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COURSE CONDITIONS

SUPERINTENDENT SPOTLIGHT

JIM NAUGLER

AT LINKS AT CRYSTAL LAKE

TURF MANAGEMENT
APPLICATIONS

THE CURLING
FUNDRAISER

2014 SCHOLARSHIP
WINNERS



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COURSE CONDITIONS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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MIGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 1/31/15

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	WINTER 2014 MEMBERSHIP
Class A	249	244
Class SM	68	71
Class C	104	107
Class AA	31	28
Class AFF	167	170
Class D	40	38
Class E	16	16
Class H	29	29
Class R	12	11
Class SA	35	31
TOTAL	751	745

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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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@migca.org, 1-888-3-MiGCSA or 7113 Demerly Rd. Benzonia, MI 49616.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



GREGG L. MATTHEWS

It has been an honor to serve on the MiGCSA Board of Directors as well as hold the positions of Secretary/ Treasurer, Vice President and President. While the time commitment to serve effectively has been challenging, I am very proud of the association's accomplishments throughout my tenure with the board.

Giving back to something that is important to you is the greatest gift. I am proud to be a member of this industry leading association. My relationship with the MiGCSA and other industry involvement has been invaluable with improving my skills and leadership abilities. I am thankful for the support both Lakelands Golf and Country Club and Tam O Shanter Country Club have given me during my time serving.

I want to personally thank the members of the board of directors throughout the years. I have learned from each and every one of you. I will remain dedicated to enhancing the value of the golf course superintendent and improving the overall perception of the golf industry.

Moving forward, the leadership of the MiGCSA is in great hands. Jeff Holmes is dedicated and passionate, and will serve as a strong leader as our President in 2015. The board of directors is equally strong with members from across the state. Adam Ikamas, Executive Director will continue to keep the focus on our goals. Adam has proven to be the most effective Executive Director. He has impressed me from day 1 and continues to do so.

The MiGCSA Mission is real

"We are dedicated to providing value to our members through programs and services that enhance and promote our profession."

The MiGCSA Vision is clear

"We are passionate about its members and the golf industry."

I ask that all members get involved. Attend the meetings and events. They are useful and certainly inclusive. The comradery, friendships and knowledge shared is worth it. We all live such parallel lives, with family and professional obligations; there is much to be learned and shared at these events. I look forward to seeing you there. This is your association, so get out there and use it.

I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2015 season.

Respectfully,

Gregg L. Matthews
Golf Course Superintendent
Tam O Shanter Country Club
President, MiGCSA

TURF MANAGEMENT

DIGITAL JOB BOARD

By: Matt Shafer, 1st Assistant at Lost Dunes Golf Club

We wanted to create a job board that would improve the efficiency of our operation. With 30+ part-time/full-time employees during peak growing season, filling out the dry erase board in the morning and making changes throughout the day can be a tedious job. We also wanted to eliminate the hand written daily log. Our digital job board accomplishes both of these goals and could potentially become a tool that could do a great deal more.

The most inexpensive way to turn your television into a computer monitor wirelessly is by utilizing Google Chromecast. Google Chromecast is a dongle that connects to your TV's hdmi port. It essentially allows you to broadcast anything from your Google Chrome browser to your television with the click of mouse. For \$35 it's a pretty awesome gadget. It gives you the ability to display safety videos, weather radar, documents, and about anything else you can think of on a TV. Once we figured out the best way to stream content from the computer to the television we had to design a document for a job board. You could do this a number of different ways but the only way that we could access it from our smartphones was by using Google Drive. Google Drive is a file storage service that allows you store documents in the cloud, share them with other users, and it's all free up to a fairly large amount of data. Within Google drive, there are office programs that are incredibly similar to Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, and Word. If you are familiar with those programs, you can most definitely navigate yourself through Google's office programs. We designed ours through Google Sheets which is very similar to Excel. The best part of using Google Sheets is that you can share with other users. Now our other Assistants and our Superintendent, Steve Jotzat, can see what everyone is working on and even change what they are working on from their phones at anytime and anywhere they have internet access. Settings can be changed so that some users are only allowed to view the document and are not allowed to make changes. So we can give access to all of our employees that have smartphones. The first

draft of the job board displays morning and afternoon jobs, current weather conditions, our weekend schedule, mowing directions for the day, and any announcements we may have.

Our job board will certainly evolve after each season of use. We would eventually like to link sheets to track the cost of labor for each task being performed and organize into useful data categories.



EVERNOTE

By: Alistar Lynch, The Lynch Agency

My favorite application is Evernote, it keeps all those things that clutter desk's and dashboards in place.



Evernote will search handwriting (even mine) and give me a way to find things and keep organized. I'll take pictures of invoices, serial numbers of equipment, receipts, attach webpages, documents and other pertinent information for each person or task that I am working with. Being cloud based storage; I can share and give permissions to others.

APPLICATIONS

Features:

- Web clipping support
- Edit text and sketches
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- Store notes, web clips, files and images
- Content available on any device
- Save online resources in one place
- Grab whole web page: text, images and links
- Snap photos, record audio, save documents
- Share notes and collaborate on files
- Save favorite webpage

Example: If I am in a setting where I am taking notes, after the meeting I will take a picture of my notes from a legal pad with my smart phone and save it to Evernote. I can go back and type key words from that event or any other related items in to the search bar and it will retrieve anything with that word in it, from writing, to pictures to text.

I've used it for seven years and it never forgets, and it's my favorite flavor, FREE..!!

TEAM VIEWER

By: Rob Steger, CGCS Saginaw C.C.

My favorite application is TeamViewer; it allows me to control my irrigation



computer desktop remotely via phone or home computer. My wife would like to personally thank Mike Casey from Spartan Distributors for telling me about this application. As Golf Course Superintendents, we all spend lots of hours doing our jobs. I am sure you have all been lying in bed; when a thunderstorm rolls through and have had to tell your wife, "I need to go shut the irrigation system off, be back in 45 minutes". We have all been there, watching a cell that was tracking dead at your Golf Course after 21 days without rain disintegrate on your favorite weather radar application. If your irrigation computer linked to

the internet, you can now make these changes from the comfort of your armchair. Setting up the application is as simple as downloading it on your irrigation computer, and then downloading the application on your phone or whatever device you would like to remotely control your irrigation computer with. Each device that you would like remote control of is given a unique TeamViewer ID, which is password protected. When you open the application on your phone, you will see your desktop. You have taken control of your irrigation computer remotely and can make any changes needed as if you were sitting in your office without ever leaving your home. This application hasn't ended late afternoon trips back to the Golf Course to make final decisions about exactly how much water to apply, but it has eliminated emergency trips back to either turn on or turn off the system. If you don't have remote access to your computer, get it; it is free and will help you do your job better.

DryJect of Michigan

21st Century Aeration

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THE CURLING FUNDRAISER

On January 9th at 1:00 pm 31 MiGCSA Members took to the ice at the Detroit Curling Club in Ferndale. A special thank you to DCC & MiGCSA Member, Ryan Moore of Forest Lake C.C. for setting this event up. During lunch from 12 – 1:00 there was full instruction from some of the experienced members of the club on how to curl, the rules and scoring. This continued on the ice and the group was ready to go by 1:30. As with most new things many were off to a rocky start but quickly grabbed a hold of their best form. There was even a very rare 7 point turn, 8 is the max and is so rare that a DCC member just had his first one this year in his entire life. Scott Spooner and Greg Pattinson who were on the 7 point turn were especially happy they were able to pull it off on the team of Dr. Kevin Frank. The reviews of this event were completely positive and we plan to host the second annual Curling Fundraiser next year back at the Detroit Curling Club.



The 31 MiGCSA Members had a great time.

The one person who really knew what they were doing, Ryan Moore.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, March 11	Spring Management Meeting (Egypt Valley CC, Ada)
Wednesday, March 25	Spring Management Meeting (Tree Tops, Gaylord)
Monday, April 27	Spring Opener (Muskegon CC, Muskegon)
Monday, April 27	Can-Am Tournament (Canada)
Monday, May 18	Wee One Fundraiser (Kingsley Club, Kingsley)
Sunday, May 31	Northern Fundraiser Practice Round (Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia)

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



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A FULL ROUND



JIM NAUGLER

Jim Naugler has been in the golf business his entire life, the last six at the Links at Crystal Lake in Pontiac. His late father Gordon played on the Canadian golf tour in his younger days. In the late 60's he was General Manager at Goodrich Country Club where Jim started working on golf courses, in August of 1973 he became the Superintendent at Goodrich C.C. Jim is married to his wife Robin for 36 years, going on 37. They have three children Stewart 30, Heather 32, James Jr. 35.

WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

Goodrich High School. **What part of that education do you use most often on the job?** Math. **What course did you go to after college?** Goodrich Country Club. **Who was the first Superintendent at that course?** Dan Hughes. **What did you learn from that Superintendent in the first year?** Show pride in your work.

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

10. **What type of irrigation system do you have and approximately how many irrigation heads?** Toro Osmac-site pro, with around 500 irrigation heads. **What is the cultural management practice you could not do without?** Aerification

HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I served as President twice for the Mid Michigan Association and served on the M.T.F. board as a board member, and also as assistant treasurer.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS?

Golf, Cooking, TV, Movies, Hunting, Fishing.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS RELATED MOVIE?

Greatest Game Ever Played, in which Francis Ouimet wins the 1913 U.S. Open at The Country Club in Brookline, MA as an amateur. Francis later went on to win the Western Amateur in 1917 at Midlothian Country Club, where my son Stu works.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

The environment. **What do you believe the biggest issue will be in the future?** Water usage.

WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS?

Fairways being maintained the same way as greens. My son Stu has already started rolling and sand-topdressing fairways on a regular basis.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

Dr. Paul Rieke, Phil Owen, Steve Rose, and I have a great amount of respect for Clem Wolfrom, Fritz McMullen and Gordie LaFontaine. Who is the greatest influence in your personal life? My late father, Gordon



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

My son Stu Naugler who is currently Golf Course Operations Manager at Midlothian C.C. near Chicago, Il., Phil Owen, C.G.C.S, Golf Course Superintendent at Warwick Hills C.C. in Grand Blanc, MI., and Steve Rose, Golf Course Superintendent at Flint Elks Club in Grand Blanc, MI.

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

How to get along with people and show them respect.

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

Full time Fire Chief. During my time at Goodrich Country Club as General Manager/Superintendent for 32 years, I also was the Fire Chief for 17 years in Atlas Twp.

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

Toro 5100-D 1999 fairway unit. My mechanic Bob Swan refurbished it, and gave it a new paint job. The amazing thing is, that it mowed fairways at least 3 times a week and never once had to be repaired.

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

Very important -- to manage the day to day operations even when the superintendent can't be there.

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

This is the position that probably gets the least amount of recognition. His responsibility is to maintain the equipment in excellent working condition with a superior quality of cut at all times.

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

Golfers are spoiled, especially at private clubs! As superintendents, we are constantly questioned about green speeds and why can't our club be that fast or faster. My opinion is that all courses should strive for speeds from 9 to 11 feet. That way when you play another course, the speed will be somewhat comparable. The most important thing is that the greens will be healthier. I maintain my greens at .130 during the months of June thru August. I believe in the Nikolai method of alternating mowing with rolling and as a result my greens stimp at 10 feet consistently. In comparison, my son Stu mows at .090 and rolls every day at his course to consistently provide his membership with speeds in excess of 12 feet.

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

During my younger days I competed in several amateur tournaments including the Michigan State Amateur and Genesee County All-Star in which I preferred walking. Though now that I'm getting older, I prefer riding to conserve energy.

DO YOU PLAY GOLF? WHAT IS YOUR HANDICAP?

Yes I play, and for most of my life I was a 1 or 2 handicap but now I'm a 14.



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT JIM NAUGLER

1. MY GOLFING CAREER CONSISTS OF BEING THE SEMIFINALIST AT THE 1983 MICHIGAN STATE AMATEUR IN WHICH I BEAT U OF M 4-TIME ALL AMERICAN STEVE MADDALENA. I ALSO PLAYED IN THE MICHIGAN OPEN, THE HORTON SMITH TOURNAMENT AT DETROIT GOLF CLUB, THE GENESEE COUNTY ALL-STAR, FLINT CITY AMATEUR, AND SEVERAL PROFESSIONAL EVENTS IN FLORIDA.
2. I WAS THE FIRE CHIEF OF ATLAS TOWNSHIP FOR 17 YEARS.
3. I'M CURRENTLY BATTLING STAGE 4 PROSTRATE CANCER.
4. MY FATHER, MY SON, AND I MAKE UP 3 GENERATIONS OF GOLF COURSE MANAGERS AND I COULDN'T BE MORE PROUD! MY DAD AND I WERE OFFERED MANAGEMENT POSITIONS SIMPLY BECAUSE WE WERE SCRATCH GOLFERS. 30 YEARS LATER, MY SON STU GRADUATED FROM ONE OF THE TOP TURF SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY, MSU, AND HAS WORKED AT SEVERAL TOP 100 RANKED PRIVATE CLUBS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.
5. I'VE MADE 7 HOLE-IN-ONES.



OFF COURSE

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



CHASING DUCKS

Mike Rupp, Harrell's

Of all the outdoor activities I enjoy, chasing ducks is by far my favorite. I like everything about it, messing with boats, scouting, dog training, even painting decoys in the off season. I started hunting ducks, when I was 16, with an orange Coleman canoe, a dozen borrowed decoys and very little knowledge. I like to think I have advanced a little in my skill level since then. My wife likes to think I have advanced to a ridiculous level when it comes to gear: boats, waders, shotguns, coats, dogs and way too many decoys. As I have become older, it has become less about the actual shooting and more about the art of the sport- calling, decoy placement, figuring out what the birds will do in relation to the wind and weather.

My two oldest sons, Hunter and Kaleb, hunt with me whenever their College and work schedules allow. Nothing makes me happier than hunting with them and seeing them enjoy it as much as I do. We do most of our hunting on the west end of Lake Erie and a couple local rivers.

HORSING AROUND

Steve Loveday, Residex

I'm interested in anything that keeps me active and creates a new challenge. Most recently I took up the sport of English Hunter Jumper style horseback riding. I try to workout on a regular basis, play competitive men's soccer every Sunday night and thought, "How hard can this be?". The answer "really hard". This is the first sport I've tried where you have a 1,600 pound partner who may or may not feel like cooperating. The first lesson I learned was that I'm not as strong as a horse; by any stretch. Cooperation comes from "horse-fitness" and finesse. It's by far one of the most challenging things I've ever tried and I learn something new each time I ride. Like golf you get those rare moments where it all comes together and that's what brings you back again and again.



DRONES OFF THE COURSE

Eric Davey

As many of you have seen lately, drones are becoming more and more popular on the golf course and have become a very useful tool by identifying irrigation issues, flying over ice covered greens and supplying your club with flyovers for their web site. While useful to a superintendent, drones also have uses outside the golf course. Drones can be extremely fun to fly around and just have a good time with your kids; recently, I have found a secondary use for my drone. I have begun a relationship with a local real estate agent and have been flying and videotaping all of her real estate listings. Prestwick Village Golf Club is located within a housing community. The real estate agent typically has all the listings within this community and when a listing comes up, she simply texts me the address and I will make a 30 second video, highlighting the home, its location on the course and proximity to clubhouse pool and tennis courts. A flyover of the hole the home backs up to is also done to give the potential member a view of their backyard and where they are located on the golf course. These 30 Second videos are then uploaded to the Internet to help with the sale of the homes.





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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Cavanaugh".

Kevin Cavanaugh, Co-Owner
(901) 493-7211 | kcavanaugh@floratine.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Cavanaugh".

Mike Cavanaugh, Co-Owner
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MULTIPLE SETS OF TEES NOT JUST FOR MEN

For the past twenty plus years, I have realized and promoted the benefits of many different sets of tees for a golf course. It simply makes sense. Most golf holes are designed from a particular point of view. A designer will usually review a piece of ground,

on paper or in the field, and envision an enjoyable golf hole. As part of this vision, the architect will make some assumptions for how a golfer, of a particular caliber, would navigate from the start to the finish, from the future tee site to the future green site. Sometimes, the architect will envision another route on that same area of landscape (essentially a different hole), devised for a different subset of golfers, with a different skill set. But, for the most part, architects envision a single golf hole from only one or two viewpoints. Much like the writer of a story will know their audience, a golf architect usually has a “story” devised for certain participants.

And, as I have written about in the past, in order for all golfers to enjoy the “story” created by the golf designer, it is imperative that golfers play the correct set of tees. Otherwise, the “story” will not make much sense. More and more golf courses and golfers have embraced this concept. I see public and private courses alike promoting the idea of playing the correct set of tees in order to appreciate the intended golf design of the architect. I see the governing bodies of golf encouraging golfers to play the proper set of tees with initiatives such as “Tee it Forward” by the PGA of America.

But, even with these initiatives, I still see resistance to playing different tees based on one’s own ability. Surprisingly, I see this resistance more in some factions of golfer’s than others. And, generally speaking, it is not the men that exhibit the resistance. More often than would be expected, the opposition comes from women. I am always dumbfounded when I explain the idea of playing a golf hole “proportionally” to women, that they seem to believe this will take away from their experience.

On many golf courses, if one were to sit on a typical 400-yard golf hole all day and watch women play the hole; the majority of them would not be able to reach the green in two. And, many of the women that do reach the green, would be doing so with a much longer iron than a man of similar age and ability. This would not be a “proportional” experience. And, likely, not an experience envisioned by the designer of the golf course.

Also, if sitting on that same hole, one would probably notice that women do not have a lot of options from where to start the hole. More than ever in the past, one would notice there is a

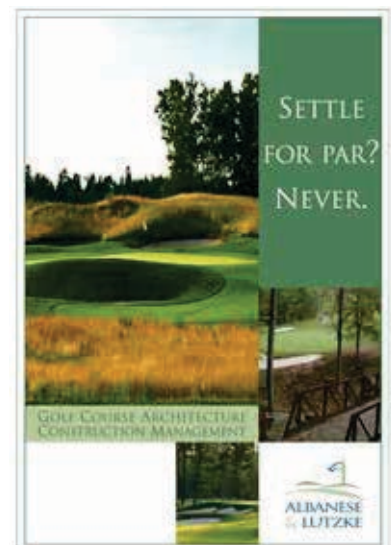
greater disparity between different abilities of women golfers. Yet, unlike their male counterparts, there are fewer options for tees from which to play. On many golf courses there is only one set of tees that are designated for “women”.

What surprises me, is when the idea of creating more sets of tees for women is proposed, and that women (often playing in the same group) should play from different tees, there is usually a resistance. And, the responses are similar to those I have heard in the past when men were going through this transition: “it does not seem as social to play from different tees”; “I have always played from that spot, and to move up would make it too easy”; “it is embarrassing to not play from where everyone else is playing from”.

These feelings are all understandable. But, if women golfers (an important sector in the growth of golf) are to enjoy the sport, they need to embrace the idea of playing a shorter golf course, in order to truly appreciate the “story” that has been created for them. In addition, golf courses need to continue to add teeing areas that will enable different calibers of women to experience the golf hole in a manner that was designed for them.

Golf is hard sport. It has been evidenced that there are three key factors negatively affecting golf participation: cost, length of the time to play, and difficulty of the sport. Having more tees for all levels of golfers will address two of these aspects – time and difficulty. And, in addition to creating more tees, there needs to be an education of golfers as to why these tees make sense.

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



UNDER THE HOOD



AARON KIRSCH

Aaron Kirsch is engaged to his Fiancée Erin with a wedding planned for fall of 2015. They have two cats Eddy (10), Tazzy (5) and a puppy Cherry (9 months) they live in Saginaw. He was not happy with his current career and was looking for a change in working environment last year. He mentioned to Kevin Risch the Assistant Superintendent at Saginaw C.C. that he was in search of a change and Kevin got Aaron an interview.

1. HOW DID YOU START IN THIS BUSINESS?

I come from a family where if you didn't fix it yourself it wouldn't get fixed. I grew up riding dirt bikes so learning how to maintain them was essential. I started working on a farm before I was in high school and loved working on equipment.

2. WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

High school at Uby Community School and Saginaw Valley State University.

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

Continue sponsoring equipment management training and new technology courses for furthering education in the turf industry.

4. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I give back to my profession with time, hard work and detail. I'm always willing to put in extra hours and work very hard to make our course the finest in the area. Sometimes it's the little details that are noticed the most...I'm a detail guy.

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

The most difficult part of my job is working with equipment electronics. **What is the easiest part?** Buffalo blowing fairways.

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

I can't speak for all equipment managers, but I'd say probably aging equipment.

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

I see equipment steadily becoming easier to work on. The faster we can do the maintenance on the equipment the faster we can get back out and help better the course for our members.

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

I see myself doing the same thing, just being way better at it. **How about 100 years from now?** I will be remembered as hardworking, honest, and tough as nails.

9. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT?

My dad Gary Kirsch always had me out in the shed helping out with equipment, from small engines to tractors. He is for sure the reason I know all of the things that make me a great equipment manager. I will always be playing catch up to his mechanical knowhow.

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

It is critical for the equipment to run and perform to perfection. The superintendent's plan may be flawless, but if the mowers aren't set up correctly or running good the turf suffers.

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

It's probably about 50% right now, but with some new equipment arriving soon I hope to cut that number in half so I can help more on the course.

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

Assistant superintendents play a vital role in the success of a golf course. There is just too much work involved to maintain optimal conditions for just one manager.

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

Equipment cleanliness! I am the guy that spends half the afternoon power washing one piece of equipment to make it perfect. It's one of many character flaws of mine that I've never been able to shake.

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

We still use a 1987 Hahn 440 spray rig. Since we have other (nicer) rigs for greens and fairways it is primarily used to water flowers and hydro seeded areas. It is still used several times a week throughout the summer.

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

It's heading toward equipment being cleaner, more efficient and environmentally friendly.

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

Quality of cut and grinding procedures.

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

A buddy of mine decided to increase compression on an engine we were working on by using a thin piece of copper wire instead of the standard head gasket. The idea was to cheaply increase horsepower. The look on his face was priceless as the engine quickly destroyed itself.



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT AARON KIRSCH

1. I PREFER CHICKEN TO STEAK.
2. I AM A CERTIFIED ARCHERY TECHNICIAN.
3. I WASN'T ALLOWED TO CUT THE LAWN WHEN I WAS A KID, BUT ALWAYS WANTED TO.
4. I HATE TRAVELING.
5. I GOT THE AWARD FOR PERFECT ATTENDANCE IN HIGH SCHOOL, BUT MISSED THE AWARDS CEREMONY.



THE WINNERS OF THE 2014 HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIP HAVE BEEN CHOSEN

Jim Bluck CGCS, Scholarship Committee Chairman



Jeff Holmes, CGCS and his daughter Stephanie one of the 2014 Heritage Scholarship winners.

The winners of the 2014 Heritage Scholarship have been chosen. The Heritage Scholarship is an award of \$1000 that is offered through the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association. The award is available to the dependents of our active members who are enrolled in a post high school education curriculum.

Funding for this scholarship is provided by the proceeds from the 2014 Fundraisers, the Northern at Arcadia Bluffs, Western Golf Day at Battle Creek C.C. and the Big Event at Tam-O-Shanter C.C. Thank you to all of the players and sponsors of these events including our 2014 Premiere Foundation Sponsors Bayer, Syngenta, BASF, Jacobson, FIP Irrigation, Tri-Turf, and LaFontaine Automotive.

The applicants are asked to submit a 750 word essay along with evidence of their scholastic and extracurricular achievements. The scholarship committee then grades each applicant based on their submission and the 4 highest scores are awarded

the scholarship. The areas for grading include the application, its appearance, creativity, effort and does the applicant meet all of the criteria. Next is the content of the essay along with the proper use of grammar followed by the applicant's scholastic achievements and community involvement.

The winners include:

- Laura Brown, daughter of Richard Brown, Superintendent/Owner of Singing Bridge Golf course.
- Stephanie Holmes, daughter of Jeffery Holmes CGCS, Superintendent of Egypt Valley Country Club.
- Lauren E. Roeser-Nordling daughter of Dennis Nordling of Barton Hills Country Club.
- Dylan C. Goike son of Steve Goike, Superintendent of Alpena Golf Club

I would like to thank all 11 applicants for their time and efforts applying for this award. I find it extremely pleasing that the hard work, dedication and commitment that our members take to work each day is having a profound effect on their children which is evident in the achievements of each applicant. I would also like to thank Mike Rosen from the Ostego Club and Doug Hoeh from Treetops Resort for their help in choosing the recipients.

2015 MiGCSA Event Calendar

All events are subject to change in date and/or location.
Please check www.MiGCSA.org for all the latest event information



Friday, January 9 - Curling Fundraiser for Ice Research (Detroit Curling Club, Ferndale)
Mon-Wed, Jan. 19-21 - Michigan Turf Conference (Kellogg Center, East Lansing)
Monday, Jan. 19 - MiGCSA Annual Meeting (Kellogg Center, East Lansing)
Thursday, February 5 - Spring Management Meeting (The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth)
Mon-Fri, Feb 21-26 - Golf Industry Show (Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center)
Wednesday, February 25 - Michigan Gathering (Guadalajara Grill, San Antonio)
Wednesday, March 11 - Spring Management Meeting (Egypt Valley CC, Ada)
Wednesday, March 25 - Spring Management Meeting (Tree Tops, Gaylord)
Monday, April 27 - Spring Opener (Muskegon CC, Muskegon)
Monday, April 27 - Can-Am Tournament (Pointe West Golf Club, Amherstburg Ontario)
Monday, May 18 - Wee One Fundraiser (Kingsley Club, Kingsley)
Sunday, May 31 - Northern Fundraiser Practice Round (Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia)
Monday, June 1 - Northern Fundraiser (Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia)
Thursday, June 4 - Legislative Golf Day (Capitol Building, Lansing)
Wednesday, July 8 - Mid Golf Event (Eagle Crest G.C., Ypsilanti)
Wednesday, July 29 - Tuck Tate Championship (Hidden River G & Casting Club)
Wednesday August 19 - MiGCSA State Championship (Eagle Eye G.C.)
Friday, September 4 - Assistant & Student Networking Golf Outing (College Fields, Okemos)
Monday September 21 - Western Golf Day (Cascade Hills C.C., Cascade)
Wednesday, September 23 - Equipment Tech. Meeting (Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia)
Monday, October 5 - The Big Event (TBD)
Friday, December 4 - West Holiday Party (Cascades Sports Bar & Grill, Grand Rapids)
Friday, December 4 - Mid Holiday Party (River Rock Bar & Grill, Holly)
Friday, December 11 - Detroit Holiday Party (The Lodge at Keego Harbor, Keego Harbor)

MTF Events in Green
GCSAA Events in Silver
Wee One Event in Blue

THANK YOU

TO MiGCSA'S 2014 INDUSTRY PARTNERS

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KRIS EARLY

Spartan Distributors

Kris Early is the Vice President of Sales for 2014 Gold Industry Partner Spartan Distributors. He has been married to his wife Tina for "the best 17 years of my life". He has a son, Kanan that is 13 and a daughter, Jadya that is 10. "What a great experience raising children brings to your life. It really puts it all in perspective." Kris said in his interview. Kris and his family live in Ortonville which is about 15 miles North of Auburn Hills.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

I had two Uncles that bought a golf course when I was 12 so I went to work for them doing whatever you can do at that age. Mostly raking traps, trimming, cleaning up debris, etc. until I worked my way up to all phases of course maintenance and management.

WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

I graduated from Homestead HS in Ft. Wayne, IN and then went through the (2) year Turfgrass program at MSU.

WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE ON YOU IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL AND PERSONAL LIFE?

Without question, my Uncle Jim, both of my parents, my wife and my current employer, Dawn Johnson.

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

When I worked for the Toro Distributorship in Iowa, our Customer Service Manager took a call one day from a potential customer who wanted to buy some Tordon Pellets. She thought he said, "torn down pallets" and given the fact that we had a lot of pallets we wanted to get rid of, she spent about an hour trying to figure out how we could tear them down and what price we should charge for them. When we finally figured out what he really wanted it became a joke that has lived on forever between those of us involved back at that time.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Things have changed so much over the last 40 years since I was a superintendent, and the pressures keep building in many ways, but I have to believe budget and weather are still at the top of the list for most superintendents.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A HOLE IN ONE?

I have had two of them. One when I was 16 back in Indiana where I grew up and one about 15 years ago at Lochenheath while playing golf with my brother-in-law on a weekend visit.

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

I think education, communication, and support should be some of the most important areas to focus on.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT DEALING WITH A CUSTOMER?

Many years ago, when I was still with the Toro Distributor in Iowa, I was on my way to see a customer, stopped at an A&W for lunch and ended up with chili, mustard and pickle relish down the front of my shirt. I was in the middle of "nowhere", as is much of Iowa, so there was no place to buy a new shirt and I had no jacket with me, so in order to make the appointment on time, I had to show up with a giant stain on the front of my white golf shirt. Pretty embarrassing at the time, but kind of funny in hindsight.

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

Use "common sense". It seems like too many people in our world today don't take common sense into consideration when making decisions. If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck!

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

People. I love dealing with people and our industry is blessed with great people that are fun to work with, associate with and just be friends with.

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

I know I am biased and rightfully so, but I am so proud to be selling Toro products. After doing it for 37 years, I have a total trust in The Toro Company and the products they sell. They have never let me down nor disappointed me in those 37 years with how they support their products and their customers. That's pretty amazing.

INDUSTRY PROFILE

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

Watching expert, knowledgeable and dedicated people all around me, and they are all successful in their own way! From my peers to my customers to my suppliers, I have seen so many different styles and personalities over the years, but they can all work if channeled properly.

WHAT ARE YOUR TRAVEL TIPS FOR THE LESS SEASONED TRAVELER?

Nowadays, I say do it as little as possible. I know many people don't feel that way, but when I was younger, I thought flying was the greatest thing in the world. Now, due to so many delays, downtime and just aggravation, I don't enjoy it at all. I like going places and getting home, but the in-between is not my idea of fun. If you can make it happen, fly direct whenever possible and avoid connections.

ARE THERE ANY NEW PRODUCTS ON THE HORIZON?

There will always be new products on the horizon. I never dreamed when I was 12 years old, working on that golf course, that things would be as different as they are today, so I'm sure it will be just that much more different in the next 50 years as well. Any company that is not striving to introduce new products or keeping up with the changes will not be here in the long run. Change is constant! One area that does jump out at me though is Toro's ongoing efforts to take "Precision Irrigation" to the highest level. Precise use of irrigation will play an important role for all of us in the future and Toro is the leader in this trend.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLFER AND WHY?

Phil Mickelson, he always seems to be humble about his success and never fails to show appreciation towards his fans.

5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT KRIS EARLY

1. I'M A "PAST PRESIDENT" OF BOTH THE IOWA TURFGRASS INSTITUTE AND THE IOWA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.
2. I HAVE BEEN WORKING FOR A TORO DISTRIBUTOR FOR OVER 37 YEARS. (19-1/2 YEARS IN IOWA AND 17-1/2 YEARS IN MICHIGAN)
3. WHILE PRESIDENT OF THE IOWA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, IN NOVEMBER OF 1995, WE PLANTED 168 TREES (149 LITTLE LEAF LINDENS- ONE FOR EACH ADULT AND 19 FLOWERING CRABS-ONE FOR EACH OF THE CHILDREN) IN A BOSQUET FORMATION ON THE STATE CAPITAL GROUNDS IN OKLAHOMA CITY, AND DEDICATED THEM IN HONOR OF THE 168 PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN THE BOMBING OF THE ALFRED P. MURRAH BUILDING. THERE WERE OVER 500 PEOPLE IN THE AUDIENCE AT THE DEDICATION CEREMONY.
4. LAST OCTOBER I WENT ON MY 27TH CONSECUTIVE ANNUAL MUSKY FISHING TRIP IN THE HAYWARD, WI AREA.
5. WHEN I WAS IN THE 5TH GRADE, DURING A FUNDRAISER AT SCHOOL, I SOLD THE MOST CANDY OF ANYONE IN THE ENTIRE SCHOOL, AND WON A TELEVISION.



FROM NATIONAL



JOHN MILLER, CGCS

GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY JOHN MILLER, CGCS – GCSAA MIDWEST FIELD STAFF

As I write this there is still snow on the ground but as you read it, I hope that the weather is warming, the grass is greening up and you are ready for another great season of golf! As we were heading into the Golf Industry Show and GCSAA Conference all of the numbers pointed to us having an excellent conference and show. I hope that as we enter spring those numbers came to fruition and that those of you who attended the conference and show in San Antonio had a great time and found value in attending the event. Please let GCSAA know your thoughts by completing the after conference survey that you will or have received via email.

There is a lot going on in the government relations world as always. The things that will affect you and have the most impact on your operation over the next year or so that you need to keep an eye on are the neonic legislation pressure that is being waged by many groups across the country especially on the west coast and on the east coast. Here closer to home is the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. This impacts all states around the Great Lakes as well as any areas where the water shed drains into the Great Lakes. This initiative was announced in Chicago by the EPA in 2014 but if you Google Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and go to the home page, you will actually see that it has been going on since 2010. On this page there is an interactive map that shows you all of the projects that are active, how much money is being spent and what governmental entity is responsible for the project. I would encourage you to check it out as Michigan is right in the middle of all of the action. On the government relations front, GCSAA is having much success with the recently launched Government Relations Ambassador Program. This program places a golf course superintendent with each member of congress in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. I also have some chapters in the Great Lakes Region that are thinking of doing this on the local level. If this sounds like something you are interested in please check it out on the GCSAA website or call 800-472-7878 for more information.

By now you have probably heard that I have resigned my position with GCSAA effective January 31st. I am going to work for the LPGA Tour as their agronomist. I will be responsible for working with superintendents to ensure tournament conditions for each of their events. I have truly enjoyed my time at GCSAA and working with all of the chapters and members in the Great Lakes Region. I would like to congratulate the Michigan Chapter on the progress they have made in the last few years as well as the success the chapter is having. The chapter is blessed with good leaders and I would encourage all members to become active in the chapter. You have a lot to offer and you will also learn a lot that will help you and your golf course improve. Thank you for all of your support and friendships over the years.

Best Wishes,

John

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TURF CUP HOCKEY

The 21st annual Golf Course Hockey Challenge took place at the Gale Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario. This was a hockey tournament for golf course superintendents, assistant superintendents and other turf professionals. Team Michigan went into the four-game event looking to retain the coveted Turf Cup for the third straight year. Twelve teams from the U.S. and Canada competed for the cup, while there were also 4 teams of players over 40 years old that took part in a more recreational competition.

The players from Michigan met on Monday afternoon at the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron and carpooled for the 4 hour drive to Niagara Falls. After getting our rooms at the Comfort Inn – Clifton Hill, we had a poolside dinner and strategy session. We were also treated to the first viewing of the new uniforms that Syngenta (Jerseys) and Residex (Socks) purchased for the team. Since the original yellow jerseys had been around since the 1996, they were much appreciated. Since our first game was at noon, we had some time to then check out the night life.

The first game matched us up with a London who we beat 7-2. We only had to wait for 2 hours until a big matchup with Northern Ontario. It figured to be a tough game, as Northern Ontario had won nine of the tournaments, while Michigan has won seven. It did not turn out that way, as Team Michigan walloped them by a 9-1 score.

After returning to the hotel for some much needed time in the hot tub, we crossed the border back into the United States. The Detroit Red Wings were in town to face off with the Buffalo Sabres. It also happened to be the day that the Sabres retired long-time Buffalo and Detroit goalie, Dominik Hasek's jersey number. Detroit easily skated by the home team, 3 to 1.



Back Row) Scott Trbovich (Syngenta), Adam LaFrance (St Clair Shores Golf Club), Rob Adam (MSU Student), A.J Plaskey (Osburn industries), Scott Marlinga (Twin Beach Country Club), John Nowakowski (Port Huron Golf Club), Tim Osburn (Osburn Industries), Scott Spooner (City of Ann Arbor), Lewis Nowakowski (MSU Student), Carson Nowakowski (Port Huron Golf Club), Ken DeBusscher (Knox Fertilizer)

(Front Row) Kris Kalil (Orchard Lake Country Club), Mark Ostrander (The Moors Country Club), Taylor Doorlag (The Moors Country Club), Brian McDougal (Port Huron Schools), Matt Costello (Knox Fertilizer)

At 9:30 the next morning, we played a team from Southwestern Ontario. Once again, the Americans showed our neighbors to the north how to play the game, as we won 5-1 to advance to the Championship game. That game was close, but the home team Niagara Falls kept up a fast pace and handed us a 5 – 3 defeat to win their first Turf Cup.

Team Michigan will be returning next January to defend the Cup and we are seeking more players to join us. If you are interested in playing or know of other turf professionals who are, please contact John Nowakowski at 810.434.4117 or jnowakowski@phgc.net. There are openings for the competitive division and also the Over-40 bracket.

We would like to extend sincere thanks to our sponsors for this event: Deep Roots Aerification, Osburn Industries, Syngenta, Harrell's, Great Lakes Turf, Resdiex, Spartan Distributors, Ocean Organics, Ultimate Reel Grinding and Knox Fertilizer.

THE DETROIT MANAGEMENT MEETING

Close to 70 members attended the 2015 Detroit Management Meeting at The Inn at St. Johns this year. Thank you to Dave Pawluk, CGCS for again hosting this meeting.

The day started with a presentation from Dominic Petrella of The Ohio State University on "Can pigments really decrease turfgrass stress". Dr. Daniel C. Peck then spoke about "Emerging pests in the golf course landscape: European crane flies and annual bluegrass weevils" Dr. Peck was able to attend this meeting with some support from Platinum Partner Syngenta and Scott Trbovich. Dr. Dave Roberts from Michigan State presented on "The Top Tree Maladies for 2015" and the final speaker of the day was Steve Keating of the Toro Company. Thank you to Toro and Spartan Distributors for helping with getting Steve to Detroit to speak about the "Five Levels of Leadership" and "360 Degree Leadership".

The reviews were very good for this lineup. Special thank you to the Education Committee Co-Chairs:



Close to 70 in attendance for the 2015 Detroit Meeting.

Jeff Holmes, CGCS & Dave Pawluk, CGCS, Jim Bluck, CGCS, Eric Davey, Dr. Ron Calhoun, Marc McCoy & Rob Pylar who put this schedule together. The MiGCSA is now recording these events and will make them available to attendees as soon as possible after the event and to the rest of the membership at a later date.

2014 STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP



Congratulations to Andrew Christesen the 2014 MiGCSA Student Scholarship winner. Andrew was chosen after the Scholarship Committee chaired by Jim Bluck, CGCS, Mike Rosen from the Ostego Club and Doug Hoeh from Treetops Resort interviewed Andrew and eight other candidates who applied.

THE BETTER HALF



JON LAMB

Jon Lamb is the Assistant Superintendent at Traverse City Golf & Country Club. However he started in the business at Polo Fields Country Club in Ann Arbor with Superintendent Marc McKinley. Jon decided long before he even worked on a golf course that this was the career for him. He was inspired by his uncle, David Bergstrom, who is a superintendent in Arizona. He remembers when he would visit their family growing up he would always talk about his job and it intrigued Jon. Since he loved golf and working outside, it seemed like the perfect combination.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB ON THAT COURSE?

My first job was as a basic maintenance employee on the golf course grounds crew. I had just come out of my first year of college with a spray license and had never worked on a golf course. I was very fortunate that Mr. McKinley hired me because I really needed that first jump into the industry to get my career rolling. I was amazed that within the first month he had me on a sprayer. I remember him saying, "Well if you have your license, we're going to use you!" **What was your favorite job that first summer on a course?** My favorite task was mowing fairways.

WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

Michigan State University. **What part of that education do you use most often on the job?** I would say I use fertilizer, pesticide, and fungicide information the most on the job site. Everything from calibration of spreaders and sprayers to knowing when and where to use various types of pesticides and fungicides to achieve results.

WHAT COURSE DID YOU GO TO AFTER COLLEGE?

I was hired as the assistant golf course superintendent at Traverse City Golf and Country Club out of college and am going into my 4th year of employment. **Who was the first Superintendent at that course?** Steve Hammon. **What did you learn from that Superintendent in the first year?** The most important thing I started learning from Steve was how to manage people. knowing how to coordinate and delegate tasks in an efficient matter is vital in our industry in order to maximize results and stay ahead and away from golf. The golf course is a very dynamic environment and being able to make changes to daily tasks and communicate on the fly while still being able to complete your own task is a skill he preaches every day. These are skills that I continue to develop each year that are not necessarily learned in the classroom.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT AND TEAM?

My favorite team is Spartan Football!!!! Go Green!!

DO YOU PLAY GOLF? WHAT IS YOUR HANDICAP?

I do play golf!! My handicap is an 18. I'll play once a week in the summer. With such a short season up here. **What is your favorite golf course that you have played?** Dessert Mountain in Scottsdale Arizona. **What golf course would you love to experience once in your lifetime?** Pebble Beach Golf Links. **What is your favorite golf club in the bag?** The driver!!

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT?

My favorite restaurant is Boones Long Lake Inn!! Specifically the 22oz prime rib dinner.



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

John Roth always make me laugh when he reads the Northern Express local newspaper and gives his loud, political insight that you can hear throughout the shop.

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

10. What type of irrigation system do you have and approximately how many irrigation heads? We have a fairly new rainbird irrigation system. We have over 1000 heads. **What is the cultural management practice you could not do without?** I could not go without sand topdressing. I think it is the most important cultural practice when it comes to managing golf course greens.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CAREER PATH?

I chose turfgrass management as a career path because I always loved how golf courses looked on tv and when I played them. I always was amazed by the different heights and types of turf. I also wanted to pursue a career that involved being outdoors.

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

I would like to see more research when it comes to preparing the golf course for winter and preventing ice damage and crown hydration. I know that MSU just received a low temperature chamber for research so I hope it is a successful project. Hopefully they can figure out ways to limit damage and prevent devastating results in the spring.

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

The person who influenced me the most was my uncle. He introduced me to the field and is a great role model for professionals in the industry. It was a blessing being able to do an internship with him and see how someone you look up to handles their business the right way and truly enjoys what they do for a career.

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

When I worked at Polo Fields, a co worker and I were dragging fairways for the first round of our member guest tournament (the biggest one of the year). When we got done with the front nine, we thought we were good enough to drag the rope on the cart path and around the landscaping without making a mess or hitting anything instead of loading it in the cart and hauling it to number ten. The rope ended up dragging through the landscape mulch onto the cart path and by the practice chipper on the other side of the cart path. This spot was right by the clubhouse too where everyone was gathering. The instant after it happened, Mr. Mckinley drove by with his face beat red, his cheeks puffed out, and steam blowing out of his ears while shaking his head. He was too mad to even stop and yell!! I'll never forget that face.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

I would say the most difficult part of my job is working in the various elements that northern Michigan offers. I've accepted a while ago that everyday isn't going to be 75 and sunny. Having said that, I think that dealing with rainy, snowy, hot, and cold temperatures is like going into a battle. It makes those tasks for the day more difficult to complete but it's all about being in the right mindset.



5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT JON LAMB

1. I'VE HAD TWO ABDOMINAL SURGERIES AND AS A RESULT I DO NOT HAVE A LARGE INTESTINE.
2. I USED TO KNIT AND SEW WHEN I WAS LITTLE.
3. AT ONE POINT IN MY LIFE, MY BLOOD PRESSURE WAS 30 OVER 10.
4. I REALLY ENJOY CHOPPING AND CUTTING WOOD. STUDIES SAY THAT CHOPPING WOOD IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE ACTIVITY YOU CAN DO TO BOOST TESTOSTERONE.
5. I STILL ENJOY WATCHING 90'S SITCOMS SUCH AS HOME IMPROVEMENT AND SEINFELD.





A CALL FROM CAMPUS

MICHIGAN TURFGRASS CONFERENCE RECAP

BY KEVIN FRANK

The Michigan Turfgrass Conference has just concluded its 3rd year on campus at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center. By all accounts this was one of our most successful conferences in years. Attendance has steadily increased each year since we first moved back to mid-Michigan in 2012 and this year it was readily evident as all of the session rooms were packed for the educational sessions. A significant change for the conference this year was the transition to three days of general



session education programming in place of the additional fee workshops we have conducted on Monday and Tuesday morning in the past. Any apprehension that attendees wouldn't show up until Tuesday as some have in years past was quickly extinguished on Monday morning with a packed room to hear Drs. Vargas, Branham, and Golembiewski debate the virtues and shortcomings of Poa annua and creeping bentgrass. Thanks to Brad Klein from GolfWeek for entertaining the audience with his unique and humorous perspective on golf course architecture, golf, and turfgrass maintenance. New this year was the Breakfast with the USGA session bright and early at 7 am and the Innovative Superintendents session on Tuesday afternoon. At the Innovative Superintendents session the room was packed to hear presentations from Jason Zaleski, Eric Davey, Dan Mausolf, Scott Rettman, Scott Pulaski, and Mike Mausolf. Thanks to all for presenting and if you're interested in presenting in the Innovative Superintendents session next year please let me know. The Half-Time Vendor Show wrapped up Tuesday afternoon with 2 + hours of networking with our industry partners and the conference concluded on Wednesday afternoon with the scholarship awards and the always-dynamic Turfgrass Talk Show hosted by Dr. Nikolai.

There are many people that make the conference a success. The conference committee: Amy Fouty, Brian Schwehofer, Dan Mausolf, Brian McDougal, and Becky Schoch all deserve

a huge thank you for their efforts. I'd also like to thank all the moderators for taking the time out of their conference schedule to direct sessions: Dr. Ron Calhoun, Scott Trbovich, Jeff Kingsley, Kim McKenzie, Steve Hammon, Collin Romanick, Mark Frever, Seth Stern, Aaron Hathaway, Al Bathum, Mike Mausolf, Dan Mausolf, and Micah Wise. Special thanks also to Dave Ertl and Steve Hammon for coordinating the Equipment Technicians sessions and Troy Evans for coordinating the Assistant Superintendents session. The silent auction to benefit the MTF Rieke/Professors Endowment was a huge success thanks to the efforts of Doug Johanningsmeier, thanks Doug!

Thanks to all who supported the Michigan Turfgrass Conference this year and we hope to see you again in 2016!



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ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

The State of the Union

Hopefully everyone knew that January 19-21 was the 2015 Michigan Turfgrass Conference in East Lansing. I also hope that everyone who could attend did, if not you missed the best conference I have seen to date, and the best deal in turf education going. For

\$150 for three days of jam packed current topics and speakers from Bradley Klien of Golfweek to the entire MSU Turf Team and other professors from around the country to Superintendent Project presentations for \$6.25 an hour! Less than minimum wage, if your employer can not approve this expense then I am not sure of any they would. The vendor show on Tuesday was packed and had a light social atmosphere with great food and enough beverage stations to ensure a good time for all.

SINCE THE INCEPTION OF THE MIGCSA IN 2008 WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DONATE CLOSE TO \$150,000 BACK INTO THE GOLF INDUSTRY IN MICHIGAN.

The MiGCSA does not produce this show, we offer our assistance at any time but the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF) is the driving force behind this every year. Gordie LaFontaine is the Executive Director of the MTF and Becky Schoch is the Executive Secretary. Brain Schwehofer is the MTF President and Amy Fouty is the Education Chair who works closely with Dr. Kevin Frank and the MSU Turf Team. I want to personally thank them all for a great week, you should too when you see them. And if the price is not enough, or the education, please remember this, all of the proceeds from

this conference go directly to the MTF to fund the world class turf research at MSU! The MTF funds the University with \$120,000+ a year which is often matched from other groups and the University to double triple and quadruple this number all in an effort to make discoveries that make your job easier and more efficient.

We have a great thing going here in Michigan, many of us (including me) can easily take it for granted, and most of us have not known anything else. However now that I am exposed to so many other areas of the country I can tell you we could not have it any better anywhere else. Our member numbers have been on a steady incline since 2011, our bottom line was close to \$30,000 in the black, we are investing \$50,000 in a mutual fund to help ensure the long term stability of the chapter and our donation to the MTF was more than \$18,500 this year along with \$7,000 in scholarships and \$1,000 to the EIFG. Since the inception of the MiGCSA in 2008 we have been able to donate close to \$150,000 back into the golf industry in Michigan. I am honored to be a part of this great turf state and I hope all of our members are too, congratulations to all of you for your part, be it big or small it is not possible without every one of you.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS
MiGCSA Executive Director



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