

# Tee To Green

June 2014  
VOLUME 45 NUMBER 3

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association



*Get-away-from-it-all at  
our Summer Social's brand  
new waterfront venue!*



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# Tee To Green



Oriente Beach Club. Site of the Summer Social!

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# President's Message

## A Surefire Cure for Summertime Stress

*Kick Back at the Met's  
Extra-Special Summer  
Social Events!*

# I

n talking with association members, it seems that most made it through the first wave of Hyperodes with little damage and are now preparing to do battle with the next generation, not to mention the "dog days of summer."

If it's any consolation, the Met board is right there with you. In addition to battling Hypes and the rapidly climbing summer heat, we're trying to plan a few fun-filled activities that will take your mind off course conditions for an afternoon or evening. (Even if we can't help but compare notes all night!)

Here's a quick rundown on the social activities that are fast approaching. Your Social Chair, Bob Wolverton, and Scholarship Chair, Glen Dube, have put together a special lineup of activities with family fun and R & R in mind, so please mark your calendars!

**Summer Social:** The fun begins with the Summer Social on July 14 at Orienta Beach Club in Mamaroneck, NY. This all-new waterfront venue offers the perfect get-away-from-it-all ambiance, with a picturesque clubhouse and beachfront area. Put on your casual summer attire (collared shirts for men required, but shorts and flip-flops are allowed) and bring your significant other, friends, and assistants—this is an adults-only event—for a lobster/clambake and libations on the beach.

**Family Picnic:** This year, Met members will be returning to Bedford Village Memorial Park in Bedford, NY, on July 28 for an evening of family fun. This event is designed with our kids in mind, but even "empty nesters" will enjoy the food, fun, and games. There's something for everyone! So please plan to break away from work for a few hours and join us. It's the perfect opportunity to spend time with family while mixing it up with fellow members.

**Annual Scholarship & Parent/Child Tournament:** This is the highlight of my golf season: being able to get out and play a nine-



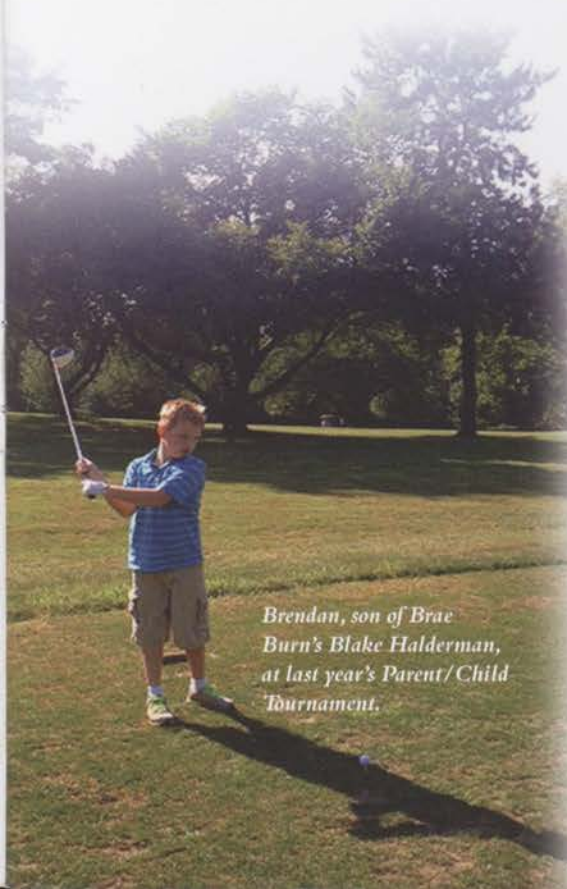
*Blake Halderman, CGCSA  
MetGCSA President*

hole scramble with my children on the kid-friendly Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx. Scheduled for August 5, Superintendent Dave Moffett has graciously agreed to host this event held in honor of our deserving scholarship winners. Read more about this combination scholarship and family-fun golf tourney on page 8. And please be sure to take advantage of this unique opportunity to show your children a good time on the golf course.

**Other events worthy of mention:** Our two regional field days. UConn will be holding its biannual Turfgrass Field Day on July 15, and Rutgers will be hosting its annual Turfgrass Research Field Day for Golf and Fine Turf on July 29. There is no better way to learn than by seeing, firsthand, the turf trials being conducted by area universities and then speaking to regional specialists.

I hope to see you at all of these great events!

*continued on page 7*

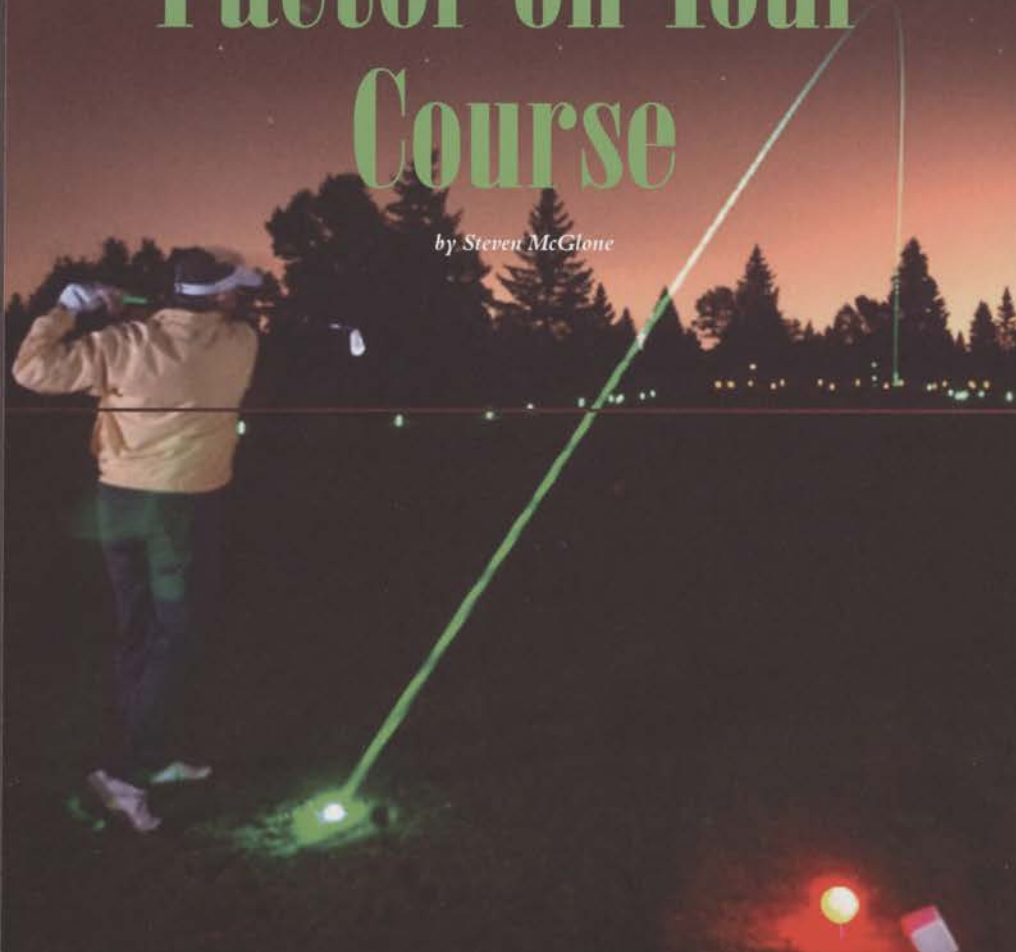
A young boy with reddish hair, wearing a blue polo shirt and khaki shorts, stands on a golf course. He is holding a golf club and looking towards the camera. The background shows a lush green golf course with trees under a bright sky.

*Brendan, son of Brae  
Burn's Blake Halderman,  
at last year's Parent/Child  
Tournament.*



# Some 'Super' Suggestions for Enhancing the Fun Factor on Your Course

by Steven McGlone



If you're like most superintendents, your primary concern on the job is course conditioning: ensuring the course looks and plays its best with the hope that our members or daily fee golfers find their rounds enjoyable. While this will always be a first priority, right now, with golf participation on the decline—The National Golf Foundation estimates that the core golfer (someone who plays at least eight rounds a year) has fallen off by as much as 25 percent in the past decade—it's also important that we work with our pros, club officials, and green committees to find ways to put more fun into the game to draw more golfers of every level.

Keeping the game fun will not only encourage greater participation from golfing members—old and new—but also contribute to our golf facility's bottom line and the overall health and welfare of the game of golf!

So how do we make golf fun for more people? Here are the ideas that a number of MetGCSA members and I have already put into practice with a good measure of success.

Keep in mind: Even though, at this point, the member calendar, tournament schedule, and outings have been booked for the year, it's not too late to make a few key moves that will allow players of all abilities to appreciate the course.

## The Short Course Alternative

Have you ever played a course where you shot 20 shots over your normal score and walked away saying the course was fun? Most likely not. Creating a short course within a traditional 18-hole layout is one way to appeal to golfers of all levels: beginners, juniors, and families. It's a great alternative to playing the forward tees or just teeing it up in the fairway.

Chip Lafferty at Rye Golf Club has recently installed yardage plaques on his fairways and considers them a huge hit: "I continually see families playing the tees; however I have yet to see a score posted. I keep telling them that the first score is the course record," says Chip with a smile.

This type of setup is becoming popular among area courses and helps to make kids feel confident playing from the same tees as their moms and dads. Adults and juniors have different pars. For instance, if the hole is a 500-yard Par 5 from the normal men's tees

and is being played from the fairway at 350, it becomes a Par 4 for the men, and a Par 6 or higher for the children. Chip also adds to the fun by having short-game scorecards available.

## Cross-Country Golf

I think every course not hemmed in by overplanting of trees or a nearby housing development should have a cross-country competition. Though it can be bit tricky, it will certainly offer a very different view of the course. This type of setup involves using the normal tee boxes, but the holes are routed to different greens. Hardhats are optional for safety since balls will be flying everywhere once players see the different alleys where they *think* they can thread the ball through.

You can set up this fun event in late fall or winter with putting necessary only on the final hole. Or you might even kick off your club's Invitational by having a derby to play from one point to the clubhouse in the fewest strokes possible, alternate shot, and with a host of onlookers, enjoying the camaraderie and laughs.

This could also be a great way to raise money for charity by having people pledge dollars for every shot hit.

In any case, a temporary scorecard can be drawn up and will certainly be a novelty with the possibility of a 1000-yard Par 9 or a 40-yard Par 3!

It's time, isn't it, to return some whimsy to a sport that can take itself too seriously?

## Putting Fun Into Women's Play

For our various women's golf events here at Siwanoy Country Club, we've taken a few special measures to ensure everyone has an enjoyable round of golf. At some of our past women's tournaments, for instance, we've installed small flowerpots in place of the red tee markers for a colorful and attractive alternative. We use a standard cup cutter to recess the four-inch pots into the tees, and though this adds significant time to course setup the morning of the event and the following day when we're replacing the plugs, this is special touch our women tournament-goers appreciate and enjoy.

On Wednesday Women's Days, we try to keep it fun by having the course play as short as we can (without it seeming *too* short), and we're *always* sure to keep the pins to the middle of the greens. Setting up new, tough pin locations is certainly not the way to show our female golfing population a good time!

Interestingly, these simple measures have helped to shed a more positive light on course maintenance and have actually led to better relationships between the Greens Department and the Women's Golf Association at the club.

*In a little more than a decade, golf participation has slipped from 30 million to 25 million, a precipitous 16.7% decline.*

## The L-C-R Setup

Another way to make a round of golf more enjoyable is to vary the course setup. Not to be confused with the LCR dice game, the L-C-R course setup plan involves varying hole locations. For instance, pins on holes 1 - 6 can be placed on the extreme Left; on holes 7 - 12, the pins can be located in the Center; and on holes 13 - 18, they can be placed on the far Right. This simple shift in course setup can add an interesting twist to the day's rounds.

## The Money Ball Lure

Another on-course changeup to make your golfers' rounds more interesting is to play a game called Money Ball. This entails placing a basket of brightly colored balls at a certain distance—usually 150 yards from the 18th green—in the middle of the fairway. When a group approaches the basket, they're surprised to find a sign indicating a game they can play. Here's how it goes:

Players select a ball from the basket, paying \$10 (or any other amount deemed appropriate) per ball. Each player gets one shot from the 150-yard spot on the fairway to the green. Ball markers are available along with a Sharpie® that is used to inscribe players' names on their marker.

The closest marker to the cup at end of the day gets the money in the basket, which



*Super Jim Pavonetti and his son, Vincent, enjoy a round of mini-golf on Fairview's practice green.*

generally adds up to a decent booty. This game usually requires that a person be available to fix the extra ball marks on the green—and stand guard over the ball markers to keep the players honest!

## Surprise Course Setups

Whether you call it "Superintendent's Revenge Tournament" or "Course Appreciation Day," these events require that the superintendent mastermind a special course setup, generally one that is designed to challenge and test the patience of even the best of players.

We held this type of event for the first time last year at Siwanoy and utilized extra-tough tee locations and the hardest pin locations for each green. (Remember, there's no rule stating that the cup has to be on the green!)

Other challenges we factored in were 8-inch-diameter cups on extreme slopes, greens mowing equipment and other paraphernalia on the green as true hazards, and we required players to tee off from bunkers and even use an opposite-handed club for a short Par 3.

This type of tournament is usually best held in the late fall after the course has relaxed and players need more bait to get out there and play a late-season round. We combined our event last year with an Octoberfest Brats-n-Bear at the turn and it ended up being the third largest golf-round day of the season! The caddies also really appreciated the opportunity to take in some late-season loot.

## Night Golf Competition

A true novelty, a night golf event can be a midsummer hit, especially when accompanied by an on-course open bar. It's amazing how many products are available online to illuminate cups, tee markers, creeks, and fairway and bunker lines, as well as flagsticks and balls.

Of course, safety is a priority, so it's a good idea to play only a few holes, mapping out a course close to the clubhouse and away from pond edges or streams—true hazards!

## Practice Green Putt-Putt

Another great way to entice players to come on out is to transform your practice putting green into a mini-golf oasis. Using standard-issue white string wrapped around golf tees, you can lay out a miniature golf course in less than an hour. Create obstacles within each hole using masonry block, tee markers, sand piles, fescue hex plugs, firewood, or small branches. A scorecard with Par 2s and 3s can be made up and placed at the start of the mini-course.



To add to the excitement, betting is encouraged, and scores are kept all day and posted. The lowest scorer wins a prize, usually a putter. This is a great addition to the practice round of a multiple-day member/member or member/guest.

### The Lure of Play for P.I.N.K.

Holding a tournament that supports Play for P.I.N.K. is not only a worthwhile endeavor, but also a crowd-drawer. Many people have been touched by breast cancer either personally or through friends or family members and are eager to come out and support a cause that promotes finding a cure for breast cancer.

There doesn't have to be a special tournament or course setup; the cause, itself, will be the lure. A simple email blast notifying members/players that this event is taking place is generally all it takes to encourage participation. While for many, the primary fundraising is accomplished through an individual fee for the golf, some clubs hold a raffle, and others simply leave a donation basket at the starters' table.

Taking off across the globe, this event spices up the golf course with such items as bright pink cups, flags, and tee markers. Seeing bright pink accessories on the course is a welcome change and a nice contrast to the deep-green colors found on the course landscape.

This type of event is one that grows bigger every year, particularly with the right amount of planning.

### Nine and Wine

At Pelham Country Club, Superintendent Jeff Wentworth has found the club's Nine and Wine event a nice draw for mixed couples.

Player-friendly, this event takes a typical nine-hole setup and turns it into nine individual Par 3s, with golfers playing most holes from the fairway. Both husband and wife hit from the same tee, supporting the social aspect of this event, and the Par 27 round, which takes less than two hours to complete,

is followed by wine and light fare in the club grillroom.

### Big Hole / Little Hole

Another quick change to course setup that can make a round more fun for players is called Big Hole / Little Hole. This entails having nine, large 8-inch cups and nine, small 2-inch cups on the typical 18-hole setup. This challenges the putting game and will surely be a topic of conversation in the clubhouse.

### A Lesson in Course History

Working as a superintendent in the Met Area, chances are you're employed by a club that has a long, and even colorful, history with its roots in classic golf course architecture. Using this to your advantage, you can educate and inform your often unknowing golfing population about your facility's historic past. Treating the course as you would a museum, you can place a card near tee markers with fun facts about the hole, renovation/restoration information, or background on the original course architect. If well done, this can be a much-appreciated added touch to a round of golf, while sending the signal to members that your knowledge and attention to detail extend well beyond turfgrass management.

Of course, you could also offer to host on-course meetings to educate players about the course maintenance, management schemes, or tournament preparations.

### Communication Is Key

No matter how you choose to make your course more enjoyable to your players, communication is key. Players appreciate advance notice of the day's plans so they can decide whether or not to participate in a particular event. The last thing you want to happen is to have a longtime regular member show up with seven guests on a sunny afternoon to play a relaxing 18 holes and then find the course set up for a fun, but quirky event.

Thinking outside the box and introducing golfing experiences that a range of golfers can enjoy, will increase the likelihood that they will get out more often and play and perhaps bring a family member or friend out on the course too. It's a win, win, win. The more golfers, the better your facility's bottom line, and the more the golf industry will thrive. Now that's fun—for everyone!

*Steven McGlone, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent of Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, NY.*

# Grooming the Course the Fun of It

Let's face it. Golf is difficult, and what should be an engaging challenge can become unreasonably tough given certain course maintenance practices. Golf course superintendents play a key role in the enjoyment of the game and, therefore, have to be attuned to what keeps the game fun for the majority of their golfing members.

At Fairview Country Club, Superintendent Jim Pavonetti alters daily course setup and maintenance routines to ensure Fairview members' rounds are enjoyable.

Among the adjustments he makes to accommodate golfers of all levels:

**Reasonable Rough:** "We slightly lower the height of the rough to make it easier to find balls and make the shot," says Jim. "This also significantly reduces the time it takes to play a round."

Jim will also direct his staff to mow rough more frequently, especially when the turf is growing at a fast rate.

"The practice of maintaining championship rough on a daily basis is pretty much a thing of the past!" says Jim.

**Keeping It Dry:** "We find it best to maintain relatively dry fairways. This produces more ball roll and allows carts off the path more frequently," says Jim.

**Finding the Best Speed:** "If you want your players to enjoy their game, it helps to try to identify the green speed that satisfies most of your golfers most of the time and is agronomically achievable," says Jim.

**Adjusting for Weather:** "On windy days or during wet conditions, we will set up the course a little shorter," says Jim, "to help



*"If we can make the game more fun through participation, we're not only making the game of golf, but also making it more enjoyable for everyone."*

*- Jim Pavonetti, Superintendent*

make what could be a long round more enjoyable and less arduous.”

The objective, after all, is to enable even the less-skilled golfer to post a reasonable score.

**Keeping Hazards as Un-hazardous as Possible:** Jim and his staff make an extra effort to keep golf course hazards in check so members won't end up killing their round.

“First, we make sure to keep the banks of steep sand bunker faces firm enough so that most balls roll to the bottom for an easier shot,” says Jim. “We've also cleared out underbrush in areas where players' balls frequently land.”

Jim also has drop areas for ponds to give a bailout area for beginners and less skilled golfers.

“These accommodations cost little or no money, and though they may seem insignificant,” says Jim, “they make a big difference in members' enjoyment of the game.”

## The Ultimate Benefit

Combinations of these practices will help decrease the length of time it takes to play a typical round of golf. “Speed of Play” is ranked among the top reasons people leave the game or choose not to take it up, so doing what it takes to shorten the time it takes to play a round should be a goal we all strive for in our maintenance practices.

“If we can make the game more fun and increase participation,” says Jim, “we're not only ensuring the longevity of the game of golf, but also our livelihood!”

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ly ensuring the longevity  
t also our livelihood!”

irview Country Club



## An Organization Dedicated to Making Golf More Fun

**H**ave you heard about Hackgolf? It's a \$5-million initiative from TaylorMade Golf, the producer of high-end golf products. Its objective is to fund the collection and examination of new ideas to foster the growth of the game of golf. Under this umbrella is the website [hackgolf.org](http://hackgolf.org), where TaylorMade is soliciting ideas for making the game more fun.

The organization's chief executive Mark King—hosting a symposium that included PGA of America president Ted Bishop, National Golf Foundation chief executive Joe Beditz, and noted business advisor Gary Hamel—announced the funding at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando this year. “Our game lacks innovation,” King said. “I'm talking about new ideas, new motivations, new reasons to get off the couch and play the game.”

King unveiled two specific programs, which he's agreed to fund with \$1.5 million during the next 18 months. The first, and the centerpiece of initial efforts to grow the game, is a 15-inch cup. The normal cup is 4.25 inches in diameter, so the 15-inch version tends to look like a wash-tub to most players.

“It saves time; it saves strokes,” King said. “It makes golf more fun for a lot of people.”

In an informal tournament at Pine Needles Golf Club in Southern Pines, NC, King said players averaged 11 strokes lower than their normal average scores. In addition, the average playing time for foursomes, holing out every putt, was 3 hours and 10 minutes. You would theoretically have two holes on every green, a regular size and this new larger size.

The second program uses a new ball and new clubs invented by TaylorMade engineers. The ball is oversized, and so are the club heads (the set includes only four clubs, one of them a putter).

According to King, it's easier to hit the ball. “It's a great way to get started in the game,” he said. “The ball goes about two-thirds the distance of a normal ball.” Players with the bigger set of golf equipment would use the 15-inch holes.

TaylorMade has made a commitment to reengineering and reinventing the customer experience. And shouldn't we all, in our own way, do the same?

You could start by checking our feature on page 2 to see what fellow supers are already doing on their courses, but also have a look at TaylorMade's website, [hackgolf.org](http://hackgolf.org). You never know what innovations you might discover there to make golf more fun for the players on your course!

## Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier: Better Late Than Never!

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA Executive Director

A rainy day postponed our season-opening Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier, which was originally scheduled for April 30 at GlenArbor but was held, instead, in better weather on May 19 at Centennial. We would like to thank GlenArbor for working long and hard in trying to find an alternate date for the event. And special thanks, too, to Superintendent Glen Dube and Centennial Golf Club, who agreed to host our outing, on short notice, when dates at GlenArbor didn't work out. The golf course at Centennial looked and played exceptionally well, which made for a great day for everyone.

### And Now for the Result Highlights . . .

Pelham's Jeff Wentworth and Quaker's Tom Ashfield took home Low-Gross honors by shooting a team score of 69. Rye Golf Club's Chip Lafferty and Powelton's Bob DeMarco came in second with a score of 70, while Rockland's Matt Ceplo along with Montammy's Jim Swiatlowski rounded off the top three with a 74.

Taking home first place in the Net Division was Manhattan Woods' Jesse Shannon and Seeton Turf's Zach Brooks, shooting a 60. Seeton Turf's Brian Bontemps and Steve Loughran of Rock Ridge came in second with a 64 on a match of cards, which put Wee Burn's Doug Drugo and Metro-polis's Dave McCaffrey in third place.

In the Skills Challenges, we gave away

four Closest to the Pin prizes to Quaker's Tom Ashfield, Harrell's Scott Tretera, LAF member Dan Cancelleri, and Pelham's Jeff Wentworth. The longest drive prize went to Metro-polis's Dave McCaffrey.

Please visit our website, [www.metgcsa.org](http://www.metgcsa.org), to view all the matches in the Two-Ball bracket, and good luck to all of those who made match play!

**Reminder:** For those who are playing in the Two-Ball, please remember that the winning team from each match is required to report its score to Tony Hooks at [ahooks@dueprocessgolf.com](mailto:ahooks@dueprocessgolf.com). If you have a story to share about your match along with any photos, please send those along too, and we'll run them with the results in the *Tee to Green!*

## Due Process Stable Takes Home Invitational Trophy

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA Executive Director

June 17 was a picture-perfect day for our Invitational Tournament, which was held at Manhattan Woods Golf Club in West Nyack, NY. The course was in outstanding shape thanks to the work of our superintendent host, Jesse Shannon, and his crew. We'd also like to thank PGA Professional Dick Smith Jr. and the entire staff, along with Club Founder Ken Lee and President John Koh, who also participated in the event.



Manhattan Woods Super Jesse Shannon (left) joins the winning team from Due Process Stable (l to r): Pro Chris Mazzuchetti, Green Chair Dan Marino, COO Bill Costigan, and Superintendent Tony Hooks.

a truly memorable day for everyone who participated.

Now for a full account of the results:

### Net Team Winners

- 58 **Due Process Stable**  
Tony Hooks, Chris Mazzuchetti, Bill Costigan, Dan Marino  
(won in a match of cards)
- 58 **Dogwood Knolls Golf Course**  
Jim Biordi, Tony Destephano, John Gero, Wayne Wells

- 60 **Upper Montclair Country Club**  
Mike Brunelle, Kevin Mackey, Thom Rivela, Mark Sheubrooks

### Gross Team Winners

- 67 **Canoe Brook Country Club**  
Jamie Devers, George Dietz, Woody Garavente, Greg Russo

### Low Sponsor Team

- 53 **Metro Turf Specialists**  
Scott Apgar, Ernie Steinhofner, Cal Foux, Jason Gordon

### Individual Low Pro

- 71 Chris Mazzuchetti, Due Process Stable

### Longest Drive

- #15 Richard Gold, Sponsor Guest

### Closest to the Pin

- #7 Lou Venditto, Sponsor Guest

### Closest to the Line

- #12 Tom Torpey, Green Chairman, Rockland Country Club

### Closest to the Line

- #12 Tom Torpey, Green Chairman, Rockland Country Club



## Upcoming Events

# Calendar Update

### Summer Social

Monday, July 14  
Orienta Beach Club  
Mamaroneck, NY

### Family Picnic

Monday, July 28  
Bedford Village Memorial Park  
Bedford, NY

### Scholarship & Parent/Child Tournament

Tuesday, August 5  
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

Wednesday, October 15  
Silvermine Golf Club  
Norwalk, CT  
Host: Larry Pakkala, CGCS

### Annual Fall Meeting & Elections

Tuesday, November 4 (tentative date)  
Rye Grill & Bar  
Rye, NY

### MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 14, 2015  
Westchester Country Club  
Rye, NY  
Host: David Dudones, CGCS

## Educational Events

### 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](http://www.turf.uconn.edu).

### Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day (Golf & Fine Turf)

Tuesday, July 29  
Horticultural Farm II, New Brunswick, NJ  
Visit [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org) or call 973-812-6467 for further information.

### Turf & Grounds Exposition

Wednesday-Friday, November 12-14  
Rochester Riverside Convention Center  
Rochester, NY

The Turf & Grounds Exposition offers an excellent opportunity to network while remaining current on the latest research and trends in turfgrass management. As always, the expo will feature key speakers from all segments of the green industry, as well as a comprehensive trade show with more than 100 exhibitors.

For further information, call the show office at 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229, or visit the website at [www.nysta.org](http://www.nysta.org).

### MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Educational Seminar

Wednesday, December 3 (tentative date)  
The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT  
Host: Jason Meersman

### 39th Annual New Jersey Green Expo Turf and Landscape Conference

Tuesday - Thursday, December 9-11  
Trump Taj Mahal Resort Casino  
Atlantic City, NY

The New Jersey Green Expo offers a comprehensive educational program providing cutting-edge applications and tactics to guarantee green industry professionals' success on the job. Offering one of the largest trade shows in the tri-state area, the expo also provides attendees with the opportunity to view the latest and greatest products and services on the market.

For further information, call 973-812-6467 or visit [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org).

President's Message continued from page 1

## Rounds 4 Research Update

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated rounds for this great cause. With your support in 2013, the MetGCSA generated more than \$13,000. Our association has continued its participation in the Rounds 4 Research program during 2014.



For those who aren't familiar with the program, Rounds 4 Research is based on golf facilities donating rounds of golf that are then put up for public auction. At least 80 percent of the proceeds raised by the MetGCSA will be distributed for use on New York's Best Management Practices (BMP) manual/self-auditing guidelines, and in the future, money raised will go toward research-based programs, such as education, scholarships, advocacy, and agronomic research. The more rounds we secure, the greater the revenue we can generate in support of our members and chapters.

The June auction is now complete and we are currently accepting rounds for the August auction. Please contact MetGCSA Research Chairman Glen Dube, or visit our website, [www.metgcsa.org](http://www.metgcsa.org), for further information.

Blake Halderman, CGCS  
President

## Member News

### New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- Erik Frederick, Class C, of Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, CT
- Kayle Fullforth, Andrew Collier, and Sean Charles, all Class C members of the Round Hill Club in Greenwich, CT

# Mosholu Welcomes Back Scholarship & Parent/Child Tourney

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA Executive Director

On August 5, Superintendent Dave Moffett will welcome MetGCSA members to Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx for the fourth Scholarship & Parent/Child Tournament, honoring this year's Met scholarship recipients.

As those who have attended in the past may recall, the scholarship reception and awards ceremony will be accompanied by an afternoon of golf at Mosholu's nine-hole course. Not your typical golf outing, a member and child are invited to play in a nine-hole shotgun scramble on the 2,400-yard, par 32 public course, that has improved every year with its involvement in The First Tee of Metropolitan New York program—and ongoing renovations to the entire facility.

Priority will be given to MetGCSA members whose children have received scholarships. The remainder of the field will be filled with other association members and their children. The event, as always, is free of charge—and designed for golfers of all levels. No experience required!

## The First Tee Is Born

Back in 1997, The First Tee was an initiative launched to introduce youth from diverse backgrounds to the game of golf, while also teaching positive values, such as honesty, integrity, and perseverance. Finding a facility for the program in New York City, however, proved challenging. It was not until several years later, in 2001, that the MGA and MetPGA, along with the support of the Rudin family, New York City real estate developers, and other donors, were able to secure a home for The First Tee's Metropolitan Chapter at Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx.

While the course was located conveniently at the terminus of the "4 Train" and had ample driving range space, the clubhouse and course conditioning left much to be desired. The MGA and MetPGA reached out to John Carlone, president of the MetGCSA at the time, and asked the Met to become involved as one of the founding partners.

From the very beginning, the MetGCSA

supported the new organization at Mosholu. "We created an initial budget and scope of work to get the course in shape and also reached out to Met members to donate equipment to help maintain the course," notes John. "In addition, we had a 'volunteer day' where everyone brought chainsaws and other equipment to get the area around the clubhouse in shape."

Since that time, the sitting president of the MetGCSA has served on the board of The First Tee of Metropolitan New York and, among other things, has been instrumental in identifying its golf course superintendents: first, Erik Feldman, and then, Dave Moffett, who has been leading the course's reconstruction and maintenance efforts for the past two years.

## A Facility Transformed

The transformation of the facility since its inception 14 years ago has been dramatic—thanks, in part, to major funding from New York City, which decided to build a 13-story, underground water filtration plant where Mosholu's maintenance facility, driving range, and clubhouse were located.

With this plan on the horizon, Mosholu had little choice but to rebuild the course on a smaller footprint. With the guidance of golf course architects Stephen Kay and Doug Smith, the course was reconfigured with a focus on making it more fun and strategic, not just for the kids, but also for the general public. A new clubhouse and state-of-the-art driving range are set to be completed by 2018. The range will be built on top of the water filtration facility, which will be the largest "green" roof in the world.

Those playing in the scholarship event will see the major upgrades that have taken place over the years as part of the partnership between The First Tee and the MetGCSA. Dave has continued the tradition of maintaining the course at a standard not commonly found on municipal courses in New York City or, for that matter, anywhere else in the country.

"The First Tee of Metropolitan New York at Mosholu is a flagship facility that we can all be proud of," says Blake. "And I am pleased that two of our members, first Erik



Dave Moffett

Feldman and now Dave Moffett, have accepted the challenge of transforming this facility to a proud public links devoted to the growth of the game of golf."

## Moffett Makes His Way to Mosholu

Dave admits that when he first found out about the potential opening at Mosholu, he was skeptical. "After I did a walkthrough of the course," says Dave, "I recognized that it offered a great canvas and was excited about the possibilities it presented."

A native of Littleton, CO, Dave pursued a degree in horticulture at Colorado State University after working summers at a local golf course. He traveled cross-country to complete his internship at Trump National Golf Club – Westchester under then Superintendent Blake Halderman and then returned to Trump after graduation, touting Blake as a great mentor. Dave's next stop was Ardsley Country Club, where he worked as an assistant under Matt Dutremble. "I was fortunate to work for such a talented individual and to be involved in a variety of in-house projects during my time there," says Dave, who's hands-on experience prepared him well for the extensive project work at Mosholu.

Off the course, Dave's kept busy with all that goes into raising a young family. He and his wife of seven years, Tina, enjoy time together with their 3-year-old son, Jack, and the newest addition to their family, 6-month-old, Samuel.

Dave's looking forward to hosting MetGCSA members and their children again this year at Mosholu. "It will be great to share with the membership the many improvements we've made to the course," says Dave. "It's a nice place for kids to play, and it's been a perfect venue for The First Tee Program, which benefits thousands of young people in our community every year. I hope to see you all out there on August 5 enjoying the course with your kids!"

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