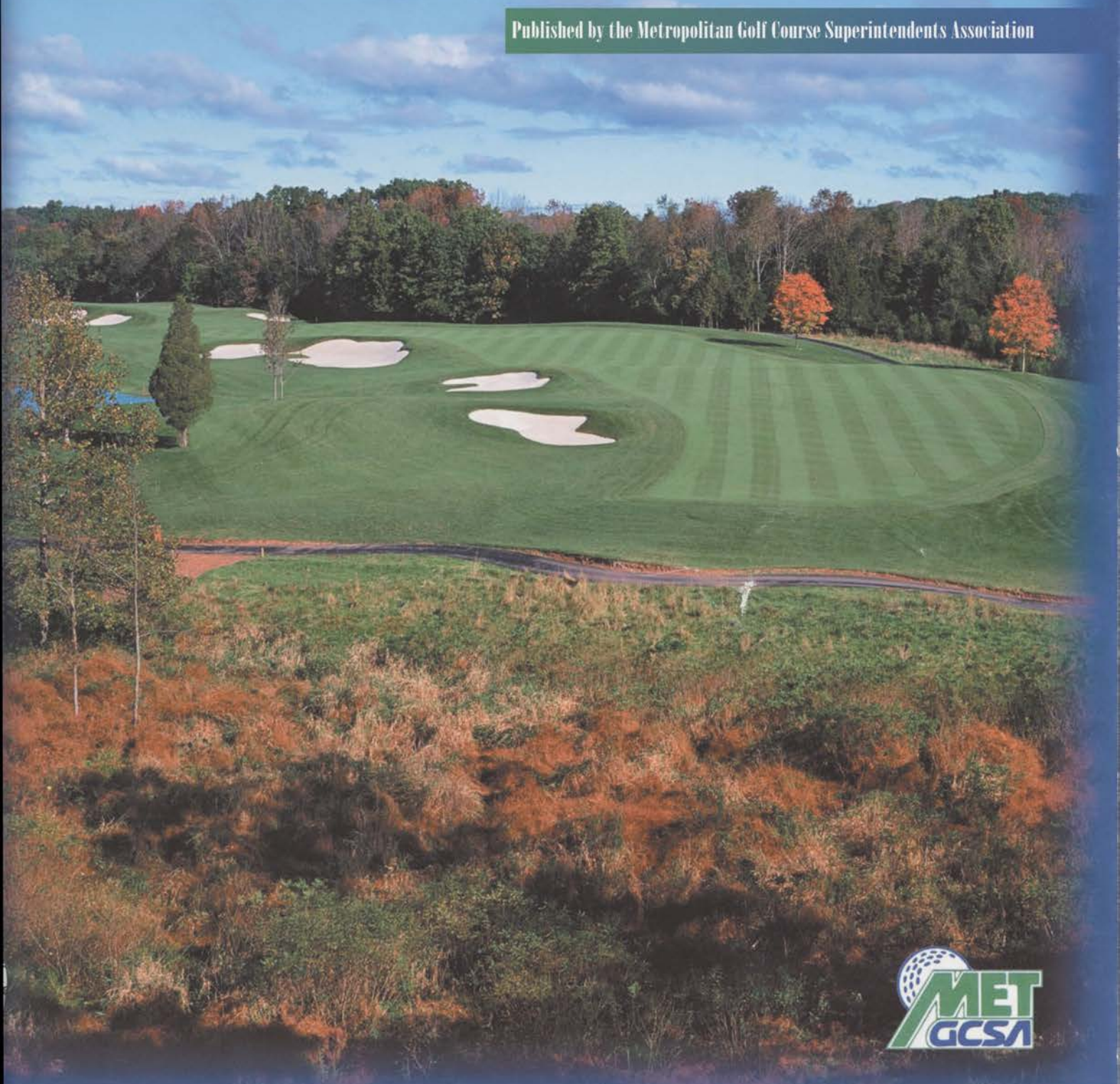


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Tee To Green

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President's Message

I'm here on my back deck with my laptop sipping a cup of coffee. The rain-delayed third round of the PGA is scheduled to start in a little while. The storms that delayed the championship are scheduled to hit us this afternoon. I don't know about you but we have gotten our share of thunder boomers this year. On one hand, our irrigation pond is full. On the other hand, we don't need it. The other problem: Our bunkers are taking a beating. We've been fixing washouts every week. Makes me wonder, is it really that bad or is it just those midsummer "Poor me's" at work? Well I, for one, am hoping the storms miss us today.



"THIS MAY NOT
BE MY FAVORITE
BUNKER!"

A Lesson in Communication

SERIALS

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The day's actually started off on a good note. My Sunday staff raked the bunkers, mowed greens, changed tee markers and cups. The irrigation system cycled through, with only one stuck head. (Don't try to roll the ball up on Number 5 today. It's soft after several hours of watering.)

A Pointed Conversation

This Sunday, like most Sundays, I spent time around the clubhouse and locker rooms catching up with members. This is also the day I usually meet with Tom, my green chairman, over a cup of coffee. On this particular Sunday, we started talking about current course conditions: the good, the bad, and the ugly.

The good is that the greens are rolling fine and starting to dry out from Wednesday's rain. Also positive is that last week's anthracnose seems to be in check.

Topping the bad list are the bunkers. The edges have gotten soft from pushing sand back up the slopes after all the washouts. I can hear it now . . . the dreaded "plugged ball" complaint.

As for the ugly, it's all the weeds . . . everywhere you look. Brings back memories of the weed course I took in college. On the first day, the professor told us we were going on a field trip to search out weeds. I was ready to put on my hiking boots and go on a scouting mission, but all we had to do was hang our heads out the door and there they were—weeds of every variety. The same seems to be the case on the course this year. We have weeds everywhere—or at least it seems that way. We took down a bunch of trees over the winter and filled the stump holes with weeds. We've gone from clover, to prostrate spurge to crabgrass to nutsedge. It's been a never-ending cycle of weeds.

The next point of discussion: how most members want to spend the capital we have available for improvement projects. In our case, it was . . . you guessed it . . . on sprucing up the bunkers. Now 12 years old, our bunkers are definitely starting to show their age. Drainage has become compromised; edges, as I mentioned, have deteriorated; and washouts have contaminated the sand in many of the bunkers. As bad as they are,

Current Periodicals
DO NOT CIRCULATE



Matt Ceplo, CGCS
MetGCSA President

we're caught in a kind of limbo. While some bunkers are worse than others, they don't all need to be rebuilt.

The Pluses of Impromptu Communications

So here's where communication comes into play all the more. I decided it would be a good idea to determine what members considered to be the five worst bunkers. I put together a simple one-page survey and started handing them out. Next time we get together, my green chairman and I will review the results to determine which bunkers need to be worked on most.

When we talk about the importance of communicating with our memberships, we often think of written communications: newsletter articles and email blasts. While those are essential, we can't overlook the importance of informal meetings with our green chairman or with members and guests. Informal conversations allow you to solicit feedback on the course and, just as important, correct any misinformation or misperceptions that inevitably surface from time to time.

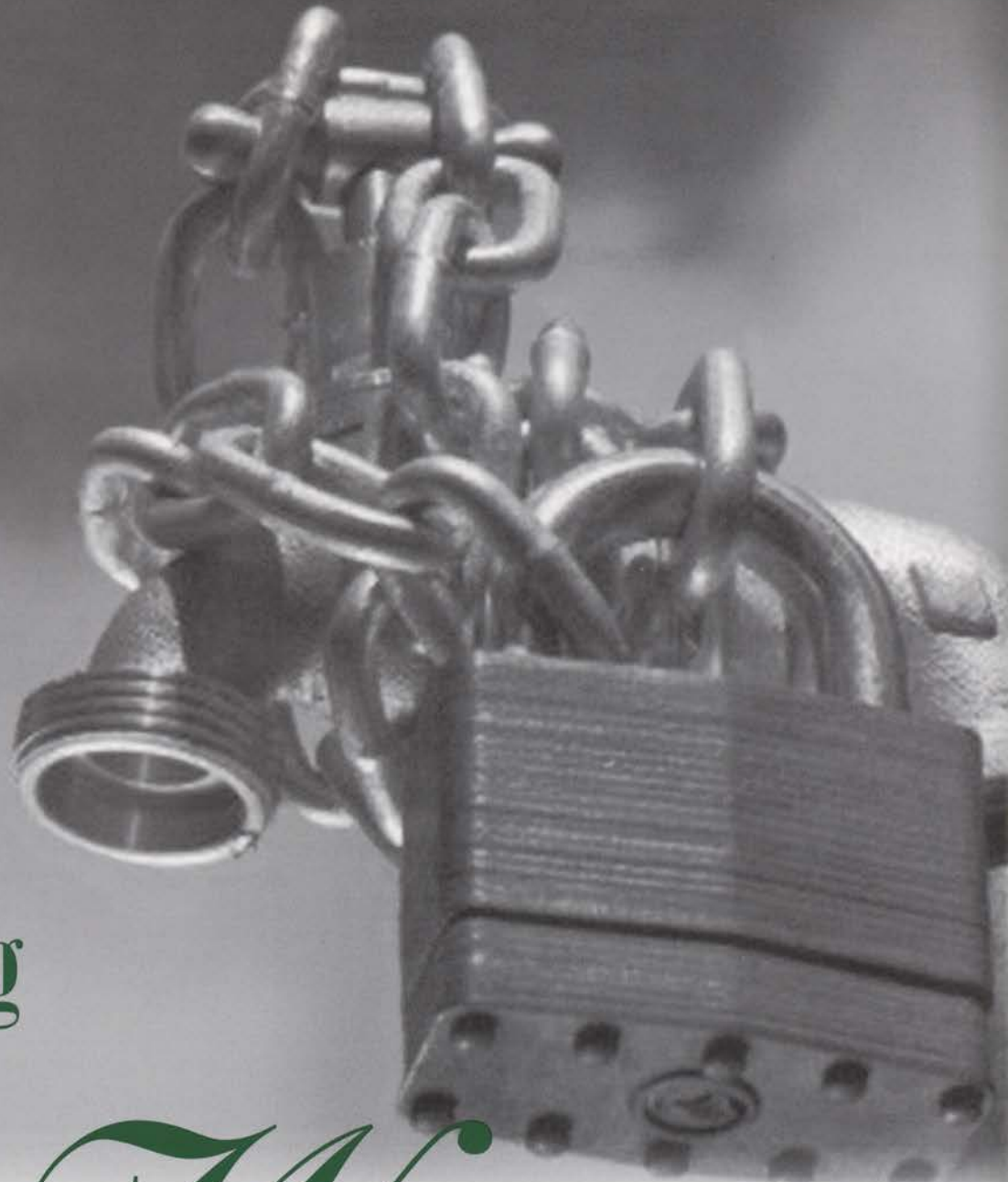
Well, I wonder how the PGA is doing. Speaking of communication, they're getting some pretty harsh comments on the way that course is set up. Remember, it's their tournament, not the USGA's, Augusta's, or the British's. Are they listening to their members? Interesting, isn't it?

By the way, the storms missed us. There is a god.

Matt Ceplo, CGCS
President

A No-nonsense Approach to Keeping the Locks Off Your Course's Water Rights

by Kathy Conard & Kelly Durfee Cardoza



W

ant to make a golf course superintendent's blood run cold in the heat of summer? Utter the words "water restrictions." Water use is one of the most serious issues facing the game of golf today. As environmental groups, the general public, and the regulatory community become increasingly concerned and vocal about water use and quality, golf course superintendents must make a grander play to protect their courses' water rights—ensuring that water regulators give their needs equal representation and consideration *before* any restrictions or conservation measures are mandated.

The best route to making your needs heard is to establish yourself in your community and among state legislators as a leader in water resource management. This involves much more than just establishing a strong

water management strategy. Equally important is that you:

- Understand and adhere to our state's policies and requirements.
- Establish yourself as a steward of the environment, in word and deed.
- Support the work of local task forces and government relations groups.
- Influence and educate community members with influence over regulators.

Here's a sensible plan of attack:

Know—and Abide by—the Law

Before you can even begin to defend your course's water rights, you should be well versed in current rules and regulations governing water use on your course. Kelly Cardoza, owner of Avalon Consulting, a per-

mitting and regulatory compliance company, offers a quick take on state policies and requirements.

New Jersey

Water use in New Jersey is regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection. Water Supply Allocation Permits are required for facilities having the capacity to divert more than 100,000 gallons of water over any 24-hour period. To obtain a permit for irrigation, a golf course must submit an emergency response plan, which outlines drought management strategies.

The New Jersey DEP recommends that all golf courses consider efficient water use practices as part of their daily maintenance regime and keep accurate records. The DEP emphasizes that all this goes a long way toward helping to avert a water emergency and the need to impose water restrictions later.

New York

Water use regulations in New York vary depending on where in the state your course is located. The Susquehanna River and the Delaware River Basins are regulated on the withdrawal and/or consumptive loss of water at volumes ranging from 10,000 gallons per day (gpd) to 100,000 gpd. On Long Island, permits are required for wells pumping at rates in excess of 45 gpm. Rockland County has aggressive countywide drought restrictions. In the very near future, laws will change, and sites located within the Great Lakes Basin will be required to comply with regulations requiring water conservation. At this time, these courses are required to register withdrawals in excess of 100,000 gpd.

The New York Department of Conservation recommends that all golf courses consider development of nonpotable water sources, reuse of wastewater, and collection of on-site storm water. The department also recommends that golf courses adopt efficient water use practices daily.

Connecticut

Water use in Connecticut is regulated by the Department of Environmental Protection. The permit is called a Diversion Permit and is for water diversions of 50,000 gallons or

more over any 24-hour period. To obtain a permit for irrigation in Connecticut, golf courses must evaluate alternatives and submit a drought emergency contingency plan.

For more detailed information on regulations in your area, feel free to contact Kelly Cardoza at 508-880-2905.

Keep in Mind: Actions Speak Louder Than Words

Prove your commitment to water and environmental stewardship by voluntarily implementing water conservation practices and integrating them into your daily maintenance regime. In addition to displaying your commitment to efficient water use, you're sending a positive message to state regulatory agencies and the general public. When you enhance your reputation as water-use experts, you increase your chances of having an equal seat at the table when water policy discussions arise.

Everyday practices that go a long way toward enhancing turfgrass managers' image as stewards of the environment include:

- Maintaining accurate water-use records
- Conducting irrigation audits
- Upgrading computer systems to more accurately pinpoint where—and when—to apply water, tracking and basing decisions on soil type, slope, E/T, and weather
- Install subsurface moisture sensors to allow you to determine water needs more precisely
- Maximize irrigation efficiency by using wetting agents, which are known to reduce water use up to 30 percent
- Develop drought contingency plans
- Use effluent water (see page 5)

Also effective in influencing government and environmental groups is to write—and make public—a Best Management Practices program for water conservation on your course. These programs generally involve a combination of proper plant selection and cultural maintenance practices that provide adequate turf quality while minimizing water use. (See page 6.)

"Building good relationships with the local community and regulatory agencies," says Pound Ridge Superintendent Will Heintz, "is fundamental to implementing a successful water management plan. In my

estimation, there are two key points in building successful relationships: Be proactive and establish credibility. This helps to build trust and, in some cases, even empathy.

"Officials and regulators need to know that you're doing everything in your power to meet their standards," Will continues. "After all, their standards are set forth to protect our wetlands, our groundwater, and our watershed... a common goal for all of us!"

Support Those Who Support You

Backing you in your efforts to make your water needs—and best management practices—known among legislators are our local water task forces and government relations groups. In addition, GCSAA offers resources to local chapters to guide them in working with governing bodies at the state and local levels to get them the information they expect.

One of the most powerful and effective water task forces in the Tri-State area is the Westchester County Drought Emergency Task Force. Initiated by former Westchester Country Club Superintendent Ted Horton, the task force was formed to defend the green industry's water rights during a severe drought in 1985. "We wanted to lean on the ear of legislators who had the power to protect us from unreasonable water restrictions," says Joe Alonzi, who eventually assumed Ted's role on the task force as the mouthpiece for the golf course industry. The task force, which comprised golf course professionals, landscaping businesses, municipal officials, water companies, and corporations was a resounding success in making the green industry's case heard—and in winning the favor of—county legislators.

On a much smaller scale, the MetGCSA has an established Government Relations Committee, which has been working long and hard at building trusting relationships with the people who hold the pen governing both water and pesticide regulations.

Currently working behind the scenes to keep golf courses in the equation when water use becomes limited are committee members Tom Leahy, Glen Dube, Tony Girardi, and Mike Maffei. But all the lobbying in the

Prove your commitment to water and environmental stewardship by voluntarily implementing water conservation practices and integrating them into your daily maintenance regime.

world will do little good if golf course superintendents fail to do their part in demonstrating their environmental vigilance.

Also important is that you seize every opportunity to communicate one-on-one with policymakers to not only express your concerns, but also demonstrate your professionalism and responsibility as a steward of the environment. NYSTA's Turfgrass Advocacy Day, held annually in February, is a perfect opportunity for New York-based superintendents to meet face-to-face with legislators.

Metropolis Country Club Superintendent Tony Grasso strongly advocates making your presence known among policymakers. "People who aren't in the golf industry are making decisions for us without knowing anything about how we do our jobs," he says. "We need to be involved so that doesn't happen. If water restrictions are put in place, we want to be given our allotment and we want to decide where and when to use the water. For that to happen we have to be involved."

Be Your Own Best Advocate

No matter how conscientious you are about conserving water on your course, golf courses are likely targets for criticism—particularly during periods of drought when neighbors are being cautioned to restrict water use and they see sprinklers continuing to fling water across your course.

If enough of these neighbors—and concerned environmentalists—complain, legislators can't help but listen. It's part of their job. And if their voice is louder and clearer than yours, it could kill your chances of negotiating a fair deal as water regulations—or any other political mandates, for that matter—are implemented.

Your most effective recourse: Plain and simple communication. Identify the most critical—and influential—members of your community, and solicit the help of your general manager/owner and golfing members to develop a strategy for addressing their negative perceptions.

"Communication is important at my course," says Centennial Golf Course Superintendent Glen Dube. "My owner has good relationships with local government and people in the community, so when water issues come up, we're able to defuse any problems."

Keep in mind, the most effective communications efforts are proactive. They happen before the complaints begin to roll in.

Circumvent any negative perceptions by establishing ongoing, friendly communications that keep concerned community members informed about your water and en-

vironmental conservation efforts.

Ardley Superintendent Matt DuTremble recognizes the importance of keeping his "environmentally biased" neighbors up to speed on maintenance practices. "It's important for my club to stay in close touch and keep our neighbors happy," he says, adding, "We also have a legal committee at the club to address political issues."

There may also be a marketing or public relations person among your club's ranks who could guide you in putting together the appropriate activities and communications to elevate both your image, and the image of golf courses in general, as advocates of the environment. And here's a little secret, some marketing companies do pro-bono work, so it will cost your club little if anything. You just have to ask.

What's in Store?

No one knows for sure what the future holds, but we do know there's no better time than the present to reevaluate the water management and cultural practices on your golf course with the goal being to demonstrate responsible water use while providing quality playing conditions.

As golfers and golf course managers, we owe it to the game to be good stewards of the environment and to educate those outside the industry about the importance and benefits of golf and golf turf.

Then, the public and policymakers may place our industry a little higher on the ladder of importance, particularly when making those tough decisions on water—or pesticide—use.

Kathy Conard has worked in the Green Industry for more than 20 years. Her experience spans root zone, soil, and water management in the turf and ornamental industries. Conard also heads up the Water Impact Alliance, an organization that helps turf and ornamental professionals effectively communicate with local regulators and people in their community about water, environmental stewardship, and optimizing efficient use of water resources.

Kelly Durfee Cardoza has worked in the environmental industry for more than 20 years. Her experience includes permitting and regulatory compliance for new and existing golf courses and water supply development for irrigation and potable uses. As owner of Avalon Consulting, Cardoza represents numerous golf courses and other water-dependent industries with compliance and regulatory issues.

Don't Wait Till the Well Runs Dry

SUNY-Delhi Takes Proactive Approach to Water Conservation

D

espite the amazing ability of turfgrass to use water efficiently, concerns about conservation are challenging golf courses to reduce water use and become less reliant on potable irrigation sources.

Though these types of conservation efforts have long been prevalent among our drought-stricken friends in the South and West, there are few—if any—examples of these more drastic conservation measures in our area . . . but that's about to change.

SUNY-Delhi has offered its golf course, The College Golf Course at Delhi, as a testing ground for conservation efforts in the Northeast. It will be making the bold switch from river water to treated effluent to irrigate its golf course, and with funding from the MetGCSA and numerous other chapters and turf industry organizations, Delhi researchers are also beginning work to determine Best Management Practices for irrigating turf using new irrigation technology.

What follows is the skinny on Delhi's impressive initiatives to find a reasonable approach for conserving water. . . should we be required to conform to significant water reductions in the future.

Effluent Water: Dirty Never Sounded So Good

Working with New York State's Center of Excellence in Watershed Applications and Technology, The College Golf Course at Delhi will soon be running treated effluent through its irrigation pipes. Part of a larger initiative designed to enhance the economic development of Delaware County, this project involves pumping 250,000 gallons of wastewater daily from the Village of Delhi Waste Water Treatment Plant for storage and use on the course. Currently operating at maximum capacity, the Delhi facility would then be free to accept additional effluent water from new business and industry, meeting the area's economic growth and business expansion needs.

But using recycled water at The College Golf Course has benefits that extend beyond economic. Among them:

- *Water conservation:* The Delhi course currently uses between 5 and 14 million gallons

The most effective way to conserve water on a long-term, sustainable basis is by writing a Best Management Practices program for water conservation on your course.

of water per year for irrigation, which it draws solely from the Little Delaware River. Using treated effluent rather than river water for irrigation would protect local aquifers, maintain adequate flows in the Little Delaware, and ultimately, alleviate DEC concerns.

Fortunately, the Village of Delhi's wastewater is treated so extensively at the plant that the effluent applied to the course will require little to no additional treatment.

- **Enhanced Water Quality:** This initiative will significantly improve water quality within the Cannonsville Reservoir Basin by providing an additional infiltration process for effluent that would otherwise be discharged directly into the basin. Dense, well-managed turfgrass, after all, offers one of the best filtration systems available for polluted water. The thatch layer in turf traps and holds particulate pollutants in the water, allowing them to degrade naturally—before making their way into lakes, streams, and groundwater.

- **Reduced Phosphorus Load:** Based on preliminary design calculations, it's anticipated that the phosphorus load to the west branch of the Delaware River from the wastewater treatment plant will be reduced from approximately 111 kg/year to 90 kg/year.

In addition, effluent water use . . .

- Offers a potentially endless irrigation supply, even in drought
- Is less expensive than potable water—even free in some areas, as long as you pay to pump it

- Provides a gratis source of fertilizer, since nutrients remain in the water
- Produces turf conditions similar to those produced with potable water
- Demonstrates to club and community members your commitment to water and environmental conservation

Dominic Morales, SUNY-Delhi's Dean of Applied Sciences and Recreation and head of the university's turf program, is quick to point out, however, that converting to effluent water is not without its challenges. For instance . . .

- Preparing your facility to accommodate effluent water can be time-consuming and costly.
- Some effluent water has high pH and sodium levels that will need to be corrected with soil amendments and wetting agents, as well as aerification and topdressing.
- Effluent water portals must be clearly marked to separate them from potable water sources. In addition, potable wells and dining facilities must be a fixed distance from irrigation heads.
- Soil and water chemistry must be closely monitored, particularly for carbonates, bicarbonates, and salt levels.
- You may be forced to take a specific amount of water every day, even if you don't need to use it. This means that you'll have to have a holding pond or other option for storing effluent water on your course.

Though converting to effluent water may seem like more trouble than it's worth, when

faced with increased water restrictions, higher water and energy costs, and increased political pressures by environmental groups, it just may grow in appeal as a smart choice for irrigating your course and providing healthy turf.

Determining the BEST in Best Management Practices

The most effective way to conserve water on a long-term, sustainable basis is by writing a Best Management Practices program for water conservation on your course. At Delhi, Dominic Morales is leading the charge in determining Best Management Practices targeted at ensuring reduced water use not only on golf courses, but on athletic fields and home lawns as well.

More specifically, he hopes to use his research in producing guidelines for irrigation practices that:

- Increase drought and disease tolerance of turfgrass plants by promoting deeper rooting and healthier turf
- Reduce fertilizer and pesticide use by reducing surface runoff and leaching of nutrients from the root zone
- Capitalize on data—e.g., evapotranspiration (E/T) rates—generated from the university's weather station
- Result in cost-savings through reduced water and pump use

The Method

Field trials will be conducted on The College

Golf Course's 16th and 18th fairways and rough to ensure research data is representative of what turf managers experience in the field.

- The fairway turf is a Colonial Bentgrass, fescue-blended mix, representative of golf course turf.

- The rough is a Perennial Ryegrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, and fescue mix, representative of athletic fields and residential lawns.

- There are a total of eight irrigation test zones/blocks—each measuring 70' x 70' and managed with a different irrigation technique.

- Two zones will use soil moisture probes to turn irrigation on and off as needed.

- Two zones will base irrigation needs on visual symptoms, which is the traditional approach.

- The last four zones will be irrigated based on evapotranspiration (E/T) values, with half irrigated based on 100 percent of E/T and half irrigated based on 75 percent of E/T.

- Rooting depths will be monitored and measured by taking random soil cores on a regular basis.

- Visual appearance—turf vigor, density, disease, and color—will be rated to evaluate if new technologies in irrigation management can produce water savings while continuing to promote healthy turf.

The Goal

Morales and his team hope to establish best management criteria for turfgrass irrigation as part of an ongoing effort to ensure turfgrass managers remain on the cutting edge, continually striving to maintain their status as stewards of the environment. A two-year study, the researchers' progress and findings will be reported in trade journals and at a SUNY-Delhi field day to be held tentatively during the summer of 2009.

For further information on either of Delhi's water conservation initiatives, please feel to contact Dominic Morales at 607-463-4413.

Footnote: Delhi would like to recognize the many organizations that have made both projects possible with their funding support.

Supporting the effluent project to date are the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, United States Department of Energy, and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In addition to the MetGCSA, the Best Management Practices project has received funding from the New York State Turfgrass Association, Finger Lakes GCSA, Adirondack GCSA, Central New York GCSA, the Sullivan County Challenge Golf Tournament, Rainbird Corporation, and the Toro Company.

Give Your Maintenance Facility a 'Clean Sweep'

by Tom Leahy, Co-chairman, Government Relations Committee

Looking to get rid of unwanted or unusable chemicals you've been stockpiling in your maintenance facility? Here's the perfect opportunity: the fall CleanSweepNY collection.

Targeting New York's Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, and Sullivan counties, CleanSweepNY is an environmental benefit project administered by the NYS DEC. The program provides environmentally safe, economical collection and disposal of unwanted or unusable pesticides, as well as school chemicals, elemental mercury, and mercury-containing devices. CleanSweepNY also collects and recycles triple-rinsed HDPE plastic containers from agricultural and certain nonagricultural entities.

The Particulars

You can dispose of up to 100 pounds of unwanted pesticides free of charge. A nominal fee is charged for each pound of pesticides exceeding the 100. Collection will occur during the week of November 3. Watch for collection site postings by logging on to www.cleansweepny.org.

The only requirement is that you preregister to participate in CleanSweepNY. Hold-



ers of unlabeled or unknown products must register by October 6, all others by October 20. To receive a registration packet and information call 877-793-3769 or email to info@cleansweepny.org.

This is an excellent opportunity to help manage unwanted pesticides and chemicals in the State, not to mention bring your storage facility into compliance. We recommend that MetGCSA members outside the New York area also check their facilities to ensure that products stored are registered for use in their state.

Tom Leahy, superintendent at Sleepy Hollow Country Club in Briarcliff Manor, NY, is co-chair of the MetGCSA Government Relations Committee.

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Mt. Kisco Takes Home Trophy

by Ken Benoit, CGCS

This year's Invitational was pretty special for a couple of reasons. First, it was held at what is considered to be one of the premier clubs in the Met area. And second, it marked the last time one of our legendary members would serve as host superintendent for a MetGCSA event. As you know, Bob Alonzi is stepping down from his role as superintendent—a role he's assumed at clubs throughout the Met area for the past 42 years. Bob's son Rob has been chosen as his successor, and the two have shared the position this year.

Special thanks to Fenway for hosting such a great event. From the attentive staff and superb food to the picture-perfect course conditions and even the weather, I couldn't imagine a better day.

As for the results, Mt. Kisco edged out last year's winning team from North Jersey Country Club by 2 strokes to take home the trophy this year. Wykagyl snuck past Pelham/Split Rock to win the top gross prize.

Here's a look at the full lineup of winners.

Net Team Winners

127 Mt. Kisco Country Club
129 North Jersey Country Club

Gross Team Winners

139 Wykagyl Country Club
141 Pelham/Split Rock Golf Club

Individual Low Pro

68 Ben Hoffhine, *Wykagyl Country Club*

Closest to the Pin (On Hole #17)

Club Official , Seth Blumenfeld, <i>Brae Burn CC</i>	5' 7"
Club Official , Rob Babkie, <i>Redding CC</i>	4' 6"
Club Professional , Bobby Heins, <i>Old Oaks CC</i>	3' 2"
Golf Course Superintendent Matt Ceplo, <i>Rockland CC</i>	18"

Longest Drive (On Hole #18)

Club Official, Tim Smith, *Glen Arbor GC*
Club Professional, Wendy Modic,
Fenway GC
Golf Course Superintendent
Rick Schock, *Aspetuck Valley CC*

Behind the Scenes at the Two-Ball

by Larry Pakkala, CGCS

The 2008 Met Two-Ball Championship has been moving along nicely. Many thanks to everyone for completing the Sweet 16 and Elite 8 matches in a timely manner—and with no coin tossing.

There were some really tight matches in both flights. Here are some of the behind-the-scenes stories that our contestants were kind enough to pass along.

For a full account of all the winners, round by round, please log on to our website, www.metgcsa.org. You'll find the results under Met Events, Two-Ball Championship Brackets.

First Flight Notables

Top Half

Bob Lippman Jr./Brian Benedict defeated Bert Dickinson/Chip Lafferty 1 up at Wykagyl Country Club. Lippman and Benedict were 3 up with 7 to play when Dickinson came alive and brought the match to 1 down on the 15th. Benedict knocked in an incredible chip shot to clinch the match on 18. Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala handily beat George Corgan/Matt Severino in the first round but got shellacked by Lippman/Benedict 7 & 6 at Quaker in the 2nd round. This may be one of their worst defeats in history!

Lippman/Benedict will meet up with Tony Hooks/Charlie Siemers (a new entry this year) who have been moving along quite easily with a win over the always-tough Matt Ceplo/Jim Swiatowski team and another new team of Dave Lippman/Matt Topazio.

Bottom Half

Tim Garceau/Ernie Steinhofner defeated Mark Chant/Mike Benz 3 & 2 at Piping Rock. In a rain and severe thunderstorm delay after nine, the match resumed with Garceau and Steinhofner 2 up. While both teams struggled after the long delay, Benz made net birdie on 14 to bring the match to within one. Then Garceau came alive with net birdie from the trees on 15 and birdie from the fairway bunker on 16 to clinch the match. Great match on a long day. Not a bad place to spend more than six hours of golf.

With that win, they would have to play Glen Dube/Blake Halderman for the third straight year who, themselves, barely squeaked by Tony Grasso/Scott Tretera in sudden death. Over the years, it's always been a seesaw battle between the two teams, and it proved to be once again. Dube/Halderman were two down after 14 but, with a little help from their friends, climbed back to even on 18. Halderman made par, and both Garceau and Steinhofner missed 15 footers to continue the match.

Jon Barlok/Kevin Seibel defeated Tom Ashfield/Andy Drohen 2 & 1 at Wee Burn. A great match ensued when the '03 Mass Amateur champ and Ashfield, a low handicapper, went 3 up after 4, but Barlok and Seibel whittled the match back to even after 12. Going 1 down after 14, Barlok and Seibel went on to win 15, 16, and 17 to clinch the match. Not a blowout, but there were some tense moments from beginning to end.

They moved on to play Joe Gardner/Tom Weinert, but unfortunately, Seibel injured his hand playing softball the day before the match so Barlock had to go at it alone. Barlock was even after 17 but lost 1 up on 18. Gardner and Weinert survived to face Dube and Halderman in the semi's.

Second Flight Stories

Top Half

Chris Alonzi/Mike Cook defeated Nick Lerner/Kevin Collins at Mt. Kisco Country Club on the 18th hole. Alonzi hit an eight-iron approach to the green, which settled on the fringe some 48 feet from the hole. Facing a downhill slider, Alonzi adeptly controlled the pace and direction of the putt, and it fell into the hole for birdie and a 1 up victory. Collins, recently out of rehab, had trouble controlling his nerves and was of little help to his partner. Lerner left the course immediately after the match refusing to talk to reporters and leaving the future of the Lerner/Collins partnership up in the air. Collins was seen later at Mt. Kisco's Lexington Pub drinking heavily.

(Yes, Kevin Collins penned this priceless story. I think we should appoint him the official sports writer for the *Tee to Green!*)

Alonzi/Cook went on to face the Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee team who defeated Eddie Binsse/Dan Cancelleri 2 & 1 at Rye Golf Club. Veterans Binsse and Cancelleri shot out of the box with precise driving and short game play to go 5 up after 7. Nielsen found his game to bring the match closer in the middle stretch as the elder statesman took a nap when Perlee finally came alive and got it up and down from the marsh on 17 to ice the match.

Nielsen/Perlee had no letup against the Alonzi/Cook team as they stayed the course and won in a sudden death match on the 20th hole at Round Hill. Luckily Chris's putter cooled down a bit after the 1st round!

Scott Apgar/Brian Chapin defeated Mike Reeb/Greg Wojick 4 and 3 at Silver Spring Country Club. As Yogi would say, "It's getting late early," and that's the way this match went at the beautiful Silver Spring track. Wojick made a putt on the first hole to go 1 up, but "At Par" Apgar and Chappy won the next four holes and never looked back. Reeb and Wojick made putts for what they thought would be a win, only to be dumped on with Drain-O from the reigning Second Flight champs.

Then Apgar and Chapin went on to win their second match against Bob and Joe

Alonzi. According to Apgar, this was by far the greatest challenge CHAP ever faced. Apgar carried the team the first 7 holes as CHAP went up 4 holes after 7. However, the dynamic duo of Alonzis took holes 8, 9, and 10 to make it a match. It was Bubba Alonzi and his sore shoulder that kept Team Alonzi in the match. He shot a 90 with 22 strokes, but the ham-and-egg act of CHAP would prevail with Brett making a 25-foot putt on 18 for the win to keep their streak of seven straight wins alive and well. They will now face Nielsen/Perlee in the semi's who they beat 3 & 2 in last year's final. Let's see if this new team from 2007 can stay undefeated and make it eight straight.

Bottom Half

Not much excitement here (at least not reported) as Dennis Granahan/Jim Schell seem to be beating the competition fairly easily with a 5 & 4 and a 4 & 3 win this far. If they can get by the Tony Campanella/Bill Middleton team who beat a very good veteran team of Dennis Flynn/Peter Rappoccio, it will be fun to see how they stack up against the sandbaggers in the top half.

Yup... some good matches on some great golf courses. Covering the results and hearing some of the stories have been a lot of fun. Stay tuned for the Final Four and the blow-by-blows of the final match play.

Here are the teams left standing going into the Finals:

In the First Flight . . .

8) Brian Benedict/Bob Lippman Jr.
The Seawane Club/Westchester Turf Supply

vs.

4) Tony Hooks/Charlie Siemers
Pelham/Split Rock GC/Lesco, Inc.

11) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman
Centennial GC/Brae Burn CC

vs.

7) Joe Gardner/Tom Weinert
Dellwood CC/Plant Food Company

In the Second Flight . . .

1) Scott Apgar/Brian Chapin
Metro Turf Specialists/Dellwood CC

vs.

13) Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee
Bedford Golf & Tennis/Apawamis Club

14) Tony Campanella/Bill Middleton
Hampshire CC/Emerald Isle, Ltd.

vs.

2) Dennis Granahan/Jim Schell
Navesink CC/The Stanwich Club

May the best teams win! Good luck!

Larry Pakkala, CGCS, is sales representative with Plant Food Company Inc.



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Double Your Pleasure: The Seawane Club's Brian Benedict Hosts Dual Event

by Eric O'Neill

Editor's Note: This is our abbreviated spotlight format for superintendents who have been profiled within the past three years. At the article's end, we explain how to access Brian's last, full-length profile, should you want to read more.

The Seawane Club will have a full house September 29 when it plays host to not only this year's Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier, but also NYSTA's annual fundraising event, the Poa Annual Tournament.

If you haven't played this seaside venue in the past five or so years, brace yourself for a new-and-improved Seawane. From the day Brian Benedict signed on as the club's superintendent in November 2000, Seawane has slowly but surely reinvented itself, recrafting a significant portion of the course, which, today, is characterized by fast, firm greens and lush native areas.

About the Course . . .

Design: The Seawane Club, located on the South Shore of Long Island in Hewlett Harbor, NY, is a 140-acre, 18-hole course built in 1927 by architect Devereux Emmet. Redesigned in 2001 by Stephen Kay, the course has undergone five years of renovation work to establish its current links-style design and native fescue appearance. As part of this sizable undertaking, all of the course's bunkers were rebuilt and the acreage increased to

6.5 acres of sand. All new tees and new green surrounds with collection areas were also constructed.

Words to the Wise: "Keep your ball out of the high grass, and don't let the wind grab it. Also give yourself ample travel time. We're probably one of the hardest clubs in the Tri-State area to find," warns Brian.

About our Host . . .

Education: Brian completed an associate's in Turfgrass Management from UMass Amherst in 1995 and a bachelor's in Management and Finance from L.I.U. - C.W. Post University in 1991.

Training Ground: While studying turf at UMass, Brian interned summers at Piping Rock Club in Locust Valley, NY. With a few of the club's members pulling strings on Brian's behalf, he gained the fortunate opportunity to volunteer for the 1995 and 1996 Masters.

After graduating from UMass in 1995, Brian accepted his one-and-only assistant's position at Century Country Club in Purchase, NY, which provided the final training ground for his step up to superintendent at Seawane.



Brian Benedict

On a Personal Note: Anyone who knows Brian knows he enjoys the business, the camaraderie, and, of course, talking a little turf over a few cocktails.

Family is Brian's other passion. He and his wife, Mari, have been married four years and have two daughters: Gracie, 3, Kaitlyn, 1, and another baby girl on the way in September.

For More on Brian: Please refer to our website, www.metgcsa.org, to retrieve the archived July/August 2004 issue where Brian's full profile last appeared.

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



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Rockland Rocks as Site of Upcoming Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament

by Dennis Granahan



Superintendent Matt Ceplo, CGCS, (front center) with his faithful dog and crew.

Following the seemingly forgotten tradition of having the outgoing association president host the Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament, Matt Ceplo, the Met's soon-to-be *past* president, will host this annual event on October 21 at the Rockland Country Club, where he's served as superintendent for the past 13 years.

"This is a great tradition that seems to have gotten lost," says Matt, who is more than pleased to resurrect it. "I think it's a nice way for the outgoing president to give back to the association."

Now in my book, Matt has already done his fair share of "giving back" . . . starting with about 18 years of tireless service on the MetGCSA board of directors. Working his way up through the ranks, slowly but surely, Matt will tell you his service on the board has been nothing short of a labor of love. "I've enjoyed my time on the board, and I'm enjoying my term as the association's president," he says, adding with a smile, "You know, I'm not any smarter now than I was before my presidency, but these days, when I talk, people actually listen."

Focused on Improvement

Matt's commitment to doing what's best for the profession—and superintendents—is evident in his dedication to environmental stewardship on his course. Among Matt's proudest

accomplishments is guiding Rockland in achieving the criteria necessary to become a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. "We vigorously subscribe to the Audubon approach to course management," he explains. "Our members think our environmental successes are terrific, and they encourage all of our efforts."

Rockland's course has the signature of not one, but three architects, starting with Robert White, who was responsible for the 18-hole course's initial design and construction in 1929. Thirty-six years later, in 1965, Alfred Tull and Robert Trent Jones added their personal touches.

In Matt's tenure, the course has undergone another series of enhancements. Beginning in 1995, Matt's guided the club in rebuilding all of its bunkers, tee complexes, and three of its greens. At the same time, Matt oversaw numerous irrigation system improvements. "The work really never ends," says Matt, adding to the club's long list of improvements a variety of landscaping projects and the complete renovation of the clubhouse.

Right now, Matt is in the midst of an extensive tree relocation and removal program. "Unlike most tree removal projects, this one wasn't a hard sell," says Matt, noting that the project was approved because of members' fear of injury from hitting tree roots.

"Rather than having to give the typical

pitch on the merits of tree removal in improving turf conditions, I just had to explain that if they wanted to get rid of tree roots, they had to get rid of the trees!" (Some people have all the luck!)

Just a Little Bit of Luck

But then some might say that Matt's just a lucky kind of guy. After all, he had the unique and fortunate opportunity of growing up in the thick of golf. His parents owned a public, 18-hole golf course—the Afton Golf Club—near Binghamton, NY, which provided Matt with early training and experience.

Following a course you might expect, Matt pursued formal industry training, receiving an Associate's from SUNY-Delhi in Horticulture in 1979.

His first training ground out of school was Ridgewood Country Club in New Jersey, where he was fortunate to land an assistant's position under then superintendent and long-time industry veteran Ed Walsh.

With just four years' experience under his belt, Matt lucked out again, moving into his first superintendent's position at Westchester Hills Country Club. "It was a time in my career when my wife and I had no kids, so I could play golf until dark on most nights. Of course, I play nowhere near that much now," says Matt who, at one time, sported a four handicap.

Though still passionate about the game, Matt's focus has shifted, over the years, to family. Married now for 23 years, Matt and his wife, Jasmine, have two daughters: Allison, who's 20 and a Fashion major at E.I.T. in New York City, and Megan, who is 16 years old and a junior in high school.

Be sure to grab your green chair and join fellow Met members at Rockland for a good round of golf and a final taste of fall. Matt's word to the wise: "Hit it over the water on Number 8, and you're in for a good day."

Dennis Granahan, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Navesink Country Club in Middletown, NJ.

Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!

Be sure to mark your calendars with the following upcoming golf and social events. For further information, please contact the appropriate committee chairmen. For professional events, contact either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs: Blake Halderman (914-946-1074) or Ken Benoit (914-241-0700). 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.

Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier PLUS

Poa Annual Tournament

Monday, September 29

The Seawane Club, Hewlitt Harbor, NY

Host: Brian Benedict

Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament

Tuesday, October 21

Rockland Country Club, Sparkill, NY

Host: Matt Ceplo, CGCS

Annual Assistants Championship

Monday, October 27

Trump National Golf Club

Bedminster, NJ

Hosts: Mike Brunelle, director of grounds

Tyler Ortero, golf course superintendent

Gregory Eisner, assistant superintendent

Met Area Team Championship

Monday, October 27

Winged Foot Golf Club/West Course

Mamaroneck, NY

Host: Matthew Burrows

Annual Meeting

November

Date & Site OPEN

MetGCSA Christmas Party

Friday, December 5

Metropolis Country Club

White Plains, NY

Host: Tony Grasso

Educational Events

The 5th Annual Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Education Fundraiser

Monday, September 29

Lyman Orchards Golf Club

Middlefield, CT

Superintendent Mark Pelky and Lyman Orchards Golf Club will be hosts to this year's Joseph Troll Turf Classic on September 29. In its fifth year, the event is sponsored by the Alumni Turf Group (ATG) to raise funds for education and research at the University of Massachusetts.

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 honoree will be George Thompson, CGCS, who was recently recognized by the USGA for his distinguished contributions to golf through work with turfgrass. Retiring from The Country Club of North Carolina in 2000 after working as a golf course superintendent for 36+ years, George continues to influence the golf course superintendents of the future through his teaching and speaking activities throughout the country.

Entry forms and additional information on this event and the ATG are available online at www.alumniturfgroup.com. Also feel free to contact ATG President Steve Curry at 413-329-4912.

5th Annual GCSANJ Crystal Conference

Tuesday–Thursday, November 11–13

Crystal Springs Resort, Vernon, NJ

Watch the website—www.GCSANJ.org—for further details as the event draws closer or contact Paul Dotti at 866-GCSANJ1 or edgepaul@hotmail.com.

Empire State Green Industry Show

(Formerly the NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition)

Wednesday–Friday, January 7–9, 2009

Rochester Riverside Convention Center

Rochester, NY

The 2009 Empire State Green Industry Show offers an excellent opportunity to network, obtain research updates, and visit the trade show, featuring hundreds of exhibitors.

As always, key speakers representing all segments of the green industry will be featured.

For further information, call the show office at 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229 or visit the website at www.nysta.org.

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Plan now for our upcoming Winter Seminar.

Here is the preliminary roster of speakers:

- Pat Vittum of UMass will provide an update on her annual bluegrass weevil research
- David Doherty, who is president and founder of the International Sports Turf Research Center (ISTRC) and recognized as one of the world's foremost authorities on the Physical Properties of golf greens, will share his expertise on soil testing.
- College Professor Nancy Patata will discuss strategies and techniques for motivating your employees.
- Mark Esoda, CGCS, from Atlanta Country Club, will talk about ways to generate positive awareness of golf's commitment to water and environmental stewardship among policy makers and other influential audiences who can have an impact on water, fertilizer, and pesticide regulations.

For further information, call our Education Chairman, Glen Dube, at 845-279-8960.

Congratulations to Our 2008 Scholarship Recipients

by Tony Girardi, CGCS, MetGCSA Vice President



Five of the eight scholarship winners were able to attend the Education Meeting with their parents to accept their scholarship awards. Flanking Scholarship & Research Committee Chair Tony Girardi are (from left to right): Tim Garceau of The Tuxedo Club with his son Austin and wife, Mariane; Ernie Steinhof of Metro Turf Specialists with his son Tim; Siwanoy CC's Dave Mahoney with his daughter, Jessica, and wife, Catherine; Jennifer O'Neill with son, Justin, and CC of Darien's Tim O'Neill; Michael Petruzzelli with parents Pamela and Dennis Petruzzelli of Putnam National Golf Club.

At the August 6 Education Meeting held at Leewood Golf Club, the Scholarship & Research Committee had the pleasure of awarding scholarships to eight members' sons and daughters.

Like every year, the judging was difficult. Our Scholarship & Research Committee members worked long and hard to process and evaluate the applications, which were all outstanding. As always, the winning candidates were selected based on maturity, academic history, ambition, extracurricular activities, and effort exhibited in completing their application.

Please join me in congratulating this year's scholarship recipients—and their proud parents:

Richard Apgar, son of Scott and Jacqueline Apgar of Metro Turf Specialists, is in his sophomore year at Lynchburg College, majoring in Athletic Training.

Todd Apgar, son of Scott and Jacqueline Apgar of Metro Turf Specialists, is in his freshman year at Lynchburg College, majoring in Business Administration.

Alison Ceplo, daughter of Jasmine and Matt Ceplo, superintendent of Rockland Country Club, has begun her junior year at The Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City.

Austin Garceau, son of Mariane and Tim Garceau, superintendent of The Tuxedo Club, is in his freshman year at University of Albany enrolled in the Pre-Med program.

Jessica Mahoney, daughter of Catherine and Dave Mahoney, superintendent of Siwa-

noy Country Club, is a senior at Cortland College enrolled in Communications Studies with a concentration in Public Relations and Advertising.

Justin O'Neill, son of Jennifer and Tim O'Neill, superintendent of Country Club of Darien, is in his sophomore year at Brown University enrolled in the Pre-Med program.

Michael Petruzzelli, son of Pamela and Dennis Petruzzelli, superintendent of Putnam National Golf Club, is entering his freshman year at the University of Hartford, majoring in Computer Science and Graphic Design.

Timothy Steinhof, son of Mary and Ernie Steinhof of Metro Turf Specialists, is in his sophomore year at New York State University at Oneonta, majoring in Environmental Science and Earth Science.

In addition to congratulating our recipients, I'd like to recognize those past boards who had the foresight to initiate our Scholarship Fund, which has grown over the years thanks to our Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, the 50/50s at our monthly meetings, and last but not least, a portion of our dues. Finally, a special thank you needs to go out to the entire Scholarship Committee for all their hard work reviewing and awarding each scholarship.

Please remember to support our scholarship raffle. It is one of the major income-generators for our Scholarship Fund.

Tony Girardi, CGCS, chairman of the Scholarship and Research Committee, is superintendent at Rockrimmon Country Club in Stamford, CT.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Howie Gold**, Class AF, Growth Products Corp., White Plains, NY
- **Jeff Houde**, Class AF, Tom Irwin, Inc., Higganum, CT

Birth

Congratulations to **David Dudones** and his wife, Dana, on the birth of their daughter, Avery Rae, on June 25.

Well Wishes

We'd like to send well wishes to:

- **Glenn Gallion** of Wilfred MacDonald, Inc., who is battling colon cancer. (Glenn wants to urge anyone over 45 to have a colonoscopy. "It is painless," he says, "and it may save your life.")
- **Mark Griff**, superintendent of Richmond County Country Club, who is recovering from an appendectomy.
- **George Pierpoint**, a Class LA member (and our executive secretary Ineke's husband), who is recovering from back surgery.



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Trump National to Host the Met's Annual Assistants Championship

by Scott Olson



Our Trump National Golf Club hosts (left to right): Assistant Superintendent Greg Eisner and Superintendent Tyler Otero.

The Met's Annual Assistants Championship will be held October 27 at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, NJ. Director of Grounds Mike Brunelle, Golf Course Superintendent Tyler Otero, and Assistant Superintendent Greg Eisner are looking forward to welcoming MetGCSA assistants to a course that is at least as impressive as its namesake, none other than Donald Trump, himself.

Designed in 2003 by Tom Fazio, Trump National Bedminster sits on 500 acres of rolling hills deep in the horse country of Northern New Jersey and features large stands of trees and renovated farm and manor buildings. Donald Trump has transformed the former DeLorean Estate into one of the golfing world's most beautiful treasures. The course, itself, stretches to 7,560 yards in length, boasting several forced carries and demanding greens and surrounds. The golf course is ranked among *Golfweek Magazine's* America's Best Top 100 Modern Courses, and *Golf Magazine's* Top 100 Courses in America. Trump National Bedminster has recently fin-

ished its second of two 18-hole championship courses. Both the "Old" and "New" courses will be hosting both the Boys and Girls USGA Junior Amateur Championships in 2009.

About Our Assitant Host

Greg Eisner grew up in Maryland, north of Baltimore. It was right there in his hometown of Jarrettsville, MD, that the turf bug bit him. After working summers during high school on the grounds crew at Mountain Branch, a nearby upscale public course, he decided to pursue a career in turf management and attended Penn State University, earning a B.S. in Turfgrass Science. During his time at Penn State, Greg completed two internships at the high-profile Oakland Hills Country Club and Oakmont Country Club.

Greg returned to Oakmont after graduating, working two-and-a-half years there as a second assistant—a job that prepared him well for his current position at Trump National.

Now in his second season at Trump, Greg's been more than busy. "The club has recently finished building a second championship course designed by Tom Fazio's nephew, Tommy Fazio," he explains, adding, "We did most of the work in-house, while, at the same time, keeping the other course in top condition. This has made for some long days."

When Greg can take a break from the action, he enjoys playing golf, fishing, or hitting the slopes for some snowboarding.

Insight Into Our Super Host

Tyler Otero grew up in Lewistown, PA. His interest in turf management began at a young age. "My brother-in-law was an assistant superintendent, and I'd often tour the course with him," says Tyler, who obviously liked what he saw. As soon as he decided on his career path, he joined the crew at Centre Hills Country Club in State College, PA, a job he returned to for two summers during high school and college. Like Greg, Tyler

pursued a degree from Penn State University, graduating in 2006 with a B.S. in Turfgrass Science.

While in school, Tyler didn't let any grass grow under his feet. He high-tailed it out of Pennsylvania to the mountain state of Colorado, where he secured an internship at Country Club of The Rockies. "It gave me the opportunity to see what it was like to manage a golf course in an arid, high-mountain desert climate," says Tyler.

Tyler's next move took him far beyond the States, to a resort course in New Zealand called Kauri Cliffs Golf Club. "In addition to providing a significant change of scenery and culture, the job," says Tyler, "provided me with valuable insight into what it was like to work at a high-end resort."

After graduation in 2006, Tyler found his way to the Met, signing on with Trump National to help with the construction on the new golf course. Quickly proving his mettle, Tyler moved into the golf course superintendent position on the Old Course at the end of 2007, where he says he enjoys meeting the varied challenges of the job. "Every day is different, and then there's the added benefit of being able to work outdoors," he says.

According to Tyler, there are three keys to scoring well at Trump National. First, due to the length of the golf course, long, accurate tee shots are necessary. Next, remaining on the correct side of the fairway is vital to

attacking the greens, and then last—but not least—Tyler emphasizes the importance of being aggressive. "Attack the pins," he advises, "the large greens will compensate for inaccuracy."

Meet the Director of Grounds

Director of Grounds Mike Brunelle joined Trump National just over a year ago, in the Spring of 2007, bringing with him the knowledge and experience he gained from working at some of the finest operations in the country. Mike did two of his internships locally at Elmwood Country Club and Wykagyl Country Club before joining the team at Oakland Hills Country Club in Detroit, where he interned while completing a B.S. in Plant & Soil Sciences from UMass.

After graduating in February of 2001, Mike jumped at the opportunity to help complete a grow-in at the Tom Fazio-designed Old Collier Golf Club in Naples, FL. After one year in Florida, Mike found his way back to the Met area, taking an assistant superintendent's position at Quaker Ridge Golf Club. From there, he spent four seasons as Bob Nielsen's assistant at Bedford Golf & Tennis Club before making the fortunate transition to Trump National. Mike's first position was as golf course superintendent on the "Old Course," working closely with the director of grounds.

But soon after he arrived, the director of

grounds left, and Mike was promoted into the position. Explaining his quick ascent through the ranks, Mike says, "It was Mr. Trump, himself, who made the move possible. He told me he was happy with the team he had in place."

Mike, too, is very pleased with the team, speaking highly of both Tyler and Greg. "It's a joy to work with them," he says, adding, "They're on their game every day of the week."

Only at Trump

What's it like working for one of America's most infamous business magnates? "It's demanding but exciting," says Tyler, adding, "Every day brings new challenges, which keeps us all on our toes."

In addition to keeping close watch on the windsock by the helicopter landing pad, where Mr. Trump drops in from time to time to check on the operation, the maintenance staff is held to high standards: the "Trump Expectations." But Mike, Tyler, and Greg are all grateful to Mr. Trump for providing the resources and support necessary to live up to those expectations, daily.

Don't miss this opportunity to join fellow assistants for what promises to be a memorable golf event!

Scott Olson, a Class C representative on the MetGCSA Board of Directors, is assistant superintendent at Scarsdale Golf Club in Hartsdale, NY.

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