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Tee To Green

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Tee To Green



Cover: The Meadow Brook Club

In this Issue

Features

John Carlone to Receive MetGCSA's Prestigious.....2 Sherwood A. Moore Award	2
Cornell's Marty Petrovic Earns Coveted5 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award	5

Departments

Scorecard	8
Upcoming Events	9
Member News.....	10
Chapter News	12

President's Message

A New Chapter



W

here has the time gone? It feels like just yesterday that I began serving on the Met Board of Directors as Tournament Chairman under then President Will Heintz. It was exciting for me to watch Will and then, after him, Matt Ceplo, Tony Girardi, and our most immediate past president, Bob Nielsen, run the association. They each brought a different strength to the mix, whether it was Government Relations, Environmental Awareness, GCSAA Relations, or Finance.

Like an intern on the job, I absorbed everything I could from them about association business. I cannot thank them enough for everything they've taught me, and I'm grateful to have Bob remaining on board with us as past president; he brings a continual wealth of knowledge to the table.

You Win Some, You Lose Some

All of this reminiscing brings me to the question that inevitably faces every new president: "What am I going to bring to the table?" I have always believed that running our association is a team effort among board members . . . a sharing of ideas at any and every point of serving on the board. I don't have a grand plan . . . a brilliant scheme I've been holding onto to announce now that I've assumed the role of president. My number one goal is to encourage out-of-the-box thinking among board members to help grow our association . . . as a team . . . and to take advantage of the knowledge I've gained from the many capable people I've served with over the past 10 years.

Unfortunately, two directors on our board have decided to step down: Sean Cain, who served from 2011-2012, chairing our Tournament Committee and Membership Committee, and Paul Gonzalez, who served from 2010-2012 and chaired our Website Committee. Our Class AF Representative Mike Cook and Class C Representative Doug Vanderlee are also leaving the board, having wrapped up their two-year terms. In addition, Tony Girardi has completed his term as past president and is leaving the board after 16 years of service. His dedication to our association goes without saying. It's hard to match that kind of work ethic, and his enthusiasm will be missed.

All of these gentlemen did a fabulous job for our association over the past few years and should be commended for their hard work.



*Blake Halderman, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

As hard as it is to lose valued members of our team, I am pleased to introduce—and look forward to working with—our five new board members: Tony Hooks of Richmond County Country Club in Staten Island, NY; Bob Wolverton of Edgewood Country Club in Rivervale, NJ; Doug Drugo of Wee Burn Country Club in Darien, CT; Class AF Rep Kevin Collins of Aquatrols; and Class C Rep George Chavez of Pelham Country Club in Pelham, NY.

In the midst of all the movement on the board, we have a lot of projects and ideas in the works. It will take some determination to get everyone going in the right direction, but I promise you, we'll all pull together and won't miss a beat!

Board Responsibilities

In the coming year, Tony Hooks will be guiding our Tournament Committee and may even be reaching out to you for a site. Of course, more important than agreeing to host a meeting is actually coming out and participating in one. Membership participation, after all, is what makes for a strong, cohesive organization. Let's bring the association back to "the good ol' days" so many long-term members talk about!

Bob Wolverton will be chairing the Membership Committee, as well as the Social & Welfare Committee. Bob will be taking the reigns from Glen Dube who just organized a great Xmas party. They changed it up to more of a Cocktail Party format with passed hors d'oeuvres and a buffet dinner. This kept the party rolling well into the evening, so if you missed this great event, please be sure to put it on your calendar next year as a "must attend" event (see the party pictures, page 10).

Doug Drugo will be coming on as the Website chairperson, charged with managing—*continued on page 11*

Feature

John Carlone to Receive MetGCSA's Prestigious Sherwood A. Moore Award

by Tim O'Neill, CGCS



A

t our January 16 Winter Seminar at the Westchester Country Club, John Carlone will receive the MetGCSA's most prestigious and coveted honor awarded to a golf course superintendent: its 2012 Sherwood A. Moore Award. Reserved for those who have "advanced the image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent," the award began in 1987 with its first recipient and namesake, Sherwood A. Moore.

"We cannot think of a more deserving recipient than John Carlone for this year's Sherwood A. Moore Award," says Awards Committee Chairman Tony Girardi. "John has given tirelessly to our industry—locally, regionally, and nationally—for more than 25 years. I know I speak for our entire association when I note just how proud we are of John and tremendously thankful for all he has done to promote our profession and industry over the years."

John is the 16th Met member to have followed in Sherwood's footsteps . . . as not only an advocate for the industry and profession, but also an exemplary golf course superintendent.

"I am truly honored to receive the Sherwood A. Moore Award," says John. "And I thank the MetGCSA Awards Committee and Board of Directors for this great honor. I have never served on a board or committee with the idea that I may someday be recognized for my service. I'm passionate about our industry and have always felt strongly about making a positive impact on our profession. I couldn't be more pleased, now, to join the roster of Sherwood A. Moore Award winners, who to me, represent some of the most accomplished and highly regarded superintendents in our association."

A Tireless Contributor

Spend any amount of time with John and you can't help but feel the passion he has for the profession and the game of golf. That passion led John to a nearly three-decade commitment to serving our industry . . . as a committee member, a board member, and, ultimately, a leader of three industry organizations.

A certified golf course superintendent since 1991, John has been a GCSAA member for 31

years, serving on eight committees—Chapter Relations, Education, Membership, Tournament, Conference & Show, Nominations, Certification, Communications, as well as numerous special task groups. He's also served as chapter delegate for both the MetGCSA and LIGCSA and has been a regular at the GCSAA Conference & Show, where he's shared his expertise with fellow conference-goers as a speaker.

John's speaking engagements don't end there. Over the years, he's talked at numerous regional conferences and also spent two years spreading the good word about the green industry to area civic groups and schools as a member of GCSAA's Ambassador Speakers Program.

"I'm greatly concerned about the welfare of our industry," says John, to explain his commitment to "talking up" golf course maintenance practices to the general public. "I'm concerned that tools we need to properly maintain high-quality golf courses will be taken away from us if we allow misperceptions about our maintenance practices to persist. We should all be looking for opportunities to represent ourselves and our golf courses as stewards, rather than detractors, of the environment . . . with our members, our neighbors, even our children."

Like every SAM Award winner before him, John has worked long and hard to continue the work of his predecessors in elevating the profession and industry on a local level. Serving on the MetGCSA Board of Directors for 17 years, John moved through the chairs, starting as a director in 1986 and culminating as president in 2000–2001 and then past president in 2001–2002.

Also an active member of the Long Island GCSA, where he's worked as a superintendent for the past 27 years, John went from serving the MetGCSA to devoting nine years to the LIGCSA board, again moving through the chairs to president in 2006–2008.

So thoroughly committed to the profession and the industry's professional organizations, John extended his service beyond local superintendent associations to two regional organizations he feels particularly passionate about: the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation and NYSTA. "The Tri-State and NYSTA are regional extensions of our local chapters," says John. "Serving on these boards is an opportunity to enhance our profession and the green industry in a larger area."

John has been a NYSTA board member since 2011 and has served on the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation board for the past 15 years, once again, rising through the chairs to president in 2010–2011, a role he assumed while continuing to manage the Tri-State's publication, *Foundation News*. Having passed the reigns on to good friend



John supervising his staff in one of the course's 90 bunkers.

and fellow Superintendent Les Kennedy, John continues to serve the organization as past president and, going above-and-beyond, as the *Foundation News* editor.

In hearing about John's award, Les Kennedy couldn't say enough about John's commitment . . . not just to the industry, but to doing the right thing in every aspect of his life.

"John and I met, and became fast friends, in 1984 when we were roommates at our first Met Area Team Championship in Wilmington, DE," remembers Les. "For the past 28 years, I have had a front row seat to watch John become a first-class superintendent, dedicated husband and father, volunteer, respected leader and mentor, golf partner, fierce competitor, and a dear friend. So many times, as a friend or an association leader, I have seen John put others' interests first while always trying to do the "right" thing. My congratulations to John! He truly epitomizes the spirit of the Sherwood A. Moore Award. I am honored to be his friend."

A Leader in the Making

John's commitment to the golf industry began long before most—when he was just a kid, growing up in Portsmouth, RI, near Newport. He started golfing at 11, playing junior high, high school, and finally college golf at the University of Rhode Island, against—and alongside—tour players and Rhode Island natives Billy Andrade, Brad Faxon, and P.H. Horgan III.

Though he toyed with the idea of turning pro, John found his way into turf management, with the help of the late Dr. Richard Skogley, a professor in URI's Plant Sciences Department. John completed his B.S. in turf management in 1983, interning and then working as an assistant for two former Sherwood A. Moore Award winners.

He did his placement training with Ted Horton, then superintendent at Westchester Country Club and the second SAM Award recipient (1988), following Sherwood. After graduating, John accepted an assistant's position with the Met's 2010 SAM Award win-

ner, The Stanwich Club's Scott Niven.

After two-and-a-half years at Stanwich, John left for his first superintendent's position at Middle Bay Country Club in Oceanside, NY. He stayed there 11 years, before moving on to The Meadow Brook Club in Jericho, NY, where he has been the superintendent since December 1996.

A golf-only club that attracts primarily low-handicap golfers, it's no surprise the Meadow Brook membership recruited John—a serious golfer himself.

It's at Meadow Brook that one of John's larger professional goals has come true. "I had always wanted to run a golf course that hosted a professional tournament," says John, "and Meadow Brook just happened to be the site of an annual senior tour event: the Champions TOUR Long Island Classic. John worked for six years—from 1997 to 2002—prepping the course for that annual tournament, which gave him the opportunity to put his best foot forward among such golf world greats as Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino, Tom Kite, and another Rhode Island native, Dana Quigley—to name just a few.

John has a very strong belief that we can enhance our image and professional success in the golf industry by becoming an active golf enthusiast with a good golf game. "I just don't feel I would have the opportunity to mingle with the heads of our profession if I didn't have a love for the game," notes John.

Rich in history and tradition, The Meadow Brook Club has been through many transformations—and several locations in its 131-year history. It first opened its doors in Westbury, NY, in 1881 and eventually landed in its current location in 1955. Architect Dick Wilson built the original 18-hole championship-style golf course, which was modified in 1967 by Wilson's protégé, Joe Lee.

In John's 16 years at the club, he has had his hand in several rounds of enhancements to the golf course. He's installed XGD drainage in all 18 greens, reconstructed and enlarged the practice tees, and rebuilt and

laser-leveled most of the course's tee complexes. In 2006, he embarked on a project with Architect Tripp Davis to reconstruct and add drainage to every one of the course's 90 bunkers. At the helm of this project and every effort to provide top playing conditions, John has earned high praise from his colleagues and club members as a stellar turf manager, team player, leader, and communicator.

"John has done a tremendous job at Meadow Brook, both day-to-day for member play and when we have hosted championship events," says Meadow Brook Green Chairman Tom Lister. "He has been very thoughtful with the course, pushing it when conditions allow and protecting it in the hot, humid weeks of midsummer. This strategy has paid big dividends for the membership.

"During his time at Meadow Brook, he has led a number of important projects which have improved the course without changing its feel or playability."

Equally impressed with John, personally and professionally, Meadow Brook Club Manager Dennis Harrington describes John as nothing short of SAM Award-worthy: "John is an extremely hardworking, energetic, honest, and intelligent person," says Harrington. "Always eager to take initiative, John is an indispensable part of our management team at Meadow Brook.

"There has never been a task too small or a job too large for John to tackle, and he has always demonstrated enormous care and responsibility in any project he has undertaken and managed. John's natural ability to think on his feet and superior communications skills have enabled him to become a true "team leader" and gain the respect and admiration of both the members and staff at Meadow Brook Club. Year in and year out, John has exhibited an extraordinary sense of teamwork, dependability, and leadership



John with his sons, David and Daniel, at the Army/Navy game on December 8 at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia.

“It has been a pleasure and honor to have had the opportunity to meet and spend time with John Carlone as he is a devoted husband and father, a caring and trusted steward of the game, and a wonderful ambassador for his profession and the entire golf industry. John is totally committed to doing his best in all his endeavors and dedicated to leaving things better than he found them. I congratulate John on this most prestigious award as he has generously donated countless hours of his personal time and put forth a Herculean effort to advance the image, status, and reputation of all golf course superintendents and everyone within the golf industry.”

*- Dennis Harrington, CCM, CCE
General Manager
The Meadow Brook Club*

while earning MVP honors along the way."

Also singing John's praises is the club's long-tenured golf professional, Rick Meskell. "From day one," says Meskell, "John's commitment to communicating the day's turf focus to me and my staff has been a home run! Every staff member is always prepared to answer any questions that may arise from anyone on the course that day. With our entire operation informed, we can offer a confident response. John's willingness to share information has made everyone look good!"

A Testament to His Dedication

Some might say John's driven. But there's more to John than immediately meets fellow turf professionals' eyes. John has the unusual gift of being able to set his goals and ambitions aside long enough . . . and often enough . . . to tend to what's really important: his relationships with family, friends, and those who work for him. A rare and valuable quality.

John has gone above-and-beyond in the time and effort he's devoted to mentoring the many interns and assistants who have gone on to become successful superintendents themselves. Among them are John Genovesi of the Maidstone Club, Michael Benz of Middle Bay Country Club, Timothy Benedict of the Woodmere Club, Garrett

Bodington of Sebonack Golf Club, and Ken Frank of Plandome Country Club.

Reflecting on his experience working as John's assistant at Middle Bay Country Club, Maidstone's John Genovesi says, "John got me when I was very green and taught me many lessons. He taught me to try to learn something new every day, whether it's turf-related or not. He'd check in at the end of the day to see if I had learned anything. If I told him that I had, he'd reply, 'Then it was a good day.' Because of this, I take continuing education very seriously.

"John taught me lessons beyond the golf course . . . how to tie a Windsor knot, the importance of giving back—as he's done throughout his career—and perhaps most important, how to be successful in life. I admired John so much as a manager, that an 'atta boy' from him meant as much to me as any form of compensation.

"When I left his employ, John continued to take an interest in my career. I'd get a phone call down at Pinehurst alerting me of superintendent positions that had opened up back home.

"I am grateful to have a friend and mentor like John Carlone. In addition to being a fine superintendent, John is a tremendous family man. His success in our industry is paralleled only by his success at home, as a devoted husband and father."

John's been married 25 years to his wife, Leslie. They have three children: Emily, 22, is a recent graduate of John's alma mater, URI, and will begin in September 2013 working toward her master's in speech pathology. David, 20, received his A.S. in Liberal Arts from Nassau Community College and plans to transfer to UConn next fall, where he'd like to try to "walk on" to the university's football team. Daniel, 17, is a senior at St. Anthony's High School, where he played three years of football and was elected captain his senior year. The team's record in his three years of playing was 28-3. He plans to play Division I college football at USMA at West Point.

When John's able to steal a little time for himself, he enjoys—aside from golf—group training sessions and spin classes at the gym, searching for fine red wines, and listening to Jimmy Buffett's radio, Margaritaville.

"Looking back at my career," says John, "I'm glad I opted not to turn professional. First, I would be a lot skinnier, and second, I wouldn't have met the great friends and associates I have throughout the country from this unique and fulfilling profession. I wouldn't change a thing. I am very fortunate."

Tim O'Neill, a former Sherwood A. Moore Award winner, is superintendent at Country Club of Darien in Darien, CT.

Feature

A Lifetime of Improving Turf . . .

Cornell's Marty Petrovic Earns Coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA Executive Director



Dr. Petrovic at work seeding his research plots.

The John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award, given annually by the MetGCSA to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to the superintendent profession, has both a distinguished and eclectic list of recipients. Golf administrators, journalists, television personalities, club members, and university researchers have been honorees of the Reid Award.

Now, joining this respected group of individuals is Dr. Anthony Martin Petrovic. While most members of the MetGCSA and turf industry know Dr. Petrovic as Marty, an educator and researcher with a remarkable career at Cornell University, the residents of Trumansburg, NY, know him as Mr. Mayor, adding yet another unique job title to the list of Reid Award winners.

“Marty has supported our superintendent members for nearly three decades through his work as both an educator and a researcher. In addition to guiding the development of countless turfgrass professionals as a Cornell University professor, Marty has initiated research that has supported superintendents in their role as stewards of the environment.”

- Tony Girardi, CGCS

For the past 15 years, Marty has served as an elected official of this village, about a dozen miles from the Cornell campus. Wearing pretty much every hat during this tenure as mayor, Marty is giving back to the town he calls home, striving to have a positive impact on the quality of life there.

The same can be said for Marty's contributions to the larger community of turf managers, as he works tirelessly to conduct research targeted at developing methods for maximizing golf course conditions while minimizing the impact on the environment.

It is in recognition of this work, and his contributions as an educator, that the MetGCSA Board of Directors and its membership have selected him for their coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

In announcing Marty's selection, MetGCSA Awards Committee Chair Tony Girardi describes him first and foremost as “a tremendous supporter of the golf course superintendent.”

“The John Reid Award is the MetGCSA's most distinguished service award reserved for someone who has made an indelible mark on the game of golf and the science of golf course management,” notes Tony. “Marty has supported our superintendent members for nearly three decades through his work as both an educator and a researcher. In addition to guiding the development of countless turfgrass professionals as a Cornell University professor, Marty has initiated research that has supported superintendents in their role as stewards of the environment.”

“I know I speak for our entire membership when I say we couldn't be more pleased to present Dr. Marty Petrovic with the 2013 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.”

A Turf Beginning

Like many turf professionals, Marty was introduced by a family member to the science and art of growing turf. When he was just 10, growing up in Robinson Township, a rural suburb of Pittsburgh, PA, Marty's father decided he and the town's other chil-

dren should have a quality baseball field to play on.

Without any formal turf training, he and young Marty went about building a “field of dreams,” complete with lights, Kentucky bluegrass sod, and an irrigation system. This was Marty's first exposure to irrigation, grasses, and fertilization—and to what it takes to produce great turf. With a golf course near his home, Marty's attention soon turned to golf—and the course that was his playground as a child became his employer through high school.

He went on to complete his undergraduate and graduate studies at the University of Massachusetts, where he encountered another major influence in his life: Dr. Bob Carrow, then a new assistant professor of turfgrass science at UMass. “Dr. Carrow had the faith and patience to help develop me as a researcher while I pursued my Master's,” says Marty, “and he encouraged me to get my Ph.D.”

After his graduate work at UMass was complete, Marty earned his Ph.D. at Michigan State University in turfgrass soil science and then applied for a turf management position at Cornell University in what was then known as the Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture. Carl Gortzig, who was serving as department chair at the time, remembers Marty as a strong candidate along with a considerable number of other applicants. “As department chair, it was my responsibility to manage a nationwide search to fill the position,” says Gortzig. “There were many excellent candidates, and it was tough for the faculty to come to a decision after the many interviews, but in the end, Marty received, by far, the greatest number of votes.”

Award-Worthy Achievements

Marty settled into his new home in the Finger Lakes region, accepting the position at Cornell in 1979. It was here that Marty and his wife of 37 years, Renie, raised their three children: Justin, Lindsay, and Hannah, who have given him two grandchildren and a third on the way!

Now a professor of turfgrass science and faculty advisor for the horticulture minor program in Cornell's Department of Horticulture, Marty has had a hand in countless research projects throughout the years that have enhanced not only the turfgrass management profession, but also the turfgrass industry as a whole.

It's only fitting, then, that in addition to receiving the MetGCSA's coveted Reid Award, Marty was awarded, in November, NYSTA's Citation of Merit, which honors a turfgrass professional who is dedicated to turfgrass research and education, promotes the careers of those in the turfgrass industry, is involved with NYSTA and community activities, and has earned the admiration and respect of their peers and colleagues.

Presenting the NYSTA honor was his friend and colleague for more than 30 years Joann Gruttadaurio, a retired senior extension associate. Noting in her introduction Marty's long list of industry accomplishments, she pointed out that he has more than 50 peer-reviewed scientific publications, along with a similarly impressive number of research projects.

Much of his research has focused on the environmental aspects of turfgrass production and management, including the fate and impact of pesticides and fertilizers applied to turfgrass areas, looking closely at their effect on water quality.

Gruttadaurio also noted that much of the work that Marty has performed over the past three decades has established the foundation for the Best Management Practices that turfgrass managers follow today.

It only makes sense, then, that Marty Petrovic would be part of the Cornell team working with the MetGCSA and other golf course superintendent associations throughout New York State to complete a comprehensive manual of BMPs for the state. “This project is exciting to me,” says Marty, “since it's the first example of any turf group in New York State to proactively work toward adopting management practices to protect the environment. This approach should be a model for others in the landscape industry, as well as our Ag counterparts,” he adds.

An Admiration That Goes Both Ways

While MetGCSA and other New York area superintendents are, no doubt, pleased to have Marty on board with the BMP project, the respect and admiration is, apparently, mutual.

"I have never found a group of professionals so willing to share information and ideas with each other to benefit the greater good—in this case golf," says Marty, adding, "Their professionalism and drive to improve has made working with superintendents extremely rewarding."

Marty's first encounter with Met-area superintendents dates back to the early 1980s when he was conducting a phosphorus and potassium study to determine appropriate application rates of each nutrient on fairways (a point still under investigation today). "I was amazed at how willing these superintendents were to participate in the study," says Marty, noting that Ted Horton, then at Westchester Country Club, the late Sherwood Moore, then at Winged Foot Golf Club, and Chuck Martineau, then at Whip-poorwill Club, and countless others, allowed Marty to string out hundreds of plots, apply fertilizers, and collect data on a monthly basis.

"They not only allowed free access to their courses, but also gave great advice along the way. I learned a lot about golf

course management on some of the best courses in the world!" recalls Marty, adding, "These early interactions with such great superintendents gave me the confidence and experience I needed to work effectively with superintendents my entire career."

His groundbreaking work with superintendents continues today through his development of fertilizer management plans at 27 clubs on the east end of Long Island, one of the most environmentally sensitive areas in the country. Through extensive site visits, Marty is creating soil maps for each course, and then, after reviewing the courses' nitrogen fertilizer application and irrigation data, he generates a report detailing ways to improve nitrogen fertilizer management to reduce environmental risks.

Used to working behind the scenes in doing research on behalf of the industry, Marty couldn't be more pleased to be recognized by the MetGCSA with the John Reid Award. "Receiving the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award is such a special honor," says Marty. "Looking back at the giants who have received this award makes me feel so special and truly humble for being so fortunate."


A Unique Perspective

Marty's work as a public servant in Trum-

ansburg has shed a whole new light on how regulations are lobbied for and put into effect. "It is very interesting to be on the other side of the table, being the one who writes regulations," says Marty. "As a researcher, I've always tried to analyze situations and make logical and scientifically sound decisions. I have tried to use the same principals in my job as mayor of a small village, and I would hope other politicians would do the same, particularly when trying to regulate turf and golf courses."

Looking to the future, Marty believes that his continued commitment to research aimed at defining environmentally responsible solutions to turf problems is particularly important with the ongoing public misperception about pesticide safety and its use on golf courses. "This is an even greater concern," says Marty, "when the public believes pesticides and fertilizers are being used for solely cosmetic reasons. It is critical," he continues, "that superintendents and researchers get out and educate the community about how golf courses adhering to BMPs can be a positive instead of a negative for the environment."

The MetGCSA salutes Marty for this dedication, professionalism, and wisdom on behalf of the members of our association and other turf industry organizations, and looks forward to our continued collaboration with him for many years to come.



Dr. Petrovic discusses his research at a field day.

Grand Plays in the Two-Ball Final Rounds

by Larry Pakkala, CGCS



Tony Hooks, Tom Weinert, Blake Halderman, and Glen Dube (left to right) compete for the Two-Ball title at Garden City Golf Club in Garden City, NY.

Before I report on the final rounds of the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship, I want to congratulate this year's winners. First Flight bracket winners were Blake Halderman and Glen Dube, who have won the Two-Ball in '04, '08, and now 2012. And in the Second Flight, the formidable brother duo, Bob and Joe Alonzi, claimed this year's title.

In the Semi-Finals...

First Flighters Tom Weinert and Tony Hooks handily defeated Tom Ashfield and Andy Drohen 6&5 at Trump Bedminster.

In the Second Flight, the veteran team of Bob and Joe Alonzi pulled off a big upset over two-time defending champs Ken Benoit and Greg Gutter at Old Oaks in Purchase, NY. "Threepeats" are really difficult as Benoit/Gutter found out. In a blow-by-blow account of the match, Bob noted that he and Joe started out two up but were quickly even.

"I believe," says Bob, "that we made the turn one down, won 10, lost 11. On the par

three 12th, I was the only one on the green and three-putted to halve the hole." The 13th hole, apparently, was a different story. "Joe didn't make it to the fairway, and I totally topped my second shot," says Bob, noting that, somehow, they still halved the hole.

"Joe chipped in on 14 for a birdie, making the match all square," adds Bob. "We lost 15; on 16, I was able to salvage a halve thanks to Greg's missed three-foot birdie putt. Two holes to go and Joe and I were one down. I don't remember the particulars, but Ken and Greg must have wanted to make the match more interesting by losing the 17th hole. Joe and I both parred," continues Bob, "so we were on the 18th tee all even. It all came down to the putter. Joe and Greg were both on in two: Joe two-putted; Greg, sadly, three-putted to give us our 1-up victory!"

In the Finals...

The Finals in the First Flight were played on a cool, sunny day at the renowned Garden City Golf Club on Long Island. The

match wasn't held until November 30, but the teams of Blake Halderman/Glen Dube and Tony Hooks/Tom Weinert stuck it out to the final hole. It was a real dog fight on the back nine. Halderman and Dube were three up with four to play. Hooks commented to Halderman and Dube, "This is what I dreamed of: being three down with four to play and going birdie, birdie, birdie." Well, Hooks proceeded to go birdie, birdie, par, three-putting the final hole to give the Halderman/Dube team their third Two-Ball Championship.

In the Second Flight Alonzi/Alonzi played Glenn Perry and Dave Fleury at Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich, CT. The ageless Alonzi brothers team defeated their opponents in a 4 & 3 blowout, giving the Alonzi's the Championship.

"We brought out our best ham-and-egg match with Bob and I winning the first two holes and never looking back," says Joe, noting the match was closed out on the 15th hole.

After this year's Two-Ball performance, the guys in the Second Flight no doubt hope brother Bob stays in Florida now that he's retired.

We had some really good matches this year. We'd like to thank all who participated, as well as the superintendents who were kind enough to host the matches at their clubs. The trophies will be presented at the Winter Seminar on January 16 at the Westchester Country Club Awards Luncheon. Congratulations to our 2012 David Mahoney Two-Ball Champions!! I hope everyone comes out to qualify for the 2013 Two-Ball Championship.

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

Upcoming Events

MetGCSA Winter Seminar Promises Something for Everyone . . .

Speakers, Exhibitors, and a Special Awards Luncheon

Once again, Education Chair Rob Alonzi has arranged an impressive lineup of industry and university professionals to speak at our Winter Seminar, being held this year on January 16 at Westchester Country Club. Speakers will cover a variety of turf issues and golf course maintenance practices pertinent to today's golf course superintendent. On the roster:

Dr. Harry Niemczyk of Ohio State University will share practical approaches for preventing overwintered Annual Bluegrass Weevil adults from traveling to golf course fairways, greens, and tees.

Richard Fletcher of Cleary's Chemical Company will discuss tank mixing do's and don'ts to ensure superintendents make the best use of this necessary golf course maintenance practice.

Dr. Lane Tredway of Syngenta Crop Protection will speak about the three Pythium diseases common to golf course turf: Pythium blight, Pythium root rot, and Pythium root dysfunction. He will share integrated management strategies for each disease with a focus on cultural management practices and proper fungicide selection.

Dr. James Kerns of the University of Wisconsin-Madison will share economical approaches for disease control on golf courses. He will discuss the influence of environment on fungicide persistence, dollar spot forecasting, dew removal, and resistant cultivars. Kerns' ultimate goal is to encourage superintendents to experiment with methods for extending fungicide performance.

Dr. John Inguagiato of the University of Connecticut will introduce an emerging new option for annual bluegrass control on putting green and fairway turf: methiozolin, a selective herbicide with pre- and post-emergent activity. He will discuss how to implement methiozolin to eliminate or transition from annual bluegrass on mature and newly renovated or established greens.

Be sure to join fellow industry professionals at our upcoming Winter Seminar, which in addition to a superb lineup of speakers will include the presentation of the Sherwood A. Moore Award and the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

You will also have an 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 after the conclusion of the program at 3:30.

Educational Events

CAGCS Winter Seminar

Tuesday, January 15
Mystic Marriott, Mystic, CT

For a look at the lineup of speakers, log on to www.cagcs.com.

Southeast Regional Conference

Tuesday – Wednesday, January 22 - 23
Ramada Inn, Fishkill, NY

Join fellow professionals for two days of education and trade show shopping. For further information, log on to www.nysta.org or call 518-783-1229.

16th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show

Monday – Thursday, March 4 - 7
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, RI

For the 16th 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.

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

2013 Turfgrass Advocacy - NYSTA's Lobby Day

Wednesday, March 13
Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY

NYSTA welcomes all green industry professionals to attend this event. Lobby Day

offers the opportunity to attend a priority issue briefing session on current legislation that could affect the turfgrass and green industry, as well as a chance to meet with your local elected officials, and later discuss issues over lunch with a government official.

Contact Jill Cyr for further information or to register at 518-783-1229 or jill@nysta.org. You can also register online at www.nysta.org.

2013 MGA/USGA Green Chairman Education Series & Arthur P. Weber

Wednesday, March 27
Willow Ridge Country Club
Harrison, NY

The Metropolitan Golf Association Foundation, in conjunction with the United States Golf Association Green Section, has put together another informative program in its ongoing Green Chairman Education Series. An impressive roster of presenters from the USGA's Green Section and the golf industry will address a variety of turfgrass-related issues. Each of the presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

The day will conclude with the seventh annual Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award Luncheon.

For further information, please contact Kevin Kline (kkline@mgagolf.org) at 914-347-4653.

Member News

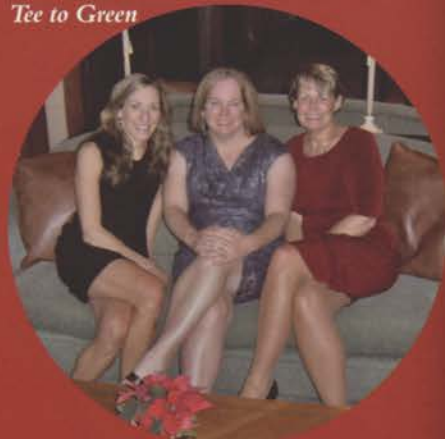
If you missed this year's Christmas Party at Brae Burn Country Club, you missed an elegant and festive affair. A cocktail lounge atmosphere, with small, intimate tables scattered across a candlelit room, made an always-wonderful event feel all the more special. The couch-lined fireplace, the delicious buffet-style dining, and a DJ that played many favorites—new and old—encouraged mingling beyond the usual familiar faces.

Of course, for me, this evening represents an opportunity to connect the voice—or email address—with the face, since as *Tee to Green's* managing editor, my primary contact with members is from behind my desk . . . or for those who heard Blake Halderman's words to the membership at the party . . . from my couch. (You have to attend the party next year to be privy to this type of inside joke!) And yes, below, are a few of the other women working on association business from the couch (from left to right: Erica Dube, Kristen Halderman, and Kristin Severino).

All kidding aside, if you all don't join us for this festive affair next year, you're CRAZY, ummm, missing a wonderful time and the opportunity to get to know fellow members, and even better, their spouses (so, I'm biased!).

I hope you'll not only join the fun at this event next year, but also at some of our other extra-special social events. I, for one, am looking forward to meeting you!

Pandora Wojick
Managing Editor
Tee to Green



Blake & Kristen Halderman,
our party hosts.

Mingling Made

MetGCSA Holiday Party Hosted by
Brae Burn Country

Matt & Kristin Severino



Gady Alcantara & Brian
Gallagher



Ken Gentile, Jim Pavonetti,
& Glen Dube



Jasmine & Matt C



Dana & David Dudones,
Rob & Ann Marie Alonzi



Megan Baggott &
Wolverton



And the crowd goes
wild to YMCA



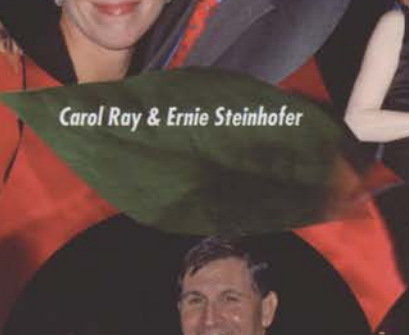
Carol Ray & Ernie Steinhofner



Bea & Tony Campa



Carolyn & Devin Seibel



Birdie & Peter Rappoccio



Ken Welzien & Lou
Henderson

Merry!

Blake Halderman at Club

Pat Cragin & Joan Pollak



Carolyn Nielsen, Eve Gentile, & Renee Pavonetti



Kevin Haglund, John & Rosaria Miele, Grace-Marie & Brett Chapin



Scott & Dana Niven



New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Samuel Barden**, Class C, of North Jersey Country Club in Wayne, NJ
- **Patrick Hagen**, Class C, of Waccabuc Country Club in Waccabuc, NY
- **Brian Lenik**, Class C, of Manhattan Woods Golf Club in West Nyack, NY
- **Maxwell Lenz**, Class C, of Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, NY
- **Brian O'Malley**, Class C, of Scarsdale Golf Club in Hartsdale, NY
- **Nicholas Quantrano**, Class C, of Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, CT

- **Tomas Reyes III**, Class C, of Century Country Club in Purchase, NY
- **Daniel Rogers**, Class A, of Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY
- **Thomas Tuttle**, Class AF, of Davisson Golf, Inc. in Langhorne, PA
- **Brett Waterman**, Class C, of Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich, CT

Member on the Move

Jim Easton is the new superintendent at Taconic Golf Club in Williamstown, MA. Previous position: Superintendent at Knollwood Country Club in Elmsford, NY.

President's Message continued from page 1

ing the content of our web page. Please remember our website—www.metgcsa.org—should be your go-to place for association events and information.

George Chavez is our Class C Rep on the board and will be responsible for hosting the Assistants Championship this fall. We are also considering hosting an Educational Day just for assistants, so be on the lookout for this special upcoming event.

Last but not least, Kevin Collins will be serving as our Class AF Rep. Kevin is a seasoned contributor to the board, having served some years ago as one of our Class AF reps. We are all looking forward to his insights and experience.

Our returning members are doing an absolutely fabulous job and have all decided to continue with their current committees. Rob Alonzi, Education chairman, recently put together a wonderful, well-attended Fall Seminar at The Patterson Club in conjunction with the CAGCS. He also has a spectacular lineup for the Winter Seminar (see page 9) on January 16 at Westchester Country Club.

Chairing the Communications Committee are Jim Pavonetti as *Tee to Green* editor and Brett Chapin, who's in charge of securing advertising to support the newsletter. They are a great team, and I think we all agree the *Tee to Green* is an extremely informative newsletter, providing us with relevant association and industry information. It also happens to be one of the premier chapter publications in the country, thanks to the hard work of Jim and Pandora Wojick, *Tee to Green's* managing editor. We'd also like to thank our local vendors for showing their support through advertising in the pages of *Tee to Green*. I hope all of you will show these vendors the same kind of support they've shown us.

Ken Benoit is assuming the duties of secretary while Glen Dube will move on to serve as vice president and chair the Scholarship & Research, By-Laws, and In-

vestment committees. David Dudones is staying on as treasurer. Thanks to his great money management over the past two years, we will again go into the new year without a dues increase.

A Promising 2013

The new year shows great promise for our association and industry. Our executive director, Ed Brockner, is going into his third year with our association. He has implemented many new programs and practices for the Met this past year and continues to look for ways to ensure we get the best value for our membership. He has been doing a great job overseeing all the committees and events, and we look forward to what he has in store for 2013.

Another new resource we have at our disposal is GCSAA Field Staff Rep Kevin Doyle, who is essentially our pipeline to the GCSAA and its programs and services. We should all feel free to contact Kevin with any GCSAA-related issues or questions we'd like to have addressed.

Also exciting is that Ken Benoit, in addition to duties as secretary, is leading the committee charged with developing Best Management Practices for the State of New York. This team includes all nine associations around the state, the entire team of experts at Cornell University, and a managing editor, Stacey Kingsbury, who has experience with BMPs after helping to develop the same type of document for the Virginia GCSA. Watch for Ken's update on this exciting new project.

I look forward to a productive term ahead as your president. Please feel free to contact me with any thoughts you might have on how we might enhance any aspect of our association. The board and I wish you a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Blake Halderman, CGCS
President

Faces Old and New on the 2013 MetGCSA Board



From left to right: Rob Alonzi of Fenway GC; Class C Rep George Chavez of Pelham CC; Bob Wolverton of Edgewood CC; Executive Director Ed Brockner; Brett Chapin of Redding CC; Jim Pavonetti, CGCS, of Fairview CC; President Blake Halderman, CGCS, of Brae Burn CC; Class AF Rep Kevin Collins of Aquatrols, Inc.; Secretary Ken Benoit, CGCS, of GlenArbor GC; Vice President Glen Dube, CGCS, of Centennial GC; Treasurer David Dudones of North Jersey CC; Tony Hooks of Richmond County CC; Past President Bob Nielsen, CGCS, of Bedford Golf & Tennis; Doug Drugo of Wee Burn

2013 Committee Chairs at Your Service

We've provided a list of each of the MetGCSA's committee chairs, including their phone numbers and emails. Please feel free to contact any of them with questions, comments, or helpful suggestions.

Awards Committee

Bob Nielsen, CGCS
Bedford Golf & Tennis Club
rnbgtc@optonline.net
914-234-3779 / Cell 914-525-0604

Bylaws Committee

Glen Dube, CGCS, Centennial GC
glendube@aol.com
845-279-8960 / Cell 845-803-1020

Club Relations Committee

Bob Nielsen, CGCS
Bedford Golf & Tennis Club
rnbgtc@optonline.net
914-234-3779 / Cell 914-525-0604

Communications Committee

Jim Pavonetti, CGCS (Tee to Green)
Fairview CC
pavonettij@yahoo.com
203-531-8910 / Cell 203-223-5403
Brett Chapin, (Advertising)
Redding CC
green@reddingcc.org
203-938-9640 / Cell 203-885-3109
Doug Drugo (Website)
Wee Burn CC
doug@weeburn.com
203-656-3843 / Cell 203-339-1493

Education Committee

Rob Alonzi, Fenway GC
ralonzijr@hotmail.com
914-472-1467 / Cell 914-484-0373

Environmental Committee

Ken Benoit, CGCS, GlenArbor GC
kbenoit@glenarborclub.com
914-241-0700 / Cell 914-760-3575

Government Relations Committee

Brett Chapin, (CT), Redding CC
green@reddingcc.org
203-938-9640 / Cell 203-885-3109
Blake Halderman, CGCS (NY)
Brae Burn CC
bhalderman@braeburncc.org
914-946-1074 / Cell 914-469-1987
Bob Nielsen, CGCS (NY)
Bedford Golf & Tennis Club
rnbgtc@optonline.net
914-234-3779 / Cell 914-525-0604

Investment Committee

Glen Dube, CGCS, Centennial GC
glendube@aol.com
845-279-8960 / Cell 845-803-1020

Long-Range Planning & Steering Committee

Bob Nielsen, CGCS
Bedford Golf & Tennis Club
rnbgtc@optonline.net
914-234-3779 / Cell 914-525-0604

Membership Committee

Bob Wolverton
Edgewood CC
rwolverton@edgewoodnj.com
201-666-1200 / Cell 973-222-3213

Scholarship & Research Committee

Glen Dube, CGCS, Centennial GC
glendube@aol.com
845-279-8960 / Cell 845-803-1020

Tri-State Turf Research

Blake Halderman, CGCS
Brae Burn CC
bhalderman@braeburncc.org
914-946-1074 / Cell 914-469-1987

Social & Welfare Committee

Bob Wolverton, Edgewood CC
rwolverton@edgewoodnj.com
201-666-1200 / Cell 973-222-3213

Tournament Committee

Tony Hooks, Richmond County CC
tonyh@richmondcountyycc.com
718-351-3635 / Cell 646-523-2273

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rrider@lidochem.com
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br826@aol.com
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Main Office: 800-243-4355
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Fax: 914-533-3059
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