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

*Cover: Siwanoy Country Club.
Photo by Art Cironi.*



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(But not Necessarily
the Greatest)

News

With the 2002 season almost in full swing, I'd like to bring you up to date on some of our industry's—and association's—hot button topics.



Water Restrictions: They're Worth Talking About –

First and foremost is something that's on all our minds: the drought. It's real. It's here. The burning question is how each of us will be affected. As it stands now, restrictions will vary from state to state, county to county, and perhaps even town to town.

I think it's important that we all see to it that our membership understands that these variances in water use restrictions will directly affect course conditions—from one town to the next. They must avoid, therefore, making unfair comparisons.

Joe Alonzi's piece on page 8 spells out how the drought emergency's different phases will affect courses in Westchester County. Basically, it calls for reducing water consumption by 15, 20, and 25 percent, depending on whether we are in Phase I, II, or III of the drought.

In other areas:

- Rockland County courses are currently being required to restrict their water use to a specific time period during the day.
- Courses in New Jersey are being subjected to both time and water-use restrictions. They're required to reduce their water use to half of their previous year's consumption.
- Water restrictions are now making their way into Connecticut. Right over the New York border, in Greenwich, for instance, golf courses have been given the directive to limit irrigation to greens and tees and to stop watering fairways altogether.
- Long Island courses are the most fortunate of the bunch. Having been graced with an adequate supply, they have no water restrictions at this time.

Be aware of neighboring areas' water policies, and if need be, stand ready to defend your course's conditions to members who insist on making odious comparisons.

More important, however, is that you begin, now, to develop a water conservation plan. There are several web sites that have valuable, up-to-the-



Tim Moore
MetGCSA President

minute drought-related information. You'll find them in Joe's article in this issue—and a number on our very own web site: MetGCSA.org. So check it out.

Your Research Dollars: More Important Now Than Ever

Here's my next topic: research. Everyone likes to reap the rewards of a good study, but not enough are willing to pay for it. And I mean in the way of donations.

Your contributions go a long way toward supporting universities in conducting critical turfgrass research—particularly in today's economic climate where state funding for universities is being limited or redirected.

Cornell—a university that most recently has generated worthy findings on moss control and prevention—is just one example of a university whose funds have been redirected—in this case toward the September 11 tragedy.

All that to say, your research dollars are more important than ever.

The Met has been fortunate to be affiliated with the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, which has earned the distinction of being one of the leading supporters of turfgrass research in the Northeast. Behind this distinction are the many generous donations from area clubs, vendors, and our association and the five others who orchestrate the foundation's activities: the New Jersey GCSA, Connecticut AGCS, Long Island GCSA, Hudson Valley GCSA as well as the MGA.

Sadly, this year has not gotten off to a strong start. Participation is down—way down after the foundation's first call for donations. Letters were sent to more than 400 clubs; only 135 responded.

This month, another letter will go out.
continued on page 7

Feature

Putting the Breaks on the Anthracnose Epidemic

*Researchers Offer New Hope for Preventing
an Anthracnose Outbreak on Your Course*

*Adapted from an article written by Dr. Bruce Clarke and Dr. James Murphy
Rutgers Cooperative Extension*



*Fig 2. Leaf spots caused by
Colletotrichum
graminicola on Poa annua.*

A

nthracnose has to be one of the most dreaded—and deadly—turfgrass diseases to affect golf courses—and golf course superintendents. Few know that better than the superintendents along the East Coast and mid-western states where, over the past few years, this disease has soared in incidence and severity—and has been extremely difficult to control.

Fungicides normally used to control the disease were frequently ineffective, even when used at labeled rates and at recommended intervals of application. The result: Many golf courses suffered extensive damage and major disruptions in play, particularly on greens.

This left superintendents scratching their heads, while agronomists and pathologists searched for some answers. Though it's doubtful that any particular factor is responsible for the recent *increase* in anthracnose in the U.S., the researchers do agree that certain management practices commonly employed on golf courses may be enhancing the *severity* of this disease and making it more difficult to control.

What follows is a look at how the disease evolves, as well as how various management practices may be setting the stage for anthracnose. Last but not least, the

researchers offer some helpful hints on what you might do to prevent an anthracnose outbreak on your course.

Telltale Symptoms and Signs of Anthracnose

At its onset, anthracnose—caused by *Colletotrichum graminicola*—seems harmless enough: small patches of yellow to reddish-brown turf just one to two inches in diameter (see Figure 1). But give it the right conditions and this insidious killer takes off, rapidly becoming large, irregularly shaped areas of discolored turf.

The pathogen may first infect older or senescing leaves, causing yellow leaf lesions (see Figure 2). But at the slightest hint of mechanical or environmental stress, the pathogen dives deep, attacking the weakened plants' stems and leaf sheaths. Causing an affliction commonly known as basal stem rot, the lesions on the stems and leaf sheaths are, at first, water soaked but quickly turn black as the tissue is destroyed.

At this point, the plant's death is almost certain. But unfortunately, the disease lives on and can be unwittingly—and quite easily—spread.

Here's how it works: If you were to look

at the affected foliage and stems, you'd generally see, at this stage, that they're covered with small, black protrusions or reproductive structures called acervuli.

As the acervuli mature, they produce long, black spines called setae, which are the telltale signs of anthracnose (see Figure 3). Each acervuli contains dozens of one-celled, crescent-shaped, asexual spores called conidia. It's the conidia that spread the disease to uninfected turf when moved by wind, water, or unavoidable mechanical means.

Unfortunately, this disease can strike almost any time of year, but it most commonly makes an appearance between April and September. It's not picky about which turfgrass species it infects, but it is particularly severe on annual bluegrass (*Poa annua* L.) and a little less so on creeping bentgrass (*Agrostis stolonifera* L.).

Annual bluegrass is generally hardest hit because it's the weaker of the two turfgrasses with a prolific production of seed heads, particularly between late April and early June.

Aside from being undesirable to golfers, these seed heads are often the culprit in anthracnose infections—primarily because they often deplete the essential carbohydrate reserves of the plant by early summer. This weakens the plant and, ultimately, its



Fig 1. Yellowing and general thinning associated with early symptoms of anthracnose on *Poa annua*.

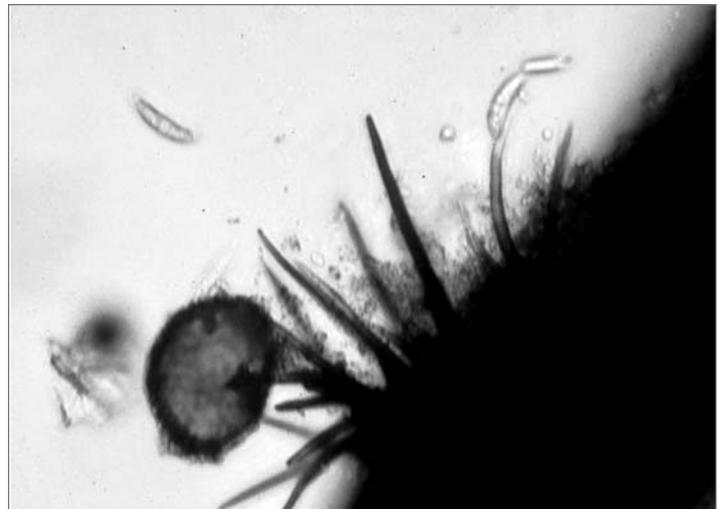


Fig 3. An acervulus with black setae and one-celled conidia produced by the anthracnose pathogen, *Colletotrichum graminicola*.

For best results, do not apply more than two or three consecutive applications of any fungicide used to control anthracnose.

defenses against anthracnose, particularly if there are environmental stresses, such as hot, humid weather.

Turf Management Concerns and Strategies

In the end, your best defense against anthracnose, no matter what your turf species, is to take a long, hard look at your cultural practices and adjust them, when at all possible, so they favor your turf.

Here are some of the dos and don'ts of cultural practices that are key in maintaining the vigor of your turf plants and, ultimately, in keeping them out of harm's way.

Fertility Concerns

Of the 17 essential nutrients required for plant growth, nitrogen is often the element that has the greatest impact on plant vigor.

Over the past 20 years, there has been a strong trend toward reducing the amount of nitrogen applied to golf course greens, tees, and fairways. Some superintendents, for instance, have abandoned the practice of applying moderate rates of a slow-release nitrogen source (3/4 to 1-1/2 N/1000 sq. ft.) on greens in the fall or spring. In some cases, this has resulted in turf that is deficient in nitrogen at certain times during the growing season.

Also draining turf's nutrient supply is clipping removal, a practice that has become common on fairways. If fertility levels are not adjusted to compensate for the nutrients removed, then you're likely to create a deficiency. In fact, clipping removal can remove 25 to 60 percent of applied nitrogen per season.

Be wary, too, of deficiencies in phosphorous or potassium. This is also thought to leave turf more susceptible to anthracnose.

Fertility Strategies

Since it is apparent that nitrogen-deficient turf is more susceptible to anthracnose than well-fertilized plants, it only follows then that you should be sure to maintain adequate nitrogen levels.

Annual bluegrass typically requires 1-1/2 to 4 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft. per year, depending on the age of the green and the intensity of traffic. Keep in mind that spoon-feeding turf with 0.1 to 0.125 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft. may not be enough to ensure proper plant growth when turf vigor is low. Remember, too, that some nitrogen from foliar applications of urea can be lost through volatilization.

To improve plant vigor, superintendents should consider periodically increasing the frequency of nitrogen applications from every two weeks to once a week. It would also be wise to apply moderate rates of a slow-release nitrogen source (3/4 to 1-1/2 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft.) to greens in the fall or spring to prevent the "nitrogen bank" in the green from becoming depleted.

Irrigation Concerns

Drought is another environmental stress that appears to predispose turf to anthracnose. Not only can low soil water availability reduce plant vigor, weakening the plant's natural defenses against disease, but *C. graminicola* can readily colonize weakened turf.

The tendency to maintain dry turf and soil to improve playability and to enhance the competitiveness of bentgrass may actually stimulate disease development on annual bluegrass.

Tree root competition is another factor that has been associated with decreasing turf vigor and potentially enhancing anthracnose.

Irrigation Strategies

To maintain turf vigor—and fend off anthracnose—it's critical that you keep your turf free of any drought stress.

Some practical advice: Be sure crew members know the ins and outs of hand watering. Syringing stressed turf during the day is as much an art as it is a science. Too much or too little syringing can damage turf.

Be particularly vigilant for wilt stress after 3 p.m. when your crew punches out for the day. Wilt stress, particularly from

mid-day to late afternoon, will exacerbate the turf's exposure to high temperature stress.

Another important consideration: Straight sand topdressing does not retain as much moisture as do mixes with a higher content of organic matter. If you have changed to straight sand topdressing, be sure to alter your irrigation practices accordingly.

Mowing Concerns

Low mowing heights have been reported to increase many turfgrass diseases—summer patch, leaf spot, bentgrass dead spot among them. Now add to the list anthracnose.

Many of the superintendents who had severe outbreaks of anthracnose over the past few years were maintaining greens at or below 1/8 of an inch. Where annual bluegrass is a major component of the putting surface, low mowing can deplete the carbohydrate reserves of this species, often already weakened by environmental stress.

Another suspect in the anthracnose problem: mowing frequency. The increased wear caused by double and triple cutting, particularly at very low cutting heights, can result in greater wounding and may potentially enhance the incidence of stress-related diseases.

Note: Double cutting at a higher cut is preferable to mowing at a lower height to achieve greater putting speed.

Mowing Strategies

Where possible, raise the mowing height when turf is under environmental stress. Simply raising the cutting height 1/32 of an inch will increase the photosynthetic capability of the turf—and, in turn, the carbohydrate level in the plant. This should also aid in recovery once the disease is suppressed with fungicides.

If you're concerned about increasing your mowing height, you might consider compensating for a slight increase with lightweight rolling. Research has shown that lightweight rolling can simulate the effect of a double cut or a 1/32-inch reduction in the mowing height. Moreover, it appears that you can roll greens as many as three times

Control of Anthracnose

1. Demethylation Inhibitors (Sterol Inhibitors) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banner, Bayleton, Eagle, Rubigan, Sentinel 	3. Benzimidazoles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fungo, Cleary 3336
2. Strobilurins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage • Compass • Bas 500/505 	4. Nitriles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daconil, ChloroStar, Thalonil, Manicure 5. Combinations (3 + 4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ConSyst, Spectro

Table 1. Fungicide groups reported to control anthracnose on turf.

per week with no detrimental effect.

Although some agronomists have suggested that grooved rollers may increase wounding compared to smooth rollers, the impact of roller type on anthracnose is currently unknown. However, any attempt to reduce wounding (e.g., avoid aerifying, verticutting, or sand topdressing when the disease is active) would presumably reduce the incidence of new infections.

Other Anthracnose-Fighting Strategies

Other factors that may suppress anthracnose in the long run include:

- reducing excessive thatch and compaction when the disease is not active
- removing dew and guttation water in the early morning hours
- improving air circulation

Building an Effective Fungicide Program U

Unfortunately, few good fungicide studies have been conducted for the control of anthracnose. This is partially due to the fact that researchers—until recently—were not able to consistently reproduce the disease artificially in field trials where uniformity of infection is required to accurately assess fungicide efficacy.

Similarly, studies conducted on golf courses naturally infested with *C. graminicola* have also yielded limited information, often because of the simultaneous occurrence of other turfgrass diseases. As a result, only six or seven reliable studies have been reported over the past 15 years.

Information pertaining to how plant growth regulators and herbicides affect anthracnose is also very limited. However, it would appear from a study conducted in Kentucky that products such as Primo or Dimension might slightly increase the incidence of this disease. Clearly, additional research is required before more definitive conclusions can be drawn.

Despite the need to improve current fungicide recommendations, you can still control anthracnose effectively on your

course, with the appropriate course of action. Here are some suggestions:

1. Take preventive measures. On sites that have had a previous history of this disease, it's best to apply fungicides on a preventive basis two to three weeks before symptoms typically develop.

For many locations in the tri-state area, this may mean starting applications in early- to mid-May. On other sites, fungicide treatments may have to begin in April. In either case, the key to good disease control is to prevent severe epidemics from getting established. Once severe outbreaks occur, adequate disease control with fungicides can be difficult to attain.

2. Develop a well-conceived fungicide program. To date, only fungicides within the benzimidazole, strobilurin, nitrile, and demethylation inhibitor (DMI) classes have been reported to consistently control anthracnose (see Table 1). Fosetyl Al (i.e., Aliette Signature) has also provided good disease suppression in some tests when used in combination with chlorothalonil (e.g., Daconil Ultrex). However, fosetyl Al is not currently labeled for the control of anthracnose.

Even though fungicides within the dicarboximide class are registered for the suppression of this disease, iprodione (i.e., Chipco 26GT) and vinclozolin (e.g., Curalan) have not provided effective control in most studies. Moreover, flutolanil (e.g., ProStar) has been shown to intensify anthracnose on bentgrass studies at Rutgers and, therefore, should not be applied to turf infested with *C. graminicola*.

Recently, laboratory studies have identified isolates of *C. graminicola* with reduced sensitivity to fungicides within the benzimidazole and strobilurin classes. Although this has yet to be confirmed in the field, every effort should be made to delay or prevent the development of fungicide-resistant isolates of this pathogen.

For best results, do not apply more than two or three consecutive applications of any fungicide used to control anthracnose.

Alternating or tank mixing products with different modes of action (i.e., different fungicide classes) is still considered, by most turfgrass pathologists, to be the most effective strategy for preventing this problem.

Word to the Wise: When developing a fungicide program for your golf course, try to schedule the application of products when more than one target disease can be controlled. For example, applying a DMI or a nitrile fungicide in late May may help control both anthracnose and dollar spot, whereas rotating a strobilurin into an anthracnose program in late June or early July will also help prevent summer patch and brown patch.

Moreover, be sure to follow label directions carefully regarding appropriate fungicide rates and intervals of application to optimize disease control.

3. Don't underestimate the power of water. The amount of water applied with a fungicide can make or break its effectiveness. Products applied in less than 1 gal. water/1000 sq. ft. will almost certainly result in reduced levels of control. This is particularly true for the nitrile fungicides, since they are contact fungicides that must thoroughly cover leaf and stem tissues to be effective. In no instance should contact fungicides be watered into the thatch layer.

Final Note

Although much still needs to be learned about the etiology and control of this disease, superintendents can keep anthracnose at bay by adjusting cultural practices to enhance, rather than tax, plant vigor and by employing sound chemical application strategies.

Many thanks to Dr. Bruce Clarke and Dr. James Murphy—extension specialists on turfgrass pathology and management, respectively, at Rutgers Cooperative Extension—for providing us with the information for this article. You can read their original paper on our web site at MetGCSA.org.

Anthracnose Epidemic Hits Close to Home

Survey Sheds Light on How Overly Good Grooming Can Breed Disease

by Chip Lafferty

Atate to admit it, but sometimes misery likes company. When anthracnose hit my course, I can't tell you how reassuring it was to know that I wasn't alone. As Drs. Clarke and Murphy mention in the accompanying piece, over the past several years, anthracnose has taken off in the U.S., and in this area in particular.

Searching for an answer to my trials with the disease, I decided to poll several other Met members who were fighting the same battle—in varying degrees. My hope was to uncover any commonalities in our turf management programs that might shed light on this devastating problem.

Many thanks to all (they're listed below) who took the time to respond to my numerous survey questions. What follows is a brief recap of the results. I focused on those areas that we, as turf managers, might do well to rethink to better serve our memberships—and our every blade of grass.

Soil pH

Numbers ranged from 5.8 to 6.8, but they did not seem to have any bearing on anthracnose. Worth noting, however, is that superintendents in the Philadelphia area did seem to feel that using acidifying fertilizers to alter the top 1/4" of thatch does show promise.

Top Dressing Practices

Most clubs polled had switched to sand topdressing and were adhering to the same basic regimen: light, frequent applications on a bi-monthly schedule, followed by a heavy topdressing before winter.

Based on the observations of Drs. Clarke and Murphy, the only caveat, here, is to remember that sand topdressing does not retain as much moisture as do mixes with a higher content of organic matter. Therefore, you'll need to keep a more vigilant watch on your turf's irrigation needs.

Fertility Programs

With nitrogen levels at or below 2 lbs. per season, the majority of clubs surveyed might have fallen a bit short on the fertilizer levels recommended for keeping anthracnose at bay.

As Drs. Clarke and Murphy point out, we must build up our turf's nitrogen bank early

in the season and again in the fall for our turf plants to thrive and ward off infection.

Use of Seed-Head Suppressors

Clubs were divided on the use of seed-head suppressing chemicals. Half used them, half didn't. According to Drs. Clarke and Murphy, we might do well to suppress seed heads since they deplete the essential carbohydrate reserves of the plant by early summer, leaving it weakened and almost defenseless against anthracnose.

Use of Growth Regulators

All but one club used Primo growth regulator on their greens and plan to continue. If you give any credence to a study conducted in Kentucky, you may want to think twice about using a growth regulator. Though clearly more research needs to be done, this study linked products such as Primo and Dimension to a slight increase in the incidence of anthracnose.

Rolling Practices

All clubs, with the exception of one, roll their greens two to four times per week. Drs. Clarke and Murphy feel that greens aren't harmed by lightweight rolling when it's done no more than three times per week. The researchers also go on to say that rolling can actually simulate the effect of a double cut or a 1/32-inch reduction in height of cut.

Aerification Programs

All the clubs surveyed aerify one to two times per year and remove plugs and fill holes with sand. The Hydroject is also used by all the clubs—some more than others, depending on staff and weather.

Aerifying would also qualify as a prudent practice since it works to reduce thatch and compaction, which are two other safeguards against anthracnose.

Nozzle Type

Most clubs polled have gone to low-drift spray nozzles, which have a coarse water droplet. Because water is such an important component in fungicide applications, these could be doing more harm than good, since water coverage will not be as effective.

Anthracnose is a disease of opportunity,

so thorough—and ample—coverage must be a serious consideration.

Nematode Connection

From all accounts, there seems to be little to no connection between nematodes and anthracnose. (We won one!)

Cutting Heights

No surprise here. The survey showed, in no uncertain terms, that we continue to put extraordinary stress on our turf in the spring when we should be building our carbohydrate reserves for the long summer ahead. Most of the respondents were cutting at 1/8 of an inch or less during the height of the season.

Drs. Clarke and Murphy pointed to the fact that those courses with the most severe outbreaks were maintaining greens at or below 1/8 of an inch. They further note that, by raising the height of cut even just 1/32 of an inch, we can boost the plants' carbohydrate level—and, ultimately, their health.

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, this emphasizes, once again, that we must educate our membership about the harsh realities of fast greens. Forget the TV. Turfgrass is a living, breathing thing, and if we target overall health, we might actually find that devastating diseases like anthracnose can, again, become a secondary pathogen.

Thank You, Thank You

If anyone would like a more in-depth look at the survey results, please feel free to call me at 914-636-8700, ext. 212. And many thanks, again, to all who participated in the survey. Besides me, the participants are:

Glen Dube, Oak Hills Park Golf Club, Norwalk, CT

Jim Fulwider, CGCS, Century Country Club, Purchase, NY

Larry Pakkala, CGCS, Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT

Bob Nielsen, Bedford Golf & Tennis Club, Bedford, NY

Todd Raisch, Ridgewood Country Club, Paramus, NJ

Steve Renzetti, Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY

Chip Lafferty, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY.

Jon Jennings Honored as Innovative Golf Course Superintendent

Congratulations to former *Tee to Green* Editor and Chicago Golf Club Superintendent Jon Jennings, the worthy recipient of the third annual Pendulum Award at GCSAA's International Golf Course Conference and Show. Cosponsored by GSCAA and BASF Corporation, this high honor recognizes golf course superintendents nationwide who have demonstrated outstanding ingenuity in golf course management.

Jon was selected based on his work involving sand topdressing for fairways and how it can improve turf (watch *Tee to Green* for an upcoming article on this subject). BASF presented him with an engraved plaque bearing the image of a forward-swinging pendulum symbolizing his forward-thinking concept.

"I'm extremely pleased to be selected for this recognition," says Jon. "Like all golf course superintendents, my main interest is creating the best environment for our players and to promote the interests of the community. I hope that my peers can find equal value in the approaches I've taken at Chicago Golf Club."

Members on the Move

Chris Alonzi is the new superintendent at Woodbridge Country Club in Woodbridge, CT. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY.

Tim Combs is the new superintendent at Towers Country Club in Floral Park, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Rockrimmon Country Club, Stamford, CT.

Erick Holm is the new superintendent at Hop Meadow Country Club in Simsbury, CT. Previous position: Superintendent at Onondaga Golf & Country Club, Fayetteville, NY.

Dave Lippman has joined forces with his father at Westchester Turf Supply, Inc. in Lincolndale, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Shorehaven Golf Club, Norwalk, CT.

Robert Pierpoint, son of Ardsley Super George Pierpoint and the Met's Executive Secretary Ineke Pierpoint, is the new superintendent at Onondaga Golf & Country Club in Fayetteville, NY. Previous position: Superintendent at Links at Erie Village, E. Syracuse, NY.

John Streeter is the new superintendent at North Shore Country Club in Glen Head, NY. Previous position: Superintendent at Woodbridge Country Club, Woodbridge, CT.



Births

Congratulations to . . .

St. Andrew's Golf Club Superintendent **Rob Alonzi** and his wife, Ann Marie, on the birth of their son, Nicholas Robert, on March 20.

Golf Club of Purchase Superintendent **Rob Goring** and his wife, Heidi, on the birth of their daughter, Katie, on February 11.

Well Wishes

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

President's Message continued from page 1

For those of you who have already contributed—many thanks. For those who have not, I urge you to send in your tax-deductible donation. It's a small price to pay for the valuable insights you—and the many golf courses in the tri-state region—will receive in return.

While I'm on the subject, if any of you have a turfgrass issue or problem that you think might profit from a research study, please let me know. The Tri-State is gearing up to fund new studies that would benefit courses in the tri-state area, and I would be happy to pass along your thoughts to the foundation board.

Here Come the Pros

The touring pros will soon be descending on our area—first for the Buick Classic at Westchester Country Club on June 6 – 9 and then for the much-anticipated U.S. Open at Bethpage on June 13 – 16.

We also have the senior's annual stop (the Lightpath Long Island Classic) at The Meadow Brook Club on July 29 – August 4, the LPGA at Wykagyl Country Club on July 11 – 14, and numerous amateur events that will be held locally.

Sleepy Hollow will play host to the USGA Women's Amateur on August 12 – 17, while Stanwich plans to host the USGA Mid-Amateur on September 21 – 26.

As you can see, there's a lot going on in the local golf community. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all superintendents and those involved with major tournaments much success this season.

Our Association Needs You

Participation is key to the success of any endeavor—whether it's preparing for a major tournament, supporting new research, or most important, our own association. Come to a meeting, volunteer your time and expertise, share your ideas and even your concerns. Be an *active* member in our association.

Right now, two of our committees—Education and Social—are short-staffed and could use some helping hands. I would encourage anyone and everyone to get involved. I guarantee you'll have no regrets. You may even find it rewarding.

Please give me a call if I can help direct you to one of the committees I mentioned—or to another area of interest.

Tim Moore
MetGCSA President

Could We Be Headed for the Worst Drought Ever?

How to Batten Down the Hatches for the Water-Use Restrictions Ahead

by Joe Alonzi, CGCS

Whether you're in Westchester County or another tri-state area town affected by the water shortage, now's the time to make club management aware that a drought—and serious water-use restrictions—are very possible (or are already in place!).

What follows is a look at some of the regulations that the Westchester County Drought Emergency Task Force is suggesting through its various phases of drought restrictions—from the lesser

Drought Warning all the way to a full-blown Drought Disaster. Right now, Westchester County is somewhere in between: We've moved beyond a drought warning into Phase I of a Drought Emergency.

Even if your course is outside Westchester County, these restrictions are worth a read, since many counties will subscribe to some of the same policies. Be sure, however, to catch the President's Message in this issue for a look at some of the counties that do have distinctly different water-use restrictions already in place.

Drought Warning

In this phase, the County Executive looks to the public to *voluntarily* conserve water by requesting that:

1. County parks and golf courses curtail lawn sprinkling and that county golf courses eliminate fairway watering. These restrictions apply whether facilities use well or New York City water.
2. Restaurants serve water only on request.
3. Street flushing be kept to a minimum.
4. The amount of water used to clean county vehicles be kept to a minimum.
5. Ornamental fountains be shut down.
6. Local ordinances governing illegal hydrant openings be enforced.
7. Public building exteriors not be cleaned with water.
8. Public and private swimming pools not be filled, if possible.
9. Car washing in all municipalities be curtailed.
10. Water-loss surveillance be heightened.

Drought Emergency

As of April 1, Westchester's County Executive has declared a Phase I drought emergency—under Local Law 9-1996—putting *mandatory* water restrictions into effect.

There are three phases of drought emergency, which, as you might guess, require progressively more stringent restrictions and regulations:

- *Phase One* is the declaration of a drought.
- *Phase Two* is the declaration of a *severe* drought.
- *Phase Three* is the declaration of an *extreme* drought.

Here, in brief, are the restrictions that will apply to golf courses in our current Phase I—and beyond.

Phase I

All industrial and commercial businesses—that means golf courses too—must develop a *written* Water Conservation Plan to reduce consumption by 15 percent. The Drought Emergency Task Force has the official Water Conservation Plan questionnaire, which must be completed and made available to county officials on request.

To determine whether the plan is being executed on your course, officials will look at the average water meter reading for the last nondrought calendar year and use that figure as the basis for comparison.

Watering golf course fairways and greens is subject to the same water conservation plan provisions as just mentioned, which require a 15-percent reduction in water consumption. Watering golf course roughs is prohibited.

Phase II/Phase III

Phase II and III requirements are similar to those in Phase I. In Phase II, however, you must implement a water conservation plan to reduce water use by 20 percent, and in Phase III, your plan must reduce water use by 25 percent.

There are other restrictions required by clubs, such as installing shower restrictors in the locker rooms, filling water glasses only on request in restaurants, and restricting air

Mother Nature is, once again, bestowing her wrath on the Northeast. After several years of relatively mild summers, we are heading into this new season with what could be one of the worst droughts on record.

Right now, the New York City Reservoir System is at approximately 50 percent of capacity—at a time when it should be close to 100 percent. This means that we need a significant amount of precipitation: at least 14 inches of rainfall within the next 45 days. Meteorological conditions and current long-range forecasts suggest normal consumption rates will result in a more serious shortage.

For additional information on drought regulations, log on to MetGCSA.org

conditioning hours, to name several. With these regulations in mind, you might want to think twice about beginning any major sodding or new planting projects—at least until we see a good, solid band of stormy weather ahead.

Should the drought last beyond Phase III, the County Executive could declare a “Drought Disaster.” This step would be implemented only if ordered by State and Federal Legislatures.

The Variance Option

These drought regulations were adopted in 1996 and are far more forgiving to the green industry than they were in the past. If, however, you experience a hardship with any of the regulations, you do have the option of applying for a variance. I can immediately think of one instance that would require a variance: the need to water har-tru/fast-dri tennis courts. Variance forms are available through the Drought Emergency Task Force.

For Further Information

Last but not least, I thought I'd leave you with several web sites you can tap into for the latest information on drought restrictions and regulations in your area:

- Westchester County: www.westchestergov.com
- New York State: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dow/droughtfacts.html
- New York City: www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/current.html
- New Jersey: www.njdrought.org
- Connecticut: www.drought.state.ct.us

Another good source of web site listings and links is our association's web site: MetGCSA.org.

In the meantime, let's pray for rain in the watershed areas and prepare for what may be a very dry time ahead.

Joe Alonzi, a member of the Westchester County Drought Emergency Task Force, is superintendent at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

Upcoming Events

EXCITING NEW
MEETING FORMAT!

2002 MetGCSA Calendar Update

Our meeting educational programs will be taking on an all-new and, believe it or not, exciting format for 2002. Rather than schedule a formal speaker, we'll be gathering “subject experts” from our own talented membership for a round-table discussion. Discussions will center on trends and topics of particular interest to our membership and will encourage everyone who attends to participate.

Right now, three round-table panels are being formed: one for April, another for May, and the third for October.

In July, we're trying something really different: It will be an evening educational function only. No golf, just a seminar (don't worry; it will be great) and dinner (which will be equally great). Because this event will begin in the late afternoon, it's a prime opportunity to bring along assistants and support staff.

There are still a few meetings looking for a site, and our social calendar is wide open. 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.

FINAL NOTE: Our Education and Social & Welfare Committees are short on volunteers. Anyone interested in serving on these committees should call Jeff Wentworth. (He doesn't bite.)

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

Education Dinner

Thursday, July 18
Pelham Country Club
Pelham Manor, NY
Host: Jeff Wentworth

MetGCSA Family Picnic

Date & Site TBA

MetGCSA Summer Social

Date & Site TBA

Poa Annual Tournament

Monday, August 19
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

Tuesday, October 29
Westchester Country Club/South Course
Host: Joe Alonzi, CGCS

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

An Insider's View of the National Convention

by Tim O'Neill, CGCS

Despite a number of people who still had reservations about flying after the September 11 tragedy, this year's International Golf Course Conference and Show, held February 3 – 10 in Orlando, FL, managed to attract a healthy crowd—20,613 to be exact. That's only about 300 fewer people than last year.

The two-and-a-half-day trade show had 729 vendors sprawled over 273,000 square feet of floor space and offering everything from gel-padded shoe inserts to wastewater treatment systems and state-of-the-art, flexible-cut walk mowers.

Topping the charts, however, were the activities surrounding the celebration of GCSAA's 75th Anniversary. It's hard to believe we've been in existence for three-quarters of a century!

Looking Back

As chairman of the 75th Anniversary Committee, I took special interest in our Opening Session, which featured a segment on our association history. An eight-minute video, running through a 75-year timeline of association highlights, depicted points of interest in our development.

It was interesting to see just how much our association has grown. For instance, only 75 members attended GCSAA's first annual meeting, which was held in 1927 in Chicago, and only 40 participated in GCSAA's second annual golf tournament in 1939. Compare that figure with the more than 600 contestants our tourney drew this year.

Another fun fact was that superintendents actually played a role in World War II: In 1941, supers were called on to grow turf for military landing strips.

Also part of the program was the unveiling of a replica statue of the original seven-foot bronze Old Tom Morris sculpture—which is located at our Lawrence, KS, headquarters.

The replica was later stationed for all to see in a corner of the trade show floor dubbed the 75th Anniversary Tribute Area. There was even a startlingly authentic Old

Tom Morris look-alike milling about the statue, ready to strike a pose with anyone interested in appearing with the "greatest superintendent of all time." A photographer—and film developing equipment—were also on hand so you could bring home a framed memento.

The tribute corner had numerous other attractions: a golf ball showcase, displaying more than 1,000 sets of golf balls from clubs around the world; family trees, showing second- and third-generation superintendent connections; and numerous other displays and offerings, including 75th Anniversary pins and glazed cookies.

After the show, the Old Tom Morris replica—crafted by Brad Pearson, a golf course super from Nebraska with a special talent—was given to a good home: the World Golf Village, Golf Hall of Fame in St. Augustine, FL.

Did you know that superintendents actually played a role in World War II? In 1941, supers were called on to grow turf for military landing strips.

Board Notes

Of course for anyone on the GCSAA board, the Annual Meeting, where elections take place, is always a must.

At this year's meeting, Mike Wallace, CGCS, of Fairview Farms Golf Course, Harwinton, CT, was elected president while Jon Maddern, CGCS, of Elk Ridge Golf Course, Atlanta, MI, was selected vice president. Mark Woodward, CGCS, of Dobson Ranch & Riverview golf courses, Mesa, AZ, was chosen as secretary/treasurer.

Though my run for secretary/treasurer was unsuccessful, it's paved the way for success next year. I'll be serving my third year on the board, and will, no doubt, be kept busy fulfilling my board duties as well as the responsibilities of chairing three committees: Career Development, Environmental Stewardship, and Communications.

Also elected as GCSAA directors were Sean Hoolehan, CGCS, of Wildhorse Golf Club, Pendleton, OR, and David S. Downing II, CGCS, of Barefoot Resort and Golf Club, North Myrtle Beach, SC. Robert Maibusch, CGCS, MG, of Hinsdale Golf Club, Clarendon Hills, IL, will serve the second of his two-year term on the board.

Ricky Heine, CGCS, of The Golf Club at Star Ranch, Austin, TX, was appointed to a one-year term that was created by Woodward's election as secretary/treasurer.

Last but not least, Tommy Witt, CGCS, of The Kiawah Island Club, Kiawah Island, SC, will serve on the board as immediate past president.

National Notables

Other conference news and notes:

- Mitch Clodfelter, golf course superintendent at Cowans Ford Country Club in Stanley, NJ, repeats as GCSAA golf champion with a 6-over-par 150. (See how MetGCSA members fared in the National Scorecard, page 11.)
- Retired St. Andrews Links greenkeeper Walter Woods was honored with GCSAA's highest annual award, the Old Tom Morris Award.
- The Canadian Golf Course Superintendents Association earned GCSAA's President's Award for Environmental Leadership for its creation of the Environmental Management Resource Manual. It was accepted by the program's director, Canadian Golf Superintendents Association president Jay Leach.
- GCSAA renewed its sponsorship of Senior PGA Tour Professional Jim Colbert.
- The GCSAA Foundation has exceeded its \$5 million "Investing in the Beauty of Golf Campaign."
- GCSAA honored three worthy recipients with its Distinguished Service Award: Houston Couch, Ph.D., from Virginia Tech; William Ploetz, retired golf course superintendent from Independence Golf Course in Gonzales, TX; and Bruce Williams, CGCS, from Los Angeles Country Club.
- The GCSAA/Golf Digest Environ-

mental Leaders in Golf Awards were presented to:

- *National Public:* Kevin Hutchins, Presidio Golf Course, San Francisco, CA
- *National Private:* William Davidson Jr., Collier's Reserve Country Club, Naples, FL
- *National Resort:* Anne Hickman, Barton Creek Country Club, Austin, TX
- *International:* James Sua, CGCS, National Service Resort & Country Club, Singapore

Changes Afoot

By the time next year's conference and show makes its way to Atlanta, GA, February 9 – 16, you may see some advances in the way GCSAA communicates with its membership—and board members.

For board members, GCSAA is turning to technology to streamline committee work and help lighten our travel load. Though each board member is equipped with a laptop that is loaded with everything necessary to communicate almost instantly with other board people and GCSAA staff, we are still required to attend five board meetings, fulfill commitments associated with chairing three committees, and as part of our speakers bureau commitment, travel to two or three chapters each year to speak on various topics.

As ambassadors of GCSAA, officers are required to attend even more events: major golf events, conferences and shows in England and Canada, foundation activities, and a variety of other events and meetings.

GCSAA has decided to hold three of its officer meetings via conference call and is also considering the use of video-conferencing to cut travel—and the expenses associated with gathering the entire board for meetings.

Similarly, GCSAA is experimenting with ways to make it easier for members to pursue its educational opportunities. On March 13, GCSAA hosted an experimental, interactive web-based seminar titled Dollar Spot and Anthracnose: Beyond the Basics. Run by Dr. Mike Agnew and Dr. Bruce Clarke, the seminar allowed participants to use their computers to do everything that a person-to-person seminar would allow them to do—except see one another. And they could do it all without ever leaving their desk chairs. Early feedback from those who participated has been positive.

It's this, and other types of technology, that GCSAA will be looking at in the year ahead to enhance its member communications and services—and to make board service less time consuming, while requiring less time away from home and work.

The year ahead promises to be an exciting one. I'll keep you posted on new developments.

Tim O'Neill, a director on the GCSAA Board of Directors, is superintendent at Country Club of Darien in Darien, CT.

GCSAA at a Glance

Board of Directors

President

Mike Wallace, CGCS, Fairview Farms Golf Course, Harwinton, CT

Vice President

Jon Maddern, CGCS, Elk Ridge Golf Course, Atlanta, MI

Secretary/Treasurer

Mark Woodward, CGCS, Dobson Ranch & Riverview golf courses, Mesa, AZ

Immediate Past President

Tommy Witt, CGCS, The Kiawah Island Club, Kiawah Island, SC

Directors

David Downing II, CGCS, Barefoot Resort and Golf Club, North Myrtle Beach, SC

Ricky Heine, CGCS, The Golf Club at Star Ranch, Austin, TX

Sean Hoolehan, CGCS, Wildhorse Golf Club, Pendleton, OR

Bob Maibusch, CGCS, MG, Hinsdale Golf Club, in Clarendon Hills, IL

Tim O'Neill, CGCS, Country Club of Darien, Darien, CT

Executive Management

Steve Mona, CAE, Chief Executive Officer

Chuck Borman, Chief Operating Officer

Julian Arredondo, CAE, Chief Financial Officer

Founded: 1926 at Sylvania Country Club, Toledo, OH

Headquarters Location: Lawrence, KS (since 1973)

Membership: 21,328 members in 65 countries

National Scorecard

Met Makes Showing in 2002 GCSAA Golf Championship

This year's national tournament was a big home run with 610 superintendents competing for the 2002 championship title. The World Golf Village in St. Augustine, FL, was a fantastic venue for the tourney, boasting superb golf courses, beautiful accommodations, and the nearby hall of fame.

Hats off to the GCSAA Tournament Committee and Toro for a great job and for going the extra mile in giving us a memorable Super Bowl Sunday. Go Pats!!

Here are some of our members who finished in the top 10 of their respective flights.

Second Flight

Champion (60 points): Blake Halderman, Trump National Golf Club, Briarcliff Manor, NY

You the man!

5th place gross (53 points): Les Kennedy, Blind Brook Club, Purchase, NY

Nice show!

Third Flight, 2nd place gross (51 points): John Alexander, Cranbury Golf Club, West Windsor, NJ

Sandbagger!

Fourth Flight, 10th place gross

(42 points): Rick Schock Jr., Wee Burn Country Club, Darien, CT

Mr. Steady!

Four-Man Team Results

Net I

John Alexander of Cranbury Park, Chip Lafferty of Wykagyl, and their partners shot 59 for a 2nd place finish.

Nice job fellas!

Net II

Jeff Wentworth of Pelham, Stephen Rabideau of The Hamlet Golf & Country Club, and their partners shot a 56 for 2nd place.

"For the love of God and all humanity," will someone please check their handicaps!!

Get ready for next year's tourney, which is headed for Hilton Head, SC.

— Sean Cain

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Two-Ball Qualifier

by Bill Perlee

Here's a superintendent who's clearly missed his calling. Anyone who's heard Dave's Tournament Award presentations or lively committee reports would have to agree he might well have had a future as a stand-up comic. Now, having agreed to host the Met's 10th annual Two-Ball Qualifier on April 22, Dave was able to display his other talents—particularly as a golf course superintendent.

In his 14-year tenure at Siwanoy, Dave has hosted at least three Met meetings, his last golf meeting, coincidentally, also a two-ball qualifier. That was in 1996—when the extensive course renovations Siwanoy completed in 1998 were still in the planning phases.

Oh—and you might want to add to Dave's credits “man of his word.” It was at that last golf meeting, after all, that he promised to have Met members return to view the new-and-improved course. And here we are.

Doin' Donald Ross Proud

Typical of most Donald Ross layouts in the Northeast, this Bronxville, NY, course features a well-routed layout on a minimum of land—110 acres, in this case. The greens, though on the small side, are full of character and well protected.

“We worked with Golf Course Architect Arthur Hills to restore many of the course's original Donald Ross design features—particularly around the greens and bunkers,” explains Dave. But the age-old course—built in 1914—needed so much more.

“We rebuilt all the tees; they were shaded, undersized, and impossible to manage,” says Dave, who notes that they took full advantage of the trauma to the course by also upgrading their irrigation and pond systems.

The considerable praise the renovations have received in the golfing community

and among the membership has, according to Dave, proved to be a double-edged sword. “After a major capital improvement,” he says, “you're flying high—until you realize member expectations are also soaring.”

“Needless to say, with all the new sod out there, we've really had to step up our maintenance regime on the greens and bunker surrounds,” says Dave. “And we're still tinkering with our program. Lots of bank spraying—with fungicides and growth regulators.”

Once a New Yorker, Always a New Yorker

Dave was clearly well-equipped for the rigors of his latest renovation work. He has a turf management degree from Penn State, which he completed in 1983 while working on the crew and then as the assistant at Naperville Country Club, located in his Chicago-area hometown.

From there, Dave moseyed on over to The Golf Club of Oklahoma, attracted by the opportunity to help grow in an all-new Fazio-designed course. “If there's one thing I learned,” says Dave, “it was the importance of being thorough and never taking anything for granted.” Obviously a lesson that's continued to serve him well.

After the course opened, Dave returned to Naperville Country Club—this time as the golf course superintendent. He stayed there for five years, until in 1988, he was offered the superintendent's position at Siwanoy—and the opportunity to return to his New York roots.

His dry wit's a dead giveaway: Dave's a New Yorker at heart, having lived in Queens and then Levittown, LI, for the first 12 years of his life—and now, again, for the past 14.



Dave Mahoney

Association Advocate

Working on golf courses and belonging to associations outside the Met area makes Dave all the more appreciative of the MetGCSA. “I really enjoy our association,” says Dave, “and I get to work with a great group of guys.”

Serving as the Met's newly elected VP, Dave has been a member of the board of directors for the past nine years, and he's served on—or chaired—numerous committees, not the least of which was the Tournament Committee.

Right now, he shares the board's concern for lower turnouts at monthly meetings and, as usual, is working hard to come up with a solution.

He's taken a generous first step by offering Siwanoy as a meeting place this spring!

The Quiet Life

Away from the job, Dave leads the quiet life—at least that's what he tells us—with his wife, Catherine, and his fast-growing kids, David, now 16, and Jessica, 15.

“My coaching days are just about over,” says Dave, referring to the many seasons he'd spent coaching his son's and daughter's soccer and basketball teams. “But the career and college counselor days are just beginning.”

If Dave's kids have the same drive and dedication as their Dad, this part of his job should be enjoyable.

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

Metropolis Welcomes Super/Manager Tourney

by Greg Wojick, CGCS

The very first time I met Tony Grasso I was intimidated. Weren't you? He's 6'4", 250 pounds, and stronger than a bull with a neck as big as my waist! I made the mistake of playing basketball with him. The first time I drove the lane and he jumped out in front of me, I thought I had hit a brick wall. Little tiny flashbulbs were going off in my eyes. When I hit the gym floor, he didn't even help me up. Instead, he called me for an offensive foul!

Then there was the time that Tony was my Two-Ball partner. . . . He snapped his driver in two pieces just hitting the ball on the 18th hole at Whippoorwill. He's snapped more club shafts than anyone I know—all by accident! Don't ever stand too close when he's hitting a shot; your life could be in danger.

Tony never says hi when he calls me. It usually goes something like, "Hey, you in the office again?" or "Aren't you on vacation this month?" Then he'll start to commiserate about golf course stuff: "I've never seen it so blue out there." or "I double cut the damn things and they're faster than glass." And for the next 30 minutes or so, he'll trade stories about turf or green chairmen or budgets or staff. He is, to the core, a golf course superintendent. No one compares to Tony Grasso.

Don't Let Him Fool You

Underneath the gruff exterior is one of the kindest, gentlest, most caring guys you'll ever get to know. He works the tables at social events with a genuine interest in everyone in the room. He nearly always has something nice to say (unless he's talking to me). He goes up to someone, and within seconds, smiles radiate from everyone around him.

He loves the profession and is dedicated to his job. He's nervous about the conditions of his course. He always wants it to look its best. You'll see, when you join fellow Met members at Metropolis Country Club on May 20 for the Superintendent/Manager Tourney.

It's All History

I called Tony to get more background information on him. I showed him what I had written and—after the typical phone call abuse—he said, "I'm actually 6'2" and a *svelte* 250! And when I double cut, groom, and roll, my greens are still slow."

Still finding it hard to be serious, Tony compared his career to the DOW: some highs, some lows.

"I started at Mt. Kisco in 1975," he begins, "when the great Fred Scheyhing offered me a position as head intern and then took off for Chevy Chase Maryland. (That should have told me something.)"

"In 1976 till 1977," he continues, "I worked at Siwanoy for Vinny Pentenero. Then in 1978, I went to Metropolis to work for the summer under the late Bruno Vadala, who little did I know then would become my father-in-law. I became a full-time assistant there in December of '79, and then after a couple of seasons—in the fall of '81—I was offered a superintendent's position at Willow Ridge."

Somewhere in there, Tony managed to get an associate's in turfgrass science from Stockbridge and then a B.S. in plant and soil science from UMass.

In January 1991, he got his biggest break of all: the superintendent's position at Metropolis.

Metropolis sits on the grounds of the old Century Country Club, which opened in 1898 as a 12-hole course and then moved in 1922 to its current site, selling the property to what is now Metropolis.

The course was originally designed by Herbert Strong, but word has it that when Metropolis took over, the club hired Tillinghast to add six new holes and then reconfigure the others. The course had remained virtually unchanged until 1997 when Metropolis called in Ken Dye to rebuild seven tees and one green and to rework all the bunkers—eliminating some of them in the process. "Now we're down to a more manageable number of bunkers," says Tony of the change.



Metropolis plays 6,784 yards from the back tees and has seven, 400-yard Par 4s. The toughest hole by far, according to Tony, is the 12th. "It's a 457-yard dogleg left," he explains, "so you've got to hit it at least 250 yards to see the green."

All in the Family

Tony is steeped in the industry. With his family connections, there's little getting away from it.

Tony's father, Anthony, started Metro Milorganite with John Wistrand in the early 1960s, eventually selling the company to Rick Apgar in 1991.

Tony's brother is an assistant super at Century Country Club, and his brother-in-law, Greg Vadala, is the superintendent at Montclair Country Club in New Jersey.

What's more, one of Tony's long-time buddies, golf partners (or should we say, partners in crime), Earl Millett, is a super at Ridgeway Country Club. I asked Earl, in fact, for a good Tony/Earl story for this article. He thought for a while . . . started to tell one story but had to stop. . . . He started another . . . and again had to stop. . . . Finally in frustration, he said with a laugh, "Nothing is publishable!"

We also can't forget to mention—though most of you probably know—that Tony married the daughter of a superintendent in 1980: Bruno Vadala's daughter, Lucille. They have three children: Anthony, a sophomore at Delhi; Katie, a high school sophomore; and Joseph, who's in second grade.

"I was working for Bruno when I started dating Lucille," reflects Tony. "It was fun going out with her, but I always felt I had to get her home early because her father didn't want me to be late for work the next day. The problem was, I'd drop her off and then go out again, anyway!"

Tony has been an active member of another sort of family—our association—for the past 27 years. He served eight years on the MetGCSA board of directors, sitting on or co-chairing numerous committees, including Tournament, *Tee to Green*, and Social. And he's still willing to help out now and then . . . by offering his club for a party (he's hosted two Christmas parties) or a meeting (this will mark his third over the past decade).

Be sure to join him—and fellow members—on Metropolis links. Who knows, maybe you'll learn a thing or two—like how to snap a club without even trying.

Greg Wojick, co-editor of the Tee to Green, is superintendent at Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich, CT.