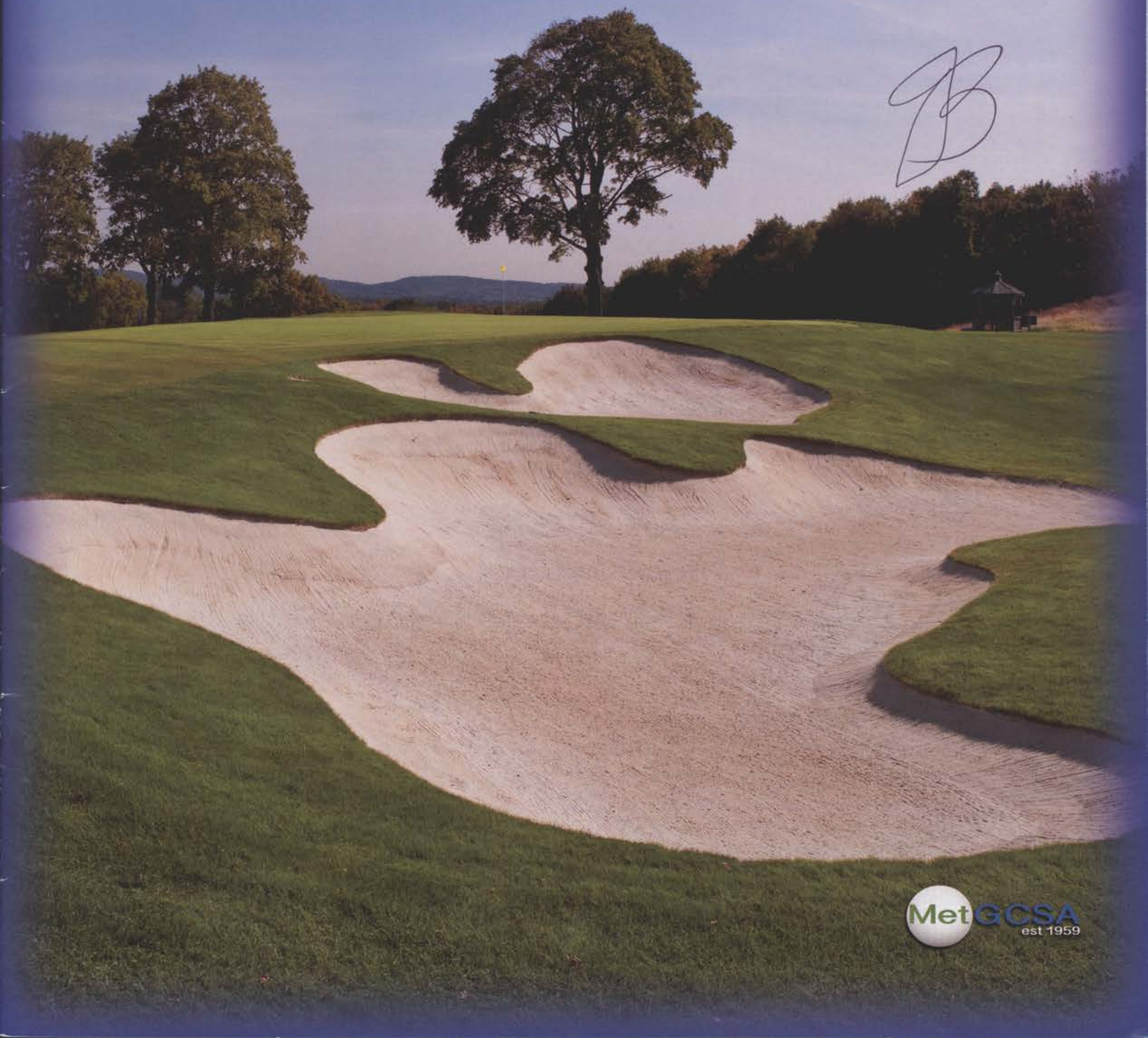


Tee to Green

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Tee To Green



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his time of year, many of us have completed one of the necessary evils of course conditioning: aerification. Whether you are solid tining, coring with large holes or small holes, dryjecting, drill-and-filling, vertidrainage, verticutting, gradening, I think everyone would agree that aerification is one of the most labor-intensive of all the golf course maintenance practices.

Fortunately, over the past 10 to 15 years, advances in equipment and technology have had a sizable impact on the process, reducing the time needed to complete aerification, as well as the time required for the turf to recover. Ultimately, these advances have benefited our golfers, offering them the bonus of minimal disruption in play.

Advances in technology have benefited our facilities' golfers and club members in other ways as well. For instance, with the advent and enhancement of smart phones over the years, superintendents are able to offer a sneak peak at the process of aerification and a variety of other maintenance practices through blogging, tweeting, drone video posts, and other website posts.

A drone video, capable of recording and documenting staff members in action on the course, is a powerful communication tool and great way to shed light on all that goes into providing our members with top playing conditions. With the click of a key, members can access a moving picture depicting the art, science, and hard work involved in completing tasks large and small. Even the art and science behind cutting a cup can have tremendous value to those who are interested.

A picture may speak a thousand words, but videos are truly the "click bait" to most effectively draw members' attention to information you feel is important to communicate. At Westchester, we purchased a drone to document our recent renovation of the South Course. Anytime we post an update on our E-News or website, members always contact me to comment on our progress or just to discuss the video.



David Dudones
MetGCSA President

We have had so much positive feedback on the videos that we've been asked to do videos for other areas of the club. These videos have proved far more effective in delivering our message to club members than any of our written updates, which often seem to get overlooked.

Technology has become such an integral part of most of our everyday lives that often we forget just how much it's enhanced our professional lives. Be sure to catch our feature article this issue, *How Technology Helps Those Who Help Us*, for some interesting insight into how others in our industry are using technology to make our jobs easier.

On Another Note . . .

On August 1, the MetGCSA awarded scholarships to 15 outstanding students at our annual Scholarship & Parent/Child Tournament at Mosholu Golf Course. It was a beautiful, though toasty, day on the links, and the families who participated in the tournament seemed to enjoy the fun and friendly
continued on page 7



How Technology Helps Those Who Help Us

by Matt Ceplo, CGCS

W

hen the *Tee to Green* Editorial Committee gathered for our annual planning meeting, I walked away with an assignment to write an article on our industry's latest-and-greatest technology. I scratched my head. Why would they ask a gray-haired 50-something-year-old to write an article about technology? The only reason I have a smart phone (at least they tell me it's smart) is because my daughter added me to the family plan and it was cheaper. She actually had the gall to let me know that I am not using any data, and we supposedly have unlimited? Not quite sure what data use is anyway.

Honestly, I am still in awe that the IBM computer, Watson, beat Jeopardy champions Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter. Watson took the game with \$77,147 leaving the others in the dust.

On a more serious note, after thinking about this subject, I realized that plenty of articles have been written on how we can do our jobs more easily and efficiently using the latest technology. There are better apps for watching degree days, weather forecasting, pesticide tracking, and the list goes on. It's almost endless and constantly expanding.

Technology Is Everywhere

So I set out to find a new angle for this article. By coincidence, I ran into a few people whose jobs are technology based. One gentleman I spoke to is in charge of IT at Ramapo College. What was the latest technology he was in charge of? He said he was working on upgrading the college's software platform to the tune of about \$80,000. They were installing a Splunk system, which is capable of things way beyond my scope of understanding.

From what I gather, though, this software platform is used to search, analyze, and visualize the machine-generated data gathered from the websites, applications, sensors, devices, etc., that make up an IT infrastructure and business. So when there's a problem with a system's hardware, for instance, and it spits out a bunch of undecipherable codes, the Splunk software will decipher those codes and help the IT person figure out where the hardware failed. Phew!

Automatic rainout shelter.



Dollar Spot showing branching, 40X.



Using Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) data—and a costly piece of equipment—researchers are able to identify pathogens relatively quickly, providing superintendents with more timely answers to their turf ills.

Then, last week I played in an outing and one of the gentlemen in the foursome owns a company called Revelation Software. His phone was ringing most of the way around the course. He had clients who were getting hit by Ransomware and were calling for help!

It's hard to believe there is actually a type of malicious software out there that can block access to your computer's data or threaten to publish or delete it until a ransom is paid. Crazy! This guy said the bad guys are the really smart ones and the good guys are constantly playing catch-up.

These encounters with techies made me think. Both used technology to help others either streamline a process or solve a problem. Why not, then, speak to those in our industry who provide a service to us—the researchers and the suppliers we deal with—to see what type of technological advances they're currently using to better help us.

Technology That Helps Our Distributors Expedite Distribution

Have you ever called up your local distributor and had to order a product in an emergency? You thought you had something on the shelf, but when you looked, it wasn't there?

Well, many of our vendors are using state-of-the-art technology to help us out when this happens. One company uses software called Fleet Metrics, which is basically a GPS vehicle tracking system that allows the office to know where their vehicles are and, more importantly, when they will be back to the warehouse to load up and get that special delivery to you.

Or how about software that tracks specific products? Another company uses Sage Systems, which tracks products from warehouse to truck to your door. That way, if you need something, they know what truck may be carrying it and can send it to you. Also, if you used a product in the past but forgot what it's called, the company can pull up what you've purchased to make sure you get the same product.

Technology Use Among the Research Community

Our friends on the research side of the business also are no strangers to advances in technology. I called Dr. Bruce Clarke from Rutgers and asked him what great technology he's using to help him with his latest research.

"Molecular technology," he said. "**PCR or Polymerase Chain Reaction**, which has become the cornerstone of modern molecular biology the world over."

"What?!" I thought. "How about something I can understand?" Of course, then making me feel even more off the technology grid, I found out that it's been used for decades.

Basically, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) is a way to make many copies of a sequence of DNA. This is done in a lab. The reason it's called a chain reaction is because

the result of one cycle is used immediately for the next cycle. This allows exponential growth to happen.

So because DNA is unique for every living thing, researchers can often extract only small amounts of the DNA they are interested in from a specimen. These amounts are usually too little to be useful, so a researcher will use PCR to make enough copies to start experimenting with.

Researchers like Dr. Clarke find the PCR data useful in the positive identification of a pathogen—in a relatively short amount of time—which is ever-so-helpful to everyone in the turf business scratching their heads over a turf fill.

As you might expect, serious technology is required to do this type of analysis: A high-quality PCR machine runs about \$23,000.

Getting into this a little deeper, Rutgers' Dr. Richard Buckley is using PCR to identify fungi by finding specific **molecular markers**. A molecular marker is a molecule contained within a sample taken from an organism. Dr. Lisa Beirn (a former graduate student at Rutgers and now a field development scientist at Syngenta) has been developing markers specifically for anthracnose. There are many different types of the anthracnose fungi. Using the markers that Dr. Beirn has identified allows for a positive

Drone fitted with a multispectral camera.



identification of the exact type of anthracnose you're dealing with, making treatment all-the-more reliable.

For turfgrass breeders, molecular markers are useful in identifying a particular trait within a plant and then replicating it. Qualitative traits, such as the color or seed production of a particular turfgrass species, can be identified using what's called marker assisted selection (MAS). Once a desired marker is found, it can be followed within different generations of the plant. And the marker may even help follow particular traits of interest when crossing between different genus and species, with the hope of transferring particular traits to offspring.

Molecular markers also play a role in helping researchers identify and then replicate a trait that makes a certain plant species resistant to a particular disease. This type of selection is becoming increasingly beneficial to plant breeders—and farmers—because fewer pesticides, fungicides, and insecticides will be required to maintain plant health.

This process has sped up tremendously. When I was in school, you would just breed the fastest stallion with the fastest mare and hope for fast offspring. Now breeders identify the gene that makes them fast and then take it from there.

In speaking with Dr. Stacy Bonos from Rutgers, one of her biggest technical advances actually is not so technical. It is an *automatic rainout shelter*. It senses rain and automatically closes. This is particularly useful if you're trying to find drought-tolerant species.

Then I asked Dr. Bonos what would be the one instrument she would want, and to my surprise, she said a drone—but not just your everyday drone. She would want a *drone fitted with a multispectral camera* that can detect things the naked eye cannot: temperature, color, and even architecture.

"Architecture?" I asked. Dr. Bonos explained that the architecture this type of camera would detect would be upright growth and height, the number of seed heads, and even if weeds are present. This is particularly helpful if you are trying to monitor a field trial that includes plots planted with a variety of grass types. You will see, in an instant, the progress of each of the grass cultivars. No sense, after all, in breeding a new grass type if it doesn't produce seed!

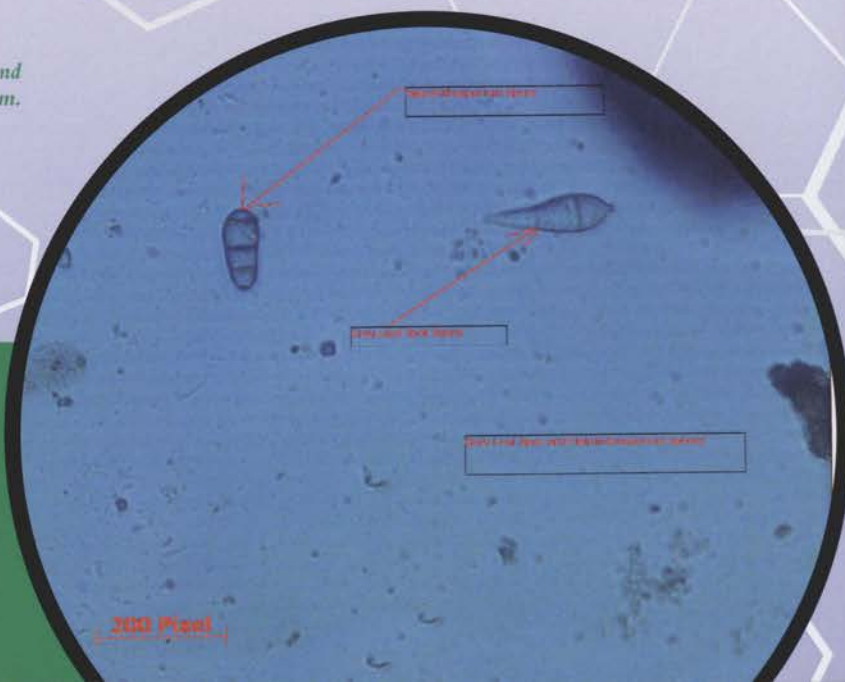
As we all know, new cultivars are always being introduced. When I describe to members how many different types of grass we have on the course here at Rockland Country Club, I often bring up the tomato plant. Rockland is more than 100 years old, and tomato plants have been around at least that long.

The varieties of tomatoes 100 years ago were about the size of grapes. Today, we enjoy beefsteak-sized tomatoes with improved flavor. If there has been that much improvement in tomatoes over the past 100 years, imagine the improvements in turfgrass. At Rockland, our turfgrasses have evolved over the years, leaving us with a hodgepodge of 100-year-old varieties mixed in with the new-and-improved varieties. A real Heinz 57 if there ever was one.

Despite the clear benefits of technology, Dr. Bonos is quick to point out that it doesn't replace the need for human involvement and input. "There is still an art to the science," she said. "We still have to grow the plants and check to see that the intended traits actually play out."

Fortunately, that drone with the high-tech camera will make monitoring her grass plots that much easier.

Gray Leaf Spot and Helminthosporium.

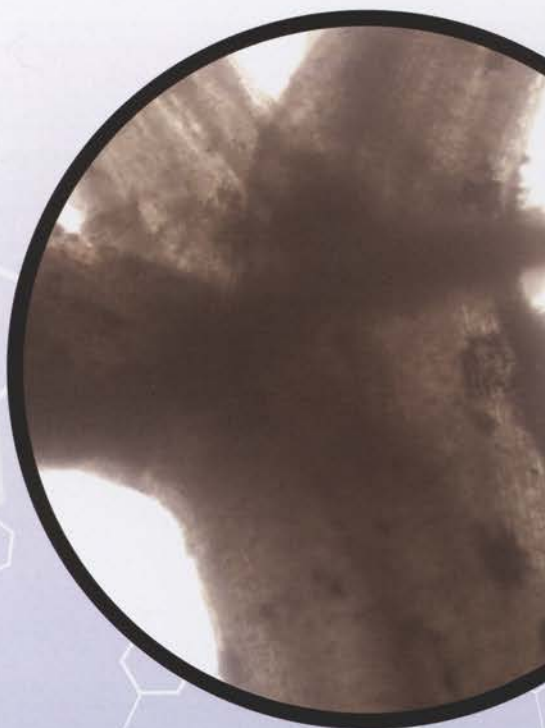


Despite the clear benefits of technology, it doesn't replace the need for human involvement and input. "There is still an art to the science," says Rutgers' Dr. Stacy Bonos.

On a similar note, Jennifer McMorow from Turf Diagnostics has sped up her diagnostic abilities with *newer microscopes and more sophisticated cameras*. In the old days, researchers relied heavily on Elisa testing, which stands for enzyme-linked immuno-sorbent assays, to obtain disease information. Now a good eye, experience, and a picture can achieve the same results.

Today, using the microscope, McMorow can evaluate the general health of a plant, including the severity of disease, tip burn, abnormal growth, mechanical injury, inappropriate soil particle size, hydrophobicity, nematode activity, etc.

Even more progress has been made in digital imaging. Now, McMorow can easily take pictures, label them, and share them with the scientific community. When



Anthracnose, 5X.

she first started, bulky Polaroid cameras attached to the microscope was the best she could do.

Final Note

Technology has clearly helped those who help us. And it is nice to have these technological advances in the hands of experts whose work is not only enhancing the resources we have to work with, but also leading to improved maintenance practices and, ultimately, golf course conditions.

Matt Ceplo, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Rockland Country Club in Sparkill, NY.

Scorecard

David Mahoney Two-Ball Contestants Move on to Semi-Finals

by Steve Loughran

With the first two rounds—the “Sweet 16” and “Elite 8”—of our David Mahoney Two-Ball Championship completed, I would like to thank all of our participants for making the time to play their matches. In the first two rounds, we had only one concession!

This year so far, there has been some really good golf and a number of exciting matches with many going the distance, some making monumental comebacks, and others going to extra holes.

Read on for a quick recap of their “winning” results. The next rounds definitely promise to be interesting!

Round One

- The reigning champs, Jason Meersman & Todd Apgar, had a tough draw with the always crafty and steady play of Sean Cain & Stephen Rabideau, but they were able to squeak past them with a 1-up victory at Morris County.
- Glen Dube & Blake Halderman walked into a buzz saw with Brian Chapin & Tom Weinert. Chapin recorded 4 gross birdies himself, which coasted them to a 3 & 2 victory at Upper Montclair.
- The team of Josh Haugh & Mike Weber battled back from a 5-down with 6-to-play deficit to beat Tom Ashfield & Andy Drohen at Ridgewood. Don't worry Tom; Andy takes full credit for disappearing on the back 9!

In the second flight, we saw a few substantial victories.

- The defending champs Tim Walker & Ryan Batz breezed their way to a 5 & 4 victory over Rob Alonzi & Scott Apgar at Sleepy Hollow.
- Chris Alonzi & Mike Cook also handled their business quickly against Glenn Perry & Frank Amodio 5 & 3 at Old Oaks.

- Doug Snyder & John Garcia were quick to take care of Brett Chapin & Greg Wojick 5 & 4 at Rolling Hills.

Round Two

The second-round matches tightened up in both flights.

- Brian Chapin & Tom Weinert defeated the defending champs, Jason Meersman & Todd Apgar, at Essex County 1 up.
- Brent Peveich & Mark Chant won 1 up at Deepdale over Josh Haugh & Mike Weber.
- It took 19 holes for Matt Ceplo & Jim Swiatlowski to defeat Tony Grasso & Scott Tretera at Wykagyl.
- In a bloodbath of a match, where only 2 holes were halved, yours truly & partner Brian Bontemps defeated Chip Lafferty & Bert Dickenson at Fairview 2 up.

In the second flight . . .

- Tim Walker & Ryan Batz continued their dominant play with a 2 & 1 victory over Peter Rappocio & Joe Alonzi at Yale.
- Jeff Houde & Mathew Neus pulled out a victory on the 19th hole against Bob Nielsen & Bill Perlee at Burning Tree.
- Ryan Segrue & Jim Schell coasted to a 3 & 2 victory over Doug Snyder & John Garcia at Yale.

On to the Semi's!

As we enter into the Final Four: Semi's, I would like to thank all of our host superintendents for making their courses available for the matches. Speaking of the semi-finals, results of your matches were due on September 8. If you haven't completed a match or reported your results, please get them to me as soon as possible! Final matches should be completed by October 6. Stay tuned for a recap of the winners' scores!

Steve Loughran, chair of the Tournament Committee, is superintendent at Rock Ridge Country Club in Newtown, CT.

2017 Scholarship Recipients Recognized at the Mosholu Parent/Child Scholarship Tournament

by Ken Benoit, CGCS

The 2017 Scholarship Awards Ceremony was held on August 1 as part of the fifth Annual Scholarship & Parent/Child Tournament at Mosholu Golf Course, one of America's premier First Tee golf courses.

Dave Moffett, who is in his sixth season as superintendent at Mosholu, had the course in great shape. And the nine-hole, 2,300-yard, par 32 venue proved, once again, to be the perfect setting for kids and adults of all golfing abilities.

Thirty-six participants (parent/child teams) played in a nine-hole shotgun, two-man scramble format, which was free to members and, by all accounts, a great success. This year's tournament-winning team of Tony Girardi and son Matthew won in a match of cards!

After golf, the players and guests enjoyed an outdoor barbeque while scholarship winners were presented with their awards in an informal ceremony.

The Scholarship Award Winners

In addition to maintaining stellar GPAs, these students are all very involved in their communities and participate in numerous extracurricular activities. As chair of the Scholarship Committee, I am truly awed and inspired by the depth of talented children who applied for a MetGCSA scholarship this year. The Scholarship Committee and board are pleased to recognize these very deserving applicants with scholarship awards.

Please join me in congratulating this year's scholarship recipients—and their proud parents.

- **Colleen Callahan**, daughter of John Callahan of The Cardinals, Inc., has attended Davidson College the past two years and will be transferring to University of Virginia this fall to pursue a degree in Mathematics. Colleen has performed many hours of volunteer work.
- **Julia Cook**, daughter of Lisa and Mike Cook of The Care of Trees, is a sophomore pursuing a degree in business at University



From left to right: Matthew Girardi, Christopher Wojick, Austin Renzetti, Michael Scheyd, Andrew Cragin, Caroline Perry, and Sarah Gutter were seven of fifteen students to receive this year's MetGCSA Scholarship Award.

of Scranton. Julia is a member of the women's lacrosse team and has been involved in numerous community service projects.

- **Andrew Cragin**, son of Joan Pollak and Pat Cragin of Turf Products Corporation, is a junior at Ohio State University working toward his B.A. in Logistics. Andrew interned this summer at Nestle Waters in the company's Logistics Department and is a member of Ohio State's golf club team.

- **Nicholas Girardi**, son of Christine and Tony Girardi, superintendent of Rockrimmon Country Club, will be a sophomore at the University of Wisconsin-Madison studying Biochemistry. Nicholas has studied martial arts for 12 years, becoming an accomplished leadership team member and instructor.

- **Matthew Girardi**, son of Christine and Tony Girardi, superintendent of Rockrimmon Country Club, will be a freshman at Roger Williams University and will be studying Law with a minor in Computer Science. Matthew has his sights set on owning a law firm of his own one day.

- **Sarah Gutter**, daughter of Loren and Greg Gutter of The Care of Trees, is a soph-

omore majoring in Supply Chain Management at the University of Rhode Island. Sarah is a member of the Delta Zeta sorority and has been involved in many philanthropic events and activities.

- **Caroline Perry**, daughter of Glenn Perry, superintendent of Rolling Hills Country Club, is a senior at Eastern Connecticut State University pursuing a bachelor's in English and Early Childhood Development. Caroline plans to go on to earn her master's in ELL (English Language Learner) and has been involved in many philanthropic events and activities.

- **Logan Pierpoint**, son of Jennifer and George Pierpoint IV, superintendent at Harbor Pines Golf Club, will be entering his freshman year at Rowan University this fall. Logan plans to major in Physics with a minor in Secondary Education.

- **Andrew Renzetti**, son of Angela and Steve Renzetti, owner of Pinnacle Turf, is a junior at Hofstra University majoring in Video, Television, and Film. Andrew is active in Hofstra's film club and has logged in hundreds of hours as a volunteer at the Humane Society.

• **Austin Renzetti**, son of Angela and Steve Renzetti, owner of Pinnacle Turf, will be a senior at Norwich University studying Civil Engineering. Austin is on track to graduate with honors and is a volunteer fireman in Mamaroneck, NY.

• **Michael Scheyd**, assistant superintendent at National Golf Links of America, is pursuing an MBA at the University of Colorado-Denver. Michael earned his B.S. in Turfgrass Science from Penn State University and is en route to becoming a golf course superintendent.

• **Matthew Severino**, son of Kristin and Matt Severino, superintendent at Scarsdale Country Club, graduated from Yorktown High School where he was captain of both the basketball and lacrosse teams. This fall he will be entering the University of Connecticut as a freshman with a major in Management and Engineering for Manufacturing (a five-year double major). Matthew has devoted many hours to community service.

• **Zachary Weiland**, son of Shannon Mulligan and Jim Weiland, assistant superintendent at Connecticut Golf Club, is a junior at Worcester Polytechnic Institute pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering with an environmental concentration. Zachary plans to go on to pursue a doctorate in Chemical or Environmental Engineering.

• **Lexus Marie Weinert**, daughter of Paula and Tom Weinert of Plant Food Company, will be entering her freshman year at Lehigh Carbon Community College where she plans to major in Social Work and go on to pursue a master's.

• **Christopher Wojick**, son of Tee to Green Managing Editor Pandora Wojick and Greg Wojick, principal, Playbooks for Golf, will be a junior at the University of Connecticut, pursuing a bachelor's in Landscape Architecture and Resource Economics. Featured in an article on Teen Entrepreneurs, Christopher has operated his own lawn care business since he was 12 and hopes to own and operate a successful landscape architecture firm one day.

In addition to congratulating our 15 scholarship recipients, I'd like to recognize those past boards who had the foresight to initiate our Scholarship Fund, which is supported by our Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, the 50/50s at our monthly meetings, and last but not least, a portion of our dues. Finally, a special thank you needs to go out to the entire Scholarship Committee for their hard work in reviewing and awarding each scholarship.

Please remember to support our scholarship raffle. It is the major income-generator for our Scholarship Fund!

Ken Benoit, MetGCSA vice president and chairman of the Scholarship Committee, is superintendent at Glen Arbor Golf Club in Bedford Hills, NY.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

• **Gregory Belicka**, Class C, Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT

• **Michael Drowne**, Class C, Wee Burn Country Club, Darien, CT

• **Riley Tewksbury**, Class C, Wee Burn Country Club, Darien, CT

Well Wishes

Sending prayers and well wishes to **Rob Dorsch** of Richter Park Golf Course in Danbury, CT.

In Sympathy

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to Rockrimmon Country Club Superintendent **Tony Girardi** and his family. Tony's mother, Frances Girardi, passed away August 9. She was 74.

Memorial contributions may be made to: St. Jude Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 1000-Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38101; Meeting Street School, 1000 Eddy St., Providence, RI 02905; Shriners Charities, 1 Rhodes Place, Cranston, RI 02905.

President's Message continued from page 1

competition of their nine-hole round. Special thanks to Dave Moffett for, once again, providing us with great playing conditions! (See page 6 for a look at the scholarship recipients.)

Now that the season is beginning to wind down, I want to encourage everyone to attend our year-ending golf and educational events. Coming up on October 3 is the Poa/Met Championship/Met Team Qualifier at Sunningdale. Thank you Sean Cain for hosting what promises to be another successful triple-header event. In addition to raising funds for NYSTA, this tournament determines our teams for the Met Area Team Championship, which I'm looking forward to hosting here at Westchester on October 16.

Coming up next is our annual Assistants Championship hosted by Paramount Country Club this year on October 23. I'd like to remind area superintendents to encourage their assistants to step away from the duties on the course for a day of much-needed fun and comradery.

Last but not least is our joint MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Seminar hosted again this year by Jason Meersman at The Patterson Club. Be sure to join fellow industry professionals on November 9 for what promises to be a great day of education.

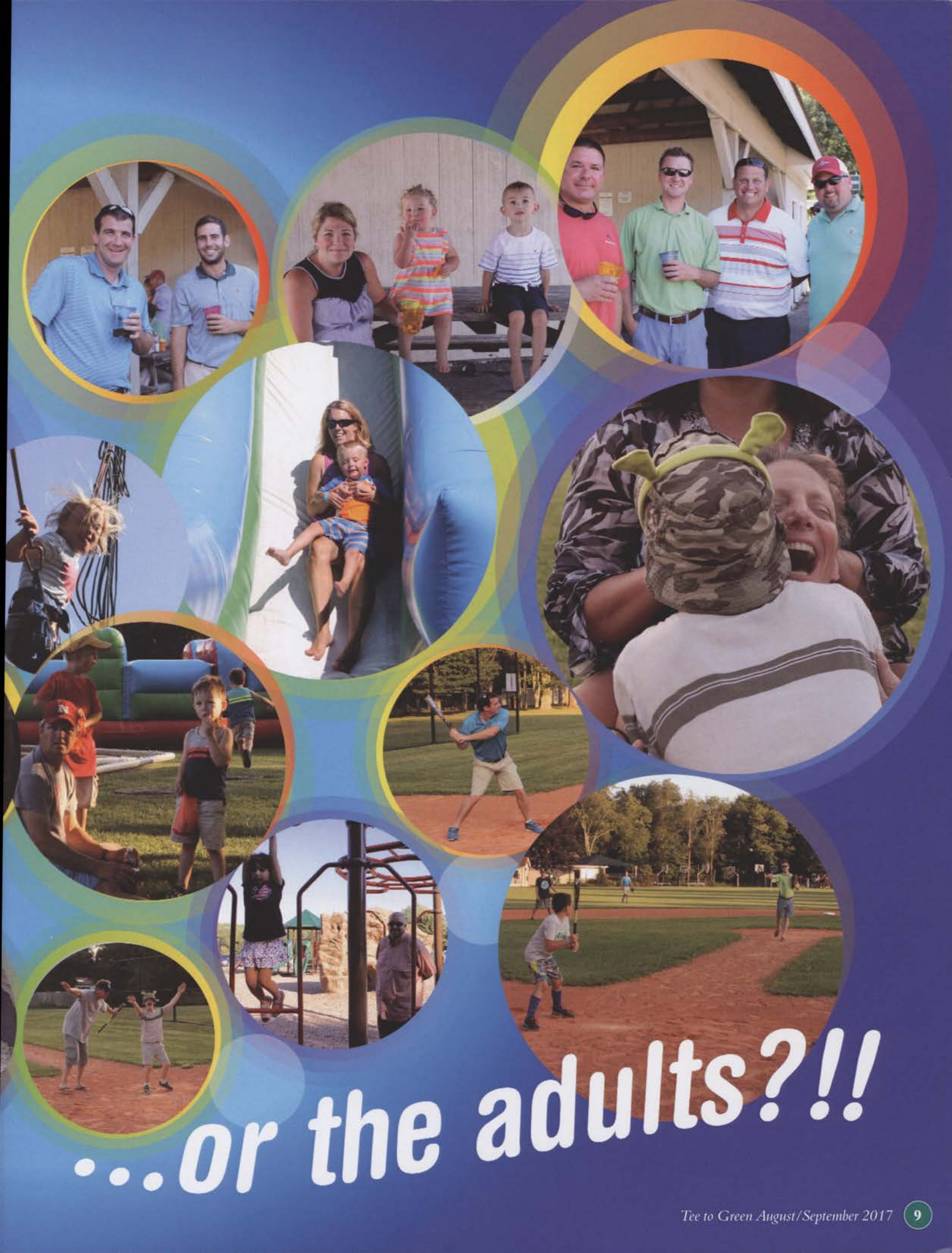
Enjoy what is left of our summer weather, and I will see you all at our next event!

David Dudones
MetGCSA President

*So who had more fun
at the MetGCSA Family Picnic?*

the kids...





...or the adults?!!

Upcoming Events

Season-Ending Events

Met Area Team Championship

Tuesday, October 16
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
Host: David Dudones

Assistants Championship

Monday, October 23
Paramount Country Club
New City, NY
Assistant Hosts: Matthew Kerens, Anthony Heath
Superintendent: Brian Chapin

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, November 1
Rye Grill & Bar
Rye, NY

MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Seminar

Thursday, November 9
The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT
Host: Jason Meersman

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 10, 2018
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
Host: David Dudones

Regional Events

2017 Turf & Grounds Exposition

Wednesday – Thursday, November 15 – 16
Rochester Riverside Convention Center
Rochester, NY

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

For further information, call the show office at 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229, or visit the website at www.nysta.org.

2017 GREEN EXPO Turf & Landscape Conference

Tuesday – Thursday, December 5 – 7
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.

Long Island Regional Conference

Thursday, December 7
Radisson Hotel Hauppauge-Long Island
Hauppauge, NY

The Long Island Regional Conference offers a variety of educational sessions with leading turfgrass educators and industry professionals.

Visit www.nysta.org for further information, or contact the NYSTA office at 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229.

Paramount Pleased to Host Assistants' Battle of the Bridges

by Tom Reyes

This fall, Paramount Country Club will be hosting the 2017 MetGCSA Assistants Championship. The annual event, taking place on Monday, October 23, will follow last year's "Battle of the Bridges" format, pitting the Met against the GCSANJ in a low gross, team event.

Every year, assistant superintendents from around the area are invited for a day of fantastic golf, great food, and most important, a chance to network and enjoy the company of peers after a long season.

Assistant hosts Matthew Kerens and Anthony Heath, along with Superintendent Brian Chapin, couldn't be more pleased to provide area assistants with the playing field for some much-needed time away from their daily grind.

"This event is all about our assistants," says Brian, who has nothing but high praise for his two assistants' hard work and dedication to the job.

"Matt and Anthony are both extremely self-motivated, which shows in their work ethic and how well they manage the crew," says Brian. "They have a great attitude, and I know the course is in good hands if I am not available. These guys don't miss a beat."

Having strong team leaders and quality turf professionals has allowed Paramount to have yet another successful season in 2017.

About the 'Battle Field'

Nestled in the heart of the Hudson Valley in the town of New City, Paramount is a club with a colorful past. The property where Paramount stands today was once a playground for the rich and famous, first owned by Paramount Pictures founder Adolph Zukor. In 1920, Zukor hired famed golf course architect A.W. Tillinghast to build an 18-hole championship golf course, complete with a clubhouse, guesthouse, and of course, a movie theater. During the Great Depression, however, the movie industry suffered, and Zukor was unable to maintain the property. He opened it for membership as a golf club.

In 1948, the club was sold, becoming Dellwood Country Club. In the early 2000s, when the economy began to suffer once again, funds for capital improvements dwindle



From left to right: Matt Kerens, Brian Chapin, and Anthony Heath look forward to hosting the upcoming Assistants Championship.

dled and membership declined until the club was on the verge of collapse.

In 2009, the Mandelbaum family saved the day, assuming the operation. They renamed the club Paramount Country Club in honor of its original owner and initiated a multi-million-dollar renovation project, which, under the direction of Golf Course Architect Jim Urbina, included a significant restoration of the golf course.

Urbina worked closely with Brian Chapin to bring back the Tillinghast features and strategies that had been hidden by many years of growth and neglect. After several years of moving hundreds of yards of fill, rebuilding tees, bunkers, expanding greens, shifting fairways, and removing just a few trees (who's counting), the new Paramount was born.

One gem that was brought back to life was number 18, "The Reef" hole. In an article A.W. Tillinghast wrote for *The American Golfer* in December of 1926, he described a long par 3 as a fairway divided into two distinct sections, requiring the player to choose between four different avenues of play to navigate through the "reef."

"The 'Reef' hole at Paramount embodies a theme you will see throughout the golf course," says Matt. "There is more than one

way to play almost every hole. Some lines will give you the best opportunity to make birdie but also bring bogey or worse into play, while other 'safer' lines will make for a manageable par while avoiding complete disaster."

Matt and Anthony are looking forward to showcasing the course and the careful restoration of this Tillinghast gem.

About Assistant Host Matthew Kerens

Matt's first glimpse at a career in golf course management was during high school when he worked summers at a public course near his home on the South Shore of Massachusetts. But after graduating, he settled on another course of study: Criminal Justice at the University of Tampa. It took Matt only his freshman year, however, to realize that he was better suited for a career in turf than one targeted at deterring crime.

With that, he transferred to UMass, where he completed his B.S. in Turfgrass Management. After an internship at Cohasset Golf Club in Cohasset, MA, and then two seasons at the Charles River Country Club in Newton, MA, which cohosted a U.S. Amateur at the time, he joined the staff at Paramount as an assistant after graduation in May 2014.

Two GCSAA Staff Members Announce Their Resignation

Proving his mettle, Matt was promoted within two years to first assistant, a title he has held for the past two seasons. In that time, he has also had the fortunate opportunity of being involved in the prep for three noted regional tournaments: the 2014 Met Four-Ball Qualifier, the 2015 Met Junior Championship, and a 2017 U.S. Amateur Sectional Qualifier.

Though an avid skier and Boston area sports fan, Matt's true passion is golf. Since moving to the area, his focus has been almost entirely on the game, and more important, the course.

"I have developed a passion for not just golf course maintenance, but also for the game of golf itself," says Matt. "I try to play at least a few times a week at Paramount and take every opportunity I have to see other golf courses."

Matt's love of golf helps him focus on more than just growing grass: "The ultimate goal," he says, "is to provide the best playing surfaces possible for the game."

About Assistant Host Anthony Heath

Anthony's route to turfgrass management began working summers when he was in high school as a cart boy on a local course near his Michigan hometown. From there, he accepted a position on the club's Grounds Department.

Intrigued by the complexity of what really goes into generating the highest quality turf and conditions, Anthony decided to move forward with a career in turfgrass management. He enrolled in Michigan State University, where he completed a two-year Golf Turfgrass Management degree in 2013. After an internship at Friar's Head and two seasons at Nassau Country Club, which hosted the 2014 U.S. Women's Amateur, Anthony became a part of the Paramount team in January 2016—in plenty of time to help prep for this year's 2017 U.S. Amateur Sectional Qualifier.

Off the course, Anthony is a Detroit sports fanatic, who can't get enough of his hometown teams. He enjoys playing hockey as often as his schedule allows but also makes sure there is time for a bit of relaxing and playing the occasional round of golf.

With Paramount Country Club's turf management team at the helm, we are sure to have an exciting and enjoyable day on one of the area's premier courses. Please be sure to join us, and help defend the Battle of the Bridges Cup.

Tom Reyes, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is an assistant at Century Country Club in Purchase, NY.

Associate Director of Member Relations R. Scott Woodhead, a past president of GCSAA, announced his resignation from the association staff, effective September 15. Following close behind is GCSAA COO J.D. Dockstader who announced his resignation effective September 29 to pursue other career interests.

R. Scott Woodhead, a certified golf course superintendent, joined the GCSAA staff in 2002 following the conclusion of his role as past president. A 35-year member of GCSAA, he had a two-decade career as a superintendent, including 13 years at Valley View Golf Club



in Bozeman, MT, and one year as director of golf course operations for the city of Dickenson, ND, where Woodhead worked prior to joining the GCSAA's staff.

"Scott's level of commitment and dedication to the profession as well as his service toward our membership will be missed," GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans said. "We are so grateful for all that he has done for the association and wish him the very best for the future."

As associate director of member relations, Woodhead served as a key resource and advocate for members and managed membership recruitment and retention. He also provided expertise in GCSAA's governance and election policy.

"It has been a wonderful 15 years as a staff member, but it is time for me to make a change," Woodhead said. "I look forward to continuing to support everyone at GCSAA as a Class AA member and past president."

A native of Yakima, WA, and graduate of Montana State University, Woodhead and his wife, Valerie, plan to return to that area in the future.

J.D. Dockstader joined GCSAA in January 2014 as chief business development officer and transitioned to COO in June 2015. He came to GCSAA after serving the previous seven years as director of commercial facilities for the city of Mesa, AZ.



"On behalf of the staff and our members, I thank J.D. for his many contributions to GCSAA," GCSAA CEO Rhett Evans said. "His strong work ethic and innovation benefited us all, and we wish him the very best as he moves on to the next chapter of his career."

Dockstader was responsible for directing key member programs, marketing, and developing new partnerships and business opportunities for the association.

"I have enjoyed the opportunity to make an impact on the organization, both financially and operationally, while developing relationships with our members, clients, and others in the golf industry," Dockstader said. "I strongly believe that GCSAA is positioned to do amazing things that will not only impact the future of the golf course management profession, but the golf industry as a whole."

Stay tuned. Evans will share plans for identifying a replacement for both Woodhead and Dockstader at a later date.

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