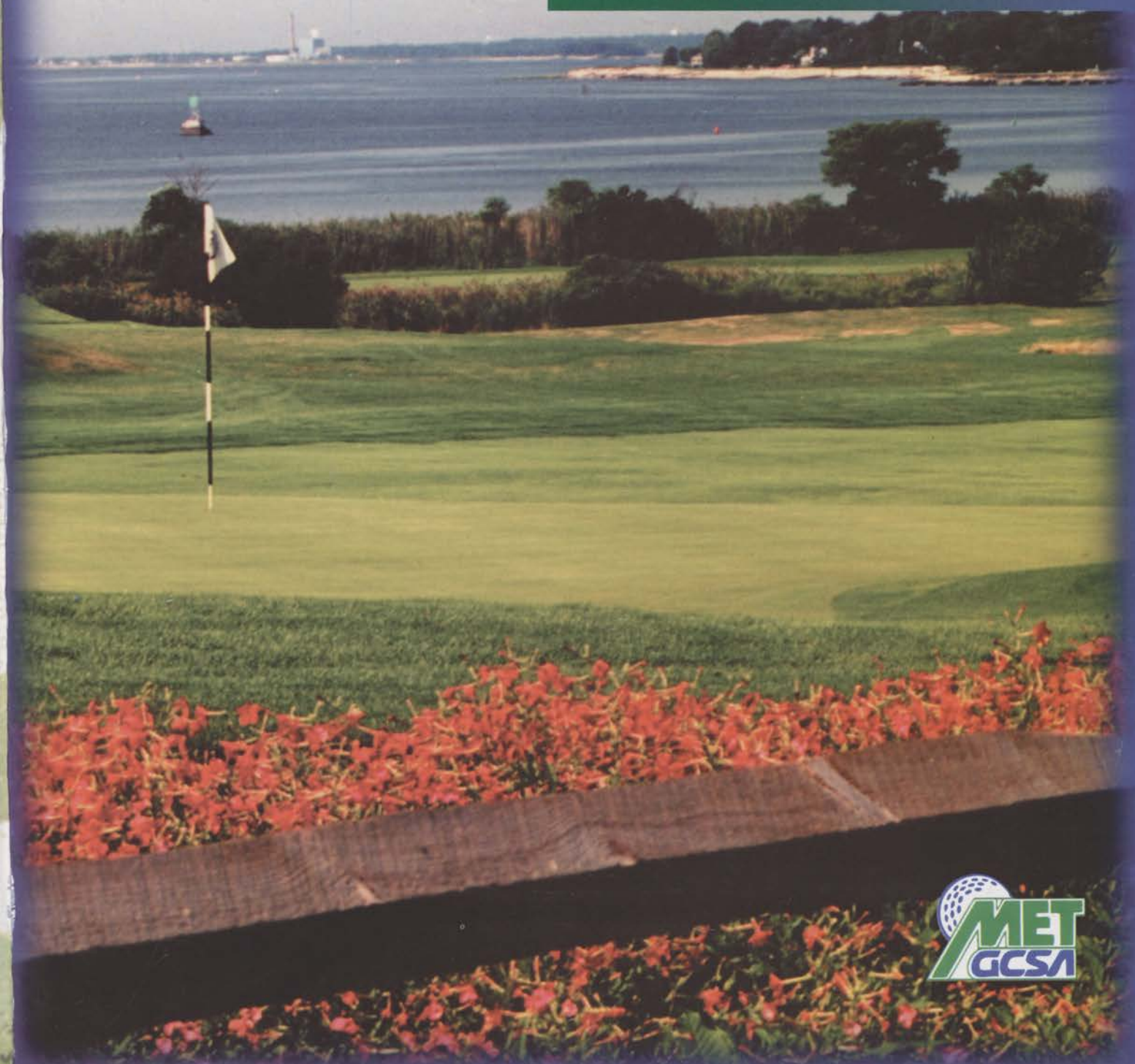


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Tee To Green

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association



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President's Message

As We Move Into the 21st Century

The new millennium officially starts in January 2001. I guess that makes me the last MetGCSA president of the 20th Century and the first of the 21st Century! I am sincerely grateful to the membership for reelecting me as president at our Annual Meeting November 8 at Knollwood Country Club. It is truly an honor and privilege to be asked to serve my profession and my peers. Like every president before me—and I assume every president after—my hope is that when I've completed my term in office, the association is just a little bit better than when I started.

With year-end fast approaching, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the 2000 Board of Directors for their service to the association. Serving on the board is a time-consuming commitment, but as all who have done it know it's an extremely satisfying and worthwhile effort.

I would particularly like to thank Steve Renzetti and Pat Sisk (see Pat's farewell note on page 10) who are stepping down from the board. These two gentlemen did an outstanding job as Communications Committee co-chairmen. They are responsible for our new user-friendly directory and for the eye-catching redesign of the *Tee to Green*. I know I speak for the entire membership when I say thank you and good luck in the future.

On the same note, I hope you'll join me in welcoming our two new board members: Greg Wojick, CGCS, from Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich, CT, who was elected to a two-year term, and Glenn Perry, CGCS, from Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton, CT, who was appointed to fill the one year remaining on Pat Sisk's two-year term. They will replace Steve and Pat as co-chairmen of the Communications Committee. I have great confidence that they will continue to improve our already superior publications.

Gearing Up for a 75th Anniversary Celebration

By now, you have certainly seen publications announcing the 75th anniversary of GCSAA. This will be a yearlong celebration beginning in Dallas 2001 and winding up in Orlando in 2002. Throughout 2001, there will be events and activities planned to commemorate this milestone.

As part of this effort, GCSAA recommended that local chapters form a committee to act as a liaison between GCSAA and chapter members to keep them informed of the festivities surrounding the event—and how they might participate.

At the last board meeting, we agreed that Greg Wojick and I would chair the newly formed 75th Anniversary Committee. Now all we need are committee members. If you have a special interest in the history of our association, as well as in GCSAA, please contact Greg or me for further information on



John Carlone, CGCS
MetGCSA President

how you can help.

Each and every one of us can do our part in promoting GCSAA's momentous occasion. One thought GCSAA had was to guide superintendents in initiating a golf event for their club's membership. Called "A Day of 75," the event would be structured so that any member shooting a gross or net 75 on a designated weekend day could win GCSAA commemorative merchandise.

GCSAA's logo has been officially changed for this year with the special diamond anniversary logo. A grand celebration is planned for Lawrence, KS, on September 26, the date of GCSAA's incorporation.

A Passing Noted

As many of you know, my father, Peter Carlone, passed away on October 16 after a 21-month battle with lung cancer. I would like to thank the association and everyone who sent flowers, cards, and made donations to the Hospice Care of Rhode Island in his memory. It was much appreciated at a very difficult time.

I am involved in the golf industry because my father introduced me to the game of golf when I was 11. I immediately fell in love with the game. My father was a florist, and I also loved getting my hands dirty in his greenhouse.

When I was about 18 years old, I realized that there was a profession that would allow me to blend my two loves; it was that of a golf course superintendent. My father encouraged me to pursue this direction, informing me that his father was a "greenkeeper" at a club in Rhode Island, which, now, is no

continued on page 12



Joe Alonzi Honored to Be the Recipient of the MetGCSA's Sherwood A. Moore Award

by Scott C. Apgar

“I

t's a great honor to be chosen by my peers to receive the best award a superintendent in the Met area could ever hope for.” This was Westchester Country Club Superintendent Joe Alonzi's reaction when he got word of his award-winning status.

“Right down to his President’s Messages, Joe has, without exception, found sincerity to be the best vehicle for communicating with fellow superintendents.”

The funniest part about Joe’s selection for the Sherwood A. Moore (SAM) Award was that, as a tenured member of the Awards Committee, he’s accustomed to being in on the decision-making. So this year, when the subject wasn’t broached at recent meetings, Joe simply thought his fellow committee members had dropped the ball.

“They did an excellent job of keeping this information quiet,” he mused. “The fact that the SAM Award isn’t given out annually or on a regular basis is what makes being chosen all the more special.”

The Sherwood A. Moore Award is reserved for superintendents who have “advanced the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent.” After it’s inaugural year, 1987, when it’s namesake was the recipient, the award has been given to a select group of prominent golf course superintendents: Ted Horton, Bruno Vadala, James R. Fulwider Sr., Bob Alonzi, Ted Jozwick, Mike Maffei, and Pat Lucas.

These men were recognized for their unique contributions to the MetGCSA. Now, in the year of the new millennium, we can add a very deserving Joe Alonzi. Joe has his own list of accomplishments and contributions to our association, some similar to his predecessors’ and some undoubtedly different.

A Little Sincerity Goes a Long Way

From a hands-on superintendent at Huntington Crescent Club and Fenway Golf Club to a man of many hats at Westchester Country Club, Joe’s résumé includes quite an array of activities. Perhaps his most important contribution to MetGCSA superintendents has been his time on the board. Culminating as president of the Met, this very humble man has always been open and candid with his peers, both professionally and personally. Right down to his President’s Messages, Joe has, without exception, found sincerity to be the best vehicle for communicating with fellow superintendents. He is a man willing to help anybody who seeks it.

Joe has been—and still is—very involved with MetGCSA committees, including as we know, the Awards Committee, Club

Relations, Long-Range Planning & Steering, and Social & Welfare. He also served as the Met’s voting delegate for many years, acting on the association’s behalf when it came to voting on GCSAA matters.

At the national level, Joe’s involvement included the Government Relations and the Newsletter Editors committees.

Wading Through Water Issues

Some of Joe’s accomplishments have been high profile, some very much behind the scenes.

His work with the Westchester County Drought Emergency Task Force, for instance,



has helped his peers in ways they probably don’t even realize. Joe got involved with the task force in 1985, when Joe’s predecessor at Westchester, Ted Horton, headed up a committee representing the Green Industry (arborists, landscapers, golf courses, etc.).

“The county was struggling through a severe drought that year,” remembers Joe. “Stringent water restriction laws were mandated countywide, and may I add, they were very unfair. Homeowners and corporations, big and small, were cut back 15 percent in overall water usage, while golf courses—allowed to be watered only between the hours of 12 and 3 p.m.—were told to cut back 90 percent.

“We couldn’t water fairways and tees at all and greens for only two minutes per cycle. We got through the year with variances and county officials giving us some leeway,” Joe sighs.

Through much hard work and constant effort—initially by Ted and for the past 15 years by Joe and a few others—the law has been rewritten so that golf courses are treated like any other Westchester resident or corporation. In the drought of 1997, county golf courses never were restricted past Phase One, which is a 10-percent reduction in water use.

In the past few years, golf courses in nearby counties have had some extremely difficult times trying to make it through summer droughts—but not Westchester County. “I’ve had superintendents from other counties call me to ask if I would guide them through their situation,” says Joe. “I tell them to be persistent and repetitive until people listen, but just as important, I emphasize that they listen, too, to the people imposing the restrictions.”

A True Steward of the Environment

Just as close to Joe’s heart is his interest in and activities surrounding environmental protection. “As unfair as it may seem, whatever we are doing now, we need to do a lot more because of the so called ‘environmentalists,’” Joe warns. “What all green industry people need to realize is the impact we can make on the future of our environment. If we are kind to the environment today, we’re looking out for our children tomorrow.”

Thanks to Joe’s efforts, Westchester Country Club has become a “Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary” with Audubon International. There are fewer than 10 golf courses in New York State to achieve this honor.

“Many superintendents already meet the requirements with their daily practices,” says Joe. “All they’d have to do is put it all on paper, submit it to Audubon, and they’d be certified. It would go a long way.”

Close to “home,” the Harrison Environmental Advisory Committee is very pleased with Joe’s contributions to the environment. In fact, the group has recognized

his environmental stewardship with an award, but even more important, they now realize they've been misinformed about golf courses. "They now see Westchester Country Club as an entire wildlife regimen, which feeds on itself. Wild turkeys, fox, deer, coyote, and a wide variety of birds, including hawks, roam our grounds," explains Joe.

"My immediate job comes first, but I will always be completely dedicated to promoting the Green Industry. The key for me, as for anyone who excels in their job, is that I totally enjoy what I'm doing," he states.

Just recently, Joe was asked to be on the Westchester County Pesticide Management Committee with fellow Superintendent Will Heintz of Centennial. Joe is also involved with Golf in the Environment, a national organization based in Salt Lake City, UT. "Both groups' missions are to work with the EPA, DEC, Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, and similar organizations as they establish guidelines for pesticide use on new and established golf courses," he explains. "It's our job to prevent too many restrictions from being imposed on what we can and can't use in maintaining our golf courses."

Volunteering Time at Home

There hasn't always been room for Joe's abundance of involvement in our industry's issues. As superintendent on Long Island at the Huntington Crescent Club, Joe's extra time was spent helping his wife, Judy, raise their four children. "Judy is the one who keeps the family together," says Joe. "I don't like admitting it, but our children go to mom first for advice. She is the center of our universe at home and, therefore, deserves a tremendous amount of credit for how great our four children have turned out," he concedes.

Don't let Joe fool you, though. He spent a good portion of his extra time as president of the Cold Spring Harbor/Huntington Soccer League, coaching the travel team for his son, Chris, who is currently his assistant at Westchester Country Club. He also volunteered as a soccer referee.

His daughters—Amy, with a master's in

Forensic Psychology; Allison, majoring in Nutrition at the University of Connecticut (UConn); and Amanda, also currently at UConn majoring in teaching—surely give credit to mom *and* dad for their help and support throughout the years.

Big Brother Is Watching You

Joe credits "Bubba," a.k.a., big brother Bob, as his mentor in the golf profession. After graduating from a Tech Institute in New York City with a degree in Electrical Engineering, Joe went to work for United Aircraft Co. during the Vietnam War. He worked on radar systems for fighter planes, but when the war ended, work slowed down . . . dramatically.

"While in school, I always worked sum-



mers at Tamarack Country Club. I loved the outdoors," he recalls. "As business declined at United Aircraft, I went to work for Bubba at Burning Tree. Bob helped me make the decision to enroll in the two-year Turf School at Rutgers. The rest is history," he says.

From Huntington Crescent Club in 1974 to Fenway Golf Club in 1984 to Westchester Country Club in 1992, Joe has had some career. "It's most superintendents' dream to be part of a great tradition like Westchester Country Club," says Joe.

"I have met many instrumental people throughout my life, some in this industry and some not. There is Nick, my Harley (motorcycle) friend from Florida, who couldn't care

"Golf professionals, such as Ernie Els, Vijay Sing, and my favorite, Ben Crenshaw, and many more have provided inspiration—and added incentive in my work—along the way."

less about golf, and therefore allows my mind to escape the industry every once in a while.

"Past green chairmen have taught me to be businesswise and politically astute.

"Golf course superintendents, like Bubba and Ted Horton, gave me insight into what a job at a 45-hole, 25-tennis-court, beach club, etc., would entail.

"Golf professionals, such as Ernie Els, Vijay Sing, and my favorite, Ben Crenshaw, and many more have provided inspiration—and added incentive in my work—along the way.

"Most people, even my peers, don't realize the behind-the-scenes issues I've been involved in. I'm certainly not one who likes boasting about such things, but maybe telling others could peak their interest in doing something to support our industry and our local and national professional organizations," notes Joe.

The epitome of a Sherwood A. Moore Award recipient, Joe will be a tough act to follow . . . as he continues along the path of helping area superintendents advance their professional image, status, and reputation in the golf industry.

The MetGCSA will present Joe with its prestigious SAM Award at the January 10 Winter Seminar, which Joe, only fittingly, is hosting at Westchester Country Club, just as he has for the past nine years.

Scott Apgar is proprietor of Metro Milorganite, Inc. in Danbury, CT, and a past member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, who agrees now and then to put his capable pen to paper for a special assignment.

Who's Who on the New Met Board



The November 8 MetGCSA Annual Meeting ended with the following members elected to the board:

Back row, left to right: Eric O'Neill of Scarsdale GC; Matt Ceplo, CGCS, of Rockland CC; Greg Wojick, CGCS, of Greenwich CC; Sean Cain of Sunningdale CC; Glenn Perry, CGCS, of Rolling Hills CC; Past President Earl Millett of

Ridgeway CC; Tony Girardi, CGCS, of Rockrimmon CC.

Front row, left to right: Secretary Will Heintz of Centennial GC; Vice President Tim Moore of Knollwood CC; President John Carlone, CGCS, of The Meadow Brook Club; Treasurer Dave Mahoney of Siwanoy CC. Not present for the photo: Peter McCormick of TurfNet Associates and Jeff Wentworth of Pelham CC.

Education Committee

Matt Ceplo, CGCS, Rockland CC
914-359-5346

Government Relations Committee

- Will Heintz, Centennial GC
914-279-8960
- Tony Girardi, CGCS, Rockrimmon CC
914-764-5010

Long-Range Planning & Steering Committee

Earl Millett, Ridgeway CC
914-948-5876

Membership Committee

Will Heintz, Centennial GC
914-279-8960

Scholarship & Research Committee

Tim Moore, Knollwood CC
914-592-7829

Social & Welfare Committee

- John & Leslie Carlone,
The Meadow Brook Club
516-935-6505
- Joe & Judy Alonzi, Westchester CC
914-798-5361

Special Events Committee

- Matt Ceplo, CGCS, Rockland CC
914-359-5346
- Peter McCormick, TurfNet Associates
908-359-3370

Tournament Committee

- Jeff Wentworth, Pelham CC
914-738-2752
- Sean Cain, Sunningdale CC
914-723-3238

Web Site Committee

- Tony Girardi, CGCS, Rockrimmon CC
914-764-5010
- Peter McCormick, TurfNet Associates
908-359-3370

Club Relations Committee

- Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy CC
914-961-8698
- Tim Moore, Knollwood CC
914-592-7829

Communications Committee

- Glenn Perry, CGCS, Rolling Hills CC
203-762-2185
- Greg Wojick, CGCS, Greenwich CC
203-869-1000, ext. 253

Awards Committee

Earl Millett, Ridgeway CC
914-948-5876

Bylaws Committee

Tim Moore, Knollwood CC
914-592-7829

Committee Chairmen at Your Service

Please feel free to contact any of the following committee chairmen with questions or comments. We've provided their numbers, here, for your convenience.

National News

Get Ready,

Get Set ...

for the Big Doings in Dallas



The 72nd GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show, scheduled for February 11 – 17, 2001 in Dallas, TX, marks a special time in the history of GCSAA: its 75th anniversary as a professional organization.

The upcoming Dallas event will kick off a yearlong celebration that will include a host of specially planned activities and events designed to recognize not only our national organization, but also the golf course superintendent's contributions to the game of golf and the environment. Expect more details in the months to come.

To help you chart your course for the fast-approaching Golf Championship and conference and show, we've put together the following list of must-see activities to note on your calendar.

Sunday, February 11

The **Golf Championship**, hosted this year by six San Antonio, TX, championship golf courses, will begin on Sunday with the annual four-ball competition and continue through Monday and Tuesday with the individual competition. In all, 720 GCSAA members will attend.

Wednesday, February 14

Don't miss the 6:30 p.m. **Opening Session**, where Norman Schwartzkopf, retired U.S. Army general and commander in chief of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, will be the featured speaker. Also noteworthy is the presentation of the GCSAA **Distinguished Service Award**, which will go, this year, to our own Arthur Weber (see article, right).

Thursday, February 15

- Attend the **Golf General Session** 8:45 – 10:30 a.m. in the Dallas Convention Center to hear Captain Scott O'Grady, renowned U.S. Air Force pilot, recount his inspirational story of survival behind enemy lines in Bosnia.

- From 6 to 8 p.m., join your colleagues at the Adams Mark Hotel for the

Nor'easter, the well-attended and always-popular reception cosponsored by the MetGCSA and other associations throughout the Northeast.

Friday, February 16

- Come to the Convention Center at 8 a.m. for the **Annual Meeting**, and show your support for MetGCSA member **Tim O'Neill, CGCS** (see his letter, page 7) in his run for GCSAA director.

- The **Trade Show** opens its doors at 9 a.m. to more than 750 exhibit booths, offering every conceivable golf course product and service.

- At 11 a.m., also in the Convention Center, join GCSAA President Scott Woodhead, CGCS, and CEO Steve Mona, CAE, for a discussion on the **State of the Association** and the activities surrounding GCSAA's 75th Anniversary Celebration.

- At noon, join fellow superintendents at the **Certification Luncheon**.

- From 7 – 11 p.m. in the Adams Mark Hotel is the **President's Dinner Show**, with entertainment by the World Classic Rockers, an "oldies" band that boasts members from such groups as the Eagles, Moody Blues, Steppenwolf, and Toto.

Saturday, February 17

Rather than pack your bags and leave for home, join in the excitement of the **Closing Festivities**. Included in your registration, it all begins at 12:30 p.m. with a family fun event: the **Wild, Wild West**, a Texas carnival with eats, live bulls, ropers, and many other side shows and activities.

From 3:15 to 5:30, is the **Closing Session and Reception**, with activities commemorating GCSAA's 75th anniversary and a special **Taste of Dallas**, with nearly a dozen of the city's best restaurants providing a sampling of their fine food.

For a complete listing of the conference and show events and schedules, call GCSAA at 800-472-7878, or visit the GCSAA website at www.gcsaa.org.

MetGCSA Honorary Member Arthur Weber Receives GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award

by Tim O'Neill, CGCS

Longtime MetGCSA friend and honorary member Arthur Weber will be awarded the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award at the 2001 GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show's Opening Session in Dallas, TX.

Reserved for individuals who've made "outstanding contributions to the advancement of the golf course superintendents professionalism," this is only one of several high honors Arthur Weber has received over the years for his contributions to the golf industry.

In 1994, our own association presented him with our coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award, while the next year, the MGA followed suit by presenting him with their Reid Award counterpart: the MGA Distinguished Service Award.

A veritable jack-of-all-trades, Arthur Weber's pursuits, over the course of his 80 years, are almost too numerous to recount. His talents have ranged from harmonica virtuoso and speed-skater to master rifleman and nuclear scientist and engineer. But in golf circles, Arthur Weber is known and loved for his passion for and commitment to the golf industry and the turfgrass management profession.

Claims to Fame

Among his claims to fame:

- He organized and chaired the very first MGA Green Committee, which, in 1990, evolved into the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, an organization that raises funds to support turf research crucial to superintendents in the tri-state area.

The board, now composed of representatives from five golf course superintendent associations and the MGA, has had Arthur Weber among its ranks since its inception.

- A founding father of Old Westbury Golf & Country Club in Old Westbury, NY, Arthur served not only as the club's first president, but also its long-tenured green chairman. And to this day, almost 40 years later, he is still an influential member of the club's Green Committee.

- So concerned with ensuring that our golf courses are environmentally responsible, Arthur created a Code of Environmental Conduct, which he's described as "an inter-

And Now a Word From Tim O'Neill, Our Nominee for GCSAA Board of Directors



active set of principles, policies, procedures, and responsibilities governing the use of golf course nutrients and pesticides, water management, and wildlife conservation."

Developed, originally, for his home course, Old Westbury, the code has since become a model for clubs and environmental groups across the country.

- In addition to serving on the USGA Green Section and Research committees, Arthur is also a past president of both the Long Island and Metropolitan Golf Associations.

In the End

"Few people have affected golf in as many ways as Arthur Weber," says Country Club of Darien Superintendent Tim O'Neill. "Having served alongside Arthur Weber on the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation board, I have seen, firsthand, his enthusiasm for and dedication to promoting the golf course superintendent, the profession, and environmentally safe golf course maintenance practices."

Adds Tim: "Arthur Weber has been an inspiration to all fortunate enough to have worked with him. I can think of no one who deserves GCSAA's Distinguished Service Award more than Arthur Weber."

Be sure to attend the Opening Session in Dallas on Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30 p.m. to help celebrate Arthur's achievements.

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

Serving on the GCSAA Board of Directors this past year has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my 20-year career as a golf course superintendent. With the support of the MetGCSA, I've gained valuable insight into the inner workings of our national association, and I've had the good fortune of working with—and learning from—fellow board members and our hardworking and talented staff in Lawrence, KS.

In my role as director, I served as chairman of both the Membership Committee and the Student Resource Group. In addition to keeping me busy, serving on these committees has helped me better understand the needs of our growing membership. It's also allowed me to participate in PDI discussions and gain a greater appreciation for the value of the proposed plan and its importance in the continued success of our association and profession.

I've worked hard this past year to support—and help develop—new programs and services that benefit golf course superintendents. If reelected in Dallas, you can be sure I will continue—even expand—these efforts.

I am pleased and honored to have the ongoing support of the MetGCSA in my candidacy for GCSAA director. I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting in Dallas on February 16 at 8 a.m. Your show of support means a lot.

Tim O'Neill, CGCS

Golf Championship Goes to Hilton Head in 2003...

*And Other GCSAA
Meeting News and Notes*

by Tim O'Neill, CGCS



On October 20 and 21, the board convened for its fall meeting. It began, as always, with a review of the association's financial position and the customary reports from CEO Steve Mona and the officers. Then came the long list of discussion items.

As chairman of the Membership Committee, it was my responsibility to lead a discussion on revisions to the committee's standing rules. Every committee has its own set of standing rules or guidelines used to "ensure the fair and equitable interpretation and enforcement of GCSAA membership rules." Committees periodically review and make revisions to the standing rules specific to their area.

During this particular meeting, some of the Membership Committee rules were up for discussion. One of the prime targets were the guidelines for determining the number of superintendent members allowed from the same facility.

We established, for instance, that one superintendent member is allowed for each 9-hole course, while two are allowed from an 18-hole facility—provided one of the two people is responsible for more than the everyday management of the golf course.

A 27-hole course can have two superintendent members, while a 36-hole facility can have three—as long as one of the three is clearly responsible for more than the everyday management of the golf course.

Other revisions to the standing rules for this committee were related to student membership qualifications and membership status of unemployed members.

As chairman of the Student Resource Group, I also initiated discussion on a web-only membership option for student members. This would allow students to join GCSAA at a reduced rate and access all publications and communication on the web. This discussion point will be up for vote at the preconference meeting in San Antonio.

Items Worthy of Discussion

Other items discussed and put on the docket for approval at the next board meeting:

- The Chapter Relations Committee proposed that GCSAA recognize chapters for special contributions in such areas as education, scholarships, research, or community service. To do this, the committee suggested creating a Presidents Excellence Award and publicizing the various chapters' specific contributions. In addition to being nice press for the local association, it could serve as inspiration for other chapters.
- The board discussed establishing guide-

lines for web forums to eliminate inappropriate postings and conversations on the website. One proposal was to ban anonymous postings.

- We also batted around ideas for making the Speakers Bureau Program more meaningful. We discussed, for instance, ensuring that those on the bureau—which is composed of GCSAA board members—take a more proactive approach in contacting chapters. Also proposed was that bureau members make a sit-down meeting with the chapter's board of directors part of their visit so they might discuss GCSAA—or chapter-specific—issues.

Items That Passed Muster

Some of the items approved by the board:

- Sponsorship/licensing agreements were solidified with companies that have agreed to sponsor the myriad show and conference events and regional seminars.
- The 2001 Legislative/Regulatory Agenda guiding the Government Relations Committee's activities throughout the year was approved. The committee developed position papers that will be used to support superintendents across the country battling such issues as noise ordinances, pesticide bans, and land use restrictions.
- Hilton Head Island was selected as the site of the 2003 Golf Championship.
- The Limited Budget Outreach Group has formulated an Associate Outreach membership category, which will qualify facilities with limited budgets to join GCSAA at a reduced rate, but with fewer privileges. They will not, for instance, be able to vote. The Outreach Group hopes to secure memberships from at least 500 clubs with limited budgets throughout the country.

Looking Ahead

The next opportunity I will have to discuss association issues with the entire board is at the upcoming Planning Meeting. Scheduled for mid-December, the Planning Meeting is the time board members and GCSAA staff discuss long-range planning and other major issues facing the association.

On the agenda for this meeting are such issues as improving communication with members and chapters, the association's Internet strategy, PDI, and how we might expand the annual conference and show.

Watch for an update as these discussions unfold.

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



Scorecard

Burning Tree Hosts Dual Event

On September 19, Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, CT, hosted the rain-shortened Superintendent Championship and the final qualifying round for the Met Area Team Championship. The course was in superb condition and provided a challenging round for all. Here are the outcomes of these two events.

MetGCSA Superintendent Championship

		27-Hole Total
Champion	Earl Millet, <i>Ridgeway Country Club</i>	116
Runner-Up	Shawn O'Sullivan, <i>D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Club</i> (won on match of cards)	120
Third Place	John Carlone, <i>The Meadow Brook Club</i>	120
First Flight (scores from The Hamlet Golf & Tennis Club)		
Gross Winner	Tony Grasso, <i>Metropolis Country Club</i>	80
Net Winner	Jeff Wentworth, <i>Pelham Country Club</i>	72
Second Flight (scores from The Hamlet Golf & Tennis Club)		
Gross Winner	Joe Alonzi, <i>Westchester Country Club</i>	89
Net Winner	Bob Alonzi, <i>Fenway Golf Club</i>	73

Met Area Team Championship Qualifier

Gross Team Qualifiers

Earl Millet, *Ridgeway Country Club*
John Carlone, *The Meadow Brook Club*
Shawn O'Sullivan, *D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Club*
Tony Grasso, *Metropolis Country Club*
Les Kennedy (alternate), *Blind Brook Club*

Net Team Qualifiers

Jeff Wentworth, *Pelham Country Club*
Bob Alonzi, *Fenway Golf Club*
Joe Alonzi, *Westchester Country Club*
Dennis Flynn, *Brae Burn Country Club*
Bill Perlee (alternate), *The Apawamis Club*

The Tournament Committee would like to thank our host superintendent, Gary Glazier, Club Manager Roger Loose, and the members of Burning Tree for their hospitality.

Sunningdale Runs Away With Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney

Alpine Country Club Superintendent Steve Finamore and his staff showed us why their club is always at the top of the list for Met courses. Anyone who did not attend the October 10 Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament missed out on great test of golf. Here are the winning results:

Low Gross Winner

Sean Cain and Doug Quartner
Sunningdale Country Club

Low Net Winner

Chuck Denny and John Apple
Salem Golf Club

Closest to the Pin

Tim McAvoy, *Fox Hollow Golf Club*

Longest Drive

Doug Quartner, *Sunningdale Country Club*

METGCSA Assumes Runner-Up Position in Met Area Team Championship

The Country Club of Fairfield in Fairfield, CT, was the host of the 21st annual Met Area Team Championship on October 16. Seven associations competed for this year's title. The contestants enjoyed a true links experience with a cold, damp wind blowing in from the Sound. The immaculately maintained course proved to be a real test for competitors with the low gross honors going to the Connecticut Association's Ian Kunesch with a 78 and with our very own Earl Millet coming in a close second with a 79.

The results are as follows:

Champion	Connecticut AGCS	486
Runner-Up	MetGCSA	491
Third Place	New Jersey GCSA	492

Also participating in the tourney were teams from the Hudson Valley GCSA, Long Island GCSA, Northeastern GCSA, and the Philadelphia GCSA.

We would like to thank our host superintendent, Pat Sisk, Club Manager George Poole, and the members the of Country Club of Fairfield.

The Alonzi Brothers Take the MetGCSA Two-Ball Championship

The annual Met Two-Ball Championship was, once again, a big success with our largest field of the year turning out at Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, NY, to compete in the qualifying round. After a long summer of tight matches, the two Class A teams remaining were Alonzi and Alonzi versus Cain and Wentworth.

The final match of the competition was played at the tournament-conditioned Quaker Ridge Country Club in Scarsdale, NY. Tightly contested, the match was all square after the front nine. The upstart first-year team of Cain and Wentworth were in position to potentially pull an upset of mammoth proportions. The contest went all 18 holes with the team of Alonzi and Alonzi turning their game up a notch on the back nine. They emerged victorious, winning the match 1 up.

Congratulations to Joe and Bob Alonzi, the 2000 MetGCSA Two-Ball champs!

Class AF Wins

In the AF bracket, it came down to the teams of Lippman Jr. and Richichi versus Cook and Clear. They slugged it out at Sunningdale Country Club in Scarsdale, NY, on October 20. Lippman and Richichi jumped out to a fast start going 5 up just before the turn. Instead of quitting like Gottala vs. Tyson, the boys from Alpine, The Care of Trees saved face by taking their foes to the last hole. John Richichi finished the match with a par-saving putt to finish at 1 up.

Congratulations to Bob Lippman Jr. and John Richichi, the 2000 AF Champs!

Member News

Farewell, My Friends

As many of you probably know by now, I have accepted the superintendent's position at Milwaukee Country Club in River Hills, WI, and have resigned from the MetGCSA Board of Directors. Though I'm excited about this new opportunity, it's hard leaving behind an association I've been a part of—and served—for the past 10 years, not to mention the many lifelong friends I've made along the way.

Before I head out to the Midwest, I want to thank all of you who have influenced my career in such an important way. It's been a privilege and pleasure serving on our Board of Directors and on our numerous committees. The leadership of our association, throughout the years, has been unsurpassed. In my travels to conferences or seminars, I'm always asked about the "state of the MetGCSA": what projects we're funding, how we intend to vote on various issues... the list goes on. The MetGCSA is clearly viewed as one of the leading associations in this country, and I am extremely honored to be a member.

As you know, the success of any organization is heavily dependent on the involvement and dedication of its members and support staff. The MetGCSA has a history of member volunteers who have given their time, insight, and experience freely. We are also fortunate to have a strong support staff. Ineke Pierpoint, our executive secretary, is the backbone of our association and one person I will truly miss talking to on a regular basis. Pandora Wojick, our *Tee to Green* managing editor, is the reason our publication has risen to the ranks of one of the best in the country. Pandora's creativity and professionalism are evident in each and every issue.

A special thank you to Earl Millett and John Carlone, the two Met presidents I served under while on the Board of Directors. Not only have they both offered support and encouragement at various points in my career, they've also provided the push I needed to become involved in the association—something I'll, obviously, always be thankful for.

I strongly encourage each and every member of the MetGCSA to become involved in the association. Whether you agree to host a meeting or volunteer to serve on a committee, your efforts will pay dividends—in ways that may surprise you.

My address and phone number will be in the new directory, and I hope you'll call or stop by for a visit if you're in the area. Although I will miss the day-to-day interaction with our association, I do look forward to returning often to see my old friends and colleagues.

Best regards,

Pat Sisk

Tee to Green Co-Editor



Burning Tree Recognized for Environmental Excellence

Thanks to the efforts of Superintendent **Gary Glazier**, Burning Tree Country Club has achieved designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International, endorsed by the United States Golf Association. Burning Tree Country Club is the sixth course in Connecticut and the 255th in the world to receive the honor.

"Becoming certified as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary is one of my greatest achievements as a golf course superintendent," says Gary. "Through the program, the golf industry's environmental awareness and sensitivity have definitely changed for the better."

To become certified, a course must demonstrate that it is maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas. Among them: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

Gary Glazier and Burning Tree are to be commended for their efforts in providing a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property.

Flynn Wins Big

When Brae Burn Superintendent **Dennis Flynn** attended a regional Aventis sales presentation this past January, he had no idea just how worthwhile a trip that would be. While there, he obliged in entering the company's "DeltaGard Down Under" sweepstakes, but winning was far from his mind—so far, in fact, that he barely remembered filling out the form when he was notified of his good fortune: an all-expenses-paid trip for two to Australia.

The two-week stay will take Dennis across the continent, visiting such attractions as the Blue Mountains, Alice Springs, and the Great Barrier Reef. And, of course, he'll have the opportunity to golf at one of Australia's newest courses: The Links in Pt. Douglas.

Way to go, Dennis!

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

Grover Alexander, Class C, Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, NY

Matthew Arazosa, Class D, The Meadow Brook Club, Jericho, NY

Thomas Ashfield, Class A, Canoe Brook Country Club, Summit, NJ

Tim Benedict, Class C, The Meadow Brook Club, Jericho, NY

James Costanzo, Class C, The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT

John Ferruccio Jr., Knollwood Country Club, Elmsford, NY

John Mills, Class C, Country Club of New Canaan, New Canaan, CT

Ricky Palmerton, Class C, Centennial Golf Club, Carmel, NY

Andrew Stevens, Class C, Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Scarborough, NY

Retired

A MetGCSA member since 1966, Shackamaxon Country Club Superintendent **Jack Martin** has joined the ranks of the Class A Life members. Congratulations on your retirement, Jack!

Members on the Move

Brian Benedict is the new superintendent at The Seawane Club in Hewlett Harbor, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Century Country Club, Purchase, NY.

Wayne Foster is a new sales representative at Koonz Sprinkler Supply, Springfield, NJ. Previous position: Superintendent at Rockaway River Country Club, Denville, NJ.

Brian Hall is the new grounds manager at Convent of the Sacred Heart, Greenwich, CT. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at The Apawamis Club, Rye, NY.

David Koziol is the new superintendent at Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Country Club of Fairfield.

Pat Sisk is the new superintendent at Milwaukee Country Club, River Hills, WI. Previous position: Superintendent at Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT. (See farewell note, page 10.)

Upcoming Events



So Pick Up the Phone

If anyone is interested in hosting a MetGCSA golf or social event next year, we're still looking for volunteers. 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, 914-798-5361.

Professional Events

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 10, 2001
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Host: Joe Alonzi, CGCS

A star-studded lineup of speakers is in store for you at this always-informative event. Among the speakers and their topics: Tom Campbell on Global Positioning Systems (GPS) for the golf course. Dr. Frank Rossi on the moss research we are helping to fund. Steve Bernhardt on reel grinding: the history and the agronomic impact of super-sharp mowers. And David Ravel on the selection and development of products for the future.

GCSAA Education Seminar: Lake and Aquatic Plant Management

Monday, January 15, 2001
Fishkill Holiday Inn, Fishkill, NY

This GCSAA seminar will cover everything you need to know about lake and aquatic plant management. Among the topics: lake chemistry and biology, aquatic weed and algae identification, turf management practices that affect lake water quality, design and construction of lake systems, lake management tools (aeration, biological, chemical, mechanical, and cultural), aquatic herbicide applications, and EPA and state permit issues.

For further information or to register, call GCSAA at 800-472-7878.

NYSTA Southeastern Regional Conference & Trade Show

Monday, February 26
Suffern Holiday Inn, Suffern, NY

NYSTA welcomes you to join other green industry professionals for its annual, one-day regional conference and trade show.

For further information, call the Conference Hotline at 800-873-TURF or 518-783-1229.

Professional Development Program

The Turfgrass Management Short Course

Monday – Friday, February 19 – 23, 2001
The BOCES, Yorktown Heights, NY

Cornell University, in cooperation with the New York State Turf and Landscape Association, brings its turf program to Westchester County. Geared for golf course, lawn & landscape, and sports turf managers, this one-week session is ideal for golf course crew members who would like to further their turfgrass knowledge. Participants will learn the fundamental principles of soil management; grass identification, selection, establishment, and primary care; and integrated pest management, including pest diagnostics and control. Instruction will include lecture, discussion, and hands-on lab work.

longer in existence: Barrington Country Club in Barrington, RI.

For the past 19 years, I've made a living working on golf courses. I know I could never do anything I enjoy as much or find a profession that I could love more than this one. I thank my father for introducing me to the game, encouraging me to pursue my goals, and guiding me along the way.

Rest in peace, Dad.

Happy Holidays

I would like to thank Chairman Joe Alonzi and the rest of the Social & Welfare Committee for their hard work in putting on a tremendous Christmas Party! This year's party, held on December 9 at Mt. Kisco Country Club, was a great success. It was well attended, the band was awesome, and the dance floor was packed! Also thanks to host Fred Scheyhing, CGCS, Manager Hussein Ali, and the entire staff at Mt. Kisco for a great night!

I would also like to congratulate Westchester Country Club Super Joe Alonzi for being selected by the Awards Committee as this year's recipient of the Sherwood A. Moore Award (see write-up on page 2). Joe is one person who truly exemplifies the qualifications for the award: "A golf course superintendent who advances the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent."

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I would like to extend sincerest wishes for a joyous holiday season to all MetGCSA members and their families. Let's all enjoy some quality family time and hope for a long, snowy winter!

John Carlone, CGCS
President

by Scott Niven,
CGCS

S EEING I S B E L I E V I N G

If you see Scott Niven humming and skipping to the Johnny Nash tune "I Can See Clearly Now . . .", don't worry, he hasn't lost his mind—just his vision problem. Earlier this year, Scott braved a procedure that many eyeglass and lens wearers only ponder . . . and with some trepidation. Beyond the surgery's relatively high cost, there are those stories—though rare—of surgeries-gone-bad, where people are left with vision problems far worse than when they started.

Scott has a different tale to tell . . . one that gives anyone hoping to see clearly now—or at some point in the future—the encouragement to forge ahead with the procedure. What follows is Scott's personal account of the days leading up to, during, and after his LASIK eye surgery.

After wearing contact lenses for nearly 25 years, I was very receptive to any procedure that would free me of the myriad duties and discomfort associated with using lenses. I had heard of corrective

laser eye surgery and followed it for many years. On my annual visits to the optometrist, in fact, I'd ask if the time had finally arrived that I could risk laser surgery. But it wasn't until Dr. Richard J. Mackool, an eye surgeon and personal friend of mine, explained the details of the procedure that I felt confident enough to have the surgery.

Dr. Mackool is the director of the Mackool Eye Institute and Laser Center in Queens, NY, and his impressive resume qualifies him as one of the best surgical ophthalmologists in the world today.

He's performed tens of thousands of ophthalmic microsurgical and laser procedures, and he specializes in advanced techniques for laser vision correction—like LASIK—and modern cataract removal. Making me all the more certain that I couldn't go wrong was that he conducts courses at the Institute for ophthalmic surgeons from around the world and has, on his patient roster, many world-famous athletes, actors, and other public figures.

Without reservation, I went under the knife—rather, the laser—in February. Here's a look at how the process worked.

What Is LASIK, Anyway?

LASIK is an acronym for Laser Assisted in-situ keratomileusis, which is a procedure where a small part of the cornea, called the corneal flap, is partially lifted by using a very precise instrument called a microkeratome.

The excimer laser is then used to vaporize very thin layers of the corneal tissue, reshaping the cornea and allowing the light ray to focus properly on the retina. The corneal flap is then replaced into its original position, and it begins healing immediately.

You're a good candidate for this procedure if you're at least 21 years old, have had

Basic Vision Problems Defined

Nearsightedness (myopia) is a condition where either the cornea (the front covering of the eye) is too curved, or the eye is too long. This causes objects that are at a distance to be focused improperly in front of the retina, the light-sensitive layer in the back of the eye, where they appear blurry.

Farsightedness (hyperopia) is a condition where the cornea is not curved enough, or the eye is too short. This causes objects to be focused behind the retina.

Astigmatism occurs when the cornea of the eye is somewhat oval like a football instead of round like a basketball. This causes an image to focus at two focal points. Many people who are nearsighted or farsighted also have astigmatism.



Three Years Later . . . Further Testimony

"It's like a Godsend." Those are the words Lesco Sales Rep Mike Dukette used to describe the results of the LASIK eye surgery he had performed in Montreal, Canada in 1997—before the procedure was approved in the United States. He went in with 20/200 vision and astigmatism and came out with a perfect 20/15.

Mike did admit to experiencing a few short-term after-effects: "About one-and-a-half hours after the surgery," he says, "my eyes burned like hell." He also found that his tear ducts were dry for about three or four days, and for a couple of weeks after the surgery—while his corneas were still healing—he'd get a prism effect from headlights when driving at night. But according to Mike, those visual blips are long gone. And three years later, he's more than pleased with the results. "My eyesight's perfect—it's *still* perfect. It's one of the best things I've done in my life."

stable vision for at least one year, and would like to correct poor vision due to nearsightedness, farsightedness, or astigmatism (see "Basic Vision Problems Defined," left).

Frankly, there are not many vision problems that can't be fixed with LASIK or other types of procedures. In my case, I was looking to improve a slight case of nearsightedness: 20/50 vision, which is a 1.75 diopter lens correction.

The Procedure From Start to Finish

Although you can opt to do one eye at a time with weeks or months in between, I chose to do both eyes at once late one Thursday afternoon.

The first step in the procedure was to take a sedative—though optional, I'd recommend it—and relax for about a half-hour before going into surgery.

Upon entering the operating room, I was positioned in a comfortable recliner and rolled back to lie flat. Then a cover was taped over the eye that was not being operated on; it was the pattern of a black-and-white checkerboard, which was interesting to look at.

The other eye was prepared by first applying some numbing—or anesthetic—drops to completely eliminate any pain. Then my eyelid was taped back and an instrument called a speculum was gently placed on my eye to ensure that it would remain open while the doctor did his work.

With that done, I was rolled under the laser equipment, and the microkeratome instrument was attached to my eye, ready to create and lift the corneal flap. All of this work was performed so close to my eye that I couldn't see a thing.

The next step was to line up and then operate the laser for just 14 seconds to melt away a precise layer of my cornea. The laser's course was carefully charted in a preoperative visit a few weeks before surgery and then programmed into the computer that controls the laser. During the laser treatment, my eye was held still by a special device. Dr. Mackool uses this method or a laser-guided tracking system developed by NASA to ensure that the laser is always aimed precisely at the cornea.

The procedure was completely painless. The only sensation I experienced was some fireworks-like bright colors during the laser treatment. The entire process took less than 10 minutes, and when I opened my eye as I was leaving the operating room, I was already able to see very well!

I was then given some dark glasses and asked to relax in a comfortable lounge area for about a half-hour. When the time was up, my other eye underwent the same treatment.

Afterwards

My wife picked me up shortly after the surgery, and we stopped for a quick dinner on the way home. I went to bed about 8:30 and slept great until my usual 5:15 a.m. Much to my surprise, when I opened my eyes, I could see perfectly—and without any discomfort at all! At 10:30 that morning, I had a post-operative appointment to see how everything looked. Both of my eyes were testing a solid 20/15.

The only side-effect I had was a small red spot on one eye, which disappeared in about 10 days. Follow-up visits weeks and months later confirmed that my vision had stabilized at 20/15.

The Price You Pay for Good Vision

The cost of LASIK can vary from as low as \$2,000 to as high as \$6,000. When all is said and done, Dr. Mackool's procedure runs about \$4,500.

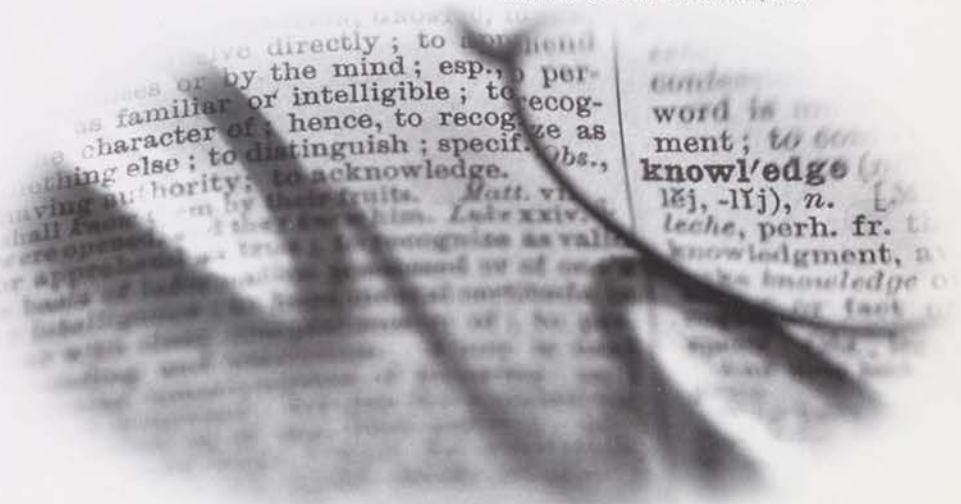
Dr. Mackool does, however, offer some "eye-opening" advice about the price you pay for improved vision: "Don't worry about the cost; just find the best, most competent, experienced surgeon you can. You should never make getting a great deal your priority when it comes to something as important as your eyesight."

Finally, I would say that eye surgery has been one of the most gratifying things I have ever done. My newfound perfect vision has improved my life in many small ways, making it a little simpler and a lot more comfortable.

If this testimony peaks your interest in eye surgery, I encourage you to further your research. No two vision problems are the same—nor are the results of the LASIK procedure. There are numerous vision correction procedures out there. One may be better suited to your vision problem.

Good luck in your search for good eyesight!

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



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