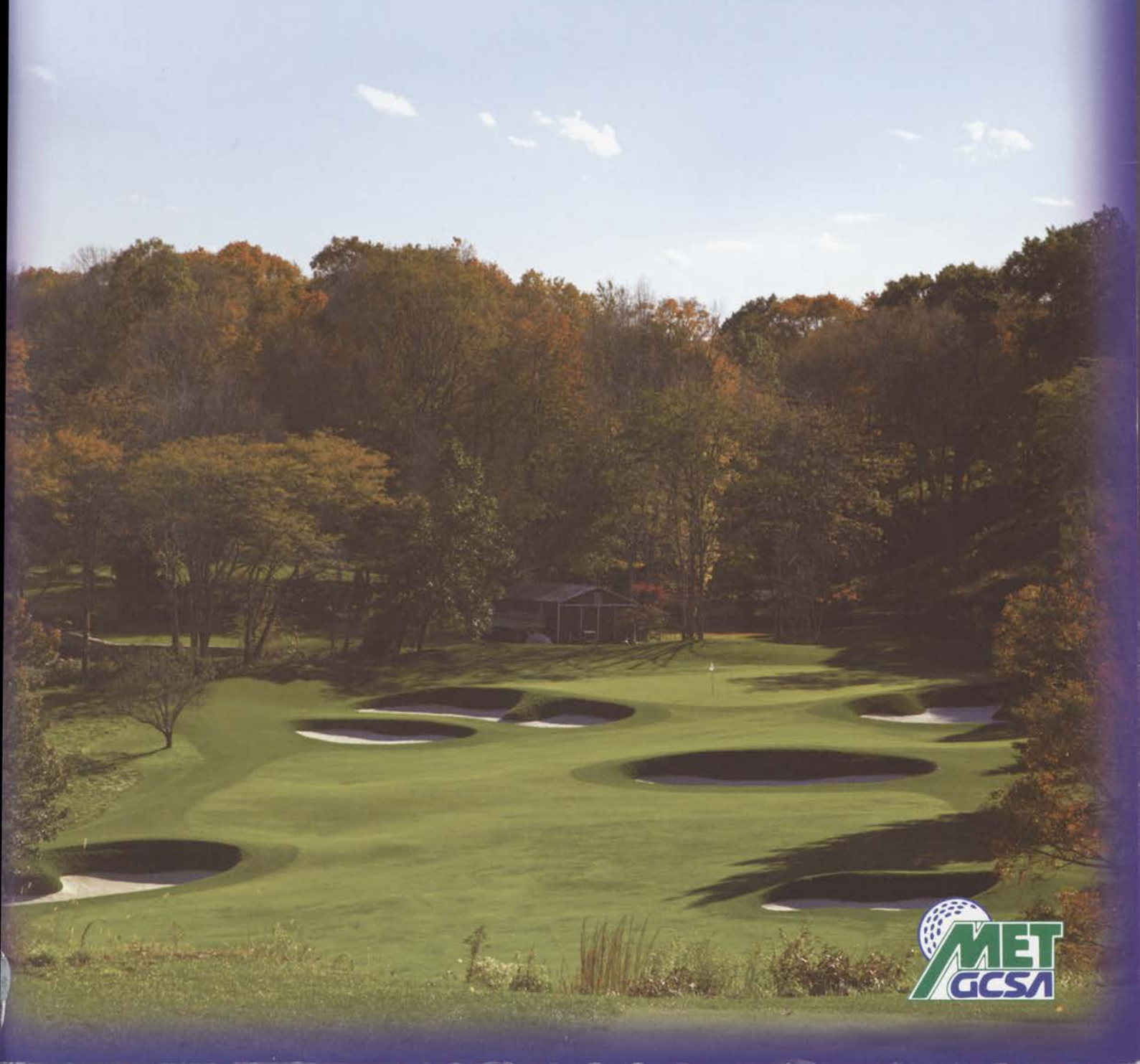


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Tee To Green

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Tee To Green



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In this Issue

Feature

Turfgrass Advocacy Day Gives Voice to Tough Legislative Issues ..2

Departments

Upcoming Events	5
National News	6
National Scorecard	6
Chapter News	8
Spotlights	10
Member News	12
Work Smarts	12

President's Message

Association News and Notes



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H

ere we are again... the start of another season! Looking back at the President's Message I wrote this time last spring, I was calling on everyone to rise to the challenge of helping our clubs and our industry get through one of the worst economic times since the Great Depression. And now I'm proud to say we've come through it quite well. Not only did we support our clubs by making careful use of our time and resources, but we actually managed to continue to produce a product we—and our members—could be proud of.

In 2010, clubs are still proceeding cautiously, keeping close watch on the bottom line. But like last year, I'm confident we will continue to do our best with the available resources.

Special Thanks to Our Survey Participants

Speaking of club operations, I want to extend a personal thank you to the 58 participants who filled out and submitted the recent survey that was available to our membership. It focused primarily on our operating budgets, staffing, and a variety of other items relating to our golf course maintenance operations. Polling our member clubs every two years helps us to stay in tune with how our practices and operating costs compare to other clubs in the area.

The results have been tabulated and all who participated should have received a hard copy of the results in the mail. As in previous years, only the people who participated will receive the results.

So, once again, thank you for your participation, and please feel free to contact Paul Gonzalez or me with any comments or questions relating to the survey.

Enhancing Our Association

As you are aware by now, our board has approved hiring an executive director for our association. The decision was made after two years of discussion and planning. Last year, we formed a subcommittee to work out the



*Tony Girardi, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

finer details. Chaired by Tim O'Neill, the committee consisted of some members of our Long-Range Planning & Steering Committee as well as other members of our association. Together, they worked to draw up a detailed Feasibility Report, designed to help our board make an educated decision about hiring a director to represent our association.

As outlined in my letter to members earlier this fall, we feel strongly that having an executive director on board will enable us to not only enhance member services on a day-to-day basis, but also better manage our public relations, government relations, and chapter relations to name only several of the benefits.

Our plan, now, is to spend the next several months developing a detailed job description; then we'll begin the interview process. We're hoping to present the newly hired executive director by our Fall Business Meeting.

We appreciate your support during this time and look forward to any comments you may have. We will continue to communicate with you and keep you updated during this process. Our goal is and always will be to strengthen our member services and our association.

See you all at the next meeting!

Tony Girardi, CGCS
President



Feature

Turfgrass Advocacy Day Gives Voice to Tough Legislative Issues

by Michael Maffei, CGCS

The New York State Turfgrass Association's 2010 Turfgrass Advocacy Day proved to be one of the most successful lobby day events yet, receiving high marks from participants for the well-planned and detailed discussion of NYSTA issues.

Held on March 10 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, NY, the event drew 58 attendees, including MetGCSA members Bob Nielsen, Blake Halderman, Ken Benoit, Glen Dube, Jay Mottola, Charlie Robson—and me. New to the event this year were repre-

sentatives from the PGA of America's Central, Metropolitan, Northeastern, and Western New York PGA sections.

"It was truly an honor to share in your wonderful Advocacy Day in Albany," said executive director of the Western New York PGA, Joe Bertino, reflecting on the day's activities. "I sincerely hope that you are successful in accomplishing the legislative goals your members so professionally presented to our regional politicians. We know that the efforts of your members are vital to the success of each and every golf facility and the

resulting enjoyment of the game of golf by players statewide!"

The day began with an association breakfast where participants listened to the opening remarks made by NYSTA President Greg Chorvas and Past President Steve Griffen. Jeff Lane of The Vandervort Group and lobbyist for the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns took the podium next. Speaking about budget issues and the current legislative climate in Albany, Jeff introduced this year's Advocacy Day topics, which revolved around the New York Farm

Joseph Steranka, PGA of America CEO, joins NYSTA board members and turf industry leaders at NYSTA's 2010 Turfgrass Advocacy Day. (L to R) Larry Wilson, Chairman of the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns; Tom Wright, NYSTA board member; Steve Griffen, NYSTA past president; Greg Chorvas, NYSTA president; Joe Potrikus, NYSTA board member; Joseph Steranka, PGA of America CEO; Mike Maffei, NYSTA past president; Rick Holfoth, NYSTA secretary/treasurer.



Viability Institute, the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund, pesticide regulations for schools, adoption of a state definition of IPM, the New York Golf Economy Report, using less-than-pesticide-label rates, and water withdrawal permitting.

Before the mid-day break for lunch, attendees had the ever-popular opportunity to meet with senators and assembly members representing their districts to discuss regulatory issues and concerns that were important to them. A total of 64 legislative visits were made.

"The people walking the halls on our behalf were seasoned Lobby Day veterans who knew the issues and were able to articulate solid arguments on our behalf," said Larry Wilson, chairman of the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns. "I saw more important legislators today, and the staffers we visited had real influence over the fate of these bills. For instance, when we visited the Assembly Speaker's staff, there were five of us and six of them, and they were all writing."

With the legislative visits complete, Senator Darrel Aubertine, chair of the New York State Senate Agriculture Committee, spoke over lunch, acknowledging the golf industry's significant role in the Capital Region economy. Following Senator Aubertine at the podium was Joseph Steranka, World Golf Foundation chairman and PGA of America CEO.

Supporting the senator's sentiments about golf's importance to the state economy, Steranka expressed concern that the fiscal crisis affecting New York's budget could result in cutbacks within the golf industry. As he summarized the results of The New York Golf Economy Report, which was commissioned by Golf 20/20 for the New York Golf Task Force and prepared by SRI International, you could understand his concern. He noted that golf brought \$5.3 billion to the state in 2007 and supplied more than 56,000 jobs!

The Legislative Issues at Hand

As always, a significant portion of the day was devoted to presentations on the various legislative issues facing the state. Here is a recap of the day's discussions. Know that NYSTA plays a critical role in representing our industry's best interests in all proposed legislation. You can help support NYSTA's efforts by making your opinions known to our legislators. Every voice counts!

New York Farm Viability Institute Seeks Funding for Industry Research. Up first was NYSTA Past President and Co-owner of Saratoga Sod Farm, Inc., Steve Griffen. He provided an update on the New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI), an independent, nonprofit organization that is dedicated to strengthening the agricultural and horticultural industries in New York State. The institute ensures industry success by supporting applied research, education, information transfer, technology adoption, and market analysis to reduce practical barriers to the success of agricultural and horticultural enterprises.

In previous years, direct state funding has allowed the institute to support such worthy Cornell research projects as:

- Dr. A. Martin Petrovic's "Developing Accelerated Sod Production Methods" with \$80,000 in funding
- Dr. Petrovic's "Reducing Sod Losses From Annual Bluegrass" with \$40,000 in funding
- Dr. Daniel Peck's "Curbing the Economic and Environmental Impacts of Invasive Crane Fly Pests on Production Sod Farms" with \$198,948 in funding

NYSTA is recommending that New York State restore the \$4.5 million cut from NYFVI funding in fiscal years 2006-07, 2007-08, and 2008-09. Also recommended:

\$1.5 million in new funding for 2010-11, which is a 54-percent cut from previous years.

Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund Looks for Ongoing Support. NYSTA President Greg Chorvas provided an update on the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund. Established to support research targeted at enhancing turf management solutions that protect environmental quality, this group has allocated funds for research on everything from developing annual bluegrass weevil-resistant *Poa annua* cultivars to developing an enhanced diagnostic system for turfgrass insects, weeds, and diseases.

For the past four years, the New York State budget included a \$175,000 appropriation for the fund. Because there is no appropriation in the budget this year, NYSTA is recommending that legislators restore the \$175,000 line item for the stewardship fund in the 2010-11 budget to ensure research designed to enhance environmental stewardship in New York State continues.

Pursuing More Reasonable Pesticide Regulations for Schools. Joe Potrikus, CSFM, vice president of Greener World Landscape Maintenance, LLC, shared with attendees the details of new bills introduced by Senator Foley (S4983-A) and Assemblyman Englebright (A7937-A) proposing a ban on pesticide use on school athletic fields and playgrounds.

While NYSTA shares the bill sponsors' commitment to protecting the environment, we oppose this measure. Not only does it jeopardize the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques as an environmentally sensitive maintenance approach, but it also fails to recognize school grounds managers'

ability to use pesticides in an environmentally responsible manner.

Our recommendation is to ask the legislature to oppose these bills, which would prohibit the use of pesticides and limit an effective IPM program.

Defining IPM—Once and for All. Rick Zimmerman, vice chairman of the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations, spoke to participants about the need to adopt a standard state definition of Integrated Pest Management. Right now in New York, several bills have been introduced with varying definitions of IPM but with one common thread: they're all being used to ban the use of certain classes of pesticides and define IPM as a method that essentially eliminates the use of all pesticides.

NYSTA's recommendation is that the legislature adopt the definition of IPM recognized by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, The National Integrated Pest Management Network, and the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations: "Integrated Pest Management is a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks."

Golf Industry Serves State Well. Jay Mottola, executive director of the Metropolitan Golf Association, presented the high points of The New York Golf Economy Report. From all accounts, golf creates a healthy number of jobs in New York State—with an impressive \$1.6 billion in wage income.

In 2007, New York's 38 golf resorts and nine championships run by national organizations in the state spurred \$520.2 million of golf-related tourism spending. Each year, charitable giving attributed to golf in New York exceeds \$125 million. While contributing to the vitality of New York's economy through employment, capital investment, and tourism, The New York Golf Economy Report also acknowledged that the state's more than 850 golf facilities preserve open space and enhance the environment in the communities they serve. What more could anyone ask for?

Using Less-Than-Label-Rates of Pesticides Revisited. On the Advocacy Day agenda once again was the issue of "Using Less Than Label Rates of Pesticides." I had the opportunity to brief participants on this bill, which proposes permitting commercial applicators to apply pesticides in a dosage, concentration, or frequency less than that specified on the product label. NYSTA's perspective is that turfgrass managers who are trained, licensed commercial pesticide applicators



Joseph Steranka, PGA of America CEO, summarized the results of The New York Golf Economy Report at NYSTA's 2010 Turfgrass Advocacy Day.

need the flexibility of applying less-than-label rates to aid their ability to reduce overall pesticide use and adopt a progressive turfgrass IPM program.

We're recommending that legislators support Bill A7600 (Magee), which creates a new section in the Environmental Conservation Law that allows the use of "less than label rates." The day after Advocacy Day, Senator Carl Marcellino introduced a Senate version of Magee's bill. This new bill number is S7087.

Pulling the Plug on Water Withdrawal Permitting. I also presented information on "Water Withdrawal Permitting." The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to implement a water withdrawal permitting program to regulate the use of the state's water resources.

Current New York State law requires entities with the capability of withdrawing 100,000 gallons per day to file an annual report of daily water use and pay a \$50 fee. The proposed bill expands the existing water supply permit program by requiring entities that have the capacity to withdraw a minimum of 100,000 gallons per day to not only obtain a permit from the DEC, but also pay an increased annual fee that could range anywhere from \$100 to \$250.

With our current reporting system, we are able to collect the necessary data by reading a meter. The new bill could require that we provide a full-blown environmental impact statement that would result in significant upfront engineering costs. Equally troubling is that this bill leaves us susceptible to open-ended regulations that would allow the DEC to establish restrictions and limits on water use.

Our recommendation is to oppose this bill to avoid having increased fees and regulations imposed on an industry that is already overregulated and overtaxed.

Getting Involved Pays Dividends

With the increasing climate of frustration by constituents who feel that government is unresponsive to their concerns, many were relieved to have the opportunity to conduct rational, orderly discussions with their legislators that will have a positive impact on the turf industry.

Reflecting on the event, Charles Robson, executive director of the Metropolitan PGA had nothing but high praise for the day's activities: "Everyone did an incredible job putting the meetings and sessions together. I know from our perspective, it was a special experience and one that we were proud to be a part of. I also want to say a special thank you to Joe Steranka and the PGA of America and the association's support team for lending some invaluable experience, credibility, and passion to the New York State presentations. I hope our organizations will continue to work closely together. I thought this was a great example of a statewide commitment to the game and the industry and how we are stronger when our associations are allied and communicating for mutual goals and benefits."

Even if you weren't able to attend this year's Turfgrass Advocacy Day, remember that you can still make a difference by visiting your assemblyman or senator in their district offices or writing them to discuss these issues. Either way, getting involved will pay dividends—for you, in your work as a superintendent, and for the industry as a whole.

For further information on the issues discussed at the 2010 Turfgrass Advocacy Day, please visit the NYSTA website at www.nysta.org.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

I'd like to acknowledge the following sponsors who helped make this successful event possible: Helena Chemical Company, the New York State Lawn Care Association, the Metropolitan Golf Association, Grassland Equipment & Irrigation Corp., RISE-Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment, Nassau Suffolk Landscape Gardeners Association, Dow AgroSciences, and The Sullivan County Challenge 10th Annual Golf Tournament.

Be sure to join us next year in Albany!

Mike Maffei, superintendent at Back O' Beyond Inc., in Brewster, NY, is a past president and current board member of NYSTA and co-chair of the NYSTA Government Relations Committee.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events Update

Please be sure to mark your calendars with these upcoming events. For further information on any of our golf meetings, please contact either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs: Ken Benoit at 914-241-0700 or Mark Chant at 631-643-0047. To discuss any upcoming social events, please contact either of our Social & Welfare Committee co-chairs: Mark Millett at 914-949-4203 or Paul Gonzalez at 914-273-3755.

Superintendent/Manager or Guest Tournament

Wednesday, May 19
Connecticut Golf Club
Easton, CT
Host: Mark Fuller, CGCS

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

Tuesday, August 3
Wykagyl Country Club
New Rochelle, NY
Host: Mike Scott

Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier AND Poa Annual Tournament

Thursday, September 30
Wheatley Hills Golf Club
East Williston, NY
Host: Stephen Rabideau, CGCS

Met Area Team Championship

Thursday, October 7
The Bridge
Sag Harbor, NY
Host: Gregg Stanley

Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament

Monday, October 18
Wee Burn Country Club
Darien, CT
Host: Doug Drugo

Annual Assistants Tournament

Tuesday, October 19
Pelham Country Club
Pelham Manor, NY
Superintendent Host: Jeff Wentworth, CGCS
Assistant Host: George Chavez

Industry Events

15th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

Monday, May 3
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
Far Hills, NJ

Join Dr. Bruce Clarke and Dr. Bill Meyer for this annual fundraiser and a day of golf, education, and fun. Your participation helps continue turfgrass research and breeding programs at Rutgers University's Center for Turfgrass Science.

For further information, call 973-812-6467 or log on to www.njturfgrass.org.

UMass Turf Research Field Day

Wednesday, June 16
UMass Joseph Troll Turf Research Center
South Deerfield, MA

The field day will focus on the wide range of research projects that university faculty, staff, and graduate students currently have underway at the research center and at other locations. Among the studies you'll see: the biology and integrated management of turf-damaging insects, short- and long-term weed management, pesticide exposure, fertility, drought management, as well as a range of National Turfgrass Evaluation Program fine turf trials. The field day will also feature displays and demonstrations from turf industry vendors.

For further information, contact Mary Owen at 508-892-0382, mowen@umext.umass.edu, or Jason Lanier at 413-545-2965, jdlanier@umext.umass.edu. Or visit www.umasssturf.org and select "Conferences & Workshops."

Second Biennial University of Connecticut Turfgrass Field Day

Tuesday, July 20
UConn Plant Science Research and Education Facility
Storrs, CT

The field day will offer guided tours of a variety of research projects underway at the university. In addition, turfgrass managers will have the opportunity to participate in a silent auction, visit with a variety of exhibitors, and from 1 to 3 p.m., participate in roundtable discussions with such industry experts and organizations as:


- the USGA's Jim Skorulski, who will speak about current conditions on golf courses
- Oregon State University Agronomist Mike Flowers, who will discuss athletic field conditions and grooming
- the CT DEP, which will offer an update on pesticide legislation

For further information, check the website at www.turf.uconn.edu.

Rutgers Turfgrass Field Day (Golf & Fine Turf)

Tuesday, July 27
Horticultural Farm II
New Brunswick, NJ

Save the date, and watch for details. Call 973-812-6467 or visit www.njturfgrass.org for further information.



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John O'Keefe to Serve Final Year of Two-Year Director Term

One of the highlights of the GCSAA Education Conference (February 8-12) and Golf Industry Show (February 10-11) in San Diego, CA, was the Annual Meeting elections, held, as always, on the conference's final day, February 12.

One of our own, John O'Keefe, CGCS, director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, NJ, and past president of the MetGCSA, will serve the final year of his two-year director term on the GCSAA Board of Directors. So what happens next year when John's term is up?

"I would like nothing more than to continue to serve our profession through my work with the GCSAA," says John. "It's been challenging, but having the opportunity to give back to our industry makes it all worthwhile. I enjoy reaching out to chapter representatives from around the country and gaining feedback on what's important to their members. It's all about our members, after all, and keeping the association strong through their input and participation. It would be my privilege to be re-elected next year and to continue to represent the Met and other chapters in the tri-state area," says John.

John is the second Met past president to sit on the GCSAA board, following Country Club of Darien's Tim O'Neill, whose term on the GCSAA board culminated with his presidency in 2005. We're rooting for your continued success on the board, John!

Here's a look at the full election details:

President

James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, director/superintendent at Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, MA

Vice President

Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, FL

Secretary/Treasurer

Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf operations for the City of Overland Park, KS



John O'Keefe, CGCS

Immediate Past President

Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, director of grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, NJ.

Directors

William H. Maynard, CGCS, at Milburn golf and Country Club in Overland Park, KS, was newly elected to the board of directors.

Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, director of golf course maintenance operations at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA, was re-elected to another two-year term as director.

Peter J. Grass, CGCS, at Hilands Golf Club in Billings, MT, enters the second year of his term as director.

Keith A. Ihms, CGCS, at Country Club of Little Rock in Little Rock, AK, enters the second year of his term as director.

See You Next Year

Plan now to join fellow professionals at the 2011 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL. The Education Conference is scheduled for February 7-11, along with the Golf Industry Show, which will run February 9-10. For further information, visit www.gcsaa.org.

MetGCSA Makes Itself K Classic and National Cha

by Mark Chant

Many MetGCSA members blew the dust off their clubs and joined the more than 500 GCSAA members to participate in the 2010 National Championship and Golf Classic held in Palm Springs, CA, this year. Looking at the results, they must have found some time to hit the heated ranges, because we had some very respectable finishes in most flights. Congratulations to the following MetGCSA members who made our presence known on the links.

The National Championship

A full field of 97 competitors played in this year's National Championship, which was a two-day, 36-hole stroke play tournament hotly contested on the Greg Norman Course at PGA West. Though we didn't have anyone place, Sean Cain of Sunningdale and Tom Ashfield of Quaker Ridge had respectable finishes. Sean shot 80 in the first round and 76 in the second, tying for 26th place. Tom shot 81 in the first round and 82 in the second, tying for 55th place. Steve Rabideau of Wheatley Hills and Mark Chant of Colonial Springs both played in the Championship Flight with a less-than-notable outcome. They're both contemplating going back to the "pick 'em up flight" next year.

A new champion was crowned this year. Winning in a playoff over Tim Scott of Stony Creek Golf Club in Illinois was Adam Hess. Adam, the assistant superintendent at Augusta Pines Golf Club in Spring, TX, shot 71 in the first round and 74 in the second, finishing one over par for the two days. He parred the first playoff hole to win the National Championship in his first time ever playing in the event.

The Golf Classic

The Golf Classic, which featured two rounds of play using the point quota system, was played this year on Dessert Willow Golf Resort-Mountain View Course, The Celebrity and Players Courses

nown at the 2010 Golf mpionship

at Indian Wells, and The Mountain Course at La Quinta Resort.

MetGCSA players placed in almost every flight. It was nice to see such great representation this year. Here are their winning scores:

In the First Flight . . .

- James Swiatlowski of Montammy Golf Club finished 6th Gross.
- Blake Halderman of Brae Burn Country Club finished 10th Net.

In the Second Flight . . .

- Les Kennedy of Blind Brook Club placed 2nd in the Gross Division.
- Meadow Brook Club's John Carlone placed 7th Gross.

In the Third Flight . . .

- The Stanwich Club's Scott Niven finished 8th Gross.
- Dennis Granahan of Navesink Country Club finished 9th Net.

In the Fourth Flight . . .

- Gregg Stanley of The Bridge finished 6th Gross.
- Matt Severino of Scarsdale Golf Club and Rick Schock of Aspetuck Valley Country Club both finished in a tie for 10th Net.

In the Sixth Flight . . .

Bob Nielsen of Bedford Golf & Tennis Club finished 2nd in the Net Division.

In the Affiliate Flight . . .

One of our members, who always dominates the competition, came up just short this year. Andy Drohen of Agrium Advanced Technologies finished 2nd in the Affiliate Flight's Gross Division, shooting a quota 65, which is around even par or better.

The Team Events

Just as notable is the MetGCSA's success in the Four-Ball competition, held the day before the Golf Classic.

In the First Flight . . .

- Sean Cain and Steve Rabideau paired together to win the flight. Sean anchored the team with six birdies. I'm sure Rabideau helped along the way, but clearly, his strength was in picking a good partner!
- John Carlone and Les Kennedy played well enough to finish in a tie for 9th Net. Great job boys!

In the Second Flight . . .

- The Met placed four teams in the top ten.
- John Genovesi of the Maidstone Club was randomly paired with Terry Leach of Indian Valley Golf Course in Novato, CA. Fortunately for John, Terry is a stick and carried the team to a 4th place finish on the Gross side.
 - David Dudones of North Jersey Country Club and Ian Kunesch of Rolling Greens Golf Club in New Jersey placed 9th Gross.

- Gregg Stanley and Rick Schock finished 6th Net.

- Bob Ranum of Atlantic Golf Club teamed with Doug Heron of Maxwell Turf & Supply Co. to finish in a tie for 9th Net.

In the Chapter Team Event . . .

We had a very strong finish by one MetGCSA team. The team of Tom Ashfield of Quaker Ridge, Blake Halderman of Brae Burn, Sean Cain of Sunningdale, and Scott Niven of The Stanwich Club finished 13th out of 73 teams in the Gross Division.

This is an event where the team members compete individually at their respective courses and then their combined scores are computed against all the other teams in the field. Though we're still not sure how we finished so well, it's nice to see our Met participants making such a nice showing.

There's Always Next Year

If you missed out on the warm weather, great competition, and most important, the networking and camaraderie, you'll have another chance to join the fun: The 2011 National Championship and Golf Classic, scheduled for February 4-6 in Orlando, FL, will be here before you know it! We hope to see everyone there.

Mark Chant, a member of the MetGCSA Board of Directors, is superintendent at Colonial Springs Golf Club in Farmingdale, NY.



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Who's Who on the MetGCSA Board



From left to right: Past President Matt Ceplo, CGCS, of Rockland CC; Mark Chant of Colonial Springs GC; Rob Alonzi of Fenway GC; Treasurer Blake Halderman, CGCS, of Brae Burn CC; President Tony Girardi, CGCS, of Rockrimmon CC; David Dudones of North Jersey CC; Ken Benoit, CGCS, of Glen Arbor GC; Secretary Glen Dube, CGCS, of Centennial GC; Class C Rep Scott Olson of Scarsdale GC; Paul Gonzalez, CGCS, of The Whippoorwill Club; Mark Millett of Old Oaks CC; Class AF Rep Steve Renzetti, CGCS, of Pinnacle Turf, Inc.; MetGCSA Executive Secretary Ineke Pierpoint. Not pictured: Vice President Bob Nielsen, CGCS, of Bedford Golf & Tennis Club.

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Scholarship Award Application Deadline and Details

Don't delay in calling for your 2010 MetGCSA Scholarship Award application! Any Class A, AL, B, SM, C, AE, or AFL member of the MetGCSA or a dependent of a member is eligible to win. But the deadline for submissions is fast approaching. **All applications MUST be received by Friday, June 11.**

Application forms are available on the Met website, www.metgcsa.org, or through MetGCSA Executive Secretary Ineke Pierpoint at ipierpoint@mgagolf.org or 914-347-4653. If you have any questions about the application process, please feel free to contact S & R Chairman Bob Nielsen at Bedford Golf & Tennis Club. You can reach him by calling 914-234-3779 or by sending an email to rnbgtc@optonline.net. The Scholarship & Research Committee will select recipients based on leadership, maturity, scholastic capabilities, activities, and commitment to a chosen career.

Scholarships will be awarded at our Education Meeting. Watch our Calendar of Events in the *Tee to Green* or on the website for the precise date of the event.

Seeking Sherwood A. Moore Award Nominations



The Awards Committee is now accepting nominations for the Sherwood A. Moore Award. This award is presented to a golf course superintendent who has advanced the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent.

Sherwood, the award's first recipient and namesake, was a leader both locally and nationally, having served as president of the MetGCSA, GCSA of New Jersey, and the GCSAA. He was also an articulate spokesman for the profession and mentored a number of the nation's finest superintendents, many Met members among them.

Although Sherwood passed on, we continue to celebrate his life and many contributions to our profession through this coveted award. If you'd like to nominate a candidate, contact Matt Ceplo at 845-359-5346 or by email at groundskeeper@optonline.net, and he will send you a nomination form. But don't delay. *All nominations must be received by June 21, 2010.* You can send them by fax to 845-359-5346 or by mail to: Matthew Ceplo, CGCS, Rockland Country Club, 380 Route 9W, Sparkill, NY 10976

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Superintendent/Manager Tourney Convenes at Connecticut Golf Club

by Mike Tollner

On May 19, MetGCSA members will head north to Connecticut Golf Club for the annual Superintendent/Manager or Guest Tournament. Director of Grounds Mark Fuller is looking forward to once again hosting a Met event—his third in the past six years.

Tucked away in the quiet New England town of Easton, Connecticut Golf Club is a challenging 18-hole, 6,899-yard layout spread over 156 acres. Opened in 1966, the club was founded by Lawrence Wien as a businessman's club devoted solely to playing golf. Membership began with 39 of Wien's golfing buddies and was, and still is, by invitation only. Remaining one of the few men's-only golf clubs in the U.S., Connecticut Golf Club has fewer than 200 members and averages only 9,000 rounds per year.

Originally designed by Geoffrey Cornish, the course was ushered into a new era under the direction of architect Brian Silva. Adhering to a detailed master improvement plan, Mark and Pro J. Rodney Loesch oversaw the rebuilding of all the course's tees, bunkers, and two green complexes, the installation of a high-density poly irrigation system, the renovation of the drainage system and cart paths, and last but not least, the removal of at least 600 trees.

The project began in '98 and continued through 2005, with most of the work carried out in the spring and fall to minimize the time the course had to be closed to play.

Renovations or not, the course is dramatic, rising and falling through corridors of trees and granite and around several ponds. A true test of golf, the layout is tight, and the greens are large, undulating, and quick. So be sure to bring your best game!

A Career at Work

A 32-year Met member, Mark is beginning his 19th season at Connecticut Golf Club. His connection to the business began long ago, interestingly at another Cornish-designed course, the nine-hole Crestbrook located in his Watertown, CT, hometown.

Hired during the course's construction

phase to pick up rocks along with other local teens, Mark eventually went on to caddy and then work summers on the crew as the nighttime waterman—a job that did little to inspire interest in pursuing a career in turfgrass management.

When it came time for college, Mark pursued, instead, a B.S. in graphic arts and photography from the University of Bridgeport. "After graduating," says Mark, "I worked 45 days in the field and realized I was crazy. I hated being inside."

In the end, Mark's passion for the game and the outdoors brought him back to golf course work. In 1974, he accepted a position on the crew of The Longshore Club in Westport, CT, where he was elevated to assistant superintendent and then superintendent within two years. Because Longshore is owned and operated by the Town of Westport, Mark's responsibilities included not only overseeing the golf course, but also maintaining the town's athletic fields.

Mark pursued formal training in turfgrass management in 1977 at the UMass Winter Turf School, remaining at Longshore until 1983. His next stop: the infamous Quechee Club in Vermont, where he assumed the multi-faceted role of superintendent/property manager.

Yet another Cornish-designed facility, Quechee is a resort community with a 36-hole golf course, a ski hill, and many other recreational activities for its residents. During his eight-year tenure at Quechee, Mark completed an M.B.A. at Northeastern University and was promoted to operations manager, overseeing all aspects of the resort community.

In 1992, Mark took his schooling and experience back to his native Connecticut, accepting his current position at the Connecticut Golf Club. "I have to credit my staff for their role in the smooth completion and success of our renovation project," says Mark, noting their equally important role in his own success over the years. Four years ago, Mark had the good fortune of joining forces, once again, with Bob Welch, who was his assistant, way back when, at Longshore.



Mark Fuller, CGCS

"I'm so happy to work with Bob, again—this time as the superintendent at Connecticut Golf Club," says Mark.

And we can't forget to mention the newest addition to Mark's staff: three-month-old Beara, his new Bernese Mountain Dog.

Beyond the Course

When he's able to steal time away from the course, Mark enjoys spending it with Kimberly, his wife of 30 years. Mark and Kim share a passion for organic gardening and grow, according to Mark, nearly a year's supply of fruits and vegetables. They also enjoy kayaking, particularly during their trips to Maine, where they own a vacation home that Mark's been renovating—largely by himself—for the past six years.

Obviously, a country boy at heart, Mark enjoys woodworking and, at the time of our meeting, had just finished cooking up a batch of newly harvested maple syrup.

Though Mark claims to have scaled back on his hockey nights with the boys, he still enjoys lacing up his skates now and then for an evening on the ice.

Mark and Kim have two daughters, Kelly, 29, and Katie, 25, and a new grandson they enjoy spending time with when they're up in Maine: 4-month-old Miles.

As for the event on May 19, Mark recommends that players bring their straight game. "The course is tight," says Mark, "so there isn't much room for sprayed shots."

Don't miss this opportunity to bring your manager or guest to Connecticut for what is sure to be an enjoyable day at a great course.

Mike Tollner, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is an assistant superintendent at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY.

Wykagyl Welcomes 2010 Met Invitational

by Kevin Collins

This year's MetGCSA Invitational goers will be treated to the new-and-improved Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY. The date is set for August 3, and you can be sure our meeting host and Wykagyl superintendent of seven years, Mike Scott, will have the course in superfine shape for our association's long-running and always-popular annual event.

In a whirlwind of activity under the guidance of the Coore & Crenshaw Company, the 100-plus-year-old course was transformed in just five months, with work starting in May 2006—the day after the finish of the Sybase Tournament—and wrapping up in October.

"The renovation work was pretty intense," says Mike, recalling the five contractors and more than 100 people at work on the course throughout the project.

"The first step was to install a new irrigation system, a new pump house, and \$600,000 worth of new drainage," says Mike. "Next, we bulldozed every one of the old tees and constructed new ones."

Two new greens—14 and 15—were built, 55 bunkers were renovated, and 25 new bunkers were added. "We also expanded the fairways by five acres and expanded the square footage on 14 greens," says Mike, describing the course's metamorphosis.

Remarkably, through the entire construction process, the course remained open for play. "Without the contribution of my assistants, Alan Bean, Andy Clark, and Tim Clarke, we couldn't have pulled this off," says Mike, noting their hard work and dedication throughout the project.

The Start of Somethin' Good

Wykagyl Country Club got its start in 1898 as the Pelham Country Club, a nine-hole course located in Pelham Manor, NY. In 1904, after the club lost its lease, it purchased the land in New Rochelle where it's located today.

Club member Lawrence Van Etten designed the original course, built in 1905. After World War I, the club hired famed architect Donald Ross to tweak the front nine. One of his more notable changes was on the 8th hole, a 440-yard par 4, where he created the sharp dogleg that brought the now-famous oak into play, obscuring the left side of the green.

With the renovation work complete, Wykagyl opened for play in 1920. By the end of the decade, however, the club hired the legendary A.W. Tillinghast for yet another re-design, this time prompted by the construction of an adjacent apartment building. Among his more notable course changes: reversing the direction of the dogleg on 17 and shortening the yardage on the 18th, both par 4s.

In the '70s and '80s, Wykagyl hosted several LPGA tournaments, becoming, by 1990, a permanent LPGA tour stop—a tradition that continued until just a few years ago. The LPGA's Sybase Classic was last played at Wykagyl in May 2006, moving next to Upper Montclair Country Club in New Jersey. Then in July 2007, Wykagyl hosted its final LPGA event, the Match Play Championship.

One month later, in August 2007, Wykagyl hosted the MGA Mid-Amateur and will host a USGA Mid-Amateur Qualifier this coming September.

All About Mike

After a stint in the Army, where Mike was stationed in Germany, his first industry job was at Newark Country Club in Delaware. Mike received his degree from Penn State in 1995 and immediately afterward began work at the famed Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, NY, as an assistant to Superintendent Joe Hahn. After Oak Hill came stops at Merion, Winged Foot, The Ridge at Backbrook (Mike's first superintendent's job and grow-in), and in January 2003, Wykagyl.

What Mike learned at these top 100 clubs and the people he met on his journey have left a permanent impression on him. Mike noted, "Joe Hahn is like a father figure to a lot of guys. He is a true professional and a family man all rolled into one. Paul Latshaw is another one. I learned more working for him at Merion than any other superintendent. We worked sun up to sun down almost every day from March to October and had fun doing it. Jeff Corcoran (Oak Hill) and Kevin Seibel (Century CC) are two other guys I have a lot of respect for. They pushed me to be better every day we worked together."

Committed to sharing his knowledge and



Mike Scott

experience, Mike puts a high priority on mentoring his people. "It is the single greatest responsibility I have to this industry. My goal for any of the turf guys who work for me is to teach them everything I know and properly prepare them for their future. I want these guys to grow while they work here, not only to become good superintendents but also to become better people."

Mike has a soft spot in his heart for the crew. "I have a lot of respect for my staff and the job they do. We aren't just the grounds crew at Wykagyl; we're a band of brothers dedicated to making this course the best it can be day in and day out. We're a family!"

A Balancing Act

Mike and Louise met soon after Mike finished his Army tour of duty. They married in 1996 and have three beautiful children: Mason, 10; Maya, 9; and Merritt, 6.

"Mason loves basketball and lacrosse, and I'm coaching Mason's 4th grade boy's basketball team," Mike proudly states. "Maya is into basketball, lacrosse, and swimming. Merritt is quite a daredevil. He loves baseball and spends a lot of time with me on the course. He says he wants to be a superintendent."

Balancing family life and a sometimes 80-hour workweek is a tough task, but Mike works hard at it. Louise would agree: "Mike's existence is comprised of two things: work and family. His hobbies are work and family. Many people will see only one piece of that puzzle. I, however, have seen the whole puzzle: the golf course superintendent, both unstoppable and vulnerable, the husband, the father, and the friend."

Kevin Collins, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is Mid-Atlantic and Northeast territory manager for Aquatrols Corp. of America and the owner/president of DryJect Northeast/TurfPounders.

Member News

Members on the Move

- **Paul Dotti** is the new superintendent at Arcola CC in Paramus, NJ. Previous position: Superintendent at Edgewood CC, Rivervale, NJ.
- **John Genovesi** is the new superintendent at the Maidstone Club in East Hampton, NY. Previous position: Superintendent at Island Hills GC in Sayville, NY.
- **Bob Wolverton** is the new superintendent at Edgewood CC, Rivervale, NJ. Previous position: Superintendent at Bayonne GC in Bayonne, NJ.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Michael Baptiste**, Class C, Siwanoy CC, Bronxville, NY
- **Matt Brooks**, Class C, Elmwood CC, White Plains, NY
- **Clarence Covington**, Class C, Trump National-Westchester, Briarcliff, NY

- **Aaron M. Crouse**, Class C, Woodmere Club, Woodmere, NY
- **Timothy Daniels**, Class C, Piping Rock Club, Locust Valley, NY
- **Jason M. Doney**, Class C, Westchester CC, Rye, NY
- **Steve Farrelly**, Class AF, Emerald Tree Care Inc., Scarsdale, NY
- **Joseph Gikis**, Class C, Westchester CC, Rye, NY
- **Dale S. Gray**, Class C, Waccabuc CC, Waccabuc, NY
- **Jeremiah Green**, Class AF, The Care of Trees, Mt. Kisco, NY
- **Scott Hall**, Class C, Preakness Hills CC, Wayne, NJ
- **Christopher Haring**, Class C, Knollwood CC, Elmsford, NY
- **Levi Henninger**, Class C, Preakness Hills CC, Wayne, NJ
- **Kyle Hillegass**, Class C, Wykagyl CC, New Rochelle, NY

- **Wesley Jones**, Class C, Inwood CC, Inwood, NY
- **Christopher Kemble**, Class C, Westchester CC, Rye, NY
- **Scott Landstrom**, Class C, Sleepy Hollow CC, Scarborough, NY
- **Scott Lund**, Class C, Ridgeway CC, White Plains, NY
- **Tyler McGonigal**, Class SM, Rockland Lake Golf Course, Congers, NY
- **James Murphy**, Class C, Tamarack CC, Greenwich, CT
- **Mathew Neus**, Class C, Siwanoy CC, Bronxville, NY
- **James Scoli**, Class AF, Westwood Organic Recycling, White Plains, NY

In Sympathy

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to Whippoorwill Club Superintendent **Paul Gonzalez** and his family. Paul's father, Adalberto S. Gonzalez, passed away March 9 at the age of 67.

Work Smarts

Superintendent Sanity Savers

21 Tips for Maintaining a Positive Mindset Throughout the Season—and Beyond

There probably isn't a superintendent around who doesn't know about the power of positive thinking, particularly as an antidote to stress—on the job and in everyday life. But what many probably don't realize is that cultivating positive attitudes—sincerity, appreciation, acceptance, flexibility, willingness—has proven to positively affect your heart rate and even boost your brain's release of endorphins, which enhance your sense of wellbeing and even your self-esteem.

Because we could all profit from a small dose of this kind of medicine as the season approaches, we're sharing some of a long list of "Tips for a Better Life," drawn up by Sandler Training's Bernie Cronin, a nationally prominent sales and sales management consultant, trainer, and inspirational speaker who has appeared on the roster of GCSAA Education Conference seminars.

Even if you don't think you're overly taxed on the job, you can't go wrong in giving these positive steps a shot. After all, when it

comes to stress relievers, you can never get too much of a good thing.

1. Take a 10- to 30-minute walk every day. And while you walk, smile. It is the ultimate mood elevator.
2. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.
3. Buy a DVR and tape your late night shows and get more sleep.
4. When you wake up in the morning complete the following statement, "My purpose is to _____ today."
5. Live with the Three E's: Energy, Enthusiasm, and Empathy.
6. Make time for meditation or prayer. Both provide fuel for our busy lives.
7. Dream more while you're awake.
8. Try to make at least three people smile each day.
9. Clear clutter from your house, your car, your desk, and let new and flowing energy into your life.
10. Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appear and fade away like

algebra class, but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime.

11. Smile and laugh more. It will keep the negative blues away.
12. Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
13. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
14. Make peace with your past so it won't spoil the present.
15. Frame every so-called disaster with these words: "In five years, will this matter?"
16. Forgive everyone for everything.
17. Realize however good or bad a situation is, it will change.
18. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.
19. Do the right thing... because it is right!
20. Each night before you go to bed complete the following statements: I am thankful for _____. Today I accomplished _____.
21. Commit to writing your personal and professional goals. 94% of written goals are accomplished.



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