

MWPV

November/December 2003

VOLUME 33 NUMBER 6

# Tee To Green

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association



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TEE TO GREEN is published bimonthly by the  
Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association  
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523-2819  
914-347-4653, FAX: 914-347-3437, METGCSA.ORG  
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# Tee to Green



Cover: Woodway  
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# President's Message

# Right on Target for 2004

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# I

'm honored—and a bit overwhelmed—to be elected president of the MetGCSA. Fortunately, I've inherited things in excellent shape—thanks to Tim Moore and all who preceded him as president of the Met during my tenure on the board. I've enjoyed working with all of them, and I've learned so much from witnessing, first-hand, their various leadership styles and practices.

While it generally takes at least 10 years to ascend to the president's position, there's no question in my mind that it's time well spent. There's no better training ground for president than traveling, step by step, through the ranks of the board.

Thinking back on when I was first elected to the board, I remember being surprised and impressed by all that it takes to run a successful organization. I look forward, now, to working with our Board of Directors and the membership to ensure that the Met remains among the best associations in the golf industry.

Here are just a few of the goals I have for the upcoming year:

## Meetings and Education

As most of you know, the board's been concerned about the decline in member participation at our monthly meetings and functions. It's my opinion, however, that we shouldn't fret over whether or not people attend. Instead, we should focus our efforts on planning and running first-class events—whether they're monthly meetings, large social affairs, educational forums, or informal get-togethers—the kind of events that will inspire people to attend.

I also believe we should have some forum for education at every meeting. It doesn't have to be a scheduled speaker. Roundtable discussions can also be informative. Our members, after all, are a knowledgeable bunch. And these open forums encourage future sharing of information and camaraderie within our group.



Dave Mahoney  
MetGCSA President

## On the Research Front

A portion of your dues is allocated toward research. And I think we all know how important turfgrass research has been—and is—to our jobs.

Right now, the bulk of the money we designate for research goes to the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation. The Tri-State, as most of you know, funds turfgrass research that is pertinent to Met area golf courses. Most recently, the Tri-State supported Dr. Frank Rossi's moss control studies at Cornell and Dr. Bruce Clarke's anthracnose control research at Rutgers.

While our contributions to the Tri-State are good, we can—and *need*—to do more, particularly when it comes to gaining individual club support. There is no reason we can't have 100 percent of the clubs in the Met supporting the Tri-State. If you can think of one, let me know.

In addition to the Tri-State, we support the Building Fund for the Rutgers Turf Research Center, and we've joined turf and agricultural groups throughout New York in funding a full-time lobbyist who monitors activities and potential legislation that can affect our golf courses.

While this is all well and good, we do have additional funds to support other research efforts—research that we, ourselves, select and fund directly. If there are any turfgrass issues you would like to see researched, please let me know, and we'll look into it.

*continued on page 13*

# MetGCSA Selects Siwanoy Super Dave Mahoney as Its 26th President

***'No Baloney' Mahoney  
Minces No Words About  
His Vision for the Met***

by Greg Wojick, CGCS

# J

came close on two occasions to quitting the board of directors," says straight-talking Dave Mahoney of his long-tenured affiliation with the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association. "The first time was when we were renovating the golf course at Siwanoy, and the second time was when I discovered I had some health issues. I was fortunate, though, to have the strong support of the board."

Dave doesn't, for one minute, regret persevering and staying the course to become our association's 26th president. His commitment to the board is a source of great pride for Dave, who is committed to making a difference as head of what he describes as "one of the best, if not *the* best" GCSAA chapters in the country.

"I have great respect for our chapter members—and a clear vision for our association," says Dave. "There have been many strong leaders before me, and I want to be considered another strong leader of the Met," adds Dave, sharing with me some of his concerns about our association as he begins his term.

## Thinking Outside the Box

First and foremost on Dave's mind is the dwindling participation and enthusiasm among members. "I want to continue giving superintendent members the opportunity to associate—and to convince them that the most satisfying aspect of being a member of our group is having the luxury of getting together and sharing ideas with the best superintendents in the world," says Dave.

"There have always been a core group of Met members who enjoy meeting, playing golf, and sharing thoughts and experiences," he continues. "But I'd like to see this core expand to include a much larger share of the membership."

To spur things along, Dave intends to work with the board and with the general membership and committees to create meeting venues that will, he hopes, generate more interest and enthusiasm about meeting monthly.

"I'm a great believer in quality," says Dave. "If we hold an event, I would like it to be so well run that people will feel they can't pass up the opportunity to attend—not unlike what the Social Committee, Larry Pakkala, and Woodway did with our Christmas party. It was well-planned, well-communicated, and definitely the kind of event everyone was eager to attend."

When it comes to upping participation, Dave has no fear of thinking outside the box. We can't continue to hold meetings on Mondays at clubs with fewer than 100 attendees. It's not fair to—or profitable for—the club that brings in staff especially for our event, and it's an embarrassment to the superintendents who go out of their way to host one of our monthly meetings.

"I respect the history and traditions of our association," Dave continues, "but I certainly have no problem experimenting to provide

### Talking to the Membership...Online

That points to another of Dave's major objectives: communication—particularly as it relates to member events. "All of our events must be well communicated so that every superintendent member knows exactly what to expect of our meetings—no surprises," emphasizes Dave. "That way, if it's a topic that interests them, they can be sure to clear their calendars well ahead of time.

"I'm eager to work with the board to find ways to better communicate with our membership," notes Dave. "I'm convinced that we can do a better job of sending notices and other communications electronically."

Though highly motivated to fix what ails the association's member participation, Dave's quick to say he certainly doesn't intend to bully members into attending events. "My job responsibilities at Siwanoy

### The Making of a President

Dave is clearly well-equipped for the rigors of the Met presidency. He's been a member of the Met Board of Directors for the past 10 years, and he's served on—or chaired—numerous committees, not the least of which was the Tournament Committee.

Dave is equally well schooled in turf management, earning a degree from Penn State in 1983. The rest of his education came from hard-core, hands-on experience.

His first stop was an assistant's position at the Naperville Country Club in the Chicago-area town where he lived since he was 12.

From there, Dave went to The Golf Club of Oklahoma. *Oklahoma!?* "I was enticed by the promise of gaining experience growing in an all-new Fazio-designed course," explains Dave of his move. After the course

***"I'm a great believer in quality. If we hold an event, I would like it to be so well run that people will feel they can't pass up the opportunity to attend."***

members with better value for their membership dollar."

Dave, for instance, was intrigued recently by the idea of holding limited-space-available meetings. "These meetings would be top-notch," he explains. "We'd seek out a great site, schedule the meeting on one of the club's regular golf days, and we'd limit the number who could attend to, let's say, 40. As with our Invitationals, signup would be on a first-come, first-served basis.

This approach could bring just enough of an air of exclusivity to our meetings that it might peak more of our members' interest in attending," adds Dave, who welcomes suggestions on how to inspire greater member participation.

and my life in general," says Dave, "aren't that much different than other superintendents' jobs and personal lives: *We're busier than ever.* I know all too well that it's not always easy to leave the property, and if we do, I know that attending a Met event can't always be the top priority. We all have to make choices about how we spend our time away from our golf courses.

"I'd love to hear directly about any members' concerns," adds Dave, who wants every member of the Met to feel comfortable communicating directly with him via e-mail or v-mail. "Call me," says Dave. "Maybe, together, we can make our association just that much better."

opened, he returned to Naperville as the superintendent and then, in 1988, accepted his current position at Siwanoy. "New York was calling me back," says Dave, who lived in Queens and then Levittown, LI, for the first 12 years of his life—and now Bronxville, NY, for the past 15.

Dave can thank the club for his latest posh New York address: He lives on club grounds with his wife, Catherine, and two children: David, who's now 18, and Jessica, who's 16.

*Greg Wojick, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich, CT.*

# Woodway's Larry Pakkala Earns High Honors With Sherwood A. Moore Award

by Glenn Perry, CGCS



*Isn't it only fitting* that this year's Sherwood A. Moore (SAM) Award go to a superintendent who's treading on—and managing—some of the same turf as the award's namesake once did?



Woodway Country Club



*Graduates of "Woodway University" strike a pose with Larry Pakkala (center) and his current assistant Joe DeLauter (left). From left to right: Blake Halderman, Tony Girardi, Gregg Stanley, and Mike Mongon.*

**L**arry Pakkala has been superintendent at Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT, for the past 20 years, following Sherwood by four years.

Like his predecessor—and the other past SAM Award recipients—Larry has gone the extra mile for the profession, meeting, if not exceeding, the award's criteria of “advancing the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent.”

Larry is the 11th superintendent to receive the SAM Award, which was created in 1987 to honor none other than Sherwood A. Moore and his contributions to the MetGCSA and our profession.

Larry will receive his well-deserved honor at the MetGCSA's January 15 Winter Seminar at Westchester Country Club. “It's difficult to describe how I feel about this great honor that my peers have bestowed on

me,” he said when notified of his selection for the award. “Knowing Sherwood and having seen evidence of his efforts at Woodway, I can tell you firsthand what a master he was at managing the details and challenges of our very demanding jobs. He was the best of his generation, and I am so grateful—and flattered—to be compared to him.”

### An Award Well Deserved

Property manager of Woodway Country Club since 1983, Larry is clearly passionate about his work and the industry. “Not a day goes by that I don't stop and think about how glad I am to have chosen this profession,” says Larry, who has clearly offered the profession at least as much as it's given him. He served as the Met's president, spend-

ing 11 years on the board and chairing or sitting on just about every committee there is. Still at it, he's currently serving on four of the Met's 12 committees.

Larry's also been generous throughout the years in offering his club for association events. With Woodway among the few clubs in the area to boast two addresses—Woodway Country Club in Darien and Woodway Beach Club in Stamford—Larry has hosted members not just for golf meetings, but also for some of the Met's more memorable family events: our waterside family picnics at Woodway's Caribbean-esque beach club.

After a brief hiatus as meeting host, Larry hosted this year's holiday bash and will bring everyone back when the ground's thawed for our annual Superintendent/Manager Tourney in May.

*"It has been apparent to me for some time now that Larry would someday be the proud recipient of this coveted award. When you look at his accomplishments, by definition, he is the epitome of a model golf course superintendent."*

— Scott Niven, CGCS

"There is no question the MetGCSA is one of the finest chapters in the country," says Larry. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to serve the association, and I'm pleased to see it excel. We must all, as association members, continue to enhance the image of the superintendent—an image that men like Sherwood Moore strived to obtain while seeking improvements for our well-being."

Always at the forefront, Larry's contributions extend well beyond the Met. He was the founding president of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation in 1991 and served on the first GCSAA committee responsible for establishing the GCSAA Foundation.

Larry was also among the first to become involved in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP), which offers golf courses and superintendents a well-respected vehicle for validating and publicizing their environmental efforts. Having met all the program's criteria in 1993, Woodway was one of the first 25 clubs in the country to become a certified cooperative sanctuary.

Larry's work with the ACSP put him on the lecture circuit in the tri-state area and also at the 1996 GCSAA conference and show. He also published two articles in *Golf Course Management*: "Turf Covers for Problem Greens" and "Restoring a

Connecticut Classic."

It's work like this that led SAM Award presenter and good friend Scott Niven to make the following comment: "It has been apparent to me for some time now that Larry would someday be the proud recipient of this coveted award. When you look at his accomplishments, by definition, he is the epitome of a model golf course superintendent. I am honored to have the opportunity to present my good friend with this year's Sherwood A. Moore Award."

On a more personal level, Larry has been a mentor to—and strong advocate of—the many past assistants (see picture page 5) who have moved on to their own jobs. Graduates of "Woodway University," as it's affectionately termed, include Mike Mongon (Fairview CC), Gregg Stanley (Hudson National GC), Tony Girardi (Rockrimmon CC), and Blake Halderman (Trump National GC). All will tell you that once you've worked for Larry, you have a friend for life.

Blake was the one to nominate Larry for the award. "I felt Larry was deserving of the award not only for his many years of dedication to the golf industry, but more important, for his desire to help others around him," says Blake. "He has been a leader of multiple organizations—both golf and community—and has been a mentor to all who have worked for him."

### Personally Speaking

Born to a golfing family in Pittsburgh, PA—home, at the time, to golfing legend Arnold Palmer—Larry has spent the past 32 years at golf clubs in three different states and one tropical isle.

After earning an associate's in landscape architecture, Larry's first stop in the business was Philadelphia Country Club, where his brother, D.J., was superintendent at the time. "He took me under his wing and brought me into the business," says Larry, gratefully. During his tenure there, Larry completed the turfgrass management program at Penn State University, where he can still be found on football weekends rooting for his alma mater.

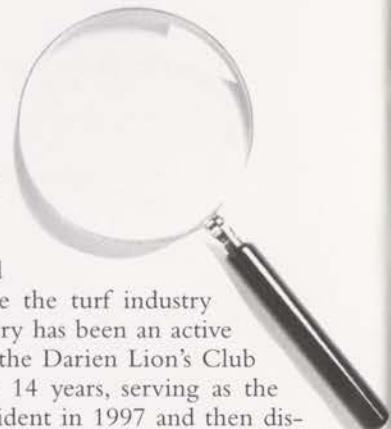
On the road to Woodway, Larry gained valuable experience as the assistant superintendent at the prestigious Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, PA, and then as superintendent at Bermuda's Mid Ocean Club. Though he recounts Mid Ocean as a "tremendous and valuable learning experience," after four years there, he was ready to leave island life behind. He returned to the States in 1981 and took the superintendent's job at St. Andrew's Golf Club in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, NY. That's when he began his 22-year-and-counting association with the MetGCSA.

### There's More to Success Than Meets the Eye

A mover and shaker inside the turf industry and out, Larry has been an active member of the Darien Lion's Club for the past 14 years, serving as the group's president in 1997 and then district zone chairman, in charge of all Fairfield County chapters. In 2000, the organization, which raises hundreds of thousands of dollars each year for local charities, awarded Larry its Knights of the Blind Award in honor of his dedicated service to fundraising.

Not limiting his community service to Lion's Club activities, Larry has spoken to local garden clubs and is involved with the Stamford Sound Waters Association, a group that educates high school students about the environment.

Though there is no denying that Larry's success has everything to do with the time and effort he's devoted to his career and to helping others, he offers a slightly different perspective: "There is usually a good reason people gain success—call it hard work or dedication—but mine relates most to my family and the love and devotion that I've received from my wife, Carole, and my children, Christina and Lauren," says Larry.



# Member News

*"There is usually a good reason people gain success—call it hard work or dedication—but mine relates most to my family and the love and devotion that I've received from my wife, Carole, and my children, Christina and Lauren."*

"They have always been there for me, and without that type of support, my life would have no purpose."

Carole and Larry have been married for 28 years. And Carole is a career success in her own right, serving as the head of special education at New Canaan High School.

Like her mom and dad, Larry's oldest daughter, Christina, is a Penn State alum. Currently working as a marketing analyst for A.C. Nielsen, she is due to be married sometime next year. Lauren, who graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder, is working as a speech therapist in the Town of New Canaan school system.

Larry joins a long line of Sherwood A. Moore Award recipients. Starting with Sherwood, himself, were Ted Horton, the late Bruno Vidala, James Fulwider Sr., Bob Alonzi, the late Ted Jozwick, Mike Maffei, Pat Lucas, Joe Alonzi, and Peter Rappoccio.

Congratulations, Larry, on a job well done!

*Glenn Perry, co-editor of the Tee to Green, is superintendent at Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton, CT.*



## Environmental Award

Superintendent **Tim Powers** and the CourseCo, Inc.'s Crystal Springs Golf Course in Burlingame, CA, have received international recognition for their contributions to wildlife habitat conservation at the Wildlife Habitat Council's 15th Anniversary Symposium. CourseCo demonstrates its commitment to environmental stewardship and increasing native biodiversity by achieving habitat recertification at the Crystal Springs Golf Course.

Much like the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, the WHC program requires that participants meet a rigorous set of environmental standards and criteria.

Congratulations to Tim and the 15 other CourseCo staff members actively engaged in the course's habitat enhancement projects for their commendable efforts in restoring and enhancing wildlife habitat at Crystal Springs Golf Course.

## New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

- **Donald Asinski**, Class C, Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY
- **Kevin Balocca**, Class AS, Willimantic Country Club, Willimantic, CT
- **Sean Flynn**, Class C, Golf Club of Purchase, Purchase, NY

- **Gerardo Forgione**, Class C, Willow Ridge Country Club, Harrison, NY
- **Jake Kellar**, Class C, GlenArbor Golf Club, Bedford Hills, NY
- **Frank Tedescucci**, Class C, GlenArbor Golf Club, Bedford Hills, NY
- **Bob York**, Class AF, BASF, Palmer, MA

## Well Wishes

Hoping Fenway Superintendent **Bob Alonzi** is back on his feet again really soon! Bob had a double whammy: both knees replaced at one time!

## Births

Congratulations to Edgewood Country Club Superintendent **Paul Dotti** and his wife, Lisa, on the birth of their son, Nicholas Joseph, on October 25.



# Oh, What a Productive Year It Was

by Tim O'Neill, CGCS

The past year as secretary/treasurer has been extremely busy with all the additional responsibilities that come with being an officer of GCSAA.

As association treasurer, I was involved in creating not one, but two fiscal budgets. At the Annual Meeting in Atlanta we voted to change our fiscal year from the traditional July 1 through June 30 timeframe to January 1 through December 31. That meant that by the time we had our spring board meeting in May, we had to have prepared a six-month budget. We are in the final stages, now, of ironing out a budget for 2004 in time for our new, January 1 budget deadline.

Like the other GCSAA officers, I was expected to represent our association at a number of meetings and events. Among them: major golf tournaments—like the Masters, U.S. Open, and the PGA—industry meetings, foundation activities, and even an international conference and show. I attended the Canadian Turfgrass Conference and Show in Calgary earlier this year, where I met with a variety of colleagues and industry representatives from around the world. At these types of meetings, much of our time is spent developing and maintaining relationships that foster ongoing cooperation.

In addition, I was expected to attend five regular board meetings in various parts of the country and fulfill commitments associated with chairing or co-chairing three committees: I chaired both the Environmental Stewardship and Research committees and co-chaired the Chapter Relations Committee.

Here are a few of the outcomes of my activities—and everyone else's—in and around GCSAA.

## Environmental Committee News

We are pleased to announce that Gregory T. Lyman has been named GCSAA's director of environmental programs. Greg comes to GCSAA from Michigan State University, where he served as a turfgrass environmental education specialist. He began his duties

October 20, providing new leadership to the association's development and execution of environmental programs and services, which will be initiated and funded largely through The Environmental Institute for Golf.

Greg has gained widespread recognition for the creation of programs that have developed a set of best management practices for Michigan's "green industry." The Michigan State Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Program, developed and launched by Greg, was awarded GCSAA's President's Award for Environmental Leadership in 2001. He earned a bachelor's in landscape horticulture from Michigan State in 1983 and a master's in horticulture from Penn State University in 1992.

Greg brings a wealth of knowledge and talent with enormous enthusiasm to take the GCSAA environmental programs to a new level. I expect great things in the years to come in our environmental program results.

## Chapter Relations Committee to Review Affiliation Agreement

The Chapter Relations Committee will be working long and hard in 2004 to reevaluate our current affiliation agreement between chapters and GCSAA. Among the several issues we'll be looking at will be the dual membership requirement: Should we or shouldn't we require that people belong to both a local chapter and GCSAA?

The affiliation agreement will be up for renewal in 2005, so we are hoping to present the new agreement at the September Delegate's Meeting and then put it before the entire GCSAA Board of Directors at the fall board meeting.

Chapters will have all of 2005 to sign the new agreement.

## Research Committee Has Big Job Ahead

The Research Committee will be meeting in early January to select research worthy of our support. The task won't be easy. We have 41 research proposals to read and eval-

uate. Joining me in the review process will be Stanwich Club's Scott Niven, who is a member of GCSAA's Research Committee, along with seven other superintendents and Dr. Michael Kenna from the USGA, Ronny Duncan of the University of Georgia, Frank Rossi of Cornell University, and Kevin Morris from the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program.

## Enhancing Our Organization

Last winter, in the name of organizational improvement, GCSAA subjected itself to the scrutiny of an independent management-consulting firm. After a three-month review process, the audit revealed that GCSAA is a well-run organization with a top-flight staff who has a remarkable understanding of the organization's mission, vision, and goals.

What the association needs more of, the audit found, is long-term, strategic thinking at all levels. As a result, the board members have come to realize that they must divorce themselves from operational involvement and focus more on strategic discussions. The staff will then be charged with fulfilling the "vision" that the board sets forth.

The board is convinced that by decreasing their operational involvement, they will actually gain greater control of the organization. They will have more time to focus on developing strategic goals for the association and creating indicators to measure progress toward these goals.

GCSAA's CEO, Steve Mona—and the entire staff—will be held accountable for achieving progress on the indicators, which are being finalized now and will be extremely specific.

Indicators will, for instance, be established to measure staff progress in such areas as membership growth, facility representation, conference and show growth, member certification numbers, renewal of Class A requirements, and fiscal responsibility.

With written—and agreed on—goals and indicators on hand, the board can better track the progress of staff members and GCSAA as a whole. This will give GCSAA members the greatest control in the association direction, while at the same time allowing the staff to devise the operational processes required to accomplish the overall goals.

Also as a result of the firm's audit, the board has agreed to move forward with a more strategic and more focused committee system. During 2004, two umbrella committees will be formed: the Environmental Committee and the Communications Committee.

The environmental group will include the original Environmental Stewardship,

Research, and Government Relations committees; under one umbrella, they will work together to accomplish agreed-on goals.

The Communications Committee will combine the former Member Communications Committee with the Web Strategy Committee.

Within these two umbrella committees, there will be task groups that will be assigned to handle specific issues and include individuals with special interest or expertise in a particular area.

Another focus, as a result of the audit, will be to reduce the substantial time commitment required of board members. There will be fewer board meetings, and agendas at those meetings will be altered to make the most of everyone's meeting time. There won't be any officer-only meetings; all nine board members will always meet together. And last, but not least, nonboard members will be invited to chair committees.

Individual members are already chairing task groups. For instance, Milwaukee Country Club Superintendent Pat Sisk, one of our former *Tee to Green* editors who left the area, chairs a task group of members who are reviewing the affiliation agreement to be presented to the Chapter Relations Committee in June. The opportunity to chair task groups and committees should help develop volunteer leaders, as well as ease the burden on board members.

We will begin to implement these changes in 2004 and, hopefully, have them up and running in 2005.

## Convention Time Is Near

Plans for the upcoming convention and show in San Diego, scheduled for February 9–14, are well underway. The golf tournament registration recently concluded with a little more than 500 competitors signed up to play. Overall participation in the tournament is down from what it was a couple years ago. No doubt, the struggling economy has contributed to the decline in recent years.

Those fortunate to be attending this year's event can expect the same high-quality tournament we have every year. Who could ask for anything more than great golf courses and great weather during February?

By contrast, the convention and show registration numbers have trended upward from a year ago. Hopefully, superintendents and employers are viewing this as an annual event you *must* attend to take advantage of the new technology and product offerings and the educational and networking opportunities.

Watch for changes in the timing of events, such as the Opening Session, and for "Trade Show Only" hours, which are being

established to make the show experience as meaningful as possible for superintendents.

San Diego should be a great city for the conference and show, as well as the entire family. I am hoping these and other changes will bolster the show within the golf industry. Plans to conduct a joint conference and trade show in 2005 in Orlando with the National Golf Course Owners Association is designed to do just that.

Having employers at the show will improve their understanding of the professionalism of superintendents and just how important our jobs are to the game of golf. Our industry partners, needless to say, are pleased by the prospect of bringing together more "qualified buyers" for a single event.

A final note about the conference: This year's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 14 at 9 a.m. I hope you'll all be there. Barring anything unusual, I should be elected vice president of GCSAA. I am looking forward to this new role and would like to thank the MetGCSA for their support throughout the years.

I am also fortunate to have the support of the Country Club of Darien membership and staff. Special thanks to club General Manager Ken Koch and to my two assistants, Chad Anderson and Jon Majchrzak, both MetGCSA members. Without my assistants' attention to detail and tireless effort, I would not be able to meet these GCSAA commitments. An extra-special thank you, too, to my wife, Jennifer, and kids, Justin and Kristen for their support and understanding.

*Tim O'Neill, serving on the GCSAA Board of Directors as secretary/treasurer, is superintendent at Country Club of Darien in Darien, CT.*



## Sunningdale's Eric Yount Scores Annual MetGCSA Assistants Championship

On October 14, MetGCSA assistants were able to experience life as a member of Siwanoy Country Club, the site of this year's MetGCSA Assistants Championship. The course played as sweet as the surf 'n' turf spread served by our gracious hosts. A special thanks to host Assistant Superintendent Scott Zalinsky and Superintendent Dave Mahoney for an excellent event and a superbly conditioned golf course.

Winning the event was Sunningdale Country Club's Eric Yount, who grinded out an 81—a two-stroke victory over Jake Kellar of Glen Arbor.

The team from Sleepy Hollow, Andrew Agnew and Doug Vanderlee, took the Team Championship by ham 'n' eggin' a 78.

Also making the day a great success were the affiliate members who contributed a generous \$2,900 in support of the event.

An extra-special thank you to The Care of Trees, Metro Turf Specialists, Westchester Turf Supply, Glenmore Landscape Services, E/T Equipment Company, Steven Willard Inc., Turf Products Corp./Toro, Simplot Partners, Plant Food Company, Turf Products Corporation/B. Rizzio.

Now a look at the day's winning scores:

### Individual Results

#### Low Gross Winners

- 81 Eric Yount  
*Sunningdale Country Club*  
83 Jake Kellar  
*Glen Arbor Golf Club*  
86 Shannon Slevin  
*Pelham Country Club*

#### Low Net Winners

- 71 Mike Brunelle  
*Bedford Golf & Tennis Club*  
74 Doug Vanderlee  
*Sleepy Hollow Country Club*  
75 Brent Borelli  
*Brooklake Country Club*

### Team Results

#### Low Gross Winners

- 78 Andrew Agnew/Doug Vanderlee  
*Sleepy Hollow Country Club*  
81 Shannon Slevin/Don Asinski  
*Pelham Country Club*  
81 Eric Yount/Franco Ishmael  
*Sunningdale Country Club*

#### Longest Drive

- Debbie Unger, *St. Andrew's Golf Club* #5  
Eric O'Neill, *Scarsdale Golf Club* #18

#### Low Net Winners

- 65 Mike Brunelle, *Bedford Golf & Tennis Club*  
Joe DeLauter, *Woodway Country Club*  
67 Jason Rolf, *Bonnie Briar Country Club*  
Adam Poplawski, *Old Oaks Country Club*  
69 Jake Kellar/Frank Tedescucci, *Glen Arbor Golf Club*

#### Closest to the Pin

- Matt Post, *Old Oaks Country Club* 5'3"  
Mike Brunelle  
*Bedford Golf & Tennis Club* 1'10"

## Lake Isle Takes Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney

On what was one of the best days for golf in 2003, Greenwich Country Club hosted the MetGCSA's annual Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament. The only thing better than the day was the superbly conditioned golf course. Host Superintendent Greg Wojick and his staff can sure "get it done." They, as well as the rest of the staff at Greenwich Country Club, deserve a gracious thank you for providing the association with a memorable day.

Congratulations to Lake Isle tourney winners Kevin Quist and Nick Saviano! Here are the winning scores:

### Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney Results

#### Low New Winners

- 62 Kevin Quist/Nick Saviano  
*Lake Isle Country Club*  
64 Bob Steinman/John Gera  
*Beekman Country Club*  
64 Tom Leahy/Chuck Rockefeller  
*Sleepy Hollow Country Club*  
66 Joe Alonzi/Gail Flanagan  
*Westchester Country Club*  
66 Bob Nielsen/Ralph Fletcher  
*Bedford Golf & Tennis Club*

### Two-Man Best Ball

#### Low New Winners

- 60 David Polvino/Jim Schell  
*The Stanwich Club*  
63 Joe Stahl, *Simplot Partners*  
Bob York, *BASF*  
63 Ernie Steinhoffer, *Metro Turf Specialists*  
Owen Towne

# Philly Wins Met Area Team Championship

This year's Met Area Team Championship was held November 3 at Rolling Green Golf Club in West Chester, PA. Host Superintendent Warren Savini prepared a great track for us, and the weather more than cooperated: It was picture-perfect.

The Met competed with five other teams for the trophy. Our team members this year were:

- John Caralone of The Meadow Brook Club
- Sean Cain of Sunningdale Country Club
- Dave Mahoney of Siwanoy Country Club
- Ken Benoit of Glen Arbor Golf Club
- Glen Dube of Oak Hills Park Golf Course
- Chip Lafferty of Rye Golf Club
- Jeff Wentworth of Pelham Country Club

The Philadelphia chapter stacked their team with some heavy ringers and ran away with the trophy. Our own Sean Cain won the Medallist honors with a round of 75.

Here's how it all shook out:

Philadelphia GCSA	452
New Jersey GCSA	469
Northeastern GCSA	472
MetGCSA	473
Connecticut AGCS	479
Hudson Valley GCSA	508

## Two-Ball Tourney Keeps on Keepin' On

Rounds One, Two, and Three of the annual Two-Ball Tourney are complete. The competition has been friendly but fierce, with two teams left standing for the final round. Here's a look at how the contestants have fared so far:

### First Round Results

- Gary Arlio/Bob DeMarco defeated Jeff Wentworth/Ken Benoit 1 up at Sunningdale Country Club.
- John Caralone/John Streeter defeated Tony Girardi/Jim Calladio 5 and 3 at Deepdale Country Club.
- Tim Garceau/Rich Browne defeated Lou Quick/Paul Gonzalez by forfeit.
- Rick Schock/Gregg Stanley defeated Chuck Denny/Sean Cain 5 and 4 at Sleepy Hollow Country Club.
- Larry Pakkala/Scott Niven defeated Joe Alonzi/Bob Alonzi 1 up at Whippoorwill Club
- Glen Dube/Blake Halderman defeated Earl Millet/Tony Grasso 3 and 2 at Rolling Hills Country Club.
- Wayne Remo/Jim McNally defeated Dennis Flynn/Peter Rappoccio 3 and 2 at Bedford Golf & Tennis Club.
- Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee defeated Todd Polidor/Tim Moore 1 up at The Apawamis Club.

### Second Round Results

- Gary Arlio/Bob DeMarco defeated John Caralone/John Streeter on a coin flip.
- Rick Schock/Gregg Stanley defeated Tim Garceau/Rich Browne 1 up
- Glen Dube/Blake Halderman defeated Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala 2 and 1
- Wayne Remo/Jim McNally defeated Bill Perlee/Bob Nielsen on a coin flip.

### Third Round Results

- Rick Schock/Gregg Stanley defeated Gary Arlio/Bob DeMarco 4 and 3
- Wayne Remo/Jim McNally defeated Glen Dube/Blake Halderman 4 and 3

### The Finals Still to Come

Looks like our finalists were too slow on the draw to get their matches in before the change in weather. Now, we'll have to wait till 2004 to see who walks away with the Two-Ball Tourney trophy. Will it be Rick Schock and Gregg Stanley or Wayne Remo and Jim McNally? Watch an upcoming issue of *Tee to Green* to find out!

## Upcoming Events

# 2004 Met Calendar of Events in the Making

Here's a look at our preliminary 2004 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.

### **Business Meeting**

March

Date and Site OPEN

### **Two-Ball Qualifier**

Monday, April 12

Elmwood Country Club, White Plains, NY  
Host: Dave Roule

### **Superintendent/Manager Tournament**

Monday, May 17

Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT  
Host: Larry Pakkala, CGCS

### **Invitational Tournament**

Thursday, June 17

Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT  
Host: Mike Mongon

### **Education Meeting**

July

Date & Site OPEN

### **Poa Annual Tournament**

August

Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, CT  
Host: Mark Fuller, CGCS

### **Golf Meeting**

Monday, September 20

Seawane Golf Club, Hewlett Harbor, NY  
Host: Brian Benedict

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

Tuesday, October 19

Round Hill Club, Greenwich, CT  
Host: Bill Gaydosh

### **Annual Assistants Championship**

Date & Site OPEN

### **Met Area Team Championship**

Date & Site OPEN

### **Annual Meeting**

November

Date & Site OPEN

### **MetGCSA Christmas Party**

Date & Site OPEN

## Educational Events

### **MetGCSA Winter Seminar**

Thursday, January 15, 2004

Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY  
Host: Joe Alonzi, CGCS

Don't miss this year's round of exciting speakers and topics. Among them: Brad Klein of *Superintendent News* and *Golf Week Magazine* on "The Superintendent and the Media"; University of Wisconsin's Dr. Wayne Kusow on soil cation balance and soil testing; Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi on IPM and the Bethpage Green Course Research and on Tri-State-funded research on organic and microbial product evaluation; the USGA Green Section's Dave Oatis and Dr. James Baird on ice and winter damage; and Brian Vinchesi on irrigation scheduling efficiency and ET.

### **The 7th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show**

Monday – Thursday, March 1 – 4, 2004

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 David Feherty, golf commentator for CBS Sports. Feherty had turned pro at age 17 and enjoyed a very successful professional golf career with 10 victories worldwide.

Also available on March 1 are preconference seminars on managing golf course trees; turfgrass traffic stress: physiology and management; and plant growth regulators.

For further information, call 401-841-5490 or visit [www.NERTF.org](http://www.NERTF.org).

## Spotlight

# Peter Waterous Invites Annual Meeting Goers to Westchester Hills

by Glen Dube, CGCS

**N**ovember 13, Golf Course Superintendent Peter Waterous graciously hosted the MetGCSA Annual Meeting at Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains, NY. Those who attended were brought up to date on the Met's various committee activities before participating in the election of the 2004 Board of Directors, which culminated in Tim Moore passing his presidential responsibilities on to newly elected Dave Mahoney.

When all was said and done, members were treated to an outstanding lunch in the dining room, which overlooks the golf course.

### Work in Progress

Though this trip to Westchester Hills gave us only a glimpse of the 90-year-old club's 90 acres, Peter has methodically worked to improve the Peter Clark-designed course where it's needed it most. "We can't boast any major renovations," says Peter, with a touch of relief, "but we've taken on at least one improvement project nearly every season."

From '99 to 2000, he oversaw the installation of a brand-new, state-of-the-art irrigation system and pump station. The following year, Peter went on to build a short-game practice facility that included a new fairway and chipping area. No rest for the weary, Peter embarked on yet another project in 2003: the renovation of four new tee complexes. And there's more....

"In the fall of 2004," he says, we're hoping to begin construction on an all-new maintenance facility. The current building dates back to the 1800s and is too small and tired to suit our needs. Hopefully, the new one will have better heat."

### Once a Grass Grower, Always a Grass Grower

Peter was nearly born into the golf course business. Tending to turf for more than half his life, Peter, like so many other Met superintendents, followed in his father's footsteps. Now a Life member, his dad, Herb Waterous, worked for Scarsdale Golf Club nearly as long as Peter could remember. "In



Peter Waterous

the summers during high school—and college," says Peter, "I would commute with my dad every day. It was a two-hour drive each way from where we lived in Woodstock. He'd drive in; I would drive home, while he slept beside me," Peter remembers.

Peter earned an associate's in turfgrass management from SUNY Cobleskill in 1989. At that point, he was elevated from crew member to assistant superintendent, still under his father's tutelage. "My dad taught me everything I know," says Peter. "My dad and Matt Ceplo," Peter was quick to add.

After three years as his father's assistant, it was time for Peter to spread his wings—and he flew the coop. In 1992, he accepted an assistant's position with Matt Ceplo, who was the superintendent, then, at Westchester Hills Golf Club. When Matt left Westchester two years later, Peter was promoted to golf course superintendent. And he's been there ever since, working alongside his staff to make Westchester Hills as enjoyable as possible for its members.

### Stealing Away

When Peter can steal away from the daily grind, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Marie, and his two daughters: Danielle, 7, and Julia, 3. And, on those beautiful, sun-soaked Sundays, Peter also finds great pleasure in taking his classic 1969 Cougar out for a cruise.

Glen Dube, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Oak Hills Park Golf Course in Norwalk, CT.

### Our Communications Effort

We produce an excellent, award-winning journal with the *Tee to Green*. I think, particularly in the past two years, the editorial content has excelled. I congratulate those involved and look forward to future issues.

Our website continues to be a wealth of information. Meeting notes and directions, job listings, and research reports are just some of items available on our site. I'd like to see our website continue to grow. One thing, in particular, that I'd like to do is set up a group email that will allow us to disseminate pertinent information to the entire membership—quickly and efficiently.

### Socially Speaking

I promise we will have a picnic and summer social this year. Our challenge is to see that these events are well supported. I'd also like to see us continue to plan some simple events, like our bus trip to the Open at Bethpage or our trip to Saratoga. Everyone who went had a great time.

### Finances

With all we hope to accomplish, our association needs to remain fiscally responsible. We're aware that our dues are higher than a number of other associations', but please be aware that we're very conscious of every dollar we spend—and take in.

### Final Notes

On December 7, we had our annual Christmas Party at Woodway Country Club. Despite being snowed out on Saturday, Woodway and Larry Pakkala were able to accommodate us on Sunday. I want to thank everyone for shifting their plans to join in the fun Sunday night. It was a terrific evening.

We're fortunate to have a dedicated, hard-working board. I'm asking all committee chairman to seek out any individual who is willing to serve on a committee. And I'm asking any and all members who would like to get involved to please contact me or one of the board members, and we'll make sure to get you on a committee.

Happy New Year to one and all!  
I'll see you at the next meeting.

Dave Mahoney  
President

# Patron Directory

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

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120 DeBuck's Drive  
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