

mnnpr

November/December 2016
VOLUME 47 NUMBER 6

Tee To Green

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association



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TEE TO GREEN is published bimonthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523-2819
914-347-4653, FAX: 914-347-3437, METGCSA.ORG
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Tee To Green



Cover: Bonnie Briar
Country Club

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Feature

Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi Earns MetGCSA's 2017 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

by David Dudones





The John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award will be presented to my good friend and mentor, Cornell University's Dr. Frank Rossi during the January 18 Winter Seminar. The MetGCSA presents this award annually to an individual or organization that, through continuing commitment, has shown exemplary support to the game of golf and golf course superintendents. Frank is the Met's 27th Reid Award recipient since its inception in 1986.

Superintendents throughout the tri-state area—and globally—greatly appreciate Frank's contributions to the game through his unending environmental leadership and research, his high regard for and support of our fellow superintendents, and his ability to captivate an audience no matter the speaking engagement or seminar.

"Not only did Frank begin his career in the Met Area," says Awards Committee Chair and Brae Burn Super Blake Halderman, "but he has been a great friend to the MetGCSA for many years. He is always eager to speak at conferences, he's assumed a lead role on our New York State BMP Committee, and he continues to conduct research that supports the work of all of those in the golf industry.

"Frank fills the room at speaking engagements," continues Blake. "He's a guy who has a tremendous store of knowledge and is not afraid to take a contrarian view on standard industry practices from time to time. With that, he makes you dig deep and think about whether what you are doing is really best for the turf, the environment, and the game of golf.

"I can't think of a more deserving recipient," says Blake, "and I am extremely proud to be honoring Frank with the 2017 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award."

Turf Beginnings

Growing up in Eastchester, NY, Frank is a Met native, which is pretty rare in the turf world. Loving the outdoors, Frank's turf career began in high school mowing lawns with his brother-in-law Sal and then with Labriola Landscaping; he also worked for Leewood Golf Club through his early college years.

Initially, Frank began his college career in agronomy and animal science at SUNY Cobleskill, but in his words, "became sick of studying about pigs and horses." Frank sought the counsel of his advisor, Bob Emmons, who recommended that he pursue turfgrass management. And as Emmons tells it, "The rest is history."

Frank holds the highest regard for Bob. "He's a great mentor and has been a true friend for more than 30 years," says Frank, adding, "He's the most caring man I have ever met." Together the duo has collaborated on the fifth edition of *Turfgrass Science and Management*.

"I knew Frank was special when he was a student because he asked so many questions," says Emmons. "Teachers often bemoan the fact that students ask so few questions. Well with Frank, every two minutes was 'why this?' and 'why that?' Sometimes I was delighted, and other times I would have liked to put a gag in his mouth," adds Emmons, fondly. "But Frank's inquisitiveness has always been one of his outstanding qualities. No one deserves the Reid Award more."

Frank then headed to the University of Rhode Island with Dr. Skogley and the "fog on the Bonnet Shores" to finish his undergrad. That's where he first crossed paths with Meadow Brook Club Super John Carlone. "I have had the pleasure of knowing Frank Rossi since 1982," says John. "We were housemates as undergrads at the University of Rhode Island. We lived with an engineering major and two business majors. They had a hard time believing Frank and I were majoring in 'growing grass,' as they called it! I take a lot of personal satisfaction seeing my old friend's career reach the highest level as a dynamic speaker and respected researcher and educator. He is most deserving of this award, and I am proud to see him receive it."

Higher Education

After completing his undergraduate degree, Frank spent two years working at Greenwich Country Club under then superintendent Paul Caswell before returning to academia. "Paul's favorite line to me,"

remembers Frank, "was 'you are too smart for your own good!'" Needless to say, Frank was as inquisitive with Paul as he had been with his college professors, continually asking questions about the turf. This line of questioning ultimately shaped Frank's career going forward.

As Frank pondered his career path, he realized that, to improve his career options, he would need further education. At that point, inspired by USGA agronomist Jim Snow, who he greatly admired and respected, Frank had his sights set on becoming a USGA agronomist.

He applied first to Cornell where he was passed over for current USGA Senior Agronomist Bob Vavrek by former Reid Award winner Dr. Marty Petrovic. Undaunted, Frank returned to URI to pursue his master's. Under the watchful eye of another of his mentors, Dr. Skogley, Frank studied Sweet Vernal Grass for low maintenance turf areas. This would begin to shape his future approach to turfgrass: minimal, efficient, and effective.

Frank completed his M.S. from URI in 1987 while also acting as superintendent at Wildfield Farm Links in Narragansett, RI. But his educational ambitions didn't stop there. He was invited to pursue his Ph.D. in weed science under then Cornell University Professor Joe Neal (now at North Carolina State University). Frank received his Ph.D. from Cornell in 1991, describing the work as relentless but highly rewarding in more ways than one: In addition to receiving a stellar education, Frank met his wife, Barb, of 25 years while at Cornell. "She actually asked me out," says Frank with a smile."

Making His Mark in the Industry

Frank's professional career did not begin with the USGA, as he had long ago hoped. "I explored many different career paths because there were no openings with the USGA," explains Frank, who launched his professional career as an Environmental Education Specialist at Michigan State University.

"That was the next turning point for me," says Frank. "Working with Rieke, Vargas,

Branham, Rogers, Crum, and their crew of guys: Mike Saffel, Eric Miltner, and Darin Lickfeldt among them. It was an exciting time to be in turf with the pending golf building boom that then dominated the 1990s. And while all this was going on," adds Frank, "I was saying... 'sustainability?'"

Frank spent two years at Michigan State before accepting a position at The University of Wisconsin as an assistant professor and the Wisconsin State Extension turfgrass specialist. Frank loved his time in Madison and working through turfgrass issues with the good people from the great state of Wisconsin. He also enjoyed sharing his expertise on a call-in radio show he hosted on Wisconsin Public Radio.

Just as Frank was making a name for himself as a dynamic speaker and leader in the industry, Cornell University lured him back to central New York to become an assistant professor of turfgrass science in 1996. Ironically, Dr. Marty Petrovic encouraged Frank to apply. "It's funny how things work out sometimes," says Frank.

While initially focused on extension and research, Frank added a large teaching component to his duties once he was tenured as an associate professor in 2003. Frank loves interacting with and guiding his students through his various classes, and his peer reviews have been off the charts.

Colleague Dr. Bryan Duff states, "Watching Dr. Rossi in action has given me a new model that I can use in my own classes to demonstrate the power of knowing your students, knowing your colleagues and other resources, and knowing how it all fits together."

Those of us in the turf business have witnessed Frank's ability to engage an audience for many years. Frank has an uncanny ability to relate to any group he is speaking to, always generating interest and stimulating conversation.

With a Focus on the Turf Professional

During the past 20 years at Cornell, Frank has taken the lead in end-user-funded research. The MetGCSA, the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, USGA, GCSAA, and many other associations have funneled research dollars to Frank's various efforts to research and resolve superintendents' many turf-related issues.

As a former graduate research assistant under Frank working on the Prevention and Alleviation of Moss on Putting Greens, I was truly amazed to see how much Frank is able to juggle at one time. He would be mentoring three graduate students, managing the research center, speaking at extension visits weekly, publishing CUTT (*Cornell University Turfgrass Times*), and serving as visiting scientist to the USGA, contributing editor to *Golfweek* magazine, and visiting professor to the Swedish Agricultural University. And in the midst of this seemingly insurmountable workload, he still managed to take the time needed to make sure everyone is on the right track.

This is why Frank is the industry leader in research on nutrient management, non-chemical pest management, and mowing technology. A few of his research topics have raised some eyebrows, but Frank always relates back to what the end-user is really asking: Is there a better mower or better way to mow? Is there a way to apply fewer chemicals and still produce the desired outcome? Is there a way to do things better, cheaper, safer, faster? Again, Frank asks questions, not just of others, but also of the environment and world around him... The makings of a true researcher.

Some of Frank's most publicized work was the nine-year study at Bethpage State Park on *Long-Term Evaluation of Reduced Chemical Pesticide Management of Golf Course Putting Turf*. Using the Green Course as his testing ground, Frank worked with Golf Course Superintendents Andy Wilson and fellow SUNY Cobleskill alum Craig Currier to carry out the research. The project eventually developed into an excellent education manual—*Reducing Chemical Use on Golf Course Turf: Redefining IPM*—compiled with the help of Cornell colleagues Dr. Jennifer Grant and the late Robert Portmess.

Recalling Frank's work, Craig Currier, now at The Glen Oaks Club, offers high praise: "Frank is a true environmental leader in golf and has been instrumental in all the success Bethpage has had over the past 20 years. He is an icon and a great ambassador for the turf industry."

Highly regarded industrywide, Frank has received a long list of accolades. Among the many:

- Environmental Communicator of the Year
- One of the Most Influential People in the Green Industry
- New York State Turf & Landscape Association's Man of the Year
- Certificates of Excellence for the CUTT publication
- Awards for Outstanding Educational Materials for his *Lawn Care and Water Quality Almanac*
- *Golfweek* magazine's One of the Top 40 Most Influential People in the Game of Golf Under the Age of 40

Most recently, Frank is receiving high praise for his involvement in the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for New York State Golf Courses. These research-based, voluntary BMP guidelines were designed to assist superintendents in protecting New York's water resources. Initiated in 2012, the development of the BMPs was spearheaded by the MetGCSA and authors from Cornell University. Frank was a major player, serving as lead author in the development of the BMP guidelines. He was also instrumental in the development and 2014 launch of the BMP website.

"Frank has been a strong leader and our MVP in developing, promoting, and continually updating the BMP guidelines," says BMP Committee Chair and Glen Arbor Superintendent Ken Benoit. "The BMPs provide essential guidelines for all stewards of the environment, superintendents key among them."

Frank's list of involvements is never-ending. Add to his already sizable list of commitments, consulting for Central Park and the New York Yankees and developing sand and grass specifications for the 2016 Olympic Golf Course in Rio de Janeiro with fellow Cornelian Gil Hanse.

"It has been my great joy to have worked with superintendents around the world," says Frank. "The opportunity to serve an industry that toils in obscurity... with often thankless hours of patience and persistence in the pursuit of perfection. I like being with golf course crews and hence my interest in serving on tournament crews. I want guys to think I've got their backs in the many areas that are part of the life of a golf course superintendent."

Frank is, and always has been, "The Turf Guy" with the turf professional top of mind.

Bel Canto Farm





Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi (center) with his wife Barb; son, Tucker; and daughters Danielle and Nicole.

Home on the Farm

When Frank is not traveling the globe talking turf, he is home in Trumansburg, NY, with his wife and kids tending to the farm that Barb manages. As gentlemen farmers, Barb and Frank believe the farm, which they run for the love of farming, not money, has greatly helped their well-being and has been a great tool to teach responsibility to their children: Danielle, 30; Nicole, 21; and Tucker, 16.

The Bel Canto Farm began as an alpaca breeding farm in 2004 and has grown into breeding Kunekune Heritage pasture pigs and chickens for a local meat and egg source. On the weekends, you will always find Frank sporting his earbuds listening to his favorite tunes, while lost in the routine of feeding the animals, cleaning the barns, and raking up the manure. "His meticulous cleaning has earned him the title 'Director of Waste Management' at Bel Canto Farm," says Barb with a smile.

Frank treasures quality time at home with Barb and the kids: nights relaxing by the fireside, dining out on the patio on a warm summer evening, the traditional Friday night pizza and movies, a fun summer whiffle ball tournament with his son, Tucker, or just looking out over the beautiful landscape. And when time allows, Frank loves family getaways, with the peace and tranquility of oceanside destinations among his favorite.

Frank is proud to be a part of this industry and Cornell. "I have had great students, and

I've enjoyed watching them mature personally and professionally, many becoming leaders in our industry—and even in the veterinarian world," notes Frank. "And I have been equally fortunate to have had mentors who modeled the kind of professional I wanted to be." But despite the many relationships Frank has nurtured throughout his career, those that top the list are the ones he's forged with family.

"Most important to me," says Frank, "is the undying love and support I get from Barb and the kids and my NYC clan and central New York families as well. Without them, it would be very empty. . . . I am very rich."

Congratulations!

As president of the MetGCSA, I would like to congratulate Frank on behalf of all our members. As a friend, colleague, and former grad student, Frank's selection for our coveted Reid Award is no surprise and will become another of a long list of Frank's accomplishments and well-deserved awards.

Please make every attempt to attend this year's Winter Seminar to help celebrate Frank's storied career and listen, as he continues to ask questions to make us think . . . all while entertaining us at the same time.

David Dudones, president of the MetGCSA, is superintendent at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

President's Message continued from page 1

operation as it is today. A special thanks also goes out to Pandora Wojick. She takes the gibberish I write and polishes it up to make me sound somewhat coherent. Thanks, Pandora!

Last, I would like to thank all the members of the MetGCSA board. As I finish my tenure as president, I can assure you that the MetGCSA is in great hands. The current board is comprised of some of the most dedicated, hardworking individuals that you will find anywhere. I'd like to welcome new board members Steve Loughran of Rock Ridge Country Club, Dan Rogers of Wykagyl Country Club, and our new Class C rep from Brae Burn, Dave Peterson, and Class AF rep from Harrell's, Scott Tretera. Finally, special thanks to those leaving the board for their hard work and dedication: Doug Drugo; Dave Parson, our Class C rep; and Bobby Steinman, our Class AF rep.

I wish MetGCSA President Dave Dudones and the board the best of luck this year, and I look forward to serving the association as your past president.

**Glen Dube, CGCS
MetGCSA President**



Member Growth and BMP Guide Hot Topics at Annual Delegates Meeting

Membership engagement and growth, advocacy efforts, and an upcoming best management practices guide were among the key topics discussed at the 2016 Chapter Delegates Meeting. The 82 delegates from 84 chapters also heard from nominees for the 2017 GCSAA Board of Directors.

The two-day meeting, held October 11-12 in Kansas City, MO, and at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS, also offered delegates the chance to discuss issues and provide input in small group sessions and during a "town hall" session.

While one-third of attendees were first-time delegates, many of the delegates return year-after-year for the opportunity to not only hear about the different challenges and concerns superintendents face around the country, but also to have a hand in promoting change and making a difference for the association and profession.

The event opened with updates from GCSAA President Peter Grass and GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans, who also took this opportunity to present checks to the chapters that participated in Rounds 4 Research in 2016.

Key Initiatives Discussed

On Day Two of the event, GCSAA staff shared three key initiatives with the group:

- **Membership engagement and growth.** Plans to increase member engagement include strategies across all classifications. Contact with new members will increase, with personalized messages sent at one, three, and six months after joining. There will also be efforts focused on moving Class B members up to Class A, creating new member packets specifically for the equipment manager (EM) class, and strengthening the connection between student members and local chapters. Potential bylaw changes to the definitions of the EM class and International Superintendent Members could broaden growth opportunities.
- **Government affairs.** The Grassroots Ambassadors program continues to grow, and government affairs efforts are currently fo-

cus on the issues of H-2B, the Mega 16 initiative, WOTUS, and the overtime pay rule. Other discussions involved using #golfvotes hashtag on social media to engage more members in the upcoming elections. There was also considerable discussion on encouraging participation in the 10th anniversary of National Golf Day in 2017, as well as options for expanding GCSAA advocacy efforts.

- **Best Management Practices (BMPs) Planning Guide and Template.** Delegates were given a sneak peek at GCSAA's BMP Planning Guide and Template, which will be launched at the 2017 Golf Industry Show in Orlando. The tool will provide a roadmap for golf-centric organizations at the state level to develop and implement BMP programs. The goal is to have BMPs for all 50 states by 2020. Delegates were provided with talking points to help promote the program.

Meet the Candidates

Last but not least, delegates had the opportunity to listen to presentations from candidates running for national office. After the presentations, delegates were able to meet and greet the candidates in small breakout sessions to learn more about their platforms and philosophies. The 2017 GCSAA slate of board candidates are:

For President

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

For Vice President

Darren J. Davis, CGCS, Olde Florida Golf Club, Naples, FL

For Secretary/Treasurer

- Rafael Barajas, CGCS, Boca Grove Plantation and Country Club, Boca Raton, FL
- John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, Kalamazoo Country Club, Kalamazoo, MI

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

There are three open positions for director, with John Fulling and Mark Jordan at the end of their two-year director terms and John Walker completing a one-year appointment. The three director candidates receiving the most votes will be elected to two-year terms.

As for the secretary/treasurer candidates, if Rafael Barajas is elected secretary/treasurer, John Fulling will have to be nominated from the floor for the position of director, since he is at the end of his two-year term. The remaining year of Barajas' director's term would then be filled by an appointment. If, on the other hand, John Fulling is elected secretary/treasurer, Rafael Barajas will automatically remain on the board as a director for another year. Kevin Breen remains on the board with one year remaining in his two-year term.

Peter Grass of Highlands Golf Club in Billings, MT, will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president, and MetGCSA member and Preakness Hills Superintendent John O'Keefe will retire from the board after serving this past year as immediate past president.

The election will take place on February 9, 2017 at the GCSAA Annual Meeting in Orlando, FL.

Final Note

The Chapter Delegates Meetings pointed to the fact that the GCSAA Board of Directors is 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. Be sure to take a moment to view the information presented at the meeting, which is available online. Kudos to GCSAA Past President John O'Keefe for his efforts in initiating positive change for our national organization throughout his term on the board!

Upcoming Events

Enjoy a Day of Education at the MetGCSA Winter Seminar

The Winter Seminar will return again this year to Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, on January 18. Education Chair Brett Chapin and his committee have pulled together an outstanding lineup of speakers once again this year.

The speakers and their topics:

- **Dr. Frank Wong of Bayer Crop Science** will share the ins and outs of protecting pollinators on golf courses.
- **Dr. Doug Soldat of the University of Wisconsin-Madison** will discuss the fun-

damentals of phosphorus and potassium management.

- **Dr. Michael Richardson of the University of Arkansas** will share his thoughts on the effect of too much shade on golf course turf in his talk titled, "How Much Shade is Too Much Shade?"
- **Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell University** will discuss his work to assess golf shoe spike and outsole design on cool-season putting surface quality and performance.

One of the highlights of the Winter Seminar is the Awards Luncheon. In addition to offering attendees a wonderful

lunch, the MetGCSA takes this opportunity to recognize special contributors to the golf course industry. This year, we will be honoring a highly respected researcher who also happens to be a MetGCSA member and Winter Seminar speaker: Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi. Frank will receive our coveted 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 special educational opportunity!

Other Educational & Social Events

Southeast Regional Conference

Wednesday – Thursday, January 25 – 26
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 4 – 6
Orlando, FL

Competitors will enjoy the camaraderie and friendly competition over five Orlando-area courses.

GCSAA Education Conference & Golf Industry Show

Monday – Thursday, February 6 – 9
Orange County Convention Center
Orlando, FL

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

Nor'easter Event

Wednesday, February 8, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Lafayette's Orlando
9101 International Drive, Orlando, FL

Hosted again this year by the MetGCSA and seven other associations, the event will include an open bar, appetizers, food station, and live music. Be sure to stop by!

2017 Nor'easter Ski Day

Thursday, February 16
Killington Ski Resort
Killington, VT

Don't miss this multi-association event that includes family fun on the Killington slopes. Information about lodging and registration can be found on the Vermont superintendent's website at vtgcsa.com. Lodging is likely to fill up fast, so please be sure to call in for housing as soon as possible. The room blocks will be dropped after January 31, but we're sure the rooms will sell out before then.

Contact Andy Drohen at andy.drohen@kochind.com for further information.

20th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show

Monday – Thursday, March 6 – 9
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, RI

For the 20th 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 networking opportunities.

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

2017 Turfgrass Advocacy Day

Wednesday, March 8
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY

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.

2017 MGA Green Chairman Education Seminar & Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award Luncheon

March date TBA
North Hill Country Club
Manhasset, NY

Watch for the date and details of this must-attend educational event. As always, the Metropolitan Golf Association Foundation will offer a highly informative Green Chairman Education Seminar with talks from a variety of golf industry experts and the presentation of the Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.

Look for Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award applications to arrive shortly!

Valuable Lessons Learned by All at Fall Educational Seminar

by Ray Platt

The MetGCSA and CAGCS Education Committees joined forces again this year to put together another great roster of speakers for the annual Fall Educational Seminar at The Patterson Club in Fairfield, CT, on November 17.

In addition to enjoying an informative and thought-provoking day of education, seminar participants were able to grab time between talks to share with one another their trials, tribulations, and lessons learned from a difficult past season.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to host Superintendent Jason Meersman and the rest of the staff at The Patterson Club for their generous hospitality. And many thanks to Brett Chapin and his Education Committee for working with the Connecticut group to put together a superb lineup of speakers.

What follows are the highlights of each presentation, with contact information if you find you'd like to delve deeper into any one of the subjects.

Weed Control in Low-Maintenance Roughs and Natural Areas on Golf Courses

Dr. Jared Hoyle from Kansas State University discussed the current shift in focus pertaining to golf course rough and low-maintenance areas. The form and function of roughs are slowly evolving from traditional, manicured stands of turfgrass to more environmentally friendly and economically sustainable native or naturalized areas.

Dr. Hoyle stressed that when planning native areas, establishing a vision or intended purpose is critical to ensuring a successful conversion. Dr. Hoyle also shared information on a number of weed management techniques useful when establishing and managing native areas, including controlled burns, cultivation, and chemical control tactics.

In the end, Dr. Hoyle cautioned that during and after the establishment of naturalized or native areas, the resulting increase in diversity of flora may not allow for the

expected reduction in inputs due to varying resource and management requirements.

For further information, Dr. Hoyle can be reached at jahoyle@ksu.edu or 785-532-1419.

The Stress of 2016: How to Prevent Future Turf Loss

Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski from the University of Rhode Island discussed the challenges many golf courses experienced throughout 2016 and how these challenges compared to previous years. Dr. Mitkowski started by comparing local weather patterns with global trends. He explained that global trends will sometimes vary from what we experience locally due to microclimates and local temperature fluctuations. Nonetheless, Dr. Mitkowski emphasized that, even though we can't control the weather, we need to excel at adapting to it.

Dr. Mitkowski went on to explain that when anticipating summer stress it is important to prepare for the worst. He reminded the audience of some rudimentary principles of turfgrass physiology and heat and moisture stress.

In addition to discussing the weather, Mitkowski also covered a few turf diseases that plagued golf courses this season, including *Pythium* patch, *Pythium* root rot, and yellow spot. The extreme environmental stresses, coupled with potentially poor growing environments, in some cases, caused these diseases to occur even with proper preventive fungicides in place. Some courses lost large portions of putting greens as a result, further highlighting the reasons to closely monitor weather-related stress and anticipate problems before they become unmanageable.

For more information, Dr. Mitkowski can be reached at mitkowski@uri.edu or 401-874-5996.



The Science Behind Turf Growth Regulation and Growing Degree Day Modeling

Rick Fletcher from Nufarm shared an in-depth look at the various plant growth regulators (PGR) and the factors that determine reapplication timing. Fletcher noted that calendar-based PGR programs are not sufficient in maintaining clipping yield suppression, mainly because climate and temperature variations have a notable impact on PGR application intervals.

Fletcher compared PGR applications to a swinging pendulum: Immediately after the application, you see a heavy influence in growth reduction; as the pendulum swings back, degradation takes place and the growth rate surges.

For more information Rick Fletcher can be reached at 856-296-0422 or at Rick.Fletcher@us.nufarm.com.

Don't Get Them Angry: Avoiding and Managing Insecticide Resistance in the Annual Bluegrass Weevil

Dr. Albrecht Koppenhöfer from Rutgers University discussed recent findings regarding the management of insecticide resistance in the annual bluegrass weevil. He showed that though insecticide cross-resistance is very common, a good rotation program will help delay further resistance development.

He noted that overwintered ABW adults do not start laying eggs until after their densities peak on the short-mown turf areas around the time when Forsythias are half gold, half green. This is the best time to apply an adulticide in spring. The earlier the applications are made before this time, the less effective they are and the more they can enhance insecticide resistance

2016 Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Still to Finish

development because late-appearing adults will be exposed to sublethal insecticide concentrations.

Dr. Koppenhöfer presented a variety of options to manage ABW populations with varying levels of resistance. He suggested minimizing adulticide applications and concentrating instead on controlling larvae based on good monitoring of adult and especially larval populations.

He showed that chlorpyrifos is not an effective alternative to pyrethroids against resistant ABW adults, leaving no effective adulticides for resistant populations. On the other hand, he showed that the larvicides Ference and Conserve were unaffected by resistance, and Provaunt was effective except against very highly resistant ABW.

Email Dr. Koppenhöfer at koppenhofer@AESOP.Rutgers.edu for more information,

Newer Strategies to Combat Nematodes and Root Rot

Dr. Derek Settle from Bayer Crop Sciences began the discussion by reminding the audience that the weatherman's predictions were correct in saying 2016 was going to be a tough year. Dr. Settle went on to discuss nematodes, their biology, and some newly developed control methods, including Bayer's newly released Indemnify and upcoming Exteris.

Nematodes are one of the most difficult turfgrass pests to manage and are commonly misdiagnosed. Dr. Settle shared some textbook examples of signs and symptoms caused by a nematode infestation, such as root die-back or discoloration, patches of turf that are blotchy and thinning or showing signs of wilt even with adequate watering.

Many superintendents are hopeful that Bayer's new products will provide a viable solution for this troublesome pest, especially now that Namacur has been removed from the market.

For more information, Dr. Settle can be reached at derek.settle@bayer.com or 312-350-4286.

Ray Platt is an assistant superintendent at Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, CT.

This year's Two-Ball Championship was like no other, with extreme weather conditions leaving a number of teams struggling to complete their matches. There were several defaults and, for the first time ever, an incomplete, as players just couldn't afford to take their eyes off their courses. Despite this, there were a good number who did get out there to play some great matches on some great courses. And the Second Flight did finish with a champion. Here's a quick recap.

Second Flight Recap

The Second Flight Finalist team of Tim Walker (Leewood) & Ryan Batz (Grass Roots) barreled through the talented Second Flight teams of...

- Lou Quick (Anglebrook) & Paul Gonzalez (Whippoorwill)
- Jamie Devers (Canoe Brook) & Mike Brunelle (Upper Montclair)
- Rob Alonzi (Fenway) & Scott Apgar (Metro Turf Specialists)
- ...to meet up with the other Second Flight Finalist team of Steven McGlone (Siwanoy) & Bob Lippman (Westchester Turf)

McGlone & Lippman were able to take care of...

- Rob Milar (St. Andrews) & Dave Conrad (Plant Food Company)
- Steve Wickstrom (Burning Tree) & Matt Neus (Knollwood)
- Chris Alonzi (Elmwood) & Mike Cook (The Care of Trees)
- ...to make it to the fateful final round against Walker & Batz

On October 13 at Bonnie Briar, the team of Walker & Batz took down McGlone &

Lippman. Walker & Batz took the lead on the front nine and kept it. McGlone and Lippman began a strong comeback on the back nine bringing the match to within one. However, the clutch play of Walker & Batz lasted long enough for them to win the Second Flight. The course played tight on a glorious, cool October afternoon. Thanks to Nick Lerner for providing slick greens and challenging pins!

First Flight Recap

First Flight Finalists, Todd Apgar (Metro Turf Specialists) & Jason Meersman (The Patterson Club) battled through the other top-flight teams of...

- Glen Dube (Centennial) & Blake Halderman (Brae Burn)
- Steve Loughran (Rock Ridge) & Brian Bontemps (Seton Turf Warehouse)
- Ryan Oliver (Hudson National) & Tom Weintert (Plant Food Company)

The other First Flight Finalist team of Scott Niven (Stanwich) & Larry Pakkala (Silvermine) showed their tournament-level playing skills by defeating the teams of...

- Jeff Wentworth (Pelham) & Tony Hooks (Due Process)
- David Dudones (Westchester) & Grover Alexander (Hudson Hills)
- Shannon Slevin (Old Oaks) & Dave Lippman (Westchester Turf)
- ...to make it to the final match.

But time went by too quickly, and the final championship match couldn't be played before the winter weather took hold, so the two finalist teams have agreed to play in early spring, before the 2017 Two-Ball Qualifier. Stay tuned for the results next spring!

Regional News

Brian Mahoney Named MGA Executive Director



The Metropolitan Golf Association has named Brian Mahoney as the association's new executive director, starting on February 1, 2017.

Working for the MGA since 2001, Mahoney has, for the past two years, served as managing director, rules, competitions, and GHIN services. He will succeed Jay Mottola who, after 34 years in the position, is preparing to step down. Mottola will remain active with the MGA and the MGA Foundation as a senior advisor.

"I am extremely proud and humbled for the opportunity to serve as the next executive director of this storied golf association," said Mahoney. "The MGA has been an integral part of my family's culture for more than 40 years, dating back to my grandfather Gerald T. Mahoney." Gerald Mahoney served as the executive director from 1980-1981 and later as the MGA's director of golf programs.

Looking ahead to his new role as executive director, Mahoney notes, "It's a very exciting time for our team here at the MGA, our volunteer leadership, and the entire Met Area golfing community, as we all work together toward the goal of seeing the game continue to grow and prosper."

Mahoney, 37, who grew up in the greater Milwaukee area, resides in Stamford, CT, with his wife, Kelly, and their two children.

Member News

MetGCSA Annual Christmas Party and Raffle



*Bill Caputi Scholarship
Raffle Drawing
Ken Benoit and Nick Lerner*

The halls of Bonnie Briar Country Club were filled with holiday cheer at the annual MetGCSA Christmas Party on December 8. Casual, yet elegant, ruled the day as more than 60 members turned out to put a grueling season behind them by celebrating with good food and drink.

Our host superintendent, Nick Lerner, along with the rest of the management team at Bonnie Briar—General Manager Kevin Burke, Executive Chef Matt O'Connor, and Assistant General Manager Nina Garcia—ensured a warm welcome for the association along with exceptional service and mouthwatering appetizers and entrees.

During the event, the winners of the Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle were drawn. The raffle is the prime source of the scholarship awards we distribute to deserving Met-member recipients each year.

Many thanks to all who contributed and also to those who sold tickets for this worthwhile fundraiser.

Here's who held the winning tickets:

First Prize ~ \$2,000

Bill Bartels, Tanto Irrigation

Second Prize ~ \$1,000

Tim O'Neill, CC of Darien

Third Prize ~ \$500

Jon Jennings, Shinnecock Hills Golf Club

Fourth Prize ~ \$500

Bobby Steinman, Synergy Turf Supply

Fifth Prize ~ \$500

Steve Renzetti, Pinnacle Turf

Sixth Prize ~ \$500

Rick Gordon, AG Enterprises

Many thanks to our Social Committee chair, Brett Chapin, and the rest of his committee for putting together another successful event.



Last Call
Blake Halderman, Nick Lerner,
Kevin Collins, George Corgan,
and Paul Gonzalez



The Party Scene



Three Brave Lassies
Jasmine Ceplo, Susan O'Dowd,
and LeeAnn McCall



*Who's That Guy on
the Right? Could It Be
Bob Miller?*

George Corgan, Dan Rogers,
and, yes, Bob Miller



*You Want Me to Spend How
Much? You Heard Me!*
Kevin Collins and Ken Benoit



A Wealth of Knowledge
Blake Halderman, past, past
president; Greg Wojick; and
Glen Dube, past president

MetGCSA Members Honored With NYSTA Friend of the Green Industry Award

The New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA) recently honored five New York State Best Management Practices (BMP) Committee members with its 2016 Friend of the Green Industry Award. Receiving the award for their work in developing the BMPs for New York State Golf Courses were MetGCSA members Ken Benoit of GlenArbor Golf Club, Bob Nielsen of Bedford Golf & Tennis, Blake Halderman of Brae Burn Country Club, Frank Rossi of Cornell University, along with BMP project manager Stacey Kingsbury.

As most Met members are aware, the BMPs for New York State Golf Courses offer a standard set of practices or guidelines for protecting water quality, reducing pesticide use and storm water volume, peak flow,

and various forms of nonpoint source pollution. Essentially, BMPs are a sustainable approach to providing environmental, economic, and social benefits to golf and society.

We can credit Met members Ken, Blake, and Bob for getting this monumental effort off the ground. It was their vision, in 2012, that led to the development of this comprehensive resource, which all New York golf course superintendents can now access online and incorporate into their daily management practices.

Also highly instrumental in the project's success were co-award-winners turfgrass expert Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell and Stacey Kingsbury, who came on as project manager after managing a similar project in Virginia.

What stands today as a result of these individuals' efforts is a dynamic, world-class

website resource that features the best management practices that any golf course superintendent can access to learn and incorporate information and strategies to improve their facility. You will find the site at nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu.

Congratulations Ken, Bob, Blake, Frank, and Stacey for your exceptional contributions to the turfgrass industry!

Side Note

The BMP Committee's work is never done. It recently produced a video on pollinators, which will be added to the BMP website in 2017. The committee will continue to keep its ear to the ground for industry changes and new information that might be incorporated into our BMPs. If you have an interest in supporting this cause, please contact Mike McCall, MetGCSA executive director, at mike@mccallmg.com or 914-204-9136.



NYSTA President Timothy Hahn (second from right) presents the 2016 Friend of the Green Industry Award to BMP Executive Committee members (left to right) Bob Nielsen, Ken Benoit, Stacey Kingsbury, and Frank Rossi. Not present for the photo was Blake Halderman.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Dave Hardin**, Class C, Siwanoy Country Club, Bronxville, NY
- **Shawn Haverdink**, Class C, Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY
- **Michael Imobersteg**, Class C, Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, NY
- **Chase LaCourse**, Class C, Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, NY
- **Ryan O'Neal**, Class SM, Country Club of Farmington, Farmington, CT
- **Dan Quatrocelli**, Class AF, EZ-GO/Cushman, Rocky Hill, CT
- **Reed Williams**, Class AF, EZ-GO/Cushman, Elmsford, NY

Member on the Move

Joshua Haugh is the new superintendent at Willow Ridge Country Club in Harrison, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, NY.

Patron Directory

Patrons listed on this page are supporting our association. You are encouraged to support them.

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