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Tee to Green



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Sharpen Your Saw... 'Tis Nearly the Season

G

od willing, this will be the last “Happy New Year” you receive. I have a personal rule: I don’t accept any “Happy New Years” after February 1. By then, I’ve turned my thoughts to Groundhog Day. So leave me alone, and let me focus on checking out the length of a marmot’s shadow.

On a more serious note, I’ve always felt the new year presents the perfect time and opportunity for renewal. . . . My rambling thoughts . . .

Get Charged

This time of year, in particular, I enjoy reading self-help type books—even though the authors of these opuses are clearly more interested in helping themselves—get wealthy, that is—than in helping anyone else. They prey on the insecure, hitting them up for \$29.95 or more for a few words of “wisdom” that often do little if any good.

But let’s face it, they can be entertaining, and I occasionally *do* find some things that make sense. Like the term “sharpening the saw” in Steven Covey’s book, *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*. He coined that phrase to describe the need for renewal, regenerating, or even just resting. When I read about sharpening the saw, I couldn’t help but think that it was meant for people in our profession.

We work so hard—at such a breakneck speed—from April to October, and nowadays well beyond. After the frenzy, we want nothing more than to just put our feet up and relax until spring breaks.

That’s part of sharpening the saw. The other part is to spend some time regrouping for the next season. If you apply Covey’s advice to our profession, you might, for instance, reexamine your agronomic plans and strategies and plot a new course for the upcoming season. As part of that process, it helps to seek out your peers to discuss problems of the past year—and any foreseeable challenges for the upcoming



Dave Mahoney
MetGCSA President

one. Share a drink and commiserate about our business . . . your problems, whatever they may be. They’re rarely unique, and it’s helpful to collect a bit of advice from those who’ve been in your shoes.

One of my pleasures is playing in The GCSAA Golf Tournament. The golf is always great, but the camaraderie and misery-sharing are what give the event real value. Talking and laughing with—even throwing a few jabs at—your peers and friends is good for the soul.

So is getting away from the business altogether—whether it’s relaxing with your family, skiing, hunting, or taking a few personal interest-related courses. It’s critical that we find a way to renew ourselves so that we have the energy and enthusiasm needed to tackle the challenges of the season ahead.

Get With the Program

Without preaching, my advice is to attend as many events as possible during the off-season (however brief it may be). Learn or relearn as much as you can—while the heat’s off and you can actually enjoy attending an educational session. At this point, all the problems and concerns of the previous year are behind us, and we can begin the new season with a clean slate.

As most of you know, we just had our Winter Seminar, and it was very well attended. We had some excellent presentations, and nearly every talk I listened to—whether it was on soil testing, fertility

applications, or irrigation programs—gave me food for thought on how I might improve or add to my own programs. I always look at the event as an opportunity to begin my focus on the upcoming season.

Thanks to Jeff Wentworth and his committee for a good program.

Get Inspired

Other committees are also hard at work. Tournament Committee co-chairs Tom Leahy and Bob Nielsen have done an excellent job planning the meeting schedule for not only this year, but also 2005 and even 2006. The next two years' calendars aren't complete, but they're on their way!

We are firming up our 2004 calendar—including the dates for social and educational events—as I write. Look for calendar updates in the *Tee to Green*, on our MetGCSA website, and, hopefully soon, through mass emails.

Please, then, schedule to attend our events. They are opportunities throughout the season to learn, to compare notes, and to just have a laugh with your peers. I rarely walk away from a Met event not feeling better, more upbeat about the work ahead.

One of the highlights of the Winter Seminar was watching Larry Pakkala receive the Sherwood A. Moore Award and Jim Snow receive the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. Listening to both gentlemen reflect on their lives and their careers made me think about our long and winding journey through life. Too often we get caught up in the “now” and in instant gratification. Both men, and many others who were present, have been honored because of their consistent, long-term dedication to their work and to living their lives in a meaningful and productive manner. I felt inspired and challenged.

So that's it. Go someplace warm, recharge your batteries, and learn something new. I apologize if I got a little preachy with the self-help, guru talk. But I'll make this promise: If everyone agrees to “sharpen their saw” over the winter, I'll promise not to hawk the 12-cassette version of *Tony Robbin's Key to Self-Wealth and Eternal Happiness!*

I'll see you at the next meeting.

Dave Mahoney
President

Letter From the Editor

Tee to Green Accolades

by Glenn Perry, CGCS
Tee to Green Co-Editor

One of the hardest things to do as an editor of the *Tee to Green* is to gather information and fresh story ideas for each issue. Our goal is to provide the membership with an interesting and informative publication each and every time. I am extremely fortunate to have a dedicated committee that researches, writes, and gathers information for each issue, while putting up with my nagging phone calls that come with having to work under a deadline.

One person who doesn't have to panic anymore when he hears my voice on the other end of the phone is Past President Tim Moore. It's your turn, now, Dave Mahoney!

Thank You, Thank You

I would like to extend a big thank you to the 2003 Editorial Committee (listed below)—and a special thank you to our managing editor, Pandora Wojick, who truly keeps this publication moving in the right direction. Many thanks, too, to our designer, Terrie Dunkelberger, who toils behind-the-scenes to give our publication its wonderful visual appeal.

I also want to take this opportunity to recognize the numerous contributors from outside the committee, including various members of the Met board and USGA Green Section Agronomists Jim Skorulski and Jim Baird (Is everyone named Jim in the USGA? Don't forget, there's also Jim Snow!) Thank you one and all for your contributions to the *Tee to Green* this past year.

You Win Some, You Lose Some

The *Tee to Green* Editorial Committee has selected a winner for our 2003 Writer's Challenge, which was an assistant's-only writing competition with a worthy prize attached: a round of golf for four—complete with caddy and carts—at an exclusive 18-hole course and then dinner—on the Met—at a fine restaurant.

The lucky winner is Rockland Country Club Assistant Dave Wilson.

Be sure to look for his article on an upcoming issue. Congratulations, Dave!

While we're on the subject of awards, *Tee to Green* will, once again, be recognized in the GCSAA Chapter Newsletter Editors Contest. This year, in an extremely close contest—we lost by only one point—we received the Runner-Up trophy in Category #4: Publications produced primarily by professional editors/publishers or paid chapter executives.

Taking that one-point lead, ironically, was the publication that lost to us by one point last year: the Iowa chapter's publication, *The IGCSA Reporter*.

This will be the first time in four years that we haven't claimed that First Place slot. Well, back to the drawing board to bring us back on top again next year.

Final Notes

As always, we are looking for fresh ideas and new contributors to the *Tee to Green*. We would also welcome new members to our Editorial Committee. If you're interested, please contact me at 203-762-9484 or gsupt@optonline.net.

One last bit of housekeeping: Advertising packages have been mailed—for our back page Patron Directory and our Membership Directory advertising.

If you have any questions on the new advertising packages that are available, please contact Sean Cain at 914-723-3238.

Tee to Green Editorial Committee

Paul Boyd, Greenwich Country Club
Sean Cain, Sunningdale 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



Jim Snow Joins 'The Apple Tree Gang' as the 15th Recipient of the MetGCSA's John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

by James H. Baird

James T. Snow, national director of the United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section, received the MetGCSA's prestigious John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award for 2003 at the January 15 Winter Seminar.

Jim Snow is the third employee of the USGA and second Green Section national director to receive this honor. The late Alexander M. Radko claimed the award in 1987 and Frank Hannigan in 1992.

"I was very pleased when the Awards Committee unanimously voted to present Jim Snow with the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award," says Awards Committee Chair John Carlone. "I believe Jim is exactly the type of individual the MetGCSA wanted to honor when we created the award in 1986."

Jim was pleasantly "shocked" when notified of his selection for the award. "I'm deeply humbled and grateful to the MetGCSA for recognizing me with this award," says Jim, who was quick to add, tongue-in-cheek, "I'm really much too young to receive such a great honor."

But the Met is not the first to honor Jim Snow for his many contributions. In December 2003, Jim also received the New Jersey Turfgrass Association Hall of Fame Award for his longstanding contributions to the New Jersey turfgrass industry. And in 1996, he was named Person of the Year in the golf category by *Landscape Management* magazine.

Call It Destiny

Funny thing is, to the Met, it almost seems that Jim Snow was destined to receive the association's coveted award.

Not only has he made outstanding contributions to the game of golf and the golf industry—like the award's namesake—but he began his career on similar ground to the first permanent golf club in America: an apple orchard.

This club, St. Andrew's Golf Club, was founded on November 14, 1888 by John

Reid and five of his friends and fellow golfers. Located first in Yonkers, NY, the club was moved to the site of a beautiful apple orchard in 1892 when a road was built through the original course. A large apple tree served as the first “clubhouse,” and the golfers became known as “The Apple Tree Gang.”

Two years later, Reid’s group built nine holes on the Odell farm, three miles north of the orchard, and in 1897, the club moved to its final resting place: Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, where it currently stands.

Fast forward to 1951—still in the state of

receive both a B.S. and an M.S. in horticulture, which culminated in his master’s research on nitrogen leaching from turf in eastern Long Island.

The Road to Success

Jim began his career with the USGA Green Section after completing graduate school in 1976. “A Cornell classmate of mine, Bill Brewer, had been hired as an agronomist the year before and told me about the position,” says Jim, who served as an agronomist in the Northeast Region from 1976 to 1982

top golf courses. “Sherwood was the consummate professional,” remembers Jim. “Even though he was at the top of his game, he asked questions almost nonstop during my visits, always seeking to learn and improve.”

Peter Rappoccio of Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, CT, is representative of the many superintendents who have worked with Jim Snow and regarded him as a fine mix of turfgrass expert and superintendent advocate when he consulted on the condition of their golf courses. “Jim was the first agronomist I worked with as a

“I was very pleased when the Awards Committee unanimously voted to present Jim Snow with the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. I believe Jim is exactly the type of individual the MetGCSA wanted to honor when we created the award in 1986.”

– Awards Committee Chair John Carlone

New York. James T. Snow is born—and then raised—on the family farm and *apple orchard* in Trumansburg, NY, a small town near Ithaca, not far from the western shoreline of Cayuga Lake.

His experience operating machinery on the farm and in the orchard led Jim to an employment opportunity to help construct the Taughannock Golf & Country Club (now Trumansburg Golf Course). There, Jim worked as a seasonal employee through high school and his college years at Cornell University.

Initially, he planned a major in physics, but a growing love for turfgrass—and plants in general—blossomed during his sophomore year when he took over the reigns as greenkeeper of the golf course. Shortly after, Jim switched his major and went on to

and then as director of the Northeast Region from 1982 to 1990.

During that time, Jim made thousands of visits to golf courses and logged many more miles in the car traveling throughout the northeastern states and Canadian provinces. Looking back, Jim is especially fond of the golf courses and golf course superintendents in the New York metropolitan area. “Nowhere can there be found so many great golf courses in such a small geographical area,” says Jim, adding, “The Met superintendents represent the cream of the crop in their profession. I learned a great deal from them.”

One superintendent who stands out in Jim’s mind is the distinguished Sherwood Moore, former superintendent at Winged Foot Golf Club and other of the Met area’s

young and green superintendent,” says Peter. “I really appreciated his help in those early years, and I want to thank him for his contributions to the turf industry and for his continued support of our profession.”

When asked about the major issues Jim saw in his course tours, he first noted the recession of the early ’70s and the significant impact it had on golf course maintenance for several years. Then he pointed to some of the turfgrass problems that plagued many courses in the ’70s and ’80s: *Ataenius* beetles, annual bluegrass weevils, take-all patch disease, summer patch, and moss.

“We also talked a lot back then about the adverse effects trees can have on turf, but golfers didn’t take it as seriously as they do today,” says Jim.

One of the more significant changes Jim

saw in his tenure as agronomist, was the introduction of lightweight fairway mowing equipment.

"Lighter mowers," says Jim, "often were the difference between having good turf—or dead turf—during midsummer stress conditions."

Going the Extra Mile

In 1990, Jim assumed his current post of national director of the Green Section following the retirement of William H. "Bill" Bengeyfield. Jim's numerous responsibilities include overseeing the Turf Advisory Service and a staff of 18 agronomists; the Construction Education Program, which he initiated and is now directed by James F. Moore; the Turfgrass and Environmental Research Program, directed by Dr. Michael Kenna and Dr. Jeff Nus; and the Education Program, directed by Dr. Kimberly Erusha.

During his tenure, Jim has also initiated an environmental specialist position in the Green Section and the popular Internship Program that enables interested turf students to travel with Green Section agronomists for one week during the season.

Overall, Jim is extremely grateful to the entire Green Section staff. "I appreciate their hard work—and the fact that they make me look good," he says with a smile. "I have been fortunate to work for a great organization [the USGA] for 27 years—and with a great industry comprised of many wonderful people," says Jim.

While the complete legacy of Jim Snow's contributions to the game of golf and the turf industry remain to be written, he has been a longtime advocate of research issues concerning golf turf. Since 1982, the USGA has provided more than \$23 million to fund turf and environmental research.

Says Dr. Kenna of Jim's efforts: "His field expertise and relationships with university faculty have had a positive influence, bringing USGA research dollars to all regions of the country, especially the Northeast, which has seen more than a sevenfold increase in funding equating to more than \$2.8 million since he became national director."

Together, Dr. Kenna and Jim also estab-

lished the Wildlife Links research program in 1995, a wildlife-oriented research effort administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Another environmental effort Jim has vigorously supported is Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses. In fact, under Jim's direction, the USGA has contributed more than \$1.2 million in support of the program over the past 13 years. He also is proud of securing a \$1 million grant from the USGA to help fund the Turfgrass Information File (TGIF) at Michigan State University.

Last, but certainly not the least of Jim's contributions, is his commitment to writing for—and about—the golf course industry. He has served as editor of the *Green Section Record* for as long as he's been national director, and he's championed the publication of several books. Working as either editor or reviewer together with Dr. Erusha, Dr. Kenna, and the Green Section staff, he's played a significant part in the production of such works as *Turf Management for Golf Courses*, *Bird Conservation on Golf Courses*, *Wastewater Reuse for Golf Course Irrigation*, *Landscape Restoration Handbook*, and *Golf Course Management & Construction: Environmental Issues*.

The Family Tree

Jim resides in Basking Ridge, NJ, with his wife, Judy—a scientist at Rutgers University—and their two teenage children, Kevin and Valerie. His hobbies include genealogy, photography, and gardening, and he continues to be very active as a Boy Scout leader in his community.

Jim is a former grower of blue ribbon chrysanthemums and past president of the local chapter of the National Chrysanthemum Society. Asked why he no longer cultivates these beautiful flowers, Jim simply stated, "We moved to a different house, and there is too much shade in my backyard." Let that be another lesson about the adverse effects of low light on plants!

As though to justify his selection for the Met's prestigious Reid Lifetime Achievement Award, Jim quickly pointed to the

love and support of his family. "You simply cannot excel in a position like mine without the patience and understanding of your family. I share this award with them," he said.

The Best Is Yet to Come

Though Jim's contributions to the turfgrass industry have been numerous, he's nowhere near the finish line. Those of us in the Green Section know and appreciate Jim's hard work and commitment to the industry.

It's not uncommon for Jim to wake up at 4 in the morning and begin the work day shortly after. "I love my job, and this recognition has brought me renewed enthusiasm for my work," he says.

I guess this means that there will be no rest for The Apple Tree Gang—or the Green Section staff!

Jim Baird is a Green Section agronomist in the Northeast Region.

John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award Recipients

1986	Guido Cribari
1987	Alexander M. Radko
1988	Ken Venturi
1989	Dr. Ralph E. Engel
1990	Dr. Haruo Tashiro
1991	Geoffrey Cornish
1992	Frank Hannigan
1993	James E. McLoughlin
1994	Dr. Arthur P. Weber
1995	Dr. C. Richard Skogley
1997	Dr. Patricia J. Vittum
1998	Charles Robson
2001	Jay Mottola
2002	Dr. Bruce Clarke
2003	James T. Snow

Carolyn Testa & Bob Nielsen, Bill & Lorah Perlee, Jackie & Scott Apgar, Charlene & Scott Tretera



Dennis Flynn, Joe & Judy Alon



Joe DeLauter, Glen Dube, Tony Girardi



Party hosts Carole & Larry Pakkala



Carly Amodio and Lauren Pakkala



Christine & Tony Girardi



Mike & Kathy Mongon



Met Members Make

...at the 2003 MetGCSA Christmas
Woodway Country Club

Upcoming Events

2004 Met Calendar of Events Update

The 2004 Meeting/Social Calendar still has a few dates to confirm and sites to fill, so please think about hosting an event! 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.

Please be sure to note the Business Meeting date change. Due to a conflict with another industry event, it will now be held on March 25.

Business Meeting

NEW DATE Thursday, March 25
Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY
Host: Jeff Wentworth, CGCS

Two-Ball Qualifier

Monday, April 12
Elmwood Country Club, White Plains, NY
Host: Dave Roule

Superintendent/Manager Tournament

Monday, May 17
Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT
Host: Larry Pakkala, CGCS

Invitational Tournament

Thursday, June 17
Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT
Host: Mike Mongon

Education Meeting

July
Date & Site OPEN

Poa Annual Tournament

August
Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, CT
Host: Mark Fuller, CGCS

Golf Meeting

Monday, September 20
Seawane Golf Club, Hewlett Harbor, NY
Host: Brian Benedict

Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Tuesday, October 19
Round Hill Club, Greenwich, CT
Host: Bill Gaydosh

Annual Assistants Championship

Date & Site OPEN

Met Area Team Championship

Date & Site OPEN

Annual Meeting

November
Date & Site OPEN

MetGCSA Christmas Party

Date & Site OPEN



Frank Amodio and John & Leslie Carlone



Dana & Scott Niven



Merry...

Party

A Very Special Thank You for Some Very Special Contributions

Adding to the fun and good cheer of our 2003 Christmas Party at Woodway Country Club was our annual prize raffle. A total of 30 prizes were awarded to lucky ticket holders—many of them donated by Class AF members.

A very special thank you to the following members for their generous gift basket donations:

Dar Par Sales
E/T Equipment Co.
Metro Turf Specialists
Simplot Partners
Steven Willand, Inc.
The Care of Trees
The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.
Turf Products Corp./CT
Valley View Greenhouses
Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.

The MetGCSA WINTER SEMINAR Revisited

by Glenn Perry, CGCS

On Thursday, January 15, the MetGCSA's annual Winter Seminar was held at Westchester Country Club. Blustery winter weather, complete with snow, couldn't keep dedicated professionals away from a day of education, exhibits, and awards.

MetGCSA President Dave Mahoney kicked off the event by welcoming the attendees and introducing Education Chairman Jeff Wentworth. Jeff and his committee put together an interesting program that spanned a wide variety of topics. From media relations to evapotranspiration and irrigation scheduling, there was something for everyone who attended the seminar.

Bolstering Your Communications Efforts . . . and More

To start the day, Bradley Klein of *Superintendent News* and *GolfWeek* helped participants understand the inner workings of the media and the makings of a good story. High in entertainment value, Brad's talk also offered valuable tips and techniques for communicating effectively with our memberships. Among his many worthy take-home messages was that superintendents should make an extra effort to be available to club members and the media. Being elusive or just plain hard to reach is one of the worst things you can do for your career and professional image, he warned. Brad also stressed that superintendents should remember to write—and speak—to their audience's level of understanding. In other words, don't allow technical jargon to creep into your conversations with people who won't understand it—whether they're members, club officials, or the media.

Dr. Wayne Kussow of the University of Wisconsin was up next. He provided a much-needed refresher and update on soil science. His talk dealt with the complicated subject of soil cation balance and how to best extract this information from your soil

“Being elusive or just plain hard to reach is one of the worst things you can do for your career and professional image.”

– Bradley Klein

test reports. Dr. Kussow also discussed plant-available nutrients and plant response. In the end, one point did come through loud and clear and that is that superintendents should not rely on soil test results alone to create an effective fertility program.

The always dynamic Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University updated the Met on his ongoing Bethpage Green research work intended to demonstrate the outcome of a golf course maintained without the benefit of pesticides. Dr. Rossi used a series of slides to give an up-close-and-personal view of what a pesticide-free green looks like at the end of the season and the problems associated with this approach for both the superintendent and the golfer. The pictures spoke for themselves: Life without pesticides is not pretty.

In addition, Dr. Rossi discussed his new research effort, which involves creating a standardized method of evaluation for organic/microbial products in the marketplace. Dr. Rossi's intent, here, is to separate the so-called “snake oils” from the legitimate products on the market. He will examine the various organic/microbial products out there to determine their exact

makeup; then he will take them to the field for evaluation. Using a standard method to evaluate these materials will help take the mystery—and risk—out of superintendents' purchasing decisions. Dr. Rossi's microbial product work is being funded by the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation.

Mid-Day Awards

The highlight of the day had to be the award presentations. After lunch, Woodway Country Club Property Manager and MetGCSA Past President Larry Pakkala was presented with the prestigious Sherwood A. Moore Award.

With Larry's family in the audience, he gave an acceptance speech that showed both his love for the profession and the people around him.

A double award day, the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award was presented next to USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow. Jim recounted his days as a Northeast Region agronomist, conjuring up fond memories for the many superintendents in the room who knew Jim well from his yearly visits to their course.

“Superintendents should not rely on soil test results alone to create an effective fertility program.”

– Dr. Wayne Kussow



Awards Committee Chairman John Carlone presents the Reid Award to USGA Green Section National Director Jim Snow.

Afternoon Sessions Have Snowy Start

Once the awards were said and done, seminar goers settled back in for the afternoon session's talks.

First, we heard from USGA Green Section Agronomist Dr. Jim Baird, who discussed, on this snowy day, the only-too-fitting topic of winter damage and how to recover.

Though a problem that frustrates many Met area superintendents, there are still no clear prevention tactics or cures. Researchers suspect that healthy turf heading

into winter combined with good growing conditions help to minimize the problem, but frequently, even that is not enough.

Jim Baird's words to the wise: If you suffer from winter damage, start the recovery process as early as possible for the best results. Be aggressive, but then give the seed a chance to germinate and establish before you cultivate again. Topdressing, according

to Jim, is also very important to the recovery process.

The day ended with Brian Vinchesi reviewing irrigation scheduling and evapotranspiration rates. The point that Brian drove home was that most superintendents are underutilizing their irrigation computers, primarily because they haven't taken the time to understand all the features and functions. He showed many examples of how time-based scheduling wasn't providing the accurate application of water most superintendents are striving for. During the course of his 45-minute presentation, Brian also touched on many of the features that will help superintendents make more efficient use of their irrigation systems—and in turn, the water on their course.

Glenn Perry, co-editor of the Tee to Green, is superintendent at Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton, CT.

“If you suffer from winter damage, start the recovery process as early as possible for the best results.”

– Jim Baird



Stanwich Club's Scott Niven presents the SAM Award to longtime friend and colleague Larry Pakkala of Woodway Country Club.

Special Thanks to Our Winter Seminar Exhibitors

*W*e'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
610-327-3390

A. G. Enterprises

Rick Gordon
Golf Maintenance Apparel
201-488-1276

Al Preston's Garage

Gary Shashinka
Massey Ferguson Tractors
203-924-1747

All Pro Horticulture, Inc.

John Seib/Rick Wilhelm
Green Industry Supplies
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Atlantic Irrigation Specialties, Inc.

Ray Beaudry/Tim Marcoux
Irrigation Supplies
914-686-0008

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413-283-9675

Bayer Environmental Science

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DeLea & Sons Sod Farms

Rick DeLea
Sod & Landscape Supplies
800-244-7637

Earthworks, Inc.

Carl Wallace
Plant Nutrition Suppliers
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E/T Equipment Co.

Kevin Collins
Equipment Sales & Service
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Glenmore Landscape Service

Glenn Moore
Golf Course Construction
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Koonz Sprinkler Supply

Bill Koonz
Irrigation Supplies
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Metro Turf Specialists

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Mid-Hudson Dryject

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Plant Food Company, Inc.

Tom Weinert
Liquid Fertilizer Specialist
914-262-0111

Shemin Nurseries, Inc.

Mike Dempsey
Landscape Materials & Hard Goods
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Simplot Partners

Joe Stahl
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Steven Willand, Inc.

John Ferruccio/Gary Mathis
Turfgrass Equipment
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Storr Tractor Company

Fred Rapp
Flowtronics & Irrigation Supplies
908-722-9830

Syngenta Professional Products

Lee Koszcy
Plant Protectant Suppliers
215-796-0409

Terre Company of NJ, Inc.

Byron Johnson
All Your Turf Care Needs
201-321-2009

The Care of Trees

Peter McFarland/Mike Cook
All Your Tree Care Needs
914-345-8733

Turf Products Corporation

Al Tretera/Brian Dingle
Turf & Irrigation Products
800-243-4355/860-253-7911??

Westchester Tractor Inc.

George Risley
Tractors & Bucket Loaders
914-232-7746

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.

Robert Lippman/David Lippman
Golf Supplies, Pesticides, Fertilizers, & Seed
845-621-5067

Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.

Glenn Gallion
Turf Equipment Sales
888-831-0891

Who's Who on the New Met Board



The November 13 MetGCSA Annual Meeting ended with the following members elected to the board:

Back row, left to right: Bob Neilsen, CGCS, of Bedford Golf & Tennis Club; Tom Leahy, CGCS, of Sleepy Hollow CC; Scott Apgar of Metro Turf Specialists.

Middle row, left to right: Past President Tim Moore of Knollwood CC; Jeff Wentworth, CGCS, of Pelham CC; Glenn Perry, CGCS, of Rolling Hills CC; Sean Cain of Sunningdale CC.

Front row, left to right: Paul Boyd of Greenwich CC; President Dave Mahoney of Siwanoy CC; Treasurer Matt Ceplo, CGCS, of Rockland CC; Secretary Tony Girardi, CGCS, of Rockrimmon CC; Glen Dube, CGCS, of Oak Hills Park GC.

Missing from the picture is Vice President Will Heintz of Centennial GC.

Chairmen of the Board

*W*e've provided a list—with phone numbers—of each of the MetGCSA's committee chairs. Please feel to contact any of them with questions, comments, or helpful suggestions.

Awards Committee

Tim Moore, *Knollwood CC*
914-592-7829

Bylaws Committee

Will Heintz, *Centennial GC*
845-279-8960

Club Relations Committee

- Glenn Perry, CGCS, *Rolling Hills Country Club*
203-762-9484
- Tony Girardi, CGCS, *Rockrimmon CC*
914-764-5010

Communications Committee

- Glenn Perry, CGCS, *Rolling Hills Country Club*
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
- Glen Dube, CGCS, *Oak Hills Park GC*
203-838-4960

Long-Range Planning & Steering Committee

Tim Moore, *Knollwood CC*
914-592-7829

Membership Committee

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

MetGCSA Merchandise

Paul Boyd, *Greenwich CC*
203-869-1000 ext. 282

Scholarship & Research Committee

Will Heintz, *Centennial GC*
845-279-8960

Social & Welfare Committee

- Tom Leahy, CGCS, *Sleepy Hollow CC*
914-941-8281
- Glen Dube, CGCS, *Oak Hills Park GC*
203-838-4960

Special Events Committee

- Jeff Wentworth, CGCS, *Pelham CC*
914-738-2752
- Scott Apgar, *Metro Turf Specialists*
203-748-GOLF

Tournament Committee

- Tom Leahy, CGCS, *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
- Glen Dube, CGCS, *Oak Hills Park GC*
203-838-4960

Scholarship Raffle Wins

by Will Heintz

MetGCSA Scholarship & Research Chairman

The 2003 Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 6 Woodway 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.

The raffle is the prime source of the scholarship awards we distribute to deserving MetGCSA member dependents each year. In 2003, we awarded \$11,000 to 11 students.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile fundraiser, and congratulations to our \$1,000-grand-prize winner, **Cathleen Nielsen**, mother of Bedford Golf & Tennis Club Super **Bob Nielsen**.

The other prize winners were:

\$500 Winners

- **Charlie Robson**, MetPGA
- **John Ruzsbatzky**, Country Club of Farmington
- **Owen Regan**, AT Sales Associates, Ltd.

\$250 Winners

- **Scott Niven**, The Stanwich Club
- **Kevin Collins**, E/T Equipment Co.
- **Christina Pakkala**, daughter of Woodway's **Larry Pakkala**
- **David Fleury**, The Roger Rulewich Group

\$100 Winners

- **Catherine Mahoney**, wife of Siwanoy's **Dave Mahoney**
- **Blake Halderman**, Trump National Golf Club
- **Jay Scott**, Lion's Club friend of Woodway's **Larry Pakkala**
- **Mike Cook**, The Care of Trees
- **Jasmine Ceplo**, wife of Rockland's **Matt Ceplo**
- **George Gorton**, Sawtelle Brothers, Inc.
- **Bill Gaydosh**, Round Hill Club
- **Adrienne O'Keefe**, daughter of Preakness Hills' **John O'Keefe**
- **Carly Amodio**, daughter of Valley View Greenhouses's **Frank Amodio**
- **Debbie Haigh**, Valley View Greenhouses

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

- Richard Krok**, Class AF, Storr Tractor Company, Somerville, NJ
Justin Gabrenas, Class C, Silver Spring Country Club, Ridgefield, CT
Dave Moffett, Class C, Trump National Golf Club, Briarcliff Manor, NY
Adam Poplawski, Class C, Old Oaks Country Club, Purchase, NY
James Simonian, Class C, St. Andrew's Golf Club, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Carl Wallace, Class AF, Earthworks, Inc., Rocky Hill, CT



For more
MetGCSA news,
visit our website at
www.Metgcsa.org.

Info Alert

It's Scholarship Application Time

Don't delay in calling for your 2004 MetGCSA Scholarship Award application! Any Class A, AL, B, C, AF, or AFL member of the MetGCSA or a dependent of a member is eligible to win. But the deadline for submissions is fast approaching. **All applications should be RECEIVED by April 30.**

Application forms are available through MetGCSA Executive Secretary Ineke Pierpoint at 914-347-4653. If you have any questions about the application process, feel free to contact S & R Chairman Will Heintz of Centennial Country Club in Carmel, NY, at 845-279-8960.

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 an upcoming Met meeting. We'll keep you posted on the time and place.

Business Meeting Makes Tracks to Pelham Country Club

by Chip Lafferty

No, this first Met meeting isn't calling for golf clubs, but it *is* calling for all members to join the MetGCSA board in discussing association affairs for 2004.

Hosting this year's Business Meeting on March 25 is Jeff Wentworth and the Pelham Country Club. You know the place. Nearly two years ago, Jeff brought Met members to Pelham for the association's first-ever education dinner meeting.

What a tease. There was no golf then either. This month, however, we're giving you a sneak peak of this 82-year-old, Devereux Emmet-designed course—on this issue's cover. So you can imagine—if only for a moment—that it's a warm summer's day and you're teeing it up on the 4th hole.

No Rest for the Weary

Joining Pelham Country Club as superintendent in 1994, Jeff basically hit the ground running, wrestling with one improvement project after another in his near decade-long tenure. He began his first season on the job by successfully killing off 10 acres of the existing rough and overseeding to a uniform and consistent stand.

Since then, he's also renovated fairways, bunkers, and the clubhouse grounds. He's reconstructed 14 tees, installed a new, full-coverage irrigation system, built a new 11,000-square-foot maintenance facility, and added a USGA-spec chipping green and driving range with target fairway.

But Jeff's not one to rest on his laurels. This year, he and his crew will begin implementing an extensive land management program, which will include selective tree removal and drainage work. "Pelham's not unlike many other area courses that have let their trees grow out of check for years," says Jeff. "We've worked hard to map out a plan to take control and prune or remove hundreds of trees to help Pelham's turf and playability."

Equally important in Jeff's mind is their plan for new drainage. "After the wettest



Jeff Wentworth, CGCS

year on record," says Jeff, "we're going to attack poor draining areas on the course by either repairing existing drains or installing entirely new drainage systems."

The Path to Pelham

Jeff's path to Pelham started in 1988 at Myopia Hunt Club, where he worked as a student intern. From there, Jeff moved to Ridgewood in New Jersey, tried a short stint in Maryland at the Columbia Country Club, and in 1991, began a four-year term at Westchester Country Club as assistant superintendent.

In and around Jeff's numerous moves, he managed to complete a two-year turf degree at Stockbridge in 1989 and then a B.S. in urban forestry at UMass in 1991.

Jeff's a believer in giving back to the profession. He's been an active member of the Met, serving on the board since 1999 and chairing or co-chairing numerous committees. Jeff's sole charge this year is the all-consuming Education Committee.

When asked what Jeff likes most about this challenging profession, he points to the great satisfaction he gets from seeing the product that he and his crew produce day

in and day out. "I also enjoy the unique camaraderie we superintendents share," says Jeff. "This is the only business I know where competitors—young and old—actually help each other, sharing equipment and giving advice."

It's All About Golf

When Jeff isn't working, he enjoys playing golf with friends at many of the area's finest clubs. This past fall, Jeff teed it up with longtime playing partner Sean Cain and one-time mentor Joe Alonzi at Shinnecock Hills.

Jeff has been playing a lot of golf in recent years and has benefited by achieving a lower handicap. This, of course, didn't feel like much of a benefit when, after giving Joe Alonzi four strokes per side, Joe fired a front-nine score of 37—one upping Jeff's score of 38.

Another of Jeff's favorite pastimes is visiting U.S. Open tournaments. "I've been traveling to Opens just about every year since becoming a superintendent," says Jeff, "and I'll be at this year's Open at Shinnecock Hills."

The Met is sponsoring a bus trip to Shinnecock, which Jeff encourages all members to take advantage of. "It's a good time to get away with fellow supers for a day and see, up-close-and-personal, just how great the conditions are for these special events," says Jeff.

Mimi and Me

When Jeff can drag himself away from golf, he enjoys spending time with his wife of seven years, Mimi. They share a love for travel abroad and off-season getaways to the mountains of Vermont, where they can enjoy the silence of no cell phone coverage and some serious skiing.

Chip Lafferty, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Rye Golf Club in Rye, NY.