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### Tee to Green Staff

Editors

GLENN PERRY 203-762-9484

RY GREGWOJICK 34 203-869-1000, ext. 253

Managing Editor PANDORA C.WOJICK

Editorial Committee GLEN DUBE CHIP LAFFERTY SCOTT NIVEN TIM O'NEILL BILL PERLEE

> Photographer BILL PERLEE

Advertising Manager GREG WOJICK, 203-869-1000, ext. 253

### Advisory Board

JOE ALONZI JON JENNINGS TIM MOORE PAT SISK JOHN STREETER

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n this Issue

### Features

Paving the Way for 'Moore' Membership Involvement ......2

## Departments

Upcoming Events	5
Info Alert	6
DEP Conference Makes Connecticut Water Diversion Requirements	0
Crystal Clear	
MetGCSA News	7
Have You Noticed? There's So Much More to the Met Web Site	
Scorecard	8
Member News	9
Work Smarts	10
When You've Gotta Have Rough That's a Cut Above	



## Friendly Reminders . . . and a lot 'Moore'



he pressure's on. Now, as president of the Met, my phone will be ringing at least every other month with a message from you-know-who (in case you don't, it's *Tee to Green's* managing editor, Pandora Wojick) with a "friendly" reminder about my president's message.

As I struggled to come up with some ideas for this one—it being my first message—I started to think about what I should use this space for each issue. If you're looking for some earth-shattering news, you won't find it here. I'd like to use this column as others have in the past: to give you a little insight from my perspective as president of the MetGCSA and to keep you informed on what's going on in and around the association.



Tim Moore MetGCSA President

### Good Tidings to You

First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and a joyous New Year. (Even though the warm temps make it seem more like Easter than Christmastime!)

With a little luck, we'll all be able to take some well-deserved time off to celebrate and enjoy it with our families and friends. I think this is a great time of year to be with the people we care about most. If you have young children, enjoy them while you can. I can tell you from experience that it goes by too quickly, and you'll never get those years back.

### **Proud to Be a Member**

When you read my profile in this issue, you'll see that I've been active in this association for many years. Serving on the board has truly been a rewarding experience. I can't say enough about all I've learned from working with the Met's many talented and dedicated members, not the least of whom have been our past presidents, board, and committee members. Their dedication and determination never cease to amaze me.

I, along with the rest of the board of directors, will continue to seek fresh new ideas and suggestions about how to encourage greater participation and involvement in our association. Of course, I can think of no better way for any of you to start off the New Year than to volunteer to serve on a committee or even offer your club to host a meeting. There are endless—and relatively painless—ways to get involved and play an active roll in our association.

In the next issue of *Tee to Green*, we will run a list of our committees and new chairmen. I hope you'll decide to join one of these efforts. In the meantime, if you have a committee you know you'd like serve on or are wondering which committee might suit you best—please feel free to give me a call. I'd be happy to point you in the right direction.

### **Tough Shoes to Fill**

Over the years, the Met has been in good hands and has grown into the association it is today under the direction of many dedicated past presidents. Our past presidents and their individual accomplishments are too numerous to mention here, but I would like to thank all of them for their unselfish—and obviously highly effective leadership.

I would also like to take this time to personally thank our most recent past president, John Carlone, for all he's done—and will continue to do—for our association. I have had the privilege of working with *continued on page 4* 

Tee to Green November/December 2001 1



# Paving the Way for 'Moore' Membership Involvement

by Greg Wojick, CGCS



Knollwood Country Club's Tim Moore Shares His Vision for the MetGCSA as the Association's Newly Elected 25th President tanding at the podium at the MetGCSA's November 7 Annual Meeting and looking out at only a fraction of the membership he will lead for the next two years, newly elected MetGCSA president Tim Moore makes a vow to take a long, hard look at what's ailing our association.

"I'm concerned," he says, "about the dwindling number of members attending Met meetings and events. Everyone seems to be so busy these days. If it's not the growing demands of the job, it's demands from home," Tim adds, as if to excuse the association's current state of apathy.

At this very meeting, where superintendents were, at one time, well represented, there were only 22 of the association's 148 Class A and B superintendent members present.

Though Tim is quick to point out that member apathy is also prevalent in other chapters in the nation, he's not content to stand by and let it run its course here. Tim has already begun mulling over possible solutions—based on input from the board and numerous concerned members.

"One thought is to have fewer meetings and to make them all not-to-be-missed events with cutting-edge educational components," says Tim, who continues, "While I agree wholeheartedly with having a solid educational program, I'm not so quick to jump on cutting the number of meetings and events. I would like, first, to take a good look at how we plan and schedule our events to see if there might be room for improvement.

"There are, after all, so many things

offered to superintendents these days ... seminars, workshops, club events, companysponsored events ... that our events sometimes take a backseat—particularly if we don't watch how they're scheduled. Many members also belong to other associations that require their participation. Even some of our board members have dual memberships," notes Tim, pointing to his own affiliation with Hudson Valley and others' with Connecticut and Long Island.

In the end, Tim will look to the membership—particularly members of the board—for creative tactics for rekindling member involvement in the Met.

"While I agree wholeheartedly with having a solid educational program, I'm not so quick to jump on cutting the number of meetings and events."

## What 'Moore' Could You Want in a President?

A MetGCSA member since 1977, Tim has never been one to "take without giving back." He's spent more than half of the past 24 years serving on the board of directors and on numerous committees, not the least of which was the Communications Committee where he was editor of the *Tee* to Green for seven years.

In addition to moving through the chairs of the Met, Tim has also risen through the ranks of the Hudson Valley association, serving in 1977 and '78 as the group's president, an experience that will no doubt prove invaluable in his new lead-ership role with the Met.

"Every member of the Met should feel

confident that Tim is extremely qualified and prepared to be our next leader," says outgoing president John Carlone, acknowledging Tim's dedication and proven track record.

And as if all this is not proof enough of his industry savvy, Tim is also well connected to the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, serving on the group's board for the past two years.

An ardent supporter of our national organization—only fitting for a chapter president—Tim offers high praise for GCSAA's educational programs. "The ongoing educational opportunities GCSAA offers are second to none," says Tim. "I also applaud GCSAA's public relations efforts, both in helping promote our profession and in working to build government relations behind the scenes."

### **Professionally Speaking**

Tim, it seems, was destined for a career in golf course management. Once out of high school, he headed straight for an education in turf. "I started out at SUNY at Alfred State," says Tim. "Then in 1974, I transferred to the University of Massachusetts Winter Turf School and completed my certificate that same year."

Tim's first job out of school was as the assistant at Beekman Country Club in Hopewell Junction, NY. After two years there, he secured his first superintendent's position at Mahopac Golf Club in Mahopac, NY. He stayed at Mahopac for eight years, moving on, in 1984, to his current position at the 107-year-old Knollwood Country Club in Elmsford, NY.

As much as Tim is steeped in his professional affiliations, his job comes first. In his tenure at Knollwood, he's seen the course "Every member of the Met should feel confident that Tim is extremely qualified and prepared to be our next leader."

- John Carlone, Outgoing President



### John Carlone and Tim Moore

through numerous changes—"all for the better," he says. The latest, if not the greatest, was the completion of a brand-new driving range facility, which opened this past spring.

In all his dealings, Tim is always ready to give credit where credit is due, and when speaking about Knollwood, he can't help but praise his assistants, Frank Buschini Jr. and Jon Ferrucio Jr., along with his maintenance staff, for their contributions in keeping the course's day-to-day operations on track. "I couldn't have managed the renovation work we've done over the years without these guys," says Tim.

### Personally Speaking

Born in rural Newburgh, NY, and raised in Kingston and Woodstock, Tim is a country boy at heart. He and his wife Beth of 24 years enjoy the outdoors together: skiing, golfing, and taking their boat out on the Hudson. "Once in a while, I can escape after work and enjoy the peace of the river," says Tim-

Tim's two children are in college: His son, Brian, is a sophomore at SUNY Potsdam, and his daughter, Meredith, is a senior at SUNY Plattsburgh. Both by the way, are past recipients of MetGCSA scholarship awards.

### **Looking Ahead**

Looking alread, Tim expresses high hopes for the association. "I'm honored to represent the MetGCSA' as president! And naturally, I'd love to see, in my tenure, a revival in members' enthusiasm for the association. But in the end, I can only hope that, like those before me, I can leave the associaation a little better than when I started im office."

Greg:Wojick; co-editor of the Tee to Green; is superintendent at Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich; CTI

### President's Message continued from page 1

John for several years now and can personally attest to his determination, dedication, and professionalism. John has consistently gone above and beyond what was expected of him. As a result, our entire association has benefited from his efforts. It makes for tough shoes to fill, but John, sincere thanks from all of us.

We are very fortunate to have another Met past president, Tim O'Neill, representing our interests—on the national level. Fast tracking it through the GCSAA chairs, Tim is running for secretary/treasurer of GCSAA after only two years as a director. I heard through the grapevine that Tim did a bang-up job at the recent Chapter Delegates Meeting in Lawrence, KS, and is well on his way to winning the election. Tim, we wish you the best and hope you know that you can count on our support. Good luck!

### Who's on Board

I am pleased to announce two recent appointments to the board. Sleepy Hollow Superintendent Tom Leahy has been appointed to finish out Matt Ceplo's oneyear term as director. Matt has moved up the ladder to secretary.

Tom will be co-chairing the Tournament Committee and brings much enthusiasm to his new role. Also new to the board is Class AF representative Jeffrey Weld from the Bayer Corporation. He will be lending his expertise to the Education Committee: I would like to thank, in advance, both Tom and Jeff for accepting the challenge and volunteering their time and effort.

I also want to thank Social & Welfare Committee Co-Chair Joe Alonzi and members for all the work they've done on this all-important committee in recent years. Through their efforts, we've all had a wonderful opportunity to get together and enjoy each other's company at the fineevents they've planned.

And finally, to close, I'd like to remind all of you to attend our fast-approaching Winter Seminar on January 16 at Westchester Country Club. Matt Ceplo and the Education Committee have worked hard to put together a thoughtprovoking program with something for everyone. Take a minute to look at Matt's program write-up on page 5.

As I look forward to the coming year, I ask you all to give a little of yourself. Come to our meetings. Participate in our social events. Volunteer your expertise: Get involved for the betterment of our association—and our profession.

Tim Moore President

## **Upcoming Events**

## MetGCSA Winter Seminar: Be There or Be Square

If you haven't already, be sure to mark your calendar with the Met's educational event of the year: the annual Winter Seminar, scheduled in 2002 for January 16 at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

Area vendors will have booths exhibiting the latest and greatest in equipment and golf course supplies. And on the educational roster is a wide range of topics that are sure to peak everyone's interest.

Here, Education Committee Co-Chair Matt Ceplo gives us the lowdown on the educational offerings:

**Dr. David Huff** from Penn State University will brief us on his *Poa* breeding trials. Get ready, you may walk away from his talk a *Poa annua* convert. "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em' sure applies here.

**Dr. James Murphy** from Rutgers University will speak on root zone mixes. His discussion will be based on the interesting—if unexpected—findings from his five-year pursuit of the ideal putting green root zone mix. Learn what works and what doesn't in establishing a healthy stand of creeping bentgrass putting green turf.

**Rodger Locks**, a CPA based in Saratoga Springs, NY, will apply his financial expertise to offer investment and long-term planning strategies that will help you come out on top of our turbulent market.

Lisa Micunek, president of Accent To Success, an image-consulting firm, will offer helpful hints on proper etiquette during interviews, meetings with media or personalities (green chairmen and club officials included), and that all-important luncheon with the Ladies Golf Committee.

**Don Gable** of the New York Botanical Gardens, and Carol Glenister, president of IPM Laboratories, will speak on practical applications of integrated pest management. Carol has already proved to me that IPM can work. When I had a severe aphid problem with our halfway house flowers, she shipped me a few thousand lady beetles (they're inexpensive). In less than a week after setting them loose on the aphids, these pesky insects had just about vanished.

### **Educational Events**

### 33rd Annual Professional Turf & Landscape Conference and Trade Show

Wednesday, January 9, 2002

Westchester County Center, White Plains, NY

For information on exhibiting at the trade show or attending the conference, call 914-946-3005.

### Second Annual Maxwell Turf & Landscape Conference and Trade Show

Wednesday, January 9, 2002

Melville Marriott Hotel, Melville, NY

For information on exhibiting at the trade show or attending the conference, call 631-643-8873.

### **Annual Lawn Care Seminar**

Thursday, January 31, 2002

Auburn Elks, Auburn, MA

Hosted by the UMass Extension Turf Program and the Massachusetts Association of Lawn Care Professionals (MALCP), this annual seminar for lawn care and turf and grounds management professionals will focus on implementing sound turf management practices as a basis for an integrated pest management system.

Pesticide recertification contact hours and credits will be available.

For further information, contact the MALCP at 781-274-7373 or the UMass Extension Turf Program at 508-892-0382.

### **Cornell Continuing Education Programs**

**Cornell Turfgrass Management Short Course** January 7 – 11, 2002 Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

### February 18-22, 2002

Hudson Valley, NY

Offered in cooperation with the New York Turfgrass Association and the New York State Turf and Landscape Association, this program teaches the basics of managing lawn, golf, and sports turf. The Cornell turfgrass team and a host of guest speakers will cover the fundamental principles of soil management; grass identification, selection, establishment, and primary care; and integrated pest management, including pest diagnostics and control.

For further information or to register for classes at either location, contact Joann Gruttadaurio at 607-255-1792.

### **Cornell Organic Turf Management Short Course**

January 22, 23, 29, 30, 2002

Long Island, NY

The focus of this course will be on how to establish and maintain turf, relying less on chemical products and more on organic materials while integrating the latest cultural and pest management practices.

For further information or to register, contact Joann Gruttadaurio at 607-255-1792.

### The 5th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

### March 5 - 7, 2002

Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI

This annual conference and show's educational sessions will bring you cutting edge turfgrass management tactics and techniques, as well as the latest in equipment, products, and supplies at more than 425 exhibitor booths. Be sure to catch the general session where keynote speaker and renowned Air Force Pilot Scott O'Grady shares the tools of courage, faith, and innovative thinking that are crucial to success in business and in life.

Also available on March 4 are preconference and GCSAA seminars on preparing your course for tournaments, shaded greens, and sprayer calibration and drift management.

For further information, call 401-841-5490.

## Info Alert

## DEP Conference Makes Connecticut Water Diversion Requirements Crystal Clear

Tec to Green November/December 200

he DEP conference on "Water Resource Management in a Golf Course Environment" drew a sizable crowd. About 200 stakeholders in Connecticut's golf course industry—superintendents, regulators, developers, industry affiliates, and consultants—attended the October 18 conference at Country Club of Farmington.

The prime intent of this gathering—as we noted in our July/August article on the permitting process—was to reach out to Connecticut golf course superintendents to help them understand what they need to do to comply—without penalty—with newly enacted state laws governing water diversions.

Attendees also heard presentations on hydrology, irrigation efficiency, and the ins and outs of hiring a consultant qualified to lead you through the permitting process. Last but not least was a panel discussion on the DEP's newly drafted Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Golf Course Water Use, which outlines water conservation practices intended to help golf courses comply with the water diversion requirements.

What follows are the high points of this important conference, which we put together with help of Robert Good Jr., a Met member and an associate with the ground water consulting firm of Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc.

### There's Only So Much to Go Around

For those of you still in the dark about the water diversion requirements, the Water Diversion Policy Act, which actually dates back to 1982, requires that any person or municipality pumping more than 50,000 gallons of ground or surface water a day must register each of their water diversions with the state.

Speaking to conference-goers, Denise Ruzicka, assistant director of the DEP Inland Water Resources Division, explained that the state's permitting of water allocations is merely an attempt to protect the environment by ensuring that Connecticut's water supply remains balanced against the competing demands from power supplies; industrial processes; and agricultural, recreational, and domestic uses. Right now, according to the most upto-date DEP information, 61 golf courses in the state have yet to file for the necessary water diversion permits. According to the new Public Act 01-202, they have until July 1, 2003 to submit a permit application without suffering any penalties. But the greatest penalty for waiting—even that long—it seems, is that they may end up being denied some part of their water allocation requests. Although the DEP has determined that 250,000 gallons per day (gpd) is an appropriate allocation for golf

The Water Diversion Policy Act, which actually dates back to 1982, requires that any person or municipality pumping more than 50,000 gallons of ground or surface water a day must register each of their water diversions with the state.

courses, if others have already been "permitted" to tap into the same watershed area, you may be robbed of some of your hoped-for allocation. "It's first come, first served," Denise cautioned the group.

Denise did offer some good news, however. Apparently, golf courses that registered their diversions by the original deadline in 1983 will be exempt from the diversion permit process, even if their withdrawals are causing impacts that would not be allowed under today's standards. But, of course, there are exceptions to every rule: If a golf course has made significant changes to its water system since 1982, it may be required to forfeit its exclusion status and go back to square one with the permitting process.

Denise concluded her time at the podium by reiterating the merits of applying for a permit earlier rather than later, since permit applications are reviewed and issued as they come in. She also offered the following words of advice:

## **MetGCSA** News

### Have You Noticed?... There's So Much More to the Met Web Site

The MetGCSA Web Site is better than ever. Not only is it being updated weekly with industry-related information, but Web Site Committee Chairman Tony Girardi and committee member Peter McCormick have added a link for the *Tee* to Green so that you can now view the entire publication any time you want just as it appears in print.

Other added features:

• A more comprehensive roster of Tri-State Research Reports for viewing and downloading

• An all-new employment "bulletin board" that allows individuals and clubs to post and view job opportunities

• Behind-the-scenes improvements that will make it far simpler for future web site managers to update or add information to the site

*Reminder:* The Met's web address is METGCSA.ORG.

For further information on how to surf the Met's web site, feel free to contact Tony at Rockrimmon Country Club in Stamford, CT, at 914-764-5010 or tgirardi@optonline.net.



### • Come in for a preapplication meeting with the DEP to discuss your course's water use and determine the best permit strategy.

• Hire a competent consultant, with expertise in hydrogeologic evaluations and diversion permit policy.

• Educate the local community whenever possible about golf course water use and water quality issues to minimize your chance of having to battle any objections to your application.

### General Diversion Permit Offers New Hope for Golf Courses

The morning session ended with Bob Smith, chief of the DEP Bureau of Water Management, speaking about the DEP's Golf Course Compliance Assistance Initiative. In addition to discussing the DEP's various efforts in helping golf courses develop a reasonable and effective strategy for securing a Water Diversion Permit, he announced a new proposal to develop a General Diversion Permit designed specifically for the golf course industry and better suited to golf course irrigation needs.

Still a work in progress, this new permit may allow for limited peak water usage in excess of 250,000 gpd and consider allowing "average water use" figures to be calculated over periods longer than 24 hours.

A representative from the Massachusetts DEP reported that his state's diversion permit allows golf courses to average their withdrawals in excess of 100,000 gpd over a three-month period.

Bob Smith closed by suggesting a course of action that will aid golf courses in complying with state water diversion requirements:

• Install flow meters at all water withdrawal points to provide good operational water use data.

• Review and institute the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Golf Course Water Use.

• Learn the diversion policy; don't rely on others' interpretations of your particular situation.

• Request a permit determination from the DEP, either in writing or with a preapplication meeting. • To avoid any enforcement actions, do what it takes to comply with Public Act 01-202. To review, the act states that, by July 1, 2002, each golf course that maintains a diversion must submit a description of its water system and use as of July 1982 and monthly data on the frequency and withdrawal rate for each individual discharge point—wells, ponds, streams, etc. for the years 1997 to 2001. If your withdrawal points were not metered, you will be allowed—under the Public Act—to estimate your water use.

### The Harsh Reality of the Permit Process

The general optimism about the new compliance initiatives was tempered, somewhat, by candid discussions about the reality of the permit process.

First, as we noted in our article in July/August, the permit process is both time-consuming and costly. One ground-water consultant mentioned during the panel discussions that permit costs can run anywhere from \$30,000 to \$150,000, depending on the number and type of water sources, the environmental sensitivity of the area, and the competing area water uses.

What's more, there is no standard much less speedy—turnaround time for DEP review and approval. The DEP readily admits that it's severely understaffed and that, with the current backlog, new applications can sit for six to nine months before they get so much as a glance.

The harsh reality: It could take one to two years before the DEP makes final comments on an individual permit application and a little less time to receive comments on a general permit application.

If you didn't catch the article "Is Your Club 'Permitted' to Use Water?" in the July/August issue of *Tee to Green*, it may be worth your while to track it down. It'll offer you an in-depth account of the Public Act 01-202 and the water permitting process, in addition to insightful personal testimony from Country Club of Darien Superintendent Tim O'Neill.

For further information about applying for a Water Diversion Permit, contact the DEP's Denise Ruzicka at 860-424-3853.

## Scorecard

## MetGCSA Annual Assistants Championship Proves to Be a Winning Event

## MetGCSA Takes Runner-Up Position for Second Year Running in Met Area Team Championship

On October 2, MetGCSA assistants gathered at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT, for their 12th Annual Assistants Championship. The event was hosted by Stanwich Assistant Jason Booth and Property Manager Scott Niven.

The sun was shining, and the greens were rolling for the 30 players competing in the Two-Man Best Ball and individual stroke play tournament.

Here's the long list of winning results:

### Individual Stroke Play

### **Low Gross Winners**

- 84 Scott Curry, Scarsdale Golf Club
- 89 John Majchrzak, Pine Hollow Country Club
- 90 Eric O'Neill, Scarsdale Golf Club

### **Low Net Winners**

- 77 Frank Buschini, Knollwood Country Club
- 80 Tim Combs, Rockrimmon Country Club
- 81 Matt Topazio, The Tuxedo Club

### Two-Man Best Ball

### **Low Gross Winners**

- 77 Scott Curry, Scarsdale Golf Club Eric O'Neill, Scarsdale Golf Club
- 82 Jason Booth, *The Stanwich Club* Ed Kaufmann, *Middle Bay Country Club*
- 85 John Majchrzak, Pine Hollow Country Club
  - Tim Benedict, The Meadow Brook Club

### **Low Net Winners**

- 67 Joe DeLauter, Woodway Country Club Tim Combs, Rockrimmon Country Club
- 69 Mark Berdine, The Tuxedo Club Matt Topazio, The Tuxedo Club
- 74 Frank Buschini, Knollwood Country Club Lindsey Baker, Blind Brook Club

### **Closest to the Pin**

#4 Chris Barnigat, Fryer's Head 11'2" #8 Joe Gardner, Seawane Golf Club 7'

### **Longest Drive**

Joe Gardner, Seawane Golf Club

## The Alonzi's Make a Repeat Performance in the Met Two-Ball Championship

This year's Two-Ball Championship was, once again, a big success with our largest field of the year turning out at The Powelton Club to compete in the qualifying round.

Matches were contested throughout the year, with Alonzi and Alonzi and Garceau and Brown the two Class A teams left standing after a long summer of tight matches.

The final match of the competition was played at the tournament-conditioned Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, CT. Bob Alonzi has been playing solid golf all summer, with accurate drives and great feel around the greens. Combine this with brother Joe's birdie potential, and you've got a team that's, once again, tough to beat.

Tim Garceau and Rich Brown made a nice comeback on the back nine, but it was too little, too late for the new boyz on the block to knock off the defending champions.

Congratulations to Joe and Bob Alonzi, the 2001 MetGCSA Two-Ball Champions! For the second year running, the MetGCSA has assumed an admirable runner-up position in the annual Met Area Team Championship. Celebrating its 22nd year, this hotly contested tourney was held October 11 at the Sunningdale Country Club in Scarsdale, NY.

A total of nine associations participated, enjoying a beautiful autumn day and putting on some very quick greens. The immaculately maintained course proved to be a real test for competitors with the low gross honors going to Tom Grimac of New Jersey with a 75 and our very own Les Kennedy a second with 82.

The results are as follows:

Champion	
New Jersey GCSA	468
Runner-Up	
MetGCSA	485
Third Place	
Northeastern GCSA	485

Representing the Met were the following team members:

### **Gross Team**

Earl Millett, Ridgeway Country Club Les Kennedy, Blind Brook Club Bob Zaletsky, New York Country Club Jim Fulwider, Century Country Club

### Net Team

Sean Cain, Sunningdale Country Club Jeff Wentworth, Pelham Country Club Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy Country Club Kevin Quist, Lake Isle Country Club

Also participating in the tourney were teams from the Connecticut AGCS, Hudson Valley GCSA, Long Island GCSA, Mid-Atlantic GCSA, Philadelphia GCSA, and Rhode Island GCSA.

The Tournament Committee would like to thank host Superintendent Sean Cain, General Manager Ray Corcoran, and the members of Sunningdale Country Club for their hospitality.

8

## Meadow Brook Hosts—and Wins— Super/Green Chairman Tourney

The Meadow Brook Hunt Club—as it's officially known—was the site of this year's Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament and meeting on October 16. The combination of great weather and superb playing conditions—thanks to John Carlone and his staff—made for an enjoyable day.

John—no doubt with the help of local knowledge—shot a 75 and led his partner to top honors in the gross division. Here are the results from the Super/Green Chairman Tourney and the Two-Man Best Ball contested by those playing without a green chairman.

### Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

### **Low Gross Winner**

74 John Carlone and Brad Weekes The Meadow Brook Club

### **Low Net Winner**

66 Craig Currier and David Cassidy Bethpage State Park Golf Club

### **Two-Man Best Ball**

### **Low Gross Winners**

75 Steven Finamore, Alpine Country Club Matt Ceplo, Rockland Country Club

### **Low Net Winners**

69<sup>°</sup>Les Kennedy, Blind Brook Club Frank Amodio, Valley View Greenhouses

### **Closest to the Pin**

Chairman: John Apple, Salem Golf Clubb Superintendent: Mark Lester, Gardiners Bay Country Clubb

### **Longest Drive**

Chairman: Andrew Puppo, Island Hills<sup>1</sup> Golf Club<sup>b</sup> Superintendent: John Carlone, The Meadow Brook Club<sup>b</sup>

## Member News

### **New Member**

Please join us in welcoming new member **Richard Spear**, superintendent at Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley, NY.

### **Members on the Move**

John Genovesi is the new superintendent at Island Hills Golf Club in Sayville, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Pinehurst #2, Pinehurst, NC.

Wayne Remo is the new superintendent at Apple Ridge Country Club in Mahway, NJ. Previous position: Superintendent at Rock Spring Club, West Orange, NJ.





### Births

Congratulations to Island Hills Golf Club Superintendent **John Genovesi** and his<sup>s</sup> wife, Liz, on the birth of their son—and first child, Anthony Steven, on July 22.

### Wedding Bells

Congratulations and best wishes to Scarsdale Golf Club Assistant Eric O'Neill and his new wife, Denise Ripple. The two were married on November 3.

### Well Wishes and Congratulations

We'd like to continue our well wishes to MetGCSA<sup>A</sup> friend Gerald Mahoney, MGA<sup>A</sup>Dilector of Golf Programs.<sup>6</sup> Gerald will<sup>11</sup> be honored with the MGA's Distinguished Service Award at the group's Annuar<sup>11</sup> Meeting on December 5.<sup>5</sup> Congratulations, Gerald<sup>11</sup>

### Well Done!

Congratulations' to former *Tee to Green* Editor **Jon Jennings** on his admirable fin ish in the October 7 Chicago Marathon. This Chicago Golf Club superintendent placed 2,148 out of the 28,760 who crossed the finish line. His time: 3:17:14.<sup>4</sup>

## Work Smarts

# When You've Gotta Have Rough That's a Cut Above

by Kathy M. Antaya USGA Green Section Ave you been hearing any rumblings around the club about your rough . . . ? Maybe members have been complaining about losing balls in the inconsistent clumps of turf . . . or that the rough is looking a little too sparse? Have you been getting more guff from golfers wondering where the fairway ends and the rough begins?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, then you could be a candidate for regrassing your rough. It's true: With ever-increasing member expectations, regrassing has uses that extend far beyond greens. In fact, this arduous, but worthy process works just as well—if not better—on rough.

Though overseeding may be an option for remedying what ails your turf, regrassing is clearly the quickest route to change. When you regrass, you *eliminate* your old turf, clearing the way for an all-new species or cultivar composition—of your choice.

The most likely incentive for regrassing is to establish better playing surfaces or more stress- or disease-resistant turf-

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grass swards. Another likely motive is to enhance visual definition between fairway and rough. Courses that are recontouring or realigning fairways for playability or restoration purposes also profit from regrassing since, as we know, fairway turf generally makes a poor quality rough turf.

No matter what your motive for regrassing, the key to success, we're told by USGA Agronomist and former superintendent Kathy Antaya, is to look before you leap into the process. "Think, long and hard, about your course of action. Ask questions. Plan for contingencies. When doing a project of this magnitude," she warns, "you have to expect the unexpected."

In the piece that follows, Kathy Antaya brings the good and bad of regrassing to life as she takes you through pondering and planning the process for your course. For those who decide to take the leap, she also offers tried-and-true methods for regrassing your roughs—from start to finish.

### **Questions to Consider**

When considering regrassing, it's essential that you start by asking yourself the following questions. Your answers will help you establish not only a sensible budget, but also an appropriate turf species and modus operandi.

1. Why are we doing this? Answering this question will help you define the essentials: grass types and regrassing techniques. If you were to say, for instance, that you want to "eliminate creeping bentgrass/*Poa annua*," versus "reduce fairway acreage and maintenance costs," it would be clear that you were more concerned about playability than economics.

While Kentucky bluegrass is one of the best playing-quality turfgrasses for roughs, a course looking to reduce expenses might consider low-maintenance fescues a better option. Another point to consider, here, is that the dense mat/thatch layer of roughheight creeping bent/*Poa annua* will require greater effort to remove than some other turfgrasses.

Finally, by answering this question, you might discover that your needs extend beyond regrassing. If your response, for instance, were that you'd like to "increase the density of your turf," then you should first evaluate whether the root cause of your problem is too much shade or insufficient drainage. Your regrassing efforts—and resources—will be wasted if your growing conditions aren't up to snuff.

2. Where will we regrass? Once you and your club decide why you need to regrass, the size and scope of the project should be defined. This will aid you in budgeting, scheduling, and choosing the appropriate method.

Word to the Wise: Don't jump into a big project without a little test—particularly if the project is large and the work controversial. Perform a small-scale demonstration before gearing up. The naysayers will likely be swayed by high-quality results; the inconvenience to golfers will be better understood; and you will have a more realistic idea of costs and logistics. **3.** Which turfgrass species are appropriate? This extremely important decision is based on numerous criteria: climate, sunlight exposure, course style, maintenance level, traffic, and players' desires.

Admittedly, the selection process can be daunting, given the number of choices. The most comprehensive and reliable source for information are the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) data summaries. NTEP data summaries, available through the U. S. Department of Agriculture (www.ntep.org), are divided by turf type (i.e., bentgrass, fine-leaf fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, bermudagrass, etc.). Each summary rates cultivar characteristics and performance (quality, color, density, and disease resistance) at many locations under several maintenance levels and also gives overall ratings. Be sure to choose the test location most similar to your climate, and review the data charts for the top-performing commercially available cultivars, paying special attention to ratings for your most troublesome diseases.

Once you've gathered all the facts, it's prudent to consult your green committee, course officials, USGA agronomist, and perhaps the golf course architect.

Keep in mind that a mix (different species) or blend (different cultivars of one species) increases genetic diversity, imbuing a turf stand with better tolerance to a greater range of stresses. In this area of the country, Kentucky bluegrass—and Kentucky blue mixes—seem to be the preferred turf for rough.

Word to the Wise: Kentucky bluegrass is a notoriously weak competitor when seeded with or into (overseeding) other species. Its slow germination rate means seedlings are rapidly crowded out, especially by fast germinating, quicker establishing perennial ryegrass.

In general, Kentucky bluegrass must comprise at least 20 percent, by weight, of a seed mix to become a significant player in the turf stand. However, "pre-seeding" with Kentucky bluegrass and plant growth regulators (for overseeding) may improve the competitive ability of this grass. The most

Tee to Green November/December 2001 11

If creeping bentgrass is a sizable component of the stand or is the reason for regrassing, chemical fumigation with a product such as Basamid (dazomet) will be necessary for high-quality results.

common way to avoid this problem is to purchase Kentucky bluegrass sod mixed with the desired species.

4. When are we going to do this? Timing is everything. Though turf can be established during any season—given adequate labor, water, fertility, and protection from stress late summer/early fall clearly offers the most favorable growing conditions. Daily maintenance and club events slow down, soil temperatures remain warm, and summer annual weed pressure is over. (Seeding after September 15, however, is likely to require an additional two to four weeks of growing weather the following spring to ensure maturation.)

Spring, though a likely contender, has several things working against it. First, early in the season, your staffing levels may be too low to enter into a project of this magnitude. The weather can be unpredictable, and more important, weed-grass competition can be a problem when seeding in the spring. You also can't discount the fact that you'll have to work long and hard to protect your delicate, new turf from the heat of the summer, which can put newly seeded/sodded areas at risk.

Word to the Wise: No matter when you choose to regrass, not having adequate resources is a recipe for failure. Don't take on a regrassing program without ample time, materials, and labor for grow-in and establishment.

### Regrassing Methods: Which One's Right for You?

After you've made heads or tails out of your regrassing effort, you're ready to, in effect, "pick your poison." Basically, there are two regrassing methods—each with its own pros and cons. You can:

• Kill eff the existing turf and seed. This method may result in the easiest establishment because the dead turf acts as mulch to prevent drying and to protect the new seedlings. This technique is particularly useful if thatch is nominal and labor is lim-

ited, but if you're using a nonselective herbicide, you'll have to proceed with extreme caution because of the potential for drifting, tracking, and rewetting.

• Remove the current turf stand and seed/sod onto bare soil. This method is not an option if you're short on staff. It's labor intensive and quite disruptive, but it's likely to provide the quickest solution and the purest stand of new grass. You should strongly consider this method if you have excessive thatch or if you're looking to change surface contours. It also happens to be the only way to go if you plan to sod.

*Word to the Wise:* Seedbed preparation is crucial to the success of any regrassing effort. When preparing your seedbed, therefore, be particularly diligent in eliminating creeping bentgrass. At rough cutting heights, this grass has a strong tendency to regenerate. What's more, it does not easily succumb to nonselective herbicides, such as glyphosate, and may require two to three applications for a complete kill.

Cutting and removing the turf stand will not help either, since it's impossible to eliminate all vegetative parts.

If creeping bentgrass is a sizable component of the stand or is the reason for regrassing, chemical fumigation with a product such as Basamid (dazomet) will be necessary for high-quality results. A large *Poa annua* population and seed bank is another good reason to fumigate.

With all fumigants, observe the labelrecommended waiting period between treatment and reseeding, and beware of applications in close proximity to desirable trees and shrubs and drainage systems.

### Killing off the Existing Turf and Seeding—Step by Step

• Lightly fertilize and water the existing turf so it's growing vigorously. Skip one mowing operation to increase leaf surface. This growth enhances uptake and translocation of nonselective herbicides.

 Calibrate the sprayer, and apply the nonselective herbicide according to label directions. Don't even think about exceeding label rates. More is not better in this case. Not only is it illegal, but the extra herbicide will only burn the topgrowth off the plants before it can move to the crown and roots.

• Spray dyes are very helpful to ensure full coverage without overlap or skips. Spray adjuvants—e.g., antifoamers, spreaders, stickers, buffers—may be useful, but check the label for compatibility, or "jar test" them.

• Take precautions when leaving the sprayed area because vehicle tires and shoes will likely carry some herbicide. Immediately rope off the site, and post signs indicating "no entry."

• Avoid applications in the rain or just before rainstorms. The herbicide must dry on the plant; it has no soil activity and will not be absorbed by roots.

 Allow about seven days for translocation to underground plant parts before initiating seedbed preparation.

 Scalp and/or verticut dead turf, and remove excess topgrowth so seedlings receive adequate sunlight.

• Prepare the seedbed by making multiple passes with a core aerator. The idea is to create as many shallow holes as possible. Verticut or drag to break up the cores.

• After cleanup, broadcast seed then redrag once to improve seed-to-soil contact. If Kentucky bluegrass is used, it should comprise at least one-fifth of the seed mix. Seed it 10 days before the other species to give it a head start.

• Apply a starter fertilizer after seeding. Continue fertilizing every other week for six to eight weeks. Maintain adequate soil moisture until well established.

• If turf growth is "pushed" late in the season, consider applying snow mold fungicides to the lush new turf.

• NOTE: Nonselective herbicides—especially glyphosate—are known for their "rewetting" ability. That is, once the spray has dried on a surface—whether it's on turf, vehicle floorboards, or boots—it can be reactivated if moistened. Use soap and water to clean equipment and supplies, and restrict traffic on the treatment site after dew, rainfall, or irrigation.

### The Process: Removing Existing Turf and Seeding/Sodding Onto Bare Soil

• Allow the project area to dry out to reduce the weight of the cut sod. This will

## Many Thanks for Your Support

also facilitate the entire process.

 Sharpen the sod cutter blade and set depth to penetrate thatch and about one inch of soil. This depth should remove most crowns and rhizomes and many weed seeds. Strip off the cut material and dispose of it.

 If needed, regrade surface contours to improve drainage, adding mounding or swales. Limit settling and "birdbaths" by firming the disrupted soil.

· Reduce soil compaction with aeration if needed. Prepare the seedbed by loosening the top one to two inches through shallow aeration, slicing, or with a gil-rake, etc. Avoid rototiling-or any similar process-as it destroys soil structure and may lead to excessive settling.

• Before sodding, apply fertilizer to the soil surface to encourage rooting. Rake out footprints and tracks.

• When seeding, consider a herbicide treatment with siduron (Tupersan, etc.) if annual grasses are a weedy problem.

 Broadcast seed at appropriate rates. Be sure to heed the advice regarding ridding your turf of Poa annua or creeping bentgrass.

 Apply a starter fertilizer after seeding. Continue fertilizing every other week for about six to eight weeks. Maintain adequate soil moisture until well established. · If turf growth is "pushed" late in the season, consider applying snow mold fungicides to the lush new turf.

### Wow Them

If you plan properly and follow these simple steps, your members will be nothing less than pleased. The aesthetic enhancement, improved playability and traffic tolerance, and increased turf health and density are valuable to overall course quality. That scraggly old rough will no longer be a source of irritation, and you can start worrying about the next item on your to-do list.

Kathy M. Antaya is an agronomist in the Northeast Region of the USGA Green Section.

Having served on the GCSAA board for two years, I am now ready—and pleased—to further my commitment to serving our national organization and our profession by pursuing the office of secretary/treasurer.

Through my work on the board, I've gained valuable insight into the inner workings of our national organization, the kind that I believe will serve me well in meeting the chal-

During the past year, I served as chairman of the 75th Anniversary Resource Group and my second term as chairlenges of this new office.

man of the Membership Committee. All my committee work over the past two years has helped further my understanding of our growing membership—and allowed me the opportunity to support and help develop new programs and services that

Whether I win or lose this election in Orlando, I will remain on the board for at least another year, and I assure you, I benefit superintendents.

will do everything possible to continue, even expand, these I am pleased and honored to have the ongoing support of the MetGCSA in my candidacy for secretary/treasurer. I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting in Orlando on February 8 efforts. at 8 a.m. Your show of support means a lot.

Tim O'Neill, CGCS



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