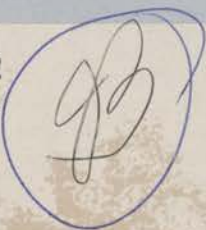


AUGUST 1992

# A PATCH OF GREEN



The Official Publication of the  
Michigan and Border Cities Golf  
Course Superintendents  
Association



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### AUGUST

- 10 ..... **Golf championship for Michigan Border Cities. Great Oaks Country Club.** Superintendent John Nowakowski will be our host.
- 18 ..... **Michigan & Border Cities Golf Course Superintendents Associations Annual Picnic.** Pig roast and delicious Haagen Daz sundaes are on the menu! Contact Chairman Paul Dushane for information at (313) 855-9716.
- 22 ..... **MTF Field Day at Hancock Turfgrass Research Center at MSU.** Learn more about our industry from the professors and graduate assistants who are actually conducting research.

### SEPTEMBER

- 10 ..... **Michigan Superintendents Golf Championship. The Fortress in Frankenmuth, MI. Tee times begin at 12:00 p.m.** Annual statewide event with various flights for all competitors. Don't be shy. Contact Jay Delcamp at (313) 370-4145 or Carey Mitchelson (313) 882-3001.
- 15 ..... **General membership meeting and golf. Tanglewood Golf Club.**

### OCTOBER

- 5 ..... **Golf Day—The Big Event. Fundraiser for Michigan State turfgrass research.** Call Jim Eccleton at (517) 750-3043. Held at four outstanding Country Clubs. Invite your friends.
- 15 ..... **GCSAA seminar on Turfgrass Stress Management.** Contact Tom Mason at (313) 644-6320.
- 26 ..... **Annual Meeting. Maple Lane Golf Club, Paul Kolbe, Superintendent.** Clarence H. Wolfrom Tournament.



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# On PAR with the PRESIDENT



Ken DeBusscher  
PRESIDENT

status quo. An aggressive agenda for change was established. Change, not for the sake of change, but for the need to change. Why? Our profession has changed. Our schedules have changed. Our Association has changed. The way we conduct the business of the Association must change.

It means hard work and tough decisions. Though many improvements are still pending, others have come to fruition. This issue of *A Patch of Green* displays one of the most obvious changes.

We are excited to announce that we have retained the services of Kolka & Robb, Inc. as the new publishers of *A Patch of Green*. The combination of their professional qualifications, knowledge of the industry and delightful enthusiasm gives us great expectations for the future of our publication. In an effort to steadily improve with every issue we have developed or are in the midst of developing:

- An editorial calendar to keep each issue timely and informative.
- Strict deadlines to ensure punctuality.
- A plan to include feature articles with a personal flair.
- A forum to keep members abreast of Board decisions.
- A new, extensive, state-wide mailing list which includes the golf industry's most prominent members.
- A commitment to quality.

Many people have invested a great deal of thought, especially Paul Kolbe our executive editor, to enable us to provide our members and readers with a quality publication. Our Board will be working closely with our new publishers and their staff to monitor each publication to ensure steady improvement with every issue.

Our long-term goal is simply to provide unique insight, with quality presentation and content, from our own professional perspective on Michigan's golf industry.

We are eager to launch this inaugural issue of *A Patch of Green* and look forward to all comments, for better or worse.

Remember the all-too-true, time-tested adage, "The only thing permanent is change."

Sincerely,

**CHANGE.** It is a powerful word that conjures a wide variety of thought and emotion. Fear. Anxiety. Excitement. We fear change because we are unable to precisely forecast its outcome. More often than not, we resist change though its itch is unbearable. Finally it is inevitable. Time. People. Everything changes.

It was painfully evident after our initial meetings that the Board of Directors was unwilling to adopt the

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## Thoughts on Managing Turf During the Dog Days of Summer

by Dr. Frank S. Rossi,  
Environmental Education  
Specialist, Michigan State  
University

**A**s a former golf course manager, I always wondered why we held our most important tournament during the hottest, most humid days of summer. It seemed to me that if the members wanted to showcase the course, May or September were better months. However, schedules as they are, I guess someone has to host a tournament in the heat of the summer. So let us think about what the grass plants are experiencing.

Summer months in the north generally provide average daily temperatures in the high

80s to low 90s, with 60 to 90 percent humidity. Certain areas in the northern Great Lakes and along the shore experience only 20 to 30 percent humidity, which could create a climate similar to Arizona. Still, increased temperatures warm the soil, depending on rainfall and soil type, into the high 70s. Accordingly, through understanding cool-season turfgrass ecology or just by observing the turf, you know that the plants are into their summer dormancy period. Soil temperatures will clear 65 percent Fahrenheit causing roots to dieback, thereby reducing the rate of shoot production. However, irrigation allows for some measure of control over the growing conditions by providing available moisture, reducing evaporative demand and cooling soil temperatures. Yet, the ability to irrigate, which enhances the growing conditions on one hand, could create a favorable micro environment for plant pathogens and encourage summer annual weeds.

Irrigation practices could be considered the most vital aspect of a high-intensity turfgrass management program and are probably the least understood. Research has identified several monitoring tools to aid in determining the amount of water needed to maintain healthy plants. For example, irrigation needs can be

established based on evapotranspiration (ET) data as a measure of water loss from the turfgrass ecosystem (soil and plants). Yet, recommendations for irrigation timing and frequency are not well defined, and the best time to apply water may not be possible logistically. Additionally, maintaining adequate soil moisture in the turn root zone does not guarantee that the evaporative demand will not exceed the soil's ability to conduct the water to the roots, which could result in turf wilt. This situation supports the concept of light daily irrigation during the heat of the day to reduce evaporative demand. However, many argue over the inefficiency of irrigating because of the potential for water evaporating into the atmosphere. Ideally, a well-designed irrigation program will supply some percentage of water lost on a daily basis to ET and supplement with light daily applications to reduce midday moisture stress.

During the summer months when it's hot, I tend to eat less and generally will drop a few of those "cabin fever" pounds I gained in the winter. I still need regular nutrition, but I don't like to feel loaded down. Your turf is the same way. It needs good fertility, but, in general, it will not respond well to excess nitrogen (N). One advantage of the summer months are the warm soil temperatures which promote microbiological activity. This activity will release naturally available N from decomposing organic matter or N from a natural or synthetic slow release organic source you apply. In each case, the N becomes available to the plant in a more controlled and regular fashion without overloading it, providing of course you do not over-apply. This type of fertility program should maintain the plants in a healthy state and allow for adequate growth and recovery potential during those summer tournaments.

A second summer fertility option is light, frequent foliar applied N (approx. 0.2 lb N/M/2 weeks) to greens and tees while supplementing with iron applications to maintain good color. I believe this practice maintains the

continued on page 16

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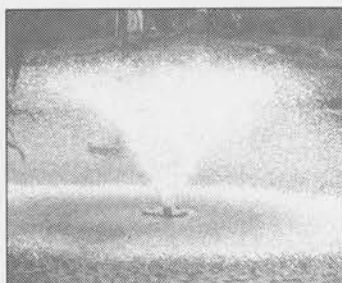
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# TRAINING MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

by Tim Doppel

**"Since 2, 4-D and other pheonoxy herbicides are such a hot topic with so many people today, this (2, 4-D study) presents some good information with which you should become familiar."**

Tim Doppel

In the 1990s we have heard a lot about pesticide exposure and how to minimize the risk to employees and others who may come in contact with the pesticides. A recent study at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada, looked at the entire spectrum of exposure to pesticides and reported some very interesting results. In a nutshell, everything we have always believed as true was verified, but let's look a little closer at some of the information we now have.

The study looked at 2, 4-D exposure by professional applicators. The total exposure was measured, that is, how much 2, 4-D these people handled and then how much 2, 4-D was excreted from their bodies over a period of time. Since 2, 4-D and other pheonoxy herbicides are such a hot topic with so many people today, this presents some good information with which you should become familiar.

The results found no correlation between how much 2, 4-D was handled and how much was excreted. In fact, the person who was the loader/mixer at the firm actually had a lower excrement level than some of the applicators. The applicators themselves had all different levels of excrements when they were exposed to virtually the same amount of 2, 4-D.

So what makes the difference? Very simply, it came down to the care taken by the person handling the pesticide. The mixer/loader understood, apparently, that he was handling a more concentrated material and therefore was more cautious. The applicators had varying levels of exposure. Rolling up hoses with bare hands, not using boots or long pants, all increased the amount of 2, 4-D excreted by the applicator. This information backs up a study done at

Michigan State University several years ago that showed proper uniforms decrease overall exposure dramatically.

Another aspect of this study looked at exposure to persons who walked on the sprayed turf or who were bystanders to the application. Certainly, these are concerns for everyone who applies pesticides on golf courses. The bystanders had no measurable exposure for 96 hours after the application; and of the persons who walked on the turf, the only ones who had a measurable response were those in bare feet and shorts who sat on the turf within an hour of the application. Even so, the

excrement was below any World Health Association acceptable daily intake levels. The good news here is that if people are wearing shoes (and most of our players do!) then their potential exposure is exceedingly low, if not nil.

The bottom line from this study is that proper training does make a difference. Any time spent teaching our applicators and other employees about the proper use of pesticides and waiting until the applications dry before coming in contact with the turfgrass, will pay big dividends in employee health and safety. One word of warning. Don't assume that your long-term employees don't need the reminders! The MSU study indicated that it was the more experienced applicators who were a bit

more careless and had higher levels of exposure. All employees need constant encouragement to work safely and to use the proper safety equipment. As the Superintendent, it is your job to be sure they follow directions. ▽

**In the 1990s we have heard a lot about pesticide exposure and how to minimize the risk to employees and others who may come in contact with the pesticides.**



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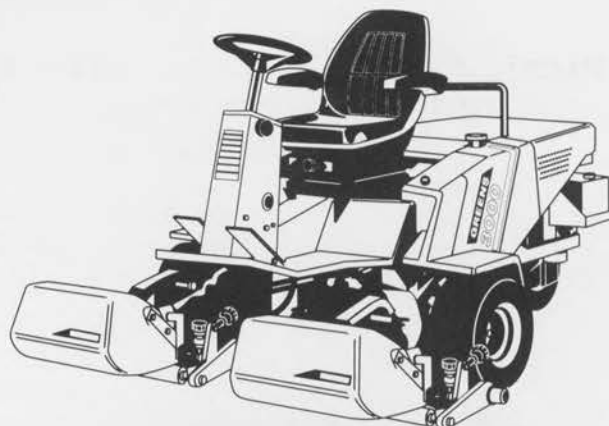
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# NEWSLINKS

## Picnic Alert! You Are Advised to Tell Everyone Except the Ants...and Skunks!



*Reminder. These people enjoyed the 1991 Annual Picnic, and will probably do so in 1992. Don't even think of not attending!*



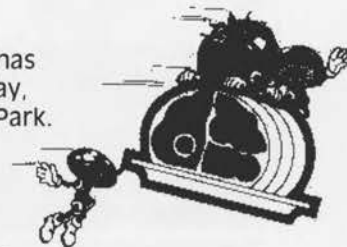
*It takes two...Kevin (left) and Marc Dushane (right) display their hard earned trophy*

*from the 1991 Annual Picnic. The picnic committee has announced the addition of a "travelling" trophy for the parent/child fun competition. It's a day not to miss. Be sure to mark August 18 on your calendar.*

The 1992 Picnic committee has issued a "Picnic Alert" for Tuesday, August 18 at Kensington Metro Park. "Professional Picnickers" from the turf industry have been known to congregate annually at Sleepy Hollow picnic area in Kensington for fun, food (the pig has already agreed to be at the picnic site, the perfect compliment to our excellent spread) and a fantastic time. The committee recommends coming prepared with hearty appetites, smiling faces and all of your family for lunch and dinner, and games and activities in between. Mark and Kim McKinley and Jim McGuire have planned extra hard this year and guarantee the excitement and good time that they have provided in recent years—PLUS a new parent/child fun competition, complete with a travelling trophy for the lucky winners to treasure until next year's picnic.

Mark your calendars...put on your "picnic face" and show up at Kensington to have a wonderful and relaxing day with our industry friends and peers. See you there. For information call Paul at (313) 855-9716. ▴

Paul Dushane • 1992 Picnic Chairman



## MTF Field Day at Hancock Turfgrass Research Center

MTF Field Day will be held August 22 at the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center at Michigan State University. Get the most up-to-date information straight from professors

and graduate assistants involved in turfgrass experimentation. Stay for the equipment auction after the program. All proceeds donated to turfgrass research. ▴

## Fred Couples with Cadillac

Cadillac, which has concentrated on senior golf the last few years, recently linked itself with the hottest player on the regular PGA tour when it named Fred Couples as its spokesman. According to Adweek magazine, "Cadillac is aggressively chasing the under 50 crowd with its ads, and Couples, 32, is expected to help." ▴



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SOME 40-ACRES OF MITIGATED  
WETLANDS MAKE UP THE TPC'S  
TERRAIN.

In an interview one week after the 1992 Senior Players Championship was held at the TPC, Giuffre talked about getting the course ready for the event, the road he's taken to reach his current position as superintendent at the TPC and how he manages to keep priorities in line.

"The real grinding days are not during the tournament; the intensity begins four weeks before the event itself," Giuffre said. Those four weeks consist of 14-hour days, meticulous grooming of tees, greens and fairways, all

perfectly timed to be in peak condition for the event. And unlike some courses that close play to its membership a week, sometimes longer, before the event, the TPC remained open to members until two days before the tournament. Giuffre gives special credit to the dedication of his staff, especially assistant superintendent John Kulka. "We couldn't accomplish what we do here without John's efforts. He's done one heck of a job. You've got to have a good assistant superintendent to run a first-class facility like we have here. They (assistant superintendents) don't usually get the credit they deserve," Giuffre said. He also said that being an assistant is part of the process, one of the stepping stones that can eventually lead to being named superintendent at a golf facility. It's part of the progression.

When did Giuffre start stepping on those stones? In 1979 in the golf course "mecca" of the midwest, Traverse City.

"I started working at the Acme Golf Club in Traverse City as a crew member during the summer while I was in high school and college," he said. Acme was a nine-hole course owned, redesigned and maintained by Ron Green, who was also the club professional. For five years Giuffre worked at every level and job the course offered. He had the opportunity to work with two other golf course superintendents, Michael Garvale and Jon Scott. Green eventually sold the golf course to developer Paul Nine who immediately built a hotel and an additional 9-hole course. What became of Acme? Its name was changed and an additional course was designed and constructed at the site. Today it is known as the Grand Traverse Resort and home to another Nicklaus designed course, "The Bear." After a few more years of experience and obtaining a degree in Turf Management from Penn State, Giuffre became superintendent of "The Bear" under Golf and Grounds Director Jon Scott.

"I was fortunate to have firsthand experience working on a course. I realized how much I liked the work, and I became aware of all the different hats a golf course superintendent has to wear, from working in the field to doing administrative work in the office. I also enjoyed talking with the players out on the course."

Because his first year at The Bear was also the course's first year, Giuffre saw firsthand how vulnerable the turf was to the elements and obtained valuable knowledge he would use five years later when he would be named superintendent of another new course, the TPC.

"We planted the last seed on the TPC on October 31, 1989 and opened the course to member play on August 28, 1990. One year later we held the first Senior Championship. We basically had one full year to grow the course before we hosted the tournament," Giuffre said.

Working 14-to-16 hour days and working with Mother Nature to push the growth of the turf, the TPC looked like a mature golf course. "It looked mature but we knew that first year it hadn't reached its potential.

The turf was very tender and the greens weren't at the peak conditions we knew were possible." The feedback from players in this year's Championship told Giuffre that indeed the greens, for that matter

**How do you  
bring togeth-  
er all the ele-  
ments that  
result in a suc-  
cessful cham-  
pionship tour-  
nament, one  
scheduled  
before the  
final seed had  
been sown in  
what would  
be the Jack  
Nicklaus-  
designed  
course - the  
TPC Dearborn?**



by Vicki Robb

the entire course, provided excellent playing conditions. And whether it's for the professional or amateur golfer, providing the best possible playing conditions is one of Giuffre's priorities.

The TPC maintenance facility is 7,000 square feet, housing more than \$700,000 in equipment. "We're very fortunate to have the staff and equipment needed to keep the TPC at peak playing conditions. We have our own in-house equipment technicians," he said. Giuffre talked about the valuable role their computer system plays in terms of equipment maintenance. "By storing all pertinent equipment information in the computer, we know when the equipment is in need of preventive maintenance, parts that were replaced and when it's time to examine the equipment again. The computerized inventory system allows us to keep parts on hand which allows us to efficiently keep equipment up and running."

In what has turned out to be an effective staffing move, Giuffre hired a new crew with little or no previous experience at the start of the season. "I felt this approach would allow us to teach the crew to perform specific jobs in ways that are best for the TPC. We had two supervisors working with 33 people covering everything from laying sod to hand cutting tees and greens and hand raking the bunkers. Everyone worked from dawn until dusk, and today we have an excellent core group of people." Giuffre said that everyone, regardless of prior experience, starts out in an entry level position. "By starting on the ground level we're confident people know the equipment inside and out. There is quite a difference between working with a tractor pulling gang reels to using a \$30,000 dollar piece of equipment with hydraulics. It's critical that the crew members know how to properly use the equipment." Another part of Giuffre's philosophy is to promote from within. "For people doing well we move them right up the ladder. Every six months each employee has the opportunity for promotion to available positions."

The TPC, which has been described as a "fine bottle of champagne...and just like wine, the golf course is only going to get better as it ages," offers players and visitors a breathtaking oasis in the midst of light industrial complexes and office buildings. The terrain of the course lends itself to the TPC concept of Stadium Golf, where thousands of spectators can easily view play. Added to the expanse and roll of the course are the 40 plus-acres of mitigated wetlands. Prior to beginning course construction a detailed plan was submitted to the DNR showing how, over a period of five years and at a cost of more than \$600,000 dollars, the wetlands would be constructed. Working around areas that held water (an old Rouge River canal fed into the course area), the wetlands were built, stocked with native plants, creating a sanctuary for geese, turtles, ducks and other wildlife. Giuffre said the wetlands act as a buffer zone. All course drainage, both surface and subsurface, runs into the wetland areas. The plants in these areas act like natural filter taking up residual fertilizers as the water moves slowly through the system, eventually into ponds or lakes on the golf course. He works closely with a consulting firm that specializes in wetland areas to make sure the TPC is meeting or surpassing requirements.

Giuffre calls the TPC's design one that takes your breath away.

"I had the opportunity to meet Jack Nicklaus when I was at Grand Traverse. His philosophy of golf course design takes into consideration maintenance. Maintenance may not always win out, but he does consider



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continued on page 18

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Cost of each packet is \$22, with PGMS members eligible for a discount. A three-ring binder is included with orders of three or more sections. Those wishing to order are asked to contact PGMS directly at: (410) 667-1833; FAX: (410) 667-6178 and refer to the Regulatory Review Guidelines. ▽

# Around the Course:

## Member Activities



Jim Eccelton (left) was host of the meeting held at Arbor Hills Country Club in Jackson. Jim is joined on the tee by (left to right) Fritz McMullen, Forest Lake Country Club, Orchard Lake, Dr. Frank Rossi, Michigan State University and Mark Jackson, Indianwood Golf and Country Club, Lake Orion.



March Association Meeting host Glenn Korhorn, Salt River Golf Club, New Baltimore, is all smiles knowing another season is around the corner. In preparation of the new season Dr. Smitly spoke on

insect control and how to maintain threshold tolerances.

"It went right up the middle." In March in Michigan that means the bowling alley! "Shoeless" Richard Locke, Turfgrass, Inc., displays a striking form.



A winning American team: (left to right), Jerry Prieskorn, Bald Mountain Golf Course, Waterford, George Prieskorn, also from Bald Mountain Golf Course, Mike Hahn, Moravian Hills Country Club, Mt. Clemens and Carey Mitchelson, Country Club of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms. (April Association meeting.)



Adding a little international flavor to Association meetings the April gathering was a joint U.S.-Canadian get together. Pictured here is the meeting host, Stuart Mills, CGCS, Essex Golf and Country Club, Detroit.

Another winner, Paul Dushane, Knollwood

Country Club, raises his arms in victory...the winner of the strike jackpot. The March meeting was a Bowling Tournament in disguise.



What's the mystery? None. Greg Seago (left), Paint Creek Golf Club, Lake Orion and Dan Guinan, Davey Trees, shared the jackpot for the first mystery game at the March meeting.



All lined up and ready to roll. The June Association meeting at Arbor Hills Country Club was held jointly with the Western Golf Course Superintendents Association. Lunch was held at 11:30 a.m., followed by a meeting and golf. The joint meeting was arranged so members from each association could meet one another.



## Thoughts on Managing Turf..

continued from  
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plants in a healthy condition, since N remains regularly available to the plants as they require it. In general, one must develop a "feel" for the nutritional needs of their specific sward and develop an integrated fertility management program which keeps the plants healthy and

ultimately could reduce pesticide use.

Summer pest problems from weeds, insects and diseases are of particular concern as a result of the reduced competitive ability of the turf. In my experience, if summer annual weeds such as crabgrass and goosegrass are present, you already have heard an earful from your membership. As these weeds become larger, they become more difficult to control, especially in close-cut bentgrass or annual bluegrass stands where most herbicides will cause injury. It is best to control these weeds before they are able to establish and to watch them closely if they do become established. Frequent light rate applications of Acclaim is a viable strategy for controlling young grass weeds; however, the larger weeds are the most difficult to control and will prompt the most complaints.

In the disease area, anthracnose and summer patch will be causing many superintendents trouble during the summer months. Occasionally, these diseases have been found acting in concert with each other, i.e., the anthracnose will infect the plant followed by the summer patch organism which will brown the turf out. Anthracnose symptoms are typically patches of turf reddish brown, then yellow, then tan to brown. Fungicides are usually needed for curative control; however, good management practices that reduce stress will aid recovery. Summer patch is difficult to diagnose due to the general chlorotic decline of the turf. Because the summer patch organism severely inhibits root function, cultural practices that alleviate stress and promote root development reduce disease severity. For example, research from Rutgers University has indicated that raising height of cut from 1/8" to 5/32" significantly decreased summer patch severity. Interestingly, there have been some reports that certain contact fungicides enhance disease severity, suggesting a non-target influence. There remains much debate regarding irrigation practices for summer patch management; however, all agree that reducing midday moisture stress by syringing will aid plant health.

One aspect of turfgrass disease which has remained clear in my mind is what I call "cool-night salvation." Pythium and brown patch which are high-temperature and high-humidity diseases, particularly in the evening, do not become pathogenic during cool summer nights. However, when these diseases become active they can devastate a sward and will require decisive action by the superintendent to avoid turf decline and death. So pray for cool nights if your fungicide budget is tight, and avoid night watering if nights are hot and humid.

Many insect problems begin to manifest during the warm summer months and must be addressed prior to severe visual damage. In Michigan, the two big challenges are the Black Turfgrass Ataenius and the

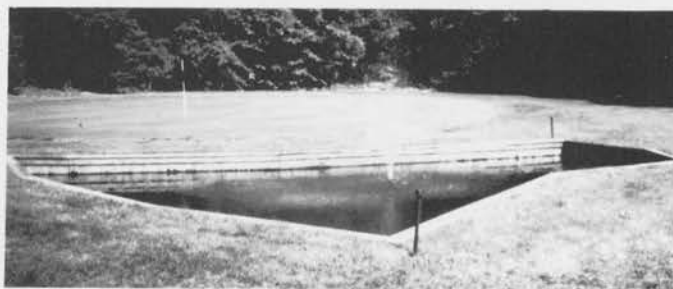
European Chafer. Generations of these insects will feed on turf roots when the turf can ill afford any further root dysfunction. Cutworms on the close-cut surfaces could also cause substantial injury if not managed and, as with all insect pests, require careful monitoring and an integrated management program to minimize turf loss. Research is being conducted on irrigating to mask injury and proper timing of insecticide applications to maximize efficacy. A final note about the increase in ant populations on fine turf areas: It is vital that the superintendent identify the type of ant present, since many species are beneficial to the microenvironment. I understand and have seen the unsightliness of the ant mounding; however, excessive pesticide use to reduce these populations could have long-term ecological impacts and warrants the use of any alternative available.

Summer, for many, is the most enjoyable time of the year since the outdoors abounds with activity. The golfing public has come to expect a high level of quality from the American golf course, without regard to the strain placed on the grasses and the superintendent managing that sward during the "dog days." Proper planning and careful monitoring throughout the season will aid in reducing stress during these months. Because we often ask the plants to provide a surface that taxes their biology, however, challenges will arise that require prompt and decisive action. Remember, turfgrass management is as much an art as it is a science, and there is no reason why you as a manager shouldn't enjoy the summer also. ▽

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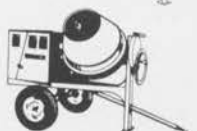
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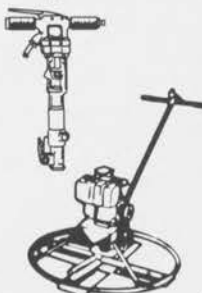
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# GOODBYE IS NOT THE END

## Dr. Frank Rossi Heads for the University of Wisconsin



It is with mixed emotions that I announce that I have accepted a position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as the Assistant Professor of Turfgrass Environmental Management. I am both excited about my opportunity to lead a turf program, which has been somewhat dormant for several years, and apprehensive about leaving a program which was beginning to become a vital resource for the turfgrass industry in Michigan.

My short time here in Michigan has brought many close friends, personally as well as professionally, and I will surely miss your support and no-nonsense approach to this field. However, I am confident I can help to build a strong program from a supportive industry base in Wisconsin—after all, aren't many of you on the board or at least partial donors to the new O.J. Noer Turfgrass Research Center in Madison?

I have a few important items to coordinate before my departure, which is expected by mid-or late July, and I expect to return for Field Day on August 20. I have tried to put my heart into my work and inject some of my personality, and I feel as though I am leaving a piece of myself here. I believe that your positive response helped prompt the interest of the MSU administrative community in our program, and I urge you to stay committed to the cause of Environmental Education and to the preservation of environmental quality. I hope to return many times to what I believe is the premier institution for turf and for the most innovative turf managers in the world.

A friend once wrote to me as I left Cornell University to begin here at MSU: "When we say good-bye, we don't announce the end of a relationship, but rather we acknowledge the change in the relationship. When good-bye is viewed in this light, it carries new qualities for our lives, and good-bye almost becomes hello."

There is not one other place I would rather have been than with all of you here in Michigan. I have been the recipient of so much appreciation which, as many of you know, is a rare commodity in the working world today. For this I am eternally grateful and I wish each and every one of you all that life has to offer. ▽

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## MEMBER FOCUS

continued from  
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it." Nicklaus had designated bent grass for some areas on the TPC. The sites selected would have required high maintenance, fairways areas cut with walking units, so he changed the specification to Blue Grass. Giuffre said, "When all is said

and done I believe Nicklaus will be considered one of the great golf course architects of all time. He doesn't just put his signature on the blueprint, he's deeply involved in the process."

Giuffre has held positions at clubs in New York and Virginia, where each time the club was going through extensive renovations during his stint as superintendent. "Along with the mechanics involved in the renovations, I learned something of great value - the importance of communicating to the staff and the membership the status of the course, why certain things are happening or not happening. People expect to come out and play on a course that is in peak condition. They may not always be happy with the answer you give if conditions aren't perfect, but I've found if you take the time to let people know what's going on and what to expect they will usually give you the support needed to get the job done right." Because Giuffre sees communication with staff and members a priority, he makes himself accessible to everyone. "My telephone number is listed in the Club newsletter and occasionally I get a call about the course. I'm happy to answer questions."

Giuffre, his wife Emily and children Kaitlin, 5 and son Brennan, 2, live in the Canton area. "I talk about the team approach at work, it's also part of my personal life. I couldn't do what I do without Emily's full support." Summer vacations are rare and Giuffre says the demands on his time during key months are considerable. "I enjoy the arrival of spring with the new growth and color and the end of the season, the crispness of fall. We work at such an intensity that slowing down for the winter months is really my least favorite time. Just about the time I start to feel comfortable the pace picks up again."

A member of the GCSAA since 1983, he joined the Michigan & Border Cities GCSA when he returned to Michigan in 1989. "The camaraderie and education a professional association offers you is unlike any other group. The MBCGCSA has a super bunch of people. I believe the interaction I have with everyone helps keep me on the cutting edge of what's going on in the industry." Giuffre said the role of the golf course superintendent has evolved into a truly professional position in the last 10 to 15 years. "Because of the skills and education required to run and maintain the course, it's becoming more rare to find someone without a degree or advanced education in turf management."

With other golf tournaments, outings and member play scheduled for the next few months, Giuffre has some time before he has to face the winter months. In the meantime he will focus on his priorities and continue to use the traditional—and not so traditional—methods of meeting those goals. "I think it takes special dedication to be a superintendent. With Mother Nature as your partner it can frequently be a humbling experience. It can also bring out the best in people," Giuffre said. ▽



# When you hear about someone making an "Olympian Effort" an image of a hardworking individual, or group of individuals, striving to reach a goal comes to mind. Try picturing 23 teams (or 92 individual players), an incredible playing field (Links at Pinewood), sunshine for taking the edge off a slightly chilly day in May (15), and the effort will mean nearly \$5,000 raised for the Michigan Special Olympics. For the eleventh time in as many years, members of the MBCGCSA and businesses who support the Association came forward to participate in the annual golf outing whose primary focus is raising funds for Michigan Special Olympics. The event was chaired by James P. Eccleton, C.G.C.S., of Arbor Hills Country Club in Jackson.

## **Links at Pinewood Site for 11th Annual Fundraiser**

Eccleton gave special recognition to Association members Jay Delcamp, Fritz McMullin, Paul Kolbe and Don Fields for helping to make the event run smoothly. He said, "It is always easy to find good help in our organization; these guys are four excellent examples."

Thanks to the generosity of numerous businesses (see accompanying list) participants kept raffle ticket sellers busy. Perhaps the most unique item raffled was created while the golf outing was in progress. "Dr." Ken Boschell, a wood carving artisan using a rather unusual tool—a power saw—created an unusual fish. The winner of the raffle, Mike Bay from Tam-O-Shanter Country Club in Orchard Lake, was able to take his "fish story" home.

Special guests included former Detroit Lion Ron Kramer. Other sports figures represented were Brian Finnerty, Randy Prescott and Jay White from the Detroit Rockers professional soccer team.

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## **MBCGCSA BEGINS SECOND DECADE OF SUPPORTING MICHIGAN SPECIAL OLYMPICS**

## **Links at Pinewood Site for 11th Annual Fundraiser**

Photo a. Mike Bay (left) from Tam-O-Shanter stands by the fish that didn't get away. The handsome fish was created by "Dr." Ken Boschell (right).

Photo b. (From left to right) Yvonne Miles and her daughter, Special Olympian athlete Kelly Miles, were introduced by a representative from the Special Olympics Administration. Nearly \$5,000 raised from the golf outing will be donated to Special Olympics by the MBCGCSA.

Photo c. Don Fields auctions off one of many items donated by businesses and individuals. Proceeds were part of the total donated to Special Olympics by the MBCGCSA.

Photo d. Lebanon representative Randy Rogers (left) and Bill Middleton from Emerald Isle, Ltd.

Photo e. Century Rain Aid's Jim Vince standing by...the Century Rain Aid banner. Century and numerous other vendors to the golf course industry supported the fundraiser with generous donations.

Photo f. The fundraiser was held at beautiful Links of Pinewood. Pictured here are (left) Ernie Fuller and Links superintendent Jeff Akers. Everyone at Links was very helpful in making the day a success.





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## Links at Pinewood Site for 11th Annual Fundraiser...

On a day that had many highlights there was none more special than the introduction of special Olympic athlete Kelly Miles of Oakland County. Kelly, wearing many of the competitive ribbons she has won, was accompanied by her mother Yvonne Miles. Kelly's presence served to remind everyone of the important opportunities Special Olympics offers many individuals and why the financial support of organizations like the MBCGCSA is so important. ▽

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Photo G. Mike Brannigan (left) and Jim Koziatsek (right) from Wilkie Turf sponsoring another tee for the kids.



Photo H. Dan Sackett from Tire Wholesalers gave 50% of his raffle collections to Special Olympics. Once again Dan and many others came through for the MBCGCSA fundraiser.

Photo I. Nothing distracts John Skafte, of O.M. Scott, from following through for Special Olympics.

Photo J. Jim McGuire (left) and Mark Glasson (right) of D & C Distributors, Inc. display one of 18 flags they donated to the MBCGCSA Special Olympics fundraiser.



Photo K. Former Detroit Lion Ron Kramer was the guest speaker.

Photo L. Working in "dry dock" is Ken Boschell, the Chainsaw Man. Boschell created the fish while participants were golfing. The "catch" was raffled off with the proceeds going to Special Olympics.

### Special Note:

Once again the MBCGCSA was able to rely on the support of businesses to help make the Michigan Special Olympics Fundraiser a success. Fundraising chairman James P. Eccleton, C.G.C.S., said, "Year in and year out we can always count on these people to support our events. Golf course supply people stood tall in their support of the Association and Michigan's Special Olympics. The following companies generously sponsored tees and/or made special contributions to the fundraiser:

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## Pond Management: AVOIDING PROBLEMS

**G**olf courses depend on ponds not only for aesthetics and water hazards, but often as a source for their irrigation system and storm-water

drainage basins. That's why it makes good sense for superintendents to have a working knowledge of pond management.

You can avoid many potential pond problems by keeping your pond healthy for the purpose intended for that pond. On most golf courses the primary concern is keeping the growth of vegetation under control. Techniques for managing weed growth range from chemical application to the aeration process.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure in golf course pond maintenance. Organic buildup of materials can choke ponds, and actually kill a living body of water. Some of the precautions you can take to protect your ponds are:

- \*Protect your pond from erosion by lining them with rocks or plant materials.

- \*Minimize the amount of grass clippings and leaves that get into your pond.

- \*Fertilizers are an enemy of your pond. Keep your fertilization efforts away from the ponds. Fertilizer often drains into ponds causing more problems with your pond!

Even though chemicals designed for aquatic application are effective and safe, licensing can be required. Another aquatic weed management technique is shading - reducing the light source that enters the pond. The lower the sun light level remains, the lower the potential for plant growth to occur. Most often shading comes in the form of a dye such as AquaShade, an EPA approved product. This is dye added to the body of the water from the edge and is naturally dispersed through the water by wind and natural water action. This type of dye turns the water blue, and should be used in enclosed bodies of water only, since color is needed to inhibit the light from entering the water. This process is used by many golf courses because it is easy to apply.

The other problem your pond may face would be lack of efficient oxygen levels in the pond. Low oxygen levels in a pond allow organic matter to build up in lakes and ponds over the course of several years. That's because aerobic digestion, the digestion of organic matter by bacteria;

requires oxygen for respiration. Without sufficient oxygen levels, the bacteria will be unable to break down organic material in the pond. Over time this can cause warmer water temperatures, which increases plant growth, which can cause blockage of natural spring activity, unwanted algae growth and fish kill.

One way to get oxygen back into your pond is by exposing the water to air by spraying or streaming the water into the air. This method has proven to be very effective in controlling unwanted algae, without incurring the extra expenses and potential hazards of chemicals. Aquatic weeds, and especially algae, need warm water to thrive. An aeration device such as a floating aerator fountain, pulls cooler water up from the lower levels of the pond, sprays the water out onto the pond creating a wave action in the water. The top layer of the water, which is warmer because it's heated by the sun, is cooled and recirculated back into the water breaking up the "thermal stratification" of the pond. The combination of cool water, wave action and extra oxygen into the water inhibit the potential for plant "bedding" to accumulate on the bottom of the pond, and for algae blooms, since algae needs "still" water to grow.

The two most widely accepted forms of aeration are floating aerator fountains that provide beauty and provide and useful function, and air injection units, which are designed exclusively for aeration. The floating aerator fountains come with a variety of spray patterns, some units even offer you the ability to change the nozzles, or even add lighting units for added night time beauty around the club-house.

When using an aeration device such as a floating fountain it's important to get enough horsepower in the pump to efficiently aerate your pond. A normal rule of thumb is to have two a horsepower aerator per surface acre. Floating aerator fountains are easy to install, and some units available don't even need to have maintenance but once every three years. An important aspect to installing a floating aerator fountain is to have proper electrical installation precautions taken. Make sure that proper ground fault precautions are taken.

If you're experiencing significant algae and aquatic weed growth, work with your suppliers in weighing your options. In many cases, you'll find that the electrical costs to run an aeration device is less over time in comparison to chemicals. Ponds are a collection of living organisms that require a unique biological balance to remain healthy. Hopefully, you have been presented enough information to start asking the right questions to your suppliers, your coop extension agents and more to keep your ponds a beautiful and functional part of your course. ▽

**Low oxygen levels in a pond allow organic matter to build up in lakes and ponds over the course of several years.**

**An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure in golf course pond maintenance. Organic buildup of materials can choke ponds, and actually kill a living body of water.**

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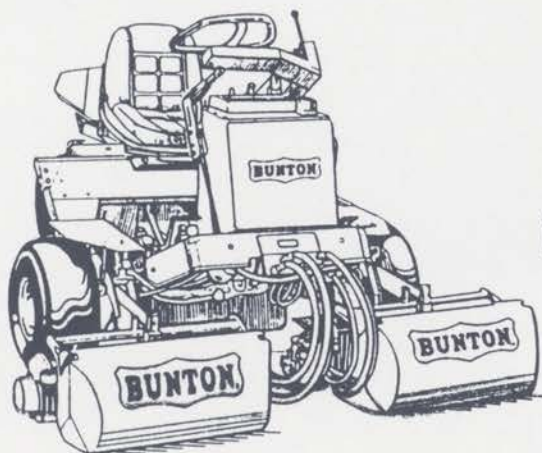
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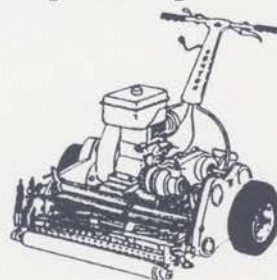


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