



Tee to Green

PUBLISHED BY THE METROPOLITAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT ASSOCIATION

Special Feature

The MetGCSA Kicks Off the 1990s With Larry Pakkala the New President

At the November 16 annual meeting at Ridgeway Country Club, Larry Pakkala was elected the 19th president of the MetGCSA, succeeding Scott Niven of the Stanwich Club, whose term of office had expired.

Property Manager of Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT, Larry's served on the Met Board of Directors for the past seven years. His varied responsibilities—chairman of public relations, tournament chairman, treasurer, scholarship and research chairman, by-laws chairman, and vice president—have prepared him well for his two-year term as president.

Equally varied, and no doubt helpful, is Larry's experience in golf course management. Larry's spent the past 17 years at golf clubs in three different states and one tropical isle: Bermuda.

Though a native of the Steel City—Pittsburgh, PA—where his father helped run the Metallurgical Division of U.S. Steel, Larry moved with his family during high school to sunny Southern California. There he attended Cerritos College and received an associate's degree in Landscape Architecture.

With that and his lifetime love for the game of golf, Larry returned to Pennsylvania in 1972 to work for his brother D.J. at the Philadelphia Country Club. It's D.J., now director of golf course operations for the Pebble Beach Company in Pebble

Beach, CA, who Larry says encouraged him to enter the golf course management field.

While under his brother's tutelage, Larry continued his education at Pennsylvania State University and, in 1975, completed a degree in Turf Management. That year, he left Philly for an assistant superintendent's job at the prestigious Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, PA—the sight of many a U.S. Open and, recently, the U.S. Amateur.

His stay at Merion gave him more than just valuable experience; during his three-year tenure, Larry had the opportunity to marry Carole, his wife of 15 years, who was also Pennsylvania born from the Amish County of Lancaster.

In August 1977 and one child later, he and his growing family packed their bags for Bermuda. Larry had accepted his first superintendent's job at the Mid Ocean Club, a spectacular seaside course designed by the famous Scotsman C.B. MacDonald.

"This was my first head job—and what a challenge," says Larry. "There I was with a very young family on a 21-square-mile island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. And to top it off, I was in charge of a course in a climate zone that was entirely new to me." That meant Larry, in no time flat, had to master the art of growing warm-season grasses in a semi-tropical climate.

He did.

"As I reflect back, it was a tremendous learning experience for all of us—



Larry Pakkala, CGCS, the newly elected MetGCSA president

one I'll never forget," Larry says with a smile.

After four years of island fever, and the birth of their second child, the Pakkalas headed back to the States in March of '81. Next stop: the St. Andrews Golf Club in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, NY. (continued on page 2)

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A NEW DECADE, A NEW SET OF CHALLENGES

The 1980s are coming to a close. And as we approach the last decade of this century, we, as superintendents, chemical and equipment sales reps, and other professionals in the "green" industry, will be faced with a whole host of new challenges—some of which we've, unintentionally, created ourselves in striving to make the world a better place to live. Among them: pesticide controls and regulations, water conservation issues, equipment and workplace safety, labor problems and shortages.

At the same time, we'll be expected—by club members and clients—to provide ever greater products, services, and golf course grounds and playing conditions. All this, while operating under tighter controls from government regulatory bodies, both state and national.

Though I can't offer any simple solutions or quick fixes to what lies ahead, I don't want to paint too bleak a picture. After all, we're fortunate to be a part of a strong association—the MetGCSA—which, for the past 30 years, has always offered the opportunity to get together and discuss ways

of solving our common problems—no matter how difficult.

The association's purpose is, and always has been, to promote the welfare of the game of golf; the science and art of golf course management; the organization and business effectiveness of the profession; and the well-being of its individual members. But one of the most important aspects of the association—and probably the key to its success—is our ability to work together to find creative solutions to new challenges.

As your new president, I plan to continue to preserve the teamwork and comradery that exist in our association. The board of directors and I will strive to address any industry-related challenges that arise, and we'll be sure to keep all of you informed, every step of the way.

I am proud to serve the MetGCSA—and what it stands for—and I promise to represent our association to the best of my ability.

I hope you all have a very merry holiday season, and let's all wish for a dryer 1990.

LARRY PAKKALA, CGCS
President

Special Feature

The MetGCSA Kicks Off the 1990s With Larry Pakkala the New President

(continued from page 1)

There, yet another challenge awaited Larry: The equipment storage building had burned to the ground with everything inside. Larry left St. Andrews for his current position at Woodway Country Club in February 1983, too soon to see the new construction that Jack Nicklaus' group had planned for the golf club.

Reflecting on his current job of nearly seven years, Larry says, "It's the best move of my career. I can't think of a more suitable situation for me and my family." A situation, like the MetGCSA presidency, that he

doesn't take for granted.

"It has been a rewarding experience working with other board members and committee members," says Larry. "I'm proud to have finally made it to the presidency, and I want to spend my time as president making every effort to bring continued notoriety to our profession. Thank you all for your support."

Larry and Carole, who's a full-time teacher at the Developmental Learning Center in Fairfield, CT, live on club grounds with their two daughters, Christina, 13, and Lauren, 9.



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Sherwood Moore First Super to Receive Old Tom Morris Award

For the first time, the GCSAA will bestow its highest honor—the Old Tom Morris Award—upon a golf course superintendent. Sherwood A. Moore, CGCS, a 50-year GCSAA member and past president, will receive the award during the closing banquet of the 61st GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show on February 26 in Orlando, FL.

"Sherwood's a great superintendent, sure, but he's more than that," says Dave Marr, ABC Sports commentator, former PGA Tour player, and a friend of Sherwood's for 35 years. "He's the kind of person I would assume young people at all the fine turfgrass schools would try to emulate. Sherwood Moore is a worthy recipient of the Old Tom Morris Award."

Also a 31-year member and past president of the MetGCSA, Sherwood was superintendent at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY, from 1957 to 1967. From there, he moved to Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT, and then back to Winged Foot in time to prepare the course for the first Senior Open in 1980. After seeing the club through a second U.S. Open in 1984, Sherwood left to join The Captain's Golf Course in Brewster, MA. Since then—1987 to 1988—he's also served as acting agronomist for the USGA Green Section. Recently retired, Sherwood continues to work as a consultant at The Captain's.

GCSAA established the Old Tom Morris Award in 1982 to recognize individuals who have made outstanding lifetime contributions to the game of golf. The award is named in memory of Old Tom Morris, greenskeeper and golf professional at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland, and four-time British Open Champion, clubmaker, ballmaker, and golf course architect.

Sherwood joins an all-star cast of previous recipients of the Old Tom Morris Award: Arnold Palmer, Bob Hope, Gerald Ford, Patty Berg, Robert Trent Jones Sr., Gene Sarazen, and Chi Chi Rodriguez.

Congratulations, Sherwood!

TWO METGCSA MEMBERS WRITE AWARD-WINNING ARTICLE

Ted Horton, director of sports and grounds at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, and Mary Medonis, an assistant superintendent at Westchester, will receive the Leo Feser Award for their article "Employee Safety on the Golf Course," which appeared in the April 1989 issue of *Golf Course Management*.

As many of you may remember, Ted and Mary's article outlines a thorough staff training and safety program, addressing such areas as equipment and pesticide safety, poisonous plants, insects and snakes, foul-weather dangers, and personal health and safety.

Each year, the GCSAA's Publications Committee presents the award to a member superintendent who's submitted the best article for publication in *Golf Course Management*. The prize-winning coauthors will receive this year's award during the opening session of the 1990 GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show.

The award is named in honor of Leo Feser, a pioneer golf course superintendent and a charter member of GCSAA. Feser is credited with keeping the association's official publication alive during the Great Depression.

NEW MEMBERS

- Michael Berzon, Class B, Pelham Country Club, Pelham, NY
- Ken Clear, Class CS, Alpine Tree Care, Norwalk, CT
- John Currie, Class C, Currie Landscape, Inc., Somers, NY
- Patrick Dawson, Class B, Rolling Hills Country Club, Wilton, CT
- John Deering, Class C, Deering Construction, Bethel, CT
- Kevin DeVaux, Class B, Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, CT
- Thomas Haudenschild, Class A, Highland Golf Club, Shelton, CT
- Glenn Perry, Class B, Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT
- Thomas Reardon, Class B, Apawamis Club, Rye, NY
- Don Tiedemann, Class C, Fleet Pump and Service, Hawthorne, NY
- Wayne Urban, Class B, Oak Lane Country Club, Woodbridge, CT

MEMBERS RECLASSIFIED

The following members have been reclassified from Class B to Class A:

- Dave Pijnenburg, Redding Country Club, Redding, CT
- Bob Welch, Rock Ridge Country Club, Newtown, CT

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Scott Niven, Stanwich Club property manager and MetGCSA past president, not only ran in the November New York Marathon, he managed to finish in the top 4 percent: 962nd out of 25,000 runners.

His time was 2 hours and 56 minutes, which meant he averaged a 6-minute-and-40-second mile. Not too shabby, considering the winner's time was 2 hours and 7 minutes.

Good show, Scott.

SURPRISE DISCOVERY IN THE FUNGUS-GYPSY MOTH CONNECTION

Scientists were quite certain that a fungus was responsible for the premature death of the gypsy moth caterpillar this past summer. What they didn't suspect, however, was that it was a Japanese species that had been brought to the U.S. 80 years ago and tested in the Boston area—unsuccessfully, they thought—as a gypsy moth combatant.

Researchers from the Agriculture Department Research Service in Ithaca, NY, identified the fungus as *Entomophaga maimaiga*—*maimaiga*, being the Japanese word for gypsy moth.

The foreign fungus has apparently spread through the Northeast from those trials near Boston. Since the fungus was from Japan and the moths from Europe, say the researchers, it has taken this long to adapt itself and become effective in the United States.

The fungus secretes fatal enzymes that penetrate the gypsy moth caterpillar's skin. The fungus then multiplies inside the caterpillar, eats its internal organs, and kills it. According to Dr. Richard A. Humber, a microbiologist at the Agriculture Department's plant protection research unit, the unusually cool and wet spring provided a perfect environment for the fungus.

No definite plans have been made to harness the fungus to control gypsy moths, says Humber, but it may not be necessary. "Insect diseases like this are usually quite effective if just left alone," he notes.

Adapted from The New York Times, September 19, 1989.

AMUR UPDATE

Though word has it that amur fish live in some area superintendents' ponds, right now these Siberian-born plant-gobblers aren't legally allowed in all Met-area waters.

But times they are a changin'. At least that's the word from J.M. Malone & Son Enterprises in Lonoke, AR. Breeders of white amur since 1972, the company has been working to legalize the fish in states around the country and has made progress in 31 states to date.

Originating from the Amur River region of Siberia, the amur fish can grow up to 6 feet, weigh about 100 pounds, and while growing, eat three to five times its weight each day.

A fast-growing native of Asia, where it has long been used to help control weeds in China's paddy fields, the amur has come to be called a "superfish" by scientists, primarily because of its insatiable appetite for vegetation. At one course in Florida, the crew was even able to feed grass clippings to the fish, eliminating the need to cart them away.

Apparently, the white amur and the triploid white amur—a hybrid variety bred to be sterile and therefore legal in some states that outlawed the fish—can live anywhere in the U.S., providing the lake or pond doesn't freeze solid.

Though amur appear to be a safe alternative to chemicals in the battle against algae and other weedy eyesores, many states are still reluctant to legalize the fish. The president of J.M. Malone & Son Enterprises, Jim Malone, says, however, that he expects New York, along with Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Indiana to "come on line" January 1, 1990.

Connecticut's ahead of the game. The state allows the fish, as long as you file for a permit. You can do that by calling the Department of Fisheries at 203-566-2287 and then asking for the Grass Carp Information and Application department.

To import, or check on the status of your state's legislation on amur fish, you might try contacting your state's Department of Fish and Game.

Adapted from Golf Course News, October 1989.

MANAGEMENT ALERT

You may be dangling the wrong carrot in front of your workers. According to the results of a recent national survey, 10 times out of 10, managers have the wrong idea about what it takes to motivate their employees.

As part of the poll, managers and employees across the country were given a list of 10 motivational factors. The employees were asked to rank them in order of importance to them, with 1 being most important and 10 being least important. Their managers were asked to use the same scale to rank the factors as they thought their employees would.

The chart below shows how priorities were assigned in each case:

Motivational Factors	Employees' Priorities	Managers' Priorities
Full appreciation of work done	1	8
Feeling "in" on things	2	10
Sympathetic help on problems	3	9
Job security	4	2
Good wages	5	1
Work that's interesting	6	5
Opportunity for promotion and growth	7	3
Personal loyalty to workers	8	6
Good working conditions	9	4
Tactful disciplining	10	7

In view of the discrepancies pointed out by this survey, you might be well advised to conduct an informal poll with your own workers to make sure you're supplying the motivational boost your people need—and want.

DID YOU KNOW...

Today, an estimated 23.4 million play 500 million rounds of golf a year in the U.S.? By the year 2000, it's expected there will be 40 million golfers, and the estimated 14,000 golf courses will be likely to spend \$4 billion a year to maintain their facilities. Wow.

A Met Event Revisited

Met Educational Seminar Benefits Scholarship and Research Fund

The October 19 MetGCSA Educational Seminar was a great success—not only for the 28 people who attended, but also for the Scholarship and Research Fund, which received the proceeds from the event. A total of \$600.

Jim McLoughlin, former executive director of both the GCSAA and the MetGCSA, generously donated his time as the main speaker.

During the course of the seminar, he counseled golf course professionals on everything from computer technology to career planning. Particularly interesting was Jim's insight into the hiring process. Having served both on club search

Special Announcement

1990 Scholarship Application Forms Ready and Waiting

Applications for the scholarships awarded annually by the MetGCSA Scholarship and Research Fund are now available. All Class A, B, C, and D members and their dependents are eligible to apply.

You can receive the forms by contacting MetGCSA Executive Secretary Jan Russo at 914-834-9676. Don't delay; the submission deadline is January 31, 1990.



Happy Holidays!

committees and as adviser to professionals pursuing superintendent positions, Jim was able to offer a unique perspective on what it takes to land a job.

The afternoon's events didn't stop there. Ted Horton, director of sports and grounds at Westchester Country Club, spoke about assistant superintendents.

Among the topics he covered: what superintendents look for when hiring an assistant, superintendents' responsibilities to an assistant, and future opportunities for assistants—all enlightening to both assistants and superintendents.

Special thanks to Jim McLoughlin, Ted Horton, and to the Apawamis Club, which donated its facility for the event—and the benefit of the MetGCSA Scholarship and Research Fund.

BERT DICKINSON
MetGCSA Education Committee

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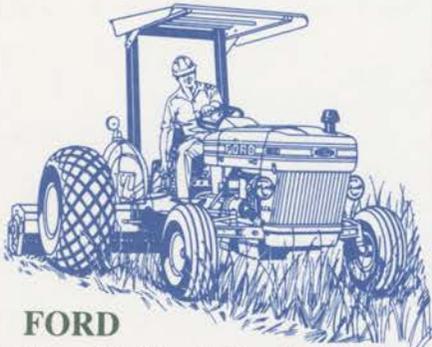
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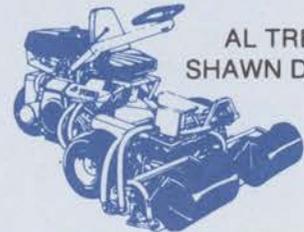


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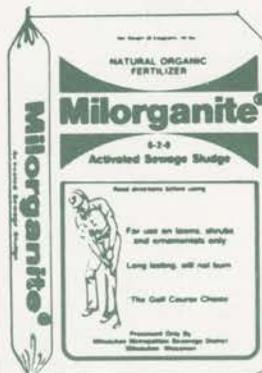
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The Scorecard

MET AREA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP

Good weather and good fun on a great course

There couldn't have been a better day than October 12 for the 1989 Met Area Team Championship. Under blue skies, 64 players from 8 associations competed for the championship title at the Meadow Brook Club in Jericho, LI—a golf course impeccably conditioned by Superintendent Charlie Cross.

Every association sent four gross players and four net players. The low three gross and net scores were added together to determine the victors.

Unfortunately, the Met team wasn't able to defend its winning title from 1988. Players Bob Alonzi (Winged Foot GC), Joe Alonzi (Fenway GC), John Carlone (Middle Bay CC), Dennis Flynn (Brae Burn CC), J.C. Fulwider (Century CC), Tony Grasso (Willow Ridge CC), Earl Millett (Ridgeway CC), and Mark Millett (Old Oaks CC) placed fifth.

Here are the final standings:

1st Place	New Jersey	480
2nd Place	Philadelphia	489
3rd Place	Connecticut	497
4th Place	Central Pennsylvania	498
5th Place	Metropolitan	503
6th Place	Mid-Atlantic	504
7th Place	Hudson Valley	508
8th Place	Long Island	519
Low Gross	Tom Lambert Hudson Valley	75

In its tenth year, this great event was initiated by Ed Walsh, superintendent of Ridgewood Country Club in Ridgewood, NJ. Ed served as tournament director for the event until this year, when the MetGCSA agreed to assume responsibility for coordinating future Met Area Team Championships.

Next year's tournament will be played at the Aspetuck Valley Country Club in Weston, CT.

TIM O'NEILL, CGCS
Country Club of Darien

Upcoming Events

New Short Courses for Turf Managers

Cook College has recently "cooked up" two new three-week short courses: *Utility Turf Management* and *Home Lawn Care Management*.

Offered by the college's Office of Continuing Professional Education, both courses will run January 2-19 at the State University of New Jersey, Rutgers Campus at New Brunswick.

They will address fundamentals of turfgrass management that are common to both the home lawn care and utility turf management industries. Participants in each course will meet jointly for such subjects as soil science, identification of plant material, and

entomology and cultural practices. Then, they'll separate to consider issues unique to their industry.

Of interest to golf course professionals, is the Utility Turf Management course which covers such topics as diseases of ornamentals, pruning, and planting and care of annual and perennial flowers. Scheduling, time management, and equipment requirements are also part of the curriculum.

For more information about these and other courses, contact: Joe Robles, Office of Continuing Professional Education, Cook College, Box 231, New Brunswick, NJ 08903, 201-932-9271.

A SEMINAR NO MET MEMBER SHOULD MISS

■ Winter Seminar

DATE: January 10, 1990

PLACE: Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:
John Carlone, Middle Bay Country Club, Oceanside, NY, 516-766-1838

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

■ Connecticut Turf & Landscape Conference

DATE: February 15, 1990

PLACE: Hartford Civic Center, Hartford, CT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT:
Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association, Inc., P.O. Box 876, Bethel, CT 06301, 203-791-8615

HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

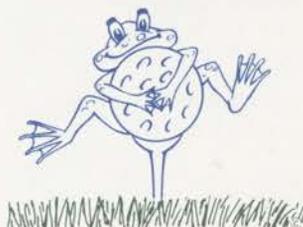
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DATE: February 19-26, 1990

PLACE: Orange County Convention/Civic Center, Orlando, FL

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Al Tretara-Equipment
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So. Salem, New York 10590
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Somerset, NJ 08873
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John M. Apple
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Westchester Turf Supply, Inc. *

Bob Lippman
P.O. Box 198, Lincolndale, NY 10540
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