

# Tee To Green

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# Tee to Green

### Cover:

Burning Tree Country Club  
Photo courtesy of Gary  
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# President's Message

## Summer: Just Like It Used to Be

*(Well, Almost)*



Ever notice how January and February of every year seem to fly by, while the months of July and August seem to go on forever? As a kid, it used to be the opposite. Summer was filled with fun and went by far too fast.

Since I've been in the golf course business, my fun time has shifted: January and February have become the time to kick back and relax. After all, in the frigid cold, we don't have to worry about heat, humidity, isolated dry spots, and member demands—all those things that make "the season" seem never-ending.

Thankfully, this year, Mother Nature's been kind to us—as if to make up for last summer's severe drought. Plenty of rainfall and lower temperatures have brought back a few of those fond summer memories, when summer was a pleasure, not a dread.

To me, more pleasurable means less stress—on the turf, my family, and myself. I strongly urge everyone to take advantage of this favorable summer weather and do some things that you really enjoy, particularly spending more quality time with loved ones—family and friends.

The Met's August social events—the August 7 Family Picnic and the August 21 Summer Social—were, as always, intended to offer a much-needed break from work. I hope those of you who were able to make it, found them as enjoyable as I did.

### **We're Moving Up in the World**

By now, everyone has received the all-new MetGCSA Membership Directory. I would like to congratulate Communication Committee Co-Chairs Pat Sisk and Steve Renzetti, Membership Committee Chairman Will Heintz, and the Met's Executive Secretary Ineke

## SERIALS

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*John Carlone, CGCS  
MetGCSA President*

Pierpoint for their collaborative efforts on this important association document. I would also like to thank all the advertisers for supporting this valuable membership tool.

Special thanks and congratulations, too, to *Tee to Green* Co-Editors Pat Sisk and Steve Renzetti and Managing Editor Pandora Wojick for the wonderful new design we now have for our publication. Once you've had a chance to feast your eyes on this issue of *Tee to Green*, I think you'll agree that it rivals any publication in our industry.

As always, I'm pleased, and proud, to be part of an association of such forward-thinking professionals. We *all* should be proud.





# STRUCTURING *Reconstruction* on Your Course

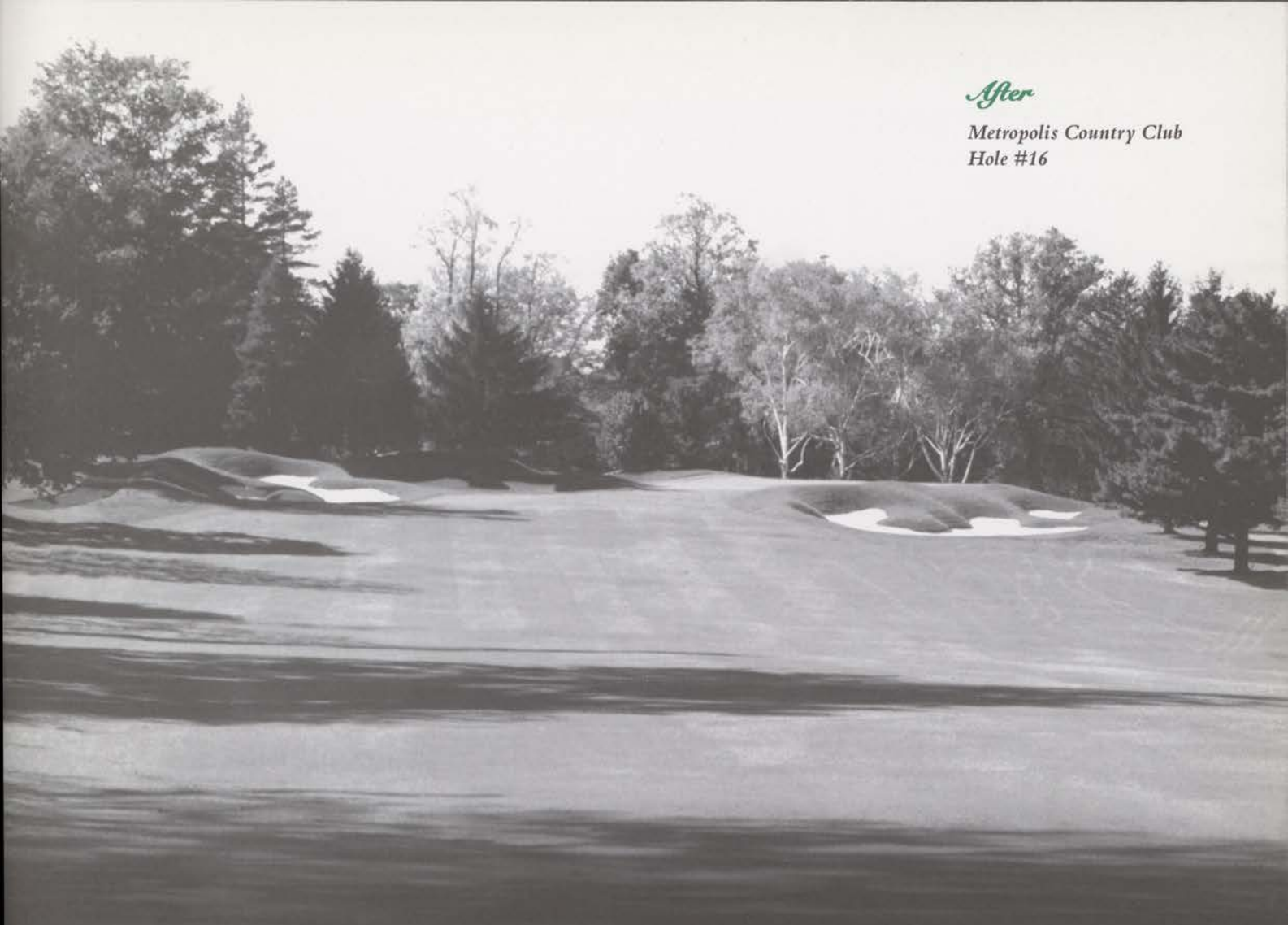
by Scott E. Niven, CGCS

## *Local Superintendents and Architects Help Future Renovators Steer Clear of the Pitfalls*

These days, golf course renovations seem to be more the rule than the exception, particularly among Met area golf courses. A survey conducted last fall by the Metropolitan Golf Association (MGA) revealed that 86 of the 100 respondents had undertaken a significant renovation project at their club within the past three to four years.

With renovation work still at an all-time high, we thought it might be interesting to take a look at why so many courses in our area are rushing to renovate—and how they tackle reconstruction projects on their course. In the article that follows, you'll find lessons learned and a host of pragmatic advice culled from several golf course architects and a dozen local superintendents who've had extensive renovation experience.

Especially helpful, we think, is the accompanying sidebar, which offers a forum for survey participants' uncensored thoughts about golf course reconstruction. Accompanying their comments, you'll find a list of work they completed and the architect they used—a handy reference guide for anyone contemplating reconstruction.



## To Renovate or Not to Renovate: The Influencing Factors

So why the sudden surge in reconstruction? The three architects we talked to—Geoffrey Cornish, Ken Dye, and Stephen Kay—all agreed that an abundance of cash in the local economy is the primary force driving reconstruction activity. “Furthermore,” Mr. Kay adds, “many of the golf courses in the Met area are 70-plus years old; at that point, they begin to deteriorate, and they need work.”

Matters are made worse, he concedes, by increased media coverage of golf events, where the courses are spectacular. “Seeing these courses on TV and in magazines creates that unrealistic expectation in members that their courses should—and can—be a mirror image.”

From Geoffrey Cornish’s perspective, Americans never stand still. “When they achieve ‘perfection,’ they’re still not satisfied,” he laments, adding in consolation, “But that is why the USA is among the most successful societies in history.” (It’s also the reason our jobs are so stressful!)

Finally, Ken Dye feels that the renova-

tion boom has a lot to do with clubs’ changing demographics. “Clubs today seem to have a higher number of younger members who are ready to spend money and actually welcome changes to their courses,” he notes. And though you’d think peer pressure would have gone out

*In the Met area, bunkers have been the most frequently renovated feature followed by tees and irrigation systems.*

with high school, Ken Dye sites this as a prime motive for course improvements. “Let’s face it,” he says, “clubs with better facilities attract the highest quality new members. When one club in an area undertakes improvements, it puts pressure on neighboring clubs to do the same—or they lose their edge in attracting high-quality members.”

Generally speaking, however, most large-scale course renovations are borne out of a membership’s dissatisfaction with various aspects of their facility. Interestingly, our personal survey of local clubs also showed another instigating factor: About half the time it’s the golf course superintendent who plants the seed for a renovation; the other half of the time, it’s the green chairman or green committee who drives the decision.

## First Things First: Choosing an Architect

Whether your goal in renovating is to improve playability, maintainability, or aesthetics, the first and undoubtedly most important step in beginning a golf course reconstruction project is to choose a golf course architect.

Our own survey indicated that architects do not actively market their services and instead allow “word of mouth” and their good work to bring jobs their way. Generally, either superintendents or a specially appointed committee seek out an architect, and they’ll look at multiple



# Food for Thought

## Veteran Renovators Offer Words of Wisdom for Anyone Considering Reconstruction on Their Course

**Joe Alonzi, CGCS: 914-967-6000, ext. 360**

Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

**Golf Course Architect:** Ken Dye

**Scope of Work:** Built two new greens, 18 tees, and 57 bunkers.

**Words to the Wise:** "Try to budget for the unexpected. Allow 15 percent for contingencies."

"Specify exact blueprints, and expect the contractor to stick to those blueprints."

"Keep the members updated on progress and especially holdups."

**Sean Cain: 914-723-3238**

Sunningdale Country Club, Scarsdale, NY

**Golf Course Architect:** Stephen Kay

**Scope of Work:** Built nine new tees, rebuilt all bunkers.

**Words to the Wise:** "When working with contractors, keep in mind that you're the one who will have to manage what they've created once they're gone. So be sure to see that the work is done right. Your aim is to look good for the next 10 to 20 years."

**Jim Fulwider, CGCS: 914-949-0736**

Century Country Club, Purchase, NY

**Golf Course Architect:** Gil Hanse

**Scope of Work:** Rebuilt all bunkers.

**Words to the Wise:** "Insist on using quality materials (soil, sod, sand, etc.). Realize that the burden of responsibility always rests with you, the superintendent. What you don't see installed may not be done the way you expect it to be. Quality control is very important."

"Document your work with before-and-after photos."

**Tony Girardi, CGCS: 914-764-5010**

Rockrimmon Country Club, Stamford, CT

**Golf Course Architect:** Roger Rulewich

**Scope of Work:** Rebuilt nine bunkers, 14 tees, and created many new cart paths.

**Words to the Wise:** "Be sure you have majority membership support and the necessary funding before you embark on a project."

"Select an architect whose style fits your club."

"Don't let capital projects interfere with your annual capital equipment purchasing plans."

**Tony Grasso: 914-949-0375**

Metropolis Country Club, White Plains, NY

**Golf Course Architect:** Finger Dye Spann

**Scope of Work:** Built one new green, 10 tees, 60 bunkers, and three fairways.

**Words to the Wise:** "Don't try to save money. Do it right the first time. Going over budget and doing it right is better than being on budget and doing it wrong. It will cost you in the long run."

candidates before settling on "Mr. Right." But these days, according to Mr. Cornish, no club's search will be easy. With so many renovations in the works, many of the architects we all know and love are too busy to take on another project—particularly if you can't wait to get started.

According to the MGA survey, however, there are quite a few architects and contractors out there to choose from. In fact, among the 86 courses that did renovations, there were 29 different golf course architects and 31 different contractors.

## Contracting With a Qualified Contractor

Choosing a contractor is right up there in importance to selecting an architect. Says Ken Dye, "Do your homework. Who you choose to work with can make you or break you."

Contractors, after all, are the people who, quite literally, make the Earth move. One false move, and you could have a big problem on your hands. Anyone who's renovated will tell you that most problems with a project are directly related to the work done by the contractor.

Be sure the contractor you select is second to none, even if it means stalling the start of the project—or paying a little more than average—to get the company you want. Your architect can usually provide a list of qualified construction companies.

## The Pluses of Advanced Planning

The 140-member American Society of Golf Course Architects (ASGCA) strongly recommends that any remodeling activities begin with a Master Plan detailing all proposed changes to your golf course.

Also key, they say, is that it be voted in to the club's Bylaws. By doing this, you will guard against having a hodgepodge of renovation work driven by the whims and desires of every new green chairman who walks through the door.

It also assures continuity in design features, defines the scope of work, details all costs, and establishes a timetable for completion. Depending on the scope of the project and whether a club is doing a lot of the work in-house, the timetable can vary greatly. The MetGCSA members we

*Half of the superintendents polled said their normal high standards of course conditioning suffered when their project was in progress.*

polled have completed their renovations in as little as a few months and as long as eight years.

## The Effects

How does this type of work affect golf course superintendents, their staff, and the club membership? All but one of the superintendents surveyed said they enjoyed overseeing this type of work, and the golf course architects all indicated that the superintendent's input was "extremely important" to their success.

The downside of doing reconstruction is that it takes a lot of extra time and input from the super, which, in turn, puts added



*Before*

Bedford Golf & Tennis Club  
Hole #4



**Dave Mahoney: 914-961-8698**

Siwanoy Country Club, Bronxville, NY

**Golf Course Architect:** Arthur Hills

**Scope of Work:** Built one new green, rebuilt all tees and bunkers, constructed two ponds and fairways.

**Words to the Wise:** "Hire the best architect and contractors you can. If they have a proven track record of working together, so much the better."

"Visit other sites that have completed similar projects."

"Have your committee view the project in progress on a regular basis. We held weekly walk-throughs—rain, shine, or mud. This really helped in getting extra work done, in solving weekly problems or scheduling, and it gave our group a real sense of what it took to get from old to new."

**Chuck Martineau: 914-273-3755**

Whippoorwill Club, Armonk, NY

**Golf Course Architect:** Ken Dye

**Scope of Work:** Built four new tees, rebuilt all bunkers, renovated several cart paths.

**Words to the Wise:** "Require architects to study the original design of your course."

"Make sure drains are done right and enough soil is placed over rock and blasted areas. Take pictures of problem areas. Get your contractor back to make repairs, if necessary."

**Mike Mongon: 203-531-8910**

Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT

**Golf Course Architect:** Roger Rulewich

**Scope of Work:** Rebuilt 25 bunkers, the rest to be finalized this fall.

When I was at Arcola Country Club, I also used Golf Course Architect Roger Rulewich; our work included rebuilding all bunkers, raising one fairway, building a pond, installing new irrigation and 2.5 miles of drainage.

**Words to the Wise:** "Start early in the season, and try to confine work to one hole at a time—from start to finish—before moving on to the next. In all my years of experience, the complaints I got, more often than not, related to work being done at different stages on several holes. I can't emphasize enough: Start early, and work in smaller areas."

**Bob Nielsen: 914-234-3779**

Bedford Golf & Tennis Club, Bedford, NY

**Golf Course Architect:** Ken Dye

**Scope of Work:** Built three new greens, 24 tees, 64 bunkers, six fairways, numerous mounds, with three holes to go.

**Words to the Wise:** "Talk to superintendents at clubs who have just completed a renovation. You always forget something, and they will help limit the number of oversights."

"Talking to superintendents about the contractor and architect you're considering for the job is a must. You can save yourself a lot of headaches."

stress on golf course maintenance staff. The more work done in-house, the worse the pressure on staff becomes to keep course conditions up while the project is in progress.

Half of the superintendents polled said they had some trouble rising to the challenge: Their normal high standards of course conditioning suffered when their project was in progress.

Geoffrey Cornish cautions superintendents about allowing conditions to slide: "Please realize that when quality drops on the holes remaining in play, the superintendent receives all the blame regardless of heavy construction proceeding around him—even the noise becomes an issue.

"My observations prejudice me into believing," he continues, "that keeping the membership informed does a lot to obviate this."

Speaking of the membership, for them, reconstruction can be tough going. On average, 20 percent of clubs experience some "political unrest," and even animosity, when a major project is in progress. Despite this disheartening statistic, architects feel that, when all is said and done, 95 to 100 percent of those golf clubs are highly satisfied with the results of their renovation work.

"For the superintendent," says Ken Dye, "renovations are exhilarating, they add experience, and let's face it, they look good on your resume."

Maybe that's why, despite the trials and tribulations of large-scale renovations,

two-thirds of the superintendents surveyed said they would still welcome more work of this nature.

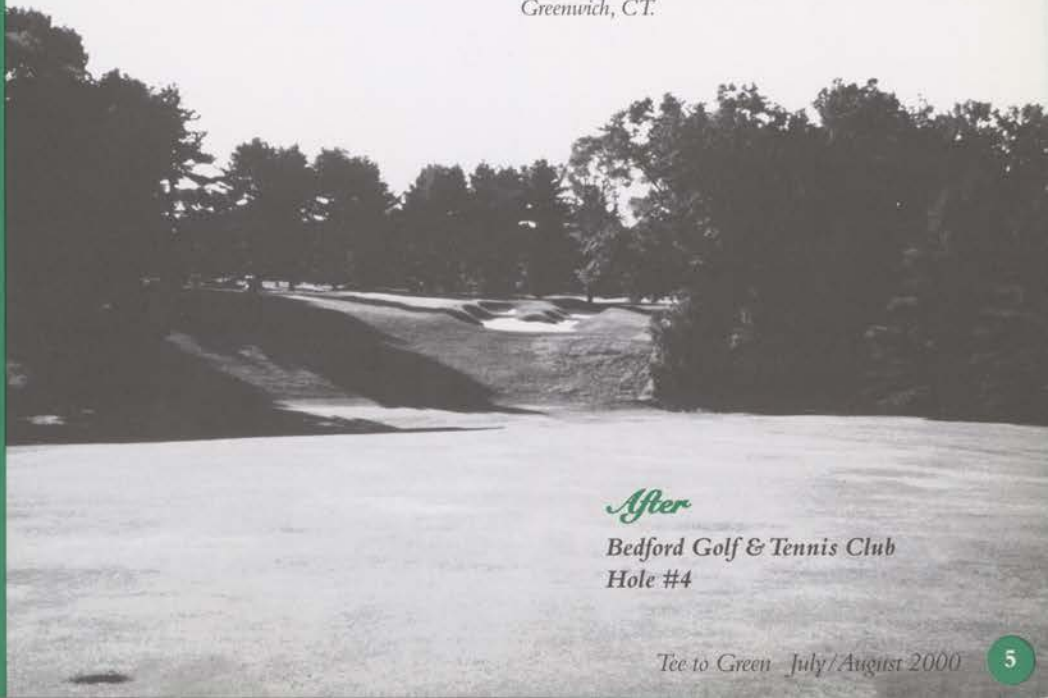
*Fifty percent of the time the superintendent selected the architect; the other half of the time, a committee made the choice after interviewing multiple candidates.*

## In the End

If your club hasn't already jumped on the renovation bandwagon, it's very likely that it won't be long before it does. After all, continually upgrading your course is the only way to keep pace with the ever-rising standards being set by the many great golf clubs in the New York Metropolitan area.

To guide golf clubs' efforts, the American Society of Golf Course Architects has developed a one-day seminar to help clubs chart a reasonable course for their renovations. Titled "Remodeling University: A Short Course for a Better Course," it was offered this past spring in our area and in various cities around the country. If you're planning a renovation at your course, you might want to contact the ASGCA (312-372-7090) to see when they might be running another session. At the very least, be sure to request a copy of their literature on the subject.

*Scott Niven, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT.*



*After*

Bedford Golf & Tennis Club  
Hole #4



## Regional News

### Dr. Jim Baird Joins USGA Green Section Northeast Region



Dave Oatis, director of the USGA Green Section Northeast Region, is pleased to announce that Dr. Jim Baird of Michigan State University joined the USGA

staff this spring as the new agronomist for the Easton, PA, office.

Jim will be filling the spot vacated by Matt Nelson and will be bringing with him his wife, Yunsook, and young daughter Alison. His job will be to visit courses primarily in New York and New Jersey.

Jim has impressive academic credentials and plenty of practical experience. Rumor has it that he's a pretty fair golfer too! Jim received his undergraduate degree from Colorado State University and his M.S. and Ph.D. from Auburn University. He spent four years on the faculty at Oklahoma State University and, more recently, three years on the faculty at Michigan State University.

"Dr. Baird is a tremendous addition to our staff," says Dave Oatis, "and we're thrilled to have him."

In case you haven't heard, Matt Nelson will remain with the USGA and has accepted the position as agronomist in the Northwest Region. In addition to visiting courses in the Northwest, Matt will be once again visiting courses in the Northeast Region along with the Mid-Continent and Southwest Regions this year. Matt currently plans to spend approximately four weeks in the Northeast throughout the course of the season. He'll really be putting on the miles!

## Inside the National

### A Vision for the Future

#### GCSAA Maps Out a Course for 2005

by Tim O'Neill, CGCS

People are always asking me, "So how is it being on the GCSAA Board?" And my answer is, as I believe it always will be, "It's been great!" Truthfully, I've learned a lot about GCSAA, and it's strengthened my belief in the association's mission. I have a tremendous amount of respect for my fellow board members and the GCSAA staff.

The biggest challenges have been time away—and weathering the frustrations of travel. But, then, after a recent flight out of Chicago airport, I realized that no matter how trying a trip might be, things could always be worse. I was chatting with the pilot about our expected weather adventures, and he proceeded to tell me how lucky I was that I hadn't been at O'Hare the day before when they evacuated the control tower after spotting a funnel that resembled a tornado! So yes, things *could* always be worse.

Speaking of tornadoes, I just returned from a whirlwind tour that included a trip to Denver for the summer GCSAA board meeting and a stop at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS, for a day-and-a-half meeting with the Student Resource Group.

I thought you might be interested in some of the topics we discussed, not the least of which are GCSAA's ambitious plans for the future. Here are the highlights.

#### At the Board Meeting

Like most GCSAA board meetings, this one-day session included a full agenda, which began with the customary reports from the officers and a review of the association finances. We also acted on a number of issues. We approved:

- the association environmental mission, goals, and strategies
- regulations regarding caddies and spectators during the GCSAA golf championship
- sponsorship opportunities and potential sponsors

Then we batted around a number of other hot topics. On the list were:

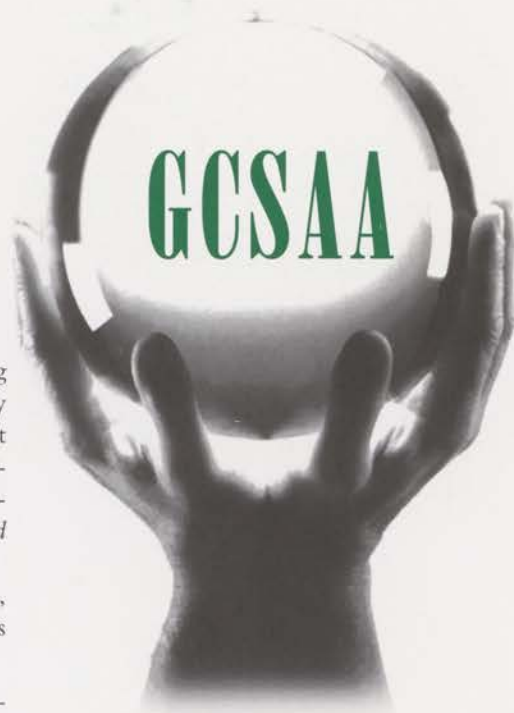
- the Professional Development Initiative (PDI)
- enhancements to the Speakers Bureau Program
- the association internet strategy
- the association's upcoming 75th anniversary celebration
- *Golf Course Management* magazine's standard operating procedures and coverage of the Conference and Show

#### Looking Ahead to 2005

In addition, we reviewed the association's Mission and Vision, which the board approved last October and which projects ahead for the next five years.

The Mission Statement has changed slightly. It used to read, "GCSAA is dedi-





cated to serving its members, advancing their profession, and enriching the quality of golf and the environment." With a slight shift in focus it now says, "GCSAA is dedicated to serving its members, advancing their profession, and enhancing the enjoyment, growth, and vitality of the game of golf."

Taking into account this mission, GCSAA's vision for the year 2005 includes seeing that:

- employers will recognize superintendents as the key to the economic vitality of the facility
- golfers will recognize superintendents as the key to the enjoyment of the game
- the golf community, environmental community, public policy makers, and society will recognize GCSAA as leading the golf community's commitment to protecting and enhancing the environment
- GCSAA members and others in the golf industry will recognize GCSAA as the authoritative source for information and education related to golf course management and will participate in GCSAA programs at record levels

GCSAA has already set in motion a number of strategies for realizing this vision. You'll probably recognize some of them. They include:

- directing a massive and concerted public relations effort to educate and influence employers and influential golfers
- continuing the development and appropriate implementation of the Professional Development Initiative
- capitalizing on the potential of technology, both internally and externally
- aligning chapter and GCSAA initiatives

As an association, the goals for 2005 include:

- increasing membership from approximately 21,000 to 30,000, while securing memberships from superintendents

from 80 percent of the golf courses in the country

- strengthening GCSAA's environmental leadership role among golf and environmental constituents
- building partnerships with leaders of allied golf associations
- becoming a greater presence in turf-related research
- becoming a recognized authority on information and issues related to golf course development, management, and operations by further developing the Conference and Show and use of the internet to deliver information and services
- positioning GCSAA as a dynamic and responsive organization by establishing a greater connection between GCSAA and its members and chapters

The entire Association Plan 2005 was mailed to chapter presidents, newsletter editors, and GCSAA committee members. If you're not among this group and would like a copy of this plan, feel free to contact me at the Country Club of Darien (203-655-9726, ext. 222). Remember, you could also find the outcomes of all our board meetings in the "Members Only" section of the GCSAA website at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org).

### At the Student Resource Group Meeting

Following the board meeting, I was off to Lawrence for my meeting with the Student

Resource Group. As chairman of the group, it's my responsibility to lead discussions about services and programs available to our student members.

The group consisted of 12 student members from across the country. For each, it was their first trip to our association headquarters. Most of the group members were either presidents or officers of their individual student chapters. Although some were still trying to determine their ultimate career path, most felt they would be superintendents about five years after they graduated. One mentioned wanting to be a director of golf for a large facility. Several also mentioned achieving certification as one of their goals.

A number of them discussed the frustration of running a student chapter and getting the participation and commitment from other turf students. The resource group reviewed most all student programs and made recommendations for improvement. We also discussed:

- ways to create and enhance student/superintendent chapter relationships
- enhancements to the student newsletter *Student Links*
- website information related to students

Students also heard Steve Mona, CEO, talk about the status and future of the association and Sandy Queen, CGCS, a member of the Membership Standards Resource Group, discuss the final PDI proposal.

After a tour of headquarters and a day-and-a-half of discussions, the students headed home charged up and ready to leap into the profession.

I left feeling good about these students' enthusiasm for turfgrass management and their commitment to the industry.

*Tim O'Neill is a member of the GCSAA Board of Directors and superintendent at the Country Club of Darien in Darien, CT.*



# 2001 Environmental Steward Award Call for Entries

It's that time again, when golf course superintendents can enter themselves—or nominate another worthy colleague—for one of GCSAA's Environmental Steward Awards.

For the uninitiated, the steward awards seek to recognize the accomplishments of golf course superintendents around the world who have demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship efforts on the golf course. Applicants are evaluated for overall course management in technology use, resource conservation, water quality management, integrated pest management, wildlife/habitat management, and education/outreach.

Three national winners (representing one public, one private, and one resort course facility), an international winner, up to three winners from each of GCSAA's 101 affiliated chapters, and a number of merit winners will be selected for the 2001 awards.

The awards are sponsored by Novartis

Turf & Ornamental Products, Rain Bird, Textron Golf & Turf, and Pursell Technologies in partnership with GCSAA.

Applications for the 2001 awards are available through the GCSAA service center—800-472-7878—and from each of the participating sponsors. You can also find the application on the GCSAA Website at <http://www.gcsaa.org/environ/esaapp01.html>, which gives you the option of completing it and submitting it electronically. Entries are due to GCSAA by October 2, 2000.

If you're planning to nominate someone for one of the awards, you'll need to contact GCSAA by September 8. Call Kristi Humston, GCSAA communications manager, at 800-472-7878, ext. 608, or e-mail her at [khumston@gcsaa.org](mailto:khumston@gcsaa.org).

Those making the nominations will remain anonymous, and nominees will be contacted by GCSAA and provided with an application to be submitted by the October 2 deadline.

Winners will be announced in November and will be formally recognized during GCSAA's 72nd International Golf Course Conference and Show, February 11-18, 2001 in Dallas.

In addition, Rain Bird will honor the top national and international award recipients with a trip for them and their families to attend the 112th New Year's Day Rose Parade in Pasadena, CA.

Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products, Rain Bird, Textron Golf & Turf, and Pursell Technologies will contribute to The GCSAA Foundation in the names of all national, international, and chapter winners. And as if that's not enough, the four sponsoring companies will each donate an additional \$5,000 to The GCSAA Foundation.

Since 1993, nearly 200 golf course superintendents—a number of them MetGCSA members—have been recognized with Environmental Steward Awards, and participating sponsors have contributed more than \$125,000 to The GCSAA Foundation.

## GCSAA Foundation Closes in on Its \$5-Million Fund-Raising Goal

Good news for turfgrass management professionals around the world: The GCSAA Foundation has surpassed the \$4 million mark in its "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" endowment campaign, taking it well on its way to achieving its \$5-million goal. Its coffers have been filled with donations from individuals, facilities, chapters, corporations, associations, and organizations affiliated with the golf industry.

All funds generated are slated for on-course research and educational advancements for golf course superintendents. Among GCSAA's goals is to make it easier for superintendents to continue their education by offering sessions through video-conferencing or by providing online or

experiential learning opportunities.

These educational initiatives, coupled with continued research, will increase the knowledge and skills of GCSAA members, thereby improving playing conditions and increasing enjoyment of the game of golf for all involved.

"Our whole drive," says newly appointed Foundation Board Chairman Jerry Pate, "is to raise money for research, education, and scholarships to help promote this great game from the grassroots up."

Since the GCSAA Foundation's inception in 1955, it has provided more than \$2 million in support of numerous research studies and more than 1,000 student scholarships.





## Scorecard

### Tamarack Rolls Out the Red Carpet for the Invitational

June 26 was a perfect day for members and guests who competed in the MetGCSA Invitational Tournament. Playing near-perfect golf, Salem Country Club—led by Superintendent Chuck Denny—fired a net 55 to take this year's trophy.

Also noteworthy was the hole-in-one shot by Silver Spring Country Club Professional Stan Garrett. His lucky swing earned him two airline tickets to anywhere in the U.S. courtesy of the MetGCSA. Way to go, Stan!

Special thanks to host Superintendent Jeff Scott and his staff for providing superb playing conditions—and to General Manager Tom Tuthill and PGA Pro Paul Miner for their efforts in making this a very pleasurable day.

An extra-special thank you to Tamarack Country Club for its extremely generous gesture of donating all dinner revenue generated from the event to the Met's Scholarship & Research Fund.

Here's a rundown of the day's winning results:

#### Low Net Winners

55 Salem Golf Club  
Superintendent: Chuck Denny

58 Burning Tree Country Club  
Superintendent: Gary Glazier

59 Ridgeway Country Club  
Superintendent: Earl Millett

#### Low Gross Winners

65 Old Oaks Country Club  
Superintendent: Mark Millett

66 Wee Burn Country Club  
Superintendent: Rick Schock

67 Knollwood Country Club  
Superintendent: Tim Moore

#### Closest to the Pin

**Club Official:** Bill Waterman  
*Bedford Golf & Tennis Club*

**Superintendent:** Bob Zaletsky  
*New York Country Club*

**Professional:** Dave Pagett  
*Old Oaks Country Club*

**Green Chairman:** Todd Robbins  
*Wee Burn Country Club*

#### Longest Drive

**Professional:** Gary Murphy  
*Innis Arden Golf Club*

**Amateur:** Gary Glazier  
*Burning Tree Country Club*

## MetGCSA Championship Takes Flight to Long Island

The Hamlet Golf & Country Club proved to be a great venue for the day's events: the first-round of the MetGCSA Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier and the Individual Gross and Net competition.

Superintendent Steve Rabideau and his staff did a great job grooming the course for championship conditions.

Many thanks to General Manager Bob Lehning and PGA Pro Paul Trebendis and the entire staff at The Hamlet for their special efforts throughout the day.

Here are the many winning results:

#### Individual Gross and Net

##### Low Net Winners

65 Craig Currier, *Bethpage State Park*  
65 Jeff Thrasher, *Second Nature Tree Service*  
68 Scott Tretera, *Metro Milorganite Inc.*  
68 John Fowler, *Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products*

##### Low Gross Winners

74 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway Country Club*  
76 Blake Halderman, *Minisceongo Golf Club*  
79 Richard Spear, *Piping Rock Club*

#### MetGCSA Championship, 1st Round

##### Championship Flight (Handicap 0-7.9)

###### Gross

74 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway Country Club*  
76 Blake Halderman, *Minisceongo Golf Club*

##### First Flight (Handicap 8.0-12)

###### Gross

80 Tony Grasso, *Metropolis Country Club*  
84 Sean Cain, *Sunningdale Country Club*

###### Net

72 Jeff Wentworth, *Pelham Country Club*  
75 Dennis Flynn, *Brae Burn Country Club*

##### Second Flight (Handicap 12.1-36)

###### Gross

89 Joe Alonzi, *Westchester Country Club*  
90 John Streeter, *Woodbridge Country Club*

###### Net

73 Bob Alonzi, *Fenway Golf Club*  
74 Glen Dube, *Glen Hills Park Golf Course*



### Poa Annual Contested on Brooklawn Turf

by Bill Perlee

**T**he 2000 Poa Annual Golf Tournament was held at the historic Brooklawn Country Club in Fairfield, CT, on August 10. Despite the prestige that this research fundraiser holds in our industry, at Brooklawn, the Poa Annual Tourney pales in comparison to other events the club has hosted, not the least of which are three USGA championships and several State championships.

#### A Club With History

Leading the charge for the past 25 years is Superintendent Peter Bly, who boasts the distinction of being only the fourth person to hold the superintendent's job since the A.W. Tillinghast course opened in 1895. The first "Keeper of the Greens" is purported to be Old Tom Morris's grandson. Also down in Brooklawn's annals of history is the course record: It's a 63 held by past employee Eugene Saraceni, better known as Gene Sarazen. He, along with Julius Boros and several others are honorary members.

In more recent history, Peter and his staff have enhanced the course and maintenance operation by installing a new irrigation system, rebuilding all tees and bunkers, and constructing a new maintenance facility.

When asked about future plans for the course, Peter laughs: "We're working on our 10th or 11th five-year plan."

Peter is proud of his core crew and credits them with his success. "Most of the crew has been here at least six years—some as many as 15; at this point, they understand what we're looking for, and they deliver," says Peter.

#### It All Began...

For Peter, Brooklawn has been a first and only stop. After graduating in 1976 from University of Massachusetts with a turf management degree, Peter accepted the



Peter Bly

assistant's position at Brooklawn under Frank Nichols. When Frank retired after a mere 40 years as superintendent, Peter was a shoe-in for the job. He took the lead with only two years' experience as the club's assistant.

"One of the benefits of a long tenure," explains Peter, "is that you earn the authority to perform any maintenance procedure at any time. Whether it's aerifying or another cultural practice, the membership trusts that you have the course's best interest at heart and that what you're doing is necessary to keep the grounds in top shape."

Even after all these years, Peter clearly still enjoys working—and playing—at Brooklawn. In fact, this 8-handicap golfer tees is up with members and professional staff on a regular basis.

#### When the Watch Is Off

When he's not out surveying the links, Peter is serving the community. He's an active participant on the Town of Fairfield's High School Building Committee and Golf Course Expansion Committee, and he served three years as a Junior Warden in his church.

His wife, Nancy, and his three children are his other favorite preoccupations. He has two sons—Peter, a recent Penn State graduate, and Matt who is a freshman at Penn State—and one daughter, Jessica, who is spending the summer working with Peter at Brooklawn. During the winter months, the entire family enjoys spending time at their New Hampshire ski house.

*Bill Perlee, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY.*

### MetGCSA Makes a Return Trip to Burning Tree

by Mike Cook Jr.

**S**eptember 19 will mark the second time Superintendent Gary Glazier will host a Met Area Team Championship Qualifier at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, CT.

"The first was in 1998," says Gary, noting that the course has come a long way in two years.

Since the MetGCSA last convened at Burning Tree, the club has installed a new irrigation system, rebuilt the 11th green, and constructed a new men's and ladies' 16th tee. "We've also gone hole-by-hole, addressing the major drainage issues throughout the course," says Gary.

But the improvements don't stop there. In the past year, the club has built a new pool and pool house and, in the fall of 2001, is looking forward to building a new clubhouse.

Built in the early '60s, the Hal Purdy-designed course is 6,900 yards with the front nine running along the Merritt Parkway and the back nine meandering through Greenwich woods.

Under the direction of Golf Course Architect Stephen Kay, the course is on a slow and steady renovation track. "We're looking to build at least one new green a year for the next six years," says Gary. "We also plan to begin a fairway topdressing program this fall."

#### All in the Family

"Burning Tree prides itself on being a family-oriented club, especially now that the new pool facility is finished," notes Gary, who encourages the membership's children to fish in the ponds and become involved in his work with the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

"We have more than 100 kids from our summer camp participate in the program by building and hanging bird boxes and then taking responsibility for monitoring the boxes. They really seem to enjoy being involved," he says.

#### Getting Started

Gary is quick to tell you he owes his start in the business to Bob Razzala, superintendent at Hickory Ridge Country Club in Amherst, MA.



## Scarsdale Golf Club Assistant to Host Annual Class C Outing

by Bill Perlee

**C**

lass C members, get your clubs ready, 'cuz the Annual Class C Championship will be here before you know it. Slated for October 5, this year's event will be contested at Scarsdale Golf Club in Hartsdale, NY. Superintendent Matt Severino and Assistant Eric O'Neill are pleased to join the strong list of clubs to host this "assistants-only" event. Here's a look at Scarsdale and your assistant host, Eric O'Neill.

### A Chance Meeting

Eric, you might say, happened on the turfgrass management field. He was originally enrolled in Rhode Island College, where he was studying Business Administration. Living across the street from a public golf course, he'd play a few holes on his study breaks. Soon enough, he became friendly

with the grounds crew and began to see the potential for a career in turfgrass management.

Rather than complete his studies in Business, he enrolled in the Plant Science program at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

During the course of his studies, Eric interned back in his home state of Rhode Island at Potowomut Golf Club for two seasons. With one more year of his internship to go, he signed on at Middle Bay Country Club in Long Island. After completing his B.S. in 1997, he stayed at Middle Bay and was elevated to assistant.

*continued on page 12*

### Hail to Scarsdale Super Matt Severino

Though the host of this year's Class C Outing is Scarsdale Country Club Assistant Eric O'Neill, we can't forget the guy who's making it all possible: Superintendent Matt Severino.

"I'm pleased to have the assistant tournament at Scarsdale," says Matt, minimizing the effort that hosting an event like this will take.

Superintendent at Scarsdale for the past three years, Matt moved in to the position after working six years at the club as assistant to then Superintendent Herb Waterous. "Herb's a great guy," says Matt, who's quick to credit his former boss with showing him the ropes. Matt first got his feet wet in the business at Ridgewood Country Club in Ridgewood, NJ, where he worked for a year as assistant to then Superintendent Ed Walsh.

Matt has a certificate in Turfgrass Management from UMass, which he completed in 1990 on the heels of earning a B.S. in Business Admin-

istration from the University of Connecticut. To explain his switch in direction, Matt says, "I was trying to decide which of a couple of job offers I should take after graduating, when I decided that, really, a career in business wasn't going to make me happy."

Now, as Scarsdale's superintendent, Matt has put both his business and turf knowledge to the test on numerous special projects on the course, not the least of which are reclaiming an algae-choked lake, installing an all-new irrigation system, and expanding and renovating most of the course's greens.

A member of the MetGCSA since coming to this area in 1991, Matt is a great believer in the association's work. "I encourage all assistants to become more involved in the MetGCSA," he says.

Matt lives in nearby Yorktown, NY, with his wife, Kristin, and 1 1/2-year-old son, Matthew.



**Gary Glazier**

Gary worked on the crew there before deciding to pursue a degree in Turfgrass Management at the University of Massachusetts. "Without Bob's influence," says Gary, "who knows what field I may have chosen."

Gary interned at Hickory Ridge, and when he graduated in 1991, he accepted an assistant's position at Fairview Country Club under then Superintendent Richie Marcks. "Richie and Bob taught me just about everything I know about turf management," says Gary, who after six years at Fairview, accepted his current position at Burning Tree.

Since his start in December 1996, Gary says the course has come a long way: "The renovations are making such a difference that, every time I play a round, it's almost like playing a new course."

### A Fish Story

Also relatively new in Gary's life—particularly since our last meeting there—is his marriage in February of last year to his girl friend of 12 years, Tracey. And then there's the birth of their son, Nicholas, who is 11 months old. "He's already starting to walk and talk," says Gary, smiling proudly. "It goes quick, just like everyone says."

One constant in Gary's life is his love for fishing. "I try to get away to go fishing at least three to four times a year, usually to Florida, Rhode Island, or the Bahamas. And of course, I never miss the trip to upstate Pulaski, NY, salmon fishing with 10 of my friends."

Gary's looking forward to the Met's visit to the course. "The Met is a fantastic organization, with a great membership," he says. "See you in September. And, hey, bring your pole. If things don't go well on the course, you can cast a line in one of our bodies of water. I'll be right there beside you."

*Mike Cook, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is a district manager and certified arborist with Alpine, the Care of Trees in White Plains, NY.*



**Eric O'Neill**



Spotlight continued from page 11

In favor of acquiring a varied background, Eric moved on three years later to his current position at Scarsdale.

### Life on the Job

For Eric, it seems, the more responsibility the better. "I really enjoy seeing jobs around the golf course go from conception to completion," he says. "And I enjoy the challenge of balancing personnel to complete not only the everyday activities on the course, but also the many special projects we handle."

Among the special projects in gear at Scarsdale is a bentgrass conversion program on the fairways, which Eric notes has required a regimen of overseeding and triplex mowing. "We're also working hard," he says, "to clean up the algae in the pond surrounding Holes One and Nine. We've introduced grass-eating carp and installed a pond aeration system."

Eric is convinced that he's on the right track for a superintendent's position in the Met area or in New England. "I've been fortunate," he says, "to have had some terrific mentors—and to have had the opportunity to work for several different operations."

### Life Away From Work

This 12 handicapper enjoys golfing and plays most of his rounds right at Scarsdale. Obviously well versed on the idiosyncrasies of the course, Eric has these bits of advice for his Class C competitors: The driver is not always the best club on this tight Tillinghast layout. "The greens are the real challenge here—small in size with severe undulations and moderate speed, but keeping the ball in play off the tee sure helps," says Eric.

During the winter months, Eric enjoys skiing at Sunday River in Maine, but his plans this winter call for helping his fiancée, Denise, get things in order for their November 2001 wedding. Best of luck, Eric and Denise—and to all of you, who plan to attend the October 5 Class C Outing.

*Bill Perlee, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY.*

## Work Smarts

### The Bugaboo About the Asian Long-Horned Beetle

**I**f you've heard a lot of hype about the Asian long-horned beetle's devastating effects on trees, you ought to know that *some* of this may be more fiction than fact. At least that's what you might surmise from our conversation with Gail Ridge-O'Connor, an entomologist with The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven.

Despite claims that this pesky inch-long beetle can "destroy as much woodland as some of the worst forest fires in history," Ridge-O'Connor feels that the beetle is *more* likely to prey on trees already weakened by disease. "In a weakened state, the beetle is able to cross the tree's protective barrier and bore into the wood," she says, debunking the implication that these pests could—or would—easily destroy large stands of healthy trees.

### Fine Dining

According to a recent *New York Times* article, the tree-savaging process begins with the female beetle boring deep into the tree to lay eggs. The larvae then eat their way out, flying away and leaving their doomed hosts pocked with perfectly round holes.

Apparently, the adult beetles do their deed in summer and fall, and though they've made an appearance in Chicago and in parts of Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and Long Island, NY, they haven't made their way into Connecticut...yet.

"People have brought us specimens of what they believe to be the Asian long-horned beetle," says Ridge-O'Connor, "but they're usually the beetle's look-alike, the White-spotted Sawyer, which is dark brown with creamy spots." The tree-killing beetle, notes Ridge-O'Connor, is a shiny black-ivory with paper-white spots.

### Putting the Breaks On

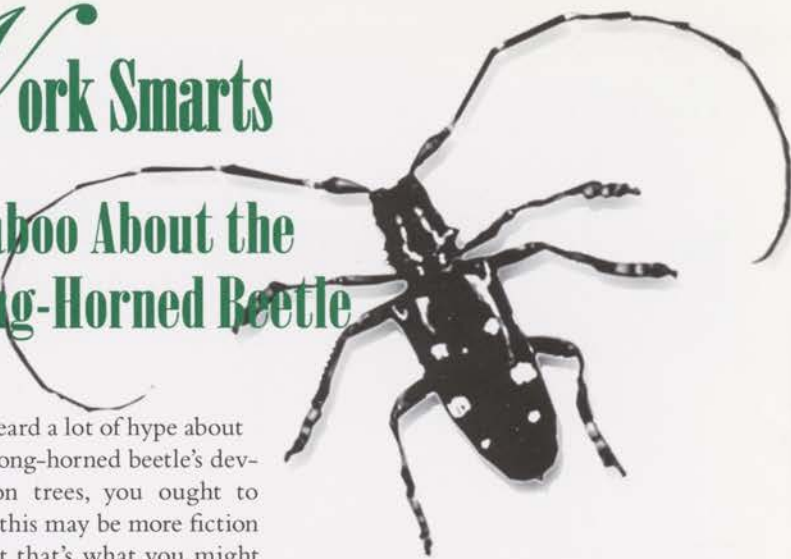
The real danger is that, in the U.S., this beetle can run amuck with no natural predator—or proven control. Since the beetle came on the scene four years ago—apparently hitching a ride from China aboard wooden shipping containers—the U.S. has spent millions of dollars and felled thousands of trees, in an attempt to halt the beetle's progress.

Now, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency are weighing whether to use a nicotine-based pesticide—which carries minimal risk to people and other trees—to stomp out the beetle.

U.S. officials say the Chinese have agreed to treat wooden shipping pallets, in an effort to stop more beetles from coming to the U.S. What's more, quarantines have been imposed on firewood from areas where infected trees have been found.

*The real danger is that, in the U.S., this beetle can run amuck with no natural predator—or proven control.*

But even taking every precaution, how can we be sure that we get every last one? Unfortunately, it seems, only time—and careful vigilance—will tell.





## Upcoming Events

### Year 2001 Meeting Sites Up for Grabs

If anyone is interested in hosting a MetGCSA golf or social event next year, it's not too early to volunteer your club. For golf meetings, call one of the Tournament Committee co-chairs—Jeff Wentworth, 914-738-2752, or Sean Cain, 914-723-3238. To host a social event, contact Social & Welfare Committee Chairman Joe Alonzi, 914-967-6000, ext. 360.

#### Met Events to Remember

##### **MetGCSA Championship/Met Area Team Championship Qualifier, Round 2**

Tuesday, September 19

Burning Tree Country Club, Greenwich, CT

Host: Gary Glazier

##### **Annual Class C Outing**

Thursday, October 5

Scarsdale Golf Club, Hartsdale, NY

Host: Eric O'Neill, assistant superintendent

##### **Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament**

Tuesday, October 10

Alpine Country Club, Demarest, NJ

Host: Steve Finamore, CGCS

##### **Met Area Team Championship**

Monday, October 16

Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT

Host: Pat Sisk

##### **MetGCSA Annual Meeting**

Tuesday, November 14

Knollwood Country Club, Elmsford, NY

Host: Tim Moore

#### Met Social Event

##### **MetGCSA Christmas Party**

Saturday, December 9

Mt. Kisco Country Club, Mt. Kisco, NY

Host: Fred Scheyhing, CGCS

## Member News

### New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

**David Athans**, Class C, Heritage Village Golf Club, Southbury, CT

**Lindsey Baker**, Class C, Blind Brook Club, Purchase, NY

**Keith Brousseau**, Class C, Oak Hills Park Golf Course, Norwalk, CT

**Richard Browne**, Class A, Garrison Golf Club, Garrison, NY

**Ishmael Franco**, Class C, Sunningdale Country Club, Scarsdale, NY

**Robert Good**, Class AF, Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc., Trumbull, CT

**Kevin Kennedy**, Class AF, Club Car, Brookfield, CT

**Mark Lombardo**, Class C, Ridgewood Country Club, Danbury, CT

**Charlie Siemers**, Class AF, Lesco, Inc., Katonah, NY

### Newly Certified

Congratulations to **Jim Calladio** of the Milbrook Club in Greenwich, CT, for completing the coursework required to become a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) with GCSAA.

### Newly Retired

Congratulations to **Tony Savone** on his retirement—and reclassification to Class AL. Tony, a MetGCSA member since 1960, was superintendent at Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY, for 27 years.

### Well Wishes

Wishing **Greg Wojick**, superintendent of Greenwich Country Club, a speedy recovery. Greg's recuperating from a torn Achilles tendon.



# Patron Directory

*Patrons listed on this page are supporting our association. You are encouraged to support them.*

- **Alpine, the Care of Trees**  
Mike Cook, NY: 914-948-0101  
Ken Clear, CT: 203-847-1855  
Peter McFarland, NJ: 201-445-4949
- **Al Preston's Garage**  
Gary Shashinka  
Massey Ferguson Tractors  
203-924-1747
- **Aqua Turf ~ Golf Course Irrigation**  
Gordon Holmes/Dave Arel  
5 No. Payne St.  
Elmsford, NY 10523  
914-347-5151, FAX 914-347-6323
- **Argento & Sons, Inc.**  
Turf Equipment: Parts and Service  
Louis Argento: 914-949-1152  
1 Prospect Ave.  
White Plains, NY 10607
- **AT Sales ~ Premium Sod for Golf Courses**  
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1787 Louisquisset Pike  
Lincoln, RI 02865  
401-465-8066  
PAGER 800-592-0675
- **Atlantic Irrigation Specialists Inc.**  
Rain Bird Golf  
Thornwood, NY 10594  
Tim Marcoux/Ed Santalone  
800-878-8873
- **Aventis Environmental Science**  
David J. Sylvester  
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Kensington, CT 06037  
860-828-8905
- **Blue Ridge Peat Farms Inc.**  
White Haven, PA 18661  
Gene Evans  
570-443-9596
- **Bruedan Corp.**  
Frank Savakis/Mike Gesmundo/  
Keith Kraham  
Greycourt Ave., Chester, NY  
800-733-6740
- **Central Irrigation Supply, Inc.**  
Bernardo Luciano  
914-347-5656  
FAX 914-349-0506
- **DAF Services Inc.**  
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Center  
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- **DAR PAR Sales**  
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Premium Quality Kentucky  
Bluegrass, Tall Fescue Blends  
Leonard/Valeri: 914-258-4131
- **DeLea & Sons Sod Farms**  
Vincent Sasso  
444 Elwood Rd., E. Northport, NY 11731  
800-244-7637/516-368-8022
- **Down To Earth**  
All Phases of Golf Course Construction  
David Griffin  
914-576-7693
- **Earth Works, Inc.**  
The Soil Aerification Specialists  
P.O. Box 99, West Warham, MA 02576  
Pat Lucas: 800-815-1113  
FAX 508-295-8187
- **Egypt Farms, Inc.**  
Dean Snyder  
P.O. Box 223, White Marsh, MD 21162  
800-899-7645/410-335-3700
- **Emerald Isle, Ltd.**  
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2153 Newport Rd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
800-628-GROW (4769)
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425 S. Riverside Ave., Croton, NY 10520  
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Service ~ Technical Support ~ Quality  
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- **Greenacres Company**  
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800-235-7035
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P.O. Box 127, Hopedale, MA 01747  
508-478-9684, FAX 508-473-5724
- **Irra-Tech, Inc.**  
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Jim Barrett  
Irrigation Consulting & Design  
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- **James Carriere & Sons, Inc.**  
Bill Carriere  
7 Cottage St., Port Chester, NY 10573  
914-937-2136
- **Lesco, Inc.**  
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Greg Moran/Charlie Siemers  
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- **Metro Milorganite Inc.**  
Scott Apgar/Ernie Steinhofner/  
Scott Tretera, 54 Miry Brook Rd.  
Danbury, CT 06810  
203-748-GOLF (4653)  
FAX 203-743-0458
- **Montco/Surf-Side/Zap! Defoamer**  
Bob Oechle  
Box 404, Ambler, PA 19002  
800-401-0411
- **Novartis Turf & Ornamental Products**  
325 Mill Pond Lane  
Oxford, PA 19363  
610-998-2896
- **O'Conner Pumps and Service**  
Joe O'Conner  
6 Nye St., Rockville, CT 06066  
860-875-6890
- **Partac Golf Course Top-Dressing**  
Kelsey Park  
Great Meadows, NY 07838  
800-247-2326/908-637-4191  
Bill and Joe Carriere: 914-937-2136
- **Plant Food Company, Inc.**  
Tom Weinert/Ted Platz  
800-562-1291/914-262-0111  
WEBSITE [www.plantfoodco.com](http://www.plantfoodco.com)
- **SavATree**  
Thomas Marino, NY: 914-244-1700  
Mike Schoeni, CT: 203-853-9526  
Paul Carbone, NJ: 201-891-5379
- **Sawtelle Brothers, Inc.**  
George Wise/Jason Bassi  
65 Glen St., Lawrence, MA 01843  
800-999-TURF
- **Shemin Nurseries Inc.**  
Horticultural and Irrigation Supplies  
Guy Romano: 203-531-7352  
1081 King St., Greenwich, CT 06831
- **Stephen Kay, Golf Course Architects**  
Stephen Kay/Doug Smith  
499 New Rochelle Rd.  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
914-699-4437, FAX 914-699-4479
- **Steven Willand, Inc.**  
Bruce Pye/John Ferruccio/  
Mark Ericson  
4 Production Dr.  
Brookfield, CT 06804  
203-775-5757, FAX 203-775-6435
- **Sullivan's Construction Services Inc.**  
Golf Course Construction and  
Renovation  
P.O. Box 854, Suffield, CT 06078  
Kevin Sullivan: 860-668-2129
- **Tee and Green Sod, Inc.**  
Owen Regan/Dave Wallace  
Sod Supply and Installation  
401-789-8177
- **Terre Co. of New Jersey, Inc.**  
Byron Johnson Jr.  
206 Delawanna Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014  
973-473-3393, FAX 973-473-4402
- **The Cardinals, Inc.**  
John Callahan  
Course Accessories and Maintenance  
Supplies  
860-673-3699
- **The Scotts Company**  
Jim Santoro  
Fertilizers, Fungicides, Growth  
Regulators  
508-679-4797
- **TurfNet Associates, Inc.**  
Peter L. McCormick  
21 Brandywine Rd.  
Skillman, NJ 07014  
800-314-7929
- **Turf Partners, Inc.**  
Joe Stahl  
800-228-6656/860-663-8048  
CELL 203-209-6951  
FAX 860-663-3564
- **Turf Products Corp./TORO**  
Paul Mazzola, Irrigation/Al Tretera,  
Equipment  
800-243-4355/860-763-3581  
The Sprinkler House/Amodios:  
914-328-0190
- **Turf Products Corporation**  
Ernie Rizzio/Buddy Rizzio  
47 Howell Rd., Box 296  
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046  
973-263-1234
- **Valley View Wholesale Greenhouses**  
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229 Smithridge Rd.  
So. Salem, NY 10590  
914-533-2526, FAX 914-533-2050
- **Westchester Ford Tractor Inc.**  
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Golden's Bridge, NY 10526  
914-232-7746
- **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**  
Bob Lippman Sr./Bob Lippman Jr.  
"Serving the Fine Turf Profession"  
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- **White Contractors**  
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- **Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.**  
Glenn Gallion/Chris Hunt  
[www.wilfredmacdonald.com](http://www.wilfredmacdonald.com)  
201-804-1000, FAX 201-804-1001
- **Winding Brook Turf Farm, Inc.**  
Bill Seccareccia  
240 Griswold Rd.  
Wethersfield, CT 06109  
800-243-0232/860-529-6869  
FAX 860-529-6807

• Denotes MetGCSA member