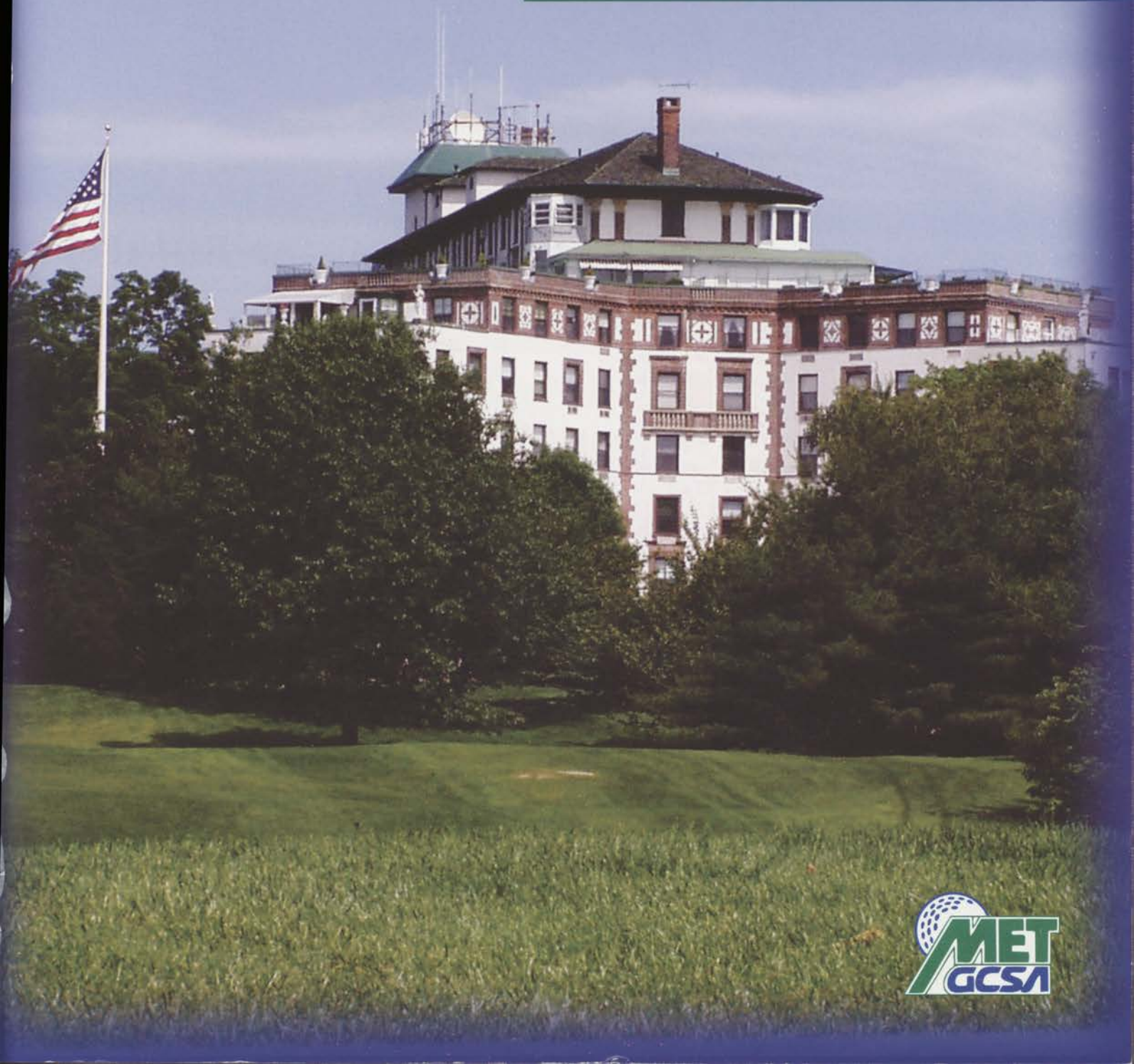


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November/December 2011
VOLUME 41 NUMBER 6

Tee To Green

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association



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TEE TO GREEN is published bimonthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523-2819
914-347-4653, FAX: 914-347-3437, METGCSA.ORG

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Cover: Westchester Country Club.

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President's Message

Thank You, One and All!

First and foremost, I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday season and a happy and prosperous New Year. Hopefully you will be able to spend extra time with family and friends to really enjoy this special time of year. After the long season, it's nice to have a little less stress and finally be able to relax and enjoy the holidays.

I also want to thank you for reelecting the entire board this year. This group of individuals is more devoted to this association and profession than I can possibly put into words here. They work tirelessly to put together seminars that are both educational and entertaining, tournaments that are both competitive and fun, and social events that bring the entire association together. The newsletter and website keep our members informed of the latest news, both technological and legislative, and the support garnered from our affiliate members is second to none.

Unfortunately, weather, as well as the economy and job constraints, took a toll on some of our events this past year. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions on how we might improve our meetings or social events, please contact me or one of the committee chairs with your thoughts. Or better still, consider joining one or more of our committees. To make it easy, we've included a mail-back postcard in your dues notice where you can specify your committee interest. We are always looking for people with fresh new ideas who are willing to roll up their sleeves and help out.

I would be remiss if I also did not offer a wholehearted thank you to Ed Brockner, Ineke Pierpoint, and Pandora Wojick for all that they do for the association. Ed has made great strides in his first year as executive director and promises to be an even greater asset to the MetGCSA in the future. Ineke makes sure that our day-to-day operations are running smoothly, and we appreciate her efforts. Pandora is a true taskmaster; this publication would be half of what it is without her expertise. She makes us all look good.

Get Educated This Winter

I know I said this last issue, but please make time for some of the educational events this winter. I just came back from Atlantic City and Bruce Clarke, Jim Murphy, Albrecht Koppenhoffer, Steve Hart, and Bingru Huang all gave excellent presentations in their respective fields. Particularly interesting to me were some of the new grasses being developed. Seems they'll be the way to go in the future, particularly given the ever-increasing restrictions on nutrient and pesticide use.

Also on the roster were pathologists Lane Tredway, Lisa Beirn, and Steve MacDonald, who discussed bacterial wilt, dollar spot, and fungicide mixtures. Lane gave straightforward answers to tough questions regarding bacterial wilt. Treatments are illegal, and Lane was quick to point that out.

Our friends from the USGA, Adam Moeller and Dave Oatis, offered their thoughts on regrassing, while MetGCSA past presidents Scott Niven and Joe Alonzi

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*Bob Nielsen, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

gave excellent presentations on their experiences with regrassing the greens on their own courses.

Our fall seminar at Patterson also offered excellent educational opportunities. Be sure to check out the Upcoming Events on page 12 in this issue for other great opportunities to keep abreast up of the latest and greatest in turf management.

Just a Little Government Relations

I cannot write a message without including something related to government relations. Congratulations to the CAGCS on their win in Connecticut's water withdrawal permitting battle. Thanks to the efforts of people like Scott Ramsay and John Garcia, who were diligent in tracking and monitoring this legislation, Connecticut law now exempts all golf courses that agree to abide by the BMPs published regarding water use in Connecticut.

In New York, the enforcement and requirements of the law are just being developed. The water reporting law has been enacted by Albany. If anyone has not reported their water use to date, you must file your 2011 Water Withdrawal Report by February 15, 2012 or you may be required to file for the full permit, which could take up to six months to receive. You do not want to explain to your club that you cannot use water until August 15 when you get your permit!

Once again, I want to thank all of you for your support. Happy Holidays, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Winter Seminar!

*Bob Nielsen, CGCS
President*

New York Times Sports Columnist Dave Anderson Deemed Just 'Write' for the Met's 2012 Reid Award

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA
Executive Director



Dave Anderson, selected to receive the MetGCSA's 2012 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award, needs little introduction among sports enthusiasts. A columnist for *The New York Times* since 1971, Anderson has offered Pulitzer Prize-winning commentary on a wide range of high-profile sports events, capturing the 1981 award for distinguished commentary on such memorable events as the Olympic hockey team's unexpected win over the Soviets in Lake Placid, George Steinbrenner's dismissal of yet another Yankees manager, and Jack Nicklaus's return to the Winner's Circle at the U.S. Open at Baltusrol.

As you might expect, Anderson's writings aren't just your run-of-the-mill recap of athletic events, but rather insightful observations of our society through the lens of a sport. To Met area golf industry professionals—superintendents and golf pros, alike—Anderson has humanized the sport and the science of golf course maintenance.

"During Mr. Anderson's remarkable tenure at *The New York Times*, he has shown great passion for sports," says Tony Girardi, chairman of the MetGCSA Awards Committee. "He's provided wonderful coverage of Met area courses and major golf events, and he's taken special interest in the superintendents who are responsible for maintaining these facilities to the highest standard. The MetGCSA couldn't be more pleased to present Dave Anderson with this year's John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award."

Anderson himself certainly understands the significance of John Reid in the history of the game. In fact, you might say he wrote the book on it. *The Story of Golf*, one of 21 books Anderson has authored, begins with a vivid account of how Reid became known as the "Father of American Golf" through his lead role in the formation of St. Andrews Golf Club in 1888, the first golf club in the United States.

Anderson wrote the following to describe golf's humble beginnings there that



In The Story of Golf, Anderson wrote about the game's beginnings at St. Andrews Golf Club in Yonkers.

led to the game's rapid growth in popularity during the years that followed:

"With a tent serving as the St. Andrew's clubhouse, the membership quickly rose to 13, and in 1892 the club moved to a larger tract of land. After a 6-hole round there, the members gathered for sandwiches and drinks in the shade of an old apple tree, promoting their nickname, the Apple Tree Gang, that would live on in golf history."

Dave Anderson is the 22nd recipient of the Reid Award, which was initiated in 1986 and named after the man who was not only instrumental in golf's beginning in this country, but also in forming the USGA and the MGA. Probably even more important to superintendents is that John Reid, by recognizing that golf courses required daily maintenance and care, was in large part responsible for establishing the golf course management profession.

From Golfer to Golf Writer

Born in Troy, NY, in 1929, Anderson currently lives one state over, in Tenaflly, NJ, with his wife, Maureen. The couple has four children—Steve, Mark, Mary Jo, and Jean Marie—and three grandchildren.

Still an active golfer at nearby Knickerbocker Country Club, Anderson has always been in awe of all the wonderful courses in the Met area—and the golf course superintendents who maintain them. In his words, "You can't have a great golf course without a great superintendent."

He also feels that with the high concentration of top-level courses in the Met area,

some of them tend to get undeservedly lost in the shuffle. "The rankings tend to favor the new over the old," he says. "But those courses are still just as good as they ever were." And as Dave Anderson continues a career that's spanned more than half a century, his insightful commentary, like these classic old courses, continues to be just as good as it ever was throughout his noteworthy career.

That career began shortly after Anderson graduated from Holy Cross College in 1951. With a B.A. in English Literature, he accepted his first job as a sports writer at the *Brooklyn Eagle*, covering baseball and other sports when the Dodgers still called the borough home. When the *Eagle* closed in 1955, the same year the hometown team finally won the World Series, he landed at the now defunct *New York Journal-American*, where he was a member of the sports staff for the next 11 years. Anderson's next move was to *The New York Times*, where he has been since 1966, first as a sports reporter and finally a columnist since 1971.

Humanizing the Game

Although he has written thousands of national sports stories over the years, he gave an especially in-depth analysis when golf's major championships were played near his home here in the Met. While a handful of other top area clubs have hosted majors during his *Times* tenure—including Shinnecock, Baltusrol, and Bethpage—his golf coverage of the course and competitions at Winged Foot gives some of the best examples of how Anderson was able to look beyond the boxscore or, in this case, the scorecard. In doing so, he gave a face to not only the players, but also the superintendents toiling behind the scenes in setting the stage for the drama.

In 1974 . . . the U.S. Open came back to Winged Foot for the first time in 15 years,

and Anderson foretold of the carnage to come thanks to the brutal setup for the upcoming championship. Pro Johnny Miller had torched Oakmont on Sunday the year before with a 63, which neither the USGA nor the Winged Foot membership seemed eager to see repeated.

Anderson used his trademark descriptive style to illustrate the extreme conditions the pros would face that year:

"The grass on the greens will be cut to 3/16 of an inch, which is designed to make them faster than the nearby New England Thruway speed limit. The heavy rough will be from 5 to 6 inches high, with the light rough 2½ inches high. The light rough begins right behind the collars of the green. 'If a club ever did this on its own,' Sports Commentator Dave Marr was saying, 'the course superintendent would be fired by nightfall.'"

Bob Alonzi and Ted Horton, both former Winged Foot superintendents and Met area legends in their own right, remember the 1974 Open well. Bob, who was the club's super from '84 to '99, recalls weather leading up to the event that helped Horton produce the incredibly tough test. He also recalls how his friend used some tricks of the trade to attain unprecedented speeds—such as removing and grinding down mower bed knives—to get the greens a fraction shorter than the 3/16" quoted by Anderson and determined by the championship committee.

"The USGA always had total say in how they wanted to see the course set up," said Bob, "but superintendents are a very resourceful group."

The notoriously difficult conditions of the '74 Open resulted in Jack Nicklaus's famous three-putt on the first green of the



Greg Norman congratulates Fuzzy Zoeller at the '84 U.S. Open.

championship on the club's West Course, where a 20-footer for birdie was followed by an even longer putt for par. Bob also remembers how a confused motorist drove his car right over the middle of this same green before the second round—but the surface was so firm that its tires didn't even leave a mark!

In reminiscing about the '74 Open, Horton most fondly recalls the consistency of the rough his crew was able to achieve and, in the process, revolutionized how these areas were prepared for future championships.

"Up until then, the specs of the USGA and PGA Tour for a cool-season rough were 4 to 6 inches, but there wasn't a mower that cut at that height so it was always uneven and disheveled," said Ted. "The year before the Open in '74, we bought four rotary mowers that had just come out, added 6-inch brackets, and started mowing the rough twice a week starting the fall prior. Even though it was within the height requirements for the event, none of the pros had ever seen rough as consistent as that before."

Anderson summed it up best in writing about Ted Horton's efforts stating, "He is, so to speak, a Marquis de Sod who turns the leafy beauty of golf courses into outdoor torture chambers."

In the end, the course that he and his crew prepared led to a young Hale Irwin winning the tournament by surviving to finish with

a winning score of 7 over par in an Open that fellow writer Dick Schaap later immortalized as "the Massacre at Winged Foot."

In 1984 . . . prior to the Open's next trip to Winged Foot, Anderson wrote a profile on Nicklaus—the iconic competitor with whom the distinguished writer shared a mutual admiration throughout their careers. Written toward the tail end of Nicklaus's days on the regular Tour, the author noted that age seemed to be catching up with the Golden Bear and that it was clear family and business pursuits were becoming a bigger priority.

Victory was not in the cards for Nicklaus on that occasion—although he would capture one more major in dramatic fashion at the Masters in '86 at age 46, finishing well back of the playoff duel in which Fuzzy Zoeller beat out Greg Norman. The Aussie got caught up in the towering trees on the

second hole of the playoff and was never able to get back in the hunt in one of his many close calls in the majors.

In 1993 . . . Anderson penned a very different kind of feature—one that eulogized a beloved specimen that fell victim to Dutch Elm disease. Estimated at 175 feet high by 175 feet wide, the mammoth elm—believed to be the largest of its kind in New York State—had guarded the entrance to the 10th green on the club's East Course.

Capturing the sentiments of the club membership and then Superintendent Bob Alonzi on the tree's demise, Anderson quoted Bob as saying, "The tree was like a person to us." Anderson went on to further describe this lost treasure as only he could:

"In hitting to the 10th green on the East Course, you had to keep your ball under the tree line. If not, your ball would ricochet almost anywhere: behind the elm itself, into one of the three greenside bunkers, into the rough, onto the road in front of the old stone Tudor clubhouse. Or, if you were lucky, your ball sometimes would plop down onto the green, proving that the elm had a heart, hard as it usually was. In golf, you normally must hit a bad shot to get into tree trouble. But when confronted by this elm, you had to hit a good shot to avert it."



Historical image of the great elm on Winged Foot East's 10th hole.

In 1997 and 2006 . . . Winged Foot hosted two more majors: the '97 PGA Championship and the '06 U.S. Open, with Anderson featuring the divergent outcomes for those who provided the big story of each championship.

In the former, Davis Love III dominated the field in his lone major victory, while in the latter, Phil Mickelson suffered a crushing defeat to let the U.S. Open once again slip through his grasp.

Beyond the Sports Report

Dave Anderson's writings over the past 61 years—including more than a dozen of golf's major championships here in the Met area—have captured the essence of human nature and emotion that transcend the sport.

In his piece on Hale Irwin in '74, he celebrated the perseverance and determination of a young professional on the rise; while 10 years later, he wrote of Jack Nicklaus trying to fight off inevitable decline to win the Open for a record fifth time.

In bidding a sentimental adieu to the Winged Foot's eldest elm, Anderson showed us how even though the tree was not human, it could still be part of the family and would be sorely missed.

When Davis Love III won in '97, the author explained how Love did so by dedicating this triumph to the memory of his father—a PGA professional who undoubtedly held that championship especially dear, while also fulfilling the lifelong dream of a son at one of golf's most storied venues.

And after Phil Mickelson's collapse on the 2006 U.S. Open's final hole, Anderson described how one of the golfer's own children reacted to Daddy's disappointment after the round:

"Amanda, the oldest, who would be 7 three days later, finally said, 'Did you win, Daddy?' Her mother had to inform her no, Daddy had finished second this time. Amanda brightened.

'Second is so good Daddy,' she said. 'Second is so good.'

Not really. Not when Daddy should have won. Not when all Daddy needed was a par 4 on the final hole for this third consecutive major title, his fourth overall, and his first United States Open.

But leave it to a child to put some perspective on her father's future and in her father's mind."

Young Amanda Mickelson, with her naive response to learning her father had come up just short, showed us the exact same thing that Dave Anderson's experienced wisdom has given his readers for more than half a century: PERSPECTIVE. And while as fans we may feel as though we live and die with the wins and losses of our exalted sporting heroes, Anderson still helps to remind us that, at the end of the day, it's only just a game—and that it's what we can learn about others and ourselves through sports that really matters.

The MetGCSA will present its coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award to Dave Anderson at the January 18 Winter Seminar at Westchester Country Club.

Davis Love III rejoices in victory in 1997 at Winged Foot, while Phil Mickelson is left to ponder another one that got away.



2011 GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting Fosters Open Discussion

Delegates Debate Value of Membership, Member Standards, and Field Staff Expansion

by Bob Nielsen, CGCS

Once again, I traveled to Lawrence, KS, for the GCSAA Chapter Delegates Meeting, which was held October 28–30 at GCSAA headquarters and the Airport Hilton in Kansas City, MO. These meetings have drawn delegates from chapters across the country for the past 19 years. I've been coming to represent the MetGCSA for the past seven years.

This year, as always, association executive staff and elected leaders solicited feedback and frank discussion on a multitude of topics and charged all of us to communicate with our respective chapters when we returned home.

Here's an overview of our three days of discussion.

Value of Membership

GCSAA President Bob Randquist repeated a message that he has emphasized throughout his term in office: GCSAA must enhance the value of membership and demonstrate it to the members.

He outlined several new programs implemented in the past year, including expansion of the field staff program, creation of a new job board, growth of social media, a new website, new resources to enhance sustainability of the golf facility, and the online Self-Assessment Tool to measure member competency and identify resources to facilitate improvement. The new job board is much more functional, but the new website seems to have a few kinks that need to be worked out. I have not reviewed the new Self-Assessment Tool yet, but I've been told it's quite comprehensive. As far as the growth of social media . . . you'll have to find out about that one on your own; I haven't a clue!

In the end, this discussion generated a number of suggestions on how GCSAA might increase and demonstrate value, with many ideas focused on delivering value at the chapter level through field staff and enhanced use of technology. GCSAA is hoping that field staff will help promote association programs so that members can realize the value of their membership. GCSAA also hopes to expand smartphone

apps that can be used in a similar way to the one available for the GIS (see page 8).

Field Staff Expansion

Randquist elaborated on the field staff program, noting that four regions (Florida, Great Lakes, South Central, Southwest) were staffed, and two more would be assigned by the end of 2011. One will be in our region, the Northeast, and the other in the Northwest.

All nine GCSAA regions are slated to have resident field staff by the end of 2013. He said the directive for the program remains unchanged: to create a greater link between the association and its chapters—something he believes is happening “to an even greater degree” than he had expected this early in the program.

GCSAA staff also provided several examples of how field staff has helped to facilitate chapter effectiveness through association programs, including strategic planning, advocacy, membership growth, and allied association relations. A roundtable discussion was conducted among smaller groupings of delegates to examine areas for opportunity and measures of success for field staff. The feedback was loud and clear that the program had the potential to create an even greater impact in the future. Some prime examples of this have been demonstrated in Florida. Ralph Dain has been able to unite members behind several pieces of legislation that have had an impact on Florida.

Member Standards: 10 Years Later

There was a bit of a “Back to the Future” moment with the introduction of the Member Standards Advisory Group, which has been formed to take a strategic look at the impact the membership standards have had on the association and its members. It has been 10 years since members approved the implementation of these standards by a 3 to 1 margin.

Randquist, who served on the group that originally coordinated the development of those standards, said the current board felt the review was “prudent.” And it may well be, considering that the number of newly

certified superintendents has dropped off dramatically with the new requirements!

Working independent of the board, the Standards Advisory Group will review the impact of the standards to determine if the goals are being met and if there have been any unintended consequences. Then, the group will make recommendations to the board on a future course of action in regard to the standards.

The 11-member group will be composed of a cross-section of the membership, including certified members and Class A, SM, and C representatives. Chairing the group will be GCSAA Past President Sean Hoolehan with GCSAA Past President (and MetGCSA Past President) Tim O'Neill serving as vice-chair.

There is no firm deadline for the group's report, but a progress update will be delivered at the 2012 Chapter Delegates Meeting.

Additional Discussion Items

- It was announced that beginning November 1, GCSAA webcasts would be free of charge for all members. This means that there should be no restrictions on maintaining Class A status.
- It was announced that members who would like to apply for certification can now do so as soon as they attain Class A status. The additional requirements of one year as a Class A and 5.0 education points have been removed.
- GCSAA continues to grow its collaboration with allied golf associations to strengthen the game of golf. It is imperative that representatives of those organizations on the facility level—e.g., club managers and PGA pros—work in the same fashion to effect positive change as well.
- Newly appointed Chief Operating Officer Richard Konzem was introduced (see page 7).
- An in-depth presentation on GCSAA government relations efforts revealed that collaboration among staff, chapters, and allied associations is having a positive impact. The work of Chava McKeel and Carrie Riordan on these fronts has been invaluable. They work tirelessly to advocate for our industry, and they should be credited

for many of the advances the industry has gained in the political arena.

- Four chapters made presentations on programs they have instituted with the assistance of GCSAA resources in the areas of BMP development, media/public relations, strategic planning, and government relations.

- The GCSAA promotional package on the Golf Channel was well received and supported as an important investment of funds.

- Outlined were new features for the Conference and Show and the National Championship and Golf Classic, including education programs, networking opportunities, and cost-saving options available to attendees. This includes a chapter incentive program for golfers who have not participated in the tournament in the past two years.

Candidate Presentations

The new candidates for officers and the board were introduced and hosted breakout sessions where the delegates were allowed to question the candidates. We heard presentations for the offices of president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and for the two openings for director.

Here's who will appear on the ballot:

For President

Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, City of Overland Park, KS

For Vice President

Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, The Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA

For Secretary/Treasurer

- John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, NJ
- Keith A. Ihms, CGCS, Country Club of Little Rock, AR

For Director (electing two)

- Rafael Barajas, CGCS, Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, CA
- Bill Maynard, CGCS, of Milburn Golf and Country Club in Shawnee Mission, KS
- Darren Davis, Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, FL
- Mark Jordan, CGCS, Westfield Group Country Club in Westfield Center, OH

There are four candidates running for two open director's positions this year. Darren Davis has been a long-term delegate and very active in the environmental arena, and I have served with Mark Jordan on the Government Relations Committee. Both of these gentlemen are well equipped to represent our industry at the national level.

John O'Keefe and Keith Ihms, candidates for secretary/treasurer, have one year remaining in their director terms, so the

president will appoint a director to fill the vacancy created by either John or Keith. Peter J. Grass, CGCS, of Hilands Golf Club in Billings, MT, will remain on the board with one year left in his two-year director term.

Robert Randquist, CGCS, of Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, FL, will serve on the board as immediate past president during 2012, and James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, of Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, MA, will retire from the board.

For Further Details

For more specifics on any of the Delegates Meeting discussions, you'll find the presentations available online at:

<http://www.gcsaa.org/Community/Chapter-Delegates-Meeting/2011-Chapter-Delegates-Meeting.aspx>

In addition to being the MetGCSA's Chapter Delegate, Bob Nielsen is our association's president and superintendent at Bedford Golf & Tennis Club in Bedford, NY.

Konzem Named Chief Operating Officer

Richard Konzem, who has more than 30 years of managerial experience, primarily in intercollegiate athletics, assumed the role of chief operating officer of GCSAA on October 17.

Konzem comes to GCSAA from Rockhurst University in Kansas City, MO, where he has served as director of athletics since November 2007. In his tenure there, Konzem served on the NCAA Division II Men's Golf Regional Advisory Committee and had student athletes from eight of 11 teams compete in NCAA postseason competition.

"I am pleased to have Richard join the GCSAA team," says GCSAA Chief Executive Officer Rhett Evans. "He has an impressive track record of success supporting and facilitating a performance-driven culture among a group of diverse and talented individuals. That will serve the association well as he oversees the day-to-day operations of association programs with a focus on serving the GCSAA membership."

Konzem is responsible for developing, implementing, and executing key member programs that support the achievement of the association's mission, vision, and operational goals. Serving on the association's executive team, he is charged with overseeing the professional development; membership; strategic communications; corporate marketing, sales, and business development; environmental programs; and events and meeting planning departments. He will also represent GCSAA in a variety of industry and allied association events, programs, and activities.

A native of Salina, KS, Konzem gradu-



ated from the University of Kansas in 1980 with a bachelor's degree in business administration and earned a master's in education: athletics administration from the University of Southern California in 1984.

Holding a variety of positions at his graduate and undergraduate alma maters—from fundraising and event management to senior associate athletics director and finally deputy director of the University of Kansas's Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics—Konzem is pleased to accept a challenge outside the department of intercollegiate athletics.

"I am honored to join the GCSAA staff and have the opportunity to work with the board of directors and association members," says Konzem. "As an avid golfer, I have the utmost respect for the professionals who manage the game's playing field. It is certainly a challenging profession, and one of great value to the industry."

2012 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show Hits Vegas

*L*as Vegas, NV, is playing host to the 2012 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show, which will run February 27 through March 2.

As always, in addition to the many essential career-building traditional offerings, GCSAA has put together several all-new special events and offerings based on last year's attendee feedback. Here's a quick look at what's in store:

The GIS Main Events

Designed to benefit every member of the golf course, club, and equipment management team, this year's Golf Industry Show, running February 29 through March 1, will feature hundreds of exhibitors sprawled over more than 100,000 square feet of exhibit space.

The highlights:

General Session

Intended to motivate, inspire, and provoke personal and professional growth, the General Session is always a great way to start your day.

From 8 to 9 a.m. on March 1, David Feherty, golf's premier funnyman will pay a visit to the GIS and spin stories like no other. A former assistant greenkeeper, the Northern Ireland native turned professional golfer at 17. Today, he is a commentator for CBS and the Golf Channel and the host of a widely acclaimed weekly show on the Golf Channel. He is popular on the speaking circuit and the author of six books, including his latest, *The Power of Positive Idiocy*.

Feherty has 10 worldwide professional wins to his credit and, despite his self-deprecating style, was considered a solid player, especially in team, match-play competition. But it is off the course where Feherty has captured his biggest wins.

Afflicted with depression and battling alcoholism, he has persevered and reached out to others to help them in their own struggles. He is also a supporter of, and a volunteer for, wounded Special Forces, Green Berets, and other U.S. heroes.

Be sure not to miss David Feherty's "Tales of a Survivor."

On the Trade Show Floor

- *Tech Tips on the Half* are designed to give you the latest information on some of the hottest topics in the golf course industry. These all-new quick info sessions will take place almost every half-hour during the Golf Industry Show in the Test Drive Technology Center on the show floor.
- *Answers on the Hour*, a repeat of last year's popular series of educational sessions, will



take place on the trade show floor. Presenting a come-and-go opportunity to learn more about topics pertinent to your facility and career success, these informal, 30-minute sessions will be led by industry experts every hour during the trade show.

- *My Planner and Golf Industry Show Connection* offer customized conference and show applications for download. The Planner is for computer access to planning your conference and show experience, while the GIS Connection allows you to download a planner app to your iPhone, Android, and other smartphones.

With these applications, you're able to access interactive tradeshow floor maps, exhibitor brochures, and plan your week's activities, including your education sessions and seminars, social media interaction, business lunches, dinners, and meetings. You can download these apps by logging on to www.golfindustryshow.com.

Education Conference Highlights

Along with the Golf Industry Show, GCSAA will join forces with the NCGOA to present our annual Education Conference. The largest show in the turfgrass management industry, this year's conference will feature 24 new seminars with more than 100 seminars and numerous education sessions in all, covering all aspects of golf course management, including agronomics, communication, and business management. That's more than 50 hours of educational opportunities for you to take advantage of.

New On the Education Front

All-new Agronomic Solutions sessions will be held February 27 and 28. These two interactive agronomic sessions will include a panel of experts available to answer your questions and discuss management options related to two topics: disease and weed control from South to North and ultradwarf Bermudagrass. To ensure you get the most out of these sessions, you'll have the opportunity to help guide the discussions in advance by submitting your questions online in January.

Celebrate GCSAA!

Held the evening of February 28, this not-to-be-missed event will be hosted by GCSAA President Robert Randquist, as conference goers celebrate the winning accomplishments of numerous well-deserving GCSAA members and industry friends.

- GCSAA's most coveted honor, the Old Tom Morris Award, will be presented to one of the true characters in the game of golf: Peter Jacobsen. Diversely talented, Jacobsen is a seven-time PGA Tour and two-time senior major championship winner. He is also a course designer, television commentator, author, musician, and philanthropist.

- Other GCSAA top awards that will be presented are the National Championship Award, the Leo Feser Award, the Excellence in Government Relations Award, GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards, the President's Award for Environmental Stewardship, and the Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

The celebration will continue with food and beverages, entertainment, and the company of fellow members.

Annual Meeting Goers to Elect New Board

The Annual Meeting, scheduled for March 2, ushers in the close of the Education Conference and the "changing of the guard" at GCSAA. During the meeting, voting members will elect three officers and two directors.

For a preview of who will appear on this year's ballot, be sure to read Bob Nielsen's account of the Chapter Delegates Meeting he attended in October. (See page 7.)

Haven't Registered Yet?

Registration is open for the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show. Be sure to catch the advance registration rate by completing your registration form by February 1 at 5 p.m. It's available online at www.golfindustryshow.com.

There's Something for Everyone at the 62nd GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic

Held before the start of the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show, the 2012 GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic will be heading to Palm Springs, CA, on February 24-26. It will take place at five courses among PGA West, LaQuinta Resort, and Desert Willow Golf Resort and is expected to draw at least 400 GCSAA members.

The GCSAA National Championship

will be held February 25-26 at PGA West's Nicklaus Tournament Course. Limited to 100 GCSAA members with a 5.0 handicap index or lower, the championship is a two-day, 36-hole, stroke-play event. The winner, along with champions from the last five years, will receive an invitation to participate in the renowned Trans-Mississippi Golf Championship, where the likes of PGA Tour professionals Jack Nicklaus, Ben Crenshaw, Dean Beman, and Bob Tway, among others, have carried home the championship trophy.

The GCSAA Golf Classic

welcomes participants of all abilities February 25-26 to compete in both gross and net competition within their respective flights using the point quota scoring system. Flights in the Golf Classic will rotate between LaQuinta Resort's Dunes and Mountain courses, and Desert Willow Golf Resort's Firecliff and Mountain View courses. A four-ball mixer open to all competitors will be held February 24.

The PGA of America, which has been involved in the event for more than 10 years, will provide rules officials, course setup, and course markings.

Don't miss this opportunity to network with peers from across the country and around the world. And who knows, you might even have some fun!

Scorecard

MetGCSA Pulls Second Place in Met Area Team Championship

by Ken Benoit, CGCS, Tournament Committee Co-Chair

Fifteen GCSAA chapters, from the Mid-Atlantic to New England, participated in this year's Met Area Team Championship. Held October 25 at Galloway National, just 15 minutes outside Atlantic City, NJ, the event was, by all accounts, a resounding success.

The club's staff went out of their way to make us feel welcome, and Galloway, a Top 100, Fazio-designed course, lived up to its reputation by delivering not only a true test of golf but also awe-inspiring views of the Atlantic City skyline and surrounding bay.

This year, the Philadelphia team won first place with a 294. The MetGCSA took home second place with a highly respectable score of 301, and Central Pennsylvania won third place with a 305. Andy Drohen won Individual Gross with an impressive score of 76.

Representing the Met were Gross Division players Blake Halderman and Les Kennedy with a Best-Ball 81 and Tony Hooks and Tom Ashfield with a 79. The Net Division players were Glen Dube and Dave Dudones, who shot 71, and George Corgan and Ken Benoit, who came in with a Net 70.

Placing second is certainly worthy of a hearty congratulations! Great playing everyone!

Thank You, Thank You!

Special thanks to our seven national sponsors—Agrium Advanced Technologies, Aquatrols, BASF, Bayer, The Care of Trees, Syngenta, and Toro—for their continuing support, year after year. Without them, we could never run such a great event.

A huge thank you as well to Andy Drohen for organizing this event. Although several people do lend a helping hand, Andy does all of the heavy lifting for this annual event, which seems to get better every year.

If you've never participated in this championship, do yourself a favor and try to qualify for the MetGCSA team. You're guaranteed to have a great time playing golf with your peers while experiencing one of the best courses in the country. A worthy

fundraiser, this year's event raised \$1,200 for a charity to be determined.

The Results

What follows is a list of team and proximity winners. Congratulations to one and all!

Team Scores (Par 288)	
1st / 294	Philadelphia AGCS
2nd / 301	MetGCSA
3rd / 305	Central Penn GCSA
4th / 306	GCSA of New England (won in a Match of Cards)
5th / 306	Hudson Valley GCSA
6th / 309	GCSA of New Jersey
7th / 312	Central New York GCSA
8th / 313	GCMA of Cape Cod
9th / 318	Pocono Turfgrass Association
10th / 327	Northeastern GCSA
11th / 330	Connecticut AGCS
12th / 333	Rhode Island GCSA
13th / 336	Eastern Shore AGCS
14th / NC	Long Island GCSA
15th / NC	Mid-Atlantic AGCS

Closest to the Pin

#2 / 7' 9"	Les Kennedy MetGCSA (Sponsored by Syngenta)
#5 / 13' 10"	John Urbanski Philadelphia AGCS (Sponsored by BASF)
#8 / 3' 5"	Brad Helcoski Central Penn GCSA (Sponsored by Toro)
#14 / 3' 9"	Ron Dubose New England GCSA (Sponsored by Aquatrols)
#17 / 12"	Augie Young Hudson Valley GCSA (Sponsored by The Care of Trees)

Longest Drive

Net Division	Billy Murray GCSA of New Jersey (Sponsored by Bayer)
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Gross Division	Chris Tufts New England GCSA (Sponsored by Agrium Advanced Technologies)
Sponsors Div.	Scott McBane Galloway National Golf Club (Sponsored by the MetGCSA)

Individual Gross

76	Andy Drohen Philadelphia GCSA
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Sponsorship Team Winners

70	Kevin Collins & Kevin Seibel Aquatrols
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Two-Man Team High Score

Gross / 93	Jerry Noons & Joe Olivera Rhode Island GCSA
Net / 87	Mark Ross & Chris Fronczek Cape Cod GCSA

Member News

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Alexander Brooks**, Class C, of Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY
- **Spencer Henley**, Class C, of Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, NY
- **Gregory Ilacqua**, Class C, of Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY
- **Jordan Nemitz**, Class C, of Country Club of Waterbury in Waterbury, CT
- **Jake Traskos**, Class C, of Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY

Birth

Congratulations to Rye Golf Club Superintendent **Chip Lafferty** and his wife, Clare, on the birth of their son, Travis Rueben, on December 11.

Super/Manager Event Beats Mother Nature

by Ken Benoit, CGCS, Tournament Committee Co-Chair

In a year when the weather wreaked havoc on so many MetGCSA events, it seemed only fitting that we should have a cold, wet day for our final event of the season. Despite the less-than-perfect conditions, everyone who showed up October 27 for our Superintendent/Manager Tourney had a great time.

The Tournament Committee decided to play the event as a Four-Man Scramble to speed up play for those willing to brave the weather. The team of Scott Ferguson (LaCorte Equipment), Jeff Stutphen (LaCorte Equipment), and Blake Halderman

and Dave Peterson (Brae Burn) took home the First Place Net prize with a score of 49. Meanwhile, the team of Bob Nielson (Bedford Golf & Tennis), Glen Dube (Centennial), Ed Brockner (MetGCSA Executive Director), and Ken Benoit (GlenArbor) won the First Place Gross prize with a score of 66. It was rumored that the team spent a portion of their winnings purchasing a large bottle of ibuprofen to help alleviate the sore back Ed received as a result of carrying his team around the course!

Congrats, also, to the following proximity winners:

Closest to the Pin

#7	Ed Brockner	11' 2"
	MetGCSA Executive Director	
#14	Blake Halderman	18'
	Brae Burn Country Club	

Longest Drive

#9	Greg Gutter
	Mount Kisco Country Club

Thank you to Superintendent Mike Reeb and his crew for allowing us to play on through the rain. Rain or shine, Country Club of New Canaan is a real gem, offering up a tough test of golf. The club staff was equally terrific, making our season's finale an all-around memorable event.

And the Two-Ball Champs Are ...

by Larry Pakkala, CGCS

The Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship has come to a close with both First- and Second-Flight winners dominating their final matches.

In the First Flight ...

Glen Dube (Centennial GC) and Blake Halderman (Brae Burn CC), past champions and a formidable duo, were defeated by Matt Ceplo (Rockland CC) and Jim Swiatlowski (Montammy GC). The match went one up early on with a par on the 2nd hole. That lasted until Blake returned the favor by winning the 5th hole with a par. Having gained some momentum, Dube and Halderman went on to win the 6th, 8th, and 9th.

Ceplo and Swiatlowski were three down heading into the back nine. Ten was tied with pars. Ceplo and Swiatlowski won the 11th when Jim made a 4 for 3. They squeaked out another one on 12 with a par. Thirteen was halved, but the shot of the day was on 14 when Ceplo knocked it in from 140 yards for eagle! That shifted the momentum in Ceplo and Swiatlowski's favor. The duo went on to win the next two holes

and tied the 17th with pars to clinch the win 2 and 1.

In the Second Flight ...

The finals found last year's Second Flight champions Greg Gutter (Mount Kisco CC) and Ken Benoit (GlenArbor GC) facing off against the formidable team of Chris Alonzi (Elmwood CC) and Mike Cook (The Care of Trees). They played the match at Old Oaks Country Club on a warm November afternoon reminiscent of the old days when weather was enjoyed, not cursed.

Alonzi and Cook came out firing on all cylinders getting out to a quick lead and going 2 up after three holes. After Gutter's heroic play brought them back to within one, the two teams halved the next four holes. Finally, on the 9th hole, just when Alonzi and Cook looked to be making a bid to increase their lead to 2 up, Benoit chipped in off a stone wall from 40 yards for a net birdie, pulling his team back to even.

After breaking for lunch in the famed Old Oaks halfway house, the teams made their way to the 10th tee to start the last nine. Using the momentum from the 9th hole, Gutter and Benoit won the 10th, tak-

ing their first lead in the match. Noted for their ability to run out front, Gutter and Benoit never looked back, winning the next four holes to win the match 5 and 4. The only question left to answer is, can this team three-peat?

Another Unbeatable Two-Ball

This season's weather far from dampened the spirits of this year's Dave Mahoney Two-Ball participants, who enjoyed the same mix of friendly competition and camaraderie that this event's become famous for. If you didn't opt to play this year, be sure to come out and qualify next year. Watch our Upcoming Events for the 2012 Two-Ball Qualifier held every year in April.

Last, I would like to thank the superintendents at the courses that host our matches. It's your gracious hospitality that makes this event such a great success. Thank you again, and we look forward to seeing everyone at the April qualifier.

Larry Pakkala, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is territory manager with Plant Food Company in Cranbury, NJ.

Upcoming Events

MetGCSA Winter Seminar: A Not-to-Be-Missed Lineup of Speakers

This year's Winter Seminar, being held January 18 at ... you guessed it ... Westchester Country Club may be the same venue, but there's nothing "same old" about this year's roster of speakers. Education Chair Rob Alonzi has lined up five industry and university professionals to speak about some of the toughest turf issues facing golf course superintendents today. On the schedule:

Dr. Pat Vittum from the University of Massachusetts will provide an update on the ever-challenging annual bluegrass weevil, starting with a rundown on the weevil life-cycle that makes control so difficult and ending with the best control strategies available to superintendents today.

Dr. Frank Wong of Bayer Environmental Science will offer important in-

sight into the biology and management of Waitea Patch, discussing a variety of chemical and cultural control practices.

Dr. Michelle DaCosta of UMass will discuss a topic near and dear to most of us: managing environmental stress to reduce winter injury to our turf. The focus of Dr. DaCosta's talk will be on using proper cultural practices as an integral part of an IPM program before winter to promote the health and persistence of turfgrasses and, ultimately, reduce reliance on pesticides.

Steven McDonald of Turfgrass Disease Solutions, PA will introduce newer herbicide chemistries being used to control some of the most problematic broadleaf and grassy weeds in select turfgrass species. Among them: *Poa annua*, *Poa trivialis*, moss, creeping bentgrass, and clover.

Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski of the University of Rhode Island will discuss the latest and greatest nematode management practices, including tried-and-true cultural and chemical controls, as well as promising new products coming on the market.

Plan now for our upcoming Winter Seminar, which in addition to a superb lineup of speakers will include the presentation of the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award to Sports Columnist Dave Anderson. And don't miss this great opportunity to shop the wares of the exhibitors who participate in our Winter Seminar trade show. Their booths will be open during breaks for coffee and lunch and before and after the conclusion of the program.

Educational Events

CAGCS Winter Seminar

Tuesday, January 17, 2012
Mystic Marriott
Groton, CT

Presented by the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents, this year's roster of speakers will include Dr. John Kaminski from Penn State; Adam Moeller, USGA Agronomist, Northeast Region; Lobbyist Michael Dugan of Capitol Consulting LLC; Dr. John Inguagiato of The University of Connecticut; and Dr. Frank Wong of Bayer Environmental Science.

For further information on the CAGCS Winter Seminar program, log on to www.cagcs.com.

Southeast Regional Conference

Tuesday – Wednesday, January 24 – 25
Ramada Conference Center
Fishkill, NY

Join fellow professionals for two days of education and trade show shopping. Dr. Joseph Vargas of Michigan State University will kick off the educational portion of the program with a half-day seminar on turfgrass diseases and new chemistry controls. On Wednesday, there will be a host of valuable educational opportunities to choose from.

For further information, log on to www.nysta.org or call 518-783-1229.

15th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show

Monday – Thursday, February 6 – 9
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, RI

For the 15th consecutive year, the conference and show provides turfgrass professionals from all areas of the industry the

opportunity to see the newest products, supplies, services, and equipment available while joining turfgrass professionals for informative educational sessions, pesticide recertification credits, and endless networking opportunities.

Preconference GCSAA seminars open on February 6, while the educational sessions and trade show begin on the 7th. Don't miss Ray Bourque, former captain of the Boston Bruins Hockey Team, for an inspirational keynote address.

For further details, log on to www.NERTF.org or TurfShow.com or call 401-841-5490.

2012 MGA/USGA Green Chairman Education Series

Thursday, March 15
Alpine Country Club, Alpine, NJ

Watch for program details!

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