

# COURSE CONDITIONS



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## COURSE CONDITIONS

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## MIGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### SUMMARY OF CLASSES 11/08/11

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	FALL 2010 MEMBERSHIP
<b>Class AA</b>	27	25
<b>Class A</b>	219	245
<b>Class SM</b>	64	67
<b>Class C</b>	87	95
<b>Class D</b>	32	44
<b>Class E</b>	20	20
<b>Class AFF</b>	145	174
<b>Class H</b>	24	13
<b>Class SA</b>	11	10
<b>Class R</b>	9	12
<b>Class I</b>	3	1
<b>Class FM</b>	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>646</b>	<b>706</b>

Please log in to your account at [www.migcsa.org](http://www.migcsa.org) to renew your membership for 2012. If you are unsure of your status contact us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org) or 1-888-3-MiGCSA.

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# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



JAY ECCLETON, CGCS

*As I write this message, I find myself looking back at a year that has just soared by. Working in this business, you often find yourself wishing away your summer just to get to winter then spend all winter longing for the summer. This past golf season presented its handful of problems and obstacles but nothing that couldn't be handled with a great staff full of dedication and enthusiasm. As we take this time to evaluate our successes and failures in 2011 we should also consider how our season stacked up to years past. Success is not just based on financial numbers or agronomic health, but also gauged on how much time you spent planning for your own future financially and time spent with family on one of our priceless Michigan summer days. Continuing education is also an integral part of our own success and through our combined efforts between allied associations, the opportunities to gain knowledge and attend seminars has become more available to us as a superintendent.*

*In the upcoming months, there are plenty of opportunities to sharpen your management skills and advance you professionally.*

*Join MiGCSA at one of our three Christmas events held throughout the state and take some time to unwind and network with fellow golf course superintendents and industry professionals. Join the East District December 9th at The Moose Preserve in Bloomfield Hills, and the West District at Cascade Sports Bar in Grand Rapids also on Friday the 9th. Also the Mid District will hold their event on Friday December 16th at Bottom's Up in Holly, MI. There is no better way to kick off the Christmas Holiday with friends and colleagues. Please join us as we continue to build strong relationships throughout our industry.*

*Once again the Great Lakes Trade Expo (GLTE) will be held at The DeVos Center in Grand Rapids January 9-11 and is sure to be a great opportunity of networking and information gathering. Don't forget that our annual meeting will be held during the GLTE on Tuesday January 10th at 5:00 p.m. in Ballroom C. This is a great opportunity to interact with the Board of Directors and have any of your questions or concerns addressed.*

*The GCSAA has returned to Las Vegas to bring you the 2012 Golf Industry Show and Education Conference February 27th –March 1st. If you haven't been to the conference in a few years, this is the year to make a return appearance. Las Vegas will prove to be one of the most exciting locations for the conference and what better place to catch up with old college buddies than Las Vegas.*

*Before you know it the MiGCSA Spring Management meetings will be upon us in March packed full of informative presenters and innovative solutions to make 2012 even more successful than 2011.*

*So as I close this message, I wish a wonderful holiday season to all and for joyous memories to be built this winter season with the most important people in our careers..... the spouses, sons, daughters, and grandchildren of the MiGCSA.*

Season's Greetings,

Jay B. Eccleton, CGCS

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS: WHAT MAKES A MEMORABLE GOLF COURSE?

BY CHRIS WILCZYNSKI, ASGCA



FRANKLIN HILLS C.C.  
FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN  
CLUB LANDSCAPING

What are the elements that define a memorable golf course and how do these elements define the first impression for the golfing patrons? A golfer's impression of a golf facility typically begins when we book a tee time or arrive at the course for the first time. Our impression of the golf course can be impacted by the customer service or the clubhouse and pro-shop amenities. Some of us will be influenced by the overall topographic landscape or the bunkers and greens. Others will be influenced by the conditioning of the golf course, and as always the history or course ranking will impact our impression.

Let's think about this for a minute. How important are the elements that were just listed? The budgets to maintain golf courses have shrunk substantially within the last 3-5 years. Impeccable conditioning is no longer sustainable. Our impression of conditioning needs to change and adapt to more realistic expectations. There are only 100 golf courses out of the nearly 16,000 courses within the United States that make the top 100 list. So, the impression of greatness can only really be applied to a very small fraction of all golf courses. Yes, bold greens and bunkers can be memorable, but they can also ruin a game of golf, leaving a really bad impression on the golfer.

So, what elements truly define our impression and help create a memorable golf course? In my opinion it's the style, theme or sense of place that the golf course and surrounding facility expresses. The golf courses that have left the biggest impression on me are the ones that have a defined sense of place or style throughout the entire facility. One of the best non-golf examples that I can share is Disney's Animal Kingdom Park in Orlando, Florida. The brilliant minds at Disney have done such a great job of creating a unified style or theme throughout Animal Kingdom. This theme is carried out in the landscaping, the exhibits, the entertainers and the overall feeling or emotion that one has while in the park.

Golf courses can provide this same experience. There are a few examples that come to mind. At the Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio one of the first things that you see upon pulling into the entrance is the panoramic view of holes #1 and #10. These are good holes but what makes this experience so memorable is that the holes share a combined fairway that is carried all the way down into the valley below the tees and primary landing area. A small yet stylistic putting green is located between and connected to the 1st and 10th tees. The teeing ground is separated from the parking area with simple yet elegant landscaping. You just know that you are somewhere special when you arrive at Inverness. These features define the "style" and overall first impression of Inverness. Franklin Hills Country Club in Franklin, Michigan is another great example. The Club's entry feature is simple and elegant. Nice landscaping with a small understated



**First impressions are really important in the hospitality and leisure business.**

entrance sign. Along the right side of the entrance drive is the expansive practice facility that sits down in a broad valley. The entire valley is mowed at fairway height. What a unique first impression! The landscaping around the perimeter of the Clubhouse and ancillary buildings is simple and beautiful. This same landscaping theme is carried throughout the golf course. Small landscape gardens have been placed at key areas to reinforce the theme and sense of place that exists at Franklin Hills. Another good example is Shepherd's Hollow Golf Club in Clarkston, Michigan. The long winding entry drive takes



FRANKLIN HILLS C.C., FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN  
CLUB ENTRANCE

## FRANKLIN HILLS C.C., FRANKLIN, MICHIGAN

### VIEW OF PRACTICE AREA FROM CLUB ENTRANCE



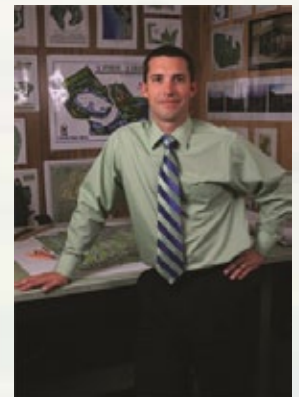
golfers on a serene journey before stepping one foot onto the golf course. Short glimpses or views of the golf course are provided along the entry drive. The clubhouse and parking area have been carved out of a mature stand of stately pine trees. The trees and the overall design of the elegant clubhouse and parking area create a sense of being somewhere different, somewhere special. The first impression of Shepards Hollow is truly memorable. In all of these examples the physical elements of the golf courses were barely mentioned. What was mentioned was the sense of arrival at the Club and the overall theme or style that was evident at first sight.

The sense of style, or theme, that we have been discussing typically elicits a positive and memorable emotion or feeling. These emotions or feelings are what create memorable experiences and great first impressions. A golf course needs to be more than a series of golf holes that happen to sit adjacent to a clubhouse and parking lot. There needs to be careful thought and insight placed into the design and planning of the golf facility and how all of these elements fit together. There are many golf courses that have done this well, but unfortunately many that have not. A stylistic theme or sense of place is always missing at the courses that have not focused on this effort. They typically provide no impression because there is really nothing to influence us or elicit an emotion.

The bottom line is that first impressions are really important in the hospitality and leisure business. The golf industry needs to create positive impressions and memorable experiences. Developing a style or theme that is evident from the time a golfer enters the facility to the time they leave is really critical to the perception or impression of the facility. Defining "sense of place" like Disney's theme parks can be quite powerful when trying to create a memorable experience. Analyze your facility with a professional and assess the emotions or

impressions that exist. What style or theme is evident? How can these elements be strengthened or carried throughout the entire facility? What can we do that is unique and different, something that may develop a true sense of place for the facility? I am confident that if thought and effort are placed on developing a consistent style and theme that most golf courses will create a memorable experience and a positive first impression.

*C.W. Golf Architecture was founded by veteran course designer Chris Wilczynski, ASGCA, and is based in Ann Arbor, Michigan.*



## INVERNESS CLUB, TOLEDO, OHIO

### VIEW OF HOLES #1 AND #10





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# 2011 TUCK TATE CHAMPIONSHIP



Dr. Vargas addresses the crowd on snowmold

The 2011 Tuck Tate was held at Black Lake Golf Club in Onaway on September 19th. The weather was not what we had hoped for but as we all know very well that is out of our hands. The schedule was changed to have Dr. Vargas speak about the current snowmold findings before the event as the rain passed. Remember there is even more information on the world of snowmold every spring at Treetops Resort in Gaylord where the snowmold trials have been ongoing for many years.

Of the 40+ MiGCSA members who signed up only 19 headed out into the rain to contest for the Low Gross and Low Net Plaques. Much to the surprise of the contestants the rain cleared off and led to a rather nice day for Northern Michigan golf. Congratulations to Jim Higgs of Spartan Distributors on winning the 2011 Tuck Tate Low Gross Championship with a 75. Joe Singles won the Low Net with a net 66.

A very special thank you to Doug Kendziorski, Black Lake Golf Club Superintendent, even with the rain the course played very well and the staff at the club was very accommodating.



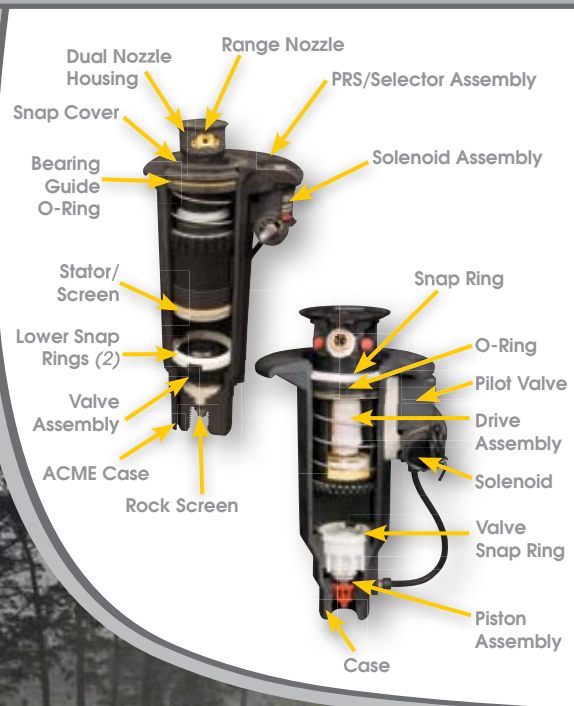
2011 Tuck Tate Champion, Jim Higgs

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The 46th annual Big Event Fundraiser was held on October 3rd at Warwick Hills Country Club in Grand Blanc. The weather and course were spectacular, and the 2011 fundraising effort went over \$30,000 for the year. The winning 4 person scramble team was Derek Carroll, Craig Henderson, EJ Martin and Matt Kelley with a score of 59 and winning a scorecard playoff on hole #2 with a birdie 3. Second place went to the team of Kris Early, Jim Higgs, Mike Casey, and Eric Niemur who also shot 59. The third place team was Doug Rusiecki, Greg Hodges, Charlie Gaige, and Jarrod Barley who shot 60.

There were 8 proximity prizes thanks to our Premiere Foundation sponsors Bayer, Syngenta, FIP, Quali-Pro, Weingartz, Tri-Turf, John Deere Golf, and Great Lakes Turf. The 4 closest to the pins were won by Nick Johnson, Jim Higgs, Jim Bluck and Trey Rogers. The 4 long drive prizes went to Adam Neate, John Cooney, Jarred Barley, and James Kurrele.

There was a poker game put on by Residex/Turfgrass and Civitas, thank you Sue Shockey for dealing, the best hand was a full house three 8's and two 6's by the team of Dan Dingman, John Cooney, Tim Dark, and Dale Bauer. The team won \$330 and the other \$330 went to the Foundation, and was increased by \$250 by Todd Griebel President of Residex/Turfgrass.

The putting contest sponsored by Absolute Golf Ball Retrieval was won by Derek Carroll on the last putt of the day, Derek left it 9 1/4 inches from the hole.

Tavis Horton won the closest "Ball Mark" to the hole on #14. This was sponsored by Kno-Marks ball mark repair tools. Kno-Marks [www.knomarks.com](http://www.knomarks.com) will also be donating \$20 to the Foundation for every ball mark tool sold to MiGCSA and MTF members, make sure you mention this when you purchase the tool.

The dinner was wrapped up by Tripp Bowden, author of *Freddie and Me*, Life Lessons from Augusta National's Legendary Caddie master Freddie Bennett.



2011 Big Event winning team Derek Carroll, Craig Henderson, EJ Martin and Matt Kelley with MiGCSA President Jay Eccleton, CGCS

Tripp asked everyone in the room to think about someone in their life who influenced them, and if you have not spoken to them to re connect. Many people left the Big Event and did just that. Tripp is available for speaking engagements and can be reached for any reason at [www.trippbowden.com](http://www.trippbowden.com)

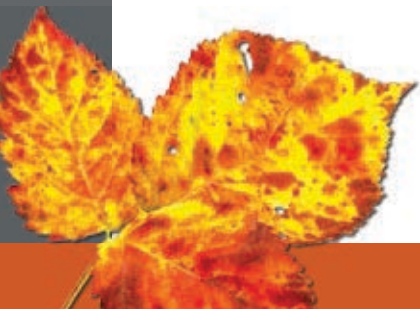
And a very special thanks to Superintendent Phil Owen, CGCS, Lance Leonard, and Damon Murphy Assistant Superintendents for the fantastic conditions. Doug Brody PGA Professional and Rick Slaght PGA Assistant Golf Professional for helping organize the golf event, and Rich Faiman General Manager for taking care of our group.



MTF Executive Director Gordie LaFontaine addresses the attendees



Tripp Bowden, author of *Freddie and Me* telling stories from Augusta National



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# GOLF COURSE SUSTAINABILITY

## RECYCLE AND REUSE



We all recognize that an empty can or bottle is essentially worth ten cents here in Michigan. And, this economic reality has greatly encouraged Michiganders to recycle. But, when there is not such a clear-cut, direct economic relationship, it is more difficult to implement such strategies. It would be great if superintendents could simply load up there grass clippings every week, and take them to Kroger, put them in a machine, and out comes some cash that can be taken back to the board or owner to show them the direct economic benefit of recycling.

Unfortunately, the economic benefits of recycling on a golf course are not that direct – although they are just as beneficial. There are many places on a golf course where recycling can take place effectively, including composting, materials, and oils. Every golf course produces a large quantity of vegetation refuse every year, whether it is grass clippings, leaves or tree branches, which are often discarded into the nearest woods or into the “bone yard.” Ironically, the same golf courses purchase fertilizer, topdressing and other materials to help the vegetation on the golf course remain vibrant and healthy. As most course superintendents recognize, composting can play an integral role in lessening the need for the purchase of fertilizer. The idea of composting is not new. But, there are recent studies and new programs that have enabled golf courses to utilize their compost in place of peat moss, topdressing and as fertilizer. The methodologies for how to best apply these principles are getting more cost effective and practical. As the research continues in the sustainable reuse of compost, golf courses need to be at the forefront.

A second place to recycle on a golf course is by utilizing existing materials on the site when replacing items on the golf course. Although this concept is easier to implement on new construction golf projects, this can still be effective on existing facilities. For example, if completing extensive tree removal or trimming, the golf course can create fences from the recycled wood, versus carting the lumber off site, only to turn around and buy a pre-made, plastic fence. Another place to look for recycling opportunities is when rocks are encountered. Instead of burying or disposing, utilize the rock as part of the design aesthetic. We have used rock effectively as curbing on cart paths, and when bigger boulders are present, as benches at the teeing areas. It just takes a little creativity to look at a material that was meant to be dumped, and turn it into something useable and practical.

A third, and more complex, recycle opportunity is the use of cooking oils in the clubhouse or restaurant. Although the technology is as not as simple as some make it seem, recycling cooking oils for use as fuel in the maintenance machinery is getting easier to implement. Because it takes a substantial amount of cooking oil to create useable amounts of fuel, this opportunity is most effective at larger resorts and facilities. There are now niche companies that can work with facilities, often in combination with one another, to make this sustainable oil recycling concept fit within specific parameters.

There are a myriad of different ways in which to recycle on a golf course. And, the more a golf course can reuse and recycle, the more sustainable the golf facility will be. If only we could only find a way to recycle golfers best swings – all would be perfect.

*Paul Albanese, ASGCA is a principal with Albanese & Lutzke, Golf Course Architects/Construction Managers. They have an office in Plymouth, Michigan and are currently working in seven countries on small and large projects.*

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## A FULL ROUND



# SCOTT PULASKI

*Scott Pulaski is the Superintendent at Walloon Lake Country Club in Petoskey. Before that Scott was at Treetops Resort in Gaylord for 17 years. Scott is has been married for 12 years to his wife Lisa, they have a son David who is 9 years old. Scott and his family enjoy being on their pontoon boat when they have the time in the summer, and Scott likes doing handyman work in the winter. Scott served on the NMTMA Board of Directors for 6 years and is currently in his 5th year of service with the MiGCSA. Scott also helps out with the grounds of the local little league association. He believes it is important to remind ourselves of how much knowledge we have learned from our profession that can be used to help out in our community.*

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

I worked at a small 18 hole golf course called Springbrook Hills Golf Club during the summer with a four member crew. I really enjoyed being outside and not being stuck in an office or building all day.

#### WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE JOB THAT FIRST SUMMER ON A COURSE?

Edging the bunkers that hadn't been done over 10 years. It was amazing how nice the bunkers looked after taking off an average of a foot all the way around them.

#### WHAT COURSE DID YOU GO TO AFTER MICHIGAN STATE?

Treetops Resort, Rick Smith Signature.

#### WHO WAS THE FIRST SUPERINTENDENT AT THAT COURSE AND WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM HIM IN THE FIRST YEAR?

It was Dan Hunt and I learned never expect things to go the way you think they are going to go from day to day. Be ready to be flexible.

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

Owner of a successful restaurant/tavern with an atmosphere something like "Cheers"

#### WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION? WHERE CAN THE MTF IMPROVE?

Raise funds for the ongoing research of turfgrass management. I believe that the MTF needs to market their name better some way. It just seems that back in the early 90's you would hear about the MTF more. I do understand though that it takes money to do that and that may not be a readily available anymore.

#### WHAT ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEW SUPERINTENDENT?

Don't be afraid to think out of the box. Don't be afraid to try something totally different than what has been done in the past. You might surprise yourself that it works out better and if it doesn't at least you can say that you tried.

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

1968 Toro 21" Greensmaster Walkmower if needed.

### HOW MANY CREW MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE STAFF?

11 including myself, assistant and technician.

### WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT AND EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

The most difficult is dealing with the weather. It can have such an effect on what you do from day to day. It can be too hot, windy, and cloudy or too cold to do certain jobs and you need to be ready to adjust for those factors. The easiest part is getting to work. It's easy getting up each day when you enjoy going to a job that you enjoy doing day in and day out.

### DESCRIBE YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM

We use the Emmet County Recycle program. The amount of cardboard we recycle is amazing when you look at how much stuff comes in a cardboard container.

### WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

Mark Wildeman. I worked with Mark while I was at Treetops for 17 years and one of his best sayings he had was, "Never be afraid to try something different. Think outside the box once and awhile and don't get stuck in the same old routine."

### WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

My dad. He taught me to never let things get you down in life. When things seem to get tough, take a step back and look at all the good things in life that you have.

### WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Regulations that are being put in place on all aspects of the job. Water, worker, equipment and products regulations have changed so much over the years.

### WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE THE BIGGEST ISSUE WILL BE IN THE FUTURE?

Water use. Fresh water is a great benefit that we all enjoy having in Michigan, but some day there could be a large restriction on the amount we use.

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

When I worked with Hispanic labor for the first time, the guys came in from the golf course to have lunch. While eating my lunch in my office, one of my American crew guys came in and said I needed to address the guys from Mexico about how we do things in the states. He wouldn't lead on to what the issue was so I got up and walked into the breakroom to find 4 guys sitting around the table having lunch with a Budweiser open in front of them. After asking them what the heck they thought they were doing, they responded, "What, there's a whole box of empties sitting over by the door." What they saw was the boxes of returnable pop and beer cans that would be picked up on the golf course every day from what the golfers had drank and we had picked up. After that incident, we were sure to explain to all future employees that alcohol was not to be drank while on the clock and at work.



## 5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT SCOTT PULASKI

1. ATTENDED A PAROCHIAL SCHOOL FOR 8 YEARS AS A KID WITH NUNS AND ALL.
2. I ENJOY DOING CARPENTRY WORK.
3. I ENJOY TRAVELING VIA RV. ONCE FLEW OUT TO SEATTLE AND DROVE THE WHOLE WEST COAST.
4. EVEN THOUGH I VOLUNTEER TO HELP MAINTAIN THE 7 FIELD COMPLEX FOR GAYLORD LITTLE LEAGUE, I AM NOT A FAN OF THE GAME.
5. I HAVE NEVER ATTENDED "PULASKI DAYS" IN GRAND RAPIDS, BUT HAVE IT ON THE LIST TO DO!



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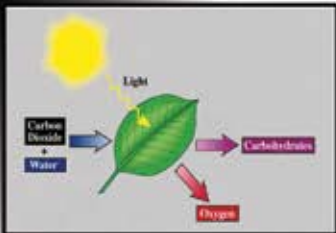
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# Greens Force by Turf Fuel™

Premium Plant Nutrition

## Photo Fuel

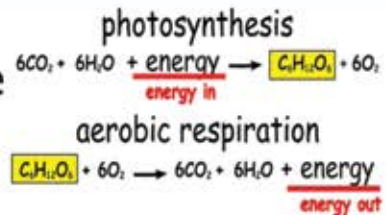


- ◆ Photosynthesis
- ◆ Color
- ◆ Plant Defenses (2-4 oz./1000)

plant physiology, premium nutrition, and proprietary ingredients combined to create the best turf possible!

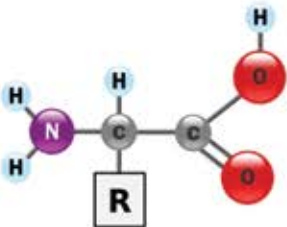
## Respo Fuel

- ◆ Aids Respiration
- ◆ Cell Wall Structure
- ◆ Drives Roots (2-4 oz./1000)



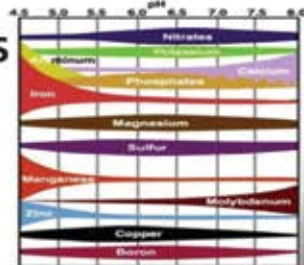
## Carbon 21

- ◆ Plant Energy
- ◆ Strength & Density
- ◆ Rooting (3-6 oz./1000)



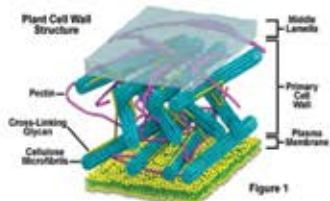
## Minors Fuel

- ◆ Comprehensive Minors
- ◆ Color
- ◆ Enzymatic Reactions (2-4 oz./1000)



## Greens Phite w/PASS

- ◆ Stress Resistance
- ◆ Cell Wall Strength (2-4 oz./1000)



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# F R I T Z M C M U L L E N

BY: RYAN MOORE, FOREST LAKE  
COUNTRY CLUB SUPERINTENDENT

After 39 years of dedicated service as the Superintendent of Forest Lake Country Club, "Fritz" McMullen has retired. We would like to recognize Fritz for his passion for the game of golf, dedication to the golf industry, and being an environmental steward.

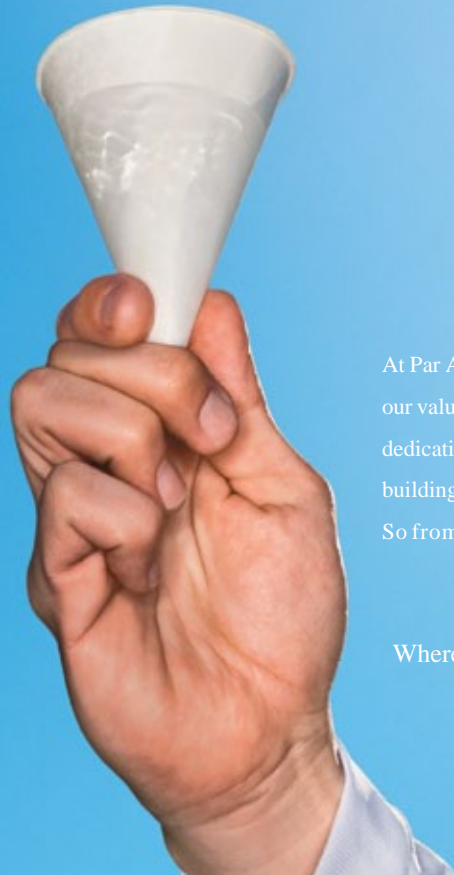
Fritz Mc Mullen grew up in the small Michigan thumb-area town of Caro. He was one of the first graduates with a degree in Turf Management from Michigan State University in 1968. After graduating Fritz went on to become the Superintendent at Inverness Country Club, just north of Chelsea Michigan. Fritz arrived at Forest Lake in 1973 to become the Grounds Superintendent, where he also spent 5 years as the club's General Manager.

His dedication to Forest Lake has left a mark of improvement on all 18 holes as well the overall appearance of the property. His vision of continued improvement has included everything imaginable from tee, green and bunker construction to drainage and irrigation projects.

Fritz has always been a superintendent that has benefited, as well as given back to the golf course industry. As an active member Fritz, was the Past President of the MTF 1990 and 1991, Fritz also obtained certification for Forest Lake in the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program which Fritz was also an integral member in creating. A member of The GCSAA, MiGCSA and GDGCSA since becoming a superintendent, Fritz has built lasting relationships with hundreds if not thousands in the Golf Course Industry. He also dedicated his time as the president of the GDGCSA in 2004.

Although a retirement could seem like a means to the end, Fritz will surely remain close and active with the Golf Course Industry as he will be serving as the MiGCSA representative on the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame Board. We all wish Fritz the best and great retirement as he will be able to enjoy more time with his wife of 48 years, 2 sons, and 2 grandchildren.

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David Wienecke, Superintendent, Chambers Bay Golf Course  
Site of the 2015 U.S. Open Championship

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GREG PATTINSON

## GCSAA DELEGATES MEETING RECAP

In late October I had the privilege of representing the MiGCSA at the National GCSAA Delegates meeting in Kansas City, Missouri. The meeting started off with a tour of the headquarters building in Lawrence.

Here we had opportunity to meet the staff at headquarters personally, learn about what they do for us, and see first hand how tasks are handled such as the floor plan for the National conference.

The rest of the weekend was spent learning about the direction that the GCSAA is taking in the services and programs that are designed for us the members, and what some of the local chapters are doing to better serve their members. One of the most important topics that we discussed was advocacy, and how the GCSAA is representing us at the national level as well as locally. There are some very hot topics such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, fertilizer and pesticide regulations, water management, and labor and immigration laws. GCSAA is a strong voice, with a strong membership and they are out there making sure that our member's needs and voices are being heard to the people that make the laws and regulations.

GCSAA is also hiring field staff that will be regionally located to serve members and chapters and create a more local presence of the GCSAA. Our field staff representative is John Miller. John can be reached at 785-424-0325 or email at [jmiller@gcsaa.org](mailto:jmiller@gcsaa.org).

We also listened to presentations from the candidates that are running for positions on the GCSAA board. The leadership and dedication that all of the candidate's project is incredible and it will be a hard choice to pick one over the other for all contested positions.

Some other topics that were discussed and being looked at are the PDI program, the website, national conference and tournament, and dual membership programs.

Thank you for allowing me to represent the MiGCSA, the education and networking opportunities and being able to tell our story to other local chapters around the country. If you ever have the opportunity to attend, please do, it is a great experience.

Greg Pattinson, GCS  
The Captains Club  
MiGCSA Vice President

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# DAN STRATTON

## EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN AT CRYSTAL DOWNS COUNTRY CLUB

*Dan Stratton has been the Equipment Technician at Crystal Downs Country Club in Frankfort since 1983. Dan is the father of three, Chase 27, Danielle 24, and Michael 21, Dan is also the Grandfather of three, Peyton 5, Makaya 6, and Hunter 4. He also has two Pit Bulls Titan and Tees. Dan received his two-year certificate from Northern Michigan Community College in the Auto Tech Program, he has also attended schools at Toro, Arctic Cat, and Polaris along with the MiGCSA mechanics group which Dan believes "Is also a very good source for education."*

### 1. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

Every time a golfer finishes playing Crystal Downs, I have heard them say, "What a beautiful course," or "I wasn't ready for that." I know that my work as a mechanic is a key part of their experience.

### 2. WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Sometimes you have issues with equipment that you cannot figure out, or that you don't have the tools you need to test or fix the problem. It is important to remember that there are people smarter than you, and you need to talk to them.

### 3. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING EQUIPMENT MANAGERS TODAY?

Fuel issues (ethanol) and emissions are going to eliminate 2-strokes. Keeping up with the new technology, training, education, and confidence are keys to success.

### 4. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT?

Mike Morris has really increased the level of quality at Crystal Downs. He has helped me get to a higher level of quality. Together, we can give our members the best golf course they will ever play.

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

Some of the parts you need are not available in after market. The price of parts is out of this world, which is not very good for the budget.

### 6. WHAT TYPE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION DO YOU FEEL IS VALUABLE TO EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS?

OPEESA certification is very good to have. It is required at distributorships. If you can pass the test, you are book-smart for the job. The big thing for me is knowing how the machine you are working on functions and have the confidence to fix it.

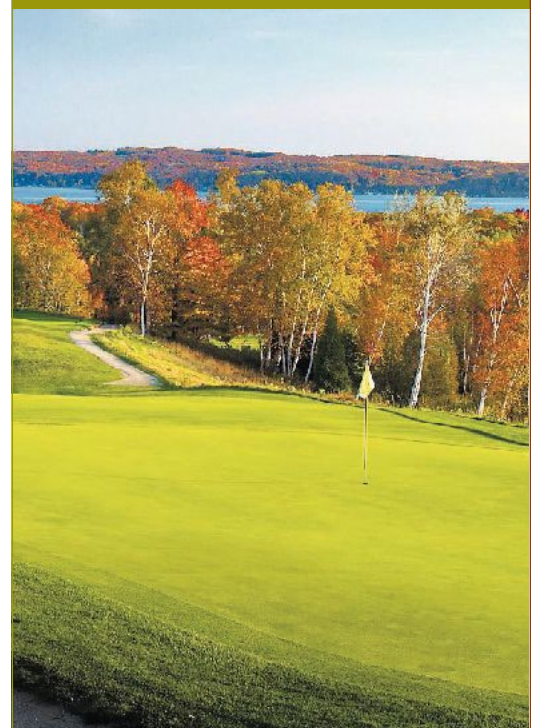
### 7. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT WHAT WOULD IT BE?

After topdressing some operations will send out their mowers the next day without sharpening them. I guess this is a, "They are going to get dull anyway," way of thinking. All that will do is beat up your grass. Sharpen them!

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

I was standing in the doorway of my shop with a salesman looking out over the golf course. He said, "This sure is a beautiful place." And I jokingly replied, "It's like Caddy Shack, only it's not a movie." The timing could not have been more perfect. I pointed my finger and said, "See that." There was a cart rolling down #10 fairway. He said, "There's no one on it!" I said, "I know!" This was funny, but I did explain that it doesn't happen every day. A few moments later our MSU trainee came running down the fairway after the cart. I'm not sure why he was running, the cart had already come to a stop.

## UNDER THE HOOD



## FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

# GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS – GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

*The final months of 2011 have been very busy for golf course superintendents all over the Great Lakes Region including Michigan. After two very stressful summers in a row, Mother Nature finally gave superintendents decent growing weather this fall and all were taking advantage the perfect weather. GCSAA was very busy as well helping arm superintendents with information and programs to help them better achieve success for themselves and their facilities. I recently visited Lansing with*

*MiGCSA Executive Director Adam Ikamas, CGCS, MiGCSA President Jay Eccleton, CGCS, and Greg Lyman Director of Environmental Programs at GCSAA to meet with U.S. Senator Carl Levin's staff to discuss HR 872, the NPDES fix legislation. We met for about 45 minutes discussing the impact that the NPDES legislation would have on Michigan golf course superintendents and superintendents around the country if the legislation does indeed go into effect October 31st. We discussed the financial impact on golf courses along with the paperwork burden that will be placed on golf course superintendents and in the end, the environment will be no safer and the water will be no cleaner. The staff liaison for Senator Levin ask a number of questions to help her better understand our position so that she could take the information back to the Senator. You too as a member of GCSAA can engage you Senators and Congress people by using the GCSAA Action Alerts located on the home page of the GCSAA website. It is very easy to do, just click on the action alert and follow the instructions. You can even insert your personal comments and experiences. Congress is definitely hearing from the other side; superintendents everywhere need them to hear from you! As a side note, I visited with Senator Durbin's staff in Illinois and was joined by two superintendents on that visit as well as visiting Senator Kohl's office in Wisconsin with superintendents from the Wisconsin Chapter. GCSAA is lobbying hard for its members.*

*Speaking of getting involved, as the fall approaches many chapters around the country are holding their annual meeting and electing officers for the upcoming year. Now would be a good time for you to get involved with your local and state chapter. The Michigan GCSA provides many opportunities to get involved...support your local chapter...GCSAA is working with the Michigan chapter on promoting involvement to support the industry, not only with government relations, but with partnerships with local and regional golf associations to advance the profession. Your input is valuable, new and fresh ideas are always welcome locally and nationally.*

*The winter is a time for golf course superintendents to recharge their batteries and exercise their minds. There will be numerous education conferences and shows around including the GCSAA Conference and Show along with the Golf Industry Show and the GCSAA National Golf Championship. The golf championship will be held in Palm Springs February 24-26, 2012 and the GCSAA Conference and Show will be in Las Vegas February 27 through March 2, 2012. The Golf Industry Show will be February 29 through March 1, 2012. This is a great opportunity to receive some of the best education in the world on topics ranging from agronomics to personal improvement. There is a cost for the educational seminars but much of the additional education is free. There will be education on the show floor during the GIS and there will be experts available to help you with a job search, your resume or if you need to learn about the latest in high tech communication devices and techniques to keep you in touch with your staff and members/golfers. With all of this in one location, you will definitely be able to gain enough knowledge and learn enough valuable information to pay for the trip to the GCSAA Conference and Show. If you employer is skeptical about sending you, invite them to go with you so they can witness first hand all of the education and information available in one site. We hope to see you there and if you have any questions about the conference and show or about GCSAA, please don't hesitate to contact me.*

*Best Wishes for a great upcoming season,  
John Miller, CGCS*

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## GCSAA LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The GCSAA hosts the Leadership Academy at their headquarters in Lawrence Kansas. This conference has been held for four years in partnership with Syngenta and Toro. This year 23 individuals were chosen by their GCSAA affiliated chapters based on current and or potential leadership designations for their chapters. It was an honor to be considered to attend this year's academy on October 3-5. The focus for this conference is leadership training, professional development and networking.



GREGG MATTHEWS

Presentations were given by Chad Carden, President of The Chad Carden Group, Steve Keating, Selling Skills Manager from Toro, Grant Young, SR. Marketing Manager from Toro, Greg Lyman, Directing Manager of Environmental Programs, GCSAA and Carrie Riordan, Director of Member Programs, GCSAA. An industry panel discussion was held on Wednesday morning. The panel included Ron Whitten, Senior Editor, Golf Digest, Todd Clark, American Society Golf Course Architects, Justin Apel, Executive Director, Golf Course Builders Association, Dick Stuntz, NGCOA BOD, and Rhett Evans, CEO GCSAA.

In review practical knowledge and skills needed to successfully lead a golf facility were covered. The panel discussion included the sustainability of golf including current and future trends affecting the golf course superintendent's future, golf course architecture, ways to build participation of the game and the overall health of the golf industry. As most that participate already know, networking with peers is one of the greatest ways to learn. Impromptu discussions about daily issues we face on and off the course are great opportunities to see how others deal with issues you yourself may have. I seemingly learn just as much networking as I ever have in the classroom setting. The challenge is to get out there and meet with others in our industry if you are not already. I think you will be surprised as to what you can learn and how you will feel about participating at a local and national level.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy Holiday season and look forward to seeing you at upcoming MiGCSA and other industry events.

Respectfully,

Gregg L. Matthews, GCS  
Lakelands Golf and Country Club  
Secretary/Treasurer MiGCSA



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<b>Companion Biological Fungicide</b>	4 fl oz Apply 1x per Month	-
<b>Essential Plus</b> Soil Amendment and Root Stimulator	3 fl oz Apply 2x per Month	4 fl oz Apply 1x per Month
<b>"TKO" Phosphite 0-29-26</b> 100% Phosphite	3 fl oz Apply 2x per Month	4 fl oz Apply every 14 days
<b>X-Xtra Iron 9%</b> High Iron - Low Nitrogen	2 fl oz Apply 2x per Month	4 fl oz Apply 1x per Month
<b>Magnesium Chelate 3%</b> Organic Chelate	-	1 fl oz Apply 1x per Month



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## THE BETTER HALF



# TRAVIS FOX

Travis Fox is the Assistant Superintendent at Orchard Lake Country Club in Orchard Lake Village. His first golf course job was at Timber Ridge Golf Club in East Lansing. Travis has been married to his wife Kelly who he met at MSU for six years. They now have two boys, Gavin, 4 and Lucas, 2. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends doing anything that involves being outside, golf, hunting, fishing, tailgating, football, basketball, etc. After college Travis went to Sunset Ridge Country Club in Northfield Illinois. Travis has been at Orchard Lake for five years.

**1. HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?**

I grew up playing golf and worked a course during high school.

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

To be a voice for the golf industry whenever legislative initiatives come through that could potentially affect our profession.

**3. WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION?**

To provide truly valuable research that can be implemented into our agronomic programs.

**4. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?**

Without question the job market. It seems that it's getting harder and harder for assistants to get interviews for superintendent jobs let alone get hired.

**5. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?**

There have been a lot of people that have influenced me in turfgrass management, but I'd have to say Aaron McMaster. I'm in my fifth year working for him and I've learned how important it is to communicate with the membership and how to successfully navigate club politics.

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

I have a lot, but not repairing ball marks is probably my biggest pet peeve. Golfers driving carts anywhere they want is right up there, too.

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

I think anything that challenges you to push the envelope is a good thing. It might get a little out of control at times, but being constantly challenged is what this profession is all about.

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

That more members/golfers were aware of how much time and effort was put into preparing the golf course every day.

**9. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NON-GOLF SPORT?**

College football, nothing better than spending fall Saturdays at Spartan Stadium.

**10. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?**

#10 at Bel-Air Country Club.

**11. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE THAT YOU HAVE PLAYED?**

Chicago Golf Club

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

Hand held moisture meter that we use on greens during the summer months to help us determine how much water the greens really need.

**13. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY GOLF HOLE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE WITHOUT REPERCUSSION, WHICH ONE WOULD BE THE FIRST?**

Number 9, it's a slight dogleg right par 5 built on muck with no fairway bunkers. I'd sand cap the whole thing, add more drainage, a fairway bunker or two and cut down the unsightly trees.

**14. HOW MANY CREW MEMBERS DO YOU HAVE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE STAFF?**

22 during peak season. 5 during the winter.

**15. WHAT TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM DO YOU HAVE AND APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY IRRIGATION HEADS?**

Rain Bird Cirrus with about 1800 heads

**16. WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?**

My mom, Sharlene, dad, Jeff, and stepdad, Ed. They taught me the value of hard work and personal responsibility that I have used to get where I am today.

**17. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CAREER PATH?**

I grew up playing golf and always being outdoors. It seemed like a natural fit.

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

It's a golf course, not a botanical garden.

**19. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?**

I am on the assistant superintendent committee and volunteer for events.

**20. WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THIS COMMITTEE?**

I would like to see assistant participation grow in the events we put together.

## 5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT TRAVIS FOX

1. I GREW UP IN CLIO, MI, BUT WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL IN PEORIA, AZ.
2. MY LABRADOR RETRIEVER, TOBY, IS THE UNOFFICIAL GOOSE DOG OF OLCC.
3. I HAVE BEEN BREWING BEER FOR 2 YEARS.
4. I HAD NO INTENTION OF MAJORING IN TURF WHEN I WENT TO MSU. I LAUGHED AT MY DAD WHEN HE MENTIONED TURF MANAGEMENT AS A POSSIBILITY BEFORE I LEFT FOR SCHOOL.
5. I'VE LIVED IN 3 OF THE 6 LARGEST CITIES IN THE U.S.: PHOENIX, LOS ANGELES, AND CHICAGO.



The winning team of Brett Roberts, Brian J Roberts, Jim Higgs and Bryan Bloomensaat with MiGCSA President Jay Eccleton, CGCS

## WESTERN GOLF DAY

Over 100 attended and played The Golf Club at Harbor Shores on September 26th. This event helps raise money for the MiGCSA Foundation, the main goal of the funds raised are to support the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and the Turf Research at MSU. This event put the Foundation over \$30,000 in 2011 with one more Fundraiser to go at Warwick Hills Country Club, site of the 2011 Big Event.

There were four long drive prizes and four closest to the pin prizes thanks to the 8 Premiere Sponsors Bayer, Syngenta, Tri-Turf, Great Lakes Turf, John Deere Golf, Quali-Pro, and FIP Irrigation won by Ron Fox, Kevin Frank, Carey Mitchelson, Shawn Pranger (won three) Craig Kooengia, and Justin Spangler. There was a closest ball mark to the pin on hole #17 thanks to Kno-Marks ball mark repair tool won by Dave Dark, Kno-Marks also donated \$100 to the Foundation and is donating \$20 for every tool sold to the foundation from now on! A poker game sponsored by Absolute Golf Ball Retrieval, who donated an extra \$500 ½ to the Foundation and ½ to the pot won by Ron Dahlin, Jeff Bodziak, Al Owens and Byde Kephart. Civitas sponsored the 7th hole and raffled off a \$100 gift card to the Pro Shop was won by Tom

Jever. Par-Aide sponsored the putting contest and sold extra putts for \$10, and matched the total, \$190 was raised and matched by Par-Aide for a total of \$380, the closest putt was Brett Roberts, followed by Craig Kooienga, and Paul Kolbe there was a separate vendor prize won by Al Lynch. The winning team of Brett Roberts, Brian J Roberts, Jim Higgs and Bryan Bloomensaat shot a 57, followed by a 59 from the team of Paul Richter, Steve Schultz, Cory Parmalee, Sean Pranger and a third place finish from the team of Jeff Hopkins, Jon Nysse, Dan Detloff, Dave Greener. There were 4 skins on the day an Eagle 2 on hole #3 by the team of Bill Walters and Jon Scott, an Eagle 3 on hole #5 by Paul Richter, Steve Schultz, Cory Parmalee, and Sean Pranger an Eagle 3 on hole #9 by the Ron Dahlin, Jeff Bodziak, Al Owens and Byde Kephart team, and an Eagle 3 on hole #10 from Matt Van Acker, Mark Fink, Justin Spangler and Craig Whitbeck. Thank you to Jacobsen for again sponsoring the Hot Dogs at the turn as they did at Arcadia and will do again at Warwick Hills.

A special thank you to Brad Fry, Superintendent at The Golf Club at Harbor Shores and all of the staff that helped make this event possible. The course was amazing and the conditions were perfect.



LEFT: Thank you to Civitas for sponsoring a hole at all 3 fundraisers

BOTTOM: The Par-Aide putting contest



RIGHT: The Jacobsen Hot Dog Stand

BOTTOM: Harbor Shores Superintendent Brad Fry





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## Here's a glimpse of some of our featured speakers:



Planning for a successful conference is like planning a family vacation.

**Brad Groff** is the co-owner of River Valley Landscapes of Wrightsville, PA, which Brad and co-owner Doug Caldwell started during the spring break of their senior year at Delaware Valley College in 1991. River Valley Landscapes has award-winning projects published nationally, regionally, and locally. Although Brad is proud of all of these accomplishments, he is most proud of developing a team and a process that allows him to help oversee a \$4 million business and still be home by 5:00 p.m.

At the 2012 GLTE, Brad will be addressing the ever-relevant question of "How to Get the Most from THIS Conference". Many people attend conferences hoping to find the gold nugget that changes their business or life forever. They leave excited, but when they get back home, they don't know where to start. We have all been there. Brad will walk you through some simple steps to help you get the most out of this conference. His talk will inspire you to create a vision for the future so you can plan for today. Each step you take will bring you closer to your future destination. Your first steps to success will be right here. Whether you need help in Marketing, Sales, Production, or Finances, the GLTE will have many amazing speakers to help you!



High-impact, low-care plants at Hiddenhaven Gardens (*Hosta 'Sum & Substance'*). Photo by DiSabato-Aust Photography.

**Tracy DiSabato-Aust** has earned international acclaim as one of America's most entertaining and knowledgeable garden writers and professional speakers. Her experience includes

stints at Longwood Gardens in the U.S., The Montreal Botanical Garden in Canada, the Kalmthout Arboretum in Belgium, and Knightshayes Court in England. She earned a B.S. and M.S. in Horticulture from The Ohio State University.

Tracy has written three books, *The Well-Tended Perennial Garden*, *The Well-Designed Mixed Garden*, and *50 High-Impact, Low Care Garden Plants: Tough But Beautiful Plants That Anyone Can Grow*. All of Tracy's books will be available for purchase and signature at the 2012 GLTE, where Tracy will be presenting two seminars: "Designing with Color and Texture and Form For Visionary Effects" and "50 High Impact, Low Care Garden Plants."

**Dr. Ed Gilman** received his PhD from Rutgers and has been on the faculty since 1986 as Professor in the Environmental Horticulture Department at the University of



Dr. Ed Gilman works with one of his students at a University of Florida arboriculture class teaching nursery production tree pruning.

Ed will be presenting three seminars at the 2012 GLTE. The topics include, "Growing and Delivering a High-quality Root System to the Knowledgeable Customer", "Pruning" and "Planting". All three seminars are based on research, some so new that it's not yet published. You'll go home with new techniques that you can apply right away!



Fire at the CCD maintenance shop.

Florida in Gainesville. He teaches arboriculture, conducts research on planting and pruning and works extensively with industry. He is the author of six books on trees and landscape plants, many software programs, and websites that have received numerous awards.

**Bob McCurdy** is a graduate of Michigan State University and has been employed at Country Club of Detroit (CCD) since 2000. While at CCD, Bob has been part of two major renovations and one large-scale drainage project.

At the 2012 GLTE, Bob will be discussing the "2010 Country Club of Detroit Renovation – Greens, Tees, Fire and More!!!" The 2010 renovation at CCD included the complete reconstruction of all greens and tees, bunker modifications, tree removal, fairway conversion and a shop fire. This presentation will give you a complete look into why the decision was made to renovate, the additions to the project once planning commenced, logistics of a project this size, the tragedy that struck mid-way, and the "team" of professionals that helped the renovation become a huge success.



Golf course plot showing the border between the study (to the left of the paint marks) and the untreated fairway on the right. Conversion to majority bentgrass took place over one summer with this photo taken the following spring.

**Dr. Bruce Branham** has conducted research and teaching related to turfgrass management for nearly 30 years. From 1983 until 1995, Dr. Branham was a member of the turfgrass research team at MSU. Since 1995, he has been at the University of Illinois. He has trained numerous undergraduate and

graduate students in turfgrass management and continues to develop strategies to maintain high quality turf.

Be sure to catch Dr. Branham addressing the key topics of "Stealth *Poa annua* Control - How to Get Rid of it with No One Noticing" and "Sustainable Lawn Management – How Climate Change Will Affect Lawn Management" at the 2012 GLTE.

# 2012 FEATURED SPEAKERS



Social media can be a bit overwhelming without a clear strategy and plan for how your business will use it.

**Chris Heiler** is a social media consultant for green industry companies. He develops social media strategies for his clients that effectively build brand enthusiasm and attract new customers. Chris speaks at landscape industry events across the country and also shares his social media expertise with

hundreds of landscape professionals in his exclusive Social Media Club at [www.LandscapeLeadership.com](http://www.LandscapeLeadership.com). You can also find him on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/cjheiler>

At the 2012 GLTE, Chris will address the hot social media topics of: "How to Create a Social Media Strategic Plan for Your Green Industry Business", where the why and how of developing a social media strategy will be discussed with measurable goals and objectives, and "Avoiding the Social Media Time-Suck: Proven Tips for Managing Your Time Online More Effectively", where you'll learn how to build a powerful presence online in 20 minutes a day.

**Jeffrey Scott, MBA**, is an industry consultant and author of *The Referral Advantage* and *The Leader's Edge*. At age 34,



landscape contractors from around the country meet in a peer-group format to share ideas, network and benefit from Jeffrey's expertise.

he took over and built his family's landscape business into a \$10 million enterprise. He now shows others how to do the same. He facilitates peer groups for landscape business owners who want

to transform and grow their business. To learn more visit [www.GetTheLeadersEdge.com](http://www.GetTheLeadersEdge.com).

Jeffrey will be presenting two seminars at the 2012 GLTE. He will present, "The 7 Habits of Highly Successful Owners for Leaders of Landscape Businesses." He will challenge you to think and act like a CEO. You will learn the common mistakes leaders make and how to create sustainable growth.

You will also learn about "Winning the Price Wars - How to Sell Value and Win More Clients in the New Economy". You will be shown a systematic sales process that will help you get in front of the right prospects, form emotional bonds, create more on-target proposals and close more sales--without selling on price.



Ian Baldwin critiques a display last year at a garden center in New York State.

Retail business consultant **Ian Baldwin** was born in England. Now located stateside, Ian has spent over 27 years consulting for companies in North America and Europe regarding garden center design, sales and marketing, merchandising, "retail detail", strategic planning and the financial criteria for maintaining a profitable operation. His "TLC... Think Like Customers" ([www.ianbaldwin.com](http://www.ianbaldwin.com)) sales motivation program has helped to increase sales for over 250 garden retail companies.

In all that he does, Ian's goal is to help his customers make more money with less stress, and it works!

Ian will be presenting two seminars at the 2012 GLTE. At "Re-inventing Yourself in Garden Retail", Ian will show how successful garden retailers have re-engineered their businesses, combining project inspiration from IKEA with the know how of a local Ace set in a stylish full-service "ambiance" like Nordstrom's. It can be done; it must be done. At his second seminar, "Selling Is More Than Telling", Ian will show how a well planned, two-way conversation, can help both customers and employees to succeed - the first time.

**Jim Kerns** is an Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in the Department of Plant Pathology at University of

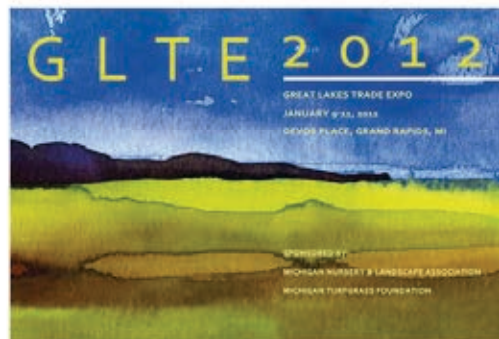


Understanding fungicides; how to get better control with less inputs.

Wisconsin-Madison. Jim's program focuses on the biology, epidemiology and management of turfgrass diseases prevalent in the Midwest.

Jim will present "More with Less: Getting the Most Out of Your Fungicide Program". With the

current economic situation it is imperative to understand how to maximize the effectiveness of the fungicides you select. This presentation will cover the basics that any turf manager needs in order to maximize the effectiveness of their fungicide program.



# Bragging Rights



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# 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, Dec. 7	MiGCSA Roundtable meeting (Birmingham Country Club, Birmingham)
Friday, Dec. 9	Western Christmas Party (Cascade Sports Bar, Grand Rapids)
Friday, Dec. 9	Detroit Christmas Party (The Moose Preserve, Bloomfield Hills)
Friday, Dec. 16	Mid Christmas Party (Bottoms' Up, Holly)
Mon-Wed Jan. 9-11	GLTE (DeVos Place, Grand Rapids)
Tuesday Jan. 10	MiGCSA Annual Meeting (DeVos Place, Grand Rapids)
Thur - Fri, Feb. 2-3	Ski & Learn (Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa, Thompsonville)
Monday, Feb. 13	MiGCSA Spring Management Meeting (TBD, Detroit)
Friday, Feb. 24	Bowling Scholarship Fundraiser (Galaxy Lanes, Grand Blanc)
Mon-Wed Feb. 27-Mar. 3	Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas

Please visit [www.MiGCSA.org](http://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](mailto:info@migcsa.org).

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## ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

# MAKING THE TURN...

Another golf season behind us and another holiday season ahead. I hope everyone had a successful summer and fall at their facilities and are getting the course ready for hibernation. Looking back as to what you could have done better or differently is a great thing when planning for the next season. But try not to dwell on the things that are out of your control, two tough weather years cannot be changed; only what you did to prepare or plan for them. As I used to always tell the crew this time of year, lets poke holes in it and try again next year, because really what else can you do but try your best and hope mother nature gives you a couple of good bounces.

I have heard some very positive reports from around the state this year in regards to play. The spring washout hurt everyone but the rest of the year seems to be up for the most part. It is good to hear some positives after so many years and reports of negatives. Hopefully this is a harbinger of things to come in 2012. The state of Michigan and our golf courses could use some renewal of hope and revenue.

The MiGCSA is also making the turn. The 2011 season was one of growth and learning for everyone involved. As my first year in this new role it felt much like my first year as a Golf Course Superintendent, in that I never learned more than I did the first year. Hopefully you have noticed some of the efforts put forth in 2011 by the MiGCSA Board of Directors and myself. One of the best things to come out of this year is a doubling of our fundraising for the Foundation. In 2010 and 2009 the MiGCSA raised just over \$15,000 each year for funding research at MSU and student scholarships. This year the four fundraisers (Bowling, Arcadia Bluffs, Harbor Shores, and Warwick Hills) have brought in over \$30,000. Much of this is thanks to our 8 Premiere Foundation Sponsors Bayer, Syngenta, Weingartz, Quali-Pro, Tri-Turf, Great Lakes Turf, FIP Irrigation, and John Deere Golf.

These Foundation sponsors are separate from our 2011 Industry Partners who are really the driving force behind the success of the MiGCSA. With the support of the companies represented on the Industry Partner sign we are able to have some of the lowest dues in the country, maintain and improve one of the best chapter websites, produce these issues of Course Conditions, and continue to offer great networking and educational events in all corners of Michigan.

This is the time of year that many Superintendents are making purchasing decisions for early order and for the next growing year. If you can please consider the companies that support you with their participation in our Industry Partner program when making your purchasing decisions. They do so much for your Association and they are always happy to hear a quick and simple thank you from their customers. I know it is a competitive market for dwindling budget dollars, these companies are feeling the same heat to reduce costs but they still made it a priority to support the MiGCSA and in turn all of you.

Have a happy holiday season; hopefully everyone is able to take some time with their families after a summer spent at the course, thank you all for your continued support of the MiGCSA.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS  
MiGCSA Executive Director

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