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SPRING 2018

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FEATURE: Plant-Parasitic Nematodes:

More Common on Golf Greens than you might realize

Industry Partner Profile: Tom Schemmel, Site One Landscape Supply

Assistant Superintendent Profile: Trevor Mills and Dave Susalski, Crystal Mountain Resort

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**FEATURE
SUPERINTENDENT**

MiGCSA President
Dan Dingman



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 12 -

Mid Golf Event (*The Fortress, Frankenmuth*)

TUESDAY, JULY 24 -

Par 3 Shootout (*Treetops Resort Par 3, Gaylord*)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25 -

Tuck Tate Championship (*Treetops Resort, The Jones Masterpiece, Gaylord*)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15 -

MTF Field Day (*Hancock Turfgrass Center, East Lansing*)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29 -

MiGCSA State Championship (*Hawk Hollow, Bath*)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 -

Assistant & Student Networking Golf Outing
(*College Fields, Okemos*)

SEPTEMBER 10 - 16 -

The Ally Challenge, Presented by McLaren
(*Warwick Hills G&C.C., Grand Blanc*)

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

President's PERSPECTIVE

*A*s I sit down to write my first letter to the membership as your President, I am consumed with excitement and enthusiasm for the state of our Chapter. Membership numbers are strong, event participation is steady, and industry support for our Chapter has never been stronger. Along with the support from our industry partners, our goal to provide a value to our members that enhances our profession continues to be our reality.

I speak for the entire MiGCSA Board of Directors as I remind everyone just how fortunate we are to have Adam Ikamas as our Executive Director. Adam represents our Chapter with the utmost integrity and class while conducting business on our behalf. He is looked upon as a valuable resource to everyone associated with the golf industry in the State of Michigan as well as across the country.

This past off-season was a long one for everyone, and I know everyone has been extremely busy trying to catch up from the late start. Hopefully any winter damage that any colleagues experienced is on the road to recovery. As we all know, everything comes together around Memorial Day and off we go.

Our chapter has a lot going on this year. After a year of development, testing, and updates, the all-new chapter website, www.migcsa.org is live. The investment in the improved website had one goal in mind - to better serve our membership. The new site will streamline membership renewal, event registration, employment opportunity advertisement, and much more. To date, we have received a lot of positive feedback on both the appearance and functionality improvements. Any feedback is welcomed and appreciated, so please let us know what you think.

In other exciting news, in 2017 your Board of Directors approved the permanent sponsorship of a hitting bay and display area at the new \$3.5 million-dollar home of the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame located on the campus of Ferris State University. The MGHoF has been looking for a permanent home and with the generous donations from many the construction is underway on the state of the art Golf Management Learning Center at its' new home. Completion is Spring of 2019 and the MiGCSA has space reserved to display our Chapter history and the important role the Golf Course Superintendent has in the game of golf.

Serving as your President is a great honor for me both personally and professionally. Since my first day as an officer of the board, I have learned a great deal about the golf industry in the great state of Michigan. I have been very fortunate to have met and worked with professionals from all facets of various industries across Michigan. I am extremely proud to be part of a team that works hard to ensure our golf industry continues making a positive impact on our states economy.

We have many great events on the 2018 calendar and I encourage everyone to take time out of their busy schedules and attend at least one of our events this summer. Being actively involved in your chapter and spending time with your fellow members is always a rewarding experience. Best of luck to you all for a successful season!

*Sincerely yours,
Dan Dingman
Golf Course Superintendent
Birmingham Country Club*

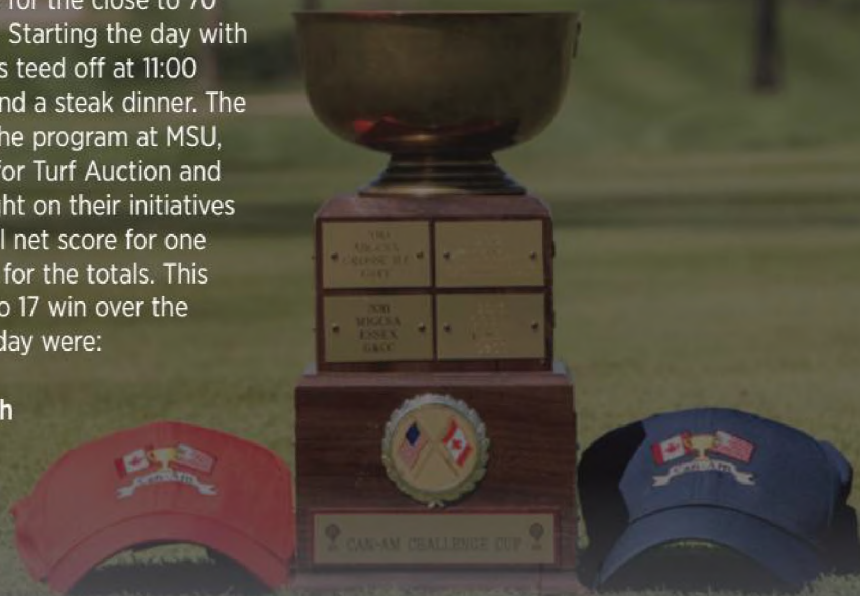


The 42nd Annual Can-Am

The 42nd year of Can Am competition was hosted by MiGCSA Member Todd Probert, Superintendent at Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club and his Assistant John Caliguire. Special thanks to John Paul the General Manager of Grosse Ile and Head Golf Professional Eric Ganzberger for all their help making this a great event.

"Finally" was the thought on everyone's mind, after a slow start to the season a perfect spring day bloomed for the close to 70 OGSA and MiGCSA members in attendance. Starting the day with breakfast and a Bloody Mary bar, the groups teed off at 11:00 with a shotgun start followed by cocktails and a steak dinner. The group heard updates from Trey Rogers on the program at MSU, Rob Pylar spoke about the 2018 Tee Times for Turf Auction and Shane Conroy from GCSAA gave some insight on their initiatives at the national. The format is a two best ball net score for one point on the front one on the back and one for the totals. This year team USA retained the cup with a 28 to 17 win over the Canadian side. The other winners from the day were:

Long Drives: Gregg Menard & John Alpaugh
Closest to the pins: Derrick Vergeer, Jim Higgs x2 and John Alpaugh
The low teams from either side were Dan Fiesen and Vince Grainger from team Canada and for team USA Fritz McMullen & Clem Wolfrom.



Looking forward to the 2019 Can-Am back in Canada.



Assistant Superintendent John Caliguire and Todd Probert, Superintendent of Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club



As MiGCSA President Dan Dingman and his partner 2014 MiGCSA President Gregg Matthews





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Plant-Parasitic Nematodes: More Common on Golf Greens than you might Realize



FRED WARNER
NEMATOLOGIST
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Nematodes

Nematodes are the most abundant animals on our planet. Scientists presently estimate that roughly 80% of all animals are nematodes. A shovel-full of garden soil may contain one million or more nematodes. Nematodes are found anywhere there is water, this includes oceans.

Nematodes have been recognized for five thousand or so years as parasites of man and other animals. Nematode parasites of humans cause some heinous diseases but they are far more common in impoverished nations. For this reason, nematodes fly under the radar screens of most Americans. I have identified many biases that work against nematodes but a lack of publicity certainly is one. Although there may be some emerging problems with human parasitic nematodes in the U.S., only one disease caused by nematodes is a notifiable one according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and that is trichinellosis (or more commonly, trichinosis). This is a nematode species found in swine (historically, it was more common in pigs than it is today) and many sylvatic North American mammals. Transmission to humans is typically by the consumption of undercooked muscles of the infected hosts. Some tasty, rare bear meat anyone? I'll pass.

The soil is a great environment for nematodes. The soil contains nematodes of different trophic (feeding) groups, the most abundant are nematodes that feed on bacteria. Most people are unaware

of the key role these bacterial-feeding nematodes play in nutrient cycling. But, that is a topic possibly for another article.

Plant-parasitic nematodes are obligate pathogens of plants. This means they cause diseases of plants and must have living host tissue (usually roots) to feed on or within in order to grow and reproduce. Every species of plant described has at least one nematode parasite. Please don't make the mistake of thinking the cool-season turfgrass species we grow are immune from plant-parasitic nematodes. These nematodes do very well on grass and the species of grasses we frequently use on our golf greens host about a dozen or so kinds (genera) of plant-parasitic nematodes.

Plant-parasitic nematodes are easy to ignore for many reasons. They are all microscopic with the longest one measuring about 6 mm (0.25 inches) in length. For comparison purposes, a female human guinea worm, which is often rolled out of infected individuals on sticks, can measure up to 800 mm (31 inches). So, since the majority of all soil-inhabiting nematodes are microscopic, you cannot stare into the soil and tell me how many of these colorless worms are present unless you possess Superman's vision. Let's face it, we tend to pay more attention to things we can see (macroscopic bias). In addition, feeding by plant-parasitic nematodes typically does not result in the development of characteristic secondary (above ground) symptoms. If we combine these observations with the fact many turf managers have limited knowledge regarding nematodes, it is easy to

96W 35' 39No5'

50 µm

Hoplolaimus galeatus
female head 200X

Konza Prairie
Dig bluestem/ Scribner's panicum

ascertain their presence and impacts are often ignored.

My favorite adjective to describe nematode infections of animals and plants is "pernicious." Pernicious can be defined as highly injurious or destructive but often in a gradual or subtle way. I think this is the perfect adjective to describe nematode or other parasites.

Since plant-parasitic nematodes are microscopic, proper diagnosis requires the collection of plant tissues and soil and submission of samples to a Nematode Diagnostic Lab. In Michigan, nematode analyses are done at MSU in Diagnostic Services. The present fee for a nematode analysis for a sample submitted by a citizen of our state is \$25.00. Samples submitted from outside of MI are more expensive. If you have questions about sampling for nematodes, please feel free to contact me. Proper sampling is a topic that goes beyond the scope of this article.

Nematodes and Cool-Season Turfgrasses

The focus of this section will be on golf greens but Kentucky bluegrass, fescues and rye grasses are also hosts for many nematodes. As mentioned earlier, *Agrostis stolonifera* and *Poa*

annua are excellent hosts for many kinds of plant-parasitic nematodes. However, due to a paucity of research done on these nematodes, especially in Michigan, we don't fully know their impacts at this time.

Two surveys of golf greens were conducted in MI, one in 1993 (this survey also included commercial turf and home lawns) and the other last year. In general, the frequencies of detection and kinds of nematodes found were close to the same but the maximum counts of those nematodes were often substantially higher last year than in 1993 (see Table). So, what has changed over those 24 years? Greens have probably become sandier, a result of regular topdressing, and sandy soils tend to be nematode-loving soils. Plus, nematodes have had a quarter of a century to feed uninterrupted except for our winters. Since we had virtually no compounds to kill nematodes in turf for a period of years, they just chomped on roots to their hearts' (although nematodes do not possess hearts) content. I believe the older the green, the greater the probability of finding high numbers of nematodes. Evidence gathered last year tends to support this hypothesis.

When turf samples are submitted to MSU, I provide nematode risk ratings based on the kinds and numbers of

nematodes recovered. The risk ratings range from 0 (no risk) to 5 (severe risk). If I assign a risk rating of 4 or 5 (occasionally 3 if there are reports of symptoms observed), I will recommend nematode control. In 1993, roughly 7% of our samples received high or severe risk ratings. In 2017, that percentage jumped to 43. Although certain caveats apply, it seems obvious nematode numbers are on the rise in turf in Michigan.

Plant-parasitic nematodes were detected in all the turf samples collected in 1993 and 2017. I have never received a sample submitted to the Diagnostic Lab collected from turf, being golf fairways, greens or tees or commercial and residential lawns where I did not detect at least one kind of plant-parasitic nematode. This brings us back to the title of this article, nematodes are far more common than most people realize.

What We Need to Do

So far, in Michigan, we have collected historical data through sampling/surveying. Although we are still dealing with relatively small sample sizes, I think we can safely say nematodes are present in most, if not all, areas where grass is grown and their numbers are on the rise.

However, we have not conducted many controlled studies to determine the impacts of our nematode species on cool-season turfgrass species. We use threshold estimates to assist in decision making but most of those have been developed in other states or are just expert opinion. What makes assessing nematode problems in turf even more difficult is that typically 3 – 6 or more genera are found together. In Michigan, we have some nematodes



I have dubbed the 3-headed turfgrass monster because in the 2017 survey we found these three together: ring; spiral and stunt nematodes in 74 of the 100 samples submitted. If we don't fully know the impacts of a single nematode genus or species, we certainly don't know how they interact or if they interact. If the combined effects of these nematodes on grasses are greater than their individual effects, this can drastically alter action and damage thresholds. This doesn't even take into account, nematodes can predispose plants to invasion by bacteria and fungi.

We have yet to investigate the effectiveness of our new nematicides in replicated field trials. We also have very limited knowledge as to how

well they will control the kinds of nematodes present. Since turfgrass managers will undoubtedly turn to these products if they discover they have nematode problems, we need to inform them of the best products to use.

How do nematodes affect rooting? How do nematodes alter normal plant physiological processes? Can they be managed culturally? Do we have any new species? I can make this list of questions go on and on but for purposes of brevity, I'll stop now. Trust me, when it comes to nematodes on turf, I'm full of questions but unfortunately short on answers. In conclusion, it is in my opinion, where most farmers understand and fully grasp the destructive nature of

nematodes on our agricultural crops, they have been a tough sell to this audience. While I tend to believe cool-season turfgrasses can withstand quite a bit of nematode feeding, this does not preclude problems from developing. I feel it's in your best interest, if you wish to maximize your grass health, to keep nematodes in the back of your minds at all times. OK, maybe not at all times; just please don't ignore the possibility.

Frequencies of detection and maximum counts per 100 cm³ soil for plant-parasitic nematodes recovered from survey samples of turfgrasses collected in 2017 (n = 100) and 1993 (n = 106)

	Frequency of Detection		Maximum Counts	
	2017	1993	2017	1993
nematode	2017	1993	2017	1993
ring	97.0	69.7	6440	1400
stunt	86.0	76.1	3280	880
spiral	86.0	61.5	2160	2040
root-knot	22.0	16.5	300 J2s	55 J2s
turf cyst	21.0	10.1	141 cysts	41 cysts
lance	19.0	22.0	330	399
stubby-root	8.0	0.9	100	1
grass cyst	7.0	0.0	17 cysts	0 cysts
needle	3.0	3.7	50	1
lesion	2.0	49.5	40	140
sheath	2.0	6.4	460	60
pin	0.0	17.4	0	99
dagger	0.0	4.6	0	20





Technology can enhance

BY PAUL ALBANESE, ASGCA

One knows they are getting old when they say “Do you remember when.....” more often than “I can’t wait for.....” So, I guess that puts me in the former category, as I do catch myself reminiscing about how things were done in the golf world pre-high tech stuff. I was reminded how much technology has changed in the past 30 years when Adam Ikamas was flying his drone over the Can-Am tournament last week, and nobody was even in awe, as drones have become relatively ubiquitous, and are used for many commercial activities now.

There are many people that eschew technology, contending that computers, cell phones, apps and gadgets take away from the creative process; that golf designs, in particular, devised using technology lose the “home baked from scratch in a brick oven” quality. This is a fallacy. Yet, if technology were relied upon completely, it would likely cause the demise of creativity and quality in a golf creation.

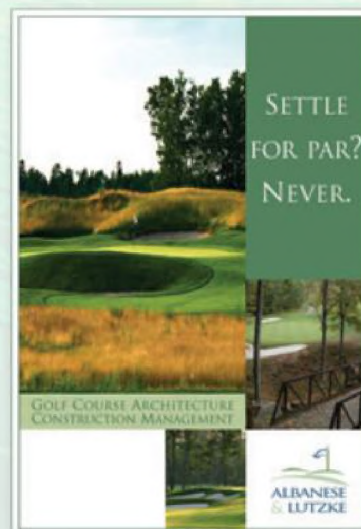
When I first started as an architect back in the early 1990s, technical ink pens were still the norm for creating drawings. I am actually very glad I was part of this era, prior to the use of CAD systems, as it gives me a great appreciation for that skill set, and the comparably long time it would take to produce drawings and documents versus today, when similar drawings can be created in a fraction of the time using computers. Just as most people cannot fathom how they achieved all they did prior to cell phones, the same is true with the creation of a golf course design; it seems like forever ago.

I contend that new age technology has enabled the creativity of golf design to be enhanced. Even if restoring an old classically designed golf course, technology can aid in making a design seem “old”; because technology helps free up time. And, with this extra time, if chosen as a priority, designers can spend more effort in areas that truly have an effect, versus using that same effort for tasks that might not be as valuable – such as drawing lines. To put some numbers to this contention, say it takes 1000 hours of a designer’s time to create a golf course from start to finish, including all tasks

from making phone calls, drawing plans, making site visits and everything else required to make a golf course. If a larger percentage of those hours can be “saved” by technology, then those banked hours can be utilized for tasks that make a more significant impact. For example, if a designer believes a particular part of their process is what really gets their idea across, such as working in the field with the shaper, yet they can only allocate 500 hours of the 1000 hours to that task; the other 500 hours go toward, say, drafting the documents. If technology, such as Computer Aided Design (CAD) enables that designer to draft those same documents in 300 hours, they now have an additional 200 hours to spend on the more creativity valuable fieldwork.

Of course, my contention presumes that designers decide to reinvest the extra time saved by technology toward the project, and not simply use the saved time to increase their profit margins on the business side of things. Most of the designers and creative people I know don’t use the technology to help their economic bottom line, but rather as a way to help increase their time being creative – as it should be.

*Paul Albanese, ASGCA is a principal with Albanese & Lutzke, Golf Course Architects/Construction Managers.
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Graduate Student Research at MSU

DR. KEVIN FRANK, MSU TURFGRASS EXTENSION SPECIALIST

Graduate student research and education has always been a key component of the turfgrass program at MSU. Jacob Bravo and Francois X. Rucamumihigo have recently completed their Masters degree.

The effect of Dazomet on accumulated annual bluegrass seed and newly seeded creeping bentgrass.

Jacob Bravo (advisor Dr. Trey Rogers)

Field experiments were conducted at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center (HTRC) to examine efficacy and post-treatment seeding effects of dazomet on renovated turf surfaces. Two experimental sites were used; a simulated golf course fairway and golf course putting green. This study consisted of two factors. The first factor, dazomet rate, included four levels at the fairway height: 131 lb/acre, 262 lb/acre, 525 lb/acre and a non-dazomet control and 5 levels at the greens height: 65 lb/acre, 131 lb/acre, 196.5 lb/acre, 262 lb/acre, and a non-dazomet control. The second factor, re-seeding date, consisted of 4 levels: 6, 9, 11 (13 in 2017) and 15 days after dazomet treatment. Both sites were prepped with a glyphosate application followed by aggressive cultivation. Dazomet was applied and incorporated with 1 inch of irrigation. Fairway height plots were sealed using subsequent irrigation while the putting green experiment was sealed with a plastic cover. All plots were re-seeded using 1 lb/M 'Pure Distinction' creeping bentgrass (CBG). Data was collected on the number of annual bluegrass plants (ABG) and CBG plants that germinated as well as the percent area covered by CBG and percent area unaffected by the dazomet treatment. Fairway height results showed no negative residual effects on the newly seeded CBG. Control of ABG was not considered sufficient, likely due to

the lack of an impermeable cover and also due to the incorporation method. The results suggested no substantial effects on seeded CBG regardless of rate or seeding date. Greens height data showed desirable control of annual bluegrass, further solidifying the essential function of an impermeable cover.

Chemical priming and plant growth regulator effects on drought resistance characteristics of creeping bentgrass.

Francois X. Rucamumihigo (advisor Dr. Emily Merewitz)

Despite widespread use of plant growth regulators (PGRs) their interaction with other plant treatments associated with stress tolerance is poorly understood. Greenhouse and growth chamber studies were conducted to determine the effects of seven chemical priming compounds on drought responses under growth chamber and field conditions on 'T1' creeping bentgrass. The treatments were: control, trinexapac-ethyl (TE), salicylic acid (SA), gamma amino butyric acid (GABA), jasmonic acid (JA), TE + SA, TE + GABA, and TE + JA. Leaf relative water content (RWC), soil volumetric water content (SWC), leaf electrolyte leakage (EL), turf quality (TQ), normalized difference vegetation index (NDVI), canopy temperature depression (CTD) and leaf chlorophyll content were measured in plants under well-watered and drought-stressed conditions. Under drought stress in the growth chamber, TE+SA and TE treated plants had a significantly higher TQ and lower EL than the controls. TE+SA, TE, TE+JA, and TE+GABA treated plants had a higher RWC and lower CTD than the control. In field conditions, plants treated with TE+SA, TE, and TE+JA had a higher SWC, TQ, NDVI, and RWC than the controls. The results from this study

suggest that out of the chemical priming agents tested, TE and TE plus priming agents (TE+SA, TE+JA, and TE+GABA) were most effective in alleviating drought stress of creeping bentgrass through avoidance and tolerance. The supplementation of TE with either SA, GABA or JA was the same as using TE alone.

On-going Graduate Student Research Projects

Understanding Cyst nematodes on Cool Season Turf

Anna Stouffer-Hopkins (advisor Dr. Joe Vargas, Jr.)

Based on the results of a nematode survey conducted in 2017 through the MSU diagnostics lab between 20-25% of greens surveyed are infested with cyst nematodes. I am investigating the life cycle and pathogenicity of cyst nematodes on creeping bent grass and annual bluegrass. My goal is to develop molecular diagnostic tools to separate and identify the species of cyst nematodes found on turf in Michigan.

Japanese Beetle Biological Control through *Ovavesicula popilliae*

Mick Piombino (advisor Dr. David Smitley)

I am interested in insect biocontrol, specifically, creating evaluating and implementing biocontrol methods to control populations of invasive insects. I have been studying a microsporidian pathogen of Japanese beetle, *Ovavesicula popilliae*. I am evaluating the impact of *Ovavesicula* infection on grubs by inoculating field plots with the pathogen in October, then collecting them in May for analysis. I

will compare grubs in inoculated plots to grubs in control plots by looking at the mortality rate, weight, and infection levels of *Ovavesicula* and other pathogens.

Effects of ethylene inhibition on annual bluegrass and its physiological response to ice cover stress

Kevin Laskowski
(Advisor Dr. Emily Merewitz)

The goal of this research was to examine the plant stress hormone ethylene and the effects of stimulating or inhibiting it on annual bluegrass and the effects it may have on survival to ice stress. The field research component to this experiment includes measuring ethylene gas and plant respiration rates during ethylene treatment prior to winter. Annual bluegrass cup cutter plugs are then taken and frozen in a low temperature growth chamber half of which will get 0.5 in. of ice cover. After either 20, 40 and 80 days in the growth chamber, plugs are removed and thawed to examine survival to ice and cold stress through measuring regrowth, antioxidant activity and cell membrane fatty acid composition.

Elucidating the efficacy and kinetics of Dazomet, a methyl bromide alternative, to optimize comprehensive pest management program

Thomas O. Green
(Advisor Dr. Trey Rogers)

The proposed research will be designed to evaluate program-style approaches which evaluate fumigant alternatives alone and in combination with cultural and chemical inputs. Integration of chemical, cultural, and mechanical practices will likely be the best strategy for methyl bromide alternatives. The long-term goal of this project is to identify specific methyl bromide alternatives in turfgrass systems. The specific objectives will be to evaluate weed control as affected

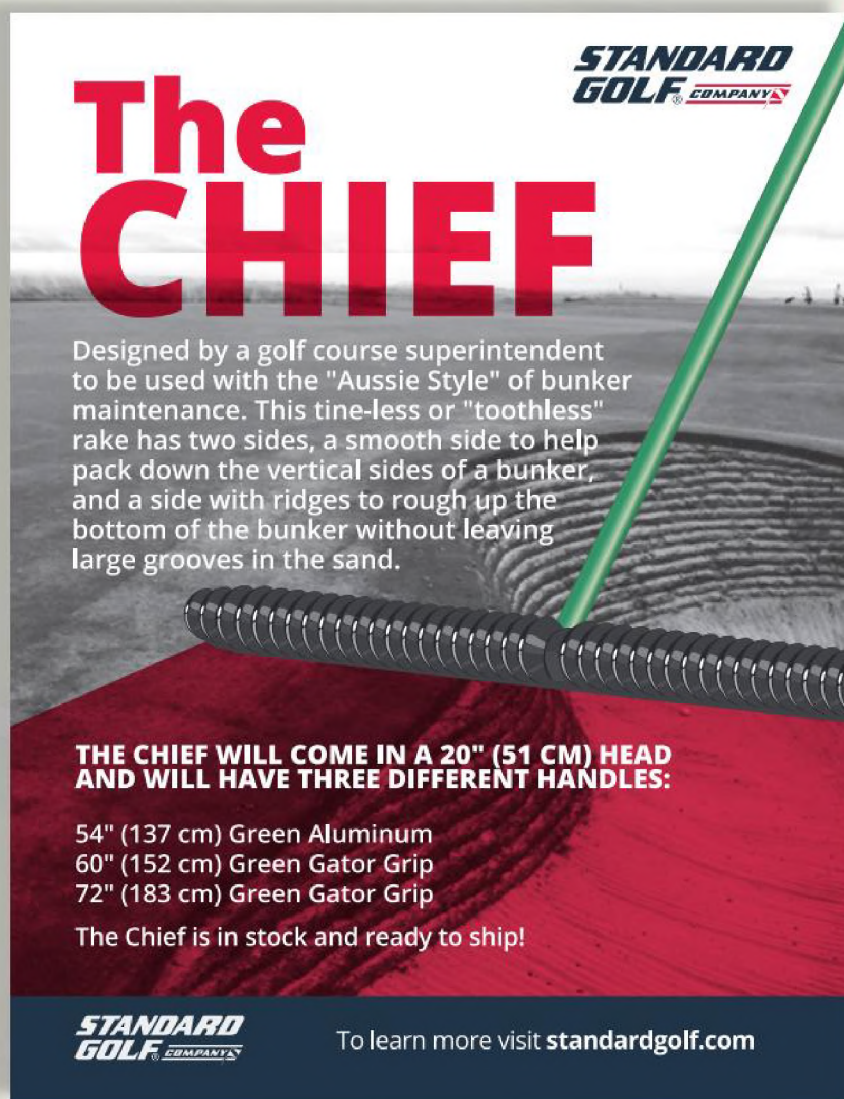
by select fumigants alone and in combination with cultural practices and herbicide treatments, quantify methyl isothiocyanate (MITC) distribution in soil after dazomet application to optimize efficacy, and evaluate the economic viability of evaluated methyl bromide alternatives.

An evaluation of Dazomet + fraise mowed treatments without tarp cover for the eradication of annual bluegrass species in golf course fairways

Ryan Bearss (Advisor Dr. Trey Rogers)

Across all disciplines of weed science, it is generally accepted that the best

weed management strategy is likely one that incorporates mechanical and chemical strategies. In the Summer of 2018, two, 2-year field studies will be initiated at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center. The first study will evaluate the efficacy of combined fraise mowing and dazomet (Basamid G) treatments set at varying rates of irrigation, depths and intervals for suppression of *Poa annua* in fairway managed turfgrass systems without tarp cover. The second study will evaluate how different levels of fraise mowing surface disturbance treatments interact with varying irrigation cycles to influence the efficacy of dazomet for the suppression of *Poa annua* in fairway managed turfgrass systems without tarp cover.



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THE WRENCH

By: Sam Holysz & Friends

By Ben Beard

Bridging the Gap: Maximizing the relationship between Grease Monkey and Grass Growers

My name is Ben Beard and I am the Equipment Manager at Walnut Creek Country Club in South Lyon, MI. Before coming to WCCC I was a Service Tech for the John Deere Golf distributor JW Turf, prior to that I had never seen a greens mower and the closest thing I had worked on to a reel mower was a grain head of a combine. Other than golf equipment I have worked as an auto and medium duty truck mechanic, apprentice electrician, and a towing recovery operator. As an equipment manager I am able to combine my love of the outdoors with my diverse mechanical skill set. The early mornings and long days are rough but watching the sun come up over the golf course helps ease the pain.

As an Equipment Manager, our job is to supply the superintendent with the properly working equipment to help achieve the best turf conditions possible. That all starts with the relationship between the Super and the EM. Now my Superintendent, Scott Rettmann, and I may not agree on all matters, but we work well together and have the same goal in mind. We have an understanding, I can make his job easier and he can make mine easier as well.

Communication is key, which we achieve on a morning ride that Scott and I take around the course together each day. We discuss everything from daily tasks and course conditions, to status updates on our children to what's for dinner. Combining that with teamwork and the interest of a common goal is a recipe for success.

One key to "bridging the gap" is for the superintendent to understand not only the equipment but also what it takes to properly maintain it. A good way to accomplish this is to get in the shop and ask questions! Do we relief grind? Why do we relief grind? What is relief grinding? The better a superintendent understands the equipment the more they will appreciate the EM and what they do. Also, with a better understanding of what equipment is available and what each piece is capable of, the superintendent is more likely to choose the best piece to achieve which ever task that needs to be accomplished.

Along with a vast knowledge of equipment, a successful EM should have an understanding of the agronomic science behind the art of growing grass. You need to know why the grounds staff does what



they do and the benefit is has on the turf, then take that knowledge and use it to help provide the proper tools to due so. Remember that we are all here for one reason, provide the golfer will premium playing conditions. So, if topdressing is needed, don't grumble about it, instead order some bedknives and dust off your grinder! When you start to see a slight bronzing of the fairways, pull in your mowers and sharpen your reels. We know that the first mowing after aerification is not good for the reels, but the turf is going to love it. Keep in mind that your job is maintaining the equipment but the number one task is keeping the turf happy and healthy!

Bridging the gap between Equipment Managers and Superintendents is a crucial part of

having a successful operation, now let's remember the Assistant Superintendents as well, seeing that they are the ones in the trenches..... literally! Working together on all tasks from equipment maintenance and fabrication projects to budgets, hiring staff, and agronomic practices is a key to a smooth operation. An understanding and respect for one another will be a good foundation for a strong relationship between Superintendents and Equipment Managers!



2018 Spring Opener

STOATIN BRAE

The 2018 golf season kicked off with a rescheduled event due to weather which is fitting. On April 25th at Stoatin Brae it was a beautiful day to see the new course at Gull Lake View. Thank you to our host Charlie and Jon Scott along with MiGCSA Members Alex Yost, Andrew Brandt, Steve Holladay, William Paton and William Walters. It was a beautiful sunny and windy day for more than 60 attendees. The shotgun start went off at 10:00 and the group was in by 2:30 and treated to a fantastic spread of food prepared by the Stoatin Brae staff. The golf course and service was phenomenal all around. Here were the results from the day.

Closest to the pins winners:

Chuck Pohl & Josh Teitsma

Long Drive: Ryan Osborn

Winning Teams:

1st place Joe Rebone, Joey Stimac, Andy Vondra & Bob Stipcak.



Charlie Scott answers questions about Stoatin Brae.



MiGCSA Board Member Jeff Hopkins thanks the 2018 Industry Partners and staff at Gull Lake View.

2nd place Chad Kempf, Micah Wise & Josh Teitsma.

3rd place Scott Wilkinson, Mark Fink, Scott Goniwiecha & Matt VanAcker.

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Dan Dingman

Dan Dingman, is the golf course superintendent at Birmingham Country Club, and this is his eighth year at the recently renovated private facility. He is a Michigan native, a graduate of Michigan State University and has also worked in Long Island, NY. He is married, and he and his wife Angela have two sons, Tyler, 8 and Will, 5.



1 HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? My dad was a really good golfer and I spent a lot of time at the golf course from age four or five. I was always around the hometown course (Willowbrook in Byron, Mich.) and started playing at a young age. When I was in my mid-teenage years the golf course provided a good opportunity to work early morning hours in the summer time on the crew, and do other things the rest of the day like play baseball. Prior to that, I started mowing lawns when I was 10 or 11-years-old. It started out with my grandmother's house, then all of her neighbors until I had 10 to 12 lawns that I mowed. I grew up in Durand and I kept cutting lawns and worked at the golf course, too.

2 WHEN DID YOU DECIDE YOU WANTED GOLF TO BE YOUR CAREER? I stayed home and went to junior college for a year and worked on the golf course. One of my dad's buddies was an insurance agent, and I thought that is what I wanted to be. His lawn was one of the ones I

mowed, too. I decided I wanted to be like him, and I was going to go to Central Michigan and study business. I was all set to go, but then Willowbrook hired a new superintendent that summer from Michigan State. I started talking to him. I didn't realize before talking to him that turfgrass was actually a profession I could get into. After picking his brain that summer, I went to MSU, met with Dr. Trey Rogers, and hit it off with him. I applied and got accepted.

3 WHAT ARE SOME OF THE COURSES YOU HAVE WORKED AT? After Willowbrook my Michigan State internship was at The Creek Club on Long Island. Then after graduation I got a job and went back to Long Island to work at Pine Hollow Country Club. I was an assistant superintendent there for two years and in 2000 came back to Michigan to be an assistant at Tam O'Shanter in West Bloomfield. I was there for eight years before leaving for my first superintendent's job at Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club for three years. Then the Birmingham job opened in 2011 and I applied.





4 WHAT PART OF YOUR EDUCATION DO YOU USE THE MOST? The relationships I established with professors at Michigan State have continued to be the benefits I use the most. The guidance and advice from the professors is incredible. You can learn all the stuff in the books, but the consultation and the constant guidance for career moves has been so important. The education continues.

5 HOW HAS YOUR JOB AT YOUR CURRENT COURSE PROGRESSED? Since 2011 it has progressed quite quickly. We had an architect when I got here (Bruce Hepner) and we started on the golf course removing trees and widening it back out to where it originally was based on research, photographs, that kind of thing. We concentrated on that from the get go, and worked on that three or four years. Then after the winter damage of 2014 when we lost 60 percent of our green surface, the club decided we could not go through that again. So upon approval we started in the fall of

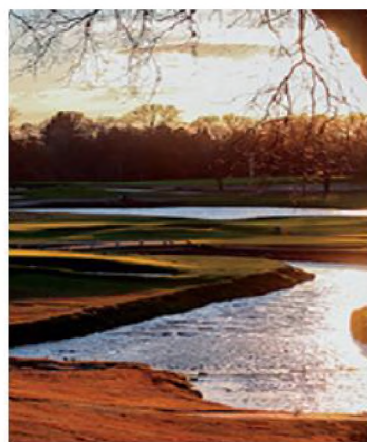
2015 on what was a complete golf course renovation. It's been busy and seems to have happened very quickly.

6 WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS OF THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION? Being president this year, my expectation is that we uphold our mission statement. The mission statement really says it all. We are dedicated to providing value to our members through programs and services that enhance and promote our profession.

7 WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION? Since becoming a board member I've learned a lot about what they do, the relationship with Michigan State University and how important it is that the MTF supports what we try to do. One of our goals every year is to raise funds to support MTF research, fund graduate students, community outreach and all those types of things.

8 DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE GIVEN BACK TO GOLF? Serving time on the board and seeing that through to becoming president has made me feel really good and like I've really accomplished something. I would encourage every superintendent to go through it, volunteer their time. You learn so much about the golf business and how it affects so many things. The students at Michigan State are important to me. I take part in mock interviews. I'm involved in the turfgrass club the students run. I like to hire students right out of school. In that respect I feel I've done my part.

9 DO YOU HAVE HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS AWAY FROM THE GAME? In the off-season I love to downhill ski. That's the thing I look forward to outside of golf the most. I also like mountain biking and playing golf. I have been involved in coaching my sons the last couple of years in baseball and soccer. I like to hike. Last year I did my first triathlon.



5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I started working on a golf course when I was 14 yrs old.
2. I'm afraid of the ocean.
3. I despise tomatoes but love salsa.
4. I met my wife Angela in Breckinridge Colorado.
5. I used to be a good golfer before I had kids.

I enjoy the training part of it. It gives me something to look forward to at the end of a long work day.

10 WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB? It is finding that extra hour in the day because there is always something else to do, if only to keep from having it go to the next full day, which is already scheduled. Continually staying on schedule is hard, and sometimes you just hope Mother Nature cooperates.

11 WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB? Watching the sun rise every day, and working alongside good people.

12 WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING GOLF? I think time. The time it takes to play a round of golf is difficult for a lot of people. You want to play as a hobby, but if you have kids in sports it's hard to find the time. Parents are really busy. Most people I know, mom and dad work. It is difficult to get yourself in the game, and also get the kids in the game. I think the length of the golf ball is an issue, too. Some of the greatest courses in the world are becoming obsolete because golfers are starting to drive it 350 yards. Affordability is another issue. For a nice public course you are paying \$65, \$70. Wages, product costs, those kinds of things are all driving that.

13 WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS? I see myself still working on the golf course, being an active dad and husband.

14 WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST IN YOUR TURFGRASS CAREER? I would say the two superintendents that I served as an assistant – Gerry Kunkel at Pine Hollow (East Norwich, N.Y.) and John Cooney at Tam

O'Shanter. Gerry was like a father. I was in early 20s, from a small town in Durand, and my Dad took me out to Long Island and dropped me off. Gerry took me right into his home and I'm still very close to him today. Then John was a half-father, half-brother to me. I was his assistant for eight years, and I'm close with him, too. Also, Dr. Trey Rogers at MSU. He has helped guide my career path through today. There were two others, too, like brothers in Aaron McMaster at Orchard Lake Country Club and Brian Schweihofer at Franklin Hills. Both of those guys were getting their first superintendent jobs when I was a young assistant. They became good friends, we played golf, and when I went to apply to become a superintendent they really helped me out.

15 WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU'VE LEARNED THAT YOU USE ALL THE TIME? Steve Cook who left Oakland Hills and is now at Medinah said something in the early 2000s that has stuck with me through to today. He said in what we do perception is reality. Think about it. I put everything in life up against that.

16 HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF A SUPERINTENDENT IN A GOLF OPERATION? Without the golf course there is no game. At least in the private industry to provide exemplary services you are dependent on the grounds staff and the golf staff to communicate and the superintendent leads that.

17 WHAT PERCENTAGE OF TIME DO YOU DEVOTE TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT? In my time at Birmingham I would say office,

60 percent, and course 40 percent. With all the renovations the last seven years I've been in the office a lot. I saw myself out on the course a little more last year. I hope it trends that way again.

18 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT? The assistant superintendent today is the superintendent 15 years ago. He or she wears a lot of hats and is really in charge of managing the maintenance of the golf course. They are the ones who are boots on the ground, walking every green and make sure every detail is getting done. The superintendent is busy talking to members, going to staff meetings and project planning, but also getting judged on what the assistant superintendent and crew get done.

19 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE GOLF COURSE MECHANIC OR TECHNICIAN? The mechanic is critical to the operation. The tech must be organized, efficient and level headed. Most operations could use more than one.

20 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF GOLFERS WALKING VERSUS RIDING IN A CART TO PLAY? The golf experience is best enjoyed walking versus riding. But I understand cart revenue is paramount at most facilities. The cart also keeps people in the game longer.

21 WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE IN GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE? Not fixing ball marks and replacing divots – I'm sure you've never heard that before. It is pretty simple. If people could get a handle on those two things golf courses would be in much better shape.

22 WHAT OPINION DO YOU HAVE OF GREEN SPEEDS IN TODAY'S GAME? I don't get too caught up in a number, or worrying about what a number is. I'm a big proponent that the speed of the greens should complement the contours of the surfaces. Golf should be fun, not hokey.

23 DO YOU HAVE A HUMOROUS OR INTERESTING STORY YOU CAN SHARE FROM YOUR CAREER? Back in July of 2015 we had to drain a pond on No. 6 for the upcoming renovation. In that pond were fish we had to do something with. When we got it drained down to about three quarters, there were a

lot of fish in there. We had permission to dump fish in the Rouge River that runs through the course, so I bought six pairs of waders, some nets, grabbed some buckets and watched as the guys on our crew tried to handle the fish and transport them to the river. It was hilarious. I wish I could show you a picture. It was comical. There were hundreds of fish. It was mucky. The guys were sinking in the muck and falling down. It smelled horrible. I was laughing. The guys were not laughing, though they did have a sense of humor about it. They were betting a dollar a fish on who would transport the most.



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2018 National Golf Day

BY: JEFF SWEET, CGCS
MIGCSA VICE PRESIDENT

Thanks to an early morning flight from Lansing, I was sightseeing in our nation's Capital by 10:00 am. After a long winter that lasted well into spring it was nice to see some leaves on trees and flowers blooming, it is hard not to be awestruck by all the history and beauty that surrounds you. It was a little difficult to get close to The White House and the Capitol steps because the President of France was in town and the streets were busy. After a nice lunch it was down to the business that brought me here, National Golf Day.

Tuesday afternoon started with our keynote speaker, Bret Baier. He was a very good presenter with some entertaining stories. Then it was onto various speakers to help us navigate our upcoming meetings, Wednesday. I would compare it to a briefing with the goal of informing all the participants about the issues that we would discuss with our Legislators and their staffs. From the Farm Bill and the PHIT Act to H2B Visas, all topics were covered so we could go in prepared and on point. That night was a very well done Congressional Reception at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, it was a great networking opportunity.

Wednesday morning was the start of a packed schedule. First off were

opening remarks, group photos and Golf Day Kick Off. The Golf Channel and other media outlets were there to cover the events. After the opening it was off to see our Michigan legislators. With a joint session of Congress, we knew that we would meet mostly with the staff of our Senators and Representatives. But don't discount that, like Golf Course Superintendents, the people behind the scenes usually are the ones to get the real work done. I met with Sen. Stabenow's staff, Sen. Peter's staff, Rep. Bishop's staff, Rep. Moolenaar's staff and I also met with Rep. Walberg face to face. John Moolenaar is the Representative for Michigan's 4th District (my home district), a quick hello before he had to go to the floor for a vote, his staff was great as well as everyone else I met this day. Each meeting was productive as we discussed the benefits of golf; economic, environmental and social. Chava McKeel, GCSAA's Director of Government Affairs did an excellent job of planning the activities of the week. I would say that GCSAA had the largest participant level compared to other organizations.

A quick Wednesday evening flight home and I was able to tuck my daughters into bed. Overall, it was a quick trip that was productive and eye opening. You may not be able to

make it to National Golf Day, but you do have the opportunity to attend Michigan Golf Day on June 7th and have some of the same types of meetings on a local level. All politics are local and your elected officials rely on you to help them form policy. If you can't attend Michigan Golf Day and you want to see policy change write a letter or call your elected official's office. Your voice matters and golf's voice is heard thanks to the efforts of GCSAA.



MiGCSA Vice President Jeff Sweet, CGCS with keynote speaker Bret Baier from Fox News.



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Phil Owen, CGCS, Awarded 2018 GAM Superintendent Award of Merit

GAM Green Committee Chairman Jay Hultz presents the award to Phil Owen at the GAM Annual Meeting.

The 2018 Golf Association of Michigan Superintendent Award of Merit was presented to past MiGCSA Board Member and Class AA Retired Member from Warwick Hills Country Club Phil Owen, CGCS, at the GAM Annual Meeting on May 8th at The University of Michigan Golf Club. Phil received this award during lunch served from 12:00 – 2:00. He joins Ted Woehrle, Clem Wolfrom, Fritz McMullen, John Fulling, Jay Eccleton, Steve Cook and Jeff Holmes as recipients of this annual award.



MiGCSA President Dan Dingman with 2018 GAM Superintendent Award of Merit recipient Phil Owen, CGCS.

Tom Schemmel



Tom Schemmel

is 50 years-old and has worked in agronomic sales for Site One Landscape Supply since last August. Previously he was the golf course superintendent at the U.S. Naval Academy golf course in Annapolis, Maryland for 20 years. He has been married to his wife Kimberly for 23 years and they have three children – Emily, 20, Hank, 18, and Cecilia, 10. He holds a certificate in turfgrass management from Michigan State University.

1 HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

I started working on golf courses when I was a sophomore in high school. I worked at McGuire's Resort in Cadillac (now Evergreen Resort). I was on the grounds crew and worked there in summers after high school. Then when I went to Central Michigan (University) I worked summers at Blythefield Country Club in Grand Rapids. I worked at Blythefield for four years for Roger Barton. After I dropped out of Central, I worked at Madden's Resort up near Brainerd, Minnesota. That's where I got the spark to go into turf management.

2 WHO WAS YOUR GREATEST INFLUENCE IN PERSONAL LIFE?

It was my grandmother on my Mom's side, Grandma Nelson. All her euphemisms I have found to be painfully accurate. I didn't know what she was talking about when she told me, but as I moved through life every one of them has been spot on. She used to tell me find something that you love to do, and don't worry about the money. Do it the best you know how, and the money will come, you will be successful in life. She was really smart that way. Another one was be part of the solution, and not part of the problem, which

is so true. All these things I find myself telling my kids are things I heard from my grandmother.

3 WHO WAS YOUR GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE?

Stanley Zontek – he was my USGA agronomist for the 20 years we were at the Naval Academy. I met him there and he became a great friend and mentor. We were at the halfway point in his territory and we would go crack crabs and drink beer. He was full of good advice on my career path, and how I approached the maintenance on my golf course, but also with how to deal with people, membership, all kinds of things. He was always somebody I turned to for advice. Another guy was Jack Lengyel, who if you've seen the movie Marshall, you know him as the coach after the plane crash. He was the athletic director at Navy for several years. He was also instrumental in my career.

4 CAN YOU SHARE A FUNNY STORY FROM YOUR CAREER?

One of the best happened when I was young and worked at Blythefield. They had just built the new storage barn, and that first day in there it began to rain. We were pulling equipment in out of the rain, and one of the guys on the crew pulled in the GA 30 – a riding aerator. While he was backing it up on the brand new concrete floor he accidentally hit the engage pedal instead of the traction peddle. He bounced around like a guy on a wild bull trying to ride the bull at the rodeo.



5 WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY? One of the biggest issues for superintendents is with the regulatory agencies and all the regulatory demands that are being placed on golf courses. Also, I believe water management is really going to come to the forefront in the future. They are already paying for water in California and Arizona, and I think it will be a huge issue in the years forward. Really the overall smart management of water is going to be an issue.

6 WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS WHEN WORKING WITH THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION? I think it is important association for networking, and also it gives superintendents a support system. Also, it supports the universities and research, which I think is very important. It's a group that has one voice with government and regulatory agencies and educating them on what superintendents actually do is really important.

7 WHAT IS YOUR BEST ADVICE TO DECISION MAKERS WHEN DOING BUSINESS? The first thing is do your homework, know what products are out there and know what you want in a product. Do your homework. That's the main thing. It is not always about cost of the product as long as you are meeting expectations with the product.

8 WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF BEING IN AN INDUSTRY SUPPORT ROLE? I think being able to give advice and being part of somebody's success whether

it is providing products, information or advice. This is kind of selfish, but it is rewarding to me to see all these great golf courses now, all the different kinds of courses and see the different ways guys are going things. I'm learning as much from them as they are from me. It is rewarding for me to ride out on course and have them show me what they are doing, especially if what they are doing is different than what I did as a superintendent.

9 WHAT IS YOUR BEST SUCCESS STORY? I think raising my children with my wife. I think it is very rewarding seeing them grow up and grow up as good people, good citizens making good decisions. That's my biggest success story.

10 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION? I think renewing old relationships and building new ones with superintendents

and my customers, and also meeting the people in the new company I work for. I guess I've taken charge of my life at 50-years-old. We made a conscious decision to uproot our family from Maryland and move back to Michigan and start a new career. I'm excited to be with Site One. It's a great company and they are great people to work with."

11 HOW MANY DAYS OF THE YEAR ARE YOU ON THE ROAD? I haven't been here a year yet, and we don't go out as often in the winter, but I imagine 200 days will be the case.

12 WHO HAS THE NICEST SHOP YOU CALL ON AND WHY? I don't really compare shops. They are all different. Some are nicer than others. Every shop has its own character. All are unique. Some have better budgets.



5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I enjoy spending time with family.
2. I like to shop auctions and garage sales.
3. I enjoy cooking.
4. We like to explore new places and restaurants.
5. I am a sports enthusiast.

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Q: CAN I BE COMFORTABLE APPLYING TRACTION IN THE SUMMER SINCE THE TEBUCONAZOLE IS A DMI?

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Q: WHY DOES TRACTION HAVE ONLY ONE LABEL RATE?

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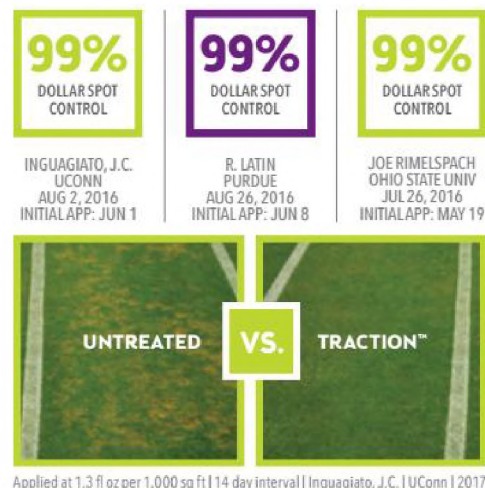
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JASON FAUSEY
T&O Technical Services Director,
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- 13 DO YOU HAVE A FUNNY STORY YOU CAN SHARE FROM THE ROAD?** It wasn't really a funny story, but you see things being on the road that you didn't see working at a golf course. I was in Detroit at a stoplight for instance, and I saw a drug transaction by a dumpster. I remember telling my wife, I think I saw a drug deal for the first time.
- 14 WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE BEST PRODUCT YOU OFFER AND WHY?** I think our whole line is great. There is such a broad spectrum of products, and that is what makes us unique to other companies.
- 15 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ITEM TO SELL/DEMONSTRATE?** Anything anybody is buying. Whatever they are buying, I'm willing to show it to them.
- 16 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE TO PLAY?** I think the Naval Academy Golf Course just because it was my course and the course I managed. I'll enjoy playing it in the future now that I'm no longer the superintendent. When I played as superintendent the scorecard always ended up being my laundry list of things to do.
- 17 IF YOU HAD A DIFFERENT PROFESSION, WHAT WOULD IT BE?** Probably investment banking because the stock market and all the financial stuff is interesting to me. I would probably be a stock broker.
- 18 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE GOLFER AND WHY?** I have two actually. First, Byron Nelson and the whole reason is that I was able to meet him and spend a little time with him. He was an amazing man. And Billy Hurley, who is on the PGA Tour now. He is a Naval Academy grad, played on the Navy golf team and I got to know him pretty well when I was the superintendent at Navy.
- 19 HAVE YOU EVER HAD A HOLE-IN-ONE?** Negative. I haven't played a whole lot in the last 20 years. I played more last fall than I have in the last five years.
- 20 WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM GOLF?** With the three kids, life is whatever they are doing. You don't have a lot of time day in this day and age, especially if your kids play sports. You are taking them to field hockey, soccer or whatever. If I do get some extra time, I like to fish and hunt.
- 21 IF YOU COULD TRAVEL TO ANY TIME IN GOLF WHEN WOULD IT BE AND WHY?** I guess it would be the year Byron Nelson had all his victories (1945, 18 wins, 11 consecutively). That would have been neat to see.
- 22 WHO HAS THE BEST MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT DOG?** I like any of them that won't bite me. Each one I have encountered has been nice.
- 23 HOW MANY CONFERENCES AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS DO YOU ATTEND PER YEAR?** I haven't been doing it long enough to answer. We are continually getting updates on our products. We partnered up with Rainbird in Michigan and now we are Rainbird distributors in Michigan. I feel like I have been drinking out of fire hose since I started with a lot of conferences and meetings with all the organizations.
- 24 WHICH ONE IS THE BEST TURF CARE PROFESSIONALS CAN ATTEND?** I would say the golf industry show. It allows you to network with people who are not from your state. I have a lot of friends and a lot of people I know that are not in Michigan. I get to see them there, and a lot of classmates who work in different states.
- 25 HOW MANY ROUNDS OF GOLF DO YOU PLAY IN A YEAR?** My son plays a lot of basketball for Clarkston, which won the state championship. Now he is getting a chance to play at the next level at Grace Bible College in Grand Rapids. A lot of time is devoted to that. Now that I am not a super and I have to pay for golf, my interest level is different, too. I played probably 20 times last year, 15 to 20.
- 26 HOW DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY WILL BE DIFFERENT IN 10 YEARS?** I think be more heavily regulated. Again, that gets back to how golf courses use water and I really think that will be the big issue moving forward.
- 27 ARE THERE ANY NEW PRODUCTS ON THE HORIZON?** Absolutely: I think there will be, especially low active ingredient in pesticides, things like that.



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A Message From



Updating items on the MTF agenda and where we are as a Foundation is easy. The MTF is in constant motion with its required fundraising, interaction with both Michigan State University and the Turf Team Professors, event planning, Scholarship, allied associations, budget considerations....to be honest, the list is limitless. Those who have served on the Board for the MTF are fully aware that the amount of time to properly address all the issues can be daunting. Those who take on the role as a Board Member do so as a volunteer....a volunteer who feels they can make a difference and improve a product that already has a pretty good reputation. But no one flourishes on past success for long.

Henry Ford changed the world as we know it with his mass production process. Certainly, sooner or later someone else would have provided this method. But the fact that he did takes him to a place where others will not be able to. Your current Board of Directors have a similar mind set. They may not change the world....but they will make the MTF a better organization. Those who are members of the MTF can be assured that each of the 12 individuals are pulling their own weight knowing that success will take care of itself. The purpose of the MTF is to provide funding for research at MSU and over the years the research developed by our Turf Team has been exceptional. Our current board would like to keep the MTF membership updated on what the Turf Team is involved in and have set about a process to help produce that information. As someone who has been involved with the Turf Team for many years I can attest they are constantly in search of ways to improve the turf industry. It is the MTF's job to relay those developments to our members. Currently, Board Members Dan Mausolf and Jeff Holmes have taken the task of gathering and forwarding this information. The Foundation looks forward to hearing any input that may help with Dan and Jeff with their efforts.

As your reading this, we will have completed our TeeTimes4Turf and I would like to thank all the courses who willingly allowed us to include them on our list of courses. The TT4Turf Auction has become one of our most successful fundraisers during the year. The interaction between the clubs and Turf Research is important to both groups and the synergy from this event makes a great deal of sense. During the upcoming summer we hope to include more clubs for next years TT4Turf and if asked to participate we hope that you may consider doing so. Again, thank you to all the clubs who donated this year...as we go to print the number of clubs have increased and that can only mean additional funding for research.

If everyone
is moving
forward
together, then
success
takes care of
itself.

– Henry Ford

Another goal set by our President, Amy Fouty, is to increase our membership and our efforts are starting to pay off. Earlier this year we sent out mailings to all members who have lapsed/not renewed. The response to those have been significant. It indicates to us that it is important that we work harder to communicateany way we canto produce results. Membership to the Foundation has a different appeal and expectations than what many may perceive for other organizations. Certainly, research and updates to what is the most current turf news is important to our followers. But as your Executive Director, Adam Ikamas, once pointed out, information in today's world can be uncovered by a simple keystroke. Truthfully, it is a blessing to have that capability. So why belong to the MTF if research is available anywhere? There really isn't a simple answer. But belonging to the MTF shows that we in the state of Michigan are in this industry together, we have common goals and are proud of what and who we are. And we are moving forward..... we will let the success take care of itself.

Upcoming Events To Remember:

LAFONTAINE

June 21st, 2018

...

FIELD DAY

August 15th, 2018

...

**MTF ANNUAL TURF
CONFERENCE**

January 22 - 24, 2019

Speaking of the Field Day. The MTF would like to acknowledge both Mark Collins and Jesse Scholl. Mark recently retired as the Manager of the Hancock Center this spring and his duties included more than you can imagine with the Turf Team, Hancock Center, MTF, MSU and so many more. He was the point person for our Annual Field Day and has been an asset to many of us over the years. Thank you Mark for all your hard work and all you did for the Turf Industry.

Jesse Scholl was chosen to take over the management of the Hancock Center and the Board of Directors were thrilled with the selection of Jesse and look forward to working with him in the future. Jesse has been active with the MTF for years and he is certainly the right person to continue the work the Mark put in place.

Thanks Mark and Jesse for all you have done for our industry.

I would like to also take a moment to thank all those who took the time to offer their encouragement and congratulations on my taking on the role as Executive Director of the MTF. It has been exciting to be a part of something important in our industry and I hope to continue to improve all we have to offer.

Thank you,

Carey Mitchelson

Executive Director - MTF



Trevor Mills

Trevor Mills is 36 and has been an assistant superintendent at Crystal Mountain Resort for three years and an employee for five years. He worked his way up from a part-time mowing job on the crew for Superintendent Jason Farah. He holds an associate degree in photography from Lansing Community College. He and his wife Elizabeth have two children – Ivy and Sam.

1 HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? TREVOR: My wife is an art teacher. When she got her first teaching job up here in Northern Michigan it gave me the opportunity to get in something I might love. I applied for a mow-and-go staff member opening at Crystal Mountain, and got it. I started working on the golf course. I moved up from mowing to sand traps, then learned to walk mow greens, then spray tech, then an assistant job opened up and I went for it. Luckily I got it. I've learned all the jobs here. I guess the key thing is to be willing to learn.

DAVE: This is my first job in golf. I've been in the landscape industry for 40 years now in one aspect or another. I worked at nurseries, ran landscape crews, worked for lawn and garden manufacturers and finally got involved here. Three years ago Jason's daughter and my daughter were on the same soccer team. We talked at games, and he expressed to me

that he wished he could find a person to trust to run the golf course. He said it at the right time. I was working for a company and I wasn't happy with it. I told him to give me a try. Long story short he interviewed me and gave me a shot. It's great it happened. Trevor, Jason and I love working together.

2 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE JOB? TREVOR: The first day I was on a Sand Pro it felt like I was in my own little Zen garden. I'm thinking, 'they are paying me to do this?' I was outside, on a golf course, running a cool machine and grooming a beautiful golf course for people to play. I know I had smile on my face. That hasn't stopped since.

DAVE: I love being on the course. Cutting cups on a beautiful day when the sun rising is great. I like when everyone is in motion grooming the course. You look around, and then you focus on cutting that perfect cup.



Dave Susalski



3

WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES? **TREVOR:**

Currently Jason gets us involved in everything. We come up with game plans for the day. Typically, it boils down to getting the staff going in the morning. We are working managers. We get out on the course to make sure everything is going right, and we focus on whatever is needed for that day. There are always so many things to do. Jason is grooming me to see all sides of it.

DAVE: I do everything that a head superintendent would do, including hiring and managing staff. We are definitely working assistants. We keep Jason freed up for what has been an increasing administration role in the sport.

4

ON THE JOB, WHAT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE IN YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT? **TREVOR:**

It's a big list. I guess that answer could change depend on what part of the season we are in. In the

fall, leavers are a big deal. I always thought a Rake-O-Vac would be great.

DAVE: I would love a Toro Rake-O-Vac. We have huge leaf management and a lot of time in just removal. That would help us in a big way. It would run non-stop three weeks in the fall.

5

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

We definitely have some older equipment. I don't know the year, but we have a Cushman. It has some quirks, but it is still going. We top-dress with it. It's just a good utility vehicle.

DAVE: I guess an old Kubota tractor. It's amazing it still runs. It may not be the oldest piece, but it is tired. It only lifts 800 pounds.

6

WHO ON YOUR CREW MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST? **TREVOR:**

Oh man, we have a lot of characters on our staff. Jason is actually a funny dude. He knows



Dave Susalski is also an assistant superintendent at Crystal Mountain. He has been there for three years after working for 40 years in the landscape industry. He is 57 and is a graduate of Central Michigan University. He majored in general biology and minored in business administration. He and his wife Lindsay have two children, Blake and Bryden.





how to keep pressure off while we are trying to handle business. His mission statement is to have a positive work environment and it is that.

DAVE: We have a senior named Wayne Taylor. He has been with us three years and when he talks on the radio he says some funny things. We had a crazy raccoon on No. 3 last year and to hear him talk about the deranged raccoon on No. 3 was just funny.

7 IF YOU HAD A MULLIGAN ON A DIFFERENT CAREER CHOICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE? TREVOR: It's a true fantasy. I would want to be the first amateur golfer to slip on the green jacket after winning the Masters.

DAVE: This is my Mulligan. I was in sales seven days a week, working on a laptop and driving 50,000 miles a year. I wanted to get back outdoors and this worked out really well. I was driving my wife half crazy. We are much happier.

8 IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY GOLF HOLE ON YOUR COURSE WITHOUT REPERCUSSION, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE? TREVOR: I would say No. 10 Betsie Valley. It's a crazy tee shot, blind, into a huge hill and then takes a hard dogleg to the right. The hill just needs to be redesigned.

DAVE: I think No. 16 on Mountain Ridge. I wouldn't change the hole itself, but do something about the huge mature trees on the hill on the right. Those trees make it impossible for a 10-plus handicapper like me to give it a shot to go over them.

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

TREVOR: Everything we do works in concert together, so it is hard to take one out of the group. I'm a big fan of aeration with the deep tines in the fall. There is so little disruption. You can roll it out and play on it the next day.

DAVE: We use a tine that goes in and fractures the soil here. It doesn't leave a big hole, but we have to get air in the soil a couple of times a year. If we don't, it's a major problem.

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

I'm really just getting my feet wet with them. I love the networking and how they get the conferences together for everybody. A guy like me hasn't gone through the formal training, so I have a lot to learn. I really enjoy being a part of it.

DAVE: I think as resource of information and also to promote networking. Getting supers together and assistants to network is great. Education, too. Things change in the industry and you need help continuing to learn and being updated.

11 WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

TREVOR: I think there is a lack in opportunities to become a career assistant. I don't think most assistant super positions are created to be a career choice. It's a revolving door at a lot of places,

just a stepping stone on to the next thing. I would maybe like to see change there. Keep staffs together, especially those who work well together.

DAVE: Finding and keeping detail oriented labor. People who can pick up on what you are trying to do and have an eye for detail.

12 WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE JOB? TREVOR: Getting good staff and getting them to respond. Certainly interns are passionate the way you are and enthusiastic about the details. But hiring staff, managing them and keeping them on the same page is not easy.

DAVE: Having to sit down with employee who is not doing their part, and ultimately having to tell them they are no longer part of the team.

13 WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF THE JOB? TREVOR: Working on the course; it is not without its challenges, and it sometimes demands a lot of time to make

sure nothing happens. But compared to managing staff and hiring staff, being on the course is easier.

DAVE: Doing the actual work, cutting the cup, raking the trap.

14 WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS? TREVOR: For a good chunk of that 10 years I want to keep learning and hopefully can stay right where I am. I really haven't thought about evolving beyond that point.

DAVE: I see myself semi-retired, maybe still working at Crystal or another golf course part time. Playing more golf and trout fishing more, too.

15 HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED IN THE FUTURE? TREVOR: I would hope people remember me as being easy to work with and hard working. I hope they can think that my passion for the game never faded.

DAVE: I want to be remembered as a good example, a guy who was hard working and treated people fairly.

16 WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT? TREVOR: Definitely our Superintendent Jason Farah; he has taught me a ton. Without him I wouldn't be where I am today.

DAVE: Jason Farah No. 1 because of the amount of time I have spent with him. Also, my brother-in-law Tom Stark, who is the super at Dunham Hills (near Hartland). He has been the super there for over 30 years. I walk his course and play it with him and I just absorb what he has done.

17 WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED? TREVOR: Jason has put me in a lot of situations and given me the range to deal with them quite a few times. As stressful as that can be, you learn when you walk through the fire. The most valuable thing he has taught me is to be organized and ready for the fires. Get there and execute.



DAVE: Being that the greens are our main focus on the course, I have learned that each green is different. Each green has its own microclimate and you have to treat each differently.

18 HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE?

TREVOR: It is key. The assistants have to be extensions of the agronomic goals of the superintendent, and that means being not just one thing, but many things. You have to be a politician and turf doctor at the same time. You have to be in tune with what the superintendent wants to see, and then help him execute his plan. You have to be more than a set of eyes.

DAVE: I rate it high in importance. Trevor and I have a goal of having Jason feel confident that when he is not directly on the course that we are taking care of things just how he would.

19 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE MECHANIC? TREVOR: The mechanic is crucial. I'm not one. Without a mechanic we would fall apart. We make a lot of plans, but without machinery in top-notch condition we couldn't make them happen. Their mentality is they love the problem solving. That is the prize at the end for them. That mentality is not mine, and that is what makes them so important to me.

DAVE: He plays a huge role in keeping us moving and able to complete our work. If a key piece of equipment breaks down, he comes through in timely fashion to keep us moving.

20 WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE? TREVOR: As a golfer and a greens keeper you live in a duality. You understand the golfer wants it nice, peaceful and private, no sounds of machinery, but you live under the pressure to get something done

on the course and there will be some noise. You have to fight the urge that the golfers are in the way. I'm not sure that answers that question.

DAVE: Slow play; this is a resort course and we have busy days right out of the gate. If one early group doesn't keep moving it slows up the whole day. You end up with five and a half hour rounds and nobody has a quality experience when that happens.

21 WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF GREEN SPEEDS AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY? TREVOR: I love playing on smooth fast surfaces. It is great when they are groomed that way. I would say for some it is an obsession, and maybe there is ignorance as to what it takes to produce that condition. You have a plant living within the margins of its life. In the end we strive for consistency and we pull it off. People don't realize how close we are to losing a green at times.



DAVE: It's a complex issue. We groom the course for the Michigan Women's Open each year, but those speeds are not good for the general play. You have to adjust speeds to who is playing the course, and try to be consistent.

22 IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT, WHAT WOULD IT BE? **TREVOR:** I will Geek out a little here. Its automated mowers. They are coming out and it's wild what they can do. It doesn't take away a job. That's not what it is about. It creates an opportunity to get more done, and that is wildly interesting to me.

DAVE: It seems we are always in a battle. It would be nice not to have a constant battle, and sometimes the budget doesn't allow what you really want to do.

23 DESCRIBE YOUR RECYCLING PROGRAM? **TREVOR:** Crystal Mountain has a great recycling program as a resort.

DAVE: We are a green resort. We go out of our way.

24 AWAY FROM GOLF, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT? **TREVOR:** Honestly, I grew up playing all kinds of sports. Golf is the only one that truly stayed with me. I guess I'm more the artist. I'm a drummer in a band.

DAVE: It is fishing by far, with trout fishing being the favorite kind.

25 WHAT TYPE OF HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE AWAY FROM GOLF? **TREVOR:** I like to play music. My son Sam has a drum set and we play. My daughter plays piano. Also, when I get away by myself I like to brew beer. I'm a beer hobbyist.

DAVE: I have a lot of hobbies. My wife says I have too many – draw, paint, sketch, carve wood.

26 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE GOLF COURSE? **TREVOR:** Arcadia Bluffs

DAVE: I haven't played it in long time, but Black Forest at Wilderness Valley. It is very isolated and just a beautiful piece of property.

27 DO YOU HAVE A BUCKET LIST COURSE? **TREVOR:** Thinking about in Michigan, I want to play The Loop (at Forest Dunes) in the worst way.

DAVE: My wife and I will be married 30 years, and we are going to celebrate with a trip to Scotland. I would love to play any one of the courses the British Open is played on.

28 WHAT IS THE FAVORITE CLUB IN YOUR BAG? **TREVOR:** I have an old 52-degree Vokey wedge with oil can finish. I call it Trusty Rusty. I love it and pull it out all the time.

DAVE: My hybrid gets me out of a lot of trouble.

29 WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE? **TREVOR:** The family unit, my son, my daughter, my wife. They keep me honest. When they are around it is harder to grab a hoagie and find the couch.

DAVE: John Wooden, the basketball coach. I remember as a kid following UCLA basketball, and as I got older I learned more about him and his demeanor. He never yelled. He offered positive encouragement.

30 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT?

TREVOR: My favorite food is sushi. If you are ever Cadillac way, find the Clam Lake Beer Co. It has great food, lots of beer on tap and amazing burgers.

DAVE: I cook, and everybody, family and friends at least, like to have a Perch dinner at my house.

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

TREVOR: I'm a big Subaru fan. I drive one currently. But with the new things in technology, a Tesla Model X. It would cut down on gas.

DAVE: I was just joking about this. I don't care what people think. For its beauty and engineering a new Camaro – convertible please.

32 WHAT IS YOUR DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM? **TREVOR:** Jason, my boss, my dad (Bill Mills) and my golf buddy Dan (Heiss). We play a few times a year together in scrambles and we are pretty competitive. You always have a chance with that team. Some day we will win something. I don't know what.

DAVE: I will go with Seve Ballesteros, Fuzzy Zoeller for fun and Jack Nicklaus as my teammates.



MiGCSA Past President Jeff Holmes, CGCS again hosted the Western Spring Meeting this year.



MiGCSA President Dan Dingman welcomes Members and

2018 Spring Management Meetings

The 2018 education season started in Plymouth at The Inn at St. Johns on March 1st. More than 80 attendees made it to see another great lineup including Andy Staples, Staples Golf Design & Mike Kuhn, Michael Kuhn & Associates, Inc. on Irrigation: Where are we headed? Dr. Brandon Horvath, University of Tennessee on How do YOU design a fungicide program? and The Changing Face of Golf: Technology Tools for Saving Money & Increasing Fun at Your Operation, Geoff Corlett, President, TDI Golf, XGD Systems on Soil Water Management and finishing the day Fritz Seyferth, Principal and Founder FS/A www.team-fsa.com spoke about Managing a Multi-Generational Workforce.

The second of the three Spring Management Meetings was at Egypt Valley Country Club in Ada on March 16th. Much better weather greeted more than 80

members who attended to see Kyle Miller, BASF on Application Nozzle Technology for Today's Turf Professional, Mark Wilson, PGA on the USGA Proposed Rules of Golf Changes for 2019, Dr. Rick Latin, Purdue University on The Dollar Spot Dilemma & Current Topics in Turf Disease Control and finishing the day with Paul Jones, Steelcase, Manager Pricing and Incentives on Managing a multi-generational workforce.

The third and final meeting at Treetops on March 29th. The day started with Aaron Hathaway from MSU on New Trends in PGR Use, Wayne Kukuk a Geologist from MDEQ Drinking Water & Municipal Assistance, Where Does my Water go? Fritz Seyferth, Principal and Founder FS/A www.team-fsa.com on Managing a Multi Generational Workforce and finally we were able to see Jon



thanks the 2018 Industry Partners at the Detroit Spring Meeting.

Scott from Jack Nicklaus Design speak about Travels with Jack. Also at this meeting was another great technician track thank to Dave Ertl at Traverse City G&C.C. Thank you to Dean Morrison of Jacobsen / Textron who spoke about The Jacobsen Eclipse 322 Hybrid Technology. And the “Jacobsen Tru-Set” cutting unit head. Bill Stone from JW Turf/John Deere on Factors Affecting Cut Quality. Gary Blanchard with Schaffer Oil Products and John Garlets, Toro/ Spartan on Sprayers of the Present.



Another successful Northern Spring Meeting at Treetops Resort.

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First Green Field Trips Continue Around the Region

As the spring finally decided to show itself in Michigan, and much of the country, superintendents are off and running with the 2018 golfing season. Superintendents continued to take advantage of whatever it was Mother Nature threw at them, with many of you using the frost mornings completing fall projects, training staff, and working on the maintenance facilities to be even more productive this season. 2018 GCSAA programs and initiatives are also off and running.

GCSAA and the First Green Foundation have officially come to an agreement which will see the First Green come under the umbrella of the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG). If you're unfamiliar with the First Green, it is a tax-exempt nonprofit, which utilizes innovative STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education using golf courses as hands-on environmental learning labs, which is the only program of its kind. The First Green originated in the Pacific Northwest in 1997, and offers extensive resources for golf course superintendents, including online lesson plans, tips on connecting with schools, and information about hosting a field trip at your course.

Golf course superintendents and industry representatives host students on field trips to teach on a variety of topics. I have been fortunate to be involved in a handful of field trips across the region, which offer the superintendent and golf course to connect with students, teachers and the community. Field trips can last anywhere from a couple hours, to a half-day. Typically, there are a handful of learning stations setup on the golf course where students rotate through during their time on the course. Sample stations may include:

- **Soil Science**
- **Area and Volume Measurement**
- **Golf Course Maintenance Technology**
- **Environmental Stewardship**
- **Chipping, putting and golf course etiquette**



Shane Conroy

These are just a few suggestions, as you can put your own spin on the field trip and incorporate areas of the course which are unique to your property. Recent field trips have included rain gardens, pollinator environments, geocaching activities, and even a bald eagle nest.

The agreement with the First Green will offer superintendents the ability to reach students of all ages and communicate the benefits of our profession and great game. It allows the opportunity to connect with the local community to highlight the environmental stewardship superintendents demonstrate on a daily basis, and the positive attributes golf courses bring to the area. Many of the students involved in these field trips have never stepped foot on a golf course or swung a club. Hosting First Green field trips are a great way to introduce students to the field of golf course management, and the game of golf.

First Green field trips are just another tool in the toolbox superintendents can use to be community leaders. It allows superintendents and industry representatives to educate the public on the benefits golf courses bring using first hand examples, and be part of the active community; all while inspiring the next generation of superintendents and golfers.



GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Michigan Wee One Fundraiser Outing

Soggy weather may have put a damper on this year's Michigan Wee One fundraiser outing, held May 14th at Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville but it didn't diminish from the purpose of the event - to raise money for the benevolence organization that assists families of golf course maintenance professionals who have suffered a catastrophic illness and need financial assistance. Since its inception in 2004, the Wee One Foundation has helped more than 80 families in 27 different states with contributions exceeding \$1 million. The Michigan fund raising initiative was started in 2010 and has raised more than \$250,000.

After receiving nearly 4" of rainfall the previous two days, the golf outing was reduced to an optional "walking only" event. A number of golfers opted to walk the course in order to get a look at the recent renovation work of Architect Andy Staples, who attended the event.

"We really worked hard to think about the details you can only see walking," tweeted Staples.

"Walking Meadowbrook was surprisingly easy considering the beautiful up and down terrain," said Scott Rettmann (Walnut Creek CC) who walked the event with fellow superintendents Ross Miller (Country Club of Detroit) and Eric Davey (Prestwick Village CC). "Jared and his team did a great job getting the course ready after all the heavy rains that preceded the event."

Many thanks go to the following members of the management team at Meadowbrook Country Club for their assistance in hosting the event:

- Superintendent - Jared Milner
- Assistant Superintendents - Andy O'Haver and Nick Freeman
- Controller - David Niner
- Golf Pro - Mark Stevens
- Golf Services Manager - Jeff Coleman
- Executive Chef - Mark Dixon
- Events Manager - Donna Collier
- Food & Beverage Manager - Amie Bobinac
- Membership Services Manager - Jamie Lee

Meadowbrook Country Club has graciously offered rain checks for those who signed up for the event but opted not to walk. Rain checks will be honored on selected Mondays after 11 a.m. Contact golf course superintendent Jared Milner at (248) 413-7818 for more information.

Lastly, thanks to the team of volunteers who work behind the scenes to make the Michigan event a success: The volunteer team Steve Cook of Medinah CC, Bonnie Van Poppelen and Andy Gianino of Oakland Hills CC, Scott Rettmann of Walnut Creek CC, Jeff Fisette of St. Clair Golf Club, and Mike Plague of Great Lakes Turf, LLC.

The 2019 Michigan Wee One fundraiser will be held May 20th at Franklin Hills Country Club. To learn more about the Wee One Foundation or to make a contribution, visit www.weeone.org.



May 14, 2018

Meadowbrook Country Club | Northville, Michigan
Hosted by Jared Milner, Superintendent

Welcome to Meadowbrook Country Club and thank you for participating in our fundraiser for the Wee One Foundation.

About The Wee One Foundation

THE CORE PURPOSE

The Wee One Foundation exists as a tribute to Wayne Otto to provide financial support to members of the golf course maintenance industry due to financial hardship.

STATEMENT OF VALUES

The Wee One Foundation is a friend to the people of the golf maintenance industry, building community and providing unconditional support.

Special thanks to our sponsors!

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***For those of you that came to the event and Chose to take a rain check, please contact Jared Milner. There are some Mondays available after 11am. No tee times before 11:00am. Mondays that do not work (outings) are June 4th, June 25th, July 16th, August 20th, September 10 and September 17th and any holidays. Use by December 31st, 2018. They can either call me or email Jared at 989-413-7818 or jmilner@meadowbrookcountryclub.com. Food and beverage will NOT be available.*

Thank you to Dan Dingman, Steve Hammon, Rob Steger, CGCS and Brian Mavis for donating to the 2018 MiGCSA matching contribution. A check for \$1,150 was presented to the Wee One matching the \$575 in Member donations.



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"Turfheads"

The beginning of an era

BY KYLE BARTON

What better way to create camaraderie among associates in the turf industry, then combining a group of like individuals with one of America's pastimes. A Superintendents fantasy football league has been something I have talked about trying to do for a few years now. The goal behind this was to get to know people in our industry better. In 2017, enough interest was generated and the concept was finally coming together. With the mission of creating a 12 team league, we pulled together the last few teams to launch the inaugural season of the "Turfheads" fantasy football league. The league was pretty diverse this year, composed of 5 Superintendents, 2 Assistant Superintendents, 2 Sales Representatives, 2 MSU Turf Students, and 1 Turf Wife.

We decided to have a draft party rather than drafting online. I felt like this would make it more personal and be much more fun. The draft was hosted by my wife and me, which included plenty of adult beverages and a nacho bar. The draft lasted around 4 hours. In that time there was little to no turf talk, which never happens when you have that many turf

professionals in one room. This just speaks to the competitiveness of the league.

While at the MTF in January we were reflecting on the league. We shared plenty of behind the scene stories and events that transpired, as well as defended our questionable trades throughout the season. It provided a personal connection between each participant involved. I considered myself a pretty lucky guy that my wife was willing to host 11 other turf guys at our house for the draft. Troy commented "your wife is so cool you're a lucky man". I asked why that was. He said ... "she was a perfect host until 5 minutes before the draft when I asked her for a beer." She

politely responded "I'm sorry, I'm done hosting you know where they are, get it yourself. I have to finish prepping for my draft." We couldn't stop laughing. She may have been the most competitive person in the league and was very disappointed in her 3rd place finish. This recap story and plenty others, truly extended the value of the league and the bonds formed fall of 2017.

Draft/Season Recap

League Champion - The winner of the 2017 Turfheads league, with 2 major upsets in the playoffs was Fantasy Madden Curse (Kyle Scherlinger). As a 15



point underdog in the semi finals, Fantasy Madden Curse was able to be victorious due to an Antonio Brown (Robert's Bar Tab) calf injury. The finals came down to a Monday night nail biter. "Fantasy Madden Curse" playing "Zeke will Hoist the Cup" and again he was an 11 point underdog. Separated by just 0.86 points, Zeke will Hoist the Cup had one last player available to play. The choice was between Ajayi, Lynch and Crabtree, and Crabtree was rostered.

Sealing his second place fate, Crabtree put up a big fat O, and Fantasy Madden Curse was crowned 2017 "Turf Heads" league champion.

A few awards were created for the league participants whose influence and impact will be remembered through this amazing experience.

The Oracle Award - Troy Evans

You've spent countless hours analyzing every player under the sun, trying to nail down who the sleepers are and who the busts are. Surprise! You drafted all the busts. How could you not have seen this coming?

The William Shatner Award - Kyle Barton

He's got the offer you can't refuse. He seduces you with points already earned and future earning potential. He'll provide you with charts and a slideshow if he has to. He's the "Price-Line Negotiator." Even if it's a bum deal, you inevitably buy into what he's selling. You're an Eskimo, and he just sold you snow.

The Phil Mickelson Award - Ryan Moore

Want to bet? How about a 6 pack? This award goes to the player who placed the most side bets during the season.

Jim Harbaugh Award (Best Draft) - Kate Barton

Expectation can be cruel, free of facts, fodder for the second-guessers. Thus this team did not live up to the hype.

Sleeper of the draft - Mark Galbrith

Galby snags Alvin Kamara for \$2 who ends up being the 3rd highest scoring RB for the year. Great pick buddy glad you thought of him all on your own...

I want to thank everyone who was a part of the first "Turfheads" fantasy football season. It was great to get to know everyone better on a personal level. The camaraderie throughout the season as well as post season has been amazing. This league will certainly continue and am looking forward to even a more memorable 2018 season. If you wish to join us, please reach out to me at kdbarton@tamoshantercc.org or on Twitter at @bartonkyled.

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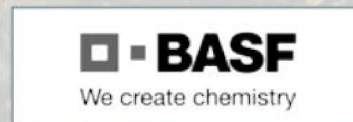


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My Visit to GCSAA HEADQUARTERS

BY ROB STEGER, CGCS MIGCSA SECRETARY/TREASURER

In mid-March I was able to visit GCSAA Headquarters as part of my duties as Secretary/Treasurer for the MiGCSA. I was assured that the Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium at GCSAA Headquarters was a worthwhile endeavor. When Adam Ikamas called me to ask if I would be able to attend, I immediately said yes then began to think about the reasons I shouldn't go. What if we are open during that time frame? Shouldn't I be working with my staff to get the course ready? What if I am not there and a decision about opening or remaining closed needs to be made? As Superintendents I think we are control freaks and worry-ers by nature. These traits can be help us to produce great golf courses, but sometimes cause us to miss outstanding growth opportunities. In the end, I was committed; it was a short trip, we were leaving Monday afternoon and I would be home Wednesday evening.

For those of you who know me, I can be a bit of a skeptic and have never been afraid to voice my opinion when I think things could be done better. I haven't always thought the GCSAA was doing everything right, it is easy to be a critic; much harder to get involved and be

a part of the solution. I think that voicing your opinion(s) on a subject is a good thing. I also think that if you are willing to speak up about things you don't like, you had better be willing to get involved and be a part of the solution. It was this very mindset that made it impossible for me to say "no" when Phil Owen called me a few years ago to ask about getting involved with the Michigan Chapter of the GCSAA.

We flew into Kansas City, Missouri on Monday March 12th. Adam and I made the 45-minute drive to Lawrence, Kansas and checked into a hotel. We took a few minutes to unpack and went to meet three Chapter Executives and two Superintendents for dinner. The first thing that struck me while having dinner with these gentlemen is passion. This theme of passion would carry throughout the next day and a half.

The next morning, we all made our way to GCSAA headquarters. Adam made sure that I got the obligatory picture with the Old Tom Morris statue outside the front door and we went inside to learn about what the GCSAA has been working on and needs our help with. New board members of the GCSAA were also on property for an intense two-day orientation that is required when coming onto the GCSAA board. GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans was the first to speak. This was my first time listening to him, we have all seen him at GIS or in a picture at the Masters or being interviewed on the Golf Channel; this was my first opportunity to hear him in person. The passion he has for what we do was evident immediately, the other thing that struck me was his respect for what every one of us get up and do on the golf course each day. Rhett spoke about the four things that every successful company has in common: Strategy, Execution, Culture and Structure.

Instead of giving a play by play of the agenda, I think I'll touch on the things that the GCSAA is working on that stood out the most to me.

Bringing More People into the Business

The GCSAA knows that finding good people that want to pursue turf as a career is a challenge for all of us. The use of Future Farmers of America (FFA) to possibly fill this void was discussed. The First Green program was also discussed. The push for STEM type learning in our schools has opened an opportunity for us as Superintendents to work with our local schools to offer some math and science type learning field trips at our golf courses. The idea is to bring students to the course and do some experiments using both math and science. It could be using a stimpmeter to determine the average speed or showing students how to use a soil sieve. This program has a lot of potential for the students and for our industry. The chance to give back while getting positive public relations for your golf course and bringing a few students into turf is a win, win, win for the industry.

Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG)

I didn't know much about the EIFG prior to my visit to headquarters. I'm sure you have all seen the box that you can check for a voluntary donation to the EIFG on your membership renewals, but what exactly do they do (other than collect donations). The EIFG provides funding and resources to support research, education, and environmental programs. Whether it is sending Superintendents (who normally wouldn't have to opportunity) to the Golf Industry Show through the Melrose Leadership Academy or training future Golf

Course Superintendents through the Excel Leadership Program, the EIFG does a lot.

The GCSAA is Here to Help Us

As I mentioned earlier, the common theme I saw in every person involved with the GCSAA is passion. In my experience passion isn't something that can be faked. You either have it, or you don't; it's that simple. The staff at headquarters exuded passion for our industry and they are here to help us. When is the last time you have called headquarters with a problem? A few weeks ago, I called headquarters to inquire about the Equipment Manager Certificate program. I was put in contact with Diana Kern who answered my questions. The conversation didn't end until she was sure I had every answer I needed. If you are on social media I am sure you have noticed the work ethic of Shelia Finney and the creative contests she has started to engage the membership. I learned Shelia is a former Superintendent, she brings a lot to the table and has a passion for service to the GCSAA membership. The next time you have an issue or questions about the GCSAA, pick up the phone; you won't be disappointed.

"Golf Course Superintendents are the franchise players of their facilities" - Henry DeLozier

Henry DeLozier from Global Golf Advisors had this to say about Golf Course Superintendents during his talk about being "Servant Leaders". I think it is a great analogy and is a very true statement. Each property

has a team of individuals whose job is to provide the best golf experience to their members/guests. Every person on the team is extremely important, but the Superintendent is the franchise player of the team. The franchise player has zero shot of being successful without other players/resources around him/her to help achieve the team goals, but without the franchise player a team will struggle to compete against more talented teams regardless of how hard they "try".

"Don't worry about what people think about you, because guess what... they aren't thinking about you" - Chad Carden

This quote from Chad Carden, Founder of the Carden Group really rang home for me. How many of us choose not to try something new that is outside our comfort zone because we are worried about what others will think about us if it doesn't go well? In the end, other people think about us much less than we think they do; so, try something new, in the end it will make you a better person. My trip to GCSAA Headquarters was an eye-opening experience. My vision of a bunch of people getting paid salaries that didn't really care about us was dispelled. My eyes were opened to the fact that the people in Kansas care about us and want to help us and our industry be successful. I am very thankful for this opportunity and know that I will be a better Superintendent and MiGCSA Board of Director because of it.

Rob Steger, CGCS



Thanks for asking, quite a bit actually.

In the fall of 2016 the MiGCSA Board of Directors approved a total overhaul of the chapter website at www.migcsa.org. This was a needed change to be more mobile and member friendly. After much research and discussion, the relationship with our longtime website service provider Gaslight Media in Petoskey was renewed and a budget of \$18,000 was approved. Work began with the formation of the Website ad hoc committee lead by Chairman Jesse Shaver from Gull Lake Country Club and Western District MiGCSA Board Member. Joining Jesse on the committee was fellow MiGCSA Board Member Jeff Hopkins from Muskegon Country Club, Past MiGCSA President Steve Hammon, Traverse City C.C., Country Club of Detroit Superintendent Ross Miller, Eric Davey from Prestwick Village and Adam Garr from Gold Industry Partner Sygenta. Thank you for all of your work on this important investment in the MiGCSA and our members.

A few of the new and improved features are mainly housed in the members only area. Once you are logged in there is a complex invoicing system and the ability to save your credit card to your account. This will make membership renewal and event registration a breeze with just a few click of a button on your phone or computer. We also now have a much easier auction interface for the items

and services donated each month by our Industry Partners. Make sure you also check out our new online store and the multitude of MiGCSA logo products that can be purchased easily online and delivered to your door. Of course, with any new website there are some bumps in the road and a few bugs in the system that we will be finding and correcting as we get into the daily use by

What's New?

you the members. Please let me know at info@migcsa.org if you find some areas that are outdated or not working correctly. This is the main hub of activity for management of the chapter and for membership interaction and a significant investment of chapter resources, and another example of how important the support of our Industry Partners is from our members. Please remember to support the companies that support you and thank them for helping us fund this state of the art website.

One other new thing you may notice on the website and in other areas is a new official chapter logo. The GCSAA is trying to bring some more cohesive branding and marketing of Golf Course Superintendents and to help promote the profession. Part of this is their hope to help strengthen the brand recognition of their logo. One thing I often talk about is the us and them concept with GCSAA. The MiGCSA is an Affiliated Chapter of the GCSAA, we are not an independent separate group, we are a part of the GCSAA. This is a very good thing as anyone who has visited HQ can attest they are the best resource in the world for Superintendents. Check out page 52 and 53 for our Rob Steger, CGCS our Secretary/Treasurer's take on this to maybe better understand what is going on in Lawrence. The hope from GCSAA is for all chapters to eventually incorporate their logo into the chapter logos to form that more cohesive brand and message. The board approved a very similar logo to the one many other chapters are now using while still incorporating our very popular mitten logo which is the one we use on all of our marketing material and products.

As always please let us know if there is something you need or have seen in other areas that we can do to further our mission to provide value to our members through programs and services that enhance and promote our profession and have a great summer.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS
MiGCSA Executive Director

The original MiGCSA logo from 2008



The new MiGCSA logo





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