



# TEE TO GREEN

Published by the  
Metropolitan Golf Course  
Superintendents Association



*Handwritten signatures and initials in the top right corner.*

## President's Message

### All the News . . .

*That's Fit to Print*

**T**he end of the season may be fast approaching, but our association events are still in full swing. I want to offer special thanks to the Pakkala family and the Woodway Country Club for hosting one of our latest—and longest-running—events, the annual family picnic.

This year, more than 100—including a large group of youngsters—enjoyed an afternoon and evening of Olympic games (I thought I was in Barcelona) and seaside dining at the Woodway Beach Club.

The only thing missing was the Pakkala family; they were vacationing in California. I hope they enjoyed their trip as much as we enjoyed the picnic.

#### Field Day Update: Come One, Come All

By now, you've seen the fliers for the Professional Turfgrass Field Day. Scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, the event will once again be held at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY. And as veteran field-day goers know, it offers our commercial members and representatives the opportunity to display and demonstrate their products and equipment. For superintendents, it's a free educational opportunity—and a great way to evaluate a lot of products in a short period of time.

This year's event will feature a repeat of the popular reel grinding and turf renovation clinics. *(continued on page 3)*

## Special Feature

### A Year-and-a-Half With the HydroJect

*Pat Lucas Surveys Area Superintendents on Their HydroJect Experience—and Offers a Few Insights of His Own*

**N**ot since the introduction of the triplex greensmower has a single piece of equipment generated as much interest as the Toro HydroJect (HJ). Its initial attraction was that it allows you to aerify with only minimum surface disturbance. But after a year-and-a-half on the market, what most superintendents are more interested in knowing is, "Does it really work?"

Though, admittedly, there's still a lot to be learned, I and several other area superintendents who have used the HJ extensively can shed some light on the inner workings—and the pros and cons—of the machine.

Here, first, are the perceptions of Winged Foot's Bob Alonzi, Racebrook's John Gallagher, and Sleepy Hollow's Joe Camberato. Then read on for a few solutions to some of the problems I've encountered—as both a golf course superintendent and commercial operator of the HJ. My hope is that they'll spare you hours of trial-and-error when operating the Toro HydroJect on your course.

#### First-Hand Experience With the HydroJect

**Bob Alonzi, CGCS, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY**

**Objective:** We're a heavily played club, so we get a lot of soil compaction—particularly in June, July, and August. Our prime objective with the HydroJect was to try to alleviate that compaction without inconveniencing our membership.

**Use:** Last year, we did all the greens twice during the summer and once late fall. The fall treatment was intended to improve drainage during the winter.

This year, we went out in July and again just recently to alleviate any stress.

**Results:** The HJ—combined with other practices, such as summer patch control, and spring and fall coring—*does* seem to help combat the effects of heavy play on our small greens. It's hard to tell, though, whether our fall treatment did improve drainage.

**Comments:** A concern I have with long-term use of the HJ is soil separation below the surface. This situation should be carefully monitored. I don't think the HJ replaces coring. *(continued on page 4)*

- ② Scholarship Winners and Other Member Notables
- ② The MetGCSA Wants *You*—or Your Board Nominations

- ③ September's Meeting Site and Host
- ⑦ Tournament Wins and Team Championship Qualifiers
- ⑦ A Long List of Events



## Seven Earn MetGCSA Scholarships

**C**ongratulations to this year's scholarship award recipients Holly Gonyea, Keith Kubik, Lisa Monteleone, Shannon Mulligan, Robert Pierpoint, Cline Propst, and Michael Scheyhing.

Honored at the MetGCSA's July 14 meeting at Siwanoy Country Club, the recipients were selected by the Scholarship & Research Committee based on their maturity, academic achievement, industriousness, extracurricular activities, and application completion.

Here's a little background on these outstanding achievers:

Holly Gonyea, daughter of Rye Golf Club Superintendent Dick Gonyea, is a second-time scholarship recipient. She will be entering her junior year at the University of New Hampshire as a liberal arts major.

Keith Kubik, son of Ken Kubik of Grass Roots Turf Products, plans to pursue a degree in agronomy. He's been accepted to both Rutgers University's Cook College and Delaware Valley College of Science and Agriculture.

Lisa Monteleone, a recent high school graduate, will be attending Iona College this fall. Lisa's father, Dom Monteleone, is assistant superintendent at Wykagyl Country Club.

Shannon Mulligan received a B.S. from the University of Massachusetts in May 1989 and then entered the New England College of Optometry, where she'll receive her doctor of optometry in May 1993. Shannon's father, Terry Mulligan, is an equipment manager at Silver Spring Country Club.

Robert Pierpoint, another second-time scholarship recipient, completed

his associate's in Turf Management and Landscape Design from the SUNY Agricultural and Technical College in Delhi, NY, in 1991. He's currently working toward a B.S. in agronomy at Penn State University. Robert's father, George Pierpoint, is superintendent of Ardsley Country Club.

Cline Propst holds a bachelor's from Western Connecticut State University and is a recent graduate of the University of Massachusetts Winter Turf School. He is a MetGCSA member and an assistant superintendent at Silver Spring Country Club.

Our final scholarship recipient, Michael Scheyhing, is currently attending SUNY Agricultural and Technical College in Cobleskill, NY, where he plans to complete his bachelor's in December. Michael's father, Fred Scheyhing, is superintendent of Mount Kisco Country Club.

### Births

Congratulations to Frank Amodio of Valley View Greenhouse in South Salem, NY, and his wife Jean on the birth of their daughter, Katherine Marie, May 20.

### Recently Certified

Dennis Petruzzelli, superintendent of Lakeover Country Club in Bedford Hills, NY, and member of the MetGCSA Communications Committee, has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent by the GCSAA. Congratulations, Dennis!

### Info Alert

## We Want You!

If you're interested in joining the MetGCSA's board of directors—or would like to nominate a fellow member—please contact Nominating Committee Chairman Peter Rappoccio at Silver Spring Country Club, 203-438-6720.

Board members will be voted in at the November 19 Annual Meeting, so the committee would like to receive all nominations no later than September 8.

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## A Sneak Peak at September's First-Time Meeting Site and Host, Dave Kerr

**T**he September 21 MetGCSA meeting will bring members, for the first time, to the Ridgewood Country Club in Danbury, CT.

Touted as one of the best tests of golf in the state, Ridgewood was the chosen site for this year's Connecticut Open. The course conditioning for the event won high praise from both club officials and tournament competitors—a sample of what's in store for meeting participants who plan to play golf on the 21st.

The superintendent responsible for Ridgewood's impeccable conditions is Dave Kerr. In addition to doing a fine job with the day-to-day course grooming, Dave and his crew have had great success with numerous beautification and course-improvement projects.

They've been hard at work rebuilding and renovating the 75-year-old course's bunkers and have completed about half to date. Another of their ongoing projects is running new drainage lines to eliminate the course's many wet spots. "It's a never-ending battle," says Dave.

One of the more extensive projects Dave has undertaken is a poa annua reduction program, which includes lightweight mowing, growth regulators, and selective herbicides, along with a bentgrass overseeding program.

Equally all-encompassing, however, is his recent landscaping and beautification program. This has called for the installation of perennial and annual flowerbeds, numerous shrubs and, when all is said and done, a total of about 400 trees.

"We lost many of the course's feature trees—elms and ash—over the past 10 years," Dave says to explain, in part, the course's all-out tree planting effort. Another, side benefit: introducing many different and interesting tree varieties. "Before, the course had only the more typical New England tree varieties: sugar and silver maples, elms, ash," says Dave. "Now, we're bringing in ginkos, katsuras, zelkovas, and pagodas, among many others."

Some 20 years ago, the renowned architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. added a few modern touches to the course's

original Devereaux Emmett design. He was commissioned to reroute the practice green and three holes—#10, #15, and #16—so they'd steer clear of what was then a new highway coming through: Interstate 84.

Dave came to Ridgewood in 1985. But he didn't take the route to turfgrass management typical of most superintendents. Dave graduated from Cornell University in 1981 with a major in finance and a minor in agronomy, and his first job out of college was in the more lucrative of his two areas of study: He accepted a finance position with Exxon Oil in Saudi Arabia. After about a year of pushing numbers, Dave decided to pursue what he knew all along was his first love: a career in agronomy.

He returned to the U.S. and, in 1982, accepted a position with Shemin Nurseries in Greenwich, CT. But what Dave had thought might be his entree into the agronomy field ended in one month. "I was a salesperson for Shemin's," explains Dave, "and the hardest kind: single-product, hard sell. I quickly realized it wasn't for me."

From there, Dave went to Innis Arden in Old Greenwich, CT, and began what he describes as an acceler-

ated course in turfgrass management under Superintendent Pat Lucas. He started as a laborer, and two years before moving on to Ridgewood, he was promoted to assistant superintendent.

Dave readily admits he's fortunate to have progressed so quickly in his turf management career, and he credits Pat for much of his professional success. But he's also quick to point out that few things have played a greater role in his life's successes than God. "My relationship with Jesus Christ has made all things possible," says Dave, "... my job, my wife, my children." One of Dave's most significant involvements, not surprisingly, is his activity in his local church, where he serves as deacon.

When he's not busy with work- or church-related activities, he enjoys gardening, beekeeping, raising reptiles—particularly snakes—and playing an occasional round of golf. And of course, high on his list of favorite pastimes is being with his family: sons Timmy, 3, and Charley, who's almost 2, and his wife of nine years, Betsy, who, word has it, is pregnant with their third child due in December. The Kerr's live in Newtown, CT.

DENNIS PETRUZZELLI, CGCS  
Lakeover Country Club

### President's Message (cont. from pg. 1)

## All the News . . .

### That's Fit to Print

Another bonus, as many of you know, is the MGA-sponsored seminar for superintendents and their green chairmen.

This session, which will precede the Field Day events, will focus on equipment trends in the golf industry. David Oatis, the USGA Green Section's regional director for the Northeast, and industry representatives will preview many of the pieces that will be demonstrated that afternoon.

The proceeds from the Field Day help support our association. But only your attendance can ensure the Field

Day's success. So in addition to your green chairman, bring your assistant, mechanic, or even a crew member or two. And I'll see you all on the field!

### On the Lookout for Meeting Sites

Believe it or not, it's time to line up our 1993 meeting sites. If you and your club would like to host a meeting, please contact either of our Tournament Committee chairmen: John Carlone, 516-766-1838, or Matt Ceplo, 914-948-5023.

TIM O'NEILL, CGCS  
President



## A Year-and-a-Half With the HydroJect

Coring allows you to modify the soil by incorporating amendments into the holes. I think, for now, it's best to stick to a program that combines conventional coring with deep aeration and HJ use during the summer. If nothing else, this type of program will offer a better balance in fighting compaction.

**John Gallagher, Racebrook Country Club, Orange, CT**

**Objective:** Our greens suffer from soil compaction, which has created puddling, reduced infiltration, and shallow rooting. To remedy some of these problems—with only minimal disruption to the playing surface—we began using the HydroJect last year.

**Use:** We do some of our problem greens once a week during the season—not necessarily the entire green, sometimes just the walk-off areas or other areas we know are highly compacted.

**Results:** With multiple blasts, we've got-

ten down eight to 10 inches. Adding a capful of wetting agent into the filter housing seemed to help loosen the soil.

We know we're getting improved oxygen flow to the soil because greens that had two-inch root systems measured about four inches a month after an HJ treatment. Of course, the Verti-Drain has spurred even more vigorous root growth—about six inches in depth.

**Comments:** For severe soil problems, the HJ can't replace core aeration. Coring enables you to gradually improve the soil structure, and the plugs brought to the surface allow for soil-seed contact in the overseeding process. I also feel the HJ is not the cure-all for severe drainage problems. We've blasted several poor drainage areas 10 inches deep, and the water still sits there after a heavy rain.

**Joe Camberato, Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Scarborough, NY**

**Objective:** I was looking to improve the

oxygen exchange, root development, and water movement on my greens. I also wanted to alleviate any surface compaction created by using a greens roller.

I decided to give the HydroJect a shot because it's able to produce a hole deeper than the conventional aerifier's, yet it doesn't disturb the putting surface.

**Use:** Last year, we ran the HJ once in late spring and again in the fall.

**Results:** After our spring treatment—by the end of July—I saw considerable improvement in my root systems. I *did* have problems with the greens drying out after treatment, but I was aerifying in the middle of a very hot summer. So I put some wetting agent down, and that seemed to control the moisture loss.

I skipped my regularly scheduled core aeration in the fall and used the HJ instead. The HJ treatments definitely gave us better water movement. In fact, I had water movement down deeper into the green than I had roots.

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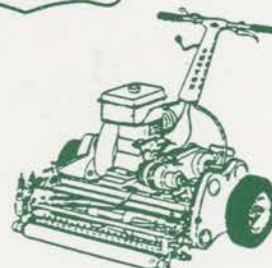
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**Comments:** We had a good season, but I'm not convinced yet that HJ treatments are a substitute for core aeration. I plan to core aerify this fall.

#### Valuable Lessons Learned

**Pat Lucas, CGCS, Innis Arden Golf Club/  
Earth Works, Old Greenwich, CT**

**Problem:** Poor water quality, such as high concentrations of algae, can cause the HJ's on-board 5 micron filtration system to plug and shut down the machine. (A built-in safety device shuts down the unit when water pressure falls below 20 PSI.)

**Solution:** Last August, Toro came out with an auxiliary portable prefiltration system—the Ametek #HD-10—that goes in-line at the water source and filters the water before it reaches the machine. With its 25 micron rope-type cartridge, this system handles even the most difficult water quality problems.

**Problem:** Taking the HJ's filter housings

*apart to change or flush filters is often difficult.*

**Solution:** Coat both the housing treads and rubber "O" ring with silicone. Also note that Toro's metal spanner filter wrench is a real knuckle buster. Much better, we've found, is the full-circle plastic wrench available from Ametek.

**Problem:** Nozzle wear diminishes the depth of penetration, which runs four to seven inches, depending on soil conditions.

**Solution:** A new nozzle's diameter equals a #53 drill bit's. Anything larger indicates wear.

**Problem:** Undulating greens can pose a traction problem for single-drive wheels.

**Solution:** Follow behind the machine, leaning slightly on the steering handle to add extra weight to the traction wheel. Another option: Replace the standard smooth tire with a cleated tire.

**Problem:** The accumulator tends to lose pressure when the HJ isn't used for long periods of time.

**Solution:** Be sure to have the HJ checked and recharged when you're ready to put it to use after a winter in the shop.

We'll probably be seeing a second generation of HJs in the near future. Here are some of the things I think an interested buyer should look for:

- All controls mounted on the handle for ease of operation. The present set of controls, mounted on both the handle and side of the machine, is somewhat awkward.

- An ammeter gauge so it's possible to monitor the unit's electrical system.

- Three-wheel drive to enable you to aerify steep slopes.

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PAT LUCAS, CGCS  
Innis Arden Golf Club

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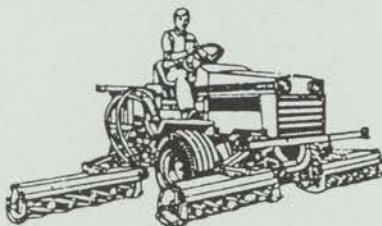
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## Outcome of Blind Partner and Team Championship Qualifier at Siwanoy

**M**ore than 80 golfers braved the heat at the July 14 Siwanoy Country Club meeting. Along with the two-man blind partner tourney, we also played the first qualifying round of the Met Area Team Championship. Here's how the contestants in both events fared:

### Blind Partner Tournament Winners

#### Low Net Winners

- 145 Wayne Remo, *Rock Spring Club*  
Scott Tretera, *Old Oaks CC*  
(won on match of cards)  
145 Greg Moran, *LESCO, Inc.*  
Tim Powers, *Pound Ridge GC*  
147 Carl Quazza, *Haledon Nurseries*  
Al Tretera, *Turf Products Corp.*

#### Closest to the Pin

- #6 Mike Cook, *Alpine Tree Care*  
#11 Rick Schock, *Wee Burn CC*

#### Low Gross Winners

- 177 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway CC*  
Jeff Scott, *Apawamis Club*  
(won on match of cards)  
177 Dan Cancelleri, *J.A. Jackson Corp.*  
Will Heintz, *Hampshire CC*

#### Longest Drive

- #4 John Carlone, *Middle Bay CC*

## First Round Qualifiers for the Met Area Team Championship

#### Championship Flight (0-10)

- 76 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway CC*  
81 Jim Fulwider, *Century CC*  
82 John Carlone, *Middle Bay CC*  
85 Scott Niven, *The Stanwich Club*  
87 Dave Mahoney, *Siwanoy CC*  
89 Mike Medonis, *Bonnie Briar CC*  
90 Les Kennedy, *Oak Lane CC*

#### First Flight (11-18)

- 72 Tim O'Neill, *CC of Darien*  
72 Rick Schock, *Wee Burn CC*  
72 Mark Fuller, *Connecticut GC*  
73 Gregg Stanley, *Rockrimmon CC*  
73 Greg Wojick, *Greenwich CC*  
74 Bob DeMarco, *Powelton Club*  
75 Tony Savone, *Quaker Ridge GC*  
76 Joe Alonzi, *Westchester CC*  
76 John Streeter, *Woodbridge CC*

#### Second Flight (19 and Above)

- 73 Jeff Scott, *Apawamis Club*  
75 Bob Alonzi, *Winged Foot GC*  
75 Todd Polidor, *Heritage Hills*  
76 Chuck Martineau, *Whippoorwill*  
79 Dennis Petruzzelli, *Lakeover CC*  
82 Tony Baviello, *Pelham CC*

#### Class C Qualifiers

- 69 Dan Cancelleri, *J.A. Jackson Corp.*  
71 Greg Moran, *LESCO, Inc.*  
71 Mike Cook, *Alpine Tree Care*  
72 Al Tretera, *Turf Products Corp.*  
72 Charlie Siemers, *Hawthorne Bros.*  
72 Joe Kennedy, *Irra-Tech*  
74 John Currie, *Currie Landscaping*  
75 Bob Lippman, *Westchester Turf Supply*  
75 Bob Leslie, *W.A. Cleary Chemical*

The final qualifying round will be held at the September 21 MetGCSA meeting at Ridgewood Country Club. Class B members will qualify in the second round.

Special thanks—and congratulations—to host Superintendent Dave Mahoney and his staff for providing us with a well-manicured playing field. Also many thanks to Siwanoy Manager Werner Albecht and Head Professional Daryl Smith for guaranteeing a fine dinner and day on the links.

JOHN CARLONE, CGCS/MATT CEPLO  
Tournament Committee Co-Chairmen

### Meeting Schedule Change

**Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney**  
Tuesday, October 20  
Wee Burn Country Club, Darien, CT

### Class B Social Event

**Second Annual Class B Outing**  
Monday, October 26  
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY  
Plan now to join your fellow Class B members for a friendly round of golf. For further information, contact Steve Sweet at Westchester, 914-967-6000, ext. 360.

### Special Golf Events

**Duke Polidor Memorial Tournament**  
Sunday, September 13  
\$125 entry fee includes pretourney breakfast and post-tourney cocktail hour/buffet  
Shotgun 9 a.m.  
Heritage Hills of Westchester, Somers, NY  
Funds go to the Duke Polidor Scholarship Fund, which awards scholarships to UMass Turf Management students. For further information, contact Joe Cipriano, 914-276-2169; Ed Gentile, 914-276-2828; or John Currie, 914-277-4919.

### Met Invited to Attend CGCS Meeting

Tuesday, September 22  
Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, CT  
Superintendent Greg Wojick invites the MetGCSA to join CT Association members in a round of golf at GCC. Watch for a mailing describing the day's activities. Anyone interested in attending should contact Greg, 203-869-1000, ext. 253, by September 17.

### Met Area Team Championship

Monday, October 5  
Country Club of Farmington, Farmington, CT

### Educational Events

**MetGCSA Professional Turfgrass Field Day**  
Tuesday, October 13  
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY  
Mark your calendar now with this golden opportunity to scan area suppliers' wares, view equipment demonstrations, and put the demos to the test. For further information, contact Al Tretera, 203-763-3581, or Jeff Scott, 914-967-2100, ext. 149.

### Part 3, Green Chairmen Educational Series

Tuesday, October 13  
9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Held in conjunction with the MetGCSA Professional Turfgrass Field Day)  
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY  
For further information, contact the MGA, 914-698-0390.



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- ☆ D.J. Callahan Inc.  
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518-584-7080
- ☆ Eastern Land Management Inc.  
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Bruce Moore: 203-924-7272
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- ☆ Emerald Isle, Ltd.  
Bill Middleton  
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- ☆ Glenmore Landscape Service  
Glenn S. Moore  
RR 3, Box 285, Hackgreen Rd.  
Pound Ridge, NY 10576, 914-764-4348
- ☆ Grass Roots Turf Products Inc.  
Ken Kubik: 201-361-5943  
P.O. Box 336  
Mt. Freedom, NJ 07970
- ☆ Growth Products, Ltd.  
Clare Reinbergen/Joe Stahl  
P.O. Box 1259, White Plains, NY 10602  
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- ☆ Hawthorne Bros. Tree Service Inc.  
Charles Siemers  
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- ☆ Irrigation Systems Incorporated  
Installation, Service, & GC System Design  
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Golf Course Irrigation Design & Consulting  
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800-321-5325
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Windsor Locks, CT  
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