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Conditions

SPRING 2022 ISSUE

Biannual Publication of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association



FEATURE SUPERINTENDENT

MiGCSA President
Ryan Moore
Forest Lake Country Club

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FEATURE: What in the World is Going On?

Assistant Superintendent Profile:
Mike Kennings, Assistant Superintendent at Spring Meadows Country Club

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President's PERSPECTIVE

As I sit in front of a blank screen trying to gather my thoughts on what I would like to say in my first publication as the newly Elected President to MiGCSA; I can only start by summarizing my journey to this point, and how fortunate I am to be afforded the privilege to send a message to all our 700+ members

Moving to Michigan after living the first 14 years of my golf course management career in Canada, I realized I needed to find new friends, create a new network, and figure out how to manage grass south of the border. While Canadian Poa and Michigan Poa turned out to be the same, the only way to bridge the first two gaps was to get involved. I took advantage of many opportunities to attend events and education through the former Greater Detroit Chapter, where I met so many great people in the South East region of Michigan. With this foundation and growing network, I knew I needed more and saw the opportunity to join an Association that could introduce me to people in the Mid, North, West and Nationally. These people are "You, the MiGCSA members" and I thank each and every one of you for our personal and business relationships through the years!

This leads me to tell you "Get Involved!" Whether it be on a committee, attending an event, or hosting an event for your peers. The MiGCSA has flourished by new faces and new ideas continually paving new paths of direction for our membership. I would like to thank the MiGCSA Board of Directors, Past Presidents, and our members for letting me be a part of such a great group of innovative leaders.

Every year we are challenged at our facilities to provide a great product despite all the challenges and curve balls thrown our way. The uncertainties of the 2020 through 2021 Covid years certainly showed how diverse, and solution driven Michigan Superintendents can be. I applaud all your efforts, as Michigan Golf has never been stronger, and courses continue to get better. That leads me into our current state in 2022, where supply chain and labor issues are at their highest peak. I would like to acknowledge our Industry Partners who are the most closely connected to the supply chain. These individuals have continued to support us and have had in many cases had to pull rabbits out of hats to meet our growing demands at our facilities. Our Industry Partner Program is stronger than ever and I urge our members to rely on these individuals and their companies that dedicate their time to educate and find product solutions for us. A simple phrase that holds true to my heart – "Support those who support you".

In closing, the labor issue continues to be a challenge in the US, but specifically in the golf industry as well. I do see a breakthrough in many situations but not always in the traditional ways. Many Course Managers have changed the hours of work, perks of employment, and the processes of how we do things to integrate a wider audience of employees.



"Support those who support you".



More retirees, teachers, and young individuals are available to handle shorter work weeks and help fill the gaps of the season fulltime staffs we once had the luxury of.

My message to the Michigan Golf Course Superintendent, dedicating all his time to the property... Re-evaluate, look to free up some time with your family, enjoy those special places and hobbies outside your facilities. Taking time away improves your productivity and the overall effectiveness you will have on the property.

Sincerely,

Ryan Moore

*Forest Lake Country Club
MiGCSA President*



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What in the WORLD IS GOING ON?

The Business Side of End User Pricing in 2021/2022

BY PAUL GIORDANO, PH.D.

Our industry has a lot to be thankful for. The past 24 months have proven to be a net benefit in terms of rounds played, participation, and overall revenues for most golf facilities. Last week, I read an article in Golf Digest discussing the recent boom in capital investments among private clubs across the country. Signs of a healthy, more sustainable golf market compared to the not so distant past.

But we are certainly not exempt from the economic challenges of inflation and the global supply chain crunch. The turf world has been especially impacted by fuel prices which ultimately drive one of the most critical components of a turf maintenance operation - fertilizers.

Coming from the basic manufacturing side, I would often get asked about the “macro” aspects of product development and costs associated with bringing new active ingredients into the agricultural market and subsequently the turf industry. The numbers behind the scenes are staggering and often surprising to those unfamiliar with all that is involved. On average, to bring a new plant protection product (fungicide, herbicide, insecticide) to

market from discovery to commercialization costs roughly \$300 million and takes around 11 years. Production agriculture drives this process because the only way a company can feasibly make a return on that investment is with a blockbuster product that is used on thousands of acres across many different crops. Understanding the costs associated with research and development and some of the upstream processes helps to shed some light on the overall price of innovation in our industry.



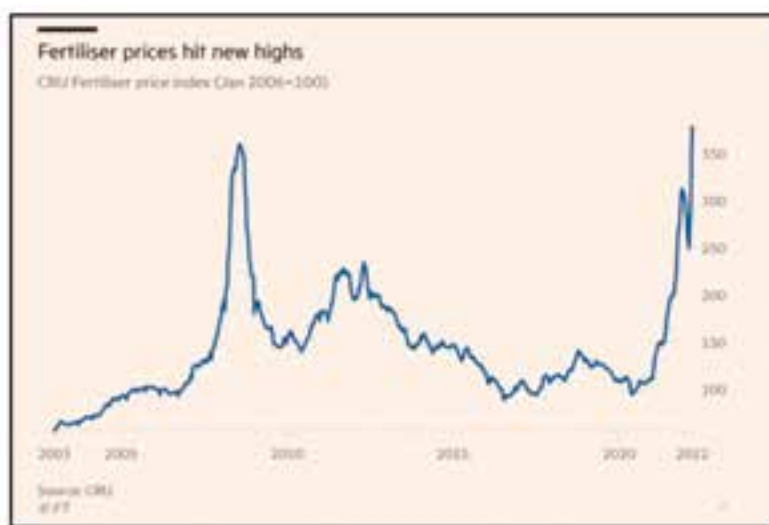
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Fertilizers don't necessarily have the same amount of regulatory red tape and exorbitant costs associated with their development like pesticides. However, like we saw in 2021, the fertilizer industry is very much subject to what I call the "micro" aspects of end-user pricing. These factors readily fluctuate and influence price on a month-to-month or even week-to-week basis, ranging from global trade agreements between countries to labor shortages on loading docks. The past year has seen almost a "perfect storm" of issues come together to dramatically affect the purchase price of your turf nutrition products. Below is a quick rundown of some of these factors:

- Commodity prices (corn, soybean, wheat etc.) grew in 2020 and 2021
 - Drove demand of more fertilizers to support more acres planted
 - Drained a lot of inventory (supply was down while demand was up)
- Fertilizer supply issues in 2021
 - Limited exports into the US
 - Weather - Hurricane Ida shut down major production facilities in the southern US for a period
- Natural gas price skyrocketing - especially in Europe
 - Basic ingredient/raw material used in the manufacturing of ammonia gas → nitrogen fertilizers
 - Price increases drove anhydrous ammonia up 77% on average year-over-year
- Trade and production constraints
 - U.S. sanctions and tariffs on some large exporting countries (Russia, Morocco, Belarus)
 - Significant reduction of exports and cutbacks on manufacturing from China (world's largest exporter of phosphate and urea)

- 2021 Slowdown in domestic nitrogen production due to Hurricane Ida in Southern U.S.
- Global supplies impacted which further exhausted alternative sources/options around the world
- These same production issues have also bottlenecked many key active ingredients used in the agricultural industry

- Freight costs significantly increasing
 - Rising costs of shipping cargo containers (10-fold increase in many cases compared to 2019)
 - Labor shortages and port slow downs
 - Trucking costs and fuel prices increasing on average 60% YOY



Fertilizer prices hit record on Russia supply concerns," by Emiko Terazono, The Financial Times (March 21, 2022)

- Global conflict
 - What looked to be an early 2022 reprieve on both natural gas and fertilizer prices went back up sharply after the Ukraine-Russia conflict began.





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If your head is spinning - you're not alone. Many find it easier to over-simplify and chalk it up to "the pandemic", "inflation", or "supply chain issues". While those catch-all terms aren't necessarily wrong, the reality is, the confluence of events that have driven fertilizer prices higher this past year are numerous and quite complex.

So, where do we go from here? Things are evolving every day, and I don't dare make any bold predictions knowing that things could dramatically shift between the time I write this article and it being published a few weeks from now. I will say that you should expect your fertilizer costs to be significantly higher compared to this time last year. These increases will likely continue well into 2022 until a level of stability in the global supply of raw materials and especially the price of natural gas occurs. The conflict in eastern Europe is not helping matters and will undoubtedly have further negative effects on the overall outlook moving forward. One thing that remains to be seen is how the American farmer will respond. If there is a pullback in use of fertilizers in agriculture, it could possibly ease some of the supply issues downstream - only time will tell.

Perhaps the recent financial success many golf facilities have experienced will help offset some of the heartburn around cost increases on maintenance inputs...or maybe not. Nobody



really knows how long the "perfect storm" will last, but one thing I do know is that turf managers and especially golf course superintendents are a resourceful and innovative bunch that will find a way to deliver quality playing surfaces regardless of the obstacles put in front of them.

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The 2022 Annual Meeting, **The Best 24 Hours** IN TURF AT BOYNE MOUNTAIN

The first ever Best 24 Hours in Turf was held in 2019 in downtown Grand Rapids at the Amway Grand Hotel on March 5th & 6th. In order to better accommodate our members schedules these meetings begin at 1:00 pm on day one and concluded on day two at 12:30 pm. In 2019 we had 130 attendees and in 2020 that grew to almost 160 registered, thank you to all who attended. With the global COVID-19 Pandemic this event was postponed in 2021 and finally we were able to have the Northern iteration on March 1 & 2 2022.

Again, this year the MiGCSA has made a large 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 and employees of class A & B Members. Hotel rooms for \$149.00 minus a \$50 discount per room bring the cost down to \$99.00 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 Industry Partners. Another





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Day one featured Zach Nicoludis, USGA Central Region Agronomist doing a review of 2021 with tips & tricks for operations of any caliber. Chris Whitten, Executive Director with the Golf Association of Michigan presenting Updates, Services and Messaging for 2022. Mike Sullivan & Kyle Bogey, from

Metro Detroit Golfers & Make The Turn Marketing presented on Stepping Into the Digital Age followed by the MiGCSA Annual Meeting. Mike and Kyle also helped with a great video recap of the event you can see here: https://youtu.be/UBxnGZ9U_Zk

At 5:00 pm the room transformed into the Presidential Reception in honor of newly elected President Ryan Moore from Forest Lake C.C.

that included beverage & raffle tickets with passed appetizers, again thanks to our Industry Partners. A few MiGCSA swag packages were up for raffle along with a \$50 gift cards from Cabela's and Amazon.

The next morning the hot breakfast buffet was a welcome sight for many after a great evening with their fellow members. Dr. Paul Giordano from Harrell's kicked off



the morning session with a timely presentation on the business side of products and end user pricing. Mike Morris, CGCS, from Crystal Downs C.C. made a heartfelt and brutal honest presentation on his struggles with many of the mental health issues so many of our members deal with so often titled Making the Turn (One Experience of Winning the Work/Life Battle). Thank you, Mike, for your honesty and openness, it resonated deeply with the members in attendance. Look for an article from Mike soon on this topic. The second day wrapped with the Superintendent Panel Q&A on Labor with Ross Miller, CGCS, Eric Davey, Jeff Hopkins, Doug Ware & Doug Hoeh. This lively conversation with real world examples of how to better find, train and retain employees sent everyone home with some action items. Thank



you to every person who helped plan this meeting and to all of the support of members attending and our industry partners. We look forward to our return to Grand Rapids February 27th and 28th of 2023 to continue to build on the best 24 hours in turf!



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Ryan Moore
played the Huck Finn
role and his neighbor,
an avid golfer, was the
Tom Sawyer in this
scenario.



RYAN Moore

BY GREG JOHNSON

Moore was a 13-year-old golfer and his avid-golfer neighbor took him for a round at a local golf course and introduced him to the side-bet concept. The bet, if Moore could beat the neighbor, then the neighbor would let Moore mow his lawn.

Just as Huck fell for Tom Sawyer's painting a fence is fun theory, Moore wanted to win his first side bet.

"I wanted to try out that mower and I got the chance," he said. "I was not as fascinated with beating him as I was with mowing that grass."

Moore loved the golf and the mowing and the two things remain a significant part of his life. He has been the superintendent at Forest Lake Country Club in Bloomfield Hills since 2011 after being an assistant at the club since 2004.

Moore grew up in Canada and it was also that summer at age 13 when he landed his first job on the

maintenance staff at Brampton Country Club just outside of Toronto. That was 1990 and he was still working on the staff in 2003 after earning associate degrees at Guelph University in Ontario and another at Sir Sandford Fleming College and flirting with career ideas in computer technology and accounting.

"I tried to get away from golf a few times, but it stuck," he said. "I just kept learning more and moving up the ladder. Raking traps, moving mowers, hole-changing, irrigation tech, assistant super all while going to school. Anything they gave me to do I enjoyed. I took pride in it and it was competitive with the younger guys that came long. It made me better."

His favorite part of the first job: "Being part of doing something I thought was special and then having other people notice what I was doing. There was a constant push – can I do





better? It was a sense of pride and being part of a team.”

Pride and teamwork, like loving to mow grass, are more constants in his career.

“There’s very much a political aspect working for a private club and with management of the crew, but I’m also that guy who loves being out in the dirt,” he said. “If anything I get stuck being out in the dirt too much because I enjoy it a lot. The bigger aspect for me now is managing the crew and operations.”

His management style, Moore said, is hands-on and he struggles at times to relinquish control.

“One thing I learned growing up is to never ask guys to do something I wouldn’t do myself. I always jump in and join my guys. I don’t think a leader has to just be someplace pushing buttons. I get out there

in adverse weather, whenever and help. Teamwork develops when you work together with the team. My difficulty sometimes, is taking too much on my plate to get it done at a high level. I need to let others learn and grow and shorten my days.”

Last year his staff numbered 13 at Forest Lake, and he would like to expand it to 18 if possible. He said he used to say the economy was the biggest problem golf superintendents face, but now it’s finding labor.

“Golf boomed with Covid and labor is going to be the challenge moving forward,” he said. “It’s a grind to move up the ladder especially if wages are not competitive along the way. They can find easier ways to make the same money, and I think this is the kind of work you have to do, to experience before you realize you want to keep doing it. There is

not a huge pool of guys like me who found a passion growing up and stayed with it.”

Forest Lake was originally designed in the 1920s by noted course designer William Diddel and the original routing remains intact. Some holes were redesigned over the years by Arthur Hills and Chris Wilczynski has worked on course restoration projects recently as well. Moore considers the course a great layout and treats the property that way.

“Forest Lake has a tremendous membership and a tremendous golf course and I enjoy that aspect of my job,” he said. “There is pride here.”

Moore said the older push-up greens on the course prompted him to start topdressing on a regular basis when he first took over at the club.



5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. First “Canadian” MiGCSA President Eh!
2. Pulled over by the police in 2020 on a Sand Pro during Covid-19 Shut Down
3. Work Hard, Play Hard, Live to vacation with my family
4. Plays the sport of Curling
5. First ever Assistant Liaison on MiGCSA Board

“We put sand on the greens and it has generated what I think are quite good green surfaces,” he said. “We put the sand on and use water management strategies. The greens on a course like this with 6,300 yards from the tips are the challenge, and it’s our hardest challenge to keep them top level.”

Recently, Moore was elevated to the top level of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MiGCSA) when he was named president.

He started a relationship with the organization when he was an assistant superintendent at Forest Lake to Fritz Mullen. Moore was the first liaison for assistant superintendents on the MiGCSA board. He later served on the board for the Detroit district and has worked his way through board positions with MiGCSA over the last six years.

“Every step of the journey has been rewarding,” he said. “Meeting new people, tackling new ventures, giving back to golf through the association, growing socially, growing a network of people to help, it’s been great.”

He said he doesn’t have a specific agenda as president.

“There are great guys on the board that bring great ideas,” he said. “My original goal when I became secretary-treasurer was to make sure the association was financially stable. Working with Adam (Ikamis, executive director) to balance our growth has made the association healthy and able to give back to the membership through scholarships, networking events. As president I just want to keep it progressing, take the new ideas in, execute them, and see it continue to improve. I guess in a way, I don’t want to screw it up.”

McMullen brought him to Forest Lake in 2004 and influenced him significantly.

“From him I learned to network and there were a lot of teaching moments,” he said. “Fritz is a good person, tough as nails and like him I want to be remembered as someone who gave it all to the job.”

The native Canadian of course played hockey in his youth, and he remains an avid curler and is a member of a

Detroit club. He and his wife Christy have two daughters, Calista, 12 and Avanley, 9, and they have taken to figure skating.

“Work, industry events, then chase the girls around with the family, it’s what I do,” he said.

As for playing golf, he plays anywhere between 12 to 20 rounds in a season and would like to play more. He does a fall golf trip with members and especially enjoys Forest Dunes Golf Club in Roscommon.

“It’s pristine, and a great getaway with great members,” he said.

He has played some of the great courses in the world, including Pinehurst No. 2 and thinks playing nearby Tobacco Road Golf Club might be the best golf experience he has ever had. He has a bucket list course yet to achieve in New Zealand.

“It’s the Cape Kidnappers course and it just sounds like a great adventure,” he said.





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He likes adventure, like Tom Sawyer apparently, and he and his wife plan vacation trips with adventure in mind. "We've gone to the Caribbean, taken the girls around the

country," he said. "We were just in Arizona. We've been to Hilton Head, to Wisconsin. Vacationing and giving the family different experiences is invaluable to me."



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Retirement



Ron Dahlin, superintendent at The Meadows at GVSU



FARMINGTON HILLS –

Ron Dahlin retired at the end of December after spending the last 20 years as the superintendent at The Meadows at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, and he is still figuring out how retirement works.

“I’m slowly getting better at sleeping in,” he said. “Of course, sleeping in is 6:30, but I’m making progress. It’s not those 4:30 mornings anymore.”

His years of early mornings and the body of work he produced have resulted in him being named the 2022 Golf Association of Michigan Superintendent Award of Merit winner.

Dahlin, 63, follows 2021 winner Al Bathum of Cascade Hills Golf & Country Club and he joins a list of recipients that include Ted Woehrle, Clem Wolfrom, Fritz McMullen, John Fulling, Jay Eccleton, Steve Cook, Jeff Holmes, Phil Owen and Paul Galligan.

“It is one heck of an accolade, awesome,” he said. “In my head I think of guys winning this award like Clem Wolfrom and John Fulling so it didn’t quite register with me at first. It is very humbling and it’s a great feather in my cap and a great way to end a career.”

Dahlin was nominated by the Board of the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association (MiGCSA), a group Dahlin was instrumental in helping found over 15 years ago.

MiGCSA Executive Director Adam Ikamas said Dahlin was one of the most involved in every aspect of the association. He helped form the by-laws, and develop the elements of membership outreach, communication and more, and served in various roles and on various committees.

“Ron was an absolute critical part of what we do from the start,” Ikamas said. “Simply put there is no way this chapter is where it is today without Ron.”

Dahlin said his retirement has started with the building, with his wife KaLee, a new home in Northern Michigan, just outside of Honor on the Platte River.

“I’m a little worried about not staying busy, but with nine acres to take care of and a house to build I should be good for a while,” he said.

“I’ve been married to a wonderful woman for over 30 years, and it’s time I spent a little time around her as well.”



KaLee recently retired from Amway Corp., after working there 30 years in research and development, food, and nutrition. They have two children, Bryson, who is 24 and has a career in construction, and Caitlin, 21, who is a junior in the nursing program at Grand Valley.

"It's a great time for us to leave our careers behind," Dahlin said. "We are still young enough and healthy enough to do the things we want to do."

Prior to coming to The Meadows, Dahlin was the superintendent of the Valley course at the 36-hole Egypt Valley Country Club in Ada, working for 10 years with longtime golf course manager Jeff Holmes.

He is originally from LaSalle, Colo., where he grew up on a farm 50 miles north of Denver. He has worked outside in his career, first in weed and pest control and then at age 27 embarked on undergraduate work in biology and agriculture and a masters in horticulture and turfgrass management. He found a career path with turfgrass management and golf.

"I really think it is a noble sport, and a noble profession to be in," he said. "The people who work in golf are a great group of individuals to be associated with. They work hard, they try their best, there is great camaraderie and I latched on to that."

He said working for a golf course on a university campus has been a great experience and that highlights over the years were hosting multiple state tournaments for high school golfers and six NCAA national championship tournaments.

"I've enjoyed working with the (college) kids," he said. "I enjoyed teaching them what it meant to work, and some really bought into working in golf. The job is to make the value of the product the best it can be every day. I was blessed to be in an industry like that. I'm excited to move on to another stage in my life, but when I look back I don't have a regret at all. It's been good for me and my family, and I loved getting out there every morning and seeing the sunrise."



Erwin McKone is a Michigan native, growing up in Flint, Michigan was introduced to turf at Genesee Valley Meadows. Erwin earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology at the University of Michigan and was a Research Assistant for Bruce Branham at the University of Illinois. Erwin served as Chief Operating Officer and Director of Golf Operations at Briar Ridge Country Club prior to joining the Turf Ventures team in 2016.

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MIKE Kennings

BY GREG JOHNSON

Mike Kennings has been an assistant superintendent at Spring Meadows Country Club in Linden for three years, taking on the role after working on the grounds staff for three years during college. He earned his bachelor's degree in crop and soil science at Michigan State University and he and his wife Brooklyn welcomed their first child just a few months ago, daughter Adelaide.

1 HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS? I was at Michigan State, originally to get an engineering degree. Along the way I realized I wanted to work outside. I knew the desk life was not for me.

2 WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB IN GOLF AND WHAT WAS A KEY THING YOU LEARNED FROM IT? I started on the grounds staff at Spring Meadows and I learned everything under the sun. My boss, Craig Henderson, knew I was planning on going into the industry so he let me try my hand at anything I wanted to learn.

3 WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THAT FIRST JOB? I have to say walk mowing greens. I just loved to throw music in my ears and go at it for the first three hours of the day before doing projects in the afternoon. There is something relaxing about it.

4 WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT RESPONSIBILITIES? Right now we are doing a lot of drainage

projects and extending our driving range. Day-to-day I'm responsible for irrigation, spraying, crew management, all that normal stuff.

5 ON THE JOB, WHAT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE IN YOUR ARESENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT? I would love a GPS sprayer. It gives you control and accuracy. You can reduce your inputs and not over spray or under spray. You can hit the mark every time with the GPS.

6 WHAT IS THE OLDEST PIECE OF EQUIPMENT STILL BEING UTILIZED IN YOUR FLEET? An old Toro fairway unit with verticutters on it, but we jokingly say the oldest piece of equipment is Jack. He is in his mid-80s and works seven days a week.

7 WHO ON YOUR CREW MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST? I've got to say my summer college help is always keeping me laughing. I'm trying to keep up with their sayings and what they think is funny. It is a



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riot to try to keep up each year, and a good time for sure. It's how I stay with the times.

8 IF YOU HAD A MULLIGAN ON A DIFFERENT CAREER CHOICE, WHAT WOULD IT BE? I always thought about if I had unlimited funds I would be a pilot, but more realistically I thought I would be a biology teacher or something. You have to have the summers off to golf, right?

9 IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY GOLF HOLE ON YOUR COURSE WITHOUT REPERCUSSION, WHICH ONE WOULD IT BE? Our 14th hole is a front sloping Biarritz style green with very few friendly pin locations. I would reshape that green for more pin placements and possibly add

some bunkering on the inside of the dogleg.

10 WHAT IS THE CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICE YOU COULD NOT DO WITHOUT? Topdressing and brushing greens are so important. A couple of days after doing it the balls are rolling nice.

11 WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION? To support the industry within our state and I think they do that. I like how they create opportunities to meet new people and network, and I like fundraising for scholarships. I plan to start to playing in more events as I get more involved.

12 HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION? I served on a national task group for the GCSAA, the student task group. I volunteered to be on the assistants' committee with MiGCSA this year. I try to go to as many events as I can when time allows.

13 WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY? It is different for everybody, but the one I hear from other assistants the most is the hours. I'm lucky to have flexibility in my schedule, but some assistants are required to work a lot of extra hours, which can make it hard to raise a family.

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14 WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF THE JOB? Hiring and retaining employees, especially in relation to the work demands versus the wage demands.

15 WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF THE JOB? I enjoy managing people and working with the crew. I like that part of the job the most, working with the team.

16 WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF IN 10 YEARS? I would love to be a superintendent. The end-goal would be here one day, or another local club. I really don't want to leave the area. If not here, then somewhere in the metro Flint area.

17 HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED IN THE FUTURE? I don't want to be the serious guy. A fun-loving super who is in it for the love of the game. That's me.

18 WHO HAS INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT? All of my bosses have been great, hard to pin one down. Everyone I have worked under I try to take something from them and I have had a pretty positive experience thus far.

19 WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED? Over the last couple of years, it's realizing that it's ok to be an assistant super. I've accepted that I can prioritize personal goals and still have a fulfilling career while I work towards becoming a superintendent.

20 HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE? I think they are immensely important. It is a second pair of eyes, ears, and hands for the superintendent.

21 WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE MECHANIC? They are the unsung heroes honestly. Their quality of work

shows up with every line mowed. They play a huge role in conditioning of a golf course and the overall flow by keeping things up and running.

22 WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE? What peeves me the most are cart traffic patterns, especially on wet days.

23 WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF GREEN SPEEDS AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY? Personally, I would rather play with them rolling at 10 with friends so that we aren't out there all day. Fast greens have their place, however not everybody can handle them.

24 AWAY FROM GOLF, WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORT? If you consider fishing a sport, and I do, that's it, especially bass fishing. I spent a lot of time when I was younger in tournaments, almost every weekend that I could. I never played golf in high school. I was horrible at it.

25 WHAT TYPE OF HOBBIES DO YOU HAVE AWAY FROM GOLF? I ice fish in the winter and water fowl hunt in the fall.

26 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE GOLF COURSE? My favorite place to go play is the Links at Hunter's Ridge in Howell. I play it once a week, sometimes twice. It's a nice, fun layout to play.

27 DO YOU HAVE A BUCKET LIST COURSE? I would love to play The Old Course at St. Andrews. I'm of Scottish heritage and I have always wanted to go there and give it a whirl.

28 WHAT IS THE FAVORITE CLUB IN YOUR BAG? I owe my entire golf game to my 56-degree wedge. It gets me out of trouble.



5 THINGS PEOPLE MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT ME

1. I restore vintage motorcycles primarily from the 1970s and into the 1980s models.
2. I've caught multiple 10-pound-plus bass. In bass fishing, catching a 10-pound-plus bass is like getting a hole-in-one in golf.
3. I won a Big Ten Conference club bass fishing championship.
4. I've never been outside the United States.
5. I'm now the assistant at the club I first started working at - Spring Meadows CC in Linden.

29 WHO IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE IN YOUR PERSONAL LIFE? My wife. She keeps me in check. We worked at same grocery store in high school in Fenton. We both went to MSU. We ended up dating later and getting married.

30 DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE FOOD OR RESTAURANT? I love pizza in any shape or form. No specific one. I can go with the fanciest or the cheapest. I will give it a try.

31 WHAT VEHICLE WOULD YOU DRIVE IF YOU HAD A MONEY TREE GROWING IN YOUR YARD? This may sound boring, but I would love a four-

wheel drive Suburban. They cost as much as a house now, but it would have room for the kids and still room for golf clubs.

32 WHAT IS YOUR DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM? My brothers Neil, Jack, and Peter – I'm one of four. We wouldn't win anything but we would have most fun.



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2021 HERITAGE SCHOLARSHIP

WINNERS

The winners of the Heritage Scholarship have been chosen. The award is available to the dependents of current members who are enrolled in a post high school education curriculum.

Funding for this scholarship is provided by the proceeds from the 2021 Fundraisers & the membership dues increase. Thank you to our 2021 Fundraiser host sites Arcadia Bluffs, Spring Lake Country Club and Orchard Lake Country Club.

Thank you to the MiGCSA Members, Staff and Club Members at these host facilities and our generous Industry Partners for making these awards possible.

The applicants are asked to submit a 750 word essay along with evidence of their scholastic and extracurricular achievements. The scholarship committee then grades each applicant based on their submission and the highest scores are awarded the scholarship. The submissions are graded anonymously and based on the content of the essay followed by the applicant's scholastic achievements and community involvement.



EMILY BLUCK

I am honored and grateful to have been selected as a recipient of this award. In my pursuit of a bachelor's of arts and a judicial doctorate, this scholarship will serve me very well. My heart soars at the thought of becoming a lawyer within the next few years, and I am so thankful for the help this scholarship will offer me in my journey. Years ago, my dad served on this same scholarship committee, so I understand the dedication of time and effort necessary to serve on this board.



CAITLIN DAHLIN

Thank you so much MiGCSA for awarding me with this scholarship. I am currently a Junior at Grand Valley State University studying Nursing and Spanish. These funds will help me continue my education into my senior year as I serve in hospitals around Grand Rapids. And thank you to my Dad, Ron Dahlin, for serving with MiGCSA and finishing out your career strong this March.



AIDAN GOIKE

It is an honor to be selected as an MiGSCA golf scholarship winning submissions. I am very grateful for this opportunity, as it will help me financially with my future endeavors related to academics. I am planning on going to Northwood next year to finish up my 3+1 marketing degree. Baseball season being just around the corner, financial opportunities and time are at a premium, which is why I am so appreciative for this opportunity.





EMILY JOTZAT

My name is Emily Jotzat and I am currently a sophomore at Trine University in Angola, Indiana. I am pursuing a degree in both Elementary Education and Montessori Education, being drawn to the ultimate career goal of becoming a Montessori teacher because of the student centered and hands on philosophy behind Montessori education. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all those involved in making the MiGCSA Heritage Scholarship possible, I can assure that this scholarship will be put to good use to promote my educational endeavors.



MOLLIE MCKONE

My name is Mollie McKone and I am a sophomore studying Philosophy, Spanish, and Gender Studies at the University of Notre Dame. This summer, I was accepted as a transfer student to Notre Dame. Although I was overwhelmed with gratitude and excitement, I was concerned about how my family would manage to pay for this incredible opportunity. Although I received a generous amount of financial aid, there still remains an amount that my parents and I have to make up in order for me to continue my undergraduate studies. My education is incredibly important to me, and

to know that this scholarship will alleviate some of the financial burden from my parents and me is wonderful. To the MiGCSA board of governors and its scholarship committee, thank you. I am so blessed to receive your support.



DAVID PULASKI

It is my honor to accept this scholarship and I'd like to thank you along with the remainder of the MiGCSA board of governors and its scholarship committee. Myself and other hardworking students that are MiGCSA affiliated now find ourselves with the additional funds necessary to continue our path of higher education. Thank you!



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SHAYLIN RINGS

I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient for the MiGCSA Scholarship! I have just begun my undergraduate career as a Freshman at Aquinas College and am in the process of completing a major in Health Science. My lifelong dream of working in the medical field as a PA is moving forward, and I am deeply appreciative of your support and generosity!



ANNA TRAVER

Thank you so much for awarding me this scholarship! It is truly an honor and I am so grateful to MiGCSA for supporting my academic endeavors. I will be putting this scholarship toward my tuition for the fall semester. Thank you to my parents, Rob and Jennifer Traver, and my brother, Jacob Traver, for all of their continued support of my schooling and career goals.

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TEE TIMES FOR TURF ONLINE AUCTION RECAP

The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation would like to thank all the contributing clubs who helped make out 2022 Edition of Tee Times for Turf online auction for Turf Research a tremendous success this year. The event is in its 10th year to gain support of the MSU Turf Team and Turf Program as well as Scholarships for the Turf Students at MSU. With over 200 Golf Courses and some Industry Partners participating in this year's event we anticipated some exceptional bidding and activity – but our expectations were exceeded. The 2-week auction that began April 24th and ended on May 8th – Mother's Day never had a slow day and courses were continuing to sign up as the auction began. Total income from the event was \$49,484 and would not have been possible without the participation from all the host courses who supported Michigan Golf and MSU Turf. This amount exceeded last year's event and is the largest amount raised since the event began.

TT4Turf Chairpersons – Scott Rettman and Eric Davey have been the key component in organizing all the items and details required to make this event a success, however, the true accomplishment would not have been possible without so many willing golf courses participating. We are especially grateful to the golf course superintendents who are our first

line of contact when requests are made. Golf is a generous industry, and many charities and groups are constantly seeking donations to help various causes. We are fortunate our industry is willing to follow up with our requests and so many of you took the time to respond to this effort.

Every course participating is listed in this writing and each course will be receiving an acknowledgement thank you and report of the auction activity as well as description of how the funding is used and its impact on the MSU Turf Program.

The TT4Turf Committee would also like to thank the MiGCSA Board of Directors for their support and assistance with this year's auction. Many of the course contacts were directly attributed to their efforts and it was greatly appreciated.

Next year's auction is already being organized and there will be updates early this fall for those who would like to participate again and hopefully continue its success. For those who have not had the chance to be a participant and would like to be a part of next year's event please feel free to reach out to us at MiTurfgrass@gmail.com and we will provide you with any items you may need to be course host.

Again – the MTF thanks all our golf course and industry sponsors for helping with this year's record breaking event.



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Great Oaks Country Club	Paint Creek Country Club	The Medalist
Green Hills Golf Course	Petoskey-Bay View Country Club	The Mines Golf Course
Greystone Golf Club & Banquet Center	Pheasant Run Country Club	The Moors Golf Club
Grosse Ile Golf & Country Club	Pilgrim's Run Golf Club - 18 Hole Twosome	The Nightmare
Gull Lake Country Club	Pilgrim's Run Golf Club - 18 Hole Twosome	The Orchards Golf Club
Gull Lake View - EAST	Pine Knob Golf Course	The Strategic Fox
Gull Lake View - WEST	Pineview Highlands	The Tamaracks Golf Course & Estates
Hankerd Hills Golf Course	Plum Hollow	The Tamaracks Golf Course & Estates
Hartland Glen Golf Course	PohlCat Golf Course	The Wyndgate Country Club
Hawk Hollow Golf Course	Polo Fields Country Club - Ann Arbor	Timber Ridge
Hemlock Golf Club	Prestwick Village Golf Club	Timber Wolf Golf Club
Highland Meadows Golf Club - Sylvania,	Rackham Golf Course	Timber Wolf Golf Club
Ohio!	Radrick Farms Golf Course	TPC of Michigan
Hilltop Golf Course	Railside Golf Club	Traverse City Golf & CC
Huntmore Golf Club	Red Hawk Golf Club	Travis Pointe Country Club
Huron Hills Golf Course	Rivers Edge Golf Club	Treetops Resort
Indian Run Golf Club	Riverview Highlands	Tullymore Golf Resort
Indian Trails Golf Course	Rouge Park Golf Course	Twin Lakes Golf & Swim Club
Inkster Valley	Royal Scot Golf Course	TWO - 25LB Bags of GRASS SEED, by EGS
Inverness Club .. Golf Digest Top 100	Saginaw Country Club	Green Grounds with XALT
Course!	Salem Hills Golf Club	Walnut Creek Country Club
Island Hills Golf Club	Scott Lake Country Club	Wawashkamo Golf Club
Kalamazoo Country Club	Shanty Creek	Western Golf Club
Kent Country Club	Shenandoah Country Club	Westshore Golf & Country Club
Kingsley Club	Spring Lake Country Club	Westwynd Golf Course
Knollwood Country Club	Spring Meadows Country Club	White Deer Country Club
Knollwood Country Club - Lake County,	St. Clair Golf Club	Whitmore Lake Golf Links
ILLINOIS!	St. Ives Golf Club at Tullymore Golf Resort	Wuskowhan Players Club
Lakelands Golf and Country Club	Stoatin Brae Golf Club	
Lakes of Taylor - Golf Simulator!	Stonehedge - North	

THE SPRING OPENER



The 2022 MiGCSA golf event season kicked off with a beautiful day at The Mines Golf Course in Grand Rapids on May 5th. Thank you to our host Superintendent and Board Member Skip Connolly, new owner Chris Sobieck and all the staff at The Mines. The shotgun start went off at 10:00 and the last group was in by 2:30 for after event appetizers, awards and meeting. The

service and staff were phenomenal all around. Here were the results from the day.

Closest to the pins winners:

Eric Davey, Bob Klingbeil, Blaine Burch & Mark Ostrander

Long Drive: Logan May

Longest putt: Ryan Glunz

Winning Teams:

1st place: Mike Gianopoulos, Marc McCoy, Drew Paxton & Rob Pylar.

2nd place: Adam Palmatier, Chester VandenBurg, Ben Keeler & Mike Leach.

3rd place: Blaine Burch, Lee Collins, Steve Rebhan & Josh Teitsma.





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Flowing River or STAGNANT POND?

In the last two years it seems like everything is changing, probably because it has.

Change can often be seen as a negative impact on our lives and certainly our comfort, it is hard so many do not partake in it. However, if you partake or not change is ever present. It is constant as the Greek Philosopher Heraclitus of Ephesus wrote about in 500BC.

One constant since the beginning of time might be change, however, the fear of change is also a constant. Since times immemorial, humans have liked routine. It makes us feel in control of our lives.

If a society or country rejects change there is no growth, no progress. The inability to change, progress, or grow can result in stagnation. Stagnation rejects realizing one's full potential. Stagnation is not a healthy flowing river; it is an idle and stale pond.

I have been involved with the MiGCSA since before inception in 2008 but one of the predominant themes we have always pushed is to be agile and aggressively pursue change as a positive force. This groundwork is really one of the guiding lights of the chapter success. So, it is with this in mind that we are making some changes this year.

The first is a reduction of our print magazine you are reading now from four issues to two, this is the Spring issue and there will be a second in the Fall. This decision by the communications committee and board was not made lightly. There were a few deciding factors. First was the cost, Course Conditions cost the chapter \$25,000+ to design print and mail this is a hard cost and does not include any of my time in content gathering and creation. The second was the value, I asked many members over the last few years if they read the magazine. Everyone said they loved the magazine, and it is one of the best they get but they also followed

with I intend to read it and it goes on my desk but often is not ever opened with a few exceptions. Along with this I asked the board to think about what we do as a chapter and if we were to start this statewide association today what would we do and what would we not. Spending \$25K+ on a mailed quarterly paper magazine did not fit into this category.

What did fit into this category was high quality video profiles of our members and events in 2022. So, we have partnered with Brand 25 Media to do a series of 10 videos of our members, events and stories called "MI Story" the first of which is a profile of our new President Ryan Moore at Forest Lake C.C. which may already be out when you read this. This was another mark against the magazine as a mode of communication, it is just so slow in today's modern world of instant information. We are excited to roll these out this year and expand in the future.

Another change you will see this summer is a new revamped and revitalized migcsa.org. We are in the early stages of a new website with Club Express. The new site will be much more user friendly and come with our own custom app which will have the directory as our current app has but also event registration, a chat room, polls, and the ability to meet members close to you if you choose. We hope to have this live this July.

One thing that comes with constant change are mistakes, we do not know for certain if any of the initiatives will be better than what we have now, but we believe they will. Mistakes are the seeds of progress, let's maintain our path down the river and avoid the stagnant pond at all costs.

Adam Ikamas, CGCS
MiGCSA Executive Director



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