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Tee To Green

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ith the 2015 golf season complete, I hope everybody has been able to take a deep breath and decompress from the rigors and demands of the season. With “Early Order” out of the way, snow mold sprays applied, and seasonal workers gone for the winter, now’s the time to evaluate the rights and wrongs of this past season, retool, and prepare for next year.

Special Thank Yous

I have a few groups of people who I would like to thank. First, I want to thank the MetGCSA Board of Directors for their tremendous efforts over the past year. The fine gentlemen who serve on our board are a group of dedicated, hardworking individuals who selflessly volunteer their time to meet the needs of the membership and run every facet of the association with passion.

Second, I would like to thank all of our superintendent event hosts and their clubs for welcoming us to their facilities this past year. All of our golf sites were in immaculate condition, and the clubs that hosted social or educational events were gracious and accommodating.

Third, I would like to thank all of the AF members who advertise and generously support the MetGCSA. The superintendent/AF relationship is a two-way street. We can’t do it without you and vice versa. Just know that we appreciate all of your support this past year—and always.

Last but not least, I would like to recognize and thank our executive secretary, Susan O’Dowd. Susan tends to the administrative needs of not only our association, but three others as well. She has a lot on her plate but always finds a way to quickly and efficiently handle her commitments to our association—and she does it with a smile.

Must-Attend Educational Opportunities

With the end of the season comes the start of our many educational opportunities. It kicks off with our annual Winter Seminar,



Glen Dube, CGCS
MetGCSA President

which is being held on January 13 and hosted, once again, by David Dudones at Westchester Country Club. The Education Committee has put together a great program. Be sure to take a look at page 10 of this issue for the impressive lineup of speakers.

The Education Committee, in conjunction with the Assistants Committee, will be holding a Career Workshop for assistant superintendents on January 22 at Siwanoy Country Club. Watch for details!

Then, on January 27 and 28, NYSTA will host its Southeast Regional Conference at the Ramada Inn in Fishkill, NY. Join fellow industry professionals for the trade show and not-be-missed educational sessions.

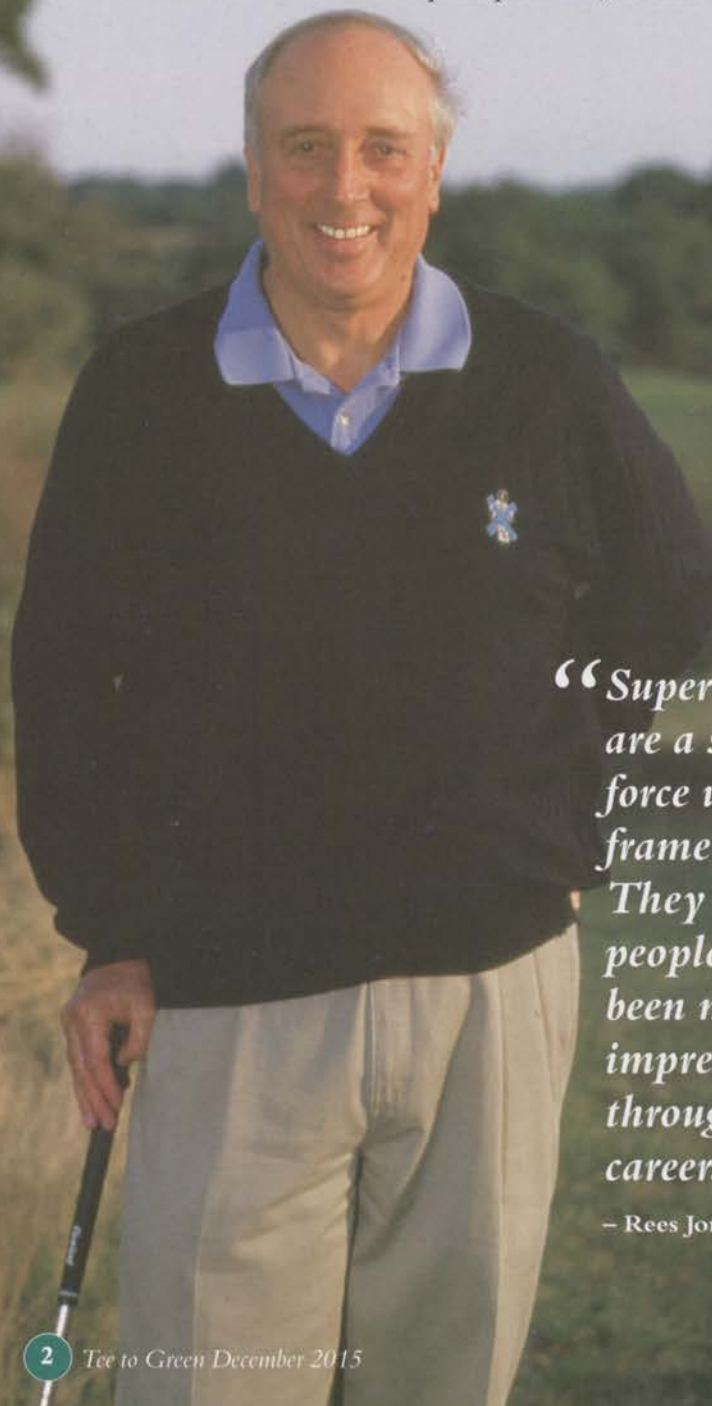
Finally, the 2016 Golf Industry Show will be held in San Diego on February 6 – 12. If you are able to make the trip out West, please mark your calendars for this year’s Nor’easter, which will be held on February 10. I hope you will join us there to catch up with industry friends and enjoy some great food and cheer. Social Chair Brett Chapin has another great venue selected. (See page 10 for details.)

Wishing everyone and their families good health and prosperity throughout the New Year!

Glen Dube, CGCS
President

MetGCSA Honors Renowned Architect Rees Jones With Its 2016 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

by Larry Pakkala, CGCS



“Superintendents are a significant force within the framework of golf. They are the people I have been most impressed with throughout my career.”

— Rees Jones



The MetGCSA is pleased to announce Golf Course Architect Rees Jones as its 2016 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

Being presented at the MetGCSA's January 13 Winter Seminar, this annual honor is reserved for "an individual who, through continuing commitment, has shown exemplary support to the game of golf and golf course superintendents." Rees is the Met's 26th Reid Award recipient since its inception in 1986 and clearly a wonderful choice for our association's highest honor, given his long and distinguished career in the golf industry.

Assuming the role of "Open Doctor" from his father, mentor, and renowned golf course architect, the late Robert Trent Jones Sr., Rees has been recognized for his redesign of courses in preparation for major championships. He's "doctored" seven U.S. Open venues, The Country Club in Brookline, MA, his first; eight PGA Championship courses; five Ryder Cup sites, and two Walker Cup sites; as well as a President's Cup at The Royal Montreal Golf Club.

Several of the courses he's redesigned have been selected as FedEx Championship sites, including the historic East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta, GA, the permanent site of the PGA TOUR's Tour Championship.

In every undertaking, Rees has recognized the golf course superintendent's key role in the project's success. "As our collaborators," says Rees in the golf book *Green Glory*, "superintendents are the unsung heroes who make us look good by polishing our handiwork. With their persistent pursuit of excellence," he continues, "superintendents are in a class of their own when it comes to meeting the ceaseless challenges posed by nature, economics, and the game itself."

"Rees should be applauded," says former MetGCSA President and reigning Awards Committee Chair Blake Halderman, "not only for his many contributions to the golf industry, but also for his major role in supporting the golf course superintendent. His high regard for the profession has resulted in lasting relationships with the many golf course superintendents he has worked with over the course of his career. I can't think of a more deserving Reid Award recipient."

The Making of an Architect

Rees Jones was virtually born into the game of golf. He learned to play as a youngster, competing as a junior golfer, when in college, and while serving in the Army Reserves. Rees worked many summers on his father's projects, traveling with his family to golf courses all over the world.

"I guess you could say I assimilated into the business," says Rees, noting that also key in his tutelage was working with his father's construction manager, the late Bill Baldwin, who shared the ins and outs of course construction. "He taught me that you have to know how to build a course before you can design it," says Rees. "He knew how critical understanding the land was."

Rees earned a B.A. from Yale and did graduate study at Harvard in design and landscape architecture. In 1965, after his brief stint in the army, Rees went to work full time as a principal in his father's firm, Robert Trent Jones, Inc. Nearly a decade later, in 1974, he struck out on his own, founding Rees Jones, Inc., which is still headquartered today in Montclair, NJ, his hometown.

In the course of his lengthy career, Rees has designed or redesigned more than 170 golf courses worldwide, including those in China, Japan, Canada, Mexico, England, Spain, and Africa. Right now, his firm has work spanning 16 U.S. states—including more than a dozen tri-state area projects—and seven countries.

Among Rees's award-winning designs are Nantucket Golf Club in Siasconset, MA, Atlantic Golf Club in Bridgehampton, NY, The Golf Club at Briar's Creek in Johns Island, SC, RedStick Golf Club in Vero Beach, FL, Ocean Forest Golf Club in Sea Island, GA, Haig Point Club in Daufuskie Island, SC, Waldorf Astoria Golf Club in Orlando, FL, and Cascata in Boulder City, NV, near Las Vegas.

Rees attributes his success to keeping the number of jobs his firm has undertaken over the years to a manageable number. "I've always made it a point to be involved directly in the work and to put my mind in the heads of the original architects," says Rees, "rather than imposing my own style."

Also playing a key role in Rees's success are the three associate architects on his design team: Greg Muirhead (32 years), Steve Weisser (25 years) and Bryce Swanson (16 years). All join Rees in his quest to create classic venues that blend traditional design and innovative style.

"We're all on the same page," says Rees. "We're client-oriented, maintenance-oriented, and all very cognizant of whether a course is going to host a U.S. Open or is a public course for the everyday golfer. Greg,

Steve, and Bryce," he adds, "have played a most instrumental role in producing some of the finest courses in the world." Rees's other long-tenured associate, Keith Evans, retired in 2011 after 32 years with the firm.

A Style of His Own

As you might expect, Rees was influenced early in his career by his father, who favored the prolific use of bunkers and water to counter the game's accelerating level of talent during the 60s and 70s. But as Rees began to work on some of the great old classic courses, he became influenced more by A.W. Tillinghast's style and to some extent by C.B. MacDonald, Donald Ross, and Alister Mackenzie.

Adhering to what you might call a neo-classic style—a blend of traditional design and innovative style—Rees works to create courses that are fair, challenging, continually interesting to play, and visually exciting. "We get a feel for the land," he says, "we listen to the client, and we build a course that we believe has integrity and lasting value."

"I think golfers enjoy being reasonably challenged," he continues. "Golf holes that unfold with a variety of shot options requiring intelligent management of the game—choosing the right club and the right strategy—make for a more interesting round. I do not believe that playability should be sacrificed to showy features that penalize a shot that is only slightly errant."

"Our bunkers are strategic features, carefully placed," he says, adding, "we design multiple tees—sometimes as many as five or six—in order to accommodate golfers of

differing skills, from beginners to PGA professionals."

In the end, Rees allows the contours of the land to dictate the style of the course. He favors embellishing the natural elements and creating other elements to look natural. "We customize every design to enhance what nature offers," says Rees, "always with sensitivity to environmental issues."

Praising Rees's design sensitivity is Fairview Country Club's Jim Pavonetti. Jim worked with Rees's firm in 2010 to create a master plan for renovating the course. Rees's father had done the original course design and Rees worked on the project, so Jim felt Rees was the appropriate choice for the job.

"I wanted to make sure we hired someone who wouldn't push to dramatically change the original design style," says Jim. "I couldn't have found a better person for the job."

"Rees, along with his associate architect, Greg Muirhead, were very aware that Fairview did not want to make the course 'U.S. Open' difficult. His plan accommodates the everyday golfer and also takes into consideration the maintenance side of the equation. In fact," continues Jim, "I think the golf course will be easier to maintain in many respects, once the plan is completed. I can't wait for the day we're finally able to apply the plan to the golf course."

Public and Proud of It

Rees is exceedingly proud of the fact that he and his associates have brought the public golfer to the forefront of the game, most notably with his works at Bethpage Black in Farmingdale, NY, and Torrey Pines in La Jolla, CA. "These projects have literally changed the old golf image of the best courses being private," says Rees.

The first U.S. Open at Bethpage was held in 2002, soon after 9/11, and according to Rees, it was a very positive event for the people suffering the aftereffects of this life-changing event. Work included the construction of championship tees, the repositioning and/or restoration of all fairway and greenside sand bunkers, and green surface expansions, or reductions, on select holes. Rees went on to make additional design improvements to the Black Course in preparation for the 2009 U.S. Open.

In addition, Rees has just completed a renovation of #3 and #14 green complexes at Bethpage in preparation for the 2016 Barclays, 2019 PGA Championship, and 2024 Ryder Cup.

Bethpage led to Torrey Pines, when it was a "build it and we will come" event. It turned out to be one of the greatest Opens ever with Tiger winning on a broken leg in a 19-hole playoff. Rees completely rebuilt Torrey Pines South, relocating greens closer to the



Rees Jones at the 2011 U.S. Open.

Photo courtesy of Fred Vuich.

canyons, recontouring all greens to provide multiple pin placements, repositioning bunkers for stronger players with more advanced equipment, and he added more than 500 yards of length. In 2002, Torrey Pines was chosen to host the 2008 U.S. Open.

Another of Rees's proud achievements is the East Lake Golf Club. Located on the east side of Atlanta, the course became part of a larger mission to breathe new life into a crime-laden area, turning it into an ideal place where kids, instead of getting into trouble and going to prison, are attending Ivy League colleges, with more than a dozen playing on college golf teams.

"Twenty years ago, I went in there, and it really was a disaster," says Rees. "We resurrected the course with a Donald Ross theme and, when all was said and done, created 179 jobs."

Then came a smaller public course and a golf academy, where young people now learn the caddy trade and golf course agronomy. Today, East Lake Golf Club is the home of the annual PGA Tour Championship and final playoff for the FedEx Cup.

A firm believer in "giving back," Rees doctored Bethpage Black for free. Other projects close to his heart have been done pro bono or for expenses, such as the Duke University Golf Club (where he played in the 1962 NCAA tourney), the Charlie Yates Golf Course in Atlanta, and Montauk Downs in Montauk, NY.

Rees's pro bono work extends beyond the realm of golf course design. Over the years, he has volunteered his time on numerous boards, serving in 1977-78 as the youngest president of the American Society of Golf Course Architects, at age 36.

Rees has also served on the USGA's Environmental Research, Turfgrass Research, and Green Section committees; the New Jersey State Golf Association's Executive Committee; the MGA's Executive Committee and Long Range Planning Committee, as well as the Board of Directors for the MGA Foundation.

No Good Deed Goes Unnoticed

Rees's many contributions to the game of golf have not gone unnoticed. He has earned a long list of awards and recognitions over the past two decades, starting with *Golf World Magazine's* 1995 Golf Architect of the Year award and the 1998 MGA Distinguished Service Award.

In 2002, Rees was honored with the Metropolitan Golf Writers Distinguished Service Award and, in 2004, GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award, as well as three architectural awards from the International Network of Golf.

In 2012, Rees was inducted into the New Jersey Sports Writers Association Hall of Fame, and that same year, the Foundation for Long Island State Parks and the New York



Rees at Bethpage Black near plaques honoring him and A.W. Tillinghast.

State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation honored Rees with the Robert Moses Master Builder Award.

In 2013, the American Society of Golf Course Architects presented Rees with its Donald Ross Award for design excellence and industry and association leadership. In February of 2014, Rees was the recipient of the Golf Course Builder's Association of America's Don A. Rossi Award, earning Rees the distinction of being one of seven people (Byron Nelson, Michael Hurdzan, Robert Trent Jones, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, and Pete Dye) to have been awarded the Donald Ross Award, the Old Tom Morris Award, and the Don A. Rossi Award. Adding to his list of accolades is Rees's 2015 induction into the Northern California Golf Association Hall of Fame.

Now, last but not least, Rees Jones can include, in his impressive lineup of awards, the MetGCSA's most coveted honor: its John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. Just as John Reid, the namesake of our association's distinguished service award, played a significant role in bringing golf to America more than a 125 years ago, Rees Jones has played—and continues to play—a leading part in ensuring the game thrives well into the future. John Reid would have been proud.

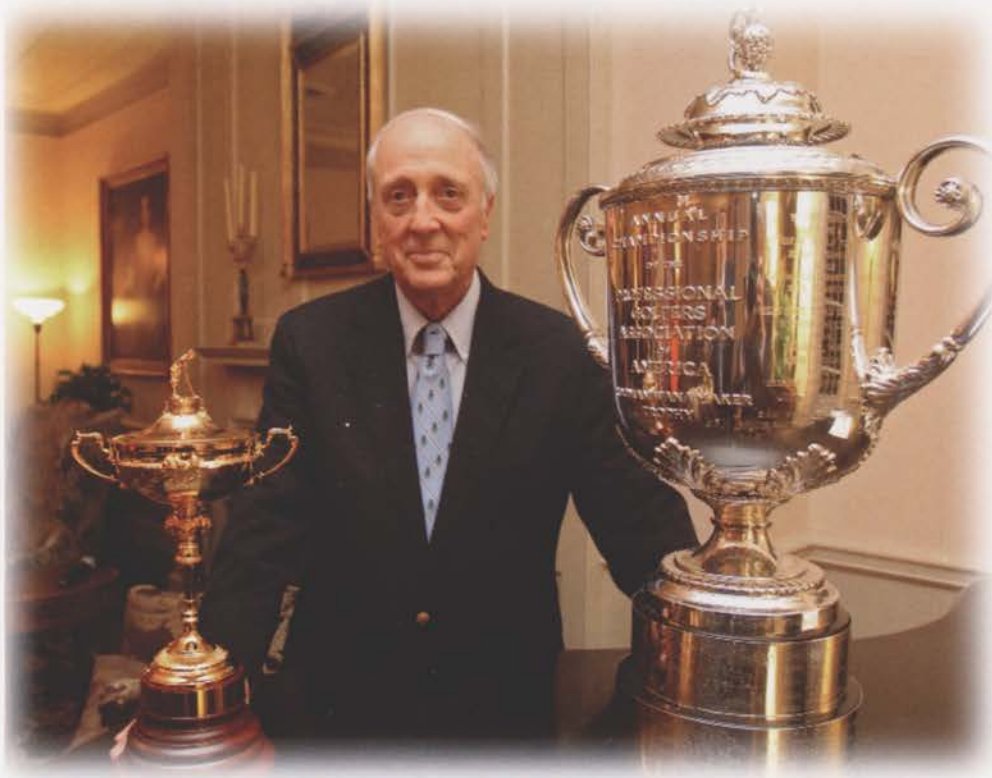
Superintendents' Supporter

Rees is not only committed to his work, but also the golf course superintendents who put the finishing touches on his final product.

"Superintendents are a significant force within the framework of golf," says Rees. "They are the people I have been most impressed with throughout my career."

So it's no surprise that Rees was more than pleased to be selected as the MetGCSA's 2016 Reid Award recipient.

"This award means so much to me because I have been chosen by the people I've been working with for more than 50 years," he says. "What is also really special to me are the personal relationships I have developed over the years with so many of the superintend-



Rees strikes a pose with Ryder Cup and Wanamaker Trophy.

ents in the New York metropolitan area.”

Bob Ranum of the Atlantic Golf Club is one of those superintendents. “I consider Rees Jones more than just Atlantic Golf Club’s architect,” says Bob. “I consider him a good friend. After knowing Rees for more than 25 years, I know, firsthand, that he has a knack for maintaining relationships with supers he has worked with in the past and has a good understanding of what they go through on a day-to-day basis.”

When Rees began his career working for his father, he spent time at Montauk Downs on the east end of Long Island renovating the course’s original H.C.C. Tippetts 1922 design. With Montauk holding a special place in his heart, he recently returned to do renovation work for the state. The course’s superintendent, Charlie Reidlinger, oversaw the project, noting Rees’s great humility.

“Despite his impressive track record as an architect,” says Charlie, “Rees is quick to recognize others’ role in his success, namely his associate architects and the superintendents he works with. He likens the work of superintendents to a painter who brings a work of art to life by adding the final strokes or touches.”

Rees has maintained a membership at Montclair Golf Club near his headquarters. He was the green chair for six years and was instrumental in hiring our own Greg Vadala as superintendent. Rees surrounded himself with committee members who had a professional status in the golf business—a number of them his own staff members—to provide Greg with the support he needed to make improvements to the golf course. Having worked as Montclair’s superintendent for 27 years, Greg enjoyed ongoing support from Rees and his team, who established a master plan the club has been picking away at since 2010. Greg offers insight into the special man Rees is, as only someone who has worked side-by-side with him for so many years can:

“Rees (affectionately known among a few of us as The Boss) was my first green chairman here,” says Greg. “And it was a true pleasure working with him and his associates, who were all members of the club. Rees would always make time to meet with me on any subject or need that I had, and the conversation would always start with him asking about my family and how they were.”

“Mike Stubbelfield was the head pro here at that time and very good friends with Rees. Mike would call me and say, ‘The Boss wants to meet us for lunch in the grillroom at noon (a quick green committee meeting).’

“Mike and I would go early and watch Rees command the attention of everyone in the room as soon as he arrived. Members would stop him to ask what he was up to or to chat about his different courses or even thank him for getting them a round on a

Rees Jones Revelations



- Growing up I thought I would be in the golf business. I was probably “programmed” by being around my father, Robert Trent Jones Sr.
- The best idea I ever had was to go out on my own at the age of 33.
- My favorite expression is “life’s a do-it-yourself game.”
- I am most proud of my championship golf course renovations.
- It’s not true that my brother [Robert Trent Jones Jr.] and I split the country in half when we both left my father’s firm.
- The world would be a better place if there were more balance—balance between people, balance between nations, balance over the ball.
- When I turned 21, I thought I knew more than I did.
- There is no shortcut to experience.
- Most people would be surprised to know that I had polio when I was 10.
- All successful people need to be mindful of what got them there.
- The best day of my life is today. I’ve been very fortunate.
- When I meet someone, the first thing I notice is whether or not they look me in the eye.
- I’m envious of people with private jets! It would sure beat running through airports and dealing with long lines when on the way to job sites.
- If I could trade places with one person for a day, it would have been Yogi Berra.

He was adored by all and got to play golf every day at Montclair Golf Club. He just made people feel good when they were around him.

- My worst vice is overindulging my two daughters.
- As an athlete, I was once a pretty good baseball player.
- My finest athletic moment was my wedge shot two feet from the pin on the last hole that led to victory in the 2002 RedStick Invitational. It was especially gratifying to win a tournament on one of my designs.
- My first job was as a counter man at a hamburger joint during high school. I worked from 5 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. so I could play golf during the day.
- My life’s mantra is life is all about people. Everybody is important, from the little guy to the big shots. The better you treat others, the better they treat you.
- I’ve found the biggest waste of time is hanging around in airports.
- When I need to relax, I get a massage. It does wonders for your brain as well as your body.
- The one thing that really gets me angry is waste, especially unnecessary government spending.
- My ideal foursome would include Bobby Jones – the golfer – Arnold Palmer, David Fay, and Yogi Berra!
- Playing golf is better than not playing golf, but no better than watching the Mets win the seventh game of the World Series, which I did with my daughter Amy at Shea Stadium 1986.
- The biggest disappointment in my life was that I traveled a lot in my job and I missed spending more time with my family at home.
- The thing I covet most is a better golf game.

Reprinted with permission of PGA TOUR Partners magazine (September/October 2006)

special course. You could see him beam. He loves to make people happy.

"Late one Sunday evening, a two-inch water main along the rear of a 3-year-old USGA green broke, washing out a quarter of the greens mix. Two-dozen members were walking around the green shaking their heads and wondering how to fix the disaster. The Boss pulled up, holding a cup of tea, to survey what had happened. Just like in the old E.F. Hutton commercial, as soon as he arrived, everyone went silent. Finally someone spoke: 'Rees, will we be playing this green again this year? What do we do?'

"Rees just said, 'We fix it.' And a contractor was onsite the next morning, the repair completed that same afternoon."

Greg couldn't say enough about Rees's unusual ability to connect with those around him and those he works with. And when it comes to the superintendents he works with, Greg will tell you that Rees has a very special place in his heart for them. "I believe he truly wants us all to succeed," says Greg.

Rees and his wife, Susan, of 47 years have two daughters who now live in Massachusetts. Their eldest Alden, a college professor, has three children: Grayson, 5; Cora Blue, 2; and Madeline Rees, 6 months. Their daughter, Amy, is a social worker and has two children: Taya, 10, and Timmy, 7. Rees enjoys nothing more than sharing his passion for golf with Taya and Timmy, who under Rees's tutelage are becoming fine golfers.

At this point in his career, Rees believes the golf business is picking up as the economy recovers from the Great Recession: "I think that both designers and superintendents recognize that in today's competitive marketplace, we need to work together to reduce costs while still providing a quality experience for players of every level. It's important that we continue to work together to find ways to make courses more playable, make them easier to maintain, and find ways to bring more players into the game."

Larry Pakkala, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Silvermine Golf Club in Norwalk, CT.

Tri-State Area Golf Courses Remolded by Rees Jones

Connecticut

The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT

New Jersey

- Ash Brook Golf Course
Scotch Plains, NJ
- Baltusrol Golf Club
(Lower Course), Springfield, NJ
- Baltusrol Golf Club
(Upper Course), Springfield, NJ
- Canoe Brook Country Club
(North Course), Summit, NJ
- Canoe Brook Country Club
(South Course), Summit, NJ
- Deal Golf & Country Club
Deal, NJ
- Echo Lake Country Club
Westfield, NJ
- Essex Fells Country Club
Essex Fells, NJ
- Flanders Valley Golf Course
(Blue Nine), Flanders, NJ
- Flanders Valley Golf Course
(White Nine), Flanders, NJ
- Forest Hill Field Club, Bloomfield, NJ
- Galloping Hill Golf Course
Kenilworth, NJ
- Hackensack Golf Club, Oradell, NJ
- Hollywood Golf Club, Deal, NJ
- Montclair Golf Club
West Orange, NJ
- Morris County Golf Club
Morristown, NJ
- Ridgewood Country Club
Ridgewood, NJ
- Woodcrest Country Club
Cherry Hill, NJ

New York

- Bethpage State Park
(Black Course), Farmingdale, NY
- Brynwood Golf & Country Club
Armonk, NY
- Crag Burn Club, East Aurora, NY
- Montauk Downs, Montauk, NY
- North Hills Country Club
Manhasset, NY
- Old Oaks Country Club
Purchase, NY
- Quaker Ridge Country Club
Scarsdale, NY
- Rye Golf Club, Rye, NY
- Sleepy Hollow Country Club
Scarborough, NY
- The Monster, Kiamesha Lake, NY
- Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Tri-State Area Golf Courses Designed by Rees Jones

The following is a list of new designs since forming Rees Jones, Inc. in 1974.

Connecticut

- Lake of Isles
(North Course), North Stonington, CT
- Lake of Isles
(South Course), North Stonington, CT
- Redding Country Club
West Redding, CT

New Jersey

- Cherry Valley Country Club
Skillman, NJ
- Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
(Forest Course), Bedminster, NJ
- Flanders Valley Golf Course
(Gold Nine), Flanders, NJ
- Pinch Brook Golf Course
Florham Park, NJ

New York

- Atlantic Golf Club, Bridgehampton, NY
- Olde Kinderhook Golf Club
Kinderhook, NY
- The Bridge, Bridgehampton, NY

Current Projects in the Tri-State Area by Rees Jones

New Jersey

- Ash Brook Golf Course
Scotch Plains, NJ
- Baltusrol Golf Club
(Lower Course), Springfield, NJ
- Baltusrol Golf Club
(Upper Course), Springfield, NJ
- Canoe Brook Country Club
(North Course), Summit, NJ
- Canoe Brook Country Club
(South Course), Summit, NJ
- Deal Golf & Country Club, Deal, NJ
- Echo Lake Country Club, Westfield, NJ
- Essex Fells Country Club
Essex Fells, NJ
- Galloping Hill Golf Course
Kenilworth, NJ
- Hackensack Golf Club, Oradell, NJ
- Montclair Golf Club, West Orange, NJ

New York

- Bethpage State Park
(Black Course), Farmingdale, NY
- Brynwood Golf & Country Club
Armonk, NY
- North Hills Country Club
Manhasset, NY
- Old Oaks Country Club
Purchase, NY
- The Monster, Kiamesha Lake, NY

Winter Injury the Hot Topic at the MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Educational Seminar

by Jim Pavonetti, CGCS

The past two winters have left their mark on dozens of golf courses in our area. Many superintendents have had to begin the past two seasons growing their greens back from devastating crown hydration damage, anoxia, and desiccation.

With that in mind, the MetGCSA and CAGCS Education Committees joined forces in building a Fall Educational Seminar that focused on winter injury. They even scheduled the event on November 12, one month earlier than usual so attendees would have a chance to apply what they learned and potentially increase the odds of turf survival should we encounter another terrible winter.

Thanks goes out of The Patterson Club and Superintendent Jason Meersman for hosting this wonderful annual event and to Brett Chapin and his Education Committee for working with the Connecticut group to put together a great roster of speakers.

What follows are the bullet points of each presentation, with contact information if you find you have a hankering for further information.

- **Dr. Ed Nangle**, *Director of Turfgrass Programs at Chicago District Golf Association*, shared what Chicago-area supers did, in some cases, to successfully prevent winter injury and, in other cases, to accelerate recovery. The supers in the Chicago area conducted a survey, which really sounded like it helped make facilities aware that others were affected by the winter and that they were not alone.

A couple of things that I felt were new and worth noting had to do with applying Civitas to the turf, right at the end of the year. The thought, there, is to coat the turf with the oil that is in Civitas to prevent the

Poa from being able to absorb water during the winter months, which is the culprit in crown hydration. The other noteworthy practice, which had to do with accelerating turf recovery, was to use covers to help raise the soil temperatures and promote seed germination and establishment.

For further information, you can reach Dr. Nangle at enangle@cdga.org or 630-423-1925.

- **Dr. Michelle DaCosta**, *Associate Professor at the University of Massachusetts*, talked about measures that can be taken to prevent winter injury, focusing on the importance of cold hardening. Raising mowing heights by at least 25 percent was one of the easiest methods to increase the turf's chance of survival. Managing shade and potassium fertilization were two other important factors in promoting proper cold hardening.

To aid turf recovery, Dr. DaCosta advises doing whatever it takes to get the soil temperatures up over 50 degrees. She recommends using covers or darkening agents to speed recovery.

For further information or questions, Dr. DaCosta can be reached online at mdacosta@umass.edu.

- **Dr. James A. Murphy**, *Extension Specialist in Turfgrass Management at Rutgers University*, spoke to us about the relationship between soil fertility and winter injury. One of Dr. Murphy's main focuses was on potassium fertilization. His studies have shown that adequate potassium levels (100 – 250 lbs. per acre) will help with dormancy and freezing tolerances. He suggests applying potassium by spoon-feeding .2 to .3 lbs. per thousand square feet every two weeks throughout the season to maintain the desired level for promoting winter survival.

For further information, please contact Dr. Murphy at murphy@aesop.rutgers.edu.

- **Steve McDonald, M.S.**, of *Turfgrass Disease Solutions, LLC*, spoke about some of his observations in the field and the common links between sites where winter injury occurred. Surface drainage problems, along with shade issues, appeared to be among the culprits in areas suffering winter damage.

To further discuss McDonald's observations, you can reach him online at info@turfgrassdiseasesolutions.com or by calling 610-633-1878.

- **Adam Moeller**, *Senior Agronomist from the USGA*, topped off the educational seminar by sharing what he's concluded about winter injury from the many site visits he's conducted during the past couple of seasons.

His recovery recommendations included seeding in conjunction with black sand and using covers to elevate soil temperatures.

To keep turf safe and sound through the winter, he recommended eliminating collar dams, improving drainage, keeping turf on the dry side leading into winter, fertilizing to build carbohydrates (N and K), deep-tine aerification in late fall, raising mowing heights, and sand topdressing with 1.5 to 2 cubic ft. per 1,000 square feet.

Moeller did note, however, that in most cases converting to creeping bentgrass appeared to be the best way to almost totally eliminate winter injury.

For further information, Moeller can be reached at amoeller@usga.org or at 610-515-1660.

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

GCSAA Chapter Delegates Discuss GCSAA Key Priorities and Member Standard Changes

by Brett Chapin

For the second consecutive year, I joined the GCSAA Board of Directors, 2016 board candidates, and 89 delegates at the Hilton Kansas City Airport Hotel and GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, KS, for the annual Chapter Delegates Meeting.

The meeting spanned two days in October and opened on October 27 with GCSAA President John O'Keefe (both a MetGCSA member and past Met president) speaking to the assembled delegates, candidates, board, and staff about GCSAA's key priorities. John explained that the strategic planning session the board of directors held in 2013 helped set the direction of the association. This planning session identified areas that were critical to the success of GCSAA and would help the association move toward its mission and achieve its vision.

Among GCSAA's key priorities are:

- serving members
- advancing the profession
- advocacy and outreach
- increased revenue opportunities
- environmental stewardship

Priorities at a Glance

John then shared with all of us what GCSAA is attempting to accomplish in each priority area.

Key Priority #1: Serving members with a focus on relevant programs and services, enhanced technology, field staff assistance, and chapter services. This includes:

- *A Field Staff Program.* Nine regional representatives will reach out to 98 local chapters on a year-round basis.
- *Mobile Application Offerings.* Technology and mobile apps are not the future. They are what is needed to reach our membership now. GCSAA must remain on the cutting edge of technology.
- *Board Outreach Program.* This initiative sends the directors on the board to regions and chapter meetings outside of their

"home" region. The intent is to meet members throughout the country and work with field staff. The regions assigned to board members will change each year.

Key Priority #2: Advancing the profession through relevant educational program offerings. What's happening:

- 380 hours of education are available at GIS.
- 3,273 individuals have earned the CGCS designation to date.
- Webcast education in 2015 has had more than 2,000 participant seats in live events with another 3,900 On Demand recording views.
- There are increased domestic and international educational offerings.

Key Priority #3: Advocacy and outreach on behalf of members to employers, golfers, and policymakers. What this means:

- Advocacy efforts ensure we have a seat at the table with lawmakers.
- GCSAA now has a fulltime presence in Washington.
- There are currently 197 Grassroots Ambassadors, and GCSAA's goal is to have all 535 members of Congress matched with an ambassador by 2020.
- The annual National Golf Day event, which is this coming May 18, continues to bring the golf industry's allied associations together to canvas Capitol Hill in an effort to get in front of legislators and tell golf's story.
- Media opportunities continue on the Golf Channel and Sirius/XM satellite radio.

Key Priority #4: Increased revenue opportunities through international and corporate sales, new business development, and marketing programs. What this means:

- These revenue opportunities fund member programs and services.
- Collaborative efforts with allied partners, such as the USGA, PGA, and PGA Tour, have helped GCSAA continue funding programs and services that matter to the golf industry.

- Increased international efforts.
- New asset development helps in the expansion of digital offerings, allowing GCSAA to create new ways for our industry partners to spend money with the association.

Key Priority #5: Environmental stewardship by providing relevant information and tools to assist members in applying best management practices to the golf course, a facility's largest and most valuable asset. Programs in this area include:

- *Environmental Profile Studies.*
- *Development of BMP Planning Guide and Template.*
- *Environmental Management Tools.*

GCSAA Business Update

GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans briefed the attendees on the state of GCSAA's membership. After experiencing decreases of more than 4 percent in both total and professional members in 2011 and 2012, GCSAA started to experience a turnaround in 2013 and 2014. In 2015, the professional membership numbers are holding steady, and GCSAA has more than 650 new equipment managers onboard.

Evans shared that compensation, the average years in current position, and maintenance budgets are trending upward. GCSAA's financial position is on solid footing.

Proposed Changes to Member Standards

John O'Keefe presented a proposal that was unveiled in May regarding Class A member standards. He then offered ample opportunity for all of us to weigh in on the discussions surrounding classifications and the definition, eligibility, and renewal of a Class A member. The entire proposal can be found on the GCSAA website. Here are the highlights:

- A more inclusive definition of Class A has been crafted that will allow individuals to maintain their Class A status when they no longer hold a golf course superintendent job but are still employed within the golf industry. They will still need to meet ongoing requirements.

- The Superintendent Member (SM) classification will return to Class B. This provides a more logical listing of the professional membership classifications. A, B, and C (assistant superintendent).

- Class A eligibility will continue to be based on a sliding scale of formal education, superintendent years of experience, and continuing education. The scale is based on a combined formula of 20 points, with a set point value assigned to your level of formal education and a variable combination of continuing education and experience. Service points will no longer be a component of eligibility.

- Class A renewal continues to require a total of 5 points over a five-year period. They have been enhanced, however, to include a minimum of 3.0 education points rather than the current minimum of 2.0 education points. Service points for renewal will now be focused on golf-centric activities, such as coaching golf, volunteering for a golf event, first tee involvement, and other similar activities.

Possessing a pesticide license or passing the GCSAA IPM Exam will continue to be a requirement of eligibility and renewal. In addition, the GCSAA IPM Exam fee will be eliminated.

Task Group Reports

Three GCSAA task groups—the Board Policy Oversight Task Group, Affiliation Agreement Task Group, and the Equipment Manager Task Group—all agreed that their various charges were adhering to policy.

- *The Board Policy Oversight Task Group.* This task group noted that the board was demonstrating integrity in adhering to set board policies. They ended their report by

encouraging the board to remain proactive and transparent.

- *The Affiliation Agreement Task Group.* GCSAA and the 98 affiliated chapters have a formal agreement, the affiliation agreement, which defines the relationship between GCSAA and the chapters. The task group members felt that the agreement was in good standing and provided a useful guide in the actual management of the chapters.

- *Equipment Manager Task Group.* The task group briefed delegates on the work that has been conducted on behalf of the new equipment manager classification. The EM classification was approved at the 2015 Annual Meeting. Within the past year, GCSAA has acquired more than 650 EM members. Equipment Managers receive all benefits superintendents have, except the ability to vote and hold office. In addition, they enjoy targeted education content, an equipment manager certificate program, unique networking/service opportunities, and recognition in the industry.

Town Hall Session

The GCSAA Board of Directors established the practice of conducting “Town Hall” meetings while they had the delegates together to further enhance the communication and information-sharing between GCSAA’s elected leaders and affiliated chapters and members. The Town Hall format was an open forum where chapter delegates had the opportunity to have a dialogue with the GCSAA Board of Directors who answered various questions and shared information on numerous items of interest and importance to those in attendance at the delegate meeting.

Meet the Candidates

Last but not least, we all had the opportunity to listen to presentations from candidates running for national office. After the presentations, we were able to meet and greet the candidates in small breakout sessions to

learn more about their platforms and philosophies. The 2016 GCSAA slate of board candidates are:

For President

Peter J. Grass, CGCS, Highlands Golf Club, Billings, MT

For Vice President

Bill H. Maynard, CGCS, Country Club of St. Albans, MO

For Secretary/Treasurer

- Rafael Barajas, CGCS, Boca Grove Plantation and Country Club, Boca Raton, FL
- Darren J. Davis, CGCS, Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples, FL

For Director (electing 3)

- Kevin P. Breen, CGCS, La Rinconada Country Club, Los Gatos, CA
- Jeffrey F. Millies, CGCS, Edgewood Golf Course, Big Bend, WI
- Rory Van Poucke, Apache Sun Golf Course, San Tan Valley, AZ
- John Walker, Bentwater Yacht and Country Club, Montgomery, TX

Dedication and Determination

The Chapter Delegates Meeting was well planned and full of pertinent information that should be viewed by the entire GCSAA membership. Kudos to John O’Keefe, past president of the MetGCSA, and the entire GCSAA Board of Directors for continuing to take the steps necessary to ensure the association’s ongoing progress and success and for keeping the membership well informed of new developments. This has been another year of positive change for the organization, and I look forward representing our association at the 2016 Golf Industry Show.

In addition to serving as the MetGCSA’s chapter delegate, Brett Chapin is superintendent at Redding Country Club in Redding, CT.

Upcoming Events


What to Expect at This Year's Winter Seminar

The MetGCSA Winter Seminar will return again this year to Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, on January 13. And Education Chair Brett Chapin and his committee have secured yet another impressive lineup of educational sessions. On the roster:

- **Dr. John Inguagiato of the University of Connecticut** will discuss optimizing cultural and chemical management to better control summer patch.
- **Dr. Pat Vittum of the University of Massachusetts** will provide an update on turf insecticides, focusing on those used in annual bluegrass weevil control.
- **Dr. Douglas Karcher of the University of Arkansas** will share his insights on wetting agents and their effects on the putting green surface.
- **Dr. Rob Golembiewski of Bayer Environmental Science** will discuss how today's maintenance practices affect green speed and plant health.
- **Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University** will discuss the implementation of the New York State BMPs for Golf Courses.

One of the highlights of the Winter Seminar is the Awards Luncheon, where the MetGCSA, this year, will honor two special award recipients: Rockland Country Club Superintendent Matt Ceplo will be presented with our coveted Sherwood A. Moore Award and renowned Golf Course Architect Rees Jones will receive our John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

Last but not least, seminar-goers will have the opportunity to visit with area vendors, who will display their products and services throughout the course of the event.



Please be sure to join us for this always-special educational opportunity!

Other Educational & Social Opportunities

New! Assistant Superintendent Career Development Seminar

Friday, January 22

Siwanoy Country Club, Bronxville, NY

Assistant host: Josh Haugh

A must-attend educational event for assistant superintendents interested building the communication and leadership skills required to take their careers to the next level.

Experts will give you the inside track on how to excel in today's increasingly competitive golf course management industry.

Superintendents, please be sure to encourage your assistants to attend this worthwhile day of learning. And watch for details!

Southeast Regional Conference

Wednesday – Thursday, January 27 – 28

Ramada Inn, Fishkill, NY

The Southeast Regional Conference offers a variety of educational sessions with leading turfgrass educators and industry professionals. For further information, visit www.nysta.org or contact the NYSTA office at 518-783-1229.

GCSAA Golf Tournament

Saturday – Monday, February 6 – 8

San Diego, CA

Competitors will enjoy the camaraderie and friendly competition over five San Diego area courses.

GCSAA Education Conference & Golf Industry Show

Monday – Thursday, February 8 – 11

San Diego, CA

Be sure not to miss this year's event and the opportunity to network and discuss with fellow professionals the latest trends, products, and services in the turfgrass industry.

Nor'easter Event

Wednesday, February 10, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Florent Restaurant & Lounge

San Diego, CA

If you missed the Nor'easter event in San Antonio last year, you missed out on a great time and opportunity to catch up with industry friends and colleagues.

Being hosted again this year by the MetGCSA and several other associations, the event will include an open bar, appetizers, food station, and live music. Please be sure to stop by this year and see what we have in store for you!

19th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show

Monday – Thursday, February 29 – March 3

Rhode Island Convention Center

Providence, RI

For the 19th 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 offering a host of informative educational sessions, pesticide recertification credits, and endless networking opportunities.

Watch for details on www.NERTF.org, or call 401-841-5490 for further information.

Turfgrass Advocacy 2016 ~ NYSTA's Lobby Day

Wednesday, March 9

Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY

NYSTA welcomes all green industry professionals to attend this event. The Turfgrass Advocacy Day offers the opportunity to attend a priority issue briefing session on current legislation that could affect the turfgrass and green industry, as well as a chance to meet with your local elected officials and later discuss issues over lunch with a government official.

For further information, contact the NYSTA office at 518-783-1229 or visit www.nysta.org.

2016 MGA Green Chairman Education Seminar & Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award Luncheon

Thursday, March 10

Willow Ridge Country Club, Harrison, NY

The Metropolitan Golf Association Foundation promises yet another informative program in its ongoing Green Chairman Education Seminar. After having the opportunity to hear talks from a variety of golf industry experts, your day will conclude with the Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award Luncheon.

Watch for details as the date approaches.

MetGCSA 2016 Golf Calendar in the Making

The Tournament Committee has been working to secure meeting sites and dates for 2016. Here's a look at what they've planned so far.

Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier

Tuesday, April 19
Siwanoy Country Club
Bronxville, NY
Host: Steve McGlone

Superintendent/Guest Tournament

Thursday, May 12
Paramount Country Club
New City, NY
Host: Brian Chapin

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

Monday, June 6
Country Club of Darien
Darien, CT
Host: Tim O'Neill, CGCS

Met Area Team Championship

Date TBA
The Country Club of Scranton
Clarks Summit, PA
Host: Greg Boring

The Poa/MetGCSA Tournament

Monday, October 3
Metropolis Country Club
White Plains, NY
Host: Dave McCaffrey

Nine and Dine Event

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

MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Seminar

Thursday, November 10
The Patterson Club
Fairfield, CT
Host: Jason Meersman

Member News

New Members

- **Mike Weber**, Class AF, Fisher & Sons, Exton, PA
- **Sean French**, Class C, Bedford Golf & Tennis Club, Bedford, NY
- **Jeffrey Swanson**, Class C, The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT
- **Ryan St. Pierre**, Class C, Metropolis Country Club, White Plains, NY
- **Austin Sevcik**, Class C, Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
- **Tim Elliott**, Class D, GlenArbor Golf Club, Bedford Hills, NY

Recertification

Congratulations to **John Carlone**, superintendent at the Meadow Brook Club in Jericho, NY, for completing the renewal process for maintaining CGCS status with GCSAA.

In Sympathy

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of **Jim Fulwider**, a long-tenured MetGCSA member and past superintendent of Century Country Club. Jim passed away November 15 at the age of 94.

An avid and talented golfer, Jim joined the MetGCSA in 1959 and served as president in 1961 and again from 1968-1969. In 1990, he was presented with the MetGCSA's Sherwood A. Moore Award, our organization's highest honor. Jim served as host superintendent for several MGA major championships and U.S. Open Sectional Qualifying Rounds, as well as numerous MetGCSA events.

After retiring from Century, Jim continued his professional career by serving as a consulting agronomist at McCann Memorial Golf Course in Poughkeepsie, NY, and Tryall Golf Club in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

He is survived by Frances, his wife of 72 years, his son, Jim, of Apex, NC, three grandsons, and four great-grandchildren. His daughter, Kathi, predeceased him.

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to Jim's family and his many friends in the industry.

Scholarship Raffle: Always a Win-Win!



The Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 5 Met Christmas Party at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT, raised an admirable sum for the Met's Scholarship Fund and awarded \$4,500 in cash prizes to 18 lucky ticket holders.

The raffle is the prime source of the scholarship awards we distribute to deserving Met member dependents each year.

Many thanks to all who contributed and also to those who sold tickets for this worthwhile fundraiser. Congratulations to our \$1,000-grand-prize winner, **Tony Girardi**, of Rockrimmon Country Club.

The other prize winners were:

\$500 Winners

Brian Chapin, Paramount Country Club
Brian Bontemps, Seeton Turf Warehouse
Kevin Doyle, GCSAA Field Staff Representative

\$250 Winners

Jasmine Ceplo, wife of Rockland Country Club's Matt Ceplo
John Carlone, Meadow Brook Club
Rich Apgar, Metro Turf Specialists
Frank Amodio, Valley View Greenhouses

\$100 Winners

Brian Bontemps, Seeton Turf Warehouse
Bob Lippman, Westchester Turf Supply
Les Kennedy, The Blind Brook Club
Tim O'Neill, Country Club of Darien
Bobby Steinman, Synergy Turf Supply
Glen Dube, Centennial Golf Club
Les Kennedy, The Blind Brook Club
Bob Nielsen, Bedford Golf & Tennis Club
Mike Pacella, Rockland Country Club
Bill Cimochoowski, Seeton Turf Warehouse

The Stanwich Club Hosts a Night

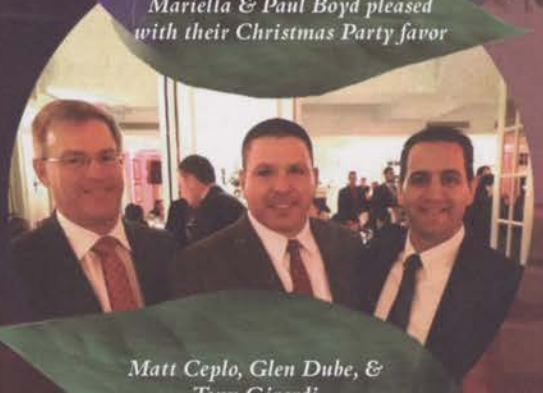


Dana & Scott Niven,
our party hosts



Mariella & Paul Boyd pleased
with their Christmas Party favor

MetGCSA
Christmas Party
Saturday, December 5,
2015



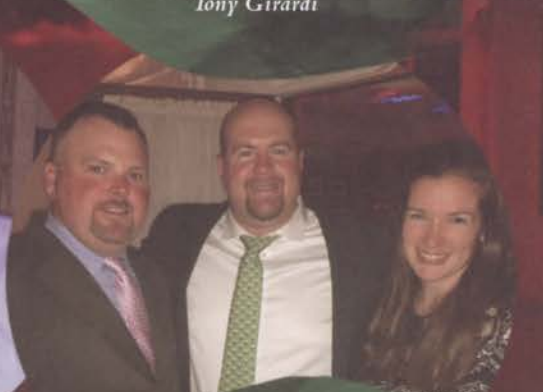
Matt Ceplo, Glen Dube, &
Tony Girardi



Todd Apgar, Rich & Shayna
Apgar, Steven & Margie McGlone



Kaitlyn Jindra &
Rob Capecelatro



Brett Chapin and
Mike & Jennifer Brunelle



Blake Halderman &
Bobby Jewett



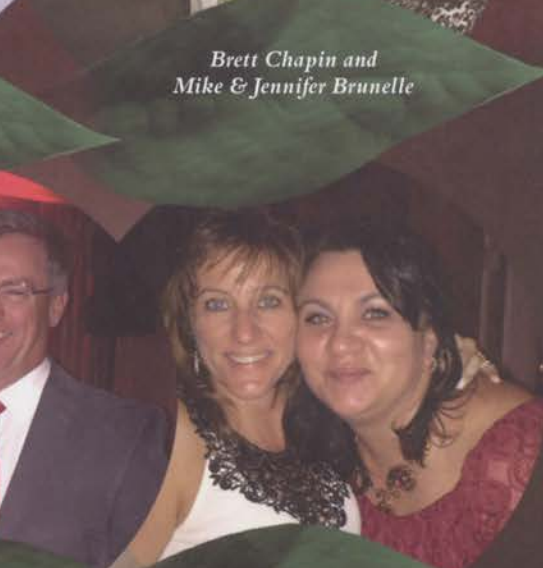
Kevin Collins &
Susan O'Dowd



Dana & Doug Drugo



Eve & Ken Gentile



Jasmine & Matt Ceplo

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