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# Tee to Green



*Cover: Greenwich Country Club.  
Photo by Tom Barry.*

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### Feature

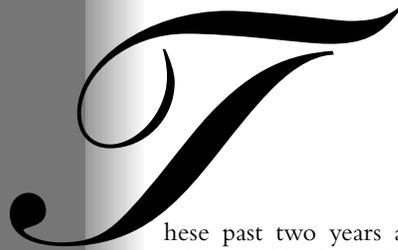
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# President's Message

## Is It Two Years Already?



These past two years as president have passed so quickly that it's hard to believe this will be my final president's message to you. I can't say I'll miss writing these messages, but I will miss working with all of you.

One of the many pleasures of serving this association has been working with such a talented and diverse group of board members over the years. Everyone's been so willing to lend a helping hand. Whether it's been in the form of thoughts and suggestions or just hard, slogging work, you've all been there at a moment's notice to do whatever needs to get done.

The MetGCSA is very fortunate to have such a dedicated group, willing to offer their services in running and continually searching for ways to improve our association. I can't even begin to guess how many meetings or hours we've spent together as a group in my term on the board. Many thanks to each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication.

### In the Back Office

Behind the scenes, there are two very talented and dedicated individuals who also make this association work. One is our executive secretary, Ineke Pierpoint. Ineke has a hand in just about every aspect of our association business. Without her help, I'm not sure we'd be where we are today. She approaches every task and responsibility—no matter how tedious—with the same zest and enthusiasm. We are all fortunate to have such a professional on staff.

The other professional is our managing editor, Pandora Wojick. I've lost count of how many awards the *Tee to Green* has won under her direction. Her dedication to outstanding quality and attention to the smallest detail has made the difference between our publication and any of the others out there. Pandora, thanks for putting up with me over the years.

### Financially Speaking

Our association, though not without its own limited problems, is in very sound fiscal shape.



Tim Moore  
MetGCSA President

We have had the funds to continue offering outstanding educational opportunities to our membership through our award-winning publication, *Tee to Green*, and through our annual Winter Seminar. The past two years, we've even added a summer educational seminar, which we've held at our July meetings, to reach additional members.

Our Scholarship and Research funds continue to grow at record levels. Each year, we make a substantial contribution from our operational funds to these restricted accounts.

Our Research account, in fact, currently has enough of a reserve to put us in the position of supporting any local research that might be needed. This, combined with our association with the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, offers us the opportunity to actually pick and choose our research topics.

Our Scholarship fund is also in a healthy position, allowing us to award more than \$10,000 in scholarships to Met members' children each year. If you've put a child through college, you know that every little bit helps.

For some time, it's been the association's goal to have these funds get to a point where they can earn enough interest to become self-sufficient. If only the stock market would cooperate! Like most investors, we have experienced some setbacks in the past few years, but we are well on our way to achieving our goal.

*continued on page 7*

*Feature*

# Disappearing Pin Placements



*It Takes More Than  
Magic to Make Them  
Reappear...*

*A Success Story*

*by Scott Niven, CGCS*

“Nothing can supply a green with more character than bold undulations. The long, gentle slopes make putting a fine art, and as the cups are changed from day to day, variety is introduced and the rounds are never monotonous.”



Those were the words of legendary Golf Course Architect A.W. Tillinghast as he wrote, generations ago, about what he believed to be the components of a noteworthy green.

Little did he know that many of those wonderfully undulating putting greens he designed would one day be rendered close to unplayable by changing turfgrass maintenance standards.

Back in Tillinghast's time, of course, maintenance standards—and corresponding green speeds—were such that even greens with slopes ranging from 3% to 8% offered multiple, fair pin placements and plenty of challenge.

In the early part of the 20th Century, cups were routinely cut on slopes ranging from 4% to 7%, and it was still easy to achieve the recommended minimum of five distinct pin placements for each green.

Today, however, with stimpmeter readings twice the speed intended for those wonderful old greens, you have a recipe for three, four, and even five putting.

As Dr. Michael J. Hurdzan, renowned golf course architect of today, notes, "When that happens, putting becomes pure luck—not a fair test of skill. The watchword on green slopes is control. The overall speed of the green must be matched to the overall slope of the green so the golfer can control the ball and exhibit his skill."

Our most recent survey on Met area green speeds showed a daily average of 10 feet with much higher readings achieved for special tournaments. It also revealed that it was typical for the area's classic old courses to have at least four greens with limited cupping areas. In some cases, greens of 5,000 square feet have less than 500 square feet of cupping area!

### What's a Superintendent to Do?

Though the obvious solution would be to slow down the greens, the universal desire of today's golfers for smooth, true, slick putting surfaces won't allow us to even consider that option.



*A grid system is established for removing and replacing sod.*

Instead, many are toughing out the trials of maintaining these greens, which are subject to excessive wear and golfer frustration. A fortunate few, however, have opted for the admittedly pricey solution of rebuilding their troublesome green complexes: making the greens larger, flattening out the contours, and softening the slopes.

Though this solution isn't without fault, there are far more than a handful of success stories. Among them are Winged Foot, Augusta, Pine Valley, Seminole, Baltimore Country Club, The Chevy Chase Club, Southern Hills, and most recently, The Apawamis Club and Deepdale Golf Club.

To give you a picture of what the process entails, we spoke to Deepdale Superintendent Tom Fedora and Golf Course Architect Tripp Davis, who the club hired in 2002 to recontour two of the course's more unpinnable greens.

Here's their step-by-step account of how two, old-style greens were brought into the 21st century.



*The subgrade is completed and the drain line cutting begins.*

### The Planning Process

The greens Deepdale chose to modify had slopes, in many locations, in excess of 7%—unpinnable at today's green speeds. Deepdale's prime objective in revamping these 47-year-old greens was to recapture lost pin locations without compromising the general character of the design—the work of Golf Course Architect Dick Wilson. That meant bringing slopes down to no less than 3.5% to 5%.

"We weren't trying to establish a modern pin location slope," says Tripp Davis, pointing out that today's cupping areas are generally designed with slopes between 1.5% and 2.5%. "We would then have a green that is very out of character with the rest of the course and, in our case, the rest of the green, since we were planning to keep any areas that could be pinned—no matter how severe—intact."

Tripp created sketches to establish, what he referred to as a "mission statement." From there, everything else was crafted in the field.

### Recontouring, Step by Step

On October 3, 2002, the work began. Tripp brought in the Hawk Shaw Construction Company to execute the design and was onsite every day to guide the subtleties of the process that were impossible to record on a topo map. Here's how the project ran:

**Step 1. Existing sod was removed.** The first step was to remove the existing poa/bentgrass sod and set it aside in close proximity to the green. When you plan to reuse the sod, it's critical that you:

- cut the sod small enough to assure uniform thickness and easy handling without rolling it up
- establish a grid or numbering system for removing and replacing the turf so that each piece will return to the green in the exact spot it came from
- place the sod in an area that is shaded most of the day, and keep it moist but not wet

**Step 2. Existing root zone soil was removed.** "If you're reusing the sod," says Tripp, "it's best to reuse the soil. But I would not reuse a poor root zone mix just to save the sod," he advises.

At Deepdale, they took out the existing soil in two, 4-inch lifts to insure that the best material—usually whatever is in the top 3 to 4 inches—was not co-mingled with other soils.

**Step 3. A new subgrade was established.** With the soil removed, the next step was to establish a new subgrade, using grade stakes as a guide. These stakes were carefully marked with the depth of the root zone mix, which, at Deepdale, was 8 inches.

After completing the subgrade, drainage lines were installed. The spacing interval of the drain lines is determined by the drainage characteristics of the existing soil. At Deepdale, because the soil was well drained, the drain lines were laid on 10-foot centers. The pipes were covered with pea gravel to the top of the trenches and then coned with a 5-4-1 (sand-loam-peat) mix



*Drainage is installed with pea gravel, which is even with the subgrade.*



The 5-4-1 mix is coned over the drain lines.

to 4 inches above the subgrade. This was intended to help infiltration from the top 4 inches of soil and is generally advisable when reusing the existing root zone mixture.

“Topdressing, after all,” says Tripp, “generally amends only the top 4 inches or so, leaving the layer beneath somewhat poorly drained. It’s entirely possible, therefore, that your drainage won’t function if the drains are covered with the material from this lower layer rather than with a more porous material, like the 5-4-1 mix.

**Word to the Wise:** *Be sure to test the capability of the gravel to bridge a sand/soil mixture that may be used over the drain lines or as a new root zone material. If a bridge is not formed, the drains may quickly become ineffective.*

**Step 4. The root zone mix was replaced.** Next, the original soil was put back into place, just as it was taken out. Grade stakes were used to assure consistent depth. Note, however, that the stakes used to establish the subgrade were not marked with a finish grade elevation. Not until everyone was happy with the subgrade was the area restaked. This allowed for any adjustments to the subgrade, and it also enabled the builder to better do his job—without having to tiptoe around the stakes.

**Step 5. The changes were disguised.** With the root zone mix replaced, they stripped another two or three widths—24 to 36 inches—of sod beyond the excavation, scarifying the soil under the sod. They then floated the disturbed area with the area just stripped to get as clean an edge as possible. This helps to eliminate mowing scars along the perimeter of the work, as well as disguise the changes.

**Word to the Wise:** *“If you are changing just a portion of a green, it’s very important to remove a 10-foot width of sod beyond the work site so that it can be blended in without a visible seam,” cautions Tom Fedora. “We left only 3 feet undisturbed, and the seam has been tough to get rid of.”*

**Step 6. The soil was compacted.** After the soil was replaced, it was water tamped and rolled with a light roller. Then, the design intent was scrutinized. Slopes were amended where necessary, making sure not to cut or fill more than 1/10 of a foot in the root zone.

Prior to reinstalling the sod, the final grade was water tamped and rolled again to reduce settling—a critically important step in the recontouring process.

**Step 7. The sod was reinstalled.** When relaying the sod, they used the 5-4-1 mix to fill very small depressions and to see that the sod was as level as possible. The same mixture was also used—rather than sand—to fill in the seams. Then bentgrass seed was sprinkled along the seams to help them knit together and later hold some moisture.

### The Aftercare

From start to finish, the work took a total of seven days. By October 10, they began rolling the areas with speed rollers and set the height of cut on the mowers just slightly higher than normal (.020), gradually bringing the height back down.

“We also topdressed heavily and used our hydroject machine after the sod was well



Soil is replaced just as it was taken out, using two, 4-inch lifts.

rooted to help further smooth it out,” says Tom.

The greens were open—and more than ready for play—for the club’s first tournament on May 2 of this year. Had the work been done during the growing season, recovery time would have been a month—maybe two.

“The members are very happy with the results,” says Tom. “Unless you saw us doing the work, you would never even notice the changes.”

Now, that’s a job well done.

*Scott Niven, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT.*

## On Picking a Fair Pin Placement Thoughts for Keepers of Old-Style Greens

So how do keepers of those old, slick, undulating greens choose a fair pin location? In a word, very carefully!

When the greens are very fast, it’s easy to spoil a tournament by putting a cup in a location where golfers cannot stop the ball. The USGA recommends that the cup be a minimum of five paces—sometimes we have to use baby steps—from the edge of the green with a uniform slope for a 3-foot radius around the hole. These parameters often eliminate a significant percentage of the putting surface.

Given the potential areas you have to work with, the traditional method for choosing hole locations has been to just roll some golf balls around and see where they stop. Unfortunately, this method doesn’t always work, leaving golfers with an almost impossible target.

In comes the SmartTool. Recommended by Thomas A. Marzolf, senior design

associate for Fazio Golf Course Designs, Inc., this device actually allows you to choose pin placements based on green speeds and percentage of slope.

Resembling a carpenter’s level (see page 5, top), the SmartTool is a battery-powered instrument that provides an LCD digital readout of slope percentage. All you have to do is lay the tool down on a green and, voilá, it gives you a digital reading of the slope. Turn the tool 90 degrees to get the slope percentage in the other direction; then add them together to get the total amount of slope that will affect a putt.

Finally, look at the charts (page 5) that Tom Marzolf has developed with years of data, and you can determine the maximum slope allowable for a cup placement at a specific stimpmeter reading. This is a great method to try on those greens where choosing fair pin placements is often tricky.



## Selling Your Club on a Change in Contour

If you're trying to convince your club to recontour or "modernize" those greens that have become controversial or unfair with increasingly faster green speeds, you know that it can be a losing proposition. Many clubs erroneously believe that these undulating greens should remain as they were built—with slopes that provide interest and challenge—no matter how ridiculous.

Of course, you could point to clubs—like Pine Valley, Augusta, and Winged Foot—who have dealt with this problem by establishing a systematic approach of reducing the percent of slope on their most strongly contoured greens to maintain old cupping areas that would be lost at today's faster green speeds. You could also point to the fact that this process has proved to increase the variety of pin placements, reduce turfgrass wear, and may even increase the speed of play by reducing the time it takes to putt out.

Another, perhaps more powerful, tack you could take in selling the need to improve your severely contoured greens is to call in a company like Golftech, Inc. (330-740-1242). Based in Canton, OH, this firm can generate detailed, contour analysis maps of your greens, displaying your problems in full, living color.

Using the latest GPS and Robotic tech-

nologies, Golftech creates maps that show the contour lines of a green at .1-foot intervals.

The contour map is then shaded in a color-coded pattern of slope percentages that readily show available cupping areas. These maps are invaluable in demonstrating

the lack of pin locations and are also used by architects in developing a plan for increasing usable areas on any green.

Then, once the recontouring work is done, a new map can demonstrate the project's success by showing the size and shape of newly acquired hole locations.

CHART 1			
Examples of maximum cup area slope percentages at tournament green speeds of 11 feet and higher.			
<b>1999 U.S. OPEN AT PINEHURST NO. 2</b>			
Turfgrass LESCO PENN G-21™ Creeping Bentgrass	Mowing Height .120 - .125 double cut	Stimpmeter Readings 11.2 - 11.6	Maximum Slope for Cup Placement 2.5%
<b>1999 MASTERS AT AUGUSTA NATIONAL</b>			
Turfgrass A-1, L-93	Mowing Height Lowest possible settings, double cut (.085 - .110)	Stimpmeter Readings 12.5 - 13.5	Maximum Slope for Cup Placement 2.00% to 2.25%

CHART 2	
Guidelines for easy, moderate, difficult cup placement on greens with double break.	
Stimpmeter Reading of < 9.5	Stimpmeter Reading of 10.5 - 12.5
<b>Easy Cup Area</b> ↔ + ↕ ≤ 2.0% (Example: 0.5% + 1.0% = 1.5%)	<b>Easy Cup Area</b> ↔ + ↕ ≤ 1.0% (Example: 0.25% + 0.75% = 1.0%)
<b>Moderate Cup Area</b> ↔ + ↕ ≤ 3.5% (Example: 1.25% + 2.0% = 3.25%)	<b>Moderate Cup Area</b> ↔ + ↕ ≤ 3.0% (Example: 1.25% + 1.75% = 3.0%)
<b>Difficult Cup Area</b> ↔ + ↕ ≤ 5.5% (Example: 3.0% + 2.5% = 5.5%)	<b>Difficult Cup Area</b> ↔ + ↕ ≤ 4.5% (Example: 2.25% + 2.25% = 4.5%)
Note: On a green with a single break—where one grid slope percentage reading is flat—the guideline for maximum percent of slope for fair cup placement is 3.5%. Flat + 3.5% = 3.5%	

## Comments From Other Greens Modifiers

**Bill Perlee**

The Apawamis Club  
Rye, NY

"The decision to make the changes to recover old pin placements was actually member driven. I was reluctant to mess with these 100-year-old greens, but still, we ended up doing something to every green except one.

"But I was impressed with the ability of our architect, Gil Hanse, to maintain the character of the greens—even with the softer contours.

"If I had the chance to do it over, though, I would use a root zone mix with better drainage. We used the Norm Hummel soil lab to match the new top mix for the expansions with the existing greens mix. It turned out to be too wet. Now, we are deep-tine aerifying and filling the holes with sand to try to improve the drainage.

"The other difficulty we ran into was getting the seams from the old to the new to

match perfectly, so we are doing extra aerifying and topdressing to make those spots level. For the first few months, the new areas were too soft to drive on, so all work had to be done by hand (mowing, spraying, topdressing, etc.) until they firmed up."

**Steve Finamore, CGCS**

Alpine Country Club  
Demarest, NJ

"Due to a lack of pin placements, we modified four different greens. On two, we softened the slopes; one was rebuilt entirely; and one had an addition. The modifications were done by Golf Course Architects Brian Silva and Mark Mungeam, and I have to say, the new work has blended in perfectly with the existing greens' surfaces.

"The members have been very happy with the outcome. The shots into the greens are different, and we have more pin placements, which makes the holes more interesting.

"The soil in the new areas was a little soft and wet for the first two years, but with deep-tine aerifying and topdressing, they eventually firmed up. Now, they perform like the rest of the green."

**Don Szymkowicz, CGCS**

Engineers Country Club  
Roslyn, NY

"We had three greens with very little area for pin placements, so we tried to fix them by adding small shelves to the borders of the greens where we could cut a cup. Big mistake: If your ball rolled off one of the shelves, it continued right off the green. So we called in a golf course architect, Tripp Davis, to fix those greens, and we ended up building completely new ones in the same locations. The members are very pleased with the improvements."

## Upcoming Events

# Hope to See You at These End-of- Season Events

### Met Area Team Championship

Monday, November 3

Rolling Green Golf Club, West Chester, PA

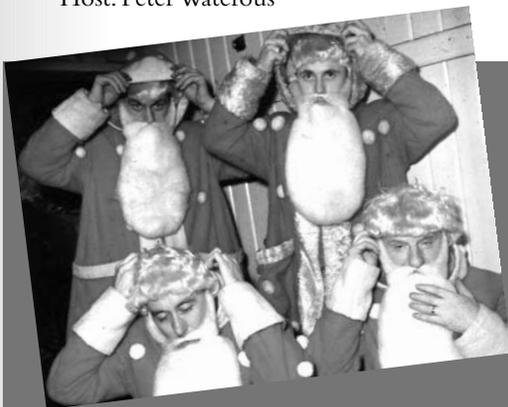
Host: Warren Savini Jr.

### Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, November 13

Westchester Hills GC, White Plains, NY

Host: Peter Waterous



## All Dressed Up and No Place to Go?

Join in the fun at the

## MetGCSA Christmas Party

Saturday, December 6

Woodway Country Club's

New Clubhouse

Darien, CT

Host: Larry Pakkala, CGCS

Cocktail Hour

with 3-Piece Jazz Band

Sitdown Dinner

with Dance Band

Raffle Prizes

## Educational Programs

### NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition

Tuesday – Thursday, November 4 – 6

Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY

Cosponsored by Cornell University, the expo is in its 28th year, featuring more than 60 business and technical sessions and an expansive trade show with 350 exhibitor booths.

For further information, call 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229.

### GCSAA/MetGCSA Educational Seminar

#### Management of Localized Dry Spots and Managing Turfgrass Root Systems

Wednesday, November 19

Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, NY

University of Georgia Crop and Soil Sciences Professor Dr. Keith Karnok will discuss, from 8 a.m. to noon, the causes of—and cures for—localized dry spots.

From 1 to 5 p.m., Dr. Karnok will offer insight into factors that affect turfgrass root growth and also discuss how these factors can be managed to promote healthy turfgrass root systems.

For further information or to register, contact the GCSAA Service Center at 800-472-7878.

### New Jersey Turfgrass Expo 2003

Tuesday – Thursday, December 9 – 11

Trump Taj Mahal Resort and Casino, Atlantic City, NJ

This three-day conference will feature more than 50 educational presentations and one of the top trade shows in the country.

For further information or directions, call Bea Devine at 732-821-7134 or Dick Caton at 856-853-5973.

### University of Massachusetts

#### Winter School for Turf Managers 2004

January 5 – February 20, 2004

A leading educational program in turfgrass management, the Winter School offers golf course superintendents and others in the turfgrass industry, the technical, management, and communications skills required of all turfgrass professionals. Classes are taught by UMass faculty and staff, as well as renowned turf industry professionals.

To receive an application or a brochure describing the UMass Winter School for Turf Managers, contact Winter School for Turf Managers, Division of Continuing Education, University of Massachusetts, Box 31650, Amherst, MA 01003-1650, 413-545-2484, [goodchild@continued.umass.edu](mailto:goodchild@continued.umass.edu).

#### Workshop Series: The Realities of Organic Lawn and Landscape Care

Green industry practitioners and their customers should know what to expect from an organic program: what works and what doesn't; what information is based on research and what is anecdotal; and what the long- and short-term effects of an organic program may be.

This eight-session series, sponsored by UMass Extension's Landscape, Nursery, Urban Forestry, and Turf Programs, will provide turfgrass managers with this knowledge and the skill and expertise needed to provide healthy, functional, and environmentally responsible lawns and landscapes.

Sessions are held at UMass Amherst unless otherwise noted. Cost for the entire series is \$500, \$90 for individual workshops. For additional information, call 413-545-0895 or go to [www.umassgreeninfo.org](http://www.umassgreeninfo.org).

The following workshops will be offered:

- October 27: *Soil Basics and the Components of Composting*
- November 12: *Selecting Woody Ornamental Plants and Turfgrasses for Ecological Landscapes* (Bridgewater, MA)
- December 1: *Using Organic and Other Fertilizers Effectively*
- January 21, 2004: *Current Trends in Insect, Disease, and Weed Management in Woody Ornamentals*
- March 10, 2004: *Current Trends in Turf Insect and Disease Management*
- March 26, 2004: *Renovation and Establishment of Lawns and Other Turf Areas and Weed Management in Turf*
- May 7, 2004: *On-Site Planting and Pruning Demonstration* (Hopkinton, MA)
- May 25, 2004: *Scouting for Turf Insects and Weed Identification* (Waltham, MA)
- June 3, 10, 24, 2004: *Scouting for Pests and Problems of Turf and Woody Ornamentals* (Bridgewater, Hawthorne, or South Hadley, MA)

## John Carlone Takes Met Championship at Hampshire

The Met Championship's final round was hotly contested during the September meeting at Hampshire Country Club in Mamaroneck, NY. Host Superintendent Tony Campanella had the golf course in wonderful condition despite the challenging weather. Though forever battling drainage issues, Hampshire seems to have "weathered the storms" in fine shape.

Thank you, Tony, for a great day of golf and a wonderful reception.

### Met Championship Results

After battling out the first round at Rockland Country Club and the second at Hampshire, here's who came out on top:

#### Championship Flight

**First Low Gross** John Carlone, *The Meadow Brook Club*  
**Second Low Gross** Earl Millett, *Ridgeway Country Club*

**First Low Net** Tony Grasso, *Metropolis Country Club*  
**Second Low Net** Dave Mahoney, *Siwanoy Country Club*

#### Second Flight

**First Low Net** Tim Moore, *Knollwood Country Club*  
**Second Low Net** Ken Benoit, *Glen Arbor Golf Club*

### Event-of-the-Day Results

Here's how the event of the day played out:

**First Low Gross** Matt Ceplo, *Rockland Country Club*  
**Second Low Gross** John Carlone, *The Meadow Brook Club*

**First Low Net** Tony Grasso, *Metropolis Country Club*  
**Second Low Net** Ken Benoit, *Glen Arbor Golf Club*

#### Class AF Winners

**Low Gross** Ernie Steinhofner, *Metro Turf Specialists*  
**Low Net** Mike Cook, *The Care of Trees*

**Closest to the Pin** #2 Matt Ceplo, *Rockland Country Club*  
 #11 Tim O'Neill, *Country Club of Darien*

**Longest Drive** #1 Glenn Perry, *Rolling Hills Country Club*

*President's Message continued from page 1*

### Shake the Apathy

In my term on the Met board, I've seen a change that makes few board officials happy: a drop in our monthly meeting attendance. Aside from signaling a more apathetic membership, drop in attendance numbers may mean a change in the character of our future association meetings.

Typically, we try to book meetings on Mondays so we can have the golf course to ourselves. And clubs have generally been kind enough to give us a bit of a break. Now, however, to keep up with the ever-increasing costs of running our clubs, many have instituted minimum attendance numbers for Monday outings. It only makes sense: To open a club up on a Monday with regular operational and overtime costs, you need a certain number of attendees to make the day profitable.

Although our schedule for next year's meetings is almost set, if our attendance numbers don't come up, the day might come that we would have to have a meeting on a Tuesday or a Thursday, with a limited number of members from our association allowed to play golf.

Is this a change we welcome? No, but it's a change we might have to accept if we can't rally more of the troops.

This brings me to something I've preached about throughout my term as president, and that's member involvement. Our association is what it is today because of its members. We've relied on your support and active participation to help it thrive as one of the premier superintendent associations in the country.

In my 15 years of service on the board, I have grown very fond of our group—and of all the people I've come to know as a result of my involvement. Don't deprive yourself of this wonderful experience.

Get involved: Serve on a committee; write an article for this publication, but at the very least, attend the meetings! The rewards, I assure you, will be well worth it.

Once again, I want to thank everyone for the opportunity to serve this wonderful association. I look forward to continuing to serve you these next two years as past president.

**Tim Moore**  
*President*

# Siwanoy Makes 2003 Assistants Championship a Day to Remember

by Eric O'Neill

The 2003 MetGCSA Assistants Championship was held October 14 at the pristine Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, NY. Though Siwanoy has hosted at least four MetGCSA meetings over the past 15 years, this was the first held exclusively for assistants, so naturally, host Assistant Superintendent Scott Zalinsky was eager to show off his 110-acre office. The course boasts elevated tees with panoramic vistas, trickling brooks, and small, well-bunkered, contoured greens.

## No Turning Back

Scott came to Siwanoy in 1992 as an intern. Though he'd barely gotten his feet wet in the industry, he knew then and there that turfgrass management would be his lifelong career.

In 1993, Scott completed an associate's degree at UMass's Stockbridge School of Agriculture and then decided to further his training, earning a bachelor's in plant pathology with a minor in business at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

After four years of schooling, Scott knew it was time to hit the grindstone. "I accepted a position on the crew at Hickory Ridge Golf Club in Amherst and then jumped at

the opportunity to return to Siwanoy a year later as the second assistant," he says. By 1997, just a year later, Scott was elevated to first assistant.

## The Experience of a Lifetime

"In the seven seasons I've been at Siwanoy," says Scott, "I've gained a lifetime of experience—working with Dave Mahoney and through the club's two-year renovation project."

From 1996 to 1998, the club worked with Golf Course Architect Arthur Hills to restore many of the course's original Donald Ross design features. Built in 1914, the course now sports newly renovated green surrounds and bunkers and completely reconstructed tees—as well as new irrigation and pond systems.

Also making the task of golf course management more pleasurable is the all-new maintenance facility, which was completed in 2000.

Working together through the stresses and strains of a very intensive renovation project could make or break a working relationship. Apparently, in Scott and Dave's case, it made it. "Over the years," says Scott, "Dave and I have developed a great working relationship.

Scott Zalinsky

Dave has given me a tremendous amount of support and confidence," continues Scott. "Thanks to Dave, I couldn't be better prepared for the next step."

## Life Beyond the Golf Course

When Scott is not at work on the course, he enjoys a good round of golf at Siwanoy and other courses. "Though it's always valuable to view your own course from the player's perspective, I do try to play away as much as possible to see how other people groom and manage their courses," says Scott.

More than just a golf addict, Scott has fun skiing during the off-season. He frequently heads north to Ludlow, VT, where he owns a ski house one mile from Okemo Mountain.

Scott's advice to fellow assistants who came to tame Siwanoy on October 14 was to bring their "A" Game. Some did, some came close, but one thing was for sure. . . they all had *A* good time.

Watch for the results in the next issue of *Tee to Green*.

*Eric O'Neill, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is an assistant superintendent at Scarsdale Golf Club in Hartsdale, NY.*

## Member News

### Members on the Move

**Nick Lerner** is the new superintendent at Bonnie Briar Country Club in Larchmont, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent, The Canyon Club, Armonk, NY.

### New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

• **Andrew Agnew**, Class C, Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Scarborough, NY

- **Kelly Thomas Burke**, Class C, Elmwood Country Club, White Plains, NY
- **David Conquergood**, Class C, Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT
- **Rick Palmerton**, Class C, Country Club at Lake MacGregor, Mahopac, NY
- **David A. Roule**, Class A, Elmwood Country Club, White Plains, NY
- **Geoffrey S. Simril**, Class AF, Milliken & Company, Richmond, VA
- **David Sylvester**, Class AF, Bayer Environmental Science, Montville, NJ



### Newly Certified

Congratulations to **Michael Candeloro** of Skyview Golf Club in Sparta, NJ, for completing the coursework required to become a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) with GCSAA.

## Greenwich Country Club Hosts Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney

by Bill Perlee

When the annual Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament arrived at the Greenwich Country Club October 20, host Superintendent Greg Wojick and his staff proudly displayed one of the oldest golf courses in the country.

Opened in 1892, the club credits its beginnings to Julian Curtis, who was not only the club's first president, but also president of the Connecticut Golf Association and, more significant, the A.G. Spaulding Company.

Curtis became a multimillionaire because of his efforts not only in promoting golf in this country, but also by encouraging the Spaulding Company to begin manufacturing golf equipment here.

Greenwich Country Club has honored Curtis's contributions by initiating, at the club's 100th anniversary, a tournament in his name: the Julian Curtis Cup. This tourney is now an annual event that travels to clubs whose history spans 100 years or more.

### A Course of Steady Improvement

A recent visit from the *Tee to Green* staff to this prestigious Greenwich property included a firsthand look at some of the accomplishments of Greg's department during his 16-year tenure as golf course superintendent.

We began our visit in the grill room, where Greg believes that being accessible to members is one of the best strategies for keeping the lines of communication open. "If golfers have concerns or feedback, I like to hear about them. If there's something we can change or improve on, we try to act quickly so that members know they can rely on us to be responsive," says Greg.

After a fine lunch, we headed for the patio, which features sweeping vistas of the Long Island Sound, nice stone work, and a busy lunch crowd. After chatting with several members and clubhouse staff, we headed for the golf course.

The first thing that stands out, besides the fine condition of the turf, is a 100-foot-high ridge that cuts through the course, adding unusual character to the property.

Dramatic elevation changes, blind shots, and several water features were challenges for contestants in this year's annual event.

Among the more obvious course improvements are the stone walking bridges, extensive landscape plantings and gardens, and a renovation project that involved rebuilding many of the bunkers and tees and expanding several greens. "We reluctantly added some asphalt cart paths," says Greg. "They were controversial but necessary."

Less obvious are the projects Greg has undertaken to resolve water-related issues: the installation of a new dam, a new irrigation system and pumphouse, lots of drainage work, and a project to redirect a stream on Hole #9 that threatened to erode parts of the golf course.

Most recently, Greenwich beefed up its entrance, with stone pillars, new signage, and attractive landscaping.

### Onward and Upward

Though seemingly few stones—and little turf—have been left unturned, Greenwich still has several more plans for improvement up its sleeve. Says Greg, "A new paddle tennis facility will be built this winter, and a brand-new multimillion-dollar squash house with a modern fitness center is slated for construction this coming year.

"On the course," continues Greg, "we're mulling over ways to strengthen our weaker holes, eliminate one of the more disconcerting holes that forces players to hit right over the entrance road, and then free up the congestion around the Pro Shop by creating more room for staging activities." Whew!

### Back at the Shop

After a good look at the property, we headed to the maintenance facility. Greenwich was one of the first clubs in the area to erect a state-of-the-art maintenance facility. The 1992 renovation—which included a dormitory for staff—began the wave of million-dollar facilities to replace "barns."

We spent some time talking turf with Greg's two assistants, Paul Boyd and Josh Satin. Greg takes his role as mentor seriously and includes his two assistants in the planning and implementation of the programs at Greenwich. "I insist that they accompany me to our Green Committee meetings so that they understand the desires of the mem-

Greg Wojick,  
CGCS

bership directly," Greg relates. They appreciate the responsibilities that Greg empowers them with, and they play a key role in delivering the conditions the membership expects.

### Life Before Greenwich

Before coming to Greenwich, Greg was the superintendent for six years at Sterling Farms GC in Stamford. He's also held the super's position at the Willimantic CC, the assistant's position at Shennecossett GC in Groton, CT, and he got his feet wet in the business working at the Skungamaug GC in Coventry, CT, and Balcones CC, in Austin, Texas.

Greg has a B.S. in agronomy from UConn, and he received a certificate in landscape design from the New York Botanical Garden, where he's also been an instructor.

He's been an active member of the Met for 21 years, serving two terms on the board and as co-editor of *Tee to Green*. He's remained a valuable contributor on the Communications Committee.

Also a member of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents since 1979, Greg served six years as the group's newsletter editor and two years, in the mid-'80s, as the CAGC's president.

### Life Beyond Greenwich

When he's not tending turf or team building with his staff, Greg likes to retreat to his family and home in Wilton, CT. "I can always rely on having a good time hanging out with Pandora and the kids," says Greg.

Pandora, Greg's wife of 23 years, has been the managing editor of *Tee to Green* since 1989. Their children—Kara, 11, and Christopher, 7—keep both parents busy with their extracurricular activities. "I've coached both the kids' soccer teams," says Greg, who was, himself, a high school soccer team co-captain. "Now, I enjoy watching their sports from the sidelines."

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