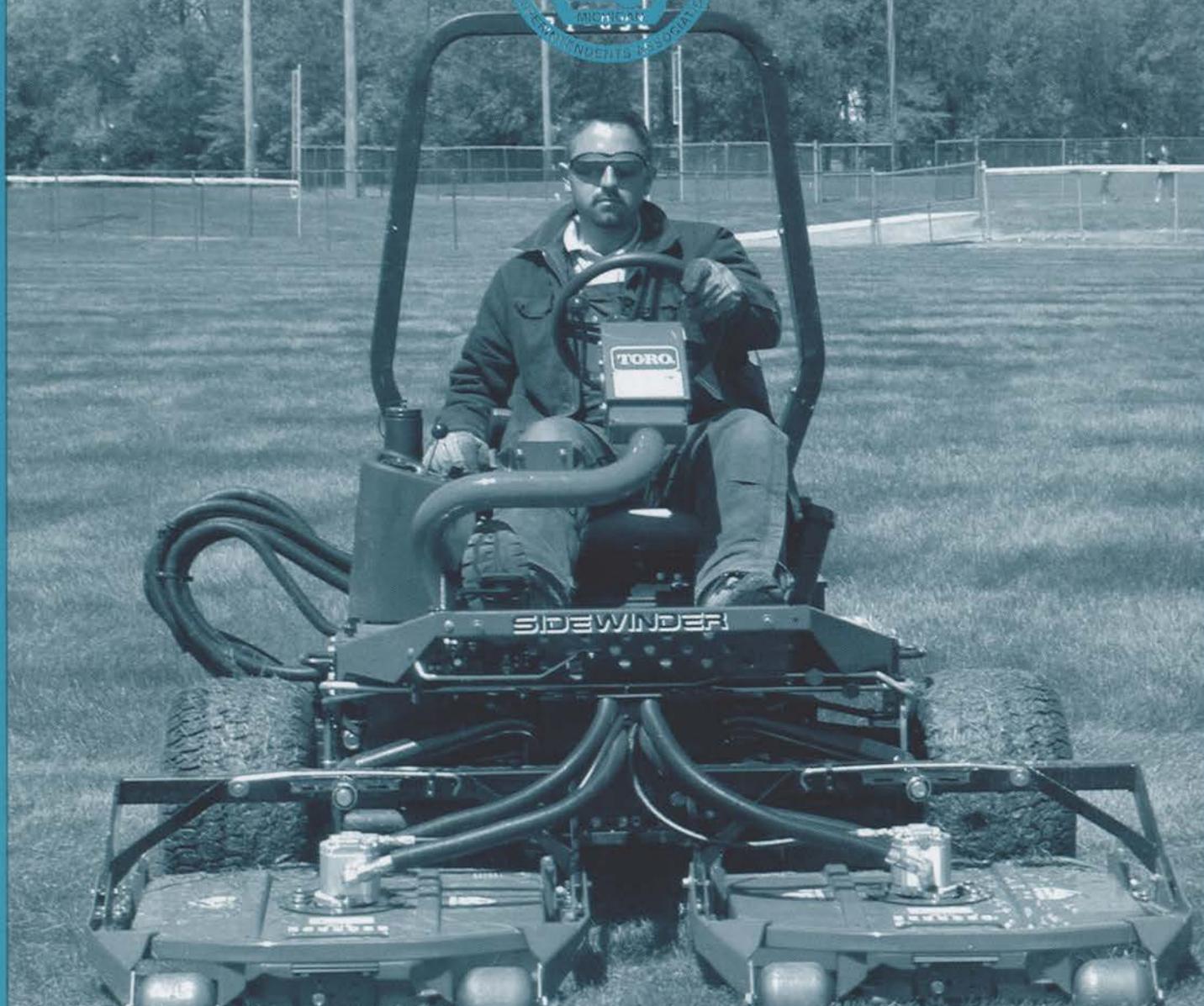


A PATCH OF GREEN



SUMMER, 2003



INSIDE:

**Baseball & Couples Outings Info
Winterkill on Golf Courses**



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**Contact for
GDGCSA
Information** Kate Mason
Executive Secretary

GDGCSA
P.O. Box 173, Troy, MI 48099
(248) 362-1108
Fax: (248) 362-1736
E-Mail: gdgcsa@aol.com

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Ah yes, springtime in Michigan. The flowers are blooming, the *Poa annua* is seeding and all is right with the world. Before you know it summer will be upon us and we'll be hip deep in 90 degree days with 75% humidity, so don't forget to enjoy the nice weather while it's here.

As some of you already know, this will be Kate Mason's last year as our Executive Secretary. She informed the Board a year ago that she would be retiring at the end of 2003, thus ending an 11-year career as our first and only E.S. A Search Committee was formed and a job posting was sent out this past January. We received several excellent resumes and after interviewing a

number of candidates the Board has chosen Kay Patrick as our next Executive Secretary. Many of you know Kay from her work with the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. She will be attending some of our meetings this year during the transition to get to know our membership and to familiarize her with our association. When you see her take a minute to introduce yourself, say hello and make her feel welcome.

The Website Committee is hard at work putting together the data for our new website. They are working closely with the web designer to insure that the finished product is one we will be proud of and will serve our needs for years to come.

By the time you read this the four Michigan chapters will have met for a second time concerning the possibility of a statewide association. The first meeting was productive in that it outlined areas of mutual interest and that further discussions were in order. It's too early to tell what the final results of these talks will be, but my feeling is that all our chapters membership will benefit from these efforts.

On a final note, Mark McKinley, our Nominations Chairman, is seeking members to run for the Board of Directors. I realize you all are busy and it's hard to find time to give enough attention to all the important areas of our lives. If you think you can find just a few hours a month to give to your chapter I'm sure you'll find as I did that it will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your professional career. So give Mark a call and let him know you 're interested in running for the Board. You 'll be glad you did.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ron Abbott".

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State of A Patch of Green

Tim Dorner, CGCS, Editor POG

Prior to me becoming editor, a change in format was made to *A Patch of Green*, taking it from a newsletter format to the current magazine format. A publishing company was hired to facilitate this change and the hope of the board at that time was to have a better publication that would, at the least, break even. This venture, while it produced a better-looking magazine, failed miserably because it lost money and the publication relied too much on advertising (approximately 60/40 ad to copy ratio).

When I took over the editorial duties in 1994, there were several goals for the magazine that were set by the board. Some of these goals were as follows:

1. Eliminate the publishing company and handle all duties (except for printing & mailing) in house
2. Produce a magazine containing no less than 60% copy
3. Build a basic "blueprint" for the magazine that included regular columns and specific articles at certain times during the editorial schedule
4. Turn the magazine into a positive cash flow situation
5. Have articles that covered more than the normal "technical turf stuff"
6. Minimize reprinted articles from other publications
7. Encourage more member-written articles
8. Eventually turn magazine into a statewide publication that included the other superintendent organizations in the state

We have been able to meet most of the aforementioned goals. However, due to a significant loss in advertising revenue, the future of this format for POG looks bleak. It is becoming more difficult in the current economy to secure advertising revenue. Many of our past advertisers have chosen to cut back or not advertise any longer. We have tried to reach out to new advertisers but have had only a limited response. This is a national trend. There are many national publications, including GCSAA's *Golf Course Management*, that are struggling with the same issue.

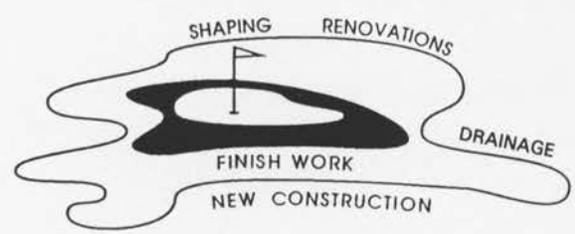
Since we went to the current format, the standard page count has been 32 pages. Because of the shortage in advertising revenue, we will be forced over the remainder of the editorial schedule to determine the page count for each issue at the advertising deadline. The Board and I are committed to the original goal of having the magazine at least pay for itself, and to meet this goal, we must only print the number of pages that can be supported through advertising revenue.

The board has had some discussion about the future format of the magazine. With the launch of the website on the horizon, it may be time to change the format of the magazine back to a newsletter. I think it is important for the membership to be involved with any decisions that are made regarding the future of the magazine. If you have opinions or ideas that you would like to express about the future of POG, please direct them to a board member or me.


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Winterkill on Golf Courses

by Dr. Kevin W. Frank and Dr. J. M. Vargas, Jr.
Michigan State University

Following the tough summer of 2002, the winter was no treat for turfgrass on golf courses in Michigan. Many areas on putting greens suffered what is commonly referred to as winterkill damage. Winterkill can be caused by a combination of factors, including desiccation and low temperature stress from cold winter winds, and/or crown hydration injury associated with rainfall/snowmelt, followed by a rapid drop in temperature. Due to the unpredictability of these factors, the occurrence of winterkill on golf courses was variable.

Many annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*) greens and fairways in Lower Michigan suffered winterkill from crown hydration injury. In late winter, daytime temperatures became warm enough that the annual bluegrass plant began to take up water. The problem occurred during the nighttime, when temperatures dropped into the low 20's or below, and ice crystal formation occurred in the crown of the plant. Ice crystal formation ruptured the plant cells and ultimately caused the plant to die.

Annual bluegrass is more susceptible to crown hydration injury because it emerges from dormancy and begins taking up water earlier than creeping bentgrass. Creeping

bentgrass remains in the dormant state longer, and therefore does not take up water and become susceptible to crown hydration injury during the late winter period.

The good news is that damage does not appear to be as widespread as past years and in most of the damaged areas some plants survived which should allow for faster recovery. There are of course some areas where the turf has been completely killed and these will be slower to recover. Fortunately, there is plenty of putting space available on most greens so the courses can be played with minimum disruption.

To facilitate recovery of damaged areas, greens should be lightly fertilized with nitrogen to stimulate growth. Inter-seeding creeping bentgrass into dead areas on the greens has given mixed results. On greens that are predominantly annual bluegrass, often it is better to scratch the surface of the dead areas to allow the annual bluegrass to germinate and fill in the voids. Predicting when total recovery will occur is difficult, it will depend on the weather. Let's hope we have a warm and sunny spring.



Member Welfare

by Robert King

Our condolences go out to the families of longtime members and friends Frank Forier and Robert Prieskorn. Mr. Forier and Mr. Prieskorn passed away in February and we will miss them both. Also, we give our best wishes and prayers to the Ford family. Scott Fords' mother-in-law passed away in April and we hope the family is doing well.

Ron Murdock is out of the hospital following surgery and is doing much better and he would like to thank all of those who were thinking of him. We also wish Mary Woehrle, wife of Ted Woehrle, a speedy recovery from her recent surgery.

Todd W. Robinson

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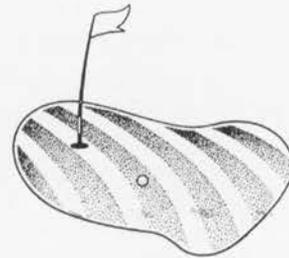


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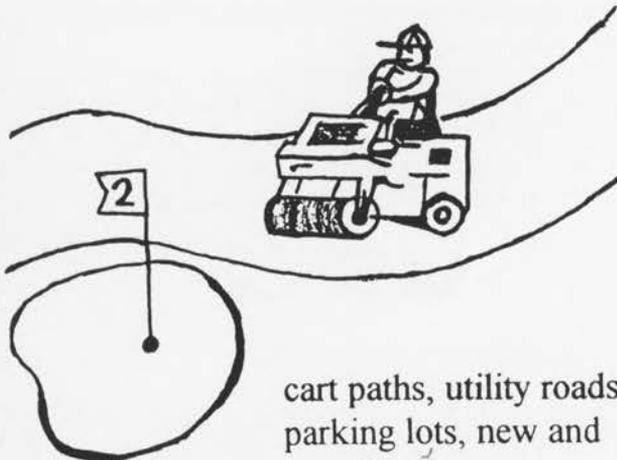
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Is Recovery Just a Spray Away?

By Bob Vavrek, USGA Agronomist, North Central Region

Now that winter damage has been documented at a number of courses across the north central tier of states, the obvious question is how do we accelerate the rate of recovery? Promoting turf growth is always difficult when cool days and cold nights persist well into late May and early June.

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For total loss of turf in small localized sites, many superintendents are stripping the dead turf and using sod to repair the damage. This seems to work best in the small, water-holding depressions scattered across fairways where an ice storm during early April caused crown hydration damage. The margins of the injury are well defined, so the sod will blend in well with the adjacent healthy turf. Use this operation as an opportunity to level out low lying trouble spots.

The time and manpower spent establishing a fairway/tee and green nursery pays dividends. If a nursery is not available, consider sacrificing some of the fairway turf from an area that doesn't come into play much or use the first cut of fairway turf off the tee to make the repairs. These out-of-play sites can be filled in with topsoil, seeded, and mulched to reestablish turf cover.

The diffuse injury caused by desiccation is more challenging to repair. There are no clear margins to define where renovation is needed, so sod repairs on an old golf course stick out like a sore thumb. Furthermore, it can be difficult to document how much turf is really dead and how much may only be burned back by the cold, dry winter weather. No one wants to cause any more turf disruption than is absolutely necessary. Stripping and sodding greens is tedious, time-consuming, and looks as bad as it plays unless a great deal of care is taken to make a seamless transition from existing healthy turf to sod.

Some damage will need to be overseeded. Divert as much traffic away from overseeded areas as possible. These sites must be watered lightly several times a day during dry weather. It will be difficult to work irrigation in around heavy play. It's tough enough trying to get seeding turf established during a cold spring without the immature plants being stunted or killed by drought stress or trampled to death. A wide variety of covers can be used to prevent erosion, warm the soil, and keep golfers off immature turf.

As mentioned above, making the right call regarding winter desiccation can spell the difference between rapid recovery and a prolonged, job-threatening ordeal. Take the extra time to remove samples of what appears to be dead turf and place them somewhere warm and sunny, like a local greenhouse, for a few days just to be sure grass in the site is truly dead. At some courses, sites that appeared dead have come back to life within a day or two after rain and a little warmer weather.

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We should all know not to force a surge of early spring growth with a pound of urea, even if the turf is thin and slow to recover. On the other hand, you can only wait so long before golfer complaints make you take some type of action. Why not load up a sprayer with a light rate of soluble fertilizer and make a uniform application to localized areas of damaged, slowly recovering turf. Ammonium sulfate at 0.1lb. of N per 1000 sq. ft. of turf will provide a shot in the arm for semi-dormant turf with little risk of salt burn. Use the spray rig for fertilizing more extensive areas of the course. If a desirable response is seen, come back with another application 5 to 7 days later. In the meantime, let's hope for a week of sunny, warm weather and not another frost until next fall.

Source: Bob Vavrek, rvavrek@usga.org or 262-797-8743

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GCSAA Headquarters Relocation Study to Reconvene

by Janet Satterlee, GCSAA Senior Manager of Chapter Education and Service

After putting the issue of GCSAA headquarters relocation on hold, the study will reconvene with a change in the process, according to GCSAA President Jon D. Maddern, CGCS.

"The study will be based on the same model that was used in recent years to study and implement the Chapter Affiliation Agreement and the Professional Development Initiative. It begins with the creation of an independent resource group composed of GCSAA members to study all relevant issues regarding relocation. The Headquarters Location Resource Group will have administrative support and operate under broad board oversight, but will have appropriate autonomy with which to act. Its first meeting will be June 1, in Chicago, along with the GCSAA officers and relocation consultant FPL and Associates."

"As a board, we were and are convinced that it is proper to study the most appropriate location for GCSAA's headquarters," Maddern said. "However, it is clear that our original course of action required amending. This new structure will allow for a more deliberative study."

The issue of relocation was put on "pause" at GCSAA's Conference and Show in Atlanta, as a by-law amendment changing the principal location of the headquarters was removed from the ballot. In addition to the independent resource group, the new process will include:

1. The resource group will evaluate all actions taken to date, including a review of the initial and second stage data collection by relocation consultant FPL and Associates. The group may request additional study be conducted to assist in its activities. GCSAA Vice President Mark J.

Woodward, CGCS will serve as the Board's liaison as a means to facilitate communication, but he will not be required to attend or participate in resource group conference calls or meetings.

2. The resource group will present a headquarters location evaluation process to the Chapter Delegates at the Fall 2003 meeting in September. The resource group will provide updates on the process as deemed necessary.

3. If the resource group supports a member vote on the issue, the earliest it can be conducted is at the GCSAA Annual Meeting in February 2005 in Orlando. It has not been established whether or not a vote on relocation will be taken. It is possible that the resource group will recommend that no vote be taken.

"This might appear to be a lengthy evaluation, but we believe it is crucial to allow ample time to study this issue of great importance," Maddern said. "The association will not be put at a disadvantage by extending the timeframe in which the process is conducted."

The Headquarters Location Resource Group includes: Pat Finlen, CGCS, Chair; Tom Mason, Vice-Chair; Bob Alonzi, CGCS; Ray Davies, CGCS; Kevin Downing, CGCS; Mark Esoda, CGCS; James Fitzroy, CGCS; Keith Ihms, CGCS; Todd Lupkes, CGCS; Sandy Queen, CGCS; and Bob Randquist, CGCS.

Members are still encouraged to offer comment through the e-mail address <mailto:relocation@gcsaa.org>



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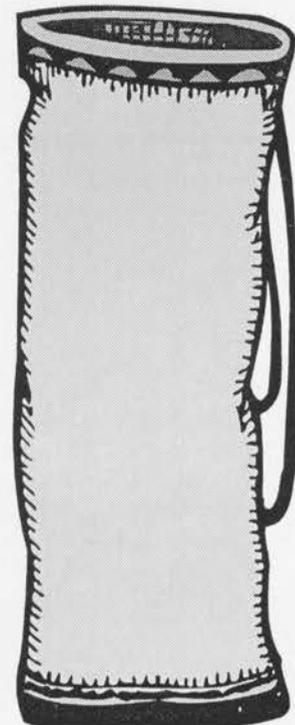
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Experts Share Tips To Avoid West Nile Virus

WASHINGTON, DC, April 25, 2003 (ENS) -This summer is expected to bring increased cases of the West Nile virus, according to a Harvard University health expert, including more fatalities. But there are ways to lower risks of contracting the virus, which is passed on to humans by infected mosquitos.

More than 4,000 Americans in 40 states contracted West Nile in 2002, according to the u.s. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and 284 died from the virus.

The virus has been detected in mosquitos, birds or other animals in at least 43 of the lower 48 states. Mosquitos spread the disease by transferring blood from infected birds to other animals.

"It is best to take a holistic approach to mosquito control," said Kimberly Thompson, a specialist in risk analysis at the Harvard School of Public Health. "This includes taking physical measures to reduce breeding grounds and risk, using pest control products properly when needed, and working within local communities to ensure civic leaders are providing education about West Nile Virus and protection from mosquitoes."

Thompson advises individuals to make sure doors and windows have tight fitting screens and she suggests the use of mosquito repellants on exposed skin whenever you are in an area where mosquitoes may be present.

Eliminating standing water is another way to lower risk from mosquitos, Thompson explained, as the insects use for breeding.

Mosquitos are in particular most active at dusk and dawn in April through October, Thompson said, and it is best to avoid prime mosquito locations such as marshes and wetlands.

Although mosquitos are the primary source of human infection, CDC confirmed transmission of West Nile virus through transplanted human organs and there is at least one confirmed case of transplacental transmission of the disease from mother to child.

According to the CDC, most people who are infected with the West Nile virus will not have any type of illness.

About 20 percent who become infected will develop West Nile fever, indicated by mild symptoms, including fever, headache, and body aches. It is estimated that one in 150 infected will develop a more severe, and potentially fatal, form of the disease known as West Nile encephalitis or meningitis.

The symptoms for West Nile encephalitis include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors, convulsions, muscle weakness, and paralysis.

Jean Mackay, Director of Educational Services
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Board Meeting Highlights

Lake Forest Golf Club
Monday, March 31, 2003

ROLL CALL

Present - Abbott, Billette, Ford, Fouty, King, McMullen,
Schweihofer, Shreve
Absent - Cooney, McKinley

FINANCE (King)

Feb Assn svgs: \$45,639.84	Feb Assn chkg: \$1,808.26
Feb Fdtn svgs: \$2, 148.18	Feb Fdtn chkg: \$1,740.18

EDUCATION (Schweihofer/Cooney)

June mtg Tentative
Date: Tuesday, June 17 Site: Fox Hills GC
Format: Annual Assn Championship

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SEARCH (Abbott)

Kay Patrick was chosen by the board as Kate Mason's replacement. Transition will begin during the last 6 months of 2003.

MEMBERSHIP (McMullen)

Total membership - 399; Applications - 1

NOMINATING (McKinley)

Nomination process to begin for October elections.

SOCIAL (McMullen/Billette)

Couples Outing - Tentative
Date: Friday, May 30
Site: TBD
Family Outing - Tentative
Date: Friday, July 25
Site: Tiger Baseball Game

WEBSITE (Schweihofer)

Vote for assessment passed 40 to 8.
Dues paying members will be invoiced \$25. Update will be given by Schweihofer at June mtg.

WELFARE (King)

Mar 12 - Frank Forier passed away. A card was sent and \$100 donation to MTF.

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Board Meeting Highlights

The Orchards

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

ROLL CALL:

Present - Abbott, Billette, Cooney, Ford, King, McMullen
 Absent - Fouty, McKinley, Schweihofer, Shreve

FINANCE (King)

Mar Assn svgs: \$16, 162.35	Mar Assn chkg: \$909.26
Mar Fdtn svgs: \$2, 150.07	Mar Fdtn chkg: \$1,800.26

EDUCATION (King/Schweihofer)

June mtg:
 Date: June 24
 Site: Fox Hills
 Cost: \$75
 Agenda: Association Championship/No education

FUNDRAISING

GOLF DAY (Ford/Fouty)
 2003 sites confirmed: Lochmoor

GAM/GREATER DETROIT FIELD DAY (Shreve/Billette)
 Not many reservations. Flyer will be sent again to members.

MEMBERSHIP (McMullen/Ford)

Total membership - 400; Applications - 2
 Mentors will be assigned to visit, call and encourage participation, etc.

SOCIAL (McMullen/Billette)

Couples Golf Outing - Flyer will be mailed out May 9.
Family Outing/Baseball Game - Flyer will be mailed out May 9.

WELFARE (King)

Mary Woehrle, wife of Ted (recently retired Supt from The Orchards) had surgery. She's doing well. A card was sent. Scott Ford's mother-in-law passed away recently. A card was sent.



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RIDLEY, CHARLES A.

CLASS AN
Chandler Park Golf Course
12801 Chandler Park Dr.
Detroit, MI 48213
H-(248) 214-4777
O-(313) 331-2970
Fax-(313) 331-6713

ROBERTSON, DAVID E.

(KATHY)
CLASS AN
Rustic Glen Golf Club
116 W. Church St.
Clinton, MI 49236
H-(734) 260-4533
O-(734) 429-7679
Fax-(734) 944-6719
drobertson_rustic@yahoo.com

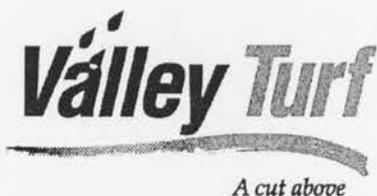
RUSIECKI, DOUGLAS A.

(PATTY)
CLASS SMN
Lilac Golf Club
9090 Armstrong
Newport, MI 48166
H-(517) 764-6245
O-(734) 586-8545

WEATHERS, TIM

(ANN)
AFFILIATE
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Company (pg. 32)
BARNO, TIMOTHY J.
Great Lakes Turf

Club, Address, Phone, Fax (pg. 32)
BARR, ROBERT D.
Lakes of Taylor
25555 Northline Rd.
Taylor, MI 48180
O-(734) 946-1673
Fax-(734) 946-1673

E-mail (pg. 36)
COY, DAVID M.
dcoy@firstteemichigan.org

E-mail (pg. 36)
CYR, JEROME M.
jerry.cyr@metroparks.com

E-mail (pg. 37)
DECKER, T. C.
zefross@msn.com

Address, Phone
GUSTAFSON, STEFAN R.
3894 W. Maple Rd.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301
H-(248) 646-9662

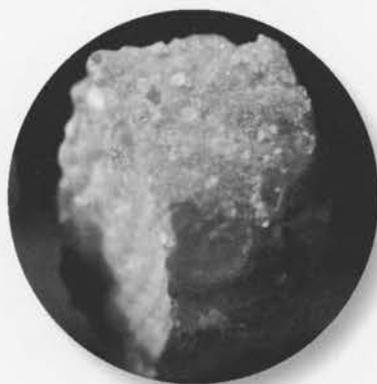
Address, Phone (pg. 42)
HAACK, KEVIN A.
5099 Northport Dr. #1312
Macomb, MI 48044-3916
H-(248) 236-8146

E-mail (pg. 45)
HOPKINS, RONALD C.
HopkinsBrookside@aol.com

Company, Phones, E-mail (pg. 50)
KOLONGOWSKI, STEVEN
Rhino Seed & Turf Supply
O-(810) 632-5640
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Club, Phone, Fax (pg. 53)
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E-mail (pg. 54)

METZNER, CARL O.
retzlarc@arenet.net

Company, Mobile phone (pg. 54)

MILLER, MARTIN D.
Country Club Greens/Great Lakes Turf
Mobile-(248) 252-4324

E-mail (pg.55)

MURPHY, JOHN G.
john@commlawn.com

Club, Address, Phone (pg. 56)

NABOZNY, JEFFERY T.
Salem Hills Golf Club
32 Scharrum Dr.
Whitmore Lk, MI 48189
O-(248) 437-9640

E-mail (pg. 57)

OVREN, CLINTON A.
clintonao@aol.com

Company, E-mail (pg. 58)

PLAGUE, MICHAEL J.
Great Lakes Turf
mplague@ameritech.net

Company, Address, Phones, Fax (pg. 61)

ROBINSON, TODD W.
New York Life Insurance Company
1336 Woodman Dr., Ste. #100
Dayton, OH 45432
H-(734) 424-0829
O-(937) 259-0300
Cell-(937) 470-4204
Fax-(937) 259-0306

E-mail (pg. 61)

ROGERS, RANDY
LebanonTurfRR@aol.com

Company, Phones (pg. 62)

SAND, SCOTT T.
Great Lakes Turf
H-(586) 532-8185
Mobile-(248) 320-5317
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E-mail (pg. 63)
SCHRADE, STEVEN
Schrade@firststep.net

E-mail (pg. 63)
SKELTON, RODNEY
suptofgrns@aol.com

E-mail (pg. 69)
WEINGARTZ, RON
Ron@Weingartz.com

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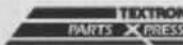
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