



# TEE<sup>TO</sup> GREEN



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Metropolitan Golf Course  
Superintendents Association

## President's Message

### Building Better Bridges

**A**s I write this article, summer is two-thirds over, and as usual, it's been a lot of fun. We've had warm weather, limited rainfall, and the kind of weekend weather most people (except the superintendent) dream about—blue skies, hardly a cloud, and lots of sun. (Do you detect a note of cynicism here??)

For most of us on the board, Mother Nature isn't the only thing that's kept us on our toes this summer. There's been a lot brewing in our association—and among regional chapters.

#### Regional Bridge Building

As most of you must know by now, we've nominated Country Club of Darien Superintendent and former MetGCSA President Tim O'Neill as a candidate for GCSAA director. Though we've long known the importance of fostering strong ties and lines of communication with regional associations, Tim's candidacy has made this all the more clear. His success depends on support not only from our association, but from surrounding chapters, as well.

The GCSA of New Jersey is the first association in our area to try to encourage communication among chapters in the region. They recently invited the executive committees of the MetGCSA, Connecticut AGCS, (continued on page 2)

## Special Feature

### MetGCSA Goes the Extra Mile in Making NYC Putting Green Project a Success

**A** call from Golf Course Architect Ron Cutlip was all it took for GCSAA chapter liaison John Carlone to rally a group of volunteers for a unique opportunity—and the ultimate turfgrass management challenge: building, maintaining, and then dismantling a putting green in the heart of New York City for the Rockefeller Center Flower and Garden Show.

Held July 16 to August 2, the event drew more than 1 million people, with the green attracting at least 500 putters daily and numerous special events: HGTV (Home and Garden Network) used the green to film a 30-second commercial—which took about an hour; the New York Yankee grounds crew did the Macarena on it; and NBC's Al Roker broadcast the evening weather from the green.

What follows is John Carlone's account of the triumphs—and trials—of maintaining a 500-square-foot green in the heart—and heat—of New York City.

#### It All Began

"New York: Just like I pictured it" was the line that I—and many of the more than 20 MetGCSA volunteers—would repeat as we worked double-time to do the near-impossible: keep a newly sodded, heavily trafficked putting green alive in Rockefeller Center.

We got involved with the project when Ron Cutlip, the budding NYC-based designer (he lives there because of his wife's career as a Rockette at Radio City Music Hall) proposed building a

golf green at the Flower and Garden Show and contacted GCSAA looking for assistance in bringing his idea to life.

GCSAA recommended the Met because of our proximity to NYC, and being the chapter liaison, Ron contacted me. We first met at the Rockefeller site in March. From what I understood, Ron wanted help in locating construction materials and in maintaining the green. It sounded interesting, and I sensed I might be able to rally volunteers like Winged Foot did (continued on page 6)

## Also in This Issue

② Member News

⑤ Spotlight on Our Upcoming Meeting Sites and Their Supers

⑨ Invitational Tourney Winners Announced . . . Mahopac Meeting Results . . . and Up-to-the-Minute Two-Ball Results

**Meeting Reminders:** September 14 Meeting and Met Area Team Championship Final Round Qualifier at Burning Tree. October 5 Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney at Woodway Country Club.



## Building Better Bridges

and Long Island GCSA to a meeting hosted by Mike Miner at Montammy Golf Club.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss local and national concerns that affect each of us. Though the Met was the only other regional group represented that day, we did discuss the merits of gathering entire executive committees, rather than just association presidents, at a future date. Our hope is that this would provide a more representational view of the issues and concerns common to our various association members.

With this in mind, we are hoping to generate enough interest to hold an inaugural meeting at the Met Area Team Championship being held at Connecticut Golf Club on October 13.

We'd welcome any ideas or suggestions that would assist us in building these regional bridges.

### Networking at Work—Again

The executive committees of the GCSA of New Jersey and the MetGCSA recently participated in an "open floor" panel discussion. Basically, we talked for an hour about a wide range of topics—everything from BioJect use to growth

regulator applications. The open forum continued through the day as we played golf and finally shared dinner. I've talked up networking before. This was a prime example of its many merits. The forum offered all who attended a unique opportunity to share their trials, tribulations, and successes with others. I challenge the MetGCSA to organize similar opportunities for our general membership.

### 'Tis the Season—Not to Be Merry

The superintendent's season is always filled with professional obligations and activities. So much so, that sometimes we forget to carve out time for fun and leisure with our families. The Met's annual Summer Social and Picnic are two events designed to help you do just that. If you weren't able to attend one or both this year, do yourself a favor and plan to come next year. They're great fun—for you and the ones who are there behind the scenes supporting you through this not-so-merry season.

Just a friendly reminder: If what you're doing doesn't seem fun anymore, make it fun!

EARL F. MILLETT  
President

### Notable Notes

### Special Recognition

Greenwich Country Club Superintendent **Greg Wojick** and his green chairman, George Williams, were selected to compete July 6 in the PGA TOUR's Quad City Classic Pro-Am event at Oakwood Country Club in Moline, IL.

Greg and his chairman were one of 10 teams selected nationwide to participate in this Employer/Superintendent Recognition Program, sponsored by GCSAA and Deere & Company. The selections were made based on essays the superintendents submitted about their employer.

Says Greg about the program: "GCSAA and Deere provided an excellent experience for the supers and their employers—one that allowed us the unique opportunity to spend time together at a PGA TOUR facility and to better understand each other's rolls and responsibilities."

### Many Thanks

A long overdue thank you to Honorary MetGCSA member **Roger King** for donating \$150 to our Scholarship & Research Fund.

### Birth

Congratulations to Patterson Club Superintendent **Jon Jennings** and his wife, **Susan**, on the birth of their son, Theodore Law, on June 27.

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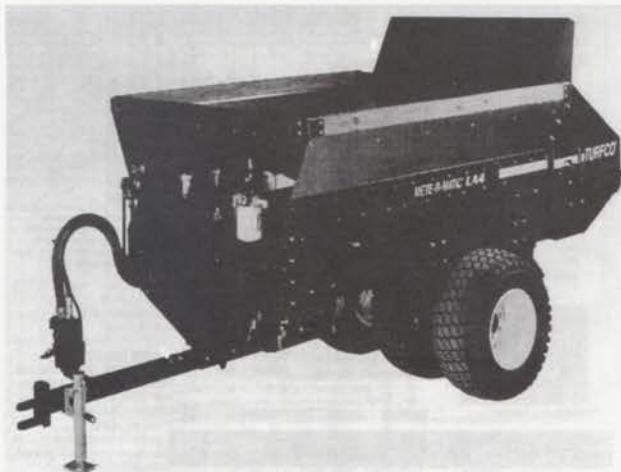
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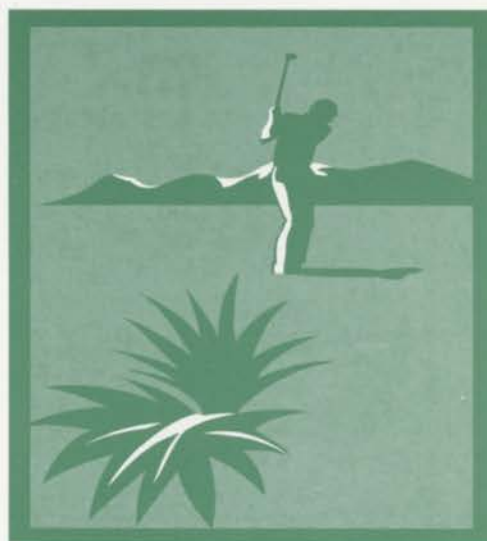
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## Gary Glazier to Host Met Area Team Championship's Final Qualifier

About all I do this time of year, other than concentrate on the golf course, is fish," says Burning Tree Superintendent Gary Glazier. But the intensity of the weather hasn't made this the best summer to be off casting for the "big one." So, instead, this second-year superintendent is focusing on hosting one of the big ones: the final round of the Met Area Team Championship Qualifier on September 14.

Like many of his peers, Gary would rather be on water than on turf at the end of a long, tough day—so much so that last January he and his fiancé, Tracey, bought a house in Newtown, CT, located across the street from a brook stocked full of trout and rock bass.

### Water Woes

Right now, Gary would like to bring a little of that brook water back to Greenwich to replenish his rapidly diminishing irrigation pond. Like his predecessors,

water has been one of Gary's major concerns since taking over at "The Tree." There's either too little or too much, with the club's proximity to wetlands.

### The Master Plan

Originally a Hal Purdy design, the course is undergoing slow but steady renovations under the direction of Golf Course Architect Stephen Kay. The renovations include reshaping bunkers and reconstructing at least one-third of the course's more low-lying, shaded greens with poor drainage.

Gary's also hired Canadian-based Arbor Com to employ a process that will aid him in "shedding light" on his greens without taking down entire trees.

### In Appreciation of Mother Nature

Gary's commitment to the club extends beyond the turf. This summer, he volunteered to meet with the club's summer campers three times a month, in-



*Burning Tree CC  
Superintendent  
Gary Glazier*

volving them in activities designed to heighten their sensitivity to nature and the environment.

Gary credits Hickory Ridge Super Bob Razzala for teaching him, in his younger years, to appreciate the outdoors.

"Without Bob's influence," says Gary, "who knows what field I may have chosen. He and another super, Fairview's Richie Marcks, taught me almost everything I know about turf management."

### Golfers Take Note

Gary's word to wise on the 14th: "Keep it straight or get frustrated struggling to scramble. And look for me, fishing pole in hand, at one of our bodies of water here at Burning Tree."

SCOTT C. APGAR

Metro Milorganite, Inc.

## Larry Pakkala Brings Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney to Woodway

MetGCSA members will convene October 5 at Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT, for the annual Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament. Hosting the event is the club's long-tenured property manager, Larry Pakkala.

Anyone who's spent time in the area knows that Woodway is one of the finer golf courses in Fairfield County. To maintain its status, this 82-year-old club is embarking on some major renovations: a new Clubhouse, two new holes, and restoration work designed to return two more holes to their original Willie Park Jr.-design.

With the club since 1983, Larry is clearly passionate about his work and the industry. "Not a day goes by that I don't stop and think about how glad I am to have chosen this profession. I love the game of golf and what it offers."

And Larry has offered the profession at least as much as it's given him: He served as the Met's president, spending 11 years on the board and chairing or

sitting on numerous committees; he was the founding president of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation; and on a more personal level, he's been a mentor to and strong advocate of the many past assistants—five in all—who have moved on to their own jobs.

### Career Building

Born into a golfing family in Pittsburgh, PA, Larry's spent the past 27 years at golf clubs in three different states and one tropical isle.

After earning an associate's in Landscape Architecture, Larry's first stop in the business was Philadelphia Country Club. During his tenure there, he completed the Turfgrass Management program at Penn State and accepted an assistant's position at the prestigious Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, PA.

His first superintendent's job was at Bermuda's Mid Ocean Club, which Larry recounts as "a tremendous—and unforgettable—learning experience." After four years there, however, he was



*Woodway CC  
Property Manager  
Larry Pakkala*

ready to return to the States and accepted the superintendent's job at St. Andrews

Golf Club in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, NY—his last stop before Woodway.

### Personally Speaking

A mover and a shaker both inside and outside the turf industry, Larry's now past president of the Darien Lion's Club, which raised more than \$120,000 for local charities last year.

But Larry's far from all work and no play. He carves out time to golf, jog, ski during the winter—and of course spend time with his wife of 23 years, Carole, and his daughters Christina, a '98 graduate of her Mom and Dad's alma mater, Penn State, and Lauren, who's entering her senior year at Darien High School.

MICHAEL H. COOK JR.

Alpine, the Care of Trees



## MetGCSA Goes the Extra Mile in Making NYC Putting Green Project a Success

for its 1997 PGA Championship.

On June 15, after finalizing the course of events with Ron, I sent a letter to the entire Met membership requesting volunteers. Class A, C, and Affiliate members responded (see list on page 7).

By July 1, I had compiled the list of volunteers and assigned each a night to go into the City and maintain the green. We were ready for action.

### Breaking Ground

Construction began on July 9, more than a week before the event, with 130 yards of crushed stone dumped at the corner of 50th Street and Rockefeller Plaza. Ron brought in LRS Golf Inc. from New Philadelphia, OH, to shape the stone into the green base. Next, Ron had 11 tons of 85:15 construction mix spread over the crushed stone to act as a root zone. Because the green was temporary, only about three inches of material was placed over the crushed

stone. (This made for some interesting cup changing!)

Three small bunkers were cut into the stone and filled with about two inches of sand, donated by Nassau CC Super Lyman Lambert, who's in the midst of a remodeling project. Also, Jamison Stone of Rockland County created an impressive stone wall and bridge around the entire exhibit.

Last, but certainly not least, on July 13, 600 square feet of bluegrass and 500 square feet of bentgrass sod went down, all donated by DeLea & Sons Sod Farms in East Northport, NY. Thanks to Down to Earth Construction, the sand and first load of sod were delivered to the site and installed.

### A Losing Proposition

After the initial batch of sod was laid, we lightly topdressed and rolled the green, thinking it needed to putt well because several events were going to take place



*Meadow Brook Super John Carlone tests the surface of the New York City putting green.*

on the green. But as people began to putt on it one hour after it went down, I realized the sod wasn't going to survive.

Sure enough, by July 20—just one

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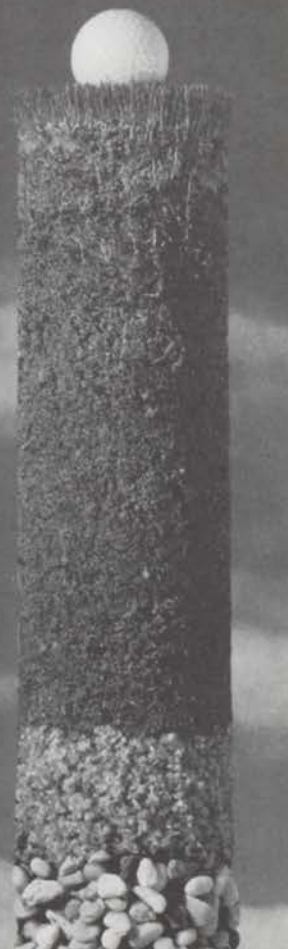
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week later—60 percent of the sod was gone. DeLea & Sons Sod Farms agreed to donate another 300 square feet of sod. They delivered it to me at Meadow Brook the next day, and I transported it to Rockefeller Center, with the help of my assistant, John Genovesi.

Dennis Flynn of Brae Burn was scheduled to work the green that night, so I called him ahead of time to warn him about what was in store. Showing his experience and wisdom, Dennis brought his two strapping young sons—Chris, a MetGCSA Scholarship winner, and 13-year-old Casey—to help with the sod job. Thankfully, it went fast, leaving Dennis and I a little time for a putting contest in which we tied with a 1 for 6 performance. It will probably be the largest gallery Dennis or I ever putt in front of!

If you remember the weather during late July, it was hot and humid. In NYC, nighttime temps were close to 90 degrees. Couple this with 500 people per day putting on the green and . . . you guessed it. . . . another resod job.

On July 29, I drove to DeLea and picked up another 300 square feet of sod. Unfortunately, I was delayed in

getting to New York, so I missed Greenwich CC assistants Paul Boyd and John Gates, who were on duty that night. I had to resod myself and didn't get home until 12:45 a.m.! The only thing that kept me going was knowing this would be the last resodding.

#### The Finale

The last of my 10 round trips into the City—60 miles in all—was on August 3 to remove the remainder of any supplies that I had brought there. By the time I got to the site, the putting green had vanished! Only a few items were left for disposal.

Despite the hard labor, it was an exciting 16 days. I made new friends, and enjoyed being part of a project that had gotten so much press: *The Met Golfer*, *Golf Magazine*, *Golf Course News*, *Sports Illustrated*, and the *USGA Journal*, were some of the many publications that photographed the green.

I hope every member has the chance to be involved in a project as exciting—and worthwhile—as this one clearly was for the MetGCSA.

JOHN CARLONE, CGCS  
The Meadow Brook Club

## Volunteers Recognized

Special thanks to the following volunteers for assisting with this project by donating their time or materials:

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#### Golf Courses

##### Brae Burn Country Club

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##### Country Club of Darien

Tim O'Neill, CGCS

##### Country Club of Fairfield

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##### Greenwich Country Club

Paul Boyd

John Gates

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Matt Lapinski

##### Long Island National Golf Club

Greg DuBois

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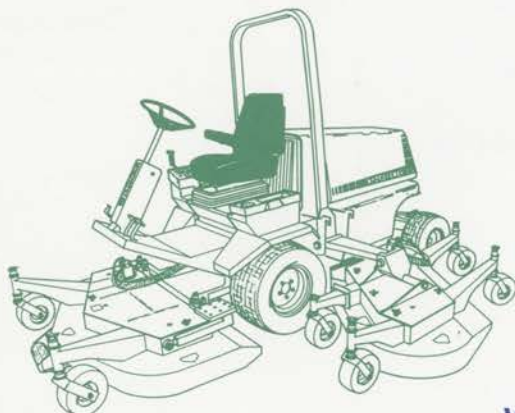
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J. Yochum, J. Levkoff, J. Tomsy
- 58 *Packanack Golf Club*  
D. Vogel, *superintendent*, B. Karalis,  
R. Henson, R. Haight
- 59 *Country Club Fairfield*  
P. Sisk, *superintendent*, B. Bigonette,  
N. Foote, P. Oldershaw

### Low Gross Winners

- 65 *Winged Foot Golf Club*  
B. Alonzi, *superintendent*,  
T. Nieporte, H. Malfa, W. Rose
- 65 *Pelham Country Club*  
J. Wentworth, *superintendent*,  
M. Diffley, G. Griffen, F. Penski
- 65 *Old Oaks Country Club*  
M. Millett, *superintendent*,  
B. Heins, H. Kaye, A. Sonnenblick

### Longest Drive

Paul Glut, Golf Professional  
*The Meadow Brook Club*

Todd Havil, Amateur  
*Packanack Golf Club*

### Closest to the Pin

- John Carlone, Superintendent 10'11"  
*The Meadow Brook Club*
- Reid Henson, Green Chairman 2'6"  
*Packanack Golf Club*
- Russ Haight, Club Official 5'6"  
*Packanack Golf Club*

## Mahopac Meeting Results

### Low Net Winners

- +8 Joe Stahl, *Metro Milorganite, Inc.* +5 Brian Hall, *The Apawamis Club*  
+5 Scott Willand, *Steven Willand, Inc.*

### Low Gross Winners

- 76 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway CC* 77 Scott Niven, *The Stanwich Club*

### Longest Drive

Ernie Steinhoffer, *Lesco, Inc.*

### Closest to the Pin

Tim O'Neill, *CC of Darien* 3'9"

## Up-to-the-Minute Two-Ball Results

### Class A Round 2 Results

- |                           |                 |                                |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Rick Schock/Gregg Stanley | <i>defeated</i> | John O'Keefe/Mike Mongon       |
| John Streeter/Les Kennedy | <i>defeated</i> | Steve Renzetti/Bert Dickinson  |
| Bill Perlee/Greg Moore    | <i>defeated</i> | Larry Pakkala/Scott Niven      |
| John Carlone/Tim O'Neill  | <i>defeated</i> | Chuck Martineau/Fred Scheyhing |

### Affiliate Round 2 Results

- |                         |                 |                               |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Mike Cook/Ken Clear     | <i>defeated</i> | Frank Amodio/Dennis DeSanctis |
| John Currie/Joe Kennedy | <i>TBA</i>      | John Apple/Dan Cancelleri     |

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