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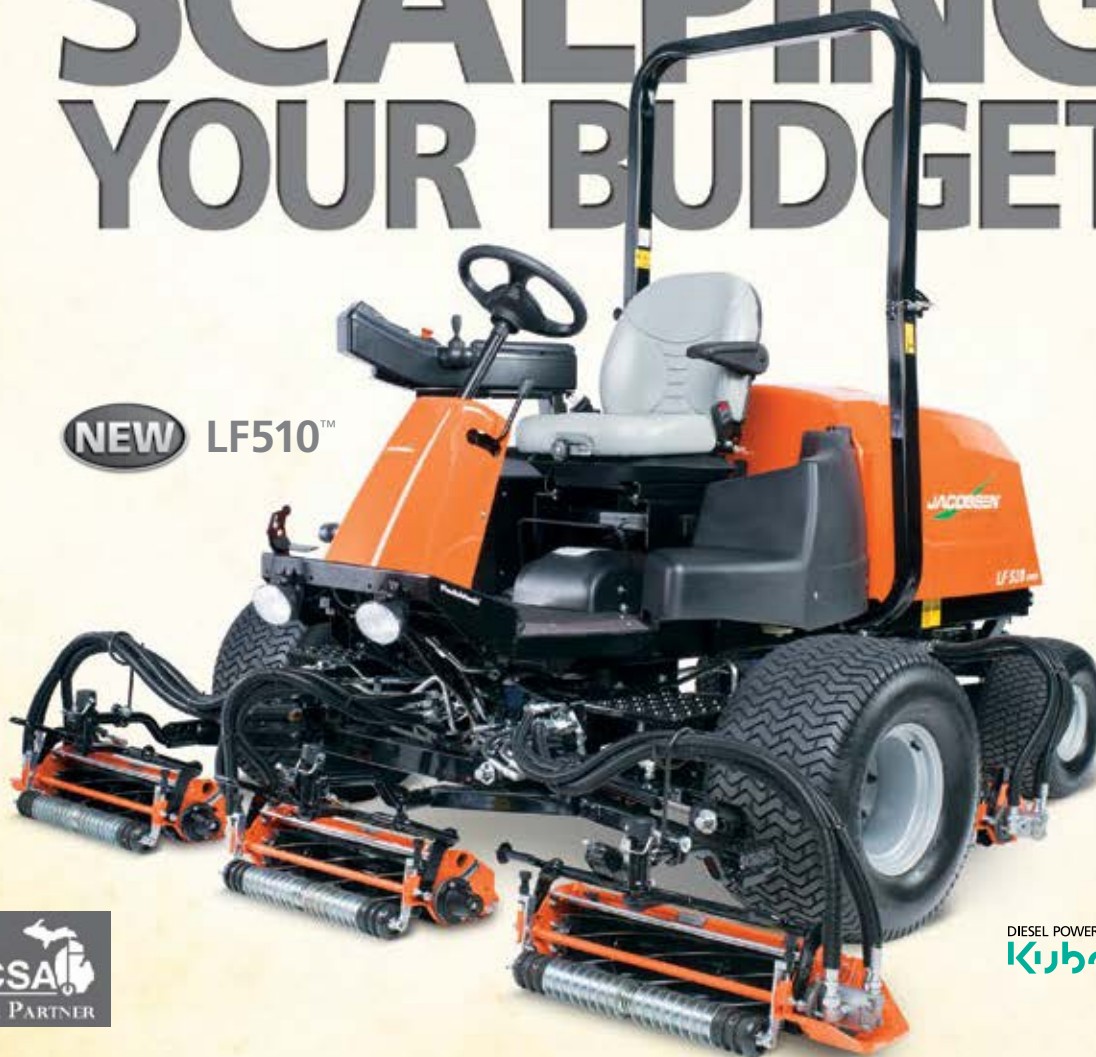
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COURSEconditions

SUPERINTENDENT SPOTLIGHT
DOUG HOEH
AT TREETOPS NORTH

2014 NORTHERN
FUNDRAISER LARGEST
IN MiGCSA HISTORY

INDUSTRY PARTNER
PROFILE, SCOTT
TRBOVICH

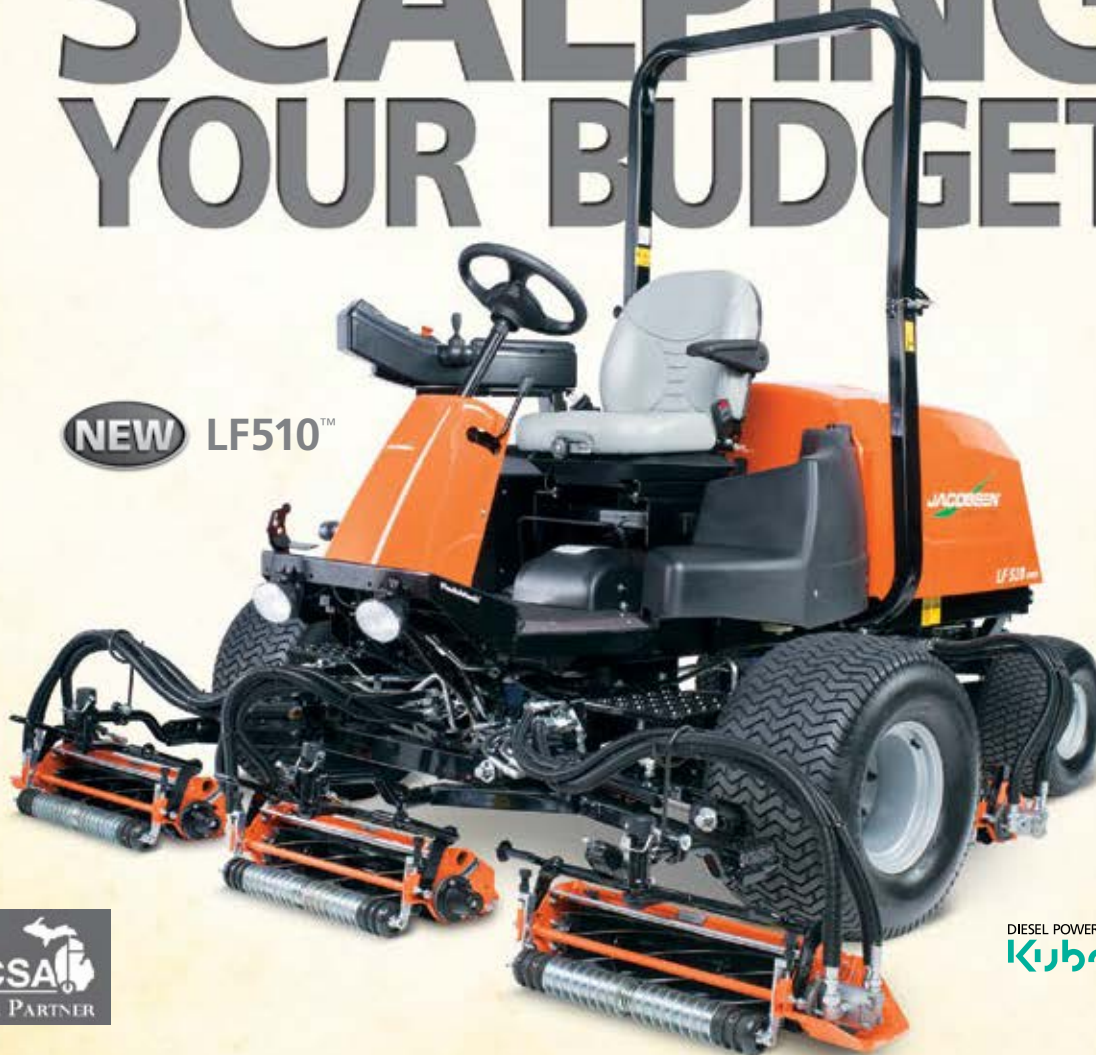
MICHIGAN GOLF DAY
AT THE CAPITOL



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Doug Hoch, Superintendent and Mountain Manager, Treetops North

20



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Scott Wilkinson, Assistant Superintendent, Harbor Shores


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MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 8/22/14

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	SUMMER 2013 MEMBERSHIP
Class A	240	230
Class SM	63	67
Class C	100	95
Class AA	31	29
Class AFF	151	144
Class D	36	33
Class E	16	17
Class H	30	25
Class R	11	10
Class SA	24	21
TOTAL	702	671

Please log in to your account at www.migcsa.org to renew your membership for 2014. 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



GREGG L. MATTHEWS

As I sit down and let my fingers punch away at the keys I think to myself where has this summer gone? Did summer even get here? This weather we all have been experiencing sure has been different than normal. Heck, from a turf grass growing standpoint, it has been pretty nice. If you are a boater, this summer has been less than perfect.

I hope that everyone has had a great season thus far. It really does not matter what you do for a living, life just seems to fly by. The days and weeks just blend together. This makes me think of my family. Life is short. Get out there and take advantage of all that life has to offer. Yes our careers are very important to all of us. However, there is so much more than just work. Go spend time with family and friends. Get away from work and see new things. If you have the opportunity, even if it is just for the day, I would bet money you will be better for it. Football season is now in full swing and the smell of autumn is in the air. I hope everyone has a little more time to get out and enjoy it. We are so lucky to be in a profession with so many great people at our fingertips to help. The MiGCSA is a phenomenal resource for anything you need on the course. Grab your member directory and call your neighbor, meet for lunch or just go see them and get a look at a different property. The things that I personally have learned while attending MiGCSA meetings and events far outweigh any class or seminar. We live parallel lives.

There are still many great opportunities to gather with your peers. The Western Golf Day at Battle Creek Golf Club, the Wee One at Orchard Lake Country Club and the 49th Annual Big Event at Tam O Shanter Country Club. The MiGCSA website, migcsa.org is full of great information and resources including all upcoming events.

The Board of Directors and Officers of the MiGCSA are looking for members who wish to get involved. You may be interested in a committee, or even a board position. Contact your local BOD in your district or Adam Ikimas, Executive Director. Adam will do his very best to help with your specific needs. We want to hear from you.

I want to thank all the industry partners of the MiGCSA. Your support for our industry is monumental, Thank You. To the MSU Turf Team, the best in the business, Thank You. To the BOD of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, including Gordie LaFontaine, Thank you. To the BOD of the MiGCSA, including Adam Ikimas, your leadership and guidance of this great association impresses me every day, Thank You. To you, the members of the MiGCSA, without you, your belief in the cause, it is why you do what you do each and every day. The unity of the MiGCSA is strong, and it is all because of you. THANK YOU!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "GL Matthews". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Gregg L. Matthews

GOLF COURSE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE RISK EXPOSURE AND PREVENTION

PROVIDED BY ERICK FORSHEE

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY DIRECTOR, THE FISHER COMPANIES

The operation and maintenance of a golf course involves many instances for potential loss. There are numerous hazards that can cause injuries or illnesses. A few examples include being struck by golf balls, careless operation of equipment (employee or patrons), trimming trees, applying pesticides, and more.

There are many tools available for aiding in the prevention of an injury, accident, or loss during operation and maintenance activities at your golf course. Many of the same accidents, incidents, or property loss that occur at a golf course are common to other industries; while some are unique to golf courses.

Chemical exposure is one of those injuries, which is common throughout the golf industry and other industries.

- Respiratory illness:
 - Example: An employee has breathing difficulties after mixing pesticides in an unventilated room.
- Chemical burns:
 - Example: An employee receives chemical burns from handling corrosive chemicals without the proper personal protective equipment (PPE).

It is important for each facility to complete a comprehensive risk assessment. During the assessment you will determine potential exposures and develop procedures to protect your employees from those exposures identified. All of the employees with the potential to be exposed shall be trained in the preventative measures developed by your team.

The completion of your risk assessment will aid in identifying many risk exposures around the golf course. Your efforts should be focused first on past incident & accident reports. You will then be able to apply a priority to accidents/incidents based on their frequency and severity. Always begin with incidents with the highest frequency or potential for severity, and move to those incidents with a lower potential for an accident or incident to occur. Keep in mind incidents which may involve possible regulatory fines, adverse publicity, and/or public relations if such an accident or injury occurs.

One tool for aiding in chemical exposure accident prevention is:

The Right-To-Know Law

The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) promulgated the Right to Know Law, also known as the Hazards Communication Standard, in 1982. The State of Michigan adopted the Federal Standard in 1986 and added additional requirements in the State of Michigan Right to Know Law (MRTKL) (Act No. 80 Amendments to Act 154 Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act).

The MRTKL requires all employees who work with hazardous chemicals to conform to the law, regardless of their employer's status as a manufacturer or non-manufacturer.

I. Michigan's Right to Know Law – provides access to chemical information to workers whose jobs involve the routine use of hazardous chemicals. Five requirements characteristic of the Federal Standard also apply to employers under the Michigan Right to Know law;

- a. Develop a written plan to meet the requirements of the Right-to-know law
- b. Provide safety education and training to all employees who work with hazardous chemicals
- c. Provide use of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs)
- d. Label all containers of hazardous chemicals
- e. Evaluate chemicals produced in their workplaces to determine if they are hazardous

More information on the right to know law can be found at www.michigan.gov/lara.

OSHA routinely revises or addends standards, and in 2012 they revised the Hazard Communications Standard. In my opinion it is one of the best revisions they have made. The revision named GHS or Globally Harmonized System, takes the guesswork out of locating pertinent information to a chemical you are working with. The system has been adopted by 67 nations to provide a common and coherent approach to classifying chemicals and reducing the confusion when understanding the hazards faced when using a particular chemical. It also helps address literacy problems with the new required pictograms.

Under this new standard, material safety data sheets (MSDS) are now called Safety Data Sheets (SDS). All SDSs shall have a consistent 16-section format. Employers must ensure that SDSs are readily accessible to employees, as was your MSDSs. As you receive newly revised SDSs for the chemicals you use, you must archive prior MSDSs.

Employers are responsible to train employees on the new label elements and SDS format as of December 1, 2013. However, distributors are not required to ship containers with the new GHS label until December 1, 2015. Employers are required to update alternative workplace labeling and hazard communication programs as necessary, and provide additional employee training for newly identified hazards (and affected vertical standard specific signage) by June 1, 2016.

Employers are not required to pursue getting new SDSs for products received before June 1, 2015; unless you are aware of changes to the hazards in the product.

Remember, employers must provide employees with the details of the facility and jobsite specific hazard communication program including:

- Location and availability of your written program, current MSDS, and future incoming SDSs that will phase out MSDSs.
- Specific information related to chemicals in the facility:
 - Physical Hazards
 - Health Hazards
 - Hazards not otherwise classified
 - Storage, including segregation

Another important tool in risk exposure and prevention is personal protective equipment (PPE). Personal protective equipment is your last line of defense. Your selection of personal protective equipment will be determined by a careful review of current MSDSs or newly revised SDSs.

Golf course employees need to use appropriate PPE to protect themselves from various hazards on the job. Those may include safety glasses or goggles, hearing protection, respirators, gloves, safety shoes, chaps, face shields, and more. MIOSHA requires this type of equipment to be supplied by the employer.

During your comprehensive risk assessment you will have determined what types of PPE should be used, based on the risk identified. Once the appropriate PPE is selected, employees shall be trained in the proper use, care, and donning and doffing of the selected PPE.

Remember special training and medical evaluations are required for certain PPE, such as respirators.

In the event that you have an incident, you must have an Emergency Action Plan. Some of the more common emergencies that may occur at a golf course include:

- Medical emergencies, such as heart attack or serious injury
- Fires in golf course buildings
- Natural disasters, such as thunderstorms, lightning strikes, hail, tornados, or flooding
- Violence from customers, employees, or others

A written Emergency Action Plan needs to be established for a variety of reasons. First, so employees can respond to emergencies, in order to help save lives or prevent further injuries. Plans also need to be put in place, so that employees know the proper methods for protecting golf course property and returning the course to normal operations as soon as possible, should an incident or emergency occur.

Your plan should be coordinated with the local municipal emergency responders, such as police and fire.

Key employees should be trained in First Aid and CPR, so they are able to assist customers or employees who may need medical assistance. All employees should be instructed to call 911 for medical emergencies, similarly for fire. Evacuation plans should be developed and a meeting area designated, as well. This information is not intended to be all encompassing, but rather an example of some of the information that should be included.

Another form of exposure to injury or potential loss is that of a fire. For example, fire starting in the clubhouse kitchen or maintenance facilities, could cause major property damage. Therefore, preventative safeguards should be put in place. Fire protection equipment should be installed in kitchen areas, including automatic extinguishing systems in exhaust hoods. The equipment should be maintained and inspected in conjunction with your local fire department and applicable fire codes. Employees should be properly trained in fire prevention, including the use, location, and inspection of fire extinguishing equipment.

Flammable liquids and gases, corrosives, oxidizers, and toxic chemicals may be used at the golf course shops and other areas. Use approved flammable liquid containers for gasoline and other flammable liquids. Store flammable liquids in approved flammable liquid safety cabinets, and be sure to review your MSDSs or newly revised SDSs for firefighting measures. Dispose of oily rags in approved containers.

Last but not least, exposure to poor housekeeping is an accident waiting to happen. Objects on the ground and floor are potentially tripping and



falling hazards. We have to be especially aware of designated aisles, walkways, high traffic areas, and paths to exits and firefighting equipment. Items, such as boxes, hoses, scrap, tools, cords, and more cannot be in or strewn across these areas, blocking their access.

Other golf course activities and services may be provided in addition to those I have mentioned. All activities at your particular facility should be evaluated for potential loss exposure, and the appropriate safety and loss control systems applied to prevent or reduce the likelihood of an accidental loss.

Erick Forshee

Environmental Health & Safety Director, The Fisher Companies

My duties as director of environmental health and safety include a constant review of local and state regulations to make certain we are providing the safest work environment for our employees. Revision and maintenance of the safety manual, while maintaining focus on protecting the general public, is a must. Most importantly, our goal is centered on sending each employee home safely each day without injury to their self or another. Continuously communicating to a team of safety professionals about safety issues, incidents, and lessons learned stems from all divisions. I encourage them to be decisive, take action to address safety issues as they arise, and lead by example.

Hazard assessments are completed for eight standalone companies that are owned by the Fisher Family. From those assessments, I work with our safety teams at each company to develop and implement safe operating procedures. We build action plans to correct any hazards on projects or within the facilities. We create training objectives that focus on local, state, municipality, the customer and the Fisher Companies requirements. I also work with management to conduct loss reviews, develop mechanisms to evaluate risks, implement controls, evaluate and share the results.

Ongoing duties also include:

- Revising and writing safety programs
- Revising systems for managing MSDS's
- Perform plant, facility, and job site safety audits
- Coordinate safety training for employees
- Manage other safety, health and environmental issues

My goal is to ensure all the Fisher Companies employees go home safe each and every day.

THE 29TH ANNUAL TUCK TATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Longtime Member Paul Galligan, Director of Grounds at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa was our host on the Bear Golf Course for the 29th Annual Tuck Tate Championship. Other MiGCSA Members at Grand Traverse include Gene Davis, Paul Galligan, Phil Gutowski & Seth Britton, thank you all for the great day. This event is a best 2 of 4 net team game with individual prizes for low gross and low net.

The winners from the day were:

Individual:

2014 Tuck Tate Champion – Jeff Hopkins – 73

2014 Tuck Tate Low Net Champion – Mike Normand - 72

Scramble teams:

1st place: 127 - Kevin Frank, A.J. Rings, Jeff Hopkins & Jay Eccleton

2nd place: 128 - Jim Olli, Todd Chwatun, Mike Normand & Mark Normand

3rd place: 131 - Micah Wise, Mike McClure, Lee Collins & Al Batham

Proximity:

Closest to the pin #4 – Dan Lucas

Closest to the pin #9 – Jim Olli

Long Drive #16 – Todd Genske

*The 2014 Tuck
Tate Champion
Jeff Hopkins*



*The 2014
Low Net
Tuck Tate
Champion
Mike
Normand*



Thank you to Gene Davis, Seth Britton, Paul Galligan, Nick Michalek & Phil Gutowski

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RESIDEX ALL STAR SHOOTOUT

The Wyndgate Skeet League is in its 2nd full season of competition and July 2nd marked the halfway point for the fledgling league. This part of the season is always a time of wonderment, as all stars and past champions' battle through the thick clouds of smoke, searching for that moment where they can stand-alone in the spotlight.

The All Star Shootout, as it has come to be known, took on a new moniker this year, as the team from Residex, graciously sponsored the event. The Residex All Star Shootout featured 2 sales associates from Residex; Dar Howard and Steve Loveday along with the 14 qualifiers from the WSL. Cabela's gift cards, pheasant hunting trips, free ammo and Tigers tickets were just a few of the prizes that were awarded after the event. Non-qualifiers were also able to participate in the event, however they were not eligible for prizes. The sharpshooters gathered at the clubhouse after the shooting was complete, told lies, made excuses, exchanged in some harmless bantering and to also to have pizza that was provided by Residex. Steve Loveday showcased his trap shooting dominance with an impressive 34/50 on the course that was still set up for the state tournament.

We would like to thank Dar Howard, Steve Loveday and Jud Hudnut for sponsoring our event and making it the best one ever. Phil Hopper and I use Turf Fuel on the West Wynd Golf Club and have had outstanding results from it; not to mention extremely positive feedback from our golfers. This isn't a sales pitch or a knock on any other programs; everyone's comfort level is different when it comes to the products that they use. Just as some programs are not for everyone, shooting is also not for everyone, but find something that is. We all know that summers can be long and grueling for everyone on the crew, so finding an activity that suits the majority will help raise or moderate morale and potentially increase productivity.

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Friday, September 5	Assistant & Student Networking Golf Outing (College Fields, Okemos)
Tuesday September 9	Western Golf Day (Battle Creek Country Club, Battle Creek)
Monday, September 22	Wee One Fundraiser (Orchard Lake C.C., Orchard Lake Village)
Wednesday, September 24	Equipment Tech. Meeting (Arcadia Bluffs Golf Club, Arcadia)
Monday, September 29	Operation Education Technician (Walnut Creek C.C., South Lyon)
Monday, October 6	The Big Event (Tam O' Shanter Country Club, West Bloomfield) Tuesday

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



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.

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WESTERN MEET AND GREET

BY: JEFF STARKE, ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, BLYTHEFIELD COUNTRY CLUB



The inaugural meet and greet of 2014 was a success. Around 25-30 people gathered at Blythefield Country Club for food and games last May. The assistants committee is looking at doing another meet up possibly later on this fall, and certainly next spring, much earlier in the season to increase participation. Check the website for details. Keep in mind this is an open invitation to any one interested in the MiGCSA. Our goal is to provide another opportunity for networking and fellowship. Thanks again to Jim Johnson of Great Lakes Turf and Josh Tietsma from John Deere Landscapes for help in funding this event.



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SENIOR PGA CHAMPIONSHIP VOLUNTEERING EXPERIENCE

BY: BRYAN KIEL

As a recent graduate of the Two-Year Golf Turf Management Program at Michigan State, I have had the exceptional opportunity to intern the past two summers at The Country Club of Detroit in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan. Ross Miller, the Golf Course Superintendent at Country Club of Detroit, is a firm believer that exposing his assistants and student interns to PGA, LPGA, & USGA tournament volunteer preparation experience provides a great opportunity for a career in the turf industry, as he has been given the opportunity to be a part of numerous tournament preparations in his career himself.

I had the privilege this past May to volunteer at The Golf Club of Harbor Shores for the 2014 Senior PGA Championship. Seeing how to manage a crew of that size, as well as observing how a course should look & play for a tournament and how to manage it, were just a few of the amazing assets that I was able to take from this opportunity. I have worked on two courses during my early career, and it was a wonderful opportunity to be a part of a different operation, see a different management approach, etc. The most valuable aspect to me was the opportunity to network with so many different people from different aspects & regions of the business.

The Senior PGA Harbor Shores had a staff of 40 plus personnel comprised of both Harbor Shores staff and volunteers like myself that were split into two teams, front nine and back nine. I found it very rewarding to work on the back nine tees each day, and then be able to walk the course, or watch it on TV and be able to say that I was able to contribute to the beauty of this tournament and the exceptional conditions of the grounds. This was an amazing opportunity and one I will never forget.

Networking at the tournament was a tremendous experience. Working side by side with others is an easy way to break the ice. I was able to speak with quite a few people and hear a lot of different methods and thoughts that go into managing a golf course. Being young in the industry, it is clear to see there are many people out there willing to share their experiences as well as help you learn and progress in our profession.

It was an amazing week at Harbor Shores. I would strongly suggest all Golf Course Superintendents give their Assistants and Interns the opportunity to participate in tournament volunteering.

I left with a greater knowledge of the industry and added confidence in myself, along with some more unique tools to build myself into a turf manager. Thank you to Mr. Brad Fry & his staff at Harbor Shores for the opportunity and I appreciate the opportunity that Ross gave me at the Senior PGA Championship. I look forward to the next opportunity of tournament volunteering soon!



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A FULL ROUND

DOUG
HOEH

Doug Hoeh is the Treetops North Superintendent and Mountain Manager, he has been there for the last six years. He has been married for 17 years to his wife Mitzie. They have a son named Caleb and he is 13. Doug started in the turf business at County Highlands in Bear Lake, a course at which his grandfather Maynard Hoeh was a founding director. Doug, Mitzie and Caleb live in Gaylord.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB ON THAT COURSE?

Grunt. I weed whipped, raked bunkers, weed whipped some more and then maybe I got to rake bunkers. **When did you know that this was a job you wanted to do as a career?** It took me about 4 years on the course before I really enjoyed what I was doing. I was young and full of ambition so that helped me. I was willing to do anything and everything to make that place look better. Thankfully the superintendent at the time gave me a variety of tasks which made it fun for me. **What was your favorite job that first summer on a course?** I actually really liked to weed whip. It was a challenge for me to get through the whole course in a day. I used to know how many trees were on that course. He had me do it weekly so I figured if I got it done in a day then he had to put me on something else the rest of the week.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Managing the staff. Getting them all out the door and going in the right direction first thing in the morning is easy. But when the first jobs are done and there are 15 guys or more standing in front of me saying "what's next?" I better be well prepared and have assignments ready. **What is the easiest part of your job?** I try to walk around the lunch room every day and have fun with them. I want them to feel appreciated and enjoy coming to work. I want them to have fun while here but also know that we have a job to do.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

I actually love to mow my lawn at home in my spare time. I also have started to get pretty good at charcoal grilling.

DO YOU PLAY GOLF? WHAT IS YOUR HANDICAP?

Love to play golf. My handicap says 3 but not really sure how close I can come to play that well right now. **What is your favorite golf hole you have played?** I have 90 of them and all of them where in Ireland. I loved every hole there and hope to make it back someday. **What is your favorite golf course that you have played?** Arcadia Bluffs. I always feel special when going over to play such an awesome layout. Course conditions are never bad either!! Great job Paul and Stubby!!

WHAT IS THE TOUGHEST GOLF COURSE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

Smith Signature at Treetops North. I know a cheesy answer but I have played it too many times to count and never score well on it. The greens are the toughest to read as there are a lot of subtle breaks in them along with regular big undulations.

WHAT GOLF COURSE YOU WOULD LOVE TO EXPERIENCE ONCE IN YOUR LIFETIME?

Oakland Hills. I have played a lot of great courses around the world and truly feel like Michigan golf is the best. So in my mind Oakland Hills would be the pinnacle for me to be able to play.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

Honestly doing the same thing I am doing now. I love it. If the day comes and I don't get excited or feel the pressure to make the courses nice then I will do something else. I like that in this profession you're only as good as today. The courses could have looked great yesterday, last week, last month, it doesn't matter, they better look good today.

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

The role of the assistant should be to carry out the details among the crew to make the courses shine. If I see the big picture then the assistant should be helping paint the colors. **What is your opinion of the role of the golf course mechanic/technician?** I couldn't do anything without a couple great mechanics. Mark Lauret is one of the best mechanics that I have ever had the pleasure to work with. He is an awesome guy to have on my team.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?

Carts driving wherever they want. I hate that ropes and stakes have to be out on the courses. It makes them cluttered and looks ugly. It would be nice if people would drive the carts on the cart paths like they are supposed to but people lose all common sense when they get behind the wheel of a golf cart.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE TOURING PROFESSIONAL?

Phil Mickelson. For just one day I would like to say all the politically correct answers like he does. I also love his all or nothing approach on the course.

WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

He is now longer with us but my grandfather. He got me into golf and taught me the game. He was a great player in his day (was on Ohio State's golf team). He also taught me how to work hard and go home at the end of the day knowing you made a difference.

WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW?

He isn't on my crew, he is my boss. Mark Wildeman has some of the best one liners as anyone.

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

I have 50 individuals. And I mean individuals... they all are great and couldn't do it without them.

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

1986 Toro sandpro. Still spinning bunkers making them look nice for 28 years.

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

My dad, grandpa and brother. Quick story but one time in a scramble we played in, we were hitting towards an elevated green and my dad hit a good shot. He was all excited as was we but he said "pick them up boys, it's in the hole!" Well we all hit just for practice and when we walked up on the green, sure enough there was a ball in the hole!! Funny thing was it wasn't his shot; it was my grandpa who made it!! I will never forget that as long as I live and we joke about it often after someone hits a good shot. "Pick them up boys, it's in the hole!!!"



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT DOUG HOEH

1. I DIDN'T START TO PLAY GOLF UNTIL I STARTED WORKING ON A GOLF COURSE AT THE AGE OF 18.
2. I WAS A DECENT BASEBALL PLAYER AND PLAYED IN COLLEGE.
3. MY WIFE AND I DATED FOR 9 MONTHS BEFORE WE MARRIED.
4. CITY DRIVING STRESSES ME OUT BIG TIME!
5. I LOVE TO HUNT AND FISH. DON'T GET TO DO IT MUCH ANYMORE BUT STILL LOVE TO DO THEM.



OFF COURSE

WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE UP TO WHEN THEY ARE OFF THE COURSE



MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

Steve Cook, CGCS, MG, Oakland Hills C.C.

I have been backpacking for many years and it seemed the next step was to develop my climbing skills. My first climb was Mt. Rainier in 2009. Since then I have been up Mt. Shuksan (non-summit), the Grand Teton twice, some other lesser climbs like Guides Wall in Jackson WY and rock climbing in the Red Rocks, NV. I convinced Doug Johanningmeier to climb Engineer Mt. ... in the winter, in 2011, a great adventure. Ice climbing is another requirement for the alpinist and I have been trying to improve that skill with ice climbs in Colorado. I am often asked: "Why"? The lessons learned climbing in harsh environments translate to everyday life: there is no retreat in the middle of a climb, the only option is to advance. The higher the mountain, the harder the climb, the better the view.

WAY OFF COURSE

Dar Howard, Agronomist for Gold Industry Partner Residex

Way off course.....that's where I like to find myself, that's where the best obstacles are! I bought a beat up 1964 Toyota Land Cruiser back in college. I restored it, then drove it daily while attending MSU. After graduation I started into the sport of off roading. Within a few years I started into competition rock crawling circuit and really started to learn the tactics involved in extreme rock crawling. Picking the best lines through the obstacles, out thinking the rules, and the other competitors, are my favorite parts. As the sport evolved, so did my old Land Cruiser...gone is the Toyota drivetrain. Heavily modified, it now sits on 40" Iroc tires, locked Dana 60's, and powered by a fuel injected small block chevy. After kids, I tamed it down a little, and added rear seats and a "family cage" and explored a lot of remote and challenging areas with my family. Now, I only get the time to go off road a few times a year, but try to make it worth the wait. Our favorite places to go off road are Batchewana Bay, Ontario, and Moab, Utah. The scenery, mechanics, engineering, excitement, patience, and challenges involved in off roading continue to take me off course whenever possible.



RUNNING TO THE FINISH

Justin Bickel, Secretary/Treasurer of the MiGCSA, Nightmare and the Dream Golf Courses

In 2011, a friend of mine talked me into running the Volkslaufe 5K in Frankenmuth, MI. I realized that signing up for the race was a great motivational tool to make me get out and exercise. For that reason I try to run at least one race each year. It gives me the motivation needed on those days when you would swear you are too tired to do anything but sleep.

Last year I decided to run the Tough Mudder at MIS with my girlfriend and a friend. It rained extremely hard the day prior so the entire track had deep mud similar to that in the picture. The track was 12-13 miles long and had approximately 20 obstacles. Some of the obstacles included electric wires, including the finish line which I have just run through in the picture. I can assure you the voltage was very strong. The event has an amazing atmosphere and a portion of the proceeds go to the Wounded Warrior Project. To date the Tough Mudder has raised over \$6 million for the Wounded Warrior Project.



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SAME GAME?

After watching the PGA Championship, and the other 3 majors this year for that matter, I started to wonder: Are these guys really playing the same sport as 98 percent of golfers? I know the ball is traveling farther. I know there have been shout-outs to the USGA and R&A to limit ball flight distance. I have

written about it. My colleagues have written about it, talked about it, and have taken steps to curtail it. The "ball" issue is a problem that has been around as long as the game itself; from the invention of the Gutter and the Haskell, to the Balata and the Pro-V. And, one must wonder – when will it stop? Add into this problem, the advancement of physical training and athleticism of golfers, and it will not be long before a 700 yard hole is simply a driver and mid-iron for the professionals.

In addition to professionals and low handicappers hitting the ball farther, one must also remember there are still beginner golfers trying to enjoy the game. And, these novices are NOT hitting the ball much further than novices of past eras. I.e hitting a golf ball over 100 yards in the air is still a challenge for many golfers – even with modern day equipment. Hence, there is a much wider gap in hitting distance between the high and low handicap golfer than in the past.

Growing up playing golf, and still noticeable on many courses today, many "white" and "red" tees are simply placed at the front part of the same tee area as the professional, believing this is a reasonable and needed advantage for the lesser skilled player to compete against the pros. Well, that "advantage" provided to today's lesser-than-professional golfer, is practically no advantage. The point being, due to the larger gradation between skilled and novice players today, there is a significant disconnect with regard to how a golf hole is experienced.

So, with such a large margin, what can be done to ensure a golf hole has integrity and plays proportionally for all golfers? To ensure golf holes are being played by all levels of golfers in a manner that was behind the designer's original intent? The answer lies in tee design. Today's golf courses need to critically analyze the placement and quantity of their tees in order to optimally design each golf hole to play as intended – for all levels of golfer.

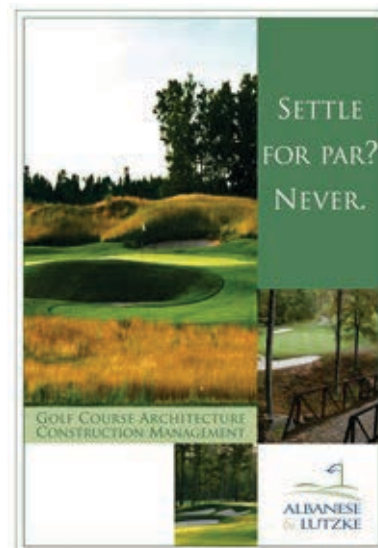
In the "old" days, tees were simply placed at the whim and pleasure of the golf designer; and, more often than not, as

determined by the greens committee. Often, a new back tees location would be "found", and the "old" back tee would suffice as the new middle or forward tee. Greens committees would often see a pleasant rise in the terrain and deem that a good spot for a red or a gold tee. There was little effort given to understanding data regarding hitting distance in order to help inform this key decision.

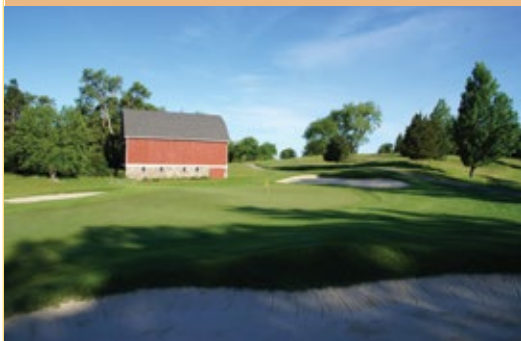
There is data available regarding how far golfers – from beginners to pros, men and women -- hit the ball. And, this data can, and should, be used to help create teeing areas that will enable a golf hole to play proportionally for all levels of golfer. And, one thing I have come to recognize, the placement of tees and hazards is not as simple as it may first appear. Tee placement design is NOT only a function of the distance differential between golfers. The length of the hole, elevation change, wind corridors, and other factors has to be considered when creating a tee system that will truly work well. In other words, if the data shows a low handicap woman hits their average drive 70 yards shorter than the low handicap man, this does not mean that their tees are simply placed 70 yards ahead.

A good test of whether a golf course tee system works well is if the professional, the low, mid and high handicap men and women golfers all play the golf hole in a similar manner. If one of these groups is consistently not doing so, there is a good chance the tees are playing a role. And, that is when the tees should be analyzed and probably changed.

Paul Albanese,
ASGCA is a principal
with Albanese &
Lutzke, Golf Course
Architects/Construction
Managers. They have
an office in Plymouth,
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UNDER THE HOOD



LINCOLN WHITE

Lincoln White is the Equipment Technician at Radrick Farms Golf Course in Ann Arbor. He has been married to his wife of 31 years. They have one son and three grandkids along with two dogs and a cat. Lincoln started in the golf business at the University of Michigan in 1983 and at the golf course in 1985.

1. HERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

I have no formal golf course equipment technician training. I learned to maintain equipment at a young age in Dominica.

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

To promote our profession. The equipment tech doesn't just fix equipment. We problem solve and fabricate tools and equipment for use in the field.

3. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I have trained and mentored many seasonal and full time employees thru the years I've been at Radrick to repair and maintain equipment as well as irrigation system components.

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

Maintaining the equipment fleet with new employees each year that don't have a lot of experience operating equipment. **What is the easiest part of your job?** When all the equipment is running well.

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

New employees following instructions for daily inspections of equipment. **What do you believe the biggest issue will be in the future?** Advancements in technology will force the manager to stay up to date on training to repair this equipment.

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

Understanding how new technology of equipment can benefit your daily operation.

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

I will be retired, hopefully on the beach enjoying good health and happiness.

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

Equipment must be well maintained to produce productivity and efficiency for the operation.

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

It is a very important position on the Team. Equipment managers problem solve not only to repair equipment but can fabricate tools and other equipment needed to complete a task that makes the job easier for the operation and the turf.

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10. WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS DEVOTED TO NON-EQUIPMENT RELATED TASKS?

20%. I repair irrigation system components as well as some building maintenance tasks.

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

They have a huge role in the operation by training and mentoring new hires while at the same time managing the golf course.

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

Not completing the pre-trip inspection on equipment before leaving the shop.

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

To use less equipment to maintain the golf course. But, it's not feasible. **If you could change anything about golf course management what would it be?** No more topdressing!

14. WHAT IS THE LOWEST MAINTENANCE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE?

The Tru-Turf Greens Rollers

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

My work cart is a 1979 Yamaha that still runs like the day we bought it.

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

More electronics and emissions regulations on equipment.

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

More notifications from manufactures on updated and recalled equipment.

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

As someone who helped others in every way he could. And made life enjoyable while teaching people the skills necessary to be a good person.

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

I had an employee come back to the shop with a broken triplex. He said he hit a tree root. I repaired the triplex and not very long after, the same employee came back into the shop with the exact same damage from hitting the same tree root. His excuse was, he wanted to see how it happened. He quit right after that because he thought he was going to get fired.



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT LINCOLN WHITE

1. I WORKED ON HEAVY EQUIPMENT IN THE MOUNTAINS OF DOMINICA.
2. I HAVE WORKED ON OCEAN GOING VESSELS IN THE ISLANDS.
3. I LIKE TO TRICK OUT CARS.
4. I LOVE TO COOK.
5. I LOVE SOCCER AND CRICKET.



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SCOTT TRBOVICH

Syngenta

Scott Trbovich is the Michigan Territory Manager for MiGCSA Platinum Partner Syngenta. He started in the golf business his sophomore year of college as a summer job, he loved the hours, learning new things and all the free golf. He has a Bachelors of Crop and Soil Science from Michigan State University he graduated in 1996. He and his wife Bridget have been married since November 4, 2000. They have three children Abbey (12), Lily (10), Tommy (8), Scott and his kids are so grateful for all that Bridget does for them.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

I think one of the biggest issues superintendents face today is managing their time. When I am out visiting customers, it is just amazing to me how accommodating most superintendents are for colleagues either at the same employer or from another club for requests that have nothing to do with growing grass.

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

I think the expectations are being met; provide value to its members; hold events that are informative and fun; and fundraise for the MTF of course!

WHAT IS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT DEALING WITH A CUSTOMER?

For a long time, it was not knowing label information of products when asked, but this week I catered an event and ran out of food and one employee on the staff did not get lunch, I felt terrible.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST ADVICE TO DECISION MAKERS WHEN DOING BUSINESS?

I think it goes back to value. If I could influence people, regardless of the service or widget they are buying, don't buy the lowest priced item, and instead purchase the one with the most perceived value.

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF BEING IN AN INDUSTRY SUPPORT ROLE?

By far, it has been the relationships I have gained in the past 15 years. This industry allows for some great people and dynamic personalities, and I feel very grateful that so many DSRs and End Users trust me and consider me their friend. And as a bonus, we get to talk about science, sports, life, relationships and social issues that all influence the game of golf!

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

On the business side, I really like being part of the solution. If someone trusts me enough to ask for my help/opinion, I feel it is a compliment to me. On the personal side, this industry is compiled with a lot of good, talented people, I am lucky to call a lot of them my friends.

WHAT ARE YOUR TRAVEL TIPS FOR THE LESS SEASONED TRAVELER?

Pick a brand and be loyal.

HOW MANY DAYS OF THE YEAR ARE YOU ON THE ROAD?

55-60

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS?

Skiing, Snowboarding, Golf and time with friends and family. I enjoy coaching my kids through life on and off the field. Many different forms of wood working and exploring the Michigan Craft Beer Industry.

HOW MANY MILES DO YOU DRIVE IN A TYPICAL YEAR?

45,000

WHO HAS THE NICEST SHOP THAT YOU CALL ON AND WHY?

To date, the new facility at Midland Country Club, it is a palace.

WHAT'S THE FUNNIEST STORY YOU CAN SHARE FROM YOUR TIME ON THE ROAD?

There are a lot; I try to share some of them on Twitter as they occur. @strbovich

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING OUTSIDE OF WORK?

Watching my kids grow and improve their abilities in life. On the field, dance stage, backyard, ski hill, it does not matter. I am thankful for the opportunity to share these times with them. Like Chesney says, "don't blink".

INDUSTRY PROFILE

WHAT WOULD YOU CONSIDER THE VERY BEST PRODUCT YOU OFFER AND WHY?

Good question. Syngenta offers so many different AIs right now. I think my favorites would be Secure® Fungicide, because it is new and Acelepryn® Insecticide, because of the environmental profile traits of the AI.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE PROFESSION YOU ARE IN?

At the time, it was the variables that superintendents had to address. No day, weather pattern, irrigation system, soil type, etc. is ever the same from place to place. The jack of all trades mentality was appealing to me and holds true today. I always have several projects going on at one time around the house.

IF YOU HAD TO HAVE A DIFFERENT PROFESSION, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

No Question, an NFL Head Coach

IF YOU COULD TRAVEL TO ANY TIME IN GOLF WHEN WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

Definitely back to the age of Tom Morris, it would be really neat to see how much he shaped the game first hand. If you like golf history, check out the book 'Tommy's Honor'

HOW MANY ROUNDS OF GOLF DO YOU PLAY A YEAR?

I would love to say 50, reality it's more like 15. My handicap has not improved once.

5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT SCOTT TRBOVICH

1. IN 1984, I ATTENDED A DETROIT TIGERS BASEBALL CAMP. MY DAD SURPRISED ME WITH AN ORANGE AND BLACK LANCE PARRISH CATCHER'S MITT. I GOT IT SIGNED BY LANCE AND LOST IT DURING MY HIGH SCHOOL YEARS, STILL BUMS ME OUT.
2. I HAD THE CHANCE TO PLAY NATIONAL GOLF LINKS OF AMERICA AND SHINNECOCK HILLS GOLF CLUB IN THE SAME DAY! THE NATIONAL IS STILL MY FAVORITE.
3. IN 2009, I FINISHED THE BROOKSIE WAY HALF MARATHON WITHIN MY TARGET TIME WITHOUT TRAINING.
4. MAGGLIO ORDONEZ ONCE HIT ME A FOUL BALL, MY HANDS STUNG FOR 20 MINUTES.
5. I LOVE TO BBQ, RELAX AND ENTERTAIN. AFTER DRIVING 1000 MILES A WEEK, THERE IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME.



FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS – GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

As we have turned the corner and are heading to the finish line of another year, I hope you have time to reflect on the year that has just passed. This year has taught us many things such as Mother Nature giving us a horrific winter with much turf damage and a cold prolonged spring that made turf recovery difficult but then She have us a mild summer with timely rains and great growing conditions that have allowed turf recovery and helped superintendents maintain great turf conditions throughout the summer. In my travels around the region this spring I saw firsthand some of the devastation and I also saw some of the great conditions this summer. My hats off to all superintendents for the great job you do and the struggles you go through to maintain the golf courses.

It has been a very busy summer at GCSAA as well. We wrapped up our Rounds for Research auctions for 2014 in August recording just over \$114,000 for the June auction and just shy of \$31,000 for the August auction. The 2014 total was \$145,339 raised with 804 rounds sold. Just over \$116,000 will be going back to the chapters that provided the rounds to be used for research, education, scholarships and government outreach at the local level. In the first two years of the program the auctions have generated just shy of \$300,000 and just over \$233,000 has gone back to chapters. We are looking for more donations for 2015 and hope to increase participation with bidders and raise even more for chapters in the upcoming year. If your facility would like to donate rounds you can do so through the chapter or directly on line at gcsaa.org.

On the government relations front it has also been a very busy summer. GCSAA has been working to extend the use of two products that superintendents use, methyl bromide and nemacur. Through all of the efforts of Chava McKeel and her staff along with Reed Smith, GCSAA's lobbyist in Washington D.C. we have a seat at the table and we are able to have conversations with the EPA and elected officials and let them know how superintendents use these products and why they are important to our industry. Another area under attack is the insecticide class of neonicotinoids. With the decline of bees around the world and many pointing the finger at neonics, GCSAA is monitoring this situation very closely and providing information to help superintendents inform their local governments of the facts as well as providing those facts to the elected officials in Washington D.C. Another issue that has surfaced locally is the toxic algae blooms on Lake Erie that forced Toledo to issue a ban on drinking water for two days. We will continue to follow this closely and provide information to help local superintendents inform the public and answer media questions if they arise.

The chapter delegates meeting dates have been set and it will be October 14-16, 2014 in Lawrence, Kansas at GCSAA Headquarters and a local hotel. This is a chance for delegates to learn firsthand what is going on at GCSAA and have input into how the future will be shaped for GCSAA. If you have any concerns with the industry or for GCSAA make sure you voice them to your delegate prior to the meeting so that they can be voiced at the meeting and discussed. The GCSAA Conference and Show will be in San Antonio, Texas in February of 2015 so now would be a good time to start planning your trip. Hotel registration is open and I would encourage you to use the GCSAA Travels site as they have some very competitive rates. If you really want to wow those you work for, invite them to San Antonio and let them see the show and the amount of education that is offered and encourage them to take a seminar that interests them to see the quality of the education offered. They will be impressed! If I can help you with anything, please don't hesitate to contact me and I look forward to seeing you at an event soon.

Best Wishes,

John

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THE 2014 NORTHERN FUNDRAISER

More than 190 registered for the Monday Fundraiser at Arcadia Bluffs this year and 80 on Sunday night. Heavy rain swept through in the morning just in time for the first tee time at 7:30 to get out. A beautiful morning gave way to another torrential downpour at 2:30 that brought almost everyone in from the course. The storm passed and play resumed around 3:00 and the fog gave way to a spectacular afternoon and beautiful sun set. Thank you to all who attended on both Sunday and Monday, the total from just this first fundraiser of 2014 was over \$20,000! This event is also made possible by the sponsors for the day including our 2014 Premiere Foundation Sponsors Syngenta, Bayer, BASF, Tri-Turf, FIP Irrigation, LaFontaine Automotive and Jacobsen. Also our hole sponsors on J.W. Turf, VB Controls and Spartan Distributors. Thanks to Residex the pretzel bun hot dogs were back on holes #7 and #15. A huge thank you to the staff at Arcadia Bluffs including MiGCSA Members Paul Emling, Mike Nielsen, Phil Klusesner, Dan Heiss, and Pat Sullivan. Also to Bill Shriver COO, the Pro Shop staff headed by Jay Waltrip and Zack Chapin, John Spence Food and Beverage Director and Susan Ling Events coordinator. This event is also made possible thanks to Mr. Rich Postma the owner of Arcadia Bluffs who allows us to return to this fantastic venue every year.

Here are the results from the day:

Closest to the pins: #2 – Mark Thomas, #6 – Gary Shegina, #13 – Dan Heiss, #17 – Andy Gilroy
Long Drives: #3 – Lisa Guyout, #11 – Andy Gilroy, #18 – Kevin Thielke

Skins: Eagle 3 on #3 - AJ Rings, Colin Romanick, Ryan Osborn, Paul Osborne, Eagle 2 on #12 - Doug Palm, Matt Palm, Luke Palm, Jake Palm, Eagle 3 on #15 - Tom Sieggreen, Adam Hansen, Gary Ashley, Guest, Birdie 3 on #16 - Phil Owen, Dave Allis, Rich Hall, Tyler Owen

Winning Scramble Teams:


1st place: 60 - Tom Sieggreen, Adam Hansen, Gary Ashley, Guest (scorecard playoff), 2nd place: 60 - Jeff Sweet, Kyle White, Aaron White, Jon Conklin, 3rd place: 63 - Brian Roberts, Bobby Rollins, Steve Saari, Kerri France (scorecard playoff)

Other prizes: 50/50 – Dr. Ron Calhoun

VB Controls Trivia game: Ken Kanouse, Jeff Bodziak, Ken Rogers, Kyle Barton

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THE BETTER HALF



SCOTT WILKINSON

Scott Wilkinson started in the golf business after hearing about an opening at Harbor Shores while he was the Head Groundskeeper for an Independent League baseball team in Camden, NJ. He wanted to move closer to home and Harbor Shores is only about 40 minutes from his hometown of Dowagiac, MI. He is recently engaged to his beautiful fiancée, Natalie, they have been together for 8 1/2 years. He has been at Harbor Shores for 3 1/2 years and they live in Berrien Center to where they live with their 2 year old dog Wally.

WHERE WAS THE FIRST COURSE YOU WORKED ON?

Harbor Shores is the only golf course I've worked on. **What was your first job on that course?** My first job was driving the tractor and material hauler to load the greens topdresser.

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

I worked for a lawn care company during the summer while I was in high school which was really enjoyable and that's when I started to research turfgrass management.

WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

Four year turf program from Michigan State University. **Where did you go after college?** I worked at Campbell's Field in Camden, NJ. **Who was your first boss?** Kevin Moses, he was the first person that taught me how to actually put what I learned in the classroom into action.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT AND TEAM?

Any team from Michigan State

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE THAT YOU HAVE PLAYED?

I really like Harbor Shores, it's a beautiful course and I know where not to be from working on it everyday.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF CLUB IN THE BAG?

My wedge or 8 iron, definitely not the putter.

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

I'd have to say our sprayers because we use them so much for some many different applications. Close behind the sprayer is my soil probe and hose. **What piece of equipment would you like to add to your arsenal for golf course management?** It's not a piece of equipment but I'd love to be able to hire spray/irrigation tech.

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

Something in the front office of sports management specifically baseball or football.

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

The fairway on hole 10. Love the green just don't like the structural design of the fairway.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT?

The pepperoni pizza from Lutz Restaurant in Dowagiac, MI.

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

Usually anywhere from 16-20 general crew members. **What type of irrigation system do you have and approximately how many irrigation heads?** 1,668 Toro heads on the Toro Lynx system.

What is the cultural management practice you could not do without? On our course I would say irrigating and our topdressing program.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CAREER PATH?

I wanted a job outside and always enjoyed maintaining my parents lawn growing up. After my lawn care job during high school I knew this would be the perfect career option for myself.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

The early mornings and long hours during the dog days of summer.

What is the easiest part of your job? Seeing the finished product from all the hard work and long hours.

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

As far as professionally it's Brad Fry. Everything I know about golf turf management I credit to him. Personally, my parents, I wouldn't be the man I am today without their support and guidance.

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

The assistant superintendent's role is invaluable. The assistants perform a variety of important jobs from running and supervising the crew, many serve as the spray tech and or irrigation tech, they collect soil moisture data and on and on. **What is your opinion of the role of the mechanic in relationship to the assistant?** It's crucial to the overall condition of the course. It's nearly impossible to have a healthy, aesthetically pleasing stand of turf without the equipment running properly.

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

Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley and Kevin Millar.

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

During the 2014 Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores I got a frantic call on the radio from our other assistant telling me to come outside of our shop fast. I find him standing outside the Grounds Hospitality tent frantically waving me over to him. He takes off running behind the tent so I follow after him not knowing what I'm gonna find. He's holding onto one of the air conditioner tubes and he says quietly, "My pillow is in here somewhere." It turned out that he had his pillow sucked up into the air conditioner unit. He was going to take a nap and wanted to get his pillow cold first. Thinking he was putting it up to the cold air supply when actually he put it up to the warm air return and it sucked his pillow right out of his hand. Needless to say, his nickname is now Pillow. FYI he hates this story.



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT SCOTT WILKINSON

1. I'VE BEEN A CHICAGO WHITE SOX AND MIAMI DOLPHIN SINCE I WAS FIVE YEARS OLD.
2. I GREW UP ACROSS THE STREET FROM MY GRANDPARENT'S FARM WHICH MEANT I ALWAYS HAD CHORES TO DO.
3. I ACTUALLY ENJOY PAINTING.
4. I WATCH BAND OF BROTHERS AT LEAST TWICE A YEAR.
5. IF I COULD I WOULD TAKE MY DOG WITH ME EVERYWHERE.



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THE 2014 MiGCSA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

MiGCSA Class A Member Dan Mausolf had Radrick Farms set up for a Major Championship. The 8th Annual State Championship, the MiGCSA Major, was a great success. This event is not just for those competing for the trophy there is also a 2 of 4 net team game so everyone can get in the game. The threat of thunderstorms in the morning gave way to a very brief shower that never disrupted play for the 72 in attendance. At the end of the day a scorecard playoff was won by Carey Mitchelson of College Fields with a very well-played 1 under 71 to win the 2014 State Championship. Special thanks to MiGCSA Members Clint Kutzley, Levi Moore, Ghansha St. Amie, Lincoln White & Matt Weiland. Also thank you Jon Moll, Clubhouse Manager and his staff, Paul Scott General Manager and Corbin Todd Director of Golf. Here are the rest of the winners:



2014 MiGCSA State
Champion Carey
Mitchelson

Team best 2 of 4 net

1st place: Score of 121 - Mark McKinley, Brent Wojtyniak, Todd Genske & John Seefeldt

2nd place: Score of 125 - Carey Mitchelson, Rick Laux & Doug Middleton

3rd place: Score of 129 - Marty Miller, John Francoeur, Paul Kolbe & Kraig Binder

Proximity Prizes:

Closest to the pin #4 - Mike Thorsen

Long Drive #10 - John Cooney

Closest to the pin #15 - Eric Goodman

Individual:

2014 State Champion - Carey Mitchelson

2014 Low Net Champion - Todd Genske



Low Net Champion Todd Genske



MiGCSA Board Member Dave
Pawluk, CGCS thanks host Dan
Mausolf for hosting the event

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A CALL FROM CAMPUS

TURFGRASS FIELD DAY & LOOKING AHEAD TO CONFERENCE

Dr. Kevin Frank

The Michigan State Turfgrass Field Day was held on August 13 at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center. Approximately 300 attendees representing golf, lawn care, athletic fields, grounds, and suppliers viewed current research during separate research tours for golf turf and lawn/athletic fields in the morning. The morning golf research tour included stops on bentgrass establishment, soft spike comparisons, drones for remote sensing, physiological responses of bentgrass and annual bluegrass to different irrigation treatments, Poa control programs, winterkill reestablishment, and disease and insect updates. Lunch was catered by the Spartan Hall of Fame Café which according to my unofficial survey of attendees was a smashing success. The afternoon finished up a full day of activities with in-depth workshops on diseases and weeds. As Field Day wrapped up our attention has immediately transitioned to conference.



The conference planning committee has been busy putting together the educational programming for the Michigan Turfgrass Conference Jan. 19-21, 2015. The conference format is changing this year to provide even more educational opportunities. In lieu of workshops all day on Monday and Tuesday morning, the conference will transition to three days of general sessions beginning on Monday morning at 9 am and finishing up with the Turfgrass Talk Show on Wednesday afternoon. This format change provides more slots for speakers both from out of state and locally. Monday morning will begin with a lively session/debate on the classic battle between Poa and bent. Tuesday morning will begin bright and early with 'Breakfast with the USGA' featuring USGA agronomists Keith Happ and Bob Vavrek. Tuesday afternoon is the Innovative Superintendents session with quick hitting 25 minute talks from superintendents around the state sharing their secrets to success. Conference details are being finalized so keep your eyes peeled for conference registration arriving on your desk soon!



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THE 2014 MID GOLF EVENT

On a picture perfect cool morning in Mt. Pleasant more than 70 members came out to the Mid Golf Event at Bucks Run G.C. with our host MiGCSA Board Member Jeff Sweet, CGCS General Manager/Superintendent and his Assistant Craig McKinley. This was a scramble event that teed off at 9:30. The reception after golf was highlighted by updates from the MSU Turf team, MiGCSA and MTF.

The winners from the day were:

Scramble teams:

1st place: 59 - Brian Roberts, Chris Cummings, Mike Dailey & TBD
 2nd place: 59 - David Stephens, Tom Napieralski, Dick Rigda & Tom Nichols
 3rd place: 60 - Todd Genske, Jim Higgs, Scott Sabgash & Christian Koval

Proximity:

Closest to the pin #8 - Mike Dailey
 Closest to the pin #14 - Team 14, first shot
 Long Drive #3 - Chris Cummings

Skins:

Eagle on #1 - Phil Hopper, Jason Tyson, David Moritz & Joe Tignanelli
 Eagle on #6 - Todd Genske, Jim Higgs, Scott Sabgash & Christian Koval
 Eagle on #15 - Brian Roberts, Chris Cummings, Mike Dailey & TBD



Jeff Sweet, CGCS and Craig McKinley



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L to R: Carey Mitchelson MTF, Eric Rule MGCOA Lobbyist, Doug White PGA, Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley, Tom Schwark MGCOA, James R. Kohl GAM & Adam Ikamas, CGCS MiGCSA

LEGISLATORS LEARN AT MICHIGAN GOLF DAY AT THE CAPITOL

State Rep. Kevin Cotter lives next to Bucks Run Golf Club in Mount Pleasant and has a true passion for the game and the industry.

"Golf is truly special, especially in Michigan," he said while attending "Michigan Golf Day at the Capitol" Thursday.

"It's very important to Michigan, very important to our tourism and I'm a big advocate for the game. Mother Nature cooperated today. We're getting this great lunch. It's a great idea to get us all together to learn about the game and about its importance to Michigan."

The Michigan Golf Alliance, made up of the state's major golf industry associations, joined forces to bring the Michigan golf message to legislators.

The Michigan Golf Course Owners Association, the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Michigan Section PGA, the Golf Association of Michigan, the Greater Michigan Club Managers Associations and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation gathered on the lawn of the state Capitol and visited with each legislator in their Senate and House offices. Legislators and staff members were also treated to a "lunch at the turn" provided by Eagle Eye Golf Course in Bath.

Lieutenant Gov. Brian Calley made opening remarks and presented a proclamation from Gov. Rick Snyder that declared June as "Michigan Golf Month."

The golf leaders discussed various topics relating to the industry, including the well-received "Pure Michigan" campaign and golf's efforts to have a positive effect on the environment.

Rep. Cotter said the golf course next to his home is a perfect example of the industry's positive impact on Michigan.

"It's a place that at one time was an open mine operation for gravel and sand," he said. "It sat around for years and really wasn't a high use property. The idea came along to turn it into a golf club and it has led to tremendous thing, brought in jobs, increased home values in the area. It has been tremendous."

Kate Moore, executive director of the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association, was thrilled by the response of legislators and the large crowd that joined the alliance members for lunch.

"It's a great response and a wonderful opportunity for our industry leaders to share their message," she said. "Lieutenant Governor Calley made a great speech to kick things off and the proclamation shows that the Governor is aware of golf's impact in the state."

ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

**Who does what?**

One of the great things about being a Golf Course Superintendent in Michigan is the amazing resources we have at our disposal. One of the challenging things is knowing who does what for the Turf Industry in Michigan. I know personally I was not aware of all the details or even the big picture until I joined the Northern Michigan Board in 2005. So I am going to try to clear up some of the confusion I often hear and have personally experienced.

The MiGCSA is your GCSAA Affiliated Chapter, we are the largest single state chapter in the country and we host more than 20 networking events a year and produce this quarterly Course Conditions magazine. We also keep the migcsa.org website current and the hub for Golf Course Superintendents in Michigan. We host three golf fundraisers a year of which the major benefactor is the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF). The MiGCSA is your association, your network of peers. We are here to serve our members needs and to provide value to our members through programs and services that enhance and promote our profession.

The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF) has been in existence since October 24, 1956 when eleven turf managers met at the MSU Memorial Union Building for a final organizational meeting of the MTF. The MTF has one guiding mission to support the world renown turf research that is done at Michigan State University. The MTF are the organizers the Michigan Turf Conference in East Lansing each year. They also do the Tee Times for Turf Auction, the Field Day at MSU and the LaFontaine Golf Outing each year. Gordie LaFontaine is the Executive Director of the MTF and has served the MTF in many roles since the 1960's. For many years the MTF also acted as a de facto statewide organization for Superintendents before the MiGCSA inception in 2008. The MiGCSA is the largest yearly donor to the MTF and we support them in many

ways including communication to our members on MTF events and the research they produce.

The Michigan Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program (MTESP) was started in the 1990's and has had many faces. Greg Lyman brought the program to it's highest heights and Debbie Swartz continues on in the same direction until funding was cut in 2009. Dr. Ron Calhoun took up the torch and then Dr. Kevin Frank took the helm after Dr. Calhoun left for Residex. The program is now under my direction and is being digitized and reformatted as MTESP 2.0, this will be out this fall. Funding for this program comes from the Michigan Groundwater Stewardship Program.

The Michigan Golf Alliance was formed in 2011 and is comprised of the major golf organizations in Michigan. These include the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association (MGCOA), Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MiGCSA), Golf Association of Michigan (GAM), Michigan Section PGA, the Greater Michigan Club Managers Association (GMCMA) and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF). This group plans and produces the Michigan Legislative Golf Day every June and have an overall goal of getting more people to play more golf in Michigan.

All of this may look confusing, however we are extremely fortunate to have so many resources and groups working every day to support and promote the golf industry. I can say with certainty that we have one of the most active golf communities with some of the best resources in the country. Make sure you take advantage off all our state has to offer.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS
MiGCSA Executive Director



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