



COURSE

Conditions

FALL 2018

Quarterly Publication of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FEATURE: MTF 2019 Conference Registration Insert

Industry Partner Profile: Jim Higgs, Spartan Distributors

Assistant Superintendent Profile: Allen Saville, MSU Turf Club President

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**FEATURE
SUPERINTENDENT**

Gary Spahr
Lincoln Country Club

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Sales and Service for Spartan Distributors: **Jim Higgs**

18 Superintendent at Lincoln Country Club: **Gary Spahr**

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Assistant Superintendent at Franklin Hills Country Club: **Allen Saville**

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Profile interviews conducted by
Greg Johnson, Greg Johnson Media L.L.C.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MON-WED NOV 26 - 28 - Michigan Golf Business Conference (*Somerset Inn, Troy*)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28 - Chainsaw Safety Seminar (*Meadowbrook C.C., Northville*)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 30 - Detroit Holiday Party (*The Lodge at Keego Harbor, Keego Harbor*)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6 - Northern Holiday Party (*Buffalo Wild Wings, Traverse City*)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18 - Equipment Managers Meeting and Superintendent Round Table (*Kalamazoo C.C., Kalamazoo*)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7 - West Holiday Party (*The Blue Moose, Grand Rapids*)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14 - Mid Holiday Party (*Goodrich C.C., Goodrich*)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9 - Curling Fundraiser for Ice Research (*Detroit Curling Club, Ferndale*)

TUES-THURS, JAN. 22 - 24 - Michigan Turf Conference (*Kellogg Center, East Lansing*)

TUESDAY, JAN. 22 - MiGCSA Annual Meeting (*Kellogg Center, East Lansing*)

MON-FRI, FEB 2 - 7 - Golf Industry Show (*San Diego, CA*)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 - Michigan Gathering (*Garage Kitchen & Bar, San Diego*)

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@migca.org

President's **PERSPECTIVE**

Each and every Turf Manager I have spoken with since summer's end has had a similar story to tell - 2018 was a very challenging year. Mother Nature reminded us that she's in charge and, like always, she will never be consistent. With that being said, I'm certain that we all took some positives from the season, learned from those experiences and can apply what was learned to future seasons. Personally speaking, this was certainly a year where, in times of need, reaching out to my fellow Superintendents and industry colleagues was never more important. The willingness and support that exists in our small professional community is what makes our profession so great and helps each and every one of us during such challenging seasons.



Your Board of Directors met on November 7th to address a lengthy agenda. During our busy season the Board accumulates topics for discussion that are relevant to the current year. This list of topics is the main focus of our fall meeting with the balance of our time being spent addressing on-going business. Our commitment to maintain our status as one of the leading Chapters in the country continues to be our steadfast promise to the MiGCSA membership. As such, our Executive Director Adam Ikamas spends countless hours throughout the summer months collaborating with other chapter Executive Directors from across the country. The ideas gathered and shared during this process are discussed during our meetings in order to implement new initiatives that will help ensure the MiGCSA remains one of the leading and most innovative chapters in the country.

The Match Play Championship was certainly a highlight for our chapter in 2018. We had high hopes for the event and, based on the feedback we have received, it will become an annual event. Congratulations to the championship team of Kevin Haak and Bill O'Connell who defeated Kevin Frank and Carey Mitchelson 4&3 in a close final match at Muskegon Country Club to take home the \$1,000 prize. Thanks to all who participated in the inaugural event. I am sure that the brackets will fill up quickly again next year so be sure to sign up early.

The MiGCSA had a fantastic year with many successful 2018 fundraising events. The money raised would not be possible without the support of our Industry Partners and the generosity of all Event hosts. I cannot stress enough how important it is to participate in these fundraisers. The funds that we raise support Turfgrass Research at Michigan State University, support scholarship donations and are pivotal to the continued success and innovation in our field of turfgrass management. The Michigan Turf Foundation has been working tirelessly to secure an exciting list of speakers for the 2019 Michigan Turfgrass Conference. The Conference is scheduled later this year and will take place January 22nd-24th, 2019 at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. I hope to see you all there.



As we finish putting the golf course to bed for the winter, I encourage everyone to take some extra time this off-season to recharge your batteries. 2018 was a challenging year and I am sure everyone gave 110% to get through it. Spend time with your family and friends and enjoy the off-season. The winter goes by quickly and, before we know it, we will be mowing turf again. Thank you to all of our 700+ members of the MiGCSA for another successful year. May you and yours have an incredibly joyous, healthy, and relaxing Holiday Season.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Dingman
GCS Birmingham Country Club
MiGCSA President



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Waste for Golf

BY PAUL ALBANESE, ASGCA

As most people have likely noticed in the past decade, there has been a large effort to reduce waste. The latest is the banning of plastic straws, to go along with the banning of other plastics and non-biodegradable products.

As I was contemplating these policies, I pondered a bigger picture. The goals of these recycling directives are to reduce the “fill” that goes into a landfill. And, as I pass by landfills on my travels, I can understand why the desire to lessen the amount, from an aesthetic standpoint: landfills are typically ugly, artificial, engineered protrusions sticking out of the earth.

I then consider my profession of designing and building golf courses. On our golf design projects, there is often a need for more “fill”, and this material usually comes in the form of dirt. And, we strive to utilize only material that comes from same site on which we are building the project. We balance the cut and the fill.

On landfills, there is no “cut” – only fill. And, although I understand it is not a new idea to use landfills for golf. But, a more unique concept that would expound upon this idea would be to actually plan for a golf course well in advance of the landfill even starting. In other words, Master Plan for a future golf course that integrates with the ongoing operation of the landfill. This would be a long-term vision, because landfill often takes years to be “done”. But, having a long-term vision is why we recycle in the first place. It makes sense for future generations.

And, how exciting would it be for a community or a region to know that every time a citizen is forced to throw out a piece of plastic or Styrofoam, that this material would not simply languish in a visually unpleasing conical pile of trash at the outskirts of town, but actually contribute toward the “fill” material of a future community asset. This concept is not to assert that the recent waste reduction policies be reversed, as these policies are responsible and needed. But, to

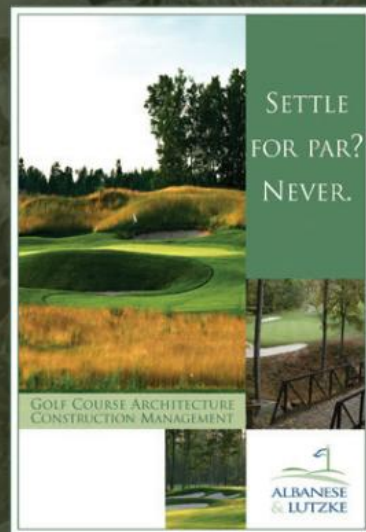
change the nomenclature of “waste products” to “future golf course fill products” would also be a true and good idea.

And, as I noted, building on landfills is not a new idea. Yet, I found it puzzling on the projects I created, that we needed to actually import material to go on TOP of the already capped landfill. It seemed like a missed opportunity for the saving of a lot of time and effort (read: money) if there had been advance planning. Literally, the placement of the material in a landfill can be done such that notably interesting and dynamic landforms, replete with golf design opportunities, may be created for much less cost than having to create these forms with landfill capping material, after the fact.

In discussing this with colleague at Waste Management, he noted that the most cost effective manner to fill a site with waste is as if often seen – via a “cone”. And, utilizing any form other than a cone would cost more money to Waste Management. And, of course, these costs simply get passed along to resident’s trash collection bills. But, if everyone were on board – corporations, citizens, politicians -- and understood the whole process, objective, and overall Master Plan, I would hypothesize that many people would support this vision for how to treat waste.

So. Next time you throw away a piece of plastic, consider how that might be part of a future golf green site versus simply being buried in the cone.

*Paul Albanese, ASGCA is a principal with Albanese & Lutzke, Golf Course Architects/Construction Managers.
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ERIC RANK
CHIKAMING COUNTRY CLUB

Here at Chikaming Country Club we utilize a pre-mix tank during our course spray operations. The premise of the system was to save time during our fairway sprays by having spray solution ready to be loaded into our sprayer. Now, after 4 years of use, we have realized other valuable attributes.

As mentioned, saving time was our initial goal. Here at CCC we sometimes spray in the late afternoons/evenings in the heat of the summer if we were not able to spray in the morning due to events, daily play or mowing. All too often, evening sprays would stretch well into the night and most of this was due to the mixing/adding of new chemicals to each new tank.

A normal fairway spray for us takes four 300 gallon tanks and each time we mix a new tank we would be adding 2 to 5 products to the tank, which means

carrying the jugs to the sprayer, opening the jugs, emptying the jugs, rinsing the jugs.....Ultimately, 15-45 minutes are spent each time we mix up. Multiply this by 4 tanks and we would spend 60 - 180 minutes just mixing up to spray! Spending an hour to 3 hours wrestling jugs is not how I want to spend my evenings and often we would cut our evenings short due to dew setting in on the course, we were tired, or we wanted to get home before midnight!

By utilizing the pre-mix tank we are now able to load all of the fairway spray products for the entire 28 acres into our 1,000 gallon cone bottom tank and dispense the solution at a metered amount for the four individual tanks. From the time we step out of the sprayer to begin filling the tank, to driving away ready spray around 5 minutes have passed. Multiply that by 4 and we now only spend 20 minutes tanking up for 28 acres of spray. And most of that 5 minutes is spent checking over the sprayer, correcting issues, filling the foam marker tank, etc. There's no more rushing around, feeling pressed for time to get the next tank out to stay ahead of that two-some. Or, to get home before midnight!

Ok. You might be thinking, "You still have to get product into the mix tank." "You're gonna spend that time anyway." Well, yes but wouldn't you rather do it all in one shot and at one moment? Getting the dirty stuff out of the way all at once is a relief, in my opinion.

Or better yet, you can put the entire spray mix together at your convenience. This can be done while the fairways are getting mowed and blown, early in the morning before the crew gets there, during a pop-up rain shower, in the afternoon before the evening spray or even the day before. Ever prepare an entire 28 acre spray mix in parts? I have. Let's say you've got 20 minutes until your meeting. That's 20 minutes you can use to put all of the 28 acres of Iprodione into the mix tank. Then you can come back later and finish adding the rest of the control products to the solution. With our system the solution just sits there constantly mixing and moving via the transfer/circulation pump.

An additional benefit of a pre-mix tank is the limited chemical exposure. We put on our complete PPE only once during the mixing stage. While transferring the bulk tank solution to the sprayer we utilize only safety goggles and chemical gloves. The reduced PPE is adequate due to the sealed system of hoses and cam-lock fittings.

Furthermore, with our particular system we utilize a Chem-Blade installed in a 30 gallon cone bottom inductor tank. This product allows for even less chemical exposure because it empties the container, rinses the container and renders the container useless all in one process.

If you've been in this business for a while you've been surprised by a pop-up rain shower at some time or another I'm sure. Well, with a properly plumbed mix tank you can transfer that leftover spray solution back into the mix tank for later use. This can also be accomplished if you have a break down on your sprayer via the tank drain. No more coagulated mess to deal with after your sprayer is repaired. Having the ability to transfer the solution could save thousands of dollars of what would have been wasted chemicals.

Our pre-mix tank has reduced the workload of our spray operation. It helps us save time, reduce our exposure to pesticides and save money. It has also added an element of flexibility to mixing and spraying that helps make the decision to spray or not to spray easier.

If you're interested in finding out more about pre-mix tanks the Ag industry has some great examples on the web in the form of spray trailers or nurse trailers. These semi trailers are decked out with tanks, bulk totes, induction systems, extravagant plumbing and more. Everything a farmer needs to make his spray operation efficient and when you're spraying thousands of acres efficiency is paramount.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. My email address is: cccturf@hotmail.com



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THE WRENCH

By: Sam Holysz & Friends

It has been a long hot season for many of us here in Michigan. Some courses were dealing with very dry conditions while others were under water, I think a break in the weather has been welcomed by many of us. I am looking forward to cooler temperatures, a good off season, and getting things caught up in the shop. I am sure I am not the only one that feels this way, so I figure this is a great opportunity to talk about equipment records.

I have talked with quite a few EMs (Equipment Managers) about their equipment records and have helped some with ideas on how to make theirs better. There are probably as many ways to keep records on turf equipment as there are golf courses in this state. Some equipment records are as simple as a sheet of lined paper with a date or a folder containing daily log sheets, and other records are so modern that they integrate with an electronic job board. Most of us probably find ourselves somewhere in between; no matter your method it is important that you are keeping records and to remember there are always ways those records can be improved. Remember this, good records help with warranty claims, troubleshooting those nasty intermittent problems and the general sanity of the golf course's EM.

If it isn't written down it didn't happen. This was drilled into my head when I worked in health care, and it is that way for many good reasons. The course's equipment is like a room of patients to an EM and it is important to know that the PMs (Preventative Maintenance) are completed on time, what repairs have been done, and are there any reoccurring problems. It helps to know if a part or parts have been replaced

before, if so how many times, and at what frequency. This information can reduce down time, identify problems earlier, and helps to identify the real cost of maintaining and operating a specific piece of equipment.

An EMs job is always busy and sometimes very hectic, despite our best intentions we get pulled away, we misplace our notes, or sometimes we just forget to write it down. I am guilty of this more than I would care to admit, so I keep more than one record. Use a paint marker, a sharpie, or even an engraver to mark parts that have been changed with a date and the hours of the machine at the time of replacement. So, if you miss logging the information there is still a record. There are many manufacturers with many different PM intervals and remembering all of them while doing a fleet inspection is more trouble than it is worth. My hot tip to you is when changing a filter write the machines hours and date of service in your equipment record, but on the filter write the hours plus the PM interval and the date of service with a paint marker. For example, say the rough mower has 1254 hrs on it with an interval of 250 hrs, I would put today's date and 1504 hrs on the filter. It is amazing how much easier this little change made for me when it comes to keeping up with PMs.

Maintenance

Description: Rough Mower 4700-D
Unit Number: 162
Model No.: 30882
Serial No.: 316000297
Service Co. / POC: Spartan Distributors Inc. 1-800-822-2216

Location: Grounds
MFG: Toro
Cost: \$65,000.00

Repair History

Date: 8/1/18
Hours: 1257
Blades, Grease, Tire Well, Topped of Oil & changed rear end w/ oil. Tires OK.
8/13/18 1254 L.O.F. FUEL FILTERS TOO.
8/14/18 1261 CHANGED ANTI-SKIDING BELT AND CHANGED THE COUNTER BALANCE TO GET BETTER TRACTION.
10/24/18 1268 H.D. LUBE RUBBED THRU & PL. TRANSDUCER FOR REAR DRIVE BROKEN OFF. REPAIRED HOSE # 125-4616, TUBE ASM # 125-4563 & TRANSDUCER # 125-4616

Equipment Specifications

Description: Rough Mower 4700-D
Unit Number: 162
Model No.: 30882
Serial No.: 316000297
Service Co. / POC: Spartan Distributors Inc. 1-800-822-2216

Location: Grounds
MFG: Toro
Cost: \$65,000.00

Part	Filter	Interval	Other
Air Filter	106-3814 out / 106-3815 in	400hrs	
Fuel Filter	125-4762 / 125-2915 w/888	250hrs	
Oil Filter	125-1025	800hrs	
Hydraulic Filter	34-2621 & 75-1310	Change 800hrs check 400hrs	
Planetary & Axle	35w-140		
Rear axle drive	35w-140		

Engine Oil: 10w-30 (dram oil) 800
Hydraulic Oil: AW46 7.5qt
Constant: 50/50 800
Tires: 20psi. Front and rear

Important Parts

Part: 127-6422
Qty: 2
Description: REAR ROLLER, GREASE BOAT & 2.75" Blade Combo
108-6026-03
107-0235-03
Notes: After first 200hrs Change planetary and rear axle lube and hydraulic filters.

Drafted by Samuel D. Holysz

▼ This article will be in every issue of **Course Conditions** featuring a new idea and author. If you have a helpful tip and would like to provide a contribution please contact Sam Holysz, Equipment Technician at Gull Lake Country Club by E-mail: sholysz@gmail.com or on Twitter: @GLCCTurfMec. Is your Equipment Technician an MiGCSA Member? They can be for only \$25 a year.

As an EM I pride myself with knowing how every piece of equipment should operate, feel, sound, and smell. Unfortunately, I am only one person, so I need help from the entire team. From the new guy blowing out and raking bunkers up to the Superintendent, they are your eyes and ears on the course, and an invaluable tool. Open and honest communication goes a long way when it comes to trouble shooting and keeping equipment in good repair. Keeping this in mind add notes to your record when one of the crew notices something odd even if it isn't a problem at this point. Encourage team members to bring broken down equipment to you right away and take note of what happened before either one of you forget. Most of all be genuine and thank them for bringing the problem to your attention.

The best way to take care of a fleet of equipment is to make sure you know what is or isn't going on with it. In the end, any record is better than no record, but the better the equipment record is the

easier it becomes to trouble shoot, to keep things properly maintained, and validate repair or replacement costs. An EM's job is to ensure that

the course's equipment is in working order, so the rest of the team can do their job too.

The image displays four screenshots of a mobile application interface, likely for equipment maintenance. The interface is organized into several sections:

- Header:** Shows the carrier (Verizon LTE), time (8:49 AM), and battery level (84%).
- Equipment Specifications:** A form containing fields for Description (e.g., Toro MPT5000 Sprayer), Unit Number, Location, Grounds, Model No., Serial No., and Service Co. (PWC).
- Inspection Table:** A table with columns for Date, Hours, and a section for Inspection. The inspection section includes sub-columns for Air Filter, Fuel Filter, Oil Filter, Hydraulic Filter, Spark Plug, Engine Oil, Hydraulic Oil, and Fluids.
- Notes:** A section for recording observations or issues.
- Repair History:** A table with columns for Date, Hours, and a section for Repair History.

The screenshots show different views of the application, including the main inspection form and the repair history table.



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The 2018 Big Event Fundraiser

The 2018 Big Event was hosted by MiGCSA Class A Member & MTF Board Member Scott Rettmann at Walnut Creek Country Club on Monday October 8th. This event is the last of the three fundraisers the MiGCSA has every year. All of the proceeds from these events go to fund the future of our industry by the way of scholarships, philanthropic causes related to turf and funding research at Michigan State via donation to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF).

A very special thank you to our 2018 Premier Fundraiser Sponsors BASF, Bayer, F.I.P. Irrigation Services, Matt LaFontaine Automotive, Rainbird, Site One Golf, Spartan Distributors and Target Specialty Products. Thank you to our hole sponsors Golf Cars Plus, Nufarm, Standard Golf, Syngenta, Control Dynamics, Harrell's, Jacobsen, JW Turf, Pratt Turf Products and Rhino Seed. Complimentary beverage stations are thanks to Herman & Associates. There were



2018 Big Event Fundraiser

Thank you 2018 Premier Fundraiser Sponsors



We create chemistry



The winning team of Jerred Barley, John Doe, Greg Hodges and Doug Rusiecki



Our Hosts - Equipment Manager Ben Beard, Superintendent Scott Rettmann and General Manager Kevin Frantz



MiGCSA President Dan Dingman thanks the 2018 Fundraiser Sponsors

8 proximity prizes thanks to the Premier Sponsors. Sue Shockey & Dar Howard from Target Specialty Products hosted the Texas Hold Em' poker game contest that was won by the team of Derek Carroll, Craig Henderson, E.J. Martin & Matt Kelly with a Royal Flush.

Thank you to Superintendent Scott Rettmann, Assistant Superintendent Michael Brown, Equipment Manager Ben Beard, General Manager Kevin Frantz, PGA Professional Zeke Schwartz and the entire staff and Membership at Walnut Creek Country Club for helping to make this such a great event.



HERE ARE THE RESULTS:

Closest to the pins:

Doug Rusiecki, Evan Herman, Steve Forrest, Larry Harwood and Jesse Shaver

Long Drives:

Josh Tietsma, Jeff Davis, John Doe and Aaron McMaster

Winning Scramble Teams:

1st place

59 – Jerred Barley, John Doe, Greg Hodges and Doug Rusiecki

2nd place

59 – Dale Bauer, Jeff Rachar, Nate Hollenbeck and Aaron McMaster

3rd place

60 – Derek Carroll, Craig Henderson, E.J. Martin & Matt Kelly

Skins:

Eagle 3 on #3 South – Maggie Gdula, Terry Poley, Evan Herman and guest

Eagle 3 on #9 North - Derek Carroll, Craig Henderson, E.J. Martin & Matt Kelly



Gary Spahr, has been the superintendent at Lincoln Country Club in Grand Rapids since 2013. He previously worked at the club while attending Grand Valley State University and returned to take on the superintendent's role. He is 59 and has been married to Sue for 26 years. They have two children, Kellie and Kyle.

Gary Spahr

1 HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? I started during junior college working at Hillsdale Country Club as part of the grounds crew. At the time, I was not thinking that it would be my career.

2 WHEN DID YOU DECIDE YOU WANTED GOLF TO BE YOUR CAREER? I am not sure that I truly decided that it would be my career. It found me. I took a Superintendent's position at Evergreen Golf Club, a small nine-hole course not far from where I grew up in Southern Michigan. Still unsure, I enrolled at Grand Valley State to study Secondary Education. However, while at GVSU and working at Lincoln Country Club, the superintendent announced his plans to retire. The club asked if I was interested in the position. I accepted and my career path in turfgrass management was set.

3 WHAT ARE SOME OF THE COURSES YOU HAVE WORKED AT? I have been in the turf management business for 24 years, with stints at Hillsdale Country Club, Evergreen Golf Club in Hudson, Lincoln Country Club, Ramshorn Country Club in Fremont, Cedar Chase Golf Club (construction of new course) in Cedar Springs, and Moss Ridge Golf Club (construction of a new course) in Ravenna, and then back to Lincoln Country Club.

4 WHAT PART OF YOUR EDUCATION DO YOU USE THE MOST? Well, I am still learning. I learn something new every day. Managing people is an ongoing learning experience, and I'm working to ensure that I am communicating the expectations and modeling the quality expected. Working to meet the expectations of the owners AND the golfers is also a challenge at times. Staying up to date with the latest turf science research is also critical to maintaining the best golf conditions possible.





5 HOW HAS YOUR JOB AT YOUR CURRENT COURSE PROGRESSED?

When I returned to Lincoln Country Club in 2013, the course needed a lot of TLC. With some decent monies allocated by the ownership, I am proud to say that we have brought the course back to respectable playing conditions.

6 WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?

I look at the organization as a leader in professional development while keeping us up-to-date on turfgrass knowledge, leadership seminars, and networking opportunities. I want them to keep me engaged and inspired and they do that.

7 WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION?

I have enjoyed attending the yearly MTF conference along with field day at MSU. Once again, it allows superintendents to continue to learn from the experts and each other.

8 DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE GIVEN BACK TO GOLF?

Superintendents work very hard to provide a quality playable course for every golfer. I feel that each of us gives back to the golf industry daily by giving our best and showcasing the beauty of golf. I also served on the board of directors for the WMGCSA for several years.

9 DO YOU HAVE HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS AWAY FROM THE GAME?

Our family loves to travel so we try our best take a trip every year. I also love to hunt, fish, ski, and do anything outdoors.

10 WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Keeping my composure toward golfers that lack respect for the golf course and property is very difficult for me. I realize that they may have no idea of the work that we put into the course. Untangling poly rope is no fun either.

11 WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

I am not sure about the "easiest" part, but I love going out to survey the course in the morning and appreciating the work that has been done to get the course to a quality level.

12 WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING GOLF?

The biggest issues are environmental issues. New EPA standards may change our ability to maintain the same turf grass standards. Hopefully, we will find new solutions that are more environmentally friendly. Another big challenge is finding a quality, dependable workforce.

13 IS THERE RESEARCH YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED IN TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

There already is quality research happening with environmentally-friendly turfgrass management products. As long as it continues down that path, it will be better for all.



5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. Both of my children were Valedictorians of their graduating class.
2. My wife, Sue is a recently retired Middle School Principal.
3. I was born in San Francisco while my father was in the military.
4. I achieved CGCS status in 1992 until 1997.
5. From 2003 to 2012 I owned and operated my irrigation business.

14 WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS? Well, on the beach or traveling to see our kids, or hunting in the woods is where you will find me. Retirement is on the horizon.

15 HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED 100 YEARS FROM NOW? I think the only thing that matters is who you are as a person. I would like to be talked about now, and in 100 years, as a devoted husband, loving father, and faithful friend to all.

16 WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST IN YOUR TURFGRASS CAREER? My family has supported my work every step of the way. They have supported various career decisions that have helped me to grow.

17 WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU'VE LEARNED THAT YOU USE ALL THE TIME? The most valuable thing that I have learned is patience – with the golfers, the crew, the ownership. It is so important to listen and think before responding.

18 HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF A SUPERINTENDENT IN A GOLF OPERATION? Ranking or rating is not the way I think. We are a team and each person on the management team needs to do

their best to work toward the common goal. Superintendents have a great responsibility for ensuring that the golf course meets the best playing standards possible.

19 WHAT PERCENTAGE OF TIME DO YOU DEVOTE TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT? For superintendents on lower budget courses, we spend more time on non-agronomic tasks because we wear many different hats. One day we may be the spray tech, then the irrigation tech, and then the mechanic. This is the balancing act that superintendents with limited means have to face daily.

20 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT? The assistant is an extra set of eyes and ears for managing the golf course and the workforce. Their perspective is needed and appreciated. The assistant superintendent role is the position that allows veteran superintendents to grow and mentor future superintendents.

21 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE GOLF COURSE MECHANIC OR TECHNICIAN? It is important to have a quality mechanic to maintain the high-end equipment we use in the

golf course industry. Preventative maintenance on the machines can save valuable budget dollars as well as downtime. Since I am also the mechanic at the course, I have a pretty high opinion of him.

22 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF GOLFERS WALKING VERSUS RIDING IN A CART TO PLAY? Although walking is the traditional way of golf, the carts allow greater access for older or physically challenged players, as well as increase revenue and pace of play. If more cart-users would drive appropriately, it would be more acceptable to all.

23 WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE IN GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE? The biggest pet peeve is not necessarily an etiquette peeve, but one of questioning my turf management skills. Too many golfers seem to know how the course should be maintained better than I do.

24 WHAT OPINION DO YOU HAVE OF GREEN SPEEDS IN TODAY'S GAME? Green speed is overemphasized. If the greens are putting true and smooth, then speed is really a non-factor. Golfers typically do not carry a Stimp meter in their bags. Superintendents should be aware of the skill level of the majority

of golfers that play the course, in order to maintain the greens to meet their expectations.

25 DO YOU HAVE A HUMOROUS OR INTERESTING STORY YOU CAN SHARE FROM YOUR CAREER?

When I was at Hillsdale Country Club, during the club championship, one of the members drove their cart down to the maintenance building and asked if we had a ladder. We asked what he needed it for. He shared that his wedge was stuck in the tree on No. 9. Obviously, the helicopter didn't land, and it was all I could do to not break out in laughter. We proceeded to retrieve his club from the tree, so he could complete his round.



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Jim Higgs

has been with Spartan Distributors for 12 years and is currently working in irrigation sales and service. He is 49 and resides in his hometown of Howell with his wife Ann Marie. They have been married for 26 years and have a son Joshua, who is 23.



Spartan
Distributors

Jim Higgs

1 HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? My first involvement goes back to my father. He got me involved in the game and there was a time when I was thinking of chasing the career as a player. I thought I had the talent at a young age but realized later I didn't. I was hired at a golf course 33 years ago on the maintenance side of it. I spent 18 years working on that side and was a superintendent for eight years. I loved it until the day I resigned. At 37 I was hired into my current position at Spartan.

2 WHO WAS YOUR GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE? I have to say two people. My father and my wife's grandfather. My father, William Wallace Higgs, was a Marine for 20 years and taught me a lot of things. My wife's grandfather John Chenoweth has become a great mentor and gave me a lot of great advice.

3 WHO WAS YOUR GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE? I have three people there. Tom Schall was the first superintendent I worked for in the business. Alex Greenacre was an assistant to him. They moved on to other facilities and then Rod Wilson was the super I worked under for a long time. Alex is one of my dearest friends and we remain close today. If it had not been for what I learned from

all three of those guys, I would not be where I am today.

4 WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY? No doubt today the topic discussed more and more is labor, or the lack of it. I think the industry is behind the times in what can be paid and that makes finding quality people, dependable people, more and more of a struggle. It is beyond what I had to deal with, and I thought I had a difficult time with it. Regardless of the facility size, the budgets, I hear it and it is a problem at all levels. It is topic number one. As for another, on my side of the business in irrigation, we don't see yet, but we may – water usage and water management. The way we gather water, recycle water are not problems in Michigan yet, but down the road we are going to have to pay attention to the quality of water.

5 WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS WHEN WORKING WITH THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION? They do a great job and make you proud to be a part of the organization. They do an excellent job with communication, and you need that as a vendor, or in any business. They are very supportive and give you a thank you, too.



6 DO YOU HAVE AN EMBARRASSING CAREER MOMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE? This goes back to when I was a superintendent. You know how you play in a scramble and drive up to pick up balls and lean out and pick one up and drive on. We would do that as part of our clean up after mowing – disperse clippings, pick up trash or balls left on the course. This one time we were getting the course ready, just prior to a tournament, and I was in a cart and saw a ball. I bent down to scoop up a golf ball and sort of went off course. I flew off the cart. I was in the Superman position with lots of dew on the grass and started sliding. I can't tell you how far I slid, but it was a long way and I was embarrassed. I got up as fast as I could. The young man I was with on the cart couldn't control his laughter. It was amazing because of how many times I had done it prior and never fell off the cart. I felt like an idiot.

7 WHAT IS YOUR BEST ADVICE TO DECISION MAKERS WHEN DOING BUSINESS? For decision makers everything has become so budget conscious. When you do find an offer of value, I think at times spending a little more is worthwhile. That's not just because I'm in sales. Decision makers need to do their homework and their research and get the superintendent involved. If they exercise due diligence, they make the right decisions.

8 WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF BEING IN AN INDUSTRY SUPPORT ROLE? This is a no-brainer. When you help somebody and take stress away from them, and when you can go in and quickly and efficiently get the problem solved, that's huge. I like to put a smile on their face, get them on to the next task.

9 WHAT IS YOUR BEST SUCCESS STORY? My success has been to continuously remain employed in the golf industry. At a young age I wasn't sure I knew what I wanted to do. I'm thankful for the people who helped me in my years in golf. I tried playing, worked in the golf shop, but feel fortunate I landed on this side of the business. My dad told me to enjoy what you do. I have been fortunate. I have been in this business I love dearly for 33 years.

10 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION? I love what I'm doing. It's challenging, very demanding, sometimes takes an unbelievable number of hours, but I enjoy it and enjoy

helping the people in golf. I tell the kids at MSU in the irrigation classes that I speak to that you need to learn as much as you can about the profession and you will be fortunate to have good people around you. Helping those people is the awesome part.

11 DO YOU HAVE SOME TRAVEL TIPS? For the daily traveler have a little cash as well as plastic. Sometimes you find a restaurant that still wants you to pay with cash. You need a good limit on the plastic, but also cash and a change of clothing. You just never know what is going to happen.

12 HOW MANY DAYS OF THE YEAR ARE YOU ON THE ROAD? I put about 50,000 miles on a vehicle in a year and travel five to seven days a week. I live in the vehicle sometimes.

13 WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE BEST PRODUCT YOU OFFER AND WHY? I think I'm fortunate working for a Toro distributor. They put so much money into research and development, and the two-wire irrigation systems



are great. Two-wire is becoming the future. The current product Toro has is great, and they have not left satellite systems behind. I am able to offer either side of the spectrum in irrigation and still feel I'm offering a sound product, especially to facilities that have different challenges and different things in place.

14 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE TO PLAY? It's not in Michigan. It's Belfair Country Club in Hilton Head. I used to frequent the facility and it is the most incredible 18-hole facility I've set foot on. The condition, everything is great. I played it for five consecutive years. It did it for me.

15 IF YOU HAD A DIFFERENT PROFESSION, WHAT WOULD IT BE? Back when I was younger I really wanted to be pilot in the Marine Corps. Due to an elbow injury from football, I was unable to go that route.

16 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE GOLFER AND WHY? Tom Watson because of his tenacity, workout ethic and success. I like how he handles himself personally. He has endured, taken care of himself and is still a performer.

17 HAVE YOU EVER HAD A HOLE IN ONE? I had a hole-in-one several years ago at Shipyard Golf Club in Hilton Head. I think it was September 2003. I was playing with friends. It was a par 3, 202 yards, wind in the face. I took a 5-iron and covered it. I saw it check, release and go in. I couldn't have hit the shot any better. It was always a hope to achieve one. I went nuts. It was pretty awesome.

18 WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM GOLF? I am constantly on the go. My son and I started skiing when I was 30. At 40 we switched to snowboarding and we are hooked. However we are most passionate about bow hunting.

19 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY DOING OUTSIDE OF WORK? I have a Jeep Wrangler and I like to pile in that and go someplace with my wife.

20 IF YOU COULD TRAVEL TO ANY TIME IN GOLF WHEN WOULD IT BE AND WHY? I grew up watching the Masters with my father and brothers. I would like to go back in time when Nicklaus, Palmer and Player were competing at their top levels. I would want to watch them, and see the courses, their mowing, architecture, the things of that time.

21 WHO HAS THE BEST MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT DOG? When I was super I thought mine was the best. Jake was a Lab-Spaniel mix. I rescued him as a six-week old puppy. That dog had 12 years on a golf course next to me. He would leave me by more than 50 yards. He would ride on my cart and I trained him with hand signals. He was great.

22 HOW MANY CONFERENCES AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS DO YOU ATTEND PER YEAR? I go to just about everything offered. I try to take customers that it will benefit in the end.



5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

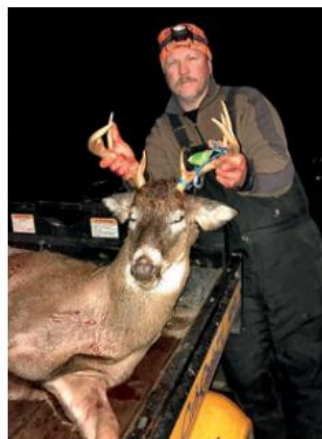
1. We celebrated our 26th wedding anniversary this year.
2. I was a mentor for the Michigan Youth Challenge Academy in Battle Creek.
3. We love to watch the Professional Bull Riders.
4. I had to caddy and hit balls for 2 years until my father thought I was ready to play on a golf course.
5. I prefer to drink a single malt scotch.

23 WHICH ONE IS THE BEST TURF CARE PROFESSIONALS CAN ATTEND? I personally think our local one is great in Lansing. But if you are a superintendent and have the opportunity at some point and time take classes and partake in a national conference, it offers a great value.

24 HOW MANY ROUNDS OF GOLF DO YOU PLAY IN A YEAR? Probably 10 to 15 rounds. I have been fortunate to maintain my handicap due to the fundamentals and mechanics I learned at a young age.

25 HOW DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY WILL BE DIFFERENT IN 10 YEARS? Technology will continue to make it incredible for guys with great products. There is so much more offered now than when I was an active super. I think it will only get better in a much more complex environment.

26 ARE THERE ANY NEW PRODUCTS ON THE HORIZON? For irrigation consultants, right now it's the development in two-wire irrigation systems. The technology is being put in smaller components with better surge protection, the reliability is improved, you can use phones or I-Pads to navigate and execute. It's great.



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MSU Student Welcome & Networking Golf Day

BY ALLEN SAVILLE, MSU TURF CLUB PRESIDENT

Early fall is a busy time on campus for the students in the turf management program at Michigan State University. You begin to feel the pressure of college and what comes with it, but each fall the students get to look forward to an incredible networking opportunity within the MiGCSA. The annual student golf outing held at College Fields is a unique experience for both students and members of the MiGCSA. The outing allows the students within the program to begin to create connections within the industry and for MiGCSA members to share their knowledge and experiences. As the president of the turf club here at MSU, I could not have asked for a better outcome to the event. From the

incredible communication with Adam Ikamas and our gracious host Carey Mitchelson, the event was a huge success. The attendees enjoyed a 9-hole scramble at College Fields, followed up by dinner and an informal Q&A session. This format allowed for free-flowing conversations and questions from both students and members of the industry. I contribute this year's success due to a larger turnout from students and MiGCSA members. The events future looks bright due to the dedication of both sides to bettering our profession. As we move towards next year, I only hope our number of attendees continues to increase and diversify especially on the side of non-student attendees. I ask MiGCSA members to continue to show your support

of the program and its students by volunteering your time next fall and allowing this great event to get better every year. On behalf of the students here at MSU, I can proudly say we love the chance to meet our phenomenal professionals within this great industry. My only hope as I enter my final year here at Michigan State is to see this event get even better in the upcoming years. I want to take this opportunity to thank the MiGCSA and all of its members who attended this year. As well as Carey Mitchelson and his staff at College Fields for all their hard work leading up to a very successful event. Thank you for everything all of you do and your constant support of us and our future endeavors.





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Allen Saville

interned over the summer at Franklin Hills Country Club for superintendent Brian Schwehofer. He is 24 and in the turfgrass program at Michigan State University. From Royal Oak, he originally went to school with plans to become a construction worker.



Allen Saville

1

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN GOLF?

It just started off as a summer job. I was looking for a summer job, Dan Dingman at Birmingham Country Club was hiring, and he gave me my first opportunity working on his crew. That was 2015.

2

WHAT WAS A KEY THING YOU LEARNED FROM YOUR FIRST JOB?

The key thing I learned from it was that there is no one way of doing things, and no matter what your job is never done. In the golf course side of things, grass never stops growing, players never stop playing and you can never rest on your laurels. You keep working every day to make the course better or make the experience better for the players.

3

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THAT FIRST JOB?

I love working outdoors. I could never sit behind a desk at a cubicle. Every day I got to work with my hands. That's it for me. I love doing that.

4

WHAT WERE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AT FRANKLIN?

As an intern I handled a lot of project work. We were undergoing a couple of time-consuming projects, and I pretty much had to be the "it" man for my superintendent. If he needed something done now, or done yesterday, or something arose, I had to be the guy who was on top of it for him.

5

WHAT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT DO YOU THINK YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE WHEN YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

It's two pieces – a Wiedenmann and a Skid Steer. A Wiedenmann has a variety of uses. It can be used to verticut, knock down long grasses in native areas and pick up. It's awesome for the fall because it can pick up leaves, sticks and dumps into a cart. You don't have to shovel. It's awesome for cleaning up in the spring and fall. The Skid Steer is a loader with a big benefit. It has multiple attachments for





multiple uses. It helps you jump from trenching a line for irrigation to moving soil or loading soil with a quick adjustment of whatever instrument you have. It has tracks on it, and helps you get in tighter areas, and it can turn on dime compared to bigger front loaders.

6 WHO ON YOUR CREW MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST? The guy that made me laugh the most was Brian, the superintendent. I was hard on myself, and no matter how tough things were, he made me laugh. He showed me the job doesn't have to be as stressful as everybody says. He made me laugh in a lot of situations as we went about our business.

7 IF YOU HAD A MULLIGAN ON A DIFFERENT CAREER CHOICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE? I would probably be a conservation officer in the mountain west. I'm an avid outdoorsman. Being outdoors has always appealed to me.

8 IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY GOLF HOLE ON THE COURSE WHERE YOU WORK WITHOUT REPERCUSSION, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE? If had to pick one at Franklin it would probably be number 2. I think for the average golfer, as I kind of am, it is just a little too difficult. The green complex is just strong. All the holes are phenomenal, and I wouldn't really change the hole. I would just soften the green complex a little.

9 WHAT IS THE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE YOU FEEL A COURSE CAN NOT DO WITHOUT? I have to say aerification and verticutting. Both are equally valuable. Verticutting makes the surface better and keeps the plant healthy. Aerification means a healthier root zone.

10 WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION? I've always heard the golf course superintendents are like a big family - everybody

knows everybody, and everybody helps everybody. I hope that's true when I move into my first position, and that they will do everything possible to help me as well as continue to be a good means of communication.


11 WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY? Preparing to take that next step. You think you are ready, but you are not sure you are ready. I think guys may sit in positions longer than they should. I think it's easy to get complacent, and that worries me. I don't want to get complacent. If there is a good opportunity out there, I want to jump at the chance.

12 WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE JOB? It easily has to be managing the crew. You have guys who get sick, things happen like an irrigation break and you have to get guys over there. I think managing efficiently every day is probably the hardest thing. The superintendent



5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I have been in the army national guard since 2015.
2. I used to help my aunt coach varsity volleyball at Madison High School in Madison heights, MI.
3. I can legally work in the medical field if I wanted too as I have been a licensed EMT since 2016.
4. I graduated top of my class from basic training for the Army.
5. The most interesting thing I think is the fact I have 2 albatrosses in golf but not a single hole in ones, which is funny because its way more likely to have more hole-in-one than albatrosses.



is the grass manager and the assistant superintendent is the crew manager. That's how I kind of look at the golf course breakdown.

13 WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF THE JOB? The easiest part of the job from my experience is having passion for what we do. I never feel like I don't want to go to work. I never feel like I don't appreciate what I do. I think there are a lot of people in this world who don't appreciate what they do, but that's not me. I appreciate what I do.

14 WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS? In 10 years, I would like to be a superintendent in metro Detroit, the Southeastern area of the state at a prestigious club like a Birmingham or Franklin Hills.

15 WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT? To this point it definitely has to be Dan Dingman. He gave me my first opportunity at working in the field, and he gave me a lot of rope by teaching me a bunch of different jobs on the golf course. Not a lot of first-year kids get that. He went out on a limb to give me an opportunity, and he was the guy who pushed me to apply for the Michigan State program and make this my career.

16 WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED? Probably that there is no one right way to do things. Everybody does something a little different. There are thousands of ways to skin a cat as the saying goes.

17 HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE? From what I have seen they are irreplaceable. The superintendent's job would be grueling if not for an assistant superintendent. The two clubs where I have worked have fantastic assistants who did a great job of helping their superintendents more effectively run their courses.

18 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE MECHANIC? They are probably even more irreplaceable than the assistant superintendent. An assistant can't do what the mechanic does or have the time to do what they do. If you had to make me pick one, I might pick the mechanic. A lot of things break. If things break and nothing gets done about it, the superintendent is looking for a job.

19 WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE? There are a couple that get me. It's probably a tie between fixing ball marks on greens, and golfers driving carts places they shouldn't be or going in native areas and breaking the stems. Those areas don't recover.

20 WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF GREEN SPEEDS AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY? In the last few U.S. Opens they have been a little too over aggressive and the speeds have been outrageous. Everybody likes a golf course that is firm and fast, but there is a line where firm and fast become too firm and too fast. I think we are inching toward that creeping out of control.

21 AWAY FROM GOLF, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT? I'm a very big hockey fan. I go to MSU games and make as many Red Wings games as I can.

22 WHAT TYPE OF HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE AWAY FROM GOLF? Hunting and fishing. I spend a lot of time outside. I still play pickup sports with my friends, too. I try to stay active and play a little pond hockey in the winter.

23 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE GOLF COURSE? The favorite I've played so far would be Forest Dunes in Roscommon, the Weiskopf course. It's like playing in a different land. It's like you are not in Michigan any more playing golf. When a golf course makes you feel like you are someplace else in the world, I think it's done a good job.

24 DO YOU HAVE A BUCKET LIST COURSE? It has to be St. Andrews just out of sheer love for game and respect for where the game started. St. Andrews should be on every bucket list if you truly appreciate the game.

25 WHAT IS THE FAVORITE CLUB IN YOUR BAG? 3-wood off the tee. Ask any of my buddies. If I go to take driver out I get yelled at. I'm very long and very accurate with the 3-wood off the tee.

26 WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE? In my personal life it's my mom Joyce and dad Mike. They have pushed me to bigger and better things knowing that I'm capable of them. If they saw me settling or not applying myself, they pushed me to be better.

27 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FOOD? Authentic Mexican food. A lot of golf courses have Hispanic crew members and there is always that day where the guys cook for everybody. The authentic salsa is always amazing, and they have shared recipes with me. The secret, they all tell you, is grow your own vegetables.

28 WHAT VEHICLE WOULD YOU DRIVE IF YOU HAD A MONEY TREE GROWING IN YOUR YARD? I would like to say a truck, but honestly, I would go with a 2018 Shelby GT 500. I like older muscle cars, but the new ones are wow.

29 WHAT IS YOUR DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM? Me, Tiger Woods, Dustin Johnson and Gary Player. I've always thought Gary Player was amazing at keeping himself in shape, and in playing the game. I would like to meet him.





2018 Match Play Champions

Kevin Haack (Macatawa Legends) and Bill O'Connell (Jacobsen)

The inaugural MiGCSA Match Play Championship

The inaugural MiGCSA Match Play Championship concluded on October 4th at Muskegon Country Club. The championship match came down to the team of Bill O'Connell and Kevin Haak who advanced from the Western Bracket defeating the Detroit/Mid team of Greg Pattinson and John Francour versus the team of Dr. Kevin Frank and Carey Mitchelson who won their final

four match over Steve Hammon and Jon Lamb out of the Northern bracket. The match concluded on the par 3 15th hole with Haak & O'Connell winning 4 & 3.

The consolation bracket came down to a match between MiGCSA Board Member Ryan Moore and Kyle Barton from the Detroit/Mid bracket who were set to play Jeff Smith and Matt Suzio advancing out of the Western bracket. Barton & Moore won their final four match against Joe Ettawageshik and Zach Redman from the Northern bracket and Smith/Suzio defeated Dave Pawluk and Andy O'Haver from the Detroit/Mid bracket to advance. In the end it was agreed to have a split for the consolation bracket winnings between the 4 participants due to weather not conducive to playing the match.

On all accounts the 2018 Match Play Championship was a success. The goal of this event is to promote new contacts and networking among the Members of the MiGCSA and to go experience new golf courses. In addition to that the spirit of competition was alive and well. The 2019 Match Play Championship registration



will open in March of 2019. A new requirement for 2019 is that all participants have an active USGA approved handicap account, this will give any new accounts the opportunity to submit scores in 2019 and in 2020 this event will require an official handicap to participate.





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Members Focus on GCSAA



Members continue to be the focus of GCSAA, in fact the first portion of the GCSAA mission statement reads: 'GCSAA is dedicated to serving our members'. With that in mind, GCSAA has teamed with Meridian One, out of Alexandria, VA, which specializes in providing associations, chambers and other member organizations with best in class savings programs for their members. Meridian One has a family of affinity programs, which provide services and attractive discounts to GCSAA members and their families. By leveraging the buying power of GCSAA members, Meridian One is able to offer programs which allow members to reduce their business expenses.

Through Meridian One, GCSAA members can receive instant savings on products and services from UPS, the UPS Store, Lenovo, Office Depot, Avis, Budget and Member Freight.

GCSAA has also partnered with Hays Companies to bring options in health, vision, dental and other insurance offerings to GCSAA members. Hays is a leading national insurance and financial services organization, which is providing a variety of supplemental product and service offerings exclusively to GCSAA members. Additionally, GCSAA members receive discounts at TireBuyer, UniFirst and select Columbia Sportswear products. To see all of the GCSAA member discount offerings, please click [here](#).

Another exciting recent announcement included the debut of the GCSAA Podcast. The podcast will be produced monthly and will feature pertinent association and industry content. Some of the information you can expect to hear will include information on educational offerings, updates on new and upcoming GCSAA programs, human interest stories, including interviews with some of the biggest names in golf course management, and content from golf events across the globe. Scott Hollister, editor-in-chief of GCSAA's *Golf Course Management* magazine is the host of the podcast.

This first episode debuted in early October, with Scott Hollister opening the episode with an interview with GCSAA CEO Rhett

Evans. Additional content on the episode included information on the Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards, and interviews with GCSAA members who were selected to volunteer at the 2019 Ryder Cup at Le Golf National in Paris.

GCSAA mission statement reads:
'GCSAA is dedicated to
serving our members'.

"We are very excited to have another way to communicate with our 18,000 members," Evans said. "However, the GCSAA Podcast also gives us the opportunity to share all the good things

happening in the golf course management industry with a wider audience."

Upcoming episodes will include industry leader Matt Shaffer, an update on GCSAA's new First Green program, an interview with superintendent Lawrence Powell and former LPGA player Renee Powell who will receive GCSAA's 2019 Old Tom Morris Award, as well as a look into the 2019 Golf Industry Show, taking place February 2nd-7th in San Diego.

In addition to streaming services, past episodes of the podcast will be available on the GCSAA website at www.gcsaa.org/podcast. The podcast is also available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and Stitcher.

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Grow a better tomorrow

Course Dog

BY JEFF SWEET, CGCS
MIGCSA VICE PRESIDENT
BUCKS RUN G.C.

Like many Superintendents I have had a course dog by my side most of my career. I still remember my first dog Turf walking around with Jerry Mathews and myself as we determined hole layouts at Bucks Run during course construction 19 years ago. Turf, a Vizsla, was a great course dog and a hunting companion for 11 years. When Turf passed I really felt the need to find another little buddy to spend my days with.

Enter Cash another Vizsla, Midnight Run's Johnny Cash to be exact. I wanted to get a dog a little more bold and higher drive than Turf, I got all of that. Cash would chase down anything on the course, fur or feather. Many Racoons, Muskrats and even Skunks met their demise when Cash came around. After he was sprayed once by a Skunk, he determined that every Skunk after that could spray him but that would be their last time spraying anything. I lost count on the number of Skunks he dispatched but it was over a dozen. I had the concoction to rid him of the smell right under my desk, he never seemed to mind the bath, you might say he even had some pride when the skunk bath came around.

Geese didn't stick around the course long either, Cash was determined to chase them off every morning, he would swim after them for what seemed hours until they flew away. Unfortunately, Cash had a short life as he succumbed to Cancer at the very young age of 5. I had one regret with Cash, I never hunted him in the fields of Iowa or the woods of northern Michigan. He would have been a dandy in the fields. My next dog was going to hunt.

Enter Oscar, a Wirehaired Vizsla (WHV) that came to our home late November 2016. Knowing I wanted a hunting companion first and foremost the research and training started. I joined the northern chapter of the North American Versatile Hunting Dog Association (NAVHDA), a great group of individuals with one goal in mind, to make better hunting dogs. They hold training days about twice a month during the summer and it's a great time to learn how to handle and train your dog in a relaxed environment. A great organization that I would recommend to anyone who owns a versatile hunting dog, there are three chapters in the state, so it is easy to get involved somewhere close to your home. NAVHDA members come from all walks of life and are a welcoming group. Thinking about getting a dog? Go to a training day to see different versatile breeds at work and talk to the handlers. You will learn a lot and be able to make a good choice for your next hunting companion.

Fall of 2017 was Oscar's first hunting season. We hunted Grouse in Michigan and Pheasants in South Dakota. One of my proudest moments was in South Dakota when Oscar made a 100-yard retrieve of a Rooster to my hand, or another time in South Dakota when he retrieved a Rooster from a pond to my hand while the other dogs in the group looked on. I will remember both like it was yesterday for the rest of my days on this earth.

I was so hooked with hunting and training that I bought another WHV last fall, Bert. This is Bert's first year in the woods, still a work in progress he is doing great. Two dogs are a handful, but I wouldn't trade it, I look forward to having two dogs to rotate in South Dakota this year.





As my hunting buddy and I were driving back a couple of weeks ago from the north woods, we reflected on why we enjoy working with the dogs so much. I realized I don't think of anything else while hunting or training, all focus is on

the dog and the task at hand. Every other stress of the world is gone while I work with the dogs. It's never been about how many birds I can put in the bag, it's always about the dogs and the friends I meet along the way.



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Host Superintendent Collin Romanick thanks the attendees and staff



MiGCSA Board Member Jeff Hopkins thanks the 2018 Fundrasier Sponsors

MiGCSA Members and friends took part in the 2018 Western Golf Day Fundraiser at BlytheField Country Club on Monday September 17th. This event is the second of the three fundraisers the MiGCSA has every year. All of the proceeds from these events go to fund the future of our industry by the way of scholarships, philanthropic causes related to turf and funding research at Michigan State by way of donation to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF).

A very special thank you to our 2018 Premier Fundraiser Sponsors BASF, Bayer, F.I.P. Irrigation Services, Matt LaFontaine Automotive, Rainbird, Site One Golf, Spartan Distributors and Target Specialty Products. Also, a thank you to the hole sponsors Thank you to our hole sponsors Eco Green Supply, Golf Cars Plus, Nufarm, Standard Golf, Syngenta, Control Dynamics, Harrell's, Jacobsen, JW Turf, Pratt Turf Products and Rhino Seed. Complimentary beverage stations are thanks to Herman & Associates.



Thank you 2018 Premier Fundraiser Sponsors



We create chemistry



The winning team of Bob Klingbeil, Graham Rayburn, Chris Kehe and Scott Wilkinson

2018 WESTERN GOLF DAY FUNDRAISER

There were 8 proximity prizes thanks to the Premier Sponsors and Eric Cowan from J.W. Turf hosted the Texas Hold Em' poker game contest that was won by the team of Matt Gaver, Bill O'Connell, Joe Verduin and Kenny VerDuin with a King High Straight Flush.

Thank you to host Superintendent Collin Romanick, Juan Martinez, PGA Professional, Jaclyn DiPiazza Director of Events, Marketing & Membership and the entire staff of Blythefield Country Club for helping to make this such a great event.

Here are the results:

Closest to the pins:

Zach Wildman, John Fulling, Don Underwood and Adam Rahilly

Long Drives:

Jeff Hopkins, Kevin Thielke, Shawn Pranger and Chris Kehe

Winning Scramble Teams:

1st place

60 – Chris Kehe, Bob Klingbeil, Graham Rayburn and Scott Wilkinson

2nd place

61 – Jeff Bodziak, Ron Dahlin, Steve Milewski and Don Underwood

Skins:

Birdie 3 on #1 – Adam Ikamas, Joe Vargas, Kevin Frank and Rich Hamilton

Birdie 2 on #15 – Chris Kehe, Bob Klingbeil, Graham Rayburn and Scott Wilkinson

Eagle 3 on #17 A.J. Rings, Steve Shultz, Corey

3rd place

62 – David Brothers, Jeff Hopkins, Tim Beales and Chris Hashley



Adam Ikamas, CGCS

As we come to the end of our 10th anniversary year as a statewide body I am reflecting on where we were and where we are. I did look back at some of the old meeting minutes, as old as 2013 up to this year which are all available on www.migcsa.org. It is amazing in how accurate some of the predictions were and how so many were also not an issue. It was a thorough speculation of pro's and cons for the grand first-time experiment. There were bumps in the road and some mistakes but overall, we have had more wins than losses in the last ten years.

“When the winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills.”

- Chinese Proverb

So now we turn to the next ten or twenty or even 100 years. What do we do now to try to prepare for the future in the same way the original MiGCSA merger board did? No

matter what you are doing now or how well it is working nothing is guaranteed to be the best thing to do in the future. Just like at your facility, look at what you were doing ten, five or even one year ago that is no longer the right way. Maybe it failed unexpectantly. Maybe a new technology or practice has risen to the top. Maybe the goals and needs of the course or membership has changed. There are lots of reasons things change, in most cases it is not advantageous to resist these changes or new ideas. In my opinion the worst reason to do anything is because we have always done it that way.

Be the Change

So, for the MiGCSA what does that mean? Could it mean we are doing everything we can and there is no need to event slightly adjust anything? Absolutely not, we are doing many things well but always have room for improvement in every area. How do we do that? How do we identify where we should be going? The answer is actually pretty easy, we ask. The MiGCSA Board of Directors are your peers, fellow Superintendents who all have the best of intentions in mind for the future of our Association. They lead the decisions and direction based on what they hear from their fellow members. The MiGCSA is not some corporate entity, the MiGCSA is not me as the Executive Director, it is not the Board. All of those are what is happening now. The MiGCSA is bigger than the sum of its small parts, it is whatever YOU want it to be. It is not an us and them scenario, it is just us. So, speak up, get on a committee, contact your local Board member and let them know what you want. I can guarantee you the answer will never be no from a Board member, if you have an idea or need it will be thoroughly discussed and deliberated.

The future of the MiGCSA depends on what we do and how we do it. The guidance from the membership is critical for this process to be successful. We are all a part of a much bigger picture, but we are all a part of it. Make your voice heard and help progress the MiGCSA in a meaningful positive direction.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS

MiGCSA Executive Director



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