



TEE TO GREEN

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Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association



President's Message

GCSAA Speaks . . .

On Association Business and New Bylaws at the Premiere Delegates Meeting

On the plane to GCSAA headquarters for the first-ever Delegates Meeting on September 25 and 26, I wasn't sure what to expect.

GCSAA had invited chapter representatives from around the country (63 were able to attend) for what turned out to be a frank and open discussion of association business.

For two days, we sat in on meetings with GCSAA's eight board members and five Resource Committee members charged with revamping the bylaws.

President Randy Nichols discussed the recent resignations of Immediate Past President William Roberts and Executive Director John Schilling and Sr. Director of Operations Diana Green. He also mentioned the elimination of association Counsel Robert Ochs' position.

Apparently, all were due, in one way or another, to the organizational and operational changes recommended by the management consulting firm Arthur Anderson. After last year's barrage of criticisms from the membership, GCSAA decided to contract the firm's services to analyze—and point out how they might improve—their operations.

The firm uncovered such internal problems as low staff morale, inconsistent employee policies and compensation, and confusing job assignments. Aside from suggesting ways to remedy these and other *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

An Environmental Program That Pays

A Look at the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program and How Two Area Participants Are Putting It to Work

Tired of being perceived as an environmental bad guy? The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) can help.

Cosponsored by the New York Audubon Society and the USGA, the ACSP offers all the education, guidance, and support you need to assume a leadership role in protecting—and enhancing—your course's wildlife habitat and water resources. But just as important, it offers a well-respected vehicle for validating and publicizing your environmental contributions.

Granted, we may never change the mindset of those who argue that the best use of the land is to leave it alone, but critics will be hard pressed to find fault with this proactive approach to land management.

Though most of you have at least heard of the ACSP for golf courses—particularly if you attended our September meeting where USGA representative Nancy Sadlon introduced the program—we thought it might be helpful to delve a little deeper into the program particulars

and share the insights and experiences of two ACSP participants. Though their programs vary, each has the same to say about the ACSP: Its benefits far outweigh the time and money it takes to participate.

Seven Steps to Becoming a Certified Cooperative Sanctuary

There are many ways you can enhance your course's wildlife habitat and water resources—and comply with the ACSP's criteria for becoming a "Certified Cooperative Sanctuary." Contrary to what you may think, most of these practices are relatively inexpensive. Some may even reduce maintenance costs.

The process begins when you register your golf course with the New York Audubon Society. The cost is \$100. In return, you'll receive a Resource Inventory Questionnaire that will guide you in detailing your course's land and water features, known wildlife, plants, trees and shrubs, and other natural resources.

The ACSP will use this information to provide you with a *(continued on page 4)*

Also in This Issue

- ② An Interview With the Season's Final Meeting Host
- ④ Two Audubon Program Advocates and Their Programs

- ⑦ Hampshire Tournament Winners
- ⑦ Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney Results
- ⑦ Member Notables



GCSAA Speaks . . .

problems, one of the firm's major proposals was to hire a chief financial officer to manage the association's finances—a responsibility previously handled by John Schilling.

Another important aspect of the meeting was the Resource Committee's discussion of the new bylaws that will be presented at our next national convention in Dallas. I will be very surprised if, this time, they're defeated. I liked what I saw—and so did the other delegates. We eventually endorsed each proposal.

The new bylaws were constructed to offer the Board of Directors more freedom in some areas and less in others. Here are several of the proposed amendments that made a lot of sense to me:

- *Requiring a two-thirds majority vote to approve any expense that would indebted a future board.* Right now, a majority vote of the board gives them the go-ahead to spend significant sums of money. In 1991, when GCSAA decided to build the new headquarters and then, in two years, add a \$1.5 million addition, the board was almost evenly divided, for and against. It took only one vote from the president at the time to break the tie. I strongly believe that

decisions of that magnitude should have overwhelming endorsement.

- *Allowing delegates to cast a representative number of votes for their chapter for any proposed dues increases.* Currently, only members who attend the annual meeting can have a say in that issue.

- *Enabling the board to create new membership classes and set their dues.* Voting members will still decide the dues for all Class A, B, and C members.

After the heated debate this past year over the bylaws, I'm sure the board is pleased to see the delegates' favorable response to this most recent go-round. I tip my hat to President Nichols and the board for their efforts in establishing important lines of communication between GCSAA and association delegates and members. The Delegates Meeting should become an annual event that's attended by each and every association.

Be on the lookout for the proposed bylaw amendments. You'll be getting them in the mail. I hope you'll take some time to review them and then tell me what you think. I'll look forward to hearing from you.

TIM O'NEILL, CGCS
President

Spotlight

An Interview With End-of-the-Season Meeting Host Dennis Flynn

What better place for the season's final golf meeting than the beautifully manicured Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY. Held October 7, the event was hosted by Superintendent Dennis Flynn, who's devoted 11 years to fine-tuning the maintenance operation and golf course.

A relatively new course, Brae Burn was designed in 1964 by Frank Duane, who studied under Robert Trent Jones and later joined forces with Arnold Palmer.

In 29 years, the course has seen many changes, most of them under Dennis's direction. One of his first agronomic challenges was to "weed out" the poa annua in his fairways. Now, overwhelm-

ingly bentgrass, Dennis has reduced the poa population from 70 to 30 percent.

He credits his success to Cutless and several agronomic practices, including intensive aerification and bentgrass overseeding, coupled with lightweight mowing and clipping removal.

With the help of Golf Course Architect Stephen Kay, Dennis has also rebuilt his #6 green, which had limited cupping positions and a host of agronomic problems—all relating to faulty construction. Dennis hopes to get the go-ahead to rebuild the course's remaining greens, but in the meantime, he's been using a Floyd-McKay Deep Drill Aerifier that he purchased three years ago. Boring 10-inch deep holes,

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he fills them with an 80-percent sand and 20-percent peat topdressing mix—and with great effect. “I’ve seen a definite improvement in drainage and turf quality,” he says.

To further enhance course conditions, Dennis installed a new computerized solid state irrigation system, complete with radio control for remote operation and a series of new sprinkler heads with valve-in-head features.

He’s also been hard at work relocating trees that are interfering with growing conditions. And if that’s not enough, he recently installed cart paths from tee to green on the front nine and added to existing path work on the back nine.

But Dennis’s work goes beyond golf course enhancements. Add to his list of accomplishments the reconfiguration of his maintenance building. He doubled the size of his existing structure with a 5200-square-foot addition. Completely renovated, the building now includes an

employee locker room and lunchroom and a significantly larger workshop with a new hydraulic lift.

A White Plains, NY, native, Dennis credits his interest in turfgrass management to his father, Joseph, who was superintendent at Metropolis Country Club for 29 years—and Dennis’s first mentor.

“I worked for my father during my junior high school years,” says Dennis, who returned to Metropolis in 1972 many years—and several jobs—later as a crew member under the club’s long-tenured former superintendent Bruno Vadala.

During that time, Dennis completed a certificate from Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School in 1975. While at Rutgers, he saw his ticket to his first assistant’s position. “Al Caravella, Brae Burn’s superintendent at the time, spoke to one of our classes and mentioned he was looking for an assistant. I

followed up and was offered the job,” says Dennis.

He started at Brae Burn in March 1975. From there, he went to Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY, and his first superintendent’s slot. That was in 1977. Five years later, Dennis “came back to roost” at Brae Burn—this time as superintendent.

Follow Dennis around after-hours, and you’ll see that aside from being an avid golfer, he’s a sailing enthusiast. He owns, and has recently begun racing, a 28-foot sailboat.

Family activities also keep Dennis enjoyably busy. He and Cindy, his wife of 11 years, have two children, Casey, 9, and Katelin, 6. Dennis also has two sons, Dennis Jr., 29, and Chris, 24, and a daughter, Shannon, 17. The Flynns—and we can’t forget their dog, Slipper—live in Katonah, NY.

DENNIS PETRUZZELLI, CGCS
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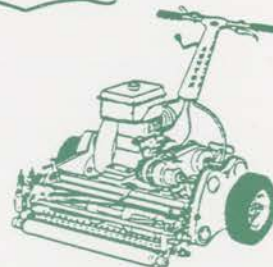
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There are seven "achievement categories." You'll receive a Certificate of Achievement for each category you develop and successfully implement. But you won't achieve Certified Cooperative Sanctuary status until you've earned all seven certificates.

Here's a list of the categories, along with a few examples of what you can do to qualify in each one. Don't be surprised if you're already complying with many of the program's criteria.

1. Environmental Planning: Establish a plan of action for increasing habitat types on the course, conserving water, and increasing IPM measures.

2. Public Involvement: Form a Cooperative Sanctuary Committee. You might include staff members, club members, area residents, and a local expert who could provide technical know-how and assistance. Other qualifiers in this category: Inform your membership and local newspapers about your ACSP involvement. Invite local groups, such as the boy scouts or horticultural or garden clubs, to tour your facility and help by monitoring nest boxes, filling bird feeders, or conducting wildlife inventories.

3. Integrated Pest Management: Expand scouting or pest monitoring to reduce pesticide and fungicide applications. Make use of insect-eating birds and bats (did you know one bat can consume as many as 600 mosquitoes in an hour?) and other biological controls.

4. Wildlife Food Enhancement: Provide adequate food sources for a variety of wildlife. You might put up bird feeders, create butterfly and hummingbird gardens, and add plantings that offer food sources for other desirable wildlife.

5. Wildlife Cover Enhancement: Provide adequate cover for a variety of wildlife. You might leave brush piles and dead trees in out-of-the-way places for cavity nesters, erect bat and bird houses, plant native grasses in out-of-play areas.

6. Water Conservation: Reduce the water

consumed in course maintenance by recycling water, using rain water, planting drought-tolerant grass species.

7. Water Enhancement: Document your course's present water quality and any efforts to enhance the water quality for various wildlife species, including birds, fish, and amphibians. This might include filtering surface runoff and reducing chemical applications in water areas.

When you decide to participate in the ACSP, you join the 900 other superintendents around the globe who have registered their courses as cooperative conservation areas. Currently, only nine of those 900 are Certified Cooperative Sanctuaries, with 40 certified in at least one of the seven categories.

Testimonies From Two ACSP Participants

The two Met members we spoke to are already certified in one or more categories. And both are working toward certification in all seven. Here's a quick tour of their programs.

Greg Wojick, CGCS, Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, CT Greenwich Country Club has been certified in Environmental Planning and is fast-approaching certification in Public Involvement, IPM, and Wildlife Food and Cover Enhancement.

Greg has staffed his Cooperative Sanctuary Committee with a diverse and knowledgeable group, including the Greenwich conservation commissioner and the president of the Greenwich Chapter of the Audubon Society. Also integral to the program's success are his two assistants, his horticulturist, two Green Committee members, and the club's tennis pro and his wife, who are avid bird watchers.

Meeting several times a year since the program's inception in 1991, the committee's mapped out an environmental plan that's included installing two bat "condos" and 15 nest boxes for bluebirds, woodducks, and screech owls. Greg's also placed a bird feeder by the clubhouse and set up winter feeding stations near his maintenance facility.

On annual tours of the course, the committee has sighted at least 50 bird species and, in the words of the conser-

vation commissioner, "the first bluebird pairs nesting this far south in Greenwich."

Among the other environmentally responsible projects Greg has undertaken: Increased use of biological controls, including a nitrogen fixing microorganism fertilizer and biostimulants to increase turfgrass vigor and reduce susceptibility to pest and disease damage. He's also planted more drought- and disease-resistant turfgrass varieties and employed an aggressive scouting program to reduce the number of chemical applications.

To encourage various types of wildlife to thrive on the course, he's created numerous grassy mounds and hollows and left brush piles and tree stumps in out-of-play areas. Interestingly, a family of red fox has frequently been sighted near a wooded area on hole #4.

Because Greenwich Country Club prefers to maintain a low profile on its environmental stewardship, Greg has refrained from seeking media recognition for his accomplishments. He does, however, keep members informed through the monthly club newsletter.

To date, participation in the ACSP has cost Greg only several hundred dollars. His prime expenses: the bird and bat houses, the annual membership fee of \$100, and reference materials.

"It's a professionally challenging program—the New York Audubon Society's standards are quite high," says Greg. "But that's great because it makes achieving certification in each of the categories all the more meaningful."

Larry Pakkala, CGCS, Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT Larry has been involved in the ACSP since 1991. Working closely with Bob Hopkins, one of Woodway Country Club's former presidents and its current historian, he enlisted the help of a sizable committee: the town Environmental Commission director, Larry's green chairman, and seven club members, ranging from rookies to devoted birders. Together, this hardworking and enthusiastic group has established a program that's put Woodway Country Club well on its way to becoming a Certified Cooperative Sanctuary. Meeting several

times a year, they've fulfilled the requirements of three categories—Environmental Planning and Wildlife Food and Cover Enhancement—and, by year-end, should achieve certification in Water Enhancement and Water Conservation.

To start, the club installed 20 blue-bird houses—constructed by a member—one woodduck nest box, and several feeding stations throughout the property. The committee set up what they call a "Landlord Program," which encourages membership participation in identifying species and counting fledgling activity. Basically, a member selects a nest box and serves as its "landlord," monitoring it weekly. The first year, the committee counted 15 houses with nesting pairs and successful fledglings. Some of the houses even attracted more than one successful nesting a season.

Another of the club's clever initiatives was to invite local garden clubs to tour the grounds during the growing season

and take an inventory of the native plant species that offer food for wildlife.

Larry's since added areas for food and shelter by returning many out-of-play areas to their native state. He's also left snags, dead trees, and allowed brush piles to accumulate in wooded areas.

One of the committee's latest efforts involved inviting a local high school biology class to study the water quality of the club's lakes and streams. The class discovered many of the micro organisms it was searching for were present in the water.

Upcoming Events

Social Event

Christmas Party
Saturday, December 18
Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY
Don't forget to send in your reservations!

The test results were sent to the local newspaper along with a written report by the Environmental Commission director, stating that Woodway's water has not been harmed by pesticide and fertilizer applications. Portions of that report were published alongside results of other water tests conducted throughout the town. Woodway was right up there with the best of them.

Larry says the program has cost the club about \$500 to date. Next year, he plans to up the budget to \$1,500.

"In the two years we've been involved with the ACSP, I'd say there's been a noticeable increase in the wildlife population," says Larry. "But you know, it could just be that the program's opened our eyes to wildlife that's always been there. I guess, in the end, that's what the ACSP is designed to do—make all of us more aware of how golf courses can and do enhance our environment."



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Hampshire's Two-Man Blind Draw Net

The September 20 Hampshire Country Club meeting drew 85 golfers who competed in a Two-Man Blind Draw Net, 100% Handicap. Before we look at the tourney winners, I want to thank Superintendent Will Heintz for a great event. It's pretty obvious, by the first-class treatment we received, that Will has a tremendous relationship with the Hampshire staff. Many thanks, too, to Club Manager Arthur Bragg and his assistant, Rebecca Yul, Head Golf Professional Jack Williams, and Caddymaster Joe Tocci for their help in making this a memorable meeting. Here are the winners of the day:

- 135 Mike Mongon, *Arcola CC/Ron Shapiro, Bruedan Corp.*
- 136 Mike Miner, *Connecticut GC/Todd Polidor, Heritage Hills of Westchester*
- 145 Dave Arel, *Tamarack CC/Fred Scheyhing, Mount Kisco CC*
- 147 Greg Moore, *Rolling Hills CC/Peter Rappoccio, Silver Spring CC*
(won on match of cards)
- 147 Wayne Remo, *Rock Spring Club/Dennis Petruzzelli, Lakeover CC*
- 149 Gene Westmoreland, *MGA/J.R. Fulwider, Life Member*

Closest to the Pin

- #2 Mike Miner, *Connecticut GC*
 - #11 Mike Cook, *Alpine, the Care of Trees*
- JOHN CARLONE, CGCS
Middle Bay Country Club

Longest Drive

Jim Rock, *Sawtelle Brothers*, 243 yards

New Members

- Michael Benz**, Class B, Middle Bay Country Club, Oceanside, NY
- Andrew Carlson**, Class B, Mahopac Golf Club, Lake Mahopac, NY
- Michael Gesmundo**, Class CS, Bruedan Corp. Inc., Chester, NY
- Jerome Hutchinson**, Class C, Turf Specialist Corp., Holbrook, NY
- Thomas Leahy**, Class B, Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Scarborough, NY
- Dan Madar**, Class A, Spook Rock Golf Course, Suffern, NY
- Ron Shapiro**, Class C, Bruedan Corp. Inc., Chester, NY

Birth

Congratulations to **Dave and Leslie Dwinell** on the birth of their daughter, Hanna Meredith, April 21. Dave is superintendent at Wollaston Golf Club in Milton, MA.

Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney Attracts 26 Teams

Players in the October 7 Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY, were treated to tournament conditions and a balmy 75-degree day. Special thanks to Superintendent Dennis Flynn and his staff for their extra-hard work prepping the course for the event.

Low Net Winners

- 64 Les Kennedy/Jim Uberti
Oak Lane Country Club
- 65 Peter Rappoccio/Bill Arnold
Silver Spring Country Club
- 67 Brett Armstrong/Bill Sawch
Greenwich Country Club

Low Gross Winners

- 72 Mark Millett/Mel Midager
Old Oaks Country Club
- 74 Tim O'Neill/Vic Ferrante
Country Club of Darien
- 78 Scott Niven/Peter Sanders
The Stanwich Club

Closest to the Pin

- #5 Les Kennedy, *Oak Lane CC*
(Superintendent only)
- #16 Peter Bisconti, *Westchester CC*
(Green Chairman only)

Longest Drive

- #9 Joe Alonzi, *Westchester CC*
(Superintendent only)
- #9 Peter Zurkow, *Quaker Ridge CC*
(Green Chairman only)

Many thanks also to Manager Jack Vallis for the delicious and plentiful food. It's always a pleasure to have a meeting where you get red-carpet treatment. And Brae Burn just happens to be one of those places.

JOHN CARLONE, CGCS
Middle Bay Country Club

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