TETO BEST

President's Message

Forewarned Is Forearmed

et out your ammunition. Once again, golf courses—and golf courses—and golf course superintendents—are under attack by misguided environmentalists. This time their words of ridicule have been published in what I had believed to be a credible and journalistically responsible newspaper: The Wall Street Journal. I now have my doubts.

For those who haven't seen the May 2 WSJ article titled "Golf Courses Are Denounced as Health Hazards," let me give you some of the high points. You should be armed to address questions from members who will most certainly be alarmed by what they've read here.

The article quotes such misinformed "environmentalists" as Sierra Club representative Blake Early who says of golf courses, "They nuke these things in order to get the grass looking real nice." An intelligent comment, if I ever heard one.

Then there's the claim from an international anti-golf organization, the Global Anti-Golf Movement, that golf courses create pollution that "leads to health problems for local communities, populations downstream, and even golfers." Of course, they don't present any evidence to substantiate this farfetched claim.

But more alarming to unknowing readers is *The Wall Street Journal's* implication that golf courses threaten both wildlife and human health. It, of course, cites the (continued on page 2)

Special Feature

The Multi-Talented Arthur Weber Wins John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

t is a given that "some people don't choose their careers. They're engulfed by them." Case in point: Arthur Phineas Weber, the multitalented Long Islander and a jack-of-all-trades if there ever was one, who served two years (1987-88) as president of the 100,000-member Metropolitan Golf Association (MGA).

Weber—whose careers ran the gamut from harmonica virtuoso to speed-skater to master rifleman to nuclear scientist and engineer to author to turf expert has captured the MetGCSA's coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award for 1994.

Weber's selection was announced by Country Club of Darien Superintendent Tim O'Neill, who is chairman of the Awards Committee and immediate past president. Weber was honored Monday, June 6 at Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich, CT, as a highlight of the MetGCSA's annual Invitational Tournament. He joins an impressive roster of Reid honorees that include Ken Venturi, Alexander Radko, Guido Cribari, Dr.



Arthur Weber Joins his Reid Award predecessors in making an outstanding contribution to the world of golf.

Ralph Engel, Geoffrey Cornish, Dr. Haruo Tashiro, Frank Hannigan, and James McLoughlin.

Arthur Weber is truly a man for all seasons and one both fascinated and consumed by the work ethic. He is a graduate chemical and nuclear engineer, with degrees from the College of the City of New York (CCNY) and The Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, TN.

The 74-year-old (continued on page 4)

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- MetByte: Your Link to Hot Industry
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Forewarned Is Forearmed

recent GCSAA study, which the paper says "noted an alarmingly high rate of cancer deaths among its former members." To say "alarmingly high" is a bit of a stretch.

What's more, though the WSJ does go on to say that the study's authors astressed that no causal link had been established, nor any danger to golfers," it did add a slightly incriminating final statement. It notes that the researchers said "it would be 'a prudent strategy' for superintendents to 'minimize their exposure potential to pesticides' through such methods as wearing protective clothing and making sure pesticide users carefully follow label instructions." Not only does that suggest we don't handle and apply pesticides carefully, it implies that anyone who works-and plays-on golf courses has something to worry about.

Worse still was the paper's recap of the 1991 study by the NYS Attorney General titled "Toxic Fairways." As you probably remember, this report was based on nonscientific documentation which stated, among other things, that "golf course managers apply huge amounts of pesticides following a predetermined recipe of repeated applications rather than customized treatments in response to specific problems."

The WSJ extrapolated the following from this study: "At least some golf courses in the U.S. pound the planet with so many chemicals that they make more widely vilified offenders such as farmer and crabgrass-killing homeowners look harmless. The golf courses in the Long Island area annually used more than 50,000 pounds of pesticides, or about 18 pounds per treated acre. That is nearly seven times as much as farmers dump per treated acre. And it is almost twice as high as the more dire estimates of what homeowners dump through do-it-yourself lawn care."

The WSJ piece further damned golf courses by suggesting that wildlife—particularly birds—are endangered on golf courses. It says, "Since 1971, the New York State Department of Conservation has recorded 25 cases of bird deaths that it says were related to golf course pesticides. In one instance, 546 brant

geese were found dead on and near a Hempstead golf course after it was sprayed with diazinon; the remains were found to have unusually high residues of the pesticide. Diazinon has since been banned on all golf courses in the U.S."

Why didn't the paper bring out the fact that many courses across the country are working with the Audubon Society and USGA to establish themselves as wildlife sanctuaries—and that they're complying with a rigorous set of criteria in seven achievement categories, not the least of which are environmental planning, IPM, wildlife food and cover enhancement, and water conservation and enhancement?

Yet another offense was the illustration that accompanied the article. It showed two golfers playing a course in moon suits surrounded by glowing trees and chemical warning signs. Pretty appalling. I thought *The Wall Street Journal* had a little more class.

So convincing is *The Wall Street Journal's* testimony against golf courses that even superintendents could begin to doubt their safety. But remind yourself that nothing in the GCSAA study, the "Toxic Fairways" report, or the numerous other accounts of pesticide and fertilizer use suggest that we are putting the environment or the public at risk.

We, after all, applied the principles of integrated pest management long before the term was invented. We've been at the forefront of the environmental movement, continually educating ourselves in the responsible use of pesticides and fertilizers and supporting research to find viable nonchemical controls for golf course pests and fungi.

Be sure to get your hands on this Wall Street Journal article, and if you haven't already, read the "Toxic Fairways" report. (I can supply copies of both, if you need them.) See for yourself how our profession is being unfairly victimized. It's the only way to prepare a truly informed response for golfing members who read these irresponsible and unfounded reports.

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Matt Ceplo and Westchester Hills: Hosts to the Met's Two-Ball Qualifier

veryone works together for a common cause." For Matt Ceplo, that's one of the high points of his job as golf course superintendent at Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains, NY. "In a day and age where clubs are becoming more like businesses. Westchester Hills still maintains a familytype atmosphere," he continues. "The membership, manager, and clubhouse staff-from chef to locker room attendant-are all great to work with. It's like grounds and, for the past three years, one big family."

May 16, Matt hosted our second golf meeting of the year and the 1994 Two-Ball Qualifier.

Superintendent at Westchester Hills for seven years, Matt came to the job with a two-year degree in horticulture from SUNY Delhi and four years as assistant superintendent at Ridgewood Country Club in New Jersey under then superintendent Ed Walsh.

His strong background is of immense help with what he describes as one of his biggest challenges at Westchester Hills: "trying to keep this old course challenging for modern play."

Constructed in 1913 by Pete Clarkwho shortly after designed and built Ridgeway Country Club directly across the street—Westchester Hills is a quaint, relatively short course. The fairways are tight and the greens small. That means to score low, you have to be a straight shooter with pinpoint accuracy—as those who played golf on the 16th know well.

Explains Matt, "Because the ball goes so much farther today, we have to come up with different ways to make holes interesting."

Case in point: the Par 5, Number 6, which is considered the signature hole. Matt and his crew built a pond in front of the green his first year as superintendent mainly because the green was too easily reached in two strokes. In addition to adding challenge to the hole, the pond also eliminated one of the course's wet areas.

Two more recent projects Matt has added to his list of accomplishments are three new tees-#2 #14, and #17-and the expansion of the course's cart paths. He completed this work last year.

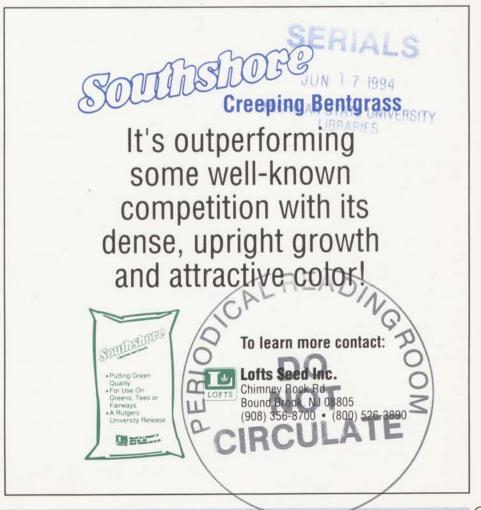
As you rounded the course, you probably also saw evidence of the bunker renovation program Matt began three years ago. So far, he's rebuilt 60 of the course's 75 bunkers and hopes to secure the funds to complete the rest in the near future.

Another of Matt's "pet" projects is to attract blue birds-and now wood ducks-to the course. He has 11 blue bird boxes strategically located on the has had two fledglings come back to nest. A third has moved in for the first time this year. The two wood duck boxes he posted last year have yet to draw visitors, but Matt's still hopeful. One of the clubhouse maintenance staff has kindly offered to help with the program by cleaning and monitoring the boxes on a regular basis.

Though Matt admits he finds it difficult to squeeze in a full round of golf very often, you will see him on the driving range. He also likes to take a pitching wedge along when he changes cups so he can work on his short game. He tries to get in four or five holes some afternoons to help stay in tune with the way the course is playing before he starts his trek back home to New Jersey, where his wife, Jasmine, of nine years and their two daughters, Allison, 6, and Megan, 2, await his arrival.

This is the third MetGCSA meeting —two golf and one business—that Matt has hosted. "I was happy to have everyone come here to play the course," he says. "After a tough winter, though, there are a few areas that got hurt. I can't single out any one area; greens, tees, and fairways all need extra attention this spring. But hey," Matt continues, adding a little levity to the situation, "the sand in the bunkers came through fine."

SCOTT C. APGAR Metro Milorganite, Inc.



The Multi-Talented Arthur Weber Wins John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

Rockville Center resident was one of only 35 knowledgeable atom experts assembled from the World War II Manhattan Project for Special Training and Coordination of the Nuclear Sciences to harness the atom as a fuel for nuclear power reactors. The late Admiral Hyman Rickover was also a member of that renowned group. It was Weber and his talented cohorts who helped develop America's first two atomic submarines: Nautilus and SeaWolf.

But long before the atom, Arthur Weber, the eager, ambitious teenager, was authoring headlines as a harmonica virtuoso with the Children's Hour CBS-Radio Sunday Morning Show and as a member of the popular Borrah Minnevitch Harmonica Rascals on WORradio. Young Weber was blowing his

way to fame during the tender 10- to 17-year-old period of his life.

Before he finished high school, young Weber hit the jackpot as a speed-skater on ice, winning the New York Daily News' Silver Skates Crown and vying for the Olympic team, which was ended by a bad fall and severed leg vein and six months of hospitalization.

During this period, he was also hailed as a master marksman with rifle out of Abraham Lincoln High, one of the 10 best in the City of New York.

There's more, of course, considerably more: Later golf out of BethPage; formation of The Sunrise Golf Club (24 guys who loved the game beyond description); golf at Oceanside, which later became Middle Bay Country Club; and finally the creation of the Old Westbury Golf & Country Club—the very first

nonsectarian golf club on the Island—on the former Cornelius Vanderbilt Whitney Estate. Weber served as the club's first president and a long-tenured Green Chairman. And to this day, 33 years later, he is still an influential member of the Green Committee.

Oh, yes, in and around this period, Arthur Weber found time to serve as a full professor at the now Polytechnic University, associate professor at New York University, and instructor of chemical engineering at CCNY.

In 1984, he organized and chaired the very first Green Committee for the MGA, from which sprouted the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, a fundraising organization now run by representatives from the MetGCSA, LIGCSA, NJGCSA, CAGCS, and the MGA.

It is no stretch to recount there that these vital efforts helped dignify the role of the greenskeeper to the lofty heights of superintendent. Turf research has attained the pinnacle of pure professionalism, thanks to the efforts of the dedicated Webers who join the fold.

It was Weber who recently put together the first Code of Environmental Conduct, which he describes as "an interactive set of principles, policies, procedures, and responsibilities governing the use of golf course nutrients and pesticides, water management, and wildlife conservation." This code was not only adopted by his home club, Old Westbury, it is also being considered by the USGA as a model for the universal code it is creating to guide turfgrass management practices across the country.

Weber is a member of the USGA Green Section Committee, and a few years ago, authored "Communicate! Communicate! Communicate! Tor the USGA Green Section Record. A version of this piece appeared in the July 1992 issue of the Tee to Green and is considered MUST reading for superintendents, green chairmen, golf executives, and golfers in general.

In honoring Arthur P. Weber, the MetGCSA reaches out and makes a "super" contribution to the golf awards game.

High Praise for Arthur Weber's Work in the Golf World

Tim O'Neill, CGCS
Superintendent, CC of Darien
Awards Committee Chairman
Immediate Past President, MetGCSA

"As the MetGCSA's Awards Committee Chairman, I am proud to present Arthur Weber with the 1994 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

"In serving on the board of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, I've seen firsthand Arthur's enthusiasm for and dedication to promoting the golf course superintendent and the profession. Equally important, though, is his tircless search for—and support of environmentally responsible golf course maintenance practices.

"Arthur has been an inspiration to all fortunate enough to have worked with him."

Jay Mottola

Executive Director, MGA

"Although few people have affected golf in as many ways or on as many levels as Arthur Weber, it's clear to me that his most lasting contributions will be his work with the golf course superintendents in golf course maintenance.

"His leadership role in creating the MGA Green Committee, in starting the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, and in ensuring that our golf courses are environmentally responsible will have a positive effect on golf for years to come.

"I can think of no one who deserves the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award more than Arthur Weber."

Larry Pakkala, CGCS Superintendent, Woodway CC

First President of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation

Past president, MetGCSA

"It was an honor to work on the board of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation with Arthur Weber.

"With his diverse background in the science world, his knowledge of the game of golf, and his close relationship with the agronomic aspects of turfgrass management and the golf course superintendent, Arthur is an outstanding recipient for this year's Reid Award."

A Look at the Invitational Site and Host

nyone who played Tamarack Country Club before 1988 was treated to a new-and-improved course on June 6. Our host, Dave Arel, has been busy making improvements for the past six years. This gem of a golf course is tucked in a hidden corner of Greenwich, CT, surrounded by other clubs that get all the attention. It's an excellent choice for this year's MetGCSA Invitational.

Built in 1929, Tamarack is a Charles Banks course. Nicknamed "Steam Shovel," Banks had an affinity for moving tremendous amounts of earth to form huge, elevated greens and deep bunkers. His design has made the course a maintenance challenge: "We're forced to use lightweight mowers, which takes a lot of time," explains Dave, who has 30 acres of fairways to groom with Triplexes.

When he took the job at Tamarack the latter part of 1987, the consensus was that the course needed to change in a big way. His greens chairmen—his first of five years and now his present one—have given Dave both the funding and support necessary to do whatever it takes to update the course-properly.

After all, Tamarack is a golfer's club—there's no paddle tennis and only a few tennis courts-with an active golfing membership. When there's an outing, they're champing at the bit to get out on the course the second they can. When it rains, they're teeing it up as soon as the last drop hits the ground. The course gets heavy play, to say the least, which is why cart path expansion is an ongoing project here.

Among the major capital improvements Dave's initiated and completed in his tenure are a four-year, in-house bunker renovation program and the reconstruction of tees #4 and #13. Both projects were done simultaneously.

If you're scratching your head in wonder, let me just say there was a method to Dave's madness. He was able to recycle the old trap sand by using it in the tee mix. "You have to put it someplace," he notes.

Completed late last fall, the bunker project involved a good deal of drainage

work: Some drains were reconstructed, many rerouted, and others were capped. A total of 25 dry wells were installed where drains originally were routed into old cinders directly beneath the bunker.

Explaining the tee reconstruction, Dave says, "Overall, the tees here are tiny-about two acres total throughout the entire course. We expanded the 4th from 1200 square feet to 4300 and the 13th from 1800 to 3200." Dave plans to attack one or two tees every fall, until all have been renovated.

Another project, which is nearing completion, is the enlargement of a retention pond. Constructed 20 years ago, the pond was too small to hold the water required to carry the course through a drought. Besides doubling the pond's capacity, Dave and his crew installed a new liner to put an end to the persistent leaks they've always had to live with. "When this project is finally complete, we might actually be prepared for the next stress period," savs Dave.

Still another project Dave's set his sights on: returning the 197-yard, Par 3, Number 12 hole to its original design. Apparently, the green has gotten smaller over time, as the long, deep swale that was once part of the green has evolved into an approach area in front of the green.

Dave came to Tamarack after five years as an assistant to Sleepy Hollow Superintendent Joe Camberato. Hired right out of Stockbridge UMass, which also happens to be Joe's alma mater, Dave feels he owes a good deal of his success to Joe's training and guidance. Dave also gives praise to his manager, Tom Tuthill, another Sleepy Hollow alum, for his interest in and support of the maintenance operation.

When I didn't see a wedding ring on Dave's finger-and knowing that he must have to put in a good 60 to 70 hours a week to juggle all those projects-I immediately assumed he wasn't married. Those who know him well know how mistaken I was. Not only has Dave been married for 10 years, he and his wife, Carol, have an

8-year-old son named Keith.

Dave explains he's never worn a wedding ring for fear he could get it caught in a piece of machinery and lose a finger.

One of Dave's loves in life is woodworking. Examples of his craft can be seen in the office he constructed when he first got to Tamarack and in the bunk beds he built in his son's room at home.

Another of Dave's favorite pastimes is golf; he plays whenever he can make the time. He'd like nothing better than to drop his handicap from an 18 to a 10, but that means making time for lessons and practice-time he doesn't quite have at present. He would also like to become certified in the near future. But right now, it's business as usual . . . more cart paths . . . more tee work . . .

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Sleepy Hollow Superintendent/Manager Tourney Draws a Full Field

he opening golf tournament at Sleepy Hollow—our Superintendent/Manager Event—was a terrific success. The golf course was in perfect condition, and the flowering ornamentals were at their peak. After a long winter, it was a very welcome sight.

Joe Camberato and his staff deserve the highest praise for preparing a great course in such as short time.

We had a full field with 129 golfers. Here are the results:

Superintendent/Manager

Low Gross Winners

- 75 Mark Sinto/Mike Lanzetta, Madison GC (won on match of cards)
- 75 Earl Millett/Dan Vasquez, Ridgeway CC

Low Net Winners

- 61 Vin Sharkey/Fred Wheatley, Wheatley Hills GC
- 63 Bob Alonzi/Peter Sproul, Winged Foot GC
- 64 Greg Wojick/Dan Denehy, Greenwich CC
- 65 Joe Alonzi/Robert James, Westchester CC

Closest to the Pin

Earl Millett, Ridgeway CC

Two-Man Best Ball

Low Gross Winners

- 76 Frank Lamphier/Bruce Campbell, Aspetuck Valley CC
- 84 Steve Renzetti, Wykagyl CC Bert Dickinson, Willow Ridge CC

Low Net Winners

- 61 Tony Grasso, Metropolis CC, Fred Scheyhing, Mount Kisco CC
- 63 Jim Fulwider Sr., Life member Al Tretera, Turf Products Corp.
- 64 Dan Madar, Spook Rock GC Jim Angi, Heritage Hills of West. (won on match of cards)
- 64 Will Heintz, Hampshire CC Dr. Pat Vittum, UMass

Longest Drive

Bert Dickinson, Willow Ridge CC

Official Business

Research Dollars Put to Good Use

n addition to our annual contribution of \$2,500 to the Tri-State
Turf Research Foundation, the
MetGCSA has awarded a \$1,000
research grant to Dr. Pat Vittum of the
University of Massachusetts for her
work on Hyperodes Weevil control.

We will be sending out a questionnaire in the near future to find out what research projects you would like us to support. Watch for the mailing. We'd appreciate your taking a few moments to offer your thoughts.

By now, you should have received the contribution form from the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation. Please remember to send in your donation for \$150. It truly is a small price to pay for the valuable information you'll receive in return.

JOHN J. O'KEEFE, CGCS Scholarship & Research Committee

Upcoming Events

Golf/Meeting Reminder!

Monday, July 12 CC of New Canaan, New Canaan, CT Host Superintendent: Mike Reeb, CGCS

Strike This Event From Your Calendar!

The UMass Turf Research Field Day, scheduled for Thursday, June 23, has been canceled.

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914-666-3171, FAX 914-666-9183

Montco/Surf-Side/Zap! Surfactants & Defoamers Box 404, Ambler, PA 19002 Bob Oechsle: 215-836-4992, FAX 215-836-2418

Nassau Suffolk Turf Services, Inc. Frank Marra Turf Supplies & Equipment Rentals 516-286-1052, PAGER 516-278-4766

Nor-Am Chemical Company/Agr Evo 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: 800-247-2326/908-637-4191 Bill & Joe Carriere: 914-937-2136

P.I.E. Supply Company Artie deAtienza/Steve Smith 243 Woodmont Rd., Milford, CT 06460 203-878-0658

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☆ Shemin Nurseries Inc. Horticultural-Irrigation Supplies Jim Hespe: 203-531-7352 1081 King St., Greenwich, CT 06831

☆ Stephen Kay, Golf Course Architects Renovation, Master Planning, New Golf Courses 495 New Rochelle Rd., Office 2B Bronxville, NY 10708, 914-699-4437

☆ Steven Willand, Inc.
Bruce Pye
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201-579-5656

☆ Tee and Green Sod, Inc.
Bentgrass, Fescue, Rye, Sod Blends, Washed Sod
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David Wallace: 401-789-8177

The Scotts Company Steve DiVito: 203-723-5190 111 Mallane Lane, Unit #D, P.O. Box 286 Naugatuck, CT 06770

☆ The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.

Byron Johnson Jr.

206 Delawanna Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014

Office: 201-473-3393 Home: 203-748-5069

☼ Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc. Bentgrass for Greens, Tees, & Fairways Fine Fescue, Rye, Bluegrass, Washed Sod Skip Deubel: 800-243-7582

☼ Turf Products Corp./TORO George Gorton, Irrigation/Al Tretera, Equipment P.O. Box 1200, Enfield, CT 06083 800-243-4355/203-763-3581

☆ Turf Products Corporation Ernie Rizzio 47 Howell Rd., P.O. Box 296 Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046, 201-263-1234

☆ Valley View Greenhouse
Frank Amodio
RT 123, RR 2, Box 27, So. Salem, NY 10590
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W.A. Cleary Chemical Co. Robert Leslie: 201-746-6734 1049 Somerset St., Somerset, NJ 08873 908-247-8000/800-524-1662

☆ Westchester Ford Tractor Inc. John Apple/Ray Beaudry Meadow St., Goldens Bridge, NY 10526 914-232-7746

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.
Bob Lippman Sr./Bob Lippman Jr.
P.O. Box 198, Lincolndale, NY 10540
Office: 914-248-7476 Mobile: 914-649-0303

White Contractors
Golf Course Construction & Renovation
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James E. Morris Jr.: 203-869-8808/914-234-0092

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