



Turf Times

The newsletter from the Northern Michigan Turf Managers Association

BI-Monthly Update November/December Volume 29, No. 5

[2000]



President's Message

Snow is finally falling in our neck of the woods, so I took the opportunity to write my message for the NMTMA gossip column. I hope your course is put to bed for the winter just the way you had planned. Everyone cross your fingers until Spring. Elections were held at our Board Meeting early November and the results are as follows:

President: Daniel Bissonette
Walloon Lake C.C.
Vice-President: Steve Hammon
Traverse City C.C.
Treasurer: Dan Hunt
Treetops Resort
Secretary: Doug Kendziorski
Black Lake G.C.
Director: Jim Tollefson
A-Ga-Ming G.C.
Director: Scott Pulaski
Treetops Resort

Director: Craig Hoffman
The Rock at Woodmoor
Director: Mike Normand
The Loon
Director: Jim Bluck
Director: Mike Allison
Spartan Distributors
Director: Kim Olson
Turfgrass Inc.

I requested a hand recount for the presidents position but was denied due to a Florida law. A special thanks goes out to Kevin Henley and Jim Olli for serving on the NMTMA Board for the past three years. They were committee chairman for Education and Golf respectively. An excellent job was done by both and it will be difficult to fill their voids. Thank- you again for your time

you dedicated to the Association. P.D.I.... You will be receiving a ballot in the mail asking for your vote on this proposal. Our NMTMA voting delegate will cast your vote YES unless you indicate a NO vote before December 29, 2000. Oh yeah, this isn't Florida, your vote does matter on this issue. We have an outstanding board that has been elected by you and we look forward to representing your wishes. Feel free to contact myself or any board member to express comments or questions. Happy Holidays to you and your families.

Green side up,
Daniel J. Bissonette

In case you were wondering??????

• In the September/November issue of the Turf Times, the Presidents message was written by Jodie Bissonette. Her name was cut off the bottom of the article in the printing process.

• Who wrote the outstanding article "Reflection of Michigan Turfgrass Field Day"?

It was written by our very own Jim Tollefson, CGCS from A-ga-Ming Golf Course. Thank you Jim for that wonderful article.

• In the 2001 "Tuck Tate Championship, vendors will be able to receive awards for participating in the event.

• Congratulations to Pat Mertz on becoming certified by

the GCSAA.

• Congratulations to Jim Inman on receiving this years Distinguished Service Award. A article is to follow in the next issue of the Turf Times.

• There was no winner in the \$250.00 writing contest. The money was allocated to the Hospice Foundation in Tuck Tate's name.

I Need your help !!

Submitted by: Jon D. Maddern, CGCS

While at the chapter delegates meeting a fellow superintendent who I have gotten know over the years from Oregon, (because of his involvement in GCSAA and his chapter), was in attendance and is dealing with cancer. During the meeting we were told that this person has a flag collection and we were asked when we got back if we could to send him a flag.

A few days ago I received a call from this person and he was very up-beat and excited. It seems since the delegates meeting his flag collect has exploded and only in his un-selfish

way he is looking to make a positive out of it. Thinking of all of us instead of himself and his disease. He informed me that he did not have a flag from Michigan. I said that will change and it has. He said that he has contacted GCSAA Foundation and is working with them on an idea of taking this flag collection and making it into a 365 day calendar with money going to fund scholarship(s). He said how excited he was and how he felt this was what god had given to him to work on. He is not able to work full days.

So my fellow superinten-

dents from Michigan let show this man and the rest of our fellow superintendents around the country how giving and supportive we are. Please send a logo flag to:

Walter Mattison, CGCS
61272 Killowan Lane
Bend, OR 97702

I thank you for your support and god bless and hope you had a great season and have a joyous holiday season.

Thank you,

Jon D. Maddern, CGCS

Noted Michigan Architect dies.

W. Bruce Matthews, known to many as the father of course architecture in Michigan, died Sept. 28. He was 96. Matthews designed and renovated more than 106 courses, including Grand Haven Golf Club, which he designed, built and owned. The Grand Haven resident was inducted into the Michigan Golf Hall of Fame in 1993 as the first landscape architect to receive this recognition, and Matthews

had been a member of the American Society of Golf Course Architects since 1970. Matthews, who earned a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture from Michigan State University in 1925, also co-founded the professional golf management program at Ferris State College, started the W. Bruce Matthews Scholarship Fund through the Western Michigan Golf course Superintendents Association and

founded the Michigan Turfgrass Association. Memorials may be made to Hospice of North Ottawa Community (1515 South DeSpelder, Grand Haven, Mich., 49417) or to the Western Michigan Superintendents Association's Bruce Matthews Scholarship Fund (8585 Winter Forest, Rockford, Mich., 49341).

Congratulations

Congratulations to Kevin Brown and his wife on the birth of a healthy baby boy. Patrick Joseph Brown was born on October 25, weighing 7lbs, 4 oz. Kevin is employed with Elmbrook Golf Course.

Getting the Word Heard: Marketing PDI to Employers

Kim Heck, Sr. Director of Career Development, GCSAA

The first step in any marketing program is to create the identity that you want to promote to a specific audience. Our audience is employers and influential golfers. PDI creates the identity of educated, knowledgeable and competent superintendents, which can then be promoted.

A "Yes" Vote

If the vote at the annual meeting and election supports PDI, the next step will be the execution of a multi-faceted marketing campaign during the next several years. Communicating the benefits and value of PDI is a long-term process that involves the joint efforts of the association and its members.

A Rewarding Goal

Our goal in communicating the benefits of PDI to employers is to have employers acknowledge the value they receive from employing a general member, a class "A" member and a certified member. We do not plan to explain the intricacies of the classification system but focus instead on the results this system will provide. Consequently, employers will recognize and reward their superintendents for the competitive edge that they bring to their golf course operations and golfers will enjoy the results of superintendents' work – a superb golf experience.

GCSAA Marketing Strategy

The association will use external and internal communication methods to position the benefits of certified, class "A" and general superintendents to employers and other audiences.

We will continue to use national media, such as television and magazines, to promote the superintendents' role and value in managing golf courses. Our national public relations efforts have been laying the groundwork for this initiative during the past several years, positioning the superintendent as key to golfers' enjoyment of the game, and consequently having a direct impact on the golf course's economic success.

To effectively reach employers, GCSAA will target the publications they read and the Web sites they access. We will send press releases and articles to golf trade and consumer publications and Web sites about PDI's approval, and what it means to the business of golf, the golfer and the employer. In addition, we will work with our allied associations to get the message out through their publications, such as NGCOA's *Golf Business*, CMAA's *Club Management*, the NGF's *Golf Market Today*, their Web sites and in other appropriate venues.

GCSAA also uses many publications and materials today to market the golf course management profession. We will continue to use those vehicles. Information will be placed in *Golf Course Management*, *Leader Board* and on our Web site. Other resources that support the profession, such as standard job descriptions, information on certification, the benefits of joining the association and materials that employers use in hiring superintendents, will include information on the competencies of superintendents. In other words, the message that PDI allows us to develop about the superintendent profession will become a standard business practice for GCSAA materials and resources.

(Continued on page 4)

Members' Marketing Responsibility

Members have the opportunity to prove and communicate the benefits of PDI to their employers. Demonstrating effective management of the golf course is perhaps the most important validation of competence. Discussing with your employer your commitment to continuing education, achievement of proficiency and, if certified, use of the Professional Development Resource (PDR) is strong support during your annual performance review.

GCSAA will also provide you with the resources to help you communicate the value of PDI to your employer. We will develop a package of information in an easy-to-understand format, with suggestions on how you can present the specific benefits of PDI to your employer on a continuing basis.

A "No" Vote

If the vote does not support PDI, an identity around the commitment of golf course superintendents to competency-based education and professional development will be created and promoted to employers.

Tuck Tate Chapter Championship

This year's chapter championship was held at Traverse City Golf & Country Club. Before a total of 54 players teed off, a moment of silence was shown for the passing of one of our chapter founders, Tuck Tate. Leading the pack with rounds of 75 were Joe Breighner and Paul Holmes. Host superintendent Steve Hammon finished third with a score of 79. The low net round of the day went to Fred Miller, 2nd place Steve Adamczyk and 3rd place to Scott Lingeran.

Five people came away with skins despite the windy, dry conditions. Bob Doezema (2), Jack Wilhelm, Brian Conklin, Dave Farnsworth and Jim Bluck all walked away with some extra cash in their pocket.

Closest to the pin prizes went to Dick Buurma, Joe Breighner,

Steve Hammon and Paul Holmes. Two long drive prizes were given to Doug Kendziorski and Steve Hammon.

Included in the entree fee was a five-dollar donation per person (\$270.00 total) which will be sent to the Traverse City hospice program in Tuck's name. A yearly donation will be given to this local program after the Tuck Tate championship. On a similar note, a unanimous decision was made by annual meeting attendees to add this year's Turf Times article of the year award (\$250.00, which was not claimed) to Tuck's donation, bringing this year's donation amount to \$520.00. Thanks to everyone who attended this year's chapter championship.

Steve Hammon
Traverse City Country Club

Tom's Night Job

As if working 100+ consecutive days in the heart of every Michigan summer wasn't enough, after 29 years of maintaining golf courses I took a second job this season. Something a little different to open my eyes and help make ends meet. First, a little background. I have always loved baseball and in 2000 the Detroit Tigers opened their new stadium, Comerica Park. Heather Nabozny is the Head Groundskeeper at Comerica Park and sent out a job referral before the season started to fill a few spots on her crew. I applied and needless to say she has been putting up with me since. Being involved in golf all my life, I'll have to admit that I didn't think there was too much to do in maintaining a baseball field but my eyes were soon opened - wide. First of all, in golf I have worked the Men's and Women's U. S. Opens and learned the

It could happen to you!!!!!!!

Let's say it's 6:15p.m. and you're driving home, (alone of course) after an unusually hard day on the job. You're really tired, upset and frustrated. Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw.

You are only about five miles from the hospital nearest your home; unfortunately you don't know if you'll be able to make it that far. What can you do? You've been trained in CPR but the guy that taught the course neglected to tell you how to perform it on yourself.

(Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, this article seemed in

order.)

Without help the person whose heart stops beating properly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness. However, these victims can help themselves by coughing repeatedly and very vigorously. A deep breath should be taken before each cough, and the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest. A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breathes get oxygen

into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a phone and, between breaths, call for help.

Tell as many other people as possible about this, it could save their lives!

Life means many things to many people. If you value life more than anything else, please send this article to as many friends as possible.

Author Unknown

Idiots

Idiot from "Up North"

A man walked into a Burger King in Ypsilanti, Michigan at 8:50 AM, flashed a gun & demanded cash. The clerk turned him down because he said he couldn't open the cash register without a food order. When the man ordered onion rings, the clerk said they weren't available for breakfast. The man, frustrated, walked away.

Idiots Retail

I was signing the receipt for my credit card purchase when the clerk noticed the I never signed my name on the back of the credit card. She informed me that she could not complete the transaction unless the card was

signed. When I asked why, she explained that it was necessary to compare the signature on the credit card with the signature I just signed on the receipt. So I signed the credit card in front of her. She carefully compared that signature to the one I signed on the receipt. As luck would have it, they matched.

A Louisiana Idiot

A man walked into a Circle-K, put a \$20 bill on the counter & asked for change. When the clerk opened the cash drawer, the man pulled a gun and asked for all the cash in the register, which the clerk promptly provided. The man took the cash from the clerk and fled,

leaving the \$20 bill on the counter. The total amount of cash he got from the drawer? \$15.

Seattle Siphon Idiot

When a man attempted to siphon gasoline from a motor home parked on a Seattle street, he got much more than he bargained for. Police arrived at the scene to find an ill man curled up next to a motor home near spilled sewage. A police spokesman said that the man admitted to trying to steal gasoline & plugged his hose into the motor home's sewage tank by mistake. The owner of the vehicle declined to press charges, saying that it was the best laugh he'd ever had.

pressure of getting ready for these major championships, but seeing the pressure of having a baseball field in great shape for every game is every bit as challenging – in ways that are both similar and different to what I've experienced in golf.

One big difference that I discovered right away was the terminology used at the stadium. Terms like skin, pit, box and the track (I got that one). The skin is the base path surface, the pit is the area in front of batters box and the box is the area behind that including the batters box. Lets face it greens, tees, fairways, U. S. Opens and the USGA have been in my vocabulary for most of my life, but not the foreign language of baseball.

Next lesson – standards. In golf, the USGA has developed a uniform way to build greens for golf courses; baseball field construction has basically copied the same design with drainage underneath a 10 inch sand base. Comerica Park was sodded with a blend of low mow bluegrasses (Blacksburg, Midnight and America). The sod was cut at 7/8 inches and delivered from Peotone, Ill. and laid last November. The warning track is crushed granite. The skin is 6" thick and is 15% clay, 45% silt and 40% sand. The skin is then covered with a gray Turface MVP. The pit and the box are made up of different textures of clay and usually tamped into place and pitchers mound has the same clay as the box.

The skin is the most important part of the field and is where about 90% of the game is played. Baseball players are like golfers, they both have opinions what is the best playing surface. Some ballplayers like a smaller size Turface on the skin so the ball doesn't take a bad bounce, while many golfers like firm sand in a bunker so they can spin the ball better out of the bunkers. Heather has two different sizes of Turface for the infield and has blended them for a smooth playing surface to accommodate the infielders.

Careful selection of materials to optimize playability is important in golf course bunkers. At Franklin Hills Country Club we are beginning a bunker renovation project and are seeking firm sand that will have the good, consistent playability and without having fried egg lies. We have tested nine different sands from local pits in hope to save on trucking cost. Once the sand has been selected we plan to do an in – house renovation of the 1927 Donald Ross design. The sand will be removed and drainage added. Some of the bunker faces will also be restored.

Much has been said lately about Donald Ross design golf courses and restoring them back to the original design. Comerica Park tried to keep many of the same features, as the old Tiger Stadium that was recently vacated - even home plate was moved from Tiger Stadium to Comerica Park. Tiger Stadium

is still being maintained and is being used for an upcoming HBO movie with Billy Crystal producing it. Although Heather has been able to learn to adjust to the new soil conditions at the new stadium she still deals with the soil conditions she worked with at Tiger Stadium last year.

After working up the ladder and becoming a golf course superintendent and learning the soils on many different golf courses it was something of a shock to start all over and being a fledgling again. My job when I get to the ballpark is to sweep the granite off the foul lines on the warning track. The job doesn't sound like much but consider if an umpire has to make a crucial call while the Tigers are batting and he can't see the foul line and the Tigers lose. I surely wouldn't be working the next day. The fun part of the job is the walk from first base line to third with all the young kids leaning over the outfield wall "yelling mister give me a ball." It brings back memories of when I was that kid yelling at that old man and trying to get a ball. I never got one and needless to say I haven't thrown one into the stands yet. I'm not a mean person, but I could lose this great job if I got caught.

While the sports themselves are different, game day preparation holds one overall similarity, the importance of a standard routine. At Comerica Park, right after batting practice (BP) the field is cleared of the screens and the batting cage, the

Tom's Night Job (Continued from page 6)

field is then dragged and watered for the game. Some of the players like the skin to be wet and others like it to be dryer. The amount of water changes from first base to third base depending on each infielders wish. During the game you are on call until the top of the fourth inning and top of the seventh inning, when the skin is dragged to give the players a smooth infield and hopefully eliminate bad hops for the rest of the game. Six people drag the infield and two others smooth the piles of Turface left from the dragging. I started out the beginning of the season trying to be the last person (I wanted to make sure no one got lost on the base paths), but really I had trouble keeping up with the rest of the crew. Then my big break came and I got to be the lead person dragging the skin. It

was quite humbling to be treated like a beginner and again climb that ladder. It is also nice to see that I'm improving; I'm just glad I didn't trip and fall.

After the game we sweep the dugouts and pick up the field, next game day it starts all over. By the time I get in, Heather and her full - time staff have mowed the field and prepared it for batting practice. I believe the routine at Comerica Park has added a spark to my job at Franklin Hills. I guess I'm trying to get back to the basics. Like everyone in the business, seeing the same thing day in and day out you start to miss some of the details that might catch you before the end of the season.

One big difference, no matter how you look at it, is the fields themselves. At Comerica Park the field is about two and a half acres in size seen by 40,000

fans every game and thousands of more when the game is televised. The field is in perfect condition and gets recognized quite often by the local sports writers. Franklin Hills Country Club on the other hand gets 150 rounds a day and is 160 acres and it seems like there is always a few bad spots that I'm worrying about. Heather peaks the field for every game while I try to peak the golf course for my yearly invitational. Both the baseball field and the golf course pay close attention to water application and both work on having a good root system for the duration of the season.

When the baseball seasons has ended, I don't know if I will have been much help working at Comerica Park, but I sure have had a lot of fun.

Tom Gray-Franklin Hills CC

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\$250 Anyone?

In an effort to install a little creativity and addition to our Turf Times, we are awarding \$250.00 and a plaque to the member of the NMTMA who 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 the members at the annual board meeting.

Please submit articles to:
Scott Pulaski
4787 Winnie Hill Rd.
Gaylord, MI 49735
Fax: 517-983-2908
E-mail: scottp@freeway.net

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