



SKI
Tees



TEE TO GREEN

Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Professional News Notes

In this month's message, I'd like to start off by calling attention to some of the recent MetGCSA committee accomplishments and activities.

First, the Communications Committee, for the third consecutive year, has produced an award-winning newsletter. The *Tee to Green* has taken the prize for "Best Overall (among periodicals 16 pages and under)" in the 1991 GCSAA Chapter Publications Contest. Congratulations to Tim Moore, newsletter editor and superintendent of Knollwood Country Club, and the entire *Tee to Green* staff for producing a publication we can all be proud of. (See Notable Notes on page 3 for more on the award.)

Our Membership Committee, chaired by John O'Keefe of Preakness Hills Country Club, is currently hard at work gathering the data for our 1992 Membership Directory, and you know what that means: MetGCSA dues are due. Please send them in as soon as possible so the committee can speed the directory into production.

The Tournament Committee has lined up an impressive list of clubs for the 1992 season. Have a look at the schedule on page 7.

Our Education Committee, co-chaired by John Carlone of Middle Bay Country Club and Will Heintz of Hampshire Country Club, orchestrated another winning *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

Swapping Trade Secrets—and Software—With Superintendents Across the Country

Unlike corporate managers, superintendents can't walk out of their office and jaw with a peer about a job-related problem. But thanks to TurfByte—and computers—superintendents can invite quick input from colleagues not just up the road, but around the country.

An electronic bulletin board system (BBS) for golf course superintendents, TurfByte evolved from an idea originally discussed in the November 1987 issue of *Golf Course Management* in an article written by Jon Scott, now of Golden Bear International in North Palm Beach, FL, and Bill Spence of The Country Club in Brookline, MA.

The article caught the attention of Lawrence (Kansas) Country Club Superintendent Duane Patton, who along with Jon Scott, started TurfByte on a BBS run by Dale Gadd, then a GCSAA employee. But this proved less than satisfactory because Gadd's BBS featured a "games section" that attracted so many Kansas University students that

it was difficult to get online. So TurfByte became Patton's baby.

With Gadd's help, Patton became a part-time system operator of TurfByte in February 1988. Patton has since installed a separate phone line, and with the help of the GCSAA, he's bought a computer system and software that allow him to keep TurfByte online 24 hours a day.

Is TurfByte for you? Duane Patton and Middle Bay Country Club Superintendent John Carlone, a MetGCSA member and an avid TurfByte user, will help you answer that question in the following article, which they coauthored . . . across TurfByte lines.

The Benefits of Tapping Into TurfByte

At last count, TurfByte averaged 500 calls a month from about 130 callers. The calls were coming in from 25 states in the U.S. and from Canada and, believe it or not, Thailand. Connecting with TurfByte allows you to make many long-distance *(continued on page 4)*

Also in This Issue

- ② Where Our Research Dollars Are Going
- ③ Committee Chairmen at Your Service
- ③ *Tee to Green* Triumphs Again! . . . Member News
- ⑤ New York Superintendents Doing Without
- ⑦ 1992 Meeting Schedule . . . Industry Events
- ⑦ Scholarship Applications Ready and Waiting

Professional News Notes

Winter Seminar. Held January 8 at Westchester CC, the event drew 115 members and guests, who were treated to a series of informative talks.

At least two of the speakers were recipients of research grants from both our association and the Tri-State Research Foundation. For instance, Dr. Richard Cooper of the University of Massachusetts discussed his preliminary test results on putting green bentgrasses. The MetGCSA has supported Dr. Cooper in his work to identify bentgrasses that produce the highest quality playing surfaces.

Another featured speaker, Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers, discussed the latest patch disease controls he uncovered thanks, in no small part, to the funds he received from the Tri-State Research Foundation.

Now that brings me to another point I'd like to touch on in this message. It's something you've all heard before, many times—unless, of course, you haven't read our past presidents' messages—but it bears repeating. We must all do what we can to support industry research that promotes environmentally sound turfgrass management practices—particularly in an era President Bush

has dubbed the "decade of the environment." That means giving, as generously as possible, to such endeavors as our own S & R Fund, the NYSTA Poa Annual Golf Tournament, and the Tri-State Research Foundation.

The foundation, by the way, will be soliciting contributions from 500 clubs in the tri-state area this spring. Last year, only 30 percent of those clubs responded to the foundation's fund drive. Let's see if we can make a more impressive showing in 1992. Consider the donation an investment in your future—and the future of our profession.

Finally, as you chart your strategies and programs for the coming season, I'd like to encourage you to build in a little extra time for our association. We could always use a helping hand on one of our 10 committees. Call a committee chairman or two and offer your services. We've provided an at-a-glance guide to the Met's 1992 committee chairmen on the following page for your convenience.

Enjoy what's left of our off-season, and I'll look forward to seeing you all at the March 26 Business Meeting.

TIM O'NEILL, CGCS
President

Official Business

Research Dollars Well Spent

At the Annual Meeting November 14, the MetGCSA Board of Directors approved the following research awards for 1992:

- \$1,500 to Dr. Richard Cooper of the University of Massachusetts to enable him to further his promising research on bentgrasses suitable for putting green surfaces. This is the second consecutive year we are funding his work.
- \$2,500 is going to the Tri-State Research Foundation, which plans to use the money to fund research on biological insect controls being conducted by Dr. Michael Villani of Cornell University.
- \$2,200 was presented to Cornell

University's Turf Research Foundation. These funds were raised at the Poa Annual Golf Tournament held at the Blue Hill Golf Club in May and will be used to further turfgrass research.

Because Cornell University has a policy of matching donations, both Dr. Villani and the Turf Research Foundation will derive double the benefit from our contributions.

For a summary of each of these research projects, you can either contact S & R Chairman Joe Alonzi at Fenway Golf Club, Old Mamaroneck Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583, 914-472-1467 or write the MetGCSA at P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

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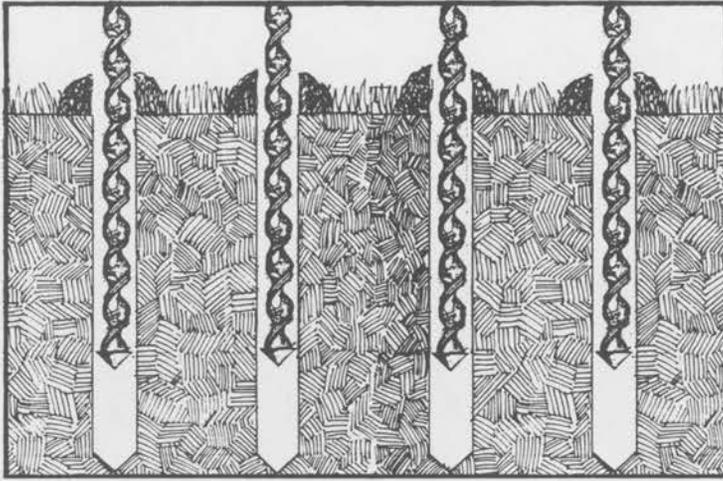
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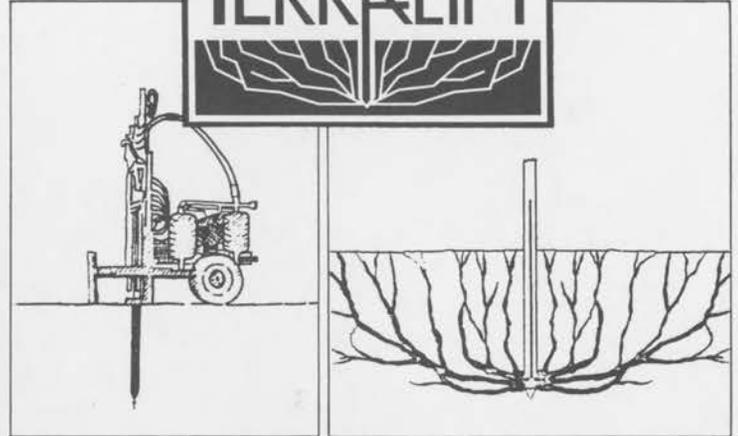
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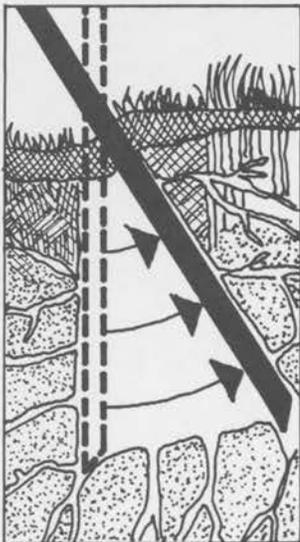
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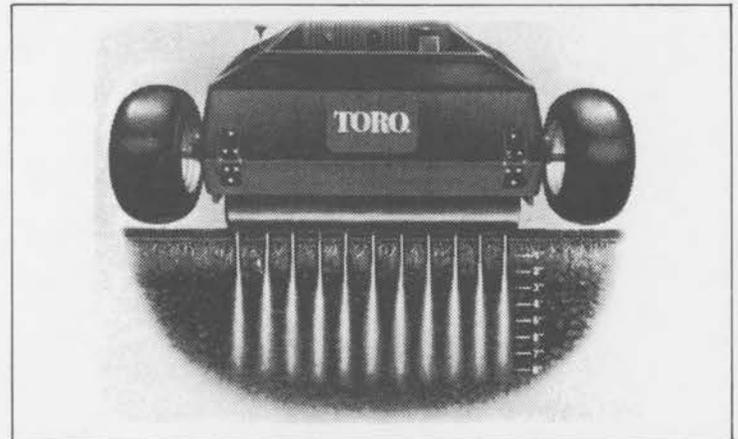
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Meet Your 1992 Committee Chairmen

Please feel free to contact any of the following committee chairmen with questions or comments. We've provided their numbers, here, for your convenience.

Awards

Larry Pakkala, CGCS, *Woodway CC*
203-329-8257

Bylaws

Joe Alonzi, CGCS, *Fenway GC*
914-472-1467

Communications

- Tim Moore, *Knollwood CC*
914-592-7829
- Mike Mongon, *Arcola CC*
201-843-6960

Education

- John Carlone, *Middle Bay CC*
516-766-1838
- Will Heintz, *Hampshire CC*
914-698-6131

Government Relations/Public Relations

- Joe Alonzi, CGCS, *Fenway GC*
914-472-1467
- Class B Rep: Steve Sweet,
Westchester CC
914-967-6000, ext. 360
- Class C Rep: Al Tretera
Turf Products Corp.
203-763-3581

Long-Range Planning

Larry Pakkala, CGCS, *Woodway CC*
203-329-8257

Membership

John O'Keefe, CGCS,
Preakness Hills CC
201-694-0260

Scholarship and Research

Joe Alonzi, CGCS, *Fenway GC*
914-472-1467

Social and Welfare

Jeff Scott, CGCS, *Apawamis Club*
914-967-2100, ext. 149

Tournament

- Matt Ceplo, *Westchester Hills GC*
914-948-5023
- John Carlone, *Middle Bay CC*
516-766-1838

Tee to Green Honored—Again!

Tee to Green, for the third consecutive year, took the prize for *Best Overall (among periodicals 16 pages and under)* in the GCSAA Chapter Publications Contest.

A panel of three judges evaluated *Tee to Green* and about 25 other eligible contestants on overall excellence, appropriate design, editorial judgment and content, scope and quality of writing, and presentation.

The Florida Green of the Florida GCSA won in the Best Overall category for periodicals more than 16 pages. Four other periodicals were honored for Best Cover, Best Flag, Best Original Editorial Content, and Best Visual Format.

The 1991 contest judges were Jerome Ducker, CGCS, of Hallbrook Farms Country Club; Nancy Harper, owner of Harper & Associates, an advertising/communication firm; and Lois Wolfe of the National Federation of Press Women.

New Members

Timothy Garceau, Class B, Orange County Golf Club, Middletown, NY.

Frank Marra, Class C, The Scotts Company, Patchogue, NY.

David Polidor, Class B, Lakeover Country Club, Bedford Hills, NY.

Births

Megan Kristina to Matt and Jasmine Ceplo, January 26. Matt is superintendent at Westchester Hills Golf Club, White Plains, NY.

Ian Baker to Earl and Donna Millett, January 4. Earl is superintendent at Ridgeway Country Club, White Plains, NY.

Congratulatory Notes

Steve Cadenelli of Metedeconk National Golf Club in Jackson, NJ, was recently named "Superintendent of the Year" by the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents. This

prestigious annual award is based on the individual's knowledge and understanding of turfgrass and related sciences, understanding of the game of golf, contributions to local and allied associations, and excellence in course conditioning.

And as if that's not enough, Steve and Metedeconk, were chosen as the recipients of the 1991 New Jersey Turfgrass Recognition Award.

Explaining why Steve and his club were selected, *The Greenside* wrote, "The way the course is built and maintained by Steve in the environmentally sensitive wetlands and forests, that are on the edge of New Jersey Pine Barrens, is living proof that quality turf can be maintained in ecological harmony with nature. Furthermore, Steve has done all this while serving as president of the GCSAA."

Ken Flisek, former MetGCSA member and editor of the *Tee to Green*, has won the GCSAA's prestigious Leo Feser Editorial Award for having written the best superintendent article in *Golf Course Management*. His award-winning prose, titled "Using Proven Basic Principles to Improve Your Professional Image," appeared in the February 1991 issue of GCM.

One of the highlights of the December 13 MetGCSA Christmas Party at the Apawamis Club was the Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle. A total of 14 cash prizes were awarded.

This year, the \$1,000 grand prize went to a group of clubhouse staffers from Apawamis—a nice tribute to our party host. The \$500 second prize went to MetGCSA member Dave Dwinell of St. Andrews, and the \$250 third and fourth prizes were awarded to two nonmember ticket holders: John Ferruccio of Turf Keeper Inc. in Carmel, NY, and Robert Finnesey of Tree Tech in Randolph, NJ.

We sold all 200 raffle tickets, enabling us to raise \$4,000 for our Scholarship Fund. Note: Forms are now available to anyone interested in applying for a scholarship (see notice on page 7).

Swapping Trade Secrets—and Software— With Superintendents Across the Country

friendships and offers an unparalleled learning experience.

TurfByte has a simple menu system that you'll learn to navigate without difficulty. It'll take you through the BBS's three main sections: the bulletin section, the message section, and the files section. Here's how they work:

1. *The Bulletin Section.* In this section, you'll find hot-off-the-press information. For example, when Diazinon was taken off the market several years back, it was posted on TurfByte within days. When the contaminated Terramec SP was released two summers ago, TurfByte users knew about it a week before the GCSAA was notified. From time to time, it'll also carry pertinent articles written by superintendents, professors, and others.

2. *The Message Section.* Most TurfByte users find this section the most interesting because this is where the bull sessions take place. If you're searching for the answer to a burning question—a turf-related problem, for instance—here's the place to ask it. Your message can be read by anyone who comes online, so you're able to tap a tremendous pool of knowledge.

If users make a discovery that others would profit from, this is the place they post it. A while ago, someone discovered a great new weather program. Called WeatherBrief, it allows you to phone up a central weather-data computer and translate the data into weather maps and charts on your computer screen. The superintendent left a message about it, and before long, a number of TurfByters were using it.

Interestingly, you can also leave private messages to another TurfByte user. Of course, nothing on a BBS is ever *completely* private since the system operator has access to all messages. But the BBS allows you to post a message, and the person it's addressed to can retrieve it at any time—kind of like a message left on an answering machine.

3. *The Files Section.* Virtually all bulletin boards have a files section. This is where you'll find from a few to literally thousands of files that you can download on your computer. Most of these

files are public domain; in other words, they're completely free. But others aren't. These are called shareware and are basically software programs that various authors pour into the BBS.

You can download them on your system, try them out, and if you decide to keep one, you're honor-bound to buy the program from the creator. Most shareware programs sell for \$50 or less.

Some of the best programs available have been developed using this concept—like ProComm, a top-notch communications program. How many commercial programs have you paid for and then found out they don't fit your needs? With shareware, you try it, *then* buy it.

Equipping Yourself to Connect to TurfByte

If you're sold on the pros of TurfByte, the next step is to "equip" yourself to access it. Here's what you'll need:

1. *Some basic computer knowledge.*

Quickie computer courses at local colleges are a great way to get started, but only practice makes perfect. You have to spend time at the keyboard.

2. *A computer system.* It's preferable, but not absolutely necessary, that you purchase an IBM or IBM compatible.

3. *A modem.* Though you can get away with a 300-baud modem, your best bet is to purchase a 2400-baud modem, which will transmit and receive information over the phone line at 240 characters per second, as opposed to a lowly 30 characters per second with a 300-baud modem. The speedier the modem, the lower your phone charges. For a 2400-bauder, you can expect to pay between \$100 and \$200, depending on the brand.

4. *A communications software program.* The two standards are ProComm and ProCommPlus. ProCommPlus is the upgraded version of ProComm and sells for about \$100.

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DUANE PATTON (913-842-0592)

Lawrence Country Club

JOHN CARLONE (516-766-1838)

Middle Bay Country Club

Did you know the New York Department of Conservation (DEC) may actually be stymieing state superintendents' efforts to reduce overall chemical use on their golf course?

That's what you might surmise from a recent GCSAA news release, which points out that the New York DEC is sitting on approval of several new products that could actually result in lower chemical application rates to control turfgrass, ornamental plant, and aquatic weed problems.

Among the many products that have yet to clear registration:

- Confront, a nonphenoxy type postemergent herbicide that could replace some of the 2,4-D products now being used. In addition, Confront's active ingredient application rate is less than half of that for 2,4-D products used to control such weeds as dandelions and clover.

- Gallery, a preemergent broadleaf herbicide.

- Cutless, a herbicide used to control the growth of *poa annua*. By reducing the *poa* population, a superintendent could decrease water and fungicide applications needed to keep the *poa*, a turfgrass species that is not drought- or disease-tolerant, alive during the growing season.

- Sonar, an aquatic herbicide.
- Triumph, an insecticide used principally to control white grubs.

To make matters worse, many other states across the country have already approved all of these products, including neighboring Connecticut and New Jersey.

Maybe it's time for us to write our state legislators to let them know that the effectiveness of these chemicals far outweighs any of the potential risks associated with using them—particularly in the hands of skilled applicators.

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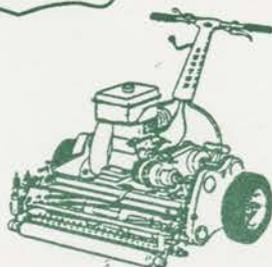
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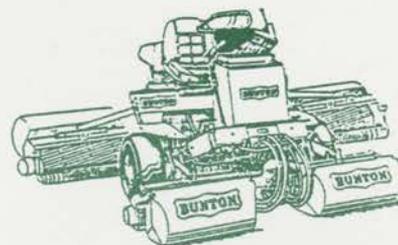
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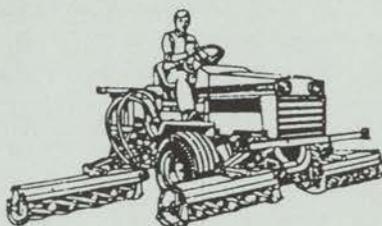
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Mark Your Calendar With These 1992 MetGCSA Meeting Sites and Golf Events

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| March 26
Thursday | Ridgeway CC
White Plains, NY
Business Meeting
<i>Earl Millett</i> | August 13
Thursday | Mount Kisco CC
Mount Kisco, NY
Poa Annual Golf
Tournament
<i>Fred Scheyhing, CGCS</i> |
| April 27
Monday | Rockrimmon CC
Stamford, CT
<i>Gregg Stanley</i> | September 28
Monday | Ridgewood CC
Danbury, CT
<i>Dave Kerr</i> |
| June 4
Thursday | Whippoorwill Club
Armonk, NY
<i>Chuck Martineau</i> | October 5
Monday | CC of Farmington
Farmington, CT
Met Area Team
Championship
<i>Peter Lewis</i> |
| June 29
Monday | The Stanwich Club
Greenwich, CT
Invitational Tournament
<i>Scott Niven, CGCS</i> | October 13
Tuesday | Wee Burn CC
Darien, CT
Superintendent/Green
Chairman Tournament
<i>Rick Schock</i> |
| July 14
Tuesday | Siwanoy CC
Bronxville, NY
<i>Dave Mahoney</i> | | |
| | November 19
Thursday | Westchester Hills GC
White Plains, NY
Annual Meeting
<i>Matt Ceplo</i> | |

Scholarship Forms

Come and Get 'Em

Applications are now available for the 1992 MetGCSA scholarship awards. The Scholarship and Research Committee will select recipients based on leadership, maturity, scholastic capabilities, activities, and commitment to a chosen career.

To be eligible, a candidate must be either a member of the MetGCSA or a dependent of a member. You can receive an application form by writing the MetGCSA at P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543, or by contacting S & R Chairman Joe Alonzi at Fenway Golf Club, 914-472-1467. The deadline for submissions is April 10.

NOTE

DeLalio Sod Farms' phone number was listed incorrectly on the 1991 Professional Turfgrass Field Day Exhibitors sheet inserted in the last issue of *Tee to Green*. Please change the number to 800-326-4763/516-242-3700.

Seminars

GCSAA Seminar: Developing and Maintaining Effective Management/Employee Relationships
Monday-Wednesday, March 9-11
Westchester Marriott
Tarrytown, NY

In this course, you will learn how to train and motivate personnel, handle problem employees, resolve conflicts, make legally defensible decisions on firing, leaves of absence, substance abuse, and worker's compensation.

The registration fee, which includes course materials and lunch each day, is \$440. For further information or to register, contact the GCSAA at 1421 Research Park Dr., Lawrence, KS 66049-3859, 800-472-7878 or 913-832-4444.

GCSAA Seminar: Technical Training for Your Spray Technicians
Tuesday, March 10
Winged Foot Golf Club
Mamaroneck, NY

This GCSAA course is appropriate for superintendents and spray crew.

For further information or to register, contact the GCSAA at 1421 Research Park Dr., Lawrence, KS 66049-3859, 800-472-7878 or 913-832-4444.

Conference

NYSTA Turf & Grounds Exposition II
Tuesday, February 25
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Holiday Inn
Suffern, NY

NYSTA's first annual winter conference will offer attendees the opportunity to hear nationally known speakers talk on a variety of topics pertinent to the turfgrass industry. Among them: Assessing Runoff and Leaching; Putting "Toxic" in Perspective; DEC Inspections: What They Are, What Inspectors Look For; Local Preemption and State Regulatory Issues.

For further information, contact NYSTA at P.O. Box 612, Latham, NY 12110, 800-873-TURF.

Social Calendar

Final Ski Club Outing
Thursday, February 20
Stratton Mountain
Stratton, VT

All those attending should meet at the main lodge at 9:30 a.m.

For further information, call Jeff Scott at 914-967-2100, ext. 149.

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