



TEE TO GREEN

Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Tribute to a Model Member

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just content
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the crowd,
Or do you stay at home
And crab both long and loud?
Do you ever go to visit
A member who is sick,
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?
There is quite a program scheduled
That means success, if done,
And it can be accomplished
With the help of everyone.
So attend the meetings regularly
And help with hand and heart.
Don't be just a member,
But take an active part.
Think this over carefully,
Are we right or are we wrong?
Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong?

No, this isn't a message pleading for more regular and active participation from Met members. Instead, it's a tribute to someone who *has* been a model member—not only of the Met, but also of the Connecticut, New Jersey, and national superintendent associations. That person is Steve Cadenelli, superintendent of Metedeconk National Golf Course in Jackson, NJ, and newly elected president of the GCSAA.

Steve didn't achieve *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

To Seed or Sod?

You might find the answer surprisingly simple

Pelham Country Club Superintendent Tony Baviello had a unique opportunity. He was able to conduct a side-by-side comparison of seeding and sodding during green reconstruction at his 83-year-old course. An account of his experience follows.
To seed or sod? *You* be the judge.

Last season, I was involved in the reconstruction of two holes—#4 and #7—at Pelham Country Club. We rebuilt the greens and bunkers, contoured the fairways, and added drainage to enhance playing conditions.

We had hoped to begin construction early October, but the weather stymied our progress, and we weren't able to complete the job until mid-November. We had seeded both greens, covered them with Evergreen turf covers, and hoped for the best.

By early spring, we saw that the seventh green had an adequate plant covering—because it was completed first—but #4 was still pretty sparse.

At that point, we were looking at

having to keep green #4 closed until late August, early September. But you can imagine the problems that might have presented, so we opted to experiment with sodding the fourth green.

Though having two greens partially out of commission wasn't the best situation to be in, it *did* enable me to see, firsthand, the pros and cons of both seeding and sodding a green.

The Sodding Process: Facts and Figures

We began by contracting with an outfit in Pennsylvania that grew Penncross on USGA-specification sand. All the sod was maintained at 3/16". And it arrived in a refrigerated truck, rolled and wrapped in cardboard, and cut into 1'x6' lengths, which were extremely thin to reduce the amount of soil mix on each piece.

We ordered enough sod to cover 6,000 square feet. It took one day to install and cost \$14,400, not including the \$1,250 trucking fee.

Until the sod was established, we had to pass over the *(continued on page 5)*

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Tribute to a Model Member

this honor by merely being "content to have his name on the list" of several association rosters. He's been a highly visible and influential member of each of the associations he's joined. He first rose through the chairs of the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, ending his 10-year term on the CAGCS board of directors as president.

As a director on the GCSAA board since 1986, Steve has chaired nearly a half-dozen committees and served as a highly effective secretary/treasurer and vice president. In each of these roles, Steve, by both example and hard work, has helped to enhance the image of the golf course superintendent on the local scene, throughout the golf industry, and among government officials.

As president, I'm confident he'll continue to give his all to bettering our

profession—and the GCSAA. In fact, one of the changes he's told me he'd like to make is to shift some of the GCSAA board of directors' responsibilities to the professional staff. His intention is to lighten the directors' work load and make running for national office appealing to more GCSAA members—a bold, but sound move.

Steve is a perfect example of what "taking an active part" can do for not only an association, but an entire profession. I only hope Steve and the poem I've reprinted from the Georgia GCSA serve as inspiration to those of you whose names might simply be "on the list."

Congratulations on your new position, Steve! We wish you continued success in the year ahead.

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President



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ADDRESS: P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

Upcoming Events

1991 Poa Annual Golf Tournament

Come one, come all to the 1991 Poa Annual Golf Tournament, May 9 at the Blue Hill Golf Club in Pearl River, NY. Cosponsored by the MetGCSA and the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), this event is held in three other locations in the state to raise funds for turfgrass research at Cornell University and other SUNY schools, including Cobleskill, Delhi, and Alfred.

The tournament typically brings in \$7,000 to \$10,000 each year. For 1991, NYSTA has committed \$35,000 to Cornell's program, which will be matched by the university for a grand total of \$70,000. Another \$13,000 will be distributed among the SUNY schools.

For further information, contact Mike Maffei, Chairman, Downstate Tournament, 914-279-7179. We look forward to your participation.

Meeting Reminder

May Golf Meeting
Thursday, May 23
Silver Spring Country Club, Ridgefield, CT

Peter Rappoccio is host superintendent.

Special Event

Northeast Autumn Classic
Sunday-Tuesday, September 29, 30,
October 1
The Quechee Club, Quechee, VT

Mark Fuller is host superintendent.

Meet Your April Meeting Host

An inside look at Mike Mongon—and Arcola Country Club

Arcola Country Club in Paramus, NJ, was the site of the April 17 MetGCSA meeting—the first golf meeting of the year.

Host Mike Mongon has been superintendent at the course since December 1987 and, in his three-and-a-half year tenure, has had the opportunity to oversee the kind of projects that some superintendents' dreams—and others' nightmares—are made of.

Project #1 was to restore the course to its secondary Robert Trent Jones design. Arcola was designed originally by R.H. Parker in 1909 and then redesigned by Trent Jones in the mid-fifties. But during the sixties and seventies, when cost-cutting became a higher priority than the condition of the golf course, the distinctive Trent Jones design was lost. "Much of the course was



"Much of the course was allowed to turn to rough, and many of the contours were lost."



allowed to turn to rough," says Mike, "and many of the contours were lost." They were so lost, in fact, that Mike had to turn to old photographs and maps to uncover Trent Jones' original handiwork and put a "restoration" program in place.

Mike's most recent challenge is managing the construction of a new state-of-the-art maintenance facility. This is only one phase of Arcola's comprehensive reconstruction program, which includes erecting a new Pro Shop and cart building and renovating and expanding the clubhouse.

In the works since last fall, the long-awaited new maintenance facility will be ready to go early summer.

Talking to Mike, you'd never know that terms like wilt and hyperodes weren't always part of his vocabulary. But he took several career turns before finding the golf course business.

After graduating from Mahopac High School in Mahopac, NY, Mike attended East Stroudsburch State College in Pennsylvania, where he thought he'd like to prepare for a career

in physical education. Midcourse, he changed his mind. Mike transferred to Pace University in Pleasantville, NY, and began studying marketing and finance. He took a job with a major investment banking firm in Manhattan but, two years later, decided he'd like to look further. That's when he found the golf course business.

He credits Scott Niven, superintendent of The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT, for his entrée into turf management. "It was Scott who introduced me to Larry Pakkala, superintendent of Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT," says Mike. But it's Larry he credits for his rapid career growth. "Larry's the big brother I never had,"

says Mike.

"He's been a tremendous motivator, manager, and friend."

Mike started at Woodway in

1983 as a crew member and then quickly rose to assistant. During that time, he attended Rutgers and graduated with a two-year certificate. After five years at Woodway, Mike took his current job at Arcola.

Mike's enthusiasm for the business translates into active involvement in industry-related groups and associations. He's currently serving on four MetGCSA committees: Education, Membership, Government Relations, and Communications. And he's vice president of the Rutgers Turfgrass Alumni Association. In addition, Mike serves on the Rutgers Turfgrass Advisory Council.

Somewhere in there, Mike found time to get married and have two children. He and his wife, Kathleen, son Ryan, 6, and daughter Katrina, nearly 3, live on club grounds.

Some of Mike's favorite activities are coaching his son's T-ball team and playing golf, football, and basketball with "the boys."

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MetGCSA Hires Tournament Director

Let's all welcome Daniel Dinan, our newly hired tournament director, who will assist the Tournament Committee in coordinating and managing our myriad golf function activities.

Dan comes to us with a wealth of experience. Most directly related is his part-time work with the MGA, helping to set up and conduct the association's golf tournaments. But equally important are the organizational and communications skills he's acquired during his four-year stint as a Naval officer, his 30-plus years as a teacher, and his high school coaching activities—both varsity basketball and golf.

With a bachelor's from East Stroudsburg State College in Pennsylvania—where he was born and raised—and a master's from Seton Hall University, Dan seems well qualified to do just

about anything. He's currently a math teacher at Tappan High School in Orangeburgh, NY, where he lives with his wife, Rita. And as if all this isn't enough, he also conducts a local youth golf program and is an active member of the Blue Hills Golf Club Advisory Committee.

A father of four—two sons and two daughters—and now a *grandfather* of four, Dan says he's looking forward to retiring soon. But he's quick to point out that he'll always maintain a close association with the game he enjoys most: golf, of course.

I'm sure you'll find Dan personable, energetic, and a nice addition to our meetings. Let's remember to give him a warm welcome at our next function.

SCOTT E. NIVEN, CGCS
Chairman, Long Range Planning & Steering Committee

Product Warning Bears Repeating

In case you missed this important product warning, here's the word: Du Pont has issued an immediate recall of all *Benlate 50DF*, *Benlate 1991 DF*, and *Tersan 1991 DF* brand fungicides. There's reason to believe these products have been contaminated with low levels of atrazine, which could injure turfgrass or other plants.

Du Pont plans to keep the products off the market until it can verify their purity. In the meantime, you should return these products to the place of purchase for full credit.

If you have any questions, contact Du Pont at 800-441-7515.

Survey Update

The Survey Committee is busily tabulating the results of the MetGCSA's first salary and budget survey, which includes facts and figures from over 70 respondents.

For those of you who *did* participate, you can expect to receive the survey results sometime in May.

UST Questions Answered

Everything you ever wanted to know about underground storage tanks is just a phone call—or letter—away.

The following is a directory of State UST Program Offices in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.

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Bulk Storage Section, Division of Water
Dept. of Environmental Conservation
50 Wolf Road, Room 326
Albany, NY 12233-0001
(518) 457-4351

New Jersey

Dept. of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Resources (CN-029)
Trenton, NJ 08625
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Connecticut

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green with a vibratory roller every couple of days to produce a smooth and true surface. We bought a 4'x8' sheet of plywood that we placed on top of the green to keep the roller from damaging the sod.

Under ideal growing conditions, I was told a sodded green could be ready for play as soon as 15 days after installation. But because last spring was so cold, I kept golfers off the green completely for 41 days.

The sod was installed March 17, and we opened the green on April 27—but only for weekend use until the end of May. Then we opened the green five days a week and went to full-time play a month later, in July.

Drawbacks: The sodded green was expensive and labor intensive. In addition to having to roll the green regularly, we had to keep a close watch on it during the summer months. It

was far more susceptible to heat stress and, therefore, required more water and syringing than the seeded green.

Another notable finding: The roots of the sodded green were only 5" to 7" deep; while the roots of the seeded green reached 12" to 14". The theory behind the difference: Rolling the sodded green may have had something to do with the restricted root growth.

Seeding: An Economical Option

By comparison, the seeded green required about \$250 in labor, seed, fertilizer, and Sand Aid, a soil amendment we hoped would improve germination. But it was a full six months before the green was ready for play. And even then, we eased the golfers onto the green, with a schedule similar to the sodded green's.

We began with a period of weekend use and then worked up to full-time play

after six months. Depending on the weather, it could take a seeded green as long as one-and-a-half seasons before it's capable of handling full-time play. We were fortunate.

Drawbacks: The seeded green took a relatively long time to get established. And once we began mowing, it was hard to avoid scalping the turf on nodes and hills where sand had shifted. The solution: We put a smooth roller on the front of our hand mower, and we alternated mowing on steep slopes until the turf was better established.

The Final Analysis

In the end, both methods produced equally playable greens. So if you're debating whether to seed or sod, my advice to you is simple: Let your budget—and time constraints—be your guide.

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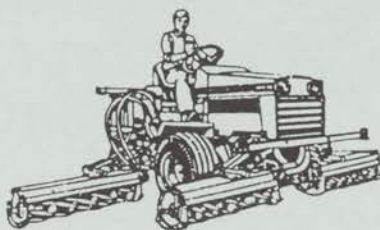
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Outfoxing Canadian Geese

If you've been fighting a losing battle against Canadian geese on your course, here's a solution that may put an end to your problems: Mount a stuffed gray fox on a log, and prop it in the middle of your geese's favorite hangouts.

As strange as this may sound, according to Gene Kaufman, PGA head professional at Etna Acres Golf Club in Andrews, IN, the tactic really works. In *PGA Magazine*, he explains: "We moved the log to several different locations around our course. The geese were so unhappy, they left for safer areas."

If you consider this antidote too far-out for your course, you may want to wait for EPA approval of what appears to be a promising goose repellent.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and LESCO have been working to perfect the novel goose deterrent, which appears to be environmentally compatible. In fact, a similar product is used as a food and drug additive.

LESCO says it plans to do extensive field testing on the repellent this year.

Foolproof Feedback Technique

There's a certain magic in using the word "I" when trying to solve employee performance problems. It lets people know exactly where you stand, and it's less apt to put them on the defensive.

Consider the following two approaches to the same problem: "You're always late to work." "I'm feeling frustrated by your inability to show up to work on time." Leading with "I" rather than an accusatory "you," focuses attention on the problem, *not* the person, increasing the chance that an employee will be receptive to your feedback.

Another example of contrasting reprimands: "You're doing a pretty sloppy job building that walk," as opposed to the more preferable, "I think the stones in that walk could be lined up a bit better."

Scheduling Tip for Overcommitters

If you're the type of superintendent whose schedule overflows no matter how selectively you choose your projects, then your problem may lie in how you budget your time. The classic time-management rule: Estimate how long a task will take and multiply it by 1.25. If you think you'll need four hours to prepare for a Green Committee meeting, for example, schedule five.

If you're not totally familiar with a job or project you're undertaking, then estimate the time you think it'll take you to do it, and multiply that by 1.5.

A last-resort strategy for chronic overcommitters: Schedule only 50 percent of your time.

The State of Posting Laws

Connecticut has recently joined the ranks of states requiring that signs be posted when pesticides are applied.

There are currently 10 states that require posting: Aside from Connecticut, there's Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, and Vermont.

Posting rules and regulations vary, depending on whether you're a homeowner or a golf course or commercial applicator.

Fortunately, the regulations for golf courses are relatively straightforward. Generally, you're required to post at point of registration at the first and tenth tees.

The posting sign itself must also meet certain criteria. In addition to adhering to size requirements, the sign must:

- state any pesticides that have been applied within the past 24 hours
- indicate the areas that have been sprayed
- provide a contact person so that people can inquire about the pesticide applied on a particular day

New Members

Gerard Brett, Class B, Mill River Country Club, Stratford, CT
Karl Olson, Class AS, National Golf Links, Southampton, NY
Stuart Sharples, Class AS, IBM Country Club, Poughkeepsie, NY

Newly Certified

Tony Baviello, superintendent, Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY.
Jeff Scott, superintendent, Apawamis Club, Rye, NY.

Congratulations

More than 400 competitors teed it up for this year's GCSAA Championship Golf Title in Arizona. Though the grand winner—Roger Null—wasn't a MetGCSA member, a number of entrants from the association made the "winner's circle." We've listed their names below. C'mon, let's give 'em a round of applause.

Second Flight (13-18) Net Winner

Peter Rappoccio, superintendent, Silver Spring Country Club, Ridgefield, CT.

Third Flight (19-24) Net Winner

Ted Maddocks, superintendent, Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT.

Fourth Flight (25 plus) Net Winner

James McNally, Green Rock Corp., Tarrytown, NY.

Senior I (50-56 years) Net Winner

Fred Scheyhing, superintendent, Mt. Kisco Country Club, Mt. Kisco, NY.

Two Man Best Ball

A team consisting of Earl Millett and Matt Ceplo tied for first but lost in a match of cards.

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