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Tee To Green

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President's Message

Out With the Old, In With the New Year

F

irst and foremost, I would like to wish all of you and your families a joyous and successful New Year. Time passes too quickly. It seems like just yesterday that we were all putting up with one of the most stressful seasons I can remember. This time of year, there's generally a little less stress on everyone. So take advantage of it, and carve some time out to recharge your batteries and to enjoy your friends and family.

A Board Beyond Compare

The membership of the MetGCSA is very fortunate to have such a devoted board of directors and group of committee members, who over this past year, have worked extremely hard on your behalf.

The list of board and committee activities is impressive. They work behind the scenes to maintain our day-to-day association operations, including securing meeting sites and planning golf events and educational programs; keeping members abreast of association and industry events through our website and our award-winning publication, *Tee to Green*; managing and distributing funds for member scholarships; and maintaining favorable relations with state and federal governmental agencies.

Clearly, your board of directors is a dedicated group of people always striving to improve our association, profession, and overall image.

New Blood on the Board

At the end of this year, two of our board members, Greg Wojick and Jeff Weld, stepped down. I would like to personally thank them both for all the help and direction they provided while serving the association. Both have been valuable assets to the board and will be greatly missed.

At our Annual Meeting and elections held November 19 at Silver Spring, Bob Neilsen of Bedford Golf & Tennis was elected to the board to fill Greg's position.



Tim Moore
MetGCSA President

We are fortunate to have him aboard; I'm sure we'll all benefit from his experience and enthusiasm.

At our last board meeting, I reappointed Eric O'Neill, assistant superintendent at Scarsdale Golf Club, as our Class C representative. Eric has served in this position for the past three years. I also appointed Scott Apgar from Metro Turf Specialists to serve as our Class AF representative to the board. I have always respected Scott's opinion and look forward to his participation and many ideas. I also look forward to the continued support from the remaining board.

Christmas Bash Was a Gas

On December 14, those who attended our annual Christmas Party at Brae Burn Country Club were treated to a special night. Social & Welfare Committee Chair Jeff Wentworth and his trusted advisor and confidant, Mimi, put together a night to remember.

In addition to a great band, we had a first-rate comedian, and even a visit from Santa, who provided some great photo opportunities. Add to all of that the atmosphere, serving...
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Feature

Sherwood A. Moore Award Goes to Peter Rappoccio

by Greg Wojick, CGCS

Inspirational

Respected

Legendary

Dedicated





In just a matter of days, the MetGCSA will award one of its most prestigious honors to a deserving superintendent. That honor, the Sherwood A. Moore Award, will be presented at the January 15 Winter Seminar to Silver Spring superintendent and MetGCSA past president, Peter Rappoccio.

Did Peter have any inkling? As a long-tenured Awards Committee member, maybe. Hard to know. But if he did, that didn't mar his enthusiasm for this upcoming recognition.

When he got the good word, the first words out of his mouth were, "I am so thrilled and honored to receive the award," knowing full well that it is an honor reserved for superintendents who have "advanced the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent."

Peter is the 10th superintendent to receive this honor since 1987, the award's inaugural year. That's when Sherwood, the award's namesake, was the recipient, soon to be followed by Ted Horton, the late Bruno Vadala, James R. Fulwider Sr., Bob Alonzi, the late Ted Jozwick, Mike Maffei, Pat Lucas and Joe Alonzi . . . every one of them recognized for their dutiful and tireless contributions to the MetGCSA.

The Making of an Award Winner . . . Personally Speaking

When I first met Peter—probably late '70s, early '80s—he hadn't been a superintendent—or at Silver Spring—very long. The first thing that comes to mind when I think of him back then was his hairdo—an "afro." Yup, it's true! But that was a long time ago.

Not so long ago—two years ago, actually—I roomed with Peter (now, with his more familiar "conservative" hairstyle) at the GCSAA Golf Championship. I found out, firsthand, what I thought I always knew about Peter. . . .

He packs his bags meticulously. All his clothes are carefully laid out and pressed neatly. He thinks ahead and has a contingency plan for any situation that may come his way. Peter had turtle-necks and Gore-Tex for any potential weather and an opinion on and good answer for any turf question I posed. He had a schedule for each day—a *detailed* schedule. He thought through and read carefully all the championship instructions and materials. (Thanks to Peter I didn't get too lost that year).

I could have bet that Peter had that schedule and an organized way about him. Why? It's simple: Just take one tour of his golf course and you'll know why too. "I had one bad year in the last 25," Peter told me. He wasn't bragging—he simply told it like it was. Any time you visit Silver Spring, the experience is the same: Perfect!

I've walked Silver Spring's 18 holes many times since Peter has been in charge, and each time, I've said the same thing: "The place is perfect." Not just the fairways or the smooth-as-silk greens, but everything. And he accomplishes all this while being a regular guy: easy to get along-with, approachable, and fun-loving.

I've roomed with him, played his course, and watched him throughout his career, and I have my lofty opinion of Peter R.—but don't believe just me. . . .

"I think the Awards Committee could not have picked a better recipient for the SAM Award," claims Westchester Country Club Super Joe Alonzi, a former SAM Award winner himself and Peter's longtime friend. "Peter has served on practically all the committees, was a board member for more than 10 years, and served as president for another two years."

Meadow Brook Club Superintendent John Carlone, who's the chairman of the Awards Committee, adds: "Peter's service and dedication to the MetGCSA through his professional conduct, his dedication to serving on the board of directors, chairing



"I think the Awards Committee could not have picked a better recipient for the SAM Award. Peter has served on practically all the committees, was a board member for more than 10 years, and served as president for another two years."

—Joe Alonzi, CGCS

committees, hosting meetings, and mentoring young assistants is legendary. Peter is very deserving of this award."

At the annual meeting, held at Silver Spring this fall, I cornered Bob Sommer, the club's general manager, and he echoed the same sentiment about Peter. "Yes, he's respected, by his fellow workers and the

members here at the club. He always has the course in great condition, and he's a gem to work with. No one here is surprised that Peter's been selected for the SAM Award."

Peter was nominated by Oak Hills Park Superintendent Glen Dube, who served as Peter's assistant from '95 to '98. "I saw how well respected Peter was within the Silver Spring community by other staff and the members," says Glen. "He was a great inspiration for me. He's a solid guy who instilled within me the incentive to pursue a career as a superintendent."

Peter Almost Got Away

Peter's entrée into the world of golf began early—first, as a caddie at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY, and then, as a crew member at Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, CT. Peter joined Fairview's crew when he was only 15, working through the course's construction phase and every summer during high school and college.

Peter attended St. Francis College in Maine, but instead of pursuing a degree in turfgrass management, he earned a B.A. in sociology with a minor in business and education. After being offered a position as a rehabilitation counselor, Peter realized he was better suited for a career in golf course management and returned to Fairview.

While working with then superintendent Ted Jozwick, Peter received a two-year degree in Turf Management from Rutgers and was elevated to assistant superintendent. That was in 1975. Three years later, Peter accepted the superintendent's position at Silver Spring.

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



“Peter’s service and dedication to the MetGCSA through his professional conduct, his dedication to serving on the board of directors, chairing committees, hosting meetings, and mentoring young assistants is legendary. Peter is very deserving of this award.”

—John Carlone, CGCS

Right now, Peter is serving on four Met committees; he's also actively involved in the Nominating Committee—and has been since 1987.

He's About More Than Just Turf

When Peter reflects on his career, he has many good things to say. "It's been rewarding," he says, "both professionally and personally. It's allowed me to get close to my two boys, Pete and Tim, and be a large part of their life growing up."

Peter's eldest son, Pete, recently graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in turfgrass management. He's now the assistant super at Oakland Hills Country Club in Michigan. His other son, Tim, is a junior at the University of Delaware majoring in criminal justice.

Through the years, Peter's enjoyed coaching his sons' various team sports. He coached both Pete and Tim through the Pop Warner football program and rooted both of them on while they wrestled and played football at Fairfield Prep. Peter still coaches freshman football at Fairfield Prep.

Another of Peter's contributions to the community is his service on the board of directors of the Ridgefield Scholarship Group, which administers \$30,000 a year to worthy students.

Peter and his wife of 26 years, Birdie, live on the club grounds in Ridgefield, where Birdie is active in the community and serves as a registered nurse for the school system.

"I know that Peter is so thrilled about receiving this award," she says. "He gets all choked up each time it's brought up."

Congratulations, Peter!

Greg Wojick, co-editor of the Tee to Green, is superintendent at Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich, CT.

Feature

Rutgers' Dr. Bruce Clarke Receives the 2002 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

by John Carlone, CGCS

Top-notch
Guiding force
Expert





r. Bruce Clarke, professor of turfgrass pathology and director of the Center for Turfgrass Science at Rutgers University's Cook College, has been unanimously selected by the MetGCSA Awards Committee to receive one of the association's highest honors: the 2002 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

Though Dr. Clarke is no stranger to success—having won several honors in the past—when told of his selection, he responded with sincere appreciation and humility: “It’s so nice to receive recognition from the very people I have tried to help over the past 22 years. I thoroughly enjoy working with the golf course industry and, in particular, the superintendents in the metropolitan area.”

Award-Worthy Accomplishments

As director of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, Dr. Clarke is responsible for providing leadership to foster internationally recognized research; undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education; and service programs in support of the turfgrass industry.

He’s an authority on root-infecting fungi associated with patch diseases of turf and is also well known for his work on the development of integrated disease control strategies to reduce pesticide use.

Fine examples of Dr. Clarke’s expertise and knowledge can be found in the pages of two books he’s published on turfgrass pathology and in the many articles he’s authored for professional journals and trade publications, not the least of which has been the Tri-State’s *Foundation News* and our very own *Tee to Green*.

Dr. Clarke is probably best known nationwide for his coauthorship of the *Compendium of Turfgrass Diseases*, which, now in its second edition, is the American Phytopathological Society’s best-selling textbook.

“It’s researchers like Dr. Clarke who have helped superintendents advance into the 21st century with a new confidence in finding solutions to disease problems.”

—Larry Pakkala, CGCS

Dr. Clarke is also committed to sharing his hard-won triumphs over—and solutions to—turfgrass ills, speaking at educational conferences throughout the United States and presenting his research to turf managers in Australia, China, Europe, and Japan.

Few superintendents are more familiar with Dr. Clarke’s work than Woodway Country Club Superintendent Larry Pakkala, who as the first president of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, was instrumental in seeing that Dr. Clarke received Tri-State funding for what has turned out to be one of his most highly regarded works: his summer patch research.

“It’s researchers like Dr. Clarke who have helped superintendents advance into the 21st century with a new confidence in finding solutions to disease problems,” says Larry. “I am proud that Bruce Clarke has been selected as this year’s John Reid Award recipient for a lifetime of dedication to the industry.”

Dr. Clarke will receive the Met’s high honor—one our association reserves for individuals who have “demonstrated a knowledge of, and commitment to, the game of golf and the science of golf course management”—at our January 15 Winter Seminar at Westchester Country Club.

The Road to the Turfgrass Industry

Dr. Clarke will tell you he’s always been interested in plants and the environment. When he graduated from high school, in his Cresskill, NJ hometown, he chose Cook College at Rutgers University because it had an excellent reputation as an environmental/agricultural school. Once enrolled, however, his interests quickly shifted to plant pathology.

“One of my professors, Dr. Eileen Brennan, encouraged me to go on to graduate school,” explains Dr. Clarke. “There, I combined my interest in trees and plant pathology.”

He completed his Ph.D. in 1982, at a

time when the job market was good. The world was his oyster: He had a choice of a pathology job in Bermuda, a diagnostician’s job at Texas A&M, and a faculty position in ornamental and turf pathology in the Plant Pathology Department at Rutgers.

“I decided to take the job at Rutgers,” says Dr. Clarke, adding, “and I’m glad I did. It was at that time that I met Drs. C. Reed Funk, the late Ralph Engel, and Henry Indyk. They introduced me to the various facets of the turfgrass industry, and I quickly learned about the exciting field of turfgrass pathology.”

It didn’t take Dr. Clarke long to realize, however, that although the pathogens on trees and turf were essentially the same, the management regimes were incredibly different. “It took me at least three years of working nights and weekends before I felt comfortable handling golf course samples,” he says. “It soon became apparent to me that turf was where the action was.”

In 1990, Dr. Clarke had an opportunity to focus entirely on turf pathology when Dr. Ann Gould was hired as the new ornamental pathologist at Rutgers.

“I jumped at the chance and never looked back,” says Dr. Clarke, who three years later, in 1993, became director of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science. Over the next few years, he worked closely with the center’s faculty, the college administration, and the turfgrass industry to expand the turfgrass program at Cook College, raising more than \$1.6 million for numerous improvement projects and scholarships.

“From 1993 to 2002,” explains Dr. Clarke, “we hired five new faculty and constructed the C. R. Funk Equipment Storage Facility and the Geiger Turfgrass Education Building with generous donations from turf organizations throughout the Northeast. We also raised more than \$500,000 for student scholarships.”

This was a period of rapid growth of the center’s research, teaching, and outreach efforts. “I am proud of these accomplish-

“I am grateful to have had a chance to work with Bruce, and it’s reassuring to know that he is nearby to tackle the next challenge. Our area is fortunate in that regard.”

—Tim O’Neill, CGCS

ments,” says Dr. Clarke, “and I’d venture to say that the program is currently recognized as one of the top turfgrass programs in the country.”

A Labor of Love

In addition to directing the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, he is a top-notch professor, currently teaching a graduate course in Plant Disease Diagnostics and an undergraduate course in Pest Management at Cook College.

“The most enjoyable part of my job is working with students and turfgrass managers,” says Dr. Clarke. “The partnership between the Rutgers faculty and the turfgrass industry is outstanding, and I’ve enjoyed working with turfgrass managers on special projects like the Geiger Building Campaign, as well as representing Rutgers on the executive board of regional turfgrass associations.”

Helping turfgrass managers troubleshoot problems is not work for Dr. Clarke; it’s fun. “I hate to admit it,” he says, “but there is nothing like visiting a course with a serious disease outbreak. It puts my diagnostic skills to the test, and I am always looking for new pictures of turfgrass diseases”—not to mention a new cause for research.

Though passionate about teaching, Dr. Clarke is also dedicated to finding ways to control new turfgrass ills. His renowned summer patch research is cited by superintendents across the U.S. as an example of a highly successful research program.

“The timing for that research effort was perfect,” explains Dr. Clarke. “The disease was poorly understood, many courses had experienced severe outbreaks for several years, and I was looking for a unifying project to involve researchers at Rutgers from multiple disciplines. Summer patch definitely fit the bill.”

Anyone and everyone was involved in finding a cure for the deadly disease: Agronomists, pathologists, breeders, biotech-

nologists, physiologists, county agents, and superintendents were called on to develop an integrated disease control program involving chemical, cultural, genetic, and biological components.

The GCSANJ, the MetGCSA, the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, and other local organizations contributed more than \$150,000 over a five-year period to conduct the research.

“I feel that the same scenario is playing out now for anthracnose,” notes Dr. Clarke, who along with Dr. Jim Murphy co-authored a piece on this truly devastating disease for the March/April 2002 issue of *Tee to Green*. “I hope that Dr. Murphy and I have the same level of success with anthracnose as we did with summer patch.”

Beyond Rutgers

In addition to his many “on staff” duties, Dr. Clarke has served as associate editor of the *Journal of Plant Disease*. He is on the board of directors of the International Turfgrass Society and is one of only two delegates from the U.S. on this 22-member international board. He also served as president of the Northeast Division of the American Phytopathological Society from 1998 to 2001.

His work has been recognized by other organizations as well. He was the 2001 recipient of the Weisblat Award for Excellence in Research, Teaching, and Outreach presented by Cook College. And he was honored with New Jersey Turfgrass Association’s 1996 Turfgrass Hall of Fame Award.

Commenting on Dr. Clarke’s numerous accolades, Country Club of Darien Superintendent Tim O’Neill says, “It’s no surprise that Dr. Clarke has been recognized by other groups before us. Throughout my involvement with the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation,” adds Tim, who led the group in 1999, “Bruce was a guiding force for developing relevant infor-

mation regarding many of the top concerns and challenges of area superintendents. His work has benefited most every club in the region. When it came time for the Tri-State to fund new research, it was never a question of ‘should we support Rutgers’ research,’” but rather ‘which project from Rutgers should we support?’ You can thank Bruce for that.”

Tim adds, “I am grateful to have had a chance to work with Bruce, and it’s reassuring to know that he is nearby to tackle the next challenge. Our area is fortunate in that regard. I couldn’t be happier that Bruce Clarke has been selected for the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. The honor is well-deserved.”

Industry Reflections

Dr. Clarke has equally good things to say about the superintendents he’s worked with. “It’s a lot of fun and tremendously rewarding to work with such a fine group of turf professionals who care greatly about the game of golf and advancing turfgrass science,” says Dr. Clarke. “I love my job, enjoy my colleagues and the students, and am thrilled to be a part of the Rutgers Turfgrass Legacy that started back in the ’20s.”

In reflecting on his nearly a quarter of a century of service to the turfgrass industry, he says, “I’d like to be remembered as someone who has made a difference in other people’s lives. I also hope that I am remembered as a professional who helped turf managers, as a mentor for incoming faculty, and as a good advisor for students in our two-year, undergraduate, and graduate program. Above all, I’d like to be remembered as someone who cared and who left things better than he found them.”

John Carlone, the Met’s Awards Committee chairman, is superintendent at The Meadow Brook Club in Jericho, NY.

Action on the Links

There was a lot of action on the links this past October. Here's a look at the numerous events and their winning results.

Top Plays at the Poa Annual Tournament

First in line was the Poa Annual Tournament held at Sands Point Golf Club in Sands Point, NY. Thanks to Rich Raymond and his staff, we were able to reschedule the meeting for October 21, when we were treated to a great golf course. Special thanks to both Rich and Mike Maffei for a successful fundraiser and tournament.

Here's how the golf panned out:

Low Net Winners

61 Tim Kelly/John Olszewski
Cherry Valley Club

63 Jeff Long/Greg Sharp
Landtek Group Inc.

Low Gross Winners

72 Doug Heron/Mike G.
Maxwell Turf & Supply Company Inc.

73 Rich Browne/Pat Cothren
Garrison Golf Club

Longest Drive

Charlie Siemers
Lesco, Inc.

Closest to the Pin

Pat Cothren
Garrison Golf Club 19'6"

Two-Ball Championship Has Surprise Ending

Well, we thought we would save the best for last! Bob "Woody" DeMarco and his partner, Gary "T. Soprano" Arlio from Jersey, gave a spanking to the favorites Earl Millett and John O'Keefe 6 and 5. Earl was quoted as saying, "When Scout Arlio parred the first hole, I knew we were in trouble." Woody DeMarco, playing some great golf this fall, led his team to victory, finishing off the Millett/O'Keefe duo on the 12th hole.

Congratulations to Bob and Gary, this year's Two-Ball Champions.

Blake Halderman Takes Met Golf Championship at Westchester

The MetGCSA Superintendent Championship was held at Westchester Country Club and contested on the South Course on October 29. Not much you can say about Joe Alonzi except, "He the man!!" Thanks to Joe and his staff, we had a great championship day. (By the way, Joe, Jeff Wentworth wanted me to thank you for picking up all the tee signs for him. Like you didn't have enough to do...)

Congratulations to Blake Halderman from Trump National on winning his first MetGCSA Golf Championship. Blake shot a 74 to edge out perennial challenger Earl Millett, who fired a 76.

For our Net championship, Peter "Pops" Rappoccio Jr. beat the rest of the hacks with a ... I think ... 62. (I don't know who is worse, Pops or Bob "The Legend" Alonzi.)

Here are the other noteworthy results:

AF Net Winner

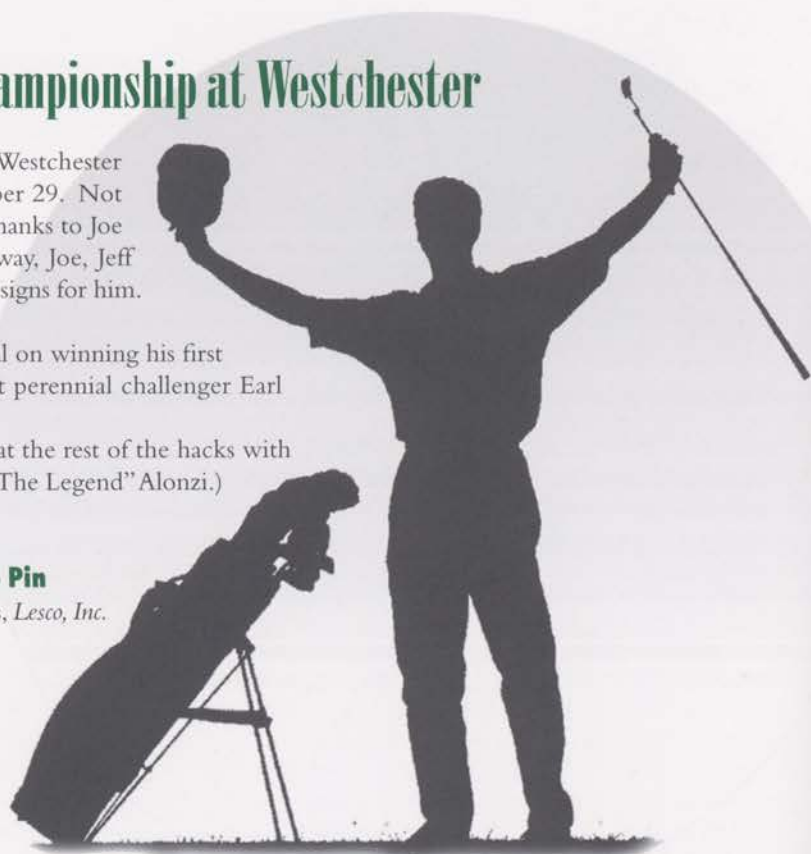
70 Greg Moran, *Lesco, Inc.*

Longest Drive

John "Boom Boom" Carlone
The Meadow Brook Club

Closest to the Pin

Charlie Siemers, *Lesco, Inc.*



Upcoming Events

2003 Meeting and Social Calendar in the Making

Here's a look at our preliminary 2003 Meeting/Social Calendar. Several sites are still yours for the taking, so please think about hosting an event! To secure a golf meeting, don't delay in calling either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs—Tom Leahy, 914-941-8281, or Bob Nielsen, 914-234-3779. To host a social event, contact Social & Welfare Committee Chairman Jeff Wentworth at 914-738-2752.

Business Meeting (Tentative)

Tuesday, March 11
Bedford Golf & Tennis Club, Bedford, NY
Host: Bob Nielsen

Two-Ball Qualifier

Monday, April 28
Rockland Country Club, Sparkhill, NY
Host: Matt Ceplo, CGCS

Superintendent/Manager Tournament

Thursday, May 15
Silver Spring Country Club
Ridgefield, CT
Host: Peter Rappoccio, CGCS

Invitational Tournament

Monday, June 16
Hampshire Country Club
Mamaroneck, NY
Host: Tony Campanella

Golf Meeting

July
Date & Site TBA

MetGCSA Family Picnic

Date & Site TBA

MetGCSA Summer Social

Date & Site TBA

Poa Annual Tournament

August
Date & Site TBA

Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Date TBA
West Point Golf Course, West Point, NY
Host: Jimmy Pavonetti

Golf Meeting

Monday, October 20
Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, CT
Host: Greg Wojick, CGCS

Annual Assistants Championship

Date & Site TBA

Met Area Team Championship

Date & Site TBA

Annual Meeting

November
Date & Site TBA

MetGCSA Christmas Party

Date & Site TBA

Educational Events

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 15
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
Host: Joe Alonzi, CGCS

Don't miss this year's round of exciting speakers and topics. Among them: The Benefits of Roundup-Ready Bentgrass; Executive Search Firms: How They Work; Insights From a New York State Environmental Lobbyist; Dr. James Camberato talks about Nitrogen Response of New, Improved Bentgrasses and the Impact of Soil Temperature on Turfgrass Rooting.

The 6th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

Tuesday - Thursday, March 18 - 20

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 400 exhibitor booths. Be sure to catch the general session with keynote speaker Mike Ditka, one of the most recognized and successful NFL personalities as a player, coach, and television commentator on CBS.

Also available on March 17 are preconference and GCSAA seminars on bunker design, placement, and construction; annual bluegrass management; Heart Saver and AED Training.

For further information, call 401-841-5490.



The MetGCSA
wishes you
Clear Skies
Terrific Turf
Big Budgets
Super Staff
Supportive
Memberships
Smooth Rolling
and Lots of
Good Golf
in 2003!

Did You Hear ...?

All About the Big Doin's at the Chapter Delegates Meeting

by Tim O'Neill, CGCS



The three-day Chapter Delegates Meeting November 1 – 3 drew nearly a full house: 100 of GCSAA's 102 affiliated chapter representatives convened, first at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, KS, and then in Kansas City, for one of the most eventful meetings in their 10 years of existence.

Representing the MetGCSA this year was John Carlone, and I, of course, was present as a candidate for secretary/treasurer on the GCSAA board.

Aside from listening to the annual addresses by each of the candidates, delegates were made privy to several changes afoot for GCSAA members.

This meeting began with CEO Steve Mona's customary state-of-the-association address to delegates, in which he explained the goals of the organization and what is being done to help achieve GCSAA's mission. (See chart on the bottom of page 11 for facts and figures.)

Following Mona's presentation, delegates—half of whom had never before been to headquarters—toured the facility and attended a reception and dinner before heading on to Kansas City.

It All Comes Down to Money

Here's where the real meat of the meeting unfolded. It began with a report from Secretary/Treasurer Mark Woodward and CFO Julian Arredondo, on GCSAA's current financial status.

Arredondo noted that, this past year, GCSAA suffered a bottom line net loss of \$802,000, including a \$1 million net investment loss. To blame, he feels, is the poor economy, which took a downhill slide after the events surrounding September 11 and has resulted in diminished revenues in sponsorships, advertising, and investment returns.

"GCSAA has operated below the break-even point for the past two years," Arredondo told the delegates. "However, the association is committed to living within its means in the future."

To ease the budget crunch—and ensure member services and association programs don't suffer—Mark Woodward revealed a proposal to increase dues from \$250 to \$300 for Class A and superintendent members and from \$125 to \$150 for Assistant Superintendent members. Affiliate dues would rise \$50, student/educator dues \$10, and associate dues \$25. Retired and inactive classes would remain the same.

The proposed amount represents a compounded 3-percent hike from the last increase in 1997—a relatively small increase that would go a long way toward securing the health and welfare of the association.

Is a Big Move in Store?

Steve Mona and I were in charge of presenting the details of another potential enhancement for GCSAA operations and, ultimately, members: A change in GCSAA's headquarters location.


The question of GCSAA's location is not a new one. It has come up numerous times since the association settled in Lawrence in 1973, and GCSAA feels the time is right now to consider other options for its headquarters locale.

Over the past 18 months, the GCSAA board, executive staff, and an ad hoc group of GCSAA members (John Carlone, among them) have been working with a consultant to explore areas that might provide GCSAA with not only a desirable, more accessible location, but also one with a favorable climate, comparable labor rates, and the potential for enhancing our organization's image, visibility, and exposure to other leading organizations within the golf community.

Also high on the list of criteria is that the move bring long-term financial and growth benefits to the association and its members.

Several cities that seem to fit the bill are Atlanta, GA; Dallas-FT Worth and Houston, TX; Jacksonville, Orlando, and Miami, FL; Phoenix, AZ; and Charlotte, SC.

Steve Mona and I stressed to delegates that the association currently has no offers



To review any of the presentations from the meeting or to view the candidate profiles, you can tap into the GCSAA website at www.gcsaa.org.

to move to another city and may even decide that our organizational goals can be equally well met if GCSAA were to remain headquartered in Lawrence.

Delegates approved the next step in the process, which is to bring a proposal to amend GCSAA's Articles of Incorporation to vote at the Annual Meeting in Atlanta. The intent is to eliminate the reference to the principal location of GCSAA headquarters. This would provide directors with the ability to act on behalf of its members in determining a headquarters location. This would also provide the flexibility and leverage to negotiate and secure the best arrangement for the association.

A date for the second phase of the feasibility study is yet to be determined.

Contenders for the Board

Following the relocation discussion, candidates for election to the 2003 GCSAA board of directors made 5-minute presentations to the delegates. The lineup is:

- Jon Maddern, CGCS, from Atlanta, MI, for president
- Mark Woodward, CGCS, from Mesa, AZ, for vice president
- Tim O'Neill, CGCS, from Darien, CT, for secretary/treasurer
- Robert Maibusch, CGCS, MG, from Clarendon Hills, IL, for secretary/treasurer
- Gary Carls, CGCS, from Sunnyvale, CA, for director
- Ricky Heine, CGCS, from Austin, TX, for director
- Mark Kuhns, CGCS, from Springfield, NJ, for director

Survey on the Way

In other discussions, delegates were informed about a Compensation and Benefits Survey that will be distributed in January (available online right now). This biannual survey will query superintendents on such things as their benefits package, employment contract, performance reviews,

length of golf season, number of hours worked, bonus criteria, management and reporting structure of their club, staffing numbers, and assistant and crew salaries and benefits.

Responses will be categorized by chapter, state, facility type, number of holes, maintenance budget, years as superintendent, and other criteria.

Those who respond will be entitled to a free copy of the report.

In Other Discussions...

• There's serious thought being given to holding a Joint Trade Show with the National Golf Course Owners Association (NGCOA). The NGCOA is quite excited about this prospect, and GCSAA feels it will increase the value of the conference for our exhibitors and for all who attend, since we will have the opportunity to become acquainted with a far greater range of products and services and, just as important, people.

• Delegates received an update on the progress being made in the implementation of the Professional Development Initiative. The implementation process will begin July 1, 2003.

• Delegates also hashed out GCSAA's internet strategy, ways to improve communication within the organization, board service policies, government relations activities, and the goals and strategies of the GCSAA Foundation.

Finally

To review any of the presentations from the meeting or to view the candidate profiles, you can tap into GCSAA's website at www.gcsaa.org.

Be sure to attend the Annual Meeting in Atlanta on Friday, February 14 at 8 a.m. Your support is always appreciated.

Tim O'Neill, superintendent at Country Club of Darien in Darien, CT, and a director on the GCSAA board.

GCSAA Facts and Figures

The association has...

- an \$18-million operating budget
- 10,000 registrants in education programs annually
- 20,000 attendees at its international conference and show, with 730 exhibitors and 270,000 square feet of exhibitor space
- 55 student chapters
- 1,800 certified members
- 22 committees and 250 committee members
- 10,000 registrants on the website

The Story of the Met's Two Marathon Men

by Jon Jennings, CGCS

Get up in the morning before sunlight, work all day keeping grass alive, and get home in time to go to bed. What else does a golf course superintendent have time for during the heat of summer?

Stanwich Club Superintendent Scott Niven and I thought we would add training for a marathon to our already jam-packed schedules—just to make sure we'd used up every ounce of spare time. Running upward of 50 miles a week to train, Scott and I ran the 33rd New York City Marathon November 3.

We spoke to each other a few weeks before to discuss the race and determine a meeting place before the marathon's start. The New York City Marathon is a 26.2-mile, point-to-point race beginning on Staten Island and ending in Central Park. In order to get all of the race participants to the starting line in time, they must either get dropped off or take the bus by 7:30 a.m. for an 11:10 a.m. race. Needless to say, Scott and I had plenty of time to sit and chat that morning.

Memorable Meeting Spot

We decided to meet 8:30 sharp at a spot you can't mistake: "The World's Longest Urinal." For those of you who've never run in New York and had the pleasure of experiencing The World's Longest Urinal, I will describe it for you: Consisting of a one-foot-wide plastic trough extending approximately 300 feet in length, the urinal runs downward, east to west, for flow purposes.

In earlier marathons, Playboy pictures were taped under plastic covering the trough, and eager photographers would frequently take pictures of the scene from the bridge above.

Scott arrived a few minutes prior to the meeting time, and we looked around for a place to set up camp. We leaned against a section of snow fence near the morning entertainment and watched as the throngs

Jon Jennings, CGCS



Scott Niven, CGCS



of people walked by in preparation for the race. We discussed our training program and the challenges of fitting it in. Remember, on top of everything, Scott hosted the USGA Mid-Amateur Tournament September 21 through 26.

What a Day for a Race

November 3 was a beautiful morning with the sun shining and the temperature in the mid-30s. Everyone dressed warmly before the race but always in something that's discardable, since you have to abandon your heavier garments at the starting line.

I was donning an old sweatshirt and a jacket from work. Scott won the award for the best dressed of the two of us. Under a sweatshirt was a lovely pink running jacket he had swiped from his wife. On top of that, he was wrapped in a dinosaur blanket that he assured me his children no longer needed.

We stayed at that spot until 10 a.m. when we headed to our appropriate starting sections. Scott was in the green area; I was in the blue. That was the last I saw of Scott that day, as he walked away, blanket in hand.

The conditions for running where

absolutely perfect: nice and cool with an occasional light gust of wind. We spoke on the phone a couple of days later. Neither one of us had the race we had hoped. Scott said that he was slowed somewhat early in the race by a bruised Achilles tendon and muscle tear in his left calf. I was exhausted by mile 20, and the miles kept getting longer while my time got slower.

Scott finished in 3:17:19 placing him 1581. I finished behind Scott at 3:36:05 in the 3900 position. The total number of people who finished the race was 31,834.

Time Heals All

Both of us had run marathons before. Scott and I discussed New York a few times as we entered the lottery each year with the anticipation of being selected. We'll probably enter and run future marathons, starting the grueling training process all over again. Like a stressful summer on the golf course, by the time you have to do it all over again, you've forgotten about the pain from the last one.

Jon Jennings, a former Tee to Green editor, is superintendent at Chicago Golf Club in Wheaton, IL.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

- **David Dudones**, Class C
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY.
- **Derek Grendowicz**, Class C
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY.
- **Jennifer Mongeluzo**, Class C
Sunningdale Country Club, Scarsdale, NY.
- **Robert Ranum**, Class AS
Atlantic Golf Club, Bridgehampton, NY.
- **David Wilson**, Class C
Rockland Country Club, Sparkill, NY.

Members on the Move

- **Chip Lafferty** is the new superintendent at Rye Golf Club in Rye, NY. Former position: Superintendent at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY.

- **Neil Laufenberg** is the new superintendent at Innis Arden Golf Club in Old Greenwich, CT. Former position: Assistant superintendent at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

Newly Certified

Congratulations to Pelham Country Club Superintendent and MetGCSA Board Member **Jeff Wentworth**. Jeff recently completed the coursework required to become a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) with GCSAA.

Births

Congratulations to:

- Shorehaven Golf Club Superintendent **Jim Weiland** and his wife, Shannon Mulligan, on the birth of their daughter, Julia, on November 15.



- Oak Hills Park Golf Course Superintendent **Glen Dube** and his wife, Erica, on the birth of their daughter, Madison, on November 20.

Well Wishes

Continued well wishes to MetGCSA friend **Gerald Mahoney**, MGA Director of Golf Programs.

In Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy to **Mike Maffei**, who recently lost his father. Mike, a past president of the Met, is superintendent at Back O'Beyond in Brewster, NY.

President's Message continued from page 1

ice, and food that Brae Burn staff provided, and you can only imagine what a great night it was.

The only regret I have is that the attendance was somewhat disappointing. I'm hoping word gets around on what a successful party the Met put on, and we'll see more familiar faces at this fun event next year.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions about how we might improve participation in our social events, as always, we're eager to hear them. A lot of hard work went into the planning and decorating for our Christmas Party. Hats off to all of those involved in the planning.

Reading, Writing, and Research

Coming up next month is our ever-popular Winter Seminar being held again at Westchester Country Club on January 15. A varied and well-thought-out program has been put together that should peak every-

one's interest. This year, both the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award and the Sherwood A. Moore Award will be presented at the seminar. Read all about the winners in this issue of *Tee to Green*.

The Tri-State Turf Research Foundation has sent out their first letter of solicitation for funds to support ongoing research projects. Please, please, please contribute at least the minimum amount of \$150 to this worthy cause—more if you can manage. It is important to know that all of these funds and the selection of the research projects to be funded are controlled locally by representatives of our association and surrounding associations.

This year so far, the Tri-State plans to support two research projects. The first project the Tri-State is funding is the anthracnose research Rutgers University's Drs. Bruce Clarke and James Murphy have been immersed in. Their goal, of course, is to find a solution to this truly devastating disease.

The second study the Tri-State is funding is being conducted by Cornell's Dr. Frank

Rossi. It will delve into how putting green performance is influenced by microbial and organic-based products.

The Tri-State has committed several years to each of these research projects. The foundation is also looking into join forces with a university equipped to study the ever-increasing problem of earthworm activity on golf courses. I will have more on this as things develop. The bottom line is that in order for the Tri-State to fund research that will help us resolve problems we all face, we need your support.

Please send in your contribution today. It's a small price to pay for the peace of mind and helpful management measures you stand to receive in return.

As a member of the Tri-State board of directors, I'll look forward to your participation.

Tim Moore
MetGCSA President

Patron Directory

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

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