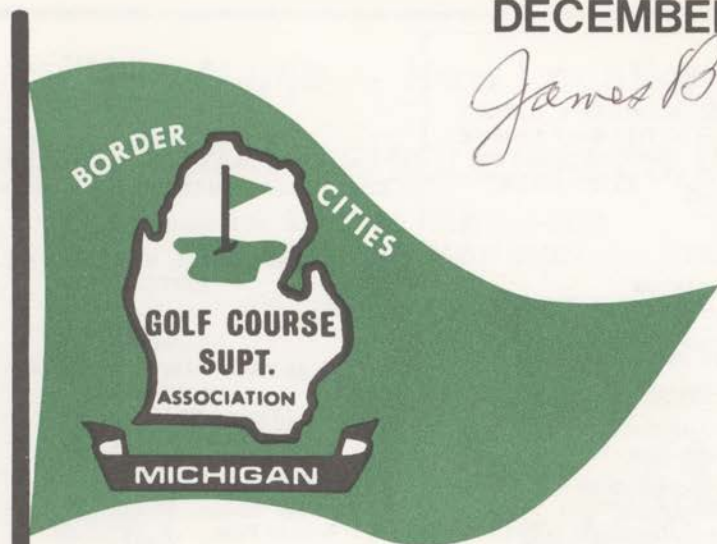


DECEMBER 1984

James B. Beard



A PATCH of GREEN

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Official Publication of the
Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association



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1984 At a Glance-

The Highs and Lows

We can look back at this past year as a busy fruitful year for the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association. Through the strong leadership of our President and his Board of Directors we have once again experienced many rewarding moments. The accomplishments and highlights are listed here for everyone to digest and be proud of your association.

The year started with a meeting in January at Bay Pointe Golf Club, Rick York, host Superintendent. The meeting was held to discuss the upcoming meeting in Las Vegas of the GCSAA. Later that month we traveled to the National Convention and attended the largest conference in the history of the Association. The Michigan and Border Cities came away from the meeting a proud group. Our own Jim Timmerman of Orchard Lake Country Club was elected President of the 6000 member organization on February 1st.

JANUARY also found us traveling to East Lansing for our annual MSU Turf Conference sponsored by the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, Bruce Wolfrom, President. Record breaking crowds filled the meeting rooms at Long's Convention center. Gordie Lafontaine won the "Meritorious Service Award." An award well deserved for all of his leadership and hard work.

February 22 we journeyed to Salt River Golf Club, Glenn Korhorn, host Superintendent, where we held our Superintendent. Walter Wilkie enlightened us with his great presenta-

tion on the "One Minute Manager." If you missed this one, you missed one of the best. Coupled with this meeting was our annual bowling extravaganza.

On March 10th we ventured over to the Detroit Golf Club, Clem Wolfrom, host superintendent, where we held our annual joint meeting with the Golf Association of Michigan. This combined meeting with the GAM is fast becoming the premier meeting of the year. Subjects that are of great interest to the local association are discussed in great detail. The interest runs high and these meetings are well attended by Club officials from all areas of the state.

On April 17th we co-sponsored another great meeting in conjunction with the Club Managers Association of Michigan and the Professional Golfers Association of Michigan and the Professional Golfers Association to honor several of Golfdoms leaders from the State of Michigan. Helping us in this endeavor was the Golf Association of Michigan. The new Executive Director of the GAM was also introduced that night at Oakland Hills C.C. and he is Jeff Rivard. The three people honored that night were our own Jim Timmerman, President of the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America, "Buzz Johnston", reelected Director of the Club Managers Association of America, Club Manager of Orchard Lake Country Club (the same club Jim comes from) and Roger VanDyke, Golf Professional from the Flint Golf Club, who served as a dis-

CONTINUED PAGE 9

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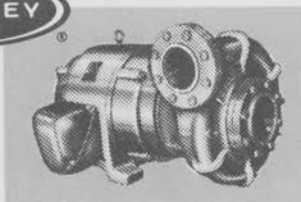
Nearly half the private membership clubs in the U.S. adhere to the general manager concept of club management, according to a recent survey of chief elected club officials by the National Club Association.

The chief elected officials overwhelmingly reported that their managers enjoyed highly satisfactory relationships with club officers and board members. Managers were employed an average of five years by the clubs surveyed. The officials' top priority in terms of a club's progress and development was obtaining a qualified club manager. They emphasized the need for mana-

gerial improvement in these areas: operating the club within budget, on a business-like basis; developing new programs and renovating facilities; expanding the club's membership base. The NCA also surveyed a select group of club managers across the country who reported they were sensitive to the problem of manager turnover. They pinpointed these problems: lack of board/manager cooperation, high turnover on club boards, poorly defined managerial responsibilities, too many inexperienced managers in the field.

Club Management, Nov. 1984

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1984, cont.

trict Vice President of the Executive Committee of the PGA of America. These three men were honored and presented with plaques for their hard work and leadership abilities. *Congratulations.*

April 25th, we crossed the Border and went to Beach Grove Golf and Country Club, Ron Heeson, host Superintendent, where we joined our Canadian friends for our annual joint meeting. This was our first warm and sunny day of the season and we all enjoyed playing the course and the fine dinner before sitting down to a lecture by Robert Clark, who spoke on, "Everything you always wanted to know about flowers". A great subject for that time of year.

Later that month on the 30th we went to Pine Lake Country Club for the "Jerry Gill Benefit" where over three hundred of Jerry's friends gathered to show their appreciation for his leadership in our profession he, projected in the years that he served on the various committees and all of the Chairs that he filled on his way up to the Presidency of our Association. Over \$30,000.00 was collected and presented to Jerry and his family that night. Money that will help defray some of the expenses incurred since his illness began last October. We are proud of you Jerry and we hope you will be back in full swing with us in the near future.

Back to the Detroit Golf Club on the 7th of May to hold our third annual fund raiser for the Special Olympics. A Texas Scramble golf Tournament was held with Nick Panasiuk and his son Bob along with Don Merrifield and Tom Pearce winning the honors that day. Lunch and dinner were served at which time a check for \$4,337.00 was presented to the Special Olympics. Another feat that we can all be proud of.

Not all of 1984 was filled with happiness. On May 17th we were all saddened at the news that Clarence Wolfrom, Sr. had passed away. Clarence was the Dean of all the Super-

intendents of Michigan. He had spent his last 53 years as Superintendent of the Maple Lane Golf Club. He was loved and admired by the entire golfing community for his profound and uncanny ability to foresee the future and the needs of the profession. Because of his leadership he was responsible for the formation of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation and he served for over 25 years on the Board of Directors of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association during its formative years. He was selected the Chairman of the National Conference and Show Committee in 1948 when Detroit hosted the Conference at the old Book Cadillac Hotel. Because of his service to the golfing community he was presented with the 50th Anniversary Outstanding Service Award by the GCSAA and he also received the Meritorious Service Award of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. He will sorely be missed by all of us.

Another sad note that took place about that same time was the word that Mike Edgerton had suffered the loss of his right arm in an accident. He was able to come back to work in just two short weeks and it appears that his loss is only a physical one but his willingness to conquer his handicap is an inspiration to the rest of us. Our thanks to you Mike for showing the rest of us what life is all about.

On June 4th we went to Knollwood Country Club, Marty Miller, host Superintendent, for a day of pleasurable golf, a great lunch and presentation on "Retirement" by a panel of Clem Wolfrom, Marty Miller and guest speaker, Warren Bidwell, retired golf Course Superintendent of Olympia Fields Country Club, Chicago. Some interesting thoughts were presented and they were able to promote some stimulating conversation. This subject needs to be explored in future meetings of the Association.

June 25th was the date for the meeting at the Wabeek Country Club, Ken DeBusscher, host Superintendent.

CONTINUED PAGE 15



WILKIE

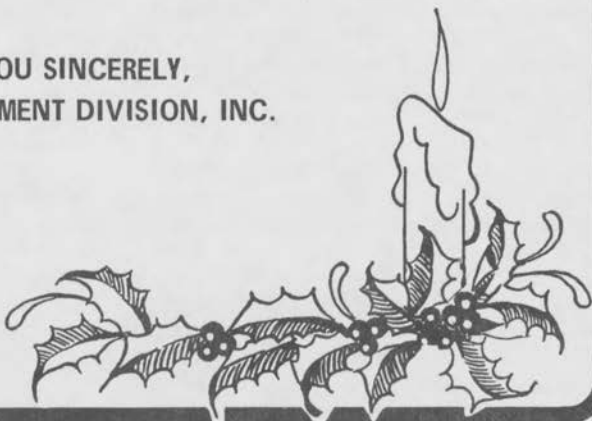


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Michael Brannigan Wins Green Blazer



Michael Brannigan, Wilkie Turf Equipment Division, Inc., Senior Turf Products Representative was honored at the Toro Company's recent Commercial Products Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Michael received the prestigious "Green Blazer Award" for sales excellence. This award is given annually to one representative per district (there are six), who meets the stringent parameters for selection. These parameters include things such as sales volume, sales increase versus last year, product mix, customer mix and overall dedication to service to customers.

Michael is a six-year veteran at the Wilkie organization and has led the company in commercial product sales for the past five years. He resides in Union Lake, Michigan with his wife Margaret and son Nathan.

Shown here congratulating Michael after his acceptance are Walter J. Wilkie, President of Wilkie Turf Equipment Division, Inc., and Kurt Kraly, Commercial Products Manager, Wilkie Turf Equipment Division, Inc.

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The late Clarence Wolfrom, center, and his proud sons - Clem, left and Bruce.



Gordie LaFontaine, left and Jim Smith - Two movers of the MTF.



IN THE PRESIDENT'S SUITE — Left to Right: Ted Woehrle, President Jim Timmerman, Kevin Dushane, Tom Mason, Bruce Wolfrom

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1984, cont.

Golf and a meeting about "Time Management" a movie and discussion. By now we were well into the middle of a three month drought and we were all beginning to show signs of frustration because it just wouldn't rain. Some of us traveled down to Toledo on July 5-8 to watch the Jammie Farr Toledo Classic at the Glengary Golf and Country Club, Don Ratcliff, host Superintendent, to find out that while we were suffering from a lack of water he was having problems with too much water. The golf tournament was part of the ladies tour and they were holding this event as a charity for the Ronald McDonald House.

On July 23rd we went to Franklin Hills Country Club for golf and later in the day we all went to Buddy's Pizzeria for some great pizza and just plain relaxation and fraternization. By now the season is really wearing us down and a good pizza and beer with friends goes a long way to returning to sanity.

Back to Bay Pointe Golf Club on August 2, for the Sixth Annual "The Invitational" sponsored by the Michigan PGA Junior Golf Fund, The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation in co-operating with the Fuller Brothers and the support of the Michigan and Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Association and the PGA. To date this prestigious event has generated over \$75,000.00 for the turfgrass foundation and The Junior Golf Fund. The money is split equally. Our many thanks go out to the Fuller Brothers and their generosity for hosting this great event.

August 9-12 was the date for the "Buick Open" at the Warwick Hills and Country Club of Flint, Ron Brandon, host Superintendent. This was the event that showed the world the type of golf course that can be maintained in Michigan. We were all proud of the condition of the course and some of the players thought that perhaps the PGA may have been a little hasty earlier in the summer, when they declared the Butler National Club as the best

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

1984, cont.

course on the tour. Many felt that the Warwick Hills Club was the best conditioned Course of the 1984 season. Anyway, Ron, Congratulations!

On August 20th we went to Indianwood Golf Club, Pete Scholz, host Superintendent for a Joint meeting with the Club Managers Association. This was a first and hopefully we will continue holding this meeting because of the importance to the well being of the two groups.

August 28 we took our families to the Burroughs Farm for the annual Picnic. Fun was had by all. Special thanks to Jim Vlassis and his crew for making this one of the fun events of the year. Pictures to follow. There were 140 in attendance.

September 6th was the date for the annual Field Day at MSU. The Hancock Center was the site for the turf plots and all the research work that is being done by the University staff, headed by Dr. Bruce Branham. Much valuable work is being done and some exciting results have been obtained. Reports on these findings will appear in future issues of the Patch of Green. A new idea was born at this meeting when it was decided to hold an equipment Auction. Some real buys were available. A large tent was erected for lunch and in case of poor weather. Suppliers were also able to display their goods and merchandise in booths on the perimeter of the show space. It was a great day and a great idea.

Back to Burroughs Farm on September 17 for an organizational meeting for the upcoming Golf Day. Jim Vlassis, host Superintendent.

The 19th. annual Golf Day Benefit was held on the 1st. day of October. Twenty Clubs hosted this event by allowing several foursomes to play their courses with golf carts available for players. After they finished their games they all retired to Bay Pionte Golf Club for dinner and the awarding of prizes. A total of about \$9,000.00 was contributed.

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ed to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. This brings our total charitable contributions for the year of 1984 to a little over \$43,000.00. An effort to be proud of. This association is still the finest in the entire United States.

Our annual meeting was held on the 17th. of October at the Maple Lane Golf Club. The Roehl family hosted the meeting. The annual elections were held and these are the results:

Reelected to his second term as President was Mike Edgerton, Superintendent, Meadowbrook Country Club, Northville, Mich. Also reelected to their second terms were Kevin Dushane Vice President and Tom Mason Secretary Treasurer.

Kevin is the Superintendent of Bloomfield Hills Country Club, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and Tom is the Superintendent of Birmingham Country Club, Birmingham, Michigan.

Newly elected members to the Board of Directors are Ed Heineman, Superintendent of Waters Edge Country Club, New Boston, Mich. and Jon Maddern, City of Farmington Hills Golf Course. These two will serve three year terms. Those remaining on the Board for two more years are; Ken DeBusscher, Superintendent, Wabeek Country Club and Daniel Uzelac, Dominion Golf Club, Oldcastle, Ontario, Canada and those with one year remaining are Charles Gaige, Lakelands Golf Club, and Craig Roggerman, St. Clair Shores Country Club. The President Emeritus Bruce Wolfrom remains for one more year. Clem Wolfrom is the only member retiring from the Board. He has served for twenty five years and has been through the Chairs including the Presidency on two separate occasions. Thanks Clem for all of your devotion and hard work. We all appreciate it a great deal. Because of people like you we are what we are today. We would also like to thank the Detroit Golf Club for their generosity in sharing you with us for all these years.

The highlight of the Evening included the presentation of the 6th annual Clarence Wolfrom Golf Classic trophy

to Tom Mason, and this was followed by a very generous presentation of \$2,000.00 by the Roehl family of Maple Lane to the Michigan State University and the Hancock Research Center. To receive this gift in behalf of the University were Drs. Paul Rieke and Joe Vargas. The money is to be used to furnish the lab room and this room is to be called "The C.H. Wolfrom Sr. Room" in memory of Clarence Wolfrom, the long time Superintendent of Maple Lane who passed away in May of this year. Present during the ceremony were Clem and Bruce Wolfrom the proud sons of Clarence.

Clarence was an early supporter of the MTF and he continued to support the progress of the foundation through the realization of the Hancock Center. He was present at the Ground Breaking Ceremony in 1981.

Also at the annual meeting the Board decided that they would initiate a \$500.00 scholarship program for a deserving four year student studying turfgrass maintenance at MSU.

OTHER NEWS . . .

Once again Dan Uzelac has gone above and beyond the call of duty with his support of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. This year he collected \$564.00 at a special fund raising day at his club and presented the foundation with a check for that amount. (In U.S. currency too!) Thanks Dan.

The annual softball tournament between Century Rain Aid and the Michigan and Border Cities was played on September 12th and as in the past the Superintendents were too much for the hard hitting team from Century. The stakes were high this year and after the dust settled the losers presented the Superintendents a check for \$500.00 which was turned over to the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. Our thanks to Ernie Hodas and his gang at Century.

The Golf Team for the National Tournament was announced at the annual meeting. The team this year consists of: Jay Delcamp, from

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

More News, cont.

Oakland University's Katke Golf Course; Fritz McMullen, Forest Lake Country Club; Clem Wolfrom, Detroit Golf Club; George Prieskorn, Kensington Park.

Phil Savage and Jim Popp recently announced their retirement and the

sale of Turf Supplies, Inc. to the Shemin Nurseries. We wish these two friends a lot of luck in their retirement and we hope to see more of them now that they will be able to spend some time enjoying life. Val Martino will still be handling the golf course end of the business as the manager.



Jerry and Friends at the Jerry Gill Benefit.



Tom Unversagt, left, President Club Managers and Mike Edgerton, President MBCGSA.



President GCSAA (1984), Jim Timmerman.



Season's Greetings

AND ALL GOOD WISHES FOR
THE NEW YEAR



Best Wishes for the Coming Season



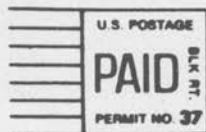
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