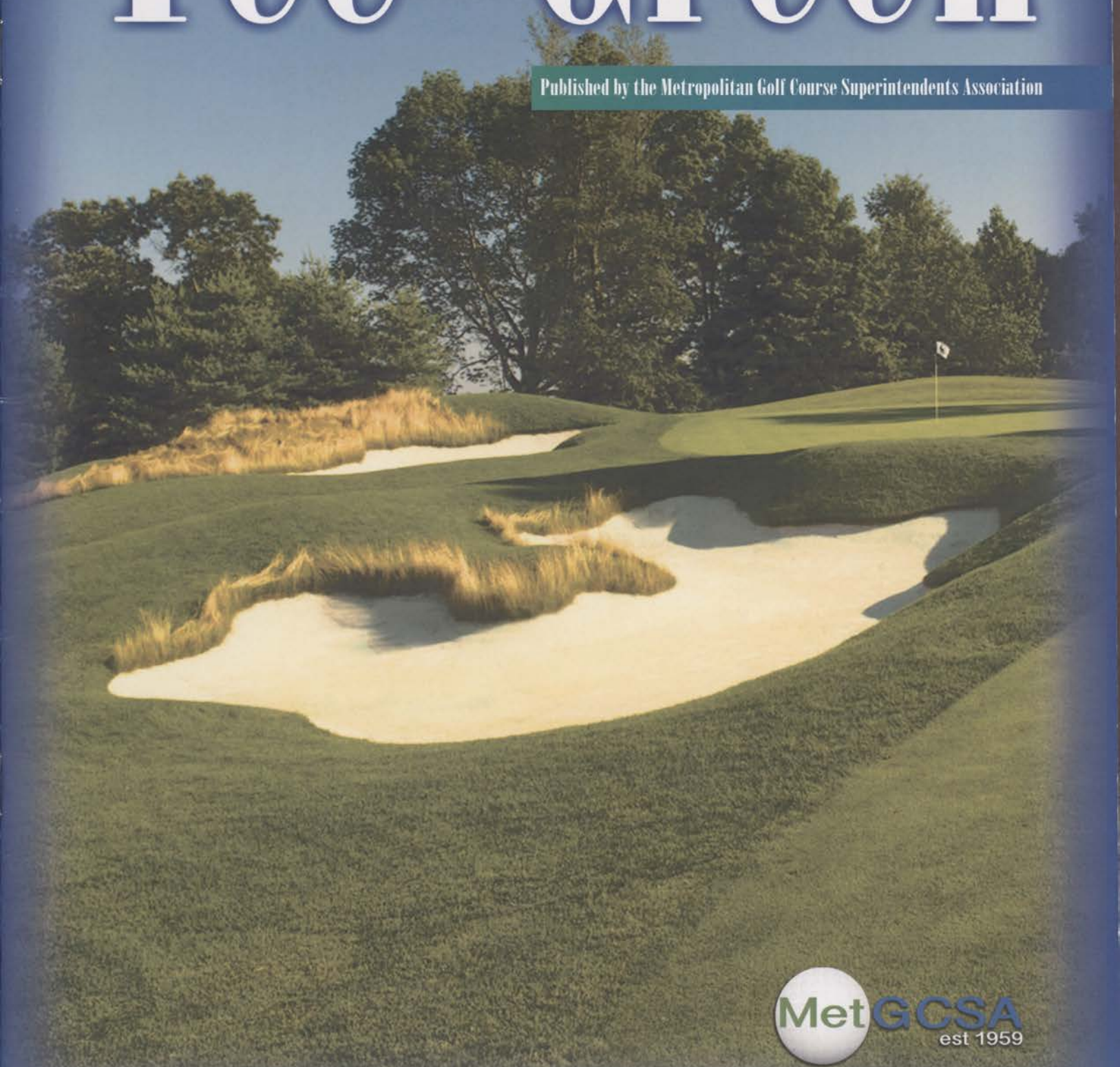


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Tee To Green

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est 1959

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Tee To Green



Redding Country Club

In this Issue

Feature

Centennial's Glen Dube Assumes the Reins2
as MetGCSA President

Departments

Chapter News	4
Member News	6
Scorecard	8
Upcoming Events	10
Spotlight	11

President's Message

Reflecting on My Term as MetGCSA President

I

can't believe I am sitting down to write my very last President's Message. Though finding the time to write my messages was difficult at times, I can't say I'm overjoyed that this bimonthly obligation—or my term as president—has come to an end. Truth be known, though I do have two years remaining on the board as past president, I will miss being the point person for member contact, discussing our association—accomplishments and even concerns—or issues at someone's home club. Finding solutions to others' concerns (while dealing with my own at the same time!) wasn't always easy, but I realize, as I write this, that it's those interactions with Met members that I will miss most and remember fondly.

Volunteering for a board or any other agency, even those outside of golf, is about giving back and helping others. I have found it rewarding to pay it forward and share whatever knowledge and experience I've gained throughout the years, just as those before me were willing to share their thoughts and expertise with me.

Forward Thinking

Over the past two years, the board and I have looked to the future, working hard to champion efforts that we felt were in the best interest of our association and our industry. In addition to my fellow board members, I want to thank the many members who joined us in supporting these endeavors, which include:

- *A new-and-improved website.* Sign on to metgcsa.org for a look at our new, user-friendly format, with timely news, links, an all-new online payment option, job-board-link, and more. (See article page 4.)
- *A logo redesign.* Our MetGCSA logo has been updated with a more contemporary design that better reflects who we are—a golf course superintendent's association—and appears more prominently on our stationery, newsletter, and website.



Blake Halderman, CGCS
MetGCSA President

- *Best Management Practices (BMPs) for New York State Golf Courses.* A monumental undertaking that has resulted in the creation of a comprehensive document and website detailing BMPs for golf courses throughout the State of New York. Now in Phase II, this project, which was initiated largely by MetGCSA members, is working to develop a way to validate that New York State superintendents are actually employing the standards for protecting water quality as they are set forth in the BMP manual. (See article, page 5.)
 - *Promoting Rounds for Research (R4R).* Initiated by GCSAA and the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG), this fundraising effort is designed to help affiliated chapters and other industry partners generate funds for research and special projects. The BMP initiative has been the Met's special project, which many Met members have helped to support by asking their golf facilities to donate a round of golf to be placed up for auction. Revenues generated from these auctions helped to support the development of our BMPs and other research efforts. Thank you to everyone who supported this cause.
 - *Building government relations.* The MetGCSA has made a point of attending the Advocacy Day in Albany, NY, each year, taking the opportunity to visit with New York State legislators to drive home the impact that many of the proposed legislative issues have on our ability to do our jobs. Thank you to all who attended and continue to play a role in our ongoing effort to ensure the growth of the game for generations to come.
 - *Surveying the membership.* The board issued a survey to the membership in an effort to
- continued on page 7*

Centennial's Glen Dube Assumes the Reins as MetGCSA President

by Kevin Collins



Past President Blake Halderman (right) strikes a pose with the MetGCSA's new president, Glen Dube.

At this year's November

4 MetGCSA Annual Meeting, Glen Dube assumed the reins as the Met's president—its 32nd since the association's inception in 1959. Glen joined the MetGCSA Board of Directors in 2002, diligently serving the association for the past 12 years as a director, secretary, and vice president.

He has gained valuable experience and association knowledge by serving on or chairing 10 of the Met's committees: the Education, Scholarship & Research, Bylaws, Government Relations, Investment, Membership, Website, Social & Welfare, Tournament, and Communications committees. Clearly highly qualified for his new role as president, in 2003, Glen also completed the coursework required to become a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) with GCSAA.

Glen looks forward to the challenge of leading the MetGCSA over the next two years and, like his predecessors, has hopes and dreams for the ongoing growth and progress of our association and profession.

"I would like to see more members at our golf and social events," says Glen, hoping to find a way to infuse some enthusiasm among the membership. As part of that goal, Glen would like to tap the pool of Met assistant superintendents. "I would like superintendents to encourage their assistants to regularly attend meetings, seminars, and even become involved in our committees," says Glen. "They, after all, are the future of our association."

Another important item on Glen's to-do list is to support the completion of the BMP (Best Management Practices) project that Ken Benoit and the board have been working on over the past two years. Completion is targeted for sometime in 2015.

Last but not least, Glen hopes to take full advantage of the Met's new-and-improved website as a vehicle for communicating association and industry news and progress and for stimulating interest in attending Met meetings and events.

"In whatever I do for our association," says Glen, "I am committed to working with the board and membership to explore ways to support the ongoing growth and strength of our organization."

Glen Gets His Start

Glen was born in New Britain, CT, in the early '70s. His father made his living as a plant superintendent for Aerospace Technologies, a jet engine and aerospace component manufacturer. Glen's mother was a stay-at-home mom, taking care of all the important details for Glen and his younger brother, Paul. Early on, the family moved to Berlin, CT, where Glen attended Hubbard Grammar School and Berlin High School. "I was a happy-go-lucky kid, and I loved sports," Glen laughs. "I played soccer, hockey, and golf in high school."

Glen's path to turfgrass management began working at a landscape and garden center. So it was no surprise when, after high school, Glen enrolled in the turf program at the University of Rhode Island (URI) majoring in landscape architecture.

"I wasn't sure after I got there that I really wanted to pursue that particular major," Glen remembers. "So one day I was hanging out after class and there was this tall, lanky, blonde kid talking about a 'dew whip.' Not knowing what a dew whip was, I asked, and of course this tall, lanky, blonde kid looked at me as if he couldn't believe I didn't know. After he explained the intricacies of this turf tool, we struck up a conversation that had a lot to do with my being where I am today. Yes, that tall, lanky, blonde kid was Blake Halderman."

Now firmly established in the turf program, Glen garnered some valuable experience working his first tournament event, the Greater Hartford Open at TPC River Highlands in Cromwell, CT. "I worked on the crew, raking bunkers and mowing greens," he recounts. "There was an assistant there who had recently graduated from UMass, Paul Dooley, and he took me under his wing and educated me on turfgrass diseases, cup cutting, maintenance practices, just about everything a turfgrass manager needs to know."

"I guess he figured I had learned well," continues Glen, "because on the Sunday of the tournament, I was mowing the 14th green, double cut, when Paul came up and told me that he needed me to finish mowing the greens on 16, 17, and 18. And he said there were players already on the 12th hole. I hustled and finished 18 just as some players were walking up to their shots on the 18th fairway. Ohhh, those were the days!"

Glen's first URI internship was in 1993 at the Country Club of Darien with Tim O'Neill, who has also served as not only MetGCSA president, but also president of GCSAA. Then, in 1994, Blake and Glen reunited, both interning at Muirfield Village Golf Club in Dublin, OH, home of Jack Nicklaus's annual Memorial Tournament. Glen graduated with a B.S. in turf-

"I would like superintendents to encourage their assistants to regularly attend meetings, seminars, and even become involved in our committees. They, after all, are the future of our association."



grass management from URI the following year, in 1995.

The Career Begins

Glen's first assistant's position out of school was with Peter Rappoccio at Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, CT. "There's no question I received an outstanding agronomic education working with Peter, but just as important," says Glen, "Peter taught me the communication skills I needed to handle a crew and a club membership, skills I've put to use time and again."

Glen worked with Peter from the spring of 1995 until February 1998, when he accepted his first superintendent's position at Oak Hills Park Golf Course in Norwalk, CT. Coming from an upper-tier country club experience, Glen admits it was an adjustment. "When I got there," he remembers, "I was faced with getting the job done with half the staff, about half the budget, and twice the rounds. And I still had to meet high player expectations!"

Nonetheless, Glen will tell you working there was a good experience. "I quickly learned how to survive the limitations and constraints of working on a public course." Serving as the catalyst for numerous course improvement projects, Glen initiated a significant tree removal program, bunker renovation, the installation of a new irrigation system and internal drainage on the course's many problem greens, all the while improving the overall aesthetics and playability of the course. "After that, I felt that if I could produce quality turf conditions on a public course, I could produce quality turf anywhere," he notes.

In 2006, Glen was hired as superintendent at Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, NY. "Centennial is a huge property, 27 holes and 200-plus acres of turf to maintain," says Glen. "Since the recession, we've had to do more with less, and since it's a high-end

public tract, members and players expect great conditions." Ably assisted by Assistants Travis Teeter and Phil Woodsmall, Equipment Manager Pete Acocella, and a crew of 17, they get the job done.

Family Man

Glen and his wife, Erica, met in 1998. The two were out on the town with friends in South Norwalk. Not long after that chance meeting, they became inseparable, and then, lo and behold, in 2001, they were married. In fact, October 13 marked their 13th wedding anniversary. Their partnership has produced three really great kids: their daughter, Madison, who is 12 and their two sons, Jake, 8, and Brayden, who just turned 3.

After living at Centennial for a few years, Glen and Erica purchased a beautiful home in Danbury, CT. Erica works as a fitness instructor, which keeps her in tiptop shape! In 2009, tragically, Glen's younger brother, Paul, passed away. Every year at Centennial, Glen holds the Paul Dube Open to honor his brother's memory and raise funds for sending Paul's children to college. Paul's wife, Heidi, and their children are always in attendance, along with friends and many members of the MetGCSA.

Glen is succeeding one of his closest friends as president: none other than Blake Halderman, that tall, lanky, blonde kid who is now superintendent of Brae Burn Country Club. Blake will remain on the board for the next two years as past president.

We wish you the best of luck in your term as president, Glen, and in your ongoing service to our association!

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.

Chapter News

Introducing the New-and-Improved MetGCSA Website

by Matt Leverich, Playbooks for Golf

Playbooks for Golf has completely rebuilt—and will continue to maintain—metgcsa.org to better serve the Met membership. You'll find great new content combined with a powerful new process for signing up for events, paying for dues, and meetings. Here's what to expect when you log on:

Home Page Preview

You'll begin with a new Home page that will provide easy access to the site offerings.

1. Keeping You Connected. Running along the top of the page, you will find links to such popular websites as gcsaa.org, turfnet.com, usga.org, and weather.com, along with a handy Growing Degree Day calculator.

2. Tee to Green Archived. Next, a link to the *Tee to Green* is prominently displayed at the top-right of the page for easy access to our award-winning publication. Click on the link and you'll be taken to the Archive page, where you'll find issues dating as far back as January/February 2002. The current issue's featured article will be included with its own link on the Home page for added exposure.

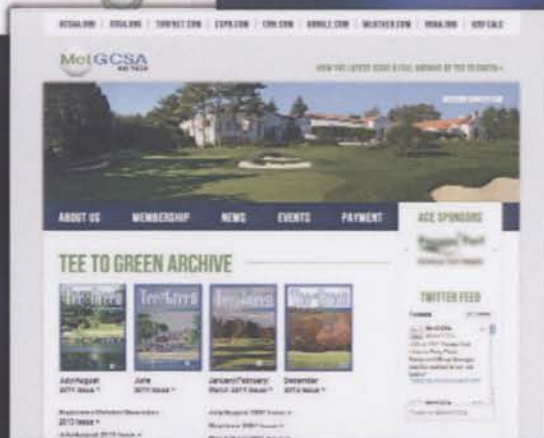
3. Navigation Made Easy. Directly beneath this link is a scrolling photo gallery of Met member clubs and then a bar with tabs designed to help you navigate through the site's content: *About Us*, *Membership*, *News*, *Events*, and *Payment*.

The *About Us* pull-down menu offers seven content areas, including everything from an association overview and list of board and committee members and Met sponsors to useful contact information. In addition, there is a section devoted to our proud history. A work in progress, this entry, when completed, will undoubtedly reflect well on the Met and our association's work within the golf industry.

Among the five entries under the *Membership* tab is one of several notable upgrades to our site: a link to our Membership Directory. If you're out of the office and need a

Editor's Note: If you haven't logged on to the all-new MetGCSA website, you're missing out on a tremendous resource and link to not just our association news and events, but also a variety of popular websites and on-the-job resources that now make metgcsa.org the perfect default home page for your computer browser.

Matt Leverich of Playbooks for Golf, the company that led the charge on the website rebuild, has agreed to highlight, here, some of the site's new-and-improved features. We're convinced that once you see what the site has to offer, you'll become a frequent visitor to metgcsa.org!



contact number, you can now access it, right then and there, on your smart phone or other portable device. Also under this tab, you will find Network, with direct links to affiliated colleges and universities, regulatory agencies, allied associations, and our association sponsors. No more surfing the web to find these sites! Also notable is our Job Board, which has been completely rebuilt to drive traffic to our website.

4. New Signup and Payment Options. Among the most important site updates is the ability to not only sign up for events and meetings, but also pay for them—all in one fell swoop! (Check out the *Events* and *Payment* tabs.) Under the *Payment* tab, you will also have the ability to pay for membership dues and sponsorship packages. What's more, the new automated system allows you to print an invoice that you can submit to your club for payment. Another new feature with your event sign-up: You will get a pictorial preview of the host club,

along with background information on the golf course.

5. Tweet All About It. Speaking of information, as part of the site redesign, the MetGCSA has become active on Twitter as a way to reach members and create additional publicity and exposure for the golf course superintendent. The "tweets," coming from the official account (@metgcsa), will contain job openings, links to events and meetings, pertinent *Tee to Green* files, and other timely educational information. We have embedded a feed for the account on the right side of each page on the website for easy access to the latest news from the Met.

6. A Word From Our Sponsors. Also on the right side of every web page is a scrolling list of our valued sponsors. Now, with just a click on their company name, you can access the organization's website.

7. Going Home Again. If you were trying to go "Home" but couldn't find a Home

button, that's because there isn't one! A modern web design feature is to eliminate the Home button to reduce the number of pages in the navigation. If you want to return to the Home page, clicking on the MetGCSA logo will get you there.

A Design for All Devices

When designing the new site, we wanted to build something that would work on any computer or device, and we've made it happen! The large navigation makes it a breeze to access pages, even on smart phones. So there's no excuse *not* to visit metgcsa.org, anywhere ... anytime.

We, at Playbooks for Golf, will be staying onboard to manage the website updates and will continue to adjust it as needed to best meet the needs of the Met membership. We sincerely hope you enjoy this great new asset from the MetGCSA and look forward to participating in building a bright future for metgcsa.org.

The New York State Golf Course BMP Initiative: Phase 2

by Ken Benoit, Chairman New York State BMP Committee

The New York State Best Management Practices (BMPs) Committee has moved into Phase Two of the BMP initiative. As you may remember, in 2012 golf course superintendents from around the state formed a committee which became the driving force in the creation of a comprehensive document and website detailing BMPs for New York State golf courses. Though this initiative touches on environmentally sound practices for many aspects of golf course management, its prime objective is to engage our industry in protecting water quality.

As it became increasingly apparent that there was a growing concern over protecting our water systems, we decided it was in our best interest to take a proactive approach to ensuring that superintendents were doing their part in protecting water quality, on and around our golf courses.

Working with superintendents from various New York State GCSAA chapters, as well as a team of turfgrass researchers from Cornell University, the New York State DEC, and a number of government officials, the committee developed a standard set of practices, essentially guiding principles, that would demonstrate our commitment to protecting—even enhancing—the environment. (For further information on this topic, please refer to the BMP website, nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu.)

In addition to cultivating new relationships within various state government agen-

cies, it was our hope that the BMPs would help our industry forge trusting partnerships with local and state lawmakers that would, in turn, lead to our involvement in the early phases of any proposed legislation. And with greater scrutiny being paid by environmentalists and the nongolfing public to how golf courses are managed, we also hope to change their perception of golf courses as a danger to the environment by pointing to our adherence to the BMPs.

This leads to Phase Two of the BMP initiative.

Phase Two: Assessing Use of the BMPs

The purpose of Phase Two is to develop a way to validate that New York State superintendents are actually employing the standards for protecting water quality as they are set forth in the BMP manual. Understanding when and how to use the BMPs is only one part of the equation. We must be able to assess our ability to put the BMPs into practice on a regular basis. This will add credibility to our BMP initiative among not only state and local lawmakers and regulatory agencies, but also the general public.

We have formed a committee consisting of all seven New York State GCSAA-affiliated chapters to work on formulating a self-assessment tool that will include a series of questions to help superintendents evaluate their use of the BMPs. The tool will ultimately be available on the BMP website.

The committee's first face-to-face meeting took place in Rochester during the NYSTA Turf & Grounds Exposition in mid-November. At this meeting, we worked to solidify the self-assessment tool's content, as well as develop a strategy for marketing the tool to New York State superintendents. Our thought, now, is to publicize the self-assessment tool through a series of articles and speaker symposiums. With motivating participation in mind, we have also met with the New York State DEC on several occasions to talk about developing a system that allows self-assessment participants to earn DEC credits, but more on that in the coming months.

By January, we hope to have a final review of the self-assessment tool's content before sending it to the online developer. From February through the fall of 2015, we will be hard at work designing the web-based self-assessment tool while also beginning our marketing campaign. We hope to have the self-assessment initiative up and running by the end of 2015.

Supporting the Initiative's Success

You can do your part to make the BMP initiative a success by participating in the self-assessment and spreading the word to your fellow superintendents. Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I look forward to seeing you at the next MetGCSA meeting.

New Faces on the MetGCSA Board

T it was only fitting that the MetGCSA held its Annual Meeting and Elections on November 4, Election Day. Convening again this year at the Rye Grill & Bar in Rye, NY, the meeting drew a sizable crowd of both members and prospective members.

Attendees were given updates on the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation from Les Kennedy, on NYSTA from Mike Maffei, and on GCSAA from Kevin Doyle.

After the customary Officer and Committee reports, the Met had an "Election Day" of its own. Here's the outcome:

The Elected Officers

President

Glen Dube, CGCS, of Centennial Golf Club, moves from vice president

Vice President

Dave Dudones, of Westchester Country Club, moves from treasurer

Treasurer

Ken Benoit, CGCS, of GlenArbor Golf Club, moves from secretary

Secretary

Rob Alonzi, of Fenway Golf Club, moves from director

Past President

Blake Halderman, CGCS, of Brae Burn Country Club, moves from president

After 12 years of service, Bob Nielsen, CGCS, of Bedford Golf & Tennis Club will retire from the board. Many thanks go out to Bob for his years of dedicated service to the MetGCSA. He has been a great asset to area superintendents and to the Met Board of Directors.

Directors

- Brett Chapin of Redding Country Club and Jim Pavonetti, CGCS, of Fairview Country Club were reelected as directors to the board
- Bob Wolverton and Doug Drugo of Wee Burn Country Club remain to fulfill their term as directors.
- Mike Brunelle, CGCS, of Upper Montclair Country Club was elected as a director to the board.
- Steven McGlone of Siwanoy Country Club was appointed as a director to the board, filling the vacancy left by Rob Alonzi moving to secretary.

Member News

Passing of Frank Lamphier Jr.

The MetGCSA would like to offer our sincere condolences to the family of Frank Lamphier Jr., who passed away September 24. He was 80. A Met member since 1968, Frank's contributions throughout the years have meant a great deal to our profession, both in our area and throughout the country.

In 2013, Frank was honored with the GCSAA Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award, which is presented each year to individuals who have made an outstanding, substantive, and enduring contribution to the advancement of golf course superintendents. In addition, he was credited with helping to resurrect the GCSAA National Championship & Golf Classic.

Originally known as the National Greenkeeping Superintendents Tournament, it began in 1938, was interrupted by World War II from 1942-45, and then held intermittently until 1963. In 1968, Frank led the charge in resurrecting this event, and thanks to his efforts, the GCSAA National Championship & Golf Classic continues to thrive



today as a regular event at the Golf Industry Show.

Superintendent for years at Aspetuck Valley Country Club in Weston, CT, Frank also played a major role in the Connecticut Golf Course Superintendents Association. He served on numerous committees and on the board of directors, moving his way through the chairs to president in 1974-5. In 1987, the CAGCS honored him with their Superintendent of the Year award. Frank graduated from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst turf school.

Frank lived and breathed the golf industry and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **David Conrad**, Class AF, of Plant Food Company, Cranbury, NJ
- **Andrew White**, Class C, Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Births

Congratulations to:

- **Greg Eisner**, superintendent at Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point, and his wife, Ashley, on the birth of their daughter, Brooke Elizabeth Eisner, who was 6 lbs. 12 ozs. and born on August 8.
- **Ryan Oliver**, superintendent at Hudson National Golf Club, and his wife, Amber, on the birth of their son, Weston Reed Oliver, who was 7 lbs. 3 ozs. and born on August 29.
- **Matt Leverich** of Playbooks for Golf and his wife, Leslie, on the birth of their son, Oliver Edison Leverich, who was 8 lbs. 6 ozs. and born on September 9.

- **Steve Loughran**, superintendent at Rock Ridge Country Club, and his wife, Amanda, on the birth of their daughter, MacKenzie Mary Loughran, who was 5 lbs. 7 ozs. and born on October 23.

In Sympathy

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to two MetGCSA members and their families:

- Metro Turf Specialists' **Scott Apgar**, whose mother, Jillanne Apgar, passed away on October 24 after a long illness. She was 80.
- Golf Club at Mansion Ridge Superintendent **Charles Nowicki**, whose father, Bruce Edward Nowicki, passed away October 31 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 71.

Memorial donations may be made to Kobacker House/Hospice at <https://foundation.ohiohealth.com/> or by mail to: Ohio Health Foundation, Kobacker House/Hospice, 180 East Broad Street, Floor 31, Columbus, OH 43215-3707.

“Attending our meetings is essential to the welfare of our association. Equally important, however, is becoming an active contributor. In other words, host a meeting. Join a committee—or two. Volunteer for the board.”

President's Message continued from page 1

gather information useful to both members and the board, in guiding their future efforts on the golf course and throughout their operations.

- *Association outreach.* The Met board reached out to Hurricane Sandy victims in their time of need, spending the day in Coney Island cooking and handing out essentials to those devastated by this natural disaster.

- *Revitalizing the Nor'easter.* This year, the Met board reinvented the annual GIS Nor'easter event. For those of you who didn't make it, this is now a must-attend event, attracting industry professionals from across the Northeast and Canada. With more than 400 participants, this is a wonderful way to catch up with old friends and build new industry alliances.

- *Honoring Sherwood A. Moore (SAM) Award winners with a special privilege.* The board voted to exempt SAM Award winners from paying dues in recognition of their dedication and service to our association and profession.

In addition to the board's efforts, many members have been working to spread the word about superintendents' value to golf facilities and the industry by contributing articles in area magazines published by our allied associations, such as the *Met Golfer Extra* and the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation's "Superintendent Spotlight."

Become Part of the Solution

While the board has accomplished quite a bit over the past two years, one frustration remains: low attendance at our golf events! It has been embarrassing for our association, and the superintendents who have secured their club for an event, when we have been forced to cancel the outing because the signup is so low.

We have reduced our number of golf events, hoping to encourage greater participation. Unfortunately, this has not seemed to work. I think we all have to put ourselves in the position of our event hosts who have

graciously offered their clubs and are hoping for a great turnout. Our events provide important opportunities for you to share ideas and form alliances with other members that will, in turn, strengthen your position at your club and within the industry.

Attending our meetings is essential to the welfare of our association. Equally important, however, is becoming an active contributor. In other words, host a meeting. Join a committee—or two. Volunteer for the board.

Joining the board is a great way to network with other industry leaders and learn skills beyond the ones you use day-to-day. You'll learn to manage your time more efficiently, plan and run large events, and become a better communicator and presenter. What's more, your involvement will undoubtedly add to your credibility and respect as a leader within your club.

Changing of the Guard

Though I will miss my role as MetGCSA president, I couldn't be more pleased to turn the reins over to my close friend and Centennial superintendent, Glen Dube. Our friendship started at URI, and as some will say, we have been inseparable ever since (our wives included!), working or living within a half-hour of each other since 1993.

Glen's presence on the board as vice president the past two years gave me great comfort, and I look forward, now, to serving on the board as past president with him at the helm. I wish Glen and the new board the best of luck and continued success in the future!

I would like to thank our Class AF Representative, Kevin Collins of Aquatrols, and our Class C Rep, George Chavez of Pelham Country Club, for generously giving their time and support to our association for the past two years.

I also would like to thank Tony Hooks of Due Process Stable. Tony served as Tournament Committee chair for the past two years, but due to the location of his new po-

sition, he will be taking a leave from the board. The tournament committee chairman is a time-consuming position, and even with his long drive, Tony found time to get it done. Thank you, again, to the three of you for all of your time and dedication.

Last, Bob Nielsen of Bedford Golf & Tennis will be leaving the board after 12 years of service. Bob has served on most of our committees and was instrumental in maintaining strong relationships with the GCSAA and other allied associations. He is a true leader and someone we all turned to on a regular basis for guidance. His presence on the board will be greatly missed, but I am sure, knowing Bob, that he will stay involved in some fashion!

Final Thanks

It has been extremely rewarding leading such a fine association and especially gratifying working with the current board, whose drive and creativity has made my job as president a pleasure. I honestly can't thank each and every one of you enough for your hard work and dedication to the association.

I would also like to thank Susan O'Dowd, our executive secretary; Ed Brockner, our executive director; and Pandora Wojick, our *Tee to Green* managing editor as they continue to provide the expertise and support our association needs to keep things running smoothly and moving forward.

And last but not least, I would like to thank all of our advertisers and sponsors. It is their ongoing support that has enabled our organization to provide the high level of services and events that our membership has come to expect. Please remember to support those who support us!

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season with family and friends—and that includes us! Don't forget to join fellow Met members at our annual Holiday Party on December 5!

Blake Halderman, CGCS
President

Scorecard

Philly Runs Away With 2014 Met Area Team Championship Trophy

by Andy Drohen, Met Area Team Championship Co-Chair

Thank you to all who participated in this year's Met Area Team Championship held September 29 at Philadelphia Country Club in Gladwyne, PA. We had another fantastic day, thanks to Philly green chair Chet Walsh, golf course superintendent Mike McNulty, head professional Scott Riley, and the entire staff at Philadelphia Country Club.

Mike had the golf course in terrific shape for this year's event. Players from every state are still raving about the conditions and exceptional course layout. My co-chair, Blake Halderman, and I have been blessed with not only great host golf courses year after year, but also great people to work with!

Tough Competition

The competition was strong once again, but that home field advantage may have been just too much for everyone to overcome as the team from Philadelphia ran away with this event with an 11-shot victory over the defending champions from Connecticut.

In what is believed to be the tournament record, Philadelphia blistered through the par 71 layout at 8 under par with strong showings from all team members, including my low gross partner John Gosselin and I, who had the day's best two-ball score at 65.

Philadelphia last won this event in 2011 at Galloway National.

Defending champs from Connecticut narrowly held on to Second Place by one shot over annual contender Hudson Valley, and with a tiebreaker, New Jersey held on for Fourth Place over Northeastern.

Playing for the MetGCSA this year were Pelham's Jeff Wentworth/Due Process Stable's Tony Hooks (78) and Sunningdale's Sean Cain/Plant Food's Tom Weinert (78) in the Gross Division and Westchester's David Dudones/Brae Burn's Blake Halderman (76) and Wee Burn's Doug Drugo/Silvermine's Larry Pakkala (67) in the Net Division. The Met team slipped down the ladder from Third to Ninth Place this year, but as you can see, Larry, who was once the assistant at Philadelphia Country Club, fared quite well. Think there was a little of that home advantage at work there?

Meanwhile, no one won the \$20,000 dollar hole-in-one prize this year, but the team from New England dominated the skill prizes, winning three of the seven available, including the best shot of the day from past GCSAA President Jim Fitzroy with a shot that stopped 1' 1" from the cup on arguably the hardest hole on the course: a 235-yard, par 3, uphill no less! We are happy to report Jim did make the putt!

Special Thanks

Thanks, again, to all who participated, and special thanks to GCSAA Rep Kevin Doyle for his help throughout the day and to Shaun Barry, who helped with the \$20,000 hole-in-one hole and also took some fantastic photos of the groups! We're happy to report that this year we have Shaun's photos loaded on Flickr for all to view and download. Here's the link: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/118804232@N02/>. Nice job, Shaun!

Finally, we want to thank our seven sponsors—Aquatrols, BASF, Bayer, The Care of Trees, Koch Agronomic Services, Syngenta, and Toro—for their continuing support in making this a truly wonderful event. Without them, this event would not be able to be held to the standards we have come to know and love.

A Charitable Event

As many of you may know, this event is more than just about golf. Each year, funds raised during the championship go to a charity of the MetGCSA board's choice. This year, we were able to raise more than \$2,000 from the 50/50 and hope to elect a suitable charity at the next MetGCSA board meeting.

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

See you all in 2015!

The Complete Results

What follows is a list of team and proximity winners. Congratulations everyone!

Team Scores (Par 284)

1st / 276	Philadelphia AGCS
2nd / 287	Connecticut AGCS
3rd / 288	Hudson Valley GCSA
4th / 290	GCSA of New Jersey
5th / 290	Northeastern GCSA
6th / 291	Central New York GCSA
7th / 295	GCSA of Cape Cod
8th / 295	Central Penn GCSA



Chet Walsh & Steve Stephens, Philadelphia AGCS; Tom Weinert & Sean Cain, MetGCSA (l to r)



Wendell Beakley, GCSA of New Jersey; Larry Pakkala, MetGCSA; Jeremy Hrehen, GCSA of New Jersey; Doug Drugo, MetGCSA (l to r)



David Dudones & Jeff Wentworth, MetGCSA; John Alexander, GCSA New Jersey (l to r)



Met Area Team Championship Co-Chairs Andy Drohen (left) & Blake Halderman congratulate the winners.



Tony Hooks & Jeff Wentworth, MetGCSA; Brian Minemier & Tom Grimac, GCSA New Jersey (l to r)



Bob Alonzi, MetGCSA, takes a break between holes.

- 9th / 299 MetGCSA
- 10th / 311 Pocono Turfgrass Association
- 11th / 311 GCSA of New England
- 12th / 314 Rhode Island GCSA
- 13th / 315 Mid-Atlantic AGCS

Closest to the Pin

- #5 / 4' 1" Chris Tufts
GCSA of Cape Cod
(Sponsored by Koch Agronomic Servs.)
- #7 / 6' 0" Garrett Whitney
GCSA of New England
(Sponsored by BASF)
- #11 / 4' 9" Dave Lippman
Hudson Valley GCSA
(Sponsored by Toro)
- #15 / 1' 1" Jim Fitzroy
GCSA of New England
(Sponsored by Syngenta)

Longest Drive

- Net Div. Donny D'Errico
GCSA of New England
(Sponsored by Bayer)

- Gross Div. Sean Cain
MetGCSA
(Sponsored by Aquatrols)
- Sponsors Div. Dave Dynowski
Toro
(Sponsored by The Care of Trees)

Low Gross Team Winners

- 65 Andy Drohen & John Gosselin
Philadelphia AGCS

Sponsorship Team Winners

- 64 Matt Richter & Doug Rider

Two-Man Team High Score

- Gross / 83 Andrew Harrison & Jeff Roder
Mid-Atlantic AGCS
- Net / 81 John Downer & Chris Moran
Pocono Turfgrass Association

Nine and Dine at Silvermine: Fun for All

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA Executive Director

More than 60 superintendents, assistants, and guests enjoyed a wonderful afternoon and evening at the Nine and Dine Event held October 15 at Silvermine Golf Club in Norwalk, CT. Hosting the event was the club's superintendent of two years and Met past president Larry Pakkala, who was pleased to welcome members and guests to this family-friendly club.

This year, contestants were divided between two separate nine-hole events: the Barn Nine and Wilton Nine. The scramble scoring led to some very low numbers and a fun format for everyone who attended. Here are the top scorers:

Barn Nine

- 27 Scott Tretera, Harrell's / Glenn Perry, Rolling Hills CC / Tony Grasso, Jacobsen/Textron
- 29 Doug Drugo / Justin Miller, Wee Burn CC
Dave McCaffrey / Jarad Luknicki, Metropolis CC

Wilton Nine

- 27 Tom Weinert, Dave Conrad, Jason Dowgiewicz, Plant Food Co.
- 30 Dave Lippman, Westchester Turf Supply / Bob Wolverton, Century CC / Todd Apgar, Metro Turf Specialists

Special thanks to Larry for hosting such a fun event and also to PGA Professional Stuart Waack and his staff for making us all feel like members for the day!



New and Noteworthy

MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Educational Seminar

Wednesday, December 3

The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT

Host: Jason Meersman

Don't miss this year's fall seminar and the outstanding lineup of education sessions. Here's a look at the speakers and their topics:

- **2014 Year-In-Review**

Adam Moeller, USGA Senior Agronomist

- **Turf Insect Pest Year-in-Review: Wacky Weather, Old Foes, & Emerging Issues**

Dr. Benjamin McGraw, Penn State University

- **Best Management Practices for Anthracnose Control on Annual Bluegrass Putting Green Turf**

Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University

- **The Size of Topdressing Sand: Does It Matter?**

Dr. James Murphy, Rutgers University

- **How Does Your Water Measure Up?**

Kathy Conard, Water Specialist, Turf Diagnostics

Log on to metgcsa.org to register!

Long Island Regional Conference

Thursday, December 4

Upsky Long Island Hotel

Hauppauge, NY

The Long Island Regional Conference offers a variety of education sessions with leading turfgrass educators and industry professionals. Program highlights include:

- **Soil and Water Test Interpretation and Recommendations**

Long Island Pesticide Pollution Prevention Strategy Update

- **Brushing Greens: The Intersection of Biology and Physics**

Green Speed, *Poa*, and BMPs.

Sustainability, Playability and Reliability: Which Do You Have and Which Do You Want?

- **Salinity Studies Update**

Water Quality and Water Quality Testing: Results from Long Island Tests and Studies

Please Join Us for the Social Event of the Year!



The MetGCSA Holiday Party

Friday, December 5, 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Via Veneto 26, 8 City Place
White Plains, NY

Be sure to join fellow Met members for this festive annual event. Enjoy Via Veneto's fine Italian cuisine and dancing to the sounds of DJ Stiltz.

- Research Update: Ball Roll and Mowing
- A Progressive IPM Approach for Long Island Lawns and Turf
- *PoaCure*: A Promising Material for *Poa annua* Control

For conference registration and hotel information visit: www.nysta.org or contact the NYSTA office at 518-783-1229.

39th Annual New Jersey Green Expo Turf and Landscape Conference

Tuesday – Thursday, December 9 – 11

The Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa
Atlantic City, NY

The New Jersey Green Exp 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.

CAGCS Winter Seminar

Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Mystic Marriott
Groton, CT

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 14, 2015

Westchester Country Club
Rye, NY

Host: David Dudones

18th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show

Monday – Thursday, January 26 – 29, 2015

Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, RI

For the 18th consecutive year, the conference and show provides turfgrass professionals from all areas of the industry the opportunity to see the newest products, supplies, services, and equipment available while joining turfgrass professionals for informative educational sessions, pesticide recertification credits, and endless networking opportunities.

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

GCSAA Education Conference & Golf Industry Show

Saturday – Thursday, February 21 – 26, 2015

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
San Antonio, TX

Registration for this annual must-attend education conference and trade show is now open. Don't miss this opportunity to network with fellow professionals and discuss the latest trends, products, and services in the turfgrass industry.

2015 Nor'easter Ski Day

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Killington Ski Resort
Killington, VT

Watch for details on this not-to-be-missed multi-association event that includes a day of fun—and a ski race competition—on the Killington slopes. Watch for details as the date draws closer!

Redding Rolls Out the Red Carpet for Assistants

by S. Addison Barden

The long hours and hard work put in this season by the Redding Country Club staff and crew were apparent to all who played in this year's Annual MetGCSA Assistants Championship on October 7. The day couldn't have been nicer with clear skies and warm temps; it was the perfect opportunity for area assistants to relax and enjoy a well-deserved day on the course without an irrigation radio in hand. Assistant hosts Evan Bradstreet and Greg Rotter couldn't have been more pleased to provide fellow assistants with the playing field for some time away from their daily grind.

About the Course They Played

The Redding Country Club was conceived when three local investors set out to create, as they described, "a place of complete enjoyment and relaxation for you and your children, and a place where you will be proud to entertain your guests." Their vision for a "little club in the country" began to take shape in 1965 when they purchased the site of the former Costello farm and created The Redding Country Club Holding Corporation.

In 1976, the Holding Corporation was unwound, and The Redding Country Club was purchased by its members. As the club membership grew, the club's facilities grew, with the golf course expanded by Rees Jones to its current 18 holes, nestled high atop the hills in the beautiful rural community of Redding, CT.

The 50 participants in the Assistants Championship were able to enjoy the numerous enhancements the golf course has undergone over the years, including the complete rebuild of all green surrounds and bunkers and the construction of several new tees. In 2013, a new 100-yard short game practice area was constructed with a green and bunkers to augment the existing practice putting green and practice range.

With the course's many elevation changes and streams and ponds interspersed among most of the holes, Redding offered assistants a challenging and enjoyable round.

In addition to rolling out the red carpet for this year's Assistants Championship, Golf Course Superintendent Brett Chapin and his two assistants, Evan Bradstreet and Greg Rotter, were busy this year preparing for the Connecticut State Golf Association Men's Mid-Amateur Qualifier Tournament, which the club hosted in August. In 2015, they will host the CSGA Women's Open in May. No rest for the weary!

About Assistant Host Evan Bradstreet

Born and raised in Maine, Evan Bradstreet viewed working in the Met area as a challenge that would teach him the attention to detail that is often the hallmark of a successful superintendent. "It's that attention to the small things," he says, "that ranks the golf courses in our region among the best in the country."

Evan got his first taste of the industry working on the crew at Sable Oaks Golf Club in South Portland, ME. It was this experience that inspired Evan to pursue a career in the golf business. He enrolled in the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, earning both an associate's in turf and a bachelor's in urban forestry, while gaining valuable experience as an intern at both The Snowmass Club in Snowmass Village, CO, and Charles River Country Club in Newton, MA.

Evan joined Brett in May of 2013 and credits Brett with helping him build the skills and experience needed to assume responsibility for a course of his own one day. Agronomic expertise aside, Evan is impressed with Brett's organizational skills and attention to detail on the course and in the maintenance facility. "Little things, like organizing, labeling, and inventorying supplies, and the desire to maintain a neat maintenance facility, really can make a huge difference in your daily performance," says Evan.

Evan has also learned that, sometimes, no matter how diligent you are, things happen that are out of your control. He pointed to a mainline break they had at Redding near the



Redding Assistants Evan Bradstreet (left) & Greg Rotter

first green on a hot summer Sunday morning. "You do the best to execute the plan for the day, then you adapt as the priorities change throughout the day," he says.

"Evan was able to adapt to the system set in place at RCC very quickly," notes Brett. "He has demonstrated that he has the skill set needed to lead the staff and execute projects in a proficient manner at the highest level of detail."

When the season slows down, Evan's fun begins. He enjoys hiking, and with Maine winters still in his blood, it's no surprise that snowshoeing and snowboarding with family and friends are also among his favorite off-season pastimes. When he's not off enjoying the great outdoors, Evan is content to just relax at his home in Georgetown, CT, with his fiancé, taking full advantage of the all-to-short off-season.

About Assistant Host Greg Rotter

From the outskirts of Cleveland, OH, Greg Rotter, or Bearclaw as he prefers to be called, moved to Redding to fulfill his dream of working in one of the most challenging environments for golf course superintendents. After earning his bachelor's in turfgrass science from Ohio State University, Greg interned at some of the top courses in the Cleveland area, including Sand Ridge Golf Club.

He began working for Brett in April of 2013 and has valued every moment of his experience there. "I have been able to push myself and enhance my potential to succeed," he says. Brett has taught me many of the essentials of success," says Greg. "Efficient crew management, keeping a meticulous eye on the details, and always looking to improve—not just on the course, but professionally, as well."

With Brett's support, Greg has taken advantage of career-enhancing opportunities to

network in the Met area, as well as nationally by volunteering at the Northern Trust Open at Riviera Country Club.

"In Greg's two seasons at RCC, he has become a leader within the Green Department," says Brett. "His leadership skills and eagerness to succeed is evident each and every day on the job."

During the season, Greg uses the gym to burn off steam and reap the rewards of hard work. "I always allocate one hour of my day to going to the gym," says Greg. "It's the only time where I am in absolute control of my results." Greg, like Evan, is an outdoorsman, who enjoys fishing, golfing, hiking, and shooting guns in his spare time.

Worth the Effort

Through the many challenges and rewards of being an assistant superintendent, both Evan and Greg will tell you one of the bright spots in their day is seeing each employee work in collaboration to surpass what the club's membership has come to expect.

"Although management is a difficult aspect of the job," says Greg, "helping people learn how to do something and then seeing them excel is the single most satisfying part of working here." Evan finds the RCC layout another enjoyable aspect of the job. "The elevation changes and views on this course are some of the best in the area," he says.

The Assistant Championship was a great day for all who attended, and we have Evan, Greg, and Brett to thank for that! Like our other member hosts, dedication to their job and passion for their work produced another successful MetGCSA outing.

Addison Barden, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is West Course Superintendent at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

Redding Super Welcomes Assistants Championship

Brett Chapin, Redding's superintendent for the past eight years, couldn't have been more pleased to host this year's Assistants Championship.

Grateful to the superintendents who have offered wonderful training grounds and experience to him throughout his career, Brett was happy to "pay it forward" in this small way.

Brett's journey started in his hometown of Washington, CT. During high school, he worked at The Washington Club, a nine-hole tract that offered him positions in the cart barn and then on the maintenance crew.

Following graduation, Brett enrolled in the turfgrass management program at UMass-Amherst. While pursuing his B.S. in plant and soil science, he secured three impressive internships: In 1999, he worked at The Golf Club of Purchase with Bob Miller, in 2000 at Apawamis with Bill Perlee, and in 2001 at Siwanoy with the late Dave Mahoney.

"Working for Bob, Bill, and Dave, I was exposed to all aspects of golf course management. I couldn't have found better training grounds," he says.

After graduation in 2002, Brett accepted his first assistant's job at The Seawane Club in Long Island. Working with Superintendent Brian Benedict, Brett helped to shepherd the club through a massive reconstruction project initiated to bring the course back to its original seaside design.

"Working under Brian through this pro-



Brett Chapin

ject," says Brett, "not only boosted my skills, it also built my confidence." No doubt. After five years at Seawane, Brett was offered the job as superintendent at Redding Country Club, back in his home state of Connecticut.

While at Redding, he has been responsible for the management of the entire property, including grounds, buildings, and infrastructure. Brett assumed the role of project manager for all aspects of a \$6-million renovation that included golf course upgrades, a new club entrance, parking expansion, and a new pool and outdoor dining facility. Currently, Brett is overseeing the entire club operation as Interim General Manager.

"If it weren't for the hard work and leadership of my assistants, Evan and Greg, I would not have been able to accept my current role as Interim GM," says Brett. "Each day they continue to impress me with their ability to accomplish the tasks at hand."

A MetGCSA member since 2007, Brett joined the Board of Directors in 2010, serving on the Advertising, Education, Government Relations, and GCSAA's Conference Education committees.

In his spare time, Brett enjoys spending time with his wife, Grace-Marie, and their two children: Adreanna, 5, and Nathaniel, 3.

Assistants Enjoy a Day of Friendly Competition at Redding

Redding Country Club provided an outstanding host site for this year's Assistants Championship on October 7. Dave Lippman from Title Sponsor Westchester Turf joined a large field of assistants from around the region. There were some outstanding scores over the hilly course with lightning-fast greens that were prepared to perfection by host Superintendent Brett Chapin, his assistants, Evan Bradstreet and Greg Rotter, and their crew.

Congratulations to Scott Campbell of Quaker Ridge Golf Club, who scored a hole-in-one on the 4th hole!

Thank you to everyone for attending

another excellent Assistants Championship and to everyone at Redding for making it a memorable day on the links.

Here are the day's results:

Low Gross Team Winners

- 73 Dave Parson, *The Apawamis Club*/
Josh Haugh, *Willow Ridge CC*
- 75 Royal Healey/Greg Coughlin
Sleepy Hollow CC

Low Net Team Winners

- 62 Brett Waterman/Alan Jeffray,
Tamarack CC
- 67 Corbin Blier, *Fresh Meadow CC*/
Tyler Wesseldy, *Naussau CC*

Individual Gross Winner

- 78 Dave Parson, *The Apawamis Club*

Closest to the Pin: Assistants

- #4 Jeff Campbell Hole in One!!!
Quaker Ridge GC
- #8 Alan Jeffray, *Tamarack CC* 3' 3"
- #10 Alan Jeffray, *Tamarack CC* 15' 0"
- #13 Austin Sevcik, *Westchester CC* 4' 6"

Closest to the Pin: Non-Assistants

- #4 Eric Berg, *LaCorte* 22' 6"
- #13 Brian Bontemps, *Seeton Turf* 39' 11"

Longest Drive

- #15 Brett Waterman, Assistant,
Tamarack CC
Jeff Sutphen, Non-Assistant, *LaCorte*

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