

COURSECONDITIONS

FEATURE PROFILE:
DON KNOP,
GREAT OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

FEATURE ARTICLE:
THROWING THE INDUSTRY
FOR A LOOP

23RD ANNUAL GOLF COURSE
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for Spartan Distributors

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Patrick Stranahan,
Assistant Superintendent,
Tam O Shanter Country Club



COURSE CONDITIONS

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MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT SUMMARY OF CLASSES

	CURRENT MEMBERSHIP	WINTER 2015 MEMBERSHIP
Class A	248	247
Class B (this used to be SM)	64	67
Class C	96	94
Class AA	38	33
Class AFF	160	158
Class EM	39	50
Class E	16	16
Class H	30	
Class R	8	9
Class SA	18	28
TOTAL	718	731

Please log in to your account at www.migcsa.org to renew your membership for 2016. If you are unsure of your status contact us at info@migcsa.org or 1-888-3-MiGCSA.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



JUSTIN BICKEL, CGCS

Well, well, well! 2016 has come and gone! It is amazing how fast time goes by these days. For me personally, it does not seem like a year ago, that I was attending the 2016 MiGCSA Past Presidents Dinner. This event occurs annually at the Michigan Turfgrass Conference, only a day or two after the MiGCSA annual meeting. This meeting acts as the indoctrination for the new president and it began with a simple question for me from a past president. He asked me simply, "How would you like to improve the association this year"? The conversation that ensued and information I took from that meeting were invaluable. Furthermore, it was not just the words and content of the discussion that were valuable to me. It was the passion with which they all spoke. One statement was simply, "our goal is to create the perfect association". Crazy to think a superintendent has a goal of perfection, right? I left that meeting with a greater understanding of the history of this association and the hard work that has been passionately invested.

So back to the question that was asked of me. First, I believe that it is important to try to improve the association every year and the president should lead that charge. Our mission is **"to provide value to our members through programs and services that enhance and promote our profession"**. As the association continues to mature, strengthen and improve, it will be better equipped to not just achieve that mission statement for its members but to expand those benefits into areas never before discussed. These unspoken benefits are known as BHAG's, "Big Hairy Audacious Goals". The only way we can dream of these BHAG's is if we continue to improve. I decided the best way for the association to improve was simply to take a deeper look at its core. We needed to evaluate the systems and procedures that guide the association.

We began by reviewing our by-laws which were implemented when the association was created in 2008. Being able to compare the old by-laws against eight years of operation it was clear that some changes needed to be made. These changes were approved at the annual meeting and acted as the template for the MiGCSA Standard Operating Procedures that needed to be created.

Next we evaluated the responsibilities of each officer, director, and committee. Standard Operating Procedures were created to efficiently communicate those responsibilities to the volunteers associated with each position or committee. These SOP's are the backbone of a new Board of Directors orientation program that was created to efficiently educate new directors on the operation of the association. The associations' year can be broken into two separate seasons so to speak. From October - March is the planning season and April - September is the event season. The BOD and the majority of the committees do most of their work during this planning season. The goal every April is to look back on that planning season and evaluate how far we have taken the association. Furthermore, every year in the middle of this planning season, we have a new director elected to the board and the officers transition to their new position. Any lag during this transition can slow the progress of the planning season. With that much turnover it is essential to have the proper structure in place to expedite that transition for the benefit of the association. These procedures will streamline the communication for all interactions between the committees, the BOD, and the executive director.

In the spring I spoke of "a positive and growing momentum within our association". Now being able to look back on the year it is quite clear that these words held true. Here is a list of all the accomplishments that we were able to achieve this year.

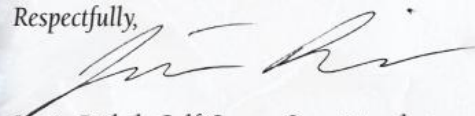
1. Coordinated with fellow members of the Michigan Golf Alliance to quickly pen a letter to our state Senator after he attacked the golf industry with blatantly false and inaccurate statements while speaking on the Senate floor.
2. Sent our Secretary/Treasurer, Dan Dingman, to the GCSAA Chapter Leadership Symposium for education that will help prepare him to lead the association for the next four years. Our goal is to send the new Secretary/Treasurer on an annual basis.
3. Broadcast the MiGCSA "Super Supers" show on Michigan Golf Live. The board has approved a rebroadcast of the show in June 2017. This can be viewed on YouTube. A copy can also be sent to any member that feels it would be a valuable tool to have in their clubhouse for golfers viewing.
4. Sent our Executive Director, Adam Ikamas, to National Golf Day in Washington D.C. The GCSAA Government Affairs department is the leader in government relations for the golf industry. All the other allied associations look to them for guidance. 80% of attendees were golf course superintendents. Currently if you Google, "golf and the environment", the first link you see goes to an article from 2007 that speaks extremely negative of the golf industry titled, **"The case against golf"**. Events like NGD are vital to try and change that narrative and educate our lawmakers with scientific, fact based stats regarding golf's positive contributions.

5. Quickly sent factual data to an Birmingham/Bloomfield Downtown publication that printed an article shedding golf course water usage in a negative light, our response was printed in the letters to the editor in the next issue.
6. Michigan Legislative Golf Day had a record attendance of supporters on the Capitol lawn. This is a positive sign of the continued growth of our relationship with our allied associations in the Michigan Golf Alliance. I believe this alliance is only scratching the surface of what it can achieve for the benefit of the golf industry and the superintendents that care for its most valuable asset.
7. Record attendance at MiGCSA golf, education, and fundraiser events.
8. Continued advertising growth in the Course Conditions publication.
9. Sponsorship for a hitting bay and display case at the new Michigan Golf Hall of Fame at Ferris State University that tells our story to the golfing community and puts us on equal ground with our allied associations.
10. Increase in Industry Partners and the continued strengthening of those relationships.
11. The 2016 Fundraisers allowed the MiGCSA to Award \$6,000 in Heritage Scholarships to Member Dependents, \$4,000 in MSU Student Scholarships, \$3,140 to the Wee One Foundation and other philanthropic endeavors related to turf. After all of those donations we were still able to donate \$19,247.59 to the MTF
12. Board approval for a new, industry leading MiGCSA website that is scheduled to be released for the MiGCSA 10th anniversary next January.
13. The MiGCSA was the third largest voting chapter at the GCSAA annual vote this year with 272 votes behind only the Carolinas and the Midwest. This makes us the largest single state chapter in the country. Our membership committee is currently working to push that number over 300 and make us the second largest chapter in the country. There are currently over 40 members that are registered as independent voters with GCSAA. The membership committee is finding that most of these members are not aware that their GCSAA voting status is set up in this manner.

I would like to say thank you to all the Industry Partners, event attendees, committee members, board directors, board officers, and our executive director for every interaction from this season. This year has fully tested my time management with my increased responsibility as your president. Amazingly though, after attending an event, I would always return to West Branch with excitement and energy for the next day at work. Conversations with our Industry Partners and fellow members at each event left me energized at times when the summer usually leaves me tired and weary. Topics, conversations, and achievements at board meetings also sent me home with renewed energy. Conversations with my fellow officers and our executive director have by far been the most rewarding of all. Thank you to Jeff Holmes, Mark Ostrander, Dan Dingman, and Adam Ikamas for all your help this year. That passion I witnessed at the Past Presidents Dinner last winter, I have also witnessed in these gentlemen.

On January 26th the BOD met for a strategic planning meeting where a new vision statement was created. Our new vision states, **"The MiGCSA is a community of leaders using innovative solutions to advance our profession"**. My service at the committee and board level has been rewarding on many levels but this vision statement sums up the most important reward and the one that has made the extra work the easiest. I know that all the hard work advances my profession! As a superintendent, I directly benefit from the continued strength and prosperity of this association and its mission. You truly do "get out of it, what you put in"! It has been a pleasure serving our association as your president. May you all have a pleasant and rewarding 2017 golf season.

Respectfully,



Justin Bickel, Golf Course Superintendent
The Dream, The Nightmare, and West Branch Country Club
President, MiGCSA

P.S. Don't forget to renew your MiGCSA membership for 2017. Timely renewal is a great way to help the association operation progress through our "planning season" efficiently. Just visit migcsa.org or e-mail Adam Ikamas at info@migcsa.org. Adam can also change your GCSAA voting status if you like. Simply inquire in your membership renewal e-mail.



Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association

MiGCSA STRATEGIC PLAN

BY: MARK OSTRANDER

It is a great time to be part of the MiGCSA. Thanks to the support of all of our members, Industry Partners, and past board and committee members, the association is thriving. With the help of GCSAA representatives, Steve Randall and Shane Conroy, our association meets every few years for a Strategic Planning session. This session is extremely important to discuss the future of our association so that it can continue to be a leader in our industry.

The most recent session occurred on January 26th at The Hancock Center in East Lansing. Current Board members, a couple Past Presidents, and our Executive Director joined the GCSAA's field staff that was facilitating the meeting. Our goal was to determine the direction of the association and how to get there. This sparked discussion to review our Mission Statement as well as our Vision. Our Mission Statement, "The Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association is dedicated to providing value to our members through programs and services that enhance and promote our profession", remained consistent. However, our Vision was modified to "The MiGCSA is a community of leaders using innovative solutions to advance our profession." Is everything we do aligned with these beliefs? This set the table for the rest of the day.

Our first topic discussed was member recruitment and retention. We believe that the association has many offerings and that the true value is returned to the member when they are engaged. Therefore, a major action item this year is to

find members in your area that aren't currently members or even members that aren't currently engaged. We need to bring our peers into our community and share what we have to offer.

We also discussed creating additional revenue streams to provide future strength for innovative ideas that will set us apart. In order to do this, we are acquiring a marketing firm to help identify what our options are. We are looking to market both within our membership and to those that aren't members but also outside of our profession altogether. In order to provide the marketing firm with valuable information, we are presenting the membership with a survey that we hope you can give us honest feedback of your experience with the association. We feel that by marketing ourselves, we have a positive avenue in spreading our word.

Lastly, the financial stability of the association was discussed. The association is currently in a moderately strong financial position with enough savings to have an investment account funded in recent years. We decided that we would like to continue to fund this investment until the account reaches a point that would cover fifty percent of the association's annual expenses. This provides some security for any unforeseen issues.

A big thank you goes out to the GCSAA for continuing to help direct our association. Your association is doing some really great things. If you are not currently involved, I encourage you to reach out and help push the association to new levels!



THROWING THE INDUSTRY FOR A LOOP

BY TOM DOAK, RENAISSANCE GOLF DESIGN, INC.

I'd been thinking about building a reversible course for more than twenty years, when I interviewed for the new project at Forest Dunes and realized Lew Thompson would be the right client for the idea. Having such a golden opportunity just an hour and twenty minutes from home was a dream come true.

It was a complicated idea to tackle. Having worked out a playbook for what sort of holes would work in two directions was a huge help in pulling it off successfully.

IMPLICATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE

With such a complicated concept, I knew that it was going to be essential to keep the rest of the design [and construction] as simple as possible. For that reason, our course is presented with just three heights of cut -- greens, aprons, and everything else.

Our tees are just flattish areas at the edges or even in the middle of the fairway cut -- there is no mowing definition to them because you don't want them to stand out the next day, when they're a part of the approach to the green! [A couple of people were worried early on that the golfers wouldn't be able to find the next tee, but that's what tee markers are for.] Being fine fescue, they have to be larger than normal for tees, but that's

mitigated by the fact that most of the tees are only played in one direction, so from that standpoint they only have to be half as big as normal.

As you can imagine, all the short grass from the tee to the fairway in both directions adds up on a reversible course. All told, The Loop has 85 acres of short grass, more than double the typical course [part of which is because I build my courses wider than normal]. If we were maintaining a typical bentgrass regime in a climate where you had to spray a lot, the fungicide budget would make the idea completely impractical, but in northern Michigan, with fescue on the fairways, the reduced inputs offset the extra acres of mowing. [It would also work just fine on Bermudagrass, or even bluegrass fairways.]

Another interesting benefit of a reversible course is that the divot wear is scattered much more than on a normal course. You only use the tees half the time, and the landing areas for the two holes playing in opposite directions are usually down on different ends -- they're only in the same zone on the longest par-4's or the short par-5's. That's really important when using fescue turf, as the slow healing of divots in fescue is a major drawback. That's why some Scottish links used to play their courses in reverse for a month or two in winter, when the divots aren't growing back.



The only drawback of the reversibility is that it's harder for the grounds staff to do the day-to-day setup of the course: they've got to think more about what they're doing. We tried to simplify things as much as we could. We tried to build greens where all of the hole locations work when played in either direction. I divided the greens into three hole location zones that provide a mix of front, middle and back locations when played in either direction, so that the guy cutting cups wouldn't get confused and go right back to the day before yesterday's spot when the course reversed direction.

Moving the tee markers is not so simple -- switching from one set of flat spaces to the set on the other side of the green is real work. So far, I've noticed a tendency just to put them back to the same spots every other day, instead of moving them around to give more variety to the course and spread out the wear and tear, as you would on a normal course -- the greenkeepers don't want to ruin the strategy of the holes. Eventually, they'll realize they've got 85 acres of potential space for tee markers, and they can shorten or lengthen the holes any way they want.

IMPLICATIONS FOR DESIGN

Building a reversible course is hardly a new idea. I'd first read about the concept in the Appendix to the English architect Tom Simpson's book, *The Architectural Side of Golf*, published in 1929. Simpson built several "private courses" for patrons like the Rothschild family at their estates, usually of three to six holes to save on maintenance costs, and he'd been working on reversible designs so they wouldn't get bored playing the same holes over and over. His simple sketch illustrated how islands of fairway could provide different challenges in different directions, and how a long and skinny green could seem entirely new when approached from another side, presenting itself as wide and shallow instead.



The reversibility of The Loop helps make it was of the most beginner-friendly courses built in years. Having the tees as part of the fairway means that for high handicap players, even a topped shot rolls out quite a ways, instead of getting stuck in rough right in front of the tee. And when you get to the first green, the fairway just continues around the green and right on through to the next hole, because you need fairway coming in from the other direction when that's the 17th green playing the other way around the next day. There are actually only a few places on The Loop where the fairway is interrupted ... from the first tee on the Red course, you could putt your ball all the way to the fourth tee, before you get to a par-3 hole where you hit over some native grasses in either direction!

Another way we "simplified" the design of the course was to reduce the number and size of our formal bunkers. We didn't want a bunker in play for one direction to make the course too awkward in the other direction, so when in doubt, we left it out. Part of this was an effort to keep the construction budget and the maintenance budgets within reason ... The Loop is built on gravelly soil, and we started work under the premise that any bunkers we did build would have to be lined. So, instead, my associates Brian Slawnik, Brian Schneider,

and Eric Iverson did more shaping than normal in the fairways, using short grass and contour to defend the greens and carry marginal shots away from the target. Like Pinehurst #2, the greens are hard to hit and hold, and The Loop is a very difficult test of chipping.

One of the down sides of all the competition for "Best New Design" awards is that interesting design has taken a back seat to features that will look good in magazine photos. More and bigger bunkers have been the path to success; many designers are afraid to incorporate subtle features that are better appreciated through repeat play, because the ratings are done by panelists who jet around from course to course, and pronounce their judgment after a single round.

By inviting golfers to play it twice, in opposite directions, the concept for The Loop provides more possibilities for golfers to become really interested in the design and how it changes from one day to the next. And the concept of the reversible course guaranteed some marketing attention regardless of whether the course won such awards or not.

BUSINESS AND MARKETING

The most compelling reasons for the reversible course, though, were about the business case. Our client's goal was to get people to stay at Forest Dunes overnight and play there for multiple days, instead of stopping through on their way north, and not even staying for dinner. He also wanted a course that would attract national attention, even though the site itself was not especially photogenic.

I'd hoped to keep the concept quiet until opening day, because I knew that once it became public there would be a lot of skeptical or puzzled golfers and lots of questions about how it would all work, all of which would be much more easily answered once the course was open for play. But we couldn't even manage to keep a lid on the idea for a month. Once word got out, I did have a lot of friends ask confusedly if it wasn't dangerous to have people playing in both directions, not understanding that we would alternate the clockwise and counter-clockwise courses from one day to the next!



Our client Mike Keiser reported that when we built the second course at Bandon Dunes, the overall revenues didn't just double, but tripled -- he likes to say that in golf course development, "one plus one equals three." With The Loop, we made that literally true ... Forest Dunes went from having one course you want to play, to three, so people will stay for longer, or go back more often.

Of course, no matter which direction The Loop is being played, it can only accommodate the same number of golfers each day. But if many of them stay to see how it works in the other direction, you don't have to find as many customers to keep the course full. That's the part of project that has gotten the attention of resort developers and general managers.

So, the key to the success of The Loop was to be sure it felt like an entirely different course the next day, when you play it the other way around. I have to say, even I'm

surprised how successful it's been on that front. Friends throughout the golf business have told me they didn't even feel as though they were on the same property, much less playing to the same greens. I don't think we could have pulled that off on a totally flat site, but in some respects, it's better that we didn't have any dramatic ocean views to help you locate yourself.

It can be hard to remember how the holes fit together, or even whether your favorite hole is on the Black loop [clockwise] or the Red, which goes against the idea that a great course is easy to remember. But my hope is that's a feature that will draw people to keep coming back, instead of going elsewhere to find the next big thing. One of my friends thinks the resort should focus on getting people to stay for a week to play the course every day until they understand it -- now that would sure be a radical departure from where the rest of the golf business has been going!

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All events are subject to change in date and/or location.

Please check www.MiGCSA.org for all the latest event information

Thursday, March 2 - Spring Management Meeting (The Inn at St. John's, Plymouth)
Wednesday, March 16 - Spring Management Meeting (Egypt Valley C.C., Ada)
Tuesday, March 28 - Spring Management Meeting (Tree Tops, Gaylord)
Monday, April 24 - Spring Opener Spring Lake C.C.
Monday, May 8 - Can-Am Tournament (Essex C.C., Ontario)
Monday, May 22 - Wee One Fundraiser (Birmingham C.C., Birmingham)
Sunday, June 4 - Northern Fundraiser Practice Round (Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia)
Monday, June 5 - Northern Fundraiser (Arcadia Bluffs, Arcadia)
Thursday, June 8 - Legislative Golf Day (Capitol Building, Lansing)
Thursday, June 22 - LaFontaine Outing (Coyote Preserve)
Wednesday, July 12 - Mid Golf Event (Apple Mountain, Freeland)
Thursday, July 27 - Tuck Tate Championship (TBD)
Wednesday, August 16 - MTF Field Day (Hancock Turfgrass Center)
Wednesday, August 23 - MiGCSA State Championship (Bucks Run, Mt. Pleasant)
Friday, September 8 - MSU Networking Golf Outing (College Fields, Okemos)
Monday, September 18 - Western Golf Day (TBD)
Monday, October 2 - The Big Event (TBD)
Friday, December 1 - Detroit Holiday Party (Lodge at Keego Harbor, Keego Harbor)
Thursday, December 7 - Northern Holiday Party (Buffalo Wild Wings, Traverse City)
Friday, December 8 - West Holiday Party (Peppinos Downtown, Grand Rapids)
Friday, December 15 - Mid Holiday Party (Bottoms Up, Holly)
Tues-Thurs, Jan. 2-4 - Michigan Turf Conference (Kellogg Center, East Lansing)
Tuesday, Jan. 2 - MiGCSA Annual Meeting (Kellogg Center, East Lansing)
Wed-Thursday, Jan. 16-17 - MiGCSA Ski Trip (Boyne Mountain, Boyne Falls)
Friday, January 26 - Curling Fundraiser (Detroit Curling Club, Ferndale)
Mon-Fri, Feb 3-8 - Golf Industry Show (San Antonio)
Wednesday, February 7 - Michigan Gathering (TBD)

THE MIGCSA AT GIS

At the Aquatrols #GCItweetup17 new MiGCSA Board Member Jesse Shaver got his Social Media award from Golf Course Industry magazine.



This year there were 5,800 seminar attendees 13,500 total attendees & 580 companies attended the 2017 Golf Industry Show, the last time these levels were reached was 2008. Michigan was well represented in all corners of the show.

25th ANNIVERSARY

Michael A. Auerbach, CGCS
Bryan B. Bacon, CGCS
Mark Black, CGCS
Greg A. Blew, CGCS
Cann, CGCS
D. Carlone, CGCS

Kevin Cerkies, CGCS
Kimberly J. Derr, CGCS
Clayton T. Estes, CGCS
David W. Gourlay, CGCS,
CCM, CCE
Erick B. Holm, CGCS

Jeffrey T. Holmes, CGCS
John S. Hooftnagle, CGCS
Sean A. Hoolahan, CGCS
Collier Miller, CGCS
Kent Nevitt, CGCS
Norma M. O'Leary, CGCS

Gary A. Phipps
Jeffrey S. Rasmussen
Paul L. Schmitt
Monte L. S.
Thomas T.
Michael

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CGCS
CS
CGCS

Kenneth E. Ellenson, CGCS
Edward F. Ellis, CGCS
Jeffrey M. Elmer, CGCS

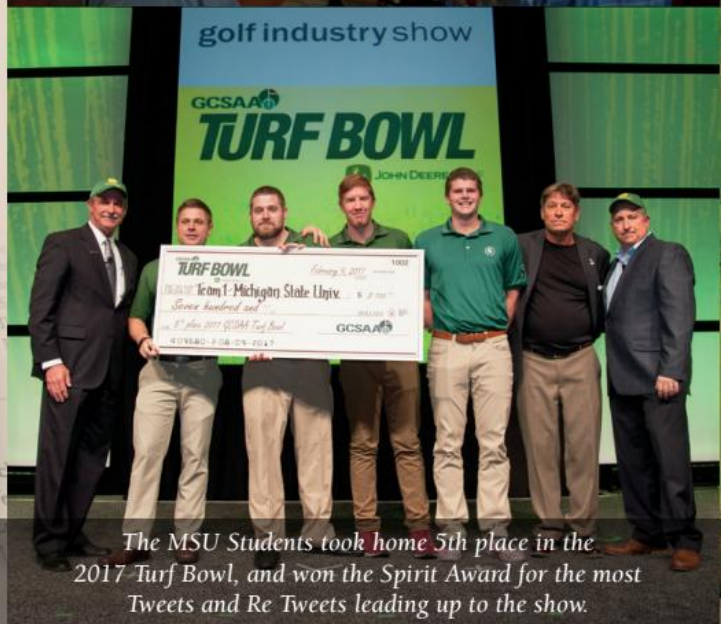
Joseph L. Hubbard, CGCS
Michael V. Iacono, CGCS
Joel A. Jacquemot, CGCS

Mic
W
E

At the Syngenta Celebrating Certification Luncheon Past President Jeff Holmes was celebrated as a 25 year CGCS.



The Michigan gathering with some special guests from the Tennessee Golf Course Superintendents Association was packed.



The MSU Students took home 5th place in the 2017 Turf Bowl, and won the Spirit Award for the most Tweets and Re Tweets leading up to the show.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 2 – SPRING MANAGEMENT MEETING (THE INN AT ST. JOHN'S, PLYMOUTH)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16 – SPRING MANAGEMENT MEETING (EGYPT VALLEY C.C., ADA)

TUESDAY, MARCH 28 – SPRING MANAGEMENT MEETING (TREE TOPS, GAYLORD)

MONDAY, APRIL 24 – SPRING OPENER (SPRING LAKE C.C., SPRING LAKE)

MONDAY, MAY 8 – CAN-AM TOURNAMENT (ESSEX C.C., ONTARIO)

MONDAY, MAY 22 – WEE ONE FUNDRAISER (BIRMINGHAM C.C., BIRMINGHAM)*

SUNDAY, JUNE 4 – NORTHERN FUNDRAISER PRACTICE ROUND (ARCADIA BLUFFS, ARCADIA)

MONDAY, JUNE 5 – NORTHERN FUNDRAISER (ARCADIA BLUFFS, ARCADIA)

THURSDAY, JUNE 8 – LEGISLATIVE GOLF DAY (CAPITOL BUILDING, LANSING)

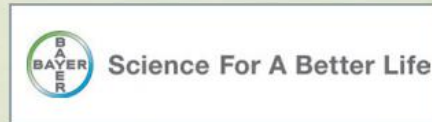
THURSDAY, JUNE 22 – LAFONTAINE OUTING (COYOTE PRESERVE, FENTON)

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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The Mid party at Bottoms up in Holly was well attended as usual.

THE 2016 HOLIDAY PARTIES

In all more than 150 members, family and friends attended the Detroit, Western, Mid and new this year the Northern Holiday parties this December. Along with this attendance more than 100 toys were donated to the Toys for Tots program to help a bunch of kids have a better Christmas and \$171 to the Red Kettle Campaign. Thank you to all who attended and especially those who made a donation.



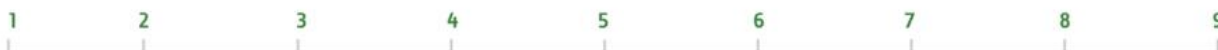
A great turnout for the Northern party at Buffalo Wild Wings.



The Lodge at Keego Harbor was once again a hit for the attendees in Detroit.



The final MiGCSA Event of 2016 was the Western party in Grand Rapids.



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THE 23RD ANNUAL GOLF COURSE HOCKEY CHALLENGE

BY SCOTT SPOONER

The 23rd annual Golf Course Hockey Challenge took place January 31-February 1st 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 a record 10th time. Twelve teams from the U.S. and Canada competed for the cup, while there were also four 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 Country Inn and Suites, we had a poolside dinner and strategy session. The first game was at 11:30 Tuesday morning, so everyone went out for team bonding around the famous Clifton Hill area.

Unfortunately, the team did not look very cohesive on the first day of the tournament, losing games to Toronto 2 and Northern Ontario. After regrouping and shuffling the lines in the hot tub, a lot of the team went to Rock and Bowl to watch some hockey on TV. In past years, the Buffalo Sabres had played home games, but they were on the road this year. We were able to see Montreal beat up the Sabres and Dallas beat up the Maple Leafs on the big screens. The staff would not

put the Red Wings game on, explaining that they were too horrible to watch, which made it fun to root against both of the local teams.

All of this came together on the second day. Due to the format of the tournament, we were eliminated from the Championship after the first day, but that did not prevent us from trying to play spoiler. Michigan beat the eventual champion, Team London, by a 5 – 1 score and then rally against Toronto 1 for a 5 – 3 win.

This year's team consisted of John Nowakowski (Port Huron Golf Club), Mark Ostrander (The Moors Golf Club), Rob Adams (Team MVP, The Moors Golf Club), Taylor Doorlag (Great Lakes Turf), Blaine Doherty (Chicago Country Club), Brian McDougal (Port Huron Area Schools), Scott Spooner (City of Ann Arbor) Garrick Hunger (Oakland University) and Ryan Komosinski (Franklin Hills Country Club.)

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 the Over-40 bracket.

We would like to extend sincere thanks to our sponsors for this event: Syngenta, Resdiex, Spartan Distributors, Great Lakes Turf, Tri-Turf, Ultimate Reel Grinding and Harrell's.



Team Photo: Front Row L-R - Matt Costello - Rob Adam (The Moors) - Brian McDougal (Port Huron) - Taylor Doorlag (Great Lakes Turf) - Ryan Komosinski (Franklin Hills) - Mark Ostrander (The Moors)

Back L-R - Tom Nitsche (The Moors) - Colin Tittle (The Moors) - Scott Marlinga (Port Huron) - Garrick Hunger (Oakland University) - Scott Spooner (City of Ann Arbor) - The John Nowakowski (Port Huron CC) - Shawn Rotundi (Port Huron) - Blaine Doherty (Chicago GC)

THE MIGCSA ANNUAL MEETING

Mark Ostrander, the Class A Golf Course Superintendent at The Moors Golf Club in Portage has been elected as the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MiGCSA) Chapter President for 2017.

The MiGCSA held its annual elections on Tuesday January 3rd at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing during the Michigan Turfgrass Conference.

Other officers elected to the MiGCSA board include Vice President Dan Dingman, Superintendent at Birmingham Country Club in Birmingham and Jeff Sweet, CGCS from Bucks Run Golf Club in Mt. Pleasant.

The election marked the end of board service for Past President (2015) Jeff Holmes, CGCS Superintendent at Egypt Valley Country Club in Ada.

Jesse Shaver from Gull Lake Country Club was also elected to the Board of Directors to represent the Wester District.

The chapter is in a good financial standing the investment into a mutual fund of \$50,000 in March of 2015 has grown to \$53,536.49. The 2016 year also showed a profit of \$7,480.41 thanks in large part to our 12 Tiered Industry Partners and 25+ Companies that participated to bring in more than \$100,000.

The 2016 Fundraisers allowed the MiGCSA to Award \$6,000 in Heritage Scholarships to Member Dependents, \$4,000 in MSU Student Scholarships, \$3,140 to the Wee One Foundation and other philanthropic endeavors related to turf. After all of those donations we were still able to donate \$19,247.59 to the MTF. Overall another successful year for the MiGCSA thanks to the support of our members and industry partners.



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GOLF COURSE DRAGONS

BY PAUL ALBANESE, ASGCA

Golf course Dragons? What could this article possibly be about? As I was talking with my son, I asked him what I should write about for this issue. And, being a big fan of the movie, "How to Train Your Dragon", he said, "write about Dragons and golf courses". To which my first reaction was, "That might be kinda hard buddy." But, then I thought for a second and realized how I may impart something about the golf course design process that relates to this seemingly disparate idea.

Good design of anything is a derivation of something; some type of idea; some semblance of a concept. From where these ideas come, and how these concepts become form is the essence of design; the foundation of art, architecture and most any creative process.

You have probably heard of the concept "Form Follows Function". This was the design philosophy associated with modernist architecture and industrial design in the early 20th century. The concept is simply that the shape of an object should be primarily based upon its intended function or purpose. Louis Sullivan, and other famous skyscraper architects of the 1930s followed this credo, which created new building forms devoid of ornament and superfluous details. The function of these buildings was to create space within a city by reaching vertical, and their forms, the sleek lined skyscraper, represented this simple idea.

Many golf course greens at the beginning of the century were squarer in shape than round; as were many bunker and fairway lines. Following the mechanization boom during World War II, maintenance of greens, tees, bunkers and fairways could now be done via riding machines versus by hand. This "functionality" of golf maintenance machinery caused a change in "form" of greens, tees, bunkers and fairways. Riding equipment could not move as easily on angles as it could on curves. Therefore greens, tees and bunkers began to take on a more rounded form. Hence, the "form" (of the green) was following the "function" (of the machines needed to maintain).

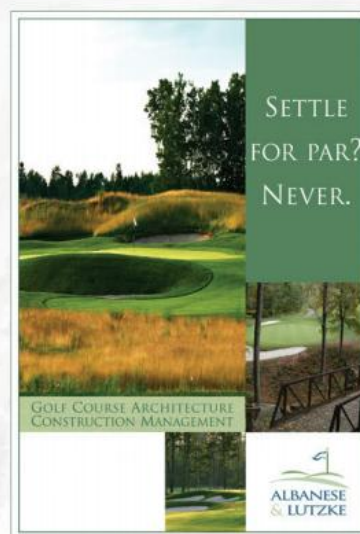
So, this brings us back to the question of "where does form come from?" I would contest that most form comes from simply regurgitating forms that we have experienced in our pasts. If you were asked to design a car, you would probably start by creating a form reminiscent of a car that you had been in yourself at some point. And, if trying to create something unique, you might start with that idea, and then tweak it, in order to make it semi-original. But, unless you started with a completely out-of-the box idea, the general form would still be recognized as a car.

Similarly, with golf course design, most golf holes start out as generally recognizable as golf landscapes. They have a tee, green and fairways and bunkers. And, often, the bunkers are the forms from which architects can express their personal creativity. But, what is the genesis of the bunker forms? Many architect simply use "nature" as the impetus for the bunkers forms. Some use history. Some create form from other ideas. The late golf architect Bob Cupp actually used the early 3-D triangulated computer models for landscapes as a genesis of the forms for Palmetto Hall Plantation in South Carolina. The result: straight lines, sharp angles and unusual shapes.

So, this year, the series of articles will focus and explore the forms of a golf course, and where they came from, how they evolved, where they might go and other unique ideas related to form. I encourage you to tweet any thoughts or ideas you might have @paul_albanese #formsofgolf and we can make this an interactive space for this exploration.

Oh yeah. How does this relate to Dragons? Hopefully, by the end of 2017 it will be clearer.

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.





DON KNOP

Don Knop has been at Great Oaks Country Club for 20 years, and has just completed his 16th season as the Superintendent. Don has been married for 18 years. "Funny enough, I met Liz in High School. Back then though, I wasn't quite her type. It took until after college for me to grow on her." Says Don. They have four children. Emilee(19) currently living in Northern Wisconsin, is working and going to college to become a medical assistant. Faith and Abby are 16 year old fraternal twins, who are currently juniors at Oxford High School. Faith keeps busy with church activities, work, and taking care of her two rabbits. Abby stays busy with church activities, work, National Honor Society, and competitive cheer. Dane is 12 and stays busy with travel soccer and his PS4.



1. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS RELATED MOVIE?

Hoosiers is by far my favorite sports related movie. It's based on a true story, which makes it even better. Plus, how can you not love Jimmy!!!!

2. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE NON-GOLF SPORT?

I'm a huge college basketball fan! I love watching a great coach, whom gets his team to buy in on all levels, especially defense. I played from grade school through high school. I just couldn't get past 5'11" and wasn't able to consistently lock in that sweet jumper. Once March Madness comes around, I start feeling a little giddy.

3. WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

The problem is, I don't make enough spare time for myself. I do sneak away from work for an hour to get a quick work out in. Spare time is a goal this upcoming season, as I'm going to make more time for my family. I've been in this field a long time and my family has been simply amazing and very supportive of the long hours.

4. DO YOU PLAY GOLF?

What is your handicap? I do play golf, and every winter it's a reoccurring goal to place on the Spring to do list. I might play 5 to 8 times a season and my handicap is currently 15.4. I would always rather play somewhere else and enjoy a couple



beers. But in all seriousness, I think the best thing a superintendent can do, is play his/her own course every 2-3 weeks. Although I may not thoroughly enjoy myself, it is good to make notes and see what the members/public are dealing with on the course. Who knows, the owner/members may even have more appreciation or respect for you, if they know you can play the game.

5. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF HOLE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

I'm sure that I'm missing a couple, but what comes to mind is the 5th hole, par 3 at Farm Links. Once you finally stop taking pictures of each other, you get to play a very intimidating par 3. Then you grab a club, that you have no clue if it will get there or not because of the drastic elevation.

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

I haven't played many courses, but have been fortunate to play some nice tracks. My favorite at this time has to be Sage Valley in South Carolina. This club is just 15 miles from Augusta National and was built by Mr. Weldon Wyatt because Augusta National wouldn't let him in. The people and the amenities take it to a new level.

7. WHAT IS THE TOUGHEST GOLF COURSE YOU HAVE PLAYED?

The toughest course I've played and one with some of the most spectacular views was Arcadia Bluffs and the wind was not friendly that day!

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

Augusta National is one I would love the opportunity to play.

9. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF CLUB IN THE BAG?

My favorite club is my putter. This is how most of us are judged regarding our jobs. I putt daily at my job because I don't want to be seen carrying a stimp.

10. WHERE DID YOU SHOOT YOUR BEST ROUND OF GOLF AND WHAT WAS THE SCORE?

My best round was scored at my local high school golf course and the one I grew up working on. It was Hayward Golf and Tennis in Hayward, Wisconsin and I shot a 77.

11. WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE TOURING PROFESSIONAL?

My favorite touring professional is Steve Stricker, as he is from Wisconsin, but also a great individual. I was fortunate to meet and talk with him at Starr Pass in Tucson, AZ, where I worked prior to coming to Great Oaks.

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

My favorite piece is probably our 300 gallon 5800 Toro Sprayer. Up until a couple years ago, all we had was the 160 gall toro 1250. It's nice to be efficient!

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

If all our pieces were up to date and in great shape, that large Salsco roller that you can put on greens, approaches and fairways looks pretty cool.



14. IF ONLY ONE PLANT PROTECTANT WERE AVAILABLE ON THE MARKET, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE IN YOUR TANK?

I've had some nice success with the Insignia Intrinsic fungicide.

15. WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW?

Sean, our 2nd assistant keeps things light around the shop. You'll never know what will come out of his mouth, but he will most likely make you laugh once a day. This last season we had a pretty tight knit seasonal staff and they definitely kept the laughs going throughout the days of a long summer.

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

I think I would really enjoy being a High School basketball coach. I love the game, and think I know the ins and outs pretty well. I helped coach one of my daughters at a very young age and that was very gratifying.

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

I would change our 14th hole. We currently only have one dogleg right on our back nine and our course yardage is a little on the short side. We could easily gain 75 yards for the scorecard and go from a boring straight hole to an interesting second dogleg right for the back nine.

18. WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT?

My all-time favorite food is a quality medium rare Ribeye, add some mashed potatoes with asparagus and I'm all set. Although my favorite restaurant is a Mexican place called SageBrush Cantina in Lake Orion.

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

I'm definitely a truck person, but not real knowledgeable about them. Any of those new trucks from the Big 3 would do me fine. It would obviously have to be all decked out.

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

There are a few pieces of advice I would like to give him/her. But, if I had to pick one thing, I'd say DOCUMENTATION. This could go from pictures of projects, notes about the weather, special applications you've made, and even situations that happen with your crew throughout the season. Documentation will help you improve in all aspects and may even make your job a bit easier the longer you're in the business.

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

My 3 key managers work year round. Tim Moses our Head Mechanic, Jeff Akers our First Assistant, and Sean Clark our Second Assistant. They are a solid group of guys that I'm fortunate to work with. It then varies year by year from there. Normally we have between 15 – 17 seasonal employees during peak season.

22. WHAT TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM DO YOU HAVE AND APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY IRRIGATION HEADS?

We have a Toro LTC plus system with just over 1200 heads. We had a wall to wall new system put in during 2005-2006 AND we have Mike Casey, the man who can solve all the problems, around the corner! Mike and I worked together for a couple years at Great Oaks before he moved on and he is one of those guys you can just depend on.

23. WHAT IS THE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE YOU COULD NOT DO WITHOUT?

We can't do without our walk behind aerifier. Our water quality is very poor, so we need to constantly develop channel to flush the garbage away.



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

Definitely my wife! Liz is a very selfless person with great morals and values. She makes me want to be a better person each day, by just the way she carries herself. As for my career, Greg Dobbs was my greatest influence. I was 16 years old and working at my first golf course in Northern Wisconsin. Greg was the Asst. Superintendent, and a huge reason why I went into the field of golf.

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

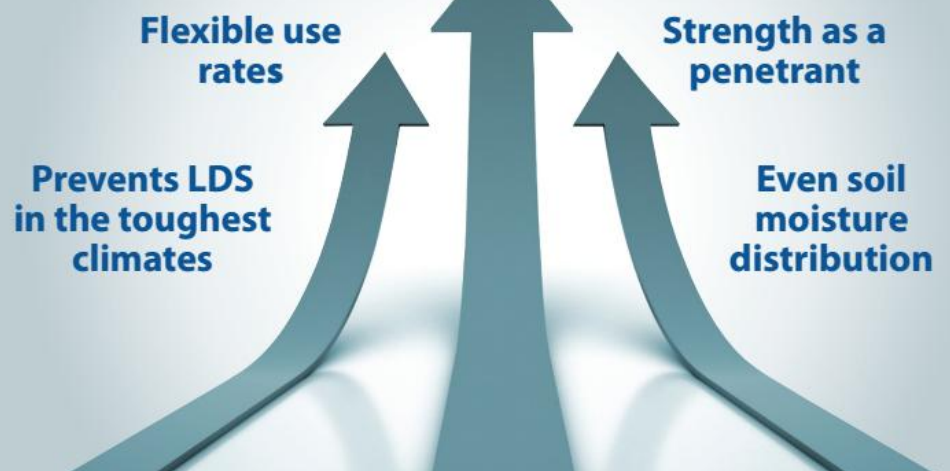
My dream scramble would consist of my Dad, brother Cory, and son Dane. Although I've played with each of them at different times of my life, having us all together would be a dream come true. With age, health and distance in the way, it's truly not a reality.

5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I was the 2nd asst. at Starr Pass in Tucson, Arizona, where Phil Mickelson won his first PGA event. He won the 1991 Northern Telecom Open. Sad part, I wasn't smart enough to grab a flag and get it signed.
2. I'm a coffee and beer snob. I love a good wheat or pale ale. Bell's is always close to the fridge!
3. I had open heart surgery in 2008.
4. I'm a huge Green Bay Packer and Wisconsin Badger fan, as I'm from Northern Wisconsin.
5. I broke my back(L2) at Starr Pass in 95', funny part about that, it was my day off. That's what I get for coming in to help out.

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FRITZ MIDDLETON

Fritz Middleton is the Director of the Golf Car Division for Spartan Distributors for the State of Michigan. He met his wife Laura at Michigan State and they have been married for 25 years. Their daughter, Allison is a Senior at Hope College and was on the Deans List 6 of her 7 semesters and graduates May 2017. Their son Reese is a Senior at Perry High School and will be attending Alma College in Fall of 2017 where he will play for the Alma College basketball team.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

I played Golf my entire life and in the spring of 1987 I went looking for a caddie job at the Country Club of Lansing so I could stay in East Lansing for the summer and not go back to Central NY. I was hired by Larry Startzel, and when he left for Paradise Valley shortly thereafter Chris Freeman was hired. I was promoted to Starter for the summer of 1988 and became an Assistant Golf Professional for Chris at the C.C. of Lansing from 1989-1996. **Where did you receive your education?** I have a Bachelors in Communications from Michigan State University 1989 and I am a Member of the PGA 1993-current

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

Chris Freeman the Head Professional and General Manager, C.C. of Lansing from 1988 to 2009. He was not only a great mentor but a very close friend.

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 was the Head Professional at the Coldwater C.C. in 1998 I played a round of golf with 3 members, all under 20 handicaps, and all 3 members whiffed on a shot attempt during the course of the round. The only time that happened in the 15 years I spent as a club professional.



INDUSTRY PROFILE

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

The new labor laws in effect as of January 1 for salary employees will create a real strain on the ability to keep good help within the budgets they are given.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT DEALING WITH A CUSTOMER?

My first interview for E-Z-GO in 2003, I ran out of gas on the way to the interview and was over 40 minutes late. How I got the job I will never know!

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

I think that most decision makers get caught up in wanting every vendor to provide a price feeling that the competition will create the best price possible for their requested product needs. I really believe that when the decision maker decides on the product and the vendor 1st and then starts to negotiate the price and value adds, they get exactly the package and benefits they want within the price range they feel they can afford.

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

I enjoy the relationships I have made and really enjoy helping customers understand new trends or ideas happening in their market place to make their business more successful.

WHAT IS YOUR BEST SUCCESS STORY?

I inherited the Boyne Resorts account in 2007 after they had made a choice to change vendors and purchased 114 golf cars from my competitor in 2006. They have not purchased any other brand of golf car since 2007.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION?

I love the competitive environment I am in every day but I really enjoy making the great industry friends I have been fortunate to make in my 25 years in the golf business.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS?

I enjoy coaching youth basketball and ran the Perry Youth Basketball program for 7 years.

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

Kalamazoo CC takes the prize for the combination of best Golf Shop and Maintenance facilities. Dick Stewart is a multiple merchandiser of the year award winner and provides his membership and community a world class retail shopping experience, consisting of very high-end lines combined with value priced clothing options. The cleanliness and set-up of the maintenance facility under John Fulling is totally different than any other facility I visit in Michigan. The word that always comes to mind when I walk into meet with John is pride!



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

The best product we offer is the RXV E golf car. RXV stands for Reliability, Experience and Value and the car certainly delivers on all those criteria. The AC motor and Intellibrake parking brake allow the operator to see some real energy savings along with decreased maintenance on a monthly basis. It also provides extended battery life due to its charging efficiency. The customer is treated to the safest most unique driving experience available in the market. On the Cushman side of our brands the Hauler Pro 72 volt utility vehicle is a one-of-a-kind in the marketplace. It has unparalleled range for an electric utility with a 72 volt battery pack and the intellibrake as an option. It truly will do everything a gas utility will do for the needed amount of time in the day.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE TO PLAY?

Country Club of Lansing – Great greens, great memories, a very good test of golf from the back tees! **Who is your favorite golfer?** Freddy Couples is my favorite golfer. I loved how calm he was about everything and love his smooth golf swing.

DO YOU HAVE A NICKNAME AND IS THERE A STORY BEHIND IT?

Interestingly enough my nickname, to rare individuals, is my real name – “Fred” – Larry Startzel, PGA Professional at The CC of Lansing in 1988 came to the caddie master with my first paycheck and wondered “who the ---- was Fred Middleton” When it was established I was Fred Middleton I became known as Fred to certain members of the staff for my tenure there. I once had a member come up to me after I had been there for 4+ years and call me “Freddy, Freddy, Fritz, Fritz, Fritz, Fred” For those of us who spent years around private club memberships I do not think I need to say anymore!

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A HOLE IN ONE?

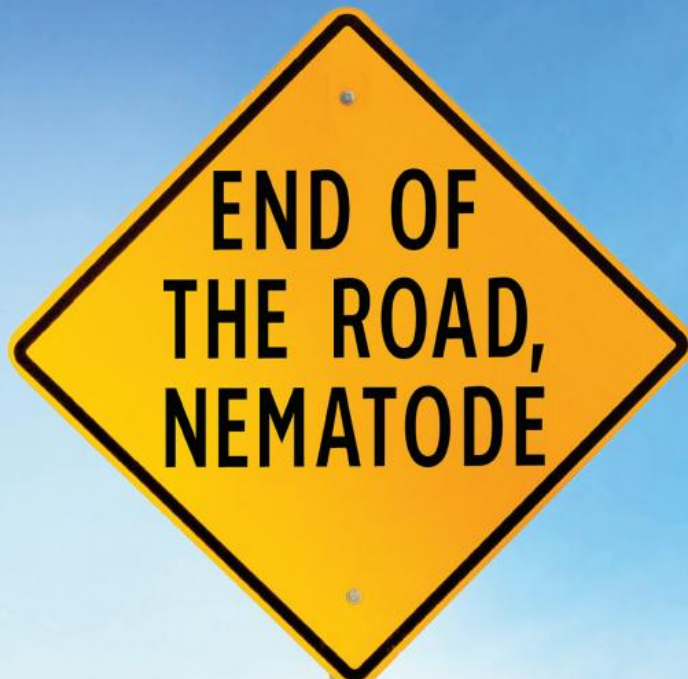
I had (1) hole in one in 1995 on The 7th Hole at The CC of Lansing a 7 iron from 160 it was actually a good shot! My son had a “hole in one” in his first Varsity Golf Match last Spring at The Emerald in St Johns and I was there to witness it. It was quite a thrill! His was also a well struck shot with a gap wedge.

ARE THERE ANY NEW PRODUCTS ON THE HORIZON?

Lithium Batteries with a longer lifetime range at a significant increase in efficiency. Lithium requires zero maintenance in-season, we will encourage customers to not even lift the seat. Off season storage will require the same once a month overnight charge that we request for lead-acid batteries. Total charging time on a fully discharged car should not be more than 4.5 hours vs 10-12 hours on current lead-acid batteries. Total life of the golf car will be 7-8 years on one set of batteries vs 4-5 with current lead-acid batteries.

5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. Was the lead in the HS Musical my SR Year in HS
2. Sang in The Michigan State Chorale for 2 years while at MSU
3. My dad died of melanoma when I was 19 – I have had two level one melanoma removed since his death
4. I hate birds
5. My mother is extremely proud of the fact that I am a “Golf Professional”



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FROM NATIONAL



SHANE CONROY

BY SHANE CONROY

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH CONTINUES TO BE FOCUS

"No life is, or can be, self-existent. We depend upon each other" These are the words spoken by Col. John Morley, the founding President of GCSAA back in September of 1926. This phrase continues to ring true today as we enter into our first full calendar year with the mantra '20,000 by 2020'. GCSAA continues to focus a portion of our resources on membership recruitment and retention. Under the guidance of Shelia Finney, GCSAA's Senior Director of Member Programs,

GCSAA is utilizing multiple avenues to help attract new members which will allow us additional opportunities to serve you, the members, and continue to advance the profession.

New member onboarding enhancements are being made with the goal of welcoming new members into the GCSAA family and providing them with pertinent information as they begin to utilize their membership. Personalized messages from select staff and field-staff members will be a focus early in their membership as new members navigate all GCSAA has to offer. During members' first year of membership, a 'new member survey' will be sent to the member. The survey will gauge their satisfaction on a number of items, such as: the value of GCSAA membership, engagement on our website, use of programs, education utilized, government affairs advocacy efforts and communication with their field staff representative. This will allow us to gather relevant information and continually develop these programs.

Efforts are also being made to assist members in attaining their GCSAA Class A status. During the latter part of 2016, I was in contact with numerous members throughout the region to assist in this process. This effort will continue as many Class B superintendents only need to provide a copy of their college transcripts, provide their pesticide license or GCSAA IPM exam results, or acquire minimal education points to make the jump from Class B to Class A. If you are a currently a Class B member and want any assistance or information on obtaining Class A membership, please reach out to me. Class A members will also be receiving reminders on requirements needed during their renewal cycles to maintain their membership classification. Additionally, please check out the Class A Toolkit page on our website for ways to promote and use your Class A membership within the industry and your facility.

Equipment managers have been a large focus of GCSAA over the past few years, and will continue to be moving forward. Equipment manager membership packets are being created which will highlight the education and benefits EMs will receive with their GCSAA membership, and GCSAA is currently working with chapters to expand EM education at chapter events. Students are also receiving additional member benefits as we aim to increase enrollment at turfgrass management programs across the country, and give students a larger role within GCSAA. Internship programs, mentorship programs, student promotional packets and a redesigned student booth area at GIS next year are some of the items on GCSAA's agenda.

Chapter growth is also a priority for us here at GCSAA. As chapter success goes hand-in-hand with GCSAA's success, we are continually working together to benefit the entire industry. GCSAA is currently working on lists for chapters which will include: members who are GCSAA members and not members of a chapter, facilities who have members of the National Golf Course Owners Association and not GCSAA/chapter members, provide chapters with new GCSAA members monthly, as well as provide chapters updates on their members who have achieved certification, Class A status and EM certificates so they can celebrate these achievements.

I look forward to seeing you all in 2017 as we continue to move the industry forward and work toward '20,000 in 2020'.

All the best,
Shane



PATRICK STRANAHAN

Patrick Stranahan is starting his fourth season as the Assistant Superintendent at Tam O Shanter Country Club in West Bloomfield. He was on his way to a PGM degree, but quickly found out it wasn't for him. He started at Tam O Shanter Country Club watering some newly planted Arborvitaes, all 65 of them. After working for 60 hours in one week "felt like it was nothing at all, and that Sunday he couldn't wait to go back to the course!" he knew he found a career that didn't feel like work.

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

Walk mowing greens which still is my favorite job! **Where did you receive your education?** University of Life, I have a Phd. **What part of that education do you use most often on the job?**

Knowing the value and importance of the person next to you. Co-workers are the greatest investment when it comes to having a great team. **What course did you go to after college?** No course, I owned and operated multiple insurance agencies; property/casualty. **Who was the first Superintendent you worked for?** Gregg L Mathews. **What did you learn from that Superintendent in the first year?** Greg helped me understand and inform me about the golf industry.

WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES AS ASSISTANT AND WHAT RESPONSIBILITIES WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE ON?

Keeping 12-14 people guys and girls all focused on our team goal: providing

the best playing conditions possible on a daily basis, week in and week out for the entire season. Mowing schedules, seasonal agronomic practices and chemical applications also fall on my lap. I am still learning as I grow as an assistant, to me you just have to do what the weather lets you. Other than that, set some goals as a group and start accomplishing them, as bumps come up deal with them accordingly, but don't stray away from the plan, nor the goals! NEVER!

ARE YOU MARRIED IF SO HOW LONG?

No, I was for nine years. **Do you have any children? What are their names and ages?** Nope, just my dog Weggie. **What is your favorite sport and team?** Golf is my personal favorite sport, team would have to be the Detroit Pistons during the Bad Boys era. **What do you do in your spare time?** Spare time? What is that? When I have time I like to golf, fish and hunt.



DO YOU PLAY GOLF? WHAT IS YOUR HANDICAP?

Yes, my handicap is 15 which tells you I don't play enough.

What is your favorite golf course that you have played?

Pinehurst No. 2 **What golf course would you love to experience once in your lifetime?** Of course, Augusta National. **What is your favorite golf club in the bag?** Pitching Wedge, I named my dog after that club.

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

A hose and a quick coupler, my golf cart too. But more important than equipment is understanding that people are the single most important factor day in and day out!

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

Verticut Reels for our fairway mowers. **What is the oldest piece of equipment that is still being utilized in your fleet?** The good ol' SALSCO greens roller!

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

Our crew is like a group of friends, there are eight of us who literally hang out all the time. We clown on each other all day, serious good bunch of people! Juanito, Dirt Bike Ricky, Primo, Rafito, Kale, Joshie, Pickle, and TomO. We all use nicknames with each other, gets to a point in the summer when you hear someone's real name in passing and don't recognize it. Like my buddy Juan, been calling him Juanito for 3 years.

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

This is my mulligan, I don't want another one of those. I sold insurance, it was like the dentist office with paperwork nobody wanted to be there and it got to the point I didn't even want to be there. So I finally listened to my dad and went and tried something I like doing. So here I am, I finally listened to him for once in 33 years and found something I love doing!

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

I would cut the locust tree down on 9, it sticks out like a sore thumb and doesn't let you play a long iron up the right side into the green.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT?

My dad's BBQ with my moms salads!!! **What vehicle would you drive if you had a money tree growing in your yard?** Denali Pick-Up 2500.

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

Rory, Spieth and Fowler.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CAREER PATH?

I love the game of golf! I also love working with people. I think that coworkers/teammates (That is what we call them here at Tam) are the most valuable asset to our crew, or any crew. It's a matter of getting to know and understand each individual. We are all different, but we are here for the same reason, to do a job, a job that I love. Being outside and having a golf course as an office is something I really like, I've had a desk with wall around it and it sucked!!!

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

A lack of a willing and able workforce. Doesn't matter what equipment you have, if there aren't people around willing and able to use them, they are all useless. **What do you believe the biggest issue will be in the future?** Water issues for those who are in parts of the world or country where water is not a major resource. Also diseases control turf, trees and insects.

WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT FIELD?

Introducing the turf industry to the younger generations and making them aware of the many different fields that make up the turf industry.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

On a golf course somewhere! How would you like to be remembered 100 years from now? I had a job that I really truly was happy to go to work everyday! To me that is success!

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

Everyone at Tam O'Shanter C.C. and everyone on my staff helped me get to where I am today!

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

Mother Nature is always the one with the last laugh!

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

Assistants are the glue and the sponge. We take everything that is thrown at us and we perform, all while continually holding our team together!

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

Tom Mungins is our Head Mechanic, and I have had the privilege to be able to get to know him on both a work and friend level. Tom is a master mechanic, he can literally have a fairway mower in pieces and the next day put back together. Tom has taken a lot of time and shown a lot of patience with helping me understand our entire fleet. The mechanic position can be crucial to the right assistant. In my case our relationship has provided me with a very good stepping stone into better understanding the importance and correct way to care for our machinery. At the same time, Tom's knowledge about Tam property and the different agronomic practices that have gone on over the years on the golf course is a real perk to have.

WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?

Carts pulling up next to the green, I can't understand it at all. or driving through the approaches to park next to the green blows my mind. Along with fixing ball marks.

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

They need to be fast, but don't dwell on it mow and roll daily with the right water program and give the players speed simple as that! The bigger issue is with fixing the ball marks, and fixing them correctly, but there isn't enough sane golfers or amount of booze behind the bar for us to win that conversation so I'll be quiet!

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

Assistant, as long as the guy ahead of me holds the same if not more passion than I do about turf other than that, no glory here in being head honcho.

5 THINGS PEOPLE MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I was a scholarship soccer player at Madonna University
2. I have traveled to the British Isles Scotland and Ireland
3. I used to sell insurance
4. I grew up playing golf at Detroit Golf Club
5. I like to cook for the crew (new crockpot recipes, breakfast, grilling etc.)





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2016 SCHOLARSHIPS

The MiGCSA has six scholarships every year. The Heritage Scholarship is an award of \$1,500 that is offered through the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association. The award is available to the children of our current members who are enrolled in a post high school education curriculum. There are also up to two scholarships for \$2,000 each that can be awarded to students in the MSU Turfgrass Program. The applicant must be enrolled in the 2 or 4 year Turfgrass Program, have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher and be a current MiGCSA member. These awards are presented at the Michigan Turf Conference.

Funding for these scholarships are provided by the proceeds from the 2016 Fundraisers, the Northern at Arcadia Bluffs, Western Golf Day at Kent C.C. and the Big Event at Plum Hollow C.C. Thank you to these facilities and our generous sponsors.

The applicants for the Heritage Scholarships 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 submissions are graded based on the appearance of the application, the content of the essay followed by the applicant's scholastic achievements and community involvement.

This year's winners include:

Dylan C. Goike, Son of Steve Goike

Allison Juchartz, Daughter of David Juchartz

Laura Brown, Daughter of Richard Brown

Trevor Roznowski, Son of Jason Roznowski

The winners of the MSU Student Scholarships were **Thomas Robbins & Lewis Nowakowski**

I would like to thank all 11 Heritage and 7 MSU Student applicants for their time and efforts applying for these scholarships. I find it extremely pleasing to be able to get to know these young adults through their Heritage Scholarship submissions and the MSU Students through the interview process. I would encourage each applicant to continue to apply for the Heritage Scholarship as the scores were very tightly grouped. An additional thank you to the 2016 Scholarship Committee Mike Rosen, Jesse Sholl and Jim Priebe for their help in choosing the recipients.

Doug Hoeh

Treetops Resort

Scholarship Committee Chairman



2016 Student Scholarship Winners Thomas Robbins, Lewis Nowakowski with Scholarship Committee Members Jim Priebe and Jesse Sholl



2016 Heritage Scholarship Winner Allison Juchartz, Daughter of David Juchartz with Scholarship Committee Members Jim Priebe and Jesse Sholl

A MESSAGE FROM MTF



From my point of view spring is always the best time of the year and Mother Nature has certainly given us different versions of it this year... but more on that later.

First, an update on the MTF Conference and items of interest for the upcoming year.

Our Annual Conference is now in the books and we would like to thank all that attended. The number of attendees was up from last year and we are hopeful that trend will continue. Our goal is to provide the best conference experience for all those that attend and the conference committee spends countless hours preparing for the event. What is sometimes forgotten is that that our committee is comprised of board members who volunteer their time so that others in the turf industry may have access to educational sessions and topics that may improve their own professional world. I am fortunate enough to attend most of the pre-conference meetings and the number of details involved in organizing the conference would astonish most of you. After serving on the Board of Directors the past 8 years I can say the current MTF Board of Directors has the upmost respect for those of previous MTF Conference committees and would like thank them for their dedication as well.

With any undertaking this large there is always room for improvement and comments. Our post-conference survey is designed to uncover both our strengths and weaknesses and we review those to plan for the future. Most observations were positive and we appreciate those who took the time to complete the survey. The one concern expressed by some is our less than optimum date (First week in January – immediately following the Holidays). It is certainly not the most favorable one and it is not by choice. When we returned to East Lansing to the Kellogg Center 4 years ago, there involved some give and take. On the plus side, the location suited many and the educational emphasis was our motivation. On the downside, the Kellogg Center hosts many events and the choice of weeks is limited. Attempting to circumvent all the other conferences and educational opportunities in the winter is difficult and we are always discussing other options for dates and locations. If we are able to make it a more convenient we will certainly work to do so.

Our current Vice-President and Conference Chair, Amy Fouty and her Co-Chairs – Mark Wildeman and Curt Boak continued to make improvements to the Conference and Amy was the driving force behind three new features for this year.

To start, **the electronic registration** format thru our Wild Apricot website allowed for up-to date record keeping and for almost everyone, was an easier, less cumbersome process. Those that were uncertain of the procedure quickly learned the steps involved and we believe most questions were addressed and corrected. Future conferences will be using this format and we encourage attendees to comment on the process and suggestions on improvements will be welcomed.

The **Yapp App Conference Pocket Guide** provided a guide to the conference thru your phones. Several other functions were installed for your experience and this electric form of a pocket guide will be used in the upcoming conferences. Information regarding the conference can be added immediately as well as commenting on speakers, sessions and exchanging photos.

These features will be more valuable and important as future conferences can use the information exchanged. The paper version guide will still be available, but in limited quantities. Limiting the use of pocket paper guides takes us in the direction of being Green Certified by MSU. Also, the cost benefits of the Yapp App far outweigh the printed version.

The addition and availability of the **Voice-Over Sessions** is a feature many have already taken advantage of. Every educational session was recorded and those sessions are made available for free to anyone who attended with a 3 day conference registration. Those who attended with a 3 day registration received a link and password to review every session. In a look back in history, many may recall receiving the Conference Proceedings in the mail after the conclusion of the conference. This tech version of those proceedings is a value that many attendees will enjoy and make use of. This updated version of the proceedings will allow those attending to listen to a talk they may have missed while attending another speaker. This new feature was put together by the persistence of your Conference Chair, Amy Fouty. The MTF would also like to thank Inteliquet for producing the product and Jeff Dwyer of MSU Extension for providing funding for the production. Many thanks as well to Gordie LaFontaine for putting Extension in contact with the MTF in order that we could jointly make it happen.

During the conference 4 new board members and one incumbent were welcomed to the Board of Directors. They are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Bob Reed of Tri-Turf | Representing: Commercial Turfgrass Supplier |
| • Brad Lazroff of Huron Meadow Golf Course | Representing: Sports and Institutional Turf |
| • Matt Gaver of Spring Lake Country Club | Representing: Western Michigan District |
| • Eric Davey of Prestwick Village Golf Club
(Appointed) | Representing: Greater Detroit District |
| • Doug Johanningsmeier of Harrell's LLC
(Incumbent / Treasurer) | Representing: Lawn Maintenance |

The MTF Board met in January soon after the conference and all committee assignments were circulated and an orientation was provided to them to update them with expectations and goals. The existing board welcomes and looks forward to the participation of the new board members.

Also, during the conference 4 awards were presented to MSU Turf Students. They include:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| • Ryan Kaczor | Norman W. Kramer Outstanding Scholar Award |
| • Derek Sawle | Robert Hancock Memorial Scholarship |
| • Tim LeBlanc | Kenyon T. Payne Outstanding Student Award |
| • Kirk Thomas | Sports and Commercial Turf Award |

Congratulations to each student and congratulations to all the students who participated in the process.

The MTF also thanks the Vendors who participated in our Halftime Show. Your support at the conference and during the year at the Hancock Turf Research Center does not go unnoticed. Thank you for all your efforts to help turf research.

During the Halftime Show our annual Auction for the Rieke Endowment continued and was a huge success. Total auction income was approximately \$7,000 and this fundraiser has been our biggest annual effort for the Rieke Endowment. Many thanks to Mark Wildeman and Curt Boak who put in a tremendous amount and time in making the auction so successful.

The Conference also provided an opportunity to look back on the MSU Turf Program. The MTF in conjunction with the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources was proud to host the 50 year Anniversary of the Turf Program with a dinner that was held after the Halftime show. Dr. Trey Rogers served as Master of Ceremonies and did a wonderful job connecting the past with the present. Many thanks to Trey and to Kathryn Reed of the CANR for their help. Thanks also to Dr. Rieke who made available so many pictures and documents for the dinner and for the Halftime show.

Regarding the Conference overall. It could not happen without Dr. Kevin Frank and his dedication and hard work in making it successful. We are fortunate to have his enthusiasm with respect to the conference as well as the turf updates many of you are now receiving through the MTF. We are also fortunate to have Amy Fouty for the past 4 years as she has taken this job on with a great deal of time and energy. She will be assuming the President's position soon and her new duties will require her to spread her attention to other MTF functions ...and therefore the Conference a bit less. We look forward to her leading the MTF soon and are confident she has left a great template on the conference for others to follow.

As you read this I would like to remind many of you to take the opportunity to register as MTF members. The process is simple – just go the Michigan Turfgrass Website and hit the Join / Renew now button and that will provide you with the needed info to register. Many of our members did not renew last year due to our transition with our administrator and the incorporation of the Membership Software...but we would like to have you back...so please consider the MTF as your pathway to MSU and its many resources.

Finally, to quote the philosopher, George Santayna
 "To be interested in the changing season is a happier state of mind than to be hopelessly in love with spring."

I stated earlier my thoughts on spring and I believe many of you probably are a part of the "hopeless" group but Mr. Santayna has a point. It can be a long season. Enjoy the spring but pace yourselves for the rest of the seasons.

Carey Mitchelson
 President – Michigan Turfgrass Foundation



For the MTF included in those seasons will be our:

Tee Times 4 Turf – If you haven't included your course, please consider the opportunity. We will be reaching out to you for donations of clubs.

LaFontaine Golf Benefit –
 New Date!!! June 22nd

Field Day – August 16th

The MTF Website is now updated with this information and registration to these events (and donations if so inclined) will be available to everyone who would like to participate.

Here is to a great grass growing season to each of you and thank you for your support of the MTF.



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3RD ANNUAL CURLING FUNDRAISER FOR ICE RESEARCH

The MiGCSA was back to the Detroit Curling Club on January 20th thanks to MiGCSA and Detroit Curling Club Member Ryan Moore. This year was another sellout event starting at 11:00 with pizza and salad lunch served at 1:00 immediately after. Detailed instruction was provided along with on ice training for everyone. Look for this to become an annual event returning next year, January of 2018.





2017 MIGCSA SKI TRIP

January 18th and 19th marked the inaugural MiGCSA Ski Trip to Boyne Mountain. Although it has been a mild winter in Michigan, Boyne supplied a huge base and perfect conditions for carving up the slopes and hitting the moguls, bumps and jumps. The apres-ski offerings kept things going late into the night. Thanks to members Rob Pyler, Mike Rupp, Andy Gilroy, Micah Wise, Josh Teitsma, Mike McClure, David Makulski, Jared Milner and his wife Aleah for attending.

In 2018 we are looking to grow the event and do it again Wed-Thursday, Jan. 16-17. Hope to see you on the slopes next year!



Josh Teitsma from Site One Golf and Rob Pylar from Bayer.



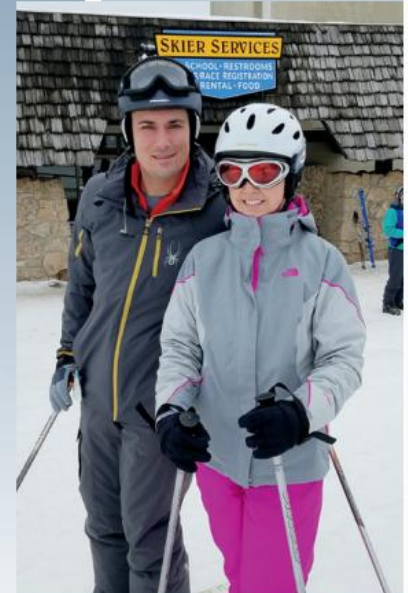
Micah Wise from Site One Golf.



Mike Rupp and Andy Gilroy from Harrell's.



The whole 17 crew!



Jared and Aleah Milner from Meadowbrook C.C.

ASSOCIATION UPDATE



ADAM IKAMAS, CGCS

US AND THEM

This article was spurred by a post on the Facebook page started by Gary Grigg called Golf Course Maintenance. If you are not a member it is a great group and is really a forum for many things. The topic that lead me to write this was on the GCSAA new classification system where class SM Members will go back to a classification of B. This was voted on at the 2016 GCSAA Annual Meeting after discussion by the chapter delegates and the Board of the MiGCSA did approve it as well.

There was a complaint on this page about the reclassification as feeling like a second-class citizen. It lead to many more comments about the GCSAA and the feeling that the membership dues are not worth it, things about the local chapter has my back but not the National or just flat out it is a waste of money what do they do for me? Now this is not the first time I have heard this, and personally there was a time when perhaps I would have not disagreed with it. If you look at GCSAA or MiGCSA Membership as a service, then it appears to be a terrible value. \$375 for a GCSAA Membership and another \$100 for the MiGCSA and all you get are a few magazines you don't usually have time to read. When that is the mind set, I cannot blame someone for not seeing the value.

However, if that is your mindset I am not sure you understand how this all works. The GCSAA and MiGCSA are not a direct service in the traditional sense. These groups are an opportunity and can be as large of an opportunity as you can make of them. If you sit back and wait for the GCSAA & MiGCSA do things for you it will not work, it is not supposed to work that way. It is like buying a new sprayer parking it in the barn and wondering why you have disease ridden turf, you must use it for it to work! Anything you need or could want is at your fingertips, but you must under your own power move them.

When I first started this job, I struggled with trying to come up with the "elevator pitch" to explain why the MiGCSA is important for members. I started listing all the things we do behind the scenes like foster relationships with the State and Local Governments, provide networking and educational opportunities, produce an industry leading magazine and a massive communication network and so on down the line into the minutia of the daily operations. But as I struggled with this I was turned on to a Ted Talk by Simon Sinek on the idea that people do not believe in what you do they believe in why you do it. This resonated with me and has changes my elevator speech completely.

The MiGCSA or GCSAA for that matter is not about doing things for you, even though they both do, a lot. They are about giving you the opportunity to be part of us, not them, just us. We are all Michigan Golf Course Superintendents members or not, it is what we do. Why do we do it? For the giant pay checks or the glory and appreciation? It is because we are passionate about our profession. As a group of people who are passionate about our profession we are unstoppable, when we all believe in why we do it together, we are unstoppable, when we utilize the opportunities by getting involved to whatever level you would like, we are unstoppable. Not us and them, just us. When the GCSAA does well we all do well, when the MiGCSA does well we all do well. It is not they do well, we are they. So, the next time you wonder about paying your dues to either group please think of it not as a service like your cable bill, but as an investment in all of us which absolutely includes YOU!

Adam Ikamas, CGCS

MiGCSA Executive Director

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