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Kalamazoo Country Club*



*Daniel Darling,
Equipment Technician,
Forest Dunes Golf Club*



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Assistant Superintendent,
Bloomfield Hills Country Club*



COURSE CONDITIONS

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MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 4/11/12

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	SPRING 2011 MEMBERSHIP
Class AA	27	23
Class A	240	74
Class SM	75	27
Class C	99	39
Class D	39	14
Class E	20	21
Class AFF	159	67
Class H	23	21
Class SA	21	8
Class R	9	3
Class I	4	1
TOTAL	716	297

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

I recently had an opportunity to accompany Adam as we attended the Chapter Leader and Executive symposium at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, Kansas with 43 other individuals from around the USA and Canada. I cannot stress the power of involvement enough when it comes to your chapter as well as the betterment of your career. I had numerous opportunities to meet new people who in turn will grow my networking capabilities in the years ahead.

Over the two day period we experienced many different ideas pertaining to the growth and retention of chapter memberships as well as ways to strengthen our position as a chapter. I was delighted to see that Michigan has positioned itself at the forefront and continues to track in a positive direction. Most chapters in the nation are experiencing similar difficulties with member participation and growth while retention is holding steady. All of the chapter leaders and executives understand that most members are doing much more at their facilities with less resources and available time and that has become the one of the major issues of decreasing participation.

Your association and the events committee along with the education committee work diligently to create a schedule of events that affords our members the opportunity to attend quality venues while obtaining valuable education during their visit. Some of our events may just be golf oriented but as we all know some of the networking opportunities that present themselves are invaluable. Our spring management sessions were a tremendous hit and we saw close to record breaking attendance at Egypt Valley CC this March. Our 2012 events schedule is as strong as ever and I am excited to have an opportunity to visit these outstanding organizations and show our support and appreciation for their hospitality. I would also like to thank our host superintendents and staff for allowing us the opportunity to visit their facilities and by negotiating a reduced cost which helps our members attend these particular events with little disruption to their own budget and personal finance.

I also recently attended a two day strategic planning meeting with the board of directors and two representatives from GCSAA. Steve Randall and John Miller from GCSAA were available and they helped walk us through a strategic planning session that will help guide our association through the upcoming years. I found this to be a well organized and beneficial event. The creative idea sharing and brainstorming will be essential to the chapter's growth and success in the upcoming years. The results of this meeting are a well structured plan of action that will guide the MiGCSA and allow the growth of the association to stay consistent as we transition through the board of directors and welcome on new board and committee members going forward.

I want to take a moment to thank and congratulate our Executive Director Adam Ikamas, CGCS for a job well done. Adam's first year as our Director has come and gone. The progress that Adam has made shines brightly, not only at the local level but the national level as well. He has made a huge impact on the association and how it operates on a daily basis. Chapters throughout the nation look to Michigan for ideas and methods used in our chapter to help grow their own chapters respectively.

Lastly, I would like to recognize the Industry Partners and thank them for their dedication and commitment to our association. Thank you to our Platinum Partners for 2012: BASF, Jacobsen-Midwest Golf and Turf, Syngenta, and Bayer. Our Gold Partners: Spartan Distributors. Our Silver Partners: Residex-Turfgrass, Harrell's, Great Lakes Turf, Rain Bird Services Corporation, Agrium, and Tri-Turf. Through your support, the MiGCSA will continue to be a valuable resource to its members through communication, education, and networking. Please take the opportunity to support our Industry Partners who support our association.

Wishing you a successful and prosperous 2012 season,

Jay B. Eccleton, CGCS

THE TOP 10 CHANGES THAT HAVE IMPACTED MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT IN THE PAST 25 YEARS

BY THOMAS A. NIKOLAI, PH.D., THE DOCTOR OF GREEN SPEED, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



THOMAS A. NIKOLAI

In December of 2011 the MIGCSA sent out a survey to class A and SM members asking, "What would you say are the top three things that have changed the way you manage (or operate) your facility?" The results of that survey were the first step in determining *The Top 10 Changes that have Impacted Michigan Golf Course Management in the Past 25 Years*. The second step was to ask Bob Vavrek (the USGA's sole Michigan Agronomist the past 22 years) to develop a top 10 list of his own. The third step was to show the results of both surveys at the GLTE on January 11, 2012 in Grand

Rapids, MI and ask for additional input from the audience. As a result of those three undertakings 25 possible selections were identified as having the greatest impact on golf course maintenance over the past 25 years. The fourth and final step was to post those 25 possible selections on the MIGCSA website and ask MIGCSA superintendents to, "Please rank the top 10 changes that have occurred over the past 25 years that have most impacted golf course management at your golf course".

Top 10 lists are fun because of the conversation and controversy they create. The reason behind my requesting your input in the making of this list was to determine how many of these changes had anything to do with research performed at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center (HTRC) at Michigan State University (MSU) with funding from the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF). Below is *The Top 10 Changes that have Impacted Michigan Golf Course Management over the Past 25 Years* as chosen by MIGCSA superintendents. The list is in descending order of votes followed by comments from me.

10. Greens Mower Improvements: An extensive literature review on the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) reveals that from the late 1920's until the early 1970's the lowest height of cut possible with a commercial green mower was 0.187-inches. Given that tidbit of information it should come as little surprise that the average green speed over that time period remained unchanged at a stellar 27-inches (as recorded by Edward Stimpson with his original wooden Stimpmeter). In the 1970's bed knives were made thinner, the Stimpmeter was refined and mass produced, and green speeds increased. Due to the demand for faster green speeds and the release of newer cultivars it became necessary for greens

mowers to be a more precise instrument to follow contours and maintaining adjustment to minimize scalping. Over the past 25 years improvements in green mower technology include the release of ultra-thin bed knives, walk-behind floating heads, easier adjustment, counter rotating brushes, more reels, and adjustments for frequency of clip. While turfgrass researchers have no claim on being involved in these technological advancements MSU has performed more putting green mower research than any other turfgrass research facility. Green mower research performed at MSU includes the impact that HOC, bed knife maintenance, bed knife thickness, multiple mowing (double and triple cutting), and mowing/rolling frequency has on turfgrass quality, wear tolerance, and green speed. In 2012 green mower research at the HTRC will include investigations into brushing (forward and reverse) and the importance of frequency of clip at multiple mowing heights.

9. Poa Annu Management: Most every article that mentioned *Poa annua* written prior to the 1970's states, "*Poa annua* is a fine dense turfgrass suitable for the putting surface but unfortunately it cannot survive the summer heat". The biggest problem with that statement is it was not true. Yes, *Poa annua* often died during the summer but not because it was hot, but because conditions are favorable for anthracnose and summer patch. Dr. Joe Vargas with assistance from Ron Detweiler of MSU were the first to rebuke the folklore and to initiate scientifically valid management programs to keep the desirable putting surface thriving during the summer months. To this day their research continues to have an impact on the proper maintenance of *Poa annua*. Additionally, although it remains elusive MSU turfgrass researcher Dr. Kevin Frank is attempting to identify a management method to increase *Poa annua* cold hardiness. Finally, for those that want to manage *Poa annua* by eradicating it Dr. Ron Calhoun was good enough to discover a chemical that eradicates the species in bentgrass stands.

8. Improvement of Wetting Agents: While working on a golf course in the 1980's I was instructed to stir a generous amount of dishwashing liquid into a bucket of water and to pour it out on dry spots on a green. The hope was it would alleviate the localized dry spots and while it didn't work the superintendent was certain it worked as good as any product on the market. He may have been correct. I say that because in the 90's I worked for Dr. Rieke Rieke and while we performed wetting agent studies most every year I don't recall any of them doing an outstanding job reducing localized dry spot. However, over the past 10 years research has clearly shown that repeated use with certain formulations greatly reduces

or eliminates localized dry spot. From our findings at the HTRC it is clear that initial annual application must be preventative. Today some superintendents are concerned that wetting agents work too good, that is, they make the green hold too much water. Current research at MSU is addressing this concern.

7. Budget (for the Negative): It seems that no matter the industry many of us are expected to do just as much (if not more) with fewer funds. Let's face it, 2009 was a terrible year for the golf industry and things have gone slow ever since. Hopefully our economy will recoup and we will see a little more growth in rounds in the upcoming years.

6. Alternative Spikes (Non-Metal Bottoms): If you have only been involved in the golf industry the past 15 years you might not even know what a metal golf spike looks like. Back in the Mid-90's, when metal spikes made-up nearly 100% of the market, I requested \$100.00 from MTF President Jon Maddern so I could purchase three pair of golf shoes from Meijer Thrifty Acres to perform an alternative spike study. What followed has been years of alternative cleat research where most every member of the MSU turfgrass team was happy to give ideas and lend a helping hand. Our approach was unique because we would traffic the plots with numerous cleat designs (28 different designs one year) and afterward we would ask golfers and/or golf course superintendents to rate the damage to the putting surface. While we examined the impact alternative and metal spikes had on numerous putting surfaces we didn't stop there. MSU also gathered data on the impact each cleat design caused to infrastructure and the impact they had on traction while swinging a golf club or while walking on wet slopes and pavement. These interactive studies became popular and by demand MSU performed spike studies at multiple sites in Michigan, Germany, Austria, Ohio, Tennessee, and Florida. Additionally, MSU turfgrass researchers were invited by The PGA Tour to traffic plots at the Buick Open at Warwick Hills C.C. so the professional golfers could evaluate the impact different cleat designs had on the putting surface. Our scientific methodology is so well respected

that MSU continues to test cleat designs for various companies to make certain new prototypes provide acceptable traction and result in minimal disturbance on the putting surface. Undoubtedly, that \$100.00 investment from the MTF has saved golf courses thousands of dollars on infrastructure repairs (bridges, decks, stairs, carpeting, golf carts, etc.) and has also led to smoother putting surfaces. Had MSU turfgrass never been involved in alternative spike research metal spikes would have most likely been banned anyway, however, I am certain that the professional way these studies were handled increased the speed to which metal spikes were banned by putting a quick end to the argument to keep them. Ironically, as I was putting the finishing touches to this article (on 3/31/12) I received an Email from Nate Spencer who was employed at a company that hired MSU to perform cleat research. At the close of his Email he wrote, "I certainly did enjoy the opportunities we had to work together on the tests that we had you conduct. I know that the data you provided helped to shift the industry away from metal spikes".

5. Sand Topdressing Equipment and Knowledge of Rates and Timing: If you have been in the golf course business for 30 years or more chances are you have applied topdressing to a green with a spade, but thankfully you probably didn't have to do it more than twice a year. Today topdressing is applied at least every three weeks on most golf courses and there are numerous methods to apply the material. The original topdressing material and frequency study was initiated by Dr. Rieke a little over 30 years ago. That study clearly demonstrated the importance of proper rates and frequency to minimize the negative effects of layering. More recently topdressing studies at the HTRC have focused on incorporation of the material into the canopy with minimal disruption to the game and how these methods can impact organic matter content. Additionally, Dr. Vargas has been examining the effectiveness of applying fungicides incorporated in the topdressing material.

4. Improvement in Knowledge and Use of PGR's: The first turfgrass research I ever performed was a PGR putting green speed study under the guidance of Dr. John Rogers III and Dr. Bruce Branham. The year was 1990 and Primo was not included because it had not yet been released. At first glance it is easy to state that MSU turfgrass research has had nothing to do with the formulations of PGR's, wetting agents, or any pesticides. However, that is an oversimplification. The fact of the matter is that industry contacts various research facilities across the United States for product testing during development to determine if their product works, if it's toxic to certain turfgrass species, what frequency should the product be applied at, and what rates are safe. The HTRC is a world renowned site where independent research is performed annually to test the efficacy of numerous products. Perhaps one of the biggest advancements in the knowledge of how to use or apply PGR's is GDD tracker which was invented by Dr. Calhoun with the computer expertise of Jeremy Lounds.

3. Irrigation Technology: In the 2002 edition of *Turfgrass Management for Golf Courses* Dr. James B. Beard states, "Proper turf irrigation is the most difficult day-to-day agronomic decision the golf course superintendent makes". While that statement may still be true it is certain that in the past decade a lot of the guess work has

At the 2011 MTF Field Day participants rated the effect of traffic with cleat prototypes. The result: no good for one of the prototypes because it was determined to be too excessive and would interfere with the putt.



been taken out of irrigation replenishment due to advancements and the ease of use of TDR's. TDR's (hand held models and those permanently placed in the root zone) measure the volumetric moisture content in the soil which reduces the guesswork for irrigation replenishment which can reduce water use **and while improving playing conditions**. Since TDR readings are based on volumetric moisture (or water) content (as opposed to plant available water) there is a learning curve unique to each golf course. In 1990 TDR turfgrass research was initiated at the HTRC on *Poa annua* and bentgrass greens by Dr. Rieke's graduate student Mike Saffell. Years passed and many an MTF Conference attendant was tired of hearing Dr. Rieke or his graduate students give presentations on TDR research. The point: **groundbreaking technology takes years to develop, money, and patience** but there is no doubt that the TDR research of the early 90's performed at the HTRC has had a major impact on how greens are currently irrigated today.

2. Instant Communication Technology (Internet/Mobile Phones): This has nothing to do with turfgrass research. One question, is this a good thing or a bad thing?

1. Lightweight Green Rolling: It wasn't that long ago that several of you were poking your finger in my chest while saying, "I don't care what your research says there is no way I am ever going to let one of those machines on my greens". Fact: if it were not for research performed at MSU almost no golf course in the world would roll their greens except for tournament preparation. In 1993 MSU was the first institution to research how different rolling frequencies and mowing heights interacted on green speed and turfgrass quality. From 1995-2000 MSU performed a lightweight rolling study on 3 putting green root zones where we discovered rolling decreases dollar spot, localized dry spot, bird pecking (decreased cutworms?), broadleaf weeds, and moss. Prior to those findings rollers were only used to increase green speed but most everyone was afraid rolling would be detrimental to the grass or root zone if used too often. In 2002 MSU was the first (and remains the only) research institution to make comparative study among different lightweight rollers. In 2004 MSU initiated the first rolling/mowing frequency studies and found rolling could take the place of mowing while retaining the green speed and increasing traffic tolerance. Now here it is nearly 20 years since I initiated that first study and we are still performing rolling research at the HTRC.



Non-rolled putting surface.

Rolled 3 times per week.

Without research funding we would have never known that rolling greens had many many benefits including decreasing localized dry spot.



The Michigan Turfgrass industry supports turfgrass research and subsidizes golf outings and educational programs. Those that support the MiGCSA are an integral piece in making MSU the leader in turfgrass innovation on the golf course.

Conclusion

By my count MSU turfgrass research has had a direct impact on 7 items on your top 10 list (all in green font). *Poa annua* management, the banning of metal spikes, and lightweight rolling was advanced by MSU more than any other institution in the world and all can lead to significant savings on your course (see item 7). The point of this article isn't to brag, well maybe it is a little, but to point out the significance of your financial commitment to turfgrass research by being a member of the MiGCSA and/or the MTF.

There may have been a time when you listened to the welcome of an MSU administrator and have heard the statement, "The relationship between Michigan State University and the Turfgrass Industry is unique and is the envy of the turfgrass world". That statement is factual and you are a significant component of the relationship. Another constituent of what makes the HTRC a unique and premier facility is our state industry donates thousands of dollars in equipment, pesticides, fertilizer, soil, and supplies **annually** allowing the site to be appropriately maintained (thanks Mark Collins and crew) which leads to relevant research results. In short we all depend upon one another. That is, MiGCSA members depend upon useful research results along with funding by industry for educational events, the researchers depend on funds generated from the MiGCSA and the MTF along with supplies from the industry, and the industry depends upon patronage from the golf course superintendent.

It has been a long time since MSU has won a national championship in sports. However, the next time you pay your dues, sign-up for tee times for turf, or attend a fundraiser you should be proud to be a member of the internationally acclaimed MSU turfgrass team. If you are a member of the team please display this Top 10 list proudly and feel free to brag about it. In closing I have to say I am surprised that "Mowing leaf litter into the existing turfgrass canopy instead of raking, blowing, etc." didn't make the Top 10 list. Let the conversations begin.



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MIGCSA STRATEGIC PLANNING

On April 3rd and 4th the MiGCSA Board gathered at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center for a two day Strategic Planning session with John Miller and Steve Randall from the GCSAA. John is the field staff for the Great Lakes and Steve is the Senior Field Staff for the GCSAA and was instrumental in the early formation of the MiGCSA.

We last had a meeting like this in 2009, but with the changes within the MiGCSA and golf in Michigan we thought it would be a great time to re visit our direction. Many of the board members in attendance were also there for the last meeting, but for some of the newly elected members this was the first meeting.

The day started at noon with Steve Randal handing out a s.c.o.r. analysis. This is meant to identify the strengths, challenges, opportunities and risks. Everyone completed this analysis and read the results aloud and Steve wrote them down. Once everyone had the results on the whiteboard they were all ranked from 1 to 3 in level of importance.

This was followed by looking at the MiGCSA Mission statement. The original was "To provide leadership for Golf Course Superintendents and other golf industry partners on the economic, environmental and recreational vitality of golf in Michigan." This was a great original mission but we thought we needed to start in a new direction; we made a change to "The MiGCSA is dedicated to providing value to our members through programs and services that enhance our profession." We all felt this more accurately

represented where the MiGCSA is and where we are going. We also added a new set of visions for the association. These are as follows.

Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association members will be consistently recognized as:

- A community of professionals networking and supporting one another to enhance their position in the golf industry
- Supporters of scholarships, education and research efforts to benefit our members
- Professionals working to enhance environmental stewardship
- Leaders on initiatives to grow the game of golf
- Crucial to the economic vitality of golf
- Actively participating in the betterment of their communities

Using these new tools the board was able to set action items for the immediate and long term future. It is an exciting time for the MiGCSA as we move from a maintenance mode into an improvement direction.



Steve Randal discusses the SCOR analysis



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PLAY IT WHERE YOU SHOULD -- WHICH SHOULD BE FORWARD



How many times have you played golf with a group of friends, and there is a significant disparity between how long each person hits the ball. Yet, everyone plays from the same tee. This situation inevitably causes somebody in the group to not play the golf course as the designer intended it. Either the longer hitters will be playing a shorter course than intended, or the shorter hitters will be playing a longer course than intended. Either way, the golf experience is diminished.

Architects spend significant time during the design process figuring out where tees are to

be constructed in order to create an enjoyable experience for all golfers. (I am always amazed and frustrated when clients do not understand the design thought behind these tee placement decisions, and then randomly change the position based on their own limited understanding of golfers abilities.) There should be a reason for where tees are located, and this is typically a combination of many factors, including the relative hitting distance of the intended user (i.e. women, seniors, juniors, professional), prevailing wind, topography, constructability and maintenance. There is no set rule for the distance between the back tee and the middle tee and the forward tee. But, the relationships between these tees are critical to creating a memorable and enjoyable experience, so careful thought should be given to the location.

In addition to not playing the correct tees, many golfers are playing golf courses from tee lengths that are simply too long. This has occurred due to the increased lengths that PROFESSIONAL golfers hit the ball in the past decade or so. And, due to this increased length by pros, many golf courses have sought to "protect" the integrity of their golf course by adding tees to make the course longer. (Augusta National is a case in point.) But, a serious problem occurs when amateur golfers play these courses, and feel the ego enhanced obligation to play the tees they always have in past, which have also been moved back in proportion to the newly created back tees. Yet, their hitting length has not increased with the same significance as the professionals. The result is many amateurs playing courses that no longer fit their game. And, the long-term result is golfers not enjoying

the sport, taking more time to play, and then not playing as much or at all. There is clear evidence that this negative impact has occurred in the golf world over the past decade

So, golfers and golf facilities need to embrace the latest concept being promoted by the PGA of America to "Tee it Forward". This simple concept of moving up to the next tee will enable more golfers to enjoy their game, take less time to play, and increase the number of people in the sport. So, for the good of the game, the next time you see members or patrons of your facility playing, encourage them to play the next tee forward, and not be worried about playing different tees from one another.

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

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A FULL ROUND



JOHN FULLING

CGCS

John Fulling, CGCS, has been the Superintendent at Kalamazoo Country Club for the last 19 years. John is a past president and one of the leaders in founding the MiGCSA from the original 4 chapters, and is currently the President of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. He began his career working at Forest Hills Country Club in Rockford, IL as a teenager in high school. He worked there throughout his first go around in college at Northern Illinois University in the music program. After NIU he realized that music was a less than lucrative career choice. The assistant at FHCC had recently finished turf school at Kishwaukee College about 45 minutes south of Rockford. John really loved the golf course and felt he was pretty good at it so he decided to go there himself. John has been married to his wife Susan for 20 years and they have two Daughters Alli 18 and Emily 15, and they live in Portage.

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

I wrote about this and GCSAA published it on the back cover of their 75th Anniversary edition of GCM. I talked specifically about the day that I was walk mowing the 9th green at dawn one morning at FHCC and it was just the most amazing feeling I had ever experienced. That was the day I knew.

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

Oddly enough, I really liked raking bunkers. Although you wouldn't know it today, back then I was on the cross country team in high school and the superintendent used to let me run the course with the rake behind the machine to rake edges. We had 72 bunkers.

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

It was a good all-around horticulture program with an emphasis on turf so I got everything from soils to landscape architecture. I like to think I've used a lot of it over the years at different times. Trees and shrubs is a big one. The landscape design has been used quite a bit. Even greenhouse because we're so heavy into flowers at KCC.

WHAT COURSE DID YOU GO TO AFTER COLLEGE?

Medinah Country Club in Medinah, IL (Chicago) where I worked for Superintendent Danny Quast, CGCS

WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM DANNY IN THAT FIRST YEAR?

I was at Medinah 5 years with Danny. I think I can safely say that I learned just about everything I would need for the next 20 years from Danny. His ability to produce outstanding tournament turf was impressive but the way he managed up was even more impressive. He was very involved with various foundations and the association. He was the chair of the OJ Noer Foundation and also worked tirelessly to help jump start the TGIF and build the turf library at MSU. That was where I first met Pete Cookingham and started what would end up being countless trips to East Lansing... which haven't actually stopped yet.

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

Today, I can proudly say that the MiGCSA has out performed even my loftiest expectations. I couldn't be more thrilled with the organization and more importantly the great people who continuously impress me with their leadership and dedication. It does what I expect it to do plus many times that.

WHERE CAN THE MIGCSA IMPROVE?

Keep working hard to improve membership numbers, course penetration and bringing in young energetic leaders. Focus on creating that feeling of ownership for these young people. Help them to thrive through good mentoring and then get the hell out of the way and let them take it to new heights. They will impress you... I promise.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA?

It's no secret that I am a very strong supporter of GCSAA, its leadership and the incredible staff members who get it done every day. I am also a believer that GCSAA's value is whatever a particular member needs it to be. It is so vast with such an array of resources that no one who looks or asks should ever go without getting what they need. I have always gotten what I expect from GCSAA. Sometimes it's personal assistance; sometimes it is help with chapter issues. The GIS is always a fantastic experience. But mostly, I really appreciate the staff members and their willingness to help at any time for any reason.

WHERE CAN THE GCSAA IMPROVE?

GCSAA works very hard at improving the image of the superintendent but I think there is plenty of room yet to improve. We have to really focus on helping the superintendent understand the importance of taking not just a leadership role in their club or organization but preparing them to take the leadership role. I also think that GCSAA has fallen off a bit with regards to advocacy and legislative issues both nationally and at the state level. Perhaps due to budget cuts but needs to be a higher priority as it is becoming a higher priority for the member's everyday.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION?

Maintain great relationships with all allied bodies, the State and the University. Work as hard as possible to raise as much money as possible for Michigan State University turfgrass research short term and build endowments that will eventually continuously fund that research long term.

WHERE CAN THE MTF IMPROVE?

Getting the message to the end user has always been the most challenging thing we try to do. Efforts could be enhanced in this area, for certain.

HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I think the better question is: How have I worked to try and re-pay some of the enormous debt that I owe to the industry, associations, professionals and friends who for 30 years have openly given me their vast knowledge, support, friendship, leadership, mentoring and guidance? The answer is feverishly because I am so grateful.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

I think as I get older, the most difficult part of the job is finding the balance between having to throttle back a little due to economic constraints and still maintaining a forward motion at the same time so that everyone involved feels good about what they're doing. That's pretty hard and many times it is all about personal attitude.

WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

The easiest part is getting up and going everyday. I have always been more comfortable at work than anywhere else.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Our reluctance to accept leadership positions and roles. Really understanding that the operation wants leadership and to step up. We are already so valuable to the operation, taking on a leadership posture would make the superintendent invaluable.

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

Many things but mostly money and the changing of the game and how it's played. Those who stay on the cutting edge and are innovators in the way the product is developed or even distributed will always be fine but those who hold on will find themselves in an unappealing position.

WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

I would like to see us continue to stay ahead of the legislation and the environmentalists. I think it is possible to develop turf that for all intent and purposes could be maintained with minimal chemistry, fertility or water. I also think emphasis must be put on developing lower cost, fuel efficient, low or no emission equipment. The cost of doing business is out pacing the income.

WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS?

I see the need for the 360 degree superintendent. The facility wide approach will become the norm. The superintendent already has strong skill set and to add the business and facility sides to that skill set will make a lot of sense.

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

Patience and the concept of "seek first to understand and then to be understood."

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

Growing for certain. Even though many won't say it out loud, everyone in the golf world has always understood the functional importance of the superintendent and the fact that only the superintendent ends up being an absolute necessity on every property. Add to that a higher education and better communication skills and the superintendent's influence increases exponentially... which is exactly what we're seeing today.

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

Still the most critical part of the team. No one is necessarily more or less important than anyone else but they are the most critical. As I always tell assistants, "I'm a pretty good assistant. I can do that job. Mechanic... not so much."

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

Fast is fun but functionally it's rendered countless pin locations unusable and the vast majority of clubs can't / won't change the greens or reduce the speeds. We need a real understanding of green speeds and how they affect play.

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

Medinah is a big place with a lot of departments and a lot of people. It's easy to get what you need if you are resourceful and stealthy... which as many know, just happen to be my two gifts. Any time Danny needed something like a new calculator, new office chairs, a new cushman, art work, whatever, he could just talk about it in a passing conversation with someone and then glance my direction. I think the turn around time in most cases was less than 24 hours. It's important to know that I never did anything to any department that didn't deserve it. It's also important to know that technically the goods never left the property so it could never be classified as stealing. I was simply reallocating assets for the betterment of the organization, usually ours. No one was immune, from the clubhouse interns to the General Manager. I got so good and did it so often to so many people that the Assistant Manager would just routinely come down and throw the office door open, look at me and say, "Where is it?" My best procurements were the cushman and carryall II I "borrowed" from the engineering department and ran through the chop shop we made in the tractor barn. Just to brag, I left the carryall outside for a week in front of the shop and the head engineer would come down everyday and walk slowly around it but we were a really good chop shop. They never got either one back. The other was early on when Danny had two really ratty guest chairs in his office. I couldn't let my mentor work in those kinds of conditions. What kind of employee would I be? So, I decided the two high back antiques from the rotunda in the clubhouse would be much better served in his office. The man was a turf legend after all. I think more than a year later Bob Nelson the GM came down to talk with Danny. He sat in the chair, asked how everyone was, never looked down and said, "Nice chairs." Perhaps the proudest I've ever been!

5 THINGS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT JOHN FULLING

1. I AM A MASTER MASON, SCOTTISH RITE MASON AND SHRINER AND HAVE BEEN MASTER OF THE LODGE 3 TIMES (I KNOW, HARD TO BELIEVE)
2. MY MINOR IN COLLEGE WAS CLASSICS (LATIN AND GREEK)
3. I AM ADDICTED TO BUSINESS AND LEADERSHIP AUDIO BOOKS MY LATEST WAS JACK WELCH "WINNING"
4. I HAVE NEVER FINISHED READING A REAL BOOK IN MY LIFE, HENCE THE AUDIO BOOK THING.
5. I HAVE A SLEEP DISORDER CALLED IDIOPATHIC HYPERMORNIA. IT IS WHY I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO SIT DOWN AND READ MORE THAN A PAGE OR TWO IN A BOOK (HENCE THE NEED FOR AND LOVE OF AUDIO BOOKS) AND WHY I DEFINITELY CANNOT DRIVE LONGER DISTANCES AT NIGHT.



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KATE MOORE

MICHIGAN GOLF DAY AT THE CAPITOL

ALLIED GOLF ASSOCIATIONS JOINED FORCES TO BRING MESSAGE TO LEGISLATORS JUNE 13TH

BY: KATE M MOORE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MGCOA

Once again the Michigan Golf Alliance will take over the Capitol Lawn and welcome state legislators to learn about our great industry. The sun will surely be shining on the Michigan Golf Alliance on June 13th as hundreds in the Michigan golf industry show up. Michigan Golf Course Owners Association, Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association, Michigan Section PGA, the Golf Association of Michigan, Michigan Club Managers Associations, American Association of golf Course Architects and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation will convene at the Capitol and visit every Legislator. The Capitol lawn was the venue for this unprecedented event.

It is expected that over 300 will gather under the big tent in front of the Capitol steps for “lunch on the turn”, an opportunity for legislators and their constituents to discuss the issues of golf business and connect with one another. With the success of last year’s event, and the smell of burgers being cooked for lunch, we expect a majority attendance. The Golf Alliance wants to introduce themselves and their key issues to the House and Senate. Taxes, tourism funding and the environment were top on the list. Each year for the past decade golf course owners, operators and superintendents have gathered in the spring to bring a cooperative message to the legislature. This is the second year of the **Michigan Golf Alliance**, comprised of the leaders of Michigan golf industry associations. Together, they will create a dynamic event to promote the game and the business of golf. Lieutenant Governor Carrey has been invited to welcome the group at the opening session, reviewing the state’s budget priorities as they related to the business community.

“This event was interactive and attracted more attention from our State Reps and Senators. The inclusion of all of golf’s allied associations will do nothing but strengthen the golf industry in Michigan and create a greater awareness of what the golf industry has to offer this State. It was a great way to kick off summer,” said Franklin Golf Management consultant Frank Guastella of the Golf Day in 2011.

Registration is free to members of the Alliance and available at www.michigangolfalliance.com.





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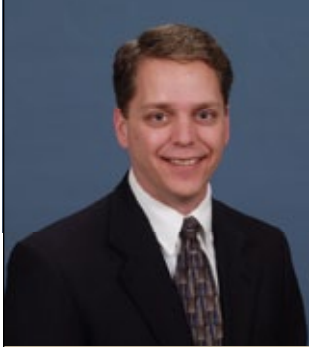
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2012 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, May 21	Wee One Golf Outing (Country Club of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms)
Sunday, June 3	MiGCSA Foundation Big Money Skins Game (Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia)
Monday, June 4	MiGCSA Foundation Fundraiser (Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia)
Wednesday, June 13	Legislative Day in Lansing (MiGCSA, MGCOA, MiPGA, GAM)
Tuesday, July 10	MiGCSA Golf Event (The Captains Club, Grand Blanc)
Tues./Wed. August 14&15	MTF Field Day (MSU Hancock Center, East Lansing)
Monday, August 20	MiGCSA State Championship (Lakelands Golf & Country Club, Brighton)
Friday, September 7	Assistant & Student Networking Golf Outing (College Fields Golf Club, Okemos)
Monday, August 20	MiGCSA State Championship (Lakelands Golf & Country Club, Brighton)
Monday, September 17	Western Golf Day (Wuskowhan Players Club)
Tuesday, September 25	Tuck Tate Championship (Cedar River at Shanty Creek, Bellaire)
Monday, October 8	The Big Event (Birmingham C.C.)

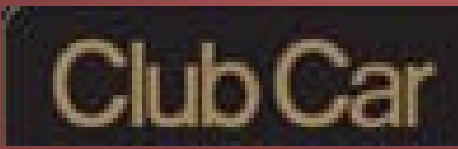
Please visit www.MiGCSA.org for all of the latest and most up to date information. You can quickly and easily register for events, view past issues of Course Conditions, browse and post items for sale, post and browse classifieds, and so much more. If you need help logging in email us at info@migcsa.org.

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DANIEL DARLING

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN AT FOREST DUNES GOLF CLUB

Daniel Darling has been married to his wife Tina for 30 years. They have a son Daniel who is 28, daughter Sara 30 and a dog Penelope. Dan started in the golf business when he became bored with being an auto dealership technician for over 19 years. He received his education from becoming an ASE Master auto technician, the school of hard knocks and on the job training.

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

Continuing to promote the "guys on the ground" for doing what they do every day for the game of golf, looks like this is my moment.

2. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I share my successes and failures with my peers and listen to theirs. I believe in sharing "good" information.

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

Getting the next generation of kids to play a game that is not electronic and doesn't need to be plugged in.

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

Cost of equipment maintenance and the cost of energy.

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

Stronger technical skills such as electronics and understanding low emission fuel management. The two will go hand in hand.

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

Hopefully healthy and still working at a profession that feeds my personal need for diversity and unpredictability.

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

To do your best to have every piece of equipment turn key ready. You never can tell where or what the Superintendent is going to do next.

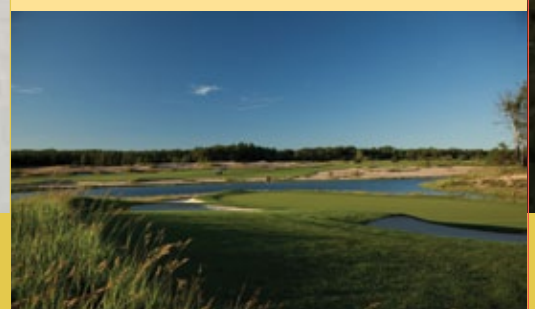
8. IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

That the parts and equipment suppliers understand that part prices are too high. Technicians are resourceful and they can find better deals and will do so when available.

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

Playing a prank on the Golf Professional, we had informed him that Zach Johnson (PGA Player) was coming to play our facility and he would be arriving by helicopter. He rushed to tidy up the golf shop, informed his staff, cleared the debris off of the parking lot and had a motorcade of golf carts set up to escort our distinguished guest to the golf shop. The helicopter eventually arrived to a lineup of golf staff employees standing at attention. The occupants got out of the helicopter and to his dismay he noticed that it wasn't Zach Johnson but my previous employer who had called me a couple of hours previously to ask if it would be ok for him to fly in and have lunch at our club.

UNDER THE HOOD



FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS – GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

We are just back from the GCSAA Conference and Show in Las Vegas and the numbers are in. It was a very successful show and judging from superintendent's comments and feedback GCSAA has received members really enjoyed themselves. There was a nice blend of education, golf and social activities in one of the most active cities in the world. Superintendents stayed true to roots showing that they know

how to balance work and pleasure. Most of the education sessions were full and many that I attended had standing room only. We also received great feedback from our members on the education sessions and seminars.

The 2012 Golf Industry Show attracted 540 exhibitors spread across 177,300 net square feet of exhibit space over the two-day event at the Las Vegas Convention Center. That is slightly less than the 549 exhibitors (1.6 percent) and the 179,800 square feet (1.4 percent) than in Orlando last year. Total attendance was 14,706, down less than one-half of one percent (14,772) from last year. The decrease came in non-buyer registrants (guests, exhibitors, media down 327 from 2011) that offset increases in paying attendees. Both the GCSAA and NGCOA conference attendance totals were up, however. The most important barometer of show success, qualified buyer attendance, came in at 7,068 – a 2.6 percent increase over last year from Orlando and the most since the event was in Orlando in 2008.

As we get into the golf season a couple of reminders superintendents need to be aware of for 2012 and 2013. The NPDES permitting requirement is in effect and I encourage all superintendents to visit the Michigan EPA website for details. There is also a webcast on the GCSAA website from Jack Faulk of the Federal EPA addressing the NPDES permitting and talking about why it was implemented. I encourage all superintendents to take the time and listen to this important webcast. As far as the Michigan permit goes: the areas covered are:

Three uses of pest control are covered in separate permits:

- (1) forest canopy pest control;
- (2) larvae of mosquitoes and other flying insect pests,
- (3) "aquatic nuisance" control. An aquatic nuisance is defined as any weed, animal, bacteria or other organism that lives and/or propagates in water and impairs the use and enjoyment of waters.

Coverage by the State permit:

Yes, automatic coverage is extended to all applicators of authorized pesticides to control **forest insects or flying insect pests**, including mosquito in larval stages, that do not exceed annual treatment threshold, and that are not required to obtain a certificate of coverage (COC), like an NOI. Automatic coverage is extended to any person treating "aquatic nuisance" pests if all of the following criteria are met: (a) a waterbody does not have an outlet; (b) there is no record of a state or federal endangered or threatened species present; (c) a waterbody has a surface area of less than 10 acres; (d) the bottomlands of a waterbody are owned by either of the following: (i) a single person; (ii) more than 1 person and written permissions is obtained from each person.

Thresholds:

640 acres (larvae mosquitoes, forest canopies) Aquatic nuisance control conditions are more restrictive: a permit or COC must be obtained for all treatments of waters of the state for purposes of aquatic nuisance control, or waters of the state where the area of impact contains visible water at the time of chemical treatment, including visible water at the time of chemical treatment, including chemical treatment of the Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair where the area of impact is exposed bottomland located below the ordinary high tide mark.



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Included are: Waters of the State, surface, including the Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair

Latest: Michigan has postponed issuance of its final permit until 2012, for more information contact:

Jeff Fisher

MI DEQ 517-335-4188

The other issue is the FCC change that takes effect January 1, 2013 when all wide band frequencies used by such places as golf courses must be moved to narrow band frequencies. I will provide more information in the next writing but please research this as it will affect all golf courses and could be costly to you when making the change. You can get more information now at www.fcc.gov and use the quick link Universal Licensing System (ULS).

Best Wishes,
John Miller, CGCS



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Companion Biological Fungicide	4 fl oz Apply 1x per Month	-
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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THE BETTER HALF



TROY EVANS

Troy Evans has been the Assistant Superintendent at Bloomfield Hills Country Club for the last 5 years, and is the Assistant Liaison to the MiGCSA Board of Directors. But before that he got his start in the business after spending a summer working for an engineering company drawing mortgage surveys. He hated being inside so much it drove him crazy, so the following year he applied for some landscaping jobs, while waiting to hear from them I had an interview with a Pine Knob Golf Course and Superintendent Scot Gardiner and was offered the job to start right away. Troy has been married to his best friend Jody for 5 years and has 3 children Trent 11, Torie 7 and Breslyn 5. Troy graduated from MSU and went to work at Scalawags Country Club for Superintendent Bill Jackson

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

I was changing tee markers and the 10th tee is elevated and faces towards the east the sunrise was so awesome. I had to take a moment and soak it all in because it was so inspiring. The dew was perfectly spread across each blade of grass and there was some fog in the cool morning air the sun was burning through. That moment directed me toward my career in golf course maintenance.

2. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I have volunteered to represent the assistants on the MiGCSA board level and I am working towards getting assistants more involved and part of the organization.

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

Getting caught up in the search for becoming a Superintendent. Understanding that the role of the Superintendent can vary dramatically. Patience, hard work, and how we conduct our relationships with the staff along with the networks we create will pave our future to becoming a Superintendent.

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

It seems we are wearing more hats these days and need to be strong in all areas. Staff communication, water management, equipment technician, spray technician and even supervisor some days. While some public course have been forced to work without an assistant our future is being able to adapt while proving we can be a leader.

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

Scot Gardiner was the Superintendent who always would get in there and work with you, he gave me a great start and still to this day often gives good advice.

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

The Fountains in Clarkston, I grew up playing golf there and now I play on a Wednesday night league. The league is made up of a bunch of guys I grew up with and we have a lot of fun together. The Superintendent Galby has some of the best Greens around!

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

I believe the assistant is very important player in the maintenance staff. They should be a direct extension to the Superintendent and follow up with the crew to ensure everyone is together. Assistants should be able to offer up suggestions and understand that we all need to be able to adapt when priorities may change.

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

I would change how golfers expect pristine conditions with the emphasis placed on fast green speeds. The idea that green speeds dictates how the course played is astonishing to me. I believe that great greens should be firm enough to hold shots and will roll true when putted. Don't get me wrong, fast greens can be fun to play on but not the highlight of the course.

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

I would love to be a Country Music Song writer – singer. To perform for a crowd and have people sing your music I think would be an awesome feeling.

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

Due to the budgetary constraints we are not able to get to the detail maintenance as often as we would like. When you train your eye to pick out those details it's difficult not being able to complete them right away like we did in the past.

11. WOULD YOU RATHER BE A WELL-COMPENSATED ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OR A POORLY COMPENSATED SUPERINTENDENT?

I have been on both sides of that scenario and I will take being a well-compensated assistant. I really enjoy having the personnel and the equipment available to get the course groomed. It takes a special Superintendent to run a course without a mechanic or an assistant or with inadequate resources.

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

I would have to say between my wife and parents these 3 people have always shown their support for me. My parents gave me an awesome childhood and taught me life lessons weather I wanted them or not. My wife has been a great friend and the perfect soul mate.

13. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CAREER PATH?

A career in criminal justice was not going to pay enough. I loved working outside my first summer at Pine Knob and Scot Gardner took me under his wing and showed me the way. Thanks Too Tall!



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT TROY EVANS

1. I LOVE MEXICAN FOOD AND THEIR CULTURE.
2. I AM A PITTSBURGH STEELER FAN.
3. I AM TRAINING FOR A HALF MARATHON THIS YEAR AND COMPLETED A MINI TRIATHOLON IN 2007.
4. I MET MY WIFE IN DENVER WHILE ON MY INTERNSHIP AT CHERRY HILLS COUNTRY CLUB.
5. I COACHED MY SONS BASEBALL TEAM THE LAST 3 YEARS AND WE PLAYED IN THE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME EVERY YEAR. LAST YEAR WE WERE LEAGUE CHAMPS.





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THE SPRING OPENER AT THE MEADOWS AT GVSU



Ron Dahlin, CGCS answers questions.

It was a windy, windy day at The Meadows on April 16th but close to 50 members showed up to play in the annual Spring Opener. Our host was MiGCSA Past President Ron Dahlin, CGCS and his Assistant Jeff Bodziak. Before everyone headed out to the course Ron gave a brief presentation on the construction of the new short game area that was built with the help of Joe Hancock of Hancock Golf. This presentation was scheduled to happen on site at the practice area but the high wind forced it indoors. Ron spoke about the process and fielded questions from the group.

At 10:00 with wind gusts up to 50 mph we all headed out. This was a scramble event with 12 teams. The sideways rain started right as all the teams came in for the awards

ceremony presented by MiGCSA President Jay Eccleton, CGCS. There were two closest to the pin winners, Jason Doering on hole # 17 and Mike Levitt on #3. The long drive of the day went to Alex Greenacre, CGCS on hole # 14. In the team division third place went to the team of Bob Borgman, Kathy Antaya, CGCS Kevin Theilke, and Terry Remus with a 66 winning in a scorecard playoff. The second place team was Carl Metzner, CGCS, Luke Baker, and Dr. Kevin Frank they shot a 65. And the winning team of Joe Hancock, Richard Laux, Adam Ikamas, CGCS and Greg Pattinson shot a 63.

A special thanks again to the host Ron Dahlin, CGCS, Jeff Bodziak and their staff. And the staff at The Meadows for their fantastic hospitality, this includes Terry Sack, General Manager, Don Underwood, Head Golf Professional, and Byde Kephart Assistant Golf Professional. The next event in the Western District is the Western Golf Day at Wuskowhan Players Club in Holland on September 17th.



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DOLLAR SPOT | NECROTIC RING SPOT | GRAY LEAF SPOT | SNOW MOLD | OTHER PATCH DISEASES

A CALL FROM CAMPUS

MICRODOCHIUM PATCH: A MISUNDERSTOOD DISEASE

By J M Vargas Jr, Professor, Dept of Plant Pathology, MSU

Winter 2011 and Spring 2012

Needless to say this was a very mild winter and as such there was very little snow mold in general and where fungicides were applied they all worked for the most part. The best news was because of the mild winters there was no ice damage. Now we are having an early spring which is going to affect the annual bluegrass seed heads models. But all in all, it was a great winter for the health of the golf course and some early revenue for the operation of the golf courses.

Microdochium Patch

However, with the early spring come other problems, one of them being *Microdochium* patch caused by *Microdochium nivale*. Whereas it is a disease that can occur under snow cover, it also occurs without snow cover in the spring and fall of the year in Michigan. In a normal season, in southern Michigan an outbreak of *Microdochium* patch occurs sometime between the middle of May and the middle of June. In more northern areas of Michigan in milder summers the disease can be a problem from late spring through the fall. Too often about this time of year people are thinking about summer diseases and forget to make fungicide applications for *Microdochium* patch.

The ideal temperature range for this disease is between 60 and 70 degrees F. Most people tend to think the disease occurs at much cooler temperatures which is why people tend to not think about this disease at warmer temperatures. The other key for the development of *Microdochium* patch is prolong periods of rain fall when the temperatures are between 60 and 70 degrees F. If these conditions occur, or are forecast to occur, a fungicide application should be made to prevent significant turf loss from *Microdochium* patch.

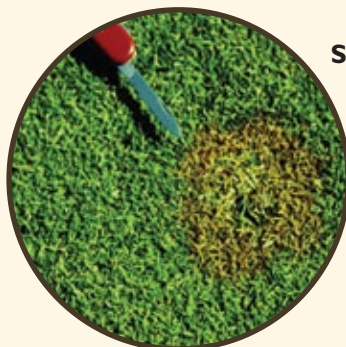


Pink mycelium of Microdochium nivale evident after snow melt.

Symptoms

When *Microdochium* patch occurs under snow cover, if the mycelium is present it appears pink in color following snow melt. Or it can appear as copper colored spot following snow melt. When it occurs in the late spring or early summer through the fall it appears as small copper

Typical copper-colored Microdochium patch occurring in the spring without snow cover.





Microdochium patch reoccurring in the spring in the outer margin of an old patch. Notice the creeping bentgrass plant in the center. Creeping bentgrass is not as susceptible to Microdochium patch as annual bluegrass.

spots. It can also be seen in the spring as copper colored ring surrounding older patches from winter damage.

Similar Symptoms

In addition to not being prepared for the disease in the milder weather the other problem has been the misidentification of *Microdochium* patch. I have had phone calls telling me they had copper spot, which is a disease of velvet bentgrass that occurs when the temperatures are in the mid 80's. I have had it called red leaf spot a warm weather disease of creeping bentgrass and

also *Pythium* blight." Doc you are not going to believe this but I have *Pythium* blight streaking up and down my fairways and the temperatures are in the 60's". *M. nivale* produce a lot of small spores and if you mow through patches of the disease during the morning when the disease is still active it will streak just like *Pythium* blight. So the take home message while *Microdochium* patch can be a snow mold fungus and occur under snow cover it is most active when the temperature are in the 60's accompanied by persistent rains.



Microdochium patch streaking down a fairway caused by mowing early in the morning while the disease was still active.



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ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

COMMUNITY

I have just returned from the 2012 Golf Industry Show in Las Vegas and it was as usual a great show and a fantastic effort from the staff and members of the GCSAA. I will leave all of the recap on numbers, qualified buyers and all of the metrics to measure a good conference to the GCSAA who are very capable to measure such things. I instead would like to talk about community, specifically our community of Golf Industry professionals. Because this is really what the Golf Industry Show, the GCSAA and the MiGCSA are here for, this is why we exist.

It has been talked about many times before the way we will help out a neighbor at a course down the road you directly compete with. Gladly share tips and equipment to someone in a time of need. As a Superintendent by trade I experienced this many times during my tenure in the trenches. But I have to wonder why this happens; it is certainly an anomaly among any other business or trades I have ever seen. To me it just seems like this is how it has always been and no one has seen a reason for it to change.

But why is it like this? Perhaps it is the solidarity of the industry, have you ever tried to explain to someone what it is you do? Even to other people in the golf business? It is not possible to really have a true conversation with someone who has not been in it. We have all been witness that moment when the listeners eyes start to glaze over as you try to explain almost anything we do to the depth of understanding we use to make decisions on a daily basis. Owners, golfers, pros, GM's they all are supportive (mostly) but I have yet found a way to get them to truly understand. To me this is why we are so apt to help one another; we have strong common threads that run between all of us regardless of budget and facility type. We know the predicament and possible outcomes in a 3 minute phone call with a pier that it would take an entire board meeting to explain to a committee.

It is my hope that the MiGCSA can be a catalyst in fostering more of these relationships. I would hope that everyone who is reading this has a strong relationship with the courses around them. But with the opportunities the MiGCSA offers for education and networking I cannot think of a better way to expand your group of others who truly get it. In 2012 there are some excellent chances to get out and network with your fellow professionals. These events should not be looked at as time away from work but as an integral part of your professional development.

This unique view on the world was really shown to me on February 23rd. I had seen many of these "what you think I do" posters floating around the internet so I decided there needed to be one for us. You can see what I came up with below. I then posted in on the MiGCSA Facebook page and was then floored by what happened next. Within in hours I was starting to see this on other people's pages. It made it to the GCSAA forum that day. As of today March 6th as I write this it has reached 6,126 people from the MiGCSA page alone, as far as the other

avenues there is no way to track it. I have had requests for the high resolution image from Sweden, Australia, Canada, China, The Middle East, and all over the United States. I even heard reports of it being used in presentations at the GIS. It is an amazing time in communication, and if I did not believe it before this has really shown me what can be done. If you would like a high resolution version of this please contact me at adamikamas@migcsa.org.

Adam Ikamas

Adam Ikamas, CGCS
MiGCSA Executive Director



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