

Tee to Green

April - June 2026
VOLUME 57 NUMBER 2

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association



Board of Directors



President

WILLIAM CYGAN
Silver Spring Country Club

Vice President

DAVE PETERSON
Silvermine Golf Club

Treasurer

STEPHEN RABIDEAU, CGCS
Winged Foot Golf Club

Secretary

JOSEPH GIKIS
Glen Arbor Golf Club

Past President

MICHAEL BRUNELLE, CGCS
Upper Montclair Country Club

Directors

CASEY KLOSSNER
The Tuxedo Club

CHARLES LAFFERTY
Rye Golf Club

SCOTT OLSON
Knollwood Country Club

ROBERT SCHIPPER
Canoe Brook Country Club

KEVIN SEIBEL, CGCS
Century Country Club

STEPHEN WICKSTROM
Burning Tree Country Club

Class "C" Rep

AUSTIN BANZET
Sleepy Hollow Country Club

Class "AF" Rep

BRIAN BONTEMPS
Noble Turf

Executive Director

MIKE McCALL, CGCS

Executive Secretary

SUSAN O'DOWD

Tee to Green Staff

Editors

CHIP LAFFERTY
CASEY KLOSSNER

Managing Editor

PANDORA C. WOJICK

Editorial Committee

AUSTIN BANZET	BOB NIELSEN
MATT CEPLO	SCOTT NIVEN
KEVIN COLLINS	JIM PAVONETTI
ANDY DROHEN	TIZAYI SITHOLE
MIKE McCALL	VINCENT TAYLOR
JAMES WHITE	

Designer

TERRIE YOUNG

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
Copyright © 2026

Tee to Green



Cover: *The Connecticut Golf Club*

In this Issue

Feature

Is the Label Still the Law?2

Departments

The Met Edge.....7

Regional News8

Member News9

Scorecards11

Spotlights.....13

Upcoming Events16

President's Message

A Great Time to Be in Golf Course Management



There has never been a more exciting time to be part of a golf course management operation in the New York Metropolitan area.

When I welcomed everyone to our Winter Seminar, I shared that thought because it truly reflects where our profession stands today. In just a few short years, we've seen some of golf's biggest stages come through our region—from Bethpage hosting the Ryder Cup, to the U.S. Open coming to our backyard at Shinnecock Hills, and in two short years the championship's return to Winged Foot. These events remind the golf world what we already know: The Metropolitan area is home to some of the finest golf courses and facilities anywhere.

Investing in the Future

But the excitement extends well beyond championship golf. Across our region, clubs are making significant investments in their futures. Renovations, irrigation upgrades, infrastructure improvements, and architectural restoration projects are underway at an unprecedented pace. Many of us have recently completed major projects, while many others are planning for what's next. These investments reflect the confidence our clubs have in the game of golf—and in the professionals who care for these properties every day.

Advocating for Our Industry

That confidence is also reflected in the work being done on behalf of our industry. At the annual NYSTA Advocacy Day in Albany, leaders from across the state shared the results of an economic impact study that clearly demonstrates golf's importance to New York's economy. It provided valuable facts and talking points that strengthen our industry's voice with lawmakers and decision-makers.

While the study focused on New York, those of us in Connecticut and New Jersey can take equal pride in the role golf plays throughout the Metropolitan region. I encourage anyone who hasn't attended NYSTA's Advocacy Day to consider making the trip next year. It's a great opportunity to see firsthand how our association is represented, and Executive Director Mike



Bill Cygan
MetGCSA President

McCall continues to do an outstanding job advocating for our members and our profession.

Something for Everyone

Our association is also off to an excellent start in 2026. Both the Two-Ball Qualifier at Siwanoy Country Club and the Member/Guest at The Connecticut Golf Club were a tremendous success, thanks to the hospitality of Steven McGlone and Vincent Taylor. Both courses were in outstanding condition and set the tone for another great year of events.

Looking ahead, we have something for everyone. Whether it's the Summer Social at Orienta Beach Club, the Parent-Child Scholarship Tournament, the Nine & Dine, or our Invitational, these events provide opportunities to connect with colleagues, spend time with family, and enjoy the friendships that make this association so special. I encourage you all to participate.

Rising to the Challenge

Of course, Mother Nature has already reminded us that every season brings its own challenges. The prolonged stretch of hot, dry weather has tested all of us early in the year. Yet that's nothing new for golf course superintendents. We adapt, solve problems, and continue to deliver exceptional conditions for our clubs and golfers.

I hope you'll find time this season to step away from the daily demands of your course, join us at an event, and reconnect with friends and colleagues. Our profession is stronger when we share experiences, support one another, and celebrate what makes this such a special time to be part of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association.

I look forward to seeing you throughout the season.

Bill Cygan
MetGCSA President

Is the Label Still the Law?

Yes, but in some cases, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) now adds another step.

by Mike McCall

As pesticide labels continue to evolve to meet Endangered Species Act requirements, golf course superintendents are facing new compliance responsibilities. Understanding these changes is becoming increasingly important. What follows is a brief overview of how we got here and what these new requirements mean to our day-to-day operations. Many thanks to Chava McKeel of GCSAA, Dr. Frank Wong of Bayer, and Caydee Savinelli of Syngenta for their assistance in reviewing this article for accuracy.

How We Got Here

The Endangered Species Act (ESA), passed in 1973, protects species at risk of extinction and seeks to preserve their habitats. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates pesticides under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), but it must also ensure pesticide registrations do not harm protected species under the ESA.

For years, courts found that EPA pesticide approvals did not adequately consider impacts on endangered species. In response, the EPA developed new policies and strategies to incorporate species protection into pesticide regulation. As a result, as of 2026, pesticide labels are beginning to include new environmental protection requirements aimed at reducing pesticide exposure to hundreds of protected species across the United States by embedding mitigation

measures directly into pesticide labels and associated regulatory guidance.

What Is Changing

Pesticide labels have long served as legally binding documents that define how a product can be used. Under the FIFRA, “*the label is the law*,” meaning pesticide users must strictly follow all label instructions.

However, many pesticide labels now include ESA-related requirements, such as:

- Spray drift reduction measures
- Runoff and erosion controls
- Buffer zones near protected habitats
- Geographic or seasonal use restrictions

As more products are registered or reregistered, these requirements will become increasingly common.

Bulletins Live! Two and Pesticide Use Limitation Areas (PULAs)

The biggest day-to-day change for golf course superintendents is the EPA’s *Bulletins Live! Two* (BLT) system, which is already in use.

Some pesticide labels now require applicators to check BLT before making an application. The system identifies *Pesticide Use Limitation Areas* (PULAs): locations where additional restrictions may be needed to protect endangered species or their habitats.

The number of PULAs is expected to grow as the EPA continues mapping endangered species locations. Currently, only about one-third of listed species have been mapped and uploaded to the system.

The process is straightforward:

1. The pesticide label directs you to *Bulletins Live! Two*.
2. Once there, enter the product and application location.
3. Review any restrictions provided in the bulletin.
4. Follow both the label and bulletin requirements.

Restrictions may include:

- No-application zones
- Reduced application rates
- Additional buffer distances
- Timing restrictions during breeding or migration periods

When a label references *Bulletins Live! Two*, the bulletin becomes a legally enforceable extension of the label itself.

What Products Are Affected?

At present, only a limited number of pesticides commonly used on golf courses contain Endangered Species Act (ESA) language. However, that number will continue to grow as products undergo registration review.

Current examples include:

- Atexzo (Syngenta), approved for use in Connecticut and New Jersey, but not New York
- Ferrence (Syngenta), commonly used in Annual Bluegrass Weevil management programs

If you use Ferrence, the label directs you to consult *Bulletins Live! Two* before making an application.

What Should You Do?

Because Ferrence is widely used by golf course superintendents—particularly those following WeevilTrak recommendations for Annual Bluegrass Weevil management—it provides a good example of the new compliance process.

Before making a Ferrence application, visit *Bulletins Live! Two* as directed on the pesticide label (Figure 1).

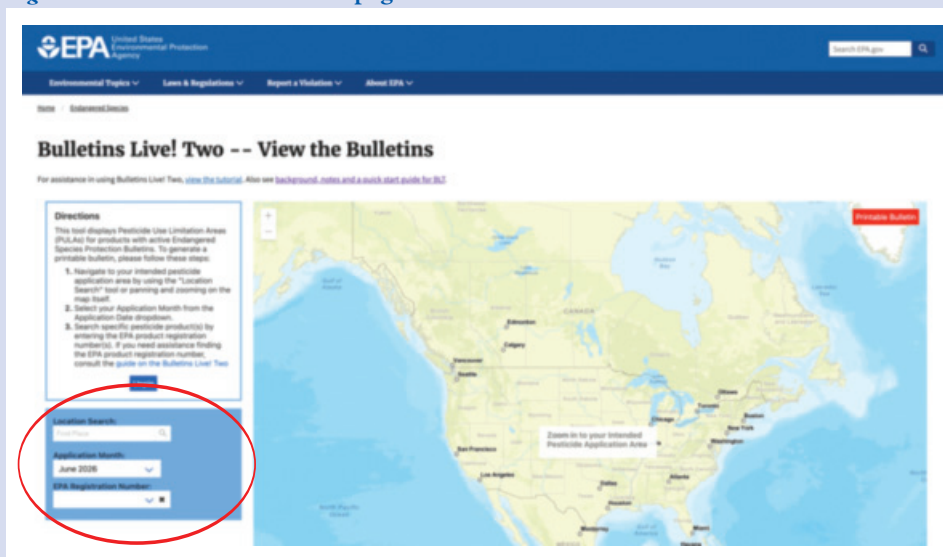
Figure 1. ESA language on the Ferrence label directing applicators to *Bulletins Live! Two*.

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS

Before using this product, you must obtain any applicable Endangered Species Protection Bulletins ('Bulletins') within six months prior to or on the day of application. To obtain Bulletins, go to Bulletins Live! Two (BLT) at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/bulletins>. When using this product, you must follow all directions and restrictions contained in any applicable Bulletin(s) for the area where you are applying the product, including any restrictions on application timing if applicable. It is a violation of federal law to use this product in a manner inconsistent with its labeling, including this labeling instruction to follow all directions and restrictions contained in any applicable Bulletin(s). For general questions or technical help, call 1-844-447-3813, or email ESPP@epa.gov.

When you encounter this language on a pesticide label, you must follow any measures identified in the *Endangered Species Protection Bulletin*. To begin the process, visit the *Bulletins Live! Two* website (Figure 2).

Figure 2. *Bulletins Live! Two* home page.

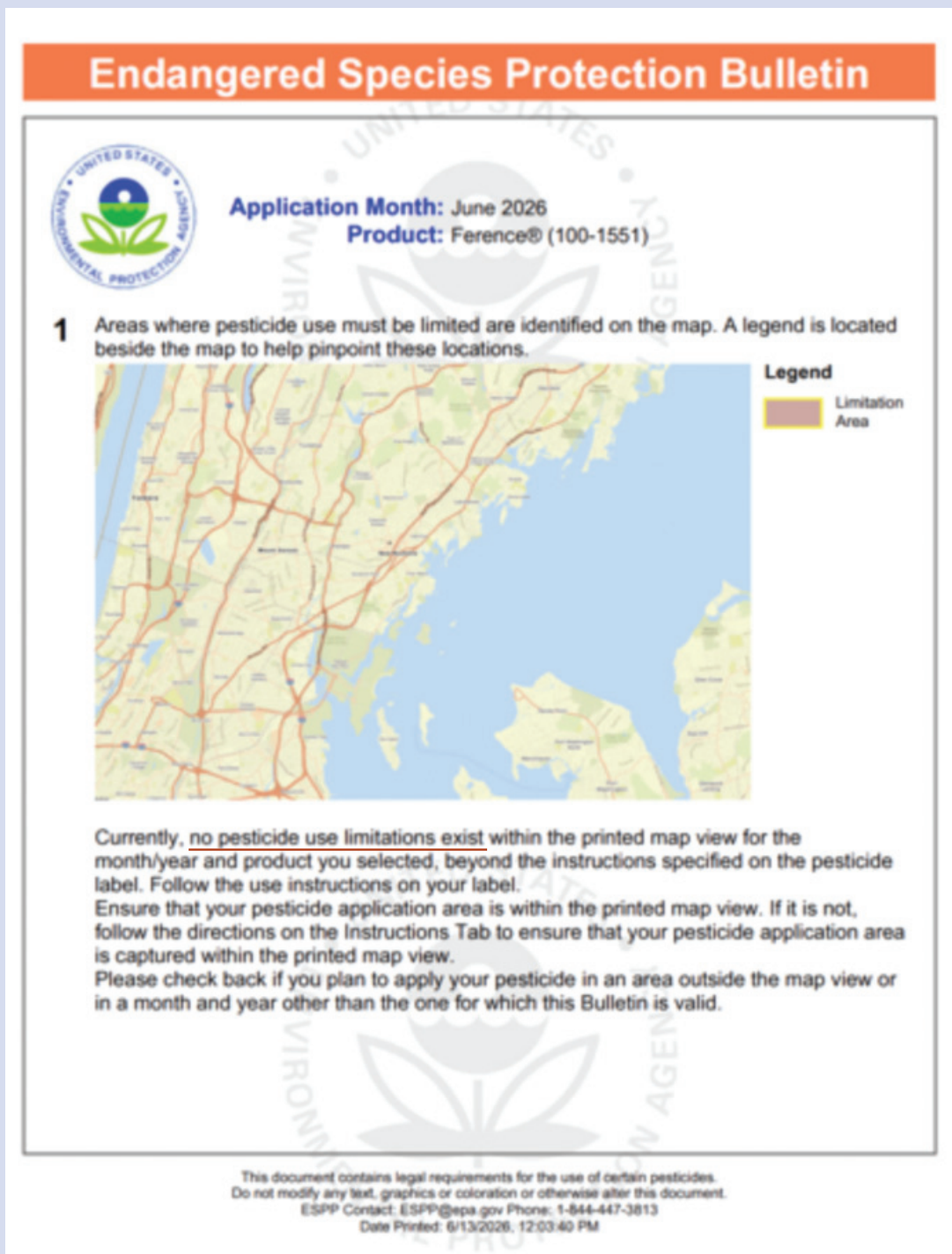


Enter your application location and Ferrence's EPA Registration Number (100-1551). For this example, no Pesticide Use Limitation Areas (PULAs) are identified (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Example of search results showing no applicable PULAs.



Figure 4. Printable bulletin documenting that no pesticide use limitations were in effect.



Even though no PULAs are identified, you must still print or save the bulletin stating that no pesticide use limitations apply and retain it with your pesticide application records. This can be done by clicking the green *Printable Bulletin* button in the upper right corner of the screen (Figure 4).

Atexzo: The Introduction of Mitigation Factors

Another new concept appearing on pesticide labels is mitigation factors, and their use is expected to become increasingly common.

When reviewing the label, you may see language directing you to both *Bulletins*

Live! Two and the EPA's *Mitigation Menu*. In addition to checking whether your application site falls within a Pesticide Use Limitation Area (PULA), you may also be required to obtain a minimum number of mitigation points based on whether the application is inside or outside a designated PULA.

Figure 5. Atexzo label language directing the applicator to *Bulletins Live! Two* and the EPA's *Mitigation Menu*.

Applicators must access and search Bulletins Live! Two (BLT) at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/bulletins> within six months prior to or on the day of the application to determine whether the application site falls within a Pesticide Use Limitation Area (PULA). If you are located inside a PULA, follow the instructions in the "Inside a PULA" section below and in the BLT bulletin. If the application site falls outside of a PULA, follow the instructions in the "Outside a PULA" section below.

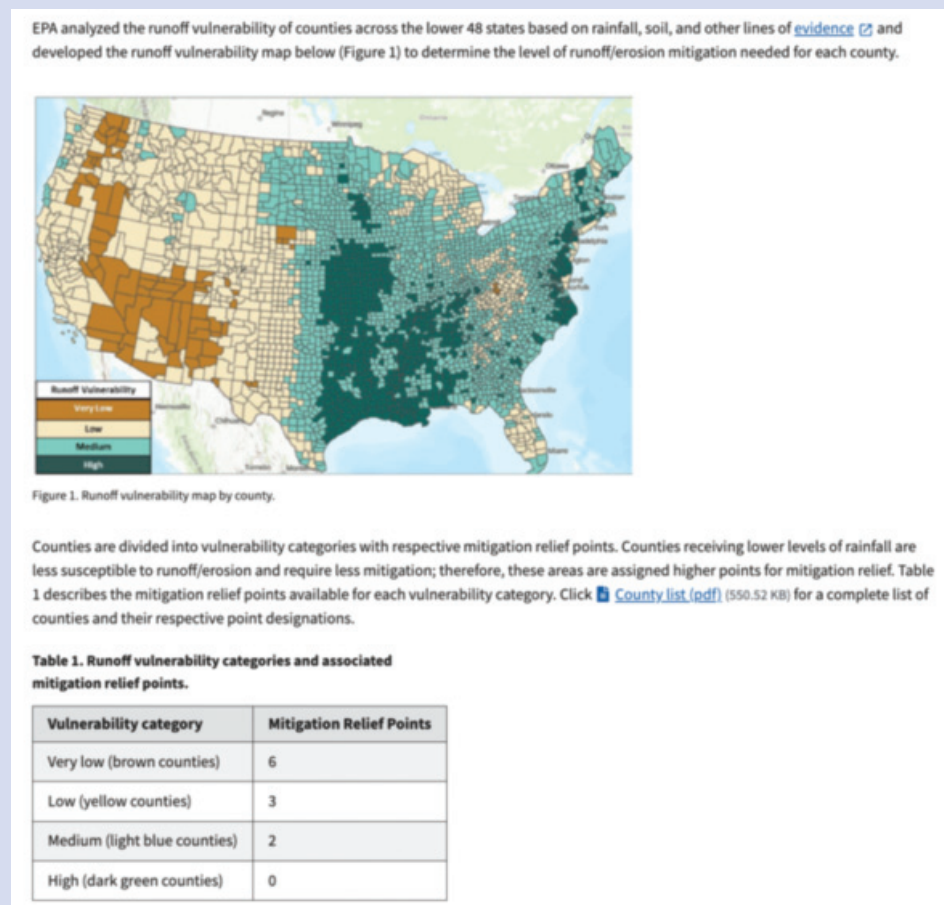
Outside a PULA:
Two mitigation points are required for all crops listed on this label. Follow the steps below to determine which applications need to achieve points, determine your eligibility for mitigation relief, and determine options to achieve mitigation points.

Inside PULAs:
Different runoff/erosion mitigation point(s) are required inside specific PULAs. Access Bulletins Live! Two within 6 months prior to or on the day of the application to determine if you are inside a PULA. If your application site is located within a PULA, points are required for all uses. Access the BLT to determine the total number of points required. Follow the steps below to determine which applications need to achieve the points, determine eligibility for mitigation relief, and determine options to achieve mitigation points.

Steps to Achieve Points:
Step A. To achieve the mitigation points specified above, visit EPA's mitigation menu website (www.epa.gov/pesticides/mitigation-menu) to determine which applications need to achieve points and for a full list of mitigations and mitigation relief options.
Step B. Determine if you are eligible for mitigation relief. Runoff/erosion mitigation is NOT needed if certain field/application parameters are present at the time of application (e.g., subsurface or tile drains with controlled outlet, perimeter berm systems, irrigation tailwater return systems, etc.). Refer to the mitigation menu for a complete list of field/application parameters.
Step C: If the application site does not meet the field/application parameters, specified on EPA's mitigation menu website, choose among the mitigation and/or mitigation relief options on EPA's mitigation menu website to meet or exceed the required points noted on this label before applying this product.
Step D: To achieve mitigation points for the application, the mitigation and mitigation relief measures must be:

- Employed in accordance with the instructions and descriptions on EPA's Mitigation Menu Website.

Figure 6. Mitigation Relief Based on Pesticide Runoff Vulnerability



To determine your mitigation points, visit the EPA's *Mitigation Menu* website (identified on the pesticide label) and follow the instructions to identify the runoff, erosion, and drift reduction practices already in place—or additional practices that must be implemented—to achieve the required number of mitigation points (Figure 5).

Atexzo Example

For illustration purposes, there are currently no PULAs associated with Atexzo in the tri-state area. However, if you read the label in Figure 5, two mitigation points are required even if your course is outside a PULA. One of the simplest means to obtain two mitigation points is to:

1. print the *BLT Bulletin*, which is worth one point
2. determine the County Relief points for your county.

Figure 6 shows a map of the U.S. representing the mitigation relief based on pesticide runoff vulnerability.

County relief points range from 0 to 6 and are derived from a combination of factors: watershed vulnerability, soil erodibility, slope and terrain, local hydrology, and ecological sensitivity.

To specifically determine the county relief points for your golf course, visit <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2024-10/county-mitigation-relief-points-runoff-vulnerability.pdf> and you will see a table that lists relief points for 48 states. Shown here are the lists for Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey (See Figure 7 on page 5).

If you are in a county that has zero (0) relief points, you will then have to go to the mitigation menu at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/mitigation-menu> and look for a measure that fits the scenario for your property to gain another point. Please remember this system was designed for agriculture and does not play well with golf. The GCSAA is currently in discussion with the EPA to create a non-ag mitigation menu, but until that solidifies and goes into effect, this is the system everyone must follow.

As mentioned earlier, the good news is now there are very few products that contain the ESA language and none that actually have PULAs in the Northeast with respect to golf course products.

This represents a significant change in how pesticide applications may be planned and documented. It will take some time for the industry to become familiar with these new requirements. For now, the best approach is to carefully read every pesticide label and identify products that direct you to *Bulletins Live! Two*. In many cases, you will not encounter any PULAs or mitigation requirements and will simply print a

Figure 7. Pesticide Runoff Vulnerability Mitigation Relief Points

Broomfield County	3	Naugatuck Valley Planning Region	0	Sullivan County	2	Cattaraugus County	2
Chaffee County	6	Northeastern Connecticut Planning Region	2	New Jersey	Points	Cayuga County	2
Cheyenne County	3	Northwest Hills Planning Region	2	Atlantic County	3	Chautauqua County	2
Clear Creek County	3	South Central Connecticut Planning Region	0	Bergen County	2	Chemung County	2
Conejos County	3	Southeastern Connecticut Planning Region	0	Burlington County	2	Chenango County	2
Costilla County	6	Western Connecticut Planning Region	2	Camden County	0	Clinton County	3
Crowley County	3	Delaware	Points	Cape May County	3	Columbia County	2
Custer County	6	Kent County	0	Cumberland County	2	Cortland County	2
Delta County	3	New Castle County	0	Essex County	0	Delaware County	2
Denver County	3	Sussex County	0	Gloucester County	0	Dutchess County	2
Dolores County	3	District of Columbia	Points	Hudson County	2	Erie County	2
Douglas County	3	District of Columbia	2	Hunterdon County	0	Essex County	3
Eagle County	3	Florida	Points	Mercer County	0	Franklin County	2
El Paso County	3	Alachua County	2	Middlesex County	0	Fulton County	2
Elbert County	3	Baker County	2	Monmouth County	0	Genesee County	2
Fremont County	3	Bay County	3	Morris County	0	Greene County	2
Garfield County	3	Bradford County	2	Ocean County	3	Hamilton County	2
Gilpin County	3	Brevard County	3	Passaic County	0	Herkimer County	2
Grand County	3	Broward County	3	Salem County	0	Jefferson County	3
Gunnison County	3	Calhoun County	0	Somerset County	0	Kings County	2
Hinsdale County	3	Charlotte County	3	Sussex County	0	Lewis County	2
Huerfano County	3	Citrus County	3	Union County	0	Livingston County	2
Jackson County	3	Clay County	2	Warren County	0	Madison County	2
Jefferson County	3	Collier County	3	New Mexico	Points	Monroe County	2
Kiowa County	3	Columbia County	2	Bernalillo County	6	Montgomery County	2
Kit Carson County	3	DeSoto County	3	Catron County	6	Nassau County	3
La Plata County	3	Dixie County	2	Chaves County	3	New York County	2
Lake County	3	Duval County	2	Cibola County	6	Niagara County	2
Larimer County	3	Escambia County	0	Colfax County	3	Oneida County	2
Las Animas County	3	Flagler County	2	Curry County	3	Onondaga County	2
Lincoln County	3	Franklin County	3	De Baca County	3	Ontario County	2
Logan County	3	Gadsden County	2	Doña Ana County	3	Orange County	0
Mesa County	6	Gilchrist County	3	Eddy County	3	Orleans County	2
Mineral County	3	Glades County	3	Grant County	6	Oswego County	2
Moffat County	3	Gulf County	2	Guadalupe County	3	Otsego County	2
Montezuma County	3	Hamilton County	0	Harding County	3	Putnam County	2
Montrose County	6	Hardee County	3	Hidalgo County	3	Queens County	2
Morgan County	3	Hendry County	3	Lea County	3	Rensselaer County	2
Otero County	3	Hernando County	2	Lincoln County	3	Richmond County	0
Ouray County	3	Highlands County	3	Los Alamos County	3	Rockland County	2
Park County	3	Hillsborough County	3	Luna County	3	Saratoga County	2
Phillips County	3	Holmes County	2	McKinley County	6	Schenectady County	2
Pitkin County	3	Indian River County	2	Mora County	3	Schoharie County	2
Prowers County	3	Jackson County	2	Otero County	3	Schuyler County	2
Pueblo County	3	Jefferson County	2	Quay County	3	Seneca County	2
Rio Blanco County	3	Lafayette County	2	Rio Arriba County	3	St. Lawrence County	2
Rio Grande County	3	Lake County	3	Roosevelt County	3	Steuben County	2
Routt County	3	Lee County	3	San Juan County	6	Suffolk County	3
Saguache County	3	Leon County	2	San Miguel County	3	Sullivan County	2
San Juan County	3	Levy County	2	Sandoval County	6	Tioga County	2
San Miguel County	6	Liberty County	2	Santa Fe County	6	Tompkins County	2
Sedgwick County	3	Madison County	2	Sierra County	6	Ulster County	2
Summit County	3			Socorro County	6	Warren County	3
Teller County	3			Taos County	3	Washington County	2
Washington County	3			Torrance County	3	Wayne County	2
Weld County	3			Union County	3	Westchester County	2
Yuma County	3			Valencia County	3	Wyoming County	2
Connecticut	Points			New York	Points	Yates County	2
Capitol Planning Region	2	Florida cont.	Points	Albany County	2	North Carolina	Points
Connecticut cont.	Points	Manatee County	3	Allegany County	2	Alamance County	2
Lower Connecticut River Valley Planning Region	0			Bronx County	2	Alexander County	3
				New York cont.	Points	North Carolina cont.	Points
				Broome County	2	Allegheny County	3

bulletin indicating that no additional restrictions apply, as demonstrated in the Ferrence example.

Conclusion

As always, carefully reading the pesticide label is essential. Some of the new ESA language is not prominently displayed, and the wording is not yet standardized across all pesticide labels.

The good news is that, at present, relatively few pesticides commonly used on golf courses have significant Pesticide Use

Limitation Areas (PULAs). As a result, most applications currently do not require additional restrictions or mitigation measures beyond existing practices.

However, superintendents should be aware that newly registered pesticides—and products undergoing registration review—are increasingly incorporating ESA requirements, including:

- A points-based runoff and erosion mitigation system
- Flexible spray buffer requirements based on application practices
- A requirement to consult *Bulletins Live!*

Two before application to determine whether any new or updated PULAs apply to the treatment site.

The association will continue to monitor these developments and provide updates as significant or commonly used products receive revised ESA language, mitigation requirements, or new application restrictions.

Mike McCall is the executive director of the MetGCSA and managing member of the McCall Management Group, LLC.

A New Chapter for Equipment Managers

Welcome to the first edition of The MET Edge. The goal of this column is simple: to create a place for equipment managers and technicians in the MetGCSA to share ideas, learn from each other, and stay connected.

My name is Robert Martyszczyk, and I'm the Equipment Manager at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, CT. This is my eighth season at the club. Along the way, I earned my Level 2 Equipment Manager certification through the GCSAA, which has helped me continue growing professionally. TPC River Highlands is best known as the home of the Travelers Championship—one of the PGA Tour's premier events—and keeping our equipment operating at a high level is something our entire team takes great pride in.

How This Got Started

This all started at the first MetGCSA Equipment Managers Seminar and Networking Event. It was a great opportunity to meet other equipment managers from around the region and talk about the challenges and opportunities we all face.

During that event, I met MetGCSA Executive Director Mike McCall, and we started discussing ways to get equipment managers more involved in the association. Those conversations quickly grew into a bigger idea: forming an Equipment Manager Committee, creating a regular column in this publication, and offering educational programs specifically for equipment managers and technicians.

The goal is to make sure equipment managers have a stronger voice within the association and more opportunities to learn from one another.



Robert Martyszczyk, Equipment Manager, TPC River Highlands.

Meet the Equipment Manager Committee

I'm excited to announce the formation of the MetGCSA Equipment Manager Committee. This group will help guide future educational events, contribute ideas for this column, and serve as a resource for equipment managers throughout the region.

Committee members include:

- Bryan Amaya, *Burning Tree Country Club*
- Jon Deierlein, *Fairview Country Club*
- Robert Martyszczyk, *TPC River Highlands*
- Chris Morra, *Harrison Meadows Golf Course*
- Frank Ortiz, *Silver Spring Country Club*
- Wilver Segura, *Innis Arden Golf Club*
- Sean Smith, *M.T.E.*
- Vicent Cavellero, *Trump National Briardiff*

We have a great group representing different facilities, backgrounds, and experience levels, and I'm looking forward to working with all of them.

What's Ahead

In future columns, we'll cover topics such as:

- Preventive maintenance and seasonal equipment prep
- Reel and bedknife grinding techniques and standards
- Navigating GCSAA, continuing education pathways, and manufacturer certifications
- Shop organization and recordkeeping
- Fleet management strategies
- New technology and diagnostic tools
- Profiles of equipment managers and technicians from around the region

Whether you've been in the profession for 20 years or are just getting started, we hope every column provides something useful you can bring back to your shop.

A Profession That Keeps Growing

The role of the equipment manager has changed significantly over the years. Today, we're doing much more than fixing equipment. The quality of cut, machine reliability, and overall performance of the fleet all have a direct impact on course conditions.

As equipment becomes more advanced, the knowledge and skills needed to maintain it continue to grow. Equipment managers are playing a bigger role than ever in helping golf courses succeed.

That's why we're excited about this committee and this new column. It's another step toward giving equipment managers more opportunities for education, networking, and professional growth within the MetGCSA.

We're just getting started, and we look forward to sharing more in the coming issues.

Robert Martyszczyk is the Equipment Manager at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, CT, and serves as chair of the MetGCSA Equipment Manager Committee. He can be reached at robertmartyszczyk@pgatourtpc.com.

A Game Worth Fighting For: Advocating for Golf at Every Level

by Mike McCall, CGCS

This has been a significant year for golf advocacy in New York, with coordinated efforts taking place at both the state and federal levels—and culminating in a historic milestone for the industry.

The year began on March 9 with the New York State Turfgrass Association's (NYSTA) annual Advocacy Day in Albany. Advocates arrived well prepared, thanks in large part to the recent release of the New York Golf Economic and Environmental Impact Report (E&E Report), which debuted during the Ryder Cup the previous fall.

Published by the Empire State Golf Alliance (ESGA) with support from Radius Sports Group, the report provided current, credible data that advocates could use in meetings with legislators and staff. The findings helped make a strong case for continued investment in the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund, a thoughtful approach to electrification mandates and their impact on golf facilities, and ongoing workforce development initiatives that support the golf and turfgrass industries.

The report quickly proved to be a valuable advocacy tool.

Taking the Message to Washington: National Golf Day

That momentum continued in May when the New York delegation traveled to Washington, D.C., for the 18th Annual National Golf Day, organized by the American Golf Industry Coalition.

While many of the discussion topics were familiar—environmental stewardship, health and wellness, economic impact, charitable giving, and growing participation in the game—the E&E Report added a powerful new element to the conversation.

For the first time, advocates could point to specific data about golf's impact in New York, including:

- \$12.9 billion in total economic output
- Nearly 90,000 jobs supported
- More than \$1 billion in annual tax revenue



Empire State Golf Alliance members gather at the New York State Capitol Building in Albany during the New York Golf Day event. From left to right: Evan Weymouth, Gina Rizzi, Tom Kaplan, Kevin Kline, Jeff Voorheis, Mike McCall, Patrick Lespinasse

The week also brought national recognition. The ESGA received the National Golf Course Owners Association's Champion Award for its work developing, publishing, and promoting the E&E Report.

In addition to meetings on Capitol Hill, the New York delegation participated in National Golf Day's Community Service Project. Alongside more than 200 industry volunteers, participants spent four hours working on improvement projects throughout Washington, D.C., in partnership with the National Park Service, the Trust for the National Mall, and the Armed Forces Retirement Home.

A Historic Day for Golf in New York: The Inaugural New York Golf Day

On May 12, the Empire State Golf Alliance hosted the inaugural New York Golf Day in Albany at the Legislative Office Building in the Empire State Plaza.

ESGA members spoke with attendees about issues important to the golf industry, while legislators shared their perspectives on golf's role in supporting local communities and economies across New York. Assemblywoman Amanda Septimo and Senator Monica Martinez were among the lawmakers who participated and announced the formation of a New York State Golf Caucus.

The day concluded with a rare honor. Both chambers of the New York State Legislature read formal resolutions recognizing the contributions of the golf industry to New York State, while ESGA members watched from the gallery.

It was a fitting conclusion to a year defined by advocacy, relationship-building, and showing up wherever the game needed a voice.

The Work Continues

Another opportunity to support golf advocacy is coming soon.



National Golf Day group photo in front of Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.



NYSTA President and MetGCSA member Bob Nielsen addresses participants at New York State Turfgrass Association Advocacy Day.

On July 23, a New York Legislative Walk & Talk event will be held at Mohawk Golf Course in Schenectady. Legislators, regulators, and community leaders will be invited onto the course to see firsthand how golf facilities serve as both community assets and environmental stewards.

The event will feature educational presentations, interactive discussions, and opportunities for attendees to experience the many ways golf contributes to local communities.

Advocacy Is an Ongoing Commitment

Everyone involved in golf shares a common goal: protecting, preserving, and strengthening the game for future generations.

Achieving that goal requires more than responding when challenges arise. It takes ongoing relationship-building and continu-

ous education of policymakers and decision-makers about the full scope of our industry—its economic impact, environmental stewardship, workforce needs, and daily operations.

Advocacy is not a one-time effort. It is a long-term commitment.

Each of us has a role to play, whether by participating in events, sharing our expertise, or helping tell golf's story. The future of the industry depends on continuing to engage, educate, and advocate for the game we all care about.

Mike McCall is the executive director of the MetGCSA and managing member of the McCall Management Group, LLC.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Kevin Chojnowski**, Class C, Birchwood Country Club, Westport, CT
- **Jake Constantine**, Class C, Waccabuc Country Club, Waccabuc, NY
- **Jarad DeMeo**, Class AF, ViTech Enterprises, Bloomingdale, NJ
- **David Fleury**, Class AF, Fleury Golf Design, Bernardston, MA
- **Angel Garcia**, Class C, Century Country Club, Purchase, NY
- **Joseph Gross**, Class C, Century Country Club, Purchase, NY
- **Matt Sumpter**, Class A, Round Hill Club, Greenwich, CT

Award-Winning Environmental Efforts Highlight MGA Education Series

by Austin Banzet

The MGA's annual Green Chair Education Series took place on March 19 at Pelham Country Club in Pelham, NY. Designed to educate club leaders and the golfing public about issues affecting the golf course industry, the program offered highly informative talks from industry experts.

As always, the highlight of the day was the presentation of the 2026 Arthur P. Weber Environmental Leaders in Golf Award. Now in its 20th year, this high honor was awarded to Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Scarborough, NY, joining the lineup of MetGCSA member supers and clubs who were recognized for their environmental efforts over the years.

Award-Winning Environmental Efforts

Sleepy Hollow's Director of Agronomy Jonathan Heywood accepted the award, earning the honor for outstanding efforts in the areas of wildlife habitat preservation, education and outreach, integrated pest management, water quality, and resource conservation.

One of the cornerstone achievements under Jonathan's leadership has been the club's involvement with the Audubon Co-operative Sanctuary Program. Through this partnership, Sleepy Hollow has strengthened its commitment to environmental sustainability by implementing programs focused on habitat protection, wildlife conservation, and ecological awareness.

Additional projects have included wildlife habitat restoration throughout the property, the establishment and preservation of native areas, and the creation of spaces that support birds, pollinators, and other local wildlife. These initiatives have enhanced the natural beauty of the course while promoting biodiversity across the club grounds.

Water conservation and efficient resource management have also remained key priorities. Through improved irrigation practices, careful monitoring, and strategic water use, the maintenance team has worked to reduce environmental impact while continuing to provide exceptional course conditions. The



Presenting Sleepy Hollow Green Chair (right) Damian Didden and Director of Agronomy Jonathan Heywood with the Arthur P. Weber Environmental Leaders in Golf Award is Government Relations Committee co-chair Scott Olson (right).

club has also invested in renewable energy through the installation of solar panels, further demonstrating its commitment to sustainable operations and long-term environmental responsibility.

"Receiving the Arthur P. Weber Award is a tremendous honor," says Jonathan, "but it's also a reflection of the collective effort and support from everyone at Sleepy Hollow Country Club. Environmental stewardship is not something accomplished by one person alone. It takes commitment from the entire team and club leadership to invest in long-term sustainability initiatives."

Insights From Industry Experts

The educational portion of the program began with Adam Garr of Course Cares, who discussed the importance of clear communication from those overseeing course maintenance. Garr spoke from his experience as a superintendent who now helps other superintendents close communication gaps and advocate for the golf course. Garr spoke about writing a blog as a superintendent and showcased videos he has recently produced for clubs that focus on positive messaging about course maintenance.

Following Garr was a panel discussion with MetGCSA member superintendents Robert Milar of Saint Andrew's Golf Club, Rob Alonzi of Fenway Golf Club, and Jeff Scott of Tamarack Country Club, who shared their experience using autonomous

equipment and AI in their practices. The Q&A following their discussion provided valuable insight for those considering options for their clubs.

MetGCSA member Tom Kaplun, superintendent at Huntington Country Club, next talked about the Empire State Golf Alliance and its New York Economic and Environmental Impact Report. He shared data that reveals golf's positive impact on the state's economy, environment, and recreation.

Former Echo Lake Superintendent Chris Carson, now an instructor with Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Maintenance Program, presented techniques to help green chairs and superintendents work together to optimize funds and plan for the agronomic needs of the golf course.

The day's programming concluded with a lightning round by Elliott Dowling, regional director of the East region for the USGA's Green Section. Dowling covered a variety of his most frequently discussed topics from course consulting visits and interactions with superintendents over the past year.

Watch for next year's education series, and be sure to encourage "the powers that be" at your club to attend this highly informative event!

Austin Banzet, the Met's Class C representative and a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is an assistant superintendent at Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Scarborough, NY.

Strong Field Battles for Spots in Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship

by Blake Halderman

After a long—and very white—winter, it was a welcome sight to dust off the clubs for this year's Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier, held April 27 at Siwanoy Country Club. Steven McGlone and his staff presented the course in spectacular shape, providing a true test of tournament golf for the season's opening competition.

A full field turned out to compete, with 38 teams battling for just 32 spots in this year's season-long tournament, so you had to be on your game.

The competition was tightly contested from top to bottom, with the final qualifying positions ultimately decided at 78 net. With only two spots available among four teams tied at the number, Ashfield/Drohen and Olson/Gibson squeaked in on a match of cards over Shannon/Wickes and Lapinski/Milar. Given how closely packed the scores were throughout the field, the stage is set for what should be a highly competitive and exciting summer of matches.

Friendly Reminder!

Please be diligent recording scores and maintaining your GHIN handicap. Keeping an active Handicap Index helps to maintain the competitive spirit of the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball and makes the event both fun and fair.

Event of the Day Results

Gross Team Winners

- 71 Steve Whipple, *West Point GC*
Dave Lippman, *Westchester Turf Supply*
- 75 Dan Schena, *Siwanoy CC*
Josh Haugh, *Whippoorwill Club*

Net Team Winners

- 64 David Dudones, *Westchester CC*
Grover Alexander, *Hudson Hills GC*
- 64 Jim Schell, *Oak Hills Park GC*
Ryan Segrue, *Shorehaven GC*

Longest Drive

Dan Schena, *Siwanoy CC*

Closest to Pin

- #3 Luke Knutson 18'1"
Rockville Links GC
- #6 Sean Cain, *Sunningdale CC* 4'
- #11 Chris Steffen 19"
Candlewood Lake Club
- #13 Dave Lippman 2'9"
Westchester Turf Supply

Qualifier Brackets and Match Deadlines

Please check out metgcsa.org/events for the latest First- and Second-Flight Brackets. And be sure to complete your matches by the following dates:

Quarter Finals ~ August 14
Semi-Finals ~ September 18
Finals ~ October 23

Blake Halderman, a Tournament Committee member, is superintendent at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY.



Top Teams Emerge at MetGCSA Member/Guest Event

by Brian Bontemps

Connecticut Golf Club provided an ideal setting on June 8 as MetGCSA members and their guests gathered for a memorable day of golf, competition, and camaraderie.

Under clear skies and dry conditions, Vincent Taylor and his team presented the course in outstanding condition. Firm fairways and fast greens challenged players throughout the day, rewarding precision from tee to green.

Assisting Vinny in preparing the course were Equipment Manager Shawn Andreason and Assistant Superintendents Mike Morataya, Jessica Lenihan, and Wesley Foster. The Golf Operations staff also played a key role in the event's success, welcoming participants and ensuring a first-class experience both on and off the course.

Special thanks to General Manager/Director of Golf John DiPilato Jr., Director of Operations Debbie Wallenta, and Clubhouse Manager Calli Sanchez for their hospitality and support.

Thank you as well to everyone who utilized the Golf Genius app for scoring, help-

ing streamline the process and keep the event running smoothly throughout the day.

The Results

Competition was strong with impressive performances posted in both the Gross and Net Two-Man Best Ball divisions. Congratulations to this year's winners and all of our proximity prize recipients.

Gross Team Winners

- 72 Thomas Weinert/Dick Neufeld
Plant Food Co.
- 72 Travis Wilder/Steve Dougan
Bedford Golf & Tennis
- 75 Jason Meersman/Lambert Rugani
The Patterson Club

Net Team Winners

- 64 Tyler Degen/William Good
Winged Foot GC
- 67 John Carlone/Rob Saunders
Heritage Professional Products
- 67 Brett Chapin/Kevin Ambrosio
Redding Country Club

Closest to the Pin

- #5 Scott Niven
The Stanwich Club
- #8 Dave Christie
Guest of Scott Niven's
- #10 Tony Riccio
First Turf & Ornamental
- #13 Joe Rafferty
Hudson Hills

Thank you, again, to Connecticut Golf Club and everyone involved in making this year's Member/Guest another successful and enjoyable event.

Brian Bontemps, our MetGCSA Class AF rep and Tournament Committee member, is a sales representative for Noble Turf.



The Connecticut Golf Club Hosts MetGCSA's Member/Guest Tournament

by Kevin Collins

Con June 8, The Connecticut Golf Club opened its doors to the MetGCSA's Member/Guest Tournament, where Vincent Taylor II and his team showcased the course's amazing layout and the work they accomplished since Vincent's arrival in 2023.

From a Par-3 in Indiana to Winged Foot in Westchester

Vincent's path into golf began at age 11 on a modest par-3 course in Bloomington, IN. His father, Vincent Taylor Sr.—an attorney, entrepreneur, and owner of Taylor's Par-3—ran his law office out of the clubhouse while the family operated the course together. His mom, Chris, was the law secretary and the president of the golf course.

"It was all hands-on deck," Vincent said. "I worked outside on the golf course and inside in the clubhouse. That's where I fell in love with the business."

For years, Vincent split time between the golf course by day and managing a pizza shop at night. "The golf course didn't bring in enough revenue to provide me with a future," explained Vincent. "So in 2015, when I was 25 years old, I enrolled in Rutgers University's two-year certificate program for a more formal education in turfgrass management."

"It was my first time on the East Coast," he continued. "I loved New Jersey and I loved New York City. My sister, Courtney, lived in the City, which gave me a good excuse to take the train in. I spent many days exploring Manhattan and Brooklyn—Central Park, Chinatown, the World Trade Center. Some days it felt like I walked 12 miles. I loved the intensity and the frantic pace of the City."

Vincent's first internship came at Eagle Point Golf Club in Wilmington, NC. Eagle Point was then ranked among the top 100 courses in America. "When I interned there, the course had bentgrass greens and everything else was Bermuda. It's not easy main-

taining cool season grasses in a warm climate," Vincent said, noting the greens have since been converted to Bermuda grass. "I was there for about nine months. It was a phenomenal learning experience. But Wilmington in the summer? That's real heat."

Learning at 'the Foot'

After Rutgers, Vincent landed at Winged Foot Golf Club as a second assistant, working under longtime superintendent Stephen Rabideau. "I interviewed with Bill Cygan, who back then was one of Steve's top assistants, and he hired me." Vincent began work in the spring of 2016 in time for the restoration work on the famed West Course that began in the fall in preparation for the 2020 U.S. Open.

"I remember Steve and Gil Hanse pouring over old photos and drawings," Vincent said. "Everything was about restoring the course's original character." Then came the pandemic-era U.S. Open in September 2020—a major championship unlike any other. "Everyone remembers it as the Covid Open," Vincent said. "No spectators. Totally different atmosphere."

When several senior assistants departed after the championship, Vincent stepped into a larger leadership role overseeing both the East and West Courses. "Steve trusted me," he said. "He guided me, but he also gave me room to make decisions and grow."

After eight seasons at Winged Foot, Vincent was ready to manage his own golf course.

Building Momentum in Connecticut

"I interviewed at The Connecticut Golf Club and they offered me the position as director of grounds," said Vincent. He began there in October 2023, a timing he now calls ideal. "Starting in the fall gave me a chance to really learn the property," he said. "We could put the course to bed properly and start planning immediately for spring."

And there was plenty to tackle.



Vincent Taylor II

The rugged Easton property is visually striking but demanding to maintain, with dramatic elevation changes, rocky terrain, and 22 acres of fescue—much of it on steep slopes. Since arriving, Vincent has focused on one core philosophy: healthy turf and fast, firm playing conditions.

He's introduced a more aggressive aerification program, increased rolling frequencies to maintain green speed and smoothness, and rebuilt three tee complexes in-house last fall using laser-guided grading equipment.

"A lot of the work here is hands-on," Vincent said. "That's the way I like it."

More projects are already on the horizon, including future green reconstruction he hopes to complete in-house.

Family First

Away from the golf course, Vincent's life changed in 2018 when he met his wife, Kimberly, an administrator and professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The couple lives in Stamford with their three-year-old son, Jackson.

continued on page 16

Casey Klossner Welcomes MetGCSA Invitational Goers to The Tuxedo Club

by Vinny Taylor

COn August 3, Casey Klossner and The Tuxedo Club will host MetGCSA members for the annual Invitational Tournament. It's a milestone Casey has looked forward to for years.

"A lot of guys haven't been here in 15 or 20 years," he says. "I'm excited for them to see how far this place has come."

For Casey, the opportunity to showcase The Tuxedo Club is the latest chapter in a journey that started far from Tuxedo Park.

Never Forget Your Roots

When Casey talks about how he ended up at The Tuxedo Club, he doesn't start with Tuxedo. He starts in Owego, NY, where a friend of his father helped him land a summer job during high school at a local public golf course with a staff of only eight.

"My whole life kind of connects to where I am right now," Casey says. "As my dad tells me to this day: 'Never forget your roots.'"

That summer job stuck. When Casey headed to SUNY Cobleskill, he planned to become a phys-ed teacher and coach. He didn't even know turfgrass management was a field of study until he got there. Encouraged by his mother, he changed course and found a profession that fit. It was advice he never forgot, especially after losing his mom during his college years.

Strong grades led him to Cornell University, where his path took another unexpected turn.

A Crash Course in Championship Golf

On his first day at Cornell, Casey met Dr. Frank Rossi, who informed him that he would be spending time that summer working the 2004 U.S. Open at Shinnecock Hills. "I had two questions," Casey laughs. "What's a U.S. Open, and where is Shinnecock Hills?"

Casey soon found out.

Two internships at Shinnecock became a full-time position as an irrigation technician after graduation. Over six years on Long Island, he worked his way up to senior assistant superintendent while learning the demands of championship golf.

Looking for a new challenge, he moved to

Winged Foot Golf Club, where he spent three years under Matthew Burrows and Stephen Rabideau.

"In those three years, I learned more than at any other point in my career," he says. "A year there is like five years anywhere else."

He credits both mentors for helping shape his career, particularly Steve's constant pursuit of improvement.

"He's not doing things now the way he did three years ago, or five years ago," Casey says. "That's how he stays at the pinnacle of our area."

Falling in Love With Tuxedo

Casey arrived at The Tuxedo Club in October 2013 after being encouraged to interview by the MGA's Gene Westmoreland, a Winged Foot member who knew about the Tuxedo opening from an MGA associate and Tuxedo member, Jay Mattola.

The interview was all it took.

As Casey toured the property, he was struck by its history and setting. This is the club that gave the tuxedo its name. Its past membership includes names like Alexander Hamilton and Cornelius Vanderbilt. Tucked among the estates of Tuxedo Park and surrounded by mountains and wildlife, the club feels far removed from the city despite being only a short train ride from Manhattan.

"I kind of fell in love with it right there," he says.

The Robert Trent Jones-designed golf course sits four miles from the main clubhouse and has a character all its own.

Building Momentum

The numbers tell part of the story.

In Casey's first season, the club hosted about 10,000 rounds. Last year, it reached a record 19,200 rounds.

"I'm hoping it's because we've built a place people want to come back to," he says.

The improvements started modestly. During his first offseason, Casey and his staff rebuilt 10 highly visible greenside bunkers in-house with little more than a mini-excavator and a lot of determination.

As confidence grew, so did the projects. Drainage improvements were added throughout the golf course. Greens and fair-



Casey Klossner

ways were renovated. The practice green and 4th green were rebuilt. In 2016, the club installed a new pumpstation, pumphouse, and a \$4.1 million irrigation system.

The largest undertaking came in 2021 with a full Golf Course Enhancement Project completed by Labar Golf Renovations. Every bunker on the course was rebuilt, a new 9th green complex and short-game area were created, green surrounds were regrassed, and tee complexes were reconstructed.

Working alongside architect Bryce Swanson of the Rees Jones firm, Casey helped modernize the course while preserving the rustic character and original design principles that members value.

The Next Challenge

Today, Casey's attention is focused on water. Working with Weston & Sampson, the club is testing new wells to provide additional water for its irrigation pond while meeting updated environmental requirements.

"Fresh water is going to be our generation's biggest challenge," he says, "on the golf course and in life."

The effort has already shown promise, and Casey is hopeful the project will provide a long-term solution for the club.

Beyond the Course

Away from Tuxedo, Casey remains active in the profession as a MetGCSA board member and co-editor of *Tee to Green*.

At home, he and his wife, Melanie, are raising four children: Reagan, 9, Cameron, 7, and twins Peyton and Ashton, 5. When he gets a rare weekend away from work, he enjoys hiking, fishing, camping in the Adirondacks, cheering for the Yankees, and returning to the family farm upstate.

Vincent Taylor, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at The Connecticut Golf Club in Easton, CT.

Brett Chapin and Redding Country Club to Host Met's Annual Nine & Dine

by Kevin Collins

Superintendent Brett Chapin and Redding Country Club will host the MetGCSA's Nine & Dine on August 18. Brett and Redding have been very generous over the years, hosting golf meetings and fundraisers for local superintendent associations.

That spirit of hospitality makes Redding an ideal venue for the Nine & Dine. As the name implies, the event isn't all golf. After their round, members and guests will gather at Redding's outdoor bar and dining area, where the food and fun are hard to beat.

A Career Built in Turf

Brett Chapin grew up in Washington, CT, where his career in turf began early.

"By the time I was 12, I was mowing lawns and string trimming," says Brett. "At 14, I joined the grounds crew at Washington Country Club, following in the footsteps of my father, Allen, who had also worked there as a teenager. I continued working the grounds crew at Washington every summer through high school," Brett continues.

Knowing he wanted to pursue turf management professionally, Brett enrolled in the UMass-Stockbridge turf program in 1998 and graduated in 2002. His internships, he will tell you, helped shape his career.

At Golf Club of Purchase, working under Bob Miller, Brett gained hands-on experience in spraying, irrigation, and course setup alongside a talented intern crew that included Dave Lippman and Jeff Millett.

His second internship came at The Apawamis Club under Bill Perlee, where Brett learned the value of staying calm under pressure.

"One memorable lesson came when Bill was away and I was out spraying fairways and hit a bump. The booms ripped clear off the sprayer, but I guess I was able to channel Bill because I kept my cool."

His final internship was at Siwanoy Country Club under Dave Mahoney, who became an important mentor.

"Dave was a wonderful teacher and someone I tried to emulate," Brett said. "At Siwanoy, I was exposed to every aspect of the operation."

From Assistant to Superintendent

After graduation, Brett joined The Seawane Club as second assistant superintendent under Brian Benedict. Within a short time, Brian's first assistant, Joe Gardner, left for his first superintendent's position and Brett became first assistant and spent five years learning the business while helping manage the golf course.

Seawane also became important for another reason: It's where Brett met his future wife, GraceMarie, who was the club's assistant general manager. "We started dating, and before I knew it, we were living together in my apartment at the club. I didn't know if she really loved me or she just wanted a shorter commute," laughed Brett.

In 2006, at just 26 years old, Brett was hired as superintendent of Redding Country Club. This season marks his 20th year at the club.

"It's been a great 20 years," Brett said. "We've completed a lot of golf course and infrastructure projects, and the membership has always allowed me to be involved in all aspects of the club."

That involvement even included serving twice as Redding's interim general manager for a combined 12 months.

The club is currently moving forward with an ambitious five-year long-range plan focused on continued improvements to the property and facilities.

Leadership Within the MetGCSA

Brett joined the MetGCSA Board of Directors in 2010 and became association president in 2021. One of his biggest goals was creating documented procedures and organizational guidelines for future board members.

"I wanted to create a blueprint that would help future leaders navigate their roles more easily," he said.

Brett has also played a major role in growing the annual Nor'easter gathering at the Golf Industry Show into one of the industry's most popular events. Attendance now regularly exceeds 500 people, with more than 650 attendees at this year's GIS in Orlando.



Brett Chapin

About Redding Country Club

Redding Country Club was founded in 1965 when three local businessmen envisioned a family-oriented club built around recreation, relaxation, and hospitality.

The founders purchased a local farm and, together with 46 investors, formed the Redding Country Club Holding Corporation.

Golf course architects Ryder & Carlson designed the original nine-hole course, which opened in 1968 along with tennis courts and a swimming pool. At the time of the club's first tournament, only four holes were completed—inspiring what remains a club tradition today: the annual 4-Hole Open.

By 1969, all nine holes were open for play. In 1973, a 13-year-old, Bob Tway, won the Men's Club Championship. Thirteen years later, Tway captured the 1986 PGA Championship at Inverness Club.

As the membership grew through the 1970s, Redding hired architect Rees Jones to expand the course into an 18-hole layout. Using the property's natural streams, ponds, and elevation changes, Jones created a scenic and challenging golf course that plays longer than its 6,400-yard scorecard.

Today, Redding Country Club continues to invest in its golf course, clubhouse, pool, and family facilities, making it one of the area's most welcoming private clubs.

Brett and GraceMarie live at Redding Country Club in a charming 1700s-era home with their daughter, Adreanna, 17, and son, Nate, 15. GraceMarie currently serves as executive director of the CAGCS.

Don't miss the MetGCSA Nine & Dine on August 18. We'll see you at Redding!

Kevin Collins, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is NE/Mid-Atlantic Territory Manager for Ocean Organics.

Upcoming Events

New Events Lineup

Spotlight continued from page 13

A Golf Club Built From Frustration

The story of The Connecticut Golf Club begins with billionaire real estate investor and philanthropist Lawrence Wien, whose holdings once included numerous prominent New York City properties, including the Empire State Building and the Plaza Hotel.

According to club lore, Wien was golfing at a country club not far from the future home of The Connecticut Golf Club, and he became so frustrated by the slow play and country club distractions that he walked off the course mid-round and decided to build a golf course of his own—one focused purely on golf.

He found rugged land in Easton that many believed was too severe for a course. Architect Geoffrey Cornish disagreed.

What followed was a massive construction effort unconstrained by today's environmental considerations. Cornish oversaw the blasting of rock ledges, rerouting of streams, and had terrain reshaped on a scale unimaginable today. The result, completed in the late 1960s, was one of the Northeast's most distinctive golf courses. Wien lived to enjoy the golf club he founded until he passed away in 1988.

In the early 2000s, architect Brian Silva—one of Cornish's original associates—was hired to oversee updates to the original design. Under his guidance, holes were lengthened, bunkers rebuilt, and green complexes were refined while preserving the original routing. More recently, the club retained Weiman Golf Design to renovate every bunker on the course using the Better Billy Bunker system.

Now, with Vincent continuing to refine conditioning and playability, the club enters another chapter, which, on June 8, Met members had the pleasure of seeing first-hand.

Kevin Collins, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is NE/Mid-Atlantic Territory Manager for Ocean Organics.

Met Events

MetGCSA Summer Social

Monday, July 13

Orienta Beach Club
Mamaroneck, NY

Bring your family, friends, and coworkers to enjoy a delicious lobster clambake dinner and open bar by the water. Dress code is casual: Collared shirt, shorts, and flip flops are welcome.

Parent-Child Tournament/Scholarship Awards

Tuesday, July 28

Silvermine Golf Club
Norwalk, CT

Host: Dave Peterson

Invitational Tournament

Monday, August 3

The Tuxedo Club
Tuxedo Park, NY
Host: Casey Klossner

Nine & Dine

Tuesday, August 18

Redding Country Club
Redding, CT
Host: Brett Chapin

The Poa/Met Championship/Met Team Qualifier

Monday, September 28

Country Club of New Canaan
New Canaan, CT
Host: Mike Roe

Industry Events

University of Connecticut Turfgrass Field Day

Wednesday, July 22

Plant Science Research and Education
Facility
59 Agronomy Road
Storrs, CT

The day features research plot tours of ongoing trials and cutting-edge research, a variety of workshops and educational opportunities, and the opportunity to visit dozens of industry exhibitors and vendors. You can read more about the event on <https://database.outreach.engagement.uconn.edu/program/25>.

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day: Golf & Fine Turf

Tuesday, July 28

Rutgers Horticultural Farm II
New Brunswick, NJ

The day features live field research, educational sessions, and trade shows for green industry professionals. Early registration closes on July 15. Visit www.njturfgrass.org for further information.

Patron Directory

Patrons listed on this page are supporting our association. You are encouraged to support them.

- ★ **Advanced Turf Solutions**
"Serving the Industry since 1990"
205 Wilson Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06854
Greg Moran: 845-901-1358
John Garcia: 203-996-6267
Ofc: 203-831-9748
- ★ **A.G. Enterprises**
Rick Gordon ~ Staff Uniforms
201-741-4500 / Fax: 201-575-4140
merrick160@gmail.com
www.AGEnterprisesonline.com
- Almstead Tree, Shrub, & Lawn Care**
58 Beechwood Drive
New Rochelle, NY 10801
Merrick Lee: 914-576-0193
mllee@almsteadtree.com
Instagram: @almsteadtree
- Aquatrols Company**
1273 Imperial Way
Paulsboro, NJ 08066
Dave Libby: 207-303-9964
dlibby@aquatrols.com @Aquatrols
- Autonomous Mowing Solutions**
"The Right Bot for the Right Spot"
Chuck Nowicki / Connor Sinibaldi
848-365-4687
contact@autonomousmowingsolutions.com
www.autonomousmowingsolutions.com
- ★ **BASF Corporation**
"We Create Chemistry"
Jarad Luknicki: 914-334-2412
jarad.luknicki@basf.com
- Bloom Golf Partners**
Tyler Bloom: 610-844-3009
tbloom.golf@gmail.com
tylerbloomconsulting.com
- Blooming Beds**
Horticultural Services / NY & NJ
300 Main St., 21 Madison Plaza 130
Madison, NJ 07940
Wayne Jackson: 201-341-6611
Ofc: 973-937-7009
wayne@bloomingbeds.com
- ★ **Blue Ridge Peat Farms**
133 Peat Moss Road
White Haven, PA 18661
Gene Evans: 570-443-9596
Chuck Evans: 570-947-5888
- ★ **Carriere Materials, LLC**
U.S. Silica, Topdressing, & Bunker Sand, VFB
Bunker Sand & Partac Pro Angle Bunker Sand
Bill Carriere: 914-939-4884
bc1000@verizon.net
- ★ **Club Car CT / Metropolitan NY**
72 Grays Bridge Road
Brookfield, CT 06804
Paul Schwab: 203-943-6898
Paul_Schwab@clubcar.com
- ★ **Davey Tree Expert Company**
John Wickes: 914-906-3264
Frank Molina: 914-223-9050
Carter Peck: 860-505-9333
www.davey.com
- DeLea Sod Farms**
Turf, Topdressing, & Root Zone
Scott Geiser: 631-484-1211
sgeiser@deleasod.com
Dylan Watt: 631-796-6757
dwatt@deleasod.com
- ★ **Dunning Custom Soils**
"Call the Sandman"
Gilberto Perez: 860-670-3222
gperez@dunningindustries.com
@DunningSandman
- ★ **Emerald Tree and Shrub Care**
Bill Demarest / Kevin Wyatt / Mike Wheeler
Westchester Ofc: 914-725-0441
Connecticut Ofc: 203-422-2441
info@emeraldtreecare.com
- ★ **ENVU**
Turf & Ornamental
Pat Quinlan: 973-715-3363
(Westchester, HV, & Northern NJ)
patrick.quinlan@envu.com
Mike Marino: 860-287-3334
(Long Island, NY, & CT)
michael.marino@envu.com
- Ewing Outdoor Supply**
"Lean on Us" for Irrigation, Drainage, & Equipment
Needs
Blair Somerville: 914-501-3732
bsomerville@ewingos.com
Rick Schriver: 240-243-8516
rschriver@ewingos.com
www.ewingoutdoorsupply.com
- ★ **Executive Turf & Synergy Turf Supply**
Aquritin Nano Technology
Ken Gentile: 203-496-0891
executiveturfproducts@gmail.com
@Aquritin_Turf
- ★ **E-Z-GO ~ Forza Golf Cars**
2921 US-6, State Hill, NY 10973
Nick Roberto / Mike Marvin / Andy Bulizak
845-637-7641
mroberto@forzagolfcars.com
@EZGO-NJ / @Forzagolfcars
- ★ **Finch Turf**
John Deere Golf & Sports Turf Equipment
Cody Scott / Mike Cornicelli
cscott@finchturf.com / mcornicelli@finchturf.com
Ofc: 800-783-3373
@FinchTurf
- ★ **First Turf & Ornamental**
Jon Charpinsky: 860-756-6590
(Westchester, NY, & CT)
jon@ftodistributors.com
Andy Eick: 774-756-6590 (Eastern NY)
andy@ftodistributors.com
- ★ **Fisher and Son Company**
"Serving the Green Industry Professionals in Golf,
Lawn & Landscape, & Sports Turf Since 1928"
Mike Weber: 347-486-0480
mweber@fisherandson.com
@webbyturf
- George E. Ley Company**
Golf Course Construction, Renovation, & Irrigation
130 Devereux Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343
Brian Ley: 484-942-9639
bley@gelcogolf.com / @LeyCompany
- ★ **Grass Roots Turf Products, Inc.**
"Serving Turfgrass Professionals Since 1978"
Ryan Avery / Keith Kubik / Nick Alley
Ofc: 973-252-6634
www.GRturf.com / sales@GRturf.com
@GrassRootsTurf
- ★ **Harrell's LLC**
"Growing a Better World. Partners for Success"
Scott Tretera: 914-262-8638
stretera@harrells.com
- ★ **Helena Agri Enterprises, LLC**
"People . . . Products . . . Knowledge"
Tim Gerzabek: 609-221-9240
gerzabekt@helenaagri.com
Linkedin.com/in/timgerzabek
@TimG_Helena
- ★ **Heritage Professional Products Group**
Rob Saunders: 203-249-5059
rob.saunders@heritageppg.com
Peter Nystrom: 516-551-8102
peter.nystrom@heritageppg.com
Jim Masone: 516-818-9852
- ★ **K & J Tree Service**
Tree Removal, Tree Pruning, & Stump Grinding
Edward Grant: 203-298-8074
Ofc: 203-248-8733
edward@kjtree-service.com
@KJTreeService
- ★ **LaBar Golf**
150 Morristown Road, Suite 208
Bernardsville, NJ 07924
Rich LaBar / Todd Eckenrode / Brian Chapin
rich@labargolf.com
908-502-5253
www.labargolf.com
- Maxwell Turf Pro, LLC**
"Serving Turf & Landscape Professionals
Since 1983"
John Boukas / David Pagano
johnb@maxwellturf.com
Instagram: @maxwellturf
516-644-9635
- ★ **Metro Turf Specialists**
"Customers, Our TOP Priority"
Scott / Todd / Rich / Matt / Andy / Branden
203-748-4653 (GOLF)
@metroturfinc
- ★ **MTE Equipment Solutions, Inc.**
17 Pickett District Road
New Milford, CT 06776
Sean Murphy / Doug Bradley
sales@mte.us.com
@MTEequipment
Ofc: 860-799-7555
- National Lawn Sprinklers**
645 North Broadway
White Plains, NY 10603
John Luciano: 914-629-0012
Lorenzo Luciano: 914-414-1362
Gordon Holmes: 203-901-8637
www.natlawn.com
Ofc: 914-946-6666
- ★ **Noble Turf**
"Helping You Grow"
Brian Bontemps: 845-239-7959
Brian Gjelsvik: 973-670-7139
Zach Brooks: 914-309-2373
Matt Lapinski: 978-551-0093
Bill Cimochoowski: 609-923-4045
- ★ **NuFarm Americas, Inc.**
"Helping the World to Grow a Better Tomorrow"
Jim Santoro: 508-207-2094
jim.santoro@nufarm.com
@nufarmusturf
- ★ **Nutrien Solutions**
George Corgan: 203-837-0971
george.corgan@nutrien.com
www.nutrien.corewards.com
- ★ **Ocean Organics**
Biostimulants, Fertility, & Surfactants
"All Made With Love in Maine"
Kevin P. Collins: 914-621-1151
kevin@oceanorganics.com
@kcseweed
- Omega Turf Solutions**
Authorized Dealer of Barones, TriMax, RedMax,
& Boson
Mike Pelrine: 201-481-5584
mpelrine@omegaturlutions.com
X: https://x.com/Omega_Turf/
- ★ **PBI Gordon**
"Quality, Service, and Integrity for over 75 years"
Matthew Crowther, CGCS: 508-922-1499
mcrowther@pbigordon.com
@PBIGordonTurf
- ★ **Plant Food Company, Inc.**
"The Liquid Fertilizer Experts"
Tom Weinert: 914-262-0111
Dick Neufeld: 973-945-6318
Tom Pepe: 609-751-1372
David Conrad: 914-263-3244
@PlantFoodCo
- Roger McCagg Architects & Interior Designers**
44 N. Main Street, Norwalk, CT 06854
Tony Panza, AIA / Christopher McCagg, AIA
203-354-5210
- ★ **SiteOne Golf**
Kevin Balocca: 203-815-9762
kbalocca@siteone.com
www.siteone.com/golfsales
@SiteOneSupply
- Skim Turf Management ~ Automated Precision**
Turf Management Data & Tools Powered by AI
and Satellite
Frederic Paczkowski, GM / Jared Gray, Sales Rep
info@skimturf.com
610-234-7210
- Small World Wealth Management Northwestern Mutual**
Joshua Weinerman: 845-224-0027
joshua.weinerman@nm.com
- Soil Solutions, LLC**
DRILL & FILL Professionals plus MORE
"Proudly Serving the MetGCSA for over 20 years"
Anthony Decicco / John Decicco
7 Whittemore Place
Ryebrook, NY 10573
914-393-0659
soilsolutionsllc369@gmail.com
- ★ **Synatek Solutions**
Shaun Kennedy: 862-266-9288
skennedy@synateksolutions.com
www.synateksolutions.com
Instagram: @synatek_solutions
- ★ **Sygenta**
"Manufacturer of Plant Protection Products"
John Bresnahan: 413-333-9914
john.bresnahan@sygenta.com
- ★ **Tanto Irrigation, LLC**
"Golf Course Irrigation Specialists"
Tim Clarke / Chase Cameron / Bill Bartels
info@tantoirrigation.com
@Tantoirrigation
- ★ **Target Specialty Products**
"We Are Here to Help You Succeed"
Chris Ledford: 631-840-7804
chris.ledford@target-specialty.com
www.target-specialty.com
- ★ **Tilleli Construction Group**
48 Dennis Lane
Bethpage, NY 11714
Stephanie Ryan / Dan Rogers
631-921-3265
sryan@tilleliconstructiongroup.com
- ★ **Tom Irwin Inc.**
"With Tom Irwin, You're Not Alone"
12 Progress Avenue
Tyngsborough, MA 01879
Jeff Houde: 203-731-1776
jeff@tomirwin.com
Instagram: @tomirwininc
- ★ **Turf Products Corp.**
"Serving Our Customers Since 1970"
157 Moody Road, Enfield, CT 06082
Keith Kohlisch / Chris Francis
860-763-3581
- United States Golf Association**
3 Carolina Vista Drive,
Pinehurst, NC 28374
Jeff Kinney: 508-451-9037
jkinney@usga.org
Elliot Dowling: 224-656-9773
edowling@usga.org
www.usga.org
- ★ **Westchester Tractor, Inc.**
60 International Boulevard
Brewster, NY 10509
John Apple: 845-278-7766
sales@wtractor.com
www.wtractor.com
- ★ **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**
"Proudly Serving the MetGCSA Since 1976"
Bob Lippman: 914-447-6257
Dave Lippman: 914-447-5192
info@westchesterturf.com
- Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.**
Water Supply Consulting
Michael Kapareiko
Ofc: 800-SAMPSON
kapareiko.michael@wseinc.com
www.westonandsampson.com

★ Denotes MetGCSA member

Thank You to Our Major Sponsors for Their Support

Ace Sponsors



Double Eagle Sponsors

