

Tee To Green

January/February/March 2014
VOLUME 44 NUMBER 1

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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Tee To Green



Cover: Glen Arbor Golf Club

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President's Message

W

ell, we've done it! We've earned the distinction of having one of the Top 6 snowfall totals of all time in the New York City area! With this record-setting snowfall, I know we're all looking forward to a major thaw sometime this month! Let's hope we get our wish!

Fortunately, neither rain, sleet, or snow could slow the progress of our board and committees. Behind the scenes, each committee has been working extremely hard to ensure the association is strong and vibrant as those before us have done for more than 50 years.

I would like to recognize the Education Committee for their work in putting together an outstanding lineup of speakers for our Winter Seminar, which drew more than 300 members and guests to the show. I would also like to, once again, thank Steve Mona for attending the event and congratulate him on receiving one of our most coveted awards: the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. As you know, Steve has been a tremendous ambassador to the golf industry, and we thank him for his support of the golf course superintendent. Last, I would like to, again, thank Joe Alonzi for his dedication to our association as host of the event for more than 20 years. (For a brief account of the Winter Seminar, see page 8.)

The day after the Winter Seminar, many of our members took off for Vermont to participate in the Nor'easter Ski Day led by Andy Drohen and committee. More than 100 skiers/snowboarders hit the slopes for a little friendly competition and camaraderie and later convened for a reception and awards ceremony at a nearby eatery. The Met didn't take home the overall trophy that day, but we did have a few great individual accomplishments. (See write-up on page 11.)

Noteworthy at the National

It was wonderful to see so many in attendance at the Golf Industry Show this year. There were many networking and learning opportunities in addition to the 184,500-square-foot trade show floor, which included numerous vendors and short learning forums. If you missed some of the educational opportunities, please be sure to look for them next year. They are a great way to pick up a few tips from professors and colleagues throughout the country. In addition, there were multiple meetings and events behind the scenes that our board and a number of our members attended to keep our

association abreast of the happenings within the GCSAA and around the country.

Some of those events included the Chapter Editors Symposium, Chapter Presidents Breakfast, Certification Luncheon, the Nor'easter Social Event, New York State Best Management Practices meetings and updates, the GCSAA Annual Meeting, the Opening/Closing celebrations, and the many receptions.

At the Chapter Presidents Breakfast, we received a full rundown of all the happenings at the GCSAA, along with their vision and goals for the next five years. There was a lot of discussion about how to elevate the status of the Class A superintendent, which may come with a classification change of the superintendent member (SM) in the near future. We will keep you updated on that outcome as it may affect our classifications as well.

The GCSAA also proposed running some of the day-to-day operations and websites for local chapters. The suggestion wasn't overwhelmingly well received. As far as the Met goes, we are fortunate to have an executive director and executive secretary to aid us on a daily basis, but we will always be open to considering ways we might work more closely with the GCSAA, particularly if we feel it will benefit our association.

This year's Nor'easter Event was hosted for the first time by the MetGCSA, along with seven other associations and the support of vendors from across the Northeast. (See write-up on page 7.) Held at the B.B. King's Blues Club, the event offered great food and drink, live music, and an unparalleled opportunity to network with industry colleagues and professionals.

I can't thank the committee of Brett Chapin, Kevin Collins, and John Garcia enough for taking the lead and turning this into a "must attend" event. If you did not make it to this year's Nor'easter, I encourage you to attend next year. Based on the event's success, the committee is already in the planning stages for the Nor'easter in San Antonio. Hope to see you there.

The next morning, I attended the New York State Best Management Practices meeting where our Environmental Committee Chair, Ken Benoit, BMP lead editor, Stacey Kingsbury, and BMP lead author, Frank Rossi from

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Blake Halderman, CGCS
MetGCSA President

Association News— Locally and Nationally

The BMPs for New York State Golf Courses Come to Life

The Pluses of Putting This New Initiative to Work on Your Course

by Ed Brockner

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for New York State Golf Courses. By now, you've at least caught wind of this initiative at an association event, seminar, or in a member communication. But do you *really* know what the BMPs are and just how much they can benefit you and your golf course maintenance operation?

They deserve your serious attention. The BMPs, after all, weren't created on a whim. They are the outcome of countless hours of thoughtful contemplation and collaborative work by many of your colleagues, as well as the organizations and researchers you know and have come to rely on for their expertise in managing your golf courses.

This article will bring you up-to-speed on what, precisely, this set of best management practices are, where they came from, and how, if well implemented, they can spare your operation from regulatory scrutiny, now and in the future.

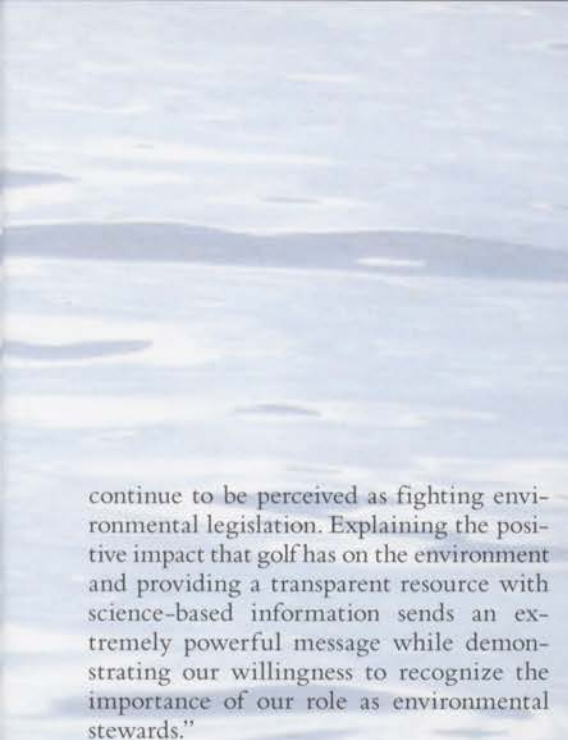
The Birth of the BMP Initiative

As the MetGCSA's mission emphasizes, we exist "to promote environmentally friendly management practices, research, and education opportunities that serve the needs of our professional membership, the game of golf, and the community as a whole."

It's no surprise, then, that the MetGCSA became a driving force in the creation of a comprehensive document and website detailing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for New York State Golf Courses.

"As greater scrutiny was being paid to how golf courses are managed, I could see that it was in our best interest to take this proactive approach toward educating those outside our industry," notes MetGCSA Government Relations Chair Bob Nielsen, who first brought the BMP project to the attention of New York State superintendents at the Golf Industry Show two years ago in Las Vegas, NV.

As the idea gained momentum among New York State turf professionals, MetGCSA's Environmental Committee Chair Ken Benoit stepped forward to take the lead in bringing the project to fruition, forming the New York State BMP Committee. Echoing Bob's sentiments, Ken notes, "The golf industry cannot



continue to be perceived as fighting environmental legislation. Explaining the positive impact that golf has on the environment and providing a transparent resource with science-based information sends an extremely powerful message while demonstrating our willingness to recognize the importance of our role as environmental stewards.”

The New York State BMP Committee, made up of several superintendents from various state GCSAA chapters, set out to ensure the viability and effectiveness of the BMP project by pursuing the proper guidance. The committee reached out, first, to Cornell University and Dr. Frank Rossi, who assembled a team to lead the research and author the documents.

“The BMP project was the perfect opportunity for the Cornell Turfgrass Team to highlight the more than 30 years of turfgrass and environmental research,” says Dr. Rossi. “So when we were approached by the leaders of this project to assume the lead technical role, we were excited to deliver this resource to a welcoming industry. This document can’t help but make a strong statement to policymakers and regulators that environmental stewardship is a guiding principle of the golf industry in New York State,” he adds.

Second, the committee contracted Stacey Kingsbury to manage the project. Stacey’s experience in managing the Virginia BMPs made her an obvious choice for the job. Stacey has provided invaluable leadership throughout the process. The committee—now consisting of superintendents, Cornell University researchers, and a project manager—agreed that, in order for this document to be accepted by state regulators, they had to be included in the process.

“We worked closely with the New York State DEC and a number of government officials as we developed the BMPs,” explains Ken. “As a result, we have cultivated new relationships within various state government agencies.”

“The response from New York State regulators has been overwhelmingly positive and in the spirit of partnership,” adds Bob Nielsen, who in addition to his role as the

Met’s Government Relations chair, is a BMP Committee member. “In fact, the DEC has singled out our BMP initiative as a model for what the rest of the green industry should be doing.”

Scott Menrath, who is the New York State DEC’s director of the Bureau of Pest Management in the Materials Management Division, was among the supporters Bob spoke about. “Best Management Practices are the future of the industry,” says Menrath. “The golf course superintendents of New York put a lot of effort into developing their BMPs and did a great job with it. The rest of the green industry should take notice of these golf course professionals and follow their lead.”

Also important to the initiative’s success was securing financial support. “We are grateful to a number of organizations in New York State, including seven New York State superintendent organizations in addition to the Met, as well as the MGA and the Metropolitan PGA,” says Ken. “These organizations were behind the initiative from the start, which sent out a strong message that the entire golf community recognized the importance of this project.”

In addition, NYSTA provided significant funding through the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund, as did GCSAA, and all the clubs that participated in our Environmental Institute for Golf Rounds 4 Research auctions.

With the funding in place and an extremely knowledgeable and dedicated leadership team hard at work for the past two years, the BMPs for New York State Golf Courses were born and are now easily accessible on a newly launched website, which you can access by logging on to nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu.

“The golf industry cannot continue to be perceived as fighting environmental legislation. Explaining the positive impact that golf has on the environment and providing a transparent resource with science-based information sends an extremely powerful message while demonstrating our willingness to recognize the importance of our role as environmental stewards.”

– Ken Benoit, BMP Committee Chair

So What, Exactly, Are BMPs and Why Are They Important to Our Industry?

In short, BMPs are the methods or techniques found to be most effective in preventing or minimizing the effects of golf course management practices on surface and groundwater to insure and enhance public health and environmental quality.

“Golf courses rely on a healthy environment that includes water and wildlife,” says Ken. “It is of paramount importance to enhance and protect water quality, and our new BMPs can help us do that. There is one thing for sure,” he continues, “pollution prevention is easier, less expensive, and more effective than addressing problems ‘downstream.’”

The BMP website will take you through the best management practices associated with any and every aspect of golf course maintenance, including maintenance facility and landscape design, irrigation, fertilization, and disease and pest management—all with an eye toward employing practices that help protect our most valuable resource: our water.

Starting with the basics, an opening section details the fundamental environmental concepts essential to water quality protection, such as climate and microclimates, the hydrologic cycle and watersheds, and soil texture and moisture. Because these all play a role in the fate of applied products, they are incorporated into our BMPs.

Interestingly, a significant body of research—all cited in the References portion of the website—exists that indicates that the successful implementation of BMPs virtually eliminates the golf course risk to water quality. In fact, several studies have shown that implementing BMPs enhances water

quality on its journey on and through the golf course property. The BMPs are, in fact, an amalgam of all of these studies. So essentially, if you follow the BMPs, you can't help but enhance water quality.

If you are still not sold, consider these additional incentives for implementing the BMPs on your course:

- They offer the potential for more efficiently allocating resources by identifying specific management zones—those areas that have distinct management practices based on their potential to affect water quality.
- They provide cost savings associated with reducing fertilizer and pesticide applications.
- They lead to improved community relations.
- They position you among club members and the community-at-large as a true steward of the environment.

"The BMPs reflect the needs and interests of not only the golf industry, but also friends and neighbors outside the industry," says Ken. "This type of cooperative approach ensures that everyone is on board and committed to this new effort to protect our waterways and environment."

When Is the Right Time to Put BMPs Into Practice?

The answer is simple: *Anytime* is the right time to put BMPs into practice. BMPs provide a science-based approach to protecting water quality from potential risks. So whether you are maintaining or renovating an existing course or constructing a new one, BMPs can guide you in taking the most environmentally sound approach to just about any task you undertake on your course.

You can now access the all-new BMPs for New York State Golf Courses by logging on to nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu.

Implementing them successfully begins with understanding a few basic environmental concepts associated with land management and water. They're detailed early on in the BMP document. Using these concepts will help you gain a thorough, site-specific understanding of vulnerable areas and will guide you in the best application of the BMPs.

Golf course renovation and design projects can incorporate any number of BMPs: Those that guide landscape practices, such as creating vegetative swales to prevent runoff and soil erosion that can jeopardize water quality; those that outline how to locate and manage maintenance and storage facilities to prevent point source release of chemicals that can reach ground or surface waters; or even BMPs specifying an irrigation system design that promotes efficient distribution and use of water while, at the same time, protecting water resources.

For existing courses, the BMPs are there to support golf course managers in making a variety of day-to-day management decisions, such as how much water is needed and when to apply it; which fertilizers and pesticides are appropriate and when, where, and how these compounds should and should not be applied. In addition, there are IPM principles that provide alternatives to applying pesticides, as well as justification for using pesticides when necessary.

The list goes on. There are countless opportunities to put the BMPs to use on your course. And they are right there at your fingertips on the new BMP website.

How Does the Website Work?

The BMP website was designed for ease of use by superintendents and anyone else who wants to learn more about turf manage-

ment in New York State.

"The BMP Committee recognized," explains Ken Benoit, "that having a web-based, as opposed to a print, document would allow the information to be continually updated and more easily shared with superintendents, regulators, and the general public. This will be the central place for important resources to be housed."

The other advantage to this format is that it is accessible on multiple platforms: a desk computer or mobile device. This allows the user to pull up information anywhere and anytime it's needed out in the field.

Information on the website is well organized, opening on the Home page with words of wisdom from Gary Player, renowned golf course designer and professional golfer.

The colorful band running across the top of the site contains seven major BMP categories with up to six sublinks each. These links allow users to easily access the information they are looking for. In addition, running along the bottom of every page is a link to single Fact Sheets, making it simple to pull up and print out or email the one specific BMP you may want to send to employees, club officials, or regulators in order to clarify a specific issue.

Also running along the bottom of every page are helpful links to everything from emergency information (what to do in case of an unintended release of fertilizer, pesticide, or other chemical) to current regulatory information on both the state and local levels. In addition, there are links to a glossary of terms and a list of acronyms, designed with the layperson in mind.

And finally, for those who would prefer to view the information in a traditional manual format, there is a downloadable version available that could then be read online or printed out—all 185 pages!

What Do the BMPs Mean to the MetGCSA—and You?

The *Best Management Practices (BMPs) for New York State Golf Courses* are not written as law. But as we all know, protecting the environment is something that everyone is—and will continue to be—concerned about. And golf courses, which consume many acres of land in primarily residential areas, are prime targets for criticism, if our neighbors and legislators believe they can find fault in our practices.

That's why the New York State BMPs are so important. It is in your best interest, as superintendents, to work toward integrating the BMPs into your regular maintenance and renovation practices. In addition, we must continue to work closely with researchers and other turf industry profes-



A significant body of research exists that indicates that the successful implementation of BMPs virtually eliminates the golf course risk to water quality. In fact, several studies have shown that implementing BMPs enhances water quality on its journey on and through the golf course property.

sionals to communicate the message of environmental stewardship.

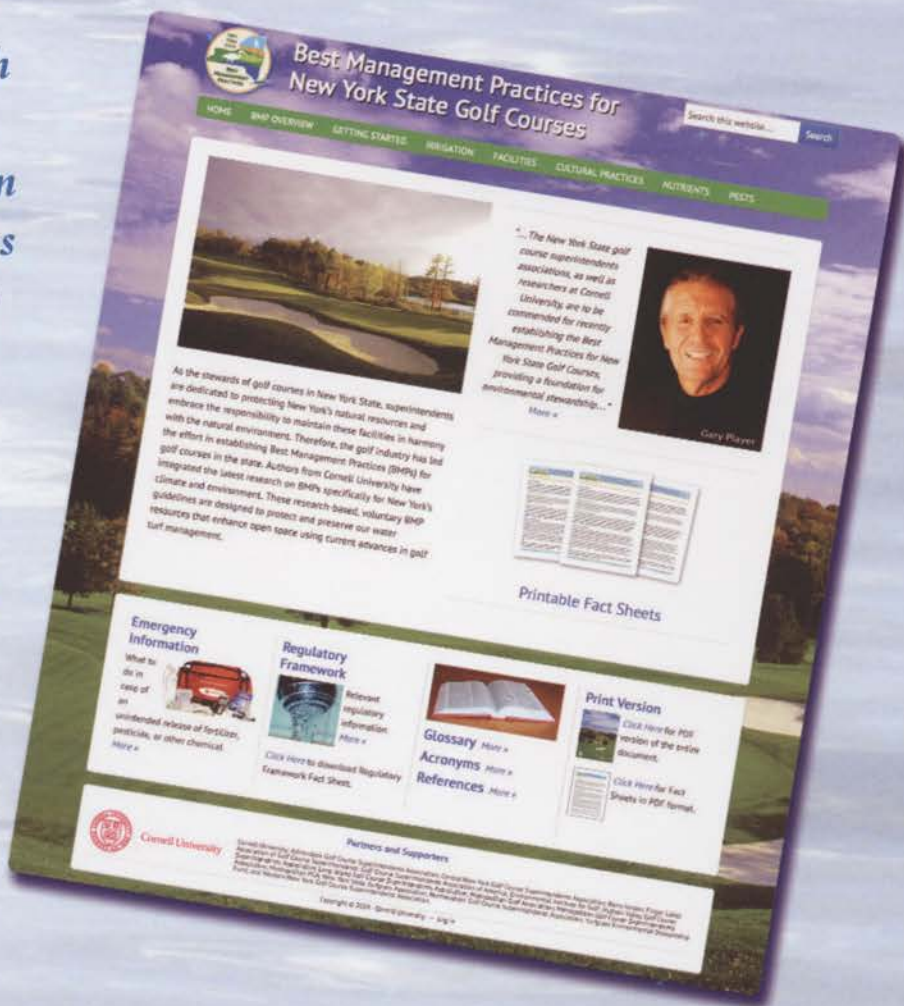
To further this effort, the BMP Committee is currently working on a plan that will enable golf courses to conduct a self-audit of their facility—to evaluate what they're doing well and what they can do better in implementing the BMPs.

This is, perhaps, the most important aspect of the BMPs. Once the committee has the self-audit mechanism in place and working, lawmakers, regulators, and the nongolfing public can't help but recognize our commitment to protecting our resources and environment as legitimate.

Taking this kind of proactive approach to our golf course management practices may, at first glance, seem like more trouble than it's worth, but there's no doubt that adhering to these environmentally responsible practices will spare us from unwarranted criticism in the community and from government regulations that are not based on

scientific fact. Instead, we will become partners in the decision-making process as recognized experts backed up by current research, and we will gain important knowledge that will help us continue to produce optimal conditions in a responsible manner as legislation evolves.

The BMP guidelines will serve the needs of our professional membership by highlighting superintendents' integral role on the leadership team within their clubs and as true stewards of the environment within their communities.



Area supers sample the mobile app for the new BMP website at the Golf Industry Show in Orlando.



“The BMP initiative and its ongoing development is an extremely important endeavor that demonstrates not only the professionalism of the superintendent, but also of our entire organization,” says MetGCSA President Blake Halderman. “It projects the MetGCSA as a progressive organization with a forward-thinking membership who is using research and technology to protect the environment.”

This is perhaps the most important project that the MetGCSA has ever undertaken, and we need the support and commitment of our entire membership. Going forward, we ask our members to continue to provide input on the BMPs and to get involved in future BMP self-audit initiatives. Since initiating and investing in the BMP project, we have made so much exciting progress, and with your help, the foundation we have set will pay dividends for generations to come.

Final note: Please be sure to look at the BMP website's list of acknowledgements, where credit is given to the many individuals and organizations who made the BMPs for New York State Golf Courses document possible. We thank one and all.

Ed Brockner is the executive director for the MetGCSA and a member of the BMP Committee.

New Board Elected at GCSAA Annual Meeting in Orlando

Preakness Hills' John O'Keefe Elected Vice President!



*Keith Ihms, CGCS
President*

At this year's Annual Meeting—held in conjunction with the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL—delegates elected a new board of directors with **Keith Ihms**, CGCS, voted in as the GCSAA's new president.

A 33-year GCSAA member, Ihms is a member of the Arkansas GCSA and a past president of the Lone Star GCSA, the North Texas GCSA, and the South Texas GCSA. He is also a member and past president of the Texas Turfgrass Association and a member of the USGA Green Section Committee.

Ihms served most recently as director of golf maintenance at the Country Club of Little Rock in Arkansas. Previously, he served as superintendent at five clubs in his home state of Texas: Bent Tree Country Club in Dallas, Pine Forest Country Club in Houston, Walden on Lake Houston Golf and Country Club in Humble, and Golf Crest Country Club in Pearland.

Born and raised in Llano, TX, Ihms graduated from Texas A&M University in College Station, TX, in 1979 with a bachelor's in agronomy. There's no doubt Ihms is well equipped to lead our national association.

Also elected to the board:

Vice President

John O'Keefe, CGCS, director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, NJ, and past president of the MetGCSA (Congratulations, John!)

Secretary/Treasurer

Peter Grass, CGCS, superintendent of Hilands Golf Club in Billings, MT

Immediate Past President

Patrick Finlen, CGCS, general manager at the Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA

Directors

Bill Maynard, CGCS, of Country Club of Albans in St. Louis, MS, was elected to a two-year director term.

Rafael Barajas, CGCS, of Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, CA, was elected to a two-year director term.

Mark Jordan, CGCS, natural resource leader of Westfield Group Country Club in Westfield Center, OH, was appointed by the board to fill the remaining year of Grass's two-year term as director.

Darren Davis, of Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, FL, remains on the board for the final year of a two-year director term.

John Fulling Jr., CGCS, of Kalamazoo (Michigan) Country Club, remains on the board for the final year of a two-year director term.

Sandy G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf operations for the City of Overland Park, KS, retires from the board after serving the last year as immediate past president.

Next Year at the Conference and Show

Plan now to join fellow professionals at the 2015 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in San Antonio, TX, on February 23–26. This will mark the event's first visit to The Alamo City in more than two decades! For further information as the event approaches, visit www.gcsaa.org.

Golf Is on the Upswing

If the buzz surrounding the 2014 Golf Industry Show, Feb. 1–6 in Orlando, is any indication, the golf industry's journey along the road to recovery continues at a steady and sustainable pace.

Final statistics from this year's conference were on the rise across the board versus the 2013 event in San Diego. Total attendance was 14,147, an 8 percent increase over last year. In addition, the two-day trade show, Feb. 5–6, attracted a total of 6,845 qualified buyers (up 14 percent from San Diego), who enjoyed 184,500 square feet of exhibit space and 561 exhibitors—increases of 7 and 9 percent respectively, from 2013.



MetGCSA Takes Lead Role in Nor'easter

If you missed the Nor'easter Event in Orlando this year, you missed out on a great time and opportunity to catch up with industry friends and colleagues, old and new. Hosted for the first time by the MetGCSA and seven other associations (see below) at B.B. King's Blues Club, the event drew close to 400 people and was highlighted by a visit from GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans and newly elected GCSAA Vice President John O'Keefe, a MetGCSA member and past president.

Sponsored by 18 manufacturers from the golf industry (see below), the event included an open bar, appetizers, food station, and a live band. Special thanks to Aquatrols for sponsoring a cigar roller for the event. And a round of applause to our hardworking event committee members—John Garcia of Atlantic Golf, Kevin Collins of Aquatrols, and current Met board member and Redding Country Club Superintendent Brett Chapin—for making this an event no one will want to miss! See you all next year.

Partnering Associations

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- GCSA of New England
- Hudson Valley GCSA
- MetGCSA
- New Hampshire GCSA
- Rhode Island GCSA
- Vermont GCSA

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- Ocean Organics
- Performance Nutrition
- Phoenix
- Quali-Pro
- Saturated Solutions
- SMS Additive Solutions
- Syngenta
- Toro
- Turf Screen

National Scorecard

Met Members Make Their Mark in the GCSAA National Championship

by Tony Hooks

Well, another Golf Industry Show and championship have passed, with some notable outcomes for some of our members who played in this year's National Championship. All told, 420 competitors participated in some aspect of the event, which took place at five Orlando-area golf facilities.

We had a bit of a rocky start to the tournament. Everyone showed up looking forward to sunny Florida, but if you came down a few days early, you encountered nothing but heavy rain and cold weather. The golf courses by Saturday were so saturated that you would think they were trying to grow cranberries instead of turf! Finally, the sun popped out and we were off and running for the 2014 National Championship.

Here's a look at how our competitors fared.

The National Championship

Deron Zendt, the superintendent at Banyan Golf Club in West Palm, held off a pack of challengers on the Magnolia Course at Walt Disney World Resort claiming the championship with a 5 under par for two days. That is incredible playing anytime, but under those conditions, I think Zendt should give up the turf business and consider the PGA tour!

Locally, it was Quaker's Tom Ashfield who led the local field with two consistent rounds of 78-79 to come in 39th place. Congrats, Tom!

The Golf Classic

In the Classic I Gross Division . . .

We had two of our guys in the top five! Ryan Oliver of Hudson National took a 1 shot lead into the final round, but a night of riding roller coasters

with Mickey apparently didn't do him any good. The next day, Ryan settled for a tie for 5th place with none other than Meadow Brook's John Carlone. We are happy to report that John's back is feeling much better, and he posted two very consistent rounds. I had a chance to play with John on Saturday, and he was hitting it a country mile. Rumor has it that John was hanging out with AROD when he was at rehab for his back! Great playing guys!

In the Classic I Net Division . . .

It was Todd Apgar from Metro Turf coming in 7th place only four points out of first! Doug Heron from Maxwell Turf also slid into the top 15 with a 12th place finish of his own.

In the Classic II Gross Division . . .

It was Pelham's Jeff Wentworth who found himself at the top of the leader board going into the final round. Jeff played his usual scrappy golf, finding his ball in some precarious spots around the course and somehow getting up and down for pars throughout the round. His luck ran out on day two when the only living thing that could find his ball was an alligator, so Jeff finished in 6th place.

I would like to congratulate all of the members who participated in this year's golf tournament and want to encourage everyone to come out and support the MetGCSA's events this year! Playing golf is a great way to meet different guys in the business, build lasting friendships, and get your game tuned up for the next year's preconference golf event. We're San Antonio bound for the 2015 championship, so be sure to get your cowboy gear ready!

Tony Hooks, chair of the Tournament Committee, is superintendent at Due Process Stable in Colts Neck, NJ.

Another Great MetGCSA Winter Seminar

by Jim Pavonetti, CGCS

For the first time in several years, MetGCSA members were able to attend our annual Winter Seminar without battling the elements to get there. Well over 300 seminar-goers convened at Westchester Country Club on January 15 to learn the latest trends in turfgrass management, peruse the 28 vendor tables, and catch up with old friends.

Education Chair Rob Alonzi and committee members Scott Apgar, Brett Chapin, Glen Dube, Bob Nielsen, and Peter Rappoccio put together an outstanding roster of speakers with timely topics. There's no doubt that area supers and assistants picked up a tip or two—or three—that they can put to use in the upcoming season.

What follows is a quick take on the talks, along with the speakers' contact information so you can easily pursue any of the topics that interest you.

The Kickoff

The day began with Meteorologist Herb Stevens of Grass Roots Weather speaking about hurricane trends and, of course, Superstorm Sandy. It was his feeling that we haven't seen the last of these storms. He showed how the oceans, specifically the Atlantic and Pacific, have warming and cooling trends that come in 20-year cycles, and when the conditions are right (like now and for the next several years), hurricanes hit the Northeast at a much higher frequency. For further information on this topic, Herb Stevens can be reached at 401-965-6156 or at skiwxman@cox.net.

Next, we had Dr. John Kaminski from Pennsylvania State University speak about the latest control strategies for *Poa annua*. Dr. Kaminski discussed Poa Cure, a new product from Korea that shows promise in *Poa* control and is currently being tested across the country. He also spoke about a comprehensive control program that includes very low nitrogen inputs and very high and regular ferrous sulfate applications in conjunction with frequent top-



Former MetGCSA and GCSAA President and Country Club of Darien Superintendent Tim O'Neill (left) presents the MetGCSA's coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award to World Golf Foundation CEO Steve Mona at the Met's 2014 Winter Seminar at Westchester Country Club.

dressing applications and growth regulator applications. To find out more about *Poa* management and control, you can reach Dr. Kaminski at 814-865-3007 or at kaminski@psu.edu.

After a brief coffee break, Steven McDonald of Turfgrass Disease Solutions shared his observations from site visits and applied field research through the 2013 season. McDonald touched on everything from fans, pigmented products, wet wilt and drainage issues to control measures for such turf pests and diseases as hyperodes, dollar spot, fairy ring, and Waitea patch. He also discussed turf selection, noting how a number of courses in the New Jersey and Philadelphia areas are starting to use warm-season grasses on select areas, such as par three tees and practice range tees. Many courses, he noted, are also beginning to shift from the traditional Kentucky bluegrass rough to a turf-type tall fescue.

Steven McDonald can be reached at

info@turfgrassdiseasesolutions.com or at 610-633-1878.

Awards Luncheon

Mid-day, seminar-goers enjoyed the always-special Westchester Country Club luncheon and Awards Ceremony, which included the presentation of our John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award to a very deserving recipient: Stephen Mona, former CEO of GCSAA and current CEO of the World Golf Foundation. Tim O'Neill, former MetGCSA and GCSAA president, presented the award to Steve Mona, citing his many award-worthy accomplishments. Mona then gave an inspirational acceptance speech, in which he praised the many golf course superintendents he has worked with over the years and spoke about how superintendents can help grow the game and contribute to the success of their own facilities.

Afternoon Sessions

After lunch, Chava McKeel, GCSAA's associate director of government relations, provided an update on current issues affecting golf course superintendents and golf facilities across the country. She pointed to the growing number of restrictions facing golf courses, particularly surrounding water and fertilizer use, and she noted the fact that the government has put golf courses on the "no FEMA money list," along with such other businesses as liquor stores and tattoo and massage parlors! McKeel did offer hope, however, explaining that GCSAA is involved in helping to work through these issues at all levels of government: local, state, and federal. To find out more about rules and regulations affecting our industry and what we can do to help, contact Chava McKeel at 800-472-7878, ext. 3619 or at cmmckeel@gcsaa.org.

Next, Dr. Benjamin McGraw, from SUNY-Delhi, spoke about everyone's favorite topic—you guessed it—the annual bluegrass weevil. Dr. McGraw offered a science-based program for reducing chem-

ical inputs and improving current controls. He gave tips on developing ABW management programs that can help prevent hyperodes from becoming resistant to certain chemicals. He also advised superintendents to have testing done to see if their insects have already developed a chemical resistance so they can determine the best course of action. To discuss a plan of action to mitigate hyperodes damage on your course, Dr. McGraw can be reached at mcgrawba@delhi.edu or at 607-746-4433.

The last talk of the day, given by Dr. Michelle DaCosta of the University of Massachusetts, offered tips and techniques for managing summer heat stress on annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass. Dr. DaCosta started off by giving scientific reasons for grass decline during extended periods of hot, wet weather. She emphasized the importance of developing proper management practices before and during summer stress periods to promote the health and persistence of turfgrasses while reducing reliance on pesticides. Her advice was to develop a wilt-based irrigation program early in the year, in conjunction with a good wetting agent program, to encourage growth of the best root system possible before the summer heat sets in. This, along with improving drainage in any way possible, she noted, will give golf course turf an edge in surviving the high temps of summer. Dr. DaCosta can be reached at 413-545-2547 or at mdacosta@umass.edu.

Special Thanks

After the educational sessions concluded, attendees were able to meander through the vendor booths where company reps were on hand to answer questions and discuss the latest products and services available in our area. We would like to offer a special thank you to the many vendors who sponsored the event, especially our title sponsor, Metro Turf Specialists, and to those who had booths for the trade show portion of the day. You'll find their names and contact information listed on the right.

Finally, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to Joe Alonzi and David Dudones, as well as the rest of the Westchester staff, for not only hosting the Met's biggest event of the year, but also making it a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all who attended.

We hope you'll join us again next year!

Jim Pavonetti, editor of Tee to Green, is superintendent at Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, CT.

Special Thanks to Our 2014 Winter Seminar Exhibitors

We'd like to thank all the vendors who participated in this year's Winter Seminar. As a show of appreciation, we're listing the exhibitors here, along with their areas of specialty and contact information.

When the opportunity arises, we hope you'll show these contractors and suppliers the same support they've shown us during our Winter Seminar—and throughout the year.

A. G. Enterprises

Rick Gordon
Staff Uniforms
201-488-1276
merrick160@aol.com

Aqua-Aid, Inc.

Bill Easton
Surfactants, Verde Cal, OARS,
Root Pruner, Drill & Fill
252-937-4107
info@aquaid.com

Aquatrols, Inc.

Kevin Collins
Soil & Water Quality Management
Solutions
609-841-2077
kpc10512@yahoo.com

Davisson Golf Inc.

Thomas Tuttle
Golf Course Supplies
215-431-0393
tatatdgi@gmail.com

DeLea Sod Farms

Mike Hollander
High-Quality Sod & Root Zone Mixes
for Golf Courses
631-484-1211
mhollander@deleasod.com

DryJect NE / TurfPounders

Kevin Collins / Steve Jordan
DryJect & Aeration Specialists
914-672-6029
mcc10512@yahoo.com

Evergreen Organics

James Amodio
Organic Recycling
914-949-903
info@EverGreenOrganicRecycling.com

Executive Turf Products

Ken Gentile
Golf Course Supplies
203-496-0891
executiveturf@aol.com

Grass Roots, Inc.

Ryan Batz
Golf Course Supplies
973-252-6634
ryan.batz@GRTurf.com

Growth Products, Ltd.

Howie Gold
Liquid Fertilizers
800-648-7626
hgold@growthproducts.com

Harrell's LLC

Scott Tretera
Golf Course Supplies
203-426-7055
stretera@harrells.com

Hicks Nursery

Pat Hicks
Plants & Garden Accessories
516-334-0066
hicksinfo@hicksnurseries.com

LaCorte Equipment

Jim Calladio
John Deere Golf
631-891-2425
marketing@lacorteequipment.com

Metro Turf Specialists

Scott Appgar
Golf Course Supplies
203-748-4653
scott.appgar@metroturfspecialists.com

Plant Food Company, Inc.

Dick Neufeld
The Liquid Fertilizer Experts
973-945-6318
dneufeld@plantfoodco.com

Playbooks for Golf

Golf Course Coverage System, Field
Guides, Aerials, Consulting, Career
Development
Greg Wojick: 203-219-0254
gwojick@goplaybooks.com
Matt Leverich: 913-221-8052
mleverich@goplaybooks.com

Seeton Turf Warehouse

Brian Bontemps
Golf Course Supplies
845-239-7959
brianbontemps@seetonturf.com

Steven Willand Inc.

George Corgan
A Jacobsen Golf & Turf Equipment
Dealer
914-213-3622
georgecorgan@charter.net

Storr Tractor Company

Rick Krok
Golf Course Equipment & Supplies
908-722-9830
rrok@storrtractor.com

Syngenta

Fred Montgomery, CGCS
Chemical Company
518-424-0760
fred.montgomery@syngenta.com

Tanto Irrigation, LLC

Bill Bartels
Irrigation Installation Services
914-347-5151
wbartels@tantoirrigation.com

The Care of Trees

Michael Cook
Entire Tree Care Company
914-345-8733
mcook@thecareoftrees.com

Turf Products LLC

Pat Cragin
Toro Irrigation & Equipment
800-305-2525
pcragin@turfproductscorp.com

Turf Diagnostics

Jennifer McMorrow/Kathy Conrad
Disease, Water, & Soil Diagnostics
914-762-2645
turfdiagnostics@optonline.net

Westchester Tractor, Inc.

John Apple
Equipment Dealer
845-278-7766
www.tractor.com

Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.

Bob & Dave Lippman
Golf Course Supplies
914-447-5192
westturf@comcast.net

Westwood Organic Recycling

Jamie Scoli
Organic Recycling & Site
Cleanup/Landscape
914-490-1694
jscoli@westwoodorganic.com

Winfield / Matrix Turf Solutions, LLC

Greg Moran
Golf Course Supplies
845-849-8640
gmoran@matrixturf.com

Your MetGCSA Board Members



From left to right: Rob Alonzi of Fenway GC; Class C Rep George Chavez of Pelham CC; Bob Wolverton; 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 Glen Arbor GC; Vice President Glen Dube, CGCS, of Centennial GC; Treasurer David Dudones of Westchester CC; Tony Hooks of Due Process Stable; Past President Bob Nielsen, CGCS, of Bedford Golf & Tennis; Doug Drugo of Wee Burn CC.

Committee Chairs You Can Call On

We've provided a list of each of the MetGCSA's 2014 committee chairs, including their phone numbers and emails. Please feel free to contact any of them with questions, comments, helpful suggestions, or to volunteer to be on a committee.

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, Glen Arbor 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
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
cwolvie@hotmail.com
Cell 973-222-3213

Scholarship & Research Committee

Glen Dube, CGCS, Centennial GC
glendube@aol.com
845-279-8960 / Cell 845-803-1020
Blake Halderman, CGCS (Tri-State)
Brae Burn CC
bhalderman@braeburncc.org
914-946-1074 / Cell 914-469-1987

Social & Welfare Committee

Bob Wolverton
cwolvie@hotmail.com
Cell 973-222-3213

Tournament Committee

Tony Hooks, Due Process Stable
ahooks@dueprocessgolf.com
732-542-0317 / Cell 646-523-2273

MetGCSA Places Fourth in Second Annual Nor'easter Ski Day

by Andy Drohen

Nine superintendent associations from as far away as Pennsylvania competed at the Second Annual Nor'easter Cup at Killington Ski Resort in Killington, VT, on January 16. Once again, golf course superintendents and industry representatives, along with their families, came together for a day of camaraderie, great skiing, and competition on the slopes of Vermont.

The turnout was fantastic with more than 100 members from the Northeast making the trek to Killington for the day's festivities. Despite a little fog, conditions were great for the two-run giant slalom race held at the top of Killington! Teams totaled their fastest four racers for both runs, and by the slimmest of margins—just 0.65 seconds—the team from Vermont won this year's Nor'easter Cup over the Northeastern Association of NY! Vermont also successfully defended their title over the Northeastern group in the Vermont Cup, a rivalry that dates back to 1993!

Trophies and prizes were awarded to the "Kings and Queens of the Mountain," with Jesse Shannon from Manhattan Woods putting the Met on the map (Way to go, Jesse!):

Fastest Male Skier:

Eric McGuire from the Northeastern GCSA

Fastest Female Skier:

Lea Cure from the Northeastern GCSA

Fastest Male Snowboarder:

Jesse Shannon from the MetGCSA

Fastest Female Snowboarder:

Nicole Krieger from the Vermont GCSA

Here's a look at how the teams fared in the competition:

Team Scores (Fastest 4 individual times totaled)

	Time
1st Vermont GCSA (Winner of Nor'easter Cup and Vermont Cup)	77.55
2nd Northeastern GCSA	78.20
3rd GCSA New England	84.14
4th MetGCSA	84.18
5th Rhode Island GCSA	85.70
6th GCSA Cape Cod	95.35
7th Connecticut AGCS	106.86
8th Philadelphia AGCA	112.86
9th Long Island GCSA	DQ — only 3 times

Generous support from sponsors made possible an Après Ski party at the Wobbly Barn on the Killington access road. Great food and drinks along with a DJ provided entertainment for a few hours after skiing, and Killington provided highly discounted ski passes for the long Martin Luther King weekend and affordable pricing on lodging!

Photos of the race day can be viewed at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/115122615@N07/>

Nor'easter Supports Worthy Cause

Continuing our tradition of supporting our own, this year's Nor'easter Ski Day also served as a fundraising event. This year's Ski Day raised \$2,500 to support fellow superintendent Jason VanBuskirk at Stow Acres Country Club in Stow, MA. Jason's wife, Gloria, affectionately known as "Glo," has been in an induced coma due to an unexplained illness that was causing seizures. The funds raised will go toward Glo's mounting medical expenses.

In an incredibly kind-hearted gesture, last year's recipient and MetGCSA member Matt Dutremble of Ardsley Country Club, who was seriously injured in a tree accident after Hurricane Sandy hit, called the committee and donated \$500 to Jason in a "pay it forward" gesture.

If you'd like to read more, Jason has been writing daily, heart-felt blogs about Glo's progress at <http://bidmcgvb.wordpress.com/>. Glo is blessed to have a husband like Jason, and we are all wishing her a speedy recovery. Special thanks to all who donated so generously and to Augie Young of Sipcam, who kindly donated skis and apparel to the raffle!

Thank You to Our Sponsors

The Nor'easter Ski Day was great because of the overwhelming support of its sponsors! We would like to thank the following companies for their help in making this event a huge success:

Gold Sponsors: Sipcam Advan, Syngenta

Silver Sponsors: MTE Turf Equipment, Jacobsen, Winfield, Bisco, Harrell's, Agrium Advanced Technologies, Valent, Toro, Grassland Equipment, NE Specialty Soils, Helena

Bronze Sponsors: Atlantic Golf & Turf, Bayer, Putnam Pipe, Andre & Son, John Deere, Westchester Turf, and the Northeastern GCSA

This is fast becoming a "can't miss" event, so be sure to watch for the dates in 2015 and bring the family! Hope to see you next winter on the slopes!

Andy Drohen of Agrium Advanced Technologies is one of the key organizers for the Nor'easter Ski Day and the Met Area Team Championship.

...Living for the moment has never made more sense than right here and right now.

— Jason VanBuskirk, Stow Acres Country Club

Two MetGCSA Members Receive GCSAA's Revered Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award

At the GCSAA Educational Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando, two MetGCSA members—Stephen Cadenelli, CGCS, and Dr. Bruce Clarke—were honored with GCSAA's 2014 Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award. Similar in stature to our association's John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award, this honor is awarded each year to individuals "who have made an outstanding, substantive, and enduring contribution to the advancement of the golf course superintendent profession." Sharing this honor with Steve and Dr. Clarke was Dr. Samuel Bruce Martin of Clemson University's Pee Dee Research & Education Center.

Though both enduring legacies to our industry, Steve and Dr. Clarke have made their own unique set of contributions to our profession. Here is a quick look at some of their many award-worthy accomplishments.



Stephen Cadenelli, CGCS

In 1927, Col. Morley—GCSAA's founder and first president—addressed the fledgling GCSAA membership with the words, "No life is, or can be, self-existent. We depend upon each other." These words are so treasured that they have been embossed on the

walls of GCSAA's headquarters building in Lawrence, KS.

Newly built in 1991, it was award recipient Steve Cadenelli, who presided over the dedication of that building as GCSAA's 55th president. "The pinnacle of my career," says Steve, "was being the president, and at a time when we dedicated the new building and cemented the foundation for the organization to grow. I've always believed that while Lawrence may not have been the most glamorous place in the golf industry, it was just perfect for us."

Steve, who grew up in the Berkshires of western Massachusetts, received a bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University and is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts' Winter School for Turfgrass Management. He is a 41-year member of GCSAA and MetGCSA member since 1978, serving as superintendent most recently at Metedeconk National and then Cape Cod National Golf Club, which he left in 2013.

Among Steve's noteworthy contributions:

- He was a strong early supporter of GCSAA's move to update the requirements for attaining certification status. This went into effect in 2004.
- He was instrumental in the formation of the Alumni Turf Group and in organizing a fundraising tournament for the Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Research Center at UMass's South Deerfield campus. The event has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, including matching funds from the university.
- Steve was behind another great fundraising tradition in the Northeast: the Robert Trent Jones Invitational at Metedeconk, which raised funds for turfgrass research through the GCSA of New Jersey and GCSAA's Environmental Institute for Golf.

"That tournament has raised more than \$600,000," says Shaun Barry, executive director of the GCSANJ Foundation, adding: "During every phase of Steve's professional life, he has been a great role model for all superintendents, bringing respect to himself and to the position of superintendent," Barry says. "Steve has been asked to help

many times for many causes, and he has never said no. He is one of the most generous people that I have ever met."



Dr. Bruce Clarke

Dr. Bruce Clarke grew up in Cresskill, NJ, with a passion for turfgrass pathology, as he watched and wondered why his father's lawn was always being attacked by one mysterious summer malady or another.

Clarke took that diagnostic curiosity to Rutgers University in 1973, earning an undergraduate degree in forest management before finishing his Ph.D. in turfgrass pathology in 1982 and then joining the faculty there the same year.

Throughout his career at Rutgers, where he is currently chairman of the Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, director of the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science, and extension specialist in turfgrass pathology, Clarke's been solving major problems for golf course superintendents in the tri-state area in collaboration with his colleagues at Rutgers.

Among the mysteries he's worked to solve:

- The highly destructive summer patch disease that was eluding—and threatening the jobs of—many golf course superintendents in the late '80s.

- Gray leaf spot, a disease problem that made an appearance in the 1990s. Together with a research team and two world-renowned turfgrass breeders at Rutgers, he searched the world to collect sources of disease-resistant grasses and develop more than 30 new gray leaf spot-resistant cultivars of perennial ryegrass.
- The highly destructive disease, anthracnose. Since 2002, Clarke and turf management specialist Dr. Jim Murphy, along with their graduate students, have dedicated their research to helping superintendents manage anthracnose through refined fertility, mowing, irrigation and sand topdressing practices.

"It was an astonishing example of a university professor and researcher understanding industry problems and working hard to solve them," says Chris Carson, who served on the GCSANJ board and as superintendent at Echo Lake Country Club. "In short, he made our problem his problem, and our respect for him became unbreakable."

Clarke has also become renowned in the golf turf industry for his leadership in organizing the Green Industry Expo held every year in Atlantic City as well as Rutgers' annual Turfgrass Research Field Days which attracts superintendents from more than seven states and Canada. The Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic, which was launched by Clarke, renowned Rutgers turfgrass breeder Bill Meyer, and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association 19 years ago, has raised more than \$1.3 million for the Rutgers Center for Turfgrass Science.

Clarke has authored more than 200 articles in professional journals, as well as three books on turfgrass pathology, and has received numerous professional honors, including our 2002 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

"The reality is that any accomplishments I've had have been through collaboration and partnerships with my colleagues and graduate students," Clarke says, adding that he believes his most important work is "extending the results of our research back to superintendents, who use them to correct their problems. The goal of our work has always been to address the key concerns of the industry and to provide science-based solutions that improve the quality of turf throughout the United States."

Congratulations Steve and Dr. Clarke on your many noteworthy accomplishments and contributions to our industry and profession!

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Gregory Atanasio**, Class C, Siwanoy Country Club, Bronxville, NY
- **Vincent P. Barnaba**, Class C, the Seawane Club, Hewlett Harbor, NY
- **Derek Baxter**, Class C, Paramount Country Club, New City, NY
- **Jim Biordi**, Class A, Dogwood Knolls Golf Course in Hopewell Junction, NY
- **John Boukas**, Class AF, Maxwell Turf & Supply, Hicksville, NY
- **Brian Conlon**, Class C, Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, CT
- **Jeff Davis**, Class C, Sunningdale Country Club, Scarsdale, NY
- **Kyle DeNuys**, Class C, North Jersey Country Club, Wayne, NJ
- **Casey Klossner**, Class SM, The Tuxedo Club, Tuxedo Park, NY
- **Brent Peveich**, Class C, Fresh Meadow Country Club, Great Neck, NY
- **Jacob Travis**, Class C, Fenway Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY
- **Philip Woodsmall**, Class C, Centennial Golf Club, Carmel, NY
- **Kevin Wyatt**, Class AF, Emerald Tree Care Company, Scarsdale, NY

Members on the Move

- **Scott Blough** is the new superintendent at Nassau Country Club in Glen Cove, NY. Previous position: Superintendent at Trump National Golf Club ~ Westchester in Briarcliff Manor, NY.
- **Jesse Bulaga** is the new superintendent at Southern Dutchess Country Club in Beacon, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Edgewood Country Club in Rivervale, NJ.
- **Glenn Moore** is a new assistant superintendent at Country Club of Darien in Darien, CT. Previous position: Northern Design, LLC in North Haven, CT.

Newly Certified

Congratulations to **Mike Brunelle** of Upper Montclair Country Club in Clifton, NJ, for completing the coursework required to become a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) with GCSAA.

Birth

Congratulations to **Grover Alexander**, superintendent of Hudson Hills Golf Course and his wife, Jennifer, on the birth of their son, Nathan, on February 14. He was 5 lbs. 4 ozs.

In Sympathy

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to All Pro Horticulture's **John Seib**, whose mother, Virginia Faith Seib, passed away February 15 at 83 years old. Members

can make donations in her name to Community Presbyterian Church, 1843 Deer Park Ave, Deer Park, NY 11729.



Matt Ceplo Assumes Position on Audubon International Board

*W*e'd like to congratulate **Matt Ceplo** on his election to the Board of Directors of Audubon International.

A past president of the MetGCSA and winner of GCSAA's 2013 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship, Matt has spent most of his career at Rockland Country Club in Sparkill, NY, which he guided through certification in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses in 2000. He expanded his involvement with Audubon International to become a member of the Audubon Steward Network and has been a tireless advocate for various environmental initiatives, especially among members of the Met and the MGA.

Speaking about Matt's new appointment, Ryan Aylesworth, president and CEO of Audubon International, says, "Matt is well respected throughout the golf industry and recognized by his peers as a leader in environmental sustainability on the golf course."

Chuck Bassett, chairman of the Audubon International board adds, "He brings to the board a depth of knowledge about the golf industry as well as a sincere dedication to sound environmental management principles and should be very effective in helping us to encourage sustainable practices in the golf business as well as other industries."

You can read Matt's complete profile in the February issue of GCM.

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar Now With These Upcoming Events!

Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier

Wednesday, April 30
GlenArbor Golf Club
Bedford Hills, NY
Host: Ken Benoit, CGCS

Superintendent/Club Official Tournament

Tuesday, May 13
Rockrimmon Country Club
Stamford, CT
Host: Tony Girardi, CGCS

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

Tuesday, June 17
Manhattan Woods Golf Club
West Nyack, NY
Host: Jesse Shannon

Scholarship & Parent/Child Tournament

August, DATE TBA
Mosholu Golf Course
Bronx, NY
Host: Dave Moffett

Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier PLUS

The Poa Annual Tournament

Monday, September 22
Rockland Country Club
Sparkill, NY
Host: Matt Ceplo, CGCS

Met Area Team Championship

Monday, September 29
Philadelphia Country Club
Gladwyne, PA
Host: Mike McNulty

Nine and Dine Event

October, DATE TBA
Silvermine Golf Club
Norwalk, CT
Host: Larry Pakkala, CGCS

Educational Events

2014 MGA/USGA Green Chairman Education Series & Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award Luncheon

Thursday, March 20
North Hills Country Club
Manhasset, 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 at kkline@mgagolf.org or 914-347-4653.

19th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

Monday, May 5
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
Far Hills, NJ

Join fellow industry professionals for this annual fundraiser and a day of golf, education, and fun. Your participation helps continue turfgrass research and breeding programs at Rutgers University's Center for Turfgrass Science.

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

2014 University of Connecticut Turfgrass Field Day

Tuesday, July 15
UConn Plant Science Research and Education Facility
Storrs, CT

The field day will offer guided tours of a variety of research projects underway at the university followed by a delicious lunch and an opportunity to connect with fellow turf professionals. Exhibitors from across the

region will also be present with product and service information for the turfgrass industry.

Watch the website for further details as the date approaches: www.turf.uconn.edu.

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day (Golf & Fine Turf)

Tuesday, July 29
Horticultural Farm II
New Brunswick, NJ

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



GlenArbor's Gung-ho to Get the Season Going With the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier

by Kevin Collins

On Wednesday, April 30, Superintendent Ken Benoit and GlenArbor Golf Club will host the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier.

GlenArbor Golf Club dates back to 1966 when the course opened as Lakeover National Golf Club, named for the former Lakeover Estate it was built on. In 1999, business partners Grant Gregory and Ken Natori purchased the course and soon after began an extensive, two-year renovation. Under the direction of architect Gary Player, three original golf holes were eliminated and three new holes were added. New bunkers and tees were created, greens were regrassed, and fairways recontoured. A beautiful "Old English Manor" style clubhouse was constructed along with a year-round practice facility and training center that quickly became the model that many area clubs followed.

The Road to GlenArbor

Ken was born and raised in the small town of Marysville, MI, about an hour north of Detroit. Ken's love of golf began in 1978. As Ken remembers, "My mom was taking golf lessons with a friend. I swung one of mom's golf clubs in the living room and she thought I had a pretty good swing."

Ken graduated from the University of Detroit in 1990 with a degree in marketing and, for the next five years, worked as a regional manager for an environmental services company covering seven states. "I spent three out of every four weeks on the road. After five years, the job was losing its appeal," says Ken.

A college buddy from the University of Detroit was pursuing his master's in Turfgrass Science at Michigan State, and it piqued Ken's interest. "I was unhappy in my chosen profession, so I applied to Michigan State to attend their two-year program," says Ken. "Trey Rogers, who ran the program, told me that he wanted me to work at a golf course for a year before accepting me into the two-year school."

Ken didn't let any grass grow under his

feet. He went to see Ed Hock, the superintendent at Walnut Creek Country Club in South Lyon, MI. And though Ed didn't need any additional staff, he liked Ken's story and took him on for the season. "I went from making \$80,000 a year to \$7/hour on the golf course," Ken recalls with a laugh. It was also during this time that Ken had the opportunity to work at the 1996 U.S. Open at Oakland Hills Golf Club for Superintendent Steve Glossinger.

Ken spent his internship at Congressional Country Club during the Men's U.S. Open with superintendent guru Paul Latshaw. Then after graduating in the fall of 1997, when Latshaw was splitting his time between Congressional and Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles, he offered Ken an assistant's position at Riviera, working with future Winged Foot superintendent Erik Greytok. Riviera hosted the U.S. Senior Open that summer.

After a full year at Riviera, another opportunity presented itself: "I went to work for McDonald & Sons in Baltimore, MD. They were renovating Olympia Fields for the U.S. Open and I signed on as a construction superintendent," says Ken.

After traveling the country, building and renovating golf courses, Ken realized that he wanted to get back to turf. Tim Moraghan, who at the time was the head agronomist for the USGA, helped Ken line up a series of interviews in the New York metropolitan area. Ken heard through the grapevine that Steve Renzetti, Quaker Ridge's superintendent at the time, was looking for an assistant. The rest is history. After a year-and-a-half at Quaker, the GlenArbor superintendent's position opened up, and in July of 2001, Ken got the job. "Steve was integral in helping me to get that position," says Ken. "I'll be forever grateful for his help." Ken is starting his 14th season at the club.

The Riviera Connection

In addition to fine training, Ken's stint at Riviera led him to the connection of a lifetime: his wife, Melodee. Ken and Melodee



Ken Benoit, CGCS

met at a Dodger's game during Ken's LA stay. Mel remembers, "We were sitting next to each other at the game and my hands were cold so Ken loaned me his gloves. I worked for LA Film Office at the time and invited Ken to join us at our weekly Wednesday happy hour at "Red Rock" on the Sunset Strip. It wasn't immediate, but eventually a light bulb went off in my head and we started dating." Ken's side of the story: "I won Mel over with the winning combination of Old Spice cologne and the famous Benoit charm."

Mel and Ken moved in together about six months prior to Ken taking the job with McDonald & Son. "The owner, Chip McDonald, was like a dad to me," says Ken. "Chip had Melodee fly east so he and his wife, Betty, could meet her. Chip, being the family man he was, insisted that Mel and I get together at least every four to six weeks. It was important to him."

Ken and Mel got engaged in 1999 and were married in October of 2001. "Chip's wife, Betty, helped me pick out Mel's engagement ring," remembers Ken. Fourteen or so years and a few jobs later, the happy couple has a beautiful old colonial in Bedford, purchased in 2008, that they are slowly

renovating. They share their home with Cory, the world's most famous and interesting Border Collie.

Environmentalist and Musician

Ken has served on the MetGCSA Board of Directors since 2006, assuming, most recently, the role of Environmental Committee Chair. Over the past two years, Ken has devoted hundreds of hours developing the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for New York State Golf Courses (see this issue's Feature, page 2) in cooperation with Cornell University. Explaining the all-consuming but worthy project, Ken notes, "The BMPs are intended to develop relationships with lawmakers, regulators, and the nongolfing public. We also see it as an educational tool for superintendents. In short, it's about doing the right things for the environment."

The program, still a work in progress, debuted at this year's Golf Industry Show in Orlando with the launch of its new website: nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu.

Ken also serves as the chairman of the Awards Committee for the MGA's Arthur P. Weber Environmental Leaders in Golf. In 2010, GlenArbor was selected for this prestigious award. In 2004, Ken's commitment to the environment also garnered GlenArbor the "North American Bluebird Society Award." It was the only time a golf course has been awarded this honor.

A true environmentalist, Ken hosts groups of area school children at GlenArbor three times a year for the "GlenArbor Environ-

mental Education Program." Melodee teaches a classroom session on the environment, followed by a kid-friendly hayride-style tour of the facility where Ken talks about nature and the environment. Says Ken, "We want to leave these kids with an understanding of the importance of working together with nature and what we can do for the environment." To date, more than 1,000 local students have visited the course.

In addition to all of these extracurriculars, Ken finds time to play guitar in local bands. It started with *Faze 2*, a band that includes GlenArbor's Head Golf Pro Brian Crowell and his wife, Wendy. That band has taken a brief hiatus but is poised to start up again at any moment. Ken, known by his stage name "Boom Boom," also plays lead guitar in the band *Will the Thrill and the Lost Souls*. Band members include Pound Ridge Golf Club's Will Heintz on bass and banjo and Rick Torres on drums and vocals with yours truly on vocals and rhythm guitar. Ken's passion for music inspires all his band mates to pull together and work hard. There's no doubt this band will be hanging around for a while!

April 30 will be here before you know it, so dust off your clubs and come on out for a great time!

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

President's Message continued from page 1

Cornell, hosted an open forum event to share with others in New York State the launch of the website for the New York State Best Management Practices for Golf Courses. (Check out our Feature on page 2 for a BMP update.)

This is an extremely important initiative that was greeted with much support and encouragement during the meeting. Not only were there more than 30 industry professionals in attendance, but the meeting was also streamed online with approximately another 30 listeners. Following the meeting for New York State, Ken took the opportunity to share the initiative with other associations around the country that are now looking to follow our lead.

In addition to Ken, Stacey, and Frank, I would like to thank many members of the GCSAA for joining us at the meeting and providing important insight into the health and welfare of our industry's government relations around the country. This is an extremely important part of our business, and we need to band together to ensure the golf industry thrives for generations to come.

Before the Closing Celebration, which was attended by more than 1,000 people, I sat in on the GCSAA Annual Meeting, where MetGCSA member and Past President John O'Keefe was elected vice president of the GCSAA for 2014. John has been dedicated to our association and industry for many years, and we are honored to have him in a leadership role at the national level. Congratulations to John, and we look forward to having him assume the reigns as GCSAA president next year at this time! (See page 6 for a complete list of newly elected GCSAA Board members.)

Involvement Is Key

As always, I encourage you to be involved in any way you can. Whether it's at the local or national level, join a committee, attend government lobby days, or at the very least, attend local meetings and events. There is strength in numbers, and we need that support to show the world how important the golf industry is to our society.

Good luck to everyone this spring, and I hope to see you at our season-opening Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier at GlenArbor on April 30!

**Blake Halderman, CGCS
President**

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