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Tee to Green

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Photo by L. C. Lambrecht.



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2003

Is Filled With Opportunity

A

s you read through this issue of the *Tee to Green*, please take some time to familiarize yourself with the MetGCSA board of directors and committee chairmen (see page 9).

Of course, perusing the list of our association's contributors is nowhere near as beneficial as getting involved yourself.

As you can see by the lineup of committees, there are opportunities to get involved—and so many components to a well-run association. Beyond our day-to-day operations, there's planning and implementing our educational seminars, monthly meetings, and social events; generating ideas for and producing our bimonthly—and we can't forget, award-winning—newsletter; and finally planning for the future. The tasks are endless.

We, as members, are very fortunate to have such a dedicated board of directors working on our behalf and with our best interests at heart. They work behind the scenes, with the help of their committees, making this one of the best organizations anyone could belong to.

We are always looking for more able bodies to join our efforts. After all, "many hands make light work." Getting involved does not, contrary to what some believe, require that you dedicate your life to the association. Just a few hours of your time each month will pay dividends to both you and your club many times over. Try it; I guarantee you'll like it.

Your Research Dollars at Work

Just a brief update on the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation. At the last board meeting, we decided to support two research proposals that will have a major impact on our courses in the future.

The first was to continue support for the anthracnose study being conducted at Rutgers under the guidance of Dr. Bruce Clarke. Dr. Clarke started this project last year and is well on the way to understanding this devastating problem. The Tri-State will be contributing \$25,000 over the next three years to this effort.



Tim Moore
MetGCSA President

The second project is to support Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi in his upcoming research on the influence of microbial and organic-based products on putting green performance. The Tri-State has allocated \$30,000 for Dr. Rossi's work over the next three years.

The Tri State is also looking to support research targeted at helping us understand and control the ever-increasing earthworm problem on golf courses. I will have more on this as details become available and a project is selected.

The Tri-State has already begun its fund-raising efforts for the year 2003. You all should have received a copy of the newsletter, *Foundation News*, along with a request for donations. Please take the time to enlist the support of your club.

With everyone contributing just \$150, the foundation can continue to support worthy research projects like those I just mentioned. These are research projects critical to your success as a superintendent—and to the future of the turfgrass industry in the tri-state area.

If anyone needs information or did not receive the new Tri-State newsletter, which details precisely how your contributions are being put to use, please give me a call, and I will see that you get a copy.

If you'd like a complete report on any

Tee to Green Does It Again!

by Glenn Perry, CGCS
Tee to Green Co-Editor

Tri-State-funded research—past or present—you'll find it on the Met's website at Metgcsa.org.

Environmental Educational Opportunity

By now, you should have received the information packet sent out detailing the seminar the MetGCSA has put together in conjunction with Audubon International. This all-day educational session is scheduled for March 6 at Westchester Hills Country Club. It's designed to assist all those who attend in developing an environmental plan for their golf course that will put them on the path to becoming a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

We all know the positive benefits this program has in building the public's confidence in our ability to operate environmentally responsible golf courses.

Several courses in our area have been active in this program for years, and many have gone on to become certified. Others have put their efforts on the back burner. This interactive day will prod everyone to make some strides.

I strongly urge one and all of you to attend—be sure to bring an assistant—and participate in this worthwhile program.

Getting in Gear—Again!

The winter season is moving along at a rapid pace. It seems like just yesterday that the holiday season was upon us. As we gear up for spring, I encourage all of you to attend our next membership meeting, scheduled for March 11 at Bedford Golf & Tennis Club. Maybe even sign up to volunteer for a committee or to host a meeting. Get involved in any way you feel comfortable. I think you'll be glad you did.

Tim Moore
MetGCSA President

Though it wasn't a landslide victory, *Tee to Green* took the 2002 GCSAA Chapter Newsletter Editors Contest for the fourth consecutive year, winning in Category #4—publications produced primarily by professional editors/publishers or paid chapter executives. Close behind—*one point* behind, in fact—was the Iowa chapter's publication, *The IGCSA Reporter*.

Clearly, we'll have to work harder next year to maintain our award-winning status!

This year, we subjected our March/April 2002 issue to the scrutiny of GCSAA's panel of judges, who ranked our publication "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 (listed below), whose hard work and focused efforts this past year earned our publication its award-winning status. And a special thank you to Greg Wojick for his special efforts over the past two years as co-editor. Sean Cain, who's agreed to take on the co-editorship of *Tee to Green*, will have some big shoes to fill as Greg's successor.

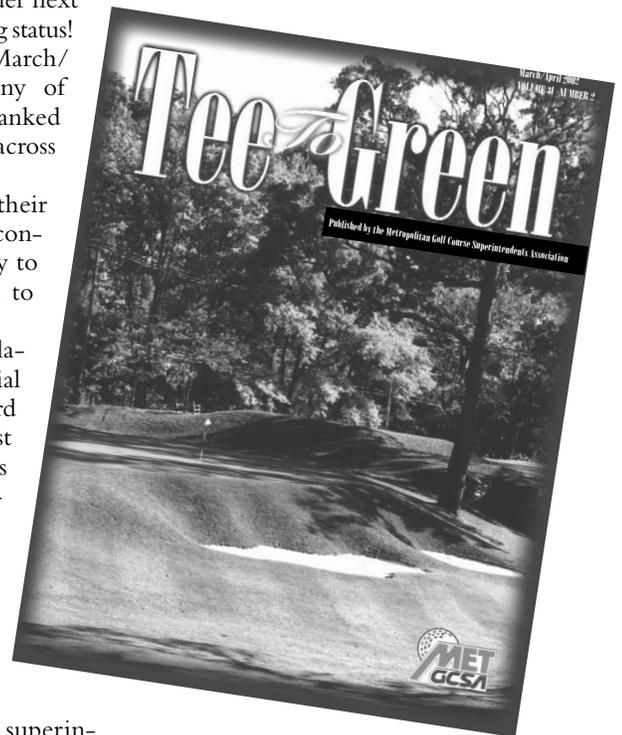
I would also like to thank the superintendents and green industry professionals who contributed this year—and Pandora Wojick, whose hard work and dedication truly make *Tee to Green* an award-winning publication.

Also important to the health and welfare of our publication is our back page Patron Directory. We are currently bringing our directory advertising up to date for 2003. Affiliate members should have received the advertising package by now. If you have any questions, please call Sean Cain, 914-723-3238, or MetGCSA Executive Secretary Ineke Pierpoint at 914-347-4653.

Finally, as always, we welcome your contributions: Your ideas, articles, information,

and feedback are vital to our publication's success. If you have a topic that you are interested in, a story or member news that you would like to share—even a shot of your golf course that would make good cover material for *Tee to Green*, please contact me at 203-762-9484 or gper-ryrhcc3@aol.com.

I'll look forward to hearing from you.



Tee to Green Editorial Committee

Paul Boyd, Greenwich Country Club
Glen Dube, Oak Hills Park Golf Course
Chip Lafferty, Rye Golf Club
Scott Niven, The Stanwich Club
Eric O'Neill, Scarsdale Country Club
Tim O'Neill, Country Club of Darien
Bill Perlee, The Apawamis Club
Greg Wojick, Greenwich Country Club

Feature

Digging Deeper Into Soil Nutrient Testing



*What You Don't
Know May Hurt
Your Turf*

*by Jim Skorulski
USGA Green Section Agronomist*

Turf managers aren't unlike doctors. Both rely on diagnostic tests to determine the health and welfare of—and course of treatment for—their “patients.” They differ, however, in one critical area: While medical testing protocols are generally uniform, turf testing frequently isn't.

It's best to use a single lab to test your soils. The results and interpretations will be consistent time after time, and that will allow you to set up a more reliable—and ultimately effective—nutrition program for your turf.



Take soil nutrient testing. It's one of the basic tools we use to develop fertility programs. Soil nutrient test reports estimate available nutrients, as well as nutrients that will, in time, become available to plants. Sometimes results can vary from lab to lab depending on the type of technology or extracting agents used and the lab's interpretation of the results. There is the potential, therefore, to settle on a course of treatment that may not be optimal for your turf.

To avoid this pitfall, it's important to gain a thorough understanding of the various testing methods, the strengths and weaknesses of each, and the means by which the results of the tests are interpreted into fertilizer recommendations. A better understanding of the process will lead to more astute decision-making when it comes to establishing an effective plant nutrition program for your golf course turf.

Extracting Agents

Various chemical reagents are used to extract the portion of potassium, calcium, magnesium, phosphorous, and micronutrients that are attached to soil colloids and organic matter and are thought to be available to the plants.

Different labs use different chemical reagents; they vary in strength and acidity and dissolve different concentrations of cations.

University labs will often use extraction agents that have been developed and correlated to local soil types and conditions.

Many commercial labs have a variety of extraction agents on hand so they're prepared to tailor their tests to the multitude of soils and conditions found across the country.

More are moving to universal extracting agents, such as Mehlich 3, to speed the extraction process and reduce costs. So

beware: These are more acidic reagents that may extract higher concentrations of phosphorous and some cations than more traditional reagents.

Laboratories using the newer universal extracting agents, however, do try to take into account specific soil types and regional conditions when interpreting their results and providing recommendations.

The takeaway here is that it's best to use a single lab to test your soils. The results and interpretations will be consistent time after time, and that will allow you to set up a more reliable—and ultimately effective—nutrition program for your turf.

Wondering which extraction agents are best suited for your soils? Unfortunately, that's a topic still under much debate. A local university or reputable commercial laboratory familiar with your soil types should choose the most effective extracting agents and be able to make sound interpretations and recommendations.

Nonetheless, it's a good idea to ask the lab which type of extraction agents it's using in your soil nutrient test; this information is especially useful if you have to use another laboratory in the future.

The Current Rub on Paste Extracts

Saturated paste extract is a somewhat newer technology being used to determine available nutrients in turfgrass systems. This method of extraction uses water to saturate a soil sample and create a paste. It's been used successfully to determine sodium concentrations in soils. More recently, this method has been touted for extracting other cations from low CEC sand systems.

The problem is that while water extraction accounts for soluble cations and nutrients in solution, this form of extraction has the potential to underestimate the nutrient pool that will become available to the plant

If you'd like to dig deeper into soil nutrient testing and interpretations, you'll find a wealth of information on both the University of Georgia (www.cropsoil.uga.edu/turf/) and MDS Harris (www.ag.mdsharris.com) websites.

over time (i.e., cations bound to exchange sites or organic matter). This, in turn, can lead to excessive fertilizer recommendations.

Work comparing saturated paste extracts to other extracting agents in turfgrass systems shows poor correlation—unless the extracts are being used to measure sodium levels. The rub: It's best to continue using more traditional extracting agents for measuring cations and other nutrients in your soils.

Interpreting Soil Nutrient Test Results: There's More to It Than Meets the Eye

Acquiring the soil nutrient test results is one thing. Determining what to do with them is another. In fact, it's probably one of the most controversial aspects of soil nutrient testing today.

There are two basic means of interpretation:

- Sufficiency Level of Available Nutrients (SLAN)
- Base Cation Saturation Ratio (BCSR), known also as the Maintenance Level Concept

Which method is best? You be the judge.

Sufficiency Level of Available Nutrients (SLAN): The SLAN concept is the more traditional mode of interpreting soil nutrient test results. It is based on the premise that as available soil nutrient levels decrease, the probability of a plant response to a nutrient application increases.

For example, when a soil nutrient level is classified as "Low" by a laboratory, there is a high probability—80 to 100 percent—that the plant will respond favorably to an application of the specific nutrient.

Likewise, if a nutrient is classified as "High," the plant is considered capable of obtaining sufficient nutrients from the soil

and would not require—or respond positively to—a fertilizer application.

This concept is well-founded and has been favored by most university soil testing laboratories. It's based on data from correlation research—i.e., test values correlated to plant color, growth rates, root mass, tissue content, etc.—in turfgrass. It is a concept based on feeding the plant and satisfying the minimum quantities of nutrients that are required to obtain optimal growth.

Base Cation Saturation Ratio (BCSR):

Also referred to as the Maintenance Level Concept, the BCSR was derived from a theory that there is "ideal cation saturation" for exchange sites found in the soil.

Work done to maximize alfalfa production at Rutgers University in 1945 determined the ideal soil to be one where exchange sites are 80 percent occupied by cations in the following percentages: 65 percent Ca, 10 percent Mg, and 5 percent K. The remainder of the sites would be predominately occupied with H. This produced ratios 6.5:1 for Ca and Mg; 13:1 for Ca and K; and 2:1 for Mg to K.

Today, most laboratory interpretations use broader ranges: 65 to 85 percent Ca; 6 to 12 percent Mg; 2 to 5 percent K; and less than 4 percent Na. The idea behind the theory of base saturation is that fertility recommendations for Ca, Mg, and K are developed to maintain the ideal cation saturation or balance on exchange sites, and that will reflect cation availability to the plants in soil-water solutions. If the saturation ranges are met, the plant will be able to extract the cations it requires for effective growth.

While this has proved a valuable interpretation when managing cations in salt-affected soils, there is little research data to show that it is a stand-alone viable method for turfgrass—despite the fact that it is being promoted by some for that purpose.

The ratios or saturations can and do vary widely and often do not correlate well to nutrient content in the tissue or plant growth in the field. Critics of the concept also argue that basing fertilizer applications on BCSR interpretations alone can lead to unnecessary fertilizer applications, nutrient imbalances and deficiencies or undesirable pH adjustments, especially in sand or sand/peat mixes where the CEC is low.

When Push Comes to Shove

In reality, both concepts have their own set of strengths and weaknesses. It's important, therefore, that both the SLAN and BCSR interpretations be included in a soil nutrient test report.

Meeting basic sufficiency levels for cations and maintaining soil pH in optimal ranges will almost always satisfy the growth requirements of turfgrass in the Northeast and often result in a cation balance that is within or very close to the ideal ranges listed for the BCSR concept. The BCSR information will indicate if there are any severe cation imbalances that need to be addressed.

Final Word to the Wise

If you'd like to dig deeper into soil nutrient testing and interpretations, you'll find a wealth of information on both the University of Georgia (www.cropsoil.uga.edu/turf/) and MDS Harris (www.ag.mdsharris.com) websites. University specialists can also provide materials that will help you better understand which testing methods are best suited for your site.

Final word to the wise: Don't lose sight of the big picture. We have yet to observe any fertilizer recommendation that will compensate for poor growing environments, ineffective drainage, a lack of cultivation, or suicidal management practices!

Met's 13th Annual Winter Seminar Draws Best Crowd Ever

by John Mills



Sherwood A. Moore Award winner Peter Rappoccio (left) strikes a pose with Awards Chairman John Carlone.

Who says 13's an unlucky number? This year's annual Winter Seminar marked its 13th—and best—year ever, drawing record-breaking crowds. A notable 240 members traveled January 15 to what seems to be the seminar's permanent home, Westchester Country Club.

In addition to attending the day's educational talks and visiting the more than 30 vendor booths (see list on page 8), seminar-goers enjoyed award ceremonies for two great professionals: Rutgers' Dr. Bruce Clarke and Silver Spring's Peter Rappoccio. Dr. Clarke received our prestigious John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award for his research and contributions to the turfgrass industry, while Peter was honored with the Met's coveted Sherwood A. Moore Award for his professional accomplishments, inspiration to others, and especially, his years of service to the association and the Silver Spring community. Many of Peter's family members, dear friends, and fellow coworkers were also there to share in his joy and excitement.

Snow Mold Strategies

With snow flurries in the forecast, it was quite fitting that the educational portion of the program kicked off with Dr. Gail Schumann, professor of turf pathology at the University of Massachusetts, speaking about snow mold control strategies. Her research, over the past five years, provided some simple guidelines on how and when to apply fungicides to protect turf from the ravages of this winter fungus.

Dr. Schumann recommends using a combination of fungicides from different chemical groups, with at least one being a systemic. She also recommends that the application be made in enough water—2 to 2.5 gallons/1000 sq. ft.—after vegetative growth has ceased but while the leaf blades are still green. Dr. Schumann and her research team plan to further research some of the newer products on the market, as well as compare the effectiveness of liquid and granular fungicides in snow mold control.

For an update on this and other research in progress, visit the UMass website at Umassturf.org.



Awards Chairman John Carlone presents Rutgers' Dr. Bruce Clarke with the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

the quality of our greens. Dr. Nelson expects the technology to be up and running by the fall of 2004.

Taking Water Quality by Storm

After lunch, Sabrina Charney from the Westchester County Department of Planning discussed ways to preserve—and improve—storm water quality. In Westchester County, this apparently proves quite a challenge. More than 900,000 people live in the county's six major drainage basin areas. Charney noted the various pollutants that plague many drainage basins, not the least of which are hydrocarbons and heavy metals, and she pointed to various things we might do during construction or in our day-to-day practices to reduce storm water pollution.

Charney explained that golf courses' attention to protecting water quality is particularly important due their intensive use of water and pesticides and fertilizers. Common sense and the use of smart site practices, such as aquatic buffers and various other flood control procedures, in conjunction with a sound integrated pest management program will reduce storm water pollution, she noted.

In closing, she recommended visiting the water quality and planning sections at www.westchestergov.com for news updates.

Putting Bentgrass to the Test

Finally, Clemson University's Dr. James Camberato (yes, he *is* the son of retired Sleepy Hollow superintendent Joe Camberato) offered us an update on his research on nitrogen utilization and rooting of bentgrass during heat stress. Interestingly, his trials showed that heat stress has no effect on rooting and that nitrogen applied at a rate of between 1/8 and 1/4 of a pound/1000 sq. ft. has little effect on turf quality, no matter what the variety of bentgrass.

Dr. Camberato's studies did point to a clear winner in the bentgrass category: the A-1, due to its overall density.

John Mills is the assistant superintendent at Country Club of New Canaan in New Canaan, CT.

Lobbying for Our Rights

The talks continued with Chris Revere, New York Greengrass Association Lobbyist, who discussed his role in representing our industry's needs and goals in Albany. He is essentially our industry's mouthpiece, relaying our concerns and protecting our interests at the governmental level. It's no surprise that his latest lobbying efforts have been focused on preventing unnecessary pesticide regulations and restrictions.

Revere looks to us to keep him posted on new issues and concerns as they arise, and he urges us to continue voicing our concerns at the local governmental level. You can reach Mr. Revere at 518-463-3202 or at Reveregroup@netscape.net.

Looking for Mr./Ms. Right

Our next speaker, Randall Martin, president of Sibbald Associates Executive Search Firm in St. Louis, MO, gave us an inside look at the search process for a golf course superintendent. As you might expect, it's the search firm's job not only to meet with the hiring club's officials to discuss the details of the position and the club's objec-

tives, but also to review the often overwhelming number of applications and narrow the field to six to eight candidates. Sibbald then summarizes the highlights of those candidates' résumés and meets again with club officials to narrow the field further—generally to a final three, who they will then contact for an interview.

What are clubs today looking for in a superintendent? Right up there will a solid track record in turfgrass management, clubs are seeking superintendents with exemplary communications skills—and an eye for detail, Martin notes.

The Road to Round Up-Resistant Bentgrass

Just before the break for lunch, Dr. Eric Nelson of The Scotts Company spoke on the future of Round Up-resistant bentgrass. He first refreshed our knowledge of biotechnology, and then explained how the Round Up-Ready technology works. Basically, it means developing a breed of bentgrass that is impervious to the ill effects of Round Up so that we can knock out our annual bluegrass problems without harming



Father and son: Joe Camberato, retired Sleepy Hollow super, with his son, Dr. James Camberato of Clemson University.

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.

Aer-Core

Dennis DeSanctis
Specialized Turfgrass Aeration
610-367-6613

Al Preston's Garage

Gary Shashinka
Massey Ferguson Tractors
203-924-1747

Almstead Tree & Shrub Care Co.

Ken Almstead
Certified Arborists
914-576-0193

AT Sales Associates, LTD

Owen Regan
Premium Sod for Golf Courses
401-465-8066

Atlantic Irrigation Specialties, Inc.

Ed Santalone
Irrigation Supplies
800-878-887

Bayer Environmental Science

Dave Sylvester
Turf & Plant Protectants
860-828-8905

Cutlip Golf Design

Ronald Cutlip
Golf Course Architect
212-249-2177

DeLea & Sons Sod Farms

Rick DeLea
Sod & Landscape Supplies
800-244-7637/631-368-8022

E/T Equipment Co.

Dick Neufeld
Equipment Sales & Service
914-271-6126

Glenmore Landscape Service

Glenn Moore
Golf Course Construction
914-764-4348

Grass Roots, Inc.

Ken Kubik
Golf Course Maintenance Supplies
973-361-5943

Greenacres Company

Dave Pijnenburg
Irrigation Contractor
203-748-0558

IVI-Golf

John Brauer
Sandtrapper
607-729-5111

Koonz Sprinkler Supply

William Koonz
Irrigation Supplies
973-379-3914

Lesco, Inc.

Greg Moran
AllYour Turf Care Needs
845-331-4869

Metro Turf Specialists

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

PDG Enterprises

Michael Nissman
Maintenance Building Construction
914-690-1000

Plant Food Company, Inc.

Tom Weinert
Liquid Fertilizer Specialist
800-562-1291

Sawtelle Brothers, Inc.

George Gorton
Turfgrass Equipment
800-999-TURF (8873)

Simplot Partners

Joe Stahl
Plant Protectant Suppliers
203-209-6951

Steven Willand, Inc.

John Ferruccio/Gary Mathis
Turfgrass Equipment
203-775-5757

Syngenta Professional Products

Lee Kozsey
Plant Protectant Suppliers
610-861-8174

Terre Company of NJ, Inc.

Byron Johnson
AllYour Turf Care Needs
973-473-3393

The Care of Trees

Peter McFarland
AllYour Tree Care Needs
914-345-8733

Turf Products Corp./NJ

Buddy Rizzio
Turf & Irrigation Equipment
973-263-1234

Turf Products Corp.

Al Tretera
Turf & Irrigation Equipment
800-243-4355

United Horticultural Supply

Gerald Fountain
Fertilizer, Grass Seed, & Chemicals
732-296-8448

U.S. Silica

Jerry Austin
Construction & Maintenance Products
800-345-6170

Venture Vehicles

George Corgan
Golf & Utility Carts
860-306-6400

Westchester Tractor Inc.

John Apple
Tractors & Bucket Loaders
914-232-7746

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.

Robert Lippman
Golf Supplies, Pesticides, Fertilizers, and Seed
845-621-5067

Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.

Glenn Gallion
Turf Equipment Sales
888-831-0891

Picture This

Who's Who on the New Met Board



The November 19 MetGCSA Annual Meeting ended with the following members elected to the board:

Back row, left to right: Tom Leahy of Sleepy Hollow CC; Tony Girardi, CGCS, of Rockrimmon CC; Glenn Perry, CGCS, of Rolling Hills CC; Jeff Wentworth, CGCS, of Pelham CC; Sean Cain of Sunningdale CC; Bob Nielsen, CGCS, of Bedford Golf & Tennis Club; Scott Apgar of Metro Turf Specialists; Past President John Carlone, CGCS, of The Meadow Brook Club.

Front row, left to right: Eric O'Neill of Scarsdale GC; Vice President Dave Mahoney of Siwanoy CC; President Tim Moore of Knollwood CC; Treasurer Will Heintz of Centennial CC; Secretary Matt Ceplo, CGCS, of Rockland CC.

Chairmen of the Board

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.

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 CC
203-762-9484

Sean Cain

Sunningdale CC
914-723-3238

Education Committee

Jeff Wentworth, CGCS, Pelham CC
914-738-2752

Scott Apgar, Metro Turf Specialists
203-748-GOLF

Government Relations Committee

Will Heintz, Centennial GC
845-279-8960

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
845-359-5346

MetGCSA Merchandise

Matt Ceplo, Rockland CC
845-359-5346

Scholarship & Research Committee

Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy CC
914-961-8698

Social & Welfare Committee

Jeff Wentworth, CGCS, Pelham CC
914-738-2752

Special Events Committee

Jeff Wentworth, CGCS, Pelham CC
914-738-2752

Scott Apgar, Metro Turf Specialists
203-748-GOLF

Tournament Committee

Tom Leahy, Sleepy Hollow CC
914-941-8281

Bob Nielsen

CGCS
Bedford Golf & Tennis Club
914-234-3779

Web Site Committee

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

For Assistants Only . . .

Take the Writer's Challenge



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

Now in its third year, 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!

Last year, Eric O'Neill of Scarsdale Country Club and Paul Boyd of Greenwich Country Club tied for first place. Their articles appeared in the July/August issue of *Tee to Green*. Titled "Climbing the Ladder" and "Finding the Perfect Fit," they approached the same topic—preparing for and finding a superintendent's job—from different angles.

Speaking of finding a job, this contest offers a prime opportunity for setting yourself apart from the pack when interviewing for a job. After all, how many assistants can include a published article in an award-winning publication with their resumes and employment application packages?

So, c'mon. 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 someone, feel free to call Co-Editor Glenn Perry at 203-762-9484, or contact him through email at gperryrhcc3@aol.com.

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, 2003. 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 Sean Cain 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.

GOOD LUCK. We look forward to receiving your submission.

Scholarship Applications

Get 'Em While the Gettin's Good

Hurry, hurry! Step right up and get your scholarship applications! The deadline for 2003 MetGCSA Scholarship Award applications is fast approaching. **All applications should be RECEIVED by April 30.**

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 & 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.



Matt Ceplo

Matt Ceplo to Host April Two-Ball Qualifier

by Greg Wojick, CGCS

When I spoke to Matt Ceplo about Rockland and the April 28 Met meeting he's hosting at the club, he shared a little-known secret with me: "Rockland Country Club," he said in a near-whisper, "has no rocks."

His virtually rock-free soil conditions are all the more dumbfounding when you consider that the course abuts Palisades Cliffs and is surrounded by neighbors with rocky soil profiles. "Most of Rockland County is rocky," he says. Yet somehow, some way, the club managed to roost in a rock-free pocket.

Yup, there are no rocks at Rockland.

Yet Matt and club officials feel compelled to live up to the club's name and center their design motif around . . . you guessed it. . . rocks! They're creating rock landscaping and water features and using rock for signs and benches.

They bring the rock in—while area clubs like Montammy, Alpine, and Dellwood would do anything to get the rock out!

There's More Than Rock to Rockland

But rock is not what Matt wants Met members to remember about Rockland Country Club. Matt, for one, is quite proud of his environmental efforts on the course. "We vigorously subscribe to the Audubon approach to course management," he explains. "Our members think our environmental successes are terrific, and they encourage all of our efforts." Under Matt's guidance, Rockland has become a fully certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

Although proud of his Audubon achievements, Matt's environmental efforts pale in comparison to the never-ending renovation work he began in 1995. "We rebuilt all of our bunkers and tee complexes and three of our greens," he says.

Concurrent with this feature work, Matt supervised numerous enhancements

to the course's irrigation system. "The work never really ends," says Matt, who's been Rockland's superintendent for the past eight years. "There have been lots of landscaping projects, and the clubhouse has just finished a complete rebuild."

In addition to noteworthy course-work, Rockland, according to Matt, has had some noteworthy personalities in its past. Rockland's first pro/superintendent, Robert White, designed the course's original 18-hole layout and was the originator of the PGA of America.

Another of Rockland's old-time golf professionals, Ray Jamieson, lent his driver to Pro Golfer Byron Nelson. After receiving the club, he went on to win a record 11 consecutive PGA events . . . using the borrowed driver! That was in 1945. Just recently, the club named the boardroom in the newly renovated clubhouse The Ray Jamieson Room.

of two girls: Allison, who's 15, and Megan, who is 11 years old.

Matt's first professional position after graduating from Suny at Delhi was as assistant superintendent at the Ridge-wood Country Club in New Jersey, where long-time veteran Ed Walsh was the superintendent.

Matt grew up in the thick of golf. His parents owned a public, 18-hole golf course—the Afton Golf Club—near Binghamton, NY, where Matt got much of his early training and experience.

Matt's strong work ethic is amply demonstrated not only by his dedication to his job, but also by his tireless work as a board member of the MetGCSA. He now serves our association as secretary. "I came onto the board when Larry Pakkala was president. . . . When was that?? I think it was around 1991," says Matt, who like many other long-term board members

Another of Rockland's old-time golf professionals, Ray Jamieson, lent his driver to Pro Golfer Byron Nelson. After receiving the club, he went on to win a record 11 consecutive PGA events . . . using the borrowed driver!

Far From a Rocky Start

Before coming to Rockland, which was incorporated as a golf club in 1906, Matt was the Superintendent at Westchester Hills Country Club, where he admittedly played much more golf. It was a time in his career when he and his wife of 18 years, Jasmine, had no kids, and he could play until dark on most nights. "I play nowhere near the amount I used to," says Matt who, at one time, sported a four handicap. Now, Matt is the proud parent

have little recollection when their volunteer service actually began.

"I think all who play Rockland in April will notice the many improvements to the course," says Matt. "It might not be a bad idea to borrow a new driver. It worked for Byron Nelson; why can't it work for all of us?"

Greg Wojick, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich, CT.

Upcoming Events

Here is our preliminary 2003 Meeting/Social Calendar. As you can see, we're still looking for two golf sites and an Annual Meeting site. If you've ever wondered how you might get involved with our association, here's a relatively easy way to do it: Host one of our meetings! While you're running through the available openings, think ahead also to 2004. We've already begun plotting and planning for the following year and have open slots for our March, July, August, and November meetings.

To secure a golf meeting, don't delay in calling either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs—Tom Leahy, 914-941-8281, or Bob Nielsen, 914-234-3779. To host a social event, contact Social & Welfare Committee Chairman Jeff Wentworth at 914-738-2752.

Business Meeting

Tuesday, March 11

Bedford Golf & Tennis Club, Bedford, NY

Host: Bob Nielsen

Two-Ball Qualifier

Monday, April 28

Rockland Country Club, Sparkhill, NY

Host: Matt Ceplo, CGCS

Superintendent/Manager Tournament

Thursday, May 15

Silver Spring Country Club

Ridgefield, CT

Host: Peter Rappoccio, CGCS

Invitational Tournament

Monday, June 16

Hampshire Country Club

Mamaroneck, NY

Host: Tony Campanella

Golf Meeting

July, Date & Site TBA

MetGCSA Family Picnic

Date & Site TBA

MetGCSA Summer Social

Date & Site TBA

Poa Annual Tournament

August, Date & Site TBA

Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Date TBA

West Point Golf Course, West Point, NY

Golf Meeting

Monday, October 20

Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, CT

Host: Greg Wojick, CGCS

Annual Assistants Championship

Date & Site TBA

Met Area Team Championship

Date & Site TBA

Annual Meeting

November, Date & Site TBA

MetGCSA Christmas Party

Date & Site TBA

Educational Events

Audubon Workshop

Thursday, March 6

Westchester Hills Golf Club, White Plains, NY
Cosponsored by the MetGCSA and Audubon International, this all-day seminar is designed to assist turfgrass managers in developing an environmental plan for their golf course that will set them on track for becoming a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

The environment is the most important public relations tool we have. Do yourself, your club, and our industry a favor by learning what it takes to become an official Audubon sanctuary. It's easier than you think!

The 6th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

Tuesday – Thursday, March 18 – 20

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 400 exhibitor booths.

Be sure to catch the opening session's "A Day With the USGA." In the morning, USGA Regional Affairs Director Jim Farrell will conduct a seminar on the rules of course marking and setup. The session will continue with a series of presentations that are designed to inform—and enhance the relationships among—superintendents and their golf pros and club officials. So be sure to bring them all along.

Next, the general session will kick off with a keynote presentation from former NFL player and head coach and current CBS-TV commentator Mike Ditka.

Also available on March 17 are preconference and GCSAA seminars on bunker design, placement, and construction; annual bluegrass management; Heart Saver and AED Training.

For further information, call 401-841-5490.

NAUGHTY...

Santa's lap was hoppin' at the MetGCSA 2002 Christmas Party!



Our party hosts, Cindy and Dennis Flynn



First Lady, Beth Moore



Past presidents and their wives: Jennifer O'Neill, John and Leslie Carlone, Tim O'Neill



Judy Alonzi

...OR NICE?



The party planners,
Jeff and Mimi Wentworth



Peter and Birdie Rappoccio



Christine Girardi

HMM...
NAUGHTY, YEP,
DEFINITELY NAUGHTY.



Tee to Green's Glenn Perry

Member News

Scholarship Raffle Is a Win-Win



The 2002 Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 14 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 winners who sat at **Table #3** at the Christmas party.

The other prize winners were:

\$500 Winners

- Marc Ericson, Steven Willand, Inc.
- Dennis Flynn, Brae Burn Country Club
- Table #3—again!

\$250 Winners

- Paul Mazzola, Turf Products Corp.
- David Griffin, Down To Earth
- John Apple, Westchester Tractor Inc.
- Siwanoy Country Club staff

\$100 Winners

- Joe Stahl, Simplot Partners
- Joe Stahl, Simplot Partners
- Jared Viarengo, Applebrook Golf Club
- Nick's Electric, Scarsdale, NY
- Jeff Weld, Bayer Corporation
- Larry Pakkala, Woodway Country Club
- Larry Scagnelli, manager, Scarsdale Golf Club
- Steve Sweet, Mill River Club
- Patrick Sullivan, Turf Products Corp.
- Frank Amodio, Valley View Greenhouses

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

- Lee Kozsey, Class AS, Syngenta Professional Products, Bethlehem, PA
- Spencer Williams, Class C, Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY

Member on the Move

Jimmy Pavonetti is the new superintendent at The Edison Club in Rexford, NY. Previous position: West Point Golf Course, West Point, NY.

In Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to E/T Equipment's Tom Fallacaro. Tom lost his daughter January 16 after a brief illness. Though Tom is not a member of the MetGCSA, several of his employees are, and he has always thought very highly of our group and our profession.

Our condolences, Tom.

We would like to express our sincere condolences to the family of Gerald Mahoney, former MGA Executive Director, who passed away on January 30 after a long and hard-fought battle with cancer. Gerald is survived by his wife, Peg; two children, Kevin and Janet; and seven grandchildren.

The family has asked that donations be made to the MGA Foundation.