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DETROIT GOLF CLUB



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COURSE CONDITIONS

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MiGCSA MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SUMMARY OF CLASSES 11/2/10

| | CURRENT MEMBERSHIP | TOTAL 2009 MEMBERSHIP |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Class AA | 25 | 20 |
| Class A | 245 | 267 |
| Class SM | 67 | 64 |
| Class C | 95 | 84 |
| Class D | 44 | 40 |
| Class E | 20 | 20 |
| Class AFF | 174 | 117 |
| Class H | 13 | 10 |
| Class SA | 10 | 9 |
| Class R | 12 | 6 |
| Class I | 1 | 5 |
| Class FM | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 706 | 642 |

Course Conditions is published 4 times a year by the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association. Opinions expressed by guest writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the MiGCSA. For more information on *Course Conditions* or the MiGCSA please contact us at info@migca.org, 1-888-3-MiGCSA or P.O. Box 64 in St. Johns, MI 48879.

PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE



RON DAHLIN

Welcome to the Fall edition of Course Conditions. Reading this means that you survived the summer of 2010, a summer that many are claiming as one of the worst summers to be involved in managing performance turf. This was a summer that challenged some of the most veteran of golf course superintendents in the state of Michigan. How did they (along with many of those that are not as seasoned) make it thru and into the time of year needed to plan for the next summer to come? They survived in large part due to the fact that they educate themselves when they can and then apply what they have learned in times that are easy and times that are tough.

Your Chapter continues to work hard to offer those opportunities to learn from the past and plan for the future for you. Over 30 events were organized by the MiGCSA in 2010 and offered to the members of the MiGCSA and other allied partners as well. These were events that offered the chance to network with peers and talk with educators to discuss the business of managing turf via both formal education and informal discussion. The education continues for 2010 and well beyond. This issue is a prime example of some of those offerings to you via your membership in the MiGCSA. This fall edition holds an article about a very well seasoned superintendent, Mr. Clem Wolfrom, CGCS. Mr. Wolfrom has held his position for nearly 50 years at the Detroit Golf Club; can you imagine what he has learned from what has come his way? This magazine also holds information from the Michigan State University Turf Team, news of the recent GCSAA delegates meeting along with more for you to find inside this well designed front and back cover.

The annual Golf Business Conference is being held in conjunction with the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association this month in Grand Rapids and it offers classes such as "Environmental Boot Camp" taught by Mr. Gregg Lyman of the GCSAA (yes we educated him in Michigan before we gave him up!), an overview of "Winter Kill and Summer Stress Issues" by Dr. Kevin Frank of the Michigan State University Turf Team and "The True Cost of Golf" taught by our very own Jay Eccleton, CGCS. Plan to join your peers for a great 3 day education session that will include an outlook on what we might expect from those recently elected to serve us in Lansing. Visit www.MiGCSA.org for more information and on-line registration.

Even during these trying economic times we experienced a strong turnout of participants and sponsors for the 3 MiGCSA Foundation fundraising events held this past year. In a year such as this it is easy to see the direct relationship between the funds donated to the MSU Turf Team for turf research and the information gained from this talented group of researchers. It is thru examples such as this that the state of Michigan continues to show others around the country what a strong chapter with dedicated members can accomplish.

Finally, I want to remind you not to waste the opportunity to pass your wisdom and experience on to others. When the chance arises don't be afraid to mentor someone who may not be as experienced or maybe has not had the opportunity to learn what you have learned. Don't let your wisdom and experience end with you, pass it on. We have the opportunity of a lifetime to pass this collective wisdom and knowledge on to those who do not yet know what our industry means to the state of Michigan economy. Planning for the 2011 Legislative day is well underway. It is a chance for the allied associations of Michigan Golf to educate those new legislators on how vital this industry is to the state, please plan to join us on June 22nd on the lawn of the capital for a chance to have a face to face meeting with those that have been elected to serve you in the capital.

Enjoy a safe and blessed holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Ron M. Dahlin". The signature is fluid and cursive.

RON M. DAHLIN, CGCS
'THE MEADOWS GOLF CLUB' AT GVSU

WINTERKILL ACROSS MICHIGAN

BY DR. KEVIN FRANK, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



The only thing consistent about winterkill is inconsistency. Once again this year winterkill was sporadic throughout Michigan with the worst damage stretching east from Lansing through Howell, Brighton, and what was ground central, the northwest Detroit suburbs. Winterkill is a general term that is used to define turf loss during the winter. The different types of winterkill include: crown hydration, desiccation, low temperature kill, ice sheets, and snow mold. The greatest frustration with winterkill is trying to understand why one course was affected while one right down the road or around the corner was not. Due to the unpredictability of environmental factors, and differences in other factors such as drainage, the occurrence of winterkill on golf courses is highly variable. The diversity among *Poa annua* populations is also probably to blame for why one course with *Poa* was devastated while another was untouched. *Poa annua* is an incredibly diverse species and it's unlikely that the *Poa* on one course is exactly the same as the *Poa* on another course. Unlike when we plant greens to a specific type of creeping bentgrass, the *Poa annua* on golf courses in Michigan has evolved over time from natural populations. The most common type of winterkill seen this year was from crown hydration injury and ice sheets trapping toxic gases.

Many *Poa annua* greens and fairways suffered winterkill from crown hydration injury. The problem occurs in early or late winter, when daytime temperatures are warm enough for *Poa annua* to take up water (hydrate). During this time if there are temperature swings that result in freeze/thaw events, ice crystal formation can occur in the plant and kill it. Creeping bentgrass is rarely affected by crown hydration injury because it tends to stay dormant during these periods.



Ice sheets that do not allow gases to escape can also result in the turf dying. As the ice sheet melts away, the area damaged closely mirrors where the ice was present. Often if the ice is mechanically removed a foul odor caused by gases is present. If you've never smelt this its some combination of rotten eggs and fish.

There were areas that were killed that were not in low lying or poorly draining areas. This kill could have been due to either anoxia from ice cover or from the soils being saturated following rainfall and/or snowmelt and then rapid refreezing.

What can be done to prevent winterkill? Some golf courses keep staff throughout the winter to remove snow from greens throughout the winter. This is not a one person job and although some golf courses were very successful removing snow this year and not having winterkill, I don't know that it will be a full proof solution every year. Improve drainage where possible, this will reduce the chances of water puddling, freezing, and killing grass. Take a look at trees. After looking at many winterkill damaged greens this year, many had trees in close proximity that are not only affecting snow melting but would also shading the turf all year long resulting in a turf that is just not as healthy as turf in sunshine. The ultimate prevention is probably regressing to creeping bentgrass but it's certainly not going to be free and keep in mind, once you have bentgrass a concerted effort is going to have to be put in place to keep the *Poa annua* out otherwise we're right back to where we started.

Dr. Frank is an Associate Professor and Extension Turfgrass Specialist at MSU. He can be reached at frankk@msu.edu.



Poa annua plugs planted to speed reestablishment.





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INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



Great Lakes Turf, LLC was founded in April 2003. It was the result of the merger of one of Michigan's youngest golf course suppliers -- Green and Grow, Inc. -- founded in 1990 by Mike Plague, and its oldest -- Parmenter and Andre, Inc. -- which was founded in 1929 and purchased by Jim Johnson in 1993. Our offices and warehouse are located in Grand Rapids. Our company is represented in Michigan by Aaron Cochrill, Marty Miller, Steve Loveday and Dave Creager, along with both owners. We also have three representatives covering the Chicago market.

Our products and services offer a unique advantage in helping produce strong turf. We realize, however, that quality products alone aren't enough. Our goal is to uphold the following in all of our dealings, with all of our customers, all of the time.

- We have many products. It is a disservice to you and us if we sell you the wrong one. We will ask questions, look at the turf, and utilize reliable laboratory data when necessary to ensure that we have the right solution.
- The scientific principles upon which agronomy has been developed

-- plant physiology, soil chemistry and soil physics -- have not changed in hundreds of years. Our product offerings and recommendations are based on proven science.

- Understanding the interrelationships of these basic sciences and applying them to your turf conditions requires thought. We promise to give you our best common sense thinking -- when to use a product, when not to use it; when to increase application rates and when to reduce them. We will work with you to meet your agronomic and economic objectives.
- We intend to earn your business with great products and service to match them. We believe that providing excellent products and service at a fair price has its own rewards. That's why we offer straightforward pricing and discount programs.

For those of you who are already customers, we thank you for your patronage and trust. For those of you who aren't, we're hopeful for an opportunity to prove our worth. We value the relationships we have built with our golf course customers in Michigan and are honored by the trust you have in us and our products.

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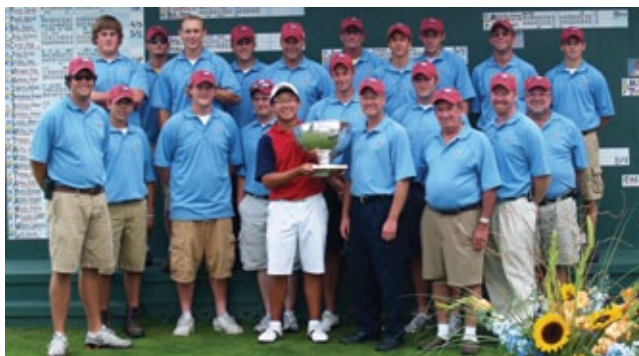
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2010 U.S. BOYS JUNIOR AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP AT EGYPT VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

JULY 19TH – 24TH



Working with the USGA for the past few years has been a great experience for the management staff and myself. When it is all said and done the USGA is on your property to make you a better turf manager and make your golf course perform at its best for a championship competition. We worked closely with Mr. Ben Kimball, Manager of Competitions and Mr. Bob Vavrek, Agronomist, North-Central Region. Both of these gentlemen were a pleasure to work with and had ideas to share with us while also listening to our input during the decision making process.

The USGA officials that come in for a Championship are mostly volunteers and are truly dedicated to the game of golf, giving back their time and energy. The volunteers come from all walks of life and all share the common goal of loving the game of golf. Each of us in the turf industry always talk about getting bit by the bug and that is why we do what we do in golf. We get paid and make a living, but these volunteers do it for the fun of being in the buzz at the Championships and tournaments. What a fine group of people and many, many stories and tournament golf memories they share with themselves and others.

The real doers that made this golf course perform to the call are the golf course maintenance staff and all of the industry volunteers that worked each morning and night. In the morning and afternoon preparation of the golf course we had approximately 21 workers on each nine. Yes, each nine holes. It sounds like overkill and using too many people but that is what it takes to beat the time line. In the morning, we have to be out of the players' way and in the evening we have to race against daylight. Having an ample supply of people also allows the staff to work at a reasonable pace where they can operate in a safe and fluent manner. As always, attention to detail

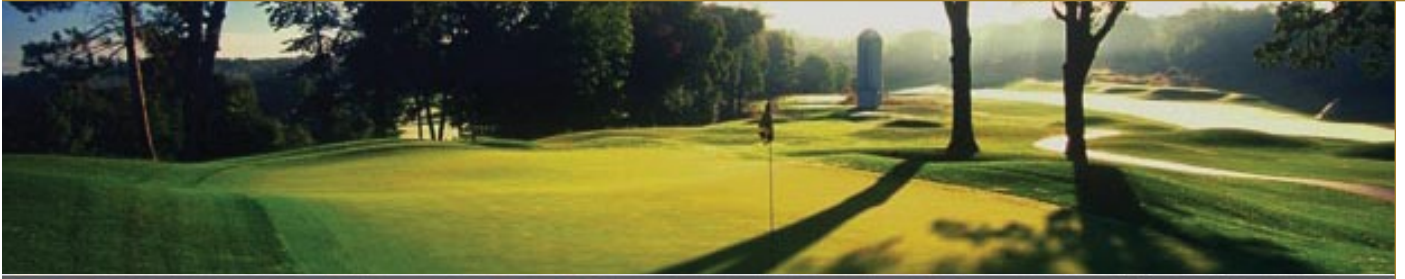
is extremely important and when it comes to a ruling question, we always want our job done correctly. We do not want to be the cause of a ruling situation that changes the outcome of a player's game or performance. Rushing too much is when mistakes and injuries take place. The entire team worked hard and had a solid focus on what the end goal needed to be. With so many people working together, it was an exciting time to watch the common goal be achieved, but to also see the camaraderie of the team. There were old friendships and a lot of introductions to start new friendships.

Another huge area of the Championship was the sponsorship money needed to host such an event. This event does not happen for less than \$250,000 and the sky is the limit on how hospitable the hosting club wants to be. With the demanding economic times right now, we tried to put on an excellent event and be financially responsible. With all the feedback that came in, we met the goal of having a first class event. I do not know the final cost yet, but I do know we are on the side closer to the \$250,000 mark.

Our vendors that we do business with were extremely generous and supportive as the event unfolded over the eight-day schedule. There were different avenues of support ranging from financial donations, breakfast, lunch and dinner support for staff and volunteers, and turf supplies. The supporting groups that I would like to Thank again are; Aquatrols Corporation, BASF Corporation, Bartlett Tree Experts, Bond Fluidaire, DuPont Crop Protection, Harrell's, Helena, Grigg Bros., Great Lakes Turf, Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association, Northland Auto, Plainfield Lumber, Shaw's, Spartan Distributors, Superior Asphalt, Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., Tri-Turf Soils, Inc., Turfgrass Inc., Weingartz Golf & Turf.

The Championship is put on for the players. These players are 13 to 17 years old and at amateur status. In watching them play golf, they appear to be young touring pros. The talent level of the players is unbelievable. It is hard to imagine that they can play golf at such a high level at their age. While watching these players on a hole, they would execute playing the hole as if they had played golf for many years. What I mean by that is they would hit their shots to the same target areas as the pros did when playing at Egypt Valley Country Club. Mentally and physically the player put a game together as though they have played for many years. Even their shot making abilities have depth. Several of the players were solid putters as well.

You have to remind yourself that even though they are the best 13 to



17 year old players in the world, they are also the kid next door. It was really a pleasure to be around the young adults. They are at a position in their career were they appreciate what everyone does for them. It will be fun to see if any of them make it to the regular PGA tour.

The 2010 Boys U.S. Junior Amateur Championship is in the record books with Mr. Jim Liu standing as the Champion. He broke Tiger Wood's record by accomplishing the task at the young age of 14; seven months younger than Tiger was when he won the Championship for the first time. There was also another Championship record recorded by Mr. Gavin Hall. He posted a 62 on the scoreboard during stroke play at the age of 15. This is the lowest score to ever be recorded in the Championship and it also set a new record at Egypt Valley Country Club for the lowest score. If you are thinking the course was too easy, think again. It played over 7100 yards and no one else has ever done this. These players are very talented individuals and are the best players in the world at their age.

All in all, I think that I can speak for the entire turf management staff at Egypt Valley Country Club and say that we would do another event in a second. It was a demanding event but fun and rewarding to host. Hopefully down the road, we will see some of the players on the tour and we can look back on the day they were starting their career.

Submitted by,

Jeff Holmes, CGCS
Golf Course Manager
Egypt Valley Country Club

THE BIG EVENT

The 45th Annual Big Event was held on October 4, 2010 at The Wyndgate Country Club in Rochester. Approximately 87 golfers joined our host MiGCSA members David Moritz, Phillip Hopper, Ron Betz and Jason Tyson at this Greater Detroit district golf fundraiser to benefit the MiGCSA Foundation. The fundraiser goals were successfully met through our attendees and sponsors. Special thanks to Sue Shockey, Erin Greibe and Turfgrass Inc. for sponsoring the Vegas Hole and raising money for the Foundation. Thank you also to the Vegas Hole winners; Terry Poley, Mike Mulkey, Adam Garr and Steve Loveday for donating their winnings back to the Foundation.

The low net scramble winners included the team of MiGCSA President Ron Dahlin, Board Members Gregg Matthews, Steve Randall and Mike Hirvela with a handicapped score of 49. The low gross scramble winners were the team of Robert King, Perry Stevens, Mike Perry and Jim Ligotti with a score of 61 (-11 under par). Our traditional skins competition was won by only one group with an eagle 3 on the par 5 12th hole. Congratulations and thank you to the team of MTF Board Member Brian Schwehofer, Joe Singles, Tom Gill and Dan Billette, they also donated their winnings back to turf research.

This event would not have been as huge of a success if it were not for the members, management team and staff at The Wyndgate Country Club. Special thanks go out to the Big Event Committee and Tavis Horton who gave their time and effort to assisting us in making this event a tremendous success.

Thanks again for your support and we look forward to seeing you next year!



The signature hole #16.

Tom Gill, Joe Singles, Brian Schwehofer and Dan Billette.

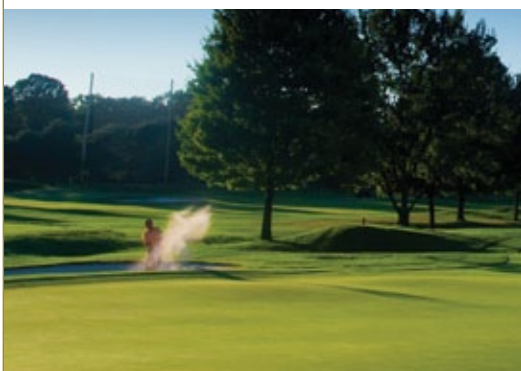


A FULL ROUND



CLEM WOLF FROM

Having been brought up in the golf business, born in the clubhouse at Maple Lane Golf Club, where my father was Superintendent for 54 years, I was always told about the very prestigious Detroit Golf Club. My father said that if I wanted to become a Superintendent of a club, Detroit Golf Club should be my goal. Lo and behold... 27 years later after college at Michigan State University and a six year stint as Superintendent of Dearborn Country Club, my goal was reached. In 1962, I became the Superintendent of the Detroit Golf Club.



Detroit Golf Club was everything that I had ever hoped for. Two great Donald Ross courses; a membership of solid, dedicated people; a Board of Directors with integrity and direction. The maintenance staff was experienced and took great pride in their work... a joy to work with.

As an inner city club, DGC has had some real challenges to battle over the years. One of the real hurdles came in August of 1967 with unrest in the City of Detroit that resulted in a devastating riot. The area surrounding Detroit Golf Club was hard-hit, and as a result, many members left DGC for the more settled suburban clubs. As a matter of fact, I was in the process of building a new home at the time, and was concerned about my future at DGC...and the future of the Club itself.

I was told by my Green Chairman at the time, Mr. Gordon Andrew, that there will always be a Detroit Golf Club, and that I should continue with my new home plans. How right he was. The Board of Directors that followed kept Detroit Golf Club in the forefront, membership became solid again, and became even stronger over the years.



Sure, there have been many changes over the years. Demands for better turf, for instance, are constant. That's as it should be. But to keep up with the many demands, leadership of DGC has always come up with the means to accomplish and fulfill these new demands and we always remain in the forefront of the industry.

HOW DID YOU BECOME INVOLVED IN THE GOLF BUSINESS?

My father was Superintendent at Maple Lane Golf Club. We lived in an apartment above the club house where I was born in 1934. That was my start in the golf business. I followed my father on the golf course and when I reached the age of 16, I started on the crew. My first job was topdressing the rough on a new 9 holes they just built at the time. I knew from the first day I followed my father on the golf course, that my goal was to become a golf course superintendent.

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE JOB THAT FIRST SUMMER ON A COURSE?

Learning how to install drain tile and build catch basins. I worked with an old gentleman named Jake Priesal who was a master at drainage.

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

My expectations are unknown. We have lost the unity of our peers. I would like to see more recognition from other golf organizations.

WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA?

I expect the GCSAA to reduce its staff. Also to become less dependent on manufactures and distributors for our survival.



WHAT ARE YOUR EXPECTATIONS FROM THE MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION?

The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation is on track to become the #1 research organization it once was. With Dr. Frank's energy and the input from Mr. LaFontaine, we should regain our status and produce top notch research.

HOW HAVE YOU GIVEN BACK TO YOUR PROFESSION?

I have served both the M.T.F. and the GDGCSA (Greater Detroit Golf Course Superintendents Association) as a board member and President. I served on the Board of the GDGCSA for more than 25 years, and as President for 4 years. I initiated the golf day to support Special Olympics, sorry to see that end. I served on the board of the M.T.F. for 12 years. I was president for 2 years. I was on the committee to organize the Founders Society. I initiated the first meeting to form the group. I was also on the committee to select the present site of the Research Center at Michigan State University. I was on a committee of 3 – My father, Gene Johanningsmier and myself to get turfgrass research at Michigan State University as a line item on the State of Michigan's Budget. This consisted of a \$50,000 yearly appropriation to turf research. These line items have since been eliminated.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION ABOUT THE AUGUSTA SYNDROME?

The Augusta Syndrome is good for our profession. It shows what is possible to produce when money is no object. The Masters is a show that draws the attention of millions of people who view this tournament more for the presence of the course itself rather than who is playing.

WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

The most difficult part of my job is convincing our membership that we work with Mother Nature, and at times cannot control the elements that are presented to us.

WHAT IS THE EASIEST PART OF YOUR JOB?

The easiest part of my job is getting up in the morning and looking forward to the new challenges of the day at Detroit Golf Club.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE?

We all have the challenge of getting more people into the game of golf and making that experience more affordable for everyone.

WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

We must develop new grasses that are more drought resistant, but they must be as playable as those that we have today.

WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF SUPERINTENDENTS?

I do not feel we will ever experience private golf as we have in the 60's 70's 80's and the 90's. This was a period when golf was booming, money was available and research in turfgrass was producing great strides in turf management. Equipment manufacturers gave us all the tools we needed to meet the demands of that era. I was very fortunate to have had the experience of that era.

WHERE DO YOU SEE YOURSELF TEN YEARS FROM NOW?

Well, being 76 years old, in ten years I more than likely will be gone.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE REMEMBERED 100 YEARS FROM NOW?

Just a turf man that tried to make two grass plants grow where one

grew before. Also being a good husband and a good father.

WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

My father and a second was Mr. Glenn Johnson – a life long member of Grosse Ile Country Club. As a participant in Dearborn Country Club first Invitational 1957, we met at an opening tournament cocktail party and a friendship started. Mr. Glenn showed me what grain was in greens, something we did not pay attention to in public golf at Maple Lane Golf Club. He explained that if I would attach a brush to the front of the walking greens mower it would help reduce the grain. He also suggested that I experiment lowering the height of cut to a point of speeding up green surface. The result in the next couple of years was that the Invitational at Dearborn Country Club became the talk of the district. We had the smoothest and fastest greens next to Grosse Ile. Shortly, these ideas moved to other superintendents in the area and we were on our way.

WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT PROFESSION?

How to motivate people. How to get staff to work with you and not just for you.

HOW DO YOU RATE IMPORTANCE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?

Superintendent is no more important than any other department head at a club. Be helpful – come up with good ideas and communicate with the others in charge.

WHAT PERCENTAGE OF YOUR TIME IS DEVOTED TO NON-AGRONOMIC GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?

I would say it is about 50 – 50.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF AN ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT?

To me an assistant is a person who is learning the trade – getting his or her feet wet so to speak. Don't place more responsibility on them than they can handle. Be free with your experiences – let them make mistakes.

WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE ROLE OF THE GOLF COURSE MECHANIC/TECHNICIAN?

Mechanic – probably the most valuable man or woman on the crew – enough said.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF GREEN SPEED AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY?

I think it is good – a real challenge to your expertise to maintain acceptable green speeds when the temperature is 70 degrees at night and 90 degrees during the day – that is what we are paid to do. To maintain speeds of 11 on the stimpmeter under stress conditions separates the men from the boys.

PLEASE DESCRIBE IN DETAIL ONE TRUE FUNNY STORY FROM YOUR CAREER THAT YOU SHARE OFTEN WHEN IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY.

Jack Lorenz, Superintendent at Grosse Ile Country Club. Jack had a great sense of humor, if your feeling down, call Jack and he could make the most serious problem sound trivial. I miss him, we need more people like Jack Lorenz.



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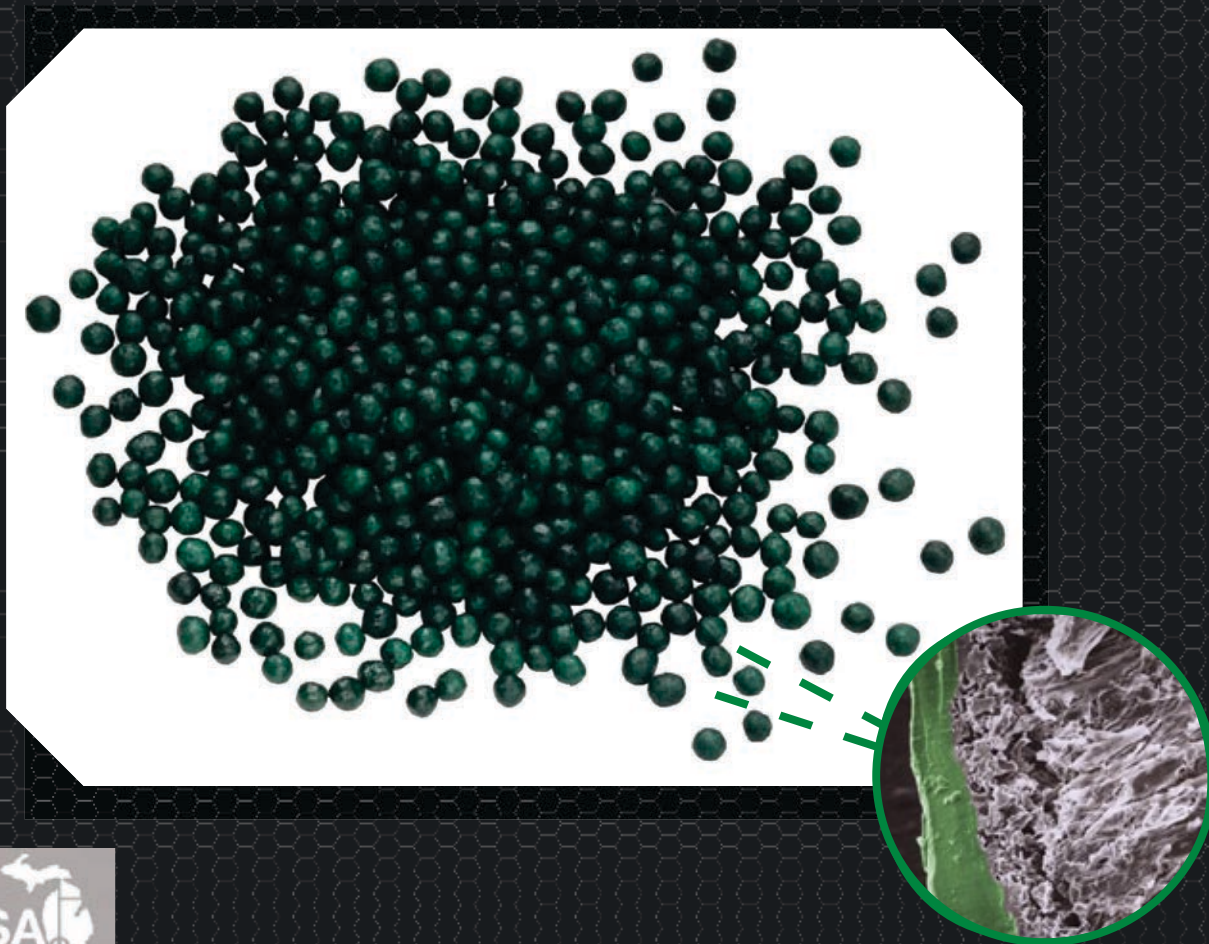
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2010 GOLF BUSINESS OVERVIEW



Bob Koutnik, owner Fox Run Country Club in Grayling and president of the MGCOA

"There is no better place to learn how the golf business has turned the corner in the new decade and what direction you should be going to take advantage of it. Come to the Michigan Golf Business Annual Conference in Grand Rapids and feel the excitement in the air." Ron M. Dahlin, CGCS, MiGCSA President

This is the second year that the Michigan Golf Business Conference will feature sessions and speakers that are relevant and important to the golf course superintendent. Included in the lineup are Dr. Kevin Frank and Greg Lyman focusing two specific sessions for the superintendents, *A Sustainable Approach to Golf Facility Management* and *Winterkill and Summer Stress on Golf Courses*. Both of these sessions are designed to make running your operation more effective and efficient. Adding to

that, the additional line up for the conference will provide education units to superintendents.

Highlights this year include the incomparable Tim Skubick, capitol correspondent as Keynote Speaker. Since the conference is just following the November election, we are certain Tim will have some interesting insights and anecdotes to share. Global Golf Advisors sends us Henry DeLozier to repeat the session he did at the Golf Industry Show this year, *Asset Management*. This session is applicable in every department at the golf course and includes budget and capital expense planning, risk management evaluation and best practices.

We have invited Michael Shore, head of MEDC's media relations and operations to discuss the direction of our state in this 21st century economy. Come and listen to *Transforming Michigan's Economy*. Other sessions cover marketing, public relations, food and beverage, human resources, and new this year... the *MONEY ROOM* where Diamond Partners of the MGCOA will share many ways to put dollars back into your pockets.

All this and the Vendor Fair, too. Dozens of golf industry specific suppliers will be available with innovations and invitations to meet and discuss ways they can help your golf course prosper.

"Perhaps the most important thing to come out of the Michigan Golf business Annual Conference is the continuing relationships we have formed among each other and the opportunity to network with other owners, superintendents and first time attendees," Bob Koutnik, owner Fox Run Country Club in Grayling and president of the MGCOA.

Registration is opening soon at www.mgcoa.org or call the office for details. 800-860-8575

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Nov 30 - Dec 2 | Michigan Golf Business Conference (Amway Grand, Grand Rapids) |
| Monday, December 6 | MiGCSA Breakfast Roundtable (Birmingham Country Club, Birmingham) |
| Monday, December 6 | Northern District Holiday Party (Ruby Tuesday's, Gaylord and Traverse City) |
| Friday, December 10 | Western District Holiday Party (Cascades Sports Grill, Grand Rapids) |
| Friday, December 10 | Detroit District Holiday Gathering (Gus O'Connor's Irish Pub, Novi) |
| Friday, December 17 | Mid District Holiday Party (Bottoms Up Food and Spirits, Holly) |
| Jan 10 - 12 | GLTE Trade Exposition (DeVos Place, Grand Rapids) |

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.

MICHIGAN GOLF BUSINESS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE & VENDOR FAIR

Nov. 30 - Dec. 2, 2009 - Amway Grand Plaza, Grand Rapids



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DAVE ERTL

EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN, TRAVERSE CITY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Dave Ertl has been the Equipment Technician at Traverse City Golf & Country Club for the past 11 years. Traverse City Golf & Country Club was established in 1915 and was designed by architect Tom Bendalow. Although the 18-hole golf course is the most renowned aspect of the Club, it is only a small part of the wonderful opportunities available. In 1998, Traverse City Golf & Country Club undertook the most extensive remodeling project in its history. The \$3.5 million renovation was funded completely by the members and resulted in a first-class facility that members will enjoy for years to come. TCGCC has been the host to many celebrities over the decades including; President Gerald R. Ford, Bob Hope, Byron Nelson and Walter Hagen. Dave works closely with Golf Course Superintendent Steve Hammon and Assistant Superintendent Kevin Breuker as well as with the rest of the crew.

Dave started his career in the industry back in the early 1970's at the former Bonnie Brook Country Club in Detroit. Dave also served in the U.S. Navy studying Diesel Mechanics and spent some time as a professional pipefitter assembling robotic weld lines for the big three as well as employment in the tool and die business. With the inspiration of his wife Cariene of eleven years they both decided to move up to the great white north where they currently reside. When asked what brought the two of them up to this part of the state Dave said "it was the natural beauty along with the hunting and fishing opportunities as well as being a private land owner which really brings tranquility into our lives."

1. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING EQUIPMENT MANAGERS TODAY?

I think that a lot of Equipment Managers today would agree with me that the biggest issues are the budget cuts that have affected our industry. It seems that we have veered off of course on how we replace our machinery with new equipment. It takes a lot of patience and continuing education to address breakdown issues and to know where to go in diagnosing the problems in the most efficient way. Preventative maintenance is also a big key in successful seasonal operations. If we don't get the preventative maintenance accomplished to the fullest during the off season, then you surely can count on break downs during the upcoming season.

2. WHAT IS THE MOST VALUABLE THING YOU HAVE LEARNED IN THE GOLF COURSE EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT PROFESSION?

A valuable thing that I've learned throughout the years and it has been said by other mechanics in the past is to have patience and lots of it. In this profession you have to deal with everyone on the crew and when things go down you need to prioritize your next moves. It can get real hectic at times and patience is the key.

3. WHAT TYPE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION DO YOU FEEL IS VALUABLE TO EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS?

Well, a lot of technicians received their education through "on the job" experience. I believe that certifications through the EETC (equipment and engine training council) which is recognized nation wide could enhance ones knowledge and career.

4. HOW DO YOU RATE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT MANAGERS ROLE AND INFLUENCE IN THE GOLF INDUSTRY?

The importance of our role to the industry is why I am here today. I've been the equipment technician at Traverse City Golf & Country Club for the past eleven years. I chose that path because of the importance of this title to the industry. I have seen the importance of every individual on the crew and know the value of this position to a Country Club operation. We are all valuable as a group, and team work is the key. The title does carry a lot of responsibility which goes with pride, but best of all it carries job security.

UNDER THE HOOD



FROM NATIONAL



STEVE RANDALL

DELEGATES FOCUS ON FUTURE

BY STEVE RANDALL- GCSAA SENIOR MANAGER, CHAPTER OUTREACH

By the time this is published, we hope you have had the opportunity to be briefed by your chapter delegate, Gregg Matthews, on the outcomes from the 2010 delegates meeting in Lawrence, KS and Kansas City, MO.

Gregg was asked to provide a presentation on sharing resources, and the work the MiGCSA has done in that arena. Gregg did an excellent job. The presentation focused on the efforts of MiGCSA and its members. From conducting events in the four regions of the state, to educational opportunities, to working with your state representatives and allied organizations to promote the game, Gregg highlighted the wonderful efforts by the chapter.

That was a common theme during the weekend. Attendees were briefed on the many new and enhanced offerings GCSAA will provide to its members. Here's a quick rundown:

President's Update: President Jim Fitzroy outlined the many opportunities that exist for our members and the association. Efforts are underway to hire a new Chief Executive Officer, diversify and grow revenues, along with developing programs and services that are designed to enhance your membership.

Update from Interim CEO Rhett Evans: What matters most are the members and GCSAA's job is to make sure programs and services that exist, are added or enhanced are on the mark for what members desire. The financial reality is GCSAA has gone from a budget of nearly \$20-million annually to a budget of around \$15-million. GCSAA has worked hard to balance the budget and provide necessary programs, similar to what you have faced at your facility. A new Web site will be launched in the near future and was highlighted to the delegates. It will be very user friendly, clean and will offer many enhancements. In addition, GCSAA will add an affinity program for added value. That includes special pricing from Nike. 5% over wholesale to GCSAA members for shirts, golf equipment...you name it! The complete list is available by visiting our web site.

Member dues increase: There was a lively discussion on this topic. At the 2007 delegates meeting, the delegates agreed to review the dues structure every two years. The cost of living index would be used to determine the viability of considering a dues increase. The board held off discussing a dues increase in 2009 because of the difficult economic environment. The question about a dues increase was asked this year. The points to note:

- The dues increase represents a three-year cost of living increase of roughly 6%. In the proposal, dues would be \$340 for A/SM members and \$170 for C members (assistants)
- The increase is being proposed to help fund all programs at GCSAA, including new and existing initiatives, some of these new programs are outlined above. This combined with the desire for delegates to examine dues every two years, based on cost of living adjustments are the basis for the discussion. There will be more information leading up to a vote at the annual meeting in Orlando this February.
- Ultimately, GCSAA like you at your facilities has been very prudent and has trimmed spending.

Field Staff – We have discussed the field staff expansion in previous editions of Course Conditions. Region V, which includes Michigan, is served with a dedicated field staff member. More to come.

Industry-Wide Initiatives: Efforts with the We Are Golf campaign, Get Golf Ready, Golf 20/20 and Golf's Drive Toward Sustainability were highlighted. These platforms are a great template to use at the local level. Michigan continues to be at the forefront, working with your allied organizations and efforts with Golf Day at the Capitol, among others.

GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show: A point of note for Orlando is the offering of limited packages at a deep discount. GCSAA continues to work not only with hotel, but with condominiums/townhomes as well. So group/families can spend the week at a condo and save money. We have heard your feedback regarding conference and show and are working to provide a program that fits your needs and budget. Please visit our web site for all the details. Registration is now open!

Candidate presentations: Gregg will provide you with the details of the candidate presentations. Here who is running for officer/board positions: The candidates for the GCSAA Board of Directors are:

- President – **Robert M. Randquist, CGCS** (Boca Rio Golf Club – Boca Raton, FL)
- Vice-President – **Sandy G. Queen, CGCS** (City of Overland Park – Overland Park, KS)
- Secretary/Treasurer – **Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS** (The Olympic Club, San Francisco, CA) and **Keith A. Ihms, CGCS** (The Country Club of Little Rock, Little Rock, AR)
- Directors (electing three)
 - » **Rafael Barajas, CGCS** (Hacienda Golf Club, La Habra Heights, CA)
 - » **Peter J. Grass, CGCS** (Hilands Golf Club, Billings, MT)
 - » **John J. O'Keefe, CGCS** (Preakness Hills Country Club, Wayne, NJ)
 - » **Mike B. Wooten, CGCS** (Cedar Ridge Country Club, Broken Arrow, OK)
- ♦ There are three positions open for director this year, as Peter J. Grass, Keith A. Ihms, and John J. O'Keefe are at the end of their two year director terms.
 - **Bill H. Maynard, CGCS** at Milburn Golf and Country Club in Shawnee Mission, KS will remain on the board with one year remaining in his two-year term. **James R. Fitzroy, CGCS** will serve on the board as immediate past president and **Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS** will be retiring from the GCSAA Board of Directors.

Chapter success stories: In addition to Gregg's presentation, five other delegates discussed programs effecting chapters, from Golf Day in Nebraska, to Industry Partner programs to legislative/advocacy discussion and electronic publications.

Initial feedback from the event was very positive. The delegates were very engaged and participated. Let your MiGCSA board hear from you! In addition, feel free to contact me at any time. 800/472-7878 ext. 5146.

Steve Randall, GCSAA Senior Manager, Chapter Outreach

MIGCSA ANNUAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIANS EDUCATIONAL EVENT

BY DAVE ERTL, EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN, TRAVERSE CITY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Crystal Mountain - October 19, 2010

We had another great day with Special Thanks to MiGCSA members Host, Adam Ikamas, CGCS, Equipment Technician Jeff Nordbeck, Assistant Superintendents Phil Kluesner and Trevor Nash. It was a spectacular day of education starting out with Jeremy Warner of Weingartz educating us with Tractor Calibration pertaining to the 20 series John Deere, a very informative course to regards of on board diagnostics. Following Jeremy was Gene Klinkman from Textron representing Jacobsen and Mid West Turf. We all enjoyed his speech on The Future of Fuels and Electronic Technology. It was very interesting to learn where the future is taking us with alternative fuel technology and how it may and may not benefit us. Next, John Garlets with Spartan Distributors representing Toro spoke on Product Maintenance & Maximizing a Maintenance Budget. How important is this issue? Very important, and John opened our eyes to "Cycle Duty" and the differences that Technicians face with wear and tear on smaller engines opposed to the automobile engine. Thanks to our dedicated speakers and all the time that is put forth. Wow, a great day that for some ended up on the Links saving a life. Yep, a group of our colleagues went out to play golf in the afternoon saved an elderly gentleman from disaster with temperatures at night dipping into the lower thirties. A ball shager, who was in the deep swamp off the first hole on his back barely yelling for help with a dislocated hip, was saved by Ryan and his brother Brenten Stout along with their friend Stewart who happened to hear the faint cries and immediately called for help. I would like to thank everyone for their attendance. Great ending guys and hope to see all of you their next year.



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WESTERN GOLF DAY

Twenty-one groups of four gathered on a near perfect late summer day at Blythefield Country Club just north of Grand Rapids with the goal of supporting the MiGCSA Foundation and to be the winners of the Western District Fund-raiser. General manager Patti Butcher was on hand to greet and welcome the participants to the storied 80 year old venue, golf course superintendent Collin Romink and his staff had the course in tournament condition, club professional Code Vanos and his staff in the pro-shop had the customer point of contact tuned up and even added some customized score boards for us and executive chef Jeff Hiler had a great meal setup for us around the practice putting green before and after the event. Three teams played to a tie and the winner was determined by their score on the hardest holes.

With great support from Weingartz Golf & Turf, Syngenta, Bayer Environmental Sciences, Great Lakes Turf, John Deere Golf, Dupont, Hancock Golf and Mavis Consulting along with the members of the MiGCSA funds were raised to support scholarships, benevolent needs and the ever important turf research at Michigan State University via the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. These sponsors made sure that all of the participants were kept hydrated and feed via some well placed beverage stations on the course and some fantastic food before and after the event.

The winning team with a score of 63 and a birdie on the #2 handicap hole consisted of Dan Redig (Mayville Golf Club), Dan Lucas (The Kingsly Club), Kirk Carls (Spring Lake Country Club) & Joe Hancock (Hancock Golf LLS).

The second place team of Steve Rebham, Kris Loudon, Jesse Shaver and Jim Higgs beat the third place finishers of Tony Staley, Chris Foote, Willis Fraser and Ken Fraser by virtue of a birdie on the #8 handicap hole.

Hancock Golf LLC and Brian Mavis Consulting sponsored the special event holes and were happy to award prizes for Closest to the pin on #5 to John Fulling, CGCS, Less than desirable Drive on #8 to Paul Witte, Closest to the Pin on #11 to Roxanne Ostlund and Longest Drive on #17 to Kevin Thielke.



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THEODORE W. WOEHRLER, CGCS

On September 9, 2010, Theodore W. Woehrle, CGCS, passed away of complications from Lymphoma. Ted is survived by Mary, his wife of 50 years, sons Theodore Jr., Bruce and Chris, daughter Mary Smith, and seven grandchildren. On the following day the flag at Oakland Hills Country Club flew at half staff to honor the passing of its former greenkeeper.

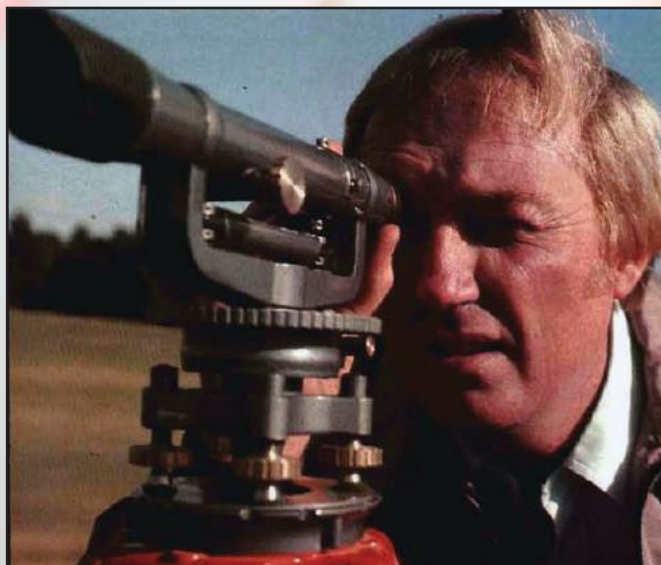
From his humble beginnings as a boy working on his father Herman's golf course at the Kankakee Valley Country Club, till he finally hung up his hat at The Orchards Golf Club in 2003, Ted Woehrle's life in greenkeeping spanned an era of almost 60 years. And it is no exaggeration to say that he distinguished himself more than any other greenkeeper. Consider the following:

He was one of the first graduates of Purdue University's four year Turf Program - he remains the only turf graduate to receive the school's Ag Alumni Certificate of Distinction; he served as President of the GCSAA and two of its local chapters; while serving on the GCSAA Board of Directors he helped to steer development of the Certification program for golf course superintendents - he himself was one of the first to achieve certification; while at Beverly Country Club he hosted two Western Opens and two Woman's Western Opens; at Oakland Hills Country Club he hosted two PGA Championships, the U.S. Open, and two U.S. Senior Opens; at The Orchards Golf Club he hosted the U.S. Public Links Championship; he grew-in two golf courses - Point O' Woods Country Club being a perennial favorite in the top 100 golf courses in America; he served as Editor of two GCSAA chapter newsletters; he helped to form the Illinois Turfgrass Foundation, serving also as its President; he personally mentored over 50 golf course superintendents; in 2007 he was inducted to the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame.



Flag at Oakland Hills Country Club flew at half staff to honor Theodore Woehrle.

But what is most amazing about all these incredible accomplishments, is how Ted Woehrle kept his humanity and



Caption 1

kindness. Men who attain even half this level of distinction will often compromise some relationships along the way, but not Ted Woehrle. While pushing himself to ever higher levels of achievement and leadership, he somehow found the time to carefully nurture his family, his friends, his colleagues, and all the employees that worked for him.

Even at the end of his life, as he endured the terrible pain of his condition, he was laughing and telling stories of his good old days with the Voykin brothers back in Chicago. No complaints or regrets, rather fond memories and the peaceful spirit of a pure conscience.

Whenever we lose one of our own we ought to take a moment to reflect on their life and think of how we may become better greenkeepers and better men. Theodore W. Woehrle, CGCS, just might be the best man we have ever had in our profession. He certainly set the bar very high, and yet not beyond our ability to follow his example. He really was just an ordinary man, but with an extraordinary heart for others. And he would be the first to tell you that even this came to him as a gift from God.

I think that in the end, Ted would like to be remembered as a man of faith, who only accomplished what God enabled him to.

Brad Anderson, CGCS

I first met Ted Woehrle as a young kid as my Dad was a greenkeeper at Beverly CC. Ted was a large figure and instantly gained respect not only with his physical stature but also his presence. Ted had a great sense of humor but like my Dad he also was smart and well organized. His studies at Purdue and stint in the military brought him close with my Dad.

Although there were more than 60 turf students that trained under my Dad....Ted was one of his favorites. He did his job well as a golf course superintendent and found time to utilize his leadership skills to become a leader in Chicago, Michigan and eventually GCSAA.

Little did I know, when I was a student at Michigan State, that I would eventually ask Ted for guidance as I went through the leadership ranks myself. Ted was always willing to help his fellow supt. or chapter/ GCSAA leader. He offered historical perspective and encouragement to others that would follow in his footsteps.

Ted was surely one of a handful of people that I consider my mentors in the golf turf industry. He will be sorely missed by many of us. His image will always stand tall just like the first day I met him.

Bruce R. Williams, CGCS

I had the opportunity to work with Ted (as his sales rep) when he was superintendent at The Orchards. One day while we were out on the golf course, I commented on the secondary rough (tall, unmowed "heather" look). It was definitely a hazard, but it was an area that was not so overly dense that it was very difficult to hit a ball out of it. Ted mentioned that it was the "Woehrle mix." It was a blend of about 10-12 different species, some of which were pretty unusual at the time. Side oats grama, big bluestem, little bluestem, sheep's fescue, hard fescue, etc. All were blended together and seeded at a very low rate. The result was a beautiful meadow with tall seedheads waving in the wind -- just the look we all admire. When you got right up on those areas, they were sparse enough that you could hit your ball out

of them without breaking your wrist! Ted was always ahead of his time. In this mix, he incorporated native prairie grasses and other plants. Not many others were doing that at the time. The result was a habitat that was very productive for wildlife, while being very aesthetically pleasing.



He was one in a million!! What an honor to have known him!! He truly was one of the most kind and Christian men I have had the occasion to know. Thank you, Ted!

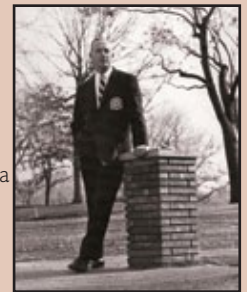
Susan Shockey

This memory of Ted took place in 1978, the year the Superintendents Golf Championship was held in Corpus Christi, Texas followed the next week with the convention in San Antonio, Texas.

As the story goes. Ward Swanson, then Superintendent at Plum Hollow C.C., Jake Lorenz, then Superintendent at Grosse Isle C.C., Both have passed on, and myself, then and still am Superintendent at Detroit Golf Club, traveled to all the golf championships and conventions for many, many years together. Jack and I had members at our respective clubs that at what ever town the convention and golf championship was held in we would be supplied an automobile to use while we were out of town. Jack's member was from Ford Motor Co., so he would have a Lincoln waiting for him at the airport and my member was with the Chrysler Corp. so I would have the use of a new Chrysler.

When the 3 of us landed in San Antonio, our plan was to pick up our cars and head for Corpus Christi. I think about 200 miles from San Antonio if I remember right. While fiddling around at the airport we run into Ted Woehrle who also was heading to Corpus Christi

for the tournament. Naturally we invited Ted to ride along with us and he was delighted. It was decided Ward would ride with me in the Chrysler and Ted would ride with Jack in the Lincoln. It was also decided that I would be the lead car and that I would stop at the first "take out" store so we could have some travelers for the trip. You have to remember this was 1978 and the laws were a little bit different back then. Anyway, we get beer for both cars and head south for Corpus Christi. Ted was driving Jack's Lincoln and Jack was opening some beer. He opened one and handed it to Ted, to which Ted responded, "No Jack I cant drink and drive" -- to which Jack responded "well then Ted, move over and I will show you how it is done." A great story enjoyed by all at the tournament.



Ted Woehrle was a great friend of mine and a great asset to our profession.

Clem Wolfrom

The US Open was held at Oakland Hills Country Club in the summer of 1985 and that is where I performed my internship as a student in the 2-year MSU Ag-tech turfgrass program. Ted Woehrle was the superintendent at OHCC with Tom Gray and Mark Jackson filling the roles of feuding assistants. Ted was always calm and cordial and displayed no signs of pressure with the upcoming world famous event. My morning job during the Open was to clean, mow, and prepare the driving range tee. Afterwards I was to locate the bunker crew and join them in their hand raking duties. To rake the bunkers Ted purchased dozens of new aluminum bunker rakes. Unfortunately, the USGA did not approve of the rakes because they thought the tines would make the sand too fluffy and they would leave furrows.

On the Thursday morning of the event anticipation filled the air and I was excited as I set-off to locate the bunker crew following my driving range duties. From a distance I spied Teds cart near the 8th green and as I approached I found Ted hand raking a greens-side bunker with an aluminum rake the USGA forbid the use of. I silently watched as Ted meticulously raked the bunker. When Ted finished he paused for a moment and admired the efforts of his labor. He turned, noticed me, and began to approach me. He stopped and exclaimed beaming from

ear to ear, "Heck with 'em"! Then he secured the rake to his cart and drove-off.

Several months later I was working alone preparing a site for drain tile installation when I was told to report to Ted's office. As I entered the office Ted told me to sit down and then he informed me that one of my best friends from high school had been shot to death early that morning. I believe that Ted was prepared for any reaction I might display and he offered to drive me home and have someone else follow with my car. I thought about it for a moment and I told him I wanted to get my chore finished but asked if I could continue to work alone for the remainder of the day. He sort of smiled and he agreed to allow me to do as I wished.

To me Ted Woehrle was a soft spoken man with large shoulders that always knew the right words to say and the best way to handle tough situations. He taught by example and gave me many opportunities and the only way I can ever repay him is to pay-it-forward. I think he would like that.

Dr. Thom Nikolai

A special memory I have with Ted was back in 1970 when he and Oakland Hills hosted MTF's first "big event." There were two shotguns, morning and afternoon, on both the north and south courses using the golf carts from Birmingham Country Club, Orchard Lake, Pine Lake, and Franklin Hills. We were able to raise more than \$12,000 and even managed to return the golf carts before anyone noticed that they were

'missing.' That day marked the beginning of historic fundraising efforts for the turfgrass industry, and what a great day that was...

Mr. Gordon LaFontaine

THE BETTER HALF



CHRISTIAN KOVAL

Prestwick Village is a private 18-hole facility which encompasses 426 acres of natural rolling terrain, woodlands and picturesque lakes and a 27 acre driving range and short game practice areas. It is Located just north of the Village of Milford in Highland Township. It is also the site of Bob Krause's golfing academy. Prestwick Village was designed by Ron Garl with the intent to bring Floridian design to Michigan with large expansive waste bunkers, fairways and greens. This golf course was designed as an all-in-one community with 330 members.

Christian Koval has been the lead assistant at Prestwick Village Golf Club for the past three years. He oversees a crew of 18 to 20 individuals and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the golf course. Christian is an avid golfer who enjoys playing the game and is also a student of classic golf course architecture. Prior to his employment at Prestwick Village, he was the assistant superintendent at Crystal Downs Country Club for four years. Christian is a valued, well respected member of the management team at Prestwick Village and is highly regarded by the membership.



1. **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPORTS RELATED MOVIE?**
The Natural
2. **WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?**
Hunting, fishing, golf
3. **WHAT IS THE TOUGHEST GOLF COURSE YOU HAVE PLAYED?**
Certain holes at Kingsley Club
4. **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE GOLF CLUB IN THE BAG?**
3 wood
5. **WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE TOURING PROFESSIONAL?**
Still Freddy Couples
6. **WHAT PIECE OF EQUIPMENT WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD TO YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?**
Moisture meter
7. **WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT YOU HAVE IN YOUR ARSENAL FOR GOLF COURSE MANAGEMENT?**
Greens Roller
8. **WHO MAKES YOU LAUGH THE MOST ON YOUR CREW?**
We have a staff full of jokers. Jeff or the Magic Man
9. **IF YOU COULD CHANGE ANY GOLF HOLE ON YOUR GOLF COURSE WITHOUT REPERCUSSION, WHICH ONE WOULD BE THE FIRST??**
Remove trees near the 13th green

10. WHAT TYPE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM DO YOU HAVE AND APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY IRRIGATION HEADS?

Toro – 1100+ heads

11. WHY DID YOU CHOOSE A TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT CAREER PATH?

Love of the game, the outdoors, and producing an experience that people enjoy

12. NAME ANY THREE PEOPLE WHO WOULD MAKE UP YOUR “DREAM SCRAMBLE TEAM”?

John Daly, Payne Stewart, Natalie Gulbis

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

To be a unified voice for superintendents, keeping us engaged, and advancing the profession.

14. WHAT IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF YOUR JOB?

Trying to find efficiencies in managing a large facility.

15. WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS TODAY?

Obviously the competitive and shrinking job market. It may take a bit longer for many of us to get that first superintendent job. Maybe fewer opportunities for 2nd assistants and spray techs as staffs get smaller.

16. WHAT RESEARCH WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE ACCOMPLISHED FOR TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

Continuing to study winterkill and ice injury.

17. WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST ABOUT TURFGRASS MANAGEMENT?

Michael Morris/Don Roth

18. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF FLOWERS ON THE GOLF COURSE?

I like perennials!

19. WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF WALKING A GOLF COURSE VS. RIDING A GOLF COURSE IN TODAY’S GAME?

It’s a shame that some courses are built with only riding in mind. I think the game is more enjoyable walked.

20. WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST PET PEEVE CONCERNING GOLF COURSE ETIQUETTE?

Ball marks and cart traffic.

21. WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS OF GREEN SPEED AND THE GAME OF GOLF TODAY

I think that no matter what the issue; green speed, sand traps, turf quality, aesthetics, etc it is our responsibility to try and meet the expectations of our clientele.



QUICK NINE

1. **SPRING, SUMMER OR FALL?** Definitely fall
2. **THE MASTERS, U.S. OPEN OR BRITISH OPEN?** British Open
3. **CLASSIC GOLF COURSE, MODERN GOLF COURSE OR MODERN/CLASSIC GOLF COURSE?** Classic
4. **DOLLAR SPOT, SNOWMOLD OR PYTHIUM?** Dollar spot
5. **E-MAIL, SNAIL MAIL OR FACE TO FACE?** Face to face
6. **DRIVER, WEDGE OR PUTTER?** Putter
7. **MOWING GREENS, MOWING FAIRWAYS OR MOWING ROUGH?** Greens
8. **MORNING SUNRISE, SUNNY DAY OR BEAUTIFUL SUNSET?** Sunset
9. **LOCAL MIGCSA EVENT, GREAT LAKES TRADE EXPO OR GOLF INDUSTRY SHOW?** Local MIGCSA event





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ASSISTANT GOLF DAY

On October 18th, twenty-six assistant superintendents and industry partners from around the state gathered in St. John's at The Emerald for the 3rd Annual Assistant Golf Day. Todd Griebe, President of Turfgrass Inc., started off the day by addressing the crowd with a presentation on Success in Today's Business Environment. It focused on building organizational and team success. His presentation was built around the research of the late Elliot Jacque which focused on peoples natural leadership and planning ability; how to identify it and channel it to fit your organization. He also talked about five common dysfunctional characteristics of poorly performing teams. While he discussed these ideas and theories he used examples from his own career on how these principles have guided his success. After the presentation, everyone grabbed their clubs, some lunch and headed out on the golf course. A big thanks to Jay, Troy and the crew for great course conditioning that was firm, fast and challenging. The scramble format was enjoyed by everyone with the winning team of Travis Fox, Brett Roberts, John Higgs and John Sabot finishing at the top of the pack with an impressive -13 par round of 59. The day came to a conclusion back in the clubhouse with camaraderie and prizes awarded for longest drive and closest to the pin. Keep you eyes and calendar open for next year's event. It promises to be another great day of education, golf and networking with peers from across the state.



GLTE

The 3rd Annual Assistant Superintendent Symposium will take place on Jan 11th, 2011 between 8:00 and 10:00 and the 2011 Great Lakes Trade Expo in Grand Rapids. Adam Ikamas, CGCS at Crystal Mountain Resort will start off the morning with an information packed presentation on GCSAA Certification entitled "The Road to Certification". Adam will share his recent experiences completing the certification process that will include practical tips on what assistants and superintendents can do to get a head start on the certification process. Up next will be Bob Vavrek, USGA Senior Agronomist for the North-Central Region presenting "Course Preparation for the 2010 USGA Junior Amateur Championship". Bob's presentation is guaranteed to be fun, engaging and packed with pictures and stories as he discusses how assistant superintendents are involved in the process of preparing for a USGA Championship. The session will conclude with a special in-depth presentation by Dan Koops, assistant superintendent at the Country Club of Detroit on the experiences involved with "Renovating the Country Club of Detroit." This must attend presentation will highlight the recent golf course renovation project that closed the course for complete greens reconstruction, bunker renovation and fairway regrassing. This symposium promises to be informative, engaging and fun; don't miss it!



A CALL FROM CAMPUS

REMEMBERING 2010

DR. KEVIN W. FRANK

2010 will certainly be a year that many golf course superintendents will not soon forget. Many areas of the state started the year with winterkill and then spent the next several months, if not all year, trying to recover and regrow from the death. As soon as the memory of winterkill started to fade, the summer of 2010 came roaring in. According to the NOAA State of the Climate Report, the period from June through August was the 4th warmest summer on record in the US. If you're wondering, those records extend back to 1895. On top of the record heat, Michigan recorded its 3rd wettest summer ever! This combination of heat and moisture resulted in tremendous heat stress and disease pressure throughout the summer. Popular press articles on golf courses struggling through the weather started popping up in places like The Wall Street Journal, and rumors swirled about which big name course was closed or closing because all of their greens were dead. Sticking to Michigan, I think there are definitely some commonalities that I observed on golf courses that struggled this last year. My top 5 for why turf struggled, not counting weather which is #1 but unfortunately out of our control. My list is not ranked so you can choose what's #1 for you.

1. Organic matter in putting greens. The pressure to reduce aerification and/or topdressing to appease golfers or because of budget reductions many not have been a problem in the cool, easy growing weather of 2009 but this year if organic matter was an issue in your putting greens you probably saw the effects.

2. Shade. Every superintendent knows that trees are not turf's friend. I've only been at MSU for 11 years, I can only imagine how many times Dr. Vargas has recommended to a superintendent, or green committee to cut down some trees to improve turfgrass performance.

3. Drainage. The inability to move water during the 3rd wettest summer on record was painfully obvious to many. Unfortunately some of our golf courses were built in flood plains that not surprisingly, do not drain very well.

4. Irrigation. This may seem odd considering the wet nature of 2010, but between the deluges there were some extended dry periods where the inefficiency of aging irrigation systems resulted in plenty of hand watering.

5. Public Relations. How well you communicate the challenge of growing turf in stressful year may be your biggest key to success. It seems basic, but being proactive instead of reactive in communicating with your membership, golfers, owners, and GM's about the challenges and reasons for why the 7th green is struggling is better than hiding in the pesticide storage locker.

Finally to hopefully leave you with a little smile on your face here are some quotes that I've recycled from several years ago from superintendents in Michigan. In order to protect identities I've excluded the source.

"Seed is cheaper than fungicide....paint is cheaper than both."

"If you've got the time, I've got the extra hose."

"When daylight savings time switches back, at least we'll have an hour less daylight."

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Recommended Program for Take-all Patch

| Application | Approximate Date | Fungicide | Rate |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| Spring Appl. #1 | April 1 | Headway | 3.0 oz/1,000 ft ² |
| Spring Appl. #2 | 28 days later | Headway | 3.0 oz/1,000 ft ² |
| Fall Appl. #1 | September 15 | Headway | 3.0 oz/1,000 ft ² |
| Fall Appl. #2 | 28 days later | Headway | 3.0 oz/1,000 ft ² |

NOTE: If resources are limited, the two fall applications are most critical in reducing the incidence of take-all patch
Heritage® TL 2.0 fl oz = Heritage 50WG 0.4 oz

Heritage fungicide application treatments are an effective tool for take-all patch. However, Headway fungicide also provides a broad spectrum of disease control and may be a better fit in a comprehensive preventive fungicide program.

- Azoxystrobin, the active ingredient present in both Heritage and Headway fungicides, has superior plant uptake and movement compared to other QoI fungicides resulting in quicker plant protection when you need it most, especially against take-all patch.

Best Management Practices for Control

Fungicide Applications

- Spring applications should be initiated when soil temperatures consistently reach 55° F for three consecutive days
- Fall applications should be initiated when soil temperatures consistently reach 55–60° F

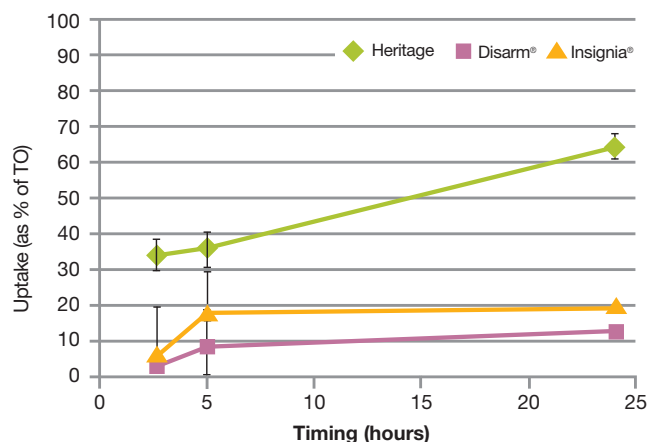
Note: Irrigation is recommended in the evening after each Headway fungicide application

Cultural Practices

- Carefully manage soil moisture
- Aerify to reduce compaction and improve drainage
- Maintain soil pH below 6.5, preferably between 5.5 and 6.0
- Avoid nitrate forms of nitrogen—instead use acidifiers like ammonium sulfate and urea sources
- Use light, frequent fertilizer applications to compensate for the damaged root systems
- Apply manganese at 2 lbs/acre, spring and fall when soil temperatures are between 40° F and 60° F

QoI (strobilurin) Retention & Uptake Study—24 hours

Bartlett, Syngenta Jealott's Hill, UK , 2009



- Heritage TL, Disarm® 480SC and Insignia® 20WG fungicide formulations used. Broadcast applications sprayed at 1.5 gal/1,000 ft² to potted ryegrass maintained at fairway height, 8 reps—top leaf clippings sampled, analyzed at 0, 5 and 24 hours after application. Clippings were shaken in methanol to assess surface fungicide levels, analyzed via LCMS.
- Superior uptake and movement up and out of leaf tissue with Heritage fungicide (increasing surface fungicide detection going from 5 to 24 hours indicative of fungicide active ingredient translocation), with no statistically significant differences in uptake between Disarm or Insignia fungicides.

To learn more about fighting tough diseases like take-all patch,
contact Scott Trbovich at 248-830-6065 or scott.trbovich@syngenta.com

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THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING PRODUCT LABELS

BY KYLE MILLER, BASF PROFESSIONAL TURF & ORNAMENTALS, SENIOR TECHNICAL SPECIALIST FOR NORTHERN U.S.

Product labels aren't the type of reading material that you can snuggle up with—but they're also not the kind you can ignore or just skim through before filing away.

Labels deserve routine attention beyond the one-time, quick read after purchase. However, it can be common practice to follow use recommendations from colleagues and distributors without analyzing the important details explained on the product's label. But doing so can save money, prevent injury and help grow better plants by ensuring product performance.

Most people using fungicides, herbicides and insecticides only ask themselves, "What product do I need to control the weed, insect or disease and what rate do I apply?" Rate information is essential, but labels provide a technical breakdown and need-to-know information prior to application. Here are five key areas to read on a label:

1. Mix Mindfully

The tank mixing section of a label lays out exactly how to combine a product with other additives. Glazing over these guidelines can create an un-usable compound, clog application equipment and reduce efficacy.

The basic rule of thumb—mix dry materials first, then add liquids—may not ring true for all products. One must be mindful of variances between generic and patented formulas and know that even though an active ingredient may be the same, its formula could require different a mixing order. So don't rely on old standards—get up to speed on the label's specifics before adding each product to the tank.

2. Follow Special Statements

Special statements on a label clearly communicate how to use a product for particular conditions. In uncontrolled climates, weather is an important variable to consider.

Be sure to make note of the rainfall or drying times mentioned in a special statement or you may lose your valuable pest control efforts to precipitation. Retain product effectiveness by making sure spray technicians are also in-the-know about circumstances included in the special statements section.

3. Get to Know Group Numbers

Group numbers help avoid the risk of disease resistance by identifying which fungicides, herbicides and insecticide products operate under the same mode of action. Usually included on the first page of a label, group numbers make it easy to organize products with different modes of action into a rotation program. For example, if you notice signs of resistance after using a fungicide in Group 1, try using a product with a different group number in the next application.

4. Acknowledge Agricultural Use Requirements

Agricultural and non-agricultural use requirements on product labels are important and vary depending on product use. A greenhouse or nursery employee, for instance, may use the same product as a turf professional, but has to abide by a completely different set of rules with regard to protective equipment and re-entry interval. Failing to read this section of a label could harm employees, plants and the environment.

5. Follow restrictions and limitations

Carefully read the "general restrictions and limitations" section on your product labels. Knowing the "do not" statements list can mean the difference between having profitable, healthy plants and turf—or damaging an entire crop with poor application practices. Brushing up on labels you haven't read since last year can make all the difference.

General suggestions

Making a 10-15 minute investment in reading a label can save a lot of time and hassle compared with the fallout of misusing a product. Schedule a label date once a year where you can carefully re-familiarize yourself with old labels and dissect the details of new updated labels. The best place to obtain current labels is www.cdms.net.

For more information on disease control and healthy plants visit www.betterturf.basf.us, follow our Twitter at [www.twitter.com/basfturf_us](https://twitter.com/basfturf_us), or contact Kyle Miller at kyle.miller@basf.com.

Always Read and Follow Label Directions.

MIGCSA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH UPDATE

FROM THE CHAIR – STEVE HAMMON, PAST PRESIDENT

During the May 2010 MiGCSA Board Meeting at the Lakelands Golf & Country Club it was unanimously decided that a committee would be created to begin the process of hiring an Executive Director for the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association.

Committee members include; Steve Hammon, Dan Bissonette, Ron Weingartz, Tim Dark, John Fulling and President Ron Dahlin. The committee will be creating and researching Executive Director responsibilities, compensation recommendations to the board and expense guidelines. The job will be posted and advertised in early winter through

the MiGCSA and our Allied Partners in the state which include, MGCOA, MiPGA, MiCMA and the MTF.

The committee will narrow down the E.D. applicants and begin interviewing in mid-January. The entire board will then interview the top few candidates in late February. Stay tuned to the MiGCSA to review the Executive Director responsibilities and this position will help secure the continued success of this wonderful state chapter.

To read more about these stories and many more go to www.MiGCSA.org

MTF SILENT AUCTION AT GLTE! JANUARY 10-12, 2011

Proceeds to benefit MTF Founders Society

Donations of goods and services for the 2011 MTF Silent Auction are currently being solicited. Rounds of golf, sports memorabilia, soft & hard goods, and turf services are popular items. Be creative with your donation! Contact Kathy Antaya at kantaya@msn.com or 616-450-1884, or MTF at miturgrass@gmail.com or 517-392-5003, to make a donation today!

GCSAA AWARDS SCOTTS CO. SCHOLARSHIPS TO MSU STUDENTS

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has awarded its 2010 Scotts Co. Scholars Program grants to Michigan State University students Eloy González and Clinton Steketee.

MIGCSA AWARDED \$3,000 GRANT FROM THE GCSAA

The Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) has awarded another Chapter Outreach Grant to the Michigan Golf Course Superintendents Association. The Michigan GCSA will receive a \$3,000 grant through the program, which was designed to assist GCSAA-affiliated chapters in communicating with key constituents, primarily golfers and employers. In the last two years, GCSAA has distributed more than \$50,000 to chapters across the country to help with outreach efforts on a local and regional level. With its

Outreach Grant, the Michigan GCSA plans to expand on its long-term strategic plan by continuing a campaign promoting the golf course superintendent as a key-decision maker to members of allied associations. The plan will include print advertising through association with the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association, the Golf Association of Michigan and Michigan Golf Magazine. Web advertising will also be included, and representation at the Michigan regional golf shows in the spring of 2011. The MiGCSA was awarded a \$2,000 outreach grant last year, and used the funds to sponsor and advertise at the USGA Junior Amateur at Egypt Valley Country Club this July.

MEIJER STORES PROMOTE STEWARDSHIP

Meijer's stores across the state are providing Go Green Lawncare Tip sheets. Look for them in the lawn fertilizer section. These sheets provide information on good lawn care practices to protect water quality, the environment and your lawn. Craig Friesleben, Meijer Buyer/Merchandiser for the Garden Center said "We're highly committed to positive environmental care through our many corporate actions and decisions. We feel strongly about protecting Michigan's natural resources and the communities we serve." "Craig was very positive about providing Lawncare Tips to folks purchasing lawn and garden fertilizers and other products in Meijer's stores", said Dr. Roberta Dow, Michigan Water Stewardship Program, Michigan State University Extension. The Go Green Lawncare Tips sheet was developed by a committee headed by Dr. Kevin Frank at Michigan State University, Department of Crop and Soil Science.

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



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Harrell's is a privately owned corporation headquartered in Lakeland, Florida with production facilities in Alabama and Florida. Harrell's LLC. currently has distribution centers in Norway, SC, Danbury, CT, York, PA, Butler, PA, and Auburn, MA.

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