



# Tee to Green

PUBLISHED BY THE METROPOLITAN GOLF COURSE SUPERINTENDENT ASSOCIATION

## Special Feature

### BRUNO VADALA COLLECTS DESERVED HONORS

*Metropolis Country Club superintendent is awarded  
the 1989 Sherwood A. Moore Award*

The Metropolis Country Club—which, a year ago, honored Superintendent Bruno Vadala for his 40 years of devoted service\*—isn't the only one to recognize the magnitude of Bruno's contributions. At the September 28 MetGCSA meeting at his very own club, the Met body awarded Bruno with the prestigious Sherwood A. Moore Award—an honor reserved for individuals who have "advanced the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent."

In its third year, the award is named for legendary pioneer in turf management Sherwood A. Moore, who happens to be one of the few superintendents to have served as president of three separate turf bodies: the Metropolitan, New Jersey, and National golf course superintendent associations.

Because of his long-time association with and respect for Bruno, Sherwood, himself, presented the award, apologizing to last year's "SAM" recipient, Ted Horton, for taking away the honor. "Through my association with Bruno some 30 years," said Sherwood in presenting the award, "I know of no one more deserving of this honor."

Former secretary and later president of the MetGCSA, Bruno has

been actively involved in the association, practically since its inception in the early 1950s. But if Green Chairman Richard Trauner's opening remarks were any indication, Bruno's probably done just as much, if not more, for the association and profession with his professional conduct at Metropolis, where he's worked his entire career.

Trauner, who led the opening ceremonies by welcoming everyone to Metropolis, had nothing but high praise for the club's superintendent. "It's no surprise to us that the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendent Association would honor Bruno," he said, after running through a long list of Bruno's special qualities and attributes.

In accepting the award, Bruno was genuinely moved and, as you might expect of a man with Bruno's humility, very nervous about being in front of 120 of his colleagues—or so he said.

That day, and really whenever Bruno talks about how he started in the business, two names always come up: Joe Flynn, who served as Metropolis' superintendent for 29 years, and his father, George Vadala, who served as Joe's foreman. It's these two men that Bruno credits for much of his success. But he also acknowledges the important role the Metropolis membership has played in supporting and working



Bruno Vadala (center) joins the league of Sherwood A. Moore Award winners: Sherwood Moore, left, and Ted Horton, right.

with him over the years.

Although Bruno was quick to point out that the turnover rate at Metropolis is very low, he feels quite proud of the people who, in his 30-year tenure as superintendent, have moved through the ranks and are now superintendents themselves. Among them: Dennis Flynn, the late Joe Flynn's son, now superintendent at Brae Burn Country (continued on page 5)

## Also in This Issue

- 2 Looking back: Two years as MetGCSA president
- 3 Ray Beaudry hosts October Green Chairman Meeting
- 3 Events worth attending
- 4 New key to grub control?
- 7 Who made the cuts for the Met Team Championship
- 7 Member news
- 7 Thwarting evergreen thieves

\*Bruno's honors were detailed in the May 1989 issue of Tee to Green.



## REFLECTING ON A PRODUCTIVE TWO YEARS...

*With a special thanks to all who made it possible*

The MetGCSA is an association that has thrived solely because many of its members are willing to volunteer their time to serve as directors or committee members. If you consider that we're all involved in demanding, time-consuming professions, you have to appreciate even more the efforts of these individuals dedicated to performing the myriad tasks necessary to perpetuate our association—and its many activities.

As I approach the end of my term as president, I would like to sincerely thank those of you who have served the association these past two years, whether it was as a director, committee member, or in another capacity.

Though it was my job to act as official guide, adviser, and cheerleader of the board's efforts, I cannot accept a lot of credit for the current healthy state of the MetGCSA. It's really through your efforts that the association has continued to grow and successfully pursue its designated purpose.

What follows is a brief synopsis of our accomplishments and the current status of the MetGCSA:

- Membership activity has been brisk and has maintained record levels during the past few years.
- Participation at our well-run monthly golf tournaments and meetings is at an all-time high.
- The *Tee to Green* looks as good as ever with its new format and many interesting articles, thanks in large part to our new managing editor, Pandora Wojick.
- Our varied social events have been quite popular with participation at our near-highest levels.
- The scholarship awards process has been refined and improved. It's now a more objective, equitable procedure we can all be proud of.
- We are supporting research

projects pertinent to area superintendents to the tune of roughly \$9,000 per year. This will help guarantee a steady flow of new information, which, in turn, will enable us to do our jobs better.

■ Our two most significant and meaningful awards, the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award and the Sherwood A. Moore Award, continue to gain prominence and prestige.

■ We offer an abundance of quality educational opportunities through our monthly meetings, the winter seminar, and events connected with GCSAA, NYSTA, NJTA, and various local universities.

■ The professional image and respect for golf course superintendents in the New York Metropolitan area has continued to grow.

I'd also like to say how fortunate I've been to have served with the help of our very capable and pleasant executive secretary, Jan Russo. With her computer at hand, Jan does an excellent job of maintaining our financial records and billing procedures, as well as printing and mailing all of our association correspondence.

I would like to thank, as well, the many members who have made our association events a success through their unprecedented attendance during the past two years. It's also encouraging to see a large number of very qualified, eager individuals waiting for their opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors. With this depth of talent, the future of our association will certainly be in good hands.

I'm very proud to have served as your president and have found the experience to be enjoyable and enriching. Thanks for the opportunity to help out and give something back to the profession that has been so good to me.

SCOTT E. NIVEN, CGCS  
*President*



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## Ray Beaudry Hosts October Green Chairman Meeting

**O**n October 16, Ray Beaudry, superintendent at the Patterson Club in Fairfield, CT, hosted the MetGCSA Green Chairman Meeting. Ray has worked at the Patterson Club for 13 years, moving quickly through the ranks from laborer to assistant to superintendent.

But it wasn't until he'd spent four years in the tree care business that he embarked on his career in golf course management. "A friend of mine who worked on golf carts told me about the opening at Patterson. They were looking for someone they could train as an assistant," Ray recalls.

Seeing this as a chance for advancement, Ray hopped on the opportunity. Once on the job, he enrolled in the UMass Winter Program and, just two-and-a-half years later, took over as the Patterson Club's superintendent.

Ray credits his rapid climb to "being at the right place at the right time" but readily admits that hard work, dedication, and good communication are key ingredients to career success.

Like many superintendents, Ray enjoys working outside and feels the change that each year brings keeps the job challenging. "After 13 years," says Ray, "there's only one thing I'd like to change about my job: I'd like to have about 20,000 fewer rounds a year." Patterson apparently has a very active membership. The course gets 38,000 to 40,000 rounds of golf per year—almost unheard of for a private course.

When he's not dodging play on the course, you might find Ray on the racquetball court with Earl Millett (superintendent, Ridgeway Country Club, White Plains, NY) or Scott Schukraft (superintendent, Rolling Hills Country Club, Wilton, CT). Ray's been a racquetball enthusiast for about seven years. "Earl and Scott have about 10 years on me, and I've got about 50 pounds on them," jokes Ray, who claims Earl and Scott offer stiff competition.

Ray and his wife, Karen, live in Danbury, CT, with Christie, 18, Stacey, 14, and Ryan, who's 3 years old.

BERT DICKINSON

Westchester Country Club

### Upcoming Events

#### MONTHLY MEETING REMINDER

■ *Annual Meeting at Ridgeway Country Club in White Plains, NY*

DATE: Thursday, November 16

HOST SUPERINTENDENT: Earl Millett

#### FIELD DAY

■ *New Jersey Turfgrass Exposition*

DATE: December 4-7, 1989

PLACE: Resorts International, Atlantic City, NJ

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#### SEMINARS

■ *GCSAA Seminars*

*Golf Course Construction Techniques and Management (hosted by the MetGCSA)*

*Golf Course Restoration, Renovation, and Construction Projects*

DATES: December 8-9, 1989 and December 11-12, 1989

PLACE: Sterling Forest Conference Center, Tuxedo, NY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL: GCSAA, 800-472-7878

■ *Winter Seminar*

DATE: January 10, 1990

PLACE: Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

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

#### HAVE YOU MARKED YOUR CALENDAR?

■ *MetGCSA Christmas Party*

DATE: December 16, 1989

PLACE: Willow Ridge Country Club, Harrison, NY

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## NEW KEY TO GRUB CONTROL?

*Dr. Patricia Vittum of the University of Massachusetts experiments with promising new method for insecticide applications—and grub control*

*If your fight against grubs sometimes seems like a losing battle, it's probably because the insecticides you're applying aren't penetrating the thatch layer in your turf. "Materials like chlorpyrifos (Dursban) are tied up very rapidly in the thatch," explains Dr. Patricia J. Vittum of the University of Massachusetts, "and they often never reach the grubs."*

*Vittum and others have been experimenting with methods for applying materials to established turf that would maximize soil insect control. Dr. Pat Cobb of Auburn University in Alabama, MS, for instance, has looked at high-pressure equipment for mole cricket control and found that half the labeled rate of some materials, applied at high pressure (2,000 psi), worked as well or better than the full labeled rate applied at conventional pressure.*

Last fall, Dr. Harry Niemczyk of Ohio State University experimented not only with high-pressure applications but also with a piece of equipment that slices the turf and then places insecticide inside the slice.

Most recently, Dr. Patricia Vittum studied the effect of high-pressure injection of two materials—isazophos (Triumph) and Dursban—on grub control. What follows is Vittum's detailed account of four small-scale trials she conducted this past May.

### The Methodology

The high-pressure injection equipment I used for the trials was designed and built specifically for research purposes by the Cross Equipment Company in Albany, GA. It has four separate 15-gallon tanks, a four-foot-wide boom for high-pressure injection with four-inch spacing on the nozzles, and a four-foot conventional boom.

We made the high-pressure applications at 1,600 psi and 106 gallons per acre. The conventional applications went on at 28 psi and 37 gallons per acre.

We treated four separate areas of rough, each consisting of Kentucky bluegrass, annual bluegrass, white clover—and at least a one-inch thatch layer, which is not unusual in Northeastern roughs. Each plot was 10 feet by 10 feet, so after the machine had

made two passes through the plot, the outermost one foot on each side was left untreated.

Plots were laid out in two long rows, separated by about 20 feet, and each set of treatments was repeated four times. When it came time to examine the plots, we took 3 one-foot-by-one-foot samples from each plot. That meant we had 12 observations per treatment.

We used Triumph and Dursban in this test because I had been told that the equipment was able to handle only emulsifiable concentrates. I've learned since then that the machine probably can handle flowable formulations, so we'll try to expand our trials in the near future. In two of the tests, we looked at only Triumph; in the other two we compared Triumph with Dursban.

### Triumph 'Triumphs' Under High Pressure

In both tests where we looked at only Triumph, the 1.0- and 0.5-lb.-per-acre rate, applied with high pressure, worked as well or better than the 2.0-lb.-per-acre rate applied conventionally.

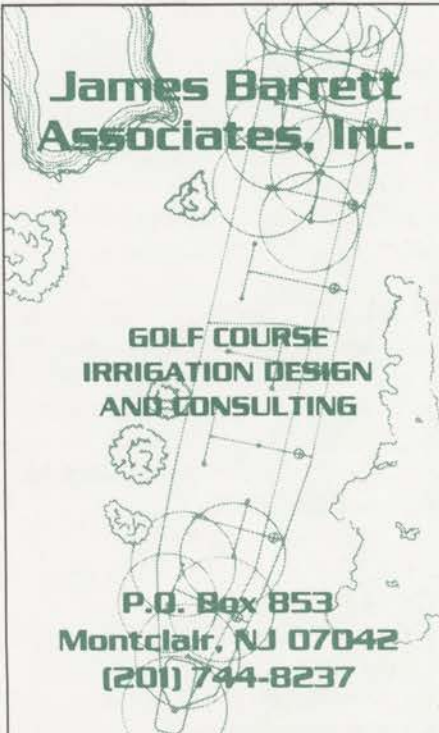
Though not intentional, in one of these tests, the plots weren't watered in for 48 hours. You see, researchers play the same form of Russian roulette as golf course superintendents. Although the course's irrigation system was down that day, the sky was so overcast, we were sure it would open up any minute. Unfortunately, the rains didn't come

until two days later.

Interestingly, however, the high-pressure applications in that test gave us 95 percent control at both 2.0 and 1.0 lbs. per acre and 88 percent control at 0.5 lbs. per acre—even though the insecticide hadn't been watered in. Conventional-pressure applications gave us zero control at 2.0 lbs. per acre and 3 percent control at 1.0 lb. per acre.

While these tests are still preliminary, the results suggest that the high-pressure application technique may give the superintendent more flexibility in watering in insecticides for grub control.

The other Triumph test showed similar levels of performance at high pressure and considerably improved performance at conventional pressure. High-pressure applications gave 93 percent control at 2.0 lbs. per acre, 94 percent control at 1.0 lb. per acre, and 87 percent control at 0.5 lbs. per acre. Conventional applications yielded 94 percent control at 2.0 lbs. per acre and 55 percent control at 1.0 lb. per acre.



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*Another supposition: High-pressure applications of Triumph may enable you to reduce application rates without sacrificing effectiveness.*

#### **High-Pressure Applications Do Little for Dursban**

Dursban didn't fare as well in our trails. Three Dursban applications were made in each of two tests, and even the high rate—4.0 lbs. per acre—failed to provide as much as 50 percent control.

Dursban has never been particularly effective for grub control in turf with any measurable thatch because the material is rapidly and completely tied up in the thatch layer. Apparently, even the high-pressure injection couldn't drive Dursban through the thatch deep enough to come in contact with the grubs.

#### **Final Notes**

I've purchased my own high-pressure-injection equipment so that I can expand these studies. One concern I had was the effect of high pressure on cool-season grasses, but one superin-

tendent insisted we make a pass over one of his greens, and there was no visible damage during the following several weeks. So we're going to expand our studies to make fairwaywide applications. We might even get adventurous and experiment with diazinon.

I'd like to commend Ron Milenski of The International Golf Club in Bolton, MA, and Don Maroni of Wachusett Country Club in West Boylson, MA, for allowing me to experiment with this equipment on their golf courses.

Thanks to them, we may find that high-pressure injection offers a valuable new alternative for grub control.

NOTE: Several state regulatory agencies have been asked to consider label expansions for high-pressure injection. But until we receive full clearance, you should consider high-pressure injection as only an experimental procedure. Hopefully, the potential for reducing application rates will make it attractive to regulatory specialists, and they will review label revisions with favor.

DR. PATRICIA J. VITTUM  
*University of Massachusetts*

#### **Special Feature**

## **BRUNO VADALA HONORED**

*(continued from page 1)*

Club; Tony Grasso, his daughter Lucille's husband, now superintendent at Willow Ridge Country Club; and his own son, Gregory, superintendent at Southward Ho Club in Long Island, NY.

Of all the accolades Bruno's received throughout the years, the inscription on the plaque erected by the Metropolis membership is one that Bruno will, no doubt, find hard to forget. Fastened to a rock along the entrance driveway, the plaque reads:

*To Bruno Vadala*

*In recognition of 40 years of untiring devotion, skill, and caring for the golf course and grounds of the Metropolis Country Club.*

*With grateful appreciation from the club members.*

Once again, Bruno, congratulations!

TIM MOORE  
*Knollwood Country Club*

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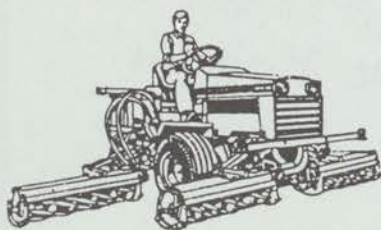
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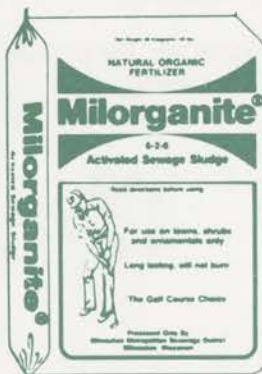
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## Round Two Results in the Met Team Championship Qualifier

The second and final qualifying round for the Met Team Championship was held at the September 25 meeting at Metropolis Country Club in White Plains, NY. We had a record turnout—90 players in all—no doubt because it had been 13 years since the Met group's played Metropolis, one of the finest courses in the area. Here's how the top contenders in five categories fared:

### CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

#### Handicaps 0-10 Gross

- 1st J.C. Fulwider, Century C.C.
- 2nd Earl Millett, Ridgeway C.C.
- 3rd John Carlone, Middle Bay C.C.
- 4th Mark Millett, Old Oaks C.C.

### SECOND FLIGHT

#### Handicaps 11-18 Net

- 1st Mike Miner, Connecticut G.C.
- 2nd Tony Savone, Quaker Ridge G.C.
- 3rd Joe Alonzi, Fenway G.C.
- 4th Dennis Flynn, Brae Burn C.C.

### THIRD FLIGHT

#### Handicaps 19 and Higher Net

- 1st Tony Baviello, Pelham C.C.
- 2nd Bob Alonzi, Winged Foot G.C.

### CLASS B FLIGHT

- 1st Jim Calladio, C.C. of Darien
- 2nd Bill Perlee, Sleepy Hollow C.C.

### CLASS C FLIGHT

- 1st Dan Cancelleri, J.A. Jackson Corp.
- 2nd John Currie, Currie Landscaping, Inc.

## Two Teams Represent the MetGCSA at the Met Team Championship

Here are the two MetGCSA teams selected to compete against Connecticut, New Jersey, and Long Island association teams in the Met Team Championship. (I'll bet you none of the other associations sent two sets of brothers.)

### CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

J.C. Fulwider, Earl Millett, John Carlone, Mark Millett. Mike Medonis and Will Heintz were selected as alternates.

### NET TEAM FLIGHT

Tony Savone, Joe Alonzi, Dennis Flynn, Bob Alonzi. Will Heintz and Fred Scheyhing were chosen as alternates.

The tournament was held October 12 at Meadow Brook Club in Long Island, NY. Watch the next issue of *Tee to Green* for the results.

TIM MOORE

*Knollwood Country Club*

### Notable Notes

#### CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Superintendent Fred Scheyhing was recently honored at a dinner given at the Mount Kisco Country Club for his 25 years of service. Way to go, Fred.

#### NEW MEMBERS

- Roger Fox, Class B, Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY
- Peter Grace, Class CS, Turf Products Corp., South Windsor, CT

- Patrick Lucas, Class D, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY
- Charles Siemers, Class C, Hawthorne Brothers Tree Service, Bedford Hills, NY

#### MANY THANKS

With the 50/50 Raffle held at our September meeting, the MetGCSA was able to contribute over \$600 to the trust fund set up for Mark Loper's two nieces. A special thanks to all who contributed.

*'Tis Almost the Season to Be Wary*

## Surefire Method for Thwarting Evergreen Thieves

Tired of losing valuable evergreens to Christmas tree thieves? Then here's a way to deter those holiday-spirited menaces: Paint your course's trees with what's known among Cornell University horticulturalists as "Ugly Mix."

The brainchild of horticulturalist Gerardo Sciarro, Ugly Mix was invented as a last-ditch effort to preserve the hundreds of evergreens in Cornell's 67-acre arboretum. It's a nontoxic, easy-to-make pink paint that you can use to deface—and protect—your trees through the holidays.

Left alone, Ugly Mix will disappear with the elements in a couple of months. But if you're in a hurry, you can always wash the mix off with a hose.

Here's the recipe: To make enough pink Ugly Mix for several trees, combine two gallons of warm tap water, 20 ounces of hydrated lime, four ounces of Wilt-pruf (plant conditioner available from gardening stores), and two ounces of red food coloring. Actually, any color will do, so long as it's not too close to the trees' natural green or blue hue. Orange is another good ugly one. The idea, of course, is to make the tree look too sick to steal.

Apply your Ugly Mix with a brush or sprayer when the weather is dry and temperatures are above freezing. It takes about a half-hour to dry, so it'll wash right off if it's already raining or snowing. And if it's too cold, the mix will freeze as soon as it's applied to the tree and then fall off when the temperature rises.

The inventor of Ugly Mix has only one warning: Don't wait too long. Last year, the university dallied until the first week of December and lost hundreds of dollars in trees to thieves.

*Adapted from Gro News*



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Stephen M. Kotowicz  
30 Nashville Road  
Bethal, CT 06801  
203-792-3032

## **Stephan Kay, Golf Course Architect \***

P.O. Box 81, Purchase, NY 10577  
Long Range Planning, Remodeling,  
& New Development  
914-738-3399

## **Steven Willand, Inc. \***

Dave Marmelstein  
Rt 206  
Augusta, NJ 07822  
201-579-5656

## **Tee and Green Sod, Inc.**

Bentgrass Sod  
Dave Wallace  
P.O. Box 418, Exeter, RI 02822  
401-295-1870

## **Terre Company of N.J., Inc. \***

Byron Johnson, Jr.  
206 Delawanna Avenue  
Clifton, NJ 07014  
201-473-3393 or (home) 203-748-5069

## **Turf Products Corporation \***

South Windsor, CT 06074  
Dennis Petruzzelli-Irrigation  
Al Tretara-Equipment  
203-528-9508

## **Valley View Greenhouse \***

Frank Amodio  
RR # 2 Box 27, Rt 123  
So. Salem, New York 10590  
914-533-2504 or 914-533-2526

## **W.A. Cleary Chemical Corporation**

Russ Ward  
P.O. Box 10, 1049 Somerset Street  
Somerset, NJ 08873  
201-247-8000

## **Westchester Ford Tractor, Inc. \***

John M. Apple  
Meadow Street  
Golden Bridge, NY 10526  
914-232-7746

## **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc. \***

Bob Lippman  
P.O. Box 198, Lincolndale, NY 10540  
Office (914) 248-7476  
Moble (914) 282-6861

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