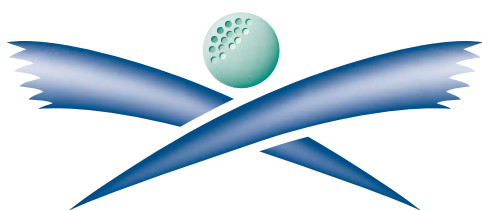


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CONTENTS

- 4** MiGCSA Membership Report
- 5** President's Perspective
- 6** Avoid the Rebound: Use of Growing Degree Days to Re-apply Growth Regulators
- 10** Assistant Update
- 13** Golf Course Sustainability
- 17** Association Update
- 24** From National
- 28** Allied Partner
- 28** Event Recap - Mid District
- 30** Call from Campus
- 33** 2011 Calendar Of Events
- 34** Event Recap

14



*Jeff Hopkins,
Superintendent,
Railside Golf Club*

21



GAM Superintendent of the year.

26



*David Burchett,
Assistant Superintendent,
Birchwood Farms Golf &
Country Club*



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MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 8/10/11

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	SUMMER 2010 MEMBERSHIP
Class AA	27	25
Class A	198	242
Class SM	52	62
Class C	71	86
Class D	26	42
Class E	20	20
Class AFF	127	128
Class H	24	11
Class SA	10	8
Class R	9	10
Class I	3	1
Class FM	0	0
TOTAL	567	635

Please log in to your account at www.migcsa.org to renew your membership for 2011. If you are unsure of your status contact us at info@migcsa.org or 1-888-3-MiGCSA.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



JAY ECCLETON, CGCS

Is there light at the end of the tunnel?

As we battled through July experiencing severe heat and in most places drought to go with it, I often wonder to myself; is it ever going to get easier? As one obstacle gets concurred another appears. Golf courses are doing so much more with less that quality of playing conditions has become a severe issue. I am discovering more and more golfers that do not use quality as a determining factor for course selection. Price is king in many circles of traveling senior groups and outing coordinators and the demand for curbside customer service and quality playing conditions are not part of the equation but are still much expected. There is only one way that we are going to pull ourselves out of this funk of an economy in one piece and that is to continue to educate our customers, members, guests and even ,believe it or not, the non-golfing public as well.

As operators, managers, golf professionals and superintendents, we find ourselves sitting on a pile of account payable items while seeing shrinking revenues. The lack of cash flow in many golf operations has made it more difficult for facilities to plan for the future. Capital improvements including equipment purchases and golf course renovation projects have become more difficult to implement do to the lack of available funding and so facilities are seeing more items failing to continue to provide the service and quality that all our customers deserve.

Enter The Michigan Golf Alliance. This newly established cooperative is comprised of leaders from all golf industry associations. The Michigan Golf Course Owners Association, The Michigan PGA, The Golf Association of Michigan, Michigan Club Managers Association, Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and The MiGCSA. The mission of the alliance is to combine forces and develop ideas to promote and enhance the golf industry. One of the first outcomes from this new alliance was "Michigan Golf Day at The Capitol" Members from all six associations came together on the lawn of the Capitol and took time to visit legislators and discuss the golf industry and the hurdles that we all face. The legislators were invited to attend a lunch on the lawn and give them an opportunity to discuss the game of golf and the impact it has on the Michigan economy. Over 300 people attended the luncheon which made it the most successful Golf Day at The Capitol in its young 8th year. As we continue to move forward with this initiative, we will continue to strengthen the golf industry's position by working together developing new strategies to increase revenue and not just rounds.

The partnerships that are being developed at the statewide level are invaluable and we now look to see the relationships continue to build at the national level. Adam Ikamas and I had an opportunity to attend the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's Regional Seminar held at Fifth Third Field home of the Toledo Mud Hen's. Having time to interact with our colleagues from other states affirms our position in the industry as we talk about common issues that we all face and have no bearing on State lines. As we strengthen as an association, we are seeing more and more superintendent chapters look at Michigan as a blueprint of how to create a statewide association and as we meet with superintendent members from other chapters, we continue to offer up our assistance as they consider if a statewide chapter is the right fit for their own member's needs.

Partnerships are critical to the success of this industry and they are instrumental at every level. Continue to strengthen the bonds between your departments at your facility, also with your fellow industry professionals, and continue to spread the word of golf and do what you can to help promote the game throughout your community. The MiGCSA has some great opportunities to share our industry with our guests this fall. Venues will include The Emerald on August 25th, September 19th at Black Lake Golf Club, September 26th at Harbor Shores Golf Club, and October 3rd at Warwick Hills Country Club. Please make time to join us at these great facilities and help share the passion that we all have towards our industry. I hope the best for you and your family as we reach into the later portion of our season.

Best Regards,

Jay B. Eccleton, CGCS

AVOID THE REBOUND: USE OF GROWING DEGREE DAYS TO RE-APPLY GROWTH REGULATORS

BY BILL KREUSER, CORNELL UNIVERSITY

The most poorly understood products applied to turfgrass are plant growth regulators (PGRs) because i) it is difficult to tell when they are working and ii) their labels can be vague. This is especially true when PGRs are applied to golf course putting greens. Despite best efforts, it is nearly impossible to tell how well a PGR is suppressing putting green clipping yield. As a result, many golf course superintendents use vastly different application rates and frequencies for each PGR in their arsenal. This ambiguity leads to one of the most common questions superintendents tend to ask, "What rate should I use on my greens?"

Before we tackle that question let's get back to the basics. The most commonly applied PGRs used on putting greens are Primo Maxx (trinexapac-ethyl), Trimit (paclobutrazol), and Cutless (flurprimidal). These products alter growth rate in two distinct phases. Following PGR application clipping yield becomes suppressed relative to non-treated turfgrass; the suppression phase. After a period of time the suppression phase ends and clipping yield increases to a level greater than non-treated turfgrass; the rebound phase. Researchers have found that the duration of the suppression phase is dependent upon air temperature (Lickfeldt et al. 2001; Beasley et al. 2007). As air temperatures increase into the summer the length of the suppression phase decreases. This occurs because turfgrass plants breakdown PGRs, such as Primo Maxx, faster as air temperatures increase (Beasley and Branham, 2005). This means that calendar based PGR re-application intervals are not efficient at maintaining yield suppression because the ideal re-application interval changes during the course of a growing season.

During my Masters degree with Dr. Soldat at the University of Wisconsin-Madison we studied how PGR re-application frequency and rate affected yield suppression on creeping bentgrass golf putting greens; primarily with Primo Maxx. Instead of evaluating inefficient calendar-based intervals (i.e. weekly or biweekly applications), we used a growing degree day (GDD) model to estimate the duration of the yield suppression phase and aid in scheduling Primo Maxx applications. The goal was to sustain yield season-long yield suppression and avoid the rebound. Growing degree day models are used extensively in traditional agriculture to estimate crop growth and development in relation to air temperature and recently have been used to estimate weed growth and development in turfgrass, i.e. *Poa annua* seed head formation (GDDTracker.net). To calculate GDD the high and low air temperature are averaged together, subtracted from a base temperature where metabolism is minimal, and added to values from the previous days.

In a 2008 study, we measured daily relative clipping yield from a creeping bentgrass putting green treated with Primo Maxx every 100, 200, 400, and 800 GDD as well as every four weeks. **The GDD was calculated in degrees Celsius with a base temperature of 0°C and began after the previous Primo Maxx application. After the GDD threshold had been surpassed (i.e. 200 GDD**

Summary Points

- PGRs reduce clipping yield for a duration dependent upon air temperature. GDD systems can be used to estimate the duration of the suppression growth phase.
- Re-applying Primo Maxx to creeping bentgrass putting greens every 200 GDD (base 0°C) maintained season-long yield suppression regardless of season.
- The 200 GDD re-application interval is specific only to creeping bentgrass (and likely *Poa annua*) golf putting greens. Other turf species have different GDD thresholds which need to be determined experimentally.
- Increasing Primo Maxx application rate did not increase the level or duration of yield suppression, but the higher application rate resulted in greater visual quality enhancement.
- Re-application of Trimit to creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua* putting greens every 300 GDD (base 0°C) maintained yield suppression. However, that application frequency was stressful on the *Poa annua* and contributed to collapse of the turfgrass stand in 2010.

after Primo Maxx application), Primo was re-applied and the model was reset to zero.

We realize that most American avoid using the Celsius scale, however, it is convenient in this case because there is no need to subtract a base temperature (the base is 0°C). Additionally, spreadsheet programs such as MS Excel can be used to track the progression of GDD after PGR application and convert temperatures to Celsius.

$$\text{Temperature}^{\circ}\text{C} = \frac{(\text{Temp}^{\circ}\text{F} - 32)}{1.8}$$

We found that the 400 GDD, 800 GDD, and four week re-application frequency did not maintain season-long yield suppression (Fig. 1). We plotted relative clipping yields at different GDDs after Primo Maxx application to create a Primo Maxx response model (Fig. 2). This model showed that the suppression phase occurs during the first 300 GDD; after 300 GDD the turfgrass entered the rebound phase of increased yield relative to non-treated turf. The maximum amounts of both yield suppression and rebound was 18% of the non-treated turf.

We found that the 100 and 200 GDD re-application frequencies maintained season-long yield suppression (Fig. 1). The 100 GDD re-application interval resulted in a greater level of yield suppression than the other treatments. The 200 GDD re-application interval is the furthest Primo Maxx re-application interval to maintain yield suppression because the yield begins to transition into the rebound

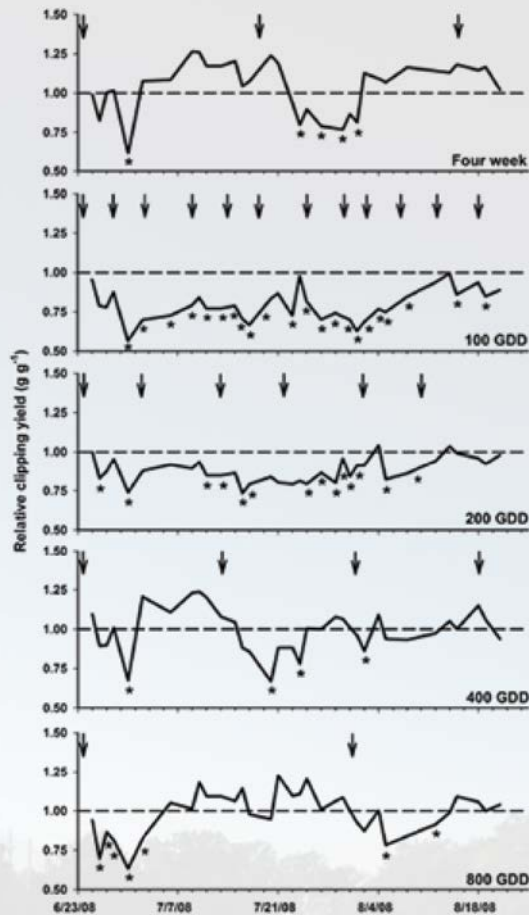


Figure 1. The effect of Primo Maxx re-application frequency on the relative yield of a creeping bentgrass putting green. Stars indicate days clipping yield was less than the non-treated control (dashed line) and arrows indicated Primo Maxx applications. Primo Maxx was applied at the labeled rate for golf course putting greens of 0.125 fl oz/M. Values below the 1.0 reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.

phase after 200 GDD. For some perspective, 200 GDD occurs in 14 days during an average May in Madison, WI (average day temp. 57°F) and as frequently as every 9 days during an average July (72°F). During a heat wave with high temperatures of 100°F and lows around 75°F (average day temp. 89°F) 200 GDD occurs in 7 days or less (Fig. 3). This illustrates how Primo Maxx re-application interval needs to be adjusted depending upon air temperatures to avoid the rebound phase. As temperatures warm into the summer, Primo needs to be re-applied more frequently than it does in spring and fall to avoid the rebound.

In 2009 and 2010 we wanted to verify that the 200 GDD model worked on a different creeping bentgrass putting green and see how it was affected by Primo Maxx application rate. There were two application rates (0.125 and 0.25 fl oz/M) applied either every 200 GDD or every four weeks. In both years the 200 GDD re-application interval maintained season-long yield suppression regardless of the time of year. Surprisingly, we found that the 0.25 fl oz/M application rate did not increase either the level or duration of yield suppression. Application rate did not matter. The only effective way to increase the amount of yield suppression is to re-apply more frequently than 200 GDD (i.e. 100 GDD). The only benefit of the high application rate is

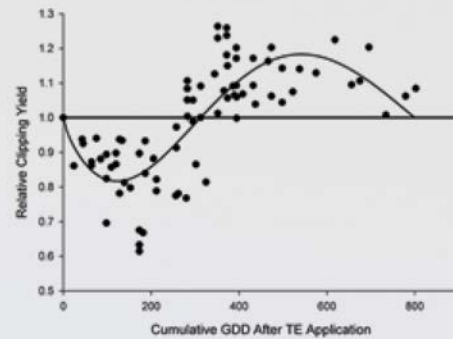


Figure 2. Relative clipping yield of a creeping bentgrass golf putting green at various growing degree days after Primo Maxx application. Cumulative GDD was calculated in degrees Celsius with a base temperature of 0°C from the time the previous Primo Maxx application. Primo Maxx was applied at the labeled rate for golf course putting greens of 0.125 fl oz/M. Values below the 1.0 reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.

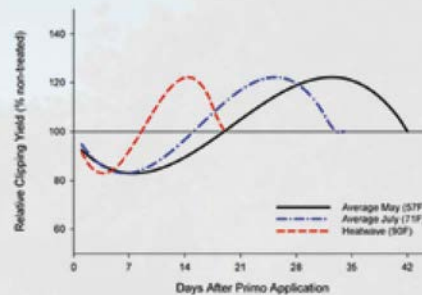


Figure 3. The influence of air temperature on the duration of the yield suppression and rebound phases in Madison, WI. Values below the 100% reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.

that the bentgrass visual quality was greater compared to the labeled application rate of 0.125 fl oz/M.

It needs to be very clear that 200 GDD re-application interval is only meant for Primo Maxx applications to creeping bentgrass golf putting greens. Bermudagrass greens and taller mowed turfgrass such as Kentucky bluegrass athletic fields are more sensitive to Primo Maxx and would have a different Primo GDD threshold. Some preliminary research on *Poa annua* putting greens found that the 200 GDD re-application interval is effective at maintaining yield suppression of *Poa*. We also have found that 200 GDD applications to mixed bent/*Poa* green decreased the *Poa annua* population from 23% to 16% of the surface. However, golf course superintendents visually estimated that there was more *Poa* invasion on those same plots. This occurred because the bentgrass and *Poa annua* populations began to segregate as the grass density increased with repeat Primo Maxx applications. This gave the illusion of more *Poa* invasion while the actual amount of was diminished (verified with a grid count).

We also wanted to determine the GDD threshold for Trimmit application to creeping bentgrass and *Poa annua* golf putting greens. We used the same methods described above to determine Primo Maxx GDD. Trimmit was applied at the rate of 0.25 fl oz/M (1.1 fl oz/A) and was lightly watered in after application. We found that 300 GDD re-applications (base °C) maintained yield suppression during

the growing season for both grass species. After approximately 350 GDD the turf entered the rebound phase (Fig 4). A word of caution however, the 300 GDD Trimmit treatment contributed to the collapse of the *Poa annua* stand during 2010 and was described in more detail in Dr. Soldat's January/February 2011 Grass Roots article (<http://www.lib.msu.edu/cgi-bin/flink.pl?reco=175732>). In conclusion, the use a

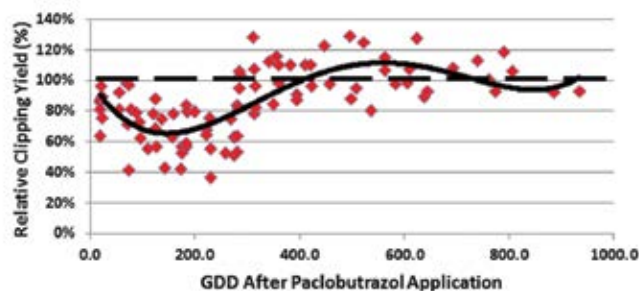


Figure 4. Relative clipping yield of a creeping bentgrass golf putting green at various growing degree days after Trimmit application. Cumulative GDD was calculated in degrees Celsius with a base temperature of 0°C from the time the previous Trimmit application. Trimmit was applied at the rate of 0.125 fl oz/M. Values below the 100% reference line indicate yield suppression while values above the line indicate the rebound phase.

GDD model to estimate PGR metabolism and schedule re-applications increases application precision and removes some of the mystery and misconceptions involved with these PGRs. If you have any questions or would like a copy of an Excel spreadsheet to track GDD accumulation please email me at wck38@cornell.edu.

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BY DAN KOOPS AND TROY EVANS, ASSISTANT COMMITTEE



This past spring brought some great opportunities for the MiGCSA Assistants. We were able to visit two fine clubs in the Detroit area. The first took place on April 18 at Edgewood Country Club. Host Assistant Superintendent Ryan Glunz gave us a tour of the maintenance facilities and then brought the Assistants to a few of the greens that were damaged coming out of the winter. The Assistants discussed ideas and techniques on how to prevent winter kill and also how to recover from it. We all came away with a little something we might try different this upcoming winter. Thanks to Ryan and Superintendent Brett Roberts for having us and also supplying the food.

On May 9, our next Shop Talk was at Lochmoor Club. Host Assistant Superintendent Jason Zaleski gave everyone a tour of their facilities and then was able to provide us in with an in-depth look at their ongoing drainage project. Lochmoor was in the process of installing drainage in the fairways. We were able to observe the company installing the drainage and take note on their methods. Thanks to Jason and Superintendent Mike Mulkey for allowing us to visit LC.



Look for more Shop Talks this coming fall. After the summer busy season, we will get back at it to give the Assistants an opportunity to learn from what others are doing to improve their own facility. We are currently in the works of setting up a Shop Talk in the Grand Rapids area. So all of you West-siders, keep your eyes open for the advertising on that event. Also keep your calendars open on Monday, October 17 for the 2011 Assistants Golf Outing. It's always nice to get away for a day and talk about how the summer went, learn something new and get a round of golf in. Details will follow towards the end of the summer. We hope to see you at the next event.



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GOLF COURSE SUSTAINABILITY



Golf courses need to embrace the concept of sustainability. While the precise explanation of sustainability is not easily defined, there are some definite precepts of this philosophy that are clear. A key sustainability principle on which this article will focus upon will be that of energy reduction via grassing design.

For golf courses to be sustainable, they need to embrace the idea of lowering their energy inputs. The less energy a golf course uses, the more

sustainable the facility. And, as energy costs continue to rise, many of the sustainable, energy saving tactics that were once too costly to implement, now make positive economic sense.

One simple way that golf courses can reduce energy input is through the design of their turf and grass design. It takes a significant amount of energy to keep turf maintained at low heights. Fuel, manpower, machinery, and chemicals – all of which are required for this task – require high amounts of energy.

Therefore, if golf courses can replace plants that need higher energy inputs (Read: Turf) with plants that need less input (Read: Natural Areas/Meadow/Wildflower/Prairie Grass) the golf course will become more sustainable. (And, as added benefit, the maintenance budget will be less too.)

I understand there is a desire for the “maintained” look by golfers, and that golf course owners and superintendents are simply trying to provide what they perceive as market demands. I comprehend that many golfers do not see British Open courses as beautiful, but rather as brown, poorly maintained, weed lined golf tracks. But, this is precisely when the golf course industry needs to lead – and not follow. The more that golfers are exposed to these less energy demanding “Natural Areas”, the more they will appreciate them, along with the sustainable and economic benefits, which are sure to result.

The key to the implementation of these types of areas on a golf course is communication. Don't just pop up fescue areas on the outskirts of golf holes or create a meadow in a place members have always

seen maintained turf. Explain to the members/patrons of the golf course, via newsletters, drawings and computer aided images, why this being done. Show them pictures of what it will look like before you implement the program. Expound on the benefits that will be derived from this tactic, including a quantification of the reduced energy inputs and associated costs. The method and tactics used to educate and inform golfers about the process will go a long way toward creating a successful and sustainable facility. It will take education and time for golfers to change their perspective, and embrace the earthier color tones and rugged textures these “sustainable” areas will embody. But, even if the golfers do not appreciate the visual impact, they sure will appreciate the economic impact of a sustainable golf landscape.

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 five countries on small and large projects

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JEFF HOPKINS

Jeff Hopkins is the Superintendent at Railside Golf Club in Byron Center Michigan, site of the 2011 MiGCSA State Championship. Jeff has been married to his wife Rhonda for 23 years and they have a daughter Alyssa, 21 and a son Mitchell, 19. He enjoys hunting, spending time with his family and playing golf to a 5 handicap. The first course Jeff worked on was Fairway Estates Golf Club in Hudsonville hauling and washing carts for \$1 an hour and all pop he could drink. Jeff knew he wanted to pursue a career in golf while mowing greens and watching the sun rise. Jeff is a graduate of the 2 year Turfgrass program at Michigan State he went back to Fairway Estates as the Assistant Superintendent for 2 years then went to Rolling Hills G.C. as the Superintendent for 5 years and then to Railside for the past 19 years. Jeff is also a past president of the Western Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association.

WHO WAS THE FIRST SUPERINTENDENT YOU WORKED FOR AFTER COLLEGE?

Jon Nysse (who is now my assistant).

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THAT SUPERINTENDENT IN THE FIRST YEAR?

I learned a lot, to work hard, work fast and take pride in your work.

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

To help our members be informed of any issues in the industry, to help setup events and meetings where we can network and to give us educational opportunities.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME?

It is somewhat frustrating from the standpoint of that people don't understand what goes into perfect conditioning, but it does help push us to be better and more efficient.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

#9 at The Kingsley Club

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE THAT YOU HAVE PLAYED?

TPC Sawgrass

WHAT IS THE TOUGHEST GOLF COURSE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

Oakland Hills

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Communicating with your golfers or members.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF CLUB IN THE BAG?

My 1977 Bullseye putter.

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

Keeping budget dollars at an appropriate level for expected playing conditions.

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

I would have to say my cup cutter, it helps give a different course set up each day.

WHAT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD TO YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

The new Toro greens aerifier.

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

A DNR enforcement officer.

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

Our 2nd hole, it has poor drainage and the green needs to have more cup options.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

Hopefully still in this business. How about 100 years from now? As a great dad and a good friend.

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

Ask questions and get advice from other superintendents and vendors and network.

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

12

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

A Toro VT II with approx. 675 heads.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

I have a few that come to mind.....Keith Paterson, Roger Barton, Jon Nysse.

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

Listen to what people want, it is not all about what we want to do to the golf course, it is about what they want.

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

I think the superintendent is vital in the good operation of any golf facility. Without a great golf course, why go there.

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

A good Assist is crucial, I have been fortunate to have a great assist for 10 years now. I can leave the facility and not worry (maybe a little).

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

My son Mitchell, Fred Couples and Bill Murray

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

We had a bit of a goose problem here and I decided to "thin the herd". So I went out with my bow and shot a goose (in season) and when we retrieved the goose the arrow had gone thru the goose and stuck right into a Titleist and I still have the ball and arrow in my office.

5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT JEFF HOPKINS

1. I FELL THRU THE ROOF OF A GLASS GREENHOUSE ROOF AND SEVERED MY BICEP AT 16 YEARS
2. I WAS A 3 TIME SPELLING BEE CHAMP IN SCHOOL
3. I WAS A CADET LEADER AT OUR CHURCH FOR 10 YEARS
4. I HAVE A TERRIBLE FEAR OF SNAKES
5. I WAS THE FIRST PERSON TO ACE #4 AT THE BEAR AT GRAND TRAVERSE

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ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

I know how busy everyone in the MiGCSA is, especially right now. The board and I are always happy when we have members get involved but we also know it is not for everyone. Because of this I am not sure we have communicated well enough to let everyone know what has been happening with the inner workings of the Association. So I thought it would be a good idea to give a brief history of the MiGCSA to this point.

The MiGCSA was officially formed in 2008 at the GLTE. There were many involved leading up to the vote by the membership that approved the combining of the 4 chapters into one. John Fulling, CGCS of Kalamazoo Country Club was the first official President of the MiGCSA. Before John, Dan Bissonette, CGCS, Mike Morris, CGCS and Jon Maddern, CGCS sat as interim Presidents as the MiGCSA was born. There were many members, and GCSAA staff involved during these early years working on bylaws and details that are still used today, and without them we never would have got off the ground.

It was decided that the MiGCSA would hire an Association Management company to help merge the 4 chapters into one. This was no easy task as the 4 chapters had separate databases, bank accounts, local meetings, history and traditions. It was a priority of every board member to keep the new "districts" in tune with the former chapter's ideals. A company called Eurich Management was hired to help the MiGCSA complete the daunting never before done task of combining four chapters into one state wide chapter. The staff of Eurich did a great job getting all of the data organized into one central hub, getting the Course Conditions magazine off the ground, and helping to develop the first version of MiGCSA.org. There is no way we could have done all of that without their help.

Steve Hammon from Traverse City G&CC took over as President in 2009. In October of 2009 it was decided that the MiGCSA would part ways with Eurich Management. This was based on many reasons and from a financial standpoint the board did not feel that it was sustainable to continue our contract. At this time the duties of the Association were divided up among the board members. Jay Eccleton the Secretary/Treasurer at the time took over all of the financial records and handled all receivables and payables. I took over the Course Conditions magazine and the MiGCSA.org website. All member email was forwarded to Steve, Ron Dahlin, CGCS MiGCSA Vice President, Jay and I. Jeff Holmes took the lead on Education and the entire board helped plan events. Steve and I revamped the entire Industry Partner Program to better fit our Partner's needs, and succeeded in raising almost \$90,000 in the first year of the new program, with the help of the entire board. The MiGCSA was operating in the red when the board took control, and in one year moved to a positive financial position of over \$40,000.

Ron Dahlin, CGCS at the Meadows at GVSU took over in January of 2010 as President. It was during the winter of 2009/2010 that the board decided it was time to search for an Executive Director to take over the duties that the volunteer board had been doing. It was not a good long term solution to ask volunteers to continue to do all of the daily work needed to keep the chapter alive. A job description was created and a search committee was formed. At this time I excused myself from any meeting time dedicated to the ED search as I had made my intentions of applying for the position clear to the board. Applications were submitted in December of 2010 and interviews were conducted in February of 2011. I was hired and started in my new position in March of this year.

So here we are to today, I hope that may clear up any confusion from a member standpoint. The MiGCSA is here solely because of the hard work of a very dedicated Board of Directors and Officers from the beginning until now. We are in a very positive financial position, and are working towards stronger committee structure to help move the MiGCSA forward. We are in an admirable position today to start new programs to help support our members and continue to take a leadership role in the golf industry in Michigan. We have joined and helped form the Michigan Golf Alliance, formed partnerships with the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation and Midwest Golf Course Superintendents Association. The GCSAA looks to Michigan as an example of a successful chapter. None of these would be possible if we had not formed one unified state chapter. Our voice is now heard loud and clear.

Please remember this, the MiGCSA is here to help you the member. But we need your support and guidance to make sure we are doing the very best we can for all of our members regardless of location or operation. We have the ability and resources to do some great things, and with the support from the membership, our Industry Partners and Allied Associations the sky is the limit. Please feel free to contact me at any time, or speak to your district board member if you have ideas or concerns about the MiGCSA.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS
MiGCSA Executive Director



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Golf Course Mosquito Control

Standing Water Treatment



Altosid Pro-G

Type: Larvacide

Control: 30 days

Application: standing water and low-lying areas

Comments: Safe for aquatic animals; disrupts growth of mosquito larvae.

Product Cost: \$31.43 per 110 mL container

Application Cost: \$5.82 per 1,000 sq ft.



Border

Type: Micro Encapsulated Broad Spectrum Pyrethrin

Control: 30 days

Application: under shrubs, bushes and boundary zones

Comments: Quick knockdown control of adults.

Product Cost: \$126.66 per 110 mL container

Application Cost: \$0.80 per 1,000 sq ft.



NyGuard IGR

Type: Micro Encapsulated Larvacide

Control: 210 days

Application: under shrubs, bushes and boundary zones

Comments: Insect growth regulator; provides excellent residual activity and movement throughout the entire population from larvae to adult.

Product Cost: \$41.93 per 110 mL container

Application Cost: \$1.02 per 1,000 sq ft

Adult Landing Areas

**Tankmix
Treatment Cost:**

\$1.82 per 1,000 sq ft



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GAM Superintendent of the year Ted Woerhle's family accept the award from Greens Chair David Baughman.



When I was asked to move up from Vice Chairman to Chairman of The Golf Association of Michigan's Green Committee in 2008, I was grateful for the chance to play a more significant role in the continuation of the long history of support between the GAM and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

The already established Annual Super GAM Day at the Hancock Center in East Lansing was the centerpiece of the GAM's physical fund raising effort, while the annual joint letter requesting public and private club donations on behalf of the MTF was the major generator of economic commitments from the GAM membership.

Between the two, over \$60,000 was the usual annual result of the cooperation between the GAM, MTF, MiGCSA and the MGCOA. Quite an achievement, and very appreciated by the Michigan State University representatives.

When the economy faltered, and memberships at clubs began to wane, it became more difficult to maintain the level of contribution, but the effort never wavered and the maximum available was what we were always able to raise.

The GAM Green Committee alternately discussed a variety of options to increase contributions and to create fun and value for both the contributors and for the volunteers, who put on the show at the Hancock Center.

The thought struck us that it would be appropriate to highlight a deserving Superintendent each year with some form of recognition. This would be a person who, by his or her actions, contributions to the game, respect among peers and, accomplishments over time, would be worthy of the newly proposed annual GAM Superintendent Award of Merit.

The process of selection begins with nominations which will be solicited in the late summer or early fall. The members of the GAM Green Committee will review the nominations and ultimately select that year's award recipient. The selection committee will consist of representatives from the GAM, MTF, MiGCSA, MGCOA and MSU among others.

What better extension of the value of contributing to the MTF than to recognize the men and women who put to good use the turf knowledge and innovations derived from the contributions to the MTF.

The inaugural recipient for 2011 was overwhelmingly agreed upon as Ted Woerhle, former longtime Oakland Hills CC Superintendent and Michigan Golf Hall of Fame member, who passed away in the fall of 2010.

This award was presented initially at the GAM Annual Meeting held at Oakland Hills this past May.

Members of the Woerhle family traveled in from out of state to receive the award at Oakland Hills on Ted's behalf. It was a moment of true emotion for all involved and it was very rewarding to hear the family's appreciative comments.

For 2012, watch for the nomination announcement and be prepared to propose the Superintendent that you feel best deserves the Award of Merit.

In the meantime, support your Turf and your Superintendent, give generously to the MTF and put the annual Super GAM Day at the Hancock Center on your must attend list.

David Baughman
Chairman, GAM Green Committee



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FROM NATIONAL



STEVE RANDALL

10 QUICK HITS ABOUT YOUR PROFESSION

BY STEVE RANDALL– GCSAA SENIOR MANAGER, CHAPTER OUTREACH

First off, as the season continues, be aware that GCSAA and the MiGCSA have excellent resources at your disposal. Please utilize the networking opportunities your chapter provides. That, combined with the information at your disposal as a member of GCSAA, we want to ensure you are seeing the value of your membership.

I wanted to share some industry insight. As the golf season winds down, you may wonder if the hard work, early mornings and long days has an impact in the golf industry. To perk everyone up, the information I will share today proves your position is arguably the most important at your facility.

10 Quick Hits:

1. Average member compensation continues to climb.
In 2011, the average base salary for golf course superintendents rose to \$81,044, a 2.7% increase over base salaries reported in 2009. In addition, half of all superintendents earned at least \$70,000 annually.
2. Recognition continues to grow regarding superintendents and the vitality of your position.
The National Golf Foundation reports that now, more than ever, an exceptional golf course superintendent could be the facilities most important asset.
3. The Field Staff Program is receiving good feedback.
As you have read, four regions are currently staffed. John Miller continues to do an excellent job serving your region. If you have any comments about the work he or any GCSAA staff member is doing, please contact John or me.
4. GCSAA, in addition to the MiGCSA, continue to work directly with allied golf organizations, enhancing the golf industry profession.
 - a) Growing the game/Get Golf Ready/Play Golf America are supported by GCSAA and the golf industry.
 - b) Advocacy – The We Are Golf coalition has made great accomplishments with establishing golf as vital to industry. Michigan Golf Day is an excellent model showing your chapter has taken a lead role. In addition, there continues to be great collaboration with members from neighboring states. This is essential to the long-range viability of golf.
 - c) Marketing Golf/Image of the game
 - d) Sustainability – Golf's Drive Toward Sustainability, led by GCSAA and the EIFG is under the We Are Golf Banner.
 Efforts continue to get golf established within disaster relief efforts. Golf courses have been excluded from these lists in the past.
5. GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show
Coming up Feb. 27- March 2. Travel and lodging is extremely affordable. Come network and learn with your peers. The GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic is slated for LaQuinta February 24-26. This is a tremendous networking and professional development opportunity.
6. GCSAA is financially stable – enabling our association to provide the resources needed to serve the membership.
We rely heavily on industry and appreciate their support. GCSAA is looking to find new sources of revenue and that continues to be a focus of our staff and board. Growing and retaining members remains a top priority. This follows suit with the MiGCSA's IPP program. Support those who are supporting the profession!
7. International opportunities
Industry partners have asked for our help to open foreign markets, especially Asia. Superintendents in many other areas of the world are not highly regarded. GCSAA is being asked to help replicate what have been done in America to help advance the profession.
8. Several topics are on the table by our Board of Directors.
Those areas include the impact of member standards on GCSAA, Chapters and Members, GCSAA certification program, GCSAA research program and field staff with potential expansion.
9. Are you fully aware of GCSAA's programs/services?
The website has been recently redesigned. Forums are more user friendly. GCM continues to be the industry standard. GCSAA This Week, as well as GCSAA Industry Spotlight showcase current information relevant to the profession. Look for GCSAA to continue to evolve communication streams and methods to inform you. GCSAA TV offers excellent feature stories with a focus on members and assisting members in their profession.
10. Professional Development
This is the lifeblood of your career. Pursue continuing education and service opportunities. Your chapter is another great resource for professional development. We see our combined efforts as the Gold Standard regarding professional development. Communicate the value of your profession to your facility and considering achieving Class A status or certified status. Your hard work shows!!!

Please contact me if you have any questions! All the best!

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

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THE BETTER HALF



DAVID BURCHETT

David Burchett has been married to his wife Patricia for fifteen years. Patricia has a son, Thad, and a daughter, Angie. Thad lives in North Pole, Alaska and Angie resides in Boyne Falls with her three children, Logan 12, Anna 10, and Samantha 9. Patricia and David are able to see the grandkids almost daily. David was hired in the spring of 1987 by Superintendent Tom Brogger at Birchwood Farms as a seasonal employee. He spent most of that first season raking bunkers, he wasn't thinking of it as a career option at that time but David eventually enrolled at Michigan State, and attended the two year program directed by Dr. Trey Rogers.

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

MiGCSA is exceeding my expectations. The formation of the Michigan Golf Alliance is a solid idea and I hope that it succeeds in promoting the golf industry.

2. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME?

Augusta represents excellence; they are constantly coming up with changes to challenge the world's best golfers. Challenging the world's best golfers isn't the mission we have at Birchwood, but the concept of innovative change is something we're always looking develop.

3. WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Equipment repair. I don't mind working on the equipment, routine maintenance and easy fixes but major repairs are difficult, fortunately, we have an excellent mechanic and a couple of tool heads on the staff.

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

Job satisfaction is an issue. Younger Assistants must make career decisions, becoming a Superintendent is the next logical step but the competition is tough so getting to the next level takes preparation and perseverance. As an older Assistant I have a little different perspective, I'm interested in continuing service with my employer.

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

I believe the future will be a lot like the present, competition for Superintendent positions will continue to increase as the industry contracts.

6. WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS?

The next generation will face greater expectations than in the past. The job description for an Assistant Superintendent in today's market is quite extensive and it will probably continue to expand as the industry becomes more complex. Education will continue to be important for future Assistant's.

7. WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

On a tropical island, sipping lemonade beneath a palm tree.

8. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

My current Superintendent, Tom Brogger. Tom hired me initially as a seasonal employee and, later as an Assistant Superintendent. I've enjoyed my years working with Tom and have learned a lot from him. He is very creative and adept at making the course a little bit better every year.

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

There are a lot of caring, intelligent individuals working every day to try and make the game of golf an enjoyable experience.

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

There is room for both approaches to the game. When I think of walking a golf course I think of traditional golf, which is great. Golf carts are good because they keep older golfers playing the game when they otherwise would not. Golf carts generate revenue and speed up the pace of play, both positives. On the negative side, golf carts can cause damage to the turf and be driven in areas where they should not go. Mixing the two styles together can be problematic.

11. WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

Golf after work with co-workers, bicycling, basketball, baseball and swimming with the grand kids, walk the dogs, house projects, U. P. trips, watch the Tigers and Spartans, eat out, movies, nightly news, Sudoku, reading the local paper.

12. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CAREER PATH

I did not know such a path even existed until I relocated to the Harbor Springs area in 1987 and was hired by Tom Brogger as a seasonal employee. I liked the team approach and variety of tasks found within the golf course maintenance business and decided to pursue a career in turfgrass management. I was fortunate to study at Michigan State under Dr. Rogers for two years in the early nineties.

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

There are similarities between farming and what we do, plus grandfather Burchett had a small dairy farm back in the good old days so I have to go with farming.

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

The most unusual thing I've witnessed at our maintenance shop was the morning I entered the building and there in the middle of the shop was an irrigation controller with a wad of concrete attached to the bottom of it and a bunch of wires trailing out of the base of the controller. I asked the irrigation tech, "Don, where did that come from?" Don calmly responded, "It came from number seven, Forrest said he didn't notice it when he was blowing leaves." One of the other guys followed that up with, "guess Forrest couldn't see the controller because of all of the leaves."



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT DAVID BURCHETT

1. GRANDFATHER OF THREE, LOGAN, SAMANTHA, AND ANNA
2. BACHELOR OF SCIENCE FROM CMU AND GRADUATE OF MSU TURFGRASS PROGRAM
3. LIVES IN A ONE-HUNDRED AND TEN YEAR OLD HOUSE IN PETOSKEY
4. MARRIED TO A YOOPER
5. OWNS THREE PUGS, ONE A RESCUE PUG FROM THE HUMANE SOCIETY



MICHIGAN GOLF DAY AT THE CAPITOL

ALLIED GOLF ASSOCIATIONS JOINED FORCES TO BRING MESSAGE TO LEGISLATORS



Just like any other perfect golf day in Michigan, the sun was shining on the Michigan Golf Alliance as they took over the lawn of the State capitol on June 22nd. Michigan Golf Course Owners Association, Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association, Michigan Section PGA, the Golf Association of Michigan, Michigan Club Managers Associations and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation convened at the Capitol and visited every Legislator this Wednesday. The Capitol lawn was the venue for this unprecedented event.

Nearly 300 gathered under the big tent in front of the Capitol steps for "lunch on the turn", an opportunity for legislators and their constituents to discuss the issues of golf business and connect with one another. With the majority of all Legislators being in their first term, the Golf Alliance wanted to introduce themselves and their key issues to the House and Senate. Taxes, tourism funding and the environment were top on the list. Each year for the past decade golf course owners, operators and superintendents have gathered in the spring to bring a cooperative message to the legislature. This year, the newly established **Michigan Golf Alliance**, comprised of the leaders of Michigan golf industry associations, came together to create a dynamic event to promote the game and the business of golf. Governor Snyder's Chief of Staff Dennis Muchmore addressed the group at the opening session, reviewing the state's budget priorities as they related to the business community.

"This event was interactive and attracted more attention from our State Reps and Senators. The inclusion of all golf allied associations will do nothing but strengthen the golf industry in

Michigan and create a greater awareness of what the golf industry has to offer this State. It was a great way to kick off summer," said Franklin Golf Management consultant Frank Guastella.

Michigan Section PGA professionals offered a swing analysis for the legislators and their staff throughout the afternoon. Lunch was catered by Eagle Eye Golf Course of Bath.



The Presidents representing the groups in the Michigan Golf Alliance meet with Speaker of the House Jase Bolger.

MID DISTRICT

On July 12th over 40 MiGCSA members came out to the Flint Elks Golf Club for a golf event in the Mid District. The day started with Ian Williams District Sales Manager with the Rain Bird Corporation doing a seminar on performing an irrigation audit. The first portion was held inside then the group traveled out to the putting green to see some catch cans in action. Lunch was served and the best 2 of 4 event was under way. Congratulations to Dr. Kevin Frank and Jim Higgs who won the long drive and closest to the pin prizes. The skins were won by MiGCSA Vice President Greg Pattinson, Dr. Kevin Frank, and Dave Yates. The team game was won in a scorecard playoff by the team of MiGCSA President Jay Eccleton, James Kurlle, Troy Looney, Fred Gibbs. They beat out the team of Tim Johnson, Tim Dark, Chris Wilczynski, Kevin Frank and third place went to Doug Spiller, Dave Rossman, Dan Weller, Dave Yates. A special thank you to Steve Rose Superintendent at the Flint Elks, the course was fantastic.



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A CALL FROM CAMPUS

INVESTIGATING THE MECHANISMS OF DOLLAR SPOT REDUCTION THROUGH LIGHTWEIGHT ROLLING

By Paul Giordano and Dr. Joseph M. Vargas Jr., Department of Plant Pathology, Michigan State University

A study to investigate the biological and physiological effects of rolling on dollar spot incidence was conducted on a creeping bentgrass research putting green from June-October in 2008-2010. Morning rolling and afternoon rolling treatments were implemented to investigate the effects of dew and guttation fluid removal and dispersal.

- Treatments rolled in the p.m. (after dew and guttation naturally dissipated) exhibited similar disease reduction as treatments rolled in the a.m. (while dew and guttation fluid were present) when compared to the control.
- Cumulative effects of rolling were investigated with treatments rolled twice (2x) per day. The 2x/day rolling treatment exhibited significantly less disease than all other treatments, indicating that the more times a green is mowed, the less dollar spot there should be.
- Significantly higher upper root zone soil volumetric water content were observed in the 2x/day treatment in all years of the study, when compared to the control.
- Microbial populations were evaluated via phospholipid fatty acid (PLFA) analysis in order to investigate potential effects of rolling on microbial abundance and dynamics in the upper root zone.
- Rolled treatments exhibited significant increases in particular fatty acids associated with common bacteria. Furthermore, a general trend towards increased total bacterial abundance was present in rolled treatments compared to unrolled treatments.
- These results suggest that daily, season-long, light-weight rolling on turfgrass putting greens may be contributing to disease reduction by altering soil conditions favoring to beneficial microbial populations in the upper root zone.
- Additionally, data suggest that mechanisms other than dew and guttation dispersal are responsible for disease reduction based on the observed dollar spot inhibition from afternoon rolling.





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2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, September 19	Tuck Tate Championship (Black Lake Golf Course, Onaway)
Monday, September 26	Foundation Fundraiser, Western Golf Day (Harbor Shores Golf Club, Benton Harbor)
Wednesday, June 22	Legislative Day in Lansing (MiGCSA, MGCOA, MiPGA, GAM)
Tuesday, July 12	MiGCSA Golf Event (Flint Elks, Grand Blanc)
Monday, August 1	MiGCSA State Championship (Railside Golf Club, Byron Center)
Wednesday, August 17	MTF Field Day (MSU Hancock Center, East Lansing)
Monday, September 19	Tuck Tate Championship (Black Lake Golf Course, Onaway)
Monday, September 26	MiGCSA Foundation Fundraiser (Harbor Shores Golf Club, Benton Harbor)
Monday, October 3	MiGCSA Foundation Fundraiser The Big Event (Warwick Hills CC, Grand Blanc)
Monday, October 17	Assistant's Golf Outing (Whispering Pines Golf Club, Pickney)

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.

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At Par Aide, we'd like to raise a paper cup to you, our valued customer. Because it's your unyielding dedication to the course that inspires us to keep building the industry's most innovative products. So from Par Aide, we salute all you do. Cheers.

Wherever golf is played.





2011 Northern Fundraiser winners Steve Fent, Jeremy LaPratt, Jason Koholemainen, and Matthew Seibel.

On another perfect day at Arcadia Bluffs. MiGCSA members and friends came out and helped raise over \$8,000.

The event got off to an early start on Sunday evening with the Big Money Skins Game. Nine teams came out and played a 9 hole best ball scramble for \$900 in skins money. Congratulations to the team of MiGCSA President Jay Eccleton, Josh Devereaux, Cole Cornwell, and John Struble who won the only three skins with an eagle on #1 an eagle on #5 and a birdie on #7. The skins game was a great event and one we will have again next year.

On Monday the weather was again fantastic as was the golf course. A huge thank you to Paul Emling Vice President of Operations at Arcadia Bluffs, Paul sits on the MiGCSA Foundation Fundraiser Committee along with Steve Hammon, Paul Witte, and Mike Hirvela, without the input from this committee the day could not have been such a success.

131 players came out starting at 7:30 and teed off until 2:30. There were 8 proximity markers on the course thanks to our 2011 Premiers Foundation Sponsors. The four closest to the pin winners were, #2 Tim Dark, #9 Jim Dart, #13 Ron Thies, and #17 Bob Blakeman. The Long Drive winners were #3 Jason Farah, #8 Jim Stoll, #15 Jim Stoll, and #18 James Kurrle. Each winner received \$50 in Gift cards to Arcadia Bluffs. Congratulations to the winners and great shots.

There were two options for play on Monday, a team best ball scramble, or you could compete for the lowest individual round of the day. Congratulations to Aaron McMaster who shot 75 and won

THANK YOU 2011 PREMIERE SPONSORS



\$100 in Arcadia Bluffs Gift Cards in a scorecard playoff against Dr. Kevin Frank. In the team best ball scramble, the first place plaques and \$400 in gift cards went to the team of Steve Fent, Jeremy LaPratt, Jason Koholemainen, and Matthew Seibel by shooting a 13 under 59 and beating the second place team of Tom Seigreen, Jim Stoll, Adam Hansen, and Gary Ashley who also shot 59 for \$200 in gift cards in a scorecard playoff. The third place team of Bob Weiber, Dan Redman, James (Big Dog) Kurrle, and John Struble won \$100 in gift cards.

There was a 50/50 poker game thanks to Paul Witte of Residex/Turfgrass. The best hand of the day went to the team of Scott Trbovich, Jason Farah, Marc McCoy, and Tyler Waibel with four of a kind 3's. The pot split was \$335 for their team and for the Foundation.

The putting contest was hosted by Bob and Tom Reed of Tri-Turf. MiGCSA President Jay Eccleton made the putt and won the 50/50 pot for \$70. Thank you to Civitas for sponsoring the 10th hole which has been sprayed with Civitas. And everyone was raving about the Pretzel Bread Bratwurst on hole #7 and #15 sponsored by Jacobsen.

The golf course staff did a fantastic job all around. The conditions were perfect thanks to MiGCSA Members Superintendent Mike "Stubby" Nielsen, Assistant Superintendent Custer Carland, Second Assistant Superintendent Trevor Nash and Equipment Technician Pat Sullivan. Director of Golf Greg Babinec and his staff were incredible, and thank you to Scott Verstrat Food and Beverage Director and his staff that had a great box lunch and cold drinks for all of the players.

The Jacobsen Hot Dog Stand.



The winning Skins team Jay Eccleton, Josh Devereaux, Cole Cornwell, and John Struble.





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For the past 15 years we have been proud to represent the John Deere Golf product line to our valued customers throughout the state of Michigan. However, we have decided to exit this portion of our business effectively October 31, 2011. We are exiting this portion of our business to focus and concentrate on our commercial and residential business.

We truly value the relationships that we have forged with our customers over the past decade and thank each of you for your business.

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