


COURSEconditions

FEATURING
JACK THOMASMA



You wouldn't
use a race car
to measure
green speed.

With Secure™, you no longer need to use systemic fungicides in place of contact disease protection.

Introducing Secure™ fungicide, a game changing multi-site contact that is the perfect rotation partner to Daconil Action™. Secure is the only registered fungicide for turf in FRAC group 29 and has no known resistance and low risk of future resistance. With Secure, you now have the contacts you need to complete your disease management program. Secure. Your rotation, your way.

greencastonline.com/secure

Gerald (Jerry) E Husemann
Senior Sales Specialist II

Phone: (937) 492-8597

Cell: (937) 604-5617

E-mail: gerald.husemann@basf.com



Now available in fairway size.



Honor® Intrinsic™ brand fungicide is available in a new, more efficient, fairway-sized, 36 lb. keg. Now you can use it throughout your fairway for a consistent foundation of protection, disease control, and plant health benefits, no matter what nature dishes out. Rooted in resilience, its formula helps create the perfect defense against environmental stresses like heat, drought, and sun. And its dual mode of action controls the toughest turfgrass diseases.

Take acres of worry off your mind. Find out more at IntrinsicPlantHealth.com.

BASF
The Chemical Company

Always read and follow label directions.

Honor is a registered trademark and Intrinsic is a trademark of BASF. ©2013 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved.

COURSECONDITIONS

FEATURING
JACK THOMASMA
THE GOLF CLUB AT
THORNAPPLE POINTE

MAHER WINS 2013 STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

BUILDING A SECURE
PATH TO RETIREMENT

THE 29TH ANNUAL TUCK TATE
CHAMPIONSHIP

WESTERN GOLF DAY
FUNDRAISER

Gerald (Jerry) E Husemann
Senior Sales Specialist II

Phone: (937) 492-8597

Cell: (937) 604-5617

E-mail: gerald.husemann@basf.com



Now available in fairway size.



Honor® Intrinsic™ brand fungicide is available in a new, more efficient, fairway-sized, 36 lb. keg. Now you can use it throughout your fairway for a consistent foundation of protection, disease control, and plant health benefits, no matter what nature dishes out. Rooted in resilience, its formula helps create the perfect defense against environmental stresses like heat, drought, and sun. And its dual mode of action controls the toughest turfgrass diseases.

Take acres of worry off your mind. Find out more at IntrinsicPlantHealth.com.

BASF
The Chemical Company

Always read and follow label directions.

Honor is a registered trademark and Intrinsic is a trademark of BASF. ©2013 BASF Corporation. All rights reserved.

CONTENTS

4 MiGCSA Membership Report

5 President's Perspective

8 Maher Wins MiGCSA State Championship

8 Calendar of Events

11 Oakland Hills Shop Talk

13 Golf Business Conference:
Come for Change!

18 Western Golf Day Fundraiser

23 2014 Michigan Turfgrass
Conference

24 From National, GCSAA
Update

29 The 29th Annual Tuck Tate
Championship

29 Assistant Superintendent
Training Day

30 A Call From Campus

34 Association Update

14



*Jack Thomasma, Superintendent,
The Golf Club at Thornapple Pointe*

6



*Building a Secure Path
To Retirement*

26



*Ron Betz,
Assistant Superintendent,
WestWynd Golf Club*



COURSE CONDITIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT
GREG PATTINSON-2013
Mid-Class A
Indianwood Country Club

VICE PRESIDENT
GREGG MATTHEWS -2013
Detroit-Class A
Tam O Shanter Country Club

**SECRETARY/
TREASURER**
JEFF HOLMES, CGCS-2014
Western-Class A
Egypt Valley C.C.

PAST PRESIDENT
JAY ECCLETON, CGCS-2014
Mid-Class A
The Emerald

BOARD MEMBERS	BRAD FRY-2013 Western-Class A Harbor Shores Golf Club	PHIL OWEN, CGCS-2015 Mid-Class A Warwick Hills C.C.
	DAN DINGMAN - 2014 Detroit-Class A Birmingham Country Club	MIKE ROSEN-2015 Northern-Class A Ostego Club
	DAVID J. PAWLUX, CGCS - 2016 Detroit-Class A The Inn at St. Johns	JUSTIN BICKEL - 2014 Northern — Class A The Dream and The Nightmare
	MARK OSTRANDER-2015 Western-Class A The Moors G.C.	
	JIM BLUCK, CGCS-2013 Northern-Class A Forest Dunes	

**ASSISTANT
LIAISON**
TROY EVANS — 2015
Detroit-Class C
Bloomfield Hills Country Club

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE	JUSTIN BICKEL Chairman	DAN MAUSOLF MIKE MAUSOLF COLLIN ROMANICK ROB STEGER JEFF SWEET, CGCS
	ERIC RANK Vice Chairman	

COURSE CONDITIONS STAFF

DESIGNER AND EDITOR
Cuppa' Jo Design
info@CuppaJoDesign.com

EDITOR
Adam Ikamas, CGCS
adamikamas@migcsa.org

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 11/04/13

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	FALL 2012 MEMBERSHIP
Class AA	29	28
Class A	237	230
Class SM	68	64
Class C	100	92
Class D	35	38
Class E	16	17
Class AFF	157	146
Class H	27	25
Class SA	28	26
Class R	10	7
Class I	0	1
TOTAL	707	674

Please log in to your account at www.migcsa.org to renew your membership for 2013. If you are unsure of your status contact us at info@migcsa.org or 1-888-3-MiGCSA.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



GREG PATTINSON

What a great summer to be a golf course superintendent. I can only remember one hot week in July where the temperatures were consistently in the 90's. Plenty of cool nights that helped the irrigation soak in. Not too much hand watering to do, but boy did the grass grow! Multiple people in the industry made the comment this summer that their turf was too healthy and they were having a hard time keeping up with mowing. The flip side is hot and dry weather and fighting every day to get some growth. I choose more mowing.

With each season the conditions change and this requires us to adapt to different conditions. With each problem that we solve or change that we make, it gives us experience and knowledge to be able to handle these problems more efficiently in the future. There are people in our industry that are trying new things that we would have shied away from in years past, some work and some do not.

The key is that we share this information with our fellow industry partners and spread the knowledge to our respected associations. We do this by attending seminars during the year to see the latest and greatest research that is happening at MSU. We attend the Michigan Turf Conference in Lansing to see the research presentations and fellow superintendents that present to the attendees. We attend events and share information over a steak and a beer after a great round of golf. We let our Industry Partners or vendors know what is working and what is not and they spread the word for us.

The point that I am trying to make is that WE are all in this together and this association, The MiGCSA, is a very powerful tool for all of us to use and benefit from. The MiGCSA strives to see to it that there is value in being a member, value in being an industry partner and value in advertising as a small company. Our board is very interested in your opinions and welcomes all suggestions.

I hope the year has treated you well and that your courses get put to bed as you had hoped they would. Most people outside of our industry do not understand the support that we receive from our families during the season. Take the down time that may be upon you to enjoy your families and loved ones.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Greg Pattinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Greg" and last name "Pattinson" clearly distinguishable.

Greg Pattinson

BUILDING A SECURE PATH TO RETIREMENT

WHAT STEPS SHOULD YOU TAKE ALONG THE WAY?

PROVIDED BY: MIKE MEINDERTSMA, NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL

The definition of financial security changes as we age: The needs and wants of a newly married 30-year old are, not surprisingly, very different from those of a 70-year-old retiree. There is one thing that stays the same, however: planning and achieving your retirement goals is a lifetime process — one that requires you to first build assets and manage retirement risks for the future, and then to turn those assets into a stream of income in retirement that will last as long as you need it to.

To understand how these steps work throughout your life, consider the following:

Stage 1: Saving for Retirement

The key to affording the lifestyle you want in the future is maximizing your savings opportunities now. That's because, by saving as much as you can, as soon as you can, you can put time on your side. Time to plan, time to weather market cycles and, most importantly, time to let your savings and their earnings grow and compound.

The specific investment strategy you use to maximize your savings will vary with your age. In general, the younger you are, the more aggressive your investments can be. How can you get on the right retirement path? Consider the following steps.

1. **Build an emergency fund.** Aim to set aside at least six months of living expenses in a savings or money market account for emergency needs.
2. **Make sure you're covered.** If you haven't signed up for health insurance at work, do so at the first opportunity. The same goes for life insurance and/or disability income protection.
3. **Maximize your contributions.** If you have a retirement plan at work, contribute at least as much as you need to take advantage of any matching contributions your employer may offer.
4. **Prepare a basic estate plan.** A will and durable powers of attorney for finances and health care can help ensure your needs and those of your loved ones are met should something unforeseen happen.



Stage 2: Approaching Retirement (10-15 years before retirement)

As you approach retirement, begin to focus on the kind of lifestyle you want. Share your dreams with your spouse; now is the time to work out any differences you may have about how you'd like to spend your time once you stop working.

Financial experts often recommend that you "practice" for retirement. For example, if you're thinking about relocating to a warmer climate, try visiting there several times – and not just during high season. What other key issues should you consider?

1. **Take stock of insurance.** Make sure your coverage is sufficient to maintain your family's lifestyle should something happen to you. This includes addressing future long-term care needs.
2. **Save whatever you can.** If you are age 50 or older, take advantage of catch-up contributions that allow you to sock away extra money in your employer sponsored plan and/or IRA.
3. **Rebalance your assets.** Transition a portion of your higher-risk investments into less volatile (and usually lower returning) assets to help protect the wealth you've worked hard to build.
4. **Review and update your estate plan.** Update the beneficiary designations for your insurance, investment/retirement plans, and any guaranteed income annuities.

you may have. Also review your will and your financial and health care powers of attorney.

Stage 3: Entering Retirement (3-5 years before retirement)

For many, retirement represents a new and exciting chapter in their lives. To prepare, you'll need to shift from accumulating assets to creating a plan that turns your savings into a steady stream of income that supports your lifestyle for the rest of your life. Consider these steps to get started:

1. **Create a budget.** Calculate your needs (essential expenses) and wants (discretionary expenses) to determine exactly how much money you'll need to live on; then identify your sources of retirement income. The goal is to match your essential expenses with guaranteed sources of income.
2. **Research Medicare and other health care options.** Also review your survivor needs as well as long-term care protection arrangements. This is especially important if you plan on retiring early.
3. **Transition your portfolio.** Continue to shift assets to more conservative options. Keep at least a few growth investments to help protect against inflation and the increasing cost of living.
4. **Know your options.** Speak with your benefits department at work to understand your options with regard to your pension or retirement plan. Among other things, you'll need to decide whether to rollover your 401(k) assets into an IRA or keep them in the 401(k).

Stage 4: Living in Retirement

Retirement planning doesn't end once you stop working—your needs and wants, the economy and the financial markets are likely to change over time. As a result, it's crucial to review your retirement plan on a regular basis.

1. **Set up an account to manage expenses.** Consider putting enough money into a money market account or cash reserve to cover your expenses for up to two years. This can help ensure you don't have to tap investments during periods of market volatility.
2. **Develop a distribution strategy.** Work with your financial advisor to determine a reasonable withdrawal rate, then decide which retirement assets to use and when. Remember, the order in which you withdraw funds can have a significant impact on taxes. Your advisor can help you make these decisions too.
3. **Fine-tune your asset allocation.** Make any needed adjustments to ensure your portfolio continues to reflect your risk profile and life expectancy.
4. **Review your estate plan.** Take a careful look to make sure your estate plan protects you and your heirs and that it benefits the people and organizations that you intend.

Financial security is the confidence that comes from taking action today to provide for tomorrow. It's an ongoing process during which you should be disciplined but flexible to adapt to changes over time. Working with a qualified financial professional can help you manage these decisions as you approach, enter and live in retirement.



Mike Meindertsma graduated from Michigan State University in 1985, with a degree in Business Finance. Upon graduation he enrolled in the two year Turf Management program at Michigan State, which he completed in 1987.

Mike began his career as an Assistant Superintendent at Grand Traverse Resort, and worked through the ranks to ultimately become Director of Golf and Grounds at Grand Traverse Resort. Along the way, he spent time at High Pointe Golf Club and KSL Recreation. He is a current MiGCSA member and he also served as a Board Member and President from 1993-1994 of the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association. He left the golf industry in 2005 to begin a career in the Financial Services industry with Northwestern Mutual. In 2009, he was appointed Managing Director of his District Network Office.

Mike works with individuals and businesses throughout Michigan. Mike's areas of expertise include investments, life insurance, long term care planning and disability insurance. His process with his clients includes providing a plan that addresses each client's unique goals and objectives for financial security.

Northwestern Mutual is the marketing name for The Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI (NM) (life and disability insurance, annuities) and its subsidiaries. Northwestern Mutual Financial Network is the marketing name for the sales and distribution arm of NM. Michael John Meindertsma is an District Agent of NM and Northwestern Long Term Care Insurance Company, Milwaukee, WI, (long-term care insurance) a subsidiary of NM, and a Registered Representative of Northwestern Mutual Investment Services, LLC (NMIS) (securities), a subsidiary of NM, broker-dealer and member FINRA and SIPC.

MAHER WINS MIGCSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MiGCSA) has a new State Champion. On August 19th MiGCSA Members came to The Emerald Golf Course in St. Johns, MI to compete in the 6th annual MiGCSA State Championship. The host Superintendent at The Emerald is Class SM member Troy Looney, and the General Manager is MiGCSA Past President Jay Eccleton, CGCS and the Equipment Technician is MiGCSA Member Bill Brantley.

The event started at 11:00 with blue skies, low wind and perfect conditions. Defending 2012 State Champion Eric Davey, Class A from Prestwick Village Golf Club was on hand to defend his title. But in the end MiGCSA Class SM Member Shaun Maher's even par 72 was one shot better than two time champion Dr. Kevin Frank and two shots better than three time Tuck Tate Champion Jim Higgs.

The team competition was a 2 of 4 net best ball. The winning team of Mike Thorsen, Greg Bishop, Jeff Naeyaert and Alex Greenacre shot a 120. The 2013 low net champion was Dave Pawluk, CGCS from The Inn at St. Johns.



2013 State Champion Shaun Maher.



The winning team.



2013 Low Net Champion Dave Pawluk, CGCS.

2013 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2nd - 4th, 2013	Michigan Golf Business Annual Conference & Vendor Fair (Amway Grand, Grand Rapids)
December 5th, 2013	Breakfast Roundtable (Birmingham Country Club, Birmingham)
December 6th, 2013	Mid Holiday Party (River Rock Bar & Grill, Holly)
December 6th, 2013	Western Holiday Party (Cascades Sports Grill, Grand Rapids)
December 13th, 2013	Detroit Holiday Party (The Moose Preserve, Bloomfield Hills)
January 13th - 15th	Michigan Turfgrass Conference (Kellogg Center, East Lansing)
February 1st - 6th	Golf Industry Show (Orange Country Convention Center, Orlando)
February 5th	Michigan Gathering (Millers Ale House, Orlando)

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

It's all in your solution!

Healthy turf begins in the soil.



- **Thicker Deeper Roots**
- **Thatch Reduction**
- **Increased Fertilizer Performance**
- **Soil Moisture Management**
- **Consistent Color With No Growth Surge**

TRI-TURF

For orders call Tri-Turf at 800-636-7039

www.holganix.com/solution

 **HOLGANIX**[®]
The Natural Green Solution[™]

(866) 56-EARTH

54 Conchester Rd - Glen Mills PA 19342

Living Indigenous
Micro-Organisms, Compost Tea
Extract, Humic and Fulvic Acids,
Kelp, Gluten, Endomycorrhizae,
Ectomycorrhizae, Nitrogen Fixing
Bacteria, Normal Flora, Protozoa,
Beneficial Nematodes, Tea Tree Oil,
Saccharomyces cerevisiae,
Polysaccharide, Yucca Extract, Milky
Spore Developer, Amino Acid,
Chitinase, Auxin, Streptomyces,
Trichoderma, Lignin Polymers,
Calcium, Copper, Zinc, Iron,
Molybdenum, Boron Magnesium.

ICE, WIND AND SNOW, BAD! STRONG, HEALTHY TURF, GOOD!

Give your turf a phiting chance this winter with these solutions from Turf Fuel.



Turf Fuel Phite 0-0-26

Thicken cell walls and harden off your turf. Be prepared for winter's worst. Applying Turf Fuel Phite in October and November helps your turf prepare for a deep sleep.

\$26
PER ACRE



Greens Phite w/ PASS 0-0-24

All the plant health benefits of Turf Fuel Phite, plus get the added benefit of 1% silica for increased resistance against disease, desiccation and winter injury.

\$34
PER ACRE



AVAILABLE EXCLUSIVELY FROM **ResideX**



OAKLAND HILLS SHOP TALK

The Assistant Committee Shop Talk at Oakland Hills Country Club was very successful with twenty participants in attendance. Half of the group was comprised of students from the Michigan State University Turfgrass Program. The Shop Talk included a walk-through of the maintenance facility followed by a golf course tour of the North Course construction project.

The tour started by overlooking the fifteenth hole, which involves the bulk of the work for the project. Hole fifteen includes the construction of a new pond, bunkering, drainage, fairway shaping and grassing. Major topics of discussion were the various problems that occurred during construction and potential changes that may have been made in retrospect.

From hole fifteen the group assembled on hole sixteen where plugs were used from hollow tine fairway aerification to expand the approach and green. Timing, tine size and labor hours were a point of emphasis as well as the pros and cons of plugs versus seed or sod. The expansion was one hundred percent complete at the time of the event.

After hole sixteen a new bunker was looked at on hole number seven. At this time the group discussed a more broad sense of what it meant to be an assistant superintendent and more specifically what the role of an assistant superintendent at Oakland Hills Country Club entailed. The group discussed resumes, first time interviews, and the details of taking an assistant superintendent position, spray technician, or irrigation technician position after graduating from the turfgrass program. Overall the event included a good mix of people from all experience levels in the industry and everyone provided great discussion topics.





Grow Your Savings Today

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

Contact your local Direct Solutions sales representative to see how much you can save:

Dave Gedeon

(440)225-6032
dgedeon@agriumat.com

Dan Johanningsmeier

(810)559-7619
djohannings@agriumat.com

Terry Kramer

(989)488-3385
tkramer@agriumat.com

Paul Osborn

(616)307-9671
posborn@agriumat.com

Dave Polen

(586)839-8930
dpolen@agriumat.com

Tim Suter

(419)356-5141
tsuter@agriumat.com

Rob Traver

(734)621-2991
rtraver@agriumat.com



To learn more visit www.aatdirectsolutions.com



Have you heard?

Early Order Program is going on now!

Save on trusted products you need most from:

- BASF, Bayer, Syngenta, Dow, and FMC.
- PLUS Harrell's premium branded products- Harrell's MAX®, Bio-MAX, HydroMAX®, SprayMAX and Profertilizer blends with Polyon®

*Lock in current pricing • Receive extended terms • Ask about warehousing
Call your sales representative today*



Andy Gilroy
SE MI
586-917-3851



Marc McCoy
Western/Mid MI
616-902-6196



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

800.282.8007

www.harrells.com

GOLF BUSINESS CONFERENCE: COME FOR CHANGE!

KATE MOORE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MGCOA

Michigan's premier education program for golf business comes to Amway Grand in December



Is it time to change? The Michigan Golf Business Conference is for anyone in our industry from operators, golf professionals, superintendent, owners, golf marketers, you name it.

Two powerhouse keynote speakers will challenge us to think it just might be. Opening the Michigan Golf Business Conference and Vendor Fair this December is a national marketing icon Mike Veeck. Veeck will challenge us to put fun back in the workplace because "when fun is good... performance is better." This simple approach can bring out the best in your employees and keep customers coming back for more. Following Veeck are two days filled with education on marketing, player development, legal issues, website optimization, tips from superintendents, property tax issues and more. Chief capitol correspondent Tim Skubick will enlighten and entertain us on everything political, and we will round out the conference with a closing keynote from the leader in golf development strategies, Jim Baugh.

The Michigan Golf Business Conference begins with a Pure Michigan reception on Monday, December 2 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Tuesday experience "The Power to Change Yourself" with Mike Veeck sandwiched between education sessions, the Vendor Fair exhibits and concluding with a Town Hall style reception and entertainment featuring Tim Skubick.

Wake up Wednesday morning to MIGCSA's Adam Ikamas who, along with Debbie Swartz, will teach us a thing or two about "why the superintendent does that." Then more education, a fantastic luncheon banquet and the PGA and Golf 20/20 expert Jim Baugh's "The Power to Change Your Industry."

Conference pricing is very affordable so multiple participants from your golf course can attend. For more information and to register, please visit www.mgcoa.org.

To learn more about this and other programs at the MGCOA contact Kate Moore (800) 860-8575 or kmoore@mgcoa.org.

A FULL ROUND



JACK THOMASMA

Jack Thomsma has been the Golf Course Superintendent at The Golf Club at Thornapple Pointe for 17 years, but he started in the golf business running the pro shop at Candlestone Golf Course in Belding. His entrance into the maintenance side was at Jupiter Hills Country Club in Tequesta Florida where he raked bunker edges under the watchful eye of George Fazio. Jack is a 1988 graduate from MSU and has been married to his wife Brigitte for 21 years, they have four kids Jack III (20), Stephanie (17), Blake (12), and Heidi (10)

WHAT COURSE DID YOU GO TO AFTER COLLEGE?

Battle Creek Country Club as an assistant to Steve Glossinger.

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

Hard work and passion for the job opens doors.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Keeping that (doggone) irrigation system working properly.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Trying to get the same quality with shrinking budgets.

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

Dealing with water use restrictions, and environmental issues and restrictions.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

On the back of the driving range trying to figure out Hogan's supination and pronation.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

#5 at Crystal Downs. **What is your favorite golf course that you have played?** Cypress Point Golf Club in California. **What is the toughest golf course you have played?** Royal Portrush in Northern Ireland in 40-50 mph winds. **What golf course would you love to experience once in your lifetime?** Saint Andrews or Augusta

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

I danced with the girl I brung - did the best with what I had.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

Dennis Webber at Frenchman's Creek Country Club in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

I would say my parents. My Dad who always pushed us to be better in everything we do. And my Mom, who stressed keeping our nose to the grindstone along with a good work ethic. And, above all, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



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

Ben Hogan, Byron Nelson, and Bobby Jones - they could flat out play.

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

The Superintendent can make an average course seem like a very good course by the way it is maintained.

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

An Assistant must have a desire to learn and have a passion for the profession.

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

Absolutely essential to have a top notch mechanic that is self-motivated.

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

Our 300 gallon sprayer. **What piece of equipment would you like to add to your arsenal for golf course management?** A 15 blade greens mower. **What is the oldest piece of equipment that is still being utilized in your fleet?** A Canadian built hydraulic dump trailer - can't wear it out.

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

1 full timer, our mechanic Lloyd Seese, 8 seasonal and 5 part time seasonal. **Who makes you laugh the most on your crew?** Howard, our 80 year old rough mower operator

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

Not only is walking easier on the course but it is better for one's game as well it offers you more time to think about the next shot.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?

Not keeping all four wheels on the cart path.

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

The need for speed is costly and exhausting but, oh my, is golf a whole lot more fun when they are fast!

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

We had a new guy on the crew in Florida and his first assignment was walk mowing greens. The superintendent instructed the greens mowers to do circles that morning (meaning a clean up pass). This guy proceeded to start at the outside perimeter of the green and worked his way into the center, like a perfect bullseye. He walked all the way into the shop and asked how to get the mower off of the green without ruining the mowing lines.



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT JACK THOMASMA

1. I WAS BORN IN KILLEEN, TEXAS
2. I WAS IN SPORTS ILLUSTRATED FOR HAVING 2 HOLES IN ONE IN TWO CONSECUTIVE ROUNDS AT THE OLD GREENRIDGE COUNTRY CLUB.
3. I ACTUALLY SNUCK ON PINE VALLEY GOLF CLUB WITH A FRIEND, GOT CAUGHT, AND LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT.
4. I HAVE BEEN IN JACK NICKLAUS'S HOUSE AND HAVE SEEN ALL OF HIS TROPHIES.
5. MY FAVORITE TV SHOW IS COLUMBO (WHICH IS ABOUT 40 YEARS OLD).



A Textron Company

www.ezgo.com

Utility Vehicles

**Supplying all your golf
course needs**

Spartan 
Distributors

487 West Division Street
Sparta, MI 49345

1050 North Opdyke Road
Auburn Hills, MI 48326

800-822-2216
www.spartandistributors.com



Spartan Distributors, was very instrumental in getting Governor Rick Snyder and the State of Michigan to proclaim July as "Smart Irrigation Month."

Irrigation Solutions



Turf Equipment



Count on it.

www.toro.com



FORM FOLLOWS...

Golf courses are more than just places to play a sport. They are designed landscapes. Some would even say “works of art”. More than other sports venues, such as stadiums, arenas, and even ski slopes, golf courses rely on the visual

character of its forms to create the excitement and the drama people pay to experience. Ski slopes utilize moguls, and take advantage of magnificent views, but it is rare that skiers notice or appreciate the form of the ski slope for other than its utilitarian purpose. There is no online forum based on the critical analysis of ski slope design i.e. SkiClubAtlas. Golf courses, on the other hand, are truly canvasses on which designers exhibit their art. It is difficult to not notice the forms present on a golf course.

Trained as a landscape architect, and always interested in art, over the past twenty years I have paid particular attention to the forms created on golf courses, in addition to the shot values, playability and functional aspects. I have always been curious as to why the shapes on a golf course have come to fruition. And, the longer I am in this profession, the more I have come to realize the myriad of ways in which form comes to life via the golf course design and construction process.

In fact, during the construction of a golf course, there is a unique position on the construction team, called the “shaper”. It is through the shaper, that the designer of the golf course creates the form envisioned. This relationship between designer and shaper is critical to the outcome of the golf course. Some designers rely heavily on the creativity of the shaper, and some designers actually do the shaping themselves. Using the analogy of a movie production, with the designer being the writer, and the shaper being the actor, some golf courses are created using a definitive script, and others are done more via improvisation. Both methods are able to produce excellent final products, although proponents of each will debate the efficacy of each style.

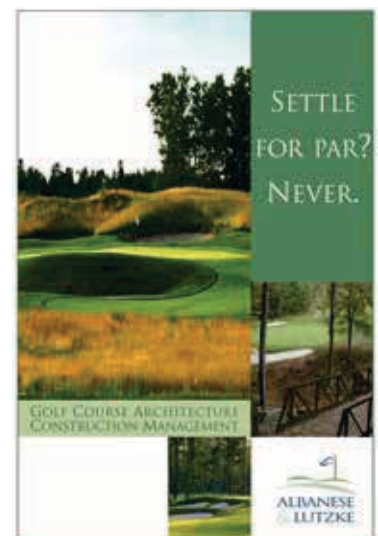
If one reads about golf course design (or the promotional materials of architects), they will recognize the lingo of golf course design form. The most common description of golf course form is: natural versus artificial. But, even within these two design theories, there is nuanced detail. Take the idea of

“natural” design and form. What does that really mean? Does it mean take cues from nature? Or, literally use the natural site as the basis for the form? If a design is natural, should the form of the tee boxes be square? (If so, what part of nature is being emulated?) Does growing turf in a desert constitute natural design? If a design is intentionally artificial or man-made, then from where do the forms originate? What is their genesis? These are the questions that interest me, and there is not space here to even begin the discussion.

The form of golf is ever evolving. The early pioneers of golf design, back in the mid to late 1800s in Scotland, had very little opportunity to affect form. So, in fact, the natural land gave form to the golf course. Then the Golden Age Architects figured out how to move a little dirt, and the forms of golf changed. The mechanization of WWII brought with it machines that again created new forms on golf landscapes. The economics of the 1970s caused the forms to evolve, as did the excesses of the 80s. And, the new age architects of this century, who have taken cues from the Golden Age designers, have once again brought new form to golf.

The form and shapes of a golf course are truly the essence of a golf course. A golf course’s formal character provides the visual interest and beauty that golfers cherish, whether they realize the details or not. Possibly, golfers may even appreciate the formal aspects of a golf course more than the enjoyment and challenge created by the sport itself. Golf design, like all art, will continue to evolve. And, it will continue to fascinate me.

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. Feel free to email Paul at paul@golf-designs.com or visit their website at www.golf-designs.com



WESTERN GOLF DAY FUNDRAISER

On September 23rd Egypt Valley Country Club hosted the Annual Western Golf Day Fundraiser. Jeff Holmes, CGCS Superintendent and MiGCSA Secretary/Treasurer was our host for the day. The weather was perfect and so was the golf course thanks to Members Josh Teitsma and Kevin Thielke, Cody Korenstra, Andrew Dykstra and the entire staff.

This event was made possible thanks in large part because of the support of the 2013 Premiere Foundation Sponsors Syngenta and Scott Trbovich, Bayer & Rob Pylar, BASF & Jerry Husemann, Tri-Turf & Paul Richter, FIP Irrigation & Derek Carroll, LaFontaine Automotive & Matt & Gordie LaFontaine.

The Hole Sponsors were on #1 Spartan Distributors, #10 VB Controls, #13 J.W. Turf and #15 Residex. The Beverage stations at The Putting Green were sponsored by Helena and on hole #17 Bond Fluidaire Inc.

At the awards reception Jim Johnson, Director of Environmental Programs from the Michigan Department of Agriculture addressed the attendees with some of the exciting things happening with the MTESP 2.0 initiative. And John Miller, CGCS GCSAA Great Lakes Field Staff updated the group on the continuing efforts of the GCSAA on behalf of their members. Carey Mitchelson, MTF Vice President and Dr. Kevin Frank gave updates on the research that is continuing to lead the way at the Hancock Center at MSU.

This was a scramble event with proximity markers on all of the par 3's and two long drives thanks to the 6 Premiere Foundation Sponsors. The winners were #2 Luke Palm, #5 Steve Rebhan, #7 Kevin Thielke, #11 Shawn Pranger, #12 Andrew Dykstra and #16 Mike Tichvon. Kevin Thielke also won the Residex long drive on hole #15 for \$100 in Residex Bucks. There was a poker game thanks to Chad Kempf on hole #5 the winning team of Jay Eccleton, CGCS, Marc McCoy, Mark Ostrander, and Jason Farah had a full house Kings over 5's. The 50/50 pot was won by Bill Hull.

The winning teams were 3rd place Paul Richter, Mike Leavitt, Craig Kooienga, and Shaun Pranger 2nd place went to A.J. Rings, Ryan Osborn, Keith Patterson and Gabe Ross. The first place team of Bryan Boeve, Jake Lombardo, Brad Liske and John Young shot a 57.



Josh Teitsma, Cody Korenstra, Kevin Thielke, and Andrew Dykstra with their host plaque



Jim Johnson, Director of Environmental Programs from the Michigan Department of Agriculture



John Miller, CGCS GCSAA Great Lakes Field Staff.

THANK YOU 2013 PREMIERE FOUNDATION SPONSORS



GREAT LAKES TURF LLC

Rooted in Science

*Periodic Table
Atomic Properties of the Elements*

Atomic Properties of the Elements

Group	1	2																13	14	15	16	17	18
IA	IIA																	IIIA	IVA	VA	VIA	VIIA	VIIIA
1	2																	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	H Hydrogen																	5	C Carbon	N Nitrogen	O Oxygen	F Fluorine	Ne Neon
2	3	4																13	14	15	16	17	18
2	Li Lithium	Be Beryllium																Al Aluminum	Si Silicon	P Phosphorus	S Sulfur	Cl Chlorine	Ar Argon
3	11	12																13	14	15	16	17	18
3	Na Sodium	Mg Magnesium																Al Aluminum	Si Silicon	P Phosphorus	S Sulfur	Cl Chlorine	Ar Argon
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	
4	K Potassium	Ca Calcium	Sc Scandium	Ti Titanium	V Vanadium	Cr Chromium	Mn Manganese	Fe Iron	Co Cobalt	Ni Nickel	Cu Copper	Zn Zinc	Ga Gallium	Ge Germanium	As Arsenic	Se Selenium	Br Bromine	Kr Krypton					
5	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	
5	Rb Rubidium	Sr Strontium	Y Yttrium	Zr Zirconium	Nb Niobium	Mo Molybdenum	Tc Technetium	Ru Ruthenium	Rh Rhodium	Pd Palladium	Ag Silver	Cd Cadmium	In Indium	Sn Tin	Sb Antimony	Te Tellurium	I Iodine	Xe Xenon					
6	55	56		72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	
6	Cs Cesium	Ba Barium		Hf Hafnium	Ta Tantalum	W Tungsten	Re Rhenium	Os Osmium	Ir Iridium	Pt Platinum	Au Gold	Hg Mercury	Tl Thallium	Pb Lead	Bi Bismuth	Po Polonium	At Astatine	Rn Radon					
7	87	88		104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112											
7	Fr Francium	Ra Radium		Rf Rutherfordium	Db Dubnium	Sg Seaborgium	Bh Bohrium	Hs Hassium	Mt Meitnerium	Uun Ununium	Uuu Ununium	Uub Unbium											

Elements essential to plant health

Atomic Number

Symbol

Elements essential to plant health

*Symptoms of nutrient deficiency include:
Chlorosis, necrosis, stunted tillering,
lack of growth or even loss of stand resulting
in soil erosion.*

*Photosynthesis
energy: $6\text{CO}_2 + 6\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6\text{O}_2$*



Growing turfgrass is a science. Maintaining it in formidable conditions is an art. The stress of extreme mowing heights, suffocating heat and humidity, shade, water and nutritional challenges makes your turfgrass dependent on you for its very survival.

And this is where Floratine shines. Our patented, first-in-class foliar and soil-based technologies maximize nutrient uptake when your turf, and budget need it most. The finest ingredients in the world ensure that your turfgrass will conserve precious energy while retaining vital nutrients.

Floratine's highly-educated distribution network, spanning 30 countries. Providing you the tools to keep you and your turfgrass rooted in solutions.

Visit our award-winning website to learn more about our solutions and find a Floratine distributor near you.
www.floratina.com

Mike Plague (586) 915-9281
Dave Creager (586) 944-7784
John Cooney (248) 762-9271
Marty Miller (248) 739-2796
Jim Johnson (616) 292-0260
Steve Shane (231) 883-8334
Jeff Knoblock (231) 288-2753

Dynamic integration.

That's intelligent.



Rain Bird®
ISS System™

Improve turf health,
course consistency
and playability

To learn more, contact your local
Rain Bird Representative today!

Toll Free: 888-907-5535
Email: rbiservices@rainbird.com
Online: <https://golfstore.rainbird.com>

RAIN BIRD®

The Choice is Clear



Choose Rain Bird Pump Station For:

- Improved Smart Pump 2 Controls with Enhanced Display
- Integrating with Irrigation Software for Maximum Efficiency
- Accessing Controls Anywhere with Your Tablet or Smart Phone

Crystal Downs Country Club, Frankfort, MI – Rain Bird Pump Station Installation 2013

Lincoln Hills Golf Club, Ludington, MI – Rain Bird Pump Station Installed 2008

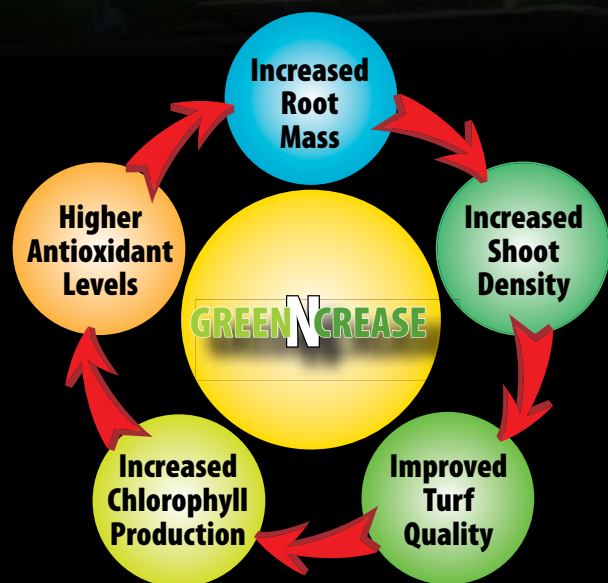
**To learn more, contact your local
Rain Bird Representative today!**

Toll Free: 888-907-5535
Email: rbiservices@rainbird.com
Online: <https://golfstore.rainbird.com>



GREENNCREASE

Say Hello to GreenNcrease
and Goodbye to Stressed Out Turf!



GreenNcrease rate effects on creeping bentgrass drought resistance. 2009.
Ervin, E.H. and X. Zhang. Virginia Tech.



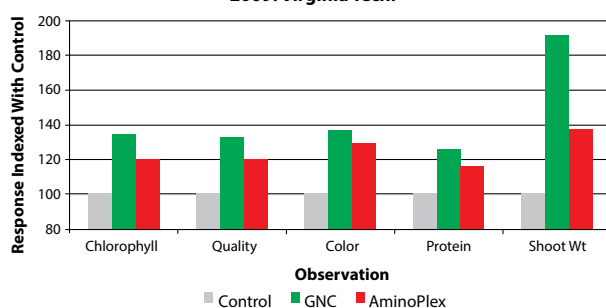
Control

GNC 7.7 oz/M

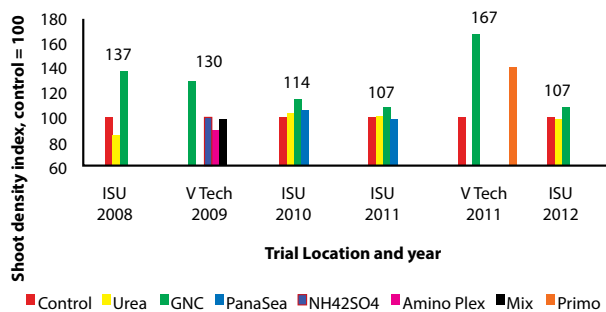
GNC 15.4 oz/M

GNC 23.1 oz/M

Turf response to GreenNcrease applications averaged for 3 months.
2009. Virginia Tech.



GreenNcrease effect on bentgrass
shoot density



- Provides Heat and Drought Tolerance
- University Tested and Proven

- Rich in Amino Acid Content
- Distributor Openings Available

Ajinomoto Specialty Fertilizers
Ajinomoto North America, Inc.

1 Ajinomoto Drive | Eddyville, Iowa 52553 | 563-260-1838

THANK YOU

TO MiGCSA'S 2013 TOP INDUSTRY PARTNERS

SUPPORT THE COMPANIES
THAT SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION





Think people don't notice the accessories?

On a golf course, every detail is important when it comes to course conditions. That's because "poor course conditions" is the No. 1 reason golfers give for not returning to a golf course. But there's more to course conditions than greens, tees fairways and bunkers. Consider accessories - something golfers see, touch and feel on every hole.

Having appropriate, well maintained golf course accessories is crucial at a time when you have to wow golfers with course conditions. It makes an important lasting impression on golfers and reinforces the course's (and your) reputation. So choose quality accessories from Par Aide to improve course aesthetics and playability. (While saving you time and money.) They work as hard as you do to enhance the image of your golf course. Find out how today.

P A R A I D E . C O M



8 8 8 - 8 9 3 - 2 4 3 2

Wherever golf is played.



2014 MICHIGAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE

BY: DR. KEVIN FRANK

The Michigan Turfgrass Conference is quickly approaching Jan. 13-15 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of MSU. This will be our second year back on campus and we're looking forward to building on the momentum from last year's event. On Monday Jan. 13 in-depth workshops will be conducted in the morning and afternoon. Morning workshops will focus on fundamental turfgrass management topics such as weed ID and control, turfgrass nutrition, diagnosis of tree and landscape problems, and a unique opportunity to visit the Turfgrass Information File at the MSU Library and do some hands-on training with the world's largest turfgrass search engine. The afternoon will feature a diverse offering of workshops including the on-campus pest ID lab experience, Dr. Vargas sharing secrets from a lifetime of managing Poa, soil concepts from structure to selecting sands for topdressing, and finally for those looking to enhance their accounting skills a budgeting and forecasting workshop.

Tuesday morning will include another round of workshops with a focus on our invited speakers covering topics such as Career Advancement with Carol Rau, Understanding and Enhancing Herbicide Activity with Dr. Aaron Patton, Diagnosing Turfgrass Pathogens with Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski, and Aquatic

Ecosystem Management with Pete Filpanisk. The afternoon will kick-off the general section tracks with Golf Agronomy, and Pest Management for Lawns and Athletic Fields. There will also be an equipment technicians and assistant golf course superintendents program. The day will culminate with the industry vendor kick-off celebration at the top of Spartan Stadium from 4:30 – 7:30 pm.

Wednesday will include a full day of general session presentations in separate golf, lawn, and athletic field sessions. Featured speakers include Pam Sherratt in athletic fields, Dr. Fred Whitford in both the lawn and athletic field sessions, Michael Stachowicz the turf management specialist for the National Mall in Washington D.C. in the lawn session, Adam Garr and Dr. Chip Howard in the golf session, and the always entertaining Turfgrass Talk Show with Dr. Nikolai to conclude the conference in the afternoon.

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 at www.mtfconference.org shortly. I look forward to seeing all of you in East Lansing, Jan. 13-15, 2014.

FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS – GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

As the season winds down I hope that everyone had a great year. From most reports the weather pattern was a little more favorable for growing grass but it seems to have cut into revenue in a number of the Great Lakes states. GCSAA continues to work with other allied associations to keep track of the golf industry so that we have a feel for what our members are facing on the financial front due to the economic impact at our member courses. We also are monitoring what is going on with government relations and how those decisions affect our members. As I write this column, GCSAA is working on a number of issues that our superintendents are dealing with around the country. The NPDES issue is still affecting superintendents in different parts of the country. GCSAA is working with legislators to have a rider attached to the Farm Bill that would negate the NPDES reporting requirements when pesticides are applied in, over or near a body of water. We are also still working to keep methyl bromide available to golf courses. There is a lot of work going on in meetings in Washington, D.C. with GCSAA's government relations expert, Chava McKeel and our lobbying firm Reed Smith. We are trying feverishly to keep golf on the methyl bromide label so that the product will still be able to be used on golf courses through 2014. Once more information becomes available on these two issues and others that GCSAA is working on I will keep you informed.

During this year's Rounds for Research auctions GCSAA raised nearly \$175,000 of which 80% has gone back to the chapters to be used to promote education and research on the local level. There were 51 chapters that participated in the auctions this year. We are hoping to increase that number for the two auctions in 2014. Chapters and clubs can also make cash donations to Rounds for Research. Chapters are also making donations to the EIFG on an annual basis.

Housing is now open for the GCSAA Conference and Golf Industry Show to be held in Orlando, Florida February 3-6, 2-14. Registration for the conference and tournament starts November 5, 2013. The golf tournament and championship will also be in Orlando and golf events will run from February 1-3, 2013. If you have not played in the golf events, they are a great way to network with other superintendents while enjoying some great golf courses, if you are a competitive golfer; the golf championship is for you. Test your skills against the best golf course superintendent players in the world. Also, don't forget that GCSAA education is the best in the industry and it is a great way to introduce your general manager to what you do and help them better relate to the world of the golf course superintendent. Invite your greens chairman or owner to meet you at the show and walk the trade show floor with you and explain to them how your course could benefit from some of the different offerings that will be available. Lastly, as you close up the year, don't forget to make a contribution to the Environmental Institute for Golf, the EIFG helps all superintendents by funding education, research, government outreach and scholarships. Thank you to those of you that have donated in the past.

Best Wishes,

John

EXCELLENT SIDE-SLOPE PERFORMANCE

NEW AR522™



Nothing clings to slopes like the new AR522™ contour rotary mower from Jacobsen. The machine's combination of SureTrac™ four-wheel drive traction and weight transfer control allow it to climb hillsides and glide over contours with ease. You can also rely on the AR522's five fully-floating TrimTek™ decks to provide excellent mulching results and a superior after-cut appearance. See the AR522 contour rotary for yourself – contact your local Jacobsen dealer today.

1.888.922.TURF | www.jacobsen.com

JACOBSEN®

The above depiction is exaggerated. Refer to the safe operating angle for proper hillside operation.

THE BETTER HALF



RON BETZ

Ron Betz started in the golf industry in 1989 when Paul Emling (MiGCSA Class A Member at Arcadia Bluffs) told him about an opening at Vassar Golf & Country Club way back in 1989. He started in the bag room, cleaning clubs and a little bit in the pro shop and knew that this was a job he wanted to do as a career his second year on the grounds crew. Ron is a graduate of the Penn State University online program and was hired by Dave Moritz (EastWynd Superintendent) in the spring of 2008 and moved to the WestWynd Golf Club in the spring of 2013 to work for Phil Hopper (WestWynd Superintendent). Both golf courses are part of The Wyndgate, with EastWynd being private and WestWynd open to the public.

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

At Vassar we "weed whipped" everything; I would say any job other than that!

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

Having trust in your crew to do things at a high level is what I learned at Vassar Golf Club while working for Kevin Hamilton. We had a small crew and we all had to wear many hats to make things come together at the course. Having trust in your crew keeps them from feeling pressure of doing unsatisfactory work and in turn inhibits he/she to have a sense of pride in whatever task they are assigned.

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

I would like to see us have more of an active role in encouraging golf course owners and GM's to hire assistants and current superintendents from the state of Michigan. I believe a private business has the right to hire whomever they want so I strongly use the word "encourage".

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

Most of what I know today, in terms of being a manager, is because of Scalawags Superintendent, Tim Jenkins. What he taught me about management and how to be more efficient through organization is invaluable. I have a great working relationship with my current boss, Phil Hopper, as well. There are things to learn everyday on the golf course and Phil helps provide that. I have a great amount of respect, as professionals and as people, for the both of them.

My mom and dad influenced me the most about my personal life and in some ways my professional life too. Like most young people, I thought I knew how things worked; they stayed the course and I finally came around.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Having a set schedule for equipment at The Wyndgate is the most difficult due to the fact that we have 2 golf courses, a landscape department that requires a lot of equipment usage and various other departments that also need to use our machinery. We work it out most of the time, although there are moments of frustration.

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

I think the most important part of management is without a doubt the crew. A good crew makes your job easier and gives you the ability to be more efficient. To answer the question as to what my favorite piece of equipment is, well, I would have to say our sprayer.

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

Root depth in relation to overall turf health. I know that root depth is a key component for turf health; I want to see threshold levels for the different parts of the season. Does bad in the spring equate to bad in the summer? When does having shallow roots affect the turf canopy? I know the "broad stroke" answers to these, I would just like to see some in depth research on it because it's something I get asked about a lot and debate a lot as to which is more important.

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

I think if you asked a superintendent if he would rather do his job without an assistant or turn wrenches; he's going to choose the former. With that being said, they both have their place at a club. The two really need to respect each other and respect what their value is to the operation. Now I can do some minor work on equipment and our mechanic (Jason Tyson) can detect dollar spot, but that doesn't mean we could do each other's job effectively.

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

I have to go back to my days at Vassar Golf Club with Paul Emling and Jeremy LaPratt, Superintendent at The Sawmill. We all had to take turns watering at night but when it wasn't our turn, a lot of the time we would show up to help the other person for a little while. Of course being that we were our own bosses at night, we would bring fishing poles and party supplies (beer). One particular night, the 3 of us were there and everything was status quo until we decided to head back to the shop, pedal to the floor mind you, in a Cushman with NO brakes, when out of nowhere the golf course dump truck showed up and we smacked the back end of it. We all were able to bail out and no one got hurt, however, the Cushman was totaled. Needless to say, our nighttime visitation rights were garnished!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

12 at King's North in Myrtle Beach. **What is your favorite golf course that you have played?** I haven't played a lot of the household name courses but I really liked Barton Hills in Ann Arbor.

What is the toughest golf course you have played? The WestWynd Golf Club is pretty tough. You don't want to be too far off the fairway. **What golf course would you love to experience once in your lifetime?** St. Andrews, without a doubt. **What is your favorite golf club in the bag?** 8 iron **Who is your favorite touring professional?** Fred Couples

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?

Not knowing it! I see it every day with golfers and sometimes with the crew. What's worse is when you say something about it they look at you like you have a carrot sticking out of your head.



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT RON BETZ

1. I AM A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER.
2. I PLAYED FAST-PITCH SOFTBALL FOR A TEAM THAT TRAVELED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.
3. I SERVED HONORABLY IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY.
4. I WANT TO RETIRE AND LIVE ON A HOUSEBOAT.
5. I DROVE 3 HOURS TO PLAY IN A HOCKEY LEAGUE.



Every superintendent needs a good caddie.

Let us try out for the part. We can provide all the supplies you need to keep your course looking its best. And with our knowledgeable staff, we can help you make an ace.



JOHN DEERE
LANDSCAPES



THE 29TH ANNUAL TUCK TATE CHAMPIONSHIP

This year the Tuck Tate Championship was moved to July 29th based on survey results from members in 2012. Our host this year was MiGCSA Board Member Justin Bickel at The Nightmare Golf Course in West Branch. Tuck Tate founded the Northern Michigan Turfgrass Managers Association in 1971 and was the first NMTMA Vice President. And a special thank you to head professional Eric Spencer for all of the scoring and setup and to the Courtemanche family for hosting us.

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 shot a net 129. The low net score of the day was posted by Todd Genske with a net 68. And the 2013 Tuck Tate Champion is Jim Higgs who won his third consecutive Tuck Tate Championship defending his title from last year at Cedar River and the year before at Black Lake Golf Club.



Todd Genske, 2013 Low Net Champion and three time Tuck Tate low gross Champion Jim Higgs.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT TRAINING DAY

TROY EVANS, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, BLOOMFIELD HILLS C.C.
ASSISTANT COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR, MiGCSA BOARD ASSISTANT LIAISON



On October 31, 2013, Class SM MiGCSA Member Scott Rettmann Superintendent at Walnut Creek Country Club hosted an educational Training day for Assistant Superintendents. We were very fortunate

to hear about two very timely topics that are coming up on everyone's agenda as we prepare for winter.

Our first topic was sprayer calibration presented by Michigan State's Turf Team and Research Assistant Mr. Aaron Hathaway. Aaron spoke to us about the importance of knowing that your spraying equipment is properly calibrated and should be checked at least once a year. He also gave us some great examples how we can increase our effectiveness by changing nozzles and using the proper spray rates and

volumes. Attendees got a "hand's on approach" in learning techniques in equipment calibration.

Our next topic pump house winterization came from Mr. John Shiegel at Pro-Pump. John talked about the necessity to be very thorough inside and outside the pump house. He also gave some great tips in preventative maintenance strategies when dealing with phase alarms or the dreaded VFD fault.

I am very proud to be a part of the MiGCSA and to represent Assistant Superintendents. We have a very strong group of people who are active and ready to achieve professionalism. Thank you to Walnut Creek Country Club, and Scott Rettmann for their desire to host and coordinate a training seminar that gives Assistants a continued opportunity to learn. A huge thank you to all of the 2013 MiGCSA Industry Partners for your continued support, we would not have this forum if it was not for you. If you would like to take part in an event or have suggestions for the Assistants Committee please let us know at info@migcsa.org.



A CALL FROM CAMPUS

ON GUARD!

THOMAS A. NIKOLAI, PH.D.

In January of 2000 I gave my first presentation at the Annual GCSAA Conference. The name of the presentation was, "Alternative spikes: heart and sole". During the presentation I gave a history of spikes/cleats on golf soles, showed results from MSU research over the past 6 years and bid adieu to the metal spikes that had caused so much damage to infrastructure while creating poor playing conditions on the putting surface. At the end of the presentation I stated that the metal spike was gone, but I reminded the superintendents to stay on guard as new alternative cleat designs were not created equal and certainly some of them would result in poor putting quality for golfers.

To be clear, for me to ask superintendents to stay on guard is really condescending given that most superintendents I know are meticulous to the point of being anal. That is, they don't miss much. Case in point: in 2008 I left the pro-shop and headed to the first tee at Brookshire G.C. with a friend that had not played golf in over 10-years. On the first green golf course superintendent Matt Van Acker pulled-up in his cart and apologized as he kicked us off the because my friend had 8-mm metal spikes. Again, that was on the first hole and I must admit I was very embarrassed.

Fast forward to 2012 and I began to get phone calls and emails regarding cleat-less soles that superintendents felt certain were causing more disruption on the putting surface than anything they had witnessed on their greens in years. John Francour, GCS Lenawee Country Club, called and emailed me several times asking me to come to his course and put out a golf cleat study. I never did make it to Lenawee, sorry John and thanks for the invite, but I did put out golf cleat/sole putting green traffic studies at four sites in 2012. The four sites included a putting green at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center and the practice putting green at Forest Akers Golf Course, Indian Hills Golf Course, and Hawk Hollow Golf Course.

At all 4 sites 36- 3' x 3' plots were stung-out on a putting green. There were 36-plots because there were 12-treatments including a non-trafficked check plot with 3-replications for each treatment. In a randomized order each plot was trafficked by an MSU employee with the designated golf shoe. Traffic was applied by mimicking a golfer's action when pulling a golf ball out from the bottom of the cup after making a putt. At each site we applied at least 20 rounds of golf at least 2-individuals trafficking each plot.

After plots were trafficked individuals (turfgrass students at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center and golfers and members of the golf course grounds crew) rated plots on a scale of 1-5. The scale was:

- 1 = Excellent, no visible traffic
- 2 = Very good
- 3 = Good, some traffic but I would not mind putting on the surface
- 4 = Fair
- 5 = Poor = terrible putting conditions would recommend banning this cleat/sole from our golf course.

Treatments included in the study were:

1. FJ Professional *Style 57042*
2. FJ Sport *Style 53255*
3. Contour Casual *Style 54268*
4. Sport Spikeless *Style 53111*
5. M:Project Spikeless *Style 55206*
6. Adidas Crossfles
7. Nike Ascend
8. Oakley Cipher
9. DryJoy Tour *Style 53612*
10. FJ Professional *Style 57037*
11. Ecco Biom Hybrid
12. Non-trafficked check plot

Data was analyzed by Dr. Douglas Karcher from the University of Arkansas. Results of the experiment are presented in Figure 1. Bars (treatments) that do not share the same letter (at the top of the figure) are significantly different from one another. Another way of saying the same thing is that every bar (treatment) that has the same letter above it in NOT significantly different from all other treatments with the same letter above it. The statistics takes into account the variability among raters.

The data from the four sites were similar so I will show and discuss data from Figure 1 which is the data from all four sites compiled. However, it is noteworthy that at all four sites the check plot (T12) was perceived to have the best putting quality which obviously gives credence to the data. In short the results are:

- With the data pooled (Figure 1) the check plot (T12) is perceived as having the best overall putting quality (or least amount of wear).
- The Oakley Cipher (T8), FJ Professional *Style 57037* (T10) and FJ Professional *Style 57042* (T1) displayed the least amount of visible wear according to the raters (all with the letter B above the bar).
- There were no significant differences between Sport Spikeless *Style 53111* (T4), Adidas Crossflex (T6), FJ Sport *Style 53255* (T2), and M:Project Spikeless *Style 55206* (T5)
- Contour Casual *Style 54268* (T3) earned the third worst ratings with over 50% of the ratings being fair or poor in terms of perceived putting quality due to wear from traffic.

- DryJoy Tour *Style 53612* (T9) earned the second worst ratings with over with 55% of the ratings being fair or poor in terms of perceived putting quality due to wear from traffic.
- The Ecco Biom Hybrid (T11) earned the poorest overall rating with over 60% of the ratings being fair or poor in terms of perceived putting quality due to wear from traffic.

To be honest the data represents a worst case scenario in terms of wear from traffic for any of the treatments. Why? Well consider that we apply at least 20 rounds of traffic in less than 20 minutes. However, all treatments receive traffic in an identical manner so it is a worst case scenario for every treatment.

Data from this study represents the first time I have observed a spikeless/cleatless golf sole receiving poorer ratings following traffic on a putting green compared to golf soles with cleats. What the data also shows me is superintendents are doing a great job with their observations about the soles that traffic their greens.

Most recently, Bob McCurdy, GCS Country Club of Detroit has joined the list of superintendents in 2013 that have contacted with concerns regarding the Adizero Tour golf shoe sole design. It is my hope to perform several studies that will include the Adizero Tour golf sole design this fall and next spring. In the meantime good job to all you superintendents and thanks for staying on guard for your golfers greens.

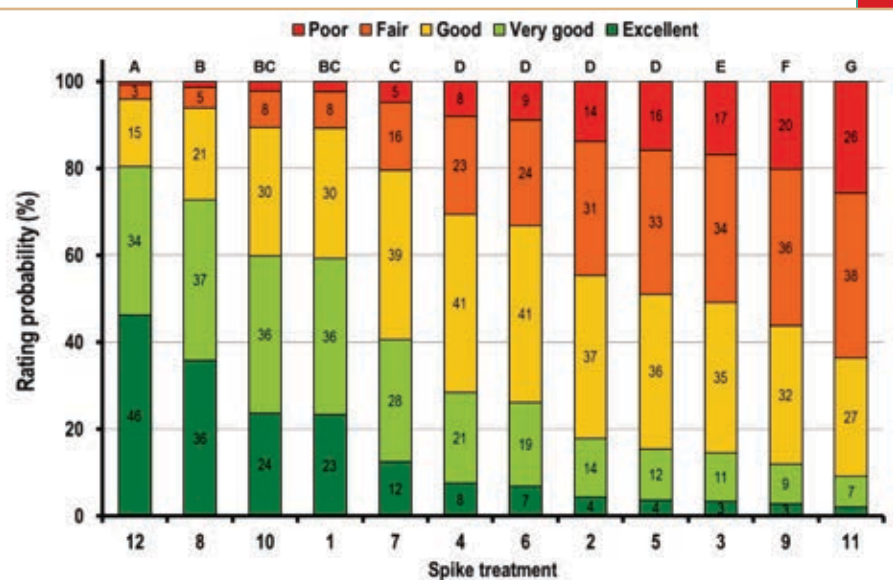


Figure 1. Predicted probabilities of spike treatments to be rated as either “Excellent”, “Very Good”, “Good”, “Fair”, or “Poor”. Probabilities were estimated using logistic regression analysis of data collected from 3 replicate plots evaluated by a total of 92 raters across four locations. Bars that do not share a letter are significantly different ($\alpha = 0.05$).

ULTRAPLEX[®] *and* P-K Plus[®]

6 PRODUCTS IN ONE

3-7-18+B, Co, Mo



THE SOLUTIONS FOR SUMMER STRESS



Research driven. Proven results.™

Distributed by

WINFIELD[™]

Steve Fent • 989-413-2536
sjfent@landolakes.com

John Driver • 616-430-3737
jcdriver@landolakes.com

- Grigg Brothers[®] exclusive Elicitor[®] Technology
- A proven component of Nutritional IPM[™]
- Proven to enhance plant defense mechanisms
- Proven to enhance the summer stress tolerance of turfgrasses
- Safe for the environment
- Effective natural biostimulants, amino and organic acids.
- Sea plant extract (*Ascophyllum nodosum*)
- A water buffering agent
- Macro Nutrients (N & K).
- A full organically chelated micronutrient package including Fe, Mg, Mn, Zn, Cu, and Boron.
- A natural, non-ionic and organic surfactant for improved leaf coverage and absorption.



VISIT

<http://griggbros.com>



JOIN

<http://gri.gg/join>



LIKE

<http://gri.gg/fb>



SUBSCRIBE

<http://gri.gg/tv>



MTESP 2.0

Spring 2014

Digital - Dynamic - Innovative
www.MTESP.org

ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

How did you get here?

I often ask myself this question, and have since the day I graduated from MSU and went into this industry with full commitment that it is my calling and career and no longer just a job. Until I was 17 I never knew there was such a profession, but after a summer of raking bunkers and learning how to lay down a pretty good stripe at Moravian Hills Country Club (now a Meijers in Clinton Twp.) I knew it was what I wanted to do. But if I go back even farther on my path to writing this article I can trace it directly to my Father who introduced me to the game of golf when I was 13 years old. I wonder how many other members can look back to that moment and see their Dad with a golf club in the back yard? As the game took hold of me through my teen years I wanted to find a way to be able to play the private club down the road not just for me but to get my Dad out there too. This was really my reason for applying for that job when I was 17 and nothing more. Of course now looking back what a lucky break, that job has lead me to so much more. The first time I was able to bring him up to Shanty Creek where I started as an Assistant in 2002 on the Cedar River Course was such a proud moment for me. When I started at Crystal Mountain in 2004 I took him on a tour of the shop and played both courses so many times I can't even estimate a number during my seven years there. I met my wife at Crystal and now we have a beautiful 9-month-old baby mainly because of that introduction to golf so many years ago by my Dad.

It was during an annual golf trip with him to Mesquite Nevada in March of 2009 that I noticed he had a yellow jaundice in his eyes and face. When we got home he visited the doctor at my Mom's prodding. The result was a devastating diagnosis of Pancreatic Cancer. There was a silver lining however; it was early enough that he could have a possible life extending surgery called the whipple to remove half of his Pancreas and the tumor. The surgery was a success and after radiation and chemotherapy he was officially in remission. However less than one year later there were tumors in his abdomen and the fight began in earnest. My Mother had to retire and they went all in with the University of Michigan and clinical trials, and again more miracles for a cancer that usually takes a person in 3 to 6 months, the clinical trials were working. There was hope of

a cure, he thrived and survived to see my brother and I both get married and met his first grandchild and we even went to the Masters together in 2012. It was an amazing battle but one that ended on August 9th of this year. An amazing 52 months after the most deadly cancer diagnosis possible he was no longer able to stave off the disease, he is and will continue to be missed by our entire family.

I know it is easy to get downtrodden with the daily demands and often unreasonable stresses that come with being a Golf Course Superintendent. When this happens I challenge each of you to remember why you are in this business and how you got where you are, and how lucky we are to work where other people play. If you can, do me a favor, the next time you speak to your Dad thank him for all he has done for you because you never know when you will get another chance. I am so proud and happy that this industry has lead me to be able to represent our membership and our profession in many ways in this great state. Looking at many things in my life, without my Dad I would never be here, thank you Dad, for everything.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS
MiGCSA Executive Director



JW TURF



KEEP GREEN

PARTS ORDER PROGRAM

DECEMBER 1ST, 2013 THRU FEBRUARY 28TH, 2014

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

All orders over \$500 will be entered to win 1 of 25 \$100 gift cards!

Giveaway valid 12/1/13 - 2/28/14. Drawing will be held on 3/1/14.



*Genuine
Parts!*

**Discounted Pricing On:
Bed Knives • Filters • Reels • Rollers**

**5% Discount On All Other John Deere Parts
Ordered At The Same Time**

***Free Freight On Orders Over \$1800**

Place Orders Via Fax Or Email

fax - 847.683.4610 or 847.683.3978

email - jwtparts3@foxvalley.net or jwtparts2@foxvalley.net

For more information please call 888.959.8873 or visit www.jwturfinc.com

*Only parts in JW Turf inventory qualify for free freight. Direct shipments from John Deere do not qualify.





Fall Solutions™ saving is easy with Bayer.



2013 Fall Solutions™

The Bayer Fall Solutions™ Program you remember is back and, this year, it's better than ever. Don't miss your chance to save money and gain an edge for 2014. Simply go to My Bayer Rewards™ at: myrewards.cropscience.bayer.com to select your user preference including reward type (Distributor Credit or Reward Points).

You'll receive these benefits, plus a whole lot more.

- Extra 1% bonus rebate for purchases you make in October.*
- Purchase any expanded PAK offer and receive an additional 1% bonus rebate.
- Option of either Distributor Credit or Reward Points with Fall Solutions purchases.

We value your business and want you back for another great season.

 @BayerGolf

*Additional 1% rebate on total purchases made between October 1-31, 2013.
Bayer CropScience LP, 2 TW Alexander Drive, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709. 1-800-331-2867. www.BackedbyBayer.com Bayer (reg'd), the Bayer Cross (reg'd), Fall Solutions, and My Bayer Rewards are trademarks of Bayer. Not all products are registered in all states. Please verify state registration of these products in your state before selling, using, or distributing. Always read and follow label instructions carefully. ©2013 Bayer CropScience LP.

Contact Robert Pylar at (248) 330-2638 or Robert.Pylar@bayer.com

JW TURF



KEEP GREEN

PARTS ORDER PROGRAM

DECEMBER 1ST, 2013 THRU FEBRUARY 28TH, 2014

25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

All orders over \$500 will be entered to win 1 of 25 \$100 gift cards!

Giveaway valid 12/1/13 - 2/28/14. Drawing will be held on 3/1/14.



*Genuine
Parts!*

**Discounted Pricing On:
Bed Knives • Filters • Reels • Rollers**

**5% Discount On All Other John Deere Parts
Ordered At The Same Time**

***Free Freight On Orders Over \$1800**

Place Orders Via Fax Or Email

fax - 847.683.4610 or 847.683.3978

email - jwtparts3@foxvalley.net or jwtparts2@foxvalley.net

For more information please call 888.959.8873 or visit www.jwturfinc.com

*Only parts in JW Turf inventory qualify for free freight. Direct shipments from John Deere do not qualify.

