

May/June 2018
VOLUME 49 NUMBER 3

Tee To Green

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association

What's Your EIQ?

Story on page 2.



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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: Old Oaks
Country Club

Photography by
Evan Schiller

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he ability to make sound decisions and good judgments are attributes essential to any successful manager. And they are particularly crucial for golf course managers during the heat of the summer when many of our most essential cultural practices have the potential to go awry and do more harm than good to our playing surfaces.

Frequently, despite our better judgment, we perform these cultural practices at times that are less beneficial to the course, and more beneficial to the club's busy golf schedules. When, at one time, we could at least rely on Mondays as a day of uninterrupted work, those days are now often occupied with corporate outings too important to the bottom line to be bumped for course maintenance.

So, with little wiggle room to spare, we find ourselves left with no choice but to perform our necessary maintenance practices, hurriedly, while dodging foursomes during the week. Or worse, we aerify, topdress, brush, groom, verticut, and often water later in the day to limit golfer disruption and to finish the work in a reasonable amount of time.

Once again, as our better judgment would tell us, cultural practices performed in the late afternoon during the heat of summer have a much greater potential for causing turf damage or loss. I have spoken to many superintendents over the course of the past few weeks about their decision-making processes when trying to accomplish these tasks, and their only goal is to avoid any significant turf loss or mishaps and to limit self-inflicted wounds.

Let's face it, the opportunity to make an error in judgment is far greater when under the duress of summer. A great motto is, "When in doubt, wait it out." Skip a mow if the collars are weak; wait a day when the weather breaks to groom; eliminate the drag and, instead, water in the light topdressing; and sometimes, **JUST LET IT BE AND DO NOTHING!** Some of the best advice given to me is, "Never overdo it. Just control what's controllable."



*David Dudones
MetGCSA President*

Weather Watch

Taking note of weather patterns and daily fluctuations in temperature and humidity is part of the golf course superintendent's job. It's how we plan our days and even our weeks of maintenance activities. As novice weathermen of sorts, our clubs look to us for guidance in handling weather-related issues. But weather is neither in our control nor predictable. The advice we give, therefore, is based more on past experience and on-the-spot judgment calls than on sound decision-making.

Those who attended our May 15 Superintendent-Guest event at Wykagyl saw a weather-related judgment call in action. Out on the course playing our rounds, we all could see a major storm rolling in, but none of us, except it seems Wykagyl Super Dan Rogers, understood exactly what was coming. Dan felt the storm was moving so quickly that it merited interrupting play and sounding the lightning siren early. The

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Feature

What Type of Impact Are You Making on the Environment?

by Mike McCall, CGCS





s most superintendents know well, our golf course management practices are perpetually under scrutiny . . . by local, state, and federal government agencies, the media, our communities, and our neighbors. And let's face it, we're an easy target. In recent years, words like "carbon footprint" and "sustainability" have become everyday sayings, making environmental concerns more commonplace than ever in our industry and many others.

The Met Area—particularly Westchester County and Nassau and Suffolk Counties on Long Island—are perennially deemed the highest pesticide users in New York State by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

How does the NYSDEC determine this? Believe it or not, those pesticide applicator reports you submit annually are being used to determine state pesticide use with the help of Cornell University. As of now, the summary data for the year 2013 is available in an NYSDEC report titled, "Final Annual Report for New York State Pesticide Sales and Applications 2013," and it's there for all to see on the NYSDEC website.

The issue with this data that I, and others, have maintained is that the quantity usage is based on only the weight or volume of the products being used, without any consideration given to the amount of active ingredient. While this information provides a large-scale picture for state officials, it's flawed in its ability to determine the toxicity of the applications, which I believe, is what we are all striving for.

For instance, a fertilizer combination product that contains Dimension would be calculated based on the pounds of fertilizer applied, even though only a small percentage of that fertilizer is actually a pesticide.

Most superintendents try to do the right thing when managing their properties following an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program that either they have developed for their own facility or that was developed by someone else, and they've customized it and made it their own. Now another tool in our toolbox is gaining popu-

The EIQ Equation

The formula for determining the EIQ value of individual pesticides is listed below and is the average of the farm worker, consumer, and ecological components.

$$EIQ = \frac{C[(DT \cdot 5) + (DT \cdot P)] + [(C \cdot ((S + P) / 2) \cdot SY) + (L)] + [(F \cdot R) + (D \cdot ((S + P) / 2) \cdot 3) + (Z \cdot P \cdot 3) + (B \cdot P \cdot 5)]}{3}$$

- DT = dermal toxicity
- C = chronic toxicity
- SY = systemicity
- F = fish toxicity
- L = leaching potential
- R = surface loss potential
- D = bird toxicity
- S = soil half-life
- Z = bee toxicity
- B = beneficial arthropod toxicity
- P = plant surface half-life.

(Note: In the golf course world, the farm worker is the equivalent of the applicator and other course employees, and the consumer is the equivalent of the golfers.)

larity to help turf managers properly select a product that will, first and foremost, work and, next, have the least negative impact on the environment or non-target organisms. That tool is the Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ), a value based on a formula originally created to provide agricultural producers with data regarding the environmental and health impacts of their pesticide options so they could make better-informed decisions regarding their pesticide selection.

The Skinny on the EIQ

You may or may not have heard of the Environmental Impact Quotient, more commonly referred to as the EIQ. It's not a new term. The concept of the EIQ was developed in 1992 by researchers and IPM specialists Joe Kovach, Curt Petzoldt, Jim Degnil, and Jim Tette of Cornell University, as a means to measure or quantify the environmental impact or the risk pesticides may have on human health and non-target organisms with particular emphasis on apple production. Put in simpler terms, the EIQ is a way to figure out what product will have the lowest environmental impact, while still completing the target goal.

The EIQ has been successfully adopted by green industry professionals and used for 20 years on golf courses. "The EIQ continues to grow in popularity among turfgrass managers," notes Jennifer Grant, director of the New York State IPM Program at Cornell

University. "They like having another tool in their tool box—a way to consider the environmental impact of a pesticide, while also considering the efficacy, cost, and need for resistance management," she adds.

The formula depicted in the box on the left shows Cornell's method for calculating and assigning an EIQ value to an active ingredient. The higher the EIQ value, the greater impact the product, or products, can have on non-target organisms or the environment. But a better metric of environmental impact of a product depends on how much active ingredient (AI) is being used along with the rate applied.

The product's Field Use EIQ (FUEIQ) Rating takes the amount of AI into account, and is determined by multiplying the EIQ value by the rate of application and percent of active ingredient: FUEIQ = EIQ x Rate (LB/AC) x %AI. It's the FUEIQ Rating that provides a value that can be used to compare the impact of pesticide applications, and thereby help in product selection.

To determine the FUEIQ Rating for combination products, the EIQ value will first have to be calculated for each active ingredient. Often these combination products use a lower percentage of each active ingredient, so the EIQ will be lower than if each product were used separately at recommended rates.

The FUEIQ value is helpful in determining which of many similar products you might choose to apply on your course. If you were trying to control dollar spot, for instance, and both chlorothalonil (Daconil) and boscalid (Emerald) are products approved for treating or preventing dollar spot, then it might be in your best interest to select the product with the lower EIQ value, i.e., boscalid.

FUEIQ values, along with your knowledge of effectiveness, cost, and need for resistance management can help you to make the best product selection, when a pesticide is needed. *The Cornell Guide for Commercial Turfgrass Management* provides FUEIQ values along with the efficacy information and resistance management codes. It can be accessed free of charge on

A Method to Measure the Environmental Impact of Pesticides, Table 2: List of Pesticides 2017



Action: IGR = insect growth regulator, PGR = plant growth regulator, PA = plant activator, CP = crop protectant, BP = biopesticides, B = bactericide, AC = acaricide, I = insecticide
 F = fungicide, H = herbicide, Fum = Soil fumigant
 EQ Revision Date: Date of latest revision. Original = EIQ value from 1992 bulletin
 Old EQ Rating: EQ value from original 1992 bulletin or from previous revision.
 Missing Data: None=no missing data values, B= toxicity to beneficial insects, P=plant surface half life, Z= toxicity to bees, C=chronic health effects, R=runoff potential, L=leaching potential, S=soil residue half life
 Formula Symbols: DT = Acute dermal toxicity D = Toxicity to birds F = Toxicity to fish Z = Toxicity to bees L = Leaching potential R = Runoff potential S = Soil residue half life SY = Mode of action C = Chronic health effects
 P = Plant surface health effects B = Toxicity to beneficials

| Formulas | | | (Farm Worker+ Consumer+ Ecological)/3 | | | | | C(DT*5) | C(DT*P) | C(DT*5)+C(DT*P) | C*((S+P)/2)*SY | L | C*((S+P)/2)*SY+L | (F*R) | (D*((S+P)/2)*3) | (Z*P*3) | (B*P*5) (Beneficial)+(Plant 1/2L) | (D+B) (Bird)+(Beneficial) | (Fish)+(Bird)+(Bee)+(Beneficial) |
|---|-------------------|--------|---------------------------------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Common Name | Trade Name | Action | EIQ total | EIQ Rev Date | Old EIQ Rating | Missing Data | Applicator Effects | Picker Effects | Farm Worker | Consumer Effects | Grd H2O Leaching | Consumer + Leaching | Fish | Birds | Bee | Beneficials | Terrestrial | Ecology | |
| Various | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| amitraz | Mitac | AC | 25.17 | Mar-09 | 23.30 | P | 22.50 | 4.50 | 27.00 | 1.50 | 1.00 | 2.50 | 25.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 15.00 | 21.00 | 46.00 | |
| clofentezine | Apollo | AC | 26.28 | Mar-09 | 26.30 | P | 7.50 | 1.50 | 9.00 | 3.00 | 1.00 | 4.00 | 25.00 | 30.00 | 3.00 | 7.85 | 40.85 | 65.85 | |
| methyl bromide | Brom-o-gas | AC | 53.57 | Mar-09 | New | P | 50.00 | 24.00 | 74.00 | 5.40 | 5.00 | 10.40 | 1.00 | 40.50 | 7.20 | 27.60 | 75.30 | 76.30 | |
| chinomethionat (formerly oxythioquinox) | Joust | AC | 29.44 | Mar-09 | 44.40 | P | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| oxythioquinox (is now chinomethionat) | Joust | AC | 29.44 | Mar-09 | 44.40 | P | 9.50 | 3.61 | 13.11 | 4.66 | 5.00 | 9.66 | 5.00 | 7.35 | 5.70 | 47.50 | 60.55 | 65.55 | |
| acequinocyl | Kanemite, Shuttle | AC | 11.33 | Jan-05 | Original | C | 5.00 | 1.00 | 6.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 15.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 5.00 | 11.00 | 26.00 | |
| fenazaquin | Magister | AC | 38.57 | Mar-09 | New | C, P | 9.50 | 3.61 | 13.11 | 4.66 | 1.00 | 5.66 | 25.00 | 7.35 | 17.10 | 47.50 | 71.95 | 96.95 | |
| flucyprym | Titaron | AC | 28.03 | Mar-09 | New | B, D, L, R, S, C, D | 9.50 | 3.61 | 13.11 | 3.99 | 2.00 | 5.99 | 5.76 | 6.30 | 17.10 | 35.82 | 59.22 | 64.98 | |
| metalddehyde | DeadlineBullets | AC | 11.73 | Mar-09 | - | P | 5.00 | 1.00 | 6.00 | 6.00 | 3.00 | 9.00 | 3.00 | 6.00 | 3.00 | 8.20 | 17.20 | 20.20 | |
| tebufenpyrad | Comanche, Masal | AC | 26.58 | Mar-09 | New | C, P, B | 10.00 | 3.80 | 13.80 | 2.90 | 1.00 | 3.90 | 25.00 | 4.35 | 17.10 | 15.58 | 37.03 | 62.03 | |
| tetradifon | Acimite, Amidion | AC | 17.99 | Mar-09 | New | C, S | 9.50 | 1.90 | 11.40 | 3.33 | 1.00 | 4.33 | 25.00 | 5.25 | 3.00 | 5.00 | 13.25 | 38.25 | |
| diafenthiuron | Pegasus | AC | 31.90 | Dec-08 | 20.33 | P, B | 5.00 | 1.90 | 6.90 | 1.45 | 1.00 | 2.45 | 25.00 | 4.35 | 28.50 | 28.50 | 61.35 | 86.35 | |
| streptomycin | Agrimycin 17 | Bac | 45.00 | Mar-09 | 18.70 | None | 40.50 | 25.11 | 65.61 | 21.87 | 3.60 | 25.47 | 5.44 | 8.26 | 10.23 | 20.00 | 38.49 | 43.93 | |
| oxytetracycline (was terramycin) | Mycoshield | Bac | 21.67 | Mar-09 | New | S, P, B | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bacillus subtilis | Companion | BF | 10.28 | Mar-09 | 7.60 | | 7.50 | 4.65 | 12.15 | 4.05 | 1.00 | 5.05 | 5.00 | 8.10 | 9.30 | 25.42 | 42.82 | 47.82 | |
| comiothyrium munitans | Contans | BF | 8.00 | Apr-04 | 6.67 | None | 5.00 | 1.00 | 6.00 | 2.00 | 1.00 | 3.00 | 5.00 | 6.00 | 3.00 | 7.85 | 16.85 | 21.85 | |
| hydrogen peroxide (dioxide) | Zerotol | BF | 16.00 | Apr-04 | 14.67 | none | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| kaolin clay | Surround | CP | 8.00 | Dec-02 | 8.00 | None | 5.00 | 1.00 | 6.00 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 2.00 | 5.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 5.00 | 11.00 | 16.00 | |
| metam sodium | Woodfume | Fum | 26.59 | Mar-09 | New | P | 17.50 | 6.65 | 24.15 | 5.08 | 3.00 | 8.08 | 9.00 | 4.35 | 5.70 | 28.50 | 38.55 | 47.55 | |
| dazomet | Basamid | Fum | 13.17 | Mar-09 | 2.70 | none | 7.50 | 1.50 | 9.00 | 1.50 | 3.00 | 4.50 | 15.00 | 3.00 | 3.00 | 5.00 | 11.00 | 26.00 | |

the Cornell Turfgrass website, <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/turf/guidelines.pdf>.

Shortcomings of the EIQ Method

While the EIQ method makes sense on many levels, I would be remiss if I didn't tell you before going any further that even its most staunch supporters recognize there are a few flaws in the model.

For instance, the EIQ method's strength of distilling environmental risk into a single number is also one of its greatest weaknesses. Determining the weighting of any single component can skew the entire system one way or another. One of the biggest complaints I hear is the emphasis placed on the percentage of active ingredient and application rate.

Carl Schimenti of Cornell University summed it up nicely: "When you look at base EIQ values, they range from around 8 to 80, or a factor of 10. When you look at the amount of AI applied, it can vary from around .03 ozs./1,000 with something like Ecoguard, to about 7 ozs./1,000 with Civitas. Or a factor of 200! There is much more variability in the amount of product compared to the base EIQ values.

"Ultimately," Schimenti continues, "this means that products with really high use rates (Civitas) or really low use rates (Ecoguard, trinexepac-ethyl) 'warp' the model. In this respect, it feels like the EIQ does overweight the amount of AI being applied. It becomes 'pounds on the ground, adjusted slightly for toxicity.' That being said, if you are comparing two products that

have similar use rates, that's when the EIQ becomes extremely valuable."

These shortcomings have not deterred Dr. Paul Koch of the University of Wisconsin-Madison from incorporating the EIQ method into his Common Ground Initiative where he is evaluating 20+ golf courses' pesticide applications ranging from low- to high-budget operations. His goal is to develop a statewide environmental impact baseline and provide some type of incentive for golf courses to achieve levels below that threshold or, at the very minimum, to continually strive to reduce their individual course baselines. To determine that baseline, Koch is working with both the EIQ model and a simpler, but less sophisticated, Hazard Quotient model that relates only to the LD50.

Developing a pesticide impact metric is a complex matter that may never be to everyone's liking. But in an era of big data, it is the use of these metrics that will allow us to make better decisions, notes Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi. Instrumental in the development of New York State's BMP manual and honored recently with the GCSAA 2018 President's Award for Environmental Stewardship, Dr. Rossi won't deny that the EIQ model could be enhanced, but even in its present form, he recognizes its value in determining—and managing—a course's environmental impact: "By far the best reason to try the EIQ method," he says, "is to get a sense of how your decisions for managing pests accumulates into measurable (certainly arguable) risk."

Environmental Impact Calculations Made Easy

Provided these shortcomings in the current EIQ method haven't deterred you from forging ahead, you're probably wondering, "How the heck am I going to figure all this out?" Not to worry. Much of the hard work has already been done for you. The EIQ for just about every AI approved for use in New York State can be found on an Excel spreadsheet, right here, on Cornell University's website: <https://nysipm.cornell.edu/eiq/list-pesticide-active-ingredient-eiq-values>.

This comprehensive spreadsheet (see example above) includes the environmental impact that various AIs have on bees, fish, birds, and beneficial insects, as well as on such factors as chronic health, dermal toxicity, and numerous others. The result is a single number describing the EIQ of a pesticide's active ingredient.

The list is updated fairly regularly, so if a new product comes on the market, check back at that link to see if it's been added to the list. What's interesting about this database is that you can go in and see which component(s) of the active ingredient is causing an elevated EIQ value. For instance, many are aware of the issues surrounding imidacloprid (Merit) and its possible correlation with Bee Colony Collapse Disorder. If you look at the bee component of imidacloprid within the table, you will see that it has one of the highest values with respect to bee toxicity compared to most others. This spreadsheet will allow you to see why you should or shouldn't use certain products under certain circumstances.

In addition to providing EIQ values for almost every AI on the market, Cornell has developed a calculator to help you determine your Field Use EIQ Rating for various formulated pesticide products. All you need is the rate of application and percent of active ingredient in the specific product you're considering purchasing or using. Then plug that information into Cornell's calculator and, voilà, you have your Field Use EIQ. You'll find the calculator by logging on to <https://nysipm.cornell.edu/eiq/calculator-field-use-eiq>.

You can also set up a spreadsheet to track your pesticide applications and their EIQ, or request an EIQ spreadsheet designed at Cornell University specifically for golf courses, by emailing css223@cornell.edu.

Making your EIQ calculations simpler yet are software programs that will do every bit of work for you as you enter your normal pesticide application data. One such program has been developed by Met members and Playbooks for Golf's cofounders Greg Wojick and Matt Leverich, who describe their EIQ software as a turnkey solution to EIQ calculation and reporting. The program synthesizes all the product applications, providing a summation of risks/toxicity for the entire property over a given period, typically a year.

The EIQ in Action

Recently, it's seemed that calculating products' EIQ has gained favor as a tool in selecting pesticides that achieve the desired objective with the lowest impact on the environment. In fact, several recent Arthur P. Weber Environmental Award candidates pointed out on their award applications that they have made the EIQ an integral part of their turf management program.

At the MGA Green Chairman Seminar on March 14, one of those candidates, Bethpage State Park, was awarded the 2018 MGA Arthur P. Weber Environmental Leaders in Golf Award. Director of Agronomy Andrew Wilson accepted the award on behalf of Bethpage, which has been using the EIQ for nearly 10 years with great effect. (See sidebar, page 6.)

"The attraction is the simple number where the EIQ can help us evaluate choices among products," explains Wilson. "We go by efficacy first, then look at EIQ while checking FRAC codes to rotate chemistries.

"In addition, Wilson notes, "The data behind getting that base EIQ number is very meaningful. For those so inclined, they can look at leaching potential and fish toxicity risk in the raw data if they have surface water bodies. Or they can check out pollinator risk if they have large pollinator areas."

Putting the EIQ to Work on Your Course

If making use of the EIQ method on your course sounds like more trouble than it's worth, think again. Because we're already required to keep pesticide application records, the work is mostly done. If you're using Excel to track your products, then all you need to do is add a few cells (some that require formulas): EIQ, % Active Ingredient, Field Use Rating, # Acres Treated, Total Field Use EIQ, including the FRAC number can be useful for rotating products as well.

The next step is to add the area (acreage) you are treating. Obviously, the more acreage you spray, the greater the impact on the environment you will have. Very simply, you take the Field Use EIQ Rating and multiply by the number of acres treated to get the Total Field Use EIQ Acres. Finally, you add up all of the Total Field Use EIQ Acre values for each application and then you have your Total Field Use EIQ Acres, which then gives you a sense of the impact your golf course is having on the environment.

The example below shows what your application record might look like. Through April, May, and June their Total Field Use Acres amounted to 7,182.3. Ultimately, this course ended up with a Total Field Use

| EIQ Field Use - Total Course F | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--|----------------------------|---------------------|-------|--------|---|------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Application Date | Product Used | EPA No. | Target / Pest | Class H=Herbicide I=Insecticide F=Fungicide | MOA Resistance Class | Active Ingredient | EIQ | %AI | Application Rate fl oz or oz/1000 | Field Use EIQ | Area Treated (1000 ft) | Area Treated (Acres) | Total Field Use EIQ |
| 9-Apr | Instrata | 100-1231 | Dollar Spot | F | M5 | Chlorothalonil | 37.40 | 29.90% | 5.000 | 152.22 | Greens | 3.0 | 456.7 |
| 15-Apr | Proxy | 432-1230 | PGR | | PGR | Ethephon | 24.80 | 21.70% | 4.800 | 70.33 | Greens | 3.0 | 211.0 |
| 15-Apr | Primo Maxx | 100-937 | PGR | | PGR | Trinexapac | 19.03 | 11.30% | 0.125 | 0.73 | Greens | 3.0 | 2.2 |
| 16-Apr | Shaws Aceleprym & Dimension | 8378-72 | ABW | I | 28 | Chlorantraniliprole | 18.34 | 0.17% | 82.720 | 6.90 | FW&Rough | 22.8 | 157.3 |
| 16-Apr | Dimension | | Crabgrass | H | 3 | Dithiopyr | 15.73 | 0.07% | 82.720 | 2.37 | FW&Rough | 22.8 | 54.1 |
| 26-Apr | Bensumec 4LF | 2217-696 | Crabgrass | H | 8 | Bensulide | 26.00 | 46.00% | 5.000 | 162.81 | Greens | 3.0 | 488.4 |
| 26-Apr | Lambda GC | 53883-244-66222 | Hyperodes | I | 3A | Lamda Cyhalothrin | 44.17 | 9.70% | 0.227 | 2.65 | Greens | 3.2 | 8.5 |
| 6-May | Concert II | 100-1347 | Dollar Spot | F | M5 | Chlorothalonil | 37.40 | 38.50% | 5.000 | 196.01 | Tees | 3.0 | 588.0 |
| 6-May | Primo Maxx | 100-937 | Dollar Spot | F | 3 | Propiconazole | 31.63 | 2.90% | 5.000 | 12.49 | Tees | 3.0 | 37.5 |
| 6-May | Lambda GC | 53883-244-66222 | Hyperodes | I | 3A | Lamda Cyhalothrin | 44.17 | 9.70% | 0.227 | 2.65 | Tees | 3.2 | 8.5 |
| 20-May | Dimension 2EW | 62719-542 | Crabgrass | H | 3 | Dithiopyr | 15.73 | 24.00% | 0.370 | 3.80 | Rough | 6.0 | 22.8 |
| 27-May | Primo Maxx | 100-937 | PGR | | PGR | Trinexapac | 19.03 | 11.30% | 0.125 | 0.73 | Greens | 3.0 | 2.2 |
| 27-May | Provaunt | 352-716 | ABW | I | 22A | Indoxacarb | 31.19 | 30.00% | 0.275 | 7.01 | Greens | 2.5 | 17.5 |
| 4-Jun | Banner Maxx II | 100-1326 | Dollar Spot | F | 3 | Propiconazole | 31.63 | 14.30% | 2.900 | 35.71 | Fairways | 12.0 | 428.5 |
| 4-Jun | Daconil Ultrex | 50534-202-100 | Dollar Spot | F | M5 | Chlorothalonil | 37.40 | 82.50% | 3.200 | 268.81 | Fairways | 13.6 | 3655.8 |
| 4-Jun | Mec Amine-D | 34704-239 | Broad Leaf | H | 4 | 2,4-D | 15.30 | 30.56% | 1.000 | 12.73 | Fairways | 7.3 | 92.9 |
| | | | Broad Leaf | H | 4 | MCPD | 15.33 | 8.17% | 1.000 | 3.41 | FW&Rough | 7.3 | 24.9 |
| | | | Broad Leaf | H | 4 | Dicamba | 25.33 | 2.77% | 1.000 | 1.91 | FW&Rough | 7.3 | 13.9 |
| 10-Jun | Daconil Ultrex | 50534-202-100 | Dollar Spot | F | M5 | Chlorothalonil | 37.40 | 82.50% | 3.000 | 252.01 | Greens | 3.6 | 907.2 |
| 10-Jun | Primo Maxx | 100-937 | PGR | | PGR | Trinexapac | 19.03 | 11.30% | 0.125 | 0.73 | Greens | 3.0 | 2.2 |

The EIQ at Work in Bethpage State Park Study

Acres value of 26,673, for the year (not pictured), which compared to many public and private courses is relatively low but much higher than the average of the New York State-owned golf course.

To give you a frame of reference, a few years ago Cornell provided me with the following values for Total Field Use EIQ Acres for both public and private courses with varied maintenance regimes. As you can see, the values vary depending on the level of conditioning required, with the Private Country Club hosting the professional event racking up the highest value for Total Field Use EIQ Acres in a year:

| | 2013 | 2017 |
|--|--------|---------------|
| Private Country Club hosting professional event | 94,900 | not available |
| Private Country Club | 58,002 | 37,750 |
| Public Daily Fee Course (well maintained) | 30,797 | not available |
| Average of all New York State-Owned Golf Courses | 9,000 | 5,757 |

So, if you're looking to lower the EIQ on your course, it only makes sense that you look first at the largest areas that you treat on a regular basis, like your fairways or primary rough. The larger the area, after all, the bigger the impact that reducing the EIQ values of your chosen sprays will have. To get started, Jeff Carlson, the superintendent at the Vineyard Club on Martha's Vineyard, who is well versed in operating with fewer chemical applications, suggests identifying your best fairway—the one with few trees, full sun, and good drainage—and then letting it go as long as possible.

"You'll be surprised at how few inputs will be required," says Carlson, who, managing a course on the Vineyard, has plenty of experience operating with limited pest and disease treatment options.

If the untreated fairway begins to look a

little less pristine than the others, just be patient, but if you feel it warrants mentioning to your Green Committee, be sure to emphasize that you are one of a number of superintendents taking a lead role in the initiative to reduce the impact your course is having on the environment. And of course, adds Carlson, "if you're close to reaching your damage threshold, you always have the option of treating the fairway."

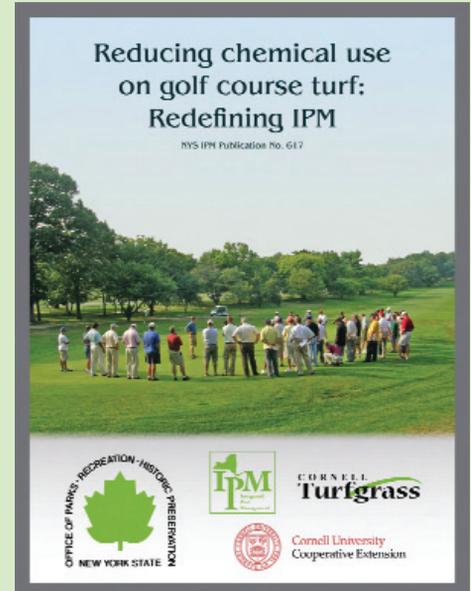
In the Final Evaluation

The EIQ method of pesticide selection is just another tool we have at our disposal to support our efforts to adopt "best management practices" on our golf courses. While admittedly not perfect, making use of a method like the Environmental Impact Quotient is a step in the right direction in encouraging superintendents to take a closer look at the pesticides they use on their courses and the potential environmental impact they may present.

If you visit the New York State Best Management Practices for Golf Courses website, <http://nysgolfbmp.cals.cornell.edu/>, you will find additional information about the EIQ and other pesticide selection methods.

How many times have you heard the saying, "You can't manage what you can't measure?" MetGCSA professionals are great at measuring myriad variables to manage and maintain exceptional playing surfaces—moisture levels, fertility and pesticide inputs, topdressing volumes, and firmness to name several. Now is the time to rise to the next level and work toward better managing and measuring the environmental risk on our courses. The EIQ method is a good way to start.

Mike McCall is the executive director of the MetGCSA and managing member of the McCall Management Group, LLC.



In their 2009 handbook, *Reducing Chemical Use on Golf Course Turf: Redefining IPM*, Dr. Frank Rossi, Dr. Jennifer Grant, and Bob Portmess detail how the EIQ was implemented during the study of Bethpage State Park to compare the environmental risk of the various pest management systems.

The researchers noted that the EIQ ranks pesticides using a composite evaluation of toxicity and exposure factors to aide in the selection of products with the least environmental impact. The Field Use EIQ can also be used to compare management approaches. In the Bethpage study, greens managed under IPM or biologically based systems had 50 to 95 percent less environmental impact over the course of a season than conventionally managed greens.

Nine years later, the researchers felt their work was well worth the effort. The quality of the IPM-managed areas equaled that of conventional pest management systems, and what's more, annual satisfaction surveys have shown that golfers did not perceive a difference in the quality of IPM-managed putting greens.

If you'd like to read more about the particulars of this study, you can order a free copy of Cornell's handbook by at https://cpb-use1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/6/5969/files/2015/03/Cornell_Reduced_Chemical_Manual_2012-19w8a2g.pdf.

Area Clubs Donate to the MetGCSA's 'Foursomes 4 the Foundation' Initiative



The MetGCSA Board of Directors would like to thank the many clubs listed below that have participated in our “Foursomes 4 the Foundation” initiative over the past three years raising more than \$80,000 for the MetGCSA Foundation.

This year, your foursome donations helped generate \$44,364 in bids. Approximately 80 percent of those proceeds will go to our Scholarship & Research Fund, which is dedicated to supporting turfgrass research at regional institutions—such as Rutgers, UMass, Penn State, URI, Cornell, and UConn—and to funding the Best Manage-

ment Practices for New York State Golf Courses initiative. In addition, this fund provides college scholarships for MetGCSA member children. Over the past several years, the MetGCSA Foundation has provided approximately \$20,000 in scholarships annually.

Your participation in the “Foursomes 4 the Foundation” initiative will go a long way toward funding the research and initiatives that will help improve not only course playability, but also environmental sustainability, and ultimately, the game of golf. We thank you all, again, for your support.

Bedford Golf & Tennis Club
Brae Burn Country Club
Burning Tree Country Club
Connecticut Golf Club
Fairview Country Club
Fenway Golf Club
Fresh Meadow Country Club
GlenArbor Golf Club
Hudson National
Leewood Country Club
Manhattan Woods Golf Club
Metropolis Country Club
Paramount Country Club
Preakness Hills Country Club
Putnam County Golf Club
Quaker Ridge Golf Club

Redding Country Club
Rockland Country Club
Rockrimmon Country Club
Rolling Green Country Club
Rolling Hills Country Club
Sleepy Hollow Country Club
Sunningdale Country Club
The Apawamis Club
The Patterson Club
The Stanwich Club
Trump National Golf Club ~ Hudson Valley
Upper Montclair Country Club
Westchester Country Club
Whippoorwill Club
Winged Foot Golf Club
Wykagyl Country Club

President's Message continued from page 1

early warning sent players to the clubhouse in the nick of time—just before trees started snapping in the hurricane-force winds.

I would like to personally thank Dan for having the foresight and judgment to activate the siren, despite the fact that we were all on our last hole. I would also like to give my condolences to the many superintendents who were personally affected by that unusually destructive storm. Many were without power for more than a week, several members' houses were severely damaged, and many others had their properties completely destroyed. Though lower Westchester suffered only a fast-and-furious storm, farther north, towns were hit with damaging tornado touchdowns that left those areas looking war-torn.

Be There

The dramatic ending to our Superintendent-Guest event made it all the more memorable, and like our other season-opening events, it had a great turnout.

If you haven't marked your calendars with the balance of our season's events, please take a moment to make note of our great lineup of upcoming golf, social, and educational events, starting with our fast-approaching July 18 Summer Picnic at Bedford Village Park. Brett Chapin and the rest of the Social & Welfare Committee members always do an excellent job with this event and all of our other social events, which offer a great way to meet and greet Met friends, old and new, and blow off some steam in the heat of the summer.

You'll find a rundown of both MetGCSA and regional events listed in every *Tee to Green* (see page 9), as well as on our website, metgcsa.org.

Looking forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events!

David Dudones
MetGCSA President

Weather Challenges Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier

by Steve Loughran

When I approached Pelham Superintendent Jeff Wentworth back in October about possibly hosting the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier, he agreed, without a moment's hesitation. Having worked with Jeff and the staff at Pelham Country Club, I knew how close many of them were with Dave. Jeff had long been a good friend of Dave Mahoney's, and the head pro, Mike Diffley, had coached youth basketball with him, forming a bond despite the fact that they coached opposing teams. To Jeff, it was only fitting to have the event at Pelham.

Battling the Elements

Despite the difficult spring, which came on the heels of snowfall, significant amounts of rain and temperature fluctuations, Jeff and his staff had the course in amazing, mid-season form for what marked the 10th year for this ever-popular two-ball event.

Unfortunately, despite Jeff's best efforts to make the day picture-perfect, April 30 brought with it cold temps and heavy rains. The only saving grace was that, at the day's end, the sun did shine through. We could only wonder if Dave had something to do with that!

Thank you, Jeff, and the entire Pelham staff for going all-out to make this special event memorable.

What follows is a look at the day's golf results.

Two-Ball Event Results

Low Net Winners

- 70 Mike Cook/Ken Benoit
The Care of Trees/GlenArbor GC
- 71 Tim Walker/Ryan Batz
Leewood GC/Nutrite

Low Gross Winners

- 70 Jason Meersman/Todd Apgar
The Patterson Club/Metro Turf Specialists
- 76 Tom Ashfield/Andy Drohen
Quaker Ridge GC/Koch Agronomic Services

Closest to the Pin

- #8 Scott Apgar, *Metro Turf Specialists*
- #18 Ben Mancuso, *MTE Turf Equipment Solutions*

Longest Drive

Jason Meersman, *The Patterson Club*

For a complete list of Two-Ball qualifiers and how they are faring in their matches, log on to the Met's website, www.metgcsa.org. To all who qualified, your rounds must be completed by the following dates:

- Sweet 16** ~ June 30
- Elite 8** ~ August 4
- Final Four: Semis** ~ September 8
- Finals** ~ October 6

Steve Loughran is Tournament Committee chair and director of facilities at Rock Ridge Country Club in Newtown, CT.

Winning Results of Superintendent/Guest Tournament

by Zach Brooks

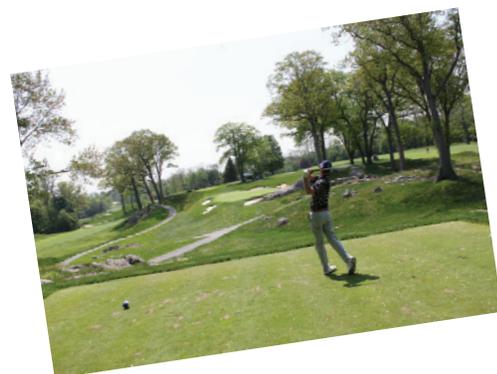
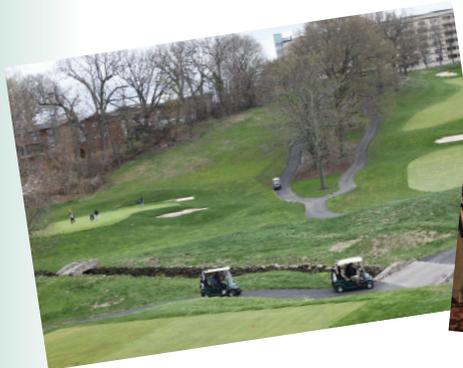
Dan Rodgers, superintendent and MetGCSA board member, had Wykagyl Country Club fully dialed in for the 2018 MetGCSA Superintendent/Guest Tournament. Later this season, Dan will host the 103rd Met Open Championship at Wykagyl, making this a perfect dry run for his major tournament prep.

Dan and his staff had the course in great shape for what has become an event tradition, the Yellow Ball Tournament, which is a Best-Ball Net event played along with the customary Superintendent/Guest Gross & Net competition.

The weather that day was perfect—until a thunderstorm, accompanied by unusually strong winds and lightning, overtook the area, ending everyone's round before they could finish the last hole.

In addition to causing a storm-shortened round, the high winds blew the proximity sheets clear off the property so no skill prizes could be awarded. *USA Today* reported that the May 15 storm left nearly 148,000 homes in New York and another 90,000 in Connecticut without power. Wind gusts reached over 80 mph, and there were more than 1,000 lightning strikes in the region. Thanks to Dan's quick call on the fast-approaching storm, everyone made it to the clubhouse safely.

Many thanks to everyone at Wykagyl for hosting this special event. General Manager Bob Kasara, Head Professional John Deigan, and Assistant General Manager Lisa Cashman went out of their way to make the day special for all who attended.



Upcoming Events

Not-to-Be-Missed Upcoming Events

The results for the competition were as follows:

Gross & Net Competition

First Place Gross Winners ~ 73

Tom Asfield, *Quaker Ridge GC*
Steve Glossinger, *Guest*

Second Place Gross Winners ~ 73

Matt Lapinski, *Greensight Agronomics*
Rob Doboys, *Guest*

First Place Net Winners ~ 61

Dave Conrad, *Plant Food Company*
Rob Hutchinson, *Hutchinson Tree Care*

Second Place Net Winners ~ 66

Tim Walker, *Leewood GC*
Norman Fell, *Guest*

Yellow Ball Event Is a Bust

Sticking with what's become tradition at this annual event, a Yellow Ball was given to each foursome prior to teeing off. The yellow ball was then played by each member of the foursome, rotating through and recording the individual's Best Ball Net Score for that particular hole. The goal is to finish the 18-hole event without losing the yellow ball. If the ball is lost, your team is out of the competition.

According to Tournament Committee Chair Steve Loughran, this year, no yellow balls were returned at the round's end. *Oops!* Better luck next year, fellas!

Zach Brooks, a Tournament Committee member, is a sales consultant at Noble Turf in Mt. Laurel, NJ.



Summer Picnic

Wednesday, July 18
Bedford Village Memorial Park
Bedford, NY

Nine & Dine Event

Tuesday, September 25
Rock Ridge Country Club
Newtown, CT
Host: Steve Loughran

The Poa/Met Championship/Met Team Qualifier

Tuesday, October 9
Old Oaks Country Club, Purchase, NY
Host: Jason Anderson

Assistants Championship

Tuesday, October 30
Preakness Hills Country Club, Wayne, NJ
Assistant Hosts: Tony Espe, Miguel Ortega, Kyle Cross
Superintendent: John O'Keefe, CGCS

MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Seminar

Thursday, November 8
The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT
Host: Jason Meersman

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 16, 2019
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
Host: David Dudones

Regional Events

2018 University of Connecticut Turfgrass Field Day

Tuesday, July 17
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.

Watch the website for further details as the date approaches: www.turf.uconn.edu.

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day (Golf & Fine Turf)

Tuesday, July 31
Horticultural Farm II, New Brunswick, NJ
Save the date, and watch for details. Call 973-812-6467 or visit www.njturfgrass.org for further information.

NYSTA Challenge - Steve Smith Memorial Golf Tournament

Monday, August 20
The Links at Union Vale, Lagrangeville, NY
In its 19th year, the NYSTA Challenge, sponsored by NYSTA and the Hudson Valley GCSA, is an annual fundraising event supporting environmental issues. This past year, this event raised \$14,555 in support of the 2018 Turfgrass Advocacy Day, the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns, and the New York Farm Bureau Agricul-

tural Alliance. As always, the NYSTA Challenge will begin with a golf tournament and conclude with a buffet dinner with open bar and prizes and raffle drawing.

For further information, contact NYSTA at www.nysta.org or 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229.

The 14th Annual Joseph Troll Turf Classic

Tuesday, September 4
Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY
Superintendent Steve Rabideau will host this year's UMass Alumni Turf Group fundraiser in support of turf education and research at the University of Massachusetts. Steve was also selected as this year's event honoree.

Please plan to attend this worthy fundraiser, and watch for details. Entry forms and additional information will be available online at www.alumniturfgroup.com.

2018 GREEN EXPO Conference and Trade Show

Tuesday - Thursday, December 4 - 6
The Borgata Hotel, 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.

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

Steve Loughran Welcomes Nine & Dine to Rock Ridge

by Matt Ceplo, CGCS

Nestled among the country hills of rural Newtown, CT, lay the 63-year-old Rock Ridge Country Club. Once the estate of a prominent New York City doctor, the property, which included a three-hole golf course, was used primarily on weekends as a peaceful retreat from the big-city life. The doctor's oasis was eventually sold and became known as Pine Tree Country Club. Shortly after, a group of dedicated golfers from Pine Tree purchased the property, hired Golf Course Architect Alfred Tull to expand the course to nine holes, and then changed the name to its current Rock Ridge Country Club. The only hint of its former identity is the pine tree that's remained the club's logo.

Managing this little slice of heaven for the past six years is Superintendent Steve Loughran. As the Met's Tournament Committee Chair, Steve is more than pleased to host this year's Nine & Dine event at his home club on September 25.

It's All About Golf

A self-proclaimed golf course rat, Steve grew up within walking distance of Silver Lake Golf Club in Staten Island. By the time he was 12, he was helping around the clubhouse and pro shop, picking up odd jobs that earned him carte blanche to play the course.

At 14, Steve began caddying at Richmond County Country Club, and by 16, he had caught the attention of the club's then superintendent, Brian Remo, who wasted no time in hiring Steve to work on the golf course crew, a job he maintained through high school.

Bitten hard by the golf bug, Steve became the captain of his high school golf team, a position he held his sophomore, junior, and senior years. In recognition of his success, the Staten Island Press awarded him the distinction of Staten Island Advance All-Star for three straight years.

With his high school diploma in hand, Steve had his sights set on following what had long been his passion, and he enrolled in the turfgrass management program at University of Rhode Island.

Steve interned at Meadow Brook Club

with former MetGCSA President, John Carlone, who, according to Steve, proved an extraordinary mentor. "I look back on my experience working with John as a turning point in my career," says Steve. "He invested a great deal of time in showing me the ropes in the three months I interned with him, and John and I still have a great relationship to this day."

In 2006, Steve interned next at Fairview Country Club with then Superintendent Mike Mongon. After completing his degree in 2007, Steve returned to Fairview, this time as an assistant. When Mike made the move from Fairview to North Hempstead Country Club, Steve went along with him, adding another venue to his resume. "We had worked well together and looked forward to a new challenge," says Steve. "Unfortunately, Mike left later that fall before we had a chance to sink our teeth into the renovation work we had envisioned."

Steve stayed on at North Hempstead, working on a series of upgrades with the newly hired and current superintendent, Tom Kaplun. "Like a sponge," says Steve, "I absorbed all that I could from my time with Tom—everything from the ins and outs of in-house project management and fertilizer and chemical applications to membership communications and staff management."

With significant experience behind him, Steve made the move in 2012 to Rock Ridge Country Club, assuming the role of golf course superintendent and then director of facilities in 2017.

Golf Course Enhancements and Accolades

Clearly involved in managing all aspects of the club's property, when I called to interview him for this article, Steve was busy with myriad tasks required to get the pool area, tennis courts, and outside patio area, complete with a fire pit, prepped for the club's Memorial Day festivities. "We have an active membership," says Steve. "During the season, the club is busy from morning to night." And of course the golf course is no exception. Steve credits the club's golf pro, Brian Hussey, with contributing to the course's popularity. "Brian has worked to



Steve Loughran

revamp the golf program with an emphasis on family," says Steve, lauding Brian's efforts.

But the golf program isn't the only aspect of the club that's undergoing change. On the course, Steve is in the midst of several in-house projects, including the restoration of greenside bunkers and complexes. "We were able to finish Holes 2 and 6 this spring with more on the slate for the fall," explains Steve.

While working to return the course's bunkers back to their original shape and size, Steve and his crew discovered the original soil/sand lines, which guided them in their restoration work. "The greens are very small and so were the original bunkers," says Steve.

Every golf course improvement that Steve and his staff have made over the past seven seasons has been geared toward creating a better membership experience. "We have very active ladies' and junior golf programs here," notes Steve, "and I have tried to make the course more enjoyable for all handicaps."

Steve is quick to note the significant role his staff has played in both the project work and day-to-day maintenance responsibilities. "I can't thank my staff enough," says Steve. "With the difficult spring we've had, some days it seemed like a fire drill to get the project work and course conditioning accomplished, but we really never missed a beat."

Helping lead the charge is Steve's assistant, Pat Sullivan. "I couldn't ask for a better assistant (and part-time therapist) than Pat," says Steve. "Working with me first as a summer employee and then, for the past two seasons, as my assistant, Pat has earned the respect of not only the staff, but also the membership."

When you're out for your round at the Nine & Dine, Steve has a few words to the wise: "Hit it straight. We have modified the width in the fairways for our single-row irrigation, and with no irrigation in the rough, the terrain can become dry enough that you can catch some flyer-lies."

Giving Back

Always a proponent of giving back to the industry, Steve was pleased to join the MetGCSA board of directors two years ago, accepting the role of tournament chairman. He credits Jim Pavonetti and Brett Chapin for encouraging his involvement on the board. "It's been eye-opening from the start," says Steve. "All the behind-the-scenes work Met board members do is quite impressive."

Serving as tournament chair has become a sort of labor of love. "Working on the Two-Ball Tournament has been particularly rewarding," says Steve. "Talking to the two-ball teams about the outcome of their matches gives me the chance to become familiar with members I would otherwise probably have never gotten to know." For all its rewards, serving as tournament chair does have its challenges. "Getting sites for the meeting is the easy part," says Steve. "It's getting the clubs to commit to a date that's the challenge. Many clubs have their events scheduled almost a year in advance."

Life Beyond Work

Like most superintendents, Steve does have a life outside of work. He lives in Brookfield with his fiancée of four years, Amanda. They have two children: MacKenzie, who is 3½, and Bobby, who is just 2 but already has developed "one hell of a golf swing."

When he can steal away from his industry commitments, Steve enjoys nothing more than spending time with his family, going to the beach, hiking, and boating. In the off-season, you'll find him with family on the slopes skiing or at the rink teaching his kids to skate. "It's never too young to learn," says Steve.

Conspicuously missing from this list of favorite pastimes is golf. Still an avid golfer, boasting a 3.3 handicap, there's little doubt that his kids will get bitten by that golf bug, just like their dad. "I am very fortunate to be at such a family-oriented club," says Steve. "I'm able to bring my kids to work or even out for a few putts later in the day. It's nice to see the members' faces when my kids stop by," he adds.

Please put September 25 on your calendar and plan to come by to play nine and then dine with your fellow turf professionals. There's no better place to unwind, enjoy a little camaraderie, and sip a libation than at the Rock.

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

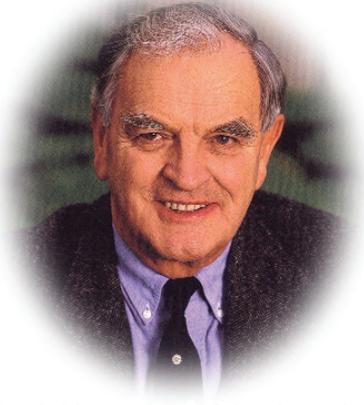
Member News

MetGCSA Loses Honorary Member and Inspirational Educator and Plant Pathologist

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Honorary member and URI Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology Dr. Noel Jackson. He passed away peacefully at home on May 29. Born in Yorkshire, England in December 1931, Dr. Jackson was 86 years old.

A recipient of our 1999 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award, Dr. Jackson was a natural teacher with a passion, enthusiasm, and curiosity for learning that inspired a generation of students to pursue careers in the turf industry, golf course management, and academia. To his great delight, he was recently immortalized by the reclassification of Dollar Spot Disease, which resulted in a species of fungi named for him (*Clariireedia jacksonii*), in recognition of his life's work in turfgrass pathology.

Dr. Jackson was internationally renowned for his expertise in cool-season turf and as an expert diagnostician. Known to many



in the field as Dr. Turf, he derived great satisfaction from visiting golf courses and interacting with golf course superintendents to provide practical and effective disease control recommendations.

All who had the fortunate opportunity to know and work with Dr. Jackson will remember him for his booming voice, hearty laugh, broad Yorkshire accent, and his keen sense of humor.

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to his wife and family. If you wish to inspire and encourage future turfgrass research, memorial donations may be made to:

The Noel Jackson Turfgrass Pathology Endowment (E338), c/o the URI Foundation, P.O. Box 1700, Kingston, RI 02881.

Tony Girardi Earns Prestigious Master Greenkeeper Certificate

Congratulations to Rockrimmon Superintendent Tony Girardi, a recent recipient of the Master Greenkeeper Certificate, which you might describe as the UK equivalent of earning our CGCS status.

The Master Greenkeeper Certificate is awarded to those members of BIGGA (British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association) who have reached the highest standards of greenkeeping and golf course management. Recognized as a prestigious greenkeeping industry award, the Master Greenkeeper Certificate is achieved through a three-stage process. In Stage One, 200 credits of education, training, and experience are required. In Stage Two, two Master Greenkeepers must assess your golf course operation against specific criteria. And in Stage Three, you must complete two, three-hour exams: a Case Study and a Technical Paper.

Tony passed each Stage with flying colors and felt the experience was well worth the effort. "In a very short two-year period,"



says Tony, "I can safely say that I have learned a great deal about course management from my peers in the UK and Ireland. The Master Greenkeeper process is an invaluable experience that allows you to grow both personally and professionally," he adds.

To drive home just how special this achievement is, Tony is only the 74th golf course manager or superintendent from all over the world to make the grade, and the certificate process is in its 28th year!

Congratulations, Tony!

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Nicholas Alley**, Class AF, Grass Roots Turf Products, Randolph, NJ
- **Matthew Lapinski**, Class AF, Green-sight Agronomics, Boston, MA

- **Ben Mancuso**, Class AF, MTE Turf Equipment Solutions, Derry, NH
- **Paul Schwab**, Class AF, Club Car, LLC, Brookfield, CT

Jason Anderson Brings Triple-Header Event to Old Oaks

by Steven McGlone

Believe it or not, the fall season is less than three months away and that means it's time for the MetGCSA's annual three-in-one event: the Poa Annual Fundraiser, Met Championship, and Met Team Qualifier. This year's venue, Old Oaks Country Club, in Purchase, NY, is a special club with a rich history. Jason Anderson, the club's superintendent for nearly two years, is looking forward to hosting the event and showcasing all that this classic course has to offer.

A Site Worth Seeing

Old Oaks Country Club was the product of the Roaring '20s golf craze that swept through the country. Members of Manhattan's "light exercise club," Progress City Club, decided they wanted to become golfers and, in 1924, snapped up 205 acres adjacent to Century Country Club in Purchase, NY. The land, part of the estate of William A. Reed, a wealthy investment banker, had once been owned by a silk merchant, Trainer Park. Naming his estate Hillcrest, Park built a British manor house in 1890, complete with elaborate staircases, massive rooms, and formal gardens.

In 1925, with the manor as their clubhouse, Progress Country Club was organized and A.W. Tillnghast and Charles Alison joined forces to design and build a 27-hole golf course. When the Great Depression hit, Progress suffered. First came several name changes—Purchase Country Club, Pine Ridge Country Club, and back to Purchase Country Club. Then in 1935, it merged with nearby Oak Ridge, assuming its present name, Old Oaks Country Club.

The nine-hole course, which was built first, no longer exists, its land taken for the construction of Interstate 684. The 18-hole course and original manor-house-turned-clubhouse, remain today, along with the pool opened in 1930 and renovated in the '70s, just in time to be featured in the 1976 movie, *Goodbye Columbus*.

Over the years, the club has made numerous enhancements to the property under the direction of golf course architect Ken Dye and most recently with Rees Jones, under Jason Anderson's watch.

From Whence He Came

Born and raised in Brewster, NY, Jason got his first taste of the business working summers on a golf course. At 17, he took a position on the crew at Morefar Golf Course, known today as Back O'Beyond. Working for fellow Met member Superintendent Mike Maffei, Jason was inspired to pursue a bachelor's in business administration and golf course operations at SUNY Delhi.

During that time, he interned at Morefar and then at Winged Foot Golf Club, which led to a five-year stint under Paul Latshaw Sr. and then Eric Greytok. After completing his degree in 2002, he became a second assistant and then, the following year, the club's irrigation technician. He had the fortunate opportunity to take part in the preparation for the 2004 USGA United States Amateur Championship. "I enjoyed the experience so much," says Jason, "that I came back in 2006 as a volunteer for the U.S. Open."

By that time a veteran tournament volunteer, Jason had also lent a helping hand at The Senior U.S. Open at Aronimink in 2003 and the 2002 Nissan Championship at Riviera.

Jason then springboarded to Old Oaks as an assistant working for then Superintendent Mark Millet. "Working with Mark 11 years," says Jason, "gave me a tremendous amount of knowledge about managing not just the turf, budget, and staff, but also, and perhaps more important, a membership."

When Mark retired in 2015, Jason stayed on as first assistant for the newly hired superintendent, Shannon Slevin. Two years later, Jason found himself at the helm, crediting the many superintendents he's worked with for providing him with the skill set needed to be where he is today. "They all influenced me in different ways," says Jason. "I couldn't have asked for better mentors."

A Work Always in Progress

Since 2016, Jason and Old Oaks have been hard at work on the renovation efforts that were initiated two years ago. Working with Rees Jones and Total Turf Golf Services, Jason and Old Oaks have finished a renovation project that included tees and bunkers, as well as a rebuild of the 18th green and the driving range and short-game facility.



Jason Anderson

Jason credits his assistants, Nick Baczkowski and Jeff Sorkow, and his 24-man crew, with keeping all the balls in the air and the course well conditioned during the chaos of the renovation work. "I expect a lot out of my guys," says Jason, "but I am extremely grateful for what they do."

Jason is also grateful for the show of support from his green chairman and committee. "They all seem quite pleased with the direction my staff and I are taking on the property," says Jason, crediting, as well, the club's general manager, Iwona Sterk, for smoothing the way for the club's project work. "Her incredible organizational skills and leadership has made all the difference in our ability to get things underway and completed here on the course," Jason remarks.

Life Beyond Work

When he's not on the clock, Jason enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, Kelly, and, weather permitting, taking his Boston Whaler for a spin on the Sound. When he wants to get away from it all, Jason slips away to enjoy the peace and quiet of his family's rustic summer cabin in Rye, NY.

In the offseason, Jason frequently retreats to a home he owns in upstate New York, where he enjoys snowmobiling with friends and family. Otherwise, you'll find him enjoying some well-deserved R&R in his home on Old Oaks property, which he shares with his 13-year-old Border Collie, Jake, who's been riding shotgun in the cart with Jason since his first season in 2005.

The way time is flying, October 9 will be here before you know it, and Jason is already plotting and planning all that has to be done to provide contestants with "good conditions, fast, sloping greens, and a tough setup."

So be sure to sign up for what promises to be great golf on one of the best classic courses around.

Steven McGlone, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is the golf course superintendent at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, NY.

Patron Directory

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