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Tee To Green

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Tee to Green



Old Oaks Country Club.

In this Issue

Feature

The Alonzi's: A "Super" Family—in More Ways Than One2

Departments

Spotlight: Sean Cain	6
Chapter News	7
Spotlight: Chuck Denny	8
Spotlight: Mark Millett	9
Upcoming Events	10
Scorecard	12
Member News	14
Spotlight: Chris Smith	16

President's Message

Building Extraordinary Relationships

L

et's face it. If you want to be a grand success as a superintendent these days, you have to tend to a whole lot more than just turf. Right up there with performing the day-to-day functions of your job, is the more nebulous care-and-feeding of your working relationships—with your green chairman, membership, club staff and officials, and last, but not least, your crew.

Although relationship building doesn't show up as a line item in our budgets, it is critically important to our success, even survival, as turfgrass managers. Knowing how to establish good relationships can help us open doors for resources, motivate employees, create harmony with club staff, officials, and members. What's more, in the long run, it can help make our jobs more fulfilling. The burning question, then, is: How do we actually go about building good relationships? Here are a few thoughts and observations.

Build Trust

At our 1999 Winter Seminar, one of our guest speakers, Dr. Robert Milligan of Cornell University, gave a presentation titled *Trust and Empathy: The Keys to Extraordinary Interpersonal Relationships*. (Dr. Milligan, by the way, is also a regular contributor to *Golf Course News*.) He believes—and I agree—that in order to build strong bonds with others, we must work first to earn their trust—that is their confidence in our integrity, ability, character, and truthfulness. Then we must develop an ability to demonstrate empathy or an understanding for their situation, feelings, or motives.

Remaining open and sincere with the people we work with and then demonstrating that we can empathize with their circumstances—in other words, walk in their shoes—goes a long way toward building credibility and earning trust. We all like people we can identify with—and who can identify with us.

Activities or actions that undermine these principles will ultimately make our



Will Heintz
MetGCSA President

jobs more difficult. It leaves us fighting to "mend fences" with our superiors or repair relations with a crew whose respect we've lost. Though many of us have "been there," we don't want to go back. Making these kinds of reparations can be more difficult than getting grass to recover on damaged greens.

Listen Well

There comes a time in all of our careers when the club we work for stops listening . . . to us and many of our requests. Does that mean it's time to look for a new job? Truly, I don't know. What I do know, however, is that if—and when—a club begins to turn a deaf ear to you and your suggestions, you must take great care not to react in kind . . . as tempting as it might be. In other words, do not stop listening to them.

"Listening may well be the most crucial component of communication," says Dr. Milligan, who firmly believes that when we stop listening, we stop communicating. "When we listen," he explains, "we begin to understand what is expected of us." Although we spend a lot of time developing our ability to lead, we must also devote time to learning how to follow—that is, listening closely to the people we work for.

To listen and follow our employer's command is not a bad thing; it is, in fact, what is expected of us. Moreover, it's what can make or break the perception our boss and members have of our on-the-job effectiveness and capabilities. Demonstrate a spirit of cooperation and your club is likely to do the same.

continued on page 11

Feature

*And the Met Golf Writers
Association Family of the Year
Award Goes to...*

The Alonzi's:

A "Super" Family—in More Ways Than One

by Peter Rappoccio, CGCS



They're well-known—and highly regarded—in the New York Metropolitan area. They occupy three-quarters of a page of the Met's membership directory. And collectively, they boast credentials and experience that few in the turfgrass management industry could match.

They're doers—for the good of our local chapter, our national association, and various industry-related community organizations, not the least of which are the Water Wise Counsel and the Drought Task Force of Westchester.

They're the Alonzi's—Bob and son Rob, Joe and son Chris.

Though it's the two eldest members of the clan who have been showered with numerous awards in the past—the Met's coveted Sherwood A. Moore Award among them—the entire family is being honored now with one of the Met Golf Writers Association's highest honors: its Family of the Year Award.

Reserved for members of a family who have made notable contributions to the game of golf, the award was presented at the organization's National Awards Dinner on June 6 and was the first time this award

board member adds, "The position of golf course superintendent is critically important to the vitality of the clubs and courses and to the game of golf in the Met area. Joe and Bob Alonzi and their sons have done so much for their clubs and profession."

Humble Recipients

Bob, the eldest, was the first to know about the family's selection for the award. It just so happens that Bruce Beck, vice president

tendents—not just our family."

As for Rob and Chris . . . they expressed nothing short of great pride and respect for their dads. Rob noted, "My dad and Uncle Joe have done so much for our profession. I'm walking in their footsteps, and I'm so very proud of them. To be a part of this award is a great honor."

Chris echoed cousin Robby's feelings: "My father and Uncle Bob are so well respected in this industry. They've set the bar for me. I'm proud of them—and to be part of this family award."

"They are looked to as leaders in the field of golf course agronomy; their courses and grounds are among the best-groomed anywhere in the nation; they have taught—and helped the careers of—many assistants; and they've developed actual turf management techniques that have been adopted elsewhere."

— Chuck Stogel

has ever been presented to a family of superintendents.

Chuck Stogel, past president and Golf Writers board member echoes the sentiment of the entire Golf Writers board and selection committee when he states, "Bob and Joe Alonzi's contributions as superintendents has helped to enhance the status and renown of the many superb golf courses in the Met area.

"They are looked to as leaders in the field of golf course agronomy; their courses and grounds are among the best-groomed anywhere in the nation; they have taught—and helped the careers of—many assistants; and they've developed actual turf management techniques that have been adopted elsewhere."

Stogel goes on to say, "It is obviously a bonus when a local family is being honored, and the Alonzi's join other past winners with local roots, such as the Turnesa, Claude Harmon, Robert Trent Jones, Jerry Courville, Mal Galletta, Tom Nieporte, and Jules Alexander families. National winners over the years have included the families of George Bush, Pete Dye, Raymond Floyd, Jack Nicklaus, Peter Jacobsen, Karsten Solheim, Al Geiberger, and Jay Haas.

Jay Mattola, executive director of the Met Golf Association and Met Golf Writers

of the Met Golf Writers Association, is a member of Fenway, where Bob's currently superintendent. So he paid Bob a personal visit to inform him of the selection.

"I was totally surprised and honored," says Bob, recounting his reaction to the news. "This award means all the more to me since it's shared with Joe and our sons. I have to say, I was at a loss for words when Mr. Beck told me about our selection for the award." Those of us who know Bob realize the magnitude of this honor in his eyes. Bob is never at a loss for words.

The official announcement of the award was made by Jay Mattola at the Met's November Annual Meeting held, fittingly, at St. Andrew's where Bob's son, Rob, has been super since 2001.

Joe was scheduled to be out of town that day, but Bob, who could sell snow to an Eskimo, succeeded in convincing him to stay on for the meeting. That meant all the Alonzi's were present when the announcement was made.

Joe, like Bob, was thoroughly surprised. "To be included with names like Nicklaus, Trent Jones, Jacobsen, and Bush is an unbelievable honor," said Joe, reacting to the news of the award. "There are so many other families in the business who deserve recognition. . . . This award is for all superin-

An Award Well-Deserved

Superintendents in the Met area appreciate all that Bob and Joe have done—and continue to do—to support our profession locally, regionally, and nationally. Their willingness to help fellow grass growers and to promote professionalism within the industry through their words and deeds and, of course, their dedication to producing quality golf courses . . . these are attributes many superintendents strive for.

This award will let the national and local golfing communities know what the MetGCSA has known for years: Bob and Joe Alonzi are two of the best our profession has to offer, and it is fitting that they, along with their two sons, be the first superintendent family recognized nationally for their noteworthy careers and contributions to the game of golf.

Will the Alonzi line of SUPERintendents span a third generation? Only time will tell!

Peter Rappoccio, a past president of the MetGCSA, is superintendent at Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, CT.

The Alonzi's... Yesterday and Today



Bob (left), presenting the Past President's Plaque to Ted Horton, 1980.

Joe Alonzi, CGCS **Westchester Country Club** **Rye, NY**

When Joe was in high school, Bob encouraged him to follow his lead at Tamarack. Like Bob, Joe caddied and worked on Tamarack's grounds crew on weekends during high school. But Joe wasn't as readily convinced that this was his lifelong profession. He pursued an electrical engineering degree from New York City Tech in the late 1960s and worked on radar systems for United Aircraft during the Vietnam War. When the war ended, so did his career in the aircraft industry. Joe was without a job.

At Bob's urging, Joe began working with him at Burning Tree. It wasn't long before Joe found himself with a two-year degree from Rutgers in turfgrass management and on the road to his current position at Westchester Country Club.

In 1974, he accepted his first superintendent's job at Huntington Crescent Club in Long Island, then Fenway Golf Club in 1984, and finally Westchester, where he's hosted 15 PGA Tour stops—now known as the Barclays Classics—since taking over as superintendent there in 1992.

Joe, like Bob, has one son and three daughters with his wife of 35 years, Judy. They live in North Salem, NY.

Bob Alonzi, CGCS **Fenway Golf Club** **Scarsdale, NY**

Born in Italy not far from Rome, Bob came to the U.S. when he was 12 years old. He and his family lived with Bob's grandfather in Port Chester, NY, within 10 minutes of Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich, CT, where Bob got his first taste of the world of golf.

During the late 1950s, he began caddying at the club and worked on the grounds crew on weekends while he was making his way through high school. Encouraged by then superintendent Ted Jozwick, Bob completed a two-year degree in turfgrass management from Rutgers University. He stayed on at Tamarack until 1964, when he was drafted into the army, serving two years in the Vietnam War.

During the course of Bob's lengthy career, he's managed some of the most prestigious golf courses in the metropolitan area. He spent three years as superintendent at Rye Golf Club, a total of 11 years at Burning Tree Country Club—six as superintendent, five as superintendent/general manager—and six years at Fairview Country Club before joining Winged Foot as co-superintendent with Sherwood A.

Moore for the 1984 U.S. Open Championship. Fifteen years and two major tournaments later, Bob decided to take a break from the championship course arena. He arrived at Fenway in the fall of '99 after a brief return trip to Fairview.

Bob and his wife of 39 years, Kim, raised their four children—one son and three daughters—within a mile radius of Bob's Port Chester roots. They've lived in Greenwich, CT, for the past 32 years in the house Bob built in 1972.

Joe cruizin' the course at Westchester.



Rob Alonzi

**St. Andrew's Golf Club
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY**

Rob, it seems, was destined to become a golf course superintendent. He too, worked as a caddie and on the grounds crew during high school. And like his uncle, he first pursued another line of work. He entered Iona College as a business major but, after a few semesters, decided desk jobs weren't for him. In 1995, he graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a B.S. in plant and soil science and a minor in business. Add to his list of credentials a stint at Caves Valley, two years at Wykagyl, four years as an assistant at Tamarack, and as long as he can remember, working with his father.

In January 2001, Rob accepted his current position as superintendent at St. Andrew's. Rob and his wife, Ann Marie of six years, live in Port Chester, NY, with 4-year-old Nicholas and 18-month-old Sarah.

Rob in 1979, already praying for healthy turfgrass.



Chris Alonzi

**Elmwood Country Club
White Plains, NY**

Growing up on a golf course, Chris knew from the start that he would pursue a career in turfgrass management. After graduating high school, he attended the State University of New York at Cobleskill and, in 1994, graduated with an Associate's in turfgrass management.

He got his feet wet in the business as an assistant at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY, and then went over to Westchester to help out his father—first as his second assistant and then as his first. In that role, Chris was expected to assume a great deal of responsibility in preparing each year for the Barclays—then known as the Buick—Classic.

After working six years under his father's watchful eye, Chris accepted the superintendent's job at Woodbridge in February 2002. Four years later, in February of this year, Chris joined the rest of his family members in Westchester County as the superintendent at Elmwood Country Club. Chris lives on the club's grounds in White Plains, NY.

Chris in 1984, learning the business firsthand.



Sean Cain and Sunningdale Present an Evening of Education

by Rob Alonzi

This year's MetGCSA Education Meeting on July 19 found itself at an old favorite, Sunningdale Country Club in Scarsdale, NY. Our host for this event, Sean Cain, has been the golf course superintendent at Sunningdale for 10 years—and host to at least four other Met meetings, with an Education Meeting among them.

As those who have played the course well know, Sunningdale is a true parkland delight with the rolling terrain typical of Westchester County golf courses. A precise driving course, Sunningdale boasts seven doglegs and six severely tilted fairways. Unfortunately, the only taste of the course anyone got this time around was from the clubhouse veranda. This was, after all, an education—not a golf-meeting. But for Sean that's okay. He's a team player who was happy to help showcase Sunningdale's newly renovated clubhouse. "There's always another year for the golf course," he says.

The Starting Gate

Sean began his career in turfgrass management on the grounds crew of Mohawk Country Club near his home in Schenectady, NY. He went on to earn a B.S. from The University of Rhode Island and had the good fortune of working as an intern/second assistant at The Stanwich Club under Superintendent Scott Niven. After two years there, Sean accepted a position as first assistant at The Apawamis Club under then Superintendent Jeff Scott. "It was Scott and Jeff who gave me the training, experience, and confidence I needed to make it in this profession," says Sean, who also credits his past mentors with his involvement in the Met.

For four years, Sean served on the MetGCSA Board of Directors, co-chairing the Tournaments Committee and the Communications Committee, where he became co-editor of the *Tee to Green*.



Sean Cain, CGCS

Serious about advancing his professional standing in the industry, Sean last year completed the requirements necessary for GCSAA certification.

A Sunny Future

Sean and I spoke at length regarding the future of his club. He was involved in numerous improvement projects when he signed on in 1996, and now, 10 years later, he's gearing up for another round of enhancements.

"Exciting times at Sunningdale," says Sean, explaining that the club is in the beginning stages of developing a master plan for the entire property. "It looks like we'll be renovating our bunkers, realigning and extending a number of our holes, expanding several of our smaller greens, and removing some of our more problematic trees," says Sean happily. Also part of the plan—and best of all in Sean's mind—is a new maintenance facility.

Kicking Back

For Sean, there's life beyond work—but, clearly, no life without sports. He's an

accomplished, low-handicap golfer, a force on the baseball field and basketball court, a mountain biker, and probably, first and foremost, an avid skier. As soon as the golf season ends and the ski season begins, Sean becomes just about a full-time resident of Vermont, where he skis every chance he can get with his wife of nearly one year, Annie, who he met, of course, on the slopes.

Rob Alonzi, a co-editor of the Tee to Green, is superintendent at St. Andrew's Golf Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY.

End Note

Special thanks to our great group of member speakers who shared their firsthand experiences on a variety of topics:

- Tim Moore of Knollwood Country Club offered important insight into planning and building a new maintenance facility.
- Sean Cain of Sunningdale Country Club shared tried-and-true solutions to handling anthracnose.
- Ken Benoit of GlenArbor Golf Club discussed the ins and outs of golf course construction and renovation.

In Honor of Our U.S. Open Host

by Will Heintz



Winged Foot Golf Club's Eric Greytok and wife, Kelly.



Our suppliers who funded the reception: (front) Mike Cook of The Care of Trees, (back, left to right) Kevin Collins of Aquatrols, Inc., Joe Stahl of The Turf Connection, Bob Lippman Jr. of Westchester Turf Supply, and Tim Marcoux of Atlantic Irrigation Specialties.

Friends of Eric and Kelly Greytok gathered June 5 at Frank's in Mamaroneck, NY, to wish Eric, his staff, and Winged Foot Golf Club the very best for the 2006 U.S. Open.

Eric, at age 33, is the youngest superintendent ever to hold two U.S. Opens. His first Open was in 2001 at Pebble Beach. In years prior, Eric has had several great training grounds—Merion, Congressional, and Riviera—where he worked under the skilled direction of Paul Latshaw.

Beyond possessing one of the most impressive superintendent resumes, Eric brings to our profession great humility, character, and integrity. He is a true gentleman and role model for us all.

But Eric also possesses great drive, continuing to deliver world-class playing conditions on a daily basis while preparing the West Course for the Open and overseeing a major renovation of Winged Foot's East Course. Eric credits his success to the hard

work and dedication of his 46 crew members and his assistants, Sean Foley and Matt Gaver, and to the talents of his equipment technician, Steve Jordan.

Congratulations to Eric for a great Open on Father's Day weekend. Eric, by the way, does have a life outside of Winged Foot. He and his wife, Kelly, have two children—2 1/2-year-old Joe and 1-year-old Kendall—and they live in Somers, NY.

My special thanks to Kevin Collins of Aquatrols, Inc., Tim Marcoux of Atlantic Irrigation Specialties, Bob Lippman Jr. of Westchester Turf Supply, Joe Stahl of The Turf Connection, and Mike Cook of The Care of Trees, for making this night possible. I greatly appreciate their friendships and generosity.

Will Heintz, MetGCSA president, is superintendent at Pound Ridge Golf Club in Pound Ridge, NY.

Generous Gestures

We'd like to recognize and thank two of our suppliers who have made thoughtful—and much appreciated—contributions to our association.

First, we'd like to thank Bill Bartels of Tanto Irrigation, who donated to our Scholarship Fund the \$500 he won in our Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle held at our December 3 Christmas party.

Second, we'd like to recognize Scott Apgar of Metro Turf Specialists, who teamed with Quali-Pro on its early order program and came up with a donation program to help benefit the Met and other local associations. Basically, Metro has agreed to make donations based on its sales of Quali-Pro products. So, in March, Scott presented the Met with a check in the amount of \$669.50 to be used—in Scott's words, "as you see fit." The check has been allocated to our Welfare Fund.

Many, many thanks, again, Bill and Scott. Your support means so much to us.



Chuck Denny Welcomes Poa Annual Tourney to Salem Golf Club

by Eric O'Neill

Salem Golf Club was the site of this year's Poa Annual Tournament, which was held July 31 in conjunction with the Connecticut GCSA to raise money for turf research. Happy to host this worthy event was Charles "Chuck" Denny, the club's superintendent since 1999.

Long before Chuck's time as the club's superintendent—in the summer of 1965—developers began work to transform what was once a 165-acre dairy farm into the 18-hole Salem Golf Club. Named The Nicholas Farm, this prime parcel of North Salem property was fashioned into playable terrain by golf course architect Edward Ryder. "He used the lay of the land to enhance the natural beauty of the property," explains Chuck, "so we've been careful not to interfere with Ryder's design features and the land's natural topography when we've renovated various aspects of the course."

Among the changes Chuck has overseen in his tenure are new bunkers, tees, cart paths, and a short game practice area. Also figuring prominently in the renovations were a new pump house and irrigation system.

Chuck's Start

Chuck's entrée into the golf world began early. He started golfing at 8, and by 12, he'd accepted his first position at a golf course—the Pocono Manor Golf Club, in the mountain village where his family owned a summer home. "I was a range picker, bag-room attendant, and cart boy—all in one," Chuck remembers. "I made \$10 a day plus tips."

By 14, Chuck had gotten his feet wet in the golf course maintenance side of the business. His family's summer getaway happened to be situated on the 6th hole of Pocono Farms Country Club where Chuck worked summers through high school on the maintenance crew. "I'd be out working in the morning, stop in my house for breakfast, and then continue on," Chuck remembers fondly.

It was at Pocono Farms where Chuck actually became inspired to pursue a career in turf management. "The club was nine holes and decided to expand to 18 while I was still on board. Working through the construction is when I got the fever," says Chuck.

"A bunch of the construction guys on the project went to Penn State and convinced me to pursue a degree there." By 1989, Chuck had earned a B.S. in agronomy.

While working toward his degree, Chuck had the good fortune of working alongside numerous distinguished professors—Dr. Tom Watchske, Dr. Pat Sanders, George Hamilton, and Dr. Al Turgeon, to name several—at the university's Landscape Management Center, which field tested products being developed by major chemical companies.

Chuck's work there paid off. After graduating, it was Chuck who Dr. Turgeon thought of when he heard there was an opening for an assistant at Century Country Club in Purchase, NY. That was Chuck's one and only stop before accepting his current position at Salem, and Chuck credits then Superintendent Jim Fulwider Jr. for his step up to superintendent. "No doubt, working with Jim gave me the knowledge and experience I needed for a superintendent's position," says Chuck, who was also grateful for the time he spent working alongside Seawane Superintendent Brian Benedict. "I worked with Brian for three years at Century and enjoyed not just the camaraderie, but also the ability to share ideas and practices. I learned a lot from Brian too."

A MetGCSA member since signing on at Century in 1990, Chuck joined the board of directors in 2004 and has served for the past year as a co-chair of the Tournament Committee. Talking about his decision to serve on the Met board, Chuck says, "I've been a member of the Met for 16 years and feel being affiliated with the organization has contributed to my success as a superintendent. I'm only happy to be able to step up and give something back to the group that's given so much to me."



Chuck Denny

A New Beginning

Soon, Chuck will be embarking on a new chapter in his life—life as a married man.

He and his soon-to-be wife, Robin, hope to marry in February 2007. If there's a tinge of uncertainty in the date, it's only because their original plans had to be changed, when Robin broke her wrist not long before their first planned wedding.

"It will be a quiet ceremony on the beach in Key West," says Chuck, "and then on to Grand Cayman for the honeymoon."

One of Chuck's favorite pastimes is spending time by the sea—where, he says, "there's no grass to look at." He had built up a substantial collection of unique driftwood pieces that he says would conjure up fond memories of his various vacation spots. "When Robin and I bought a house last fall," he says, "I decided to get rid of most of my collection, but I just might start up again—who knows, maybe even on my honeymoon."

In the meantime, Chuck has a new hobby to keep him busy: growing orchids. Right now, he has a small collection—six of various colors—which he devotes at least two hours a week to their care and feeding.

A man of many interests, Chuck has, perhaps above all else, a passion for Nascar races. Over the years, he's attended 12 Daytona 500s, and nowadays he says he's just happy to attend any race he can.

Hope you all enjoyed your day on the links. See you at next year's Poa Annual.

Eric O'Neill, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Towers Country Club in Floral Park, NY.

Summer Social Returns to Old Oaks

by Kevin Collins

The MetGCSA Summer Social returns this year to Old Oaks Country Club on August 8 after a one-year hiatus. The facilities at Old Oaks are truly magnificent: the clubhouse, the outside patio, the outdoor pool area all offer a little bit of paradise right here in Westchester County.

Our host for the evening is Old Oaks's long-tenured superintendent, Mark Millett, and his wife of 34 years, Mary Pat. As anyone in the association will tell you, Mark is one of the most generous and kindhearted persons you would ever want to meet. The many parties and social events that Mark and Mary Pat have held at their house are legendary. Many of the assistant superintendents, past and present, who have had the pleasure of working with Mark, look upon him and Mary Pat as a second Mom and Dad and their house as a second home. A number of years ago, Mark and Mary Pat hosted a backyard barbecue to welcome superintendents who were new to the area. "We wanted to give them an opportunity to get to know some of their colleagues," said Mark. A lot of close friendships grew out of that get-together, friendships that remain strong to this day.

The Laugh

When Kevin Seibel first came to Century Country Club, one of Old Oaks's close neighbors, I decided to do a Mark/Mary Pat Millett kind of thing and get these guys together. I brought them out for a few drinks.

Although Kevin and Mark had previously met, this was the first time they really sat down to converse and share their professional philosophies. The evening started out innocently enough, friendly conversation interrupted only by the numerous drink orders we placed. And then the mood changed. It was the "old lion" versus the "young lion," "old school" versus "new school."

Next thing I knew, Kevin and Mark were circling each other, throwing jabs and hooks. The judges had the bout even until Mark pulled out his secret weapon: The Laugh. Mark has this great laugh that could cripple a whole neighborhood. Kevin had made a comment about some tank mix or something or other he was doing at his club and Mark hit him with The Laugh. It was all over, a TKO in the 12th round. In fact, the people sitting at two tables that were close to us were in stitches, and they had no idea what we were talking about. It was The Laugh that had gotten them too.

Family and Friends

You can't think about Mark without thinking about Mary Pat. They are inseparable. Rarely will you meet a couple who is so in tune with each other. The love and respect they have for each other is obvious . . . always.

Mark and Mary Pat have raised two great children who they are very proud of. Jeff, now 26, after finishing his degree in

Architecture at the University of Florida, is all set to begin a three-year graduate program at Columbia University this fall. Daughter Megan, 22, received her undergraduate degree from Pace University and is currently employed by Ossining Schools as a special education teacher. Megan is planning to begin working toward her Masters next year.

When Mark and Mary Pat have free time, they love to get together with good friends and open a few bottles of wine. They never lose sight of the important things in life: the family and friends who sustain you.

One of Mark's favorite pastimes is playing golf with his two-ball partner, Tom Leahy. If you're within earshot, you can often hear The Laugh when Tom tees off.

We hope to see all of you on August 8. You can't miss this fun event—or the chance to hear The Laugh for yourself. Hearing, after all, is believing!

Kevin Collins, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is Northeast territory manager for Aquatrols Corp. of America.



Mark Millett

Upcoming Events

2006 Met Calendar of Events

It's not too early to contact our meeting and social chairs to volunteer your club for an event in 2007. For professional events, contact either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs: Blake Halderman at 914-946-1074 or Chuck Denny at 914-669-5959. Our Social & Welfare Committee co-chairs are Tom Leahy (914-941-8281) and Bob Nielsen (914-234-3779). Both are available to discuss any upcoming social events.

MetGCSA Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier

Tuesday, September 5
Hudson National GC
Croton-on-Hudson, NY
Host: Chris Smith, CGCS

Met Area Team Championship

Tuesday, October 3
Fishers Island Club, Fishers Island, NY
Host: Don Beck

Annual Assistants Tournament

Thursday, October 12
Seawane Club, Hewlett Harbor, NY
Host: Brett Chapin

Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Monday, October 30
Sleepy Hollow CC, Scarborough, NY
Host: Tom Leahy, CGCS

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 7
Bedford Golf & Tennis Club, Bedford, NY
Host: Bob Nielsen, CGCS

MetGCSA Christmas Party

Saturday, December 2
Mount Kisco CC, Mount Kisco, NY
Host: Fred Scheyhing, CGCS

Educational Events

University of Rhode Island 75th Turfgrass Field Day

Wednesday, August 23
URI Turf Plots, Skogley Memorial Research Center, Kingston, RI
The field day will offer the traditional vendor displays, demonstrations, and field tours of research in progress in addition to a clambake dinner commemorating the field day's 75th anniversary.
Registration 7:30-9 a.m.
Exhibitor Booths 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Plot Tours 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
Lunch 11:30-12
Afternoon Plot Tours 12-1 p.m.
75th Clambake Dinner Celebration 2-5 p.m. at Laurel Lane Golf Course
For further information, contact Dr. Rebecca Brown at 401-874-2755 or brownreb@uri.edu.

3rd Annual GCSANJ Crystal Conference

Tuesday-Thursday, November 7-9
Crystal Springs Resort, Vernon, NJ
This two-day educational conference will kick off with a Four-Man Scramble Event on Opening Day.
For further information, contact Paul Dotti at 866-GCSANJ1 or edgepaul@hotmail.com. You can also watch the website as the date draws closer: <http://www.GCSANJ.org>.

Empire State Green Industry Show

(Formerly the NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition)
Tuesday-Thursday, November 14-16
Rochester Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY
Save the date, and watch for details. For further information, contact NYSTA at 800-873-8873 or nysta@nysta.org. You can also watch the website as the date draws closer: <http://www.nysta.org/greenshow/>.

Westchester Country Club Massachusetts Turf Program

Golf Course Super Joe Alonzi and Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, will be hosts to the Annual Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Education Fundraiser on October 23. In its third year, the event is sponsored by the Alumni Turf Group and the MetGCSA to raise funds for the UMass Turf Program. Last year, the event was held at Cape Cod National Golf Club and raised more than \$45,000.

This year, Alumni Turf Group (ATG) committee member Jeff Wentworth, superintendent of Pelham Country Club, would like to encourage Met members to bring along their green chairmen and club officials for this worthy cause and day of fun on the links.

Recognizing a UMass Alum

In addition to treating participants to a day of golf, the fundraising event will continue its tradition of recognizing an accomplished UMass grad. This year's tournament honoree will be Ted Horton, who is well-known and loved by longtime members of the MetGCSA and superintendents across the country.

Ted learned his craft at Winged Foot, under the tutelage of last year's honoree, Sherwood Moore. He eventually took over as Winged Foot's superintendent, and after 14 years, he moved to Westchester where he oversaw a complete renovation of the facility.

In 1993, as superintendent for Pebble Beach Co., Ted moved into the national spotlight again, this time as an environmental steward winning several awards and forming the historic Golf and the Environment Summit, a landmark meeting between golf and environmental groups.

"It is an absolute thrill to be able to honor Ted," says Alumni Turf Group President Steve Curry. "To put this into further perspective, it is remarkable that a venue such as Westchester Country Club and a group such as the MetGCSA are hosting this year's Joseph Troll Fundraiser. This gives clarity to the magnitude of Ted's success and the importance of this event."

b to Host University of gram Fundraiser

President's Message continued from page 1

Create a Positive Image

Image building is important to creating strong relationships. Clubs, like corporations, invest a good deal of time and money in projecting the right kind of image. For corporations, it's customers they're trying to impress. At clubs, it's the members. Both types of organizations are looking to maintain a loyal following. Clubs are doing whatever they can to keep their members happy. They can't, after all, afford not to. The last thing they want is for members to leave the club feeling they're "paying too much for what they're getting." It eventually weakens the relationship the members have with the club, and like customers who stop using a product that no longer meets their needs, members eventually leave the club—a blow to the club's revenue.

Superintendents can look to that as a lesson. Like the clubs we work for, we must invest in the image we project to our members and the people we work for. The last thing we want to happen is to have our membership feel they're paying more for us than we're worth . . . that we're not providing enough "bang for the buck."

How do we avoid this? We build—and work hard to maintain—a positive image for ourselves. In the June 2006 issue of *MCMA Prominent Link*, there's a section called "Jim Glover's Deep Thoughts." In it, Glover states, "People seldom improve when they have no model other than themselves to copy after." How true. When creating an image for yourself, therefore, it might help to think of someone you admire—inside or outside the business. Decide what qualities—personal or professional—make this person admirable in your eyes. Chances are these same qualities would be highly regarded by your membership too.

Another image-enhancing tool we shouldn't overlook is GCSAA's Professional Development Initiative (PDI). Designed to help us project a more professional image within our industry and among our members and employers, the PDI guides us in improving our competencies and ultimately elevating our image and strengthening our relationships.

Don't forget, everything we do creates an impression. Even something as simple as an email can be telling: Spelling, vocabulary, content, punctuation . . . they all tell the reader something about our ability to communicate—and even our intelligence! In short, everything we say or do, not to mention the way we look, has an impact on our image.

In the End

During the throes of "the season," we're often so intent on keeping our turf alive and well, that we can forget to nurture our relationships. While slighting the interpersonal aspect of our jobs may seem necessary at times, it's risky business. Remember that no matter how skillful we are at our jobs, a good part of our success and future depends on how people feel about us.

If you lose a green and your green chairman doesn't respect you, chances are that more than your green will be toast. If you drive your crew hard (which, this time of year, it's hard not to) without taking time to provide feedback or recognition for their efforts, chances are you'll lose not only their allegiance but their willingness to go the extra mile for you.

As Grayson Cobb, a highly regarded project manager at Heritage Links once told me in conversation, "Relationships are the most important part of every project." He believes that if he can't build good relationships at the clubs he works for, his work at those clubs will not be a success.

Relationships truly can make or break our careers.

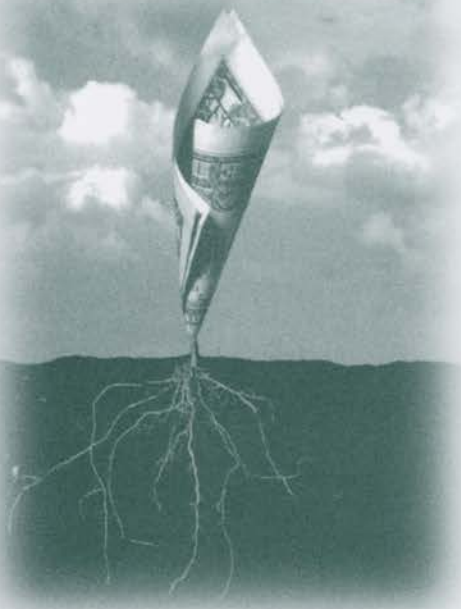
With that in mind, it helps to remember the importance of . . .

- respecting the image our club works hard to project by working hard to live up to that image ourselves—in our actions and words
- taking into consideration others' needs and circumstances when managing—or being managed
- listening to—and often heeding—what those we work with and for have to say

In the end, it's all about doing whatever it takes to create goodwill and build the kind of working relationships that stand the test of time. This kind of thinking will serve us well as golf course superintendents and on any other career path we may choose to follow down the road.

Wishing you all a successful balance of the season. . . .

Will Heintz
President



Talking about the award, Steve adds, "This will continue a great annual tradition of honoring inspirational and accomplished alumni of the turf programs at the University of Massachusetts. In this case, it is especially poignant that Ted is being honored after his mentor, Sherwood Moore."

About the Alumni Turf Group

The Alumni Turf Group, formed in 2005, is made up of turf professionals who are graduates of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and the University of Massachusetts. Through fundraising, ATG hopes to further research and education, promote UMass alumni in the turf management profession, and instill pride and commitment in the turf programs at the University of Massachusetts.

Entry forms, additional information for this event, and ATG information are available online at www.alumniturfgroup.com. Also feel free to contact Steve Curry directly at 413-329-4912 or Sjc_superintendent@yahoo.com.

Wykagyl Tests Two-Ball Qualifiers

On Tuesday, May 9, more than 90 players converged on Wykagyl Country Club for the 2006 Two-Ball Qualifier—just nine days before the club was set to host the LPGA Sybase Classic. It was a wonderful experience to be able to play a golf course that had been prepped for touring pros. Many thanks to Wykagyl's Super Mike Scott and the rest of the staff at the club for hosting our event. The course was in impeccable shape, and with the contouring greens and glasslike putting surfaces, it made for an interesting day.

This year, there were 35 teams vying for 30 positions with the first and second flight champs from last year automatically receiving the #1 seeds. It's a good thing, because our last year's first flight champions, Dave Dudones & Grover Alexander, posted a net 81, which was way down on the leader board.

The leading net division team was Tony Grasso & Scott Tretera with a net score of 62. Somehow these two shot an 87 and 86 respectively and still managed to ham-and-egg their way to a 75 gross and 62 net score.

Following them in the net division on a match of cards with 63s were Greg Wojick & Mike Reeb and Dennis DeSanctis Jr. & Mike Scott.

On the gross side, just to confirm how difficult the course was playing, we had one more 75 for first place in the gross division by the team of Brian Benedict & Bob Lippman Jr., but 80 would be the next best score by Glen Dube & Blake Halderman. A gross score of 82 took third place honors by Kevin Seibel & Ralph Meolla.

In addition to the team scores for first through third place, you'll find the proximities for the day. An interesting closest to the pin in this event had two gentlemen—who happen to be brothers—in the same group on one card. You would think it couldn't be possible until you see it is Joe Alonzi first, only to be outdone by a low worm-burning runner by his brother Bob Alonzi. I'm sure there wasn't too much "brotherly love" on that green—or when Bob got up to claim his prize. Well, it's all in the name of fun.

Speaking of fun, you'll also find listed here the qualifying teams for the Two-Ball, along with the first-round results.

Please remember that you can get updates on the Two-Ball, as well as meeting notices and information on the MetGCSA website at www.metgcsa.org.

— Blake Halderman, CGCS

Event of the Day Results

Gross Team Winners

- 75 Brian Benedict/Bob Lippman Jr.
Seawane Club/Westchester Turf Supply
- 80 Glen Dube/Blake Halderman
Centennial GC/Brae Burn CC
- 82 Kevin Seibel/Ralph Meolla
Century CC/Guest
(won in a match of cards)

Net Team Winners

- 62 Tony Grasso/Scott Tretera
Metropolis CC/The Turf Connection
- 63 Greg Wojick/Mike Reeb
Greenwich CC/CC of New Canaan
(won in a match of cards)
- 63 Dennis DeSanctis Jr./Mike Scott
Syngenta Professional Products/Wykagyl CC

Closest to the Pin

- #4 Dave Fleury 14' 7"
The Roger Rulewich Group
- #7 Gerry Lombardo 13"
Guest
- #11 Dan Cancelleri 8' 2"
J.A. Jackson Corp.
- #13 Skip Duebel 6' 8"
Tuckahoe Turf Farms
- #16 Bob Alonzi 9' 4"
Fenway GC

Longest Drive

- Bill Bartels Hole #6
Tanto Irrigation

Two-Ball Qualifying Teams Post First-Round Results

Here's the lineup of Two-Ball qualifiers, along with the

First Flight

- 1) Grover Alexander/Dave Dudones
Hudson Hills CC/North Jersey CC
defeated 2 & 1
- 16) Jon Barlock/Kevin Seibel
Turf Products Corp./Century CC
- 9) Tim Garceau/Ernie Steinhofner
The Tuxedo Club/Metro Turf Specialists
defeated 5 & 4
- 8) Steve Renzetti/Dave Mahoney
Quaker Ridge GC/Siwanoy CC
- 5) Chris Alonzi/Mike Cook
Elmwood CC/The Care of Trees
defeated 2 & 1
- 12) Dave Fleury/Glenn Perry
The Roger Rulewich Group/Rolling Hills CC
- 4) Joe Gardner/Tom Weinert
Dellwood CC/Plant Food Co., Inc.
defeated 2 & 1
- 13) Chad Esposito/Scott Zalinsky
Highland GC/Siwanoy CC
- 6) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman
Centennial GC/Brae Burn CC
defeated 4 & 3
- 11) Bob Johnston/Matt Severino
Lake Success GC/Scarsdale GC
- 14) Eddie Binsse/Dan Cancelleri
Waccabuc CC/J.A. Jackson Corp.
defeated 1 up
- 3) Brian Benedict/Bob Lippman Jr.
Seawane Club/Westchester Turf Supply
- 7) Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala
The Stanwich Club/Woodway CC
defeated 3 & 2
- 10) Nick Lerner/Kevin Collins
Bonnie Briar CC/Aquatrols, Inc.
- 15) Sean Cain/Jeff Wentworth
Sunningdale CC/Pelham CC
defeated 3 & 1
- 2) Tony Grasso/Scott Tretera
Metropolis CC/The Turf Connection

Second Round Matches in Progress

First Flight

- 1) Grover Alexander/Dave Dudones
vs.
- 9) Tim Garceau/Ernie Steinhofner
- 5) Chris Alonzi/Mike Cook
vs.
- 4) Joe Gardner/Tom Weinert
- 6) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman
vs.
- 14) Eddie Binsse/Dan Cancelleri
- 7) Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala
vs.
- 15) Sean Cain/Jeff Wentworth

their first-round match results:

Second Flight

- 1) Dennis Flynn/Peter Rappoccio
Class Life A member/Silver Spring CC
defeated 2 & 1
- 16) Rob Alonzi/Bill Bartels
St. Andrew's GC/Tanto Irrigation
- 8) Mark Fuller/Byron Johnson
Connecticut GC/The Terre Co. of NJ, Inc.
defeated 6 & 5
- 9) Tom Leahy/Mark Millett
Sleepy Hollow CC/Old Oaks CC
- 5) Paul Gonzalez/Lou Quick
Canyon Club/Anglebrook GC
defeated 3 & 1
- 12) Scott Apgar/Bobby Steinman
Metro Turf Specialists/Beekman CC
- 4) Chuck Martineau/Fred Scheyhing
Whippoovill Club/Mt. Kisco CC
defeated in a forfeit
- 13) John Wickes/Jason Ziesmer
Ira Wickes-Arborists/Manhattan Woods GC
- 11) Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee
Bedford Golf & Tennis/Apawamis Club
defeated 2 & 1
- 6) Tony Campanella/Bill Middleton
Hampshire CC/Emerald Isle, Ltd.
- 14) Joe Kennedy/Peter Waterous
Irra-Tech/Westchester Hills GC
defeated on 19th hole – Sudden Death
- 3) Mike Reeb/Greg Wojick
CC of New Canaan/Greenwich CC
- 10) Todd Polidor/Tim Moore
Somers Pointe GC/Knollwood CC
defeated in a coin toss
- 7) Mark Griff/Steve Wirth
Richmond County CC/Cherry Valley CC
- 2) Dennis DeSanctis Jr./Mike Scott
Syngenta Professional Products/Wykagyl CC
defeated 3 & 1
- 15) Bob Alonzi/Joe Alonzi
Fenway GC/Westchester CC

Second Flight

- 1) Dennis Flynn/Peter Rappoccio
vs.
- 8) Mark Fuller/Byron Johnson
- 5) Paul Gonzalez/Lou Quick
vs.
- 4) Chuck Martineau/Fred Scheyhing
- 11) Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee
vs.
- 14) Joe Kennedy/Peter Waterous
- 10) Todd Polidor/Tim Moore
vs.
- 2) Dennis DeSanctis Jr./Mike Scott

Silver Spring Takes Home Invitational Trophy



The 2006 MetGCSA Invitational's winning team: Silver Spring Country Club's (front, left to right) Golf Course Superintendent Peter Rappoccio and Assistant Golf Professional Colin Amaral; (back, left to right) Club President Steve Rice and Green Chairman Matt Mason.

The 2006 MetGCSA Invitational was played this year at GlenArbor Golf Club in Bedford, NY, on May 30. We had 20 teams from around the Met Section, and considering this was the day after a long weekend, Ken Benoit and his staff had the course in remarkable shape for all to enjoy.

GlenArbor is truly a special place, and we thank the owners, club members, and staff for their gracious hospitality.

The event teams are made up of two club officials, the golf professional, and the golf course superintendent from each club. One player in each group must play as scratch (normally the golf professional), and the rest play best-ball gross and net, along with the scratch player. This is a wonderful opportunity to network with your club officials, coworkers, and neighboring clubs.

Following the round, there were many awards to be distributed, including a low-gross prize to the golf pro. This year, it was a three-way tie with a score of 71 by Colin Amaral (Silver Spring CC), Greg Pace (Pelham CC), and Dan Tzivanis (Rolling Hills CC).

In addition to Colin's low-gross prize, his score helped the Silver Spring Country Club team of Superintendent Peter Rappoccio and club officials Matt Mason

and Steve Rice take home the overall champion's trophy with a low-net score of 58.

Close behind in second place was the Aspetuck Valley team with a net score of 59. In the gross division, Old Oaks took top honors with a best-ball score of 66 on a match of cards against the second-place team Colonial Springs. In addition to the team winners, we had the following individual proximity winners:

Closest to the Pin

#3	Morgan Gregory <i>GlenArbor GC</i>	4' 1"
#7	Rob Getreu <i>Brae Burn CC</i>	4' 8"
#11	Griff Peck <i>Aspetuck Valley CC</i>	6'
#14	Jeff Jones <i>Rolling Hills CC</i>	4' 11"
#17	Russ Aue <i>Colonial Springs GC</i>	2' 1/2"

Longest Drive

Blake Halderman, *Brae Burn CC*

Thank you, again, to GlenArbor Golf Club and all the clubs that participated in the year's event. It was a huge success!

– Blake Halderman, CGCS

The MetGCSA Says Goodbye to One of the Greats . . . Sherwood A. Moore, CGCS

*I*t is with our deepest sympathy that we announce the death of Sherwood A. Moore on July 29. He was 90. Nearly a centenarian, Sherwood devoted more than half his life to serving the turfgrass management profession. He was a MetGCSA member since 1959, serving in 1965-66 as our association's president. In 1987, he became the first recipient and model for our association's most prestigious award, the Sherwood A. Moore Award, an honor reserved for superintendents who have "advanced the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent." This, as all who knew him would agree, describes Sherwood to a T.

A Pioneer

Born in West Haven, CT, on September 29, 1915, Sherwood graduated from Northampton High School in Northampton, MA, in 1934 and went on to Stockbridge School of Agriculture at what was then Massachusetts Agricultural College. A 1937 graduate, Sherwood participated in the Winter School for Greenskeepers and Golf Course Foremen; the nation's first program of its kind, it is still offered at UMass Amherst.

He served as superintendent at the Lake Mohawk, Crestmont, and Hollywood clubs, all in New Jersey; Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT; and Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY. While at Winged Foot, he hosted the 1959 U.S. Open, the 1980 Senior Open, and the 1984 U.S. Open.

During 1984, he returned to his Massachusetts roots, helping to develop the Captain's Golf Course in Brewster, MA.



Sherwood Moore, surrounded by family, receives an honorary Doctor of Science degree at UMass's 136th Commencement on May 27. From left to right: Kelly Ann Cameron, Skip Cameron, Marie and Sherwood Moore, Rob and Sherry Napier, Glenn Moore, Phyllis Cameron, Terry Cameron Pruneau, and Gary Cameron.
Photo courtesy of the Cameron family.



He Gave, and He Received

Sherwood is considered to be the greatest golf course superintendent of our time. He pioneered the use of fairway contour mowing and triplex greens mowers on fairways and mentored a number of the nation's finest superintendents, many Met members among them.

He has served as an articulate spokesman for the profession, writing countless articles on its practice and lecturing at meetings and conferences across the U.S. and Canada. In addition to the MetGCSA, Sherwood has served as past president to the GCSA of New Jersey and the GCSAA.

Sherwood never stopped. In recent years, he was active with the Turf Advisory Service of the USGA. He volunteered his expertise to the International Executive Service Corps by serving in developing African countries, including three assignments in Morocco, two in Kenya, and three in Egypt. He also consulted independently at golf courses in Switzerland and Mauritius.

Sherwood's achievements and unselfish service did not go unnoticed. He received numerous local, state, and national awards, including the USGA Green Section Award

in 1987 and the GCSAA Old Tom Morris Award in 1990, whose other recipients include such luminaries as Gerald Ford, Bob Hope, and Jack Nicklaus.

More recently, the 54th Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference was dedicated to his honor, and just this year, Sherwood was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Massachusetts.

Sherwood is survived by his wife, Marie, of Brewster, MA; a brother Jackson A. Moore of Tryon, NC; two daughters, Sherry Moore of Newburyport, MA, and Carol Murphy of Hawi, Hawaii; a son, MetGCSA member Glenn Moore of Glenmore Landscape Services in South Salem, NY; and five grandchildren.

Our sincere condolences to Glenn and his entire family.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice & Palliative Care of Cape Cod, 270 Communication Way, Hyannis, MA 02601 or to the Sherwood A. Moore Turfgrass Research Endowment, c/o Rick Robar, Development Office, 311 Stockbridge Hall, 80 Campus Center Way, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

Members on the Move

Bryan Jansen is the new superintendent at Tee-Bird Golf Club in Fort Edward, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent, Westchester Hills GC, White Plains, NY.

Robert Dorsch is the new superintendent at Richter Park Golf Course in Danbury, CT. Previous position: Tom Irwin, Inc., based in Burlington, MA.

New Member

Please join the board in welcoming new member **Steven Wirth**, superintendent at Cherry Valley Country Club in Skillman, NJ.

Well Wishes

We'd like to send well wishes to **Bob Tosh**, who was a longtime Connecticut GCSA member and good friend to many MetGCSA members. Bob, superintendent at Rockrimmon Country Club before retiring, is now fighting some serious health issues and would certainly appreciate cards or notes from his old friends. Bob's address is 112 Apple Hill Road, Sunapee, NH 03782.

In Sympathy

We'd like to offer our condolences to **Wayne Foster**, who was a MetGCSA member for more than a decade, first as a superintendent and later as a sales rep for Koonz Sprinkler Supply. Wayne's father, **Al Foster**, passed away on July 16. He was 86 years old.

Al was a friend to many MetGCSA members and a longtime member of the New Jersey GCSA. Joining the association in 1946, Al served as president from 1963 to 1964 and was honored by the association in 2002 with its Distinguished Service Award. He was superintendent at Hackensack Golf Club in New Jersey before retiring. Al is survived by his wife Henrietta. Her address is 885A Liverpool Circle, Manchester, NJ 08759.

MetGCSA Makes First Trip to Hudson National

by Glenn Perry, CGCS, & Eric O'Neill

On September 5, the MetGCSA will have a golden opportunity to play Hudson National Golf Club in the MetGCSA Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier. Hosting our association is Chris Smith, the club's superintendent since 2004.

A Spectacular Course, of Course

Opened in 1996, the 260-acre site is located on a piece of property that is the second highest elevation in all of Westchester County. Created by architect Tom Fazio, Hudson National is a golf course created in the spirit of the Golden Era of golf, complete with fantastic views of the Hudson River.

The par 70 layout plays to 6,995 yards from the back tees. It carries a slope of 146. Since its opening, it has received national recognition. Hudson National is currently ranked 90th in the 2005-2006 Golf Digest Top 100 Courses in America. In New York State, it ranks 12th Best in the State. Not too shabby, considering the great golf courses New York has to offer.

The golf course is well bunkered. Fairway bunkers are strategically placed and have steep vertical faces, and the greenside bunkers are located close to the putting surface. With its combination of bunkers, fescue-lined golf holes, and fast greens, Hudson National promises to test golfers of all skill levels.

Chris's words to the wise: "Everyone should do their best to keep the ball in the fairways; the rough is very thick and unforgiving." He also warns that the greens tend to be quick and tricky.

And Chris should know. . . . Not just because he's spent the past two years as Hudson National's superintendent, but because he was there from the beginning, part of the original team that helped bring the course to life.

Chris worked under then superintendent Gregg Stanley as an assistant from 1995 to 1997 during the course's construction and grow-in phases. And he worked closely with the Fazio designers on the construction of the bunkers.

What Goes Around, Comes Around

It was only natural that Chris end up in the turf management business. He began work at a golf course before he was even working age. "When I was 14," says Chris, "I took a job as a bag boy in the Pro Shop at Wiltwyck Golf Club, not far from where I grew up in Kingston, NY."

Before long, Chris swung over to the course maintenance side of the business, working on the grounds crew under Superintendent Paul Pritchard for five seasons. Chris was inspired to make a career in the business by his Uncle Dudley, who was a superintendent for 48 years before retiring from the Silver Lake Country Club in Orland Park, IL. "I owe my success to my uncle. I couldn't have made it this far without his guidance and support," says Chris.

While under the wings of Paul Pritchard, Chris started a degree in turfgrass management at SUNY Cobleskill. He completed his B.S. in 1992 while working at Rockrimmon Country Club under then Superintendent Gregg Stanley—first as an intern and then as an assistant.

In 1995, Chris followed Gregg to Hudson National, where he gained the construction and grow-in experience that brought him, two years later, to the brand-new Gil Hanse-designed Inniscone Golf Club in Avonssdale, PA, and his first superintendent's position. He was hired—no surprise—for the grow-in.

Four years later, in 2001, another grow-in was calling him—this time at Trump National Golf Club, Bedminster. He stayed on there until 2004, then brought his career full circle, taking over for Gregg Stanley, as the super at Hudson National.

"After close to 10 years in a construction mode," says Chris, "it feels good to get back into daily maintenance." But in the golf course business, is it ever really just "daily maintenance"? It looks like Chris might soon be putting his construction hat back on, as the club gears up for a new driving range and practice facility in the not-so-distant future. "One of Hudson National's goals is to continually improve the golf course for its membership," says Chris, adding, "It's a philosophy I couldn't agree with more."



Chris Smith, CGCS

A Dream Come True

Chris is realizing a dream: He works in the outdoors at a job that brings him close to golf, one of the sports he enjoys most. That and boating Chris lists as two of his favorite pastimes. He and his wife, Jennifer, of two years, own a 20-foot motor boat, which they take out on the Hudson, when time permits. "We just enjoy relaxing on the water," says Chris.

But apart from that, it's the off-season when they spend most of their time together. "Jennifer is my biggest fan," says Chris, "and I try to spend as much time with her in the off-season as possible." Among their favorite pastimes is travel. They've enjoyed numerous getaways over the years, with one of their most memorable being Ireland.

"This year, says Chris, "we'll probably build our travel plans around the conference in California." And then, they just might take a trip or two down to Delaware, where they recently bought a second home near Jennifer's family. According to Chris, the purchase was a win-win. "Jennifer can spend time there in the summer, when I'm most busy and least available," says Chris, "and then we can enjoy the house in the off-season . . . together."

Chris and Jennifer live on club property in Croton-on-Hudson, NY.

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

Eric O'Neill, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Towers Country Club in Floral Park, NY.

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