



Turf Times



The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

BI-Monthly Update March/April Volume 29, No. 1

[2000]

President's Message

Procrastination is something I am really good at. It's kind of like this Presidents message that Scott is patiently waiting for. My significant other gave me a choice to begin writing or start doing laundry. So... There are many topics to talk about, such as the early golf season starting, is snowmold season over ??, and the Professional Development Initiative (P.D.I.).

It's only early March, so if I wait long enough, this golf bug will subside to the cold weather that will inevitably come to close out the month. Who would have guessed that in February we would be chasing golfers off the course and not snowmobilers.

About thirty people showed up to Tree-tops for the snowmold trials in Gaylord, with usual turnout at Boyne Highlands in Harbor Springs. A special thank-you goes out to all the people who volunteer their time and energy to

make these trials possible. Early reports of minimal snowmold damage have been favorable by superintendents from various parts in northern Michigan. Let's cross our fingers that the snowmold gods will protect our turf until the real golf season arrives. I'll wait to see what April has in store for us.

Unlike snowmold and the weather, this P. D.I. thing is something we have control over if we get involved now. Information about the initiative has been made available through GCSAA via members of the Member Standards Resource Group presentations (January Michigan Turfgrass Conference in Lansing), a Town Hall Meeting (February GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show in New Orleans), Golf Course Magazine, Newline, Golfdom, and various other publications. But if you really want to find out how other superin-

tendents feel about P.D.I., access the Internet at www.gcsaa.org or contact the association at 800-472-7878. If that's still not enough, a short presentation by Jon Madern will be made at the Mini Conference in Grayling on April 10th. An open discussion will follow. All the resources are there, now it's up to you to decide which method to utilize.

The Professional Development Initiative, the weather and snowmold are inevitable. But after they arrive, superintendents still have to decide how to deal with them. For those of you

who think P.D.I. will not affect you, that would be like not treating for snowmold last fall and waiting to see what the turf looks like in the spring. Are you willing to take a chance? Please take the time to learn about P.D.I. and express your opinion pro or con to the MSR.G. Procrastination can be a good thing though, at least I have clean socks now...

Green side up,

Daniel J. Bissonette
Walloon Lake C.C.



The Professional Development Initiative!

In the last three years, GCSAA has embarked on a journey to develop a system that would elevate the professional qualifications and recognition of our members, through a project called the Profes-

sional Development Initiative. You may have attended a chapter presentation to learn about it. Or you may have seen the Talking It Over discussion forum on the GCSAA Web

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PDI CONT...

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site. Or maybe you have just heard about it from your members. Or may, just maybe, you are just now hearing about it. So what is it all about?

Discussion on the Professional Development Initiative began in 1996 and has continued to this day. It was a member-driven initiative, one designed to establish credentials for members so that the golf course superintendents can be appropriately recognized as a key contributor to the golf course. Shortly after the delegates meeting when it was first introduced, the President Paul McGinnis, CGCS, appointed the Membership Standards Resource Group (MSRG).

The group developed a mission statement that discussed the need to improve the knowledge, skills and abilities of the professional superintendent that will contribute toward improved playing conditions and the enjoyment of the game of golf. The MSRG believed that increased

salaries will measure success, as will enhanced job security, improved job opportunities and intensified recognition by employers. They then began to outline the process for achieving these goals.

Four research projects were conducted to provide the MSRG needed information. These included:

- 1) a job analysis to determine the responsibilities of a golf course superintendent;
- 2) an employer study to determine their attitudes about superintendents;
- 3) a study to determine what our members thought of GCSAA's education; and,
- 4) a review of GCSAA's educational programs by curriculum experts.

Many of the conclusions drawn from these research projects validated pre-existing assumptions. For example, golf course superintendents need a broad range of skills and knowledge to perform their jobs successfully. Employers often don't understand what superintendents do. And finally, although GCSAA mem-

bers like the current education program, research proved it will be inadequate in meeting future needs.

In designing the PDI, the MSRG used the results of the research. They identified what the employers of golf course superintendents need, want and value from the golf course superintendent. Then, they began the arduous task of detailing the knowledge, skills, and attributes required of superintendents to satisfy employers' needs. The MSRG knew that education provides the means for superintendents to fill any gaps between those competencies that superintendents have and those that they need. So GCSAA began to develop a state-of-the-art curriculum that provides the golf course superintendent the tools needed to meet the challenges they face in managing the economic conditions of the golf course, the staff and the budget. Furthermore, the MSRG recommended that GCSAA be positioned to recognize the accomplishments of the professional superintendent with a competency-based classification system.

The MSRG

also began to develop recommendations to restructure the classification system. Their recommendations are intended to provide the marketplace with a benchmark of what it takes to be a superintendent by more closely aligning the membership requirements to marketplace requirements.

The MSRG recognized that classification is a personal issue and they began with a set of assumptions before developing their recommendations. For example, they wanted GCSAA to remain an inclusive organization; in other words, everyone who wanted to be a member should have that right. However, they wanted to be able to have the classification system "mean something." The model they are proposing is only their recommendations. They are seeking member input and will be accepting member input through May before making their final recommendations at their June meeting. Currently, they propose the following for Class A membership:

- A member must hold the job responsibility of a

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PDI CONT...

(Continued from page 2)

superintendent;

- A member must take a self-assessment based on the competencies being identified;
- A member must pass a validation of the self-assessment (to be determined);
- A member must have a bachelor's degree or have completed a two-year turf program (with a minimum number of hours) from a nationally accredited college or university; and
- A member must possess a current pesticide license.

In addition, Class A members would be assessed ongoing requirements which are yet to be de-

termined. The MSRGR recommended that these requirements be fulfilled through an administrative renewal cycle of every three years and that it contain a blend of continuing education and professional education. They also recommended that Certification be restructured to align more closely with the Class A membership requirements, but at a higher competency level.

The MSRGR realized that many superintendents have been in the business for many years and have been contributing members of GCSAA. As a result, they recommended that all current Class A members be moved into the new Class A categories and be responsible for only the ongoing requirements. They made the

same recommendation for all currently certified members. Finally, they recommended that all Current Class B members transition into the Class B category but be allowed to apply for Class A membership by only passing the validation of the competency assessment and experience. Then as Class A members, they too would be responsible for ongoing requirements.

So what happens next? The MSRGR will continue to make presentations throughout the country through May. They will be collecting information from these presentations as well as from individuals on the Web. Then in June they will meet to make their final recommendations. These recommendations will be distributed

to all members early in August, prior to the Chapter Delegates meeting in September, and more than six months before any by-laws vote is scheduled in February of 2001. If adopted, the requirements would go into effect the following year, July 2002.

There are many unanswered questions that relate to the PDI, but the MSRGR is working to keep members well informed about this proposal, through constant communication in *Newsline* and with chapters. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to send them by e-mail to pdi@gcsaa.org or by regular postal mail to PDI, 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, Kansas 66049.

Oh Canada!

The scene was Drummond Island; it was the first week of February and the ice was ready to be crossed. This was the first annual Drummond Island Snowmobile outing that took place Monday and Tuesday, January 31 and Febru-

ary 1 respectively. Early arrivals got a chance to see one of the better superbowl that I can remember, with plenty of FOOD and soft drinks for the riders.

The first day was a trip around the Island with our guide



Dan Bissonette takes his last fast ride before his sled blew up.

who is the head wrench

at the Quarry. The Island has around 100 miles of trails, so we showed the fellows the Island life in the winter. We got the opportunity to visit the quarry, walk through their

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1999 Member Scholarship Award Recipient

Dear N.M.T.M.A.

I would like to thank you and everyone else involved in awarding me the scholarship. At the time that I wrote the essay I was living blissfully in the ignorance about just how expensive college actually is. I now realize the importance of every source of financial aid one can find.

I am holding my own at the University of Michigan. Though it is much more difficult than high school, I find the challenge rewarding and fulfilling. Thank you again for helping me in my search for higher knowledge.

Gratefully,
Abigail Jannazzo

2000 Student Scholarship Award Recipient

Student Scholarship Winner (from John Mims) dated February 1, 2000

Dear Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association:

It is a great honor to have been selected as a N.M.T.M.A. scholarship recipient.

For the past six years, I have had the privilege of working in Northern Michigan in my career field. I have learned much from the hard-working dedicated professionals in a great part of the state.

The faculty and experiences offered to me at Michigan State University have only increased my desire to pursue this field professionally. We all are most appreciative of your support for students in this innovative program.

It is my hope one day that I too, will make a leadership contribution in the Northern Michigan golf industry. I accept this award with deep appreciation for all that it represents and holds for the future.

Thank you,
John W. Mims

Congratulations to our scholarship winners!



Sun – A Hazard to Avoid



One of the things that golf course employees find attractive about their jobs, the ability to enjoy the out of doors, may also include some hazards. It is estimated that one million American's a year will develop one of the three forms of skin cancer. Over 90 percent of these cancers appear on sun exposed skin of the face, neck, ears, forearms and hands.

Skin cancer begins in the top layer of skin called the epidermis. The three types of cells that make up the epidermis are: (1) flat, scaly squamous cells, (2) round basal cells and (3) melanocytes, the cells that give skin its color. While not all over exposure to sun will cause skin cancer

the cellular damage is cumulative over time and may cause problems many years later.

Of the three cancers melanoma is the most serious. It usually begins as a dark brown or black patch with irregular borders. It may appear anywhere on the body or start near a mole: and has a tendency to spread. The Skin Cancer Foundation uses the ABCD method to help detect melanoma:

A = most melanomas are **asymmetrical**
 B = **borders** of melanomas are uneven
 C = **color**, varied shades of brown, tan or black are first signs of melanoma
 D = **diameter**, early melanomas tend to

grow larger than common moles

The most common types of skin cancer are basal cell carcinoma and squamous cell cancer. These cancers appear as a change in the skin, they may be a lump, a growth or a sore that won't heal. The lump may be shiny or wavy looking and red or reddish brown in color. Skin cancer may also appear as flat red spots that are rough or scaly.

It is important to have any questionable signs of skin cancer checked by your personal physician or dermatologist. In addition, the following common sense prevention steps should be followed:

- Use a broad spectrum sunscreen with a skin protection fac-

tor (SPF) of at least 15 to shield both UVA and UVB rays. The higher the SPF number, the more protection offered. Reapply every two hours.

- Tightly woven clothing is recommended, such as long-sleeved shirts and pants. Some new high-SPF clothing is available for those with a high risk of skin cancer or other sun-sensitive problems.
- Wear a wide brim hat and UV rated sunglasses
- Stay in the shade when possible.

Taking these precautions and getting at least an annual checkup will go a long way towards avoiding this significant hazard, the sun.

*Jim Olli, CGCS
 Grandview Golf Club*

2000 NMTMA Membership Scholarship

This years topic for the Membership Scholarship essay is "Benefits of Turfgrass on the Environment." This scholarship is available to any member's son or daughter who is attending college and not pursuing a degree in the turfgrass industry. Previous winners are not eligible. Application forms and more information will be available at the mini-conference. If you are not able to attend the mini-conference, please contact Jim Tollefsen, CGCS at (231) 264-5292 or tollefs@juno.com

Your 2000 NMTMA Directory will be arriving soon!!!!!!

Make plans to attend the:

**NORTHERN MICHIGAN TURF MANAGERS ASSOC.
MINI-CONFERENCE**

TO BE HELD MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2000, AT THE GRAYLING HOLIDAY INN

REGISTRATION IS AT 8:00 – SPEAKERS BEGIN **PROMPTLY** AT 8:30

TOPICS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- A Trip To Kosovo Jim Tollefson, CGCS
- *Poa Supina* & Soft Spikes Dr. Trey Rogers, III
- Environmental, If You Only Knew? Greg Lyman
- MTF Updates Gordon LaFontaine
- How About The Weather? Brian Hearst
- PGR's Dr. Jim Baird
- Breeding Grass and More Suleiman Bughrara
- How Do You Do! Dr. Kevin Frank
- PDI Jon Maddern, CGCS

COST IS \$30.00 INCLUDES MORNING COFFEE AND ROLLS, LUNCH AND
AFTERNOON SODA.

Please call Kay Patrick to make your reservations before April 7th at 517-327-5474.

You may pay at the door. Make checks payable to N.M.T.M.A.

Credits will be given for recertification from the MDA

Oh Canada CONT...

shop and stand on one big mother of a loader. This thing was so big you could put a dozen of Bissonette blown up sleds in there and still have room for a couple of those Chevy's. From there we headed East to Marble Head, this area is solid rock and comes up off the lake about 200ft, which overlooks Canada.

We finished off the day with dinner, and a round table forum with a DNR officer. We drilled him from sleds to deer hunting and baiting. He told us about some laws that were coming up and how their department is on line to handle them and his feelings on the matter. It was very interesting. To top the night off we went down to the local tavern to have some

suds and kick the boots up. I'm not going to say any names but the guy from down state who is a native of Alpena, (and he's not the ex-president), needs to work on his waiting skills. A dozen beers in Bluck's lap looked pretty good, of course the little dance you did to get there was even better! I forgot to tell you guys about those hidden cameras they have!

Soon, morning had arrived and the riders were dropping like flies. After starting out Monday night dinner with 20, we were down to 15. Of course Danny boy blew up his sled on the way up and asked his 12 year old to borrow his sled. Long story... anyway we were on our way to St. Joseph island, about 15

miles northwest of Drummond. We landed about 20 min. later at customs for the check-in. After everyone got off the phone with the agent we were ready to go, but wait... another sled goes down. This time it's the PGA guy from Shanty. So the Pres, taking his sons sled, tows him back to the states (by the way guys, customs is still waiting for you to check back in!) That's the last that we saw of them. Dan was in New Orleans so guess every thing went O.K. Of course I hear from Jody that Dan's magic touch took out another family sled, his wife's.

We took a round-trip that day and put on about 180 miles. The country up there is spectacular. Rolling hills through

rock formations and even some SNOW. We stopped out in the middle of nowhere, at this tiny place called "Ozies Bar and Grill". We went inside and we took up the whole place. The bar was about 4ft long and they had one person working! The special that day was burger and fries. We made it easy, every one ordered the burgers and fries. After hanging out there a while we figured out it was their house. The bathroom was upstairs next to their two bedrooms. The waitress came over and smiled. (no teeth) Well this perked some of the fellas up. Dave the head wrench from Egypt Valley felt right at home. As you see he's from Lake City.

The trip went well and everyone had a great time, I want to thank every one for coming up and look forward to seeing you at the up-coming meetings.

God Speed,

Craig Hoffman
The Rock

Who wants to win \$250.00?

In an effort to create a little creativity and addition to our Turf Times, we are awarding \$250.00 and a plaque to a member of the NMTMA that submits an article to be judged and published in the Turf Times. Once the article is submitted it will be reviewed by a committee to be put into the final judging, done by you the members at the annual board meeting. There are no subject restrictions. Pictures can accompany the article. Please submit all articles to:

Scott Pulaski

4787 Winnie Hill Rd.
Gaylord MI 49735

OR e-mail: scottp@freeway.net

To all Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association Members:

One of our members is about to celebrate his 90th birthday on March 24th. That member is C.E. Tuck Tate, CGCS. Tuck, for those who do not know was President of this association for quite a few years and was owner, pro, superintendent of Frankfort Golf Club. He was also on the board of directors and past president of the MTF and has been a long time supporter of these organizations. Our association's championship is named in his honor.

Tuck's health is not the best. In fact this year will be the first time he will not return to his home in Frankfort in April. He and his wife Becky have been doing this for over 56 years. So please take a moment and send Tuck a birthday card to the following address. I know he will enjoy it and we can help make this birthday a special one.

Send cards to:

Mr. C.E. Tuck Tate, CGCS
719 Whitfield Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34243

2000 Golf & Events Schedule

- ◆ April 10, 2000 NMTMA Mini Conference - Grayling Holiday Inn
- ◆ May 16, 2000 Joint Meeting, NMTMA & WMGCSA - St. Ives Golf Course
- ◆ June 20, 2000 - MTF Fund-raiser - Shanty Creek Resort, Cedar River Golf Course
- ◆ July 23, 2000 - NMTMA Annual Picnic - Beaver Creek Resort
- ◆ July 18, 2000 - GAM/NMTMA Meeting & Golf Treetops, Rick Smith Signature
- ◆ August 8, 2000 The Loon Golf Course
- ◆ August 23, 2000 - Michigan State University, Field Day
- ◆ September 12, 2000 -NMTMA Fund-raiser, Emerald Vale Golf Course
- ◆ October 2, 2000 Tuck Tate Chapter Championship, Traverse City Golf & C.C.



Tom Reed Sr. recently was presented the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Distinguished Service Award in New Orleans for his contributions to the turfgrass industry.



From left to right: Marty Brant, Jim Vandenberghe and Dan Hunt sport their Mardi Gras beads they captured on Saturday night on Bourbon Street.

You Can Be Heard!!!!

Dear Members,

Back in December 1999 the MTF board approved and agreed to fund or continue to fund the following research projects for the summer of 2000:

- Dr. Joe Vargas – 1. Attempt to identify the epidemiological factors under which Microdochium patch for the purpose of developing a prediction model.
2. Control of annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) using both biological and chemical control methods.
 3. Characterize the effects of population structure on the epidemic development of dollar spot to try to develop a prediction model.
 4. Continue research to try to develop disease resistant cultivars of creeping bentgrass.
- Dr. Jim Baird - Weed management, Turf growth regulation, Shade Physiology and management, Site-specific management, and Environmental fate of nitrogen.
- Dr. Kevin Frank - Continuation of the “Sloping Green Study”.
- Dr. Trey Rogers - 1. A green module study that will evaluate gas and air exchange on the rootzone.
2. A comparison between different “sport systems” that are on the market.
 3. Alternative spike study.
 4. Primo study showing the possible benefits of applying Primo on newly established turf to get it in playing condition sooner.
 5. “Cultural practice” input study on sports fields.
 6. *Poa Supina* study continued.
- Greg Lyman - Buffer strip project with the D.E.Q..
- Dr. Jim Crum - Continuing his study on the soil variables of high sand content soils and mixtures and concentrating on increasing their strength.
- Dr. David Smitley- 1. Evaluating new types of fairway turf for the size of their root systems and the insect community they support.
2. Biological control of Japanese beetle in Michigan.

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Dr. Suleiman-
Bughrara

1. Developing snowmold resistant bentgrass cultivars.
2. Evaluating the impact of F.mairei genome on turf quality, drought tolerance, and resistance to grey leaf spot disease in ryegrass.

Since then, the MTF has formed a new committee (it's so new, it doesn't even have a name yet) with the goal of communicating to the MTF board and the professors the types of research projects you would like to have developed. The committee is comprised of:

Steve Adamczyk	Mollema's
Mike Plague	Green and Grow Inc.
Doug Johanningsmeier	Turfgrass Inc.
Gary Lemme	Mich. Ag. Experiment Station
Tom Reed	TriTurf
and Yours Truly.....	Turfgrass Inc.

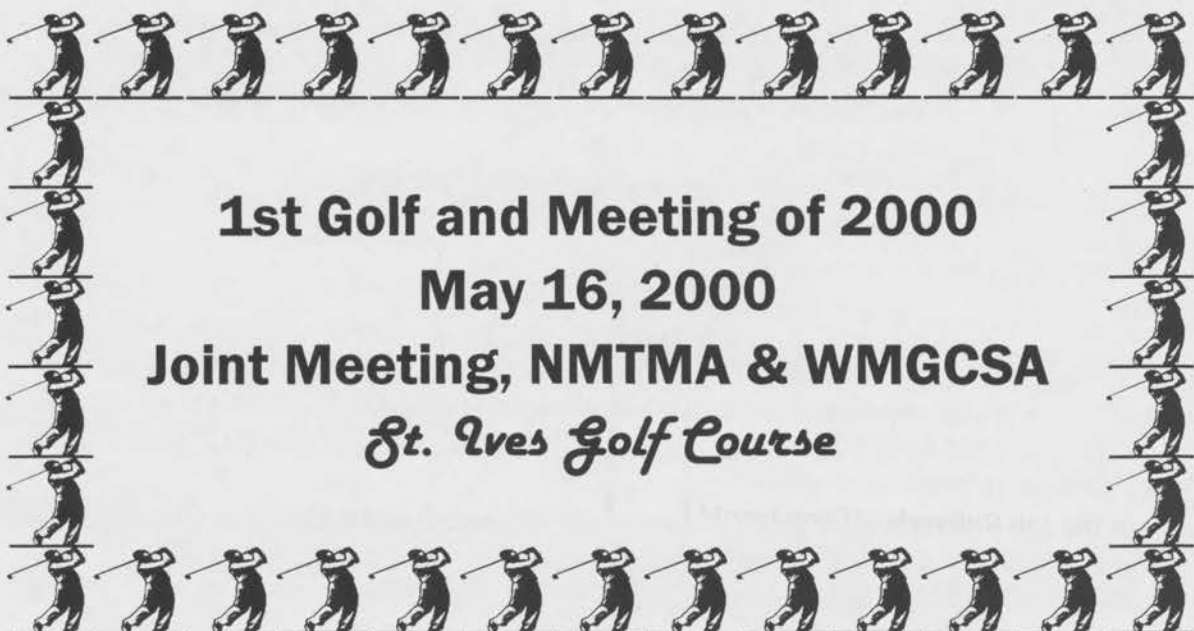
This committee wants to work closely with you, the professionals in the field, to set up long range research goals that will keep Michigan leading the nation with current and legitimate research that actually helps you in performing your job.

In order to do this, we will be asking you to communicate to us what you want. The committee is meeting soon to come up with a strategy that will enable you to do just that.

So put together your list because here is your chance to be heard. And we want to hear from all of you.

Thank you!!!

Yours Truly,
Kimberly Olson
(kolson@voyager.net)



2000 NMTMA Officers & Board Members

President: Dan Bissonette
Vice-President: Steve Hammon
Secretary: Karen O'Dell
Treasurer: Dan Hunt
Executive Secretary: Tom Reed Sr.
Directors: Jim Olli, CGCS
Jim Tollefson, CGCS
Kevin Henley
Scott Pulaski
Craig Hoffman
Kim Olson
Mike Allison

2000 Committee Assignments

Jim Olli – Program & Golf
Jim Tollefson – Student & Member Scholarships
Craig Hoffman – Education & Environment
Kevin Henley – Education
Mike Allison – NMTMA Fundraiser, MTF Fundraiser
Kim Olson – Program & Golf, Picnic, NMTMA Fundraiser
Scott Pulaski – Publications Editor, By-Laws/Ethics
Tom Reed Sr. – Membership
Dan Bissonette – Finance, NMTMA Fundraiser, MTF Fundraiser
Steve Hammon – MTF Fundraiser, Environmental, Finance
Dan Hunt – Finance
Karen O'Dell – MTF/GCSAA Liaison, Membership

Job Referrals

In December the NMTMA Board unanimously voted in favor of applying a fee to anyone wanting to post a job referral. The cost now to post a job referral is \$50.00 for members and \$150.00 for non-members. This fee helps cover the fee of mailing out the Job Referrals. If you would like to post a Job Referral, please contact Kay Patrick at (517) 327-5474.

For Sale!!!!

92 Toro 450 D Fairway Mower
\$5500.00 FIRM

92 Toro GM 3000 Greensmaster
\$3500.00 FIRM

Contact Jim Olli,CGCS at Grandview Golf Club
(231) 258-5884

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...and we encourage you to support them

Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association
P.O. Box 80086
Lansing, Michigan 48908



Dr. James B. Beard
International Sports Turf
6900 E. Kelenski Dr.
Cedar, MI 49621



NMTMA Executive Committee

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Steve Hammon	Vice President
Dan Hunt	Treasurer
Tom Reed	Executive Secre
Karen O'Dell	Recording Secre

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