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TEE^{TO} GREEN

Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Worthy Mentions

This month, there are a number of upcoming events and items of interest I'd like to mention. The first is a cause we can never hear too much about: the Tri-State Turfgrass Research Foundation.

No More Sleepless Nights

I, for one, am breathing easier these days because of the summer patch research the foundation has funded over the past few years.

Thanks in large part to this group's contributions, Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers University was able to stake out a way to combat the previously invincible—and deadly—summer patch disease. Now the foundation, which is served by superintendents with our specific needs and interests at heart, is supporting another worthy project: Dr. Michael Villani's search for suitable *biological* grub control agents. Conducted at Cornell University, this research is particularly critical with the threat of stricter chemical regulations down the road.

But we all know how important this type of research is to our livelihood. That's why I was surprised to hear from Larry Pakkala, the foundation's president, that at last count only 30 clubs from our association have contributed to this worthwhile cause. That represents less than 25 percent of all member clubs. *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

The Key to Cultivating a Satisfying Green Chairman/Superintendent Relationship

One of the Met Area's most experienced authorities on green chairman/superintendent relations is former MGA President Arthur Weber. Weber has served as green chairman and president of Old Westbury Golf & Country Club in Old Westbury, NY, and is currently a member of the United States Golf Association (USGA) Green Section Committee.

What follows are his tried-and-true principles on how green chairmen and superintendents can build a harmonious, productive, and lasting working relationship. Read them. Share them with *your* green chairman—and make his job and yours a little bit easier.

In my 18 years as green chairman at Old Westbury Golf & Country Club, I learned there are few things more important to a successful chairmanship than active and open communication—with the superintendent, the membership, the club's board of directors, and the club manager and golf professional. Here's how I see the green chairman's role as a communicator:



Veteran Green Chairman and former MGA President Arthur Weber.

With the Superintendent

The green chairman should:

- Meet regularly with the superintendent to get acquainted with the maintenance cycle and keep abreast of the department's *(continued on page 4)*

Also in This Issue

- ② Member News
- ③ Siwanoy Super, Dave Mahoney, Hosts Successful July Meeting
- ③ Seeking SAM Award Nominations . . . The Met Forms Nonprofit Corporation
- ⑦ Invitational Wins
- ⑦ Upcoming Events: Don't Miss the Boat

Worthy Mentions

By now, you should have received the foundation's second mailing, requesting a \$150 contribution. On behalf of the foundation, I'd like to appeal to all members to show their support now—and in the future—to ensure this valuable research continues.

If you haven't seen the summaries of Dr. Clarke's and Dr. Villani's research, feel free to contact me at Country Club of Darien, 203-656-0600, or the MGA, at 914-698-0390, for a copy.

Calling All Commercial Members

Jeff Scott and Al Tretera, our committee chairmen for the Professional Turfgrass Field Day, have sent out a second mailing to all commercial members who may be interested in reserving space in this year's field day.

Scheduled for October 13 at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, this always-popular event is sure to draw an even healthier crowd this year—particularly with the MGA's educational seminar for superintendents and green chairmen being held at the club that same morning. So be sure to send in your reservations soon to guarantee a spot on the field.

C'mon Board

Our Annual Meeting, scheduled for November 19, will be here before you know it. That's when our nominating

committee will be presenting a prospective slate of officers and directors to run our association's affairs. This year, former MetGCSA President Peter Rappoccio has agreed to chair the committee, so anyone interested in serving our association should contact Peter at Silver Spring Country Club, 203-438-6720.

Many Thanks

Finally, I'd like to take a moment to thank—and applaud—those superintendents who have hosted our 1992 meetings and events to date. Gregg Stanley (Rockrimmon CC), Chuck Martineau (Whippoorwill Club), Scott Niven (The Stanwich Club), and Dave Mahoney (Siwanoy CC) all treated our membership to a fine day and superbly conditioned courses.

I'd also like to thank, in advance, our members who are hosting our upcoming association and Met-sponsored events: Fred Scheyhing, the Poa Annual Golf Tournament at Mount Kisco CC on August 13; Dave Kerr, our September 21 Golf/Meeting at Ridgewood CC; Rick Schock, our Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament at Weeburn CC on October 13; and Matt Ceplo, our Annual Meeting at Westchester Hills GC.

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Notable Notes

In Memoriam

The MetGCSA regrets to announce the death of one of our associate members, **Bob Johnston**. Bob, who was superintendent at Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford, CT, for the past eight years, passed away July 9 after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife, Bette, and

two young sons, Robert and Brian.

An educational fund has been set up for his children. Anyone wishing to contribute can send donations to the Robert and Brian Johnston Educational Fund, Windsor Federal Savings & Loan, Bank Street, Brandy, CT 06035.

Dave Mahoney Hosts Successful July Meeting

Those of you who attended the July 14 MetGCSA Golf Meeting at Siwanoy Country Club had the opportunity to play not only a finely groomed course, but also a fine example of a Donald J. Ross design.

Completed in 1914, the course has seen numerous changes—in the hands of Ross himself in 1927 and two other golf course architects: Britain-born Tom Winton and, finally, Robert Trent Jones Sr., who in 1953 was commissioned to remodel a number of Ross's bunkers.

A golf course design buff, host Superintendent Dave Mahoney says he's been delighted to have the opportunity to try his hand at a Ross-designed course, which is well known for its careful attention to the natural contours of the land.

One of the most extensive projects Dave's undertaken since coming to Siwanoy in March '88 is to return all 76 of the course's bunker beds to their original clay bases. He and his crew have also busied themselves with the ongoing revitalization of the 75-year-old course's many inoperable drain lines.

Two projects Dave's currently got in the works are a new golf cart traffic plan, to improve flow through the 105-acre course, and a turf renovation program, designed to convert the poa-dominated

rough to a combination of bluegrass, ryegrass, and fescue.

Down the road, Dave's also looking to develop his own water source. "Right now, we rely on city water, so in a drought, we'd be the first hit with restrictions," he explains. Drawing from the course's plentiful springs and natural runoff, Dave hopes to build an irrigation pond between the 15th and 16th holes.

A Queens, NY, native, Dave moved to Chicago, IL, with his family when he was 12 years old. Through high school, he worked in the pro shop and then in the golf course maintenance department of Chicago's Naperville Country Club. Starting on the grounds crew in '79, Dave was promoted to assistant superintendent the summer of 1980.

Encouraged by his boss—a Penn State grad—to pursue formal training in turfgrass management at the university, Dave enrolled in Penn State's two-year program the fall of '81. Because the school year ran from mid-September to the end of February, Dave continued working as Naperville's assistant until he graduated in February '83.

With his turfgrass management certificate in hand, Dave moved to Broken Arrow, OK. There, he had the opportunity to work as assistant superinten-

dent on the newly constructed Golf Club of Oklahoma, whose claim to fame was a Tom Fazio design.

Dave saw the course through the grow-in phase, and then one year later—"I didn't care for Oklahoma," he explains of his quick departure—he hightailed it back to Chicago. He worked on the North Shore Country Club's U.S. Amateur Tournament crew until the superintendent's position opened up at Naperville in October '83. After five years there, Dave accepted the superintendent's job at Siwanoy, returning to his Northeast roots.

When Dave isn't out swinging a golf club, you'll find him with his wife, Catherine, and their two children: David, 6, and Jessica, 5. Dave and his family live in Bronxville on club grounds.

DENNIS PETRUZZELLI, CGCS
Lakeover Country Club

Info Alert

Seeking SAM Award Nominations

It's time to submit your nominations for the Sherwood A. Moore Award. When pondering an appropriate candidate, keep in mind the award's charter: to recognize—and honor—an individual who has "advanced the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent." Previous recipients were Sherwood Moore, Ted Horton, Bruno Vadala, Jim R. Fulwider, and Bob Alonzi. Hurry your nominations to Awards Committee Chairman Larry Pakkala, Woodway CC, 412 Hoyt St., Darien, CT 06820, 203-329-8257.

FYI

Did You Know . . .

Any contributions you or your organization make to the MetGCSA's scholarship or research funds are now tax deductible? Thanks to the board of directors' efforts, we have been granted a nonprofit corporate status by the State of New York and the IRS. This new corporation is known as the MetGCSA Inc. and will enable us to protect our restricted—i.e., our scholarship and research—funds from taxation. To do this, we will be separating our restricted funds from our operational funds and depositing them into new corporation accounts.

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The Key to Cultivating a Satisfying Green Chairman/Superintendent Relationship

major projects and activities.

The hidden advantage: An informed green chairman is better able to assist the superintendent in communicating the "why" behind certain maintenance practices or problems—particularly those that may temporarily disrupt play but benefit the course down the road.

- Make a concerted effort to learn the fundamentals of turfgrass management by subscribing to industry journals, such as *Golf Course Management*, published by the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA), or the USGA's *Green Section Record*. He might also want to accompany the superintendent periodically to a local association meeting or regional turfgrass conference.

The plus: A knowledgeable green chairman is better able to champion a superintendent's cause—particularly when it comes to lobbying for sorely needed equipment or a costly, but

worthwhile, maintenance procedure.

One word to the wise, however: Even the most educated green chairman should resist considering himself a turfgrass expert. With no formal training in turf and soil management, it's best to defer to the superintendent.



"Even the most educated green chairman should resist considering himself a turfgrass expert. With no formal training in turf and soil management, it's best to defer to the superintendent."



- Act as an adviser to the superintendent, offering a golfer's perspective of the course. This is particularly helpful in the heat of the season, when the super-

intendent may find it difficult to schedule in a round of golf.

- Encourage the superintendent to keep on top of industry developments by attending local, regional, and national association events and conferences and by taking advantage of educational opportunities.

- Encourage the superintendent to make use of the USGA Green Section's services—particularly its Turf Advisory Service, which offers an objective evaluation of course conditions and maintenance practices. Besides being useful to the superintendent, this service can also help conciliate members—of the club and board of directors—who disagree on proper maintenance practices.

- Make certain that he and his committee meet with the superintendent and grounds crew to learn not only their names, but also their role in maintaining the course. It's a small step that will go a long way in showing the de-

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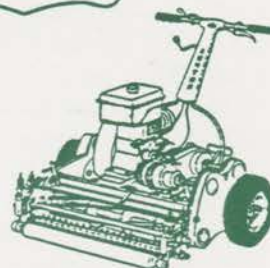
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partment that the green committee recognizes their contributions to the course. And we all know that people perform better when they're recognized—and credited—for their efforts.

With the Membership

A green chairman should:

- Invite all members—regardless of their sex or handicap—to come forward with questions, complaints, and, of course, words of praise. But equally important is that he be skilled at fielding their comments. A key factor in that ability is being intimately familiar with *how* the course plays—for all segments of the membership—and *why* the course plays the way it does.

- Communicate regularly with the membership. With the help of the superintendent, he should be sure that they're kept informed of the maintenance department's activities—particularly any that affect play, such as aerifying. Good communication vehicles: the club newsletter, bulletins, or green committee progress reports.

Another less conventional mode of communication is to host a dinner at the club early in the season and invite the entire membership.

At this meeting, the green chairman can explain how the maintenance budget was derived and then introduce the superintendent. The superintendent could then highlight current and future projects, as well as any labor- or cost-saving measures or equipment being used on the course. Then he could entertain questions or concerns.

I've seen several benefits to holding this type of communications meeting: First, it promotes a more comprehensive understanding of the superintendent's role and of his contribution to members' enjoyment of the game. Second, it gives members insight into what it takes to maintain a golf course and why it's their duty to treat it with tender loving care.

With the Club's Board of Directors

The green chairman should:

- Communicate closely and openly with the club's board of directors, re-

porting on the condition of the course and equipment, on the maintenance department, the budget, and, of course, on any and all proposed architectural changes, whether it be removing trees or modifying greens.

- Be sure the superintendent addresses the board through written monthly reports and an occasional personal appearance. Appearing before the board is particularly important when seeking approval for a renovation project or for major equipment expenditures. No one is more capable of explaining or justifying these items than the superintendent. It also offers him the opportunity to reaffirm his competence and his status as a professional.

With the Club Manager and Golf Professional

The green chairman should help facilitate lines of communication between the superintendent, club manager, and golf pro.

At Old Westbury, the golf pro and club manager would join the superintendent at breakfast once a week for a relaxed discussion of needs, programs, schedules, problems, or other matters of mutual interest. This helped avoid conflicts between the superintendent's programs and needs and the club's tournaments and outings.

By the way, I believe tournament schedules should be planned around turf maintenance schedules and not vice-versa (which I know is usually the case).

A Final Word to All Superintendents

You and your current green chairman may be doing the same or similar things at your club. But regardless, don't be too quick to toss this article aside. Keep it in your files. When a new and possibly inexperienced green chairman comes on board, you may want to pass along these thoughts—and a few of your own.

But in the end, remember these key words: Communicate! Communicate! Communicate! They'll go a long way toward building a healthy relationship with every green chairman you have.

ARTHUR P. WEBER

Old Westbury Golf & Country Club

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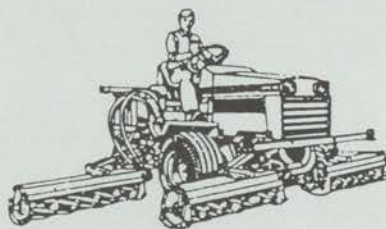
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Ridgewood Takes the Invitational Trophy

June 29 was a winning day—not only for the Ridgewood (of NJ) Country Club team, which took the MetGCSA Invitational trophy, but also each and every entrant who had the opportunity to play this year's tournament at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT. Thanks to Scott Niven and his staff, golfers were treated to a fine day on a championship-conditioned course.

Here's a look at how the winning teams fared:

Low Net Winners

- 61 Ridgewood Country Club (NJ)
Ed Walsh, Bill Adams, Gene Benzenberg, Connie DeLoca
- 62 Winged Foot Golf Club
Bob Alonzi, Joseph Gagliardi, Larry Rentz, Mark Stuart Jr.
(won on match of cards)
- 62 Brae Burn Country Club
Dennis Flynn, Peter Lane, Kelley Moser, Michael Nissman

Low Gross Winners

- 67 Salem Golf Club
Bob Bruce, Adam Hertig, Bill Van Orman, Jerome Rhatigan
- 68 Middle Bay Country Club
John Carlone, Alan Feldman, Gary Schwartz, Doug Steffen
- 70 Pound Ridge Golf Club
Tim Powers, Mike DiBuono, Neil Hill, Joe Rainiero

Closest to the Pin

- #4 Peter Leighton, *CC of Fairfield*
- #8 Tim Powers, *Pound Ridge GC*
- #13 Kevin Morris, *Westchester Hills*

Longest Drive

- #2 Aaron Rabin, *Milbrook Club*
- #17 Bill Van Orman, *Salem GC*

Also responsible for making the day a success was Stanwich's management team: Special thanks to Club Manager Peter Tunley, Golf Professional Billy Farrell, and Caddyman Skip Brown. And a big thank you to The Stanwich Club's board of governors for hosting our premier event of the season.

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



The winning team from Ridgewood Country Club (NJ) strikes a pose with the MetGCSA Invitational trophy. From left to right: Superintendent Ed Walsh, Golf Chairman Gene Benzenberg, Golf Pro Bill Adams, and Chairman of Greens & Grounds Connie DeLoca.

Don't Miss the Boat

Come One, Come All to the Manhattan Skyline Dinner Cruise

Join your fellow MetGCSA members August 18 aboard the cruise ship Klondike for an evening of dinner and dancing along the scenic East River. The festivities start at 6:30 p.m. with a wine and cheese buffet at the New Rochelle Harbor dock. At 7, the fun continues on board the Klondike as it makes its way to the Statue of Liberty and back—by midnight.

Guests are welcome, but space is limited. So if you don't want to miss the boat, be sure to respond as soon as possible. For further information, contact Jeff Scott at the Apawamis Club, 914-967-2100, ext. 149.

Special Golf Events

Poa Annual Golf Tournament

Thursday, August 13
Buffet Lunch 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Shotgun 12:30 p.m.
Mount Kisco Country Club, Mount Kisco, NY
An event held to benefit turfgrass research. For further information, contact Mike Maffei at 914-279-7179 (office) or 914-278-9436 (home).

Met Area Team Championship

Monday, October 5
Country Club of Farmington
Farmington, CT

Educational Events

Golf Course Design/Construction & Golf Day

Tuesday, August 18
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
SUNY Delhi, Delhi, NY
This seminar focuses on greens construction from design and soil mix selection to actual construction. For further information, contact The New York State Turfgrass Association, 800-873-TURF or 518-783-1229.

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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Rick Apgar & Scott Apgar
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914-666-3171
- Montco/Surf-Side/Zap!
Surfactants-Defoamers
Box 404, Amber, PA 19002
Robert Oeschle: 215-836-4992/215-628-3144
- Nor-Am Chemical Company
David J. Sylvester
311 Carriage Dr., Kensington, CT 06037
203-828-8905
- Partac Golf Course Top-Dressing
Kelsey Park, Great Meadows, NJ 07838
Jim Kelsey: 800-247-2326
Bill & Joe Carriere: 914-937-2136
- Pipe & Irrigation Equipment Supply Co.
Jay Anderson/Steve Smith
P.O. Box 3049, Milford, CT 06460
203-878-0658
- ☆ Pro-Lawn Products, Inc.
Stephen M. Kotowicz
30 Nashville Rd., Bethel, CT 06801
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- ☆ Stephen Kay, Golf Course Architects
Renovation, Master Planning, New Golf Courses
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Bronxville, NY 10708, 914-699-4437
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Turf Equipment
P.O. Box 9, RT 206, Augusta, NJ 07822
201-579-5656
- ☆ Tee And Green Sod Inc.
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- ☆ The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.
Byron Johnson Jr.
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Office: 201-473-3393 Home: 203-748-5069
- TBS Maintenance & Improvement
Tony Bettino
102 Fulton St., White Plains, NY 10606
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- TLC Security Systems
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P.O. Box 296, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046
201-263-1234
- ☆ Valley View Greenhouse
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