



TEE TO GREEN

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Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

A Fresh Start . . . One More Time

Just as school is wrapping up for the kids, our season is shifting into high gear. Spring is kind of like the beginning of our school year. . . . A new class of employees, perhaps new equipment or new grooming techniques or products to get accustomed to, and a whole new set of demands to deal with.

After the lengthy, snowy winter, a lot of us are scrambling to finish projects we'd hoped to complete before the start of the season. But with a little luck, we'll be back to our old routine again soon. Mowing, spraying, watering, and grooming the course—tasks that may seem tedious to some are almost enjoyable to me. I like the routine. It feels safe—and far better than dealing with those unpredictable and unexpected hydraulic leaks on a green, disease problems, or labor or club relations trials. While it's natural to let these small setbacks drive us crazy, years in the business have taught me that we all would do better to focus on the big battle and not let those little fights drag us down.

One for All and All for One

On a more uplifting note, I recently attended the retirement reception for Bob Phipps of Shorehaven Country Club, and I came away from the affair feeling both thankful (continued on page 2)

Special Feature

The Inside Scoop on Inorganic Soil Amendments

Former Cornell University Associate Professor Dr. Norman Hummel Offers Expert Advice on Several Inorganic Amendments on the Market Today

Superintendents seeking to resolve a variety of turfgrass woes—everything from soil compaction to excessive moisture loss—are turning their attention to the new-and-improved inorganic soil amendments on the market today.

To help you sift through the growing number of choices, Dr. Norman Hummel, now of Hummel & Co., Inc. in Trumansburg, NY, reviews four of the newer inorganic amendments out there—offering insight into the benefits and, yes, limitations of each.

Also included in the mix is the still-popular—and more economical—amendment option: good ol' sand. (See also the accompanying piece "Five Superintendents Share Their Firsthand Experiences With Inorganic Soil Amendments" for actual accounts of inorganic amendment successes and failures.)

Calcined Clay

Calcined clays have been available as soil

amendments for several years. They're very porous clay aggregates that have been shown to increase the total porosity of soils—and the water retention of sandy soils.

Because the aggregate is medium- to coarse-sized, calcined clays seem to be as effective as sand for modifying soils.

There is, however, one caveat: While they will hold a large quantity of water, research has consistently shown that the water is held so tightly that it's unavailable for plants.

Among the better-known calcined clay products on the market: Profile and Turface.

Calcined Diatomites

Calcined diatomites are naturally occurring minerals derived from diatoms and processed to varying degrees. They're very porous, coarse aggregates that are touted to improve the physical properties of the soil, though there has been little research (continued on page 4)

Also in This Issue

- ② Coming Attractions
- ③ Superintendent-Manager Tourney Set for Silver Spring
- ⑤ Inorganic Amendments: Firsthand Accounts From Five Supers
- ⑧ Winged Foot Invitational Promises a Doubly Good Time
- ⑨ Gypsy Moth Update
- ⑪ Siwanoy Golf Results . . . including First-Round Two-Ball Matches

A Fresh Start . . . One More Time

and proud.

I'm thankful that I have friends and family, as Bob does, who I can count on in a time of need. And I'm proud to be part of an association whose members are truly supportive of one another. So many attended the reception, and more sent their good wishes and donations along to Bob.

I was told repeatedly by the members of Shorehaven and the committee that organized the reception how impressed they were with the Met's responsiveness.

Scott Schukraft, superintendent at Huntville Golf Club in Pennsylvania, also did us proud. A close friend of Bob and Diane's, Scott spoke from the heart—and with great poise—when presenting our gift to Bob.

The whole affair was a celebration of Bob and his great love for our business—a true success story both at work and in life.

We're discussing the possibility of holding a golf tournament in Bob's behalf during the summer or fall. We'll keep you posted as plans evolve.

Free Advice and Support

Also in the spirit of support and concern for our members' welfare is our association's Club Relations Committee. Chaired by Middle Bay Superintendent

John Carlone, the group consists of our executive board and several past presidents and is designed primarily to aid clubs in conducting a professional search for a new superintendent. Our objective is to ensure that clubs adhere to hiring practices that allow everyone a fair shot at the job.

As a safeguard, no member of the Club Relations Committee can accept an offer from a club the committee is consulting with. If a member is interested in a position, he must excuse himself from the committee before any consultations take place.

Another function of the committee is to consult with superintendents who may be struggling with a political or turf-related issue at their club and want an impartial, third-party viewpoint or advice.

Composed of many veteran superintendents, the committee offers a tremendous pool of knowledge and expertise that any association member—or club—should feel free to draw from. And the price is right: These consultations are provided free of charge.

Superintendents or clubs who would like the committee's assistance should contact John Carlone at 516-766-1838.

JOHN J. O'KEEFE, CGCS
President

current research projects.

Among the many topics: golf spike wear tolerance, ecology of ants in turfgrass, Japanese beetle control, and grasses for fairway use. There will also be equipment displays and demos.

For further information, contact Thom Griffin at 413-545-3066 or Mary Owen at 508-892-0382.

Special Event

DATE CHANGE: Rematch of LIGCSA/MetGCSA Softball Game Rescheduled for . . .

Tuesday, June 11

After a 26 to 10 rout, the Met team needs your support!

Call Dave Mahoney at 914-961-8698 or Scott Apgar at 914-282-0049 for details.

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Upcoming Events

Meeting Reminders!

Superintendent/Manager Tournament

Thursday, May 23
Silver Spring Country Club, Ridgefield, CT
Host Superintendent: Peter Rappoccio, CGCS

Invitational Tournament

Tuesday, May 28
Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY
Host Superintendent: Bob Alonzi, CGCS

Educational Event

1996 Turfgrass Research Field Day

UMass Turfgrass Research Facility
South Deerfield, MA
Wednesday, June 5
Turf researchers will offer updates on their

Superintendent-Manager Tourney Returns to Silver Spring

After a five-year hiatus, the Superintendent-Manager Tournament is returning to Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, CT—and is being held, interestingly, on the exact same date as it was in '91: on May 23. Hosting the event is the club's long-tenured superintendent and property manager, Peter Rappoccio. In his 19 years at Silver Spring, Peter has generously offered his club for numerous Met meetings. This will be his sixth.

Change, Change, Change

Since we played our last round of golf at Silver Spring five years ago, Peter has worked with Architect Geoffrey Cornish to enhance—and restore aspects of—the 67-year-old course's original Robert White design.

He's installed cart paths, rebuilt 38 of the course's 68 bunkers, restored all greens to their original size and shape, and most recently rebuilt two tees.

Using 1,500 cubic yards of fill, he constructed a new tee 35 yards back from the 13th green, transforming the hole from a 500-yard Par 5 to a more challenging 535-yard Par 5. In addition, Peter more than tripled the size of his practice tee, bringing it from 5,000 square feet to 16,000. "The new two-tiered tee is large enough," he says, "to rotate the markers without returning to the same spot for at least three weeks."

Three years ago, Peter also rebuilt his maintenance facility, which involved renovating two existing structures and constructing a new storage building—all during the height of the season. Though this presented a challenge that Peter probably wouldn't want to repeat, the final product has been well worth the extraordinary effort. He now has a separate storage area for pesticides, fertilizers, and other bulk materials; a separate pesticide fill/mix and clean area; and an upgraded staff area with new lockers and offices.

This spring, Peter and his crew have also been involved in the landscaping and finishing touches of an extensive clubhouse renovation. Peter's worked closely on the project with Silver Spring's Club Manager of 12 years,

Robert Sommer. "I've always enjoyed working with Bob and feel very fortunate to have him as a manager," says Peter, who at the same time acknowledged the club's head golf pro of 11 years, Stan Garrett, as being equally great to work with.

An Early Start in the Business

Peter's golf course experience began at an early age. At 15, he joined the grounds crew at Fairview Country Club, working through the course's construction phase alongside others who also went on to become superintendents: Bob Alonzi, Bill Gaydosh, and the late Gene Grady.

After graduating high school, Peter enrolled in St. Francis College in Maine, completing a BA with a minor in business and education. Quickly realizing he was better suited for a career in golf course management, Peter returned to Fairview.

Working under then superintendent Ted Jozwick—who Peter credits with his interest in becoming a golf course superintendent—he received a two-year degree in Turf Management from Rutgers and was elevated to assistant superintendent. That was in 1975. Three years later, Peter accepted the superintendent's position at Silver Spring.

Life Beyond Silver Spring

Though managing the course obviously keeps Peter plenty busy, he still finds time to serve the association he once led. MetGCSA president in 1985 and 1986, Peter has always juggled numerous committee responsibilities and actively participated in association events.

Right now, Peter's serving on five Met committees and co-chairing, along with Mike Maffei, the Nominating Committee—a responsibility he's accepted for the past five years.

Despite the magnitude of Peter's professional duties, he somehow finds time to keep pace with his sons—Peter, 17, and Tim, 14—and their activities.

Peter, a student at Fairfield Prep, is involved in both wrestling and football and also beginning the time-consuming process of choosing a college. Tim, an

East Ridge Middle School student who will be joining his brother at Fairfield Prep next year, enjoys both Pop Warner football and basketball.

Aside from attending his sons' many games and matches, Peter is in his second year as president and coach of the Ridgefield Pop Warner League. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Ridgefield Scholarship Group, which distributes \$20,000 annually to college-bound Ridgefield high school students. And as if all that's not enough, Peter is a member of the Ridgefield Republican Town Committee.

Though he's no longer a marathoner, Peter has four marathons under his belt, including New York and Boston. Now, he keeps fit by running locally.

Peter's wife of 20 years, Birdie, is a registered nurse in the Ridgefield School System.

TIM O'NEILL, CGCS
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The Inside Scoop on Inorganic Soil Amendments

conducted to evaluate their true value as soil amendments.

New research at Ohio State University is showing the value of using calcined diatomites in sand-based root zones. Experimenting with the Eagle Pitcher Corp. product, AXIS, the researchers have found that calcined diatomites increase the total porosity of a soil, water retention, and rooting. They've attributed this rooting response to a greater oxygen diffusion rate or gas exchange where the product has been blended into the sand.

While more research is needed to examine the long-term performance of this product, it does appear to have some merit.

Another calcined diatomite widely used by area superintendents is Isolite.

Clinoptilite Zeolites

Zeolites are naturally occurring porous minerals with low bulk densities and a

very high cation exchange capacity. One of the advantages of this amendment is that it can be sized to your specifications.

Up to this point, all research on zeolites has focused on their performance in sand-based root zones. Here, zeolites have been shown to increase water retention without affecting the infiltration rate. Since the cation exchange sites on zeolite have a high selectivity for potassium and ammonium ions, zeolites in a sand-based root zone will reduce their leaching losses.

Ecolite is a zeolite produced by Western Organics. Like the other inorganic amendments, more research is needed on the long-term performance of clinoptilite zeolites.

Crumb Rubber

Crumb rubber is ground up tires made into a product that can be used to improve the resiliency of the turf in

high-traffic areas.

Research at Michigan State University has shown tremendous improvement in high-traffic areas where crumb rubber has been used as a topdressing. They did not see the same effect, however, when the rubber was incorporated into the soil.

Final assessment: While crumb rubber should not really be considered a soil amendment, it may prove effective as a topdressing.

Sand

I don't have to tell you: Sands are the most common and least expensive soil amendment used for improving the physical condition of a soil. The addition of large quantities of a uniform sand in the appropriate particle size range will improve the aeration porosity, the infiltration rate, and the compaction resistance of a soil.

The key to success when modifying a

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soil with sand is that you add enough sand into the soil so that the sand grains come in contact—or bridge—with one another. It is then, and only then, that you will create the beneficial large pores between the sand grains.

Very uniform sands in the medium through coarse size ranges—0.25mm – 2.0mm—are most effective for modifying soil. The coarser and more uniform, in fact, the better. The sand particle size and the uniformity of the sand will define how much sand is required to

improve the soil. It's wise, therefore, to work with a physical testing laboratory to determine the suitability of the sand and the *minimum* amount of sand necessary to improve the soil.

Final Note

The proper use of inorganic amendments can have a positive impact on soil physical properties. Your best bet is to experiment with some of these newer products in a few of your problem areas and then monitor them closely to see if

they produce the effects the manufacturers promise. If you have any major renovation projects that involve soil modification, however, I would strongly recommend that you seek the advice of a soil testing lab and consultant.

DR. NORMAN HUMMEL
Hummel & Co. Inc.

NOTE: Watch for Dr. Hummel's commentary on organic amendments in an upcoming issue of Tee to Green.

Five Superintendents Share Their Firsthand Experiences With Inorganic Soil Amendments

Though sand is still the leading soil amendment option among superintendents, more and more are experimenting with some of the newer products on the market. Here, five area supers offer insight into two inorganic soil amendments: Profile, a calcined clay, and Isolite, a calcined diatomite. (See accompanying piece, "The Inside Scoop on Inorganic Soil Amendments," for Dr. Norman Hummel's review of these and other inorganic amendments.)

Though there are those who report visible improvement in their turf, not all, you'll see, give these products rave reviews. The final word on introducing a new amendment into your soil: Look—very carefully—before you leap.

Steve Humphreys, Dutchess Country Club Poughkeepsie, NY

"We have several older tees on the course that were pretty severely compacted. The soil mixtures contain a variety of particle sizes with a large amount of fines. Rooting, drainage, and general vigor of the grass was poor. The soil was just plain anaerobic.

"We had tried Verti-Draining and conventional hollow core aeration without much success. The compaction was so bad that the Verti-Drain couldn't penetrate more than three or four inches.

"Last summer's weather taxed these tees to the point where I knew I needed to get some deep holes into the soil profile and then backfill them with a course material to provide for continued surface drainage and, just as important, air exchange.

"It seemed the only piece of equipment capable of doing what we needed was the Floyd-Mckay Drill 'n Fill. Contracting for the equipment was easy enough; the harder decision was what material to use for backfilling.

"With the high population of dense fines close to the soil surface, I knew I needed to have the column filled with a relatively course material. That's why I finally settled on Profile, a calcined clay material that is not only coarse, but also known to increase the porosity of soils.

"On July 10 of last year, we had Earth Works treat eight of our problem tees. By July 27, I could already see improvement in the general health of the tees' turfgrass. By the season's end, seven of the eight tees had shown marked improvement: They had better color, a healthier root structure, and improved water and air movement. Better still, they came through the winter with no damage and good growth.

"In June, we'll treat the tees again and then monitor their progress."

Peter Pierson, Pequabuck Golf Club Pequabuck, CT

"We've experimented with two soil amendments: Isolite and, more extensively, Profile.

"In 1993, we applied the Isolite, a calcined diatomite, to improve the moisture retention in two problem areas. The first was the apron of #16 green adjacent to a bunker. The second was a droughty area near #10 green's walk on/walk off accesses.

"Before the applications, we aerified these areas with 1/2" hollow coring tines. Then we applied the Isolite with a drop spreader. Trying to get the Isolite—which is made up of relatively large particles—into the aerifying holes of the closely cut apron was difficult at best. We had to resort to working the material in with floor brooms from the shop. On the walk on/walk off areas, where we keep the grass higher, the particle size didn't present a problem. Though we did see some improvement in these areas, we found Isolite's large particles troublesome enough to avoid using the product again.

"In 1994, when we wanted to improve the water-holding capacity of some of our droughty tees, we turned to the calcined clay Profile. We double aerified the tees, using 1/2" hollow coring tines, then (continued on page 6)

Five Superintendents Share Their Firsthand Experiences With Inorganic Soil Amendments

applied the Profile to the tees' surface at a rate of 400 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. Next, we verticut the cores and Profile, which blended the two materials into a nice topdressing for the tees.

"This process has yielded good results. Because the Profile helps keep moisture available to the plant roots, we're able to keep the tee surfaces drier. And that, in turn, allows them to better withstand the stress of heavy play.

"On several other tees, we used this same process, applying Profile at the lower rate of 200 lbs./1,000 sq. ft.—with equally good results.

"In our most recent Profile applications, we targeted our #8 Green. Built about 30 years ago, this green is small—just over 4,000 square feet—and has a high silt content. To make matters worse, this green slopes severely on the front half, leaving only the back half for pin locations. In an attempt to improve the soil quality of the green, we had Earth Works run the new Floyd-McKay Drill 'n Fill Aerifier on the green in May and, again, in October of last year.

"Each time, we filled the one-inch holes with a mixture of 50 percent Profile and 50 percent 80/20 topdressing (by volume), which we combined using a small electric-powered cement mixer. In late November 1995, we covered the green. At that time, the drill holes were still visible. When we removed the cover the end of March, we were surprised to see the drill holes were still noticeable.

"Lesson learned: We'll drill again, but not as late in the year. I suspect that the wet and cold October and then the even colder winter slowed the healing process even more than usual.

"We do, however, see improvements in the green. Water percolation is improved—the spring rains put that to the test—and the green is far softer to walk on, which indicates that we've alleviated the compaction.

HOT TIP: "For the past three years, I've also found Profile useful in retarding germination of the divot mix I prepare for use on the course. All I do is mix one gallon of Profile with four gallons of 80/20 topdressing and one to two pints of bentgrass seed—again, using a cement

mixer to combine the ingredients. Even when the topdressing is moist, the Profile pulls out and holds the moisture so there is little or no germination of the mixture, which we store in covered barrels until we're ready to use it on the course."

Bob Welch, Rock Ridge Country Club Newtown, CT

"At Rock Ridge, we have small, native-soil tees that get a lot of traffic. As you can imagine, many of them were suffering from severe compaction, which naturally affected the health and vigor of the turfgrass.

"Rather than leap into total reconstruction, in the fall of '94, we stripped the sod on three of our most problematic tees and rototilled the top eight inches of soil. Next, we added Profile at 200 lbs./1,000 sq. ft. and rototilled it into the root zone mix. After leveling and grading, we sodded the surface.

"We had used Profile in the past on isolated dry spots on some of our tees and seemed to have some success with the product, so we had high expectations. But now, two seasons later, only one of the three tees—the ladies' tee with the least amount of traffic—seems to be at all improved. And I'm wondering if our early success with those dry spots was due more to our cultural practices than to the Profile.

"Needless to say, I'm not terribly pleased with the results and don't plan to use the product again."

Jud Smith, Orange Hills Country Club Orange, CT

"Here, at Orange Hills, we've been working to improve the porosity, infiltration rates, and drainage of our heavily trafficked native-soil greens, which range from 40 to 70 years old.

"Since 1993, we've deep drilled all our greens each spring and Verti-Drained them each fall, adding a conventional aerification right before stress time.

"We topdressed after each of these aerification procedures, but no matter how hard we tried, we couldn't completely fill those aerification holes—not until the spring of '95 when we decided to use the Floyd-McKay Drill 'n Fill

Aerifier to introduce a mixture of sand and Isolite into the soil profile.

"The percentage of Isolite we used ranged from 10 to 50 percent, depending on the severity of each green's condition. Basically, the more fine textured the soil, the higher the percentage of Isolite we used.

"Each hole, we hoped, would act like a drywell, with the Isolite absorbing the moisture from the surrounding soil and the sand aiding evaporation.

"Unfortunately, with last summer being the driest in 50 years, we weren't able to see any significant improvements in the turf.

"One observation, however, was that in the mixtures where we used a higher percentage of Isolite, it took the turf an unusually long time to grow over the aerification holes. In fact, on our three worst greens, it took almost a full two months for the holes to fill in.

"Observing the greens this spring, they appear to be slightly drier. We've been able to play them sooner after a rain, which is definitely a step in the right direction.

"Right now, we're planning to continue to do one drill and fill and two conventional aerifications each year."

Dennis Petruzzelli, Lakeover National Golf Club Bedford Hills, NY

"Our recently built, USGA-spec'ed greens are an 80-percent sand/20-percent peat mix, with native soil collars. Because no barrier was placed between the green and collar areas, the dry, sandy greens act as a wick and absorb all the moisture from the surrounding soil.

"To try to encourage moisture retention in the collars, I decided to amend the soil with Profile. In '94 and '95, we aerified the collars four times each year, brushing a heavy Profile topdressing into the holes.

"Last season, we did see a decline in the wilt, but I'd have to say it's still a problem. Installing a mist system to supplement our two-speed green/bank irrigation heads, may be our only solution."

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MetGCSA's 1996 Invitational Promises Double the Pleasure, Double the Fun

Met members will have a doubly good time on May 28, when Winged Foot Golf Club and Superintendent Bob Alonzi host the 1996 Invitational Tournament—on both the East and West courses.

"I'm pleased that we can accommodate those superintendents who have been shut out of the Invitational in past years," says Bob of this unusual opportunity.

One of the most renowned courses in the world, this A.W. Tillinghast-designed gem has been the site of four U.S. Opens—in 1929, 1959, and 1974, and most recently the famous Zoeller/Norman playoff in 1984. In August 1997, Winged Foot will be hosting another major tournament: the PGA Championship, which will be hotly contested on the West Course.

Coursewide Improvements

The entire parcel of land owned by Winged Foot is only 278 acres, which isn't much considering it's a 36-hole complex. But that doesn't prevent the two courses from earning top rankings nationwide: The West Course is in the top 10 and the East Course in the top 30, nationally—with much of the original Tillinghast design and charm still intact.

"The only major changes have been to the tees," says Bob. "Some have been added, some enlarged to accommodate the increased golf demand.

"Our greens and fairways haven't been modernized," he continues, "but over the years, we did restore two greens: #10 west green in 1973 and #6 east green in 1986. On #6, the pitch had become so severe that it was essentially unplayable. So in the fall of '86, we cut out the sod in one-foot squares, and after reshaping the surface of the green, we put the squares back like a puzzle. By the following spring, the green was fully healed, with barely a hint that anything had changed."

Other modifications have included in-house restoration of bunkers to bring back the original Tillinghast capes—or fingers—that had been altered or destroyed by the elements over time.

Drainage has been upgraded as needed and the irrigation system dramatically improved—with the installation of numerous state-of-the-art bells and whistles.

The new greens system, for instance, is not part of the main irrigation. Bob explains with great excitement that each head is controlled individually with a syringe system independent of the main. There is also a mist system solely for the greens' perimeters and yet another system for watering the surrounding banks, independent of the greens. All that's left to be done, at this point, is the addition of a triple row system on the East Course's fairways.

A Change for the Worse

One of biggest—but certainly not best—changes to the Winged Foot courses over the years has been the loss of hundreds of Elm trees to Dutch Elm Disease. But in Bob's tenure as superintendent, he's suffered the most highly publicized—and devastating—of tree losses: the world-renowned Elm on the East Course's 10th hole.

"It was the worst day of my career when we had to take down that Elm," says Bob. "The 10th hole east was one of the most photographed holes around before that tree succumbed to Dutch

Elm Disease."

Known as the golf tree of the world, articles were written describing the tree's beauty. When it died in 1994, its "obituary" made *The New York Times*, not to mention a long list of industry trade journals.

"Losing Elms hasn't necessarily changed the playability of these courses, but it's definitely affected the aesthetics," laments Bob.

For the Birds

In addition to the course's trees and their care, Bob holds a high regard for wildlife. A member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, Bob considers himself the most active noncertified bird activist known to man. "We joined the Audubon program hoping for certification in the near future, but our limited acreage doesn't allow us the latitude to leave a lot of ungroomed and wildlife-friendly areas, which is one of the program requirements," says Bob.

Nonetheless, Bob has bluebird, purple martin, and wood duck boxes—as well as bat condominiums—scattered about the courses. And right outside his office window are a variety of feeders.

Also in sync with the Audubon program is Bob's IPM program, in

Work Smarts

The Good Word About Gypsy Moths

Rest assured. This season shouldn't be a killer—when it comes to gypsy moth infestations, anyway. At least that's the official word from three area experts: Ted Kozlowski, Westchester County forester; Ken Welch, assistant entomologist for the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station; and Robert Herberger, state forester for the New York State Department of Conservation.

Though they acknowledge there will be localized "hot spots" throughout the region, there won't be any widespread outbreaks this year—thanks, in part it seems, to the wet spring.

The rains have made a perfect breeding ground for the Japanese-born, caterpillar-killing fungus *Entomophaga Maimaiga*, which will go a long way toward thwarting both low- and high-density gypsy moth populations—now and possibly well into the future. But only time will tell.

MICHAEL COOK
Alpine, the Care of Trees

which he consciously avoids excessive chemical applications by closely monitoring the courses to pinpoint—and *then* react to—the early stages of disease and insect problems. Prescheduled, preventive treatments don't exist at Winged Foot.

Industry Changes—and Challenges

Since his start in the business 35 years ago, Bob has seen tremendous changes in the golf course management industry—and especially in the superintendent's job itself. "What began as an occupation, for guys like me who love being outside, has turned into a very competitive field," says Bob. "Golf course superintendents have always worked long hours, experiencing the beauty of Mother Nature at sunup and sundown, but now the pressure is much greater.

"We went to turf school," continues Bob, "to learn how to grow and maintain grass, but today's standards have forced us to spend most of our time preventing disasters while we constantly

push the turf to the limit. We water sparingly and fertilize less trying to create fast green speeds to keep our members happy."

Despite these new job realities, Bob says he still enjoys his work: "Our work is not redundant. The weather is unpredictable, with late March and April snows, sudden and damaging windstorms, droughts, rainy periods. These all command daily evaluation and readjustment of our routine maintenance schedules. I thrive on the challenges nature creates—and that sense of accomplishment when I've successfully met those challenges."

Now What?

After 32 years as a superintendent at four different clubs: Rye Golf Club for three years, Burning Tree Country Club for 11 years, Fairview Country Club for five years, and Winged Foot Golf Club for 13 years, what does Bob do from here?

Bob's response: "Stay healthy, continue to work hard at my job, and find

more time to give something back to the community." One of Bob's current community involvements is serving as president of the Westchester County Cooperative Extension. "Giving time is as important as giving money," says Bob, "because someone needs to help determine how the money is best used."

Born in Italy, Bob moved to the U.S. with his family when he was 12, living in Port Chester and then Greenwich. He and his wife, Kim, of 29 years have raised four children—Jennifer, Robie, Dana, and Cassie—and have lived in Greenwich for the past 21 years.

Also important members of the family are their two dogs: Leftovers, a mutt, and Oscar, an English Setter. "Both earn their keep," says Bob, "by chasing geese at Winged Foot."

Bob's parting advice to Invitational goers: "Be like me and enjoy the day, but don't take the game too seriously."

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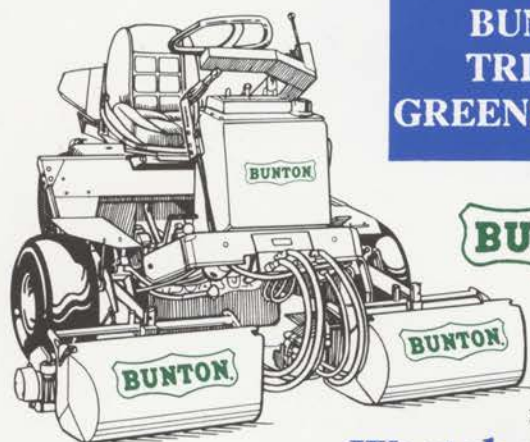
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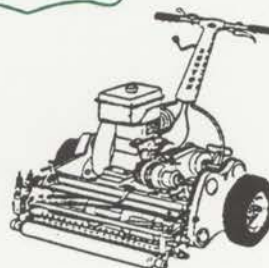


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Siwanoy Thaws for April Meeting

It took the Met's April meeting at Siwanoy to finally chase the snow away and get spring on track. Though less than five days before the meeting, parts of Long Island and Connecticut had more than 10 inches of snow, on Monday the 15th, the skies were clear, and temps hit a torrid 58 degrees. The golf course was surprisingly green and very playable. A welcome sight, indeed, for the 88 golfers competing in our Two-Ball Qualifier and Two-Man Best Ball Event.

Leading the way in the Best Ball tourney were:

Two-Man Best Ball

Low Gross Winners

- 74 John Carlone, *Middle Bay CC* /Tim O'Neill, *CC of Darien*
 75 Peter Bly, *Brooklawn CC*/John Gallagher, *Racebrook CC*
 76 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway CC*/Mark Millett, *Old Oaks CC*

Low Net Winners

- 63 Joe Stahl, *Metro Milorganite*/Jeff Weld, *Bayer Corporation*
 65 Bob Nielsen, *Bedford Golf & Tennis Club*/Joe Camberato, *Sleepy Hollow CC*
 65 Skip Deubel, *Tuckahoe Turf Farms*/John Apple, *Westchester Ford Tractor*
 66 Scott Apgar, *Metro Milorganite*/John Farrell, *Barenbrug USA/Garfield William Division*

At each of our monthly meetings, we're offering an opportunity for players to win a cash prize for themselves and the Scholarship and Research Fund. All they have to do is make a hole in one! Unfortunately, no one had an "ace" at Siwanoy. Those who came awfully close were:

Closest to the Pin

- #6 Greg Moran, *Lesco, Inc.* #11 Mike Medonis, *Bonnie Briar CC*

Longest Drive

- #5 Mark Millett, *Old Oaks CC* #10 Yogi Dawson, *Rolling Hills CC*

Two-Ball Qualifiers and First-Round Matches

Along with defending champs Jim McNally and Wayne Remo, 15 teams qualified for the Two-Ball Championship. The First-Round Matches are as follows:

Class A Qualifiers

- | | |
|--|--|
| #1 Jim McNally, <i>Greenrock Corp.</i>
Wayne Remo, <i>Rock Spring Club vs.</i> | #5 Dave Mahoney, <i>Siwanoy CC</i>
Dennis Petruzzelli, <i>Lakeover Ntl vs.</i> |
| #16 Gary Arlio, <i>North Jersey CC</i>
Bob DeMarco, <i>Powelton Club</i> | #12 Dom DiMarzo, <i>Sunningdale CC</i>
Fred Scheyhing, <i>Mount Kisco CC</i> |
| #2 Joe Camberato, <i>Sleepy Hollow CC</i>
Bob Nielsen, <i>Bedford G & T vs.</i> | #6 Tony Grasso, <i>Metropolis CC</i>
Greg Wojick, <i>Greenwich CC vs.</i> |
| #15 Scott Niven, <i>The Stanwich Club</i>
Larry Pakkala, <i>Woodway CC</i> | #11 Steve Renzetti, <i>Wykagyl CC</i>
Scott Tretera, <i>Elmwood CC</i> |
| #3 John Carlone, <i>Middle Bay CC</i>
Tim O'Neill, <i>CC of Darien vs.</i> | #7 Peter Bly, <i>Brooklawn CC</i>
John Gallagher, <i>Racebrook CC vs.</i> |
| #14 Tim Garceau, <i>The Tuxedo Club</i>
Ernie Steinhoffer, <i>The Nevele CC</i> | #10 Dennis Flynn, <i>Brae Burn CC</i>
Peter Rappoccio, <i>Silber Spring CC</i> |
| #4 Jim Calladio, <i>Milbrook Club</i>
Tony Girardi, <i>Rockrimmon CC vs.</i> | #8 Bob Alonzi, <i>Winged Foot GC</i>
Joe Alonzi, <i>Westchester CC vs.</i> |
| #13 Tim Moore, <i>Knollwood CC</i>
Todd Polidor, <i>Heritage Hills CC</i> | #9 Ron Demkovich, <i>Westchester Cty GC</i>
Tony Savone, <i>Quaker Ridge GC</i> |

Class C Qualifiers

- #1 Joe Stahl, *Metro Milorganite*
Jeff Weld, *Bayer Corporation vs.*
- #8 Frank Amodio, *Valley View Grnhses*
Dennis DeSanctis, *Wilfred MacDonald*
- #2 John Apple, *Westchester Ford Tractor*
Skip Deubel, *Tuckahoe Turf Farms vs.*
- #7 Dave Griffin, *Down to Earth*
Al Tretera, *Turf Products Corp.(CT)*
- #3 Scott Apgar, *Metro Milorganite*
John Farrell, *Barenbrug USA vs.*
- #6 Jeff Rogers, *Robert Baker Comps.*
Owen Regan, *Tee and Green Sod*
- #4 Dan Cancelleri, *J.A. Jackson Corp.*
Greg Moran, *Lesco, Inc. vs.*
- #5 Bob Lippman/Bob Lippman Jr.
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