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Tee to Green

And what a lineup it was, at the MetGCSA 2001 Christmas Party. Past Presidents, from left to right: John O'Keefe, Earl Millett, Mike Maffei, Joe Alonzi, Larry Pakkala, Peter Rappoccio, Scott Niven, Pat Lucas, Bob Alonzi, John Carlone. (See page 9 for a few more pics of the festivities.)



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President's Message

All the Buzz About the Association



After my first President's Message was published, I was actually encouraged. Based on the number of comments I got, it was apparent that some of you actually read what I had to say. Well, here I go again. This time, it being the start of a new year, I thought I'd give you a quick update on what's going on in the association.

Tee to Green, You've Done Us Proud

First and foremost, congratulations to the *Tee to Green*. Our publication has, once again, been recognized as the best newsletter in its class.

The *Tee to Green* has frequently received this recognition—and others—over the years. This is truly a team effort, starting with the committee chairmen, Glenn Perry and Greg Wojick, and continuing with the committee members, who month after month, contribute articles to this publication.

Special thanks, also, to our managing editor, Pandora Wojick; her expertise and perseverance are responsible for making this publication what it is today.

And we can't forget to mention our patrons, who, through their financial support, make this publication possible.

Way to go, *Tee to Green*! You have, once again, made us all proud.

Winter Seminar Gets a Big Thumbs Up

Next, I would like to mention the very successful Winter Seminar. Chairman Matt Ceplo and the entire Education Committee pulled off one of the most successful Winter Seminars on record (see page 10 for a quick review).

With more than 250 in attendance and all of the 27 vendor booths sold out (several, I am told, had to be turned away due to lack of space), this program was truly a hit. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend myself, but everyone I spoke to enjoyed and praised the informative program that the committee put together. Thanks, again, for the great job.

This year, the Education Committee has been put in the capable hands of Jeff Wentworth and Jeff Weld. Either of the Jeffs,



Tim Moore
MetGCSA President

I'm sure, would be open to any comments or suggestions you might have for our upcoming educational programs.

Our Tournament Committee Off to a Strong Start

This year's Tournament chairs, Sean Cain and Tom Leahy, have been hard at work finalizing our monthly meeting schedules. Although not all the meeting sites and dates are confirmed, from what I can see, we are going to have an excellent venue of clubs to visit. And Sean and Tom are working with our Education Committee chairs to put on some exciting and informative educational programs as well.

Look on page 7 for a preliminary schedule for the year, and watch for updates. You'll also want to stay tuned for an announcement on some exciting and innovative ideas our educational and golf committees have in store for you this season. It's too early to let the cat out of the bag, but watch, in particular, for some details on our July monthly meeting.

The New Watchword: Conservation

This season promises to be interesting at best. There's definitely an air of uncertainty, fueled by concerns about the economy—

and, now, about our scant rainfall.

Everyone seems to be trying to do more with less. I think we all have to wonder what long-term effects this new, more cautious sentiment might have on our clubs and, ultimately, our operating budgets.

Mother Nature also isn't helping matters. She's been throwing us a few curve balls just to make work interesting. The unseasonably warm and unusually dry weather we've been experiencing this winter has everyone a little confused—not to mention the poor trees, flowers, and grass plants.

The effects of these near-drought conditions and any pending drought restrictions, I am sure, are playing on everyone's mind. As I write this message, it seems almost a certainty that we will be faced with some type of water restrictions going into the season. In fact, we may even have some restrictions in place soon, if not by the time you read this, provided we do not get some substantial rainfall.

All that to say, now is the time to dust off, review, and improve on your water conservation plans. Thanks to the work of Joe Alonzi and others who have served over the years on the Westchester Country Drought Emergency Task Force, we stand a better chance of getting our fair share of water in the coming months.

Now, when water restrictions are enacted, we can count on the fact that our allotments will not be less than any other industry's. Believe me, because of the task force's efforts, we're in a much more favorable position than we were during previous drought emergencies.

Let me point out that this is a prime example of how beneficial it is to have people among us who are willing to volunteer their time and pull together for the good of everyone.

Though this off-season hasn't been as restful as some, I hope everyone's had a chance to take some well-deserved time off—and rest up for what promises to be a challenging start to the new season.

As always, please be sure to give me a call if you have comments, suggestions, or questions about any aspect of our association.

Tim Moore
MetGCSA President

Letter From the Co-Editor

Once Again...

The date this year was January 10; the time was 11:30 a.m. Once again, the site was the crew lounge of the Greenwich Country Club maintenance facility. Once again the room was filled with eager MetGCSA supers and assistant supers (see the list below) willing to offer their opinions and ideas for *Tee to Green*.

The overwhelming result of the meeting was, once again, a nice list of article ideas for our bimonthly publication. Special thanks to all who helped us out this year with our brainstorming session.

Speaking of repetition . . . *once again* the *Tee to Green* has won national recognition, placing "Best Overall" in the GCSAA Chapter Newsletter Editors Contest. (Read all about it on page 11.)

I know exactly why we've won numerous national awards. We have a great combination of effort and expertise. That effort and expertise begins with our managing editor, Pandora Wojick, who has been the epicenter of our newsletter for the past 12 years. She writes some and spruces up other of our submissions, making sure each and every one is interesting—if not also fun—to read.

Pandora subs our design work out to Terrie Dunkelberger, a graphic designer with a great eye and a funky-but-behaved style. Between the two of them, the result is always an issue that's a treat to look at and great to read.

The content of the newsletter is the responsibility of Glenn. He works the phone and beats the bushes, ensuring that we have the kind of articles that people *want* to read.

Glenn is experienced, diligent, and talented. He overcomes the inertia that could sabotage any newsletter effort.

Now, here's where I come in. Aside from pitching in on the editorial side, I sell the advertising that helps fund our newsletter. Of course, the benefit is not all one-sided: Our advertisers, many of them Met members, are being given the opportunity to put their company names before some of the best clubs—and potential business—in the industry.

Then, of course, there's the editorial committee—which aside from me, Glenn, and Pandora—consists of Paul Boyd (assistant, Greenwich CC), Glen Dube (Oak Hills Park GC), Chip Lafferty (superintendent, Wykagyl CC), Bill Perlee (superintendent, The Apawamis Club), Scott Niven (superintendent, The Stanwich Club), Eric O'Neill (assistant, Scarsdale CC), and Tim O'Neill (superintendent, CC of Darien). These guys are invaluable to the newsletter, infusing it with ideas, photos, and well-conceived articles.

Ineke Pierpoint, the Met's executive secretary who has her hands in all association business, is yet another of our newsletter's valuable assets. She toils behind-the-scenes to keep our mailing list, advertising, and so much more in good working order.

Last, but not least, is the MetGCSA board of directors, who played a strong role in setting the new mission and directives for our publication. Two years ago, it was agreed that the *Tee to Green* represented an opportunity to demonstrate the professionalism that our industry strives to maintain and improve. And we've done it!

So hats off to everyone. The award-winning newsletter will, once again, be a collaborative effort that all Met members should be proud of—especially those who have had a direct hand in its success.

Greg Wojick, CGCS
Tee to Green Co-Editor

Many Thanks to Our Brainstormers

Rob Alonzi, superintendent
St. Andrew's Golf Club
Paul Boyd, assistant
Greenwich Country Club
Jim Calladio, superintendent
Milbrook Club
Arik Carlson, superintendent
The Patterson Club
Chris Donato, assistant
Silver Spring Country Club
Glen Dube, superintendent, Oak Hills
Park Golf Club

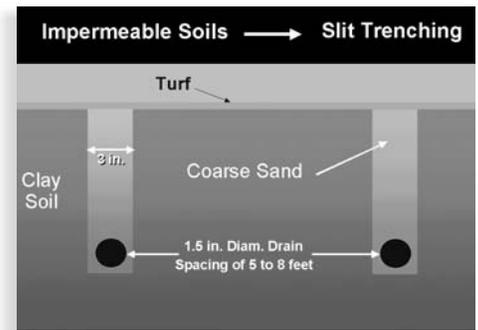
John Genovesi, superintendent
Island Hills Golf Club, Sayville, NY
John Mills, assistant
Country Club of New Canaan
Eric O'Neill, assistant
Scarsdale Golf Club
Lou Quick, superintendent
Anglebrook Golf Club
Kevin Quist, superintendent
Lake Isle Country Club
Josh Satin, assistant
Greenwich Country Club

Feature

Practical Solutions to Your Most Meddlesome Drainage Problems

*by John Kelly and Steve Ami,
Kelly Ami Inc.*

*S*f you've ever wrestled with a drainage problem—or two or three—on your course, you know there are no cut and dry solutions. Like failing turf, drainage issues can have any number of causes, and diagnosing them properly is half—if not all—the battle.



“Your best first line of defence,” explains John Kelly of Kelly Ami Inc. in Montreal, Canada, “is to accept that not all drainage problems are created equal. There’s no magic cure-all. Each golf course drainage issue is a special case that requires individual attention.”

And by individual attention, John means surveying the topography and testing the subsoil conditions of each specific problem area. “Then and only then,” says John, “do you have a shot at devising a drainage system solution that works.”

In the following article, John Kelly and partner Steve Ami pick apart four drainage problems common to golf courses, offering more than just the run-of-the-mill approach to mopping up persistent wet areas. In the process, they share with us lessons learned in their nearly 20 years’ experience diagnosing and remedying drainage issues for golf courses, sports fields, and agricultural lands around the world.

Four Problems, Four Resolutions

Drainage Problem #1: Impermeable Soils

Impermeable soils are one of the most common culprits in golf course drainage problems. You know them well. They’re characterised by a silty, clayey soil texture with flat topography and poor infiltration rates. They’re also very susceptible to compaction from golf carts and maintenance machinery. A vicious cycle starts with more compaction leading to increasingly lower infiltration rates which leads to even greater compaction and eventually a sealing at the surface.

To be certain that the root cause of your drainage issue is, in fact, impermeable soil conditions, you’ll want to verify soil texture and infiltration rates. The best way to do this is to dig an auger hole near a group of pondings that’s two to three inches in diameter, taking care to keep the surface water from entering the auger hole. Wait several hours for the water table to stabilize in the hole; then measure the depth of the water table and compare that to the level of the water in the pondings. If the water table is more than 18 inches below the level of the water in the pondings, then you’re most

certainly dealing with an impermeable soil condition.

Drainage Solution for Impermeable Soils: Slit Drainage

Your first thought might be to install a conventional drain in the dry subsoil and then backfill it with native soils (or with stone that is then capped with soil and sod), but this will not remedy this type of drainage problem.

A better solution: A slit drainage system. Though lesser known than conventional drainage techniques, it has proved highly effective in correcting impermeable soils, not only here in North America, but in Europe, as well.

The principal of slit drainage is to remove excess surface water before it has a chance to pond and then soften the ground

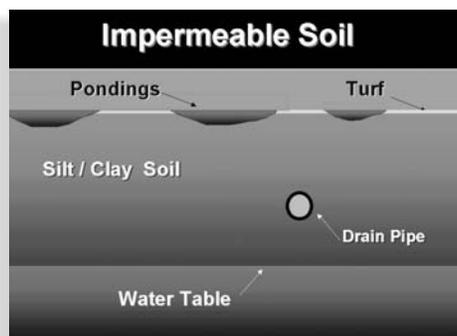
coarse sand aggregate. The excess surface water can then move directly into the columns of coarse aggregate and be carried away by the slit drain pipes. But beware, not all coarse aggregate is the same. Only sands with permeabilities of 30 to 40 inches per hour will provide the results you want and need.

To maintain a high infiltration rate into the slit trench, it’s also important that you allow the adjacent turf to root in the coarse aggregate without the addition of a finer topsoil, which can slow the water’s progress through the top layer of the soil profile.

Installing slit drains is made easy with the use of a special wheel trencher. This piece of equipment is capable of digging a trench on grade (controlled automatically by lasers), excavating the soil directly into a trailer, installing the slit drain pipe, and backfilling with a coarse aggregate—all in one fell swoop. Also appealing is that cleanup is fast and easy and always done as you go.

You can drain entire fairways in just two to six days, depending on the intensity of drainage required. Better still, golf play can generally continue with the use of temporary tee placements or temporary greens.

Although slit trenching is a relatively expensive drainage technique, it provides excellent results with dramatic improvements for large, flat areas.



Impermeable soil condition. Conventional drains installed in the drier subsoils will not address the problems at the surface.

surface, inhibit turf growth, and cause rutting, diseases, and other problems.

Basically, slit drainage consists of a three-inch-wide trench, 10 to 22 inches deep, containing a drain pipe that’s 1.5 to 2 inches in diameter and designed to channel the excess water to a larger collector pipe that carries it offsite. The individual slit drains are spaced between 5 and 8 feet apart, depending on the soil type, topography, and severity of the problem.

With the drains in place, the trench is backfilled to the surface with a column of

Drainage Problem #2: Depressional Areas

By depressional areas, we mean low wet areas where water ponds after rainfalls. You can be certain you’re dealing with a depressional area when you have water pondings that are greater than 10 feet in diameter or more than 4 inches deep. The problem, here, is that there is no deep percolation available for the excess water.

Drainage Solution for Depressional Areas: Surface Inlets

Though conventional subsurface drains are often installed through these depressional areas, they generally do not work adequately because it’s very difficult to get large amounts of water to infiltrate fast



Specialized equipment installing 1.5-inch-diameter slit drains in a one-pass operation.

A 3-inch-wide slit drain just after installation.

enough into a drain pipe through the turf, soil, and backfill material.

A better tack is to install surface inlets in the lowest part of the depressional area where water naturally ponds. The inlets allow large quantities of water to rapidly enter a collector pipe which must be properly sized and installed on a uniform slope to carry the excess water to an outlet.

Surface inlets come in many shapes and sizes. You'll want to be sure that the inlet you select is sturdy and well-constructed with a metal or plastic grate at the surface that has large enough openings to allow unrestricted water entry. We also recommend that you include a 12- to 18-inch-deep sediment trap to prevent sediment or debris from entering into the drainage system.

Drainage Problem #3: Side Hill Seepage

Side hill seepage can occur in a couple of different situations. First, there's the scenario where a relatively permeable soil—i.e., a sandy soil—overlies a relatively impermeable soil—i.e., silt/clay—on a slope. Excess water infiltrates into the sand at higher elevations, but because it can't continue downward into the clay, it's forced to move horizontally and "seep" out where the sand layer ends. This generally happens along the toe of a slope or partially up the slope.

Side hill seepage can also occur where clay soils have been reworked into mounds or hills by machinery. There will be large voids left in the disturbed clay since it is vir-

tually impossible to recompact this type of soil into its original state. These large voids will allow the water to move freely into the disturbed profile or mound. The native soils under the new mound will not permit the water to continue downward. The result is the same as in the first scenario: Water moves horizontally and seeps out along the base of the new mound or hill.

You can identify this problem by digging a series of test auger holes 2 to 3 feet deep at the toe of—and also partially up—the wet slope (but still in the wet zone). Observe the soils during the digging for texture changes, and observe the holes afterward for water level changes as you go up the hill. This type of drainage problem can generate enough water to keep a wide, flat fairway, adjacent to the slope, very wet.

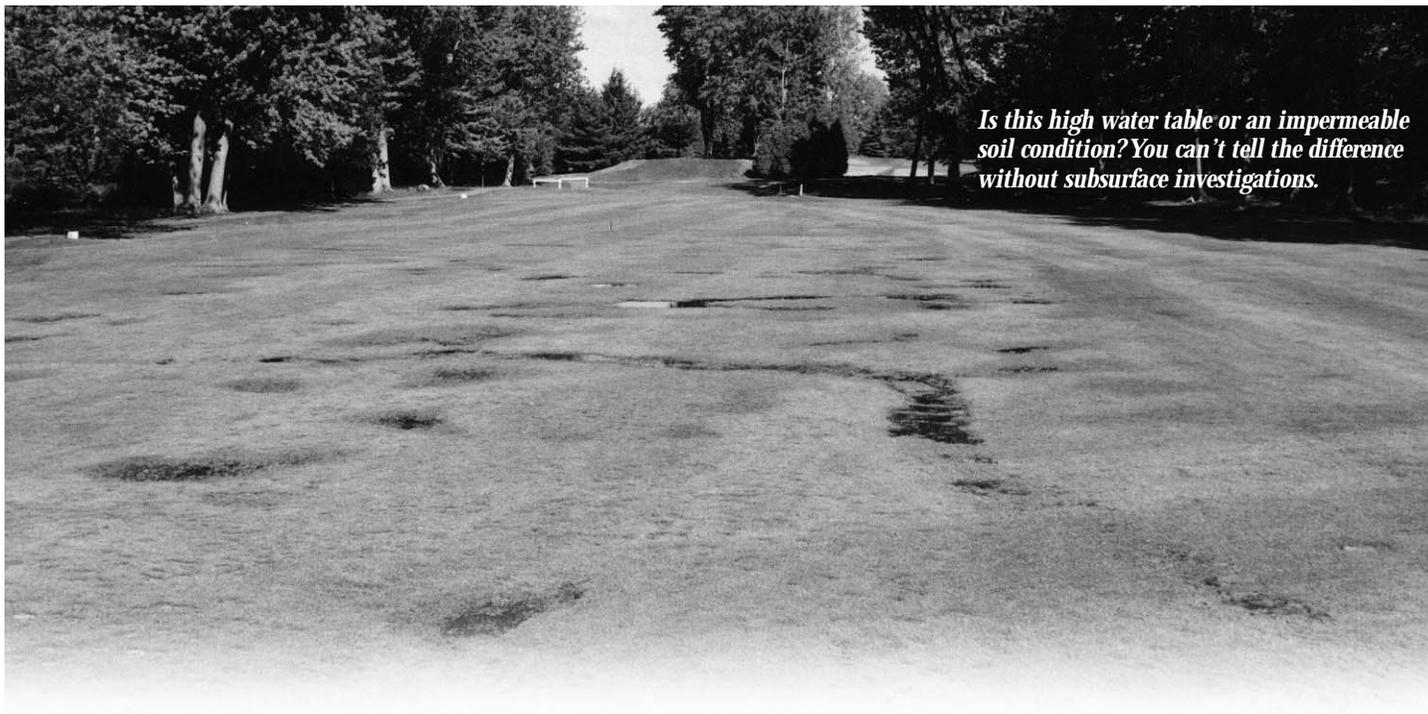
Drainage Solution for Side Hill Seepage: Interceptor Drains

Though it might seem logical to solve this drainage problem by installing conventional drains in your wet fairway, you'd be sorely disappointed by the outcome. Wet spots due to side hill seepage are best drained by installing 4-inch-diameter interceptor drains—also known as curtain drains—2.5 to 4.0 feet deep, and then backfilling them with a highly permeable drainage sand. The bottom of the trench should be placed just into the less permeable subsoil.

Be forewarned. This is a tricky operation. If the interceptor drains are not placed in exactly the right position, your efforts will be for naught. Your drains should be placed just above the wet spot—or just above the highest seepage point—along the contour.

Fairway slit drainage—just completed. Ready for play to resume.





Is this high water table or an impermeable soil condition? You can't tell the difference without subsurface investigations.

The seepage water will then be intercepted by the curtain of sand, which allows the water to flow freely downward into the pipe drain and then over to the outlet. The wet seepage area will not dry if the interceptor drains are installed either too far below or too far above the seepage zone on the hill. It generally takes more than one interceptor drain to solve the problem.

The selection of the sand is again critical to the success of this drainage system. The backfill must have a permeability at least 10 times greater than the native soils. Another option is to use clear stone.

Drainage Problem #4: High Water Table

High water table conditions occur when soils have reasonable infiltration rates but no natural outlet through deep percolation—usually due to the presence of a clay or stone barrier.

One of the telltale signs of a high water table is the presence of water weeds, either in shallow, adjacent ditches or in the low-lying areas of the fairway. More obvious, however, is that water in these areas comes to the surface very rapidly after a rainstorm, creating numerous small ponds.

Because ponding is also characteristic of impermeable soils, diagnosing this type of drainage problem takes careful analysis. The treatment for a high water table condition, after all, would be quite ineffective for an impermeable soil condition.

The difference between the two problems can be determined only after digging test holes, analyzing the soils, and studying the water table depths over time. In gen-

eral, you know a high water table is at work when the level of free water in your test hole—i.e., auger hole—stays within 12 to 16 inches of the ground surface.

Drainage Solution for High Water Table: Parallel Subsurface Drains

To remedy high water table conditions, you must find a way to remove the excess water that has entered into the soil profile. The best way to do this is to install a system of parallel subsurface drains.

An effective water table control drainage system should include 4-inch-diameter drain pipes installed 2.5 to 4.0 feet deep. They can, then, be backfilled with the native soils because we know water can adequately enter the soil.

The drain spacings should be based on the native soil's saturated hydraulic conductivity and the desired "drawdown" on the water table. Be sure, also, that you have a sufficiently deep outlet to allow free flow from the drainage collector pipe.

It's All in the Planning

One thing is for certain: You can't underestimate the importance of drainage planning—and taking the time to properly investigate and custom-tailor drainage systems for each problem area on your course.

The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT, recently completed a master plan for drainage improvements on the golf course. We uncovered some of each of these four types of drainage problems. The master plan specifies exactly how we plan to resolve every one of the problem areas.

The advantage of looking at the whole course at one time is to avoid situations where clubs have to duplicate their efforts. We might see, for instance, that different holes can be drained together or that larger—or deeper—collectors are required than what we might have recommended if only one hole were investigated. Other advantages include the obvious long-range planning and budgeting possibilities when the requirements for the entire course are known.

The Brunswick School, also in Greenwich, CT, is another Kelly Ami client who recently worked with us to develop a drainage master plan. They were looking to correct drainage problems on four of their playing fields, which were unusable after any significant rain. Their solution was to install a slit drainage system, which was able to remedy a very impermeable soil condition. Now the fields are puddle-free even after the heaviest of downpours.

John Kelly and Steve Ami have been partners in Kelly Ami Inc., a Canadian golf course drainage consulting firm, since 1984. The firm has specialized in solving drainage problems on golf courses since 1986 and has designed and supervised drainage construction worth more than 7 million dollars. John, who has a bachelor's and master's degree in agricultural engineering, and Steve, who has a bachelor's in agricultural engineering, also have extensive experience in drainage of agricultural lands in Canada and developing nations, solving problems of waterlogging and salinity. For further information, you can reach them at 514-697-1130 or info@kellyami.com.

Upcoming Events

2002 Meeting and Social Calendar in the Making

Here's a look at our preliminary 2002 Meeting/Social Calendar. Several sites are still yours for the taking, so please think about hosting an event! To secure a golf meeting, don't delay in calling either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs—Sean Cain, 914-723-3238, or Tom Leahy, 914-941-8281. To host a social event, contact Social & Welfare Committee Chairman Jeff Wentworth at 914-738-2752.

Business Meeting

Thursday, March 21

Lake Isle Country Club, Eastchester, NY

Host: Kevin Quist

Two-Ball Qualifier

Monday, April 22

Siwanoy Country Club

Bronxville, NY

Host: Dave Mahoney

Superintendent/Manager Tournament

Monday, May 20

Metropolis Country Club

White Plains, NY

Host: Tony Grasso

Invitational Tournament

Monday, June 3

Fenway Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY

Host: Bob Alonzi, CGCS

Roundtable/Education Dinner

July

Date & Site TBA

MetGCSA Family Picnic

Date & Site TBA

MetGCSA Summer Social

Date & Site TBA

Poa Annual Tournament

(Tentative)

August

Sands Point Golf Club

Sands Point, NY

Host: Rich Raymond

Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Tuesday, September 17

Bedford Golf & Tennis Club

Bedford, NY

Host: Bob Nielsen

Golf Meeting

(Tentative)

October

Anglebrook Golf Club

Lincolndale, NY

Host: Lou Quick

Annual Assistants Championship

Thursday, October 3

Greenwich Country Club

Greenwich, CT

Assistant Hosts: Paul Boyd and Josh Satin

Met Area Team Championship

(Tentative)

October

Montammy Golf Club

Alpine, NJ

Host: Mike Miner, CGCS

Annual Meeting

November

Date & Site TBA

MetGCSA Christmas Party

Date & Site TBA

Educational Events

The 5th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

Tuesday – Thursday, March 5 – 7

Rhode Island Convention Center

Providence, RI

This annual conference and show's educational sessions will bring you cutting-edge turfgrass management tactics and techniques, as well as the latest in equipment, products, and supplies at more than 425 exhibitor booths. Be sure to catch the general session where keynote speaker and renowned Air Force Pilot Scott O'Grady shares the tools of courage, faith, and innovative thinking that are crucial to success in business and in life.

Also available on March 4 are pre-conference and GCSAA seminars on preparing your course for tournaments, shaded greens, and sprayer calibration and drift management.

If you would like further information, call 401-841-5490.

2002 USGA Regional Conference

Thursday, March 14

Bethpage State Park Clubhouse

Farmingdale, NY

Sponsored in conjunction with the MGA, this half-day educational event will include talks from USGA agronomists and other industry specialists on the latest turfgrass management developments and strategies.

Among the topics: The turf-saving merits of cultivating your greens; an inside look at a soon-to-be-released new breed of creeping bentgrass; 10 ways to ensure the success of your renovation projects; fairway topdressing as a remedy to earthworm woes; and last-but-not-least, insight into invaluable USGA research projects.

For registration information, contact Ian Gilulle, MetGA staff, at metrep@mgagolf.org or by calling 914-347-4653.

Scholarship Applications: Come and Get 'Em!

The deadline for 2002 MetGCSA Scholarship Award applications is fast approaching. **All applications should be RECEIVED by April 30, 2002.**

To be eligible, a candidate must be a Class A, AL, B, C, AF, or AFL member of the MetGCSA or a dependent of a member. You can receive an application form by contacting S & R Chairman Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy Country Club, Bronxville, NY, 914-961-8698, or MetGCSA Executive Secretary Ineke Pierpoint at 914-347-4653.

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

Scholarships will be awarded at a Met meeting this summer. We'll keep you posted on the time and place.

Changing of the Guard

Who's Who on the New Met Board



The November 7 MetGCSA Annual Meeting ended with the following members elected to the board:

Back row, left to right: Tony Girardi, CGCS, of Rockrimmon CC; President Tim Moore of Knollwood CC; Vice President Dave Mahoney of Siwanoy CC; Past President John Carlone, CGCS, of The Meadow Brook Club; Glenn Perry, CGCS, of Rolling Hills CC; Sean Cain of Sunningdale CC; Treasurer Will Heintz of Centennial GC; Tom Leahy of Sleepy Hollow CC.

Front row, left to right: Jeff Wentworth of Pelham CC; Greg Wojick, CGCS, of Greenwich CC; Secretary Matt Ceplo, CGCS, of Rockland CC; Jeff Weld of Bayer Corporation.

Not present for the photo: Eric O'Neill of Scarsdale GC.

Your 2002 Committee Chairmen: There When You Need Them

We've provided a list—with phone numbers—of each of the committee chairs. Please feel to contact any of them with questions, comments, or helpful suggestions. We've provided their numbers, here, for your convenience.

Awards Committee

John Carlone, CGCS, The Meadow Brook Club
516-935-6505

Bylaws Committee

Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy CC
914-961-8698

Club Relations Committee

Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy CC
914-961-8698
John Carlone, CGCS, The Meadow Brook Club
516-935-6505
Tony Girardi, CGCS, Rockrimmon CC
914-764-5010

Communications Committee

Glenn Perry, CGCS, Rolling Hills Country Club
203-762-9484
Greg Wojick, CGCS, Greenwich CC
203-869-1000, ext. 253

Education Committee

Jeff Wentworth, Pelham CC
914-738-2752
Jeff Weld, Bayer Corporation
973-208-2418

Government Relations Committee

Will Heintz, Centennial GC
914-279-8960
Tony Girardi, CGCS, Rockrimmon CC
914-764-5010

Long-Range Planning & Steering Committee

John Carlone, CGCS, The Meadow Brook Club
516-935-6505

Membership Committee

Matt Ceplo, Rockland CC
845-359-7679

MetGCSA Merchandise

Matt Ceplo, Rockland CC
845-359-7679

Scholarship & Research Committee

Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy CC
914-961-8698

Social & Welfare Committee

Jeff Wentworth, Pelham CC
914-738-2752

Special Events Committee

Jeff Wentworth, Pelham CC
914-738-2752
Jeff Weld, Bayer Corporation
973-208-2418

Tournament Committee

Sean Cain, Sunningdale CC
914-723-3238
Tom Leahy, Sleepy Hollow CC
914-941-8281

Web Site Committee

Tony Girardi, CGCS, Rockrimmon CC
914-764-5010

Assistant Supers Invited to Take the Writer's Challenge ...Again!

The MetGCSA Board of Directors, in conjunction with the Communications Committee, is pleased to announce the start of this year's Writer's Challenge—a writing competition designed specifically for assistant superintendents.

Now in its second year (The first had disappointingly low participation! So c'mon, let's do better!), the contest's entry requirements are identical to last year's. All you have to do is write an article for our association's award-winning publication, the *Tee to Green*.

To win the challenge, your article must hold up against other contest entrants' submissions and be deemed the year's "best" by our panel of judges.

The lucky winner will be awarded an all-expense-paid round of golf for four at an exclusive country club—which may or may not be in the Met area. The grand finale is a fabulous dinner at a top-tier restaurant. The whole day is free—that's right, the entire day is on us. Total value: about \$700!

Be forewarned: Competition is quickly mounting as several top Met area assistants have already committed to taking the challenge: Paul Boyd and Josh Satin, Greenwich Country Club; John Mills, Country Club of New Canaan; Eric O'Neill, Scarsdale Golf Club; and Chris Donato, Silver Spring Country Club. So sharpen your pencil, and join your fellow assistants in this friendly competition.

Here are the juicy details:

Who is eligible to win? The winning article must be written by a MetGCSA Class C member who is in good standing in our association.

What should the article be about? The article can be about almost anything relating to our profession. You might write about a great golf experience or work experience. About a technical aspect of the profession or a human interest story. Whatever topic you choose, however, it must be one that will interest our members.

Keep in mind that all submissions may not make it into print. Only the winning entry is guaranteed to run in the *Tee to Green*.

If you'd like to bounce one of your ideas

off our editors, call either Glenn Perry, 203-762-9484, or Greg Wojick, 203-869-1000, ext. 253.

How long should the article be? Without writing a novel, use as many words as you need to express your thoughts.

If the article needs to be shortened—or revised in some way—the *Tee to Green* staff will work with you to make it work just right. It's your original, uncut version, however, that will be subjected to the scrutiny of the judges.

When should I submit my article? The deadline for submission is July 1, 2002. You can mail your articles to *Tee to Green* Co-Editor Glenn Perry at 333 Hurlbutt Street, Wilton, CT 06897.

How will the article be judged? The winning entry will be selected for its originality and overall ability to communicate information that's both interesting and useful to our membership. Also considered, though to a lesser extent, will be the mechanics of the piece, i.e., grammar and punctuation.

The panel of judges will be composed of two board members—our president, Tim Moore and vice president, Dave Mahoney—and three from the Editorial Committee—Co-editors Glenn Perry and Greg Wojick and Managing Editor Pandora Wojick.

What's in it for me? If you win the Writer's Challenge, you'll be entitled to gather a foursome for a round of golf—complete with caddie and carts—at an exclusive 18-hole course. After your game, you and your foursome are welcome to dine—on us—at a fine restaurant.

In addition, you'll be recognized in the pages of the *Tee to Green* and in a special presentation at our Annual Meeting in November.

Word to the wise: When selecting your foursome, be sure that whoever you invite adheres to the club's—and the game of golf's—code of conduct and dress code.

GOOD LUCK. We look forward to receiving your submission.

MetGCSA Christmas Party 2001

Our host, Dennis Flynn



next year we're hiring chaperones!

Donna and Earl Millett



Leslie and John Carlone

Susan and Glenn Perry



President Tim Moore and VP Dave Mahoney weren't dancing together that night, but they certainly make a great team!

Some only "tie ONE on." Bob Alonzi decided to tie TWO, pictured with his lovely wife, Kim.



Bob, What were you thinking?

Greg Wojick
Tee to Green January/February 2002

Winter Seminar Gets Warm Reception

by David Polvino and Jason Booth

This year's Winter Seminar, held January 16 at Westchester Country Club, drew more than 250 people who had the opportunity to not only attend a host of mind-expanding talks, but also visit close to 30 vendors (see list on page 11).

In Search of the Ultimate Root Zone Mixture

The educational portion of the program kicked off with Dr. James Murphy and his research team from Rutgers University, who have been working long and hard on developing the ideal root zone mix for putting greens.

After five years of research, and countless test plots, Dr. Murphy found that the L-93 creeping bentgrass greens that performed best were those with a denser population of capillary pores versus air-filled pores. More specifically, his most successful trials had an air pore space of 7 to 15 percent and a capillary pore space of 25 to 35 percent. These mixtures held more water and, therefore, fared better during the hot summer months.

Interestingly, the Rutgers findings differ from traditional USGA specifications, which recommend that greens have 15 to 30 percent air pore space and 15 to 25 percent capillary pore space.

Rutgers' trials also determined that the best root zone mixture starts with 80 percent medium/fine sand and then is combined with 20 percent biosolid (Allgro) compost mix.

The Rutgers team plans to do further investigations into the disease resistance, weed infestation, and chemical properties of their root zone mixtures.

IPM at Work

In the second presentation, Don Gable of the New York Botanical Gardens and Carol Glenister of JPM Laboratories, joined forces to discuss the ever-popular Integrated Pest Management (IPM). They not only offered a clear definition of IPM, but also provided tips on how to use it successfully.

In the end, it was clear that employing IPM successfully required daily vigilance and thorough knowledge of the pests most likely to threaten your plants and the pests that might actually benefit your plants by thwarting common predators.

Though they advocated environmentally friendly methods of pest control—including setting insect traps—they did not try to suggest that chemicals never be used, recognizing that IPM may not be as effective as necessary in extreme cases of infestation.

It's All About Image

Just before lunch, we heard an informative—and inspirational—talk from Lisa Micunik, a certified image consultant and founder of Accent on Success. The focus, as you might have guessed, was on how to put your best foot forward—whether you're in a job interview, at a board or green committee meeting, or communicating with your crew.

Micunik discussed the role tone of voice, body language, and proper etiquette play in projecting a positive and professional image. And she emphasized the importance of listening when communicating with others. Listening, though often overlooked, is a key component not only in projecting a positive image, but also in building strong personal and professional relationships.

Money, Money, Money

After a much-needed lunch break, we were ready to digest a bit of financial advice from Rodger Locks, a CPA based in Saratoga, NY, and licensed to practice not only in New York, but in Florida and New Jersey, as well.

Locks offered a fund of information on a variety of new tax laws, including the revised Estate Tax Law. Before 2002, he explained, when you died, anything above \$675,000 of your gross estate—which includes everything you own, right on down to your life insurance—was taxable. Beginning January 1, that figure was raised to \$1 million. And any debt carried by the deceased or expenses incurred relating to

the person's death—e.g., attorney's fees, cremations, headstones, and the funeral, itself—could all be deducted from the gross estate if paid by it.

Another hot topic for anyone with children: the new education saving plans. There's a new Education IRA for children grades K-12. This savings plan limits your contributions to \$2,000 per year, and the beneficiary must cash out at 18 years old. Another, more attractive savings plan is the new 529 Plan, which is tax-free and can be used for any aspect of your child's college life, including tuition, room and board, books, supplies, and various equipment. Pro Golf schools, he points out, aren't exempt from this plan!

The Pluses of POA

Just when we thought we'd heard it all, Dr. David Huff of Penn State University talked about his efforts in breeding *Poa* for use on greens. "If you can't beat it, breed it," is his motto as he attempts to change golf course superintendents' negative perception of *Poa annua* turf.

Though he's making great strides in producing a viable *Poa* breed, Dr. Huff's major stumbling block has been getting the higher quality *Poa* specimens to produce adequate seed.

One of the testing grounds for this study is The Apawamis Club, where they've agreed to seed a number of their newly redesigned greens with a combination of Dr. Huff's new breed of *Poa* and bentgrass. But there are other testing grounds as well: a new club being built in California, which hopes to seed all 18 greens with Dr. Huff's seed, as well as many plots at Penn State, in the State of Washington, and other parts of the country.

Dr. Huff hopes, with a little more time and trial and error, he'll have his new breed of *Poa* ready for mass production.

David Polvino and Jason Booth are assistant superintendents at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT.

Many Thanks to Our 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 their 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.

Our apologies to those vendors who couldn't participate in this year's Winter Seminar due to the large demand.

Al Preston's Garage

Massey Ferguson Tractors
203-924-1747

Alpine, The Care of Trees

All Your Tree Care Needs
914-948-0101

Atlantic Irrigation

Specialists Inc.
Irrigation Supplies
914-769-8100

Bayer Corporation

Plant Protectant Suppliers
973-208-2418

Becker Underwood

Suppliers of Colorants, Dyes, & Sprint
401-847-8660

Central Irrigation Supply

Irrigation Sales & Service
914-347-9174

Earth Works, Inc.

The Soil Aerification Specialists
800-815-1113

E/T Equipment Co.

Equipment Sales & Service
914-271-6126

Glenmore Landscape Service

Golf Course Construction
914-764-4348

Koonz Sprinkler Supply

Irrigation Supplies
973-379-3914

Lesco, Inc.

All Your Turf Care Needs
914-331-4869

Metro Milorganite, Inc.

Servicing the Golf Course Industry
203-748-GOLF (4653)

PDG Enterprises

Maintenance Building Construction
914-690-1000

P.I.E./BISCO

Irrigation Supplies
203-878-0658

Plant Food Company, Inc.

Liquid Fertilizer Specialist
800-562-1291

Salsco Inc.

Turfgrass Equipment
203-271-2596

Sawtelle Brothers, Inc.

Turfgrass Equipment
800-999-TURF (8873)

Simplot Partners

Plant Protectant Suppliers
203-209-6951

Sky Line Grinding

Bunker Matting & Specialty Products
613-423-7350

Steven Willand, Inc.

Turfgrass Equipment
203-775-5757

Syngenta

Plant Protectant Suppliers
610-861-8174

Terre Company of NJ, Inc.

All Your Turf Care Needs
973-473-3393

The Pond Connection

For Professional Pond Care
203-858-4136

Turf Products Corporation

Turf & Irrigation Equipment
800-243-4355 ext 246

Venture Vehicles

Golf & Utility Carts
914-805-3751

Westchester Ford Tractor Inc.

Ford Tractors & Bucket Loaders
914-232-7746

Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.

Turf Equipment Sales
888-831-0891

Three Cheers for *Tee to Green!*



Tee to Green, for the third consecutive year, has earned high honors in the GCSAA Chapter Newsletter Editors Contest. Competing in Category #4—publications produced primarily by professional editors/publishers or paid chapter executives—*Tee to Green* subjected its July/August 2001 issue to the scrutiny of GCSAA's panel of judges with winning results. Our publication was ranked "Best Overall" across the country.

Winners were selected for their originality, excellence in editorial content and design, and overall ability to communicate useful information to readers.

Special thanks and congratulations to the *Tee to Green* editorial staff, whose hard work and focused efforts this past year earned our publication its award-winning status. And an extra-special thank you to our behind-the-scenes designer, Terrie Dunkelberger, who's responsible for providing *Tee to Green* with its award-winning look each and every issue.

Scholarship Raffle Prize Winners



The 2001 Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 8 Brae Burn Country Club Christmas party, not only raised a sizable sum for the MetGCSA's Scholarship Fund, but also awarded \$4,500 in cash prizes to 18 lucky ticket holders.

Many thanks to all who contributed, and congratulations to our \$1,000-grand-prize winner, **Tom Fallacaro** of E/T Equipment.

The other prize winners were:

\$500 Winners

Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy Country Club
Glenn Perry, Rolling Hills Country Club
Joe Stahl, Simplot Partners

\$250 Winners

Megan Ceplo, daughter of Rockland Country Club Superintendent Matt Ceplo
Owen Regan, AT Sales
Valley View Growers
Frank Amodio, Valley View Greenhouses

\$100 Winners

Scott Niven, The Stanwich Club
Lance Authelet, D.P. Golf Associates, Inc.
Maureen O'Keefe, daughter of Preakness Hills Country Club Superintendent John O'Keefe
Charles Robson, Metropolitan PGA
John Ruzsbatzky, The Country Club of Farmington
Byron Johnson, The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.
Bob Carriere, Round Hill Club
Jeff Scott, Tamarack Country Club
Peter Orsalok, Alpine, The Care of Trees
Anonymous

Speaking of Scholarships...

At the MetGCSA's January 16 Winter Seminar, two member superintendents' children were the fortunate recipients of \$500 Bayer Scholarships. Presenting the Bayer Corporation's generous awards was sales representative—and new Met Board member—Jeff Weld.

Congratulations to:

- **Adrienne O'Keefe**, daughter of Preakness Hills Superintendent John O'Keefe and his wife, Margaret. Adrienne, a freshman at Fairleigh Dickinson University, is working toward an English major.
- **Elizabeth Maffei**, daughter of Back O'Beyond Superintendent Mike Maffei and his wife, Anne. Elizabeth, a freshman at Fairfield University, is headed for a degree in business.



New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

- **Matt Mullany**, Class C, Tamarack Country Club, Greenwich, CT
- **Craig Kooienga**, Class C, The Apawamis Club, Rye, NY
- **Jason Podris**, Class C, Century Country Club, Purchase, NY
- **David Polvino**, Class C, The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT
- **Michael Samol**, Class C, Trump National Golf Club, Briarcliff Manor, NY
- **Josh Satin**, Class C, Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, CT
- **Matthew Topazio**, Class C, The Tuxedo Club, Tuxedo Park, NY

Members on the Move

Doug Belmont is the new superintendent at Monroe Country Club in Monroe, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Metropolis Country Club, White Plains, NY.

Joseph Smyth is the new superintendent at Stony Point Golf Course in Stony Point, NY. Previous position: Superintendent at Manhattan Woods Country Club, W. Nyack, NY.

Births

Congratulations to . . . Milwaukee Country Club Superintendent—and former *Tee to Green* Editor—**Pat Sisk** and his wife, Gina, on the birth of their daughter, Georgia Rose, on December 15.

Westchester Turf Supply's **Bob Lippman Jr.** and his wife, Laura, on the birth of their son, Daniel Stanley, on January 6.

Well Wishes

Rick Evans, superintendent of Town of Wallkill Golf Club, recently suffered a stroke. Rick, we're all wishing you a full and speedy recovery.

Continued well wishes to MetGCSA friend **Gerald Mahoney**, MGA Director of Golf Programs.



Mike Maffei Wins Prestigious NYSTA Award

The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) presented its coveted Citation of Merit Award to Mike Maffei, CGCS, of Back O'Beyond at its 26th Turf & Grounds Exposition.

The Citation of Merit Award, NYSTA's highest honor, is presented to an individual who has made significant contributions to the turfgrass industry and the association.

Many of you may know Mike from his years of service on the MetGCSA Board. Serving from 1975 to 1984, Mike was the Met's president in '81 and '82. He also is among our Sherwood A. Moore Award winners, receiving this high honor in 1994 for his contributions to the turfgrass industry and our association.

Clearly an industry mover and shaker, Mike has served on the Putnam County Cooperative Extension Agriculture Committee. He's a member of the SUNY Delhi Golf/Plant Science Advisory Council, treasurer of the new York State Pesticide Coalition and Council of Agricultural Organizations, and is, of course, a long-time NYSTA director, serving on the board since 1988 and as president from 1992 to 1993.

A well-deserved congratulations, Mike, on this and your many other achievements in the turfgrass industry!

Spotlight

March Business Meeting Has a New 'Quist'

by Bill Perlee

This year's MetGCSA Business Meeting will be held March 21 at Lake Isle Country Club in Eastchester, NY. For Golf Course Superintendent Kevin Quist, it will be his first crack at hosting a Met event. Coincidentally, this is only one of many first-time opportunities the Lake Isle job has afforded Kevin.

Lake Isle is Kevin's first superintendent's job and his first encounter with a municipal golf course environment. The club has also given Kevin first-time—and first-hand—experience with major golf course renovation work.

Orchestrated by Golf Course Architect Stephan Kay, the work included lowering three fairways, installing a network of new cart paths, and rebuilding three greens, all the bunkers, and most of the tees. In the process, Kevin also got himself an all-new maintenance facility and pumphouse. With Lake Isle being the busy place that it is, completing all this work was no small feat.

Life Experiences

Kevin's training ground for these career firsts began at SUNY-Delhi, where he completed an associate's in liberal arts. He continued his education at SUNY-Cobleskill, earning a bachelor of technology in plant science/turfgrass in 1993. That same year, Kevin accepted an assistant's position at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT. After five years there, he decided to venture across state lines, working for George Pierpoint at Ardsley Country Club and, two years later, taking his current job at Lake Isle.

Now in his third season, Kevin is looking forward to yet another first: the first season without renovation work. "I enjoy new construction," explains Kevin, "but it will be nice being able to leave on time this season and take the boys to the park before dinner."

Spending time with Geoffrey, 5, and Andrew, 2 1/2, is high on his list of priorities, especially since his wife, Lisa, works



Kevin Quist

full time and is pursuing her MBA at Mercy College.

One of Kevin's all-time favorite family pursuits is downhill skiing. A recent excursion to Sterling Forest ski resort with his eldest son gave him cause to grin. "Well, the lessons didn't exactly work out as well as we hoped, so I spent most of the day teaching him myself," says Kevin, who's easygoing nature enables him to roll with the punches.

This demeanor, no doubt, also opened the door for Kevin to one of those once-in-a-lifetime adventures: a canoe trip with Lake Isle Golf Pro Dave Stevenson down the Rio Grande. "It was a great way to get to know each other," says Kevin of the trip they took a little more than a year ago. "We traveled a remote stretch of the river, seeing hardly anyone. Five days into the trip, though, a helicopter did drop down to check up on us and report back to our families that we were alive and well. With luck, we'll return next year."

One of the Busiest Places in the World

No doubt the pro and superintendent at Lake Isle were seeking seclusion on their vacation because there's such a lack of it during a typical day at work. Lake Isle members, who number well into the thousands, gather early and stay late. The course is a heavily played layout that, since 1979, has served the town residents of Eastchester. But it's been a fixture in the community much longer than that—since 1926, in fact, when Devereux Emmet first laid out what was initially a private course named Vernon Hills.

The course currently plays scarcely over 6,000 yards to a par of 70. Swimming is also popular at Lake Isle with five swimming pools attracting plenty of action in the summer. The March date for our Business Meeting assures we won't have to fight the masses, but you better get there early... just to be sure.

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