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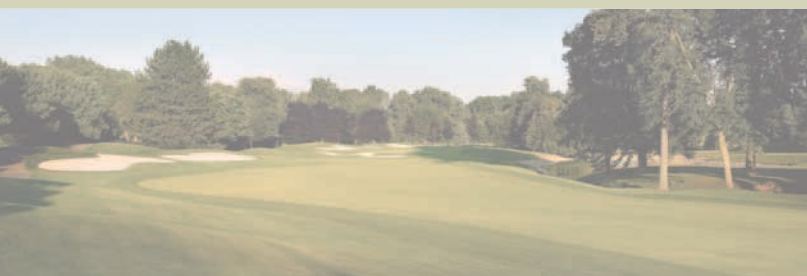


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Win - Win with Environmental Stewardship - Pg. 6

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Davey Wins MiGCSA State Championship - Pg. 18





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COURSE CONDITIONS

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Course Conditions is published 4 times a year by the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association. Opinions expressed by guest writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the MiGCSA. For more information on *Course Conditions* or the MiGCSA please contact us at info@migcsa.org, 1-888-3-MiGCSA or 7113 Demerly Rd. Benzonia, MI 49616.

MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 10/11/12

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	FALL 2011 MEMBERSHIP
Class AA	28	27
Class A	230	219
Class SM	64	64
Class C	92	87
Class D	38	32
Class E	17	20
Class AFF	146	145
Class H	25	24
Class SA	26	11
Class R	7	9
Class I	1	3
TOTAL	674	646

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.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



JAY ECCLETON, CGCS

The days have shortened and the nights have gotten cooler in mid Michigan. I find myself composing this fall message while I watch the last regular season Detroit Tigers game and watching Miguel Cabrera win the Triple Crown title. I look at this Tigers team that is about to enter the playoff race and I see many different players in the game who have stepped it up and played their hardest to ensure their team a victory. But as I look deeper into this team analogy, I cannot help to compare this or any team sport for that matter with the golf business world.

In golf business you need many players giving it their all to be completely successful and especially in a market that has been weakened by a poor economy. Superintendents are the "Miguel Cabrera" of their facility; they are always thriving to be that Triple Crown champion but with different set of goals. A superintendent has to be a superior plant scientist to keep turf healthy and playable under huge demands to create the perfect playing surface. The superintendent also has to be a great business professional in order to create quality golf conditions that are constantly being tested with reduced or streamlined budgets.

Today's superintendent has to be a master at smoke and mirrors. There may be many hindrances behind the scenes whether it is lack of monies to operate or aging equipment that demands time and tender loving care. But a golf course superintendent will never tip their hand to allow their customers or membership an opportunity to see the weakness within their own operating system. Hard work and dedication goes a long way when you are lacking in many other areas.

To round out the triple crown, the superintendent needs to be a great human resource manager. If you were to audit a typical maintenance staff, you will find from top to bottom some of the most dedicated and hardworking individuals in any industry. Along with their hard work and dedication comes many different personalities and backgrounds and a good superintendent will work all their staff to their own personal strengths and help them improve on their weaknesses.

As any great player of the game would say, they couldn't have achieved so much without the support of their teammates, coaching staff, and front office people. Much goes the same for the golf industry. As I have said before there are two times that you can really be successful in customer satisfaction and retention and that is in first and last impressions. Guests need to be greeted professionally upon arrival and the golf shop must be able to handle as many needs and wants of that customer quickly and efficiently. A good food and beverage staff will handle all the customer's needs for consumption and have them ready to tee off in no time. Once the customer tees off the first hole, now it is time for the superintendent's efforts to pay off. Playability is key to the enjoyment of the game and quality conditions go hand in hand with quality customer service. The Superintendent will rely on his or her equipment technician to have all equipment needed to provide these conditions ready to go at a moment's notice just like any bull pin would be ready to win the game for the team.

As we wrap up the golf season, it is time to take a look at your staff and coworkers and see how well you function as a team. The golf business is not an individual sport; it takes many quality people to reach successful goals. I want to express my gratitude to all my staff and all the golf industry individuals around the country. It is one of the best industries to work in because the people involved are dedicated. I wish you all a happy Fall and hope that there is plenty of time ahead to catch up with family and friends while you take a much needed break from the hustle and bustle of Summer.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jay B. Eccleton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Jay B. Eccleton, CGCS

WIN-WIN WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

BY DAN MAUSOLF, SUPERINTENDENT & PAUL L. SCOTT, CLUBHOUSE MANAGER



*Superintendent
Dan Mausolf
& Paul L. Scott
Clubhouse
Manager*

Environmental stewardship is a win-win practice for the golf industry and the environment. It helps the bottom line, reflects positively on the golf industry, and offers the public the chance to experience nature. At the University of Michigan's Radrick Farms Golf Course, environmental stewardship has been rewarding on so many levels. At its most basic definition, environmental stewardship is the responsible management of our natural resources. For us, it is much more. It represents an ethical value that defines our operational culture. Environmental stewardship helps us accomplish our mission of offering an exceptional golf experience at an exceptional value.

From the inception of Radrick Farms, environmental considerations have been a priority. Frederick Matthaei, Sr., a loyal alumnus and former regent, donated the property to the University of Michigan in the 1960's. However, Mr. Matthaei was already implementing environmental stewardship practices in the 1930's when he purchased the property and converted it from a gravel mine into a farm. He practiced the innovative science of arboriculture while growing at least one of every tree indigenous to the state. University of Michigan President Harlan Hatcher suggested building a faculty golf course with little-known golf course architect Pete Dye. Agreeing with the plan, Mr. Matthaei stipulated that the construction left as many trees undisturbed as possible. Radrick Farms is now an 18-hole championship layout set on 275 acres of beautiful, rolling terrain.

The staff of Radrick Farms continues to embrace Mr. Matthaei's pioneering environmental stewardship vision. As part of our comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship, we have partnered with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, the Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program, Groundwater Guardian Green Site program, and the Washtenaw County Community Partners for Clean Streams program. Through participation in these programs, Radrick Farms has garnered recognition from professionals within the golf industry, policy makers, and citizens. These efforts help prove that a golf course can have a positive impact on the environment as well as participate in the University of Michigan's goal of "going green, staying blue" (<http://sustainability.umich.edu/news/going-green-staying-blue-sustainability-michigan>).

Some of these programs require the reporting of environmental data. Through careful planning and fiscal responsibility, we have been able to invest in technology that improves course conditions while gathering that data. Moisture meters, infrared thermometers, compaction meters, weather station data, and soil, water, and tissue sampling give us the information necessary to make intelligent decisions. The accuracy of this data allows us to use best practices for chemical applications, water use, and cultural regimens. Given the fluctuation of the economy and governmental regulations, superintendents need to be efficient with all of the resources they have at their disposal. Environmental stewardship programs can be a catalyst for identifying wasteful practices, making





proper adjustments, and tracking the efforts that often result in better playing conditions while saving time and money. These programs are a win-win for golf and the environment.

These programs also involve educational efforts that have resulted in unexpected benefits. In order to accurately and effectively promote environmental stewardship, the superintendent and the clubhouse manager have collaborated in many ways (including writing this article). The two parts of the operation must work together to promote and to educate the public about our program partners and their certification requirements. These efforts promote team work and appreciation between the two parts of the operation.

For example, our environmental stewardship guide (<http://radrick.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Envir-Stewardship-Guide.pdf>) was created to achieve full Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary certification. In order to create this guide, extensive collaboration was necessary. Photos were contributed from both ends of the operation. Computer and turf science knowledge was shared. The drafting and proofing process resulted in mutual respect and pride.

The golf industry is at the forefront of implementing and promoting environmental sustainability and stewardship in the burgeoning "green industry". Much research and unwavering dedication are required to reach the best solutions for any particular property. What may seem to be a daunting task is truly a rewarding experience that results in better course conditioning, sound financial decisions, satisfied customers, and ultimately a better place to live and work. Definitely a win-win.



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2012 WESTERN GOLF DAY

On September 17th Wuskowahn Players Club hosted the largest Western Golf Day Fundraiser the MiGCSA has ever had. 116 players came out to a beautiful day in southwest Michigan. Our host Superintendent for the day was Ryan Osborn. The course was spectacular as were the conditions were perfect thanks to Ryan and his Assistant Craig Ruhl. This was a shotgun scramble that teed off at 10:00 am with a great lunch on the carts thanks to Executive Chef Robert Stritzinger. All of the details leading up to the event and during were handled by General Manager Kevin Dushane and Associate Professional Paul Townsend.

There were 4 closest to the pins and two long drive holes thanks to our 2012 Premiere Foundation Sponsors. BASF, Bayer, FIP Irrigation, LaFontaine Automotive, Syngenta, and Tri-Turf. The winners of the proximity prizes were closest to the pin on #4 Debbie Serrine, #6 Corey Parmalee, #11 Phil Owen, CGCS, and #13 Jim Granfield, the long drives were won by Shawn Pranger on hole #17 and Kathy Antaya on #9. Chad Kempf from Rain Bird ran the poker game on hole #15, the winning hand was a full house by the team of Marc McCoy, Mike Tichvon, Greg Bishop, and Kevin Haack they took home 1/2 of the \$900 pot. J.W. Turf had a fantastic raffle prize on hole #2 they had two tickets to the Lions Packers Sunday night game on December 9th at Lambeau Field, \$710 was raised from this raffle and Steve Hammon won the tickets, I am sure he is looking for someone to take so feel free to call or email him. Thank you to Jacobsen and Lakeshore Golf & Turf sponsored the keg of beer on hole's #9 and #11. U.S. Golf cars provided 22 rental carts for this event and sponsored hole #3, and VB Controls sponsored the 16th hole with a game to guess the hours on the pumps that they installed at the club a few years ago.

The overall team competition was won by the team of Ken Fraser, Tony Staley, Chris Foote and Derek Carroll.



The winning team of Derek Carroll, Ken Fraser, and Tony Staley, (not pictured Chris Foote) with Jay Eccleton, CGCS.

Second place was won by Kevin Frank, Emily Merewitz, Carey Mitchelson, and Brian Mavis the third place team was Marc McCoy, Mike Tichvon, Greg Bishop, and Kevin Haack.

This was a great event and over \$6,500 was raised for the MiGCSA Foundation. These funds are used for Student and Heritage Scholarships, Wee One sponsorship and other philanthropic endeavors supported by the MiGCSA Board of Directors. And the majority of these funds raised go directly to the MTF to fund turf research at MSU, \$25,000 in 2011. We hope to see everyone and more in 2013 for the Western Golf Day Fundraiser.



Host Superintendent Ryan Osborn and MiGCSA President Jay Eccleton, CGCS.

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ALTERNATIVE GOLF VENUES



Golf takes time to play. Golf takes money to play. And time and money are becoming scarce in the American family. As families sit around the kitchen table to decide how to spend their spare time and money, where does golf fit in? As a colleague of mine reminded me many years ago, golf falls into the entertainment/recreation category of most family budgets. So, golf time and golf dollars are competing with other family entertainment/recreation options. Because a typical 18 hole

round of golf requires significant time and money for a family to partake, golf has been eliminated from the entertainment and recreation mix of many families. Add to this problem a difficult economic environment, and golf is at a significant disadvantage as a family activity.

Lowering rates to play is only part of the solution for getting golf back into the family budget mix. But, cost alone does not solve the time issue, which is as important to many families as money. With kids starting soccer, baseball and dance while still practically in diapers and parents working more hours to make ends meet, time has become a premium commodity in the household. Finding a few spare hours for family fun time is not easy, and playing golf for 5 to 6 hours is impossible for some families to fit in. Even playing nine holes in roughly half the time is not an attractive option. Golf needs a product that will enable families to play for less money – and less time.

Examples of these types of facilities are being developed around the country such as three hole courses; six hole courses, putting courses and par three facilities. These types of golf venues enable families to enjoy their golf in approximately an hour. In addition, playing golf at these alternative facilities does not take a big chunk out of the family budget.


And, just because these alternative facilities will appeal to families, does not mean they would be unappealing to the avid and skilled golfer too. If well designed, they would enable skilled advanced golfers a place to get their golf fix as well. I know many an avid golfer that would enjoy being able play a few holes during their lunch hour, if made readily available.

These alternative golf facilities do not necessarily have to be built from scratch either. Through some creative design and minor tweaking, an existing golf course may have opportunities to transform the facility into one that would offer alternative golf options to their patrons, while still maintaining their existing golf course for those that wish to spend more time playing.


Car companies have responded to consumer demand for vehicles that don't cost as much to fuel with gasoline by creating the hybrid automobile. Golf course owners and developers need to respond similarly to the demand for less expensive and less time-consuming golf experiences by creating hybrid and alternative golf facilities.

The family dynamic is changing. And, for golf to be included in people's lives, it must change too. Alternative facilities will be a mainstay for the next generation of golfer. These will be places where the future customers of the golf industry will be created and developed. It is time to think outside of the tee box, and understand the realistic contemporary restrictions put on families with regard to recreation time by developing facilities that match their goals.

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



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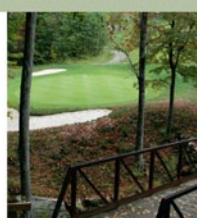



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A FULL ROUND



JOHN SEEFELDT CGCS

John Seefeldt, CGCS started on a golf course when he was 12 years old. He loved the game of golf and actually worked for \$1.50 an hour and free golf he considered himself the richest kid on the block. John has been the superintendent at Travis Pointe Country Club in Ann Arbor for 18 years. John has been married to his wife Karen for 21 years and they have a 12 ½ year old Chocolate Lab named Thunder.



WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB ON THE COURSE? WHEN DID YOU KNOW THAT THIS WAS A JOB YOU WANTED TO DO AS A CAREER?

As part of my responsibilities, I picked up range balls, moved tee markers, filled pop machines and was a weed whipping pro. By the time I was 14, I was behind the counter handling the register and night waterman etc. So it was no surprise that by the age of 16, I knew that I needed to have a career that allowed me to work outside.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NON-GOLF SPORT?

I love to watch Collegiate Football, but as a participant skiing.

WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

After graduating from East Lansing High School, I took the fall term off to work and save money for school. My father was a professor at Michigan State University, so I was blessed with a great tuition rate. I paid \$18.50/credit hour in the winter of 1984. How things have changed.

WHAT COURSE DID YOU GO TO AFTER COLLEGE? WHO WAS THE FIRST SUPERINTENDENT AT THAT COURSE?

Dr. Bruce Branham was my advisor, and I couldn't have been more fortunate. He directed me after my first two terms, towards working for Bruce Wolf from for the summer of 1984 at Barton Hills Country Club in Ann Arbor. I will always owe him my deepest gratitude for everything that I learned from him that summer. In the classroom at MSU, no professor was better than Mr. Rieke and Dr. Crum, they had the best academic curriculum. My golf course Superintendent mentors included Kurt Thuemmel, from Walnut Hills Country Club in East Lansing, and Mark Magee, who I worked for as an Assistant Superintendent at the Country Club of Lansing for 8 years. It was the best learning experience I could ask for; I will always be indebted to him for those experiences.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

#7 at Par Mor Golf Course, 105 yard par 3. My only hole in one.

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

My hat goes off to all of the superintendents that donate their time and energy to the state and national associations. They do outstanding and exceptional work, and I applaud their desire to continue to improve the game of golf, and the status of superintendents in our industry. I am not a gregarious person, so my contributions to our associations have been limited. I do, however, inform my club membership of the stewardship and BMP's that our golf course industry is actively promoting.



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

Financial Analyst

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

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WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS?

In looking to the future, one part of turf grass management that I think will revolutionize our business is the study of plant genetics. I believe within the next 20 years we will have a grass plant that grows slowly, is drought tolerant, and is fairly disease resistant. I would also predict that staff sizes and budgets will continue to decrease as a result of our economy and the decrease in golf play. This is not a doomsday prediction; it is just a fact of life that most technological and scientific advances are brought on by efficiencies of scale.

WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW?

Me, you have to laugh at yourself occasionally to stay grounded.

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

I have been very fortunate to work for my present employer, Travis Pointe Country Club for the past 18 years. I know when having conversations with some of the most successful and highest paid superintendents, one of their strategies is to work at a golf course for 5 to 7 years, learn as much as possible from the course, and continue to move up the ladder, to one of the top 100 golf courses. This is great for some, but I still consider those that have weathered the storms at one golf course for 25, 30 or more years, as the ultimate superintendents. What great resolve it takes to reinvent and push yourself to grow each year and continue to perfect their product!

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

You will have many jobs and maybe even careers but hopefully one spouse.

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

Very important, I have been proud to consider myself a Golf Course Superintendent for the last 30 some years, and will continue to be the best advocate for our industry and representative for my peers.

WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

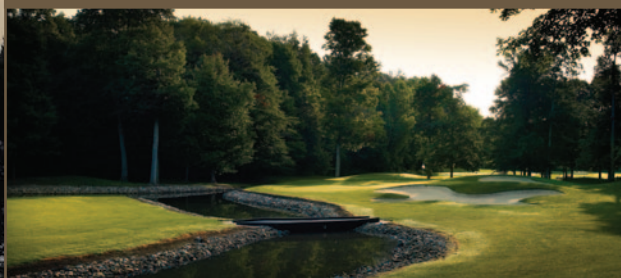
My Wife and best friend

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

Colin Powell, Warren Buffett, Ben Hogan

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

When you get old like me, at the age of 48, you have a tendency to reflect more on your good fortune. And that good fortune would be that I have also had some of the best associates and co-workers that anyone could ask for, these individuals would include; Jay Eccleton, Jeff Sweet, Bob Stipcak, Jay Danek, Todd Genske and now Danny Graft.

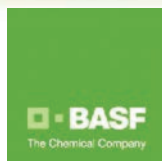


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ASSISTANT & STUDENT NETWORKING EVENT

BY RODNEY CROUSE, MSU TURF CLUB
PRESIDENT

The 2nd annual MSU Turf Club/Assistant's golf outing was held on September 7th at College Fields Golf Course in East Lansing. There were 46 golfers that played and prizes were awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place, as well as long drive on number 1 and closest to the pin on number 5. After the golf, there were hot dogs and hamburgers served, and a question and answer session with current superintendents, assistant superintendents, and professionals from other sectors in the turf industry. A panel of 5 professionals answered several questions from students that covered several different topics. Overall the event was a huge success.

This event marks a new era in the relationship between the MSU Turf Club and the MIGCSA. The past two years both organizations have come together to form partnership that highlights the importance of networking with turf professionals throughout the state of Michigan. The ultimate purpose of this outing is to help the students interact with working members in the turf industry, as well as ask pertinent questions that will help to ease the transition from college to life working in the industry.



Special thanks are in order to Terry Polley, Troy Evans, Greg Pattinson, Jim Higgs, and Adam Ikamas. A very special thank you to Carey Michelson and the staff at College Fields for the \$150 donation back to the turf club.

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2012 MiGCSA SCHOLARSHIPS

The MiGCSA Board of Directors and Scholarship Committee Chairman Jim Bluck, CGCS are proud to present the 2012 MiGCSA Scholarships.

The Heritage Scholarship is available to dependents of current members of the MiGCSA in good standing pursuing a degree at a post-secondary educational institution as a full time student during the next academic year. Each award recipient will can be awarded \$1,000.00, the deadline for the Heritage is October 30th, 2012.

The Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association student scholarship will be awarded to potentially two applicants at the value of \$1,500.00 each or one for \$3,000. The applicant must be enrolled in the 2 or 4 year Turfgrass Program, have a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, be a current MiGCSA member and have completed or going into your final semester at MSU. Interview dates will be on the 13th of December. This award will be presented at the Michigan Turf Conference. The deadline for this scholarship is December 2, 2012.

All of the information on these scholarship can be found at the websites below.
www.migcsa.org/uploads/2012-Heritage-Scholarship.pdf
www.migcsa.org/uploads/MiGCSA-Student-Scholarship-2012.pdf



DAVEY WINS MiGCSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MiGCSA) has a new State Champion. On August 20th 55 members came to Lakelands Golf & Country Club in Brighton, MI to compete in the 5th annual MiGCSA State Championship. The host Superintendent at Lakelands is Class A member Gregg Matthews, who is also the current MiGCSA Secretary/Treasurer and host Assistant Superintendent is Class C member Shaun Maher.



2012 State Champion Eric Davey

The event started at 11:00 with blue skies, low wind and perfect conditions. Defending two-time State Champion Dr. Kevin Frank from Michigan State University was on hand to defend his title and go for an unprecedented threepeat. But in the end Dr. Frank's 74 was bested by two competitors, Mike Leavitt Class A Superintendent at L.E. Kaufman Golf Course, in Byron Center shot a 73 for his fourth consecutive second place finish and Eric Davey Class A Superintendent at Prestwick Village Golf Club in Highland shot an even par 72 to take home his first State Championship title.

New to this year was the District Championship, this year the Greater Detroit had the 4 lowest scores to win the first ever district challenge. And congratulations to MiGCSA Member Troy Looney from The Emerald on his first ever hole in one on #8 at Lakelands. Ring the bell Troy!



Have you heard? Early Order Program is going on now!

Early Order is your opportunity to:

- Lock in current pricing on next year's purchases and receive rebates on the products you need most from BASF, Bayer, Syngenta, Dow, DuPont, **and Harrell's.**
- Take advantage of extended terms to help you free up cash flow.
- Meet and even exceed your 2013 budget with ease.
- Worried you don't have enough storage? No problem! Let Harrell's warehouse your purchases and then let us know when you need them delivered.

Contact your Harrell's Representative today for help in planning for EOP.



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Kimberly Rouleau
Northern MI
989-370-5250

Mike Rupp
SE MI/NW OH
419-764-3422

Tony Staley
SW MI/ NW IN
574-340-1105

Doug Johanningsmeier
Oakland County/SE MI
248-302-2054

www.harrells.com

THE 28TH ANNUAL TUCK TATE CHAMPIONSHIP

A picture perfect fall day in Northern Michigan awaited the players at The Cedar River Golf Club at Shanty Creek on September 26th for the Tuck Tate Championship. Tuck Tate founded the Northern Michigan Turfgrass Managers Association in 1971 and was the first NMTMA Vice President. Jeff Nabozny Class A MiGCSA Member was the host for this event, and he and his crew did a fantastic job. And a special thank you to head professional Jason Kempfer for all of the scoring and setup.

This is an event with prizes for the team and individual prizes. For the team there was a best 2 of 4 net game and a competition for the low net and low gross Tuck Tate Championship. The winning team was Paul Galligan, Gene Davis, Phil Gutowski and Charlie Hathaway with a net 126. Second place was won by Dave Creager, Steve Goike, Steve Goike (guest), and Chad Kempf with a net 129 and third place was won with a 130 from John Holberton, Matt Sly, Tom Mead and Chad Corp. The closest to the pin on hole #17 was won by Gabe Ross of Gold Industry Partner Spartan Distributors. And Phil Gutowski won the long drive on hole #3.

The low net score of the day was posted by Matt Sly with a net 67. And the 2012 Tuck Tate Champion is Jim Higgs who won his second consecutive low gross Tuck Tate Championship defending his title from last year at Black Lake Golf Club.



2012 Tuck Tate Champions, Jim Higgs low gross and Matt Sly low net.



Cedar River Superintendent Jeff Nabozny.

Order Early and \$AVE



Save on all of the top products you need for next year, TODAY! We carry products from all of the trusted suppliers in the industry, including Bayer, BASF, DOW, Loveland Products, and Syngenta, among many others.

Take advantage of our early order program from Direct Solutions that is fully customizable and extremely flexible. Additionally our program offers bonus incentives on key products of up to 2% credit on your purchase.

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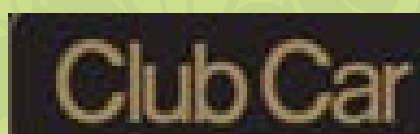




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KEVIN THREN

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN AT TULLYMORE GOLF RESORT

Kevin Thren is the Head Equipment Technician at Tullymore Golf Resort in Stanwood Michigan. Kevin married his Wife Cindy 33 years ago and they have one daughter Emily, 30 and 2 dogs Mona and Fritz.

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

Lake Isabella golf course was out my back door (now The Pines at Lake Isabella). At 13 I started picking balls on the range. At 16 I asked the superintendent if he had anything I could do. He put me on the bunker rake and from there it was onto operating all equipment. That progressed to maintenance where I still am today.

2. WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

Hands on at the little shop at Lake Isabella with superintendent Greg Nelson and Mechanic Ken Pung.

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

Trouble shooting electric problems.

4. WHAT IS THE EASIEST?

Sweeping the shop floor.

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

More tech skills maybe even to the point where they will have to go directly to the manufacturer to get the skills needed to work on equipment.

6. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT?

Greg Nelson superintendent, and Ken Pung Mechanic at Lake Isabella in the late 70's.

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

Never assume, make sure all equipment and people are on the same page.

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

No valve stem caps on tires.

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

One night I took the blades of a groundsmaster 72 to sharpen. Lo and behold I had an emergency later that night. I didn't make to the shop the next morning to put blades back on. No one knew of course that I had removed the blades. The operator took the machine out the next morning, he thought all was ok he could see dew flying out where he was cutting. When the dew had burned off he noticed nothing was being discharged, he finely looked under the deck. Hmmm. No blades.

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

1977 yale forklift. It doesn't run very well it smokes a lot. We call it smoky but it sure is handy!

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

Going to have the people who build this equipment come to the shop or go to them.

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

Trend setter Thren.

UNDER THE HOOD



FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS – GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

As we head into the fall season, I hope that the end of your summer turned out better than most of the summer and you and your golf course were able to overcome some of the summer stress we experienced again this year. Once again in my travels I have seen the haves and the have nots! It seems that everyone had the heat, most had the humidity, some had too much rain and others had no rain. In much of the Great Lakes Region there were drought conditions ranging from moderate to severe and in some parts there was even talk of remembering the dust bowl. It is important for our members to remember that your associations are there for you, your local Michigan GCSA helps put you in touch with other members around you and helps you locally while the GCSAA is here for you on the national seen providing you with information on issues ranging from the weather to turf management to personnel management and everything in between. Both organizations are here to help you do your job better and the great thing is we are only an email or a phone call away so please feel free to let us know how we can help you.

There is a lot going on at GCSAA as always. Starting on the government relations part, we are continuing to fight for the Regulation Reduction Act (NPDES fix) as well as the H2B visa program. On another continuing front we are still fighting to get golf course superintendents the ability to get special use permits for methyl bromide. As you know the end is very



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close for using methyl bromide unless you have a special permit. As of right now golf courses do not qualify for these special use permits. GCSAA is once again working with the manufacturer and the EPA explaining why methyl bromide is needed on golf courses and why they should qualify for the special use permits. Rounds for Research is moving ahead in a very positive direction with over 150 golf course donations as of this writing. The live auction site should open in September and with rounds committed for three years should continue into the foreseeable future. Steve Randall was recently named the Central Region Field Staff Representative so he will be taking care of the region next to ours and will continue to serve in his leadership role over all of the field staff representatives. The fall GCSAA Board of Directors meeting was in the Great Lakes Region in September held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

As things wind down and you start planning for next year, don't forget to plan for your education. There are a number of educational sessions taking place this fall and into the winter season. The Ohio Turfgrass Foundation educational session will be the first full week of December and the Indiana Green Expo is the second week of January. If you are looking for warmer weather and a wider variety of topics, I would love to see all of you at the GCSAA Conference and Show in San Diego, California in February. Registration will open in October so please be prepared and get your registration in early so that you can get the educational seminars you would like. There is also plenty of free education during the show covering a wide variety of topics from managing your staff, agronomics, technology to writing your resume and self-improvement. The National Golf Championship will also be held during this time on the Monday and Tuesday of conference and show week. San Diego is a great place to visit, bring the family, attend the GCSAA Conference and Show and get some much needed rest and relaxation after a very difficult year.

Hope to see everyone there!
John

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THE BETTER HALF



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT KATIE HEFFRON

1. I CARRIED THE OLYMPIC TORCH AS A SUPPORT RUNNER DURING THE 2002 WINTER OLYMPIC TORCH RELAY IN DETROIT.
2. I WAS ON MSU'S CREW TEAM
3. I WAS A STATE OFFICER FOR THE NATIONAL FFA ORGANIZATION
4. I HAVE TRAVELED THROUGH ENGLAND, GERMANY, AND THE CZECH REPUBLIC AS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP SEMINAR
5. MY PICTURE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN A FASHION BOOK

KATIE HEFFRON

Katie Heffron started in the golf business as a simple summer job at Inverness Country Club after being told that a golf course grounds department is no place for a girl, so she applied just to prove them wrong. To her surprise she fell in love with it all. She loved being outside, the physical work and working with the crew. Katie has been married to her husband Bryan for 5 years and they are expecting their first child in the beginning of March. After graduating from MSU Katie took a job as the Assistant Superintendent at Blytheville Country Club and has been there for the past 6 years.

1. WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB AT INVERNESS?

My very first day there it rained all day and a crew of about 4 of us string trimmed the creek banks the entire day.

2. WHEN DID YOU KNOW THAT THIS WAS A JOB YOU WANTED TO DO AS A CAREER?

After working the 2003 Senior Open at Inverness. I was truly amazed at all the work that was done that summer in preparation for the tournament. Once I started to show a little interest, the Superintendent, Tom Walker, spent a lot of time explaining the reason and the science behind the procedures that were being done. It was after that summer that I changed my major.

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

I loved working at the golf course because it helped me stay in shape. So my favorite job was rolling greens after aerification, because we had old walk behind rollers. I remember spending the entire day walk rolling every green.

4. WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

As much as I can. I spend a lot of time playing and coaching sports. Volleyball, running, water skiing, and snow skiing are some of my favorites. I enjoy crafts, scrapbooking, cooking, hanging out at my grandparents cottage and getting together with family. And when I am not doing any of those things I can usually be found at my husband's family farm or in a tractor.

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

I have just started getting out more the last couple of years, my game has improved drastically but my handicap is still too high to have published.

6. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF CLUB IN THE BAG?

My putter. I never lose my golf ball after I use it!

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

We just purchased the Toro ProCore that was great for our fall greens aerification. We also got a PlanetAir that I am looking forward to using next season.

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

Our Yamaha carts from 1978 and 1979

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

Collin, the superintendent here at Blythefield, he has a story for everything, and always has something crazy to say.

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

A kindergarten teacher. I absolutely love kids and find it enjoyable just being around them.

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

I think green speed is very important. It is always a goal to give the golfers the course conditions that they want. However the health of the plant needs to be considered and golfers should understand that we have no control over the weather.

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

My parents, they are amazing. They raised 5 kids both while having full time jobs and giving us endless opportunities for success. We were all active in sports and clubs and they were always there to support us. They were avid teachers that life is not fair, and all you can do is your very best.

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

Adam Scott, Annika Sorenstam and Channing Tatum

14. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT, WHO ELSE INFLUENCED YOU PERSONALLY?

Two of the Superintendents I have worked for, Tom Walker and Collin Romanick. They are very different in how they operate their crew and golf course, but both have taught me a lot and give great advice.

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

I believe the assistant's role is very important. Most Superintendents are spending more time in their office and connecting with members so it is nice to have a trusted assistant who is the connection to the crew and the course condition on a daily basis.

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

It is always fun explaining my job to people who do not know me very well. At first, when I was in high school and college, I would tell people that I work on a golf course and the #1 question that I would get is "Oh, so you're the beer cart girl?". So I would then explain what I do. Now the question that I get is "Oh, so you have winters off?" So now I explain what we do in winters.



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2013 MICHIGAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

Returning to Campus Roots

By Dr. Kevin Frank
Michigan State University



The Michigan Turfgrass Conference is returning to its roots this coming January at the Kellogg Hotel and

Conference Center on the campus of MSU. Those in our industry with enough 'experience' will remember when the turf conference was originally held at the Kellogg Center but, for most of us, this will be new and hopefully a conference you won't soon forget.

On Monday, January 21st, in-depth workshops will be conducted in the morning and afternoon. Morning workshops will focus on basics such as turfgrass soils, nutrition, ornamental plants disease identification, and turfgrass pest ID. Pest identification labs for insects, weeds, and diseases will be conducted at on-campus laboratory facilities - hop on the bus and prepare to sharpen your diagnostic skills. In the afternoon, Drs. Gaussoin and Rossi will conduct their spoof on ESPN's popular sports show PTI; however, in place of sports this PTI is all about Professional Turfgrass Intelligence. You won't want to miss this entertaining format for discussing and debating turfgrass' hot topics.

Tuesday morning will include another round of workshops with topics such as Social Media with Dr. John Kaminski, Turfgrass Gadgets and Gizmos with Dr. Doug Karcher, Herbicide Technology for Optimal Weed Control with Dr. David Gardner, Turfgrass Management Strategies with Dr. Joe Vargas, and Turfgrass Physiology with our newest faculty member Dr. Emily Merewitz as well as day one of a two-day equipment technicians program

held at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center. Tuesday afternoon will kick off the general session tracks of Golf, Lawns, and Athletic Fields featuring our out-of-state speakers. The day will culminate with the industry vendor Kick-Off Show at the Spartan Stadium from 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday will include yet another full day of the equipment technicians program and general session presentations including all of the MSU research updates and topics such as an update on underground storage tanks, John Mastenbrook's popular John Patch Presentation Part 2, and a what you need to know about annual bluegrass weevil from Dr. Harry Niemczyk. Also on Wednesday, the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation 83rd Annual Awards Luncheon will be held with featured guest MSU President, Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon.

Thursday will conclude the conference with a symposium 'The Intelligent Use of Water' sponsored by Rain Bird. The symposium will include panel discussions on the science and practicality of water use in today's ever-changing world and a special keynote from renowned author Charles Fishman, author of *The Big Thirst: The Secret Life and Turbulent Future of Water*.

The conference planning committee has been working hard to finalize all of the conference details and the conference registration will be in the mail and on-line shortly. Up-to-date information can be found at mtfconference.org. I look forward to seeing all of you in East Lansing January 21-24, 2013.



Kick-Off Show

JANUARY 22, 2013

4:30 - 7:30 PM

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FOURTH FLOOR OF SPARTAN STADIUM

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JANUARY 21-24, 2013

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

MONDAY

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

EDUCATION

TUESDAY

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

EDUCATION

7:30 - 3:30

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN

TWO-DAY SEMINAR - DAY 1

4:30 PM - 7:30 PM

KICK-OFF SHOW

WEDNESDAY

8:30 AM - 4:00 PM

EDUCATION

7:30 - 3:00

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN

TWO-DAY SEMINAR - DAY 2

11:30 - 1:30

AWARDS LUNCHEON

4:15 PM - 4:45 PM

MIGCSA ANNUAL MEETING

4:45 PM - 5:15 PM

MTF ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

EDUCATION & PESTICIDE

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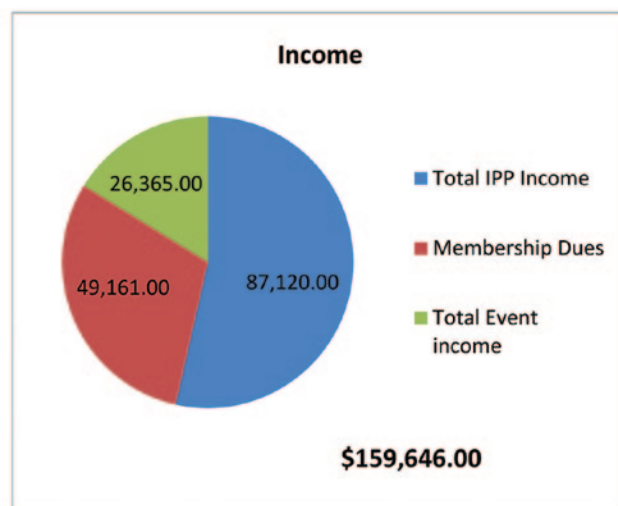
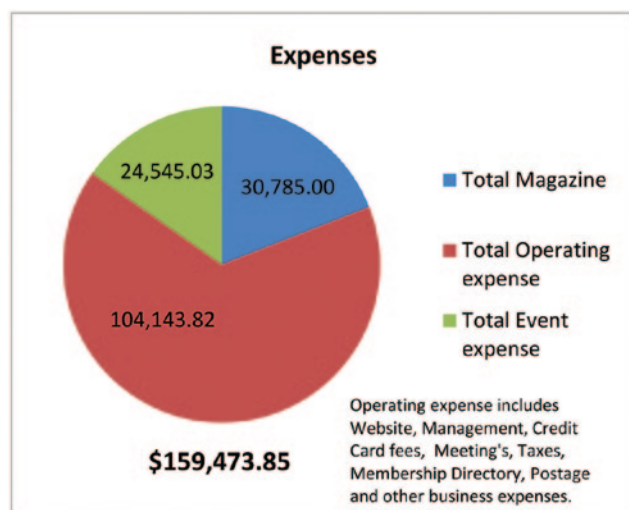
ASSOCIATION UPDATE

MEMBERSHIP DUES INCREASE PROPOSAL

The MiGCSA Board of Directors voted to propose a dues increase for all class A, SM and AFF members. This vote was passed by a majority on July 13th 2012. The proposal to be put to vote by the membership is to raise dues from \$75 to \$100 for Class A, SM and AFF members. All other classes will remain the same. This Dues Increase vote will be held at the MiGCSA Annual Meeting at the Michigan Turf Conference in January at The Kellogg Center and will go into effect for the 2013 to 2014 dues renewal year starting in the fall of 2013.

This dues increase is to help solidify the financial future of the MiGCSA, currently the Association runs on a true non-profit break even budget every year. The majority of the income, 57% comes from strong Industry Partner support which we greatly appreciate. But this income can be tenuous and can vary widely from year to year. As your budgets vary and change the amount of support the Industry Partners can provide has to change as well. With this small dues increase the MiGCSA will be able to continue to provide you with the Course Conditions magazine, a current and user friendly website, great events at a low cost to you, and an increasing role as leaders in the Michigan golf industry.

Below you will see a breakdown of the current MiGCSA income and expenses. As you can see any small change in these can cause a dip into the reserves. At YE 2011 the Association had roughly \$63,000 in reserve, and we are projecting a very similar amount in 2012. The hope is to keep those funds in reserve and invest them to form another source of revenue for the future once the board is confident in a profitable operating budget. If the future reserves reach a large surplus a dues decrease will be considered.



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*Payload includes 200lb (90.7kg) operator, 200lb (90.7) passenger and loaded attachment, 2WD with Heavy Duty Suspension, Wide Rear Tire & 4-Post ROPS. Payload tested in accordance with ANSI / ITSDF B56.8 – 2006 standard. ROPS tested in accordance with ISO 21299-2009.
**@ 3600 rpm. Engine Manufacturer Gross Power. Tested in accordance with SAE J1349. Engine horsepower and torque information are provided by engine manufacturer for comparison purposes only. Actual operating horsepower and torque will be less. Refer to engine manufacturer's website for additional information.

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Two other StressGard FT fungicides that perform well in combinations with Interface are Chipco Triton® FLO and Tartan®. For gray snow mold, Chipco Triton FLO is the tank-mix partner of choice, while Tartan should be used if pink snow mold is the predominant problem. All three fungicides represent distinct fungicide classes that when combined offer powerful disease management tools.



Spring, after a fall-applied Interface combination on an Idaho putting green.

Contact Michael Hirvela at (248) 514-7027 or Mike.Hirvela@bayer.com to learn more about our snow mold solutions.



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- A durable 7-gauge steel frame

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*Payload includes 200lb (90.7kg) operator, 200lb (90.7) passenger and loaded attachment, 2WD with Heavy Duty Suspension, Wide Rear Tire & 4-Post ROPS. Payload tested in accordance with ANSI / ITSDF B56.8 – 2006 standard. ROPS tested in accordance with ISO 21299-2009.
**@ 3600 rpm. Engine Manufacturer Gross Power. Tested in accordance with SAE J1349. Engine horsepower and torque information are provided by engine manufacturer for comparison purposes only. Actual operating horsepower and torque will be less. Refer to engine manufacturer's website for additional information.

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Spring, after a fall-applied Interface combination on an Idaho putting green.

Contact Michael Hirvela at (248) 514-7027 or Mike.Hirvela@bayer.com to learn more about our snow mold solutions.

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