

# TEED BEEN Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

#### **President's Message**

### Beware of the Seasonal Change in You

uring a recent family conversation, my wife, Judy of 23 years, and my two youngest daughters, Allison, 15, and Amanda, 13, were recounting my seasonal personality changes over the years. (Though Chris and Amy were away at college and not part of this discussion, their sentiments would, I'm sure, have been in sync with their mother's.)

In their view, I go through a total personality change from one part of the year to the next. When I was at the Huntington Crescent Club from the early '70s to the early '80s, Judy tells me that I was pretty agreeable most of the year. Summer—June, July, and August—was the period she would notice I'd become more quick tempered.

In 1984, we moved to Fenway Golf Club. About that time, my "summer personality" began to extend into May and September. One year while I was still at Fenway, Judy felt my stress level was so high that she went out and bought me a "Stress Buster." This gadget made a variety of sounds: bombs exploding, machine guns firing, and Star Wars-type noises. I'd use this on my lengthy trek to and from work on I-684. Every time someone would cut me off or try to drive into my backseat, I'd give them a blast from my Stress Buster. It was better than obscene gestures.

(continued on page 2)

#### **Special Feature**

## MetGCSA Honors Dr. C. Richard Skogley With 1995 Reid Award

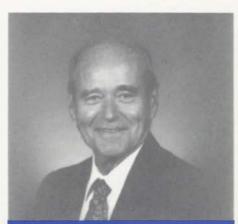
Former Reid Award Recipient Guido Cribari Offers an Inside Look at Dr. Skogley's Award-Worthy Accomplishments

r. Conrad Richard (Dick) Skogley, noted educator and turfgrass scientist, is the recipient of the MetGCSA's coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award for 1995.

The retired University of Rhode Island (URI) professor, who has a host of former students serving as golf course superintendents here and across the country, will be honored June 12 as a highlight of the Met's annual Invitational being held, this year, at Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, CT.

And appropriately, one of Dr. Skogley's former students, Tim O'Neill of the Country Club of Darien, will make the presentation. Tim is chairman of the MetGCSA's Awards Committee.

"This is a singular honor for me," says Tim, who praised his former mentor as a genius in the field of turf research. "As my advisor for four years at URI," he adds, "Dr. Skogley was not only responsible for my major, but my career as well. He recommended me more than a decade ago for my first job as an assistant to Paul Caswell, Green-



Dr. C. Richard Skogley, Professor Emeritus of Plant Sciences at URI receives the MetGCSA's Coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

wich Country Club's superintendent at the time. I moved over to Darien three years later." Paul, by the way, was also a Skogley student.

Dr. Skogley is not only a renown authority in his field, he's also, according to Tim, managed to create a very special bond between URI and every one of its turfgrass (continued on page 3)

#### Also in This Issue

- 2 Note This Schedule Correction! . . . and Two Upcoming Events
- (6) Day at the Bay Golf Champs . . . and Two-Ball Qualifiers
- (4) Invitational Site and Host

# Beware of the Seasonal Change in You

In 1992, I came to Westchester Country Club. Since then, I've been told, my summer personality has become one for all seasons. In February out at the National, I gave up the chance to play golf at Cypress Point so I could meet Judy at the airport. (To a nongolfer this wouldn't seem like much of a sacrifice, but to me, it was a heartwrenching experience.)

When the plane landed and people started to exit, I remember seeing Cathy Mahoney, Joe and Barbara Camberato, Jackie Unger, and my wife. I greeted everyone, and we proceeded to the baggage claim area. While waiting for the luggage, Judy informed me that I had kissed all the women just listed except her. I told her I thought she was mistaken, but she reassured me that my lips had never touched hers. I then made the mistake of snapping, "Well, I thought I kissed you. I kissed somebody!" For Judy, this was the first sign that my summer personality had arrived for the year—much earlier than normal.

I wasn't totally convinced my summer personality had taken hold until we were shopping at Costco in Danbury shortly after we'd returned from the convention. A shopper approached me and said, "excuse me," and I snapped back with an that I leave Westchester, I want my annoyed, "What?!" This poor guy just wanted to know which section of the store he could find something he saw in my shopping cart.

Judy pointed out that I may have

been a bit rude. I, of course, agreed. But more important, I realized that my summer personality—although joked about in my family-is something that could present itself as a problem. I also realized that this "personality change" is probably not unique to Joe Alonzi.

My sister-in-law Kim Alonzi has said, "When the season arrives, it's like the rest of the world comes to a screeching halt. If the subject doesn't involve grass or golf, our spouses become oblivious."

A number of other wives I've talked to have similar stories about their husbands. So I guess I'm writing this message as a wake-up call to those of you out there who haven't recognized this "seasonal change" in yourselves.

We all have to try hard to pay more attention to-and avoid taking our frustrations out on-the ones we love the most, the ones who are always there when we need them. Jobs come and go; you don't want the same to apply to your family.

Judy and the kids have always been there for me . . . when I left the Huntington Crescent Club for the job at Fenway Golf Club and when I left Fenway for the position at Westchester Country Club. When the day comes family to be right there with me.

So Judy and the kids, in case I haven't said it recently . . . I love you.

JOE ALONZI, CGCS President

#### **Upcoming Events**

# Summer Social Misprint!

ooooops! We got the place right - but the date wrong for this year's Summer Social. Please be sure to note the correct date on your calendar of events:

METGCSA SUMMER SOCIAL Tuesday, August 22 Fairview Country Club Greenwich, CT

#### **Meeting Reminders**

#### **Invitational Tournament**

Monday, June 12 Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT Host Superintendent: Rich Marcks, CGCS

#### July MetGCSA Meeting

Monday, July 17 Salem Golf Club Association, North Salem, NY First Round: Met Area Team Championship Qualifier/Alumni Tournament Host Superintendent: Bob Bruce

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# MetGCSA Honors Dr. C. Richard Skoglev

graduates. "Dr. Skogley has had a very positive effect on superintendents here and across the nation," notes Tim.

And the Skogley roster of "supers" is legion-close to 100 around the country and a dozen or so in the immediate area. Among them are the following, who most likely will be on hand at Fairview when the Good Doctor is honored on the 12th: Barry Anes of Candlewood Valley Country Club, Jim Calladio of the Milbrook Club, John Carlone of Middle Bay Country Club, Bert Dickinson of Willow Ridge Country Club, Tony Girardi of Rockrimmon Country Club, Scott Niven of The Stanwich Club, Dennis Petruzzelli of Lakeover National Country Club, Rick Raymond of Sands Point Golf Club, Steve Renzetti of Wykagyl Country Club, Vin Sharkey of Wheatley Hills Golf Club, Donald Szymkowicz of the Engineers Country Club, and Dave Wallace, owner of Tee & Green Sod, Inc.

The admiration and respect these superintendents hold for their former mentor, Dr. Skogley, just seems to soar with the seasons. He has obviously made an everlasting impression on his students.

URI, incidentally, boasts the longest, continuous program in turf research in the world, dating back to 1880 as an experimental station in Kingston, RI, and moving over to URI in 1888-115 years in all.

This marks the third major turf award for Dr. Skogley in recent years. He received the USGA's prestigious Green Section Award in 1992; the Distinguished Service Award from the GCSAA two years ago; and the Oregon Seed Trade Association's Man of the Year Award in 1985.

He has been active in turfgrass management programs at the university level for more than 40 years and has served golf through his work as a researcher, an educator, an extension specialist, and a turf consultant.

In addition, Dr. Skogley has developed several important varieties of turfgrass, including Providence creeping bentgrass, Jamestown and Jamestown II chewings fescue, Georgetown Kentucky

bluegrass, Kingstown velvet bentgrass, and Exeter colonial bentgrass. He has written extensively on the subject for scientific journals and the nation's press and is a featured speaker on turfgrass programs around the world.

"Dr. Skogley has had a very positive effect on superintendents here and across the nation."

A native of Deer Lodge, Montana, Dr. Skogley is a graduate of URI and earned his doctorate at Rutgers. He and his wife, Jane—they met while he was schooling at URI and she at nearby Brown University-live in Exeter, RI, and have three children. Dr. Skogley

served as a torpedoman aboard a Navy destroyer in the Pacific during World

He numbers Alexander Radko, Sherwood Moore, and Jim Fulwider as "mentors, dear friends, and associates." Radko is a former Reid Award winner and retired head of the USGA's Green Section; Fulwider is the retired superintendent at Century Country Club; and Moore a "super" legend-Winged Foot, Hollywood, and Woodway-and a founder of the MetGCSA.

In addition to Radko-and now Dr. Skogley-previous recipients of the Reid Award are Arthur Weber, James McLoughlin, Frank Hannigan, Geoffrey Cornish, Dr. Haruo Tashiro, Dr. Ralph Engel, Ken Venturi, and Guido Cribari.

Guido Cribari is the retired executive sports editor for the Gannett Suburban Newspapers, Inc.



#### Met's Annual Invitational to Be Held at Fairview

Familiar Site With an All-New Look

o say things are changing at Fairview Country Club would be a vast understatement. So much has changed, in fact, that even if you played the course two years ago, at the Met's May 1993 meeting, you'll have little advantage over newcomers who attend this year's annual Invitational Tournament June 12, here in Greenwich, CT.

Certified Golf Course Superintendent Richie Marcks and his crew have worked hard the past eight months completing the most recent-of many-renovation projects: the redesign of six holes.

You'll see the most dramatic changes in holes #9 and #15, but holes #4, #6, #7, and #16 were also altered significantly. Tees were realigned, fairways renovated, and sand bunkers reshaped, added, moved, or eliminated.

When the sand finally settled, 22 bunkers were completely redone. "We, at first, were just going to redo a hand-

ful of the bunkers," says Richie, "but then as the first couple were completed, the membership liked them so much that they wanted us to do more."

Fairview's most significant change, however, happened long before Richie's tenure: It was in 1968, when the club moved from Elmsford, NY, to its current site in Greenwich. Once St. Luke's Convalescent Hospital, the facility had to be transformed into a golf club, and Robert Trent Jones Sr. was hired to design the course.

Over the past 27 years, Jones has been called in to guide various renovations—this last project among them.

#### A Team Effort

Fortunately, Richie appreciates his membership's propensity toward change. "They like to see changes, and I like to construct new things," he says. "Every year, we try to top what we've done the previous year. I enjoy the diversity."

But also making his job enjoyable is that everyone at Fairview works as a team. Richie's staff is so well versed in each others' duties that the department doesn't have to miss a beat in any worker's absence. But even more significant is that there is constant overlap between departments.

"The laundry crew has done string trimming work before main golf events," notes Richie, "and my golf course crew has pitched in with clubhouse maintenance in the winter."

Most recently, when the club manager was called about a sizable irrigation leak, he took care of it-without telling Richie until the next morning.

Richie, himself, wears many caps. He's involved with six club committees: golf, tennis, pool, clubhouse maintenance, construction, and decorating. "My actual title is facilities manager," he notes.

In managing the golf course aspect of the facility, Richie adheres to environmentally responsible practices. An Integrated Pest Management proponent, Richie uses disease ID kits to track problems and avoid unnecessary chemical applications. He also watches weather patterns to guard against water waste.

In addition, he's a longtime participant in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, which among other things, encourages various wildlife to thrive on the course. To date, he's placed 30 bluebird houses, a few bat houses, and most recently, several purple martin houses around the course.

Richie can also add to his list of credits the purchase of two border collies, which have chased away every last goose on the course. "I was the original border collie user three-and-a-half years ago," says Richie. "Now there are 42 of this breed around the country."

#### The Circuitous Route to Turf Management

During his high school years, turfgrass management was probably the farthest thing from Richie's mind.

At 16, while studying architecture at Lakewood Tech Vocational School in New Jersey, Richie joined the Coast Guard. After earning his "wings," he served four years in an Air Rescue Squadron, earning seven lifesaving awards.





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He continued his studies in Automotive Engineering and Industrial Design and, in 1974, accepted a position at Westchester Country Club as the mechanic. He quickly realized he'd rather work on the course than on the equipment and showed enough promise to be sent to Rutgers Winter Turf School. Within two-and-a-half years, Richie was promoted to assistant and had the opportunity to work under then Superintendent Ted Horton. "I have the utmost respect for Ted," says Richie. "He taught me a lot. We're still close friends."

Then, in 1980, Richie landed his first superintendent's job: Black Hall Golf Club in Old Lyme, CT. Two-and-a-half years later, he accepted his current position at Fairview, where's he's worked—and lived—for the past 12 years.

#### **Professional Commitments**

Richie's commitment to the profession extends well beyond his work at the club. In the MetGCSA, he's served on the Board of Directors, chaired the Social & Welfare Committee, and spent

the past eight years on the Education Committee.

He's also a longtime member of the CAGCS, where he also served on the board and chaired both the Public Relations and Government Relations committees. Richie also put his government relations expertise to work on the GCSAA's Government Relations Committee for three years.

And as if all that is not enough, he's a former president and cofounder—along with Greenwich Country Club's Greg Wojick—of the Professional Pesticide Users of Connecticut, an organization that promotes the intelligent use of pesticides. Richie was instrumental in writing the chemical usage posting laws in Connecticut—and nationally.

Last, but not least, he is a long-tenured instructor—very fittingly—at Rutgers Winter Turf School.

#### Still Time for Fun

If you think this guy is all work and no play, guess again. Richie still finds time to scuba dive, ski—on both water and

snow—and, of course, play an occasional round of golf. His number one hobby, however, is restoring old Ford Mustangs. And apparently, it's become a family affair. "My 16-year-old daughter, Pamela, and 13-year-old son, David, like to help me tinker with the cars, and they're becoming very good at it," he says.

Richie's oldest son, Douglas, who's 20, isn't big on cars. "But can he ever sing," says Richie. Doug has performed with acappella singing groups abroad and even at the White House at Bush's Inaugural Ball.

Richie's philosophy about life: "If you're not having fun, you shouldn't be doing what you're doing."

And it seems likely his attitude won't change. The golf course, on the other hand, most certainly will. Concludes Richie: "Enjoy yourselves the 12th, but don't bother trying to remember too much about your round, because the next time you play here it will probably be completely different."

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inety-five golfers challenged the windswept Middle Bay in a first-of-theseason event that resembled British links golfing conditions. John Carlone and his staff had the course perfectly set, hard and fast, for the day. The April event served as our Two-Ball Qualifier, with 30 Class A teams qualifying for 15 slots and nine Class C teams for eight entries. The Par 3s for the day offered up trips and prizes for a hole in one. The Par 3 10th would have awarded our Scholarship Fund \$5,000. But alas, no one scored the clusive ace.

Those fortunate enough to keep the ball under the wind were:

#### Two-Man Best Ball

#### **Low Gross Winners**

- 74 John Carlone, Middle Bay CC Tim O'Neill, CC of Darien
- 75 Earl Millett, Ridgeway CC Mark Millett, Old Oaks CC
- Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy CC Dennis Petruzzelli, Lakeover National CC
- 76 Frank Savakis/Ron Shapiro Bruedan Corporation

#### **Low Net Winners**

- 59 Mike Mongon, Arcola CC John O'Keefe, Preakness Hills CC
- 61 Jim McNally, Greenrock Corp. Wayne Remo, Rock Spring Club
- 62 Chuck Martineau, Whippoorwill Club Fred Scheyhing, Mount Kisco CC
- 64 John Currie, Currie Landscaping Joe Kennedy, Irra-Tech, Inc.

#### Two-Ball Qualifiers and First-Round Matches

#### Class A Qualifiers

- #1 Rick Schock, Wee Burn CC/Gregg Stanley, Hudson National GC vs.
- #16 Matt Ceplo, Rockland CC/Tony Baviello, Yale GC
- #2 Mike Mongon, Arcola CC/John O'Keefe, Preakness Hills CC vs.
- #15 Ron Demkovich, Westchester County GC/Tony Savone, Quaker Ridge GC
- #3 Jim McNally, Greenrock Corp./Wayne Remo, Rock Spring Club vs.
- #14 Bill Bodemer, Southward Ho CC/Bill Perlee, Burning Tree CC
- #4 Chuck Martineau, Whippoorwill Club/Fred Scheyhing, Mount Kisco CC vs.
- #13 Tim Garceau, Tuxedo Club/Tim Powers, Pound Ridge GC
- #5 Mark Fuller, Connecticut GC/John Jennings, The Patterson Club vs.
- #12 John Carlone, Middle Bay CC/Tim O'Neill, CC of Darien
- #6 Tim Moore, Knollwood CC/Todd Polidor, Heritage Hills of Westchester vs.
- #11 Joe Camberato, Sleepy Hollow CC/Bob Nielsen, Bedford Golf & Tennis Club
- #7 Bob Alonzi, Winged Foot GC/Joe Alonzi, Westchester CC vs.
- #10 Tony Grasso, Metropolis CC/Greg Wojick, Greenwich CC
- Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy CC/Dennis Petruzzelli, Lakeover National CC vs.
- Les Kennedy, CC of Waterbury/John Streeter, Woodbridge CC

#### Class C Qualifiers

- Ernie Rizzio, Turf Products Corp. (NJ)/Al Tretera, Turf Products Corp. (CT) vs.
- John Apple, Westchester Ford Tractor/Dan Cancelleri, J.A. Jackson Corp.
- John Currie, Currie Landscaping/Joe Kennedy, Irra-Tech, Inc. vs.
- Ken Clear/Mike Cook, Alpine, the Care of Trees #7
- Scott Apgar, Metro Milorganite/Charlie Siemers, Hawthorne Bros. vs.
- Bob Lippman Sr./Bob Lippman Jr., Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.
- Frank Amodio, Valley View Greenhouse/John Hawthorne, Hawthorne Bros. vs.
- Frank Savakis/Ron Shapiro, Bruedan Corporation

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Thomas Marino 360 Adams St., Bedford Hills, NY 10507 914-666-8202

A 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

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The Scotts Company Steve DiVito: 203-723-5190 Tom Marmelstein: 516-679-1961

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Byron Johnson Jr. 206 Delawanna Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014 Office: 201-473-3393 Home: 203-748-5069

TurfNet Associates, Inc.

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Frank Amodio 229 Smithridge Rd., So. Salem, NY 10590 914-533-2526, FAX 914-533-2050

Westchester Ford Tractor Inc.

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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 P.O. Box 484, Old Greenwich, CT 06870-0484 James E. Morris Jr.: 203-869-8808/914-234-0092

☆ Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.

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