



COURSE Conditions

SUMMER 2019

Quarterly Publication of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association



FEATURE SUPERINTENDENT

Jake Mendoza
Detroit Golf Club

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Feature: Dr. Jim Crum, 35 Years at MSU

Industry Partner Sue Shockey, Sales
Representative for Target Specialty

Assistant Superintendent Profile:
Alex Johnson, Blythefield Country Club

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COURSE Conditions

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 -
Tuck Tate Championship
(True North G.C., Harbor Springs)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 -
MSU Student Welcome BBQ
(Hancock Center, East Lansing)

SEPTEMBER 9 - 15 -
The Ally Challenge, by McLaren
(Warwick Hills G&C.C., Grand Blanc)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 -
Assistant Superintendent Championship
(Prestwick Village G.C., Highland)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 7 -
Western Golf Day
(Point O' Woods, Benton Harbor)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 14 -
The Big Event
(Barton Hills C.C., Ann Arbor)

Please visit www.MiGCSA.org for all of the latest and most up to date information. You can quickly and easily register for events, view past issues of Course Conditions, browse and post items for sale, post and browse classifieds, and so much more. If you need help logging in email us at info@migcsa.org

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President's **PERSPECTIVE**

What's Your Brand?

Whether you are aware or not, your daily actions and interactions with the people around you create a brand. Marketing professionals try to create positive brand awareness through campaigns that highlight their customer's product or service. As individuals, we are creating brand awareness with our interactions with family, colleagues, employees, employers and customers. Take a minute and think about your brand. Do your employees respect you and look to you for leadership? Do your employers look to you for solutions and a good attitude that will help their business grow and thrive? Do your colleagues look to you for advice and count you as someone they can trust? If you are coming up short in an area, there is good news. Just like marketing companies can improve positive brand awareness, you can improve your brand, and even change your brand over time, to one that makes a positive impact on others.

Early on in my career, I believe my brand was strong in some areas and fell short in others. In my first years as a Superintendent, my employees probably (not probably, they did) considered me a hot head, who lost his cool quick. That was a fair assessment, as I felt a tremendous pressure to construct, grow-in, open and maintain a course at a high level in the span of 2 years. I put the weight of everything on my shoulders, and that stress ultimately boiled over onto my staff. As time passed, I realized this wasn't healthy for me or my staff. I started to change my brand and made a conscious effort to treat everyone with the respect that they deserved. Over time, I noticed that staff turnover was low, and I had a core group of people that I could count on because they knew they could count on me. That's a much better brand than what I started out with.

It is imperative to the success of a course that there are strong working relationships among the departments. Make it a priority to develop good relationships with the Golf Professional, the Food and Beverage Manager, and their respective staffs. This has helped through the years to accomplish more and create a culture at Bucks Run of "we are all in this together and we need to work together to make the course as successful as it can be". Too often I see the opposite, and it is an "us vs. them" mentality. Work together like a team of horses; don't pull against each other like jackasses. Your brand at your course should be the go-to person; the person that is able to problem solve and get positive results. Working together will make your team stronger and your business stronger.

With your employers, always tell the truth, own mistakes and look for solutions, rather than just point out problems. Obviously, your brand with your employer is very important, only second to your brand with your family and friends. The most important aspect with your employer to secure a positive brand is honesty. You can work your entire career for an employer, and build a great brand, and in one day tear that all down by being dishonest. Dishonesty is very hard (some would say impossible) to recover from.

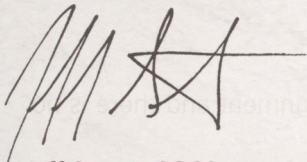
With industry partners, once again treat each one with respect, honor appointments and be honest. Three things that aren't that difficult. There is always the time when an on-the-course



emergency takes you away from an appointment, but always try to give notice and always give an apology. Too often I see a Superintendent air a grievance about a supplier on social media. We can do better with those that support us every day. I know I wouldn't want my many shortcomings called out on social media, and I'm not sure why our current society feels that it is an acceptable practice. If you have an issue, have the tough one-on-one conversations that need to happen. If you don't get the results you feel you need, move on and find someone that can service your property better; that shouldn't happen on a public forum, though.

Your chapter works extremely hard on creating a positive brand. "Enhance and promote our profession" is what every board member works towards when volunteering their time to serve you. Once again, this isn't an "us vs. them". This is us. You are the MiGCSA, you represent MiGCSA and you can help or hurt our brand as industry leaders. There are many men and women in this industry that I respect and look to for advice. These professionals have created a brand of integrity, professionalism and respect. I received a hand-written note from one such person this spring, further instilling the positive brand that he created over 60 years in the business, and to this day, in his retirement. What's your brand and how can you do better today than yesterday?

As always, make it a great day!



Jeff Sweet, CGCS



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35 Years at MSU

BY DR. JAMES CRUM

The announcement of my MSU retirement at the 2019 MTF Turf Conference was probably a bit premature and somewhat misleading. I am planning to retire, but it will be a phased retirement over the next two years. As of this writing, I will officially retire in August, 2021. I have been extremely fortunate and continue to have a wonderful career at MSU. The Michigan turf industry has been mainly responsible for this success and I thank you. I have been asked if I would share a bit of what I have learned over the past 35 years. This is not a class reading assignment and there is no quiz at the end!

I just completed my 35th year at MSU and probably have a slightly different perspective than my turf colleagues. The short story of my academic background is during my sophomore year in the Agronomy Department at Purdue University, I was trying to decide if I wanted to follow the soil science or turfgrass science track. I took Dr. Bill Daniel's Introductory Turfgrass Science class during Fall semester of 1973 and afterwards decided the soil science track was best for me. Dr. Daniel was wonderful, but my interest was soil and there was very little that dealt with the interaction of soil and the turfgrass surface in the class. I completed my Bachelor's degree in 1976, Master's degree in 1979, and then moved to St. Paul, Minnesota where I completed a PhD degree in 1984. All my work was in soil science, but I always had the interest in the interface of soil science and turfgrass science. It wasn't until Dr. Rogers began his career at MSU that I was able to direct my interest in turfgrass science. We quickly developed a wonderful relationship where we have taught, completed research, and done projects together bridging soil science and turfgrass science. I think it has been a symbiotic relationship where we, our students, and the turf industry have benefited.

Shortly after Dr. Rogers arrived at MSU he and I began working with crumb (no, the name has nothing to do with my last name) rubber as a



Our daughter Betsy with our granddaughter Hattie

soil amendment. In the early 1990's there was a push to recycle rubber and keep it out of the landfills. Research was sponsored to incorporate crumb rubber into asphalt roads and, luckily for us, there was interest in using it as a soil amendment. Our approach was to incorporate varying volume percentages to soil, establish turf from seed or sod, and attempt to measure the advantages of using it as an amendment. We chose our first large experimental site to be the MSU football practice fields. In some preliminary studies we had measured a bit of improvement in wear-tolerance on athletic fields, but we were sure the practice fields would be an extensive test. Football practices were as tough as you can imagine and our research plot areas were completely worn - no grass remained on any of the plots. We learned incorporating crumb rubber had a marginal effect and that Division 1 football practice fields receive a tremendous amount of wear!

Since incorporating crumb rubber into soil had limited effects, we asked Dr. Tim Vanini, who was working on a Master's degree at the time, to investigate topdressing crumb rubber onto turfgrass surfaces. There was a significant improvement of wear tolerance and the turf actually began growing earlier in the Spring because of the increased absorption of radiant energy. We thought it had great promise, but the cost of the product and the unknown environmental effects hampered its use.

The largest and most exciting project in which I was involved was the building and maintenance of the transportable soccer field used for the 1993 US Cup and the 1994 World Cup soccer games in Pontiac, Michigan. First, was the design of the modules used to hold the soil and turf. Many people had ideas, but we settled on hexagon and trapezoid shaped metal containers with removeable sides.

I remember there being about 2000 modules needed to build a soccer field. Second, we needed to decide on a soil blend to use in the modules. At the time we didn't have the luxury of the research Dr. Jason Henderson completed to define the proportions of sand, silt, and clay to produce the ideal root zone for athletic fields, so we guessed/speculated a blend of 80% sand, 10% Sandy Loam textured soil, and 10% peat. The soil performed well and was the basis for the work Dr. Henderson would do later. Third, was the turfgrass to be used. Kentucky Bluegrass (several varieties, remember I am a dirt guy) sod grown on plastic in Southern California was selected. To promote the games and the sod delivery, the large refrigerated trailers that travelled across the country were painted with the World Cup 94 logo and arrived in Pontiac with much fanfare and press coverage. The lights quickly dimmed and it was time to put the sod on the soil-filled modules. A relatively small crew of people worked diligently and fit each module with sod so they could be easily separated when it was time to move the field inside the Silverdome. Fourth, was the management of the turfgrass under the low light levels inside the dome. A research dome was constructed of the same fabric that covered the Silverdome and numerous experiments with combinations of growth regulators, fertilizers, and fungicides were completed to develop the system used to extend the time the field could be in low light conditions. Fifth, was actually being involved with the World Cup games and the support of many in the turf industry. When we needed a bit of help, all we had to do was make a few calls and workers were onsite.

The work I consider our largest contribution deals with the agronomic and engineering properties of high-sand content materials. Dr. Thomas Wolff from the MSU Civil Engineering



Changing table and dressers built for the grandkids



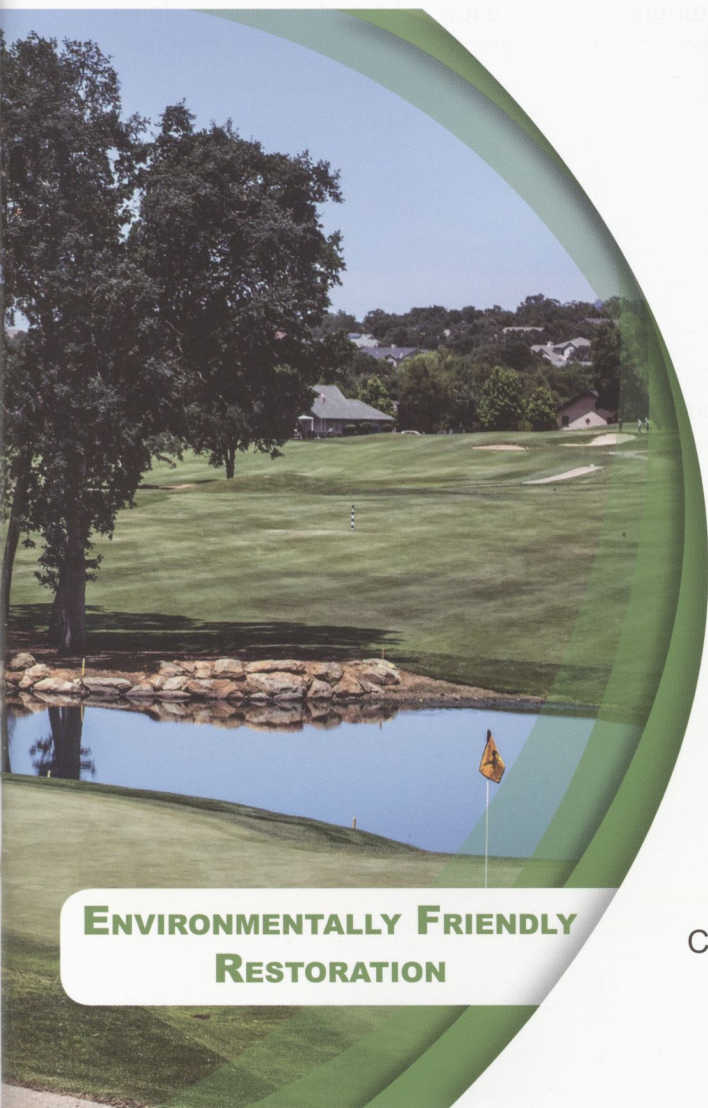
Our son, Nathan, daughter-in-law Monica, and grandson Derek

department cooperated with us to look very carefully at the distribution of the different sizes of granular (sand) material. We were able to dramatically increase the bearing capacity (strength) of sand material by controlling the distribution of sand sizes. This same kind of work was then extended to incorporating soil in the sand blend to increase strength and yet maintain adequate drainage, for athletic fields. When you call one of the sand suppliers and request a sand topdressing material, you can use our name in vane because of the presence of larger sand particles that are difficult to work into the canopy of the newer, denser creeping bentgrass varieties. Those particles need to be present, even though they are difficult to work into the canopy and wear mower blades and bed knives. Very recent research shows the sands that are removed during mowing following topdressing, have nearly the same distribution as what was applied. In other words, the sand that remains has about the same distribution and properties of the sand that was

applied. Don't use a finer sand to topdress your high sand content putting green or athletic field. Use the sand, or something nearly identical, as was used to construct the putting green or field.

I have spent a great deal of time teaching in the classroom, on field trips, and mentoring and advising students. Like you, we have had to adapt to today's youth. Early in my career there were no cell phones. Heck, personal computers were just starting to be used. Today, all have cell phones that are much more powerful than the first personal computers. Technology has changed our students in some ways, but students still need to be challenged to expand their thinking and develop lofty goals. Our job has been to push students from their comfort zone so they can expand and grow. In a changing world, that will not change.

You may be wondering what I am going to do with my time in retirement. I am an amateur



A.K.A. **MUCKMEN**

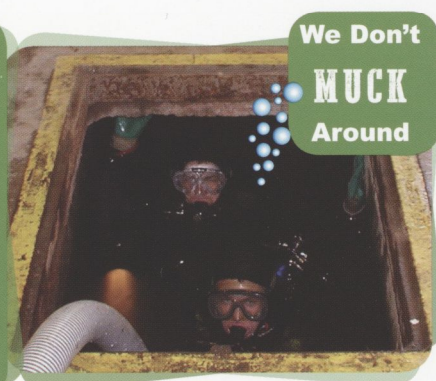
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woodworker and have 3 grandchildren (1 in the Detroit area and 2 in the Chicago area) that need visiting from Grandpa and GiGi (Grandma).

I am going to miss many things as my wife and I move away from East Lansing. The list is long, but the energy and enthusiasm of the students, working with those dedicated to the turf industry, and being involved with MSU basketball are the three I will miss the most. Then you may ask, why retire? My simple answer is it is time to dedicate more to other parts of my life. My wife and I counted last January that I was teaching the Fundamentals of Soil Science class for the 71st time. I still enjoy the challenge of enticing students to understand and be excited about soil, but it is time for new ideas and energy.

It is time to think about the future. Our turf industry will always need new employees and leaders. Our challenge is to identify those with the desire to work in the industry and then support and mentor them. Please call us, give us

names, and we will gladly send a note describing the turf industry and encouraging them to think about an education. It is the least we can do.



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THE WRENCH

BY: BEN BEARD, EQUIPMENT MANAGER
AT WALNUT CREEK COUNTRY CLUB

“BENgineering”

As EM's we do much more than just maintain a fleet of turf equipment. Many times, we are asked to find solutions to problems that don't necessarily have a clear cut answer. Sometimes it could be trying to diagnose a transmission issue with no service manuals or diagrams, other times it's fabricating an attachment that improves on how we do a certain job. Part of my routine is to get out on the course and see where I can help improve the ease of daily tasks. To some this may sound frustrating, but to me and most of my fellow Equipment Managers that is what makes this job fun! This allows for a change of pace to keep you on your toes and add some excitement to the daily grind. Pun intended!

Here at the Creek it's no secret that drainage is an issue. Over the past several years we had begun and continue to install new drainage in house. One issue that we faced was efficiently backfilling our trenches. We needed a fast way of getting the sand into the trenches without spilling on the turf. My solution was to create a funnel tailgate which would attach to the back of a heavy-duty utility cart. This would allow us to straddle the trench and drive over it, filling only the trench with sand, therefore saving us from excessive turning and backing up on the turf.

To be honest, all the materials that I used in fabricating the attachment were scraps from past projects, so my total investment was \$0. In addition, I was able to complete the fabrication without the use of specialty tools, an inexpensive welder and sawzall was pretty much most of my arsenal. After seeing several similar attachments on Twitter made of wood, I opted to construct ours out of steel. I wanted it to be as strong as possible and to last the duration of our extensive drainage improvement plan. Starting with 1" square tubing, I fabricated the "V" shaped frame, making sure the opening at the end was 6" to match the width of our trench. Next, after some precision cutting with an oxy/acetylene torch, I made the bottom and sides out of ¼" steel sheet that was left over from making my shop workbench. Lastly, I used ½" grade 8 bolts to act as hinge pins, trying to make it as close to a factory tailgate as I could, allowing me to attach with the same hardware as the factory tailgate. With some minor adjustments it fit like a glove. I pulled it off the cart and began to finish welding it together, making sure to alternate my welds so that I didn't warp the metal, ensuring that the fit stays true. My goal when fabricating is to make whatever I'm building look as close to OEM as possible and with this it was a success. I also tried to make the operation and installation quick and easy. We were



▶ 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.



extremely pleased on the way the attachment functioned and how easy it was to install and take off. One guy can easily install this in minutes and then remove it, leaving the cart ready for normal operation again.

Now it was time to test my creation in the field. We had just started a drainage project and it was time to backfill. It took a little getting used to but with the right operator it became a breeze. Simply straddle the trench and drive! Along with the driver, one person is needed to help push the sand to the funnel. We were able to fill all the linear feet of drainage in a fraction of the time, and without having an excessive mess to clean up. This allows us to install more drainage at once and more efficiently, which in return makes for a happy membership. Helping with the overall improvement of our course makes for an easy justification of this fabrication project. This is a perfect example of how some scrap metal and a little ingenuity, or “BENgineering” as I call it, can create a major savings for your agronomic team!





Drip Irrigation

BY ROSS MILLER, COUNTRY CLUB OF DETROIT

Bunker Maintenance at any golf venue is always a topic of discussion, as every site differs in their maintenance strategies, end product goals, differences between sunlight angles on the turf of each bunker etc. One of our goals at CC of Detroit is to make all of our bunkers here look completely homogenous, especially after a substantial investment was made by the club in 2010 with the renovation of bunkers being part of a large scale renovation with Renaissance Design to the property. These bunkers lend not only the obvious hazard influence to the property, but also a strong aesthetic influence to the property, as the bunkering, and 'eyebrows' of the bunkers are an iconic look to our parkland course, and also flow well with the topography & architecture of the property as a whole.

One of the challenges that the golf course was facing in 2014 was a changeover to all city water as our irrigation source, as opposed previously to raw lake water. This caused a substantial variance in operating budget dollars being invested to water, as the cost was not only the water, but also the treatment of drainage water off the property, as sewers are not separated here in Grosse Pointe Farms. With this, a challenge was placed to not only figure the operating delta out, but take the water management vigilance to another level. How do the bunkers figure into this you may ask, well let's dig into this case study!

The iconic bunkers at CC of Detroit all had landscape spray heads presently installed around them, on 12-15 foot centers to help provide supplemental irrigation to these rolled edge sod bunkers. While providing good supplemental water to these faces, we wanted to look at avenues to be as precise as possible with our water, and also look to have turf that would be able to withstand substantial sand splash as well from play. In four short years since renovation of these bunkers, there was a substantial amount of turf stress/loss to the Kentucky bluegrass surrounds of many of the bunkers, especially on South facing slopes, as well areas with heavy sand splash. The 'Spray Zones' around each bunker provided supplemental water, but at a rather large volume of

water being used (Average for each spray zone around each bunker on property was about 31 GPM) at 4, 4 minute cycles 3x weekly, this volume of water added up very quickly. With water reduction at the forefront, as well as possible regrassing of bunker surrounds, we began to heavily investigate the options that drip irrigation presented for us. We renovated four bunkers with drip irrigation tubing, emitters on 12 inch centers, running parallel with the slope of the faces. If there were large slopes, we integrated extra tubing on 12 inch centers parallel with the face as well. No drip irrigation was integrated on bottom, walk in parts of bunkers. One of our Foreman, Martin Perez, came up with an idea to utilize a Cordless drill with a wire wheel to create a small channel for the tubing prior to sodding these faces. We were fortunate to have the help of Derek Carroll and FIP Irrigation with this initial trial install. The bunkers we integrated the drip irrigation onto were all south facing slopes, and had a great deal of turf loss from previous years with heat stress/sand splash. Following the drip irrigation, we regrassed these bunkers with Turf Type Tall Fescue Sod to help as well with heat stress/sand splash. After a successful 1st year with these bunkers, we implemented a full scale bunker renovation plan for the entire property, to be undertaken in-house, and completed in 4 years. 5 years later, the bunkers that were completed in 2014 are still going strong with no issues to drip irrigation or turf health. The water reduction has been dramatic as well - average of 31 GPM to 3 GPH ---- MASSIVE reduction - 620X reduction in water usage around the bunkers!

How do we maintain control of each of these new drip irrigation zones around bunkers? We re-purposed the electric valves from the landscape spray zones, while adding a scrubber valve, new pressure regulators, and also filter screens as well to mitigate any issues with water quality down the road, should we ever switch back to a raw water source. These filter screens are pulled each spring, cleaned, and put back in their respective locations as a preventative Maintenance measure. Some of the zones that are unfortunately not tied in with the rest of the irrigation program



are individually programmed with a Rain Bird TBOS Controller - very cost effective solution in the interim where we can write our own programs, and upload them to each station individually in minutes.

These changes have allowed our bunkering to return to its footprint as a vital part of the puzzle here at CC of Detroit, and not be a liability from a maintenance, irrigation, financial or aesthetic aspect, but an asset.

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GOLF DAY AT THE CAPITOL: Legislators Learn Golf Industry's Impact

POSTED ON JUNE 7TH, 2019

LANSING – State Sen. Ken Horn, R-Frankenmuth, proclaimed “June is Michigan Golf Month” on behalf of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the state legislature, and former Lt. Governor Brian Calley, who is now the president of the Small Business Association of Michigan, coached Michigan Golf Alliance members on how to approach their legislators and build relationships.

It was all part of the Legislative Day 2019 Golf on the Capitol Lawn event Thursday in the shadow of the Capitol Building. Members of the Michigan Golf Alliance, a cooperative body of six state golf associations, visited each state legislator in their Senate and House offices and then invited them and their staffs to have “lunch at the turn.”

“Golf is a great sport where you get to be outside to enjoy Michigan,” Horn said before reading the proclamation. “Where I live in Frankenmuth people can come and enjoy a beautiful golf package along with the other great things to do in our community, and it is like that in a lot of our communities around the state.”

Calley told the Alliance members to try and move the message from its fun to go out and play golf to what’s at stake when there is legislation that impacts the golf industry.

“What’s at stake is an industry that is integrated into so many other things that happen and are important in our state,” he said. “Let them know the economic impact in Michigan is \$4.2 billion, yes billion with a b. Let them know 60,000 people are employed by Michigan golf courses and that Michigan has the most public course in the nation. Build a relationship and tell them what is

at stake. That is what you have built here and you should be really proud of it.”

The Michigan Golf Alliance is made up of the Michigan Golf Course Association, the Greater Michigan Club Managers Association, the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Michigan Section PGA, the Golf Association of Michigan, and the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

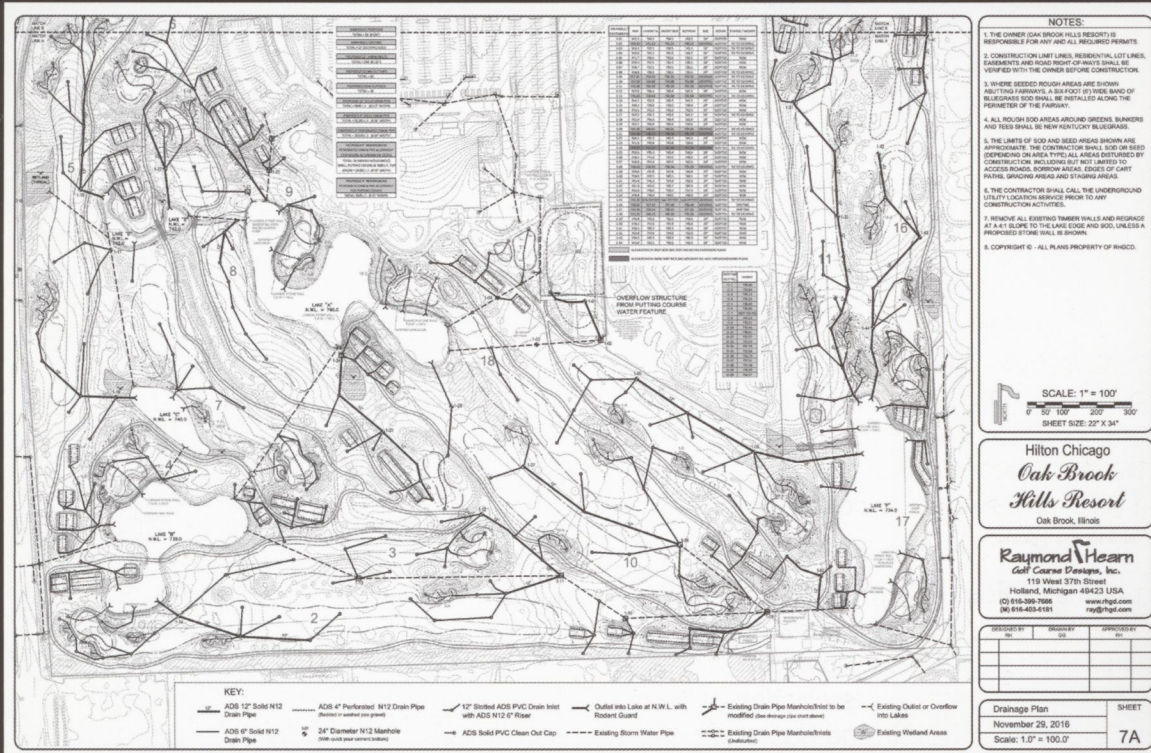
For over a decade golf course owners, operators and superintendents have gathered each spring to voice a cooperative message. The executive directors, presidents and members of the organizations in the Michigan Golf Alliance took part in the visits to offices and then shared conversation and concerns over a lunch.

“The Michigan Golf Alliance created this event to facilitate golf industry representatives introducing themselves and informing the Legislators and their staff on who we are and what our industry brings to the State of Michigan,” Jada Paisley, executive director of the MGCA said. “I can’t overstate the importance of this day in delivering the message to our government leaders.”



Sen. Ken Horn and Tom Schwark of the Michigan Golf Course Association hold a proclamation from Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declaring June is Michigan Golf Month. From left, Bob Bales of the Michigan PGA, Sen. Horn, Schwark, Chris Angott of the Golf Association of Michigan and Doug Johanningsmeier of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.

Golf Course Drainage Problems? We Can Help!



MANHOLE / CATCHBASIN	RIM	INVERT IN	INVERT OUT	BOTTOM	SIZE	COVER	STATUS / MODIFY
1-01	745.5	744.5	744.5	743.5	24"	SLOTTED	NEW
1-02	744.13	741.23	741.23	740.23	EXISTING	SLOTTED	TIE TO EXISTING
1-03	744.5	743.5	743.5	742.5	24"	SLOTTED	TIE TO EXISTING
1-04	746.6	745.2	745.2	744.2	24"	SLOTTED	TIE TO EXISTING
1-05	741.7	740.5	740.5	739.5	24"	SLOTTED	NEW
1-06	739.5	737.5	737.5	736.5	24"	SLOTTED	NEW
1-07	738.7	737.5	737.5	736.5	24"	SLOTTED	NEW
1-08	738.8	736.5	736.5	735.5	24"	SLOTTED	TIE TO EXISTING
1-09	737.61	734.26	734.26	733.26	EXISTING	SLOTTED	TIE TO EXISTING
1-10	737.68	734.88	734.88	733.88	EXISTING	SLOTTED	TIE TO EXISTING
1-11	740.38	735.58	735.58	734.58	EXISTING	SLOTTED	TIE TO EXISTING
1-12	749.6	748.4	748.4	747.4	24"	SLOTTED	NEW
1-13	745.03	736.68	736.68	735.68	EXISTING	SLOTTED	TIE TO EXISTING

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JAKE Mendoza



Jake Mendoza

is in his second year as the superintendent at Detroit Golf Club, and the work of his staff received rave reviews from the PGA Tour following this summer's Rocket Mortgage Classic. Jake, who has worked at several prominent clubs in his young career, sees the Detroit Golf Club position as one he would like to hold for several years. He has been married to Rachel for 12 years and they have three children; Charlotte, who is 5, Jack, who is 3 and Audrey, who is 1. He is 37 and studied for his career in the Rutgers University Professional Golf Turf Management Program.



1 HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? I became involved in the business by accident. My neighbor, who was the assistant superintendent at the local club, asked if needed a summer job, I said yes without even asking what the job was, he said he would pick me up at 5:30 the next morning, and the rest is history!

2 WHEN DID YOU DECIDE YOU WANTED GOLF TO BE YOUR CAREER? I pursued other career opportunities while continuing to work on the golf course. After two years of college I finally decided that the course is where I wanted to be. The superintendent that I was working for helped me become more involved at the course, and also talked me into pursuing an education in turf.

3 WHAT ARE SOME OF THE COURSES YOU HAVE WORKED AT? I started as a seasonal laborer at Short Hills Country Club in East Moline, Illinois, and worked my way into a full-time crew position. From there I moved to

an internship at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, New York, where I was lucky enough to start in February and work into October. When I finished school, I took an Assistant position at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, Illinois. After three years I moved into an Assistant Position at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Illinois, where I worked my way through all of the assistant and superintendent positions over 10 years, finishing as the senior superintendent. In 2018 I made the move over to Detroit Golf Club as the head superintendent.

4 WHAT PART OF YOUR EDUCATION DID YOU USE THE MOST? All of it! I am still learning a new property and staff, basically starting from scratch on setting the foundation of our agronomic and management plan. I have used everything, plus more, in the process.

5 HOW HAS YOUR JOB AT YOUR CURRENT COURSE PROGRESSED? It has progressed quickly! In a very short time, we were able to





prepare for a brand-new PGA Tour event. At times I still feel like I am just getting my feet under me!

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

MiGCSA is an invaluable tool for superintendents. It allows for great opportunities to meet other superintendents, which is great when you are new to the area! MiGCSA was also an amazing partner in hosting the Rocket Mortgage Classic, from getting me in contact with other supers in the area that have hosted events, to helping communicate with all of the members that gave us their time volunteering for the event.

7 WHAT IS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION?

Being new to the area I am not that experienced with the MTF. I am very impressed with everything that they do for our industry and look forward to being more involved in the near future.

8 DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE GIVEN BACK TO GOLF? Hosting a PGA Tour event is a great way to give back to golf. I hope that all of the volunteers took something from that week, whether it was a different way of completing a task on the golf course, or a new friendship within the industry. I look forward to continuing to build our volunteer program in the coming years, and also finding the time to get more involved in the local association.

9 DO YOU HAVE HOBBIES OR SPECIAL INTERESTS AWAY FROM THE GAME? My kids are just starting to get into sports and other activities, being there to support and encourage them is my biggest interest right now. Outside of work and family, I love to find time to barbeque on my Big Green Egg.

10 WHAT IS THE HARDEST PART OF YOUR JOB? Managing and motivating staff. Keeping everyone on the same page and working towards the same goals is a challenge.

11 WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB? Being on the golf course, some of the best office views around!

12 WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING GOLF? Labor, I think every golf course is facing the same struggle. There are not enough people willing to do the work that we do, for the pay that is available.

13 IS THERE RESEARCH YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED IN TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT? I am very excited to see more research on technology: GPS, sensors, moisture meters, and new chemical options. I think that we will see major reductions in inputs to the golf course based on the knowledge and information that will be available.

14 WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS? I hope to be preparing to host the 11th annual Rocket Mortgage Classic.



5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. Even though I'm from Western Illinois, I grew up a Red Wings fan
2. I married my high school sweet heart
3. I make an amazing smoked brisket
4. I hate talking on the phone, email or text me!
5. I'm a coffee snob



15 HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED 100 YEARS FROM NOW? I want to be remembered as a great father, husband and friend.

16 WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST IN YOUR TURFGRASS CAREER? I have taken something out of every relationship that I have built in the industry, but the person that has influenced me the most is Curtis Tyrrell. Curtis was the Director of Golf Course Operations at Medinah Country Club. We spent 10 years working together and accomplished a lot in that time – three golf course renovations, a shop renovation, rebuilding the practice area and hosting a Ryder Cup!

17 WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU'VE LEARNED THAT YOU USE ALL THE TIME? There is no such thing as over-communicating. Make sure that your team knows where you are going, and how you expect them to get there. You would be surprised what you can learn from your staff, members or co-workers if you get them talking.

18 HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF A SUPERINTENDENT IN A GOLF OPERATION? The superintendent is vital to the success of a golf operation. The superintendent usually wears more than

one hat and is a great team player who keeps the operation moving forward.

19 WHAT PERCENTAGE OF TIME DO YOU DEVOTE TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT? About 70 percent of my time right now, but I'm hoping to spend more time on the course as we get into more a routine with the PGA. I have a very strong team that allows me to focus on all of the other items and know that the golf course is in great hands!

20 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT? The Assistant Superintendent is vital to the daily operation of the golf course. They are the boots on the ground executing the plan for the day.

21 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE GOLF COURSE MECHANIC OR TECHNICIAN? Another vital part of the management team. Keeping the equipment in working order allows the rest of the team to execute their jobs to the highest level.

22 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF GOLFERS WALKING VERSUS RIDING IN A CART TO PLAY? Obviously, I would prefer that everyone walk, but carts do have their



place on the golf course. I would rather have a golfer take a cart, than decide not to play golf.

23 WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE IN GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE? Ball marks, divots, and paying attention to your surroundings – following signs and ropes, being courteous of maintenance team members who are trying to make the golf course as good as it can be

24 WHAT OPINION DO YOU HAVE OF GREEN SPEEDS IN TODAY'S GAME? There is too much of a priority put on green speeds. Keeping things consistent and matching the architects intent of each property is more important in

my opinion. If things are “smooth and true” most golfers won’t notice if things are fast or slow.

25 DO YOU HAVE A HUMOROUS OR INTERESTING STORY YOU CAN SHARE FROM YOUR CAREER? My Border Collie Sam chases every helicopter that flies over. He will go from sleeping to sprinting after a helicopter before you even hear it coming. I should have learned my lesson, but both the 2012 Ryder Cup and the 2019 Rocket Mortgage Classic he was running through the crowd barking at a helicopter! Luckily at the Ryder Cup it was during a practice round, the Rocket Mortgage Classic was during tournament play with golfers on the course!



Full disclosure: heavy metal, speed & weed

BY THOMAS A. NIKOLAI, PH.D.

I started working at the HTRC as an undergrad in 1989 putting out herbicide and PGR research trials for Dr. Bruce Branham. I open with that because until this spring the last time I made an herbicide/PGR application was when I was working for Dr. Branham in 1990.

The reason for that historical lesson is that on January 7th of this year Aaron Hathaway, my research technician, informed me he had accepted a position with NuFarm. Though Aaron was my research technician he was also MSU's lead turfgrass weed

researcher and extension expert. I understand if it seems odd that a "technician" would be the head of both roles, so let's do a timeline and discover how this came to pass.

In 1984 I entered the 2-year turfgrass management program at MSU. Dr. Branham ran the turfgrass weed research program at that time until he departed in 1995. In 1997 Dr. Jim Baird took the position, stayed long enough for a cup of coffee, and departed in 2000 leaving his research technician, Ron Calhoun, head of the turfgrass weed program. Ron was clearly



Hawk Hollow practice putting green PGR study coming out of winter from a late fall application. I hope Steve Forillo lets me back on the course.



Dr. Ron Calhoun putting out a late fall premergence crabgrass study.



2019 was a challenging weather season for more than just rainfall.



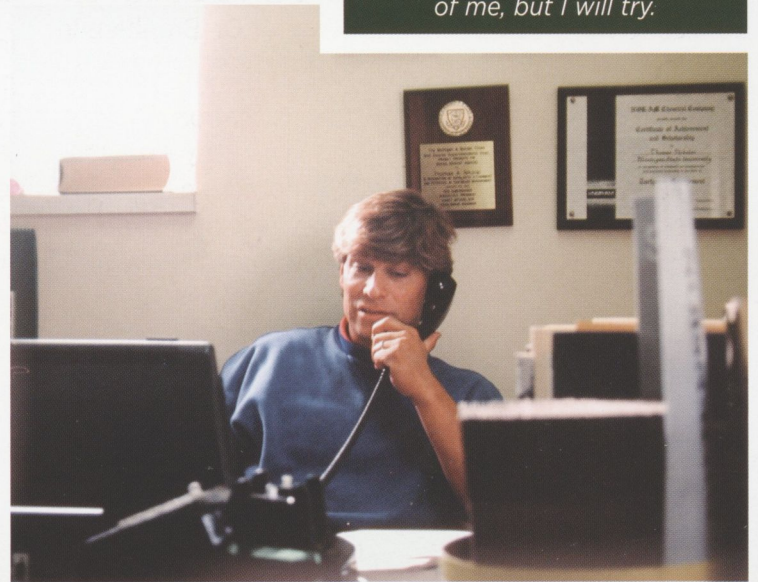
Assistant superintendent Don Roth at Crystal Downs C.C. helping me put out a "native" area herbicide trail.



I will probably never get famous enough in turfgrass weed science that someone will make a poster of me, but I will try.



Mike Morris CGCS at Crystal Downs C.C. showing me how high the blue stem grows in his "native" areas.



The thing I am talking into is called a phone and I am recording a weekly CAT (crop advisory team) Alert to give turfgrass recommendations during the growing season. That was high-tech in the early 1990's

capable of filling the void so the department chair promoted Ron to an "academic specialist" position which allowed Ron to teach the turfgrass weed management class. As a specialist, Ron had to cover over 40% of his salary which he easily did with funding from the MTF and research grants.

Ron grew the position and was nationally respected among his peers. In 2004 Ron hired Aaron Hathaway as his research technician and the position was on solid footing especially when Ron earned his Ph.D. Unfortunately, the economy took a hit and funding got tight and it became evident with the turfgrass physiologist hire that Ron would not be offered the opportunity to get solid funding. These events helped persuade Ron to enter private industry in 2011.

Aaron became my research technician when Dr. Calhoun departed because I was asked by my boss to coteach the weed management class at MSU. To explain how insane this was recall I had not performed any weed research since 1990. The fact is I started working under Dr. Paul Rieke in 1991 performing cultural and mechanical research. I performed research with the soil including fertilization, wetting agents, leaf litter, and multiple forms of aerification (remember the HydroJect?), topdressing, and the initial TDR studies. I planned to depart MSU upon graduation so with the blessing of Dr. Rieke I started my own trials that included alternative spike research, green speed studies, and lightweight green rolling.





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Dr. Rieke retired in 2000 and Dr. Kevin Frank was hired, great hire, and I became his technician. The problem was I still had to finish my Ph.D. Kevin, understandably, had no stake in that game. So when Dr. Rogers offered me an opportunity, I took the position of academic specialist where I continue to teach students in the Ag-Tech programs. Drs. Rieke, Rogers and Frank allowed me to carve out my own niche and become known as “The Doctor of Green Speed (DoGS) to which I owe them a debt of thanks.

When Ron departed in 2011, Dr. Rogers stopped in my office and recommended I drop all my other research and go full bore into weed research. He was correct, but there were two obstacles. The first, though I was known world-wide for green speed I quickly found no-one in the turfgrass weed world knew who I was and secondly, it was not possible to cover Aaron’s salary by performing weed research alone. So I continued performing lucrative heavy metal research, working with proto-type mowers and rollers while maintaining green speed studies and performing alternative spike studies. When Dr. Frank’s technician left the university in 2014, Aaron became the research technician for both of us. Since that time, Dr. Frank and I have been subsidizing the MSU turfgrass weed program by paying Aaron’s salary along with funding his trips to scientific meetings, etc. That brings us to today, where I am currently the MSU turfgrass weed specialist, albeit, in training.

So what am I doing now to increase my knowledge of turfgrass weed science and how am I spending the funds that are given to me by the MiGCSA and MTF? Let’s do this with bullet points.

- In March I took the pesticide applicators exam. The last time I had taken the test was in 1992, so I was a bit nervous especially with two recently graduated turfgrass students, Nick Young and Christian Maher in attendance. They finished the exam before me and smiled as they departed the room. Honestly, I was relieved to pass with over 90% on both exams.
- While I am applying some pesticide applications, I hired Eric Galbraith who is an entomologist by training. Eric worked with Nancy Dykema and Dr. Vargas for 4-years at the turf center which means he hit the ground running this spring. He can only work part time this but he is dedicated and meticulous and the turfgrass industry is blessed to have him working on our team.
- Besides the turf center I am also performing pesticide research off site with a “native area” weed control study at Crystal Downs C.C. as well as assisting with a fairway PGR study at Meadowbrook C.C. in Northville. I am also rating PGR plots applied last fall on roughs and putting greens at Forest Akers and Hawk Hollow.
- In July I traveled to the University of Missouri for the annual NCERA meeting to learn from



Hanging with coworkers on the 10th at Arcadia Bluffs to thank MiGCSA members for their support while displaying a sign with Tee Times 4 Turf member courses to honor their support.



Rating a PGR study in the rough at Forest Akers G.C. with new research technician Eric Galbraith.

experienced weed experts. I asked more questions than everyone else combined and I took notes.

- We are finishing up a fairway rolling study this year and I am performing some putting green mowing height studies with PGR's and rolling.
- With the urging of some MiGCSA members I have created a study website for students to assist in their efforts to learn and hopefully perform satisfactorily at the STMA and GIS turf educations competitions.
- Finally, I am also assisting Adam Ikamas and Shane Conroy in creating golf course BMPs in Michigan for the GCSAA.

Full disclosure, I expect I will not truly be a turfgrass weed expert until Field Day of 2020 or possibly not until the 2021 MTF Conference, but I am enjoying the challenge and having fun as I learn along the way. With that I thank you, that is, the MiGCSA and MTF members for their financial support. Please know I am open for suggestions about the type of weed research you would like performed, just call or email me. To close, I bet given the title you thought this article was going to be about life in high school in the 1970's didn't you?



Golf course superintendent Jared Milner and my ex-research assistant Aaron Hathaway partnering for a fairway PGR study at Meadowbrook C. C.

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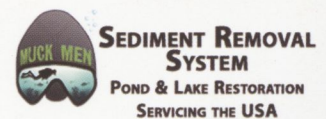


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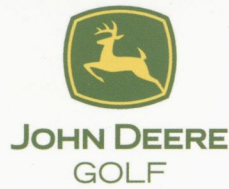
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A Message From

BY CAREY MITCHELSON, MTF EXECUTIVE

I would be the first to admit not being smarter than most. However, being smart enough to realize it, provides opportunity for others who are more talented to show their skill set. Having the right person with the right expertise can make all managers look like superhero's... if they are willing to allow that right person to show their gift.

Why does that matter?

The electronic age and social media have changed much of the way we try to be "as smart as all of us." We don't even have to know who the "other person" is that is "all of us." Just google an item and the response received will provide all the answers you need to just about anything. So, who needs "all of us" when we can do everything by ourselves? To be certain, many prefer the single minded mindset and our egos sometimes do not allow us to "not know" something. So... why belong, join or participate in any like minded associations, groups, events or for that matter anything, when we feel it's not needed or its value is not deemed necessary? I wish I had the definitive answer to that question. Forcing someone to be a part of something when they are looking for a way not to be a part of "that something" is an endeavor that will become frustrating at best...or not end well at worst.

"Expectation is the mother of all frustration"

Let's talk turkey. The MTF will soon begin its annual membership notifications. Why be a member of the Foundation is question often asked. The response is not easy...the MTF can be a useful instrument for some... and something else for another. Everyone's expectations are different...and it can be frustrating meeting everyone's expectations. So, what exactly do we do offer? In my opinion, connection. Connection with a bit of loyalty on the side. Connection with the Turf Team at MSU when needed, connection to MSU that many of us relied on for our education, connection to local events that support the funding of research, connection that provides local knowledge when needed...because "None of us is smarter than all of us."

Also, regarding membership. Our annual renewal is coming soon and the MTF will have a new feature that will use anniversary dates for renewal instead of the annual renewal date of October 1. Information regarding that will be coming soon.

New on Campus

Within this edition a couple of our Turf Team Professors have included some thoughts and I would like to thank both Thom and Jim for their efforts over the years. Your support

"None of us is as smart as all of us."

--Ken Blanchard

of them is appreciated and the MTF thanks all our members who have contributed to their success. A much-deserved thanks is due to Dr. Crum in particular. Many of you have taken his classes, studied diligently to meet his expectations and shared stories that will be noted for later conversations. Dr. Crum will soon be retiring and he will certainly be missed. We wish him well as he takes on the next step as an MSU retired professor and scorekeeper for Tom Izzo and the #1 Spartan Basketball team. Jim certainly left an imprint on many of our fellow grass growers and I hope each of you have a minute some day to

thank him for all has done for the MSU Turf Program.

There is also an addition to the MSU Administration that has Turf ties. The new Plant, Soil and Microbial Science Chair will be Dr. Brian Horgan. Brian will be leaving the University of Minnesota this September to return to MSU to take on this massive step in his career. Brian began at MSU and was involved in Turf program before moving on with his profession. His return to his "roots" is a great story and we as an industry welcome him and wish him well in his new capacity.

Finally

Thank you to all the participants, sponsors who were a part of the MSU Field Day. Dan Mausolf (Chairman) put together an event with new wrinkles and should be credited for all his hard work. This event has grown significantly and has become a key part of our research funding element. The Turf Team works hard each year to make an impression and they once again produced a wonderful show.

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- Hope to see you there.

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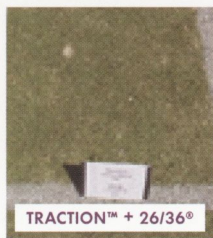
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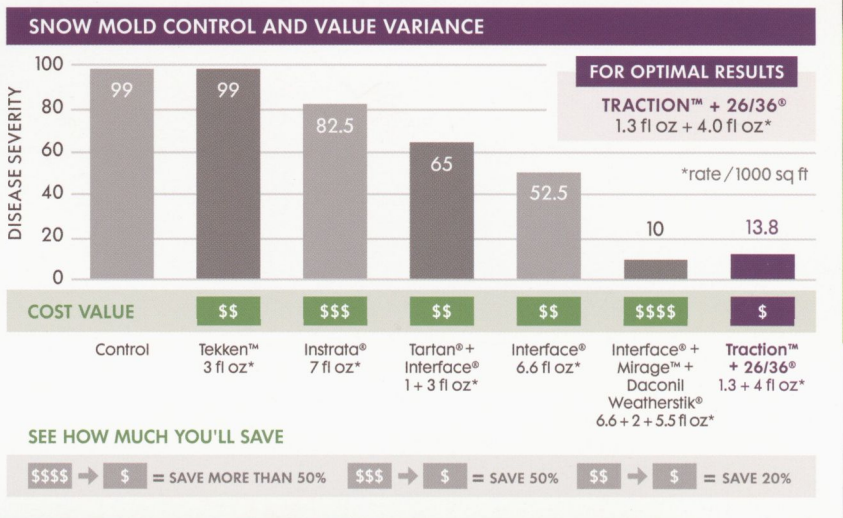
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THE 2019 MICHIGAN OPEN EXPERIENCE

BY JIM APSEY, EQUIPMENT MANAGER
AT SPRING LAKE C.C. & 2018 MIGCSA STATE CHAMPION

Playing in the Michigan Open was an incredible honor for me and I would like to thank the MiGCSA Board of Directors and the Michigan Section of the PGA for the opportunity. Years ago, I attempted to qualify and was always just a few shots off from making the cut. Winning the MiGCSA State Championship was pretty amazing and topping that win off with an exemption to the Michigan Open was a dream come true.

This year, the Michigan Open was held at The Grand Traverse Resort, which felt like going home for me. My family and I lived in Traverse City for fourteen years and were members of the resort for many of those years. It was great to be able to reconnect with friends and former colleagues at the tournament. The Michigan PGA was very welcoming, and I felt comfortable chatting with all the top golfers from around the state.

The weather was cold and rainy the first day of the tournament. Standing on the first tee, I could barely feel my hands, but I was able to put my drive in the center of the fairway. I made par on the first hole and got a birdie on The Bear's difficult second hole.

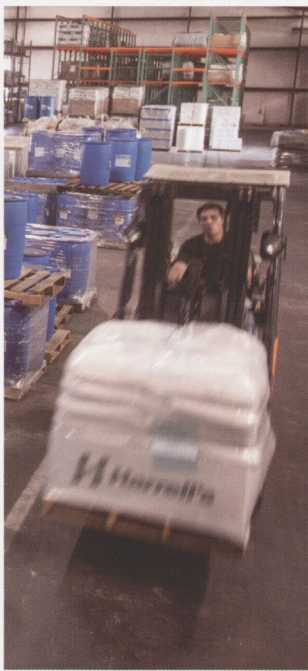
Overall, I played the front nine well and ended up with a 37. As we rounded the corner, the rain started coming down even harder. I continued to play well but could not score on the back nine.

I held my own the first day of play and approached the second day feeling confident that I could put a good round together. Unfortunately, my iron play was not cooperating that day. Without going into detail, let's suffice it to say that I was lucky to end the day without breaking any clubs. Even though the second day of the tournament was disappointing, I really enjoyed the experience overall. I knew that I was in a little over my head at the Michigan Open, but I took it as a learning experience. I am looking forward to defending my title in the upcoming 2019 MiGCSA State Championship and getting another crack at the Michigan Open.





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2019 Northern Fundraiser Results

With 250 combined tee times for members, friends and families taking part in the 2019 Northern Fundraiser at Arcadia Bluffs on Sunday at the South Course and Monday on the Bluffs Course the fundraising year is off to a great start. A windy and challenging day on the South Course on Sunday led to an eerily calm sunny perfect day on the Bluffs Course on Monday.

A very special thank you to our 2019 Premier Fundraiser Sponsors BASF, Bayer, F.I.P. Irrigation Services, Matt LaFontaine Automotive, Site One Golf, and Spartan Distributors. There were 6 proximity prizes for the day, four closest to the pins and four long drives thank to our Premier Sponsors; the winners will each get \$25 in Gift Certificates to Arcadia Bluffs. Finally thank you to our other hole sponsors Rhino Seed, Standard Golf, Eco Green Supply, Control Dynamics, MCI Flowtronics, Target Specialty Products, Sediment, Removal Systems, MSU Turf Team, Bio Boost, Porous Pave, Plant Food, Harrell's, Nufarm, Tenbarga, Syngenta, Earthworks and J.W. Turf. There is a Texas Hold Em' poker game contest on hole #9 and complimentary beverages on #10.

Thank you to MiGCSA members Jim Bluck, CGCS, Director of Agronomy, Trevor Nash, Bluffs Course Superintendent, Cody Kuhn, South Course Superintendent, Alex Opgenorth Assistant Superintendent & Pat Sullivan, Equipment Technician. Also special thanks to PGA Professionals Bill Shriver, COO, Zack Chapin, Vice President of Operations, Chris Sivier, Director of Golf, Zack Schultz, Bluffs Course & Eric Dye, South Course. Director of Food & Beverage Cameron Cosby & Ketty Zamora Director of Lodge Operations.

Prizes will be mailed out. If you won a prize, please send an email to adamikamas@migcsa.org with your mailing address.

Closest to the pins:

#2 - Chad Kuzawa
#6 - Team Bucks Run
#13 - Brian Roberts
#17 - Bill Wagner

Long Drives:

#3 - Josh Teitsma
#16 - Adrian Roach

Skins:

All skins were pushed, thank you for the donation to the fundraiser

Poker Game:

9 through King Straight Flush team Sieggreen

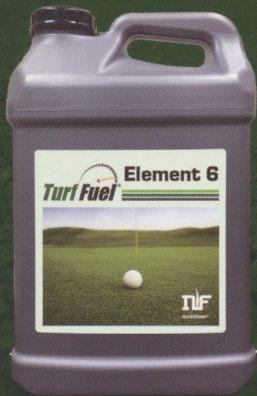
Winning Scramble Teams:

1st place (Scorecard Playoff)
56 - Chris Seaton, Cooper Tarter, Steve Geisler & Jim Loupee

2nd place
56 - McMaster, Rogers, McMaster & Hollenbeck

3rd place
59 - Team Bucks Run

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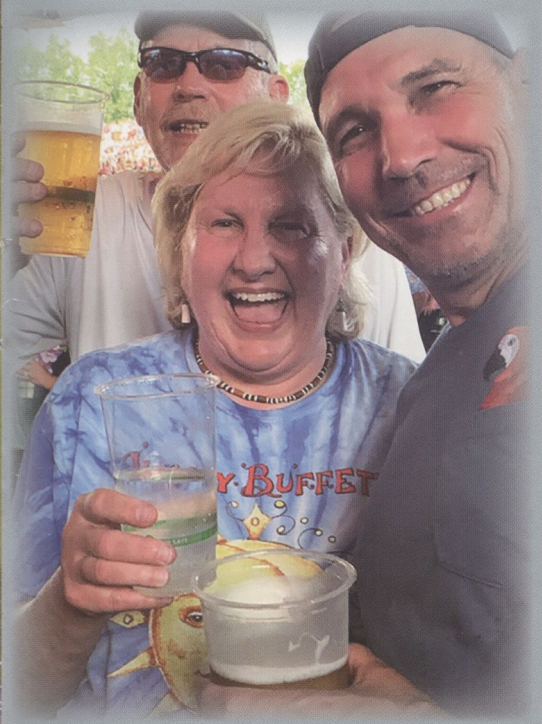
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SUE Shockey



Sue Shockey has worked in turf sales for 37 years, first with Turfgrass-Residex for 15 years and since with Target Specialty. She and Jere have been married 33 years. They have a son Jake, who is 30 and her stepson Jeremy is 43. Sue is an Ohio State University graduate, and she said her age is old enough to know better than to answer that question!



- 1 HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?** After receiving my degree in Agronomy, specializing in soils and turfgrass management, I decided to spend at least a year working in the golf industry to learn what it was about. I worked at Canterbury Golf Club in suburban Cleveland for three years. I loved every minute of it!
- 2 WHO WAS YOUR GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?** My father. He was a Cleveland police officer for 35 years. He taught me integrity and hard work and always doing your best.
- 3 WHO WAS YOUR GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE?** Terry Bonar was the permanent first assistant at Canterbury. He is an incredible person and was the best mentor anyone could ask for.
- 4 CAN YOU SHARE A FUNNY STORY FROM YOUR CAREER?** I have more than you can imagine and many are inappropriate for a publication. There is one, and this goes back a few years. A customer asked me to come over to the course at 6 in the morning. It was a little brisk outside. He had a jacket on and wind pants on. We drove around the course, got back in the office and we were talking products and the price of a few items. Well he had on these navy wind pants on and I turned my back on him to look at the pricing book on a work table in his office. Then as I turned to talk to him and tell him the price or whatever, out of the corner of my eye I saw that he took his pants off. Well, he had what I found out were khaki shorts on, but for a minute there I thought he had dropped his pants and didn't have shorts on. I'm not speechless very often, but at that moment I was. It took a few seconds to realize he had shorts on. It was hilarious. I still see that customer and we talk and laugh about it.
- 5 WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?** With the challenges facing the golf industry these days, budgets are tight and efficiency is key. Wages have risen due to the shortage of quality available workers.
- 6 WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS WHEN WORKING WITH THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?** I feel MiGCSA has appropriately named the vendors group Industry Partners. We truly are partners with our customers as they strive to provide the best possible conditions for their golfers.



7 DO YOU HAVE AN EMBARRASSING CAREER MOMENT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE? I was talking with a super once about some technical aspects of products and how they work, what worked best, that kind of thing. I got kind of tongue-tied at one point and I said, from a testical standpoint, you know, instead of technical. In this business you have to have a good sense of humor, especially a women in this field. I was so embarrassed. It was funny, but I was embarrassed.

8 WHAT IS YOUR BEST ADVICE TO DECISION MAKERS WHEN DOING BUSINESS? A good sales rep should provide a range of options for the superintendent that include various cultural practices as well as chemistry-based solutions. Once all the options are laid out, the superintendent can make the right decision.

9 WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF BEING IN AN INDUSTRY SUPPORT ROLE? The most rewarding part of my job is seeing progress made over the course of a season or over several seasons. Helping people is my biggest reward!

10 WHAT IS YOUR BEST SUCCESS STORY? The first thing comes to mind is when I graduated from Ohio State I was the first woman in the turf program. Now, I'm not a confrontational person looking to bust

barriers. I just love the field and I'm so fulfilled that I get to help people in this industry. Well, when I was first working, I was travelling coast to coast and soon I was married with a young child. I guess the success part is that my kids somehow are not screwed up. That's a pretty good success story.

11 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY THE MOST ABOUT YOUR POSITION? The opportunity to get to know and provide help to some terrific people in this industry!

12 DO YOU HAVE SOME TRAVEL TIPS? Use your GPS every time you get behind the wheel! With road construction, detours, and traffic accidents it'll save you time each time.

13 HOW MANY DAYS OF THE YEAR ARE YOU ON THE ROAD? Around 300 days per year.

14 WHO HAS THE NICEST SHOP YOU CALL ON AND WHY? I really don't have an answer for you on that, but I can tell you who has the best ladies room - Bloomfield Hills Country Club.

15 WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER THE BEST PRODUCT YOU OFFER AND WHY? I think the best product we provide is service. If my customers call on Sunday mornings, or Friday nights, I'm there. Everybody sells stuff, and sometimes you sell much the same stuff as the competitors. But you know, you learn more than what is in the book along the way. You learn by doing, helping others put the puzzles together. So the best product is service, knowing that customer, the history of that property, going out and looking, lending support and getting them the product or whatever they might need.

16 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE ITEM TO SELL/ DEMONSTRATE? I have to say Civitas. It is a unique product that stimulates the plant's defense system to fight disease. It is tremendous, organic and improves the health of the plant so much.

17 WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF COURSE TO PLAY? I don't play. I have never been able to fit it in and that window is closed now. I've got grandkids.



18 IF YOU HAD A DIFFERENT PROFESSION, WHAT WOULD IT BE? I would be a veterinarian. I love animals and science, and putting together the history of that animal with the science would be something I would like to do.

19 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE GOLFER AND WHY? I watch golf from my air-conditioned family room. I used to like Phil Mickelson, but I don't anymore. It is probably Ricky Fowler now.

20 DO YOU HAVE A NICKNAME AND IS THERE A STORY BEHIND IT? Yes - one of my many nicknames is Shoe Sockey. People sometimes get tongue-tied when saying "Sue Shockey." It cracks me up.

21 WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES OR ACTIVITIES? My husband and I are Jimmy Buffett fans. We have gone to see him over 40 times. It just makes me happy.

22 IF YOU COULD TRAVEL TO ANY TIME IN GOLF WHEN WOULD IT BE AND WHY? The golden age of golf was in 20s and 30s. It would be neat to see Donald Ross creating some of his work, or Colt and Alison and their work on the great classic courses.

23 WHO HAS THE BEST MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT DOG? There are so many of them it is hard to choose one. There are so many great ones. I carry dog biscuits in the car for all my dog friends. I can't single out one. They are all wonderful.

24 HOW MANY CONFERENCES AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS DO YOU ATTEND PER YEAR? Usually the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation conference and the MiGCSA spring education seminar, as well as some lawncare and landscape shows. I don't go to as many now. It used to be the only way to get new information.



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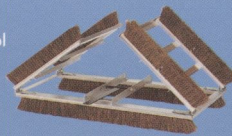
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25 WHICH ONE IS THE BEST TURF CARE PROFESSIONALS CAN ATTEND? The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation conference covers everything, and there are so many options for what you need to learn. That one is awesome.

26 HOW DO YOU THINK THE INDUSTRY WILL BE DIFFERENT IN 10 YEARS? I think so many of the older guys, older supers, are retiring. I've gone to three retirement parties in the last 12 months and maybe one or two in the 15 years prior to that. Guys are retiring and in the next five years younger, more aggressive supers will be filling those roles. It's a good thing.

27 ARE THERE ANY NEW PRODUCTS ON THE HORIZON? Thankfully YES! In order to extend the useful life of the products we have we need to be able to alternate so we don't overuse any of them.



5

THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I grew up in Cleveland
2. I was the first woman to graduate (B.S. degree) from Ohio State in the Turf program, and I minored in French in college.
3. I have 2 sons (Jake 30) and Jeremy (43)
4. I was a bartender in the Flats (warehouse district in Cleveland)
5. I'm a Parrothead - a Jimmy Buffett fan. Have seen him in concert over 40 times. A guaranteed great time!!



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ROCKING AND RACING

BY HEATH BRONK, EQUIPMENT MANAGER AT KALAMAZOO C.C.



It all started when I was 2 years old. I had a John Deere pedal tractor and a crescent wrench and the next thing you know I had the rear wheel off it and was pretending I had a flat tire and I needed to fix it. I figure I was just born to turn wrenches. I started riding motorcycles at age 3 and started racing at 7. I raced Motocross and Harescrambles until I was 27 years old. Out of those 20 years I won a hand full of state championships in Michigan and I also turned Pro in 1992 racing nationally. I gained the majority of my engine knowledge from all my years of racing. I built and rebuilt my own engines it helped keep the cost down. My dream was to be a factory rider and race for a living. I was very close and having a great year and then I was hurt at a national in PA; broke my left ankle pretty bad. I ended up trying to come back from it but it was tough riding with the pain so I had to stop. That was one of the hardest things I ever had to do.

So now what? Well while I was hurt I bought a guitar and started teaching myself how to play and even though I loved 80's rock music I found that I liked country music as well and I could sing it pretty good so by 1997 I started a band with my brother who taught himself how to play the harmonica and we played every venue and party we could. We started writing songs of our own and then the next thing you know we started opening up for acts like Dierks Bentley, Charlie Daniels, Eric Church, Kenny Chesney and so on. We have opened for over 80 national acts up to present. I have had so many cool opportunities being in this band it has been amazing. My Superintendent John Fulling at the Kalamazoo Country club is a great drummer and about 11 years ago he joined our band and a couple years later after he found out my history with engines and motorcycles, The Equipment Manager position came available and I have been here ever since. I love my job!! I still play in the band quite often and am still writing songs putting together another album.

I also found a new love in racing stock cars! It is very similar to racing bikes just two extra wheels and it takes a little more setup. I am having a blast and am setting new goals and I'm getting faster every week! Right now I am racing on asphalt and before I am done racing I want to try racing dirt tracks. Something about going sideways on a dirt track reminds me of motorcycle racing.

In between all of that craziness I also coach my kids in travel soccer and basketball however that is getting less and less as they are getting older. Did I mention I have a great wife that puts up with me and my crazy ideas? This is what I do outside of work and how I got here. I love my life and live it to the fullest!!!

2019 Wee One FUNDRAISER



The Johnson Family. From left: Gary, Hunter and Dawn.

An adage that was popularized by the movie *Forrest Gump* has become a rallying cry for longtime GCSAA and MiGCSA member Gary Johnson and his family. We have a saying at our house, “S#it Happens,” Johnson told attendees at the May 20th Michigan Fundraiser for the Wee One Foundation at Franklin Hills Country Club as he donned a blue baseball cap emblazoned with those words.

The slogan has helped the Johnson family cope with the tragedy that befell them in September 2017 when their youngest son, Hunter, had a muzzleloader accidentally discharge while deer hunting, striking him in the face and destroying his jaws, teeth, and part of his nose.

Hunter has undergone 20 surgeries over the past 20 months to rebuild the damage to his jaws, nose and face. He has an additional surgery scheduled for this summer, along with the installation of dental implants to replace the teeth that were lost in the accident. Doctors will then assess future surgical needs. Because of the overwhelming medical bills, the Johnson family was nominated for assistance from the Wee One Foundation, a benevolence organization that assists families of golf course maintenance professionals who have significant medical bills due to accident or illness.

“I want to thank everyone for their donations to this Foundation,” said Johnson, assistant superintendent at Red Run Golf Club in Royal Oak, MI. “It has helped out my family during a very difficult time.

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When something like this happens, you're overwhelmed immediately. With the Wee One donation, our burden was eased.”

Since its inception in 2004, the Wee One Foundation has gifted nearly \$1.5 million to individuals in the turf industry who have faced financial hardship due to medical conditions. The fundraising initiative in Michigan has raised more than \$300,000 and the majority of these funds have gone to families and individuals within the state.



The success of this year's Michigan event, which raised more than \$35,000 for the Foundation, is largely due to the generosity and support of the sponsoring companies, host club, and individual contributions from MiGCSA members that were matched by the association.

Many thanks go to the members and management team at Franklin Hills Country Club for their support and assistance in hosting the event:

- Brian Schwehofer - Superintendent
- Marek Wojcik - Assistant Superintendent
- Scott Cummings - General Manager
- Jeff Ferry - Golf Pro
- Bob Janik - Golf Operations
- Jessica Waxman - Clubhouse Manager
- Laurent Fregonaza - Catering Manager
- Keith Bjertness - Chef

Despite the unseasonably wet and cold day that has typified most of the Spring of 2019, a sold-out field of 116 golfers enjoyed the challenge of the classic Donald Ross layout.

"I had never played Franklin Hills before," said Jeff Hopkins, superintendent at Muskegon Country Club. "I was very impressed with the golf course design, layout and conditioning. I really enjoy attending this event year after year to see what an impact the Wee One Foundation has on families and individuals who are in need."

"It's an amazing feeling to be part of an event that selfless, hard-working individuals go out of their way to support, even through their own tough times," said Don Knop, superintendent at Great Oaks CC.

The volunteer team that organizes the Michigan event includes Steve Cook of Medinah CC, Jeff Fisette of St. Clair Golf Club, Andy Gianino of Cascade Hills CC, Ross Miller of Country Club of Detroit, Mike Plague of Great Lakes Turf LLC, Scott Rettmann of Walnut Creek CC, and Bonnie Van Poppelen.

The 2020 Michigan Wee One fundraiser will be held on May 11th at Point 'O Woods CC in Benton Harbor.

To learn more about the Wee One Foundation or to make a contribution, visit www.weeone.org.

Golf Event Winners – 2019 Wee One Fundraiser

Two Best Ball Net

- 1st place: Andy Grewe, Brian Grewe, Randy Grewe and Mike Plague
- 2nd Place: Aaron McMaster, Carey Mitchelson, Terry Poley and Brian Schwehofer
- 3rd Place: Luke Cella, Jeff Frentz, Gary Johnson and Gary Thommes

Closest-to-the Pin

- Hole # 3: Jared Milner
- Hole # 9: Larry Vande Vrede
- Hole #14: Aaron McMaster
- Hole #16: Mark Svozil



Brian Schwehofer, superintendent at Franklin Hills CC, host of the 2019 Michigan Wee One Fundraiser.



Jeff Frentz, superintendent at Lake Shore CC in Chicago, braves the elements in the Michigan Wee One Fundraiser.





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ALEX Johnson



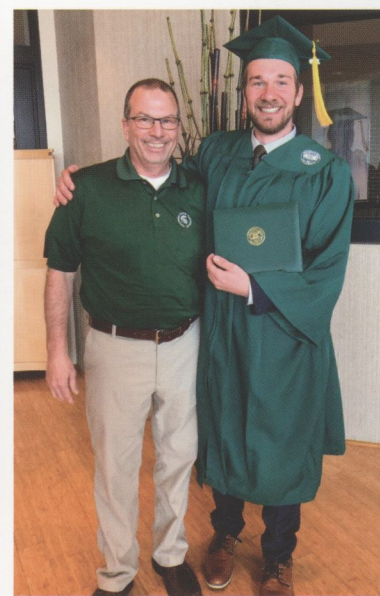
Alex Johnson is at Blythefield Country Club in Belmont near Grand Rapids as an assistant superintendent. He started April 1 and immediately was involved in preparing a popular private classic course for the LPGA Tour's Meijer LPGA Classic stop. He is 24, single and holds a turfgrass management degree from Michigan State University.

1 HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN GOLF? My involvement in golf started with my parents. They both worked at Kent Country Club (in Grand Rapids, MI) when they were in high school. Because of that, they suggested it as a place to work at and I started as a caddie when I was 11. After that, I went to the bag room, then the pro shop. I realized I wanted to explore opportunities outside of the indoors, so I asked Keith Paterson (Kent Country Club's Superintendent) for advice in building a putting green in my backyard at home. He was happy to help and encouraged me to try working with his crew. I then worked from him on the crew that summer. He noticed I had an interest in turfgrass management and recommended MSU's program offerings.

2 WHAT WAS A KEY THING YOU LEARNED FROM YOUR FIRST JOB? A key thing I learned from my first job is that I did not want to work inside at a computer all day every day and that there are plenty of opportunities outside the walls of an office.

3 WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THAT FIRST JOB? I enjoyed being able to work outside on a course with other guys my age.

4 WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES? My current responsibilities involve overseeing the grounds crew, assigning tasks and ensuring course conditions are consistent. I keep my eye out for small details but also spray, fertilize and work on irrigation.



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

A deep tine unit be very useful in the spring and during extended wet periods like we had earlier this year.

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

We have an over thirty-year old three-wheel Cushman cart the crew calls "Darryl".

7 WHO ON YOUR CREW MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST?

The guy on our crew that makes me laugh the most is "Steve". His real name is Alex, but we all call him Steve which is funny in and of itself. He rakes the bunkers each morning and likes to collect some of the rocks he comes across, but only the pretty ones.

8 IF YOU HAD A MULLIGAN ON A DIFFERENT CAREER CHOICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

My original career aspiration was to be a lab technician and work in a hospital doing medical research. If I had a mulligan on a different career choice, I would be involved in research.

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

If I could change any hole on our course, I would change the par 5 along the river by re-doing the fairway and fixing the drainage.

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

I really like the DryJect because of how it is just a one-step process vs. pulling cores then topdressing.

11 WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION?

My expectations from the MiGCSA are opportunities to network with other members of the golf community and continue to be educated on new ideas and practices.

12 HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

Keith taking the time to guide and mentor me into this field really was a turning point for me, so now I try to make a point of explaining why we do certain things a certain way so that the crew has an opportunity to learn as well.

13 WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

I Sometimes communication can be an issue, but I've found that repeating myself a couple times can help.

14 WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE JOB?

Not necessarily the most difficult, but bending over to do tee markers is definitely one of my least favorite things to do.



- 15 WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF THE JOB?** The easiest part of the job is mowing, greens are my favorite to mow.
- 16 WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS?** In 10 years I would like to still be at a private country club somewhere in the area. I am open to wherever my career leads me, but I would really love to stay in West Michigan close to family.
- 17 HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED IN THE FUTURE?** I would like to be remembered as someone who made life easier. Whether it being in someone to lean on or just everyday parts of the job. I always want to be able to create a fun and positive environment for the crew.
- 18 WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?** My former superintendent, Keith, is one person who has influenced me the most about Turf Grass Management, but also the crew as a collective did too since they took me under their wings.
- 19 WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED?** The most valuable thing I have learned so far is how important the balance between work and life is in this job. Last summer I spent fifty-six days straight working 13-14 hour days hand-watering the course all summer. I just had to grind my way through it and make sure that at the end of it all I take time for myself and my family.
- 20 HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE?** I rate it as being important because you are an extension of the superintendent. One person can't have their eyes on all parts of the course, it takes a team and the assistant really is another point-person that can be relied upon. It also is critical because this role is a great opportunity to learn and eventually progress into a superintendent's role further in my career. And learning what I can as an assistant is allowing me to know what to do when I get to that point.
- 21 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE MECHANIC?** A mechanic is a crucial and indispensable member of the crew. We would not be able to do what we need to do daily without his attention to detail on the fleet. Our mechanic, Stan, always has the equipment in great shape and ready to go. Occasionally if we have a break down there is very little down time.
- 22 WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?** Cart traffic. People driving too close to the greens and bunkers is very frustrating to see.
- 23 WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF GREEN SPEEDS AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY?** I think the desired green speed should vary course to course depending on undulation of the greens, size and player expectations.



24 IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANYTHING ABOUT GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I wouldn't allow whip turns on the greens, it looks better if every turn is a three-point turn when mowing. I think it is something that tends to be neglected and can be improved.

25 AWAY FROM GOLF, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT?

I absolutely love college basketball. Particularly Michigan State University (Go Green!)

26 WHAT TYPE OF HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE AWAY FROM GOLF?

I like working on my green, and chipping and putting on it in the backyard. My dad set up an artificial chipping spot to hit from as well. Other than that, I like road trips with my girlfriend, bike rides, and finding new ciders from local breweries around Grand Rapids.

27 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE GOLF COURSE?

Kent Country Club is my undoubtedly my favorite golf course. I got my first hole-in-one there on No.5 with a 6-iron, I worked there, and I'm a third generation employee. My parents met there, so it kind of is the reason for my existence.

28 DO YOU HAVE A BUCKET LIST COURSE?

Other than Augusta National, I want to play TPC Scottsdale. I would really love to play the stadium par 3 there.

29 WHAT IS THE FAVORITE CLUB IN YOUR BAG?

My 58-degree wedge is the best part of my play. Any-time I have that, I trust my shot will go where I am aiming for it to.

30 WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE?

My dad Bruce. He is an incredible role model in how he handles himself through problems, situations, and in how he treats others. I couldn't ask for a better dad.

31 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT?

I love Gyros. The lamb and tzatziki sauce are a slam dunk every time!.

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

Hunter-green Jaguar with an MSU license plate.

33 WHAT IS YOUR DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM?

My dream scramble team is Tiger Woods, my brother Kevin, my dad and I.



Non-retouched client photo: GreenJacket System coming off in the spring!

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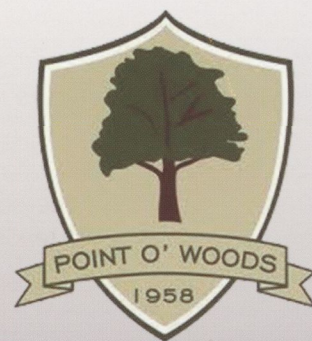
THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. Started working on a golf course as a caddie in 6th grade.
2. Originally studied chemical technology and wanted to work in a hospital lab.
3. Constructed and maintain a small green in my backyard, about 1500 square feet.
4. I've played golf in Ireland.
5. I love donuts.

Western Golf Day

October 7th

Point O' Woods



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Shane Conroy

BY SHANE CONROY AND GCSAA STAFF

25-year GCSAA member Terry Poley hosted the first ever First Green field trip in the state of Michigan in May, where he welcomed students from St. Joseph Catholic School in Lake Orion to Pine Lake Country Club. Hot on the heels of this successful field trip, the First Green is making headlines again thanks to Ken Melrose, former CEO and chairman of the Toro Company.

The Kendrick B. Melrose Family Foundation has donated \$500,000 to the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), the philanthropic organization of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). The endowment will support First Green, which provides hands-on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education at golf courses.

The Melrose Family Foundation is supported by Ken Melrose, who retired from the Toro Co. as CEO in 2005 and from the chairman position in 2006. That same year he formed Leading by Serving, LLC, a company whose mission is to advance the principles of servant leadership in business organizations.

The First Green was founded in 1997 in the Pacific Northwest and officially became part of the EIFG in 2018. First Green is the only STEM education and environmental outreach program that uses golf courses as learning labs. Field trips average 75 students who not only learn about science and the environment but are also exposed to the game of golf as well. For most students, this is their first-time stepping foot on a golf course. In the year since GCSAA took over leadership of First Green, more than 2,000 students across the country have partaken in First Green field trips.

“As the child of an educator, I am pleased to have the opportunity to support a program that provides hands-on education while introducing students to the many benefits of a golf course,” Melrose said. “Under GCSAA’s direction, First Green has expanded nationally and is reaching more students than ever before. STEM education is vital in preparing students for the future, and I am proud to be a part of that.” Melrose’s mother, Dorothy Lumley Melrose,

taught math, english and public speaking at Memorial Junior High School in Orlando, Fla., in the 1940s and 1950s. In 2014, Melrose honored his mother’s memory with the creation of the Dorothy Lumley Melrose Center for Technology, Innovation and Creativity at the Orlando Public Library.

This is the third large gift to GCSAA and the EIFG from the Melrose Family Foundation. In 2012, the foundation gave \$1 million to endow the Melrose Leadership Academy, which focuses on professional development for golf course superintendents through opportunities to attend the annual Golf Industry Show. Since it began, 113 superintendents have experienced the Melrose Leadership Academy. In February, a second \$1-million gift was announced to create the Melrose Equipment Management Endowment. The endowment will have four focus areas: continuing education, a certificate program, growing membership in GCSAA and the Melrose Equipment Management Experience, which will bring GCSAA-member equipment managers to the GIS for leadership and education sessions.

“GCSAA is truly blessed to have Ken Melrose as a good friend.” GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans said. “His generous gifts have made a difference in the professional lives of superintendents and equipment managers and have helped us fulfill our mission of serving our members and advancing the profession. Now, he is helping us achieve the third part of our mission, which is enhancing the enjoyment, growth and vitality of the game of golf. Countless school children around the county will be the beneficiaries of Ken’s latest philanthropic act of kindness.”

The Big Event October 14th Barton Hills Country Club



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Save the DATES

The fall event calendar is starting to ramp up as we transition from the summer heat to the cool of fall. The MiGCSA Board made some changes to the calendar in 2019 to eliminate many of the mid-summer events as it was a struggle to get attendance as all our members are understandably busy and get busier every year. Many of these were pushed to September and October including some new events.

The most immediate is the Tuck Tate Championship at True North Golf Club in Harbor Springs on Monday September 9th hosted by Steve Sump, CGCS. We have discounted rooms at Boyne for a little get away to see a great Northern Michigan Golf Club. Just after that we have the MSU Student Welcome event on September 12th, in the past this was a golf event but has been changed to a BBQ at the Hancock Center where we will have some putting and closest to the pin contests going on along with dinner and an Industry Panel Q&A. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend this free event. A new event to the year is the Assistant Superintendent Championship. This event was conceived and will be hosted by Eric Davey at Prestwick Village golf Club and is open to all to participate regardless of skill level. Team and net individual prizes will be available.

Other important dates to make note of are October 7th and October 14th. On October 7th we will be having the Western Fundraiser at Point O' Woods in Benton Harbor, thank you Adam Roles for hosting. Then the last golf event of the year the Big Event will be hosted by Colin Seaberg, CGCS at Barton Hills C.C. in Ann Arbor. Attendance at these events is critical to our MTF Turfgrass Research donation, along with the various scholarships and Wee One donation. Remember these are open to all, not just industry or MiGCSA Members. Bring your friends and neighbors. Help us raise money for all these great causes.

In long term planning the 2020 Spring Meeting will be Wednesday February 26th & Thursday February 27th at Greektown Casino in Downtown Detroit. We will continue to build on the "Best 24 Hours in Turf" schedule with a 1:00 start on Wednesday and a 12:30 completion on Thursday for a total of 8 hours of CEU and MDARD credited education with relevant speakers from around the county. This is year two of this event and based on the success in Grand Rapids in 2019 we are looking forward to an even larger turnout in 2020. The 2021 event will travel to Northern Michigan and then return to the Amway Grand in 2022. If you

missed 2019 in Grand Rapids make plans for this year, if you were in Grand Rapids in 2019 I know you already have this planned for.

Often, I am asked what we can do as individual members to help support our chapter if you do not have time to serve on a committee or on the board. My answer is always the same, attend the events and support the Industry Partners who support you. Without these two things this magazine and none of these event opportunities would exist. The more attendance we get the more likely we are to get a hole sponsor or Industry Partner. The more you make purchasing decisions that include consideration of who is supporting you the more revenue the MiGCSA can generate to put into events like the Spring Meeting, GIS Scholarships, the MiGCSA App for your phone, every event we produce and our website full of information that gets more than 3 million hits a year or anything you as a member needs. It is your association and it can do whatever you want it to do. See you all soon at an event near, or not so near you!

Adam Ikamas, CGCS
MiGCSA Executive Director

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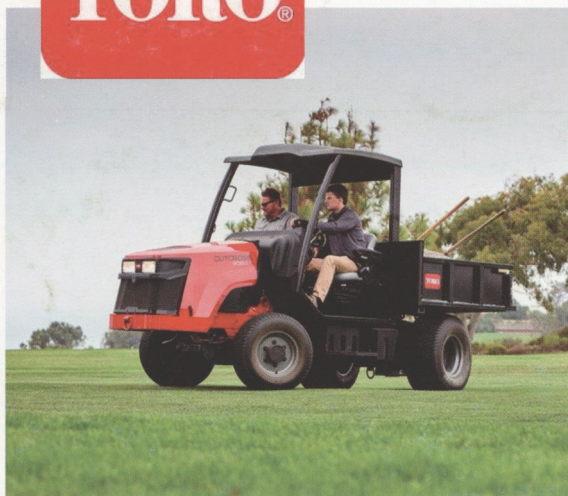
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