep the membership informed on any major project being undertaken."

Chip Miller, Immediate Past President, Country Club of Detroit

Don't take my word for it, take theirs!! Start Blogging Now!



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BY DAN KOOPS AND KEVIN BREUKER, ASSISTANT COMMITTEE

The 3rd Annual Assistant Superintendent Symposium took place at the 2011 Great Lakes Trade Expo in Grand Rapids. Adam Ikamas, CGCS at Crystal Mountain Resort, started off the morning with an informative presentation on the GCSAA Certification process entitled "The Road to Certification". Adam shared his recent experiences on completing the certification process and included practical tips on what assistants or superintendents can do to get a head start on the certification process. All those hoping to one day become a CGCS found this presentation helpful and realized they can start preparing today.

Bob Vavrek, the USGA Senior Agronomist for the North-Central Region spoke next on "Course Preparation for the 2010 USGA Junior Amateur Championship". Bob's presentation gave those in attendance an insight on what it takes to put on a large scale event such as a Championship and how these events differ from normal Member/Guest tournaments. Bob also spoke on how the USGA monitors course conditions to ensure that the last day of the tournament plays the same as the first day of practice. This presentation gave us all a better understanding on how USGA Championships are prepared.

The symposium concluded with a special in-depth presentation by Dan Koops, assistant superintendent at the Country Club of Detroit, on his experiences involved with "Renovating the Country Club of Detroit." Dan spoke on how the maintenance staff and the club got to the point of having to renovate the golf course, how they prepared, and the entire process of the renovation. The renovation included a complete rebuild of the greens and tees, new bunker liners and sand, and the regressing of all the fairways. The talk was very informative to those that may someday have to face a renovation and what they can expect in the process. This assistants education was the best attended Symposium yet. If you missed this great opportunity, we urge you to attend the next assistant's event.

Speaking of the next event, the Assistants Committee is again planning specific education for assistants at the Spring Management Meeting which will be held on Monday February 28 at the Inn at St. Johns. Our lineup of speakers will be sure to educate and enlighten those assistants that make it to the event. We have had great success with this in the past and we hope to continue offering you informative material and provide networking experiences for assistants.

As we begin the 2011 season the assistants committee is always looking for assistants that would like to get involved. We are in the midst of planning future shop talks, the assistant's golf day and even starting to think about next years GLTE. If you are interested in planning future events and becoming involved in your local GCSAA chapter, call or email Dan (koopsdan@hotmail.com) or Kevin today. We hope to see you at the next event.



Adam Ikamas, CGCS talks about the Road to Certification.





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A FULL ROUND



BRENT NELSON

CGCS



Brent Nelson, CGCS, has been in the golf business for the vast majority of his life. He started at 10 years old working for his uncle at Grand Blanc Golf Course and knew the job was his calling the next year at age 11 while operating a bulldozer. Brent is a graduate of the MSU Turfgrass program and is the Vice President of Operations at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire and has been married to his wife Susan for eight years and has seven daughters.

WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

Michigan State University

WHAT PART OF THAT EDUCATION DO YOU USE MOST OFTEN ON THE JOB?

I thought that my education at Michigan State was well rounded. The professors while I was at State where Dr. Riekie, Dr Payne, Dr Vargas and Dr Beard. They instilled in all of us the ability to reason through a problem and to react in a logical way. I can't thank them enough. To answer this question I'd say my soils and turf grass classes have helped me through some pretty tough seasons.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?

I expect them to continue to provide a solid educational base for their members. The industry is ever changing and we (the MiGCSA members) must be in the forefront of that change. It's very important that we continue to support our turf research especially in the area of chemicals since they seem to be taken away at a moment's notices.

HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I have spent time talking about our profession to local people/groups. I have been involved in several organizations that were looking for a voice familiar with the turf industry. There is this mystery out there about the turf business and what we actually do. Sometimes we are looked at like this big bad actor in a play. It doesn't take long to help people understand how we positively impact our environment.

WHO ARE THE GROUPS, AND WHAT DO YOU FOCUS ON WHEN SPEAKING TO THEM?

Some of the "local" groups have been the Grass River Natural Area which is an 1800 acre nature preserve located in the heart of Antrim County and the Friends of the Cedar River, both environmental groups. They all want to have a better understanding of what we do and why we do it. We naturally talk about IPM, disease pressure, water consumption and working with state and local organization like the Antrim County Soil erosion District.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

I'd say that labor is a real issue along with managing your budgets. There is such a fine line between providing a great conditioned course and blowing right through your budget to accomplish this. We've begun to accept a little more disease than we are used to.



QUICK NINE

DO YOU FIND THE GOLFERS NOTICE OR COMPLAIN, OR IS MAINLY HARD FOR THE STAFF?

It's interesting that the vast majority of our golfers don't really notice any more disease issues and that they only say that the courses are beautiful. Maybe I can cut back even more but I'm not sure that the staff can take it. They all want perfection.

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

I'd say that the superintendent is a very influential person in the turf industry. I'm sure that a lot of people would argue against this but without the super being in the field on a daily basis and having the knowledge that he processes our industry would constantly struggle. It amazes me the knowledge that one must possess to become a superintendent. From Turf grass, chemicals, accounting, mechanic, hydraulics, people skills, rules of golf and so on. This is another reason that I stayed in the turf business as I just love to learn something new each and every day.

WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT?

Right now I'd say we should do as much research as necessary in the area of snow mold. With the loss of PCNB, we and the rest of golf industry that uses this product can't afford to take another large hit on our chemical budgets. Without PCNB the price that we paid for our snow mold product this past fall jumped some 25%.

WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS?

The next generation will have to be able to manage their turf with fewer resources. They will have to be more creative and to show my age they will have to revert back to the "old school" methods. It's interesting as I talk to a younger superintendents I get the weirdest look from them. They then ask what is this "old School" stuff is. I respond to them about growing turf without any of the new tools available to us. Using less people, products and generally relying on each other to get the job done.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF GREEN SPEED AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY?

I believe that you can get a great roll on the green and it doesn't have to be a speed of 11 or higher. With our type of play if the green speed becomes too fast we can actually slow our play down as some of our guests are three and four putting.

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

We hire our assistant superintendents just like they are going to be the Superintendent. We look at their backgrounds, base knowledge of turf and people skills. I don't have a lot of turnover in the superintendent positions, but when I do the assistant can step right into that role and not miss a beat. Besides all of the turf and business knowledge that the assistant may have I also look at their ability to get along with people. Their ability to blend in with the team and to be part of them is probably the most important characteristic that this person could have.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NON-GOLF SPORT?

We are all water nuts. It doesn't matter as long as we are on the water. We are fortunate to live in an area with an unbelievable amount of clean fresh water.

1. SUN, RAIN OR SNOW? Sun
2. IPOD, CD PLAYER OR 8 TRACK TAPE? iPod
3. CLASSIC GOLF COURSE, MODERN GOLF COURSE OR MODERN/CLASSIC GOLF COURSE? Classic Golf Course
4. DOLLAR SPOT, SNOWMOLD OR PYTHIUM? Snowmold
5. E-MAIL, SNAIL MAIL OR FACE TO FACE? E-mail
6. TITLIEST, NIKE OR CALLAWAY? Callaway
7. MOWING GREENS, MOWING FAIRWAYS OR MOWING ROUGH? Mowing Greens
8. RAKING WASHOUTS IN BUNKERS, FIXING BALL MARKS AFTER A TOURNAMENT OR CLEANING OUT THE WASH PAD GRASS PIT? Fixing ball marks after a tournament
9. SPORTS CAR, PICK-UP TRUCK OR WATER CRAFT? Water Craft

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE TOURING PROFESSIONAL?

Tom Wieskopf (retired). I enjoyed watching Tom play and I got to know him while he was designing the Cedar River Golf Course at Shanty Creek.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SPECIFIC MEMORIES THAT STICK WITH YOU TO THIS DAY ABOUT THAT EXPERIENCE?

One of the most interesting things that happened when working with Tom was while we were building the Cedar River Golf Course. We came upon his number 5 green complex which was still covered in rocks and trees. Tom and I reviewed the green complex from about 300 feet away and then he said "Can you see it" naturally all I can see are trees. But he took the time and got me to feel the "presence" of number 5. After a few minutes I could actually see the layout with its shape. Then Tom said "Hey, I'll be back in about a week, get it roughed in". I naturally felt a little sick and said what if I mess it up. Tom came back and said "don't worry you'll do just fine". Tom has that ability to make one feel at ease and boy did I need that. I really enjoyed my time with Tom and would love to do it again.

MID DISTRICT

2010 CHRISTMAS PARTY RECAP



Steve Rose, Jim Naugler, Phil Owen, Dave Makulski, David Yates and Richard Hall

For the 3rd year in a row the Mid Michigan District of the MiGCSA held its annual holiday party at Bottoms Up food and spirits located in Holly. The party was well attended again this year by about 50 supporters from around the area and state. Some stayed for a ½ hour and just stopped in to say hello, while others enjoyed hours telling old stories, talking about the state of our industry or just catching up with old friends while there is snow on the ground. We would like to thank Jim Naugler for setting this up once again this year and we hope you can come and join us in 2011. Please also remember that the Mid Bowling Fundraiser is coming up on February 25th at 10:30 AM at Galaxy lanes in Grand Blanc. It is a great time and another way to get out of the shop and network with your peers.



Jim Moore, Mike Urquhart, Daniel Johanningsmeier, Chris Allard and Dan Allard



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DETROIT DISTRICT

2010 CHRISTMAS PARTY RECAP

On December 10th the Detroit District got together at Gus O'Conner's Irish Pub in Novi. The attendance was low however all that attended had a great time. A special thank you to Mike Hirvela from Bayer and Doug Johanningsmeier from Harrell's sponsoring for the pizza buffet. We are looking for new/fresh ideas for the 2011 Detroit Christmas party.



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JASON TYSON

EQUIPMENT MANAGER, THE WYNDGATE

Jason Tyson is the Equipment Manager at The Wyndgate. The Wyndgate's original course, Eastwynd, was designed following the natural contour of the land, presenting serious golfers a challenge enveloped in nature's beauty. With five tees for each hole, golfers of all levels experience an entertaining excursion for every round played. Westwynd, a new 18 hole course, opened its doors to members and guests September 10th, 2002. A Craig Schreiner design, Westwynd features vast elevation changes, natural marsh and wetland areas and undulating greens.

The first golf course Jason worked at was Great Oaks Country Club in Rochester, MI after he answered an ad in the newspaper. His education came from technician classes and working as an assistant Tech under Jim King at Great Oaks Country Club. Jason has been married for almost 12 years to his wife, Erin and four sons Jesse (16), Jason (13), Thomas (10), and Hunter (6). Jason has a cat, Derby and two dogs. Sakari is a black lab that comes to work with him every day and Princess is a Cocker spaniel.

1. WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?

To provide the opportunity for technicians to broaden their education on turf related topics not just the equipment aspect but also the agronomy part as well. I learned long ago it's a lot easier for me to accept why a superintendent is doing things a certain way if I understand the reasons why and benefit (such as topdressing).

2. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I have always tried to promote the image of the technician as not just a fixer of things but as a Professional. I have helped plan technician seminars at the old M.T.F. I have been a guest speaker at the M.T.F. and at three spring meetings for the technicians in 2009. Back in 2005 I worked with Fritz McMullen to get the Technicians recognized as a member of the Greater Detroit Superintendents Association. I am currently on the Board of Directors for the I.G.C.E.M.A.

3. WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT?

Leaving stuff in or on it and not cleaning the grass out of the reels.

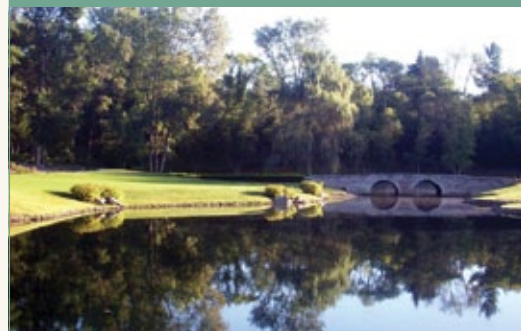
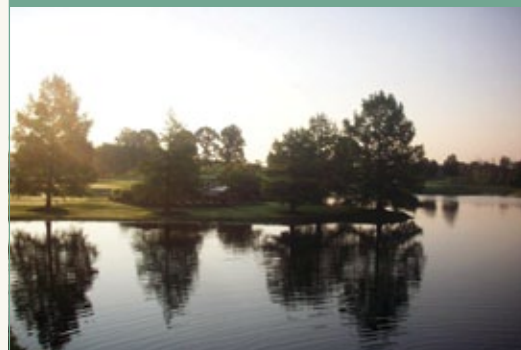
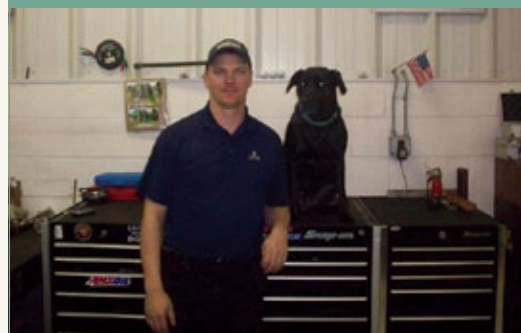
4. WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF EQUIPMENT MANAGERS?

The good part is the position has become and will continue to become viewed as a key position with that comes a lot more responsibility and higher expectations. They will have to continue to hone the skill of multi-tasking while coming up with creative ways to save money.

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

When I worked at Saint Clair River Country Club, they had goofy golf day and each hole had something different. I got to run hole number nine and we cut the cup extra deep and put a radio under the cup then I hid on the roof and would yell things in to the radio as they were putting. Some of the reactions I got from the members was absolutely hilarious. I had this one member trying to figure out where I was hiding at because I was picking on the MSU attire he had on. I made a bet with him if he made the putt I would tell him where I was hiding at and if he missed he had to ride his putter across the green like it was a horse singing the Michigan fight song. I won the bet and he paid up and it was hilarious.

UNDER THE HOOD



FROM NATIONAL

TO A NEW YEAR!

BY STEVE RANDALL- GCSAA SENIOR MANAGER, CHAPTER OUTREACH



STEVE RANDALL

Ah, the first edition of Course Conditions in 2011. As I thought about what to include in this piece, I am reminded of how far we have traveled over the past five years, how much has been accomplished, and how things will evolve. What better way to set the tone than by announcing some news which we hope will enhance the value of your membership.

First off, four – count them – four – resident field staff are in place across the country.

Michigan, which is part of the newly formed Great Lakes Region, has John Miller, long time GCSAA member and former PGA Tour Agronomist assigned to serve your chapter and continue to enhance its effectiveness.



John Miller, CGCS

Before everyone starts jumping for joy, knowing yours truly is not your dedicated field staff representative, just remember...I will still be able to touch base with John and hope to visit with members on occasion. Kidding aside, we hope you will enjoy working with John. He has a wealth of industry knowledge and he has already met many of you, and you hopefully had the chance to visit with him while he was at the GLTE in January.

In addition, Brian Cloud will cover the South Central Region (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas), while Richard Pavlasek has been named the Southwest Regional Representative, covering Arizona, California, Hawaii and Utah.

Ralph Dain, who has served the Florida region since 2008 remains serving this area and his experience will be important as the program evolves. I will continue to serve our chapter services department from GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence. I will still be making various visits to chapters, focusing on strategic planning, overall effectiveness and educational presentations. This will also allow resident field staff to have a direct report contact from the GCSAA offices.

There is also the ambition to continue field staff expansion, based on resources, in the future. The goal is to begin hiring in the Northeast and Northwest regions by the end of 2011. The Southeast and Mid Atlantic Regions would be next in line in 2012 and the Central Plains region would be targeted in 2013.

This is a major undertaking by GCSAA. The positive comments by members in Michigan, and the opportunity I have had to work with everyone there has been noticed and your appreciation has been heard loud and clear by the GCSAA board of directors. Just remember...I'll Be Back!!!

Value Adds...GCSAA unveils member savings program:

In January, GCSAA announced a member savings program. This allows GCSAA members to purchase products at deep discounts with recognized and trusted companies. The initial launch of this service includes three companies including Nike Golf, JoS. A Bank Clothiers, and Zones (which specializes in business technology services). Take advantage of this program. Look for more companies to be added in the near future!

Other New Products/Services:

GCSAA members will continue to hear more about new products and services planned for this year. Those include:

- Enhanced GCSAA Job Board
- More User Friendly Web Site
- Innovative Technology Features
- GCSAA Radio – audio programming

Services that are now available, but may be unknown:

- GCSAA Suppliers Guide – online buyers guide
- GCSAA Industry Spotlight – industry news
- IPM Planning Guide & BMP Performance Statements
- Updated educational competencies
- Self Assessment Tool

And Finally...

What are some things that are weighing you down? More importantly, what is on your plate where GCSAA can lighten your load? That is why we are here. That is why our Board of Directors and staff are dedicated to serve your needs.

Let us know how we can help...Here's to a great 2011!

Steve Randall, GCSAA Senior Manager, Chapter Outreach, 800/472-7878

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Cutler Robinson, CGCS
Director of Golf Course Operations
Bayville Golf Club, Virginia Beach, VA



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MIGCSA ASKED TO MEET WITH THE EPA REGARDING THE LOSS OF PCNB

BY RON DAHLIN, CGCS MIGCSA PRESIDENT

The MiGCSA was asked to meet with the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington DC regarding the impact that the Stop Sale Order of PCNB had on the golf industry.

Chava McKeel, the Senior Manager of Information and Public Policy at the GCSAA requested the meeting with Steven Bradbury, Director Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention to discuss the ramifications of the loss of this fungicide for the prevention of snow mold in the northern tier of the United States. Somewhat surprisingly, a meeting was granted within seven days of the request and on the 10th of November, five superintendents representing five northern tier states convened in Washington DC along with Dr. Clark Throssell of the Environmental Institute of Golf and Chava McKeel for the meeting.

Our hope was to meet with Ms. Lois Rossi the current Director of the Registration Division (RD), her assistant director and several members of the division but instead we were introduced to 20 members of the EPA representing several divisions who were working on the issue. It was indeed a great opportunity presented to sit in the same room and speak directly to the Directors of the Biological and Economic Analysis Division (BEAD), Pesticide Recertification Division (PRD), Environmental Fate and Effects Division (EFED) and of course representatives of the Office of General Council (OGC = Lawyers). Kevin Clunis MGCSA (Minnesota), Ron Dahlin, CGCS MiGCSA, Bob Nielsen, CGCS METGCSA (Metropolitan New York), Richard Pagett PGCSA (Pennsylvania) and Eric McCormick IGCSA (Idaho) joined with Dr. Throssell and Ms. McKeel to explain to the assembled group at the EPA what snow mold is and the effect that it can have on golf courses if left untreated.

The assembled group was also given a short course on the economic impact that golf has in the United States which included the data that it is a \$195 billion industry – bigger than the motion picture and recording

industries combined or all professional sports combined. It creates 2 million jobs annually and contributes \$3.5 billion annually to charities across the country, more than any other sporting activity. Along with the agronomic lesson a passionate discussion on the current economic climate in the golf industry along with the added impact the loss of turf would have on operating budgets and revenue generation was given by all five of the superintendents who spoke.

The group from the EPA was engaging and asked questions during the meeting which stretched well past the allotted time. While the entire assembled group from the golf industry asked for the immediate lifting of the Stop Sale Order, it was not immediately granted. It was learned that the heart of the issue is not the molecule itself but rather a contaminate found in one of the inert ingredients that lead to the removal of the product from the supply channels.

The manufacturer of the base compound, AMVAC, has since changed the way the molecule is produced to severely reduce this contaminate and has recently resubmitted data to the EPA for their review. It is thought that PCNB products may very well reenter the supply channels but it may be too late for any use in Michigan in 2010. The politics and personalities that are behind the current Stop Sale Order will eventually be worked out but the underlying feeling is that PCNB may very well return to use in a limited or short lived manner. The current process is not done so please stay tuned for more information from the MiGCSA on this.





DETROIT CLUB MANAGERS ASSOCIATION
A CHAPTER OF THE CLUB MANAGERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

BY JOSEPH F. BASSO, MCM, CCE, General Manager / Chief Operating Officer, Birmingham Country Club; Secretary/Treasurer, Detroit Club Managers Association



Joseph F. Basso, MCM, CCE, General Manager / Chief Operating Officer, Birmingham Country Club; Secretary/Treasurer, Detroit Club Managers Association

lives on daily basis. Perhaps they always should have been. People are working more and playing less with less discretionary income and the time to spend it. There is bound to be some shrinkage in supply to follow the contraction in demand.

Throw in the record-setting summer of 2010 and the subsequent challenges of sustaining healthy turf. The superintendent, by definition, has always had an integral role in the success of any golf operation. Never has that involvement been more essential. Look past the contribution of an almost innate ability to maintain turf under a variety of economic and agronomic conditions. Never has the superintendent had more of a significant impact on the financial aspects of a golf operation.

The revenue side is somewhat easy to evaluate. If the golf course is in

There should be little question – based on the statistics or our own instincts – that our industry has suffered some setback over the last few years; especially here in the Mitten where we do business. Whether daily-fee, resort, or private membership courses, play on average is flat, to be kind, and down from the levels we all enjoyed in the late 90's and through the last decade. We now find ourselves competing for players and patrons across every demographic. "Programming" and "marketing" are now part of our professional

exemplary condition, there will be more play – more guest play in a private club, more rounds in general for public, municipal and resort properties. This in turn leads to ancillary revenue enhancement in other available amenities, like food and beverage, rooms, spa services. The larger the property, the greater the potential impact on other revenue areas.

The natural converse then, is that when the golf course conditioning is not in as your clientele has come to expect, usage will be down. There is no better example (although an extreme one) of this premise than the proverbial golf course renovation in a private country club setting. If that renovation requires disruption of play of any kind, it typically leads to a drop in activity throughout the club, oftentimes including the membership replenishment vital to the private sector.

We all strive for the best playing conditions we can provide given the economics of the individual golf course. While there are certainly many other factors effecting revenue generation, it should be easy to accept the premise of the superintendent's impact on the plus side of the income statement. No one in their right mind would dispute the importance and need for driving revenues, especially here in Michigan where the availability of those revenues through a real or perceived lack of discretionary income becomes regularly and decreasingly less. Let's look then at where I believe the superintendent has the most significant impact – the expense side of the game of golf.

In the old days, it was all about expense control. Beating up your vendors to drive down equipment, chemical, and supply prices. Deferring purchases. Getting one more year out of your Cushmans. Managing the various elements of a turf care operation as efficiently as possible. Today, collectively, this is just one aspect of the financial competence necessary to meet the budgetary goals of the operation. It is a proficiency that comes with a well-rounded and able superintendent. Yes, you need to excel at controlling expenditures. Every operation's department managers need to. But if I want someone with good financial acumen in any role short of my controller, I want it to be my superintendent.

Regardless of the size or type of operation, the superintendent is likely to have the largest department, whether in terms of percentage

of the operating budget or size of staff. The diversity within, in many regions, a multi-lingual staff makes managing this workforce a task unto itself. At any given moment, the superintendent is multi-tasking through a multitude of intra-departments under the turf care umbrella. There is a sizeable equipment repair and maintenance function that at some properties involves golf car fleet management. The increasing regulation targeted at golf courses makes environmental management a necessary focus. Add to that irrigation and drainage maintenance, a not-so-small landscaping role, and safe-guarding a sizeable collection of the club's assets. All this before we get to the part about growing grass and supporting other departments, from hanging Christmas tree decorations to changing the parking lot lights. Accordingly, the individual in this position must possess a broad set of skills to keep all of these wheels turning. That doesn't leave a lot of time for spreadsheets.

Our golf course budget is typically constructed from a plethora of spreadsheets for each line item in the budget. Labor is spread over days, not weeks or months. The timing of fertilizer and chemical purchases is planned to maintain levels of inventory consistent with the seasonal cycle and take advantage of early purchase incentive pricing. Maintenance on every piece of equipment, preventive or otherwise, is documented – and we have the historical expenditures associated with keeping each piece of equipment running over its life cycle. Each planned project is budgeted so that if in fact expenditures need to be deferred, the associated costs are easily identified.

It is easy to focus on the big ticket items – chemicals, equipment repair and maintenance, labor. It is just as easy to let some of the smaller line items get away from you. Good practice calls for watching line item expense variances on a percentage basis and developing a reporting and follow-up process to track them. The trigger should differ based on the size of a budgeted line item. A three percent variance in your

\$5,000 small tools expense does not equate to a 5% variance in your \$50,000 labor expenditure.

Sound fiscal management dictates an almost zero-based budgeting process, to avoid the pitfall of building inefficiencies and unnecessary or one-time expenditures into subsequent budgets. Some even enlist the practice of a rolling master budget, where each month's actual results are assessed and adjusted into that same month's budget for the next fiscal year. The end result is that at any time, a budget exists for a full twelve month period. There are many methods for tracking and monitoring line item expenses. You have to find the one that works for you. Any budgeting process takes an inordinate amount of the superintendent's time and for some properties begins at the tail end of the growing season. It is imperative that the superintendent get the support from other senior management and the accounting department.

The hardest task of any golf course manager: balancing fiscal responsibility and sound financial management of finite financial resources with the day-to-day needs that arise in managing what we are caring for – the golf course and surrounding property. Protect the revenues while minimizing the expenses while maximizing the agronomic conditions. I have been privileged over the course of my career to have worked with superintendents that have excelled at this. So much so that we rarely missed a golf course budget by a significant margin. In our case, many of the methods mentioned above, with other "tricks of the trade" have trickled down to other department managers - a positive effect on them, and improvement in the overall financial management of the property and a reflection of the capabilities of the superintendent and their impact on fiscal responsibility.

2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, February 25	Bowling Scholarship Fundraiser (Galaxy Lanes, Grand Blanc)
Monday, February 28	MiGCSA Spring Mgt Meeting (The Inn at St John's, Plymouth)
Thur - Fri, March 10-11	Ski and Learn Turfgrass Talk Show (Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa, Thompsonville)
Monday, March 14	MiGCSA Spring Mgt Meeting/ Equipment Tech (Egypt Valley CC, Ada)
Monday, March 21	MiGCSA Spring Mgt Meeting/Equipment Tech (Tree Tops, Gaylord)
Monday, April 11	IPP Appreciation event /Chapter golf event (Barton Hills Country Club, Ann Arbor)
Monday, April 25	MiGCSA Spring Opener (The Moors Golf Club, Portage)
Wednesday, April 26	Equipment Tech Education (The Wyndgate, Rochester Hills)

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.

THE BETTER HALF



VERN SLAGER

Introduction written by: John Fulling, CGCS, Grounds and Facilities Manager, Kalamazoo Country Club

We are all repeatedly pounded with the words "Everyone is replaceable" in today's business climate which seems to be founded more on fear than on forward progress and value. That thought is compounded in the minds of those of us who have been around a while and unfortunately sometimes the feeling can even go beyond just keeping us focussed, current and on our toes. I believe there is real, quantifiable and irreplaceable value in experience. Vern Slager has been a part of the Kalamazoo Country Club team for more than 32 years. He has been the assistant superintendent for most of that time. Vern knows every inch of the property, has fixed everything that has ever been fixed, installed everything that has ever been installed, directed employees for 30+ years, made every mistake three times and figured it all out. He's tried every cultural practice, every different way it can be done. He's seen and dealt with every type of employee and all their issues. Most importantly, he has invested his life into his work which creates a very strong commitment to responsibility and a genuine love for the property... and that may in itself be the one thing every employer should look for in an employee. Experience and longevity is irreplaceable.

1. ARE YOU MARRIED AND IF SO HOW LONG?

28 years

2. DO YOU HAVE ANY CHILDREN? WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES AND AGES?

Yes. Michele (26), Mark (24) and Meredith (24)

3. DO YOU PLAY GOLF? WHAT IS YOUR HANDICAP??

Yes. My handicap is 12.

4. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

The Par 3 13th at Arcadia Bluffs

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

Augusta

6. HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

I answered help wanted add in Kalamazoo Gazette. The first course I worked on was the Kalamazoo Country Club.

7. WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

Kalamazoo Christian, One year of Law Enforcement at KVCC and various turf classes

8. WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE TOURING PROFESSIONAL?

Fuzzy Zeller

9. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE IN YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

Great employees!

10. IF ONLY ONE PLANT PROTECTANT WAS AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE IN YOUR TANK?
Daconil
11. WHAT IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT IS STILL BEING UTILIZED IN YOUR FLEET?
A 40 year old Sod Cutter
12. WHAT TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM DO YOU HAVE AND APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY IRRIGATION HEADS?
Toro Decoder System with 800 series. 600 plus heads.
13. WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?
Networking, stay informed of rules and regulations
14. WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION?
Research for MSU, new technology development and education
15. WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?
Responding to unanticipated weather conditions, and timing of applications due to weather.
16. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?
Advancement to "superintendent" – for every open job, there are many superintendents also competing for the same job.
17. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?
John Fulling and Bob Hope
18. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE MECHANIC IN RELATIONSHIP TO THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT?
There needs to be a good working relationship, and open communication so he can be kept abreast of any equipment that might be needed.
19. WOULD YOU RATHER BE A WELL COMPENSATED ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OR A POORLY COMPENSATED SUPERINTENDENT?
Well compensated assistant, not only the pay but having the resources and equipment to do the job correctly.
20. WHAT IS THE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE YOU COULD NOT DO WITHOUT?
Speed rolling
21. PLEASE DESCRIBE IN DETAIL ONE TRUE FUNNY STORY FROM YOUR CAREER THAT YOU SHARE WHEN IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY?
Roy was showing a new employee how to adjust reels on a gang mower. He tightened all of them too tight. When the employee took off down the fairway, the reels were so tight, the wheels wouldn't roll and they tore up turf for 100 feet as Roy was frantically waving his arms and yelling for him to stop.



QUICK NINE

1. FISH, DOG OR CAT? Dog
2. WEEKEND IRRIGATION BREAK, BUDGET MEETING OR ICE CREAM HEADACHE? Irrigation break
3. CLASSIC GOLF COURSE, MODERN GOLF COURSE OR MODERN/CLASSIC GOLF COURSE? Modern/Classic
4. DOLLAR SPOT, SNOWMOLD OR PYTHIUM? Snow mold
5. DRIVER, WEDGE OR PUTTER? Wedge
6. TITLIEST, NIKE OR CALLAWAY? Titleist
7. RAKING WASHOUTS IN BUNKERS, FIXING BALL MARKS AFTER A TOURNAMENT OR CLEANING OUT THE WASH PAD GRASS PIT? Wash outs in bunkers
8. MORNING SUNRISE, SUNNY DAY OR BEAUTIFUL SUNSET? Sunset
9. LOCAL MIGCSA EVENT, GREAT LAKES TRADE EXPO OR GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW? Local MiGCSA event





A CALL FROM CAMPUS

TEE TIMES 4 TURF

"Tee Times 4 Turf" is a fantastic way to support turfgrass research at Michigan State University. Your investment of golf rounds at your property will be auctioned online to a very large but targeted golf audience and 100% of the sale price will go directly to turfgrass research this year!

Michigan State University turfgrass research makes the game of golf better and more cost effective every single year. Our Turf Team is the most highly regarded because they're highly skilled, focused on advancement of the game, working together as a true team and have the backing and trust of the best industry in the country.

Invest in the game of golf and the future of our industry by donating rounds of golf to the "Tee Times 4 Turf" online auction today! It's easy and it's tax deductible! Visit www.teetimes4turf.com and click on donate rounds. It takes only a minute but the payoff will last for years.

We will also be proudly displaying the "Tee Times 4 Turf" logo at the Michigan Golf Shows this spring. Sign on now and hang a sign on your booth that says you proudly support turfgrass research through Tee Times 4 Turf! Call us at (517) 392-5003 and let us tell you how!

Invest in turfgrass research and the game of golf today!

Auction begins April 4

www.teetimes4turf.com



WESTERN DISTRICT

2010 CHRISTMAS PARTY RECAP

Steve Tedhams gathered the members from the Western District once again at the Cascade Sports Lounge for a great afternoon of catching up, enjoying a great lunch coupled with a great beverage. The nearly 60 people gathered were composed of superintendents, assistants, affiliates and technicians and we were even blessed to see likes of Roger Barton and Doug Boyle. It was a time to talk with those that we had not seen since before the tough summer of 2010 and it was nice to sit and commiserate and console with those that know our business as well as we do. How Steve gets the folks at this perennial favorite to allow us to overrun the joint each December is a mystery to all but Steve and the manager. One thing is for sure, we appreciate the effort (& perhaps the bribery) that it takes to allow us all to gather there. Voices and spirits were lifted and all left feeling a little better about what we do and who we are associated with and what a great profession we have chosen.



Steve Tedhams

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To read more about these stories and many more go to www.MiGCSA.org

MSU TURF TEAM UPDATE

Good news! The anticipated January thaw occurred in December! Anyway, the snow and ice melted giving the turf a chance to “breathe.” There is no concern at the current time about the annual bluegrass being under ice for 60 days. New ice did form in the low areas on greens and fairways on December 31, so we can start a new countdown for those areas from this date; however, it would be a good time to remove the ice from these small areas, at least on the greens, while the temperatures are still below freezing. I do not think we will have any more concern about new ice that may form on the greens later this month since they will not be under the ice for 60 days. Our next problem will be when the temperatures warm up around March and the annual bluegrass loses its cold temperature proteins and begins to take water into the crowns. If this occurs, severe annual bluegrass loss may occur in areas where standing water refreezes at night.

Dr. Joe Vargas

MIGCSA STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Congratulations to Stuart Naugler, Brian Hilfinger, and Daniel Graft. They each won a \$1,000 scholarship from the MiGCSA. Thank you to all of the great candidates that applied for the scholarships this year. The Michigan State Turf program has some great people entering the industry.

CHAPTER DELEGATES MEETING OUTCOMES

The GCSAA Board of Directors, 2011 board candidates, and 87 delegates representing 93 of GCSAA's 100 affiliated chapters, convened at the Hilton Kansas City Airport October 23-24, for the 18th annual Chapter Delegates Meeting. Approximately 30 percent of the delegates were first-time attendees.

TAVIS HORTON TO STEP DOWN FROM BOARD SERVICE

After a great run as the first Assistant Superintendent elected to the MiGCSA Board of Directors (and possibly the first to serve in this capacity in the nation) Tavis Horton has decided to step down. The decision will enable Tavis to focus more of his time and energy on his new business and still allow time to spend with his wife and two daughters. Tavis has served on the “Big Event” committee for the past 15 years and it is our hope that he continues to help make it such a great event and positive fund-raising effort for the MiGCSA Foundation. Tavis's dedication to the membership and specifically the assistant superintendents in Michigan was exemplary.

TURFGRASS PHOSPHORUS USE LEGISLATION PASSES

In December 2020, Michigan lawmakers passed legislation (HB-5368) that will impact phosphorus use on turfgrass. The new regulations and limitations will go into effect on January 1, 2012.

Full text of the bill can be viewed at www.migcsa.org. The MSU Turf Team is already working on education and training opportunities to comply with the new regulations.

Kevin Frank

MIGCSA PRESIDENT RON DAHLIN, CGCS AT THE SYNGENTA BUSINESS INSTITUTE

Congratulations to Ron Dahlin, CGCS who was selected as one of 28 golf course superintendents to participate in the Syngenta Business Institute, a unique, educational program.

The Syngenta Business Institute is sponsored by Syngenta in conjunction with Wake Forest University's graduate school of business and was held Nov. 29 to Dec. 2 in Winston-Salem, N.C. While agronomic expertise is critical to superintendent success, Syngenta also recognized the need to provide superintendents with business management tools.

Syngenta worked with Wake Forest to develop a program that focused on business and financial management, human resource management, and negotiation skills.

He was selected from a talented pool of superintendents based on an application process that reviewed their educational background, industry achievements and an essay.

Dahlin is the golf course superintendent at The Meadows Golf Club at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Mich.

THOM NIKOLAI: REVITALIZING FLINT BY MOWING THE GRASS

A team of Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station researchers — comprising turf experts, a sociologist and an economist — are working on a three-year project with the Genesee County Land Bank and three Flint communities to investigate the interaction between the biological environment and social change, and how this connection may affect the ability to recreate prosperous, vibrant communities.

MAES turf expert and project leader Thom Nikolai, an academic specialist with the MSU Institute of Agricultural Technology, says the team hopes to combine the attachment value embedded in lawns with growing and maintaining healthy turf to build community capacity and help contribute to Flint's economic recovery.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MIGCSA MEMBERS

Mike and Kimberly Hirvela welcome Hudson Michael Hirvela on January 22nd

Collin and Jenne Romanick welcome Elise Calla Romanick on January 28th



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