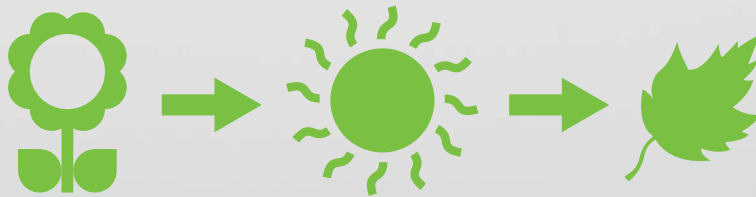


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AT WHISPERING PINES  
GOLF CLUB

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THE KEY TO SUCCESS!

GOLF ASSOCIATION  
OF MICHIGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT  
AWARD OF MERIT

PESTICIDE USE ON  
MICHIGAN'S GOLF  
COURSES



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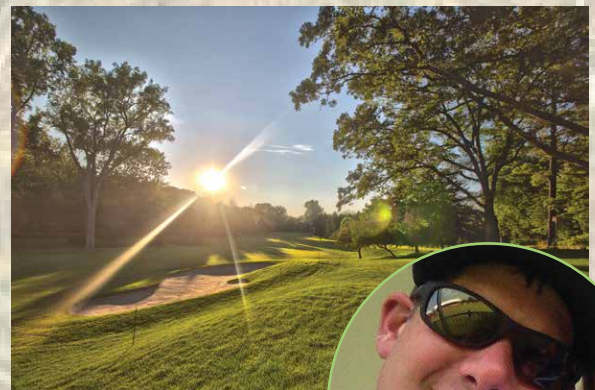
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## COURSECONDITIONS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LIAISON** TROY EVANS — 2018  
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AL LYNCH

### COURSE CONDITIONS STAFF

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

**EDITOR**  
Adam Ikamas, CGCS  
adamikamas@migcsa.org

## MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

### SUMMARY OF CLASSES 8/31/15

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	SUMMER 2014 MEMBERSHIP
<b>Class A</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>Class SM</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>Class C</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Class AA</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Class AFF</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>151</b>
<b>Class D</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Class E</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Class H</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Class R</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Class SA</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>671</b>

Please log in to your account at [www.migcsa.org](http://www.migcsa.org) to renew your membership for 2015. If you are unsure of your status contact us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org) or 1-888-3-MiGCSA.

Course Conditions is published 4 times a year by the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association. Opinions expressed by guest writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the MiGCSA. For more information on Course Conditions or the MiGCSA please contact us at [info@migcsa.org](mailto:info@migcsa.org), 1-888-3-MiGCSA or 316 Glencarin Dr. NE, Rockford, MI 49341.



# PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



JEFF HOLMES, CGCS

*It is quite surprising how many meetings, association interactions, member needs, events, phone calls, emails, tweets (3,621), twitter followers (1,057), Facebook followers (414) and more that are used by all of you and the MiGCSA. Our association and you as members, have more exposure throughout the state and the country than ever before. The board is continuing to bring even more exposure to the golf course superintendent and how valuable they are to a property.*

*All of these communication tools are used by our association to help disseminate relevant information to you. The more information that MiGCSA can put into the members hands only continues to help advance all of us. One of the conveniences of these social media platforms is that you can opt to reply and participate or just read and absorb the information provided.*

*The MiGCSA Board of Directors and our Executive Director, Adam Ikamas, continue to stay focused in guiding the association. During the summer months, the board does not normally meet because everyone is busy keeping their golf courses in fine playing condition, but that does not mean that association business stops. When you look at the MiGCSA event calendar there are over 26 events listed to attend throughout the calendar year.*

*With the slate of activities scheduled throughout the year, the day to day operation is managed by Adam with input and guidance from the board. As busy as the schedule is, the board could not keep a handle on the association activities without Adam. Our association is strong and consistent because we are able to employ a knowledgeable and dedicated Executive Director.*

*Serving as president I get to interact with Adam on a regular basis. He is our main conduit to many of our allied associations and does an excellent job pointing myself and others to attend meetings that require a MiGCSA Board Member or Adam to attend. With the strong continuity of the association it also makes it easier to be a Board Member due to the fact that it is not demanding several hours of your time. The Past Presidents of the MiGCSA are also extremely helpful to propel the association forward.*

*I would like to close with the thought that being involved may not take as much time as you think and a lot of the credit goes to the people who are serving. If the work load is spread amongst many, it is not so daunting. The new wave of technology is also making the association much more efficient.*

*Enjoy your summer everyone and don't forget to spend some good time with your family.*

*Respectfully,*

Jeff Holmes, CGCS  
Golf Course Superintendent  
Egypt Valley Country Club  
President, MiGCSA



# COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS!

Bruce R. Williams, CGCS,

Bruce Williams Golf Consulting, Executive Golf Search, Inc. & Proud MSU grad!

It often comes as a surprise to many that I spent my first 6 years of college as a major in English and Speech. I took on those subjects as I felt that it would improve a skill set that surely needed help with. Yes, I was a shy kid and not very good as a speaker but loved to write. Combining the disciplines of English and Speech I soon found that my writing just had to be honed a bit but the thought of public speaking was as endearing as jumping into a shark tank. There is no better way to become comfortable with something than to study and understand it. Ultimately it gets down to practice and performance but more on that later.

So I have gone on record as saying that I used my communication skills more in my career than any agronomic skills. Now don't get me wrong as a turf degree is important. Highly likely that most all superintendents have that credential at varying levels. However, it became quite apparent that the best superintendents had a way of carrying themselves that made them stand out from the rest.

Here is a quick set of lessons I have learned over the years and conveyed in my seminars. Hopefully you will find a few take home ideas to help you with your career.

## READING AND WRITING

Never stop reading and listening to as much about the profession that you can. While we always look forward to our monthly editions of Course Conditions and Golf Course Management magazine there are a plethora of other great reads out there these days. Some come in the form of a hard copy magazine while others are e-zine newsletters and such. The reading of these not only expands your knowledge of the industry into other climate zones but also other countries. As a reader we



see how other people express their ideas and also can view a variety of case studies that we might implement at our own golf courses.

An old saying says "mimicry is the best form of compliment". While plagiarism is not acceptable we often use the form of others and even the ideas that others have shared. Don't forget to give credit for the thoughts of others. People don't start writing by writing novels. Start off with items for your website or blog. Work your way up to doing an article for your chapter newsletter and eventually a magazine like GCM or GCI.

In the early stages of writing it is advisable to have someone else proofread your work. This would include spelling, grammar and content. Likely your content is sound since superintendent tend to write on subjects they know best.

Know your audience and write for the people that are reading it. The same is true in speaking. We speak differently to peers than we do to our golfers. Sending a message that is too technical may not impress but only defeat your goal of getting your message across.



Have you ever noticed that people who write or speak get noticed? Yes, those tend to be the people who are asked to run for office and fill positions on their local or national board. They also are the ones that get the opportunity to speak. When you have an audience you get noticed. People who write and speak may not be any smarter than those who don't but they surely get noticed and the perception is they are much more of a professional. Remember in business it is not always the reality but often the perception that counts!

### MR. OR MS. SPEAKER

For years I have heard that I have a gift of being a great public speaker. While it is nice to think it came naturally it certainly did not. That first speech class was like being tortured. Yet, to this day, I remember the simple basis for giving a speech.

- Know your topic
- Have an intro, a body and a conclusion
- Know what type of speech you are giving.... educational, informational, persuasive, etc.
- Know what the goal of your speech is
- Know who your audience is
- The longer you speak is not necessarily correlated with the success of your endeavor.....quality not quantity is the key
- Leave the comedy to the comedians
- Practice, practice, practice
- The more you speak the more comfortable you will feel
- Remember that the audience wants to see you succeed not fail

My father taught me about Toastmasters. It is a program available in many cities, big and small, across the country. This could be the best use of your time to learn basic and advanced public speaking. As a member of the Chicagoland Association of Golf Course Superintendents we always had a 2 minute impromptu topic for people to discuss at each monthly meeting. The topic could be on a variety of subjects but it taught members how to think and speak at the spur of the moment!

### BODY LANGUAGE

We have all heard of it but few take advantage of it. Be aware of how you come across to other

people. We all send non-verbal messages to all that we encounter. When you don't give people your full attention by looking at your phone or gazing out the window or answering your phone during an important meeting.....you are telling people that those items are more important than them or the subject at hand. While negotiating when one folds their arms it lets the other person know that party is not open to what is being discussed. We all do it at times and good communicators not only are aware of it but can use it to their advantage in either sending out signals or interpreting them coming from other people.

### LEARN FROM MENTORS

I was fortunate to learn from a variety of mentors in my early days in Michigan. People that come to mind are:

- Dr. Ken Payne
- Dr. Paul Rieke
- Dr. Joe Vargas
- Jim Timmerman
- Ted Woehrle
- Tuck Tate
- Gordie La Fontaine
- Clarence Wolfram
- Jerry Faubel

Each of those people had superlative communication skills. Think of their styles and think of their delivery. Yes they are all different but surely effective in their own way.

One of the greatest things about our golf turf industry is that we have so many people that are happy to share. Some set the example while others teach it to their students and trainees. It is never too late to improve your communication skills. It will not only make your job easier but it is highly likely that it will result in better jobs and higher pay.

As a headhunter in this business I can assure you that the most often repeated reason why the clubs separated from their last superintendent was "he wasn't a good communicator". So there you have it. Some will find this interesting while others will take it to heart. Life is all about choices and the choice is yours!



# MAXIMUS

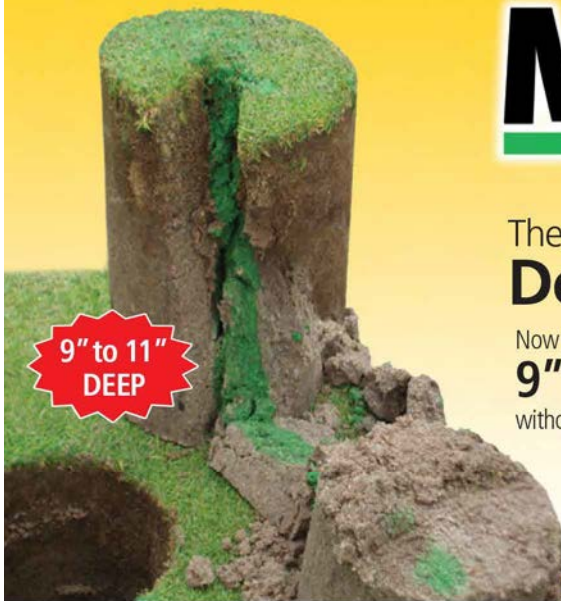
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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 (Polo Fields Golf & C.C.)

Please visit [www.MiGCSA.org](http://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](mailto:info@migcsa.org)



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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT CUSTER GREENS GOLF COURSE

Custer Greens is a nine hole facility that is on the grounds of the Battle Creek VA Medical Center. This spring the course was not under any contract to operate until New Level Sports came along to take over operations. With the help of the VA and the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association, it hopes to turn Custer Greens — a course that just a few weeks ago was without an organization running its operations — into a community asset.



"It's amazing, the amount of people that have come and want to help us," said Chris McCoy, executive director of New Level Sports. "They can see the vision. It's just overwhelming, the amount of people who are really behind us — the administration of the VA is really behind this. They love us and they really want this to happen. "And we want it to happen, too."

New Level Sports will staff the course, with hopes to host leagues and foot golf. But the partnership also will allow for courses that help kids learn turf management and obtain certifications for pesticide and fertilization application. The same training will be available to veterans.

Thomas McNally, program manager of vocational rehabilitation at the VA Medical Center, said the course provides a way for veterans who have gaps in their employment to learn a variety of skills in a quieter

environment. "They've lost so many things with their service many times," McNally said. "With this, they can get something back."

Most of the repairs have been completed by volunteers, including 20 turf industry professionals who on Wednesday laid new sod on the greens and delivered new flagsticks. Equipment also has been donated by vendors, and the difference that's been made so far at the course is "night and day," said John Fulling, golf course superintendent at Kalamazoo Country Club. "Our community is so tight that so far, every last person I've asked, there's not even a hesitation," said Fulling, who has worked closely on the project with New Level Sports.





# TIGERS GAME

**O**n May 21st more than 20 MiGCSA Members, family & friends attended the Tigers vs. Astros game. This is a new event and one we would like to do more of. If you have an idea for a non-golf social gathering please let us know. It is easy for us to get the word out and organize such gatherings and is a great way to utilize the MiGCSA. The Tigers took home a win 5 to 6 and the attendees had a great day.



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# WEE ONE 2015 RECAP

Jim Naugler, a 42-year veteran Michigan superintendent, attended the first Michigan Wee One fundraiser at Indianwood in 2010. He also attended this year's event held May 18th at Kingsley Club in northern Michigan but in a different capacity – as a Wee One beneficiary.

"It really didn't seem like a big deal to me," said Naugler, who joined the Wee One at the inaugural Michigan event 5 years ago. "I never realized how important this organization is. Now I'm trying to get other guys to pledge 1% of their salary to the Wee One Foundation."

Naugler was diagnosed with Stage 4 prostate cancer last October. The contribution from the Wee One Foundation has helped offset the extensive treatment costs that have officially put his cancer in remission. Naugler was able to play 9 holes in this year's event until side effects of his treatment got the best of him.

100 golfers enjoyed a spectacularly warm and sunny Spring day in northern Michigan. The golf event was a Two Best Ball net team event. Winners were:

- 1st place was won by the team of Adam Ikamas, Jeff Holmes, Mark Ostrander and Justin Bickel with a score of 126.
- 2nd Place was won by the team of Doug Hoeh, Jeff Kosal, Mark Wildeman, and Pete Thomasma with a score of 127.
- 3rd Place was won by the team of Doug Johanningsmeier, Kevin Welp, Mark McCoy and Eric Davey with a score of 129.

Closest-to-the Pin prizes were won by:

- Hole #2 – Kevin Frank
- Hole #9 – Bill O'Connell
- Hole #11 – Mike McClure
- Hole #16 – Pete Thomasma

A special thank you goes to the following for their time-The Wee One Board of Directors, Jeff Fissette, Scott Rettmann, Daniela Moritz, Bonnie Van Poppelen, Trevor Nash, Chuck Rocconi, Jason Farah, Dave Creager, and Steve Shane

The success of the event - \$28,000 net to the foundation - was largely due to the generosity and support of the sponsoring companies listed.



## 2015 Wee One Outing Sponsors

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John Deere Landscapes	Osburn Industries

### Bronze Sponsors - \$250

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The next Michigan Wee One Fundraiser will be held May 23, 2016 at Wuskowhan Players Club in west Michigan. This event will be limited to 80 golfers, so be sure to sign up early.





## A FULL ROUND



# MATTHEW MADER

*Matthew Mader is the Superintendent at Whispering Pines Golf Club in Pinckney. He met his wife Katie at Michigan State and they were married in the fall of 2003. They have a son named Donovan and he just turned 3 at the end of June.*

## HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

My first golf course job came after high school. I was taking a few classes at Delta College, a community college near Saginaw, and working third shift at Target. Not getting a lot of enjoyment from my schedule, I spoke with a guy I knew from high school who ran the Pro Shop at a golf course I played frequently. I asked about working in the Pro Shop, however, he wasn't currently hiring. I was taken down to the Superintendent's office to meet Jeff Parks. Jeff hired me that day and I got my start in the industry.

## WHERE WAS THE FIRST COURSE YOU WORKED ON?

The first course I worked on was Briar Ridge in Montrose, Michigan. It was the first course I had ever played golf on. I didn't start playing until I was in my early teens.

## WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB ON THAT COURSE?

I started out string trimming for the first several weeks. I remember helping with a few drainage projects as well. Previously a nine hole course, the Summer I started, a second nine holes were opening for play and it was very interesting to go through that process.

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

After that first season. I worked until I was laid off in the fall. Really enjoying the previous summer, I spoke to Jeff about how to get started into the program. He told me I was too young to not enroll in the Bachelor program, so that's what I did.

## WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE JOB THAT FIRST SUMMER ON THE COURSE?

I remember I got to go on the new greens and take plugs from the back edge and fix areas that weren't filling in fast enough to open on time. I liked the art of what we were doing to create a playable surface.

## WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Being a superintendent, as we all know, requires you to wear many hats. I don't have an equipment tech so I set up all the reels, and we do as many repairs in house as possible. This past winter, I learned how to grind reels and bed knives. The golf cart fleet is a constant struggle to keep up with, usually minor repairs but it all takes time.

Whispering Pines has a very large clubhouse, which offers us an advantage in hosting large weddings and parties, however large buildings require a lot of maintenance. It is very easy to get caught up trying to help and save the course



money and end up falling behind on course related projects. These things are some of the most difficult things for me, but also rewarding because they require me to use my versatility. I think that is one of my best traits, I may not be the best, or great at any one thing, but I am not a one trick pony and am pretty good at a multitude of things.

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

Make sure you have balance in your life. It is very easy to get caught up and not make time for your family. Manage your time wisely, I love my work but in the end, my wife and son are most important in my life. I learned that it was possible to have both an awesome golf course and still have a family life working for Mark McKinley at Polo Fields CC. I was starting to doubt my career in the profession before working for him.

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

Seven, although of those seven, only four work full weeks. Three are full time, spring through fall and are retired auto workers. Two are college students who work in the summer months, one is a high school kid who pulls weeds and waters flowers a few hours a week and one is a retired Police Officer who drives a school bus during the school year, and then cuts rough for me in the summer. I am the only year round golf course maintenance employee. I miss having an assistant, I once wanted to be a teacher and that offered a chance to help someone young in the profession. I hope now I am a good role model and mentor to the college kids who work for me.

#### WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST OF YOUR CREW?

They all make me laugh in one way or another. Laughter is an important part of working on a golf course I think. If you aren't having fun it starts to feel like work, and my retirees have already had a career. Without Charlie Bell and Mark LaChance, in particular, I don't know what I would do. They both took buy outs from GM and started with me my first season at Whispering Pines. I can't pay them nearly what they are worth so I hope getting them recognized this way will pay some of the debt I personally owe them!

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

Water conservation will define golf in the coming years. With that, the expectation of what a golf course will look like and play like will need to change as well. I was lucky enough to install new controllers and a central irrigation system several years ago. This has given me so much control over where and how much water to apply. Having maintenance radio and being able to remotely turn on heads as I drive by trouble areas, or water in fertilizer or any other type of application allows me to be multiple people. A priceless tool in a small operation where man power needs to be optimized. Also in the old controllers, stations were doubled and tripled up, where now I have 99% single head control. The old controllers were mechanical timers and would need to be calibrated frequently to assure proper timing. Now, coupled with using evapotranspiration numbers, the golf course's water usage has declined, and the course quality has improved.

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

Right before I received my acceptance letter to attend Michigan State University, my Dad had a job for me on the railroad being a signalman. My Dad worked for Grand Truck/Canadian National railroad for more than 30 years. I think I would have enjoyed that job, from what I remember you did electrical work on the road crossings. I enjoy the puzzle of trouble shooting problems in controllers now, I learned pretty much everything I know about irrigation trouble shooting from Orin Warner. I would be 20 years into my career now, but I wouldn't have had the great experiences or met my wife at MSU, so I'll stick with the path I chose.

### 5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT MATTHEW MADER

1. AS A PRETEENAGER I WAS ABLE TO GO TO JOE DUMARS BASKETBALL CAMP IN FLINT. HE WAS MY FAVORITE BASKETBALL PLAYER GROWING UP.
2. I AM SO ASHAMED NOW TO ADMIT THIS, BUT UNTIL I WENT TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY I WAS A U OF M FAN. APPARENTLY I WAS BRAINWASHED AS A YOUTH. THE MINUTE I STEPPED FOOT ON CAMPUS MY BLOOD WAS GREEN AND WHITE. I CRINGE WHEN I SEE IMAGES FROM MY YOUTH WITH ME AND U OF M GEAR ON.
3. DUE TO A GENETIC DISORDER I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT UNTIL MY 30'S MY SON, DONOVAN, WAS CONCEIVED THROUGH THE IVF PROCESS, AT IRONICALLY THE U OF M CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE. IT WAS A VERY HUMBLING AND AT THE SAME TIME EMPOWERING EXPERIENCE. KATIE IS MY ROCK AND NOW DONOVAN IS A TESTAMENT TO OUR LOVE AND COMMITMENT.
4. IN THE MORNING YOU WILL SEE ME LISTENING TO MY FAVORITE "RADIO SHOW", A PODCAST CALLED THE DETROIT CAST. AFTER DREW AND MIKE WENT OFF THE AIR, THERE WAS A VOID IN MORNING RADIO FOR ME. ONE OF THE PRODUCERS FROM D & M STARTED DOING A PODCAST FROM HIS BASEMENT AND NOW WITH A BEST FRIEND FROM HIGH SCHOOL AS CO-HOST, ENTERTAIN ME AND THOUSANDS OF OTHERS ALL WEEK.
5. I RECENTLY ATTENDED THE DETROIT TIGERS WINTER FEST AT COMERICA PARK. WHILE STANDING IN THE DUGOUT, I HAD A FATHER AND SON COME UP TO ME AND ASK FOR A PICTURE. I OVERHEARD THEM TALKING, THINKING I WAS JUSTIN VERLANDER. (I WISH!!!) THEN THEY TOLD ME I HAD TO LEAST BE HIS BROTHER. I HAD HEARD BEFORE I LOOKED LIKE HIM BUT THAT WAS PRETTY COOL. ALSO HAVE HEARD I LOOK LIKE BRANDT SNEDEKER ON THE PGA TOUR.



# THE 2015 TUCK TATE CHAMPIONSHIP

The 30th Annual Tuck Tate Championship was hosted by Dave Little and Keith Kaiser at Hidden River Golf & Casting Club on July 29th. Close to 60 MiGCSA Members and friends attended this long standing Northern Michigan Event. This was a best 2 of 4 Net team game along with prizes for the low net and low gross scores from individuals. It was a beautiful day and the golf course was in perfect shape. Here are the results of the day.

## Best 2 of 4 Net Team

1st - Gene Davis, Andrew Butterfield, Paul Galligan & Seth Britton

2nd - Jim Higgs, Justin Peckens, Steve Beach, Alex Greenacre

3rd - Lee Collins, Tony Geib, Micah Wise & Adam Ikamas

## Proximity Prizes

Closest to the pins – Steve Sump, Mike Hall & Jim Higgs

Long Drive – Steve Young

Low Net Individual went to Andrew Butterfield with a 66 net.

The 2015 Tuck Tate Champion is Dr. Kevin Frank who shot a 73 gross.



The winning 2 of 4 Net Team Gene Davis, Andrew Butterfield, Seth Britton & Paul Galligan.



2015 Low Net Champion  
Andrew Butterfield.



2015 Tuck Tate Champion  
Dr. Kevin Frank.

Our Hosts  
Keith Kaiser  
& David Little.







## BRING BACK THE FUN

Fun and entertainment: that is what people buy with money they earn. And, the sport of golf has provided fun and entertainment for millions of people over decades. But, like all things, entertainment tastes evolve, and people today demand entertainment that can be attained quickly. Time is a valuable commodity in today's world, and the sport of golf, frankly, requires too much time. The ratio of entertainment gained to the time spent gaining it, might be

considered the "fun value" factor. And the golf "fun value" factor is losing in comparison to other activities.

In talking with my golf friends, all of whom know I am a golf course architect, the main reason for their lack of frequent golf play is NOT because golf is monetarily costly; but too time costly. The "fun value" factor is too low. The fun gained from playing golf is not valuable enough to account for the time needed to play. With time at a premium in today's busy society, and other entertainment options competing for these minutes, golf needs to continually think about both sides of the "fun value" factor: time and enjoyment. There are many concepts and ideas floating around the golf industry, and hopefully some of them may take hold.

As I was writing this article, and beginning to describe some ideas for how to speed up golf and make it more fun to play – I was reminded about the popularity of the latest rage in golf experience: TopGolf. If you have not heard of this latest golf trend, it is essentially a driving range on steroids, in combination with a few shots of Red Bull, and a healthy dose of sugar; high octane golf-like fun, that does not take much time to participate. TopGolf is people of all ages hitting golf balls at targets while gaining points after each golf shot, and done in a pleasant, upscale, trendy environment. The TopGolf facilities are decked out more as a nightclub and dating scene than a golf venue; more about fun than golf. Many of the patrons are not really golfers, but have been intrigued by the sport, and then actually have fun trying to hit a golf ball at a lit up, pinball like target. Essentially these patrons are having the same basic fun many "traditional" golfers have: trying to hit that one shot which makes you desire to play again. The article I was reading was focusing primarily about the downfall of traditional golf due to time, difficulty and money. Yet, it unmistakably noted that in the midst of a horrible golf economy, TopGolf is doing very well, and plans expansions all over the country – and the world.

This made me wonder. Everyone in the golf industry knows that "traditional" golf, played on "real" golf courses is suffering. The game has been deemed too time consuming, difficult and expensive. (With time being the biggest obstacle.) But, when I saw that TopGolf was doing so well, I hypothesized that the golf industry, in addition to current initiatives to speed play and

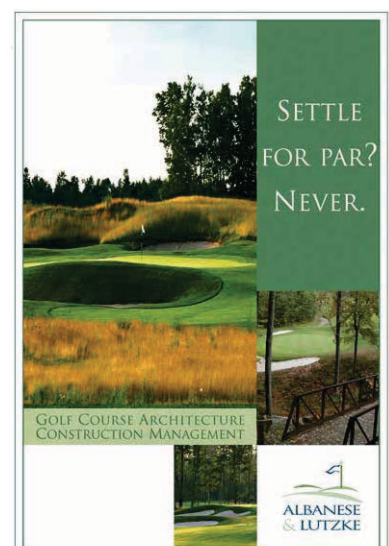
increase golf participation, should take a page from the TopGolf playbook. Just as TopGolf infused traditional golf concepts into its successful business model, traditional golf needs to infuse TopGolf concepts into its business model.

TopGolf appeals to younger people because there is instant feedback to the performance. Like the video and iPhone games that provide points for everything, Topgolf awards points for every golf shot hit. Traditional golf operators need to develop similar programs; more ways to get points during a round, versus only pars, birdies and the octa-bogies that most beginners experience. I know when I was a kid playing golf, we made up games where almost every shot would be counted as something – whether it was hitting a tree, burning a worm, or the classic: not hitting the ball past the red tees. But, these "fun" games were informal and done only after we spent time learning the game. There needs to be introduction and incorporation of the "fun" aspect of golf as players are learning the game. That is what TopGolf has figured out.

The environment of TopGolf is also an experience that younger potential golf participants aspire to versus the "traditional" golf experience. Topgolf does not ban denim or cell phones – they encourage them. There is no waiting for slow golfers or being pushed by faster ones. There is no intimidation if you don't know how to play very well. Like golf in its heyday – there are actually wait lists on weekends to get "bay-time" at a TopGolf; while "tee-times" at traditional golf courses on Saturdays are now relatively easy to come by.

Topgolf is a popular venue for couples to go on a date; small groups to get together to enjoy each other's company; families to spend quality time together – all while hitting a little white ball toward a target. There will probably be more money spent on TopGolf in the future than on a similar activity played outside, on turf and from which many of us make a living. The traditional golf industry should borrow from the borrower – and create an experience that will capture the attention of new patrons, and re-invigorate the old ones.

**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 on golf course projects in many countries. or visit their website at [www.golf-designs.com](http://www.golf-designs.com)**





## 2015 NORTHERN FUNDRAISER RESULTS

**W**ith 235 members, friends and families taking part in the 2015 Northern Fundraiser at Arcadia Bluffs on Sunday and Monday the fundraising year is off to a great start raising over \$20,000. A spectacular day with just enough wind to remind you that you were on the lake shore welcomed the players on Monday.

A very special thank you to our 2015 Premiere Fundraiser Sponsors BASF, Bayer, F.I.P. Irrigation Services, Jacobsen, LaFontaine Automotive, Residex, Spartan Distributors, Syngenta, and Tri-Turf. Also a thank you to Residex for the hot dogs on tee #7 & #15 and for taking the team photo on #15 tee. There were 9 proximity prizes for the day, four closest to the pins on holes #2, #6, #13 & #17 and five long drives on holes #3, #7, #11, #16 and #18 from our Premiere Sponsors; the winners will each get \$25 in Gift Certificates to Arcadia Bluffs. And thank you to our other hole sponsors J.W. Turf and John Deere Landscapes. J.W. hosted the Texas Hold Em' poker game contest on hole #9.

Thank you to MiGCSA members Paul Emling, Vice President of Operations, Jim Bluck, CGCS, Superintendent, Daniel Hess & Phil Kluesner Assistant Superintendents, Pat Sullivan, Equipment Technician. PGA Golf Professionals Jay Waltrip, Zack Chapin & COO Bill Shriver. F&B Director Donna LaLond, Susan Ling, Director of Special Events, Director of Lodge Operations, Ketty Zamora and the entire staff at Arcadia Bluffs.

Here are the results:

### Proximity Prizes

#### Closest to the pins:

- #2 - Dan Hughes
- #6 - Micah Skidmore
- #13 - Mike Fatke
- #17 - Steve Hammon

#### Long Drives:

- #3 - Brett Garrard
- #7 - Kyle Phillips
- #11 - Mike McClure
- #16 - Matthew Seibel
- #18 - Doug Hoeh



### Skins:

Eagle 3 on #11 - Marc McCoy, Jay Eccleton, Jason Farah & Collin Romanick  
Birdie 2 on #13 - Brian Roberts, Eldon Roberts, Steve Saari & Rick Frinkle

**Poker Game:** Team Eric Cowan with a Full House Aces over Nines

### Winning Scramble Team:

#### 1st place

58 - Jeff Sweet, Kyle White, Aaron White & Jon Conklin

#### 2nd place

61 - Brian Roberts, Eldon Roberts, Steve Saari & Rick Frinkle

#### 3rd place

62 - Steve Hammon, Mike Meindertsma, Eric Guttenburg & Casey Cowell (Three way scorecard playoff to the sixth handicap hole #18)

### THANK YOU 2015 PREMIERE FUNDRAISER SPONSORS



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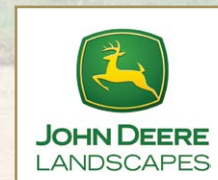




# THANK YOU

## TO MiGCSA'S 2015 INDUSTRY PARTNERS

SUPPORT THE COMPANIES  
THAT SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION







# MIKE THORSEN

Jacobsen

*Mike Thorsen is the Regional Manager, Great Lakes Region for Platinum Industry Partner Jacobsen. Mike has been married to his wife Katie for 20 years. They have two great kids! Michael is 15 years old and Abigale is 13 years old. Mike has been with Jacobsen since 1994.*

## HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

As a teenager, one of my first jobs was at a small private course on the east side of the state. I was hired onto the grounds crew. At the time, I was also enrolled in a program through my high school for technical/mechanical work, and I soon started to use my mechanical knowledge at the course taking care of the equipment. Shortly thereafter, I became the equipment manager. After I graduated from high school I was offered the position, of assistant superintendent. In 1994, I was approached about working for the Jacobsen distributor on the west side of the state. This opportunity interested me as my turf equipment knowledge had been gleaned from the Jacobsen product line.

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

Jerry Maas was my Superintendant at my first course; he shared his passion for the golf course industry and encouraged me to pursue a career in the business. He loved his job; his work ethic was second to none. He expected his employees to "do the job right the first time". He took pride in quality over quantity and treated his team with respect.

In my personal life, my wife Katie is my greatest influence. After twenty years of marriage, I know I can count on her support, encouragement and honesty in any endeavor I pursue. My family life is what drives me to achieve my goals, and without her endless encouragement I would not be successful in my professional life.

## WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

With the turn in the economy over the last several years, budget concerns are the top priority currently. Everyone is learning to do more with less. The pressure to run a successful course, during this time when so many courses are failing has proved to be the largest obstacle for most superintendents.

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

Put the customer first! This seems to be a dying philosophy for a lot of business. Remember without your customer, your organization can't thrive or succeed. Go the extra mile;

customers don't forget the way they have been treated, be it good or bad. Choose to make a good impression and your customer will return for further business.

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

Assisting golf courses with solving problems and securing the equipment they need to do their job. My job is to support current customers and ensure my staff has the resources need to make this happen. I want to make sure customers return to purchase our product again. I never want a customer to feel they have not been treated fairly.

## WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

I am a people person and love to talk, adding the opportunity to help superintendent's problem solve to assist them in managing their courses is a bonus. The advancements and changes over the last 10 years in regards to the technology that is used to care for courses are amazing. I enjoy learning about all of the new developments and sharing this knowledge with our customers.

## WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS?

I love anything that goes fast – my son and I dirt bike ride, snowmobile and as a family we boat. Of course, my other favorite pass time is golf. During the off season, I also enjoy hunting with my son.

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

Kalamazoo Country Club by far has the nicest shop. Heath Bronkema keeps his shop in tip top order.

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

By far the Jacobsen, Eclipse 322 mower. This mower leads the industry in technological advancements and still to date is the only greens mower that has no hydraulic oil, eliminating the possibility of leaks on the green. In addition, it allows the superintendent to control and achieve the highest frequency of clip than any other mower on the market today.



## INDUSTRY PROFILE

**WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE PROFESSION YOU ARE IN?**

I love mechanical and technical equipment. I got started in the business by accident, I thought that I wanted to be a superintendent but was intrigued by the idea of combining my love for the golf course industry along with the opportunity to share my knowledge and technical background with customers.

**HOW LARGE IS YOUR TERRITORY?**

All of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, four counties in the Upper Peninsula and half of the state of Indiana.

**HOW MANY CONFERENCES/EDUCATIONAL EVENTS DO YOU ATTEND PER YEAR?**

On average, I attend about 15 – 18 a year.

**HOW MANY ROUNDS OF GOLF DO YOU PLAY A YEAR?**

Approximately 75 rounds a year, my wife says too many!

**WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE BEST EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY/CONFERENCE THAT TURF CARE PROFESSIONALS CAN ATTEND?**

The annual Michigan Turf Grass Foundation conference and the district spring management meetings run by the MiGCSA.

**HOW DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY WILL BE DIFFERENT IN 10 YEARS?**

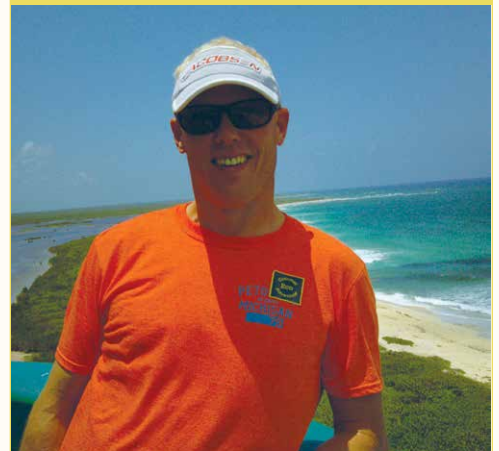
I think that technology and innovation will surpass all of our greatest expectations, impacting the way in which we maintain courses.

**ARE THERE ANY NEW PRODUCTS ON THE HORIZON?**

I think that the hybrid technology area will see an even greater advancement.

**WHAT ARE YOUR TRAVEL TIPS FOR THE LESS SEASONED TRAVELER?**

Always fly nonstop whenever possible, and never check your bags! **How many days of the year are you on the road?** I spend over 100 days a year on the road traveling. **How many miles do you drive in a typical year?** On average I put 40,000 miles a year on my company vehicle.



## 5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT MIKE THORSEN

1. I GREW UP ON AN APPLE ORCHARD ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE STATE.
2. I LOVE TO MOW MY YARD AND I AM A FANATIC ABOUT THE STRIPING. MY 15 YEAR OLD SON HAS NEVER MOWED MY YARD, BUT I LET HIM WEED WHACK.
3. I HAVE COACHED FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, AND SOCCER.
4. I LOVE TO GRILL.
5. I LIFT WEIGHTS 3 – 4 TIMES A WEEK AND CAN DEAD LIFT MORE THAN TWICE MY BODY WEIGHT.







# Turf Fuel Specialty Pesticide Adjuvant Guide

## FUNGICIDES

PRODUCT NAME	ACTIVE INGREDIENT	ADJUVANT	USE RATE
26GT, 26019	Iprodione	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
3336, QP-TM, T-methyl SPC	Thiophanate-methyl	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Affirm, Endorse	Polyoxin-D	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Aliette	Aluminum tris	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Appear	Potassium phosphite	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Banner Maxx II	Propiconazole	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Banol	Propamacarb	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Bayleton	Triademefon	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Briskway	Azoxystrobin + Difenconazole	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Chipco Signature, QP fosetyl	Fosetyl-al	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Chlorothalonil	Chlorothalonil	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Cleary's 3336	Thiophanate-methyl	Halo 90	1-4 pt per 100 gal
Compass	Trifloxystrobin	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Concert, Concert II	Propiconazole + Chlorothalonil	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Curalan	Vinclozolin	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Daconil Action, Weatherstik, Ensign	Chlorothalonil	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Disarm, Disarm C, Disarm M	Fluoxastrobin	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Eagle	Myclobutanil	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Emerald	Boscalid	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Endorse	Polyoxin-D	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Fore, Dithane, Manzate, Protect T/O	Mancozeb	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Headway	Azoxystrobin + Propiconazole	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Heritage	Azoxystrobin	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Honor	Pyraclostrobin + Boscalid	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Insignia	Pyraclostrobin	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Instrata	Propiconazole + Chlorothalonil + Fludioxonil	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Interface	Trifloxystrobin + Iprodione	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Junction	Mancozeb + Copper Hydroxide	Halo 90	1-4 pt per 100 gal
Kaligreen	Potassium bicarbonate	Halo 90	1-4 pt per 100 gal
Kestrel & Kestrel MEX	Propiconazole	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Kocide 4.5 LE, CuPro 500 DF	Copper Hydroxide	Halo 90	1-4 pt per 100 gal
Medallion	Fludioxonil	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Pentathalon	Mancozeb	Helix	1-4 pt per 100 gal
Prostar	Flutolanil	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal
Raven	Iprodione	Helix	1-2 pt per 100 gal

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# RESIDEX



## FROM NATIONAL



SHANE CONROY

## GCSAA REGIONAL ROUNDUP

BY SHANE CONROY

*What a season it's been thus far. A cool and wet spring across much of the Midwest has left a lot of superintendents calling an audible on their maintenance schedules. While this happens more times than not during a growing season, it is still important to communicate how the weather is affecting large and small scale projects, as well as regular maintenance practices to your course officials. Providing regular updates will ensure everyone involved is on the same page and keep unexpected surprises to a minimum.*

*Just as you are providing regular updates to your course officials, I will use this column, as well as other communication platforms to keep you updated on what's happening at GCSAA headquarters as well as out in the field. This year has been no different and there is a lot to report on.*

*The Clean Water Rule (formerly WOTUS – Waters of the United States) was put forth by the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The rule was jointly released in April 2014 and was finalized in May of this year; the rule has not been submitted into the Federal Register yet, so it has not gone into effect as of now. Under the rule, many golf course body of waters may come under federal jurisdiction. If this is the case, it may be mandatory for golf courses to acquire federal permits for any land management activities in or around the body of water, including pesticide or fertilizer applications. The GCSAA is asking for your help in getting this rule blocked in the Senate. Send a message to your senator by going to <http://cqrcengage.com/gcsaa/> and urging him/her to vote "yes" on Senate Bill S. 1140. Everything is pre-populated, you only need to enter your name and address. Please go to the website today!*

*If you haven't heard, during its annual meeting in February, GCSAA voted to introduce a new Equipment Manager (EM) classification to its membership; and in turn, the membership of the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA) voted to disband its association earlier this year. After the disbandment about 370 equipment managers were welcomed with GCSAA membership, we currently have almost 500 EM's as part of the GCSAA. Equipment managers are an integral part of any golf course operations team and will play an important role in the GCSAA. Now through the remainder of the year, equipment managers will receive complimentary GCSAA membership, so please register or encourage your equipment manager to sign up this year if they haven't done so already.*

*October 27-28 are the set dates for the 2015 chapter delegates meeting taking place at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS and a nearby hotel. The delegates meeting is a great way for chapter delegates to learn the latest happenings at GCSAA headquarters and have an influential voice on future programs within the GCSAA. Please let myself or one of your chapter officers know about any issues, concerns or questions you may have prior to the event, as they are a great resource and will be able to bring these concerns to the meeting. I know it is only mid-summer but the 2016 GCSAA Conference and Show is set to go February 6-11 in sunny San Diego. The show is a few weeks earlier than last year so please start looking into travel arrangements soon.*

*If you are not involved on Twitter or are not yet following me, please do so as this is great way to get instant updates and timely information; my twitter handle is: @GCSAA\_GL. Also, please check the Great Lakes regional section of the GCSAA website. There you will find information relevant to the Great Lakes region, important information from GCSAA, as well as my blog with topics related to you and your turf management neighbors. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time with questions or concerns, I am happy to assist in any way possible. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming MiGCSA meeting.*

Cheers,  
Shane





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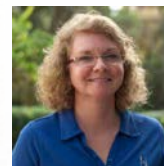
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# THE 2015 MID GOLF EVENT

This year 60 Members and friends signed up to play golf at Eagle Crest in Ypsilanti with our host Todd Genske. The day broke warm and sunny and a few clouds blew in but made for an excellent day of golf. The course was superb, Todd and his crew did a phenomenal job preparing the golf course. Special thanks also to PGA Professional Wes Blevins and his staff. A top notch event from top to bottom. The winning scramble team was Dr. Kevin Frank, Lowell Weaver and Chad Kempf. Second went to Tony Spink, Erik Evans, Dave Kasprzycki and Marc McCoy. Third was a scorecard playoff and was won by Dave Pawluk, Jim Smartt, AJ Plaskey and Scott Spooner. Lowell Weaver won the long drive on hole #16, Todd Genske won the closest to the pin on #4 and A.J. Plaskey won it on #14.



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## UNDER THE HOOD

DAVE  
YATES

*Dave Yates is the Equipment Technician at Spring Meadows Country Club and a former Superintendent. He lives in a cabin on Gravel Lake in Holly. Dave received his education from Mott Community College and Saginaw Valley State University.*

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

Former Flint Parks and Recreation Director Tom Cole who was a member with me at the Flint Elks Country Club, asked me to come and work at the city courses because I was unemployed at the time. I started as a greens keeper and worked my way up to superintendent.

## 2. HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

As former superintendent I have trained many employees who have worked with me on all aspects of golf course. Equipment maintenance, irrigation, pesticide application, and clubhouse operations.

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

Trying to stay within the budget, I have learned to improvise and invent things on my own without spending.

## 4. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING EQUIPMENT MANAGERS TODAY?

Making sure employees are educated on their piece of equipment to help me with the preventative maintenance.

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

Learning about the new technology which takes training.

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

Give everyone the benefit of the doubt, everyone makes mistakes and we learn from them.

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

Still kicking away on a golf course, it's my livelihood if its work or playing the game. I will never retire. **How would you like to be remembered 100 years from now?** Someone who spent time with the crew on and off the golf course.

## 8. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT?

The late Glenn Wirth who was the manager of The City of Flint Golf Courses back in the 80's.

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

Keeping the superintendent happy, he has a lot on his plate and I can help him by doing my part as equipment technician.



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

40% we have limited staff out here and I do help out on the grounds on a daily basis.

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

They have tremendous responsibility training employees, and keeping everyone happy.

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

Trying to get maintenance staff to slow down on their piece of equipment, there's no hurry.

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

Staying off the ground, the older I get the harder for me to get up. **If you could change anything about golf course management what would it be?** No more mulching leaves, got to keep those fans free of debris.

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

The thatch away spikers, those spikes go a long way.

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

Old ditch witch, matter of fact it's so old I can't get a manual for it.

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

More computerized machines that help us determine problem solving.

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

The availability of resources we can use.

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

When I first started in the golf business for The City of Flint my boss Glenn Wirth loved doing all the trimming with an old hustler mower. He would constantly get to close to the ponds and in he goes. I had to pull the machine out and clean the gas tank and changed the oils every time. It was spotless.

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

We are very important because we also can brainstorm not only the equipment but other areas of the golf course as well.



## THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT DAVE YATES

1. I WAS A SUPERINTENDENT FOR 20 YEARS BEFORE I RETIRED
2. I'M DEAF AND HAVE A COCHLEAR IMPLANT.
3. PLAYED COLLEGE GOLF AT MOTT COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
4. LOVE TO GO TUBING DOWN THE MUSKEGON RIVER





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## GOLF ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN SUPERINTENDENT AWARD OF MERIT

**A**t the GAM Annual Meeting on May 4th at Meadowbrook Country Club MiGCSA Past President Jay Eccleton, CGCS was presented with the 2015 Award of Merit. Jay has been involved in so many ways for a very long time in the golf business. He started his career as a child on his parent's golf course and has worked very diligently to grow the game and promote Superintendents and to support golf courses all over our state. Jay was crucial in getting the MiGCSA to form and led it through some of the toughest years the chapter had to where we are now. A well-deserved recipient he had his family with him at the meeting and thanked them and his late father for providing him the support and guidance needed to be successful.



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# PESTICIDE USE ON MICHIGAN'S GOLF COURSES

David White, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

One of Michigan's greatest pastimes for many residents and tourists alike in the summer months is the game of golf. Michigan's approximately 900 golf courses stretch all the way from the Ohio and Indiana border to the shores of Lake Superior and perhaps millions of golfers patronize Michigan golf courses over the course of the season. Having strong, vigorous and attractive turf is important for a successful golf course. In most cases, pesticides are necessary to maintain strong and attractive fairways and greens. From broadleaf weed control and grub control to the use of fungicides to control foliar, stem and root diseases, pesticides are used extensively on golf courses. The Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD), Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division regulates the use of pesticides on golf courses in an effort to safeguard the environment as well as to minimize chemical exposure to the handlers of pesticides and to the patrons of Michigan's golf courses. The misapplication of pesticides or the inadvertent exposure of the chemicals to persons on the golf course could be hazardous. To ensure compliance with Michigan's rules and regulations concerning the use of pesticides, MDARD conducts inspections at golf courses.

One of the primary requirements that must be followed is that each person who applies pesticides at a golf course, other than a ready-to-use pesticide, must be certified as a Michigan commercial pesticide applicator in the appropriate category for the application, such as the Turf Grass Pest Management category. This certification can help ensure the safe and effective use of pesticides. The certification is acquired through self-study from manuals that can be obtained from Michigan State University Extension, and then the successful completion of the certification examinations proctored by MDARD. Study manuals can be obtained through a local MSUE office or ordered through the MSUE website. The website can be reached by going to [www.michigan.gov/pestexam](http://www.michigan.gov/pestexam), and then clicking on the link titled "Where to Obtain Study Materials". Once the applicant has studied the manuals and is ready to take the certification exams, they can register for an exam session at the same website. Michigan's pesticide application certification is valid for 3 years, at which time the certification must be renewed if the applicator wishes to continue making pesticide applications for a commercial purpose.

MDARD has made a renewed effort to conduct inspections at golf courses in the last 3 years. MDARD began by identifying golf courses in Michigan that did not have a certified applicator as an employee in MDARD's records. Of the approximate 900 golf courses in Michigan MDARD identified 322 golf courses who did not appear to employ a certified pesticide applicator. Over the

past 3 years, 113 inspections have taken place with a high rate of non-compliance with MDARD's regulations. 81 golf courses or 72% of the 113 inspected golf courses received an immediate stop order with enforcement action taken after the inspection was completed.


In addition to the certification requirement, there are recordkeeping, posting and notification requirements for the use of pesticides on golf courses. The notification requirement involves the use of a poster that would be placed in the pro shop, registration area or locker rooms. The poster provides a statement that from time to time pesticides are used in the management of turf and ornamental pests.

The notification poster must also provide the name of the golf course representative that would provide information concerning the pesticides used upon request. The posting requirement details the date and time of the application, the common name of the pesticide used, the area treated, the name of the person to be contacted for further information, and any reentry precautions. These posting signs must be placed in a conspicuous place on the 1st and 10th tees and shall remain in place until the reentry requirements from the pesticide label have been fulfilled. The recordkeeping requirement records the name and EPA Reg. No. of the pesticide applied, the concentration and amount of end use dilution applied, the target pest or purpose and the location the pesticide that was applied, and the method and rate of the application. The application records must be maintained for one year for general use pesticides and 3 years for restricted use pesticides.

Another important requirement to be aware of is that if golf courses mix and load pesticides, other than in hand-held equipment, for over 10 days in a calendar year, the golf course will be required to conduct the mixing and loading operation on a mix and load pad that is constructed of impervious materials. The pad shall be bermed, curbed, sloped or otherwise designed to contain spills, leaks, releases, or other discharges that are generated during the mixing and loading of pesticides.

A very good source of helpful information about weed, insect and disease identification, including pesticide recommendations and phosphorus fertilizer restrictions can be found at the MSU Turf grass Science website at [www.turf.msu.edu/golf-courses](http://www.turf.msu.edu/golf-courses). Golf course representatives who need more information about complying with the rules and regulations contained in this article should contact the MDARD Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division at 1-800-292-3939, or visit the MDARD website at [www.michigan.gov/mdard](http://www.michigan.gov/mdard)





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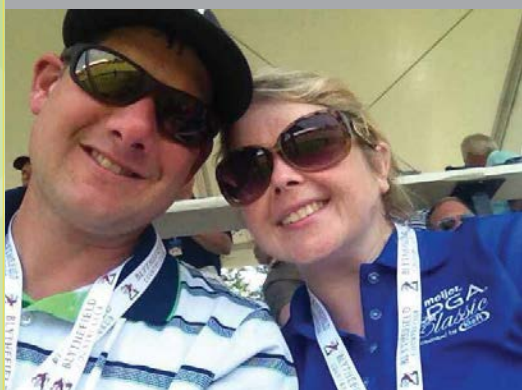
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## THE BETTER HALF



# JEFF STARKE

*Jeff Starke started playing golf with his Dad when he was 4 years old on vacations to Innisbrook Resort in Tarpon Springs, Florida. After that he was hooked. Jeff has been married to his wife Danielle for 6 years. She works as a Special Education teacher and is supportive of his career. He has been at Blythe Field Country Club since 2009.*

## WHERE WAS THE FIRST COURSE YOU WORKED ON?

The first course I worked on was at Blythe Field Country Club as a caddy. **What was your first job on that course?** The first job I had on that course was a caddy, but my first job on the grounds crew was fixing a septic problem with Collin. It was crap! **When did you know that this was a job you wanted to do as a career?** I realized I wanted to work on the golf course when it was evident I was not destined to be a pro golfer, and I loved the science aspect of the job. **What was your favorite job that first summer on a course?** My favorite job that first summer on the course was cutting cups. Cutting cups allowed me to see every green, check moisture, and look at the dew pattern.

## WHERE DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR EDUCATION?

I graduated from Michigan State with a degree in "Crop and Soil Science". My class won the "Cutter Cup" and I graduated with a great group of guys. **What part of that education do you use most often on the job?** On the job I use my education on everything! My degree is used daily from disease identification to chemical conversions and compatibility. Math is must! **What course did you go to after college?** After college, I took a job for Al Bathum at Cascade Hills Country Club as a spray tech.

## WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT AND TEAM?

My favorite sport is college football.

## WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

When I have time I like to get out fishing and play on a golf league with Al.

## DO YOU PLAY GOLF? WHAT IS YOUR HANDICAP?

I play a lot of golf with my friends. My handicap is a 10. **What is your favorite golf course that you have played?** I'm partial it's Blythe Field! I love the layout. It is a very fun course to play. **What golf course would you love to experience once in your lifetime?** Arcadia Bluffs! Man I've got to get out there!



**WHAT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD TO YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?**

The Agrimetrol greens roller is what I would add. It does a great job rolling and cuts your time in half.

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

A 1978 Yamaha cart!

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

Jake Vogal and Burnsie! Those guys crack me up!

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

I would like to be a meteorologist. I love weather and working with Ginger Zee would be sweet.

**WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT?**

I don't have one. I am a huge food critic.

**WHAT VEHICLE WOULD YOU DRIVE IF YOU HAD A MONEY TREE GROWING IN YOUR YARD?**

2003 Chevy Malibu, Silver. Lol!

**WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?**

Bo Schembechler. The man knew how to coach and work as a team. He stood for what was right and really felt no person is great than the team.

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

Jordan Spieth, Jim Harbaugh and Michael Jordan

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

Water regulations will be the biggest issue. This will mean golfers expectations will need to change. Playing courses like Chambers Bay I could see being the norm.

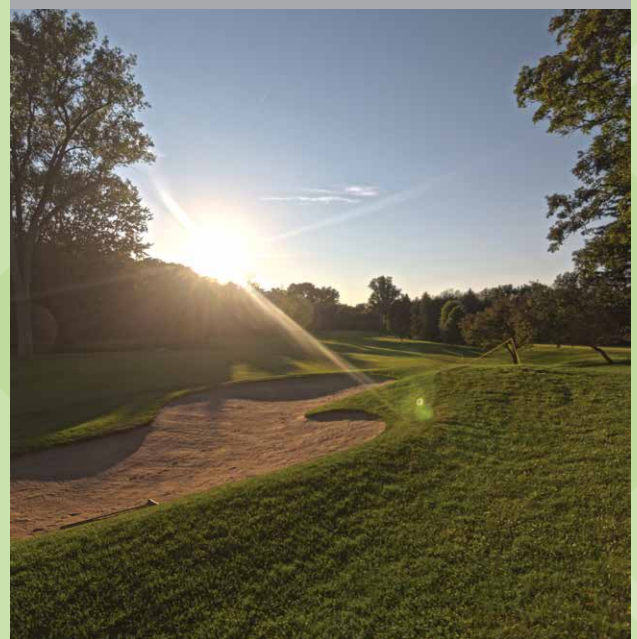
**WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?**

Summer patch control!



**5 THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT JOHN WESSELS**

1. I AM AN EAGLE SCOUT
2. I OWN AND RIDE A MOTORCYCLE
3. I AM RUNNING MY FIRST MUD RACE THIS JUNE.
4. I AM AFRAID OF HEIGHTS
5. I LOVE WINE TASTINGS



## LEGISLATORS GET MESSAGE ON MICHIGAN GOLF DAY AT THE CAPITOL

LANSING – State Representative Bruce Rendon of Lake City serves as the chair of the Committee on Tourism and Outdoor Recreation and he was all for the Michigan Golf Alliance members visiting each state legislator during “Michigan Golf Day at the Capitol” Thursday.

“I feel we’ve just scratched the surface on what tourism and golf as a big part of that can do for this state,” he said. “Tourism is a 19 billion industry just in direct sales in Michigan. The Golf Alliance is united in spreading its message, and that’s a big thing for golf and tourism.”

Rendon (R-103rd District) has impressed Bob Koutnik, the owner of Fox Hills Country Club in Grayling and the current treasurer of the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association.

“In my view Bruce Rendon is what you want in a state representative,” Koutnik said. “He cares about a lot of things, including golf. He understands what our industry means to the state and to tourism and he communicates that and works to help us.”

The Michigan Golf Course Owners Association (MGCOA), the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MiGCSA), the Michigan Section PGA, the Golf Association of Michigan (GAM), the Greater Michigan Club Managers Associations and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, which form the Michigan Golf Alliance, convened on the lawn of the state Capitol Thursday.

A lunch catered by Eagle Eye Golf Club in nearby Bath was served to legislators and their staff, PGA professionals gave golf tips, but the food and fun came after representatives of the Alliance visited every legislator’s office in the Capitol complex. For over a decade golf course owners, operators and superintendents have gathered each spring to voice a cooperative message.



“We have an important message, and this is a great way to get the attention of our legislators,” Kate Moore, executive director of the MGCOA. “The response has been great each time we do it and I can’t overstate the importance of getting the message out.”

Part of that message: Golf has a \$4.2 billion total economic impact in Michigan, contributes \$1.4 billion in wage income in the state, has a \$118 million charitable impact in Michigan and generates more than 58,000 jobs.

David West, vice-president of Travel Michigan, told the Alliance members in the day’s opening remarks that they were an important part of Tourism in the state, and said the popular Pure Michigan advertising campaign would get a boost of \$4 million in the state budget that was approved Wednesday in the Michigan House.

West concluded his remarks by reading a proclamation from Gov. Rick Snyder declaring June “Michigan Golf Month.”

In addition to office visits, leaders of the six associations that make up the alliance met in an informal question and answer session with House Speaker Kevin Cotter (R-Mount Pleasant).





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# A CALL FROM CAMPUS

## FIELD DAY, CONFERENCE, AND TURF SCHOOL

BY KEVIN FRANK

The **Michigan State Turfgrass Field Day** was held on August 12 at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center. Approximately 300 attendees representing golf, lawn care, athletic fields, grounds, and suppliers viewed current research in the morning. This year the morning format was altered to provide 30 minute presentations for a total of 3 hrs. The morning presentations on golf research tour included stops on bentgrass establishment, winterkill, NTEP cultivar evaluations, physiological responses of bentgrass and annual bluegrass to summer stress, herbicide programs for unmowed fine fescue roughs, Poa control programs, and disease and insect updates. A bountiful lunch buffet was served by the Spartan Hall of Fame Café. 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.

Mark your calendar as the **Michigan Turfgrass Conference** is earlier on the calendar this year. The conference dates are Jan. 5-7 (Tues. through Thur.), 2016 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on campus. The conference planning committee has been busy putting together the educational programming and the program will be released shortly so keep an eye out for registration information coming soon.

This year we are planning to hold our 4 day **Turfgrass School** on campus. The dates are Dec. 14-17 and the location will be on campus. The MSU Turf School is an intensive four-day course designed to teach the basics of turfgrass science as well as the practical techniques of managing turfgrass. The school will be "team taught" by MSU turfgrass faculty and staff. The curriculum is designed to deliver a wide range of turfgrass management topics including basic soils and soil management, turfgrass species identification, selection and physiology, turf establishment and renovation, fertilization, proper pesticide use, and environmental stewardship. A significant portion of the school will be dedicated weed, insect, and disease identification and management. The pest management section is delivered in lecture and laboratory settings with hands-on learning emphasized. We also plan to spend time reviewing the Michigan Commercial Pesticide Applicator Core Manual as this is critical information to review and understand if a person is interested in passing the Certified Pesticide Applicator test. The strength of the school lies within the depth of the turfgrass faculty at MSU. This will provide an excellent opportunity for one-on-one interaction between participants and the MSU turfgrass faculty. For further information please contact me at [frankk@msu.edu](mailto:frankk@msu.edu) or 517-353-0147.





## SAGINAW SUPERINTENDENT IS 13TH WEE ONE RECIPIENT IN MICHIGAN

**M**ike Martell knew that this day would come. The day when it would be a struggle to do ordinary daily activities. The day that he would need a new heart.

For Martell, superintendent of Swan Valley Golf Club and Crooked Creek Golf and Banquet in Saginaw, that day arrived this February. Weakened by a strep infection that occurred 14 years ago, Martell's heart finally declined to the point that he needed a pump to function as a "temporary heart" in order to live while he waits for a permanent heart transplant, hopefully sometime this Fall.

Seeing Martell back on the job just 6 weeks after having open heart surgery – battery packs hanging from his sides and trying to get two courses open this Spring – was inspiration and motivation for Gordie Bushong, sales rep for Residex, to help out. He nominated Martell for assistance from the Wee One Foundation.

"Mike is an all-around good guy, a hard worker, good family guy. He's had a tough road to hoe," said Bushong. "There was a Gofundme site that had been set up to help Mike and his family, but I just thought there's got to be a way for the industry to help him. I had heard of the Wee One Foundation but didn't know much about it. What a way to help out people in the industry. It's a great organization."

Martell became the 13th person in the state of Michigan who has been helped by the Wee One Foundation, a benevolence organization that assists families of golf course maintenance professionals who have suffered a catastrophic illness and need financial assistance. Since its inception in 2004, the Wee One Foundation has helped 76 different families in 24 states with donations of more than \$910,000.



Gordie Bushong (left) of Residex, presents a donation from the Wee One Foundation to Mike Martell (right), superintendent of Swan Valley Golf Club and Crooked Creek Golf and Banquet. Martell had open heart surgery in February to insert a temporary heart pump into his chest while he awaits a permanent heart transplant.

"It floored me how much the Wee One helped me," said Martell, a 1995 graduate of the 2-year turf program at Michigan State. "I just want to say thanks to the Wee One and all of the salesman and companies in our industry in Michigan that support the organization."

More than \$150,000 has been raised for the Wee One Foundation in Michigan since 2010 through annual golf outings. Next year's event will be held May 23rd at Wuskowhan Players Club in West Olive.

For more information about the Wee One Foundation, go to [www.weeone.org](http://www.weeone.org). For questions about the Michigan fundraiser, send an email to [WeeOneMichigan@gmail.com](mailto:WeeOneMichigan@gmail.com).



The system that serves as a temporary heart for Mike Martell was installed via open heart surgery in February. A pump was inserted into his chest cavity that serves as a temporary heart. It is connected via a drive line to a computer that is located in the pack around Martell's waist. Battery packs on each of his sides keep the computer running. Martell could not live without this system.

## ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

## Top Three

I know how busy all of us are with work, home and all of the other things that pull at our attention and it is hard to really commit to much more or to be fully informed at all times on all things. With that in mind I wanted to refresh everyone on the top 3 things that are really important to your Association. Please take a minute to

read and truly understand these three things to have a better understanding of the MiGCSA.

**#1 – Industry Partners**, I cannot stress enough how critical our Industry Partners are. I also know how easy it is to glance at another sponsor sign with no real thought as to what it means. To further that to make purchases this fall and all season without consideration of who you buy it from as it relates to your association. We have seen fantastic support since the inception of this chapter in 2008 and it is so critically important that our members show the same support to these companies. It is not a one way street, without your business they cannot support your association. It is a circle that we all play a part in, they partner with the MiGCSA because they believe in all of the members and the importance of the community. Please keep the circle alive and when you do make your early order this fall please thank your sales representative for being a partner with your chapter, one thank you can go a long way.

**#2 – Fundraisers**, the MiGCSA has three Fundraisers every year. The first is at Arcadia Bluffs on the first Monday in June, the second is in late September on the West side of the state for Western Golf Day (September 21st at Cascade Hills C.C.) and the last is The Big Event (October 5th at The Polo Fields). Because of the overwhelming support of our Industry Partners (see #1) we are able to directly benefit the industry every year with 100% of the proceeds from these well attended events. Every year we distribute every cent we profit from these events back to our industry in the form of Student and Member Heritage Scholarships, the Wee One Foundation, other philanthropic turf related causes. But the vast majority of the funds go directly to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF) and help fund the world class research at Michigan State University (MSU). Please plan on attending these events, as many as you can.

**WHEN YOU DO MAKE YOUR EARLY ORDER THIS FALL PLEASE THANK YOUR SALES REPRESENTATIVE FOR BEING A PARTNER WITH YOUR CHAPTER, ONE THANK YOU CAN GO A LONG WAY.**

**#3 – You**, without you there is no us. We are stronger together than any single one of us could ever be. Without you supporting the Industry Partners we would not exist. Without you attending the Fundraisers and bringing friends and relatives we would not be able to donate anything back to these great causes. Without you paying your dues we would have no members, no voice and no power to help dictate our future as professionals. Without you attending our regular meetings and events there is no network. Thank you for being a member, for supporting our partners, for attending the fundraisers and for being part of the network.

I hope this helps you understand your association a little more. I hope this has enlightened you on how you can help us continue to be successful. I hope that you will take this information and use it often, if you do the sky is the limit and the things we can do are limitless. Thank you!

Adam Ikamas, CGCS  
MiGCSA Executive Director

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