

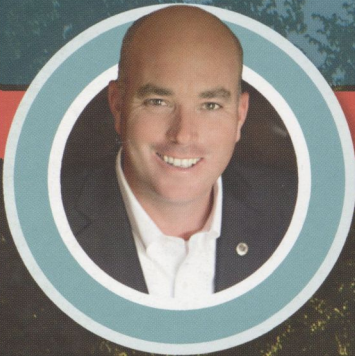


COURSE

Conditions

SPRING 2019

Quarterly Publication of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association



FEATURE SUPERINTENDENT

Jeff Sweet, CGCS
Bucks Run Golf Club
2019 President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FEATURE: CLIPVOL, easier and more useful than expected

Industry Partner Profile: Brad Fry, Sales Representative for Advanced Turf Solutions

Assistant Superintendent Profile: Matt Morley, Forest Dunes Golf Club

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18 Vice President at Bucks Run Golf Club: **Jeff Sweet**

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50 Assistant Superintendent at Forest Dunes Golf Club: **Matt Morley**

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, JUNE 2 - Northern Fundraiser
(Arcadia Bluffs - South Course, Arcadia)

MONDAY, JUNE 3 - Northern Fundraiser
(Arcadia Bluffs - South Course, Arcadia)

THURSDAY, JUNE 6 - Legislative Golf Day
(Capitol Building, Lansing)

JUNE 10 - 16 - Meijer LPGA Classic
(Blythefield C.C., Belmont)

**THURSDAY, JUNE 21 - LaFontaine Outing/
Mid Golf Event** (Coyote Preserve, Fenton)

JUNE 24 - 30 - Rocket Mortgage Classic
(Detroit Golf Club, Detroit)

JULY 15 - 20 - Dow Great Lakes Bay Invitational
(Midland Country Club, Midland)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14 - MTF Field Day
(Hancock Turfgrass Center, East Lansing)

**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28 - MiGCSA State
Championship** (The Emerald, St. Johns)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 - Tuck Tate Championship
(True North G.C., Harbor Springs)

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 - MSU Student
Welcome Outing** (College Fields, Okemos)

SEPTEMBER 9 - 15 - The Ally Challenge, 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

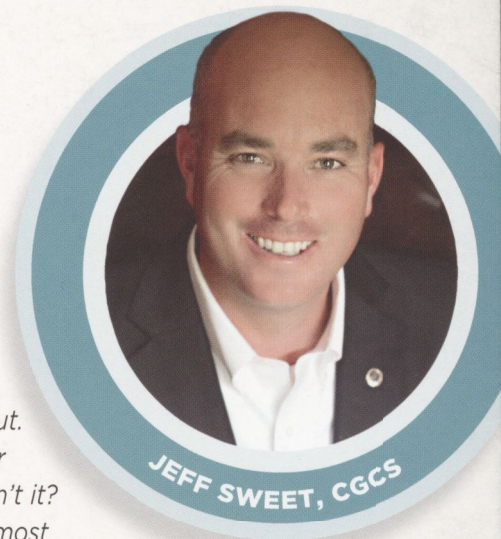
I was working for Bucks Run and Bud Fisher for a month or so, when my outlook on my chosen profession changed. Bud and I were discussing something, and I said, "I'm just the Superintendent", Bud looked at me perplexed as he exclaimed "Young man, you are never "just" anything!" I didn't mean anything self-deprecating when I said "just", it just came out. But think about that word for a minute, now replace it with "a" or "the" your head lifts a bit higher when you say "a" or "the", doesn't it? Bud looks at every employee across his many companies as the most important person on his team. That is the Fisher culture. Everyone needs to be the best and do their best and you can't do that by being "just" something. You are not just a Superintendent, just an Assistant, just an Equipment Technician or just a Salesperson. You are the Superintendent, the Assistant, the Equipment Technician, the Salesperson that keeps the 4.2 Billion Dollar Michigan Golf economy humming along every day, year after year.

From that day forward, I never looked at my position with Bucks Run as "just" anything, I was The Superintendent and I was damn proud of that. That five-minute conversation gave me the confidence that I needed, and I never looked back. As a Superintendent, our responsibilities are wide ranging; human resources, environmental regulations, budgeting, pay roll, OSHA regulations, safety, proper employment practices, project management, all while we maintain some of the most beautiful courses in the world. Your skills are many and can cross-over to other areas of the operation such as General Manager, Club House Operations, Facility Management, just to name three. You have the skills to do many things well, and the MiGCSA is here to support you through education, networking, government relations and public relations.

In recent years, the MiGCSA has gained a seat at many tables within Michigan's Golf Industry. The GAM, Michigan Golf Alliance, Michigan Golf Course Owners and PGA are organizations where the MiGCSA has a positive presence. Our Executive Director, Adam Ikamas, attends most meetings and events across the state with allied organizations. Adam is almost always accompanied by a MiGCSA Board Member or Committee Member. The MiGCSA is out advocating for YOU every day and you should take some comfort and a whole lot of pride in that. I know I do.

Dan Dingman was a great President and a great representation of what a President of this great organization should be. He is a Superintendent, a professional that is well respected by the members and staff at Birmingham Country Club. I am grateful for his leadership this past year and his positive impact on MiGCSA. On behalf of all the members, Dan, thank you for your service and your continued service as Immediate Past President.

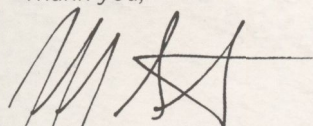
I am very humbled to be your President, and I will work hard for each member of our association. I'm not lost on the fact that I have some big shoes to fill; not only Dan's, but every President that has led MiGCSA. They have all had a positive impact on your association. Our association has grown and made positive impressions across the state and country, and other associations look to us as a model of how to do things right.



My goal for this year is simple. Promote THE members of MiGCSA. Promote to people I meet, promote through top tier educational programming for our members and continue to be a strong voice within Allied Associations. "The MiGCSA is dedicated to providing value to our members through programs and services that enhance and promote our profession." I am dedicated to our mission statement and each Board member is, as well. Every decision as a board is based on this mission statement, and we are The MiGCSA; the best damn association in Michigan and the Country. Being the best isn't possible without your continued support and the strong support of our Industry Partners. Our Industry Partners make it possible to provide our members with affordable events and education. Take a minute out of your busy day to thank an Industry Partner.

Here's to a great spring start up and a nice transition to summer. If you ever need anything from me, please feel to reach out, and as always, make it a great day!

Thank you,



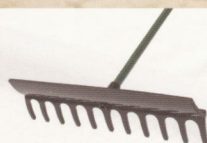
Jeff Sweet, CGCS



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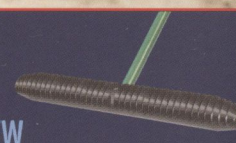
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Measuring clipping volume is easier and more useful than I expected

BY MICAH WOODS

It would be a stretch to call something a revolution if everyone was already doing it. And turfgrass managers the world over have always paid attention to how much the grass is growing and how many clippings are in the baskets. So I don't call the measurement of clipping volume a revolution, but I have found the information incredibly useful. That's how I usually describe clipping volume: a surprisingly easy thing to do that provides incredibly useful information.

I never thought I'd write a book about grass clippings. But last December, I did just that, publishing *One Bucket at a Time* (www.asianturfgrass.com/buckets) to put together a lot of things I've written about this topic. If you are interested in this, please see the book for a lot more details and links to additional information. The #ClipVol hashtag has a lot of information about this too.

When I first learned about clipping volume, I was working as a superintendent in Japan almost 20 years ago, and I didn't think much of it. It was just a number to collect, but not something that I used for anything, other than perhaps to notice that there was a lot of grass growing, then to pat myself on the back because we were producing some healthy turf.

My recent interest in clipping volume started in 2013. That spring, Andrew



Figure 1. Emptying the mower basket into a bucket with volume markings. This bucket is graduated in liters.

McDaniel started working as the greenkeeper at Keya Golf Club in Fukuoka, in the western part of Japan. As is customary at many courses in Japan, the volume of clippings in the baskets was recorded each time the greens were mown (Figure 1).

While the measurement of clippings is common in Japan, there are a few uncommon things about the course maintenance at Keya. One is that they have a foreign greenkeeper. Another is that the greens are korai (manilagrass, or *Zoysia matrella*). Keya also hosts a tournament on the Japan men's professional tour every year, the KBC Augusta tournament during the last week of August. Because Andrew is at Keya, it was easy for me to learn about the maintenance there. And the korai and the tournament are a challenging combination; dormant korai makes a fast putting surface during the six months from November to April when it isn't growing. But the last week of August? That's when korai is growing the fastest, and this is a grass that is notorious for moderate speeds; a couple years ago I summarized 72 stimpmeter measurements I've made from korai greens around Asia under non-tournament conditions during the growing season—the median speed was 7 feet 8 inches. Now Andrew was going to host a professional tournament on greens of this grass.

This is a story I've told a lot when I've taught seminars about clipping volume. How Andrew and I knew going into the summer of 2013 that golf balls don't roll as far across a korai surface as they do across bentgrass or bermudagrass or *Poa annua* greens; how Andrew was going to try to produce the best possible greens for the tournament by cutting the grass as short as possible, rolling, using growth

regulators, and reducing nitrogen (N) fertilization. We didn't know what the speed would be, but we had a laugh and hoped for the best. The greens during the tournament in 2013 were beautiful (Figure 2), the korai grass was thriving in the late August heat, the ball rolled true, and the speed during the tournament gradually increased from 9 feet to 9 feet 6 inches. That's not incredibly fast, but it is fast for korai greens in Japan in August, so everyone was happy.

After the tournament, however, Andrew and I noticed something as we reviewed the data from the week. The clipping volume was going down during the tournament week, dropping a little bit every day, and the green speed was going up a little bit every day. It was apparent that when less clippings were being mown off the korai greens, there was a faster green speed. So when Andrew started planning for the 2014 tournament, he now had a target clipping volume—he would try to start the 2014 tournament week at the clipping volume he'd had at the end of the 2013 tournament week. He did that, and in 2014 the green speeds were from 9 feet six inches to 10 feet.

That's the story of how I got interested in clipping volume. After that, I started looking carefully at clipping volume. I realized there was a practical use for it, at least for the case of the korai greens at Keya. And there would probably be a similar use for clipping volume at other places. Then as I started looking at clipping volume data more often, and asked other greenkeepers in Japan, and eventually around the world, to share clipping volume data with me, I found a number of other uses for the data. Here's how clipping volume works and what it is all about.



Figure 2. Greenkeeper Andrew McDaniel using the Greenstester on a korai putting green at Keya GC during the 2013 KBC Augusta tournament week.

Units of measure

When putting greens are mown, the clippings are usually collected in a basket. That basket needs to be emptied. The mower operators pay attention to how often the baskets need emptied, and the operator or a supervisor may check how many times the baskets have been dumped, or may have a look at a handful of clippings to check the cut quality and the color and the succulence of the leaves. That's standard practice, and I expect everyone in the world is paying attention to clippings like that, but the idea of putting a number to the volume of clippings has been less common.

Remember though, the baskets need to get emptied anyway. It takes about 30 seconds per empty, or with a triplex, about 90 seconds, to empty the clippings into a measuring bucket and then record the volume. What I call the "standard" procedure for measuring volume is to empty the clippings into a bucket or tub with graduated volume markings on it. After the clippings are in this measuring container, hit the side of the container a few times, or hit the container onto the ground a few times; the purpose of this is to make the clippings bounce a little and then to let gravity settle them; one also does this to try to smooth the clippings across the top of the container. If the clippings aren't smooth enough, use your hand to make them smooth, but don't press down to compress the clippings. Then record the volume of the clippings.

On a computer somewhere, the surface area of the mown green or greens is embedded in a file. The operator may put the volume data into a file from a phone immediately, while still out on the course, or the data may be added to a file later. And then the numbers of volume as measured out

on the course get converted into a standard of volume per area.

Now, instead of "one empty every three greens," or "we didn't get many clippings today," one has a specific number. And what are the units of that specific number? I like to use milliliters per square meter (mL/m^2), and I recommend that everyone else does as well. What's the advantage of this? Well, those units almost always produce a volume more than 0 and less than 100 (Figure 3). That's an ideal range of numbers to work with, and one does not need to use decimal points, nor does one need to make adjustments for 100 m^2 or $1,000 \text{ ft}^2$.

When I started doing this I was using units of liters per 100 m^2 . That's a number $1/10^{\text{th}}$ the size of the mL/m^2 unit I use now, so instead of a typical clipping volume of $13 \text{ mL}/\text{m}^2$, it is reported as $1.3 \text{ L}/100 \text{ m}^2$. One ends up with decimal points every time the number is thought about or communicated. Then during tournament conditions, one might get $7 \text{ mL}/\text{m}^2$ from a double cut. Notice there are no decimal points. But in the old units I used to use, that comes to $0.7 \text{ L}/100 \text{ m}^2$. Again, decimal points. To avoid the decimal points, I suggest using mL/m^2 . As an aside, 1 quart per 1000 ft^2 is about the same as 1 L per 100 m^2 . But again, there are decimal points.

Now if you haven't done this yet, and these numbers sound ridiculous, I have to point out that when people are doing this, they actually aren't looking at the mL/m^2 so much. That unit is used for reporting and for communication and comparison. But on a day to day basis, people look at the volume. Let's say it is liters. I know that a clipping volume of less than 5 liters from the 9th green at Keya GC means the green is growing at just the right rate for a golf tournament. The people mowing the 9th green every day know that too. So does the greenkeeper. That's the number that we look at. How many liters (which means "how much volume") did we get off this green today? Eventually, after that number goes into a spreadsheet or database, the area of the green will be accounted for, and the clipping volume comes out at $8 \text{ mL}/\text{m}^2$. Or less. 5 L from the 9th green at Keya is $8 \text{ mL}/\text{m}^2$.

For a single property, looking just at volume works fine, and that is what one tends to look at. The volume for a green is measured every day, from that one can tell if the volume is normal or abnormal, and if it is abnormal something should be checked. It is only in the data analysis and communication of this that the mL/m^2 units get used.

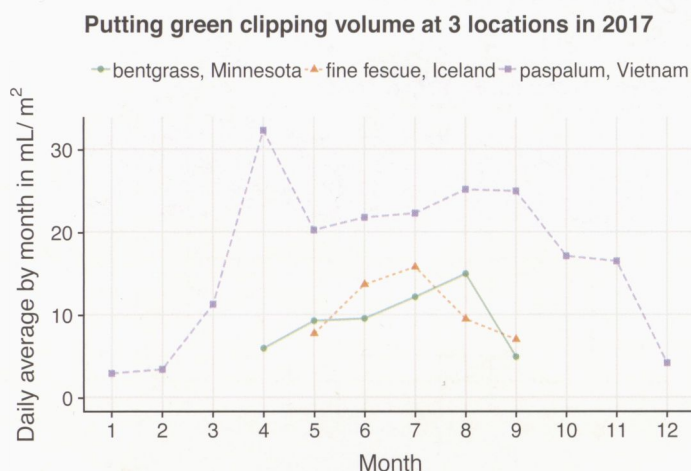


Figure 3. The average daily clipping volume, shown on a monthly basis during calendar year 2017, for fine fescue in Iceland, seashore paspalum in Vietnam, and creeping bentgrass in Minnesota.

Machine consistency, and green to green consistency

It is customary to note which machine is mowing certain areas of the course. Sometimes there are differences between machines. The clipping



volume measurement often catches these differences that one wouldn't otherwise notice.

When clipping volume measurements start at a facility, one of the first things that gets noticed is any differences between machines. At Keya Golf Club, the extra mowers that came on loan for use during the tournament were the identical model to the mowers used by the club. But when one of the loaned machines would cut a green, it was removing twice the clipping volume as the club's own machine, despite being set up by the same mechanic a discrepancy was found, because of the clipping volume data, the mechanic found that the loaned machines had larger diameter reels, because they hadn't been ground as much as the club's reels.

There are also differences in growth from green to green. Knowing what those differences are might lead to differential management that could lead to improved turfgrass conditions. Or at least to a better understanding of why turf in one area is growing so well, and why another area struggles.

Playability

As I mentioned, my initial interest in clipping volume was related to playability. The greens at Keya were faster when there was a lower clipping volume (Figure 4). To try to achieve predictable green speeds for specific events, it makes sense to know what the target clipping volume is, and then to take steps to achieve that.

Dr. Bill Kreuser has measured a lot of green speed and clipping mass, and he has a large data set that shows there is not a consistent relationship between clipping yield and green speed. There are a lot of other things that affect green speed besides how many clippings are in the basket. Effective mowing height is probably the most important of those.

But I appeal to common sense here, to demonstrate that clipping volume, on a broad scale, has a big impact on speed. This is especially clear for warm-season grasses. But it would be similar for cool-season grasses in spring and autumn. Let's take an ultradwarf bermudagrass green in the middle of winter when it is dormant, double cut it every day at 0.100 inches (2.6 mm) and roll it, and then measure the speed. The clipping volume will be 0, because it's the middle of winter and the grass is dormant. Now do this in mid-summer, the clipping volume will be greater than 0, because the grass is growing, and I'm confident that the speed in summer will be slower than the speed in winter. Wouldn't it be the same for creeping bentgrass? Double cut at 0.100 inchess for a week in late November, assuming there is no snow. Roll every day too. The clipping volume

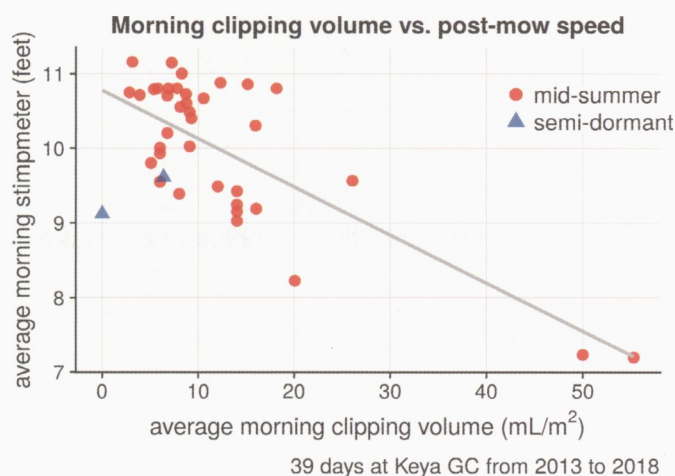


Figure 4. Data from measurements made over 6 years show that clipping volume is related to green speed at Keya GC. When more clippings are produced by the grass, the greens are slower.

will be low, approaching 0, because it is so cold the grass won't grow. This treatment in June would result in more clipping volume and a slower green speed, because the grass is growing.

Turfgrass performance

As I continued to think about and study clipping volume, I realized that this measurement can be used for a lot more than just green speed. Knowing how much the grass is growing gets to the very core of turfgrass management. In the first chapter of *A Short Grammar of Greenkeeping* (www.asianturfgrass.com/books), I wrote:

"No matter what grass is used, there is a simple concept that I find very important in the planning of golf course maintenance. It is a simple definition of the core principle in golf course maintenance or greenkeeping. The definition is this: greenkeeping is managing the growth rate of the grass to create the desired playing surface for golf. All of the work done to the turf is centered around managing how fast the grass will grow ... And the best golf course conditions will be created when the superintendent is able to create just the right growth rate."

If the turf is too thin, or can't withstand the traffic it receives, one will take steps to increase the growth rate. If the turf is growing too fast, then a lot of otherwise unnecessary work is required to produce the desired surfaces. In addition to extra mowing and whatever else is done to create the surface, one will generally try to reduce the growth rate as well. Knowing the clipping volume now, and how that compares to the desired clipping volume, can be really useful. Every turf manager knows the importance

of the growth rate. Having a number to describe the growth rate makes it easier to achieve the desired conditions (Figure 5).

Nutrient use and optimum nutrient supply

This is a topic I'm always interested in, and I've been fascinated by this ever since the late 1990s when I was a superintendent in Shanghai. I was growing cool-season grasses in a transition zone climate—to be more specific, I've just looked it up and the classification is 'humid sub-tropical'—and I wanted to be sure the grasses were supplied with all the nutrients they required, and to do so in a way that would optimize their tolerance against the various difficulties that ensue when growing bentgrass and bluegrass and ryegrass in fescue in a humid sub-tropical climate.

What does clipping volume have to do with nutrient use and optimum supply? Well, healthy grass has a known concentration of nutrients in it. If we know how much the grass is growing, we can instantly combine the growth number and the nutrient content of healthy grass and we have a maximum nutrient use. The optimum nutrient supply can then be that number—the maximum nutrient use—or something less than that. If we assume the soil supplies nothing, which you might want to do if it is mid-summer, the roots are shrinking, and one is scared that the grass can't get what is in the soil, then clipping volume can be used to get a number to resupply 100% of each nutrient the grass used. Or if one does a soil test and finds that the soil has enough to meet the plant requirements—I recommend using the minimum levels for sustainable nutrition (MLSN) as a particularly effective way to do this—then one can grow grass with confidence knowing that for the clipping volume happening right now, there remain enough nutrients in the soil to meet 100% of the grass requirements.

Resource use, and back to playability again

The best golfing surfaces are those that grow the slowest. There needs to be enough growth to recover from traffic damage, but that's all. Any growth beyond that is creating a need for mowing that otherwise wouldn't be required. Any growth beyond the amount required to recover from traffic damage is also producing organic matter that may need to be physically removed or diluted with sand topdressing.

I've noticed a couple things about the measurement of clipping volume that are related to this. One is that when a golf course superintendent measures the clipping volume, and at the same time tries to keep making the surfaces better and better, what often happens is a reduction in growth. It seems to me that as the manager gets more familiar with the property, and finds out how much the grass

needs to grow in order to produce the desired surfaces, some of the extra and unnecessary growth gets cut out.

Another thing I've noticed, is that if one works through the calculations of nutrient use from harvested clippings, the amounts are small. Let's say, for nitrogen at least, that my estimates of nutrient use from clipping harvest generally come in a little below the lower end of textbook ranges.

The implications of both of these things are that when clipping volume is measured, one might be able to reduce nutrient supply with confidence that the grass is still being supplied with all it can use. And more importantly, one may be able to produce better turf conditions while at the same time growing less grass. Better conditions are great. Growing less grass can be too. That might lead to lower topdressing requirements, less disruptive core aeration and less scarifying, less mowing, longer equipment life, lower greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy use, and less disruption to golfers.

I've written about all of these clipping volume things on my website, and a lot of this is in the book too. Some of this is fact, some is speculation, and many of these things are still being actively studied, tested, and updated. One thing is sure, though. I've been surprised at how useful these data have been to me. I've been surprised at how useful the data have been to turfgrass managers who measure the clipping volume. And if this way of managing turf makes sense to you, then I'm sure you'll find the same thing.

Micah Woods, Ph.D., scientist, consultant, author, world traveler, and founder of the Asian Turfgrass Center (www.asianturfgrass.com & [@asianturfgrass](https://twitter.com/asianturfgrass)), has conducted research and taught at seminars in more than 20 countries around the globe.

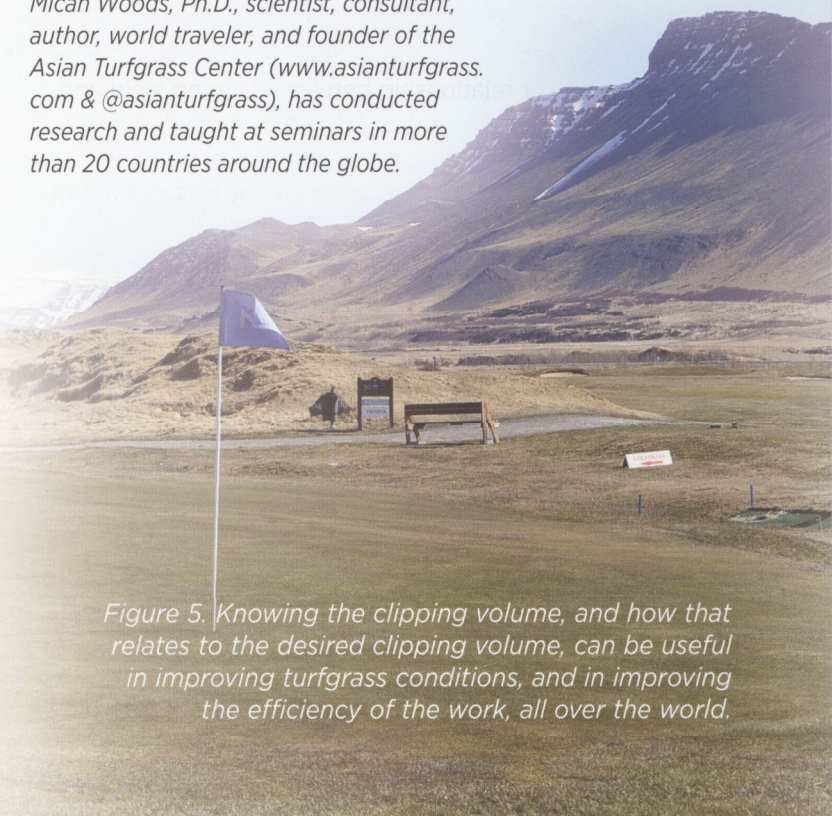


Figure 5. Knowing the clipping volume, and how that relates to the desired clipping volume, can be useful in improving turfgrass conditions, and in improving the efficiency of the work, all over the world.

THE WRENCH

By: Sam Holysz & Friends

Cart Path Edger

BY ROB STEGER, CGCS

We are always looking for ways to be more efficient. A cart path edger is a tool that we have always wanted but have found difficult to fit into the capital budget. The other day we decided to make one.

The design is simple, we took the pusher blade off the front of our bunker rake and mounted a disc coultter to the existing pusher blade frame. The disc coultter with hub was \$29, everything else was built from yard scrap. After discussing what we were building at the local agriculture equipment supplier, they suggested mounting the disc on a slight angle in order to push the cut sod onto the path separating it from the other turf.



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



The operator applies downward pressure to the handle while driving along the edge. We may add a 12-volt actuator which would apply the downward pressure allowing the operator to keep both hands on the wheel. The entire project took about 2 hours of fabricating, we made it quickly thinking there was a good chance it wouldn't work. Surprisingly, it works incredibly well. Our plan is to have one person run the edger while another blows the tailings and scrapes any grass stuck to the path.





What is a Club to Do?

BY RAYMOND HEARN, ASGCA

Most of us in the golf industry would agree that we are living a dream. We enjoy working in a field connected to one of sport's greatest games, and our playing field is a living entity that is beautiful that grows, breathes and changes all the time.

As any golf course architect understands, a great golf course superintendent makes our remodeling, restorations, renovations and new course designs shine. My company has been blessed in working with many great golf course superintendents in my home state of Michigan who understand the impact of change at a golf facility. Your efforts are always respected and greatly appreciated.

Golf courses and technology change despite what some club board members and owners believe. Golf courses evolve, golf course infrastructure is finite (i.e. it has a life cycle). Golf equipment (clubs, balls and maintenance machinery) has all significantly evolved. This is simply all part of the "change dynamic."

With the current uptick in the economy most golf course architects are busier than ever with remodeling/renovation and/or restoration master planning. I am proud to report that in Michigan, my company is master-planning improvements for a significant number of clubs. A common statement that begins most conversations with golf course superintendents goes like this: "My club has some funds that we would like to spend on master planning study or some design plans, but we are not Oakland Hills, Chicago Golf Club, Merion, etc." This question then typically follows: "So how is our money best spent?" Aside from explaining to them the benefits of a long-range master planning study for their entire golf course, I reveal what other clubs are currently requesting. The priority list behind most of our studies seem to involve the following most requested improvement plans:

1. Tree removal studies that help give superintendents more sun and air to grow healthier turf. Then explaining why more tree removal makes sense to

those members or owners who want to see more trees added.

2. Drainage studies that drive home the importance of adding drainage, drainage and more drainage to your golf course.
3. Re-grassing studies that aid a superintendent in decreasing water, fertilizer and pesticide usage.
4. Bunker studies that help eliminate the majority of a superintendent's late-night erosion nightmares.
5. Green renovation / remodeling or restoration plans. Green improvements are among the most expensive improvements, other than irrigation improvements, thus the reason for the surprising fifth-place ranking.
6. The list goes on.

In addition to helping clubs on the items listed above, there is the increased competition issue questions that most private clubs, resorts, public courses and municipalities face. More difficult questions arise such as:

1. How can we attract more members to our private club?
2. How can we increase occupancies and course play at our resorts?
3. How can we increase rounds at our public and municipal courses?

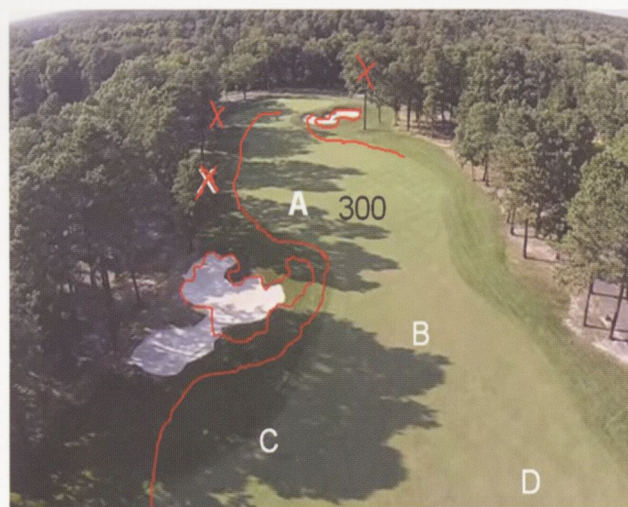
Some say the answer to questions like those listed above are simple – just drop your membership price or green fee and increase volume. We all know where this strategy leads to in most cases (course for sale or a course closed sign). When clubs struggle to increase revenue in a crowded and competitive market, problems just seem to get worse each year.

From our point of view in helping find answers to these more difficult questions, we focus on the golf course re-design, although there are other club amenities that can surely

amenity, i.e. your golf course. Small changes can create that spark your club lacks. Striving to add or move one tee, a single bunker, or move one fairway limit line – as simple as that sounds – creates great conversion and the word spreads especially if the change is well received. As a golf course architectural firm that specializes in this work, we can help you with these changes.

I agree that not many courses can compete with Oakland Hills, Chicago Golf Club, Merion etc. in terms of notoriety and budget to implement change, but each club can strive for one or a few changes each year that can create a positive energy that can translate into increased revenue to help grow your “bottom line.”

Be brave and dare! I urge superintendents to go ahead, suggest a change that impacts your course’s strategy, shot value and playability. You will be glad you did, and so will the members or patrons that keep your club in business all



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Article by Raymond Hearn, President & Founder of Raymond Hearn Golf Course Designs, Inc. Member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects (W) www.rhgd.com (O) 616-399-7686 (E) ray@rhgd.com



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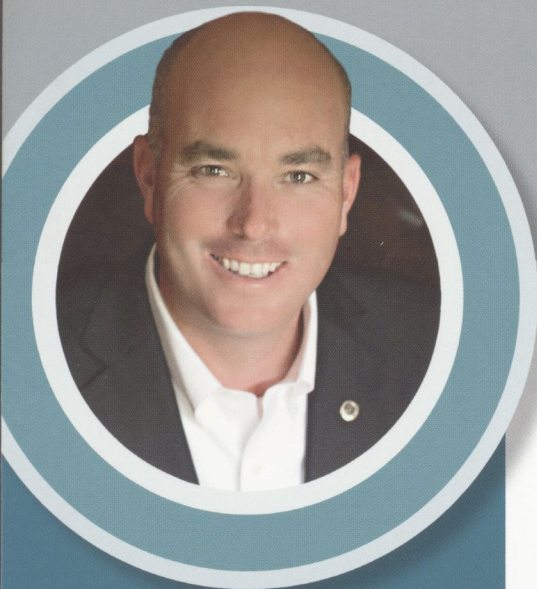


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Jeff Sweet

has been at Buck's Run in Mt. Pleasant for 20 years, and in golf and turfgrass since his teens. The native of Stockbridge is 45 and has been married to Melissa for 17 years. They have two daughters, Alexis, 10, and Ava, 9. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in crop and soil science from Michigan State University with an emphasis in Turfgrass Management.



JEFF Sweet

1 HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? I grew up on a farm in southeast Michigan and I wanted to work outside in a career. It was a small family farm and I didn't realize how big the agriculture field was at the time. Someone told me about managing a golf course as a possibility. I went to work at Barton Hills on the grounds crew for one season and I was hooked.

2 WHEN DID YOU DECIDE YOU WANTED GOLF TO BE YOUR CAREER? I had already enrolled at Michigan State in crop and soil science when I went to work at Barton Hills. That first year at Barton Hills showed me the direction I wanted to go. It was a beautiful place. I was involved in a lot of things and learned a lot.

3 WHAT COURSES YOU HAVE WORKED IN YOUR CAREER? I was at Barton Hills for one season, then one season at Pierce Lake for a grow-in, and when that opened, I went to Travis Pointe for a season as Second Assistant. Next

was Country Club of Lansing for two years right out of MSU. Then to Bucks Run as a Superintendent in 1999. I did the construction and grow-in and have been here ever since. In 2008 I was promoted to General Manager, and this past spring to Vice-President. Jon Conklin, our PGA Professional, is now the General Manager and we have a new Superintendent, Craig McKinley, a former Assistant. We are excited about what the future holds. My main responsibility now is project management for Fisher Transportation and over-seeing more big picture opportunities for the course. I couldn't be happier.

4 WHAT PART OF YOUR EDUCATION DID YOU USE THE MOST? I use just about everything, and I think what a college education does more than anything is teach you how to learn, how to use your analytical skills and think things through. Communication is also part of that. Ninety percent of what we do is dealing with people; customers, employees, members. You have to be able to communicate with them





effectively, and especially staff. What makes a good golf course great is a good staff, and to have that you have to communicate with them and motivate them.

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

I owe so much to MiGCSA through the education, networking and programs they provide. All that goes hand-in-hand with great communication. A lot of the education now is geared more toward the business end of the operation because a Superintendent is much more than a grass grower. That perception of 20 years ago just doesn't fit. Our Association is loaded with talented people and the MiGCSA has led the way with showing golfers how valuable an educated Superintendent is to the operation.

6 WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION?

The foundation does a great job. They provide research dollars to Michigan State for projects that directly impact

golf courses in the state. A lot of courses are positively impacted each year by the work and the funds they raise. Go to any course in the state, if they have a MiGCSA member in charge of the course, the course is in good hands. A lot of credit for that goes to the support from the research the foundation has funded, and the support they have given to Superintendents.

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

I've served on the MiGCSA Board of Directors, and now I'm serving as President. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything. It's been great getting the chance to help Superintendents in the state and work with our industry partners.

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

I volunteer, coach youth softball and basketball, and serve on the board of trustees at church. I really enjoy coaching my daughters, it's always fun. I'm also a grouse hunter, in the off season I'm usually working with my dogs

prepping for the next season. That is something I see myself doing well into retirement. I have two Wire Haired Vizslas, Oscar and Bert.

9 WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

The hardest part, and this has changed through the years, is finding qualified grounds staff. Their job is the toughest at the course, early mornings, weekends, rain, hot, cold you name it, it's a tough job, and a tough job to fill. Finding good people and keeping them is the hardest part of the job.

10 WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

Just being outside to work is great. I don't get a chance to do that as much anymore but being outside and seeing what our staff produces is great. Craig McKinley is our new Superintendent and I'm super excited to see what he does this year.

11 WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING GOLF?

Labor and costs are the biggest



7 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I was born on Halloween.
2. I was a Busy Beaver 4-H'er growing up and through High School.
3. I enrolled in the MSU Turf program before ever working on a course.
4. I secretly enjoy Kidz Bop music (don't tell my girls, they won't think it's cool anymore).
5. I'm a *Hunting Dog Podcast* junkie.
6. My two favorite things are coaching my daughters and the Michigan Grouse Woods.
7. I have the best wife a person could ever ask for (everyone that knows me, knows that though).

Listing 7 things instead of 5 is a perk of being President.

issues. We don't have a lot of people in the pipeline going to Michigan State or other schools for Turfgrass. Assistant Superintendent jobs are hard to fill currently, which means Superintendent jobs will be hard to fill down the road.

12 IS THERE RESEARCH YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED IN TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT? That's a tough one. I think continued work on better grasses so we can be better stewards of the land, use less water and less chemicals. I think we get better at it year-after-year, but I want research to keep looking for more opportunities for improvement.

13 WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS? Working with Fisher Companies, this has and continues to be the best place to call home. Bucks Run is a family-built golf course, and in 1999 they saw enough in me to hire me, and they have promoted me through the ranks. My goal is to continue to expand my role within Fisher Companies and be a key part in our continued growth.

14 HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED 100 YEARS FROM NOW? I hope my daughters and my wife remember me as somebody who loved them every day – just a good husband and father.

15 WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST IN YOUR TURFGRASS CAREER? Two people. John Seefeldt at Travis Pointe and Mark Magee of Country Club of Lansing, both recently retired. Both of those guys influenced how I manage golf courses, and I couldn't have had two better mentors in turfgrass.

16 WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU'VE LEARNED THAT YOU USE ALL THE TIME? Treat people with respect; I use that all the time.

17 HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF A SUPERINTENDENT IN A GOLF OPERATION? I'm a little biased but the Golf Course Superintendent is the most important person on property. They generally have the largest budget and maintain 100 to 400 acres of land. They have to be

well-versed in a lot of things, HR, budgeting, environmental regulations, stay on top of new research, and usually have a large staff maintain and lead.

18 WHAT PERCENTAGE OF TIME DO YOU DEVOTE TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT? It's 100 percent now.

19 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT? They are so important. They are a sounding board to the Superintendent, but they also get the work done, lead the staff day-to-day and complete projects. They are very important to the operation.

20 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE GOLF COURSE MECHANIC OR TECHNICIAN? They are probably the second-most important person on the staff at a golf course. They are usually in charge of all of the equipment, which is the largest investment a golf course makes, and they have to maintain it and keep it running. The mechanic is just as important to good playing conditions as the Superintendent.

A good cut, green speed it all goes back to the tech.

- 21** **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF GOLFERS WALKING VERSUS RIDING IN A CART TO PLAY?** Walking doesn't happen much anymore, but walking gives a golfer a different perspective and it can be just as fast or faster than riding in a cart. I think golfers get a new-found respect for a golf course when they walk it once a week. They get views and a perspective you can never get riding in a cart.

- 22** **WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE IN GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?** Not leaving the course in better shape than they found it. Ball marks, divots, cart traffic, trash.... If golfers had a little more respect for the courses they play it could make the game more affordable.

- 23** **WHAT OPINION DO YOU HAVE OF GREEN SPEEDS IN TODAY'S GAME?** I think it has kind of leveled out. It was a race to the fastest greens 10 years ago. I think now it has leveled to more realistic expectations. I think courses have found what their golfers want. The research at MSU has helped Superintendents provide what their golfers desire. I think in the end that is not so much fast greens, but a good consistent roll.

- 24** **DO YOU HAVE A HUMOROUS OR INTERESTING STORY YOU CAN SHARE FROM YOUR CAREER?** In my first season at Barton Hills I was a passenger in a utility cart. A good friend of mine who is now working for Huron Metro Parks was driving up a fairway. We came over a hill and right into a group of ladies. He took a sharp left to avoid them, but I

kept going straight. I went into a superman slide right to their feet. That was memorable.



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Winterkill and 'WinterTurf'

BY KEVIN FRANK

Winterkill has become an annual event that golf course superintendents struggle with every year across both North America and the Nordic countries in Europe. This year was no exception, numerous courses across northern Michigan suffered damage ranging from what some might deem inconsequential to so severe that greens may be delayed from opening for spring play. Anyone that follows social media has no doubt seen the level of devastation experienced by courses in the general Ottawa and Montreal region that appear all too similar to what Michigan experienced in 2013-2014. Clearly a greater understanding of winterkill issues is necessary to provide golf course superintendents with management, mitigation, and recovery strategies.

Initial conversations on winterkill research began among researchers in the north central region in the summer of 2014. These initial conversations ultimately resulted in a team of professors from seven universities (Iowa State, Univ. Massachusetts, MSU, Univ. Minnesota, Rutgers, Oregon State, and Univ. Wisconsin) and one country, Norway (Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research) submitting a proposal in May to the United States Department of Agriculture Specialty Crops Research Initiative grant program. The full title of our proposal is "WinterTurf: A holistic approach to understanding the mechanisms and mitigating the effects of winter stress on turfgrasses in northern climates." The proposal has six objectives ranging from monitoring conditions on golf greens in winter throughout North America and Nordic countries, to understanding the physiology of freezing stress, to breeding more cold tolerant grasses, to developing a winterkill warning application. One very unique aspect of our project has been to ask golf course superintendents to monitor winter conditions on 1 or 2 greens for 1 or 2 years. We had 139 golf course superintendents volunteer to assist us, including

20 from Michigan. The power of this citizen science effort can't be underestimated as this year the grant required a 1:1 dollar match, for every dollar we request we provide a dollar. The efforts of these superintendents will provide over \$640,000 worth of matching funds that will be used to support graduate students, research technicians, and post-doctoral research associates. Without this support the grant would definitely be much smaller and the research less complete. We will find out if our grant is awarded later this summer, if funded we will begin work this fall. Thanks to all who have supported this grant either through writing a letter of support or agreeing to monitor greens during winter.

Michigan superintendents who volunteered to monitor greens during the winter.

Mike Morris, Crystal Downs CC
Brian Schwehofer, Franklin Hills CC
Doug Hoeh, TreeTops Resort
Kye Barton, Tam O'Shanter CC
Greg Goecker, Wequetonsing CC
Scott Pulaski, Walloon Lake CC
Eric Davey, Prestwick Village GC
Jim Bluck, Arcadia Bluffs
Keith Patterson, Kent CC
Jared Milner, Meadowbrook CC
Rob Steger, Saginaw CC
Scott Rettman, Walnut Creek CC
Steve Hammon, Traverse City CC
Craig Moore, Marquette GC
Drew Peddie, CC of Lansing
Kris Wakeman, Sugar Loaf-Old Course
Jeff Hopkins, Muskegon CC
Ryan Moore, Forest Lake CC
John Sabat, Plum Hollow CC
Jeff Holmes, Egypt Valley CC

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National Golf Day

KYLE BARTON
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS CHAIRMAN
GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT
Tam O Shanter C.C., West Bloomfield, MI



Kyle Barton with Congresswoman Haley Stevens (MI-11).



The Michigan Contingent. MiGCSA VP Rob Steger, CGCS, GCSAA VP John Fulling, CGCS, Kathy Aznavorian, Lee Collins, Jada Paisley, Kyle Barton and Marc McCoy.



Kyle Barton, Rob Steger, CGCS and Marc McCoy at the service project.

As I got ready to embark on this adventure to Washington D.C. for National Golf Day, I was not sure what all to expect. I had a general knowledge of what it was about, but had never had the opportunity to experience it. I was very excited to bring the advocacy efforts that I had put forward in Michigan to D.C.

I have been a Grassroots Ambassador for the GCSAA for a little over a year and a half now and recently an Ambassador Mentor. When I was originally asked to serve as an ambassador, I had no clue what that meant or what would be asked of me. However, I saw this as an opportunity to give back to the industry I love. It started with emails that were never returned, unanswered phone calls and a lot of frustration trying to connect with legislators. Not giving up, I finally received an email back from a staffer from Senator Stabenow's office. I promptly invited him out for a visit to my golf course. We had a great meeting; we talked mostly about the golf course and its positive impact on the environment. In November of last year, I took over as chairman of the Government Relations Committee for the MiGCSA with the plan to oversee all the Grassroots Ambassadors in Michigan. While gathering information, I realized that not all of the positions were filled. I made it a personal goal to have all of those positions full shortly after the GIS and that Michigan was going to be the example of how advocacy should be approached. I spoke with Michael Lee at GIS and told him my plan. He was thrilled that I was fired up to do it and was happy to have my help. As of today, all 16 spots have been filled. I would like to thank each and every one of those people who made this possible. It is your commitment and willingness to volunteer that will put Michigan at the forefront of golf advocacy.

- Doug Hoeh MI-01 (Bergman)
- Ron Dahlin MI-02 (Huizenga)
- Collin Romanick MI-03 (Amash)
- Jerome Blahnik MI-04 (Moolenaar)
- Rob Steger MI-05 (Kildee)
- John Fulling MI-06 (Upton)
- Eric Neimur MI-07 (Walberg)
- Ron Betz MI-08 (Slotkin)
- Ryan Moore MI-09 (Levin)
- Tim Jenkins MI-10 (Mitchell)
- John Gray MI-11 (Stevens)
- Jim Priebe MI-12 (Dingell)
- Skip Connolly MI-13 (Tlaib)
- John Sabat MI-14 (Lawrence)
- Brian Hilfinger MI-Senate (Peters)
- Kyle Barton MI-Senate (Stabenow)





We always have room for more ambassadors as the program continues to grow, if you would like to be a part of this please let me know.

Service Project for National Golf Day

On Tuesday 4/30/19, the day before official National Golf Day (and my anniversary), over 200 volunteers from 41 states came together to do a community service project on the National Mall. With 17 different groups of volunteers scheduled for projects the impact of the work was significant.

- The Lincoln Memorial had shrubs and trees pruned and the lawn mowed multiple times.
- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial was Aercored and seeded after being mowed.
- Benches and trash cans were cleaned along South Elm Walk.
- The JFK Hockey field was seeded with Bermuda and topped with seed aide.
- Both sides of the reflecting pool were Aercored and seeded with a Ventrac along with all the trash being picked up.
- The annual planting of 1200 plants at the Washington Monument lodge was done.
- Sod installation all around the Mall was done.
- Trees were identified and GPS was taken for future planning.
- The Korean War Memorial had all of the junipers pruned.
- The Polo field had sod installed.
- Rope and Stakes were put up along the Mall to protect the new sod and seed going down.

- Close to the Potomac where it floods debris was cleaned up so that it could be mowed.
- The MLK had 5,000 Mondogross plants installed in perfect lines.
- The Annual Library was planted.
- The area around the Carousel was seeded.

I don't know about you but I think that is one hell of a 3-hour morning of volunteer efforts!

National Golf Day

For National Golf Day there were 244 meetings set up with different members of congress and/or their staff to hear about the issues facing the golf industry. To make that clear, meetings were set up with 46% of congress to talk about the issues facing the golf industry. That is insane! I know I personally made it to 4 different meetings and Michigan as a whole had 10 meetings set up out of our 16 members of congress. Congresswoman Haley Stevens (MI-11) had her staff walk me down to where she was in an Education and Labor Committee meeting. Not all constituents get that kind of treatment, but thanks to the prior outreach I'd done with her and her staff through the Ambassador program, she made it a priority to step out of a meeting and speak with me in person. This was an amazing feeling; she felt our message was so strong that she wanted to take a break from her actual job to hear our concerns. The ability to enlighten congressmen and congresswomen face to face about the issues listed below and how they affect the golf industry as a whole is priceless. The issues we spoke about were:



- We asked that they support and/or cosponsor the PHIT (Physical Health Investment Today) act, which promotes physical health by allowing pre-tax medical funds to pay for qualified fitness and sports expenses.
- We asked that they support the \$3 million in the FY 2020 farm bill to fund the National Turfgrass Research Initiative.
- We asked that they repeal and replace WOTUS (Waters of the United States) with one that protects water and does not hurt business, jobs or communities.
- We asked for them to support the passage of H.R. 890 "Reducing EPA Duplication to Advance Pesticide Enforcement Act"
- We asked for meaningful H-2B visa cap relief in FY 2020 and to quickly process the additional 30,000 returning worker visas for FY 2019
- We asked that the Overtime Pay Rule be changed to increase the nondiscretionary bonuses and commissions limit from 10% to 25% in the final rule.
- We asked to have golf courses removed from the "Sin List" that lumps golf in with gambling establishments, massage parlors, suntan facilities, hot tub facilities, or any store the principal business is the sale of alcohol.

It was an amazing few days in D.C. The fruits of our labor as advocates for the golf industry truly shined. I leave with this thought, if we went there and changed one congressman or congresswoman's mind on any one of the above issues then we were successful and golf's voice was heard! I strongly urge anyone who has the ability to attend in the future to do so.

Please go check out #nationalgolfdays on twitter and you will see many of the individuals that were there sharing golf's story. Also, please consider becoming a Grassroots Ambassador.

Paul Galligan Awarded 2019 GAM Superintendent Award of Merit

The 2019 Golf Association of Michigan Superintendent Award of Merit was presented to the long time MiGCSA Class A Member from Grand Traverse Resort & Spa at the GAM Annual Meeting on April 22nd at Detroit Golf Club. Paul received this award with other GAM winners during lunch. He joins Ted Woehrle, Clem Wolfrom, Fritz McMullen, John Fulling, Jay Eccleton, Steve Cook, Jeff Holmes and Phil Owen as recipients of this annual award.

This meeting also was the last for retiring Executive Director David Graham. MiGCSA Past President Dan Dingman presented David with a plaque of appreciation for all he has done to help promote the Superintendent and support our industry. Along with the plaque was a \$500 donation to Youth on Course in his name.



Paul Galligan receives his award from GAM Green Committee Chairman Jay Hultz.

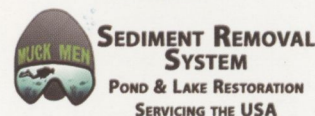


Past President Dan Dingman presents GAM Executive Director Emeritus David Graham with a plaque of appreciation.

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News from



Thank you to all the Superintendents and courses that donated a round of golf to support turfgrass research at MSU through MTF's TeeTime4Turf program. Also thank you to everyone that helped spread the word of the auction by Sharing Facebook posts, Retweeting on Twitter, and also to the GAM for sending the auction poster to their members. Teetimes4turf is one of the most cost-effective research support programs MTF runs with 94% of all proceeds going directly into turfgrass research at MSU. This year's program generated over \$41,000 to be used in support of turfgrass research here in Michigan. It takes a lot of time and effort to run a program like this with a volunteer board so join me in thanking the TeeTimes4Turf committee for their diligence with all the phone calls and e mails to promote Tee Times 4 Turf, as well as the entire MTF board and all contributors to the program. Very well done again folks! Scott Rettmann & Eric Davey – 2019 TeeTimes4Turf committee Thank you!

The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation made strategic decisions last year to financially support graduate students' long term and created the "Graduate Student Assistantship Fund". This fund, when combined with the Paul Rieke Assistantship for graduate students, results in over \$20,000 annually to assist graduate students in Turfgrass Sciences with their studies and research. These funds are structured in a such a

way that MTF has guaranteed MSU this funding stream is in place **permanently**. This reality today is the result of a vision several years ago by the then MTF Board of directors and ever persistent Gordon LaFontaine who was then Executive Director for the Foundation. This started as a vehicle to honor Dr. Paul Rieke for his dedication to teaching and research as well as provide support and encourage students into Turfgrass teaching and research - that emulated Dr. Rieke's principles of honesty, integrity, and professionalism.

Beginning this fall, two graduate students have been awarded assistantships from these funds; Anna Stouffer-Hopkins – Dr Vargas, will be studying Nematode and turfgrass disease interactions and Jackie Guevara – Dr Frank, will be evaluating turfgrass responses as the result of implementing fertilizer recommendations based on different soil testing philosophies.

In this time when Turfgrass research programs around the country are shrinking or closing altogether due to lack of funding and support from industry and college administrations, these permanent sources of funding help insure the Turfgrass Management, Research, and Teaching program at MSU is viewed as relevant and strongly supported by the Turfgrass Industry. MTF and you, through your support of the Foundation, will contribute over \$146,000 in 2019 to MSU Turfgrass research and teaching.



Membership in the Foundation and those that support the Foundations programs have made this possible. Funds from your membership dues provides for the administration of the foundation (office, legal, tax, communication, printing etc.) and allow us to run the events and programs that raise the funds used for research and education. Please continue to support the Foundation by maintaining membership in the MTF. Membership status as well as membership renewal and

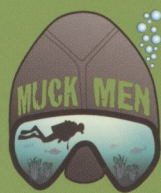
updates to your contact information may be done at michiganturfgrass.org/ Should you not remember or not have established a password just click "forgot password" at login and create one.

Cordially

Doug Johanningsmeier – President MTF



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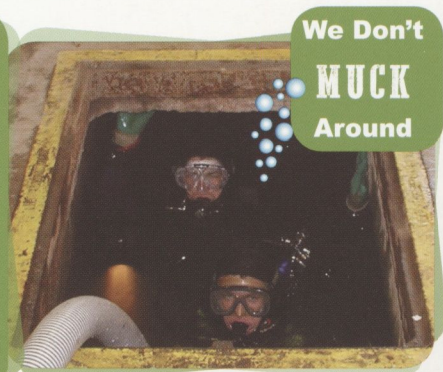


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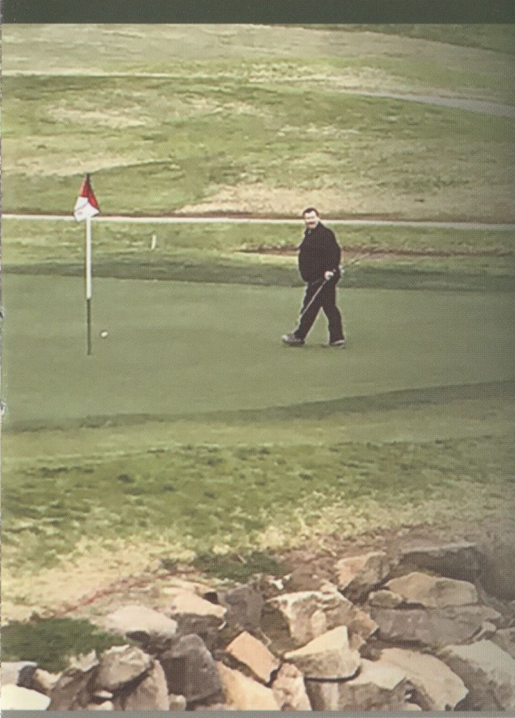


2019 MICHIGAN SKINS GAME IN SAN DIEGO

BY DAVID PAWLUK, CGCS

This year the Michigan Skins game returned to Southern California in early February and we had our highest number of players in the five years since restarting the event. The courses we played were Steele Canyon Golf Club and the Vineyards of Escondido for the two-day event.

I would like to thank the vendors that contributed to make the event a fun and enjoyable time to all. Doug Middleton from Ocean Organics for sponsoring the lunch and refreshments at Steele Canyon. Adam Garr from Syngenta for sponsoring the lunch and refreshments at Vineyards of Escondido. Also thank you to Derek Carrol from FIP Irrigation Services, Dave Hermann from Hermann & Associates and the MiGCSA for donating the ProV-1's for the contests.



The first day started off sunny and cool, then as we were making the home stretch on the last few holes to play there was a down pour of rain that hit the last few groups. The format was a scramble with five teams. The first-place team was the 3-some of Al Bathum from Michigan, Tony Bubenias from Washington and a new player from BC Canada, Gary Stadnek their team shot a 61. The second-place was Gary Thommes from Michigan, Erik Guinther from North Carolina and two players from Canada Kevin Collier and Arron Mansbridge their team shot a score of 63. The third-place team shot a 64, team Canada comprised of Chris & Linda Andrejicka, Greg Brown (Chris's assistant at Essex CC) and from Indiana but originally Michigan and honorary Canadian for the day, Matt Cielen. The closest to the pin winners were Gary Thommes & Dave Pawluk. Gary (Mongo) Stadnek had the longest drive! There were 5 skins for the day. Two were won by Al, Tony and Mongo (Gary). Gary, Erik, Arron and Kevin won 1. Then the team of Doug Middleton, Kevin Collins, Adam Garr and Dave Pawluk won two skins (those guys carried me). Everyone enjoyed the 2 different nines we played the Canyons with great views of the valley and elevation changes. The Ranch course also with wonderful views being played around old farmland. After the round we had a terrific time meeting different people, talking about the course and for some drying off.

We again had five teams on day two at the Vineyards for a scramble format. On day two we picked up two new players, Dr. Kevin Frank from MSU and Dr. Brandon Horvath from Tennessee were welcomed to their first skins game. The Vineyards course had some elevation changes with some nice views of the mountains in the distance. The weather was a little bit cloudy and cool



again. The battle was fierce for first place with team #2 shooting a 60 and then team #4 came in with a 59! That was again Matt Cielen, Joel Johnston from Canada, Arron and Kevin Collins from New York who works for Doug and Ocean Organics as a vendor. Team 2 of Gary, Mongo, Doug and Phil Owen shot a 60 for second place. Third-place was a tie and some how my team of Jeff Hopkins (his first skins game) Greg, Tony and Dave Pawluk won with a score of 62. The closest to the pins were won by Erik Guinther & Kevin Frank. The long drive was won by Gary Thommes (big swing by Gary out driving Kevin Frank). Every team won a skin! Team #1 on hole 12, team #2 on hole 6, team #3 on hole 5, team #4 on hole 14 and team #5 on hole 10.

I would like to thank everyone who attended the 2019 Michigan Skins and all the vendors that help make it a wonderful event. The skins game is a great opportunity for comradery and meeting new players and friends.



The skins game is starting to return to the numbers of players we use to have when I played in my first one back in 1991. Let's see how we do in warm and sunny Florida next year! I will be starting to look for places to play next year. Remember that GIS is moving up one week, so mark your calendars for the 2020 skins game on January 23 & 24.

Till next year!!!!!!!

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BRAD Fry



Brad Fry has been a sales representative for Advanced Turf Solutions for 19 months. It's his first job in sales, but not in turf. He was most recently the golf course superintendent at Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor for its first 10 years of existence, including the original grow-in at the Jack Nicklaus signature design.

"I left on my own terms," he said. "I'm happy with what I've accomplished as a Golf Course Superintendent and wanted to make a run at something else. I've helped build two golf courses, and at Harbor Shores I was part of a team that hosted three Senior PGA Championships. It was just the right time to walk away. I'm young enough to try something else."

Fry, 43, is a graduate of Purdue University and a native of Greensburg, Ind. He has been married to Amanda for 16 years and they have three sons, Lane, 12, Trace, 9, and Jesse, 3.

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1 HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

In high school I had a small lawn care business. I guess you could say I've always had an entrepreneurial spirit. I was always interested in business and I ran a small business. Through that I got to talking with the Golf Course Superintendent in town (Greensburg Country Club). He knew I was interested in getting a turfgrass degree

for lawn care, and he asked why not work with us out at the golf course. I fell in love with the work. It's kind of how I got into this job. I enjoy the work and the science behind it. It was already on the way to Purdue for turf management so I just switched gears to golf and one thing led to another. Since then I've moved around and moved up through a lot of great operations. Looking back, it has been great.



2 WHO WAS YOUR GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

That would have to be my father (Doug Fry). He is a great man, and somebody who is well respected. He taught me how to be a good husband and father and was always a great example of how to do things right. He provided me all the opportunities I wanted, and through his example, I have tried to do the same with my family. He also taught me that a hard day's work was something you can hang your hat on.

3 WHO WAS YOUR GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE?

It's two guys. My mentor Sam MacKenzie, CGCS, the director of grounds at Olympia Fields (Illinois). I worked for him twice, at Broadmoor (Indianapolis) and then Olympia Fields. Then, there's Ross Smith, who was the general manager at Harbor Shores the entire time I was there. They are two veterans who have been



through a lot in their careers and I have learned a ton from both of them. I still rely on them for answers and advice. They are great guys.

4 CAN YOU SHARE A FAVORITE THING ABOUT YOUR CAREER? I have the best time reminiscing with the guys in the business, guys I worked with in the past. So many funny things happen on golf courses. Sharing those moments and laughing with the guys, the friendships you generate through those experiences, that's the best part of the career.

5 WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY? I would say it is the labor market. I see it on a daily business when I'm out and about. Finding available guys to work is hard. There is a shortage of assistants and trained guys to fill out staffs. It's the leading struggle in my opinion.

6 WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS WHEN WORKING WITH THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION? First off, what a great organization. I want them to continue doing the great job they are doing promoting our profession. I'm proud to be part of it. In other regions I visit the guys talk about what our association does in Michigan.

7 DO YOU HAVE AN EMBARRASSING CAREER MOMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE? Not one I can think of in particular, however, I know there have been many. I have learned over the years to laugh at myself and to not take myself so seriously.

8 WHAT IS YOUR BEST ADVICE TO DECISION MAKERS WHEN DOING BUSINESS? My best advice is to be open to new things, look into new products and practices, research them, look more in depth and think outside the box. One thing I learned in my career switch has been noticing what guys are doing that I should have tried. I'm always thinking 'why didn't I use that?' You get so zeroed in on your operation that you miss things. Reach out to others, colleagues, sales reps and dive into things. You will run across ideas that may potentially make things better for your place of business.

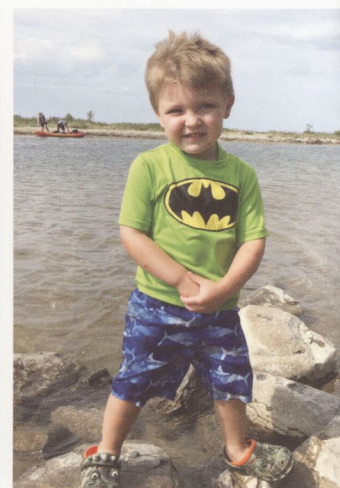
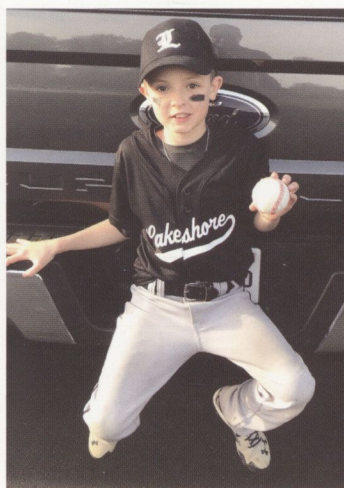
9 WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF BEING IN AN INDUSTRY SUPPORT ROLE? I like getting out and seeing people, seeing superintendents, finding out

what they are doing and how they are doing. It's also been rewarding to see other parts of Michigan. It has been fun to travel around the state and see new people and places.

10 WHAT IS YOUR BEST SUCCESS STORY? That's easy - my three boys.

11 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION? I enjoy helping people solve their problems. We have a great product lineup. I enjoy being able to provide products that are helping people and enjoy the service end of it, making sure they get what they need and on time.

12 DO YOU HAVE SOME TRAVEL TIPS? I'm kind of a clean freak. I know where the good restrooms are located now. You learn where the good ones are at. Believe me, there are some bad restrooms out there. Another thing I've learned is how to work from my vehicle. As Superintendents we always watch the weather extremely close. I do that in this job,



too. Traveling in bad weather is not fun. You really need to pay attention and plan.

HOW MANY DAYS OF THE YEAR ARE YOU ON THE ROAD?

Probably in the range of 225 to 250.

14 WHO HAS THE NICEST SHOP YOU CALL ON AND WHY? This isn't Michigan, but I get over to the south side of Chicago. And the best shop is at Olympia Fields, and not just because I used to work there. It's an enormous shop, and it has the amenities you need to do the job. It is a perfect example of what you need in a shop.

15 WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE BEST PRODUCT YOU OFFER AND WHY? I don't have necessarily a best product. I believe we have a great lineup. There are many different issues out there, and we as a company are set up to serve the customer with all the different issues they may be battling.

16 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ITEM TO SELL/DEMONSTRATE? I like to talk foliar fertilizer and wetting agents, but I also get excited about selling any product. What is exciting is providing a solution to the customer. I get excited talking about anything I know will make things better for the customer.

17 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE TO PLAY? I would say it's still Harbor Shores. I was there for the grow-in and was fortunate to see the transformation as it matured. It's a special place, a special golf course and it's just fun to go back.

18 IF YOU HAD A DIFFERENT PROFESSION, WHAT WOULD IT BE? I think it would probably be in some sort of trade. I always enjoyed operating equipment, like an excavator or bulldozer. I like carpentry, too, so maybe something like that.

19 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE GOLFER AND WHY? I have two. First, it's Jack Nicklaus. Having worked on Sagamore (Golf Club in Noblesville, Ind.) and Harbor Shores, I have great respect for him. The other one might surprise people, but it is Colin Montgomerie. I think he gets a bad rap. When he won the Senior PGA at Harbor Shores, he was doing the Champion's Toast afterward. He had one toast, and then he took the time in front of the whole crowd to thank our staff, compliment us on the course, and he did it in front of the whole crowd. He told them to give us a standing ovation for what we had done that week. That really stuck with me. We had a tough winter in 2014. He was familiar with what had happened, and what we had been able to pull off for the tournament. To take a minute and put our operation in the spotlight, his spotlight, was really something.



5

THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. Favorite thing to do is to watch my kids at their sporting events
2. I am a NASCAR fan
3. My hobbies include woodworking, fishing, grilling, making hot sauce and watching any baseball game
4. I have been collecting hats since elementary school
5. After a good days work my beverage of choice is a cold Keystone Light



20 HAVE YOU EVER HAD A HOLE IN ONE? Not me.

21 WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM GOLF? I like to do woodworking and I like to fish. Those are the hobbies for me, and I like to follow the kids around as they establish their hobbies. So, I guess a big hobby of mine is being a dad. I support their baseball, basketball, football, all of it, and love throwing a baseball with them in the front yard.

22 IF YOU COULD TRAVEL TO ANY TIME IN GOLF WHEN WOULD IT BE AND WHY? I've always had an interest in golf course construction, having been part of building two courses (Sagamore, Harbor Shores) and doing a big renovation at Olympia Fields. I would be intrigued to go back 100 years and see how the classic courses were shaped and see how they were built by hand. It would be neat to see and learn that way.

23 WHO HAS THE BEST MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT DOG? I'm always going to vote for my Border Collie, Jim. He is not with me any longer. We had to put him down a year ago in February. He was with me the whole tenure at Harbor Shores and he was the best golf course dog I've ever been around. He was by my side the whole time, my best friend. I would be out with him and people would pull over their cars and come see us. They really didn't care about

2019 Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium



Old Tom Morris and Doug Ware, Doug is on the right.

Every year the GCSAA hosts a Chapter Leaders/Executives Symposium in the spring at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, Kan. The symposium provides leadership training, development and support to chapters. It also highlights the programs and services available to chapters through GCSAA and provides an opportunity for chapter leaders and executives to network with their peers from around the country.

Adam Ikamas and I flew into Kansas City airport on Monday March 20th around 5pm. After a nice 45-minute scenic drive through the Kansas countryside we arrived in Lawrence, Kansas. Home to the Kansas Jayhawks and the Headquarters of the GCSAA.

Tuesday morning began with a welcome from the always energetic Steve Randall. He kicked things off with an overview of what was in store for the next two days and had us all introduce ourselves to the group. Next, Shelia Finney talked with us about chapter outreach. The focus was on the First Green program. This program is an environmental education outreach program that uses golf courses as a hands-on learning lab for students. We look forward to many of these events to be hosted here in Michigan, if you are interested please let me know. Kerri Reisdorff, an attorney from the Lawrence area, came in to talk with us about "respect in the workplace." A very important topic in today's workplace. She discussed what constitutes hostile working environment, sexual harassment, behavior at networking events among a few other subjects. This segment was very informative and educational. Michael Lee and Chava McKeel then took the floor. They are the Manager and Director of Government Affairs for the GCSAA. They gave us updates on the Grassroots Ambassador program, which included a few slides about our very own Government Relations Committee Chairman Kyle Barton (Tam O'Shanter CC) and his fantastic efforts working with his local representatives. Also, they spoke about the importance of the National and State Golf Days. During lunch we were offered the opportunity to tour the headquarters building. It was an eye-opening experience to see how big of an operation GCSAA is and it was great to see how everyone we met truly enjoyed working there. After lunch, there were

me. They just wanted to meet Jim!

24 HOW MANY CONFERENCES AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS DO YOU ATTEND PER YEAR?

I attend everything I can. I'm a firm believer in education and staying up on new technology.

25 WHICH ONE IS THE BEST TURF CARE PROFESSIONALS CAN ATTEND?

The MTF winter conference is great. It always has a great lineup and you are

with your colleagues for great networking opportunities. It's the best one in our region for sure.

26 HOW MANY ROUNDS OF GOLF DO YOU PLAY IN A YEAR?

I play maybe six rounds a year. Mostly at functions. Life keeps me busy.

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

No doubt we will see more robotic type products in our day to day operations.

28 ARE THERE ANY NEW PRODUCTS ON THE HORIZON?

I know there is a lot in the works. There are always new and exciting products in the pipeline that will impact performance positively.

BY: DOUGLAS WARE
MIGCSA SECRETARY/TREASURER

talks about chapter financial planning, USGA rules of golf updates, and a round table discussion. The round table, in my opinion, was the best of the afternoon. It allowed us to hear the challenges and successes of many of the other chapters around the country. My takeaway from this discussion was how successful the GCSAA has been in getting most of the chapters on the same page. In speaking with other officers, I found that many of us are on the same track. Some ahead of others, but on the same path.

Tuesday night was an evening of dinner with a large group from all around the country. Another opportunity to network and relax, while enjoying good food, drinks and laughs. The next stop was the Sandbar. It's a college bar in town that I recommend anyone who visits Lawrence make a stop at.

Wednesday morning was another early start which began with an EIFG update from Bob Randquist, COO for GCSAA, followed by a very energetic talk by GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans. He discussed GCSAA and strategic brand management. He stressed the importance of consistency when having the GCSAA logo and chapter logos present at events and in publications, wanting the logo to be very recognizable outside of our profession. He believes to do that all chapters of the GCSAA need to be on board when using our logos and that each chapter's logo should reflect the GCSAA logo. The final speaker on Wednesday was Donna Forgy, President of Pro Skills Inc. Her talk was titled Generational Leadership



*Rhett Evans, GCSAA
CEO touching on
some many initiatives
ongoing at HQ.*

Learning. The main focus of this was to help us all understand the dilemma many of us deal with "Millennials". What I took away from this discussion is millennials aren't much different than any other generation with what they would like from their job. The difference is they expect the positive outcomes of their job and other generations have always hoped for those positive outcomes. Millennials are also much more comfortable with moving on to the next job to find what they are looking for. Bottomline is they are here to stay, and we need to learn to adapt or continually look for new staff. The day ended with a nice wrap up of the last two days. Everyone said their goodbyes and headed for home.

I had an outstanding time on my trip to the Symposium. As the new Secretary/Treasurer for the MIGCSA it was an important trip for me to see the GCSAA machine in person. It was a great learning experience for my next few years as an officer. I can't wait for an opportunity to go back and learn more about the GCSAA.



A great lunch spread in the surprisingly warm lounge area behind the hitting bays.

TOP GOLF

On February 27th MiGCSA Members came to see what all the buzz is about at the new Top Golf facility in Auburn Hills. The heaters were on full blast, the food was warm and the beer was cold and the two hours of time flew by. Is this the future of golf? It is certainly a part of it, thank you to all of the members who stopped in to check it out.



Terry Poley in mid season form in February. Must be his swing coach Andy Gilroy keeping an eye on him.



Tim Pratt, CGCS from Bronze Industry Partner Plant Food shaking off the cobwebs

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2019 Spring Opener



Thank You 2019 Industry Partners!

The 2019 MiGCSA golf season kicked off with a cold blustery day at Pilgrims Run in Pierson on April 23rd. Thank you to our host MiGCSA Members Golf Course Superintendent Ken Hunt and Assistant Superintendent Mike Stakoe. Also special thanks to PGA Professional Jeff O'Malley and his staff for his help in making this such a smooth event. The shotgun start went off at 10:00 and the last group was in by 2:30. The golf course had only opened one day before we got there and was playing great! The service and staff were phenomenal all around. Here were the results from the day.

Closest to the pins winners:

Dr. Trey Rogers x 2, AJ Rings & Jay Eccleton

Long Drive: Dr. Trey Rogers & Craig Kooinga

Longest putt: Bob Klingbel

Winning Teams:

1st place Dr. Trey Rogers, Dr. Kevin Frank, Dave Remick & Al Kidder with a 62. 2nd place with a 63 Joe Rebore, Jay Eccleton, Tim Pratt & Adam Ikamas and 3rd place shooting 65 the team of Jim Johnson, Matt Suzio, Jeff Hopkins and Chad Ball.



Our hosts Ken Hunt, Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Mike Stakoe.



MiGCSA Board Member Jeff Hopkins thanks our many 2019 Industry Partners.



Dr. Kevin Frank with his update from MSU and around the state on conditions coming out of winter.

Raymond Hearn

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The New Spring Meeting, the Best 24 Hours in Turf


The decision to change up the entire format of our spring education was not one that came about lightly. This idea was thoroughly discussed by the MiGCSA Board of Directors and then Education Committee before the green light came on. Not to mince words but the Spring Meetings we have been doing for many years in three locations were feeling a little stale. As a firm believer in never doing anything if the only reason to do it is it's just always been that way. As the MiGCSA continues to grow and mature and membership needs change it is important that we can be agile in our offerings. After much consideration the new format was set and planning was under way.

The first was held this year in downtown Grand Rapids at the Amway Grand Hotel on March 5th & 6th. In order to better accommodate our members schedules it began at 1:00 on March 5th and concluded on March 6th at 11:30 am.

Part of the decision to make this switch came with a heavy investment of Industry Partner dollars to keep the cost as low as possible. The entire event was only \$75 for class A, B and AFF Members and \$25 for all other classes. Hotel rooms for \$179.00 minus a \$50 discount per room bring the cost down to \$129.00 including beverage tickets for the cocktail reception & raffle with a full hot breakfast in the morning on day two. These prices would simply not be possible without the support of our 2019 Industry Partners. Another reason to support those who support you when making purchasing decisions.

Day one fired up quickly with The Turfgrass Talk Show, Hosted By: Dr. Thom Nikolai with Heath Bronkema of the Bronk Brothers band out of Kalamazoo on guitar. Dr. Nikolai is the Senior Turfgrass Academic Specialist at Michigan State University. He gave everyone an update on the Research at MSU and a wide variety of thought-provoking topics. Next up was Dr. Bill Kreuser, Assistant Professor, Extension Turfgrass Specialist at the University of Nebraska Lincoln on Precision PGR Programming. Southwest Michigan's own Dan Meersman the Director of Grounds at Philadelphia Cricket Club hit a home run with his topic, Career Planning for You and Your Team. Finally, Jon Scott, President of Gull Lake View Golf & Resort and part of the long-time golf industry leading Scott family closed out the afternoon with The Superintendent & Bottom Line. At 5:00 the group of close to 100 attended the cocktail reception with included beverage & raffle tickets again thanks to our 2019 Industry Partners. A few MiGCSA Titleist golf bags and MiGCSA swag were up for raffle along with a 50 inch Samsung UHD TV won by MiGCSA Board Member Gene Davis of Elk Rapids Golf Club!

The next morning the hot breakfast buffet was a welcome sight for many after a great evening of activity around the Grand Rapids area. Dr. Bill Kreuser got everyone going with his talk on how to Drive Your Growth Rate. Ken Hartman the Senior Director of Rules & Competition and Director of Handicap & Course Rating Kyle Wolfe with the Golf Association of Michigan shared their talk on Tournament



MiGCSA President Jeff Sweet, CGCS thanks the attendees and our 2019 Industry Partners who made this event possible

Set Up & the New Rules. Then we brought in the closer, Pat Jones in his last appearance as Editorial Director of Golf Course Industry spoke on a wide range of topics in his 5

Things to Do to Position Yourself for the Future presentation. vWe look forward to Detroit in 2020 and Northern Michigan in 2021 to continue to build on the best 24 hours in turf!



A packed house on day one for the world renown Turfgrass Talk Show



Dan Meersman with many take home ips for the attendees on career planning



Dr. Bill Kreuser all the way from Nebraska sharing some of his cutting edge research on PGR_s



Gene Davis took home the 50 inch TV at the cocktail reception and raffle.



Jon Scott sharing his generations of lessons learned in the golf business



Pat Jones closing the show for us and his time with GCI in an emotional thank you



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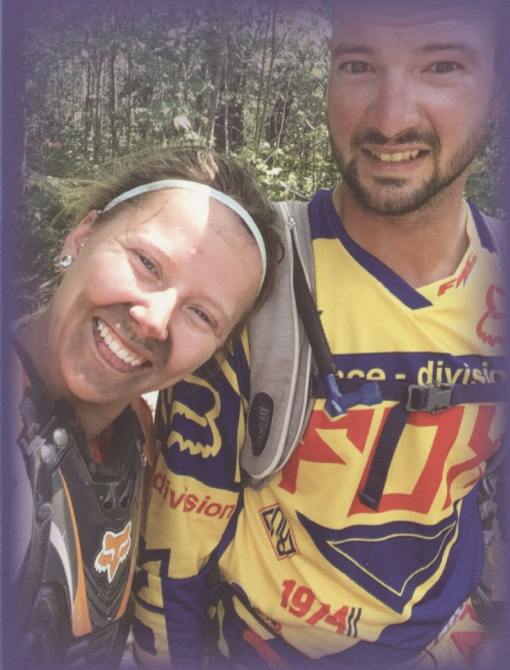
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MATT Morley



Matt Morley is in his eighth year on the grounds staff at Forest Dunes Golf Club. He started at age 16 and has worked his way through school, and his way up to an assistant's role at age 24. He recently earned his turfgrass management certification from Penn State University, and also holds a law enforcement degree. He engaged to be married to Sky Page and has a Louisiana Catahoula Leopard hunting dog named Trixi.



1 HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN GOLF?

I was in high school (Roscommon) and I saw an advertisement in the newspaper one morning for a job on a golf course. I was already an outdoorsman, it sounded like it would be something I would like, I showed up at a job fair and I was hired on the spot by Jim Buck, who was the superintendent then. I've been here ever since really.

2 WHAT IS THE KEY THING YOU HAVE LEARNED SO FAR IN YOUR CAREER?

I guess biggest thing I've learned is that I'm not exactly a people person, at least not naturally. This job has helped me to deal with different people and different personalities. I was raised differently than people are nowadays I guess, so I've had to learn to adapt to people who do things or see things differently from me. It's been a big part of my self-development, learning how to be better at dealing with people.

3 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THIS JOB?

My favorite part of the job is that I'm never doing the same thing on back-to-back days. I'm

always doing something different. I fix something over here one day, do a renovation project the next, spray greens the next. The job is always different day-to-day. Most jobs you punch a clock and do the same thing over and over. In this job things are always changing.

4 WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES?

John (Wessels) and I convene in the morning and give out assignments. We try to divide and conquer on the course. We make sure we are getting the attention to detail where it is needed, and I go out with the crew and manage them to make sure things are being done how John and I want them. We don't have anything on our property like the statement: 'This is not my job.' I'm fortunate that John trusts me to get the job completed the way he would want it.

5 ON THE JOB, WHAT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE IN YOUR ARESENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

To pick one is hard, but I would say a Ventrac. It is one of the most





versatile pieces of equipment that I know about. It has tons of attachments that benefit a golf course. It would be a huge benefit and time-saver to getting day-to-day jobs completed.

6 WHAT IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENTY STILL BEING UTILIZED IN YOUR FLEET? We have a Toro Groundsmaster 3000 that has about 9,000 hours on it. It was brand new when the course opened (1998) and has not failed us yet

7 WHO ON YOUR CREW MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST? As much as I hate to give him credit, though I do love him to death, it's Dan Darling. He constantly has one-liners that make you laugh until you cry. He brightens your day in the first 10 minutes every morning.

8 IF YOU HAD A MULLIGAN ON A DIFFERENT CAREER CHOICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE? When I originally started at Forest Dunes, I intended to go to school and work in law enforcement. I have an associate degree in law

enforcement and I did work as a correctional officer for a year. I absolutely hated it. I was stuck inside working with people who didn't give a rip. I went right back to the golf course, and they told me they would love to have me back. I guess I have my mulligan job. I'm going to stick with it.

9 IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY GOLF HOLE ON YOUR COURSE WITHOUT REPERCUSSION, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE? The only thing I ever hear negative about the course is how some people hate No. 14. It is an extremely long par 4 and it bottles down to where the landing is for driver. A lot of people are forced to not hit driver, which makes the hole even longer and harder. I guess I would probably add more landing room or move the bottleneck and make the hole play shorter.

10 WHAT IS THE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE YOU COULD NOT DO WITHOUT? That is easy - to be at the high-end standard that we are and maintain,

you have to top-dress. Our golfers want firm, fast greens and you can't achieve that without top-dressing. They hate us on that day of, but they would hate us more if we didn't do it.

11 WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION? I'm relatively new to it, but I can tell they do a phenomenal job of keeping an eye out for the industry, giving constant updates, helping us and helping people find jobs.

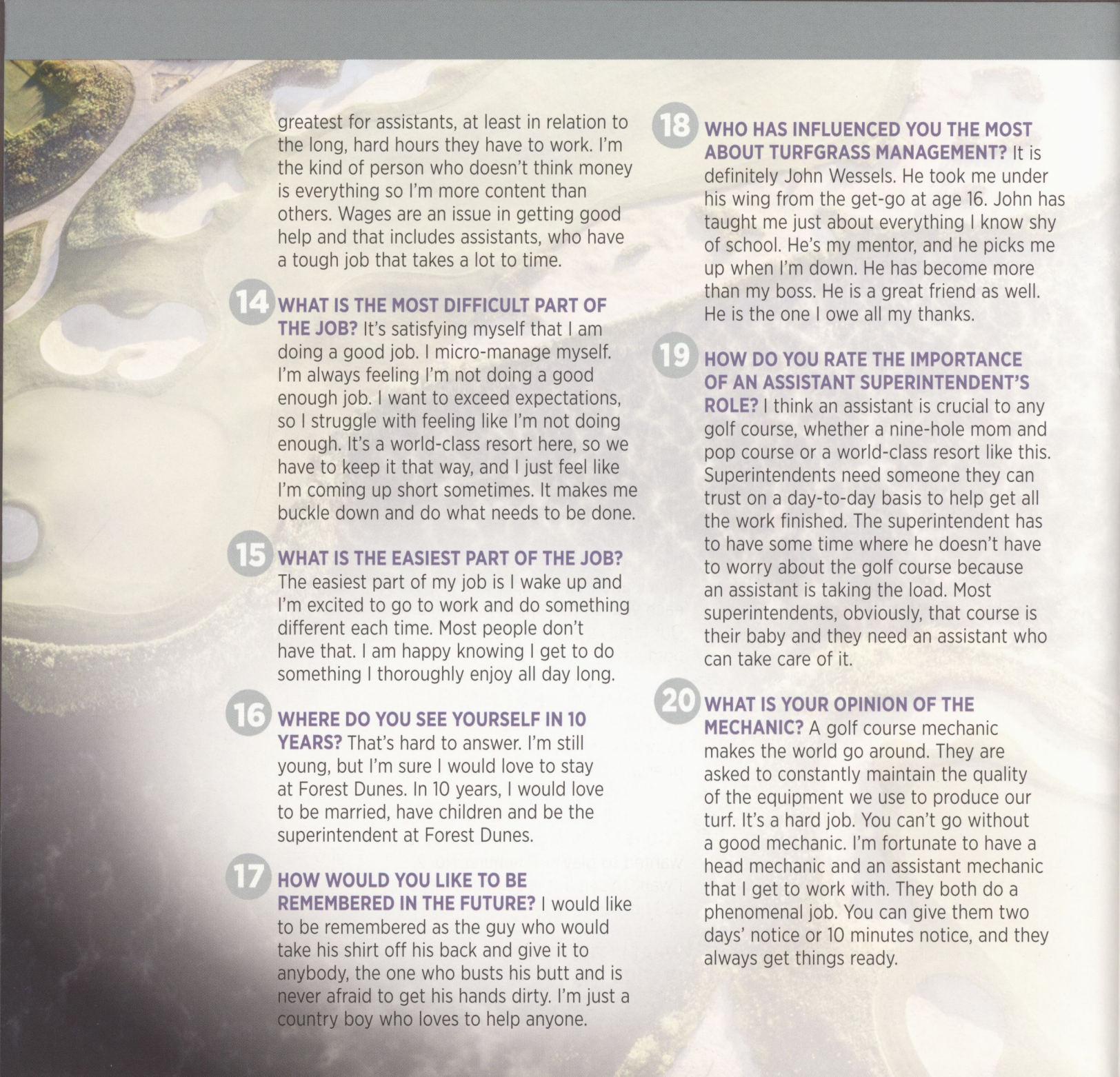
12 HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION? I haven't done much, but maybe the best thing I do is help guys in the crew think of turfgrass work as a career, as a profession. I try to give them the right tools to go down that path. That is what has been done for me.

13 WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY? Unfortunately, our industry doesn't pay the



5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I'm the varsity head wrestling coach at Roscommon High School.
2. I've broken 17 bones and I'm only 24.
3. I'm an Alabama Crimson Tide fan.
4. If it's not a Chevy or a Yamaha, I'm not going to drive it.
5. I was voted I had the best butt in high school.



greatest for assistants, at least in relation to the long, hard hours they have to work. I'm the kind of person who doesn't think money is everything so I'm more content than others. Wages are an issue in getting good help and that includes assistants, who have a tough job that takes a lot of time.

14 WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE JOB? It's satisfying myself that I am doing a good job. I micro-manage myself. I'm always feeling I'm not doing a good enough job. I want to exceed expectations, so I struggle with feeling like I'm not doing enough. It's a world-class resort here, so we have to keep it that way, and I just feel like I'm coming up short sometimes. It makes me buckle down and do what needs to be done.

15 WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF THE JOB? The easiest part of my job is I wake up and I'm excited to go to work and do something different each time. Most people don't have that. I am happy knowing I get to do something I thoroughly enjoy all day long.

16 WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS? That's hard to answer. I'm still young, but I'm sure I would love to stay at Forest Dunes. In 10 years, I would love to be married, have children and be the superintendent at Forest Dunes.

17 HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED IN THE FUTURE? I would like to be remembered as the guy who would take his shirt off his back and give it to anybody, the one who busts his butt and is never afraid to get his hands dirty. I'm just a country boy who loves to help anyone.

18 WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT? It is definitely John Wessels. He took me under his wing from the get-go at age 16. John has taught me just about everything I know shy of school. He's my mentor, and he picks me up when I'm down. He has become more than my boss. He is a great friend as well. He is the one I owe all my thanks.

19 HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE? I think an assistant is crucial to any golf course, whether a nine-hole mom and pop course or a world-class resort like this. Superintendents need someone they can trust on a day-to-day basis to help get all the work finished. The superintendent has to have some time where he doesn't have to worry about the golf course because an assistant is taking the load. Most superintendents, obviously, that course is their baby and they need an assistant who can take care of it.

20 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE MECHANIC? A golf course mechanic makes the world go around. They are asked to constantly maintain the quality of the equipment we use to produce our turf. It's a hard job. You can't go without a good mechanic. I'm fortunate to have a head mechanic and an assistant mechanic that I get to work with. They both do a phenomenal job. You can give them two days' notice or 10 minutes notice, and they always get things ready.



21 WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE? My biggest one is fixing ball marks. It takes zero effort for a golfer to fix a ball mark. We have to deal with this every morning, like 50 to 75 ball marks on the greens. If each golfer would fix their mark and maybe fix one more per green, we would be so much better off.

22 WHAT DO YOU THINK OF GREEN SPEEDS IN GOLF TODAY? We maybe Stimp once or twice a year. Our green speeds are usually the product of the practices we use, which means great. We spend a lot of time on them. I think golfers love fast, true greens and we have them. The Stimp number isn't a big concern. We make sure we maintain a healthy profile, and they fall between 9 and 11 all of the time. It keeps golfers happy.

23 IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT THE PERCEPTION OF GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT, WHAT WOULD IT BE? I wish people had more appreciation for what the people who work in the industry do for them. I don't mean just superintendents. It takes a lot of people to put out such a high-quality product like Forest Dunes. There is so much more to it than mowing grass every day. I just wish more people understood that.

24 AWAY FROM GOLF, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT? That's an easy one – wrestling. I'm the varsity head wrestling coach at Roscommon High School. It's my third year doing that, and I've wrestled since age four. It's not for the money. It's because I love the sport, the discipline, the respect and it's a lot of fun. I like teaching the wrestlers those values. In today's world values like that go a long way.

25 WHAT TYPE OF HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE AWAY FROM GOLF? I have a lot of hobbies. I'm an outdoorsman primarily, hunting, fishing, dirt-bike rider. I go snowmobiling in the winter. My fiancé and I take a couple of trips each year to the Upper Peninsula. Our family's cabin in Paradise is a home away from home.

26 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE GOLF COURSE? I'm not a real big golfer. I work at my favorite course, I guess.

27 DO YOU HAVE A BUCKET LIST COURSE? There is one I've always wanted to play -- Pinehurst No. 2. I want to see if it is as phenomenal as I hear it is.

28 WHAT IS THE FAVORITE CLUB IN YOUR BAG? If I have to pick, a 7-iron. Three years ago, I was 180 yards out on No. 2 here (Forest Dunes). I hit the 7-iron and the ball

went in the hole. Every time I have a 7-iron shot I think about that eagle on that par 4 and it makes me confident.

29 WHO HAS BEEN THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE? My parents, Matt and Michelle, have been the best parents and have done the best for me since day one. I've always had to earn everything I was given. At the time I didn't always really understand it, but now I believe that made me who I am today. They taught me right from wrong and I have them to thank for any success in life that I have had.

30 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT? I'm a carnivore, so meat. Steak is easily my favorite and I'm an avid cook. If I have a favorite restaurant, I do love some Mongolian Barbecue. I take my wrestlers to one each year when we go to the state finals.

31 WHAT VEHICLE WOULD YOU DRIVE IF YOU HAD A MONEY TREE GROWING IN YOUR YARD? My dream car has always been a 1969 Corvette, sunshine yellow with a black racing stripe down the middle.



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New Membership Classes Approved by Membership

The GCSAA Annual Meeting took place this past February in San Diego, CA. During the meeting, there were a few items on the ballot which required a membership vote. There were two new association membership classes up for vote: Facility Membership and Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent, as well as a bylaw change, dues increase and the election of the GCSAA Board of Directors.

The first items up for vote were the two new membership classifications. Both membership classifications were voted through by the chapter delegates and are now official classifications of GCSAA. If you are not familiar with the new classifications, they are as follows:

Facility Membership: To qualify for Facility Membership, an applicant must be a golf course facility that employs no current GCSAA member. Facility Members shall have all rights of the Association as the Board of Directors may specify in the Standing Rules, except those of voting and holding office.

The Facility Membership is geared towards golf courses across the U.S. which do not currently employ a GCSAA member. The Facility Membership will target lower budget facilities to offer the facility employee(s) limited benefits and privileges. The Facility membership will be in the name of the facility, and not in the name of the individual member.

Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent: To qualify for Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent membership, an applicant must be an individual who supports the course and does not qualify for membership in any other class. Friends of the Golf Course Superintendent shall have all rights of the Association as the Board of Directors may specify in the Standing Rules, except those of voting and holding office.

The Friend of the Golf Course Superintendent classification will target golfers, potential advocates, teachers involved in First Green field trips and supporters of the game and industry to name a few. This classification will help create GCSAA brand awareness and allow us to promote the profession to a new audience.

Delegates also voted to approve this wording for Article II, Section 1:

The annual dues shall be sums fixed by the Board of Directors, except for Classes A, B and C. Annual dues for Classes A, B and C shall not exceed the sum fixed at any annual meeting of the Association, as decided by a balloting conducted under regular



Shane Conroy

voting procedures set forth in the Standing Rules of the Convention established by the Board of Directors, in accordance with Article V of these Bylaws. Dues shall be payable in advance of the member's annual renewal date.

Making this small bylaw change will now allow GCSAA to offer loyalty program discounts and incentives to current and new GCSAA members. This gives GCSAA an exciting opportunity to create loyalty programs for existing members who have supported the industry and association over their career. The GCSAA board is finalizing details on these programs; additional information is forthcoming.

Delegates also approved an annual dues increases for Class A and Class B from \$380 to \$400, and an increase for Class C members from \$195 to \$205. This dues increase is brought to the membership for a vote every two years and is based on the previous two year's CPI (Consumer Price Index); this term the CPI was 4.5%.

To round out the Annual Meeting, the election of the GCSAA Board of Directors took place which saw Rafael Barajas, CGCS, officially became the association's 83rd president. Barajas, director of golf course maintenance at Boca Grove Golf & Tennis Club in Boca Raton, Fla., and a 33-year GCSAA member, replaces 2018 president Darren Davis, CGCS.

Michigan's own John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, grounds and facilities manager at Kalamazoo Country Club, was named vice president, and Mark F. Jordan, CGCS, superintendent at Westfield Country Club in Westfield Center, Ohio, was elected secretary/treasurer.

Jeff L. White, CGCS, superintendent at Indian Hills Country Club in Prairie Village, Kan., and T.A. Barker, CGCS, superintendent at Fore Lakes Golf Course in Taylorsville, Utah, were both re-elected. Paul L. Carter, CGCS, director of agronomy at The Bear Trace at Harrison Bay in Harrison, Tenn., was elected to the third open director position.

Best of luck as the season continues to progress. As always, please don't hesitate to reach out for additional information or I if can help with anything moving forward.



Can/Am Challenge Recap

BY SALLY ROSS, OGSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The 43rd annual Can/Am Challenge took place on May 6th, at the beautiful Essex Golf & Country Club, in LaSalle Ontario with host superintendent Chris Andrejicka.

While the few days previous to the tournament flooded the course, like many others in Ontario, the rain subsided, Chris, Greg Brown his assistant, and the whole crew put in a tremendous effort to get the course ready for the 80 golfers who were happily anticipating this much loved event.

The day dawned sunny, a little windy but warm and the friendly competition, gentle ribbing and strong camaraderie between the Canadians and the Americans was the order of the day.

The Can Am Cup, arrived courtesy of Michigan past president Dan Dingman, and at the end of the day in a lopsided victory of 37.5 to 22.5, the Canadians brought the cup back to Ontario.

OGSA president Jason Boyce (Smuggler's Glen Golf Course) acted as MC for the dinner and opened his welcome by asking everyone to stand and observe a moment of silence for long time OGSA member, friend of many and fellow superintendent, Mike Burton, who had passed away from cancer the day before the tournament. Jason then introduced board members in attendance from both associations, as well as MiGCSA and GCSAA staff who were in attendance.

Chris Andrejicka spoke during dinner, thanking all his staff, and club personnel who helped make the day exceptional. Chris' pride in his club and course was very evident and he went on to thank the OGSA staff for the job they do for the association and its members.

Following dinner, the awards and prizes were presented. The cup was accepted by the first low gross team of Canadians, Mark Durand (OSC) and Doug Wilson (Blackhorse GC) with a score of 73.

American low gross team winners were Canadians substituting for the American team, Andrew Crow (GC Duke Equip.) and Mike Giblin (Willow Valley GC) with a score of 76.

Second place low gross winners were Jason Crawford (Eagles Nest GC) and Jeremy Phillips (Turf Care) for the Canadians with a score of 74, and the team from Franklin Hills CC, Brian Schwehofer and Nate Holenback for the Americans with a score of 77.

The Canadian low net winning team was Kelly Barnet (Brettyoung) and Paul Lemieux (Kingsville G & CC) with the team of Greg Brown (Essex G & CC) and Matt Legg (Weston Golf & CC) coming in a close second.

The American low net winning team was Gary Thommes (Red Run GC) & Thomas Gill (Spartan Distributors) followed by the team of John Grey (Stoney Croft Hills Club) and Chris Wilczynski (C.W. Golf Architecture) who placed second.

The two closest to the pin winners were Tim Hornick and Doug Wilson, and the two longest drive winners were Jason Crawford and Dan Freisen.

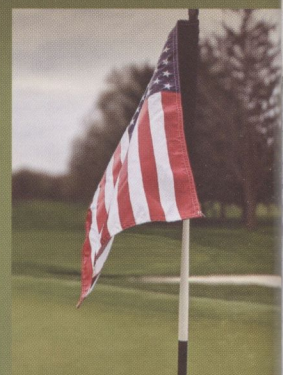
Two team skins were awarded to the team of Mark Durand & Doug Wilson, and the other teams who each had one skin were Chris Andrejicka and Kevin Collier, Mike Giblin and Andrew Crow and Tim Hornick and Greg Anderson.

Special thanks go to Allturf who sponsored the on-course prizes as well as the dinner, it was much appreciated by the OGSA and all the players.

Jason thanked the host superintendent Chris, his assistant Greg as well as the outstanding staff at Essex and the amazing culinary skills of the chef, for the great time that was had by all!



Jason Boyce (centre) acknowledges Chris Andrejicka (R) and Greg Brown

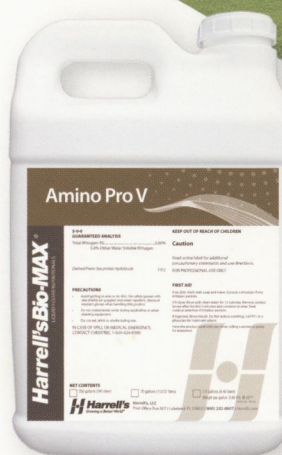


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What's New

As I write this it is the day after the first ever First Green event in Michigan. Yesterday morning at Pine Lake Country Club Class A Member Terry Poley hosted more than 35 fifth graders from St. Joseph Lake Orion and their teachers Lindsay Matthews, wife of past MiGCSA President Gregg Matthews. If you have not yet heard of the First Green from the GCSAA it is an innovative environmental and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) education outreach program using golf courses as environmental learning labs. Golf Course Superintendents and/or local golf course representatives host students on field trips where they test water quality, collect soil samples, identify plants, design plantings, assist in stream bed restoration and are involved in the ecology and environmental aspects of the golf course. The students are also introduced to many other aspects of golf. This event was really well received, and we really hope to do more soon, if you are interested in hosting please reach out to me and we can get the ball rolling.

Another new thing this year was the Spring Meeting in Grand Rapids, the best 24 hours in turf. Overall the response from this event was very positive. This was not an easy decision for the Education Committee and the Board, it was heavily deliberated. In the end the old three meetings were slowing slipping on attendance and value. The mission of the MiGCSA is to provide value to our members through programs and services that enhance and promote our profession. We felt the old meetings were not providing this and we needed to make a change.

With the change in the spring meetings there is a push to provide more local education at an affordable price in many areas of the state. Much of this will be focused more on the people who work for our members and less directed at Superintendents. There are so many opportunities for Superintendents to continue their education but not much for staff training. We started these last fall with the assistant and crew training days in Auburn Hills and Sparta along with the chainsaw safety training classes. We plan to do more this coming fall and possibly in season. Please let me know what sort of crew training you would see value in for your staff. We can even do it right at your shop or clubhouse to make the travel easy. We will do the heavy lifting with registration and promotion if you have any need!

Another change this year will be the membership directory. We are in the process of designing an app that will be available in the iPhone app store and Google Play store. This app will integrate with our new website's online membership directory with the click of a button. With this we will no longer be printing a membership directory. This really came down to the information in the printed version only being good the day it was printed. The online directory is as fresh as the members keep it, with the prevalence of smart phones the board thought this was an appropriate direction. We do hope to expand on the app in the future and make it more dynamic.

Finally, none of these changes or options would be available without the support of our industry partners. The next time one of the sales reps from a partner stops in thank them for supporting you!

Adam Ikamas, CGCS
MiGCSA Executive Director





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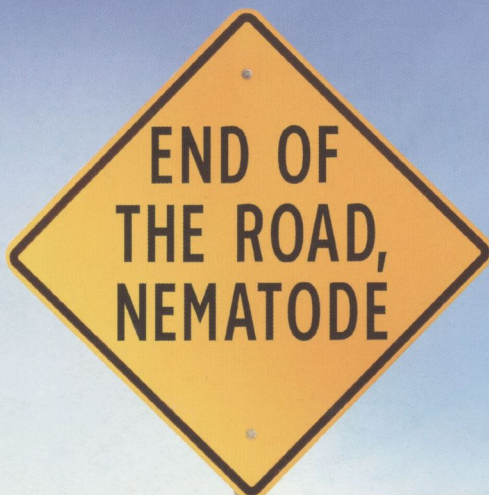
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