

Board of Directors



President

MATTHEW CEPLQ, CGCS
Rockland Country Club

Vice President

ANTHONY GIRARDI, CGCS
Rockrimmon Country Club

Treasurer

ROBERT NIELSEN JR., CGCS
Bedford Golf & Tennis Club

Secretary

GLENN PERRY, CGCS
Rolling Hills Country Club

Past President

WILLIAM HEINTZ
Pound Ridge Golf Club

ROBERT ALONZI JR.
St. Andrew's Golf Club

KENNETH BENOIT JR., CGCS
Glen Arbor Golf Club

KEVIN COLLINS
Aquatrols, Inc.

DAVID DUDONES
North Jersey Country Club

GLEN DUBE, CGCS
Centennial Golf Club

BLAKE HALDERMAN, CGCS
Brae Burn Country Club

THOMAS LEAHY, CGCS
Sleepy Hollow Country Club

SCOTT OLSON
Scarsdale Golf Club

Executive Secretary
INEKE PIERPOINT

Tee to Green Staff

Editors

ROB ALONZI DAVE DUDONES
914-478-5713 973-942-0566

Managing Editor

PANDORA C. WOJICK

Editorial Committee

| | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| KEVIN COLLINS | SCOTT NIVEN |
| PAUL GRABBE | ERIC O'NEILL |
| DENNIS GRANAHAN | BILL PERLEE |
| CHIP LAFFERTY | GLENN PERRY |
| NICK LERNER | MIKE REEB |
| DAVE MOFFETT | MIKE TOLLNER |
| GREG WOJICK | |

Designer

TERRIE DUNKELBERGER

Photographer

BILL PERLEE

Advertising Manager

ROB ALONZI, 914-478-5713

TEE TO GREEN is published bimonthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523-2819
914-347-4653, FAX: 914-347-3437, METGCSA.ORG
Copyright © 2008

Tee to Green



Cover: Dellwood Country Club

In this Issue

Feature

Turning Back the Hands of Time2
A Sneak Peak at the History of MetGCSA-Funded Research

Departments

Chapter News4
Member News6
Upcoming Events8
Scorecard9
Spotlights10

President's Message

Accolades and Announcements

By now, I trust your winter is moving right along. It seems like winters are getting shorter and shorter. I wonder . . . Is it global warming, or are we just busier? Before I get into that, let me make some announcements.

Our winter seminar was fantastic . . . both well-attended and well-planned with a great lineup of speakers. (See page 4 for Winter Seminar recap.) Congratulations to Glen Dube for a job well done and another round of applause to our Sherwood A. Moore Award winner, John O'Keefe, and our Reid Award winner, Dr. Joe Troll. Both of these individuals are more than deserving. I'm proud to know them and happy to have them represent our profession. (By the way, congratulations to John on his election to the GCSAA board!)

Another outstanding representative of our profession is Back O'Beyond Superintendent Mike Maffei. At the conference in Orlando, Mike was honored with GCSAA's Excellence in Government Relations Award in the Advocacy Category. Congratulations, Mike! (See Member News, page 6, for details.)

With accolades said and done, I want to remind everyone to attend this year's MGA/USGA Green Chairman Education Series on March 27 at Wheatley Hills Golf Club. As always, it will provide a valuable opportunity for green chairmen, club officials, and superintendents to gain a mutual understanding of various golf course operations and issues.

If you're a superintendent near or on Long Island, check out www.cleansweep.org for the particulars on when and where you can safely dispose of unwanted pesticides. The "clean sweep" will take place sometime in March. But be aware: You must preregister.

Another reminder: Our March Business Meeting will be held this year at The Apawamis Club on March 13. Please be sure to attend this all-important annual meeting.

Finally, I want to encourage you to grab a cup of coffee, lock the office door, pull out your pesticide records—you will need



*Matt Ceplo, CGCSA
MetGCSA President*

them—and complete the GCSAA Environmental Survey. I'm not going to kid you; it will take some time. It's a detailed survey that took me more than an hour to complete, but please stick with it. The information is important. It will be used by the Environmental Institute to explain pesticide use on golf courses throughout the country.

The Behind-the-Scenes Work of Project Work

Now, back to the issue of being busy. Not only are we busier doing projects these days, but we're also busier trying to justify them. Why, I ask, is it that every project we do becomes surrounded with controversy? You would think that by now I would have gotten used to it, but I must admit I can be dumbfounded from time to time. This year, our winter project is to continue picking away at our tree master plan that includes tree clearing, pruning, planting, cutting down, grinding up, and transplanting. A little history . . .

Over the years, we received a lot of complaints about tree roots and overhanging limbs. So five years ago, we formed a Tree Committee composed of an arborist, USGA official, green chairman, golf pro, and several concerned members. Each tree was evaluated according to safety, agronomics, playability, traffic flow, tree species, and impact on aesthetics. Some playability issues were even run past our architect. In the end, a 30-page tree master plan was assembled and approved by the Green Committee and board. It was *continued on page 12*

Feature

Turning Back the Hands of Time

A Sneak Peak at the History of MetGCSA-Funded Research

by David Dudones



here would we be today without research . . . without the tried-and-true measures for combating some of our most meddlesome, if not deadly, turfgrass ills and diseases?

We all know the answer, and it's not a pretty picture. Fortunately, our organization and others in the tri-state area have realized the value of keeping on top of our various turfgrass problems. Surprising to me, though, was just how long ago we began to support research efforts. After pouring over the Met's board minutes from as far back as 1958, I was overcome with a strong sense of pride at how our organization was formed and how committed it was from the start to funding research to aid members' most severe turfgrass woes.

Having benefited, myself, from Met-funded moss research at Cornell (for which I'm truly thankful), I thought it might be interesting to share with you my sneak peek into the past . . . a look at where our research efforts began as well as who's been instrumental in growing and disseminating our funds, both then and now.

For those long-tenured Met members, you'll find this more than just a research retrospective, but rather a snippet of history that you may have actually been a part of.

And the Funding Begins

Since the first organizational meetings of the MetGCSA in late 1958 and '59, it was

evident that our founding members had research on their agenda. The '50s were a time of great development in the industry. Cleary and Dr. Sartoretto developed PMAS. Otto Link introduced postemergence crabgrass control with DSMA. DuPont gave us Thiram. Geigy brought DDT to turf and ornamental users. Diazinon, CaloClor, Maneb, and others were staples in the 1950s and forever changed the golf course industry. In 1959, at the Rutgers University Field Day, the Met made its first donation: \$50 to the O.J. Noer Fund. The fund was established in 1958 by the friends and colleagues of Noer to support scientific research in turfgrass.

From 1926-1960, Noer served as head of the Milwaukee Sewerage Commission Turf Service Bureau, where he gave agronomic advice to as many as 80 percent of all U.S. golf courses, including many in the Met area. He was probably best known, however, for his work at the University of Wisconsin in developing the agricultural value of Milorganite.

The Met's largest donation to the O.J. Noer Fund—now a foundation—came in 1966 in memory of Warren Lafkin, a local supporter of the industry, first honorary member of the Met, friend of Noer, and distributor of Milorganite through his company, Lafkin's Golf and Lawn Supply. It was after Warren died that the distributorship became the familiar Metro Milorganite, run by Anthony Grasso and the late John Wistrand.

Hyperodes Rears Its Ugly Head

The early efforts to support turfgrass research were well intended but were made more to honor a local leader or industry giant than to resolve a specific turf issue or problem. However, as turf management programs and products became more sophisticated, problems began to surface without a tried-and-true solution.

One particularly meddlesome pest that emerged in the late '60s was the *Hyperodes* weevil, more officially known as the annual bluegrass weevil. About that time, the Met and Long Island associations had decided to form a unified research and scholarship fund. They naturally applied a portion of the funds they raised to tackle *Hyperodes*. After a few years and with some quality research obtained, the Met decided to form its own research and scholarship fund to keep the monies closer to home. That was in 1970.

The MetGCSA Scholarship and Research Fund Is Born

Chuck Fatum, then superintendent of Fenway, led the development of the Met's first Scholarship and Research Committee, consisting of Anthony Grasso and Chuck Martineau and the late Sherwood Moore, Andy Androsko, and Al Pentenero.

First on their agenda was to develop a survey to see what problems members deemed

most worthy of their research dollars. Finding a cure for *Hyperodes* still ranked above all else for most superintendents, but also getting some press was the development of improved bentgrass cultivars. It's no surprise, then, that the S&R Committee's first donation was \$100 to help fund the late Dr. Ralph Engel's trip to Europe in search of these improved bent grasses.

Throughout the balance of the '70s, however, the majority of the funds were earmarked for the study of the *Hyperodes* weevil. Work completed at Cornell on the weevil by the late Dr. Haruo Tashiro and then grad student Pat Vittum identified the life cycle and general ecology of the species.

At this point, we were donating more than \$2,000 a year to various projects, depleting our S&R Fund on an annual basis. Donations increased slightly throughout the '80s... and then the next epidemic hit.

Summer Patch Plagues Area Superintendents

The annual research survey compiled by then Committee Chair Earl Millet showed, unequivocally, that patch diseases were the number one issue facing superintendents in the late '80s. To aid superintendents in finding a solution, our association raised dues to help contribute to Dr. Bruce Clarke's summer patch research at Rutgers University. Other funding in the late '80s and until 1990 went to Dr. Pat Vittum's *Hyperodes* Degree Day research and Dr. Richard Cooper's Bentgrass Evaluations, both at UMass at the time. At this point, the Met was spending about \$7,500 a year on research, with a minimal balance for much-needed future projects.

In 1990, the Met decided to extend its research support further, partnering with the newly formed Tri-State Turf Research Foundation. The organization's intent was to identify and fund research conducted at universities in the Northeast and most pertinent to area superintendents' turf challenges. The Tri-State's first donation—a significant \$28,500—went to support Dr. Clarke's work to identify the pathogen causing summer patch. Today, 18 years later, Met members make up 20 percent of the Tri-State board and support the foundation's efforts with a \$2,500 annual contribution.

The Tri-State Turf Research Foundation Makes More Research Possible

Within a year of the Tri-State's inception, it became clear that the organization had garnered enough support from other area associ-

ations and clubs to help fund many member superintendents' most dire research needs. That's when Joe Alonzi, a Met board member at the time, suggested that we restrict our scholarship and research funds with the intent of distributing only the interest. As Met president, Scott Niven of The Stanwich Club proposed a \$70 dues increase that would be applied directly to scholarship and research.

This was the beginning of what would eventually become the restricted accounts we have today. While those accounts were building, individual donations to university research were limited. The Met was so intent, in fact, on allowing the restricted accounts to grow that contributions to NYSTA and the URI and Tri-State Turf Research foundations were virtually the only checks the Met wrote from these accounts.

As supporters of the Tri-State, Met members benefited through the '90s from the research the foundation funded. On the heels of Dr. Clarke's summer patch research, the Tri-State began funding the late Dr. Michael Villani's work at Cornell with microbial controls for scarab grubs, then Dr. Noel Jackson's anthracnose work at URI, Dr. James Murphy's study of root zone mixes for putting green construction at Rutgers, and Dr. Randy Gaugler's work with parasitic nematodes in controlling white grubs.

Moss, Anthracnose, and More

By 1999, the Met's research surveys had unveiled yet another turf woe: moss on golf course greens. In conjunction with the Tri-State and various other associations, the Met contributed funds to Dr. Frank Rossi's research at Cornell to uncover a sustainable moss exclusion program. Building on moss studies of the late '80s by Cornell's Dr. Norm Hummel and URI's Dr. Noel Jackson, Dr. Rossi was able, by the time his funding was complete in 2002, to put area superintendents on the path to controlling and preventing the return of silvery thread moss on their greens.

As the new millennium produced much-needed moss research out of Cornell, Dr. Clarke's anthracnose trials began at Rutgers. Funded by the Tri-State, fungicide combinations and rotations were evaluated on annual bluegrass plots inoculated with anthracnose.

Later, Dr. Murphy joined Dr. Clarke to research the effects of nitrogen, growth regulators, and abiotic stress factors on anthracnose. The goal was to develop best management practices for anthracnose control. To date, the anthracnose work at Rutgers has provided groundbreaking chemical rotations and fertilizer requirement

recommendations that have saved numerous putting surfaces in our area.

Anthracnose is still foremost on area superintendents' minds, if the results of last year's Met research survey are any indication. Those who responded cited anthracnose as a continuing top concern.

While the Tri-State supported the anthracnose research at Rutgers, the Met contributed funds to the construction of Rutgers' all-new Ralph Geiger Turfgrass Education Center. Located alongside the university's renowned turfgrass research plots, the facility is designed to improve the educational opportunities for students destined to become future turf industry leaders.

Right now, the Met is also supporting two other studies that ranked high in importance on the Met's recent survey. UConn's Dr. Jason Henderson is receiving \$10,000 for a three-year study on fairway topdressing. And the university's Dr. John Kaminski has received \$5,000 for a two-year study on algae control on bentgrass putting greens.

Turf Woes Well Funded

From the very first research the Met funded on the *Hyperodes* weevil, our association has supported studies that the members, themselves, felt were most worthy of Met research dollars. The practice continues, with our research surveys showing loud and clear members' research requests and preferences.

With the need for research ever-present, it's fortunate that our restricted accounts are growing. Now exceeding \$300,000 for scholarship and research combined, they will someday meet the \$500,000 goal suggested by our financial advisor. When this goal is achieved, we will generate \$40,000 a year from the interest alone to devote to research and scholarships.

As a current board member, I think I speak for my colleagues in thanking past boards and Met members for their vision in generating these funds. The 1991 decision to direct \$70 to a restricted account has provided a strong base to support upcoming research and scholarship needs.

At a time when we are faced with ever-increasing environmental challenges and more demanding memberships and boards, I feel comfort in knowing that we will always be able to support the research essential to maintaining the integrity of our golf courses. If you'd like to know more about Met- or Tri-State-funded research, check out our website at www.metgcsa.org.

David Dudones, co-editor of the Tee to Green, is superintendent at North Jersey Country Club in Wayne, NJ.

Great Lineup Draws Record Attendance at Winter Seminar

by Dave Moffett

It might have been the unseasonably warm weather that brought people out of the woodwork, but it was more likely the enticing lineup of speakers that drew record crowds to the Met's annual Winter Seminar held January 16. MetGCSA President Matt Ceplo greeted the more than 280 superintendent, assistant, and affiliate members who converged at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

Instrumental to the event's ongoing success were, of course, Westchester's Superintendent Joe Alonzi and the club's staff who, once again, rolled out the red carpet.

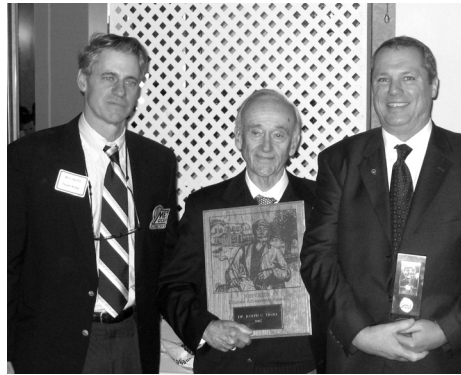
Our 27 exhibitor booths provided that added value that makes this annual event worthwhile. We'd like to extend a special thank you to the commercial members who participated. You'll find their names and numbers listed on page 5.

And last but not least, Glen Dube, our Education chair and session host, worked his usual magic in selecting just-the-right mix of speakers, who covered everything from pesticide registration's effects on the turf industry to the control of summer stress complex. Here's a quick take on the speakers' advice-to-remember, as well as their contact information. All are ready and willing to help.

Pesticide Registration and Its Effect on the Turf Industry

The educational sessions kicked off with Rick Fletcher of Cleary Chemical Company, painting a somewhat bleak picture of the pesticide issues facing our industry. He started with the basics, explaining the governing bodies and legislation that regulate restricted-use pesticides in our industry. Then he cut to the chase, noting the numerous label changes on the horizon—changes that are likely to affect the Restricted Entry Intervals (REIs), Personal Protective Equipment requirements (PPE), buffer zones, application frequencies, and even restrict yearly application amounts for such chemicals as Chlorothalonil, Iprodione, and Placbutrazol. Basically, anything on the label dealing with safety or exposure is likely to change within the next five to ten years, he warned.

But all's not lost . . . yet. He urged each of



MetGCSA Awards Committee Chair Will Heintz strikes a pose with Reid Award winner Joseph Troll and SAM Award winner John O'Keefe. Both were honored at the Met's Winter Seminar.

us to take the time to fill out the GCSAA survey and all other pesticide-related surveys. These surveys, he explained, are used to file information with the EPA and other agencies that may ultimately increase the likelihood that we will be allowed to reregister the products we depend on.

For the future, Fletcher talked of the Global Harmonization Act. The EPA is looking at the possibility of creating a uniform chemical testing policy to make pesticides currently used in other countries available in American markets. These include new or unregistered chemicals, some with new modes of action.

Rick Fletcher can be reached at 800-524-1663 x1029 or at rick.fletcher@clearychemical.com.

New Disease Alert

As if there weren't already enough turf diseases to worry about, Dr. John Kaminski of The University of Connecticut brought to light a host of new turf ills attempting to gain a foothold on golf courses in the Northeast.

Among those he described were a fall strain of dollar spot, brown ring patch, Pythium foliar blight in *Poa annua*, and mad tiller disease.

Dr. Kaminski's assistants are continuing research on a particularly pesky strain of late-season dollar spot that they suspect may be associated with the practice of overextending spray intervals of late-season chemical applications. "Budgets become tight," notes Dr. Kaminski, "and superintendents wait longer between applications, unknowingly leaving their courses open to this disease."

Another turf woe that has made significant inroads in the Northeast is Waitea patch or brown ring patch. This disease is part of the *Rhizoctonia* family and affects *Poa annua*, rough bluegrass, and creeping bentgrass. Identifying brown ring patch can be difficult because it mimics many other diseases.

Dr. Kaminski's recommendation for getting a more positive I.D. on this disease is to harvest a turf sample, incubate it overnight, and look for the presence of mycelium in the thatch layer. Another distinguishing feature is the water-soaked appearance of the ring's outer edges.

Brown ring patch is currently best controlled by using chemicals labeled for *Rhizoctonia*. Steer clear of products containing Thiophanate-methyl, which have not proved effective.

You can review the complete findings of Dr. Kaminski's brown ring patch study in the September 2007 issue of *Golf Course Magazine*.

Next on Dr. Kaminski's list of emerging diseases was mad tiller disease, having received many phone calls from superintendents complaining of an elongation and yellowing of tillers on their courses. According to Dr. Kaminski, mad tiller disease may be associated with bacterial wilt or a gibberellic-acid-producing fungus. Either way, he says, this is not a threat to turf survival, but rather purely an aesthetic problem.

Finally, Dr. Kaminski spoke of *Pythium* foliar blight on *Poa annua*. The symptoms of this disease appear as summer patch but are very slow to develop. He also mentioned the yellow leaves and melting out associated with this disease. To keep this disease from encroaching on your turf, he recommends continuing preventive Signature programs. Should an outbreak occur, Dr. Kaminski feels your best course of action is to apply Banol at curative rates followed by an application of Subdue five days later.

At the conclusion of his talk, Dr. Kaminski emphasized that he and his staff are always available to answer any questions. You can reach him at www.turf.uconn.edu.

Investing in Our Future

The morning session wrapped up with an informative talk on retirement investment

planning by Charles Morgan, a certified financial planner with A.G. Edwards & Sons. He stressed the importance of investing early in order to reach retirement goals. He also recommended, given today's uncertain economy, going with more conservative investments, the safest being money market accounts and investment funds with a proven history and long track records. Investing heavily in the market, he cautions, can be a rocky road.

Interesting, particularly to those with a number of stocks in their portfolio, were the many slides Mr. Morgan presented showing the importance of riding out the storm of a market plunge. Many investors, he notes, make the mistake of selling when a stock has bottomed out, facing unnecessary losses. He showed that by holding on to a stock and reinvesting dividends, losses could become gains. He also mentioned IRAs as a safe retirement investment because of their tax deferral advantages.

As for young investors, he stresses taking care of any debt before initiating a retirement savings plan. Then to get started, he suggests picking a fund and having money direct deposited.

Basically, Mr. Morgan considers any investment yielding more than 4 percent a quality investment. He stresses establishing a balanced portfolio to avoid market volatility, and last but not least, "saving until it hurts," a practice we would all do well to consider.

Charles Morgan can be reached at 800-688-4081 x210.

Mowers and Greens Fertility Management

Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University provided an update on his ongoing greens mower study, as well as a lesson on putting green fertility management. Dr. Rossi presented some interesting information about a walk mower's frequency of clip (FOC) and the risks associated with the aggressiveness of cut, which is determined by the angle of the bedknife.

In his study, the FOC was determined for each of the mowers being tested. Dr. Rossi then set each mower's benchmark height in relation to the mower's FOC. His data showed the risk of diseased and damaged turf was evident in mower heights set below the mower's FOC. He noted that benchmark heights in the study were much higher than the ones being used by members of our association. Dr. Rossi also showed findings that mowers equipped with bedknives promoting a more aggressive cut proved to be beneficial to ball roll and overall playability, while mowers equipped with a less aggressive bedknife position promoted overall plant health.

Dr. Rossi finished his talk with new infor-

mation on greens fertility. He touted nitrogen as the most important element applied to our greens, claiming that the cause and severity of numerous diseases are lessened by the use of nitrogen.

He also cautioned that calcium and potassium might not play as large a role in fertility as once thought. Calcium applications, he said, do not affect the levels in the plant and, at high rates of application, may actually lead to the development of snow mold. Dr. Rossi's research also showed that no amount of applied potassium had any beneficial effects on turfgrass, and that when overused, it could actually lead to the development of snow mold.

Psychiatry Won't Do a Thing for This Kind of Summer Stress

This year's Winter Seminar ended with Michigan State Professor Dr. Joe Vargas, who described his no-nonsense approach to controlling summer stress complex, a complex of Rhizoctonia and Pythium diseases.

Effective in curbing the disease, he said, are

such cultural management practices as aerification, topdressing, and root pruning. But also important is keeping an eye on foliar nutrient levels. Nitrogen and phosphorus are key in summer stress complex control, he explained, as he showed slides that demonstrated the role these elements play in enzyme and amino acid production. He recommends using MKP at five pounds per acre, tank mixed with Chlorathalonil or applying products containing amino acids to suppress the disease on large turf areas such as fairways. He notes that during times of stress it is important to provide the plant with nutrients that are not available by using foliar or granular applications.

In addition to managing foliar nutrient levels, Dr. Vargas feels it's advisable to apply Aliette Signature combined with Chlorathalonil or Iprodione at 14-day intervals at the onset of hot weather.

You can reach Dr. Vargas at 517-353-9082.

Dave Moffett, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is an assistant superintendent at the Round Hill Club in Greenwich, CT.

Special Thanks to Our 2008 Winter Seminar Exhibitors

We'd like to thank all the vendors who participated in this year's Winter Seminar. As a show of appreciation, we're listing the exhibitors here, along with the areas of specialty and phone numbers.

When the opportunity arises, we hope you'll show these contractors and suppliers the same support they've shown us during our Winter Seminar—and throughout the year.

A. G. Enterprises

Rick Gordon
Uniforms & Work Apparel, 201-488-1276

Al Prestons Garage

Gary Shashinka
Golf Course Equipment, 203-924-1747

Aquatrols Corp. of America

Kevin Collins
Innovative Products for Effective
Resource Management, 609-841-2077

Atlantic Irrigation Specialists

Tim Marcoux
Irrigation Specialists, 914-686-0008

BASF

John Bresnahan
Plant Protectants, 413-565-5340

Bayer Environmental Science

Dave Sylvester
Plant Protectants, 860-841-3173

DryJect NE/Turf Pounders

Steve Jordan
21st Century Aeration, 914-672-6029

E/T Equipment Company, Inc.

Jim Calladio
Golf Course Equipment Sales, 914-271-6126

George Schofield Company

Larry Dodge
Sand Materials, 732-356-0858

Grass Roots, Inc.

Ken Kubik
Golf Course Supplies, 973-252-6634

Greenacres Company

Dave Pijnenburg
Irrigation Installation, 203-748-0558

Harrell's Turf Specialty

Scott Tretera
Golf Course Supplies, 203-426-7055

John Deere Golf/Lesco

Charlie Siemers
Golf Course Supplies, 914-755-4202

Matrix Turf Solutions, LLC

Greg Moran
Golf Course Supplies, 845-849-8640

Metro Turf Specialists

Scott Appar
Golf Course Supplies
203-748-GOLF (4653)

Permapave Industries, LLC

Bob Wilkenson
Pavers, 516-584-2110

Plant Food Company, Inc.

Dick Neufeld
Liquid Fertilizers, 914-262-0111

Steven Willand, Inc.

George Corgan
Golf Course Supplies, 203-775-5757

Storr Tractor Company

Rick Krok
Golf Course Equipment and Supplies
908-722-9830

Syngenta

Dennis DeSanctis
Plant Protectants, 732-580-5514

The Care of Trees

Mike Cook
Entire Tree Care Company
914-345-8733

The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.

Byron Johnson
Golf Course Supplies, 973-473-3393

Tru Organics

Robert Saunders
Organic Fertilizers, 203-323-5445

Turf Products

Jon Barlok
Golf Course Equipment, 800-243-4355

UAP Professional Products

Gerald Fountain
Golf Course Supplies, 877-697-1199

Westchester Tractor Inc.

George Risley
Golf Course Equipment, 845-232-7766

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.

Bob Lippman
Golf Course Supplies, 845-621-5067

Scholarship Raffle a Success

The 2007 Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 15 MetGCSA Christmas Party at The Stanwich Club, not only raised a sizable sum for the Met's Scholarship Fund, but also awarded \$4,500 in cash prizes to 18 lucky ticket holders.

The raffle is the prime source of the scholarship awards we distribute to deserving Met member dependents each year. In 2007, we awarded \$20,000 to nine students. Many thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile fundraiser, and congratulations to our \$1,000-grand-prize winner, Emily Carlone, daughter of Meadow Brook Club Superintendent John Carlone.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support. . . .

Tony Girardi, CGCS
Scholarship & Research Chairman



Let's give a round of applause to three MetGCSA members who recently received high honors:

Ted Horton, a former MetGCSA president with an impressive resume as superintendent in the Met area, is the recipient of the 2008 USGA Green Section Award. The Green Section Award is presented annually by the USGA to recognize individuals who exemplify outstanding contributions and dedication to the game of golf through their work with turfgrass. Now sole proprietor of THC-Ted Horton Consulting in Canyon Lake, CA, and the executive director of the California Golf Course Owners Association, Ted received his well-deserved honor at the USGA Green Section Education Program in Orlando, FL, in conjunction with the Golf Industry Show.

Ted, who has more than 40 years' experience in golf course maintenance, is nothing short of thrilled to be honored by a group he has held in such high esteem. "I have always had the highest regard for the Turf Advisory Service staff," says Ted, "and I credit a lot of my early success to assistance from USGA Green Section agronomists, who never hesitated to respond to my needs."

Congratulations, Ted!

Mike Maffei, superintendent of Back O'Beyond, Inc., and a former MetGCSA president, was presented with GCSAA's 2008 Excellence in Government Relations Award in the Advocacy Category at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL. Mike received the advocacy award for his outstanding individual and chapter efforts in government relations. Criteria for award selection include the creation of programs to encourage member compliance with laws and regulations, effective communication, and building alliances and coalitions with green industry associations.

Well done, Mike!

Under the guidance of **Darrell Marcinek**, director of golf maintenance for the Somerset County Park Commission, Quail Brook Golf Course was certified as the first River-Friendly Golf Course in the main stem Raritan River area in New Jersey.

Recognizing this environmentally significant effort was the New Jersey Water Supply Authority, which initiated the program to guide golf courses in helping to protect drinking water and in becoming models of environmental stewardship in their community.

"We are grateful for the recognition of the New Jersey Water Supply Authority for our efforts," says Darrell. "We have always implemented environmentally friendly practices at all five of our golf courses, and the help and support of organizations such as the Water Supply Authority allow us to be even better stewards of our land."

Congratulations on a job well done!

Scholarship Application Deadline: Be Sure Not to Miss It!

Don't delay in calling for your 2008 MetGCSA Scholarship Award application! Any Class A, AL, B, SM, C, AF, or AFL member of the MetGCSA or a dependent of a member is eligible to win. But the deadline for submissions is fast approaching. All applications MUST be received by Friday, April 11.

Application forms are available through MetGCSA Executive Secretary Ineke Pierpoint at 914-347-4653. If you have any questions about the application process, please feel free to contact S & R Chairman Tony Girardi at Rockrimmon Country Club. You can reach him by calling 914-764-5010 or by sending an email to tgirardi1@verizon.net.

The Scholarship & Research Committee will select recipients based on leadership, maturity, scholastic capabilities, activities, and commitment to a chosen career.

Scholarships will be awarded at our July Education Meeting. Watch our Calendar of Events in the *Tee to Green* or on the website, www.metgcsa.org, for the precise date of the event.

Member on the Move

Vincent Pavonetti is the new superintendent at Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, CT. Former position: Superintendent of the Edison Club in Rexford, NY.

Births

Congratulations to . . .

- Elmwood Country Club's **Chris Alonzi** and his wife, Pina, on the birth of their son, Christopher Joseph, on January 4
- Maple Moor Golf Course's **Scott Ingram** and his wife, Mary, on the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Marie, on December 6.
- Westchester Turf Supply's **Bob Lippman** and his wife, Laura, on the birth of their daughter, Sarah Jeanne, on November 8.

In Sympathy

We would like to offer our condolences to **Charlie Siemers** of Lesco, Inc., who recently lost his father.

Christmas Couples

MetGCSA Annual Christmas Party, 2007



*John & Margaret
O'Keefe*



*Party hosts Scott
& Dana Niven*



*Bob & Maria
Lippman*



*Rob & Ann Marie
Alonzi*



*Neil & Gina
Laufenberg*



*Dennis & Cindy
Flynn*



*Jeff & Mimi Wentworth
Tom & Paula Weinert
(seated)*



*Bob & Kim
Alonzi*



*Tim & Jennifer
O'Neill*



*MetGCSA presidents—
past & present—Will
Heintz, Matt Ceplo, &
Dave Mahoney (looking for
their better halves...)*

A Special Thank You to Our Sponsors

Helping to make our 2007 Christmas Party at The Stanwich Club all the more memorable were the generous contributions of some of our valued vendors. We'd like to extend a very special thank you to:

*Frank Amodio of Valley View Greenhouses
Jon Barlok of Turf Products Corporation/CT*

*John Callahan of The Cardinals, Inc.
Mike Cook of The Care of Trees
George Corgan of Steven Willand Inc.
David Frechette of DAF Services, Inc.
Rick Grant of Phoenix Environmental Care
David Griffin of Down to Earth
Joe Kennedy of Irra-Tech, Inc.
Tim Marcoux of Atlantic Irrigation Specialists*

*Dominic Richichi of Dar Par Sales
Buddy Rizzio Jr. of Turf Products Corporation NJ
Jeff Stahl of The Pond Connection
Joe Stahl of Harrell's Turf Specialty
David Sylvester of Bayer Environmental Science
Tom Weinert of Plant Food Company, Inc.
John Wickes of Ira Wickes/Arborists*



JOHN DEERE

Jim Calladio, CGCS
Sales Representative

E/T Equipment Company, Inc.
"Distributors of Quality Turf Equipment"

425 South Riverside Avenue, Croton-On-Hudson, NY 10520

Phone: 914-271-6126
Fax: 914-271-6163

Cell: 914-629-8667

www.etequipment.com
jcalladio@etequipment.com

Your aerification and drainage solution!

Serving the Greater Metro NY area

- Dryject Aeration
- Deep Tine Aeration
- Core Aeration
- FloWick Drainage Systems



37 Oneonta Road • Carmel, NY 10512 • (914) 672-6029

2008 Met Events Still Looking for Sites!

As you can see, our 2008 Meeting and Social Calendar is still a work in progress. If anyone is able to host a meeting or social event, please contact the appropriate committee chairmen. For professional events, contact either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs: Blake Halderman at 914-946-1074 or Ken Benoit at 914-241-0700. Our Social & Welfare Committee co-chairs are Tom Leahy (914-941-8281) and Bob Nielsen (914-234-3779). Both are available to discuss any upcoming social events.

Business Meeting

Thursday, March 13
The Apawamis Club, Rye, NY
Host: Bill Perlee

Two-Ball Qualifier

Thursday, April 24
Dellwood Country Club, New City, NY
Host: Joe Gardner

Superintendent/Manager or Guest Tournament

Date & Site OPEN

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

Thursday, June 19
Fenway Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY
Host: Bob Alonzi, CGCS

Family Picnic

Date & Site OPEN

Poa Annual Tournament

Monday, July 14
Pelham/Split Rock Golf Club, Bronx, NY
Host: Anthony Hooks

Education Meeting

Date & Site OPEN

Summer Social

Date & Site OPEN

Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier

Date & Site OPEN

Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament

Tuesday, October 21
Rockland Country Club, Sparkill, NY
Host: Matt Ceplo, CGCS

Annual Assistants Championship

October
Date & Site OPEN

Met Area Team Championship

Monday, October 27
Winged Foot Golf Club/West Course
Mamaroneck, NY

Annual Meeting

November
Date & Site OPEN

MetGCSA Christmas Party

December
Date & Site OPEN

Educational Events

The 11th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

Monday – Thursday, March 3 – 6
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, RI

Don't miss this annual event's educational sessions and trade show featuring more than 400 exhibitors. Call the NERTF office at 401-841-5490 for further information, or visit their website at www.nertf.org/show/.

2008 Lower Hudson Golf Show

Saturday – Sunday, March 15 – 16
Westchester County Center
White Plains, NY

Sponsored by The Journal News and Westchester County Parks, this event offers organizations in the golf industry the opportunity to market their goods and services to the public. The MetGCSA will have a booth again this year to showcase the role of the superintendent and to educate the public on how the work we do on golf courses enhances the environment.

For further information, contact John Zanzarella at 914-945-0480 or jazmc@aol.com.

MGA/USGA Green Chairman Education Series

Thursday, March 27
Wheatley Hills Golf Club
East Williston, NY

This education series is designed to help green chairmen, course officials, and superintendents make informed decisions on issues common to many area golf courses. Among the session topics:

- UConn's Dr. John Kaminski will discuss options for controlling turf diseases in the face of increasing disease pressure and lower cutting heights.
- The USGA's Jim Skorulski talks about recent advancements in turf breeding and turfgrasses.
- The USGA's David Oatis will shed important light on golf course renovation work, while Tavistock Country Club takes you through the planning and implementation of its successful renovation program.

For more information on the series or to register, contact the MGA at 914-347-4653.

UMass Snow Mold Research Field Days

Late winter – Early spring
Dates TBA

Ekwanok CC, Manchester, VT
Berkshire Hills CC, Pittsfield, MA
The Shattuck GC, Jaffrey, NH
Joseph Troll Turf Research Center, South Deerfield, MA

These field days provide an opportunity to see first-hand the results of the UMass Turf Program snow mold field trials for turfgrasses maintained at fairway height. The trials at the three golf courses will be used for testing snow mold products against a mixture of pink snow mold, *Microdochium nivale*, and *Typhula Blight*, *Typhula* spp., under natural conditions. Identification of fungal species at each site will be confirmed using morphological characters and DNA techniques.

Since pink snow mold, also called *Microdochium* patch (formerly *Fusarium* patch), is the most common snow mold in New England, there will be a trial at the UMass Joseph Troll Turf Research Center specifically targeting for *Microdochium* control under artificially inoculated conditions and artificial snow.

For details and workshop dates (call the UMass Extension Turf Program office at 508-892-0382 for further information.

MetGCSA Assistants Take Dellwood by Storm

Met area assistants were greeted by more than just the friendly faces of Dellwood Country Club hosts Brian Chapin and Jake Parchen at the October 11 Assistants Championship. They were met with the threat of a thundershower, which eventually did make an appearance, cutting the eagerly awaited annual event a bit short. Thankfully, all was not lost. In the end, contestants did manage to get in some good golf. (See outcomes at right.)

A big thank you to Brian, Jake, and Superintendent Joe Gardner for letting us take over their turf! The place looked great. It was a difficult day for me: Triple, triple, quadruple out the gate was not exactly setting a championship pace. But the tourney's Individual Net Champion, Jake Green of Country Club of New Canaan, and Individual Gross Champion, Andrew Sliwa of Sleepy Hollow Country Club, were clearly able to better read Dellwood's fast, sloping A.W. Tillinghast greens.

Kudos to Brae Burn's Matt Plosila for the dart he threw at Hole #9 to win Closest to the Pin. Talking with many people afterward, it was agreed that the pin on #9 was by far the toughest pin on the golf course.

Again, I would like to thank our hosts. Without them, this event simply would not happen. Thank you to everyone who attended. I hope to see you again next year.

The Results

Individual Net

- 1st Jake Green, *CC of New Canaan*
- 2nd John Knoll, *Quaker Ridge CC*
- 3rd Jake Parchen, *Dellwood CC*

Team Net

- 1st Jake Green/Mark Dubour
CC of New Canaan
- 2nd Jim Schell/Rob Crouse
The Stanwich Club
- 3rd Peter Hunter/Dave Byers
Manhattan Woods GC

Individual Gross

- 1st Andrew Sliwa, *Sleepy Hollow CC*
- 2nd Dave Byers, *Manhattan Woods GC*
- 3rd Steve McGlone, *Quaker Ridge CC*

Team Gross

- 1st John Knoll/Steve McGlone
Quaker Ridge CC
- 2nd Brian Chapin/Jake Parchen
Dellwood CC
- 3rd Andrew Sliwa/Brett Richards
Sleepy Hollow CC

Closest to the Pin

- Matt Plosila, *Brae Burn CC*
- Matt Leverich, *Greenwich CC*
- Alan Bean, *Wykagyl CC*
- Steve McGlone, *Quaker Ridge CC*

Longest Drive

- Dave Moffett, *Round Hill Club*
- Brett Chapin, *Dellwood CC*

— Dave Moffett

The Two-Ball Final Round: A Fight to the Finish

This year's Finals, in both the First and Second flights, ended up being a contest between new versus veteran teams. In the First Flight, Glen Dube/Blake Halderman paired off against Larry Pakkala/Scott Niven, with the young guns aiming to send the veterans home with a loss. In the Second Flight, we had newbies Brett Chapin/Scott Apgar and veterans Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee vying for the championship title. Both teams had been easily leaving their competition in the dust.

First Flight, Blow-by-Blow

Unfortunately for First Flighters Dube & Halderman, the veterans were not going to be had. Dube/Halderman were 2 up after 11 holes, but Pakkala got to a stretch where he got four shots in a row and managed to go on a par streak (net birdies). The tide had turned. Dube made a nice putt on 16, halving Pakkala to keep the match from ending but still leaving it dormy with Pakkala/Niven 2 up with two to go. Halderman hit an approach shot to 20 feet on the short 17th at Bedford Golf & Tennis, thinking even a par wouldn't be a bad score with both guys struggling. In typical Niven fashion, Scott managed to get up and down with a great putt to salvage par. This now forced Halderman to make birdie to continue the match, but as luck would have it, he pulled to the left, losing the match 2 & 1.

Second Flight Story

The Second Flight match teams went on a little road trip down to Trump National in Bedminster, NJ. With both teams equally skilled at blowing away their competition, it was a fight to the finish, with the now-infamous CHAP (Chapin/Apgar) team bringing home the Second Flight title with a 3 & 2 victory. Is CHAP going to be the next Second Flight dynasty, or are they going to lower those handicaps a bit and face-off against the big hitters? Only time will tell, but one thing is for sure: They'll receive the First Place position in next year's event so they'll get to see if they can grab the back-to-back title.

Thank you, again, to everyone who participated in the 2007 Two-Ball Championship. And just as important, thank you to those superintendents who hosted the matches. Without a place to play, the event would not be possible.

— Blake Halderman, CGCS

Glenn Gallion
Sales Representative



Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.

(888) 831-0891 V. Mail Ext. 210
(201) 931-1730 Fax
(201) 954-5878 Cell
gg@wilfredmacdonald.com

19 Central Boulevard
South Hackensack, NJ 07606

The Met Gets Down to Business at The Apawamis Club

by Mike Tollner

This year's Business Meeting is being held at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY, on March 13. Superintendent Bill Perlee is looking forward to hosting his first-ever meeting at the club, though he won't be able, this trip, to showcase the course. Once dubbed by Ben Hogan, "The toughest short course I ever played," Apawamis is a par 72 that plays just under 6,500 yards.

The Club: Old and New

It's also a club with history. Recognized by the USGA and *Golf Magazine* as one of the first 100 golf clubs in America, Apawamis was founded in 1890—not as a golf club, but rather a beach club on the shores of Long Island Sound. Its name, Apawamis, came from an American Indian word used to describe an area near Rye. A few years after the club opened, it left its seaside roost, buying a small plot of land and constructing a nine-hole course. Then, in 1896, the club's current site was purchased, and construction began on an 18-hole layout.

Scotsman Willie Dunn of Shinnecock fame was hired to design the course, much of which has remained the same. There have been modifications made over the years, the most recent in 2001. This renovation was in many ways a restoration, which involved rebuilding six greens and a complete bunker renovation that resulted in the addition of 40 new bunkers. No small undertaking, this project also included expanding many of the fairways, rebuilding the tees to add length where possible, and constructing a practice chipping and putting facility. Today, work is focused on a selective tree removal program in an effort to improve turf health.

Whoa, What a lot of Tournaments

The club has played host to many, many golf tournaments over the years. The most famous would be the four USGA championships, including the 1911 U.S. Amateur, the 1978 Curtis Cup, and most recently, the 2005 Senior Women's Amateur. Apawamis has also hosted numerous American Junior Golf Association events. Sergio Garcia won one of these events in the mid '90s as an amateur. Though these events have played a crucial role

in shaping the club as it is today, there's one annual event that stands out among all others: the United States Seniors Golf Association's annual championship. This will be the 103rd year that the club has hosted this event, which began back in 1905 when a member decided to invite about 50 of his friends, all 55 years or older, to play in a one-day tournament. The event has evolved over the years as a two-day, 36-hole competition, with about 500 players at Apawamis, Blind Brook, Round Hill, and Bedford Golf & Tennis Club. This tournament brings amateur golfers from all over the country together every year, holding a place close to the hearts of the Apawamis members.

A Bit About Bill

Making the course a fine playing field for these cherished club events is none other than Bill Perlee, who's entering his 12th year as Apawamis's superintendent.

Bill took an interesting, and by today's standards, unconventional route to where he is today. He grew up in Northport, NY, on the north shore of Long Island. What you probably don't know about Bill is that, in addition to his turf training, he has a degree in computer science. He earned his B.S. in 1987 from Empire State College while he worked on the maintenance crew at Nissequoque Country Club in St. James, NY.

"I worked as the nighttime waterman, at a time when the club had only a single-row, manual irrigation system," Bill did this for three years. A job that would have driven someone else out of the business served as a steppingstone for Bill.

At this point, Bill was dating—not yet married to—his wife, Lorah. When she took a job in the Westchester area, Bill decided to follow, leaving Long Island and Nissequoque to pursue a career in computer science. "When nothing surfaced," says Bill, "I decided that my best play would be a career in golf course management."

He was hired as the assistant superintendent at Sleepy Hollow Country Club, under then superintendent Joe Camberato. After a short time there, Bill approached Joe about pursuing formal turf training. Joe's response: "You'll learn more here in six months than two years in school could teach you."

"I'm not so sure that's true," says Bill, "but I



Bill Perlee

have to say I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and experience under Joe that I've carried with me throughout my career."

After five years under Joe, who eventually retired after 40 years at Sleepy Hollow, Bill took his first superintendent's job at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, CT. "After one year there," says Bill, "I finally got some formal training." He completed Cornell University's Winter Turf Management Course and then spent the next four years at Burning Tree mastering "the fine art" of drainage.

Bill's drainage skills are evident today at Apawamis. Over the past 11 years, Bill has corrected various drainage problems on the course and, this past summer, has even installed internal drainage in some of the greens. "I'm looking forward to seeing big improvements on those greens this year," says Bill, acknowledging that his work to improve the course's drainage is still a work in progress, ultimately designed to improve both playing conditions and how the course recovers after a rain event.

Off the Course

When Bill is off-duty, he's usually on-duty with his family. He and his wife, Lorah, have two children: Sarah, 12, and Bryan, 10. Bill and his family are avid skiers and snowboarders, spending as much time as they can during the winter on the slopes. During the season, when Bill's most busy, so are his kids, whose sports and activities fill any spare moments in Bill and Lorah's schedules.

When time permits Bill enjoys a good round of golf. He had success in 2007 with partner Bob Nielsen of Bedford Golf & Tennis Club, finishing second in their flight in the Met's annual Two-Ball Tournament.

Although you won't get a chance to tee it up at Apawamis this March, come on out to the Business Meeting. It's a great chance to catch a glimpse of the golf course and a look at the historic, 100-year-old clubhouse. It's also a perfect opportunity to catch up with fellow members before the hustle of another season begins.

Mike Tollner, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is the assistant superintendent at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY.

Joe Gardner Invites Met Two-Ball Qualifier to Take Flight at Dellwood

by Eric O'Neill

On April 24, Met members will convene at the picturesque Dellwood Country Club for its annual Two-Ball Qualifier. Hosting the event is Joe Gardner, the club's superintendent since 2003.

Nestled in the heart of the Hudson Valley in the town of New City, Dellwood was once a playground for the rich and famous. In the early 1920s, Paramount Pictures founder Adolph Zukor purchased 1,200 acres from the State of New York. Dubbed Mountain View Farm, it became a romantic Hollywood weekend getaway spot for stars and directors. Also rumored were Zukor's movie release parties where neighbors and friends were treated to previews of the latest releases and in-person introductions to the new flicks' directors and stars.

In 1923, Zukor hired famed golf course architect A.W. Tillinghast to build an 18-hole championship golf course, complete with a clubhouse, guesthouse, and, of course, a movie theater. During the Great Depression, however, Paramount Pictures went bankrupt, and Zukor was forced to sell the property. In 1948, part of this impressive estate—along with many of its original stone structures—became what is known today as Dellwood Country Club.

The course, a par 71, is vintage Tilli around the greens. "The greens can be very demanding," warns Joe. "Your approach shot should be below the hole, and watch the slopes; they create speeds and breaks that you need to think through carefully." The fairways are tight with some slope, and the course emphasizes placement and accuracy rather than length. The one aspect of the course that all golfers—no matter what their skill level—can appreciate is the picturesque backdrop of Northern Westchester's rolling green terrain.

Joe's Career Takes Off

Joe, a Danville, OH native, worked on golf courses all through his high school years, not giving a thought, then, to making it a career. He went on to college, earning a B.S. in psychology from Otterbein College, not far from his hometown.

After graduating, Joe wanted to live close to home and had little interest in engaging in a lengthy job search. He jumped at a position

in the field he knew best, signing on as a member of the maintenance crew at The Country Club at Muirfield Village in Dublin, OH. Joe enjoyed six years there, climbing the ladder to assistant.

In 1999, he saw an opportunity in the Met area and accepted an assistant's position at Lake Success Village Golf Course in Great Neck, NY. It was at this point that he realized the golf course management industry was for him.

He accepted yet another assistant's position across the bridge at Old Oaks Country Club, where he worked under Superintendent Mark Millett and, at the same time, began pursuing formal turf management training at Rutgers, completing his certificate in 2001.

"I had heard great things about both Mark and Old Oaks," says Joe, who is quick to credit Mark with opening many doors for him. "He introduced me to good guys in the area and was a great mentor."

One of those "good guys" Joe met was Brian Benedict, who was then the assistant at Century Country Club. "When Brian went on to Seawane as superintendent and told me of a construction opportunity there, it was an easy move," says Joe. "It gave me an opportunity to see another side of the business, and what I learned has enabled me to handle the in-house projects at Dellwood with far greater imagination and creativity."

Joe spent three years at Seawane helping Brian in the transformation of all but the last five holes. Joe left for good reason: He was offered the opportunity to become Dellwood's golf course superintendent.

Look at All He's Done

During Joe's five-year tenure at the club, he's initiated numerous course improvement projects, starting with an extensive tree program that's involved removing non-native species and pruning native hardwood species to highlight and enhance the overall appearance and health of the trees.

This program triggered another. "We're working to reestablish some of the course's original integrity," says Joe. "Removing trees gave us grounds to expand our greens to their original size, as well as recapture approach and fairway contouring and bring greenside bunkers back into play."



Joe Gardner

Joe's work hasn't gone unnoticed among his membership. "Our aggressive approach with cultural practices has really improved the course's appearance and the way it plays, not to mention turf health," says Joe. So it appears Joe's professional philosophy holds true: "Hard work and solid cultural practices always pay off in the end," he says.

Your Average Joe

He may be a superstar on the job, but when Joe Gardner's off-duty, he is just your average Joe. He puts his pants on one leg at a time—like the rest of us—and, hey, he's a husband and father who enjoys spending his downtime with his wife, Margaret, and 4-year-old daughter, Emma. He likes football, too—although not so much this season with Notre Dame having one of its worst years ever and the Cleveland Browns coming up one game short of the playoffs.

Well, at least he finds some peace—and quiet—in another of his favorite pastimes: hunting. "I enjoy being out there by myself," he says. "It reminds me of those peaceful mornings on the golf course." Joe also follows NASCAR and The PGA Tour. "The Met area has so many great arenas for sports: football, golf, basketball, baseball, tennis, hockey . . . you name it. It's just a great place for a sports fan," he explains.

And for Joe, the Met area has also proved a great place to call home. "I've received top-notch training, experience, and education in the Met area, and I've had the good fortune of being surrounded by truly great people. What more could I ask for? . . .

. . . Maybe just that everyone come on out to Dellwood on the 24th for a genuinely good round of golf.

Eric O'Neill, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Towers Country Club in Floral Park, NY.

President's Message continued from page 1

then placed in the front office for all who were interested to see.

We are now in year four of this plan. Not surprisingly years one, two, and three received overwhelming support from the membership. Year four . . . well, that's a slightly different story. Now, it could be that I made a critical error in tagging trees scheduled for removal. Unfortunately, we had a warm spell where we had a lot of play, and yes, those bright, hot-pink ribbons can be seen from miles away. But I didn't think we needed to hide anything. And we are in year four! I thought we had developed, and perhaps even deserved, some credibility by now.

I know I'm not alone. Take out the word tree, and substitute the word bunker, tee, or any other type of extensive project, and you can expect the same. It's the groundbreaking, getting started process that's usually most controversial . . . where they see the mud, tire ruts, closed holes, temporary greens, and bulldozers and excavators stuck in the middle of fairways. (In my case, the odds of the log truck sinking up to its axles at the farthest part of the course at 3:30 on a Friday afternoon is 50/50.)

I guess it all just comes with the territory. We're the ones with the experience and the foresight to know that the end justifies the means. We continually push to make our courses better. That can mean some long hours, even in the winter. If we have to take a few on the chin in the name of progress, so be it. Having everyone's support, of course, helps in the motivation department.

Speaking of motivation, I'm hoping that my contractor will get motivated to get started soon . . . that Mother Nature will give us some nice frozen ground with no snow . . . and that we'll have the areas cleaned up and sodded before the snowbirds come back from Florida.

I was watching the Golf Channel and saw one of the GCSAA commercials designed to promote our profession. And it struck me: We truly *are* the unsung heroes.

Matt Ceplo
President

(914) 949-1152
FAX (914) 948-0255
www.argentoandsons.com
SALES AND SERVICE



ARGENTO & SONS, INC.

LAWN AND GARDEN EQUIPMENT
JOHN DEERE - BOBCAT - TORO
HONDA - STIHL - SCAG - REDMAX

AL GONZABAY

1 PROSPECT AVENUE
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10607
(GREENBURGH OFF 119)



Joe Stahl (203) 209-6951

Scott Tretera (914) 262-8638

We have fully stocked warehouses with **ALL** major brands for quick delivery throughout Metro NY, CT, and Long Island.



64 Barnabas Rd, Unit 5 Newtown, CT 06470 www.theturfconnect.com

Tanto IRRIGATION, LLC.

William Bartels
President

Corporate Office
5 North Payne Street
Elmsford, NY 10523
www.tantoirrigation.com

Office (914) 347-5151 ext.15
Fax (914) 347-6323
Cell (914) 447-8872
Dir. Connect 172*55071*52
Email: wbartels@tantoirrigation.com



**PLANT
FOOD
COMPANY, INC.**

Tom Weinert Vice President, Sales
Ph: 914-262-0111
Email: tom18ski@ptd.net

Dick Neufeld Territory Manager
Ph: 973-945-6318
Email: birdie2ace1@yahoo.com

38 Hightstown-Cranbury St. Rd.
Cranbury, NJ 08512
www.plantfoodco.com

Support Our Advertisers!!!



**Bringing Water and Resource
Saving Technologies To The
Golf Industry for More
Than 50 Years**

Kevin P. Collins
Northeast Territory Manager

37 Oneonta Road • Carmel, NY 10512

845-225-1761 Tel
845-228-1728 Fax
609-841-2077 Mobile
kevin.collins@aquatrols.com

800/257-7797
www.aquatrols.com



Dennis DeSanctis
Syngenta Professional Products
Post Office Box 18300
Greensboro, NC 27419-8300

Tel 732-580-5514
Fax 609-587-1696
Email Dennis.DeSanctis@Syngenta.com

www.syngentaprofessionalproducts.com
www.greencastonline.com
www.greenpartners.com

D&D TURFWORKS, INC.

28 Moseman Ave Katonah, NY 10536

- GOLF COURSE CONSTRUCTION
- DRAINAGE
- FIELDSTONE WALLS
- TURF RENOVATION
- ATHLETIC FIELD MAINTENANCE

Dennis Flynn

Phone: 914-962-1871 Fax 914-962-1871
DNDTurfworks@optonline.net



David Griffin
Cell 914.413.3173

golf course construction
P.O. Box 719 Harrison, N.Y. 10528
Tel 914.576.7693 Fax 914.241.6986
david@dtgolf.com



THE ROGER RULEWICH GROUP

Golf Course Design & Construction

DAVID FLEURY
PARTNER

160 Purple Meadow Road, Bernardston, MA 01337

413.648.9303 Phone
413.648.0211 Fax

413.537.6967 Mobile
Dave@rrulewich.com E-mail



203-775-5757
Fax: 203-775-6435
Cell: 914-213-3622
Parts: 866-435-1380

GEORGE CORGAN
REGIONAL SALES MANAGER
gcorgan@stevenwillandinc.com

4 Production Drive
Brookfield, CT 06804

800 Central Street
N. Smithfield, RI 02896

Jacobsen • Cushman • Ryan • Club Car • Steiner



Ernie Steinhofner, CGCS - 914-760-6112
Tim Joyce - 516-369-6747
Robert Steinman, CGCS - 914-588-0731
Dave Conrad - 914-490-3698

Customers, Our **Top** Priority

Danbury Office : Gary and Tom
203-748-4653

Scott Apgar, President
914-879-9357

www.metroturfspecialists.com



Proud Supporters of Metropolitan GCSA

Jon Barlok
Commercial Equipment
(860) 729-2237

Pat Cragin
Golf Irrigation
(860) 874-2812

157 Moody Road • P.O. Box 1200 • Enfield, CT 06083
Office: 860-763-3581 • Fax: 860-763-5550