

Tee To Green

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Dave Moffett and Mosholu Make Way for Met's Scholarship & Parent/Child Tournament

See page 11 for details!



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Tee To Green



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Golf Course

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President's Message

Looking for a Little R & R?

*We have just the
thing for you!*



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What is going on with this weather?! I know I'm stating the obvious here, but this season, so far, has been *the* wackiest I have ever experienced. We started off with unusually warm March temperatures. Spring pretty much bypassed us, and now we are straight into summer. High winds and a lack of rain and humidity have created late-August conditions, leaving many irrigation sources already perilously low. We are barely into July, and many of us are worried about running out of water, not to mention the toll that this kind of weather takes on our staff and ourselves. This is setting up to be one of the longest and most grueling seasons on record. We just have to hope this pattern will take a turn for the better and allow everybody to catch their breath and recharge.

Speaking of Recharging...

Please be sure to take advantage of our upcoming social events. Our July 11 Summer Social was the first of several upcoming opportunities for Met members to put the golf course behind them, if only for a few hours. Held, once again, at Orienta Beach Club in Mamroneck, NY, the event offered just what the doctor ordered: a relaxing evening complete with delicious food, refreshing beverages, and great conversation with fellow members and friends.

Another great event we have planned is the Summer Picnic at Bedford Memorial Park on July 20 from 4 to 7 p.m. This year's picnic will feature an honest-to-goodness barbecue with grilled ribs and chicken, as well as the traditional burgers and dogs cooked to perfection by Crafty Cue. There's



*Glen Dube, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

fun planned for adults and kids alike, with a bouncy castle, swimming, and games. Come with your family or come solo and enjoy the fun of these summertime festivities!

Last but not least is our Scholarship & Parent/Child Tournament on August 1 at Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx. The fun begins at 3 p.m. and offers Met parents and their children the opportunity to come out and take part in a family-friendly nine-hole shotgun scramble. We also take this opportunity to recognize some very deserving students with our scholarship presentation. This is a very popular event and space is limited, so please be sure to sign up early. (See the Spotlight on page 11 for more details on the event and our host.)

As you can see, there are number of great opportunities to take a break from the grind that has become this season. Join fellow members and family and friends for a little R & R and lots of good fun at these great events! In the meantime, keep slinging that water.

*Glen Dube, CGCS
MetGCSA President*



Feature: Part 1

Escalating Green Speeds: Is There an End in Sight?

by Scott Niven, CGCS

Over the years, few golf course management topics have stirred greater controversy than the speed of greens. We began delving into this sensitive subject first in 2001 and then again in 2008, when we conducted a Met member survey on green speed philosophies and management practices. Each time, we thought that we had pushed our putting surfaces as far as they could go. But for better or for worse, green speeds have continued to climb. Stimping at an average of 9'8" in 2001 and then rising by 2008 to 10', green speeds in our 2016 survey have risen, yet again, with the average daily speed of 11'3".

Will the need for speed ever end?

In a two-part series, based on our latest survey results, we explore this issue, bringing to light the often unspoken sentiments and management practices of area superintendents and industry professionals on the ever-increasing need for speed.

In Part One, we merely skim the surface of this multifaceted subject; while in Part Two, we get to the heart of the matter, offering you the facts, figures, and commentary of MetGCSA members who responded to our survey.

Long gone are the days when the "stymie" was employed as a putting strategy. (In fact, it was outlawed in 1951!) Back then, the greens were cut so high that you could actually chip your ball over your opponent's and still keep it on the green. Imagine doing that on today's greens!

So *will* the need for speed ever end? From all accounts—and despite many industry experts' best advice—it seems questionable.

Just when we think we've reached the fastest speeds that the greens and golfers can tolerate, the bar is raised once again. Superintendents feel compelled to meet the expectations of club members seeking bragging rights in the speed wars with other golf clubs. But as Manhattan Woods' Jesse Shannon notes, superintendents, themselves, have also played a role in the push to increase green speed. "Our drive and passion to improve as professionals and exceed industry expectations and standards are largely responsible for the ever-increasing speed of our greens.

"We have continued to prove that boundaries and rules are made to be broken," says Jesse. "Unfortunately, in striving to push our turf to increasingly high performance standards, we will always be treading on that fine line between success and failure, a consequence that should never be taken lightly."

Despite the tenuous nature of pushing the limits on putting green turf—and persistent warnings from the USGA that turf will be lost—clubs continue to aggressively groom their greens, using low heights of cut, daily rolling, and a starvation diet. Interestingly, instead of weak, ugly turf, many superintendents are finding ways to attain fairly high green speeds while keeping their turf out of harm's way. That's thanks to advances in technology and the benefit of research

that guides us in attaining maximum speeds while turning out plush putting surfaces.

We have mowers with high clip rates and the ability to cut low without scalping; lightweight rollers that compress the turf to the point that it resembles linoleum; plant growth regulators (PGRs) that not only control growth, but also reduce the potential for scalping; and finally, fungicides, fertilizers, and biostimulants that aid in maintaining excellent plant health.

"With the tools and materials we have at our disposal today, it's actually possible to

maintain good green speeds for our members without sacrificing turf," says Silvermine Golf Club's Larry Pakkala.

Research on ball roll distance is ongoing at many universities around the country as they look at what seems like a never-ending array of tools and methodologies for affecting green speeds.

Even the USGA has gotten into the act, recently releasing a new version of the Stimpmeter that makes tracking ever-increasing green speeds simpler and more reliable. Coming with its own Certificate of Calibration, this ball roll distance measurement device has a special new feature geared for ultra-quick or notably contoured greens. It's a notch halfway down the bar that results in half the rollout distance. You then double the figure to get the reading.

Is Speed Worth the Price?

Even if you can successfully keep your speeds up and your turf safe and sound, many will tell you there is a price to pay. As Golf Course Architect Rees Jones noted at the golf course architects session in San Diego during the past GIS conference, "As speeds get faster, contours on greens must be reduced." Overdone, the practice of striping greens of their slopes and contours can render them nearly flat and, let's face it, boring. And as Rees also pointed out, "For professional players, putting green contours are the best defense for any golf course."

At the MGA Green Chairman Series in March, Architect Tom Doak expressed simi-



The "stymie" in action.

Highly contoured putting greens leave little cupping area at today's speeds.

New Stimpometer shows half- and full-distance roll points.

lar concerns about the never-ending need for speed. A fan of creating heavily contoured greens, Doak is frustrated by fast daily green speeds that, invariably, reduce the percentage of slope that can be used on the greens for playable cupping areas. In fact with speeds approaching 12-feet-plus, the usable hole placement areas cannot exceed a maximum slope of 1 to 2 percent.

For many years, most golf clubs would ask their superintendents to get the greens as fast as they could and would then be satisfied with the outcome. But now, some of the courses that have the ability to attain speeds of 13-plus feet have actually requested slower daily speeds that are more appropriate for the contours on their greens and allow for more cupping areas. (See sidebar, page 5, on modifying green speeds to fit member needs.)

A strong proponent of tailoring green speed to the severity of the course's greens, Doak feels the speed most appropriate for regular membership play is around 10 feet. And there are plenty of golf course superintendents who would agree.

Mahopac's Jon Ferruccio advocates setting green speeds at each individual course based on the average handicap of the membership or clientele. "There is no reason to have speeds over 10 feet for players who rarely break a score of 90," says Jon, pointing to another obvious benefit of keeping speeds in check: "By maintaining greens at more reasonable speeds, high handicap players won't slow the pace of play by 3- and 4-putting all day."

Brae Burn's Blake Halderman knows to keep his greens Stimping at 10.5 to 11. "At that speed, says Blake, "I'm pretty certain to avoid complaints."

Unfortunately, gaining widespread acceptance of putting a ceiling on green speed

could be a long time coming, particularly with fast greens still being glamorized. These often-heard quotes are just one example of the mindset entrenched in the golfing community: "The greens were so fast that when I marked my ball the quarter slid off the green"; "The greens look so slick, it's as if they had a bikini wax"; "These greens are so fast, I have to hold my putter over the ball and hit it with the shadow."

The reality is, if we don't find the ceiling soon, more greens will have to be rebuilt to accommodate the escalating speeds, stripping our courses of their contours and, as a result, their true interest and challenge.

Oh, How Green Speeds Have Changed!

As a lark, we've included two tables illustrating how green speeds have changed over the past six-and-a-half decades. Since the 1950s, speeds have increased steadily and at a predictable rate: about one foot every 10 years.

Historical Green Speed Escalation

Year	Perceived Fast Green Speeds
1950s	6 - 7'
1960s	7 - 8'
1970s	8 - 9'
1980s	9 - 10'
1990s	10 - 11'
2000s	11 - 12'
2010s	12 - 13'
2020s	13' - 14' ??

Here's how Met area courses are Stimping now, according to our 2016 green speed survey:

Current Speed Chart for Met Area Courses (2016)

12'6" - Fast

12' - Medium Fast

11'3" - Medium

10'6" - Medium Slow

9'9" - Slow

For the many Met area superintendents with highly contoured greens, these super-fast speeds may virtually render their greens unplayable. The current goal for many clubs, therefore, is to determine the fastest speed acceptable for their greens and then find a way to maintain it every day. But in the end, experience has told many of us that what we should be striving for is not speed for speed's sake, but rather a speed that is appropriate for both the slope of the greens and the skill level of the majority of the players. Whether greens at a particular club are slow, medium, or fast, most important is that the speed be appropriate for regular membership play—and of course, the health and welfare of the greens.

Be sure to catch Part Two of our green speed debate, where MetGCSA members weigh in on the often extraordinary measures required to attain the increasing need for speed on our putting surfaces.

Scott Niven is a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee and property manager of The Stamford Club in Greenwich, CT.

A Simple Solution to the Green Speed Dilemma

Here's a simple solution to silencing the debate on green speed on your course, and you'll find it in the pages of *The Superintendent's Guide to Controlling Putting Green Speed* by Thomas Nikolai. A turfgrass academic specialist at Michigan State University, Nikolai offers prescriptive advice on how superintendents and green committees can work together to manage their courses toward an "ideal green speed."

What he recommends isn't new. But it's been so effective over the years for clubs across the country that it bears repeating. It's called the Morris Method. Developed in 2001 at Crystal Downs Country Club in Frankfort, MI, by Superintendent Mike Morris, this widely publicized method offers an easy-to-implement system for rating member satisfaction to determine a golf course's ideal green speed.

Here's how it works:

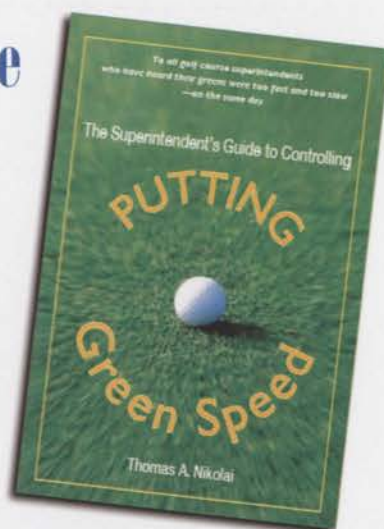
1. Daily green speed measurements must be obtained on at least one green (two is preferred) every day. And it's generally best to take these measurements twice a day: once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

2. Golfers, without any knowledge of what the measured green speed is, are given a card at the end of their round and asked to rate the speed of the greens.

3. Afterward, the daily green speed measurements and golfer survey responses are put into a database. Then, after several months—enough time to collect a wide range of green speed data and surveys—each individual course's ideal green speed can be determined.

To give you an idea of the value of this method, here's what Sean O'Connor had to say after first putting the Morris Method into practice at Forest Akers Golf Course in East Lansing, MI, where he was superintendent at the time:

"The Morris Method has allowed me to take control of green speeds by determining what the customer feels is the ideal green speed for our course. It has taken a subjective topic and quantified it. Too often, we work on assumption. I assumed that our customers wanted green speeds



in the area of 11 feet to 12 feet. However, that was based on feedback from a very vocal minority. The majority of golfers at our facility actually wanted greens at 9.5 feet to 10.5 feet based on our survey results. Monitoring green speeds will be an ongoing component of our daily maintenance practices."

When Green Speed Goes Awry

Interestingly, the optimal speed determined for Crystal Downs was 9'6" to 10'6" or an average daily green speed of 10 feet. This speed seems to be optimal for average golfers—and for the superintendents in our survey, who report being better able to maintain healthy turf while keeping the course "fun" for the majority of members.

By contrast, U.S. Open venues like Oakmont and, of course, Augusta National create speeds right up there with a pool table's, which can Stimp at nearly 15 feet. Unfortunately, putting greens are not flat like a pool table. They have contours, and as Nikolai states: "Green speed and green contour should be inseparable." At the 2004 U.S. Open at Shinnecock that principle was ignored and excessive speed rendered some of those greens nearly unplayable.

The Intent of the Stimpmeter

Whether you use Morris's precise data collection method or not, just the concept of trying to find the optimal speed for your particular course's greens will go a long way toward satisfying your membership. And according to Nikolai, the best way to do that is to use the Stimpmeter as it was intended: to determine consistency from green to green and the ideal pace for ball roll on your greens and for your membership. The Stimpmeter is not—and never should be—a tool used to compare one golf course to another. What's good for one golf course, as we've all seen, is not necessarily good for another.

Member News

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **John Garger Jr.**, Class A, Putnam County Golf Course, Mahopac, NY
- **Steve Jordan**, Class AF, DryJect Northeast/Turf Pounders, Delaware Gap, PA

Births

Congratulations to:

- **Brian Chapin**, superintendent of Paramount Country Club in New City, NY, and his wife, Zoya, on the birth of their daughter, Milena, April 18.
- **Steve Loughran**, superintendent of Rock Ridge Country Club in Newtown, CT, and his partner, Amanda, on the birth of their son, Robert Steven. He was born on June 3, 7 lbs., 4 ozs.

Well Wishes

Wishing a speedy recovery to two of our members who have recently had surgery:

- **Byron Johnson** of The Terre Company of NJ
- **Tim Marcoux** of Atlantic Irrigation Specialists

In Sympathy

It is with great sorrow that we announce the passing of **Fred Zeytoonjian**, who most of us knew well as the CEO of Turf Products Corporation, a distributorship for The Toro Company, which he founded in 1970. Fred passed away after a short battle with cancer on June 23 at the age of 80.

Married for 52 years to his high school sweetheart, Betty Anne (Fetler) Zeytoonjian, Fred grew up in Jamaica Plain, MA, and went on to receive a business degree from Boston University. Fred was an independent businessman his entire career, with 46 of those years spent as Turf Products Corporation's CEO.

Our deepest sympathy to Fred's wife and family. He will be missed by his many friends in the industry.

Turfgrass Advocacy Day Provides Platform for Discussion of Legislative Issues

by Michael Maffei, CGCS

The 17th Annual New York State Turfgrass Advocacy Day was held March 9 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, NY, with 52 superintendents and other industry professionals eager to discuss this year's issues: Support for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund, the Adoption of a State Definition of IPM, Parity for 3A, 3B Pesticide Applicator Fees, Use of Less-Than-Label Rates, and Opposition to the \$15 Minimum Wage.

Advocacy Day-goers made 70 legislative visits to drive home the importance of these legislative issues. Joining me in representing the MetGCSA were Ken Benoit, CGCS; Bob Nielsen, CGCS; Matt Ceplo, CGCS; Ernie Steinhof, CGCS; Todd Apgar; Brian Bontemps; David Dudones; Mike McCall, CGCS; and Glen Dube, CGCS.

The Event Kickoff

The event kicked off with an association breakfast and welcoming remarks by NYSTA Vice President Jim Hornung Jr. and NYSTA Government Relations Committee Co-chair Steve Griffen.

Jeff Williams of the New York Farm Bureau spoke on the legislative climate in Albany and budget issues currently being debated in the Legislature. He also noted that the time was right to meet with legislators since they were in the midst of final budget negotiations.

Senator Rich Funke, a member of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee and the Agriculture Committee, addressed the group and expressed his support of our issues. The senator has introduced Senate Bill 6861 supporting our issue dealing with parity on commercial pesticide applicator fees.

The Issues of the Day

Prior to the legislative visits, participants had the opportunity to hear what industry leaders had to say about each of the following issues.



Senator Rich Funke, a member of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, speaks in support of our Advocacy Day issues.

Garnering Support for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund Greg Chorvas, Past President of the New York State Turfgrass Association

Greg spoke about the status and importance of the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund, reporting that it was our Number One issue for the day. The 2014-2015 New York State Budget included a \$150,000 appropriation to support research that provides improved turf management solutions.

Continuing research is essential in providing turf management solutions that are key in preserving and protecting environmental quality. With this in mind, **NYSTA recommended that legislators fund a \$200,000 line item in the 2016-2017 budget.**

In 2014, a portion of this funding went toward supporting the next phase in the development of the BMPs for New York State Golf Courses. Glen Arbor Superintendent Ken Benoit detailed the work in building a self-assessment tool to help green industry professionals ensure that they are putting the BMPs into practice in their operations.

Executive summaries of the BMPs were provided to all attendees and visiting legislators. In addition to focusing their discussions on the issues of the day, attendees were encouraged to present the BMP concept to legislators during each of their visits.

Adopting a State Definition of IPM Rick Zimmerman, New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns

Rick reviewed the Adoption of a State De-

inition of IPM, stating that NYSTA believes New York State would be best served by adopting the IPM terminology recognized by the Food Quality Protection Act, the National Integrated Pest Management Network, and the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations. Several legislative proposals define IPM as using pesticides as a last resort. As we all know, pesticides are used as a tool in an IPM program.

NYSTA supports bills S3064 (introduced by Senator Young) and A1186 (introduced by Assemblywoman Gunther), which define integrated pest management as a "systematic approach to managing pests that utilizes a diversity of management options to minimize health, environmental, and economic risks and impacts. These options may include biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to prevent pest infestations or reduce them to acceptable levels."

Both Senator Young's and Assemblywoman Gunther's bills are currently in their respective Environmental Conservation committees.

Parity for 3A, 3B Certified Applicator Fees

Larry Wilson, Chairman of the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns

Larry explained that currently 3A, 3B certified commercial pesticide applicators pay \$200 per year (\$600 over three years) and have an annual certification period. By contrast, the other 25 classifications pay \$450 every three years and have a three-year certification period.



Ken Benoit, co-chair of the MetGCSA Environmental Committee, presents the next phase in the development of BMPs for New York State Golf Courses.

NYSTA is requesting parity within the certified commercial system by lowering the annual 3A and 3B fees to \$150 per year and realigning the certification time period from one to three years. NYSTA, therefore, supports bills S6861 (introduced by Senator Funke) and A9451 (introduced by Assemblyman Skoufis).

Using Less-Than-Label Rates of Pesticides Revisited

Steve Whipple, NYSTA Board Member

On the Advocacy Day agenda once again was the issue of Using Less-Than-Label Rates of Pesticides. Steve Whipple briefed participants on this issue, which proposes permitting commercial applicators to apply pesticides in a dosage, concentration, or frequency less than that specified on the product label, unless the label specifically prohibits doing so. NYSTA's perspective is that turfgrass managers who are trained, licensed commercial pesticide applicators need the flexibility of applying less-than-label rates to aid their ability to reduce overall pesticide use and adopt a progressive turfgrass IPM program.

Our approach on this issue was made easier this year by using specific examples from Dr. Frank Rossi's research, showing how less-than-label rates can work.

NYSTA is recommending that legislators support bills A1461 (introduced by Assemblyman Magee) and S1626 (introduced by Senator Marcellino), which create a new section in the Environmental Conservation Law that allows the use of "less-than-label rates."

Opposition to the \$15 Minimum Wage *Steve Griffen, Co-chair of the NYSTA Government Relations Committee*

Steve explained why this 67-percent increase is bad, for not only the agriculture

and turfgrass/landscape industries, but all business sectors. It will potentially force some businesses to lay off employees or close their businesses; become a cost mandate that will result in increased prices and reduced profitability; and impose billions of dollars in increased payroll costs. For those reasons, **we spoke against the minimum wage increase in our visits to legislators.**

The Legislative Visits and Closing Activities

With the various presentations complete, attendees had the opportunity to meet with legislators and share their views and recommendations on the issues. After the legislative visits were completed, attendees returned for a luncheon and wrap-up of the morning's activities. Attendees also had the opportunity to share any feedback they received during their legislator visits with Rick Zimmerman for follow-up.

"The 2016 Turfgrass Lobby Day proved to be well timed for the advocacy work essential to advance our priority issues," says Rick Zimmerman, lobbyist for the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns. "The role you play as industry advocates is critical to advancing your policy agenda. Thank you to all who were part of the March 9 event."

The Benefits of Being Involved

If you are not a member of NYSTA, please consider joining. Your membership provides NYSTA with the resources needed to plan and implement many informative industry-related events, not the least of which is our annual Turfgrass Advocacy Day. Particularly important to preserving our livelihood, the Advocacy Day is designed to:



The Vandervort Group's Rick Zimmerman, lobbyist for the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns, emphasizes the critical role superintendents play in advancing the industry's key legislative issues.

- Protect you and your golf course from losing the tools needed to perform your job
- Prevent any onerous new regulations from adversely affecting our industry
- Advocate for changes to—or the repeal of—laws and regulations that affect our clubs

If you would like more information on NYSTA or the New York State Turfgrass Advocacy Day, you will find it on the NYSTA website: <http://www.nysta.org>. Though you may not have been able to attend, consider visiting your assembly member or senator in their district offices or writing them to discuss these issues.

Please give serious consideration to attending the Turfgrass Advocacy Day in 2017. Laws and regulations affect everyone, and your input is important!

Michael Maffei, CGCS, golf course superintendent at Back O' Beyond in Brewster, NY, is a past president of NYSTA and co-chair of the NYSTA Government Relations Committee.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

We would like to acknowledge the following sponsors who helped make this successful event possible: the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Sullivan County Challenge, the Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Central New York Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Long Island Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Nassau Suffolk Landscape Gardeners Association, the National Association of Landscape Professionals, RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), Helena, Dow AgroSciences, TruGreen, Syngenta, Bayer, and Scotts Miracle-Gro.

Scorecard

Two-Ball Qualifier at Siwanoy Draws Full Field

by Zach Brooks

Steven McGlone at Siwanoy Country Club hosted the 2016 Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier. Steven and his staff had the course in great shape, and it was perfect weather to help kick off the 2016 season. Special thanks to everyone at Siwanoy for hosting our special event.

This year, the much-anticipated qualifier had a packed field with 42 teams signed up to compete for one of the 32 coveted spots. At the end of the day, the team of Andy Drohen and Tom Ashfield (First Flight) took the number one seed with a Gross score of +3.

Second seed for that same flight went to teammates Tony Grasso and Scott Tretera who finished in the top 3 for both Gross and Net... Interesting. Second Flight was led by the team of Tim Walker and Ryan Batz followed by veterans Peter Rappoccio and Joe Alonzi.

Please be sure to visit our website at www.metgcsa.org for a look at not only who qualified for the Two-Ball, but also how the teams are faring throughout the competition.

If You Are Playing in the Two-Ball...

Note that all matches should be completed by the following dates:

Sweet 16: June 30

Elite 8: August 8

Final 4/Semi: September 5

Finals: October 3

Also remember that the winning team for each match is required to report results to Tournament Committee Chair Doug Drugo at doug.drugo@weeburn.com. If you don't have access to the internet/email, use your MetGCSA directory and call Doug on his cell. No calls between the hours of midnight and 3 a.m., please!!

Tip

Finding yourself short on time and having trouble keeping up with your GHIN scores? Go to the App store on your mobile device and download the GHIN App. The app is user friendly, convenient, and readily available with the completion of rounds!

Have a great season, and good luck to the teams that made match play!

Zach Brooks, a Tournament Committee member, is a sales consultant at Seeton Turf Warehouse in Mr. Laurel, NJ.

Supers and Guests Comp Event at Paramount

by Scott Tretera

On May 12, Met members and guests enjoyed a wonderful day of golf and camaraderie at the Paramount Country Club in New City, NY. Host Superintendent Brian Chapin and his staff had the golf course in amazing shape for the day, attracting a record field of 78 players.

Contestants competed in a Yellow Ball Tournament, (see box at right) which is a Best Ball Net event, as well as the traditional Superintendent/Guest, which is a Gross & Net competition.

Here's a look at how the contestants fared:

Yellow Ball Event Results

First Place Winners

Greg Eisner, *Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point*
Drew Clayton, *Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point*

Joe Roediger, *Trump Golf Links at Ferry Point*

Todd Apgar, *Metro Turf Specialists*

Second Place Winners

Tony Grasso, *Jacobsen/Textron*
Glenn Perry, *Rolling Hills CC*
Bob Miller, *GC of Purchase*
Scott Tretera, *Harrell's LLC*

Third Place Winners

Tim Garceau, *Haworth CC*
Ernie Steinhof, *Synergy Turf Supply*
Ken Gentile, *Executive Turf Products*
Ron White, *Executive Turf Products Guest*

Gross & Net Tournament Results

First Place Gross Winners

Nick Roberto, *Cushman/E-Z-GO*
David Tennant, *Cushman/E-Z-GO*
Dan Quatrocelli, *Cushman/E-Z-GO*
Reed Williams, *Cushman/E-Z-GO*

Second Place Gross Winners

Steve Loughran, *Rock Ridge CC*
Brian Bontemps, *Seeton Turf Warehouse*
Mike Cook, *Alpine, The Care of Trees*
Pete Jacobsen, *BASF Corporation*



ete in Yellow Ball

What Is the Yellow Ball Format?



Played for the first time at this event last year, the Yellow Ball is a four-person Best Ball Net event with a yellow ball rotating through the foursome. Each team member plays the yellow ball individually on their respective holes and posts their net score per hole. The goal is to finish the 18-hole event without losing the yellow ball. If the yellow ball is lost, your team is out of the competition.

First Place Net Winners

Scott Niven, *The Stamwich Club*
Peter Tunley, *The Stamwich Club*
Mike McCall, *Putnam County GC*
MaryEllen Odell, *Putnam County GC*

Second Place Net Winners

Doug Drugo, *Wee Burn CC*
Dave McCaffery, *Metropolis CC*
Mike Roe, *CC of New Canaan*
Justin Miller, *Wee Burn CC*

Closest to the Pin

Steve Loughran, *Rock Ridge CC*

Longest Drive

Justin Miller, *Wee Burn CC*

A special thank you to the entire Paramount staff, from the golf course to the pro shop and clubhouse, for going the extra mile in making our event truly memorable.

Scott Tretera is a member of the Tournament Committee and a sales representative with Harrell's LLC.

Paramount Team Takes Home Invitational Trophy

by Doug Drugo

MetGCSA superintendents, club officials, and professionals had a fantastic day June 6 for the 2016 MetGCSA Invitational at the Country Club of Darien. Host Superintendent Tim O'Neill not only had the golf course in perfect condition, but also managed to dial up some pretty unbelievable weather for golf.

Congratulations to the Paramount Country Club team of Brian Chapin, Michael Jackman, Craig Pollack, and Bob Wolverton who took home this year's Invitational trophy with a Net score of 60.

What follows is a full account of the day's winning results:

Net Team Winners

- 60 Paramount Country Club
Brian Chapin, Michael Jackman, Craig Pollack, Bob Wolverton
- 62 Country Club of Darien
Tim O'Neill, Adam Hahn, Shap Smith, Cory Muller

Gross Team Winners

- 66 Due Process Stable & Golf
Tony Hooks, Bill Costigan, Dan Marino, Joe Trombino
- 68 Meadow Brook Club
John Carlone, Bill Van Orman, Brian Hampton, Robert Soviero

Closest to the Pin

- #2 Adam Hahn, Club Official
CC of Darien 7' 2"
- #14 Geoff Schneider, Club Official
Rolling Hills CC 6' 9"
- #14 Doug Drugo, Superintendent,
Wee Burn CC 6' 1"

Longest Drive

- #9 Brian Howley, Professional
Knollwood CC
- #9 Tony Hooks, Superintendent
Due Process Stable & Golf

Low Professional

- 70 Craig Thomas, *Metropolis Country Club*

Thank You!

As with all of our events, there is a lot of work that goes into the setup and organization of the day. We would like to thank Darien's Golf Professional, Cory Muller, and his staff for organizing the event activities and prizes. And special thanks to General Manager Marc Possidento and his staff for a great day and wonderful reception that concluded the evening. And many thanks, again, to Tim for spoiling us with his great golf course!

Doug Drugo is Tournament Committee Chair and superintendent of Wee Burn Country Club in Darien, CT.



The Paramount Country Club team claims this year's Invitational Trophy. From left to right: Bob Wolverton, Craig Pollack, Brian Chapin, Michael Jackman.

Upcoming Events

Upcoming MetGCSA and Regional Events

Summer Picnic

Wednesday, July 20
Bedford Memorial Park
Bedford, NY

Scholarship & Parent/Child Tournament

Monday, August 1
Mosholu Golf Course
Bronx, NY
Host: Dave Moffett

Nine and Dine Event

Wednesday, September 14
Silvermine Golf Club
Norwalk, CT
Host: Larry Pakkala, CGCS

Met Area Team Championship

Monday, September 26
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

Assistants Championship

Thursday, October 27
Upper Montclair Country Club
Clifton, NJ
Assistant Hosts: Kyle Zarnetski, Sean Blatz,
Steve Benally

MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Seminar

Thursday, November 10
The Patterson Club
Fairfield, CT
Host: Jason Meersman
For further information, contact our
Education Chair, Brett Chapin, at
203-938-9640.

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 18, 2017
Westchester Country Club
Rye, NY
Host: David Dudones
For further information, contact our
Education Chair, Brett Chapin, at
203-938-9640.

Regional Events

2016 University of Connecticut Turfgrass Field Day

Tuesday, July 19
UConn Plant Science Research and
Education Facility
Storrs, CT

The field day will offer guided tours of a variety of research projects underway at the university followed by a delicious lunch and an opportunity to connect with fellow turf professionals. Exhibitors from across the region will also be present with product and service information for the turfgrass industry.

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day (Golf & Fine Turf)

Tuesday, August 2
Horticultural Farm II
New Brunswick, NJ

Visit www.njturfgrass.org or call 973-812-6467 for further information.

2016 GREEN EXPO Turf & Landscape Conference

Tuesday – Thursday, December 6 – 8
The Borgata Hotel & Casino
Atlantic City, NJ

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

For further information, call 973-812-6467 or visit www.njturfgrass.org.

MetGCSA
est 1959

Dave Moffett and Mosholu Make Way for Met's Parent/Child Tournament

by Todd Apgar

On August 1, Superintendent Dave Moffett will welcome MetGCSA members and their children to Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx for our sixth Annual Scholarship & Parent/Child Tournament, honoring this year's Met scholarship recipients.

As in previous years, the scholarship reception and awards ceremony will be accompanied by an afternoon of golf on Mosholu's 2,312-yard, par 32, nine-hole course. Working with The First Tee of Metropolitan New York program, Dave Moffett has helped to make the facility the special venue it is today, with the course designed for golfers of all levels.

Last year, 50 players from the Met—parents and children—came out to participate in the event's family-friendly nine-hole shotgun scramble. We're hoping, this year, to draw the same crowd—and more—which, according to Dave, just may be possible: "It seems that everyone has been asking me about the event and how they can participate," says Dave.

As always, priority will be given to MetGCSA members whose children have received scholarships. The remainder of the field will be filled with other association members and their children. The event is free of charge—and open to golfers of all ages and skill levels. No experience necessary!

Mosholu as Home to The First Tee Program

Mosholu Golf Course has undergone a dramatic transformation since its inception 15 years ago as the home of The First Tee's Metropolitan Chapter. That's thanks, in part, to major funding from New York City, which decided to build a 13-story, underground water filtration plant where Mosholu's maintenance facility, driving range, and clubhouse were located.

To make this plan work, Mosholu had little choice but to rebuild the course. With the guidance of golf course architects Stephen Kay and Doug Smith, the course you see today has been reconfigured with a focus on making it more fun and strategic, not just for the kids, but also for the general public. A new clubhouse and state-of-the-art driving range are in the works, with the range being built on top of the water filtration facility. When completed, this will be the only green-roof driving range in the world!

A number of Met members have worked with Dave to develop strategies for this unique and daunting maintenance task. Those playing in the scholarship event will see the upgrades that have taken place over the years as part of the partnership between The First Tee and the MetGCSA.

"It will be great to share with the membership the improvements we've made to the course," says Dave. "It's a nice place for kids to play, and it's been perfect for The First Tee Program, which benefits thousands of young people in our community every year," he adds.

Making His Way to Mosholu

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



Dave Moffett

After hours, Dave's kept busy with all that goes into raising a young family. He and his wife of nine years, Tina, enjoy time together with their 5-year-old son, Jack, and 2 ½-year-old, Samuel, but it's Dave who takes most seriously the job of teaching their two boys to love Denver Broncos football!

Dave's looking forward to hosting—and setting up the course for—MetGCSA members and their children again this year at Mosholu.

"Every year I look forward to seeing the enjoyment that Mosholu brings to the kids of our Met members," says Dave. "And it's a highlight to listen to the scholarships awarded. Hearing about the schools and fields of study the recipients have chosen is just outstanding! This is a great Met event, and I am thankful that I have the opportunity to host it."

Todd Apgar, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is sales representative with Metro Turf Specialists in Brookfield, CT.

The Return of the Nine and Dine!

Host Superintendent Larry Pakkala Brings Nine and Dine Back to Silvermine

The MetGCSA's annual Nine and Dine at the Mine event will return for the third consecutive year to Silvermine Golf Club in Norwalk, CT. Join our veteran host, Larry Pakkala, and fellow members on September 14 for a 3 p.m. shotgun start. Assistants, mechanics, crew members, and guests are also welcome to join in the fun of this friendly competition. Prizes will be awarded on all three nines if there is a full field of players.

About Silvermine

Silvermine Golf Club is a 90-acre, 27-hole course located in Norwalk, CT. Founded in 1959, Silvermine was designed by the club's owner John Warner and built with the help of his two sons, Jack and Bill Warner. The club started as a nine-hole course and was later expanded to its current 27 holes.

The original course, now known as the Pro Shop nine, offers unrestricted, relatively rapid play, and is ideal for families, beginners, and junior golfers. The 18-hole course, with several doglegs, small, elevated greens, and numerous water hazards, demands mastery of a wide range of golfing skills.

In 2005, the course's bunkers, tees, and several greens were restored. Among other improvements completed to date are a series of much-needed bunker drainage repairs and an all-new driving range. Now, the club is working with Golf Course Architect Tim Gerrish to complete a long-range plan that includes another series of bunker, tee, and green renovations.

Career Travels

Larry's entire life has been centered in the golf business. His first position on a course was working at Philadelphia Country Club, where his brother, DJ, was superintendent at the time. Larry then served as the assistant superintendent at the prestigious Merion Golf Club and then as superintendent at Bermuda's Mid Ocean Club.

Four years later, in 1981, Larry returned

to the States, accepting the superintendent's job at St. Andrew's Golf Club, where he had the opportunity to work with Jack Nicklaus. This was Larry's last stop before Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT, where he was superintendent for 25 years.

After leaving Woodway in 2008, Larry thought he would finish off his career in the golf business with a sales position with Plant Food Company. But five years later, the superintendent position opened at the Silvermine Golf Club, and Larry felt the pull to return to the profession. He has been the superintendent at Silvermine since 2013.

Industry Involvement

An active participant and contributor to the turfgrass industry, Larry served as MetGCSA president, spending 11 years on the board and chairing or sitting on just about every committee. He's currently serving on the Tournament, Long-Range Planning & Steering, and the Awards committees.

Larry was also the founding president of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation in 1991 and served on the first GCSAA committee responsible for establishing the GCSAA Foundation.

While superintendent at Woodway, Larry was among the first to become involved in the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program (ACSP) and one of the first 25 clubs in the country to meet all the program's criteria, becoming a certified cooperative sanctuary in 1993.

It's work like this that led the Met to award Larry the prestigious Sherwood A. Moore Award, which honors superintendents who have contributed to "advancing the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent."

Family and Fun

Larry and his wife of 42 years, Carole, live in a home they purchased just off the 13th



Larry Pakkala, CGCS

hole at Silvermine. They have two daughters who live nearby. Christina, 41, lives with her husband and 9-year-old son, Lucas, in Norwalk, CT, and Lauren, 36, lives in Wilton, CT, and was married to Anthony Tarzis last September. They are expecting their first child in November. Larry's favorite pastimes, aside from golf: relaxing at the beach and reading.

Inside Tip

For the uninitiated, Larry offers a word to the wise when preparing to tee it up: "Don't be fooled by the scorecard, which makes the course appear on the short side," he says. "Though it's a par 70 from the men's tees and measures just 5,900 yards, the course's narrow, tree-lined fairways and small, challenging greens, make scoring difficult. In fact, you'll find that it plays as tough as courses measuring much longer."

Be sure to come on out and give it your best shot at this fun-filled golf event. You won't regret it!

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