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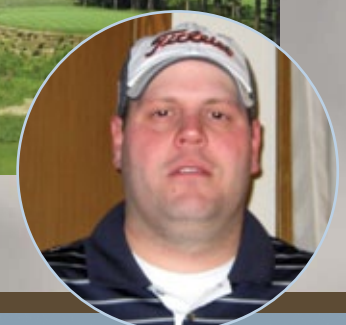
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MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 1/22/12

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	WINTER 2010/11 MEMBERSHIP
Class AA	27	25
Class A	232	247
Class SM	69	72
Class C	94	95
Class D	33	48
Class E	20	20
Class AFF	154	140
Class H	23	15
Class SA	14	13
Class R	10	12
Class I	4	1
TOTAL	682	688

Please log in to your account at www.migcsa.org to renew your membership for 2012. If you are unsure of your status contact us at info@migcsa.org or 1-888-3-MiGCSA.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



JAY ECCLETON, CGCS

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION.

How fast a year goes. I would like to first say how proud I am to be a part of such a great organization of committed individuals. I am now entering my second term as the MiGCSA President and I am excited to bring in 2012 with a new outlook on the golf industry. I have been fortunate to serve on a Board of Directors that have put their heart and soul into this association and continue to work tirelessly towards the advancement of the MiGCSA and its membership. I would like to thank Mr. Ron Dahlin, Mr. Scott Pulaski and Mr. Rick Hakken for their many years of dedication to the board as they step off this year due to term limits. All three of these individuals were instrumental in the creation of the MiGCSA and without their efforts, the MiGCSA would not be as successful as it is today. I also would like to welcome new board members Mr. Mark Ostrander, Mr. Phil Owen, CGCS and Mr. Michael Rosen to the board as they start their own journey as future leaders of the MiGCSA. I would also like to thank our Executive Director Adam Ikamas, CGCS. His efforts and dedication to our association has raised the bar

for association management and has continued to make the MiGCSA one of the leading GCSAA affiliated chapters in the country.

As I put the finishing touches on this President's message. I am also attending the last GLTE Conference that the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation will be part of for the time being. In 2013 the MTF will return to East Lansing with the MTF Conference and Show. This is an exciting change for all of us. The new venue will now be located in the heart of East Lansing on the MSU campus and The Kellogg Center. I had the privilege to attend a small meeting last month with a majority of the MTF Board members at The Kellogg Center. As we took our tour of the facility and were introduced to staff and amenities that will be available to us in 2013, I grew more eager to see this conference return home to East Lansing and excited to be a part of the development of maybe the best turf conference ever.

The show will switch gears and return its focus towards education and less focus on a trade show. The benefits are numerous. Classes will now be offered Monday, Tuesday and Thursday with sessions scheduled Tuesday and Wednesday. This will give all attendees an ample opportunity to catch up on some much needed GCSAA CEU credits by attending various classes offered throughout the week. The return of the MTF Awards dinner and a new trade show format that will be located atop Spartan Stadium are only a couple new additions to the conference that will help launch a new chapter for the MTF. The Kellogg Center is currently and will be going through major renovation stages throughout the summer of 2012 and will welcome us with many new amenities and accommodations as well.

As I watch our industry struggle through this weak golf economy, I am also seeing allied associations doing whatever it takes to become stronger and build solid relationships amongst themselves. The partnership with the MTF and the MiGCSA has never been stronger and in fact this year at the GLTE Conference the MiGCSA was able to increase their contribution \$10,000.00 for research from \$15,000.00 in 2011 to \$25,000.00 in 2012. This is all a direct relationship to the strong partnerships the MiGCSA has made with our Industry Partners and the continued growth of member participation. I personally cannot thank our Industry Partners and our members enough for their continued support of our industry and association.

In June of 2011 we saw the creation of a new award from the Golf Association of Michigan (GAM), The Superintendent of the Year Award. The late Theodore Woehrle was the inaugural selection. This award will be given out annually at the annual meeting of the GAM. In November of 2011 we also saw our own MSU Turf Team receive the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association's (MGCOA) Distinguished Service Award and this same group of individuals are also candidates for Inductee to the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame this Spring.

As this article is titled, Building a Strong Foundation, I see all corners of our industry coming together to help solidify a new foundation for a new birth of the golf industry. Golf may never come back as strong as it once was but it will come back eventually. All of us need to focus on preparing ourselves for the reinvention of the game. Developing strong relationships throughout our industry and allied associations is crucial to our future success. As we enter 2012, take a moment to reflect on the past and how we use to operate and then take an even longer look into the future and what we have to do as a turf professional to advance our industry, ourselves, and our companies into the new era of golf.

I once again challenge all of you to become more involved in your association, help build that foundation one brick at a time. Continue to be positive and rest assured we will be ready when the industry returns to build upon our new solid foundation, a new golf industry full of positive growth and innovative ideas. I am extremely excited for 2012 and the opportunity to build on these already strong partnerships and to meet new individuals that will be instrumental in the future of the game. As the Winter comes to an end and Spring is among us, take the opportunity to reinvent yourself, one breath at a time. Here's to a new foundation! Let's start building!

Regards,

Jay B. Eccleton, CGCS

THE HISTORY OF BACTERIAL DISEASES OF TURFGRASSES

BY J M VARGAS JR. AND PAUL GIORDANO, DEPT. OF PLANT PATHOLOGY, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The vegetatively propagated creeping bentgrasses

The original Bacterial Wilt which attacked the vegetatively propagated creeping bentgrasses like Toronto (C-15) was caused by a bacterium called *Xanthomonas campestris*. The vegetative creeping bentgrasses were from a collection made by USGA agronomist in the 1930. They went to various golf courses in the Eastern US and Canada and selected biotypes that had good agronomic characteristics and bought them back to Washington DC and established them in a nursery for further evaluation. For your information the plots were where the pentagon sits today. They eventually selected 7 of what they considered to be the best of the cultivars. They then went to various golf courses and asked them if they would put these cultivars in a pie shape green and evaluate them to see what one or ones they preferred. For whatever reason the golf course superintendent's in the mid-west chose C-15 or Toronto as the best cultivar for the mid-west. The big advantage, which also turned out later to be the disadvantage, was that every plant in the green was like every other plant, so there was no segregation which often occurs with the seeded creeping bentgrasses.

Determining the cause of the C-15 Toronto creeping bentgrass problem

We had observed for many years a slow decline in Toronto creeping bentgrass greens but could not determine what was causing it and since it progressed slowly there was not major concern. It was as if the annual bluegrass was just doing its thing and taking over. The sand top dressing of native soil greens, which became popular in the 1970's, to convert them into sand greens caused the disease to go parabolic. Bacteria unlike fungi need fresh wounds to enter the plant. The dragging of the sand into the profile resulted in many wounds, and this minor disease became a major disease overnight. As turfgrass pathologist we are trained (actually over trained) to look for fungi when the turf starts to die. A couple of my colleagues found some leaf spots on a few plant on the greens and decided it was a *Helminthosporium* disease; one said it was red leaf spot, and the other said it was leaf and crown rot. My laboratory at MSU determined it was actually a bacterial disease that lived in the xylem of the plant, eventually plugging up enough xylem cells to cause the plants to wilt.

Why the Bacterial Wilt was so devastating

The same advantage that made the vegetatively propagated creeping bentgrasses so desirable was also their down fall; since every plant in the green was the same genetically as every other plant, the bacterium could attack every plant in the green which resulted in extensive turf loss overnight. Bacterial wilt also brought an end to the vegetative bentgrass era, not only in the mid-west, but throughout the US as the other vegetative propagated bentgrasses were also destroyed by the bacterium.



Typical etiolation, yellowing, and thinning on a stand of creeping bentgrass affected by *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *avenae*

Bacterial Etiolation

At about the same time, we began to notice excessive tillering in annual bluegrass greens and fairways which had been attributed to many causes. The disease was often referred to as "Mad Tillering disease" We found it was due to another *Xanthomonas* bacterium later identified by Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski, at the University of Rhode Island, as *Xanthomonas translucens* pv. *poae*. But since it was annual bluegrass, most people did not care other than a few individuals at courses where it became a serious problem. More recently, similar symptoms began to develop in creeping bentgrass greens and now everyone cares. The bacterium attacking the creeping bentgrass cultivars was identified by our laboratory as *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *avenae* (Aaa). We are calling this new disease on both annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass "Bacterial Etiolation" to differentiate from the disease that originally occurred on the vegetatively propagated creeping bentgrasses; where the major symptom was the wilting of the infected plants. Whereas the xylem vessels are plugged with bacteria like with bacterial wilt, the major symptom is the etiolating of the shoots. Also unlike the vegetative propagated creeping bentgrasses the seeded creeping bentgrasses have some genetic diversity because it is an open pollinated species. Therefore, only certain biotypes in the greens are being affected rather than entire greens, which occurred with the vegetatively propagated creeping bentgrass greens where all the plants were the same genetically, and therefore equally susceptible.

Creeping bentgrass cultivars affected

We originally isolated Aaa from Penn G-2 creeping bentgrass. We have since found it in other creeping bentgrass cultivars samples from other golf course that were sent to our laboratory. We have also inoculated several creeping bentgrass cultivars in growth chambers. These cultivars include, but are not limited to: Penn A-4, Penn A-I, L-93, Tyee, Declaration, Bengal, 007, and Penncross. Our initial research has indicated some minor variations in susceptibility in growth chamber inoculations; however, all cultivars tested thus far have been susceptible to infection by Aaa, to some degree.

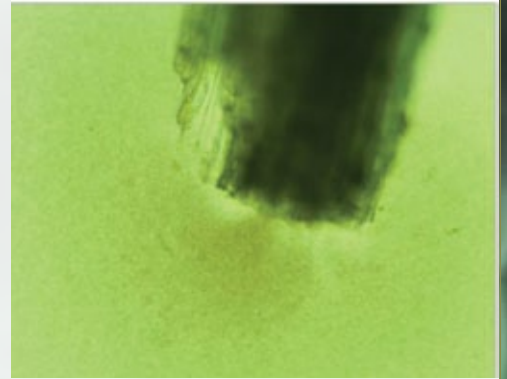


Irregular shaped area of seeded creeping bentgrass etiolating due to infection by the bacterium *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *avenae*.

What still needs to be done

There seems to be a movement in Michigan towards converting annual bluegrass greens to creeping bentgrass greens. Additionally, many of the new golf courses that were built in the last ten years are still predominately creeping bentgrass. Much still remains to be learned about the *Acidovorax* turfgrass pathogen, we are working to understand many aspects of the disease. It is important that we find a means of controlling this disease and its associated symptoms. We began trials last season, but without much success. We will continue them this year with the hope of obtaining better results. Stay tuned in to MSU research reports and industry publications for progress that is being made on this emerging issue.

*Microscopic view of bacterial cells flowing out of the cut end of an infected turfgrass plant. A common diagnostic sign of bacterial infection by *Xanthomonas* (poa annua) or *Acidovorax* (creeping bentgrass).*



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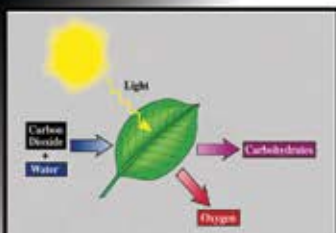
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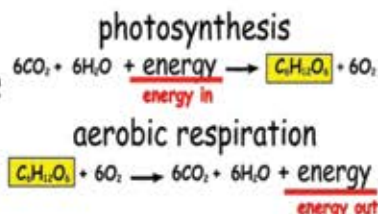


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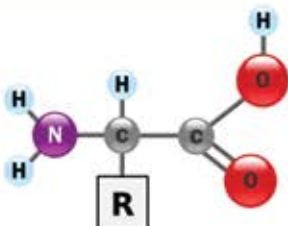
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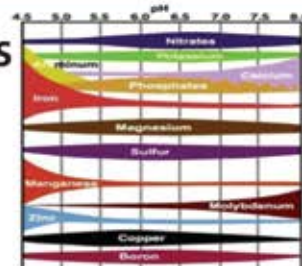
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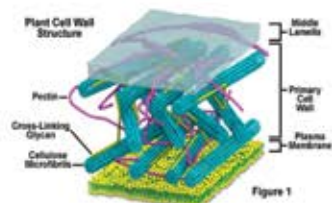
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GOLF COURSE SUSTAINABILITY

STORM WATER MANAGEMENT



There is oft-repeated that the three keys to a good golf course are: 1. Drainage 2. Drainage 3. Drainage. As all golf designers and superintendents understand, managing water is critical to maintaining a playable, functional and sustainable golf course. But, there is more to sustainable drainage design than simply removing water from the golf course as quickly as possible. Over the last decade, creative water management systems have been developed that increase overall sustainability of the golf landscape, and the larger regional context as well.

Collecting and retaining water on site before it is "let go" into the larger regional drainage system is another opportunity for sustainability. These "retention areas", if well designed, can function as features around which golfers can play and also become home to many different plant, bird and animal species. This type of concept will increase the overall bio-diversity of the site, a key principle in sustainable design.


The next time you see a drainage problem on your golf course, before a trench is cut and a pipe installed, consider if there is an opportunity to create a more sustainable golf environment.

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.


It is a myth that golfers do not want to see water on the golf course. They just don't want to see it making puddles, or creating mud holes through which they must play. In fact, golfers want to see water, but more in "feature" forms, such as ponds, or waterfalls, or even wetlands. If designed properly, the same drainage nuisance can become the genesis of an aesthetically pleasing water feature. The solution just needs to be properly and sustainably designed by directing water to a different place at a different time.

One of the simplest sustainable water management concepts is the collection and reuse of water that falls naturally. Too many drainage systems only "flush" water into the nearest stream or creek immediately after a rain event, even when the superintendent may need to replenish the irrigation reservoir the next day. This old method is a waste of water and the loss of an opportunity to be more sustainable. Creatively designed drainage systems can cause drainage water on a golf course to be funneled back to the irrigation system, enabling the sustainable re-use of this critical resource.

Due to different topography and site conditions, there are usually areas on a site that preclude the reuse of drainage water for irrigation. But, this water should not necessarily be discharged via pipes into the nearest drainage way. Instead, opportunities to design open drainage channels should be considered. And, without much additional cost or energy, these open drainage channels can be designed into aesthetically pleasing water features such as an intermittent rock creek or brook.



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MIGCSA 2011 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



2012 Student Scholarship, Scott Pulaski, Clinton Steketee, and Jay Eccleton

At the GLTE in Grand Rapids the MiGCSA awarded a variety of Scholarships to students and MiGCSA Member dependents.

There were two student scholarships to MSU Turf Students. William Wesley Keister and Clinton J. Steketee both 4 year turf students. They both received \$1,500 to help offset their education costs. These students

were chosen based on interviews with the MiGCSA Scholarship Committee comprised of Chairman Scott Pulaski and members Jay Eccleton, CGCS, Jim Bluck, CGCS and John Seefeldt, CGCS.

There were four recipients of the Heritage Scholarship; these went to dependents of MiGCSA members. These recipients were chosen based on an application and essay submitted to the Scholarship Committee. The winners were from the Mid District, Tyler Owen, son of Phil Owen, CGCS Class A at Warwick Hills Country Club. West District - Justin Holmes, son of Jeff Holmes, CGCS Class A at Egypt Valley Country Club. Detroit District - Chloe Akers, daughter of Jeff Akers Class C at Oakhurst Golf and Country Club. And the North District - Dillon Hunt, son of Dan Hunt Class AFF at Turfgrass Inc.



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Wherever golf is played.



The MiGCSA also voted to make a donation of \$1,000 to the MSU Turf Club to help them get to the Golf Industry Show and offset costs of a new booth, make sure you stop by in Las Vegas to see the great job these students did. With a donation of \$25,000 to the MTF the MiGCSA Foundation donated a total of \$33,000 from fundraising in 2011.

Please mark your calendars for the 2012 Fundraisers. February 24th at Galaxy Lanes in Grand Blanc, June 4th at Arcadia Bluffs, September 17th at Wuskowhan Players Club in Holland, and The Big Event on October 8th at Birmingham Country Club. Many of these funds came from sponsorships from our 8 Premiere Sponsors and other sponsors such as Civitas, Jacobsen, Turfgrass, Absolute Golf Ball Retrieval, and Kno-Marks which is still donating \$20 for every ball mark repair tool they sell.



Scott Pulaski, Jeff Akers, Chloe Akers, and Jay Eccleton



Scott Pulaski, Jay Eccleton, Tyler Owen, and Phil Owen

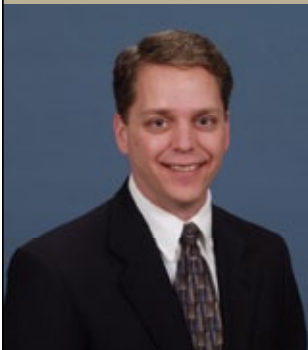


Scott Pulaski, Jeff Holmes, Jay Eccleton



Scott Pulaski, Dan Hunt, Dillon Hunt, and Jay Eccleton

Michigan Irrigation Team



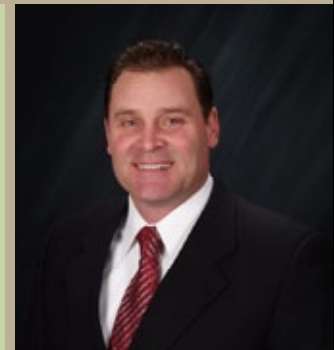
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A FULL ROUND



DAN DINGMAN

Dan Dingman has just completed his first season as the Superintendent at Birmingham Country Club, before that he was the Superintendent at Grosse Ile Country Club. Dan has been married to his wife Angela for 2 years and they have a son named Tyler. In his limited spare time he enjoys playing golf to a 5 handicap, cycling, skiing, and reading. Dan has been in the golf business since he was 14 years old. He started his career at Willowbrook Golf Course in Byron, MI working with Chris Drummond, now at Elk Rapids Golf Course who told Dan about the Turf Program at MSU. After an internship at The Creek Club in Long Island Dan went to Pine Hollow Country Club next door as an Assistant after graduating from MSU in 1998.



HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

I have been on the golf course as far back as I can remember. My parents both played golf and took us kids along when we were young.

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

Dr. Rogers would always say that "Growing grass is the easy part of the job", and his emphasis on the, "importance of communication" sticks with me the most today.

WHAT COURSE DID YOU GO TO AFTER COLLEGE?

My first Assistant Superintendent position was at Pine Hollow Country Club immediately following graduation working for Gerry Kunkel. My first day on the job, Gerry said to me "Starting today, you are going to learn how to water a golf course". I will never forget that!

WHERE CAN THE MIGCSA IMPROVE?

Member participation has been down in the past few years, which I believe is a result of superintendents being so busy in their own personal lives. The economic situation of the past five years has led to most superintendents doing "more with less" and any spare time we have is spent with family. Reduce the number of events to avoid over saturation, and concentrate on having events that will draw greater participation.

WHERE CAN THE GCSAA IMPROVE?

The GCSAA has done great things to bring awareness to our profession but they tend to over-regulate the local associations. I would also like to see the annual dues be lowered so more Superintendents can afford a membership.

HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

As part of my "give-back" to my profession I have been a guest speaker to the students at MSU, and have also been a guest presenter at the GLTE. I was involved in the initial development of the Assistant Superintendent Committee, and I currently sit on the membership and events committee for the Detroit chapter of the MIGCSA.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME?

I will use a quote from Dr. Alister Mackenzie to answer the question – "The best golfing grasses vary in color. They may be red, brown, blue, dark green, light green, yellow, and at times even white and gray. A golf course that is consisted entirely of one shade of green would be merely ugly. There is great charm and beauty in the varying shades of color on a golf course".



WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS?

Increased environmental regulation, higher operational costs, and continuation of great expectations to produce a great product. Superintendents will be asked to accept greater leadership roles within their facility, therefore spending less time on the golf course.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

Gerry Kunkel and John Cooney. I was fortunate to be an Assistant for two very good Superintendents, both of whom I am still very close to today.

WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

My wife Angela. She holds it all together!

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

Bobby Jones, Neil Young, David Feherty

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE TOURING PROFESSIONAL?

Steve Stricker – Cries every time he wins!

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

65% of my day is spent on matters unrelated to turfgrass such as attending meetings, communicating with the membership, budgeting, and purchasing. It is vital for me to have a staff that I can trust to provide a quality product.

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

The Assistant is responsible for the daily maintenance of the golf course, getting the job done, and managing the staff. I was an Assistant for ten years so I have great respect and expectations for the position. Victor Morales-Rios is one of the Assistant's here and he does an outstanding job along with Greg Puglisi, who has been at BCC for 32 yrs.

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

Mike Hewitt is the Mechanic here at Birmingham and he is equally as important as the Assistant, the mechanic must be organized, have a great attitude, and keep the equipment performing at its best. Most Superintendents I know change their mind constantly so the mechanic must be willing to adapt and understand that there truly is a method behind our madness.

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

There is nothing like taking a caddie and walking the course and I think it's uncanny that some facilities won't allow you to carry your own bag. In today's economy, only a small number of facilities can afford to support a caddie program because cart revenue greatly influences operational costs; however it's a historical part of the game that needs to be preserved.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A NEW SUPERINTENDENT?

Be visible, have thick skin, play golf, and hire talented people that you can trust.

5 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT DAN DINGMAN

1. I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON A GOLF COURSE SINCE I WAS 14 YRS OLD
2. I HATE TOMATOES
3. I AM DEATHLY AFRAID OF ROLLER COASTERS AND THE OCEAN
4. I HAVE A GREAT INTEREST IN CLASSIC GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTURE
5. I MET MY WIFE IN BRECKENRIDGE COLORADO WHILE ON A SKI TRIP WITH AARON MCMASTER

MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION

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JOHN FULLING, CGCS

Your Michigan Turfgrass Foundation is arguably the best turf research foundation in the world. It is the beacon to which all others look for light. There are many factors which play a part in the long term successes of the foundation, such as highly motivated and dedicated people, a world renown university research team, good communication, services and management, but the single most important key to our success is the extraordinarily productive and supportive relationship we enjoy with our allied partners. The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation is the collective financial, intellectual and communication power of the entire turfgrass industry in Michigan working toward one goal of providing for the best research and information attainable, making the turfgrass profession, its uses and its enjoyment better for everyone around Michigan and the globe.

2011 was a banner year for your Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. In the wake of successive economic obstacle years the MTF was able to make great forward strides. We have completely streamlined our costs and at the same time dramatically increased annual investment in world class turfgrass research. All of this was possible because our allied partners took a strong and personal position of ownership in the foundation and stepped up to the plate. Your communication efforts made our Tee Times for Turf campaign stronger than we ever thought possible, netting a 300% gain over 2010. Your contributions from fundraisers you held around the state provided 60% more research dollars than in 2010. Your strength and support was the reason we will add a tenure tracked Turfgrass Molecular Physiologist and Research Leader to the Turf Team in 2012 in a time when University positions are very hard to come by. Your support of the MTF and the work of our Turf Team enables our professors to better position themselves through leverage to receive grants from inside Michigan, like Project Green and the State of Michigan and outside of Michigan, like the USGA, GCSAA, the Federal Government and numerous industry partners from around the world. In short, none of these great things happen without you.

We're all looking forward to 2012 and 2013. We certainly have some lofty goals but we know we have some great partners who will help us achieve those goals. One goal is to prepare and produce the best MTF Conference ever in January of 2013. As you know, we will be moving the conference back to East Lansing to the Kellogg Center and it will once again be dedicated to the turfgrass industry. This move is very well received by the industry. MTF Vice President and Conference Chair Brian Schwehofer has assembled a committee comprised of representatives of our allied partners, our turf team and a number of our industry partners. They are hard at work and I can tell you that the resulting conference will be fantastic!

In closing and as this article is in your publication, I direct this to the great members of the MiGCSA, to whom I am personally deeply committed. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to your fellow golf course superintendents and to the turfgrass industry. Your MiGCSA Board works very hard to help ensure the success of the MTF, which allows us to provide you with the tools to make better decisions for your businesses. You are a great ally and partner! Best wishes to all for a safe and prosperous New Year and I look forward to seeing you again very soon!

John Fulling, CGCS
MTF President

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

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MIGCSA ANNUAL MEETING

The MiGCSA Annual Meeting was held in the Vandenburg B room at the Amway Grand in Grand Rapids on January 10th at 5:00.

Some of the highlights of the meeting were the elections of officers and new board members, please see page 26 for more information on these newly elected members. A change to the MiGCSA Bylaws was approved, this change deletes the Foundation Committee and replaces them with a Foundation Board of Directors comprised of the same officers as the Association, this change was to gain compliance with the 501 c3 requirements of a non-profit organization.

Some of the communication efforts from the MiGCSA are this magazine Course Conditions printed quarterly which is also available in digital form, now with clickable links to more information The Membership Directory now being printed in winter, also available in digital form. The monthly News and Updates email which increases web site traffic by 60%. The MiGCSA Facebook page has 210 followers and the Twitter feed has 93 followers and 337 tweets in 2011.

The financial report is as follows. The MiGCSA Income came from 3 sources Industry Partnership: \$89,620.00, Membership Dues: \$50,186.00 and Event Registration Fees: \$26,365.00 for a total income of \$166,171.00. This was with Expenses from Operating: \$90,490.64, Event Expense: \$24,066.12 and Magazine: \$19,434.86 for a total of \$133,991.62. The MiGCSA had a net of \$32,179.58 in 2011. The

current assets are MiGCSA Checking \$62,699.72, Accounts Receivable \$2,475.00 and Website Development \$27,733.75 for a total of \$92,908.97 in current assets.

The Foundation report has the following income sources Foundation Sponsorship: \$22,650.00 and Fundraiser Registration: \$45,687.50 for a total income of \$68,337.50. With a total expense of \$36,529.31 the foundation raised \$31,808.19 in 2011 and with the addition of \$3,436.51 carryover from 2010 the MiGCSA Foundation account has \$35,244.70. The dispersion of the Foundation funds are as follows, Heritage Scholarships: \$4,000, Student Scholarships: \$3,000, MSU Turf Club Donation: \$1,000 and an MTF Donation of \$25,000 the Foundation account will have \$2,244.70 to start 2012.

The MiGCSA wants to thank Scott Pulaski and Rick Hakken who finished their 6 years as MiGCSA Board Members for their service to the industry. Also a huge thank you the 2011 Industry Partners as none of this is possible without their support, please help us thank these companies by supporting them the way they support you.



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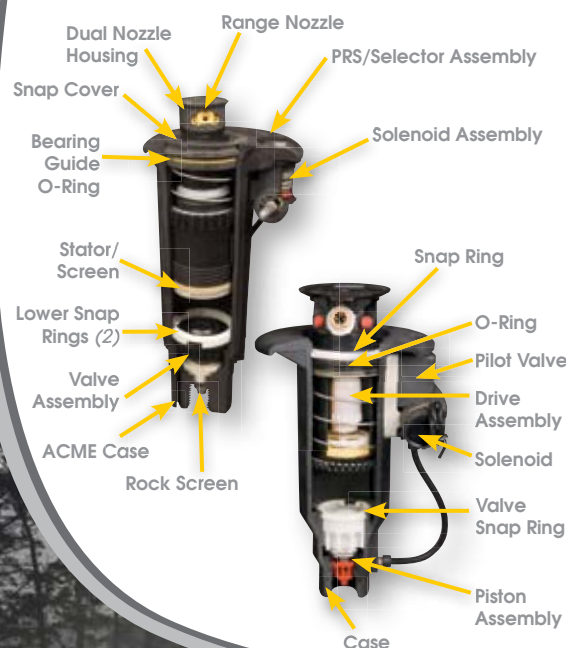
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MIGCSA DONATES \$25,000 TO THE MTF!



At the 2012 Great Lakes Trade Expo January 9 - 11 the MiGCSA Foundation made a donation of \$25,000 to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. These funds were raised in 2011 from the three golf fundraisers and the bowling fundraiser in Grand Blanc. In June the first golf

fundraiser was held at Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club, in September there was an event at The Golf Club at Harbor Shores and the year ended with the Big Event at Warwick Hills Country Club. Since the inception of the MiGCSA in 2008 the MiGCSA has donated \$70,000 to the MTF to help fund research at Michigan State University. Many of these funds came from sponsorships from our 8 Premiere Sponsors and other sponsors such as Civitas, Jacobsen, Turfgrass, Absolute Golf Ball Retrieval, and Kno-Marks which is still donating \$20 for every ball mark repair tool they sell.

With \$7,000 in scholarships and \$1,000 in donations to the MSU Turf Club the MiGCSA Foundation gave away \$33,000 from fundraising in 2011.

Please mark your calendars for the 2012 Fundraisers. February 24th at Galaxy Lanes in Grand Blanc, June 3rd and 4th at Arcadia Bluffs, September 17th at Wuskowhan Players Club in Holland, and The Big Event on October 8th at Birmingham Country Club.

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BOB ROZMYS

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN AT THE INN AT ST. JOHNS GOLF AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Bob Rozmys is the Equipment Technician at The Inn at St. Johns Golf and Conference Center; he was offered this position by the president of the management company. Bob has an associate of Science degree from Henry Ford Community College and continues his education by attending training classes from John Deere, Club Car, Jacobsen & the MiGCSA.

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

Chasing the demon, those intermitted equipment problems that are very hard to diagnose

2. WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Maintenance; oil changes, lube reel sharpening & adjustments

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

Electric motors replacing hydraulic motors

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

Hopefully maintaining equipment at St. Johns.

5. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED 100 YEARS FROM NOW?

As the guy who gets the job done.

6. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT?

The other technicians that I met at the MiGCSA classes and seminars always have great ideas and experience to share. The speakers are good but the information I get from the other attendees is great.

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

It is very important to make sure the grounds keepers have the equipment they need to do their job very well.

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

I believe it is a very important role in coordination the work that need to be done, especially on a 27 hole golf course.

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

Keeping moving parts cleaned & lubricated. They need better seals & more grease fittings.

10. WHAT IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT THAT IS STILL USED?

Jacobsen GK-IV

11. WHERE DO YOU SEE THE FUTURE OF GOLF EQUIPMENT HEADING?

More electronics and more electrical motors.

UNDER THE HOOD



FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

GREAT LAKE REGIONAL ROUNDUP GCSAA UPDATE

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS – GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

As we enter a new year we are all facing new challenges at our golf facilities. Superintendents are under constant pressure to produce a golf course that is in tremendous condition while cutting expenses as much as possible. The one thing superintendents cannot control but has had a major impact on revenues the past two years is the weather. GCSAA continues to work with superintendents to help them communicate with their golf course officials to help those officials better understand what superintendents are up against and that many times it is not just a local issue but one that is affecting golf course superintendents on a national level. Please share this information with your club officials and make sure you are giving them constant updates on what is going on with the golf course. In my travels this past year I saw a lot of golf courses that were affected by the weather but the good news that through good communication most superintendents weathered the storm just fine and with a good fall in the Great Lakes Region for growing grass, most golf courses entered the winter in great condition.

GCSAA has also weathered a tough couple of years from an economic standpoint and we too have made changes in how we do business. Our members have and always will matter most and we have kept that in mind as we have made those changes trying not to impact the goods and services we provide to our members. Our mission states that GCSAA is dedicated to:

- *Serving its members*
- *Advancing their profession*
- *And enhancing the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf*

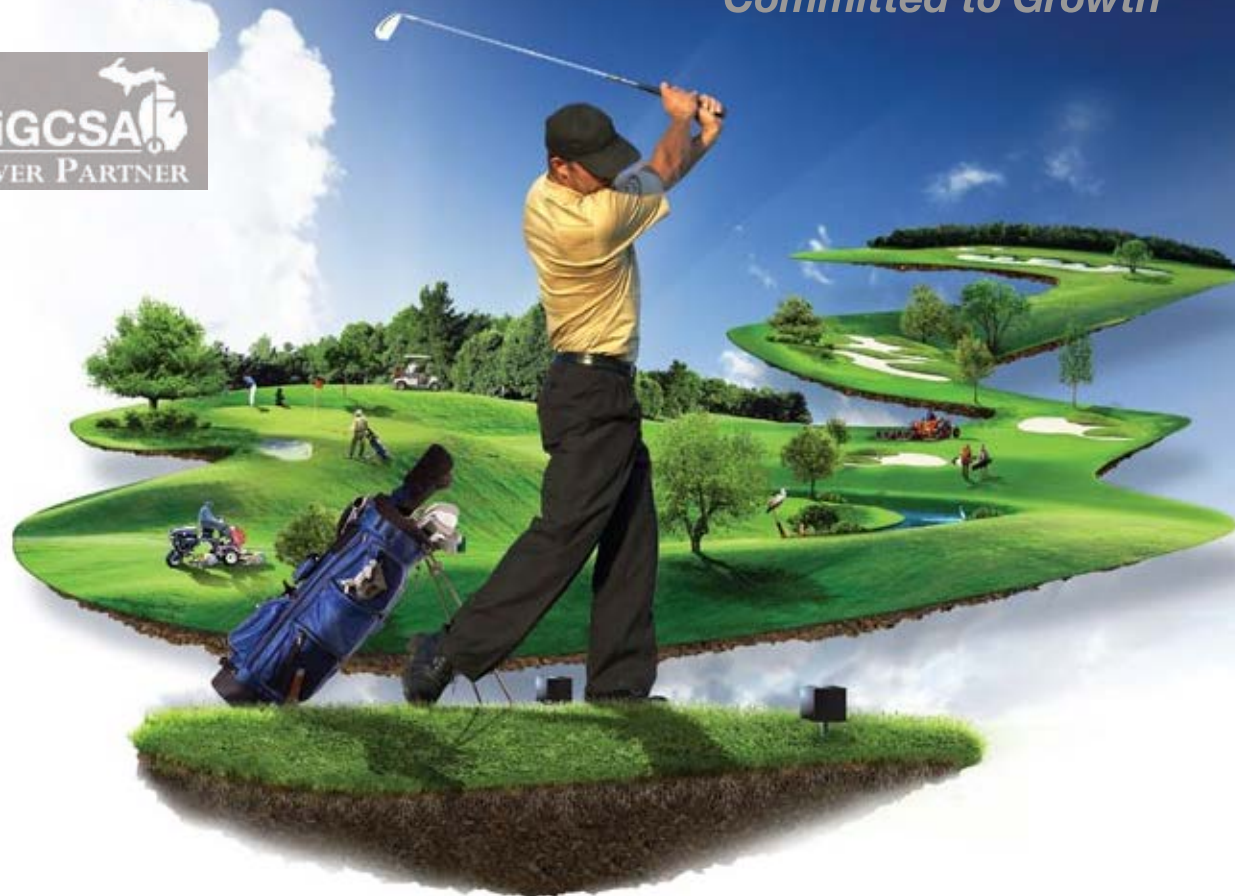
We have also used this as we have navigated the rough waters of the economy. In 2012 we are adding two more field staff representatives, continuing the leadership academy and once again bringing new delegates to headquarters so that they can better understand what GCSAA is all about.

As I write this article, the numbers coming in for the GCSAA Conference and Show in Las Vegas are encouraging. Attendance and show floor square footage are strong. I hope you are all planning on attending the premiere golf course maintenance event of 2012. There will be over 600 hours of education in one place! GCSAA again is committed to bringing the best possible education to our members at an affordable price. If that is not enough, GCSAA webinars are now FREE to our members! GCSAA is also very committed to the health of the environment and the Environmental Institute for Golf continues to lead the way and ensure golf course superintendents have the tools and education necessary to be the leaders in environmental stewardship. GCSAA's Drive toward Sustainability is in high gear and one of the leaders in this area resides in Michigan. GCSAA's Greg Lyman recently spent time giving an interview on the Golf Channel's Morning Drive. GCSAA is also working hard on legislative issues such as NPDES permitting HR 872, H2B Visa program and Disaster Relief just to mention a few. If you have any questions or comments on any of these issues please feel free to call GCSAA at 800-472-7878 or visit the website gcsaa.org. Have a great spring and I will see all of you soon.

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

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THE BETTER HALF



CRAIG RUHL

Craig Ruhl has been the Assistant Superintendent at Wuskowhan Players Club in West Olive since 2009 after graduating from Michigan State. Craig also started his career at Wuskowhan mowing greens and raking bunkers, and walk mowing greens is still his favorite job. Craig has a son, Jacob who is 10 years old. In his spare time he enjoys throwing darts and watching sports. He has also started a room by room renovation of his condo. In 2012 the MiGCSA Western Golf Day Fundraiser will be held at Wuskowhan on August 27th.

1. WHO WAS THE FIRST SUPERINTENDENT YOU WORKED FOR?

Ryan Osborn

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

Patience and being able to change plans quickly are two things he has helped me to improve upon.

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

My expectations would include supporting turf research and to continue to offer ways for an individual to further their own career through meetings, outings and the GLTE.

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

#4 at the National Golf Links of America. This is a redan style par 3 that plays nearly 190 yards.

5. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME?

While it is visually stunning to watch on HDTV, the idea that the level of conditioning should be expected on a daily basis to me is impractical for most clubs. With golf's move toward sustainability, I feel a better measure for a golf course would be getting the most out of what they are given to work with.

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

We recently purchased a Planet-Air machine and it's quickly become my favorite. The versatility and speed of use are hard to beat.

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

Keeping track of what 20 people spread out over 200+ acres are doing at any given time.



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

While the shrinking job market is a concern, there are always good jobs for good people (or so I'm told). I would like to see the assistant's job play a more meaningful role within a club's management team.

9. WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW?

Our mechanic Chris is pretty amusing – especially when he's talking University of Michigan football.

10. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

Probably my two bosses so far in this industry, Ryan Osborn and Kevin Dushane

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

I feel it's vital to any successful golf operation. Having a trusted assistant gives the superintendent the ability to focus on other important areas such as member and clubhouse relations.

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

It's important in the sense that any department will run best when all people are getting along and working efficiently together. We are lucky to have a very skilled, jack-of-all-trades type of guy.

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

From a management perspective, taking riding out of the equation would make our jobs much easier, especially with the amount of shade we have here. However from a practical perspective, the increased revenues mean they are here to stay. I think it's best to accept that and to focus on better ways of managing the stress.

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

I enjoy the fact that it's our job to maintain a course to the expected level of our members. If they are asking for faster greens, I think we owe it to them. It can be frustrating, however, when outside factors (weather) out of our control are the reason.

15. WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

My mother and son. Both inspire me to be my best every day.

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

Tom Izzo, Fred Couples and John Elway

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

I would like to be a Superintendent with my own course by that point in time.

18. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED 100 YEARS FROM NOW?

I would like to be remembered for being a respectable father and son.



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT CRAIG RUHL

1. ONCE DELIVERED A PIZZA TO TOM IZZO AT HIS SUMMER HOME IN SPRING LAKE.
2. HAVE BEEN TO TWO FINAL FOURS, INCLUDING MSU WINNING IN 2000.
3. HAD CORNEAL TRANSPLANT SURGERY IN MY RIGHT EYE IN 2005.
4. HAVE BEEN TO ONLY ONE GIS - IN ORLANDO 2011.
5. HAVE BEEN TO EVERY STATE WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI.





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Essential Plus Soil Amendment and Root Stimulator	3 fl oz Apply 2x per Month	4 fl oz Apply 1x per Month
"TKO" Phosphite 0-29-26 100% Phosphite	3 fl oz Apply 2x per Month	4 fl oz Apply every 14 days
X-Xtra Iron 9% High Iron - Low Nitrogen	2 fl oz Apply 2x per Month	4 fl oz Apply 1x per Month
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JAY ECCLETON, CGCS

MIGCSA ELECTIONS

The Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MiGCSA) held its annual elections on January 10th 2012 in the Vandenburg B Room at the

Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids. Jay Eccleton, CGCS, Director of Golf Course Operations at The Emerald Golf Course, St. Johns was elected to his second consecutive term as President with this vote.

After the elections President Eccleton said " I have been fortunate to serve on a Board of Directors that have put their heart and soul into this association and continue to work tirelessly towards the advancement of the MiGCSA and its membership. I would like to thank Mr. Ron Dahlin, Mr. Scott Pulaski and Mr. Rick Hakken for their many years of dedication to the board as they step off this year due to term limits. All three of these individuals were instrumental in the creation of the MiGCSA and without their efforts, the MiGCSA would not be as successful as it is today. I also would like to welcome new board members Mr. Mark Ostrander, Mr. Phil Owen, CGCS and Mr. Michael Rosen to the board as they start their own journey as future leaders of the MiGCSA."

The two other elected officers voted in to their second consecutive terms include Greg Pattinson, Superintendent at The Captains Club, Grand Blanc as Vice President, and Gregg Matthews Superintendent at Lakelands Golf and Country Club, Brighton as Secretary/Treasurer. Three open seats were also filled by Mike Rosen, Superintendent at The Otsego Club in Gaylord, Mark Ostrander, Superintendent at The Moors Country Club in Portage, and Phil Owen, CGCS from Warwick Hills Country Club in Grand Blanc for three year terms.

The Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association Mission Statement is to provide leadership for Golf Course Superintendents and other golf industry partners on the economic, environmental and recreational vitality of golf in Michigan.

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A CALL FROM CAMPUS

ONLINE TURF COURSE NOW AVAILABLE

By Dr. David Gilstrap, Senior Turfgrass Specialist

Have you ever wanted to take MSU turf classes but couldn't because you would have to commit to a semester in East Lansing? Or, do you need a refresher for the times you were there? If your answer to either of these questions is at least a maybe, then please read on about a newer course that I'm now teaching completely online.



DR. DAVID GILSTRAP

CSS 202 World of Turf has existed for a few years, and I'm teaching it online for the second time this spring. It's a required course for Horticulture majors, Ag-Tech Landscape students, and those enrolled in the Lawn and Landscape Management program in Grand Rapids and the Applied Plant Science program in Traverse City, both of which are administered by our Horticulture Department. Here's the order of lectures and exams:

Lesson	Topics
1	Course and Subject Introduction
2	Turfgrass Growth and Development
3	Soils Primer
4	Species Primer
5	Warm-Season Turfgrass Identification
6	Cool-Season Turfgrass Identification
7	Turfgrass Adaptations to Macroenvironments
8	Turfgrass Adaptations to Microenvironments
9	Turfgrass Establishment I
10	Turfgrass Establishment II
First Trimester Exam	
11	Mowing
12	Nutrients and Fertilizers
13	Fertilizer Rates and Applications
14	Pests and Pest Management
15	Weed Control
16	Insect Management
17	Disease Management
Second Trimester Exam	
18	Irrigation
19	Cultivation
20	Benefits of Turf
21	Liability and Safety
22	Lawn Care Companies
23	Golf Courses
24	Sports Fields
Final Exam	

This course is taken via Angel, which is the university's course delivery system. You may sample the course by going to <http://angel.msu.edu>. World of Turf can be found by doing an Angel Course Search. You don't need any user name or password to do this. Once you have gotten into the course, you can view the Syllabus under the Resources tab. Under Lessons, open up Course Introduction folder. There you can view short video clips as well as a PowerPoint presentation of the text-only slides that appear in the video clips. This is the format used to deliver course material. You may also view the Subject Introduction found in the Lectures folder.

This course is also being taken as an elective by an increasing number of students across the university. Last summer, I had 16 students and this spring the enrollment is up to 54. Having a new course is a way for the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences to increase its number of student credits that the Provost and the Dean of Agriculture and Natural Resources monitor regularly. This number is an important metric, especially when determining whether or not faculty positions will be refilled or created.

This course also brings in money for the department whenever a student is enrolled and not taking any on-campus courses during the same semester, in which case 70% of the tuition is passed through to the department. This is a likely situation during summer semesters when most students are away from campus but still want to earn some credits. For each 110 students that fit this criterion during an academic year, the revenue generated by this course for the departmental would be about \$75,000, which closely equates to the overhead that the department gets from a \$500,000 one-year grant!

The course is offered every spring, summer, and fall semesters. In order to enroll, you would first have to complete a Lifelong Education application at <https://admissions.msu.edu/application/app.asp?AL=L>. At present, the course can be taken for-credit only, which means that the tuition would be \$1138. Currently, the option to take it on a non-credit basis does not exist. This is not mine to decide since such pronouncements are within the domain of the university bureaucracy. For any other questions, please feel free to contact me at gilstrap@msu.edu or 517-355-0271 x 1140.

2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 24	Bowling Scholarship Fundraiser (Galaxy Lanes, Grand Blanc)
February 27- March 3	Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas
February 29	Michigan Gathering, Las Vegas Hilton
March 12	MiGCSA Spring Management Meeting (Egypt Valley CC, Ada)
March 26	MiGCSA Spring Management Meeting (Tree Tops, Gaylord)
April 16	MiGCSA Spring Opener (The Meadows at GVSU, Grand Rapids)
April 30	Can-Am Tournament (TPC Dearborn)

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.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

EDUCATION SEASON

As a blanket of snow starts to cover our state hopefully your hours at the course are shorter and your time for education and involvement is larger. This winter there are some fantastic opportunities for education with the MiGCSA, GCSAA and MTF.

The GLTE was January 9th to the 11th in Grand Rapids, this is an event put together by the MTF in partnership with the MNLA. But in 2013 the MTF will be breaking away from the MNLA and will be heading back to Lansing. But it is not the same show it used to be in Lansing, the 2013 show will be held at the Kellogg Center and there will be some great Turf specific education and very special events on the Campus of MSU. Stay tuned for more information from the MTF and the MiGCSA.

The Spring Management sessions dates are set. The Detroit meeting on February 13th was highlighted by Bruce Williams, CGCS speaking on career development. The Western meeting on March 12th at Egypt Valley has some great education with feature speaker Steve Keating from Toro. And March 26th at Treetops Resort in Gaylord there will be a feature from Chris Wilczynski on master planning.

Of course there is also the GIS show in Las Vegas at the end of February. As usual a fantastic list of topics are on the docket in 2012. I have been asked to speak about the communication efforts of the MiGCSA at the Chapter Executives session on Tuesday. All of the information you will need for the show can be found at www.golfindustryshow.com. There will be a gathering for MiGCSA members and friends on Wednesday February 29th at the Las Vegas Hilton, a concert featuring the Bronk Brothers and drummer John "Dutch" Fulling, CGCS so please plan to catch up with everyone in Las Vegas!

The 2012 event calendar is also ready; you can download it at www.migcsa.org. Click on the events tab and you will see a link in the middle of the page for the 2012 Events Calendar. Some of the highlights are a return to Arcadia Bluffs on June 4th for the Northern Fundraiser and the Big Money Skins game the evening before. The Can-Am returns to the United States at the TPC of Dearborn on April 30th. The Western Golf Day will be at Wuskowhan Players Club in Holland on September 17th and the Big Event heads to Birmingham Country Club on October 8th. Some of the other amazing venues for 2012 are The Meadows at Grand Valley, The Captains Club, and The Cedar River Course at Shanty Creek, and many more. Stay informed at www.migcsa.org and via email from info@migcsa.org.

Adam Ikamas

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