

NEWS NOTES

SUMMER 2009 | VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 1



INSIDE THE OFFICE



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DONN EURICH AND THEN THERE WERE TWO

The Great Lakes Trade Expo (GLTE) has evolved over the years and continues to evolve. This annual event, held every January at the DeVos Place and Amway Grand Hotel in Grand Rapids has been successful and generally stable, even during these turbulent economic times. The past few years have seen three non-profit groups partnering to sponsor and plan the Expo. The Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association (MNLA) has always been the lead partner in the alliance. The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation (MTF) has also been an active partner as has the Arboriculture Society of Michigan (ASM). Income and expenses were divided based on the percentage of registrants represented by each organization. MNLA does the vast majority of the planning, and is the general manager of the event.

We were surprised when ASM decided to resign from the partnership this spring. While they were the smallest contributor to the Expo with regard to registrants, they were still an important element in our success. Both the MNLA and MTF boards of directors accepted their resignation, and confirmed that vote recently when ASM petitioned for reinstatement.

What does this mean for the GLTE? With MNLA and MTF now being equal partners in the planning and promotion of the event, MTF has heightened its involvement in planning activities, speakers and social events. We will be reinstating an MTF Awards Luncheon along with holding our annual membership meeting and elections as before. Because many MNLA and MTF members still want access to the topics previously offered on behalf of ASM, you can expect to still see many sessions presented which cover the issues and training of interest to that market segment.

MTF is actively participating in the selection of speakers and topics, including new business sessions on marketing, finance, management and administration. Of course, we will continue to have the usual extensive menu of sessions offered by the MSU Turf Team.

Is there a topic or speaker of particular interest which you would like to see offered at the GLTE? Now is the time to speak up, email or call me and let me know your interests. The educational sessions offered at this event are for you, our members, and we want to make sure we are listening to your wants and needs.

Please feel welcome to contact me with your ideas at DonnE@eurich.com or 517-327-9207.

WHAT'S INSIDE

2

NONPROFITS THAT ARE STAYING AFLOAT DESPITE THE RECESSION

3

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND THE FUTURE USE OF A UNIQUE PIECE OF REAL ESTATE

4

SPRING GRUB DAMAGE ON GOLF COURSE ROUGHS AND HOME LAWNS

5

LAFONTAINE ENDOWMENT GOLF OUTING



Back Row (L to R): Matt Taylor, Steve Zaverl, Robert Caspellaro, Marc Chappell, Rusty Willard, Dr. John N. Rogers III, Ryan Gage, Jimene Blancojasthek, Javier Garciares, Craig Ruhl, Juan Munoz, Michael Wallace

Front Row (L to R): Maria Legazmartinez, Josh Furrman, Nicholas Thommes, Kevin Kretz, Daniel Craft, Brent Collins

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CHARACTERISTICS OF NONPROFITS THAT ARE STAYING AFLOAT DESPITE THE RECESSION

BY: JOANNE FRITZ, ABOUT.COM GUIDE TO NONPROFITS

A small study of nonprofits in the Northwest by Retriever Development Counsel revealed several telling characteristics of nonprofits that seem to be surviving the recession relatively intact:

- Those nonprofits with diversified funding, good management, and “learning cultures” seem to be coping much better than others.
- Successful nonprofits appear to be putting more focus on development activities, particularly donor relations, including cultivation of major donors.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE STUDY SUGGESTED THAT IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR:

- Board members to actively take part in fundraising, cultivating relationships, and being ambassadors for the cause.
- Nonprofit leaders to set a tone of calmness, communicate clearly regarding decisions, priorities, and organizational goals. They need to be very visible and involved with individual donor fundraising
- That good internal communication among the organization's team members is key to survival in this economic environment.

THE RESEARCHERS SAID THAT THE SUCCESSFUL GROUPS ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE WITH THE BIGGEST BUDGETS OR THE ONES THAT HAD A GREAT FUNDRAISING YEAR IN 2008. RATHER THE HALLMARKS OF VIABLE NONPROFITS INCLUDE:

- Diversified revenue streams and varied ways for donors to give.
- Engaged leadership.
- Investment in development staff, resources, and activities.
- Proactive planning...looking to do more, not less.

Organizations that were seeing a decline in fundraising blamed the economy, not internal flaws; and generally focused on only short-term solutions such as cost containment, staff and program reduction, or dipping into reserves or credit lines.

These results coincide nicely with the tips laid out by Kim Klein recently in the “*Grassroots Fundraising Journal*” that we reported recently.

The recession is providing an opportunity to observe what nonprofits should and should not do to survive future crises. We hope the studies and surveys keep coming.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE AND THE FUTURE USE OF A UNIQUE PIECE OF REAL ESTATE

BY: THOMAS A. NIKOLAI PH.D.

At the Hancock Turfgrass Research Center sits a very valuable piece of real estate that has been underutilized the past several years. In 1993 the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation supported the construction of research greens with three different root zones. The site measures 120' x 120' (9 greens 40' x 40' each) with three root zones (80:20, 80:10:10 and native soil sandy clay loam). The sandy root zones meet United States Golf Association specifications complete with choker layer and underlying drainage.

The site was originally constructed with funding supplied by the MTF and generous donations of time and supplies by our tremendous turfgrass industry. The MTF received a good return on their investments when the USGA gave \$100,000.00 to support research on the site from 1996 - 2000.

It was on this site we discovered lightweight rolling not only increased green speed without increasing compaction but that it also decreased dollar spot, brown patch, localized dry patch, cutworm damage, weeds, moss, etc. That may sound like old news to us now in the state of Michigan but it remains one of the most important applied research findings in the past 20 years.

This unique piece of real estate was also the site where we initiated our first "plastic spike" studies. When we originated the study there were only three types of spikes on the market: the traditional metal spike, Soft Spikes, and Flat Spikes. Since that original study we have tested over 50 types of golf cleats, ended the 75 year reign of metal spikes uprooting our putting green plants and destroying our infrastructure, and have brought in more than \$125,000.00 for research. MSU continues to perform golf cleat studies as we continue to test new prototypes for green friendliness and traction during the golf swing.

From 2001 - 2006 very little research was performed on the site. During the summer of 2007 the sod was stripped from the plots and over 2-inches of topdressing material was carefully removed with a blade to return the site to its original three root zones. The site will now be utilized for a long term (5-year minimum) soil test/leaf tissue nutrient concentration study.

The objectives of holding a long-term soil chemical test/leaf tissue nutrient concentration study on a site with three different root zones include:

- To establish better fertilizer recommendations based upon soil test results. To date, nutrient recommendations based upon soil chemical test results have a lot of guess work involved. Over time this study will help make recommendations more of a science. This will be accomplished by taking tissue samples in concert with soil test, visual observations, and mechanical measurements.
- To determine if nitrogen carriers have an impact on soil physical properties (organic, urea, foliar, methylene urea) and or microbial populations among different root zones.
- To determine if different nitrogen carriers have an impact on turf grass pests.
- To determine if different fertilizers and rates have an impact on playability (green speed).
- To determine differences in turfgrass wear compared to the different programs.

The study will incorporate several fertility programs which should include:

- Different sources of nitrogen
- Different rates of nitrogen
- Different methods for application of a fertilizer (foliar and granular)
- Different rates of potassium and phosphorous.



Continued on page 9

SPRING GRUB DAMAGE ON GOLF COURSE ROUGHS AND HOME LAWNS

BY: DAVID SMITLEY, PROFESSOR OF ENTOMOLOGY AND MSU EXTENSION SPECIALIST

In many cities in the southern Michigan and a few in the northern lower peninsula (like Traverse City and Alpena), bare spots are showing in golf course roughs and home lawns due to European chafer grubs consuming turf roots. The grubs tend to be concentrated in the driest areas: sunny areas, sandy areas, slopes and hilltops. It is unusual to see any grub damage in irrigated lawns or irrigated rough, but it can happen with a heavy grub infestation if the irrigation is infrequent or on run on the dry side. It is more likely that you will see turf damage from skunks, raccoons, or crows that tear or pull-back turf to eat grubs. You can confirm grubs as the cause of the problem by pulling up some turf around the dead patch and looking for C-shaped white grubs in the root zone.

European chafer grub damage will continue for another 2 weeks in southern Michigan and possible for another 3-4 weeks in the northern lower peninsula. Damage can be stopped and the grubs

controlled by applying Dylox or Sevin to the affected area. Allow these products about 1 week to work before re-seeding the bare patches. There is no point in treating lawns in southern Michigan with insecticide after May 14th, because the damage will be over for this spring.

The best way to prevent grub damage is to raise the mowing height, fertilize and irrigate lawns or rough. Healthy turf with a dense root system is unlikely to be damaged from grubs. However, for low-maintenance turf or for fairways, tees and greens, it may be necessary to apply an insecticide to prevent grub damage. The most effective products are the nicotinoid insecticides: Alectus, Aloft, Arena, Meridian, and Merit. These insecticides are very effective against grubs when applied between May 15th and August 15th. For European chafer in the rough or in home lawns, the optimum time to treat is in the month of July. Mach 2, an insect growth regulator can also be used in July.



European chafer grubs and skunk damage in DeWitt, Michigan, October 2002.



European chafer grub damage, MSU campus, late April 2001.

GRUB TEST SITE NEEDED FOR 2009

BY: DAVE SMITLEY, PROFESSOR OF ENTOMOLOGY AND MSU EXTENSION SPECIALIST

I am looking for a golf course within 1-2 hours drive of MSU with European chafer where we could evaluate insecticides in an area of the rough that is not in play. If you have some open rough areas with a few dead patches from grubs, or some spots where skunks have damaged turf in the rough, please

let me know. You can reach me at: Phone: 517-355-3385 | Email: smitley@msu.edu





LAFONTAINE ENDOWMENT GOLF OUTING

Thank You MTF TEE SPONSORS

Bruce Branham

Syngenta

Jon Maddern

Dible Builders

Weingartz

Osburn Industries

Turfgrass Inc.

LaFontaine Automotive Group

Coyote Golf Course

A BIG SUCCESS FOR MTF LINKS OF NOVI | NOVI, MICHIGAN THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2009

The second annual LaFontaine Endowment Golf Outing, was held on May 14th at the Links of Novi. Mark Caverly and I decided last fall that we should use the exact same format for golf, food, beverages, golf prices, and corporate sponsors as last year even though we are in a slower economy than last year. As of two days before the outing we were down on tee sponsorships and had lost three corporate sponsors. Mark Caverly said "I will take two corporate sponsorships in my name". Mark already donated the golf course and golf carts for this outing. When you see him, be sure to thank him. The LaFontaine Automotive Group again had two par three holes, with a car for a hole in one and also offered a Cadillac for the weekend for closest to the pin on one hole. Thank you, Matt LaFontaine for arranging this part of the event again.

The Low Scoring team with a 58 was Craig Roggeman, Tom Gill, Mike Branigan, and Sam VanDusen. We had two teams from MSU's Turf Team and of course the "real winner of the day" is Turfgrass research.

What is the feeling you get from this day? How happy everyone is to be there? Dan Bywalec of D&B Landscaping called me about 9:00 pm that evening to say how much he enjoyed the day and that he would buy lunch next week to talk about next year. Tom Sheldon, the manager of Links of Novi did an outstanding job of serving everybody at the same time with a very tender and delicious steak dinner. Dr. Joe Vargas and Gordon LaFontaine finished off the evening with awarding prizes and commenting on a great day.

I thanked Tom Reed from Tri-Turf for again allowing me to spend all the time I needed to help ensure a great day for the LaFontaine Endowment Golf Tournament. The importance of this day is still how many people show up to support the Turf Team at MSU. We are fortunate to have the world class quality of Turfgrass researchers at MSU

We will do it again in 2010.

DON BENHAM

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL OTHER MTF SPONSORS

Midwest Golf and Turf

D & B Landscaping

LaFontaine Automotive Group

Commercial Lawnmower Inc.

Tri-Turf

Mark Caverly

AND TO OUR ON-SITE DONATIONS FROM MIKE EDGERTON AND GLEN CAVERLY





Aaron McMaster, Steve Rebhan, Dale Bauer, John Cooney



Al Degrazia , Joe Singles, Ted Woerle, Dan Billette



Are we ready yet?



Chris Sobeck, Terry Poley, Nick Johnson, Scott Trbovich



Doug Johanningsmeier, Ken DeBussher, Adam Haborkorn, Dave Montgomery



Greg Pattinson, Jerry McVety, Jim Houston



Jay Eccelton, Mark McKinley, Rick Murphy, John Seefeldt



Kurt Kraly, Dale Barger, Barry Beard, Clem Wolfrom



Links of Novi looking great.



Phil Owen, Stu Naugler, Jim Naugler, Steve Rose



Getting ready for shotgun start



Rating green plots affected by spike damage



Shelley Barry, Tom Penzien, Lori Nicholl, Lisa Wager



Steve Hammon, John Fulling, Glen Hokenmaier and Duane Daam

2009 | 2010 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

1

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ TOLL FREE NUMBER _____ FAX _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____ WEBSITE ADDRESS _____

Completing this form serves management notice that you agree to be contacted by mail, phone, fax and email and have this information published.



Please mail or fax application to MTF:

3225 W. ST. JOSEPH
LANSING, MI 48917
PHONE: 517-327-9207
FAX: 517-321-0495

www.michiganturfgrass.org

2 MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND DUES

REGULAR MEMBER AMOUNT: \$115.00 \$ _____

Benefits: Eligible to vote, hold office, quarterly issues of Newsnotes, reduced conference fees, and educational opportunities.

AFFILIATE MEMBER(S) DUES AMOUNT: \$30.00 X # _____ = \$ _____

Benefits: Reduced conference registration fees, quarterly issues of Newsnotes, and educational opportunities.

Eligibility: Individuals are eligible for affiliate membership after another individual from that organization joins as a regular member.

Please list affiliate names below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

STUDENT DUES AMOUNT: \$10.00 \$ _____

Benefits: Quarterly issues of Newsnotes and complimentary registration at conference.

ASSOCIATE DUES AMOUNT: \$75.00 \$ _____

(Working and living outside the State of Michigan)

Benefits: Reduced conference registration fees, quarterly issues of Newsnotes, and educational opportunities.

PAYMENT

(Optional) ANNUAL FUND DONATION \$ **35.00** _____

ENDOWMENT DONATION (Please check appropriate box from section 3) \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

CHECK NUMBER: _____ Please make all checks out to MTF.

CREDIT CARD: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER

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4 BUSINESS CATEGORIES

(Please check one)

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- SPORTS TURF
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- MUNICIPALITY/PARKS
- SUPPLIER
- IRRIGATION
- RETAIL CENTER
- OTHER: _____

3 RESEARCH DONATION

ANNUAL FUND

Annual contributions that are not designated to one of the endowments are the lifeblood of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. These contributions fund annual research and support grants to MSU faculty. Annual funding helps solve current research problems in turf and supports the MSU turf team in meeting the extension needs of turf managers in Michigan.

LAFONTAINE ENDOWMENT

The Gordon LaFontaine Endowment for Turfgrass Research was created to establish a solid source of funding for basic research in the field of turfgrass science. Donations to the LaFontaine Endowment create a legacy to fund research long-term, as these donations work in perpetuity to generate interest for fundamental research projects. Donations to the LaFontaine Endowment help solve tomorrow's problems today.

RIEKE ENDOWMENT

The Paul Rieke Turfgrass Endowed Graduate Assistantship was established by the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation with generous contributions from Dr. Rieke, friends, family and colleagues at Paul's retirement. The Rieke Endowment will help fund communication and outreach efforts within the turfgrass industry, the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, and the MSU Turf Team.

FOUNDERS SOCIETY

The Founders Society is an endowment used to purchase specialized research and support equipment for the turf program at MSU. For example, donations to this fund will provide funding to install additional lysimeters at the Hancock Center to expand research on nutrient fate and water movement-key research validation to better position the turfgrass industry for the continuing statewide debate on water policy and nutrient management. Funding is also needed to update the Hancock Center, including new office equipment and a heating system for the Fuller Building.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Continued from page 3

The longer the duration of the study the greater our understanding of best management practices for putting green fertility to increase sustainability and maximize playability. The exact number and kind of fertility treatments was determined with consultation with Dr. Kevin Frank and fertilizer industry leaders. The study will be initiated May 2009 with the following treatments:

1. Check (no fertilizer)
2. A natural organic carrier (granular)
3. Methylene urea (granular)
4. Urea (granular) no P or K added
5. Urea + P soil test recommendation (granular)
6. Urea + K soil test recommendation (granular)
7. Griggs Bros. (foliar product Gary's Green with P and K approximately soil test recommendations)
8. Griggs Bros. (granular in spring and fall with foliar in the summer)
9. Same products and timing as T8 but double the rate of product.

With the exception of Treatments (T) 1 and T9 all other treatments will have annual identical N-rates (2.5 - 3 lbs. N/year). This study will allow us to compare the long term impact on different rates of nitrogen by comparing Treatments 1, 8, and 9 along with the impact of different nitrogen carriers by comparing Treatments 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7. Additionally, with the different P and K rates on Treatments 1, 4, 5, and 6 applied to the different root zones we will gain a better understanding for fertilizing greens in our state.

I want to acknowledge the Griggs Brothers for their commitment to supply most of the product and funds for leaf-tissue and soil testing several times per year for the next five years as well as the Andersons for supplying the methylene urea source. I would also like to thank Dr. Kevin Frank for partnering with me on this research.

Finally, I would like to close by thanking the MTF for their continued support of my research. My guess is the results from this study will be just as significant as past results obtained from this area. Heck, maybe when this study is done we can put a Michigan Historical Marker on the site.

SAVE THE DATE

FIELD DAY

AUGUST 19, 2009

THE HANCOCK TURF RESEARCH CENTER





ANNUAL FUND

Annual contributions, that are not designated to one of the endowments, are the lifeblood of the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation. These contributions fund annual research and support grants to MSU faculty. All grant requests are first reviewed by an industry committee, ranked in priority by this committee, and then referred to the MTF Board of Directors for action. Annual funding helps solve current research problems in turf and supports the MSU Turf Team in meeting the extension needs of turf managers in Michigan.

LAFONTAINE ENDOWMENT

The Gordon LaFontaine Endowment for Turfgrass Research was created to establish a solid source of funding for basic research in the field of turfgrass science. Basic research tends to be longer term, more involved and more expensive than applied research. The very nature of this research requires a stable source of funding. Donations to the LaFontaine Endowment create a legacy to fund research long-term, as these donations work in perpetuity to generate interest for fundamental research projects. Donations to the LaFontaine Endowment help solve tomorrow's problems today.



RIEKE ENDOWMENT

Dr. Paul Rieke is a dedicated MSU faculty member who made major contributions to turfgrass science through research, education, and outreach and shared his knowledge and expertise through the guidance of many graduate students. The Paul Rieke Turfgrass Endowed Graduate Assistantship was established by the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation with generous contributions from Dr. Rieke, friends, family and colleagues at Paul's retirement.

As part of Turfgrass 2010, the Rieke Endowment will help fund the communication and outreach efforts within the turfgrass industry, the Michigan Turfgrass Foundation, and the MSU Turf Team.

FOUNDERS SOCIETY

The Founders Society is an endowment used to purchase specialized research and support equipment for the turf program at MSU. For example, donations to this fund will provide funding to install additional lysimeters at the Hancock Center to expand research on nutrient fate and water movement — key research validation to better position the turfgrass industry for the continuing statewide debate on water policy and nutrient management. Funding is also needed to update the Hancock Center, including new office equipment and a heating system for the Fuller Building.



MICHIGAN TURFGRASS FOUNDATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

IMPACT THE LIVES OF MICHIGAN CITIZENS AND PROTECT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES BY MAKING YOUR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION TO TURFGRASS 2010!

- ANNUAL RESEARCH FUND — annual MSU research & support projects _____
- FOUNDER'S SOCIETY — for purchase of specialized research equipment _____
- GORDON LAFONTAINE ENDOWMENT — supports basic research _____
- PROFESSOR'S (RIEKE) ENDOWMENT — provides support for Graduate Assistant _____
- TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

The Michigan Turfgrass Foundation accepts gifts and pledges via cash, check or credit card for the Annual Fund, or any of the three endowed funds. The MTF can also accept planned or immediate gifts from estates, insurance, real estate, stocks, bonds and other negotiable securities for any fund. The MTF can also work with donors through the MSU Foundation to set up a variety of trusts. The MTF is a 501c.3 non-profit foundation. Donations to the MTF are tax deductible (check with your accountant or financial planner) and donors receive full gift credit from Michigan State University for any donation to the MTF.

Contact Donna Devereaux at (517) 327-9207 to make cash donations or pledges to the Turfgrass 2010 campaign. Contact Donn Eurich for non-cash gift, planned giving, wills and trusts at (517) 327-9207

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LANSING, MI 48917
(517) 327-9207
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PLEASE CONTACT ME REGARDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING.

Make checks payable to Michigan Turfgrass Foundation.
Send payment to MTF, 3225 W. St. Joseph, Lansing, MI 48917
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• Tara Valentino—Technician



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The following is a summary of donations made in the 2009 fiscal year.

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