



TEE TO GREEN



Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Association Update

It hasn't taken me long to realize that the key to success as MetGCSA president is to have an earnest, hardworking board of directors. And I couldn't be more pleased with the current board's efforts. Thanks to them, MetGCSA activities are moving along smoothly. Here's an update:

- Joe Alonzi is wearing many hats. In addition to his duties as vice president, he's chairing our Bylaws, Government Relations, and Scholarship & Research Committees. This year's S & R contributions include \$2,500 for the Tri-State Research Foundation and \$1,000 for Dr. Pat Vittum's Hyperodes research. In addition, we'll be donating proceeds from the August 13 Poa Annual Golf Tournament, which will be held at the Mount Kisco Country Club in Mount Kisco, NY. This year's event will help fund the construction of a Turf Research building at Delhi University.

Joe's also helping our association—and industry—by representing us on the Westchester Drought Task Force. The task force is devising a water distribution plan for drought emergencies. Joe's participation will ensure that our needs are given serious and proper attention.

- Earl Millett has settled comfortably into his new duties as treasurer. In his short tenure, he's managed to eliminate all past due accounts. There's no denying he's a force *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

The Met's 1992 Lifetime Achievement Award Goes to Frank Hannigan

Frank Hannigan, truly a man for all seasons and one of golf's multi-talented executive giants, is the recipient of the MetGCSA's coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award for 1992.

Hannigan's selection was announced by Awards Committee Chairman Larry Pakkala of Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT. Hannigan will be honored Monday, June 29, as a highlight of the Met's annual Invitational Tournament at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT.

It was inevitable, perhaps, that Frank Hannigan—who has attained world renown for his rather substantial efforts during a 28-year career with the United States Golf Association (USGA)—would one day capture the Reid Award. His very first working assignment, as a freshman-sophomore at Wagner College, was mowing tees and greens at the Silver Lake Golf Club on his native Staten Island.

"I loved it; I just loved the work," he said recently, even at the rather modest



Frank Hannigan, the MetGCSA's 1992 Reid Award recipient, after an ABC sportscast.

pay of \$42.50 weekly. And to say this witty, knowledgeable gentleman of the game has taken giant strides since has to be the understatement of the season.

Golf executive sans peer, prize-winning golf writer, *(continued on page 4)*

Also in This Issue

③ Scott Niven to Host Invitational Tourney

③ Where Your Monthly Meeting Dollars Are Going

⑦ Whippoorwill Golf Wins

⑦ Upcoming Events

⑦ Two "Must-Have" Resources

Association Update

to reckon with when in arrears.

- John O'Keefe, in his third year as secretary and Membership Committee chairman, has been diligently tracking all membership activities. John reports that membership totals so far this year have exceeded all projections as our association continues a steady, healthy growth.

One of John's major responsibilities is updating and publishing our membership directory each year—no easy task. John and his committee are to be congratulated for their outstanding work on our latest directory.

- Co-Chairmen John Carlone and Matt Ceplo and their Tournament Committee members deserve a lot of credit for their coordination of our monthly meetings.

Their efforts are, no doubt, at least partly responsible for the continued climb in membership participation. I can't remember an April meeting that drew a crowd larger than the one we had at Rockrimmon (100 for golf, 120 for dinner). And the Whippoorwill meeting had a full field of golf before the deadline for reply. That goes to show you that timely reservations are a must.

While on the subject of meetings, I just want to mention that members should be sure to observe the guest policy stated in our Bylaws (Article VI, Section 3). In short, only members can bring guests, and each member is allowed one guest per meeting and a total of three guests per year.

- Co-chaired by John Carlone and Will Heintz, our Education Committee is building an interesting roster of activities and speakers for our monthly meetings. In addition, the committee's already set a date for the 1993 Winter Seminar—January 6—and they've worked with the GCSAA to plan a regional seminar. Titled "Introduction to Integrated Pest Management," the seminar is scheduled for November 16 and 17.

- Our social calendar is well under

way, thanks to Social and Welfare Committee Chairman Jeff Scott and his committee members.

On July 20, we're scheduled to return to Woodway Beach Club in Stamford, CT, for our family picnic. August 18, our Summer Social will take us aboard the cruise ship Klondike for an evening of dinner and dancing along the scenic East River. Finally, we've reserved December 12 at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY, for our annual Christmas Party and Scholarship Raffle. Mark your calendar now for these always-popular—and fun—events.

- The Field Day Committee, under the guidance of Co-Chairmen Al Tretera and Jeff Scott, is already making preparations for our annual Professional Turfgrass Field Day.

Scheduled for October 13 at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, this year's field day will feature increased equipment demonstrations, with plenty of opportunity to try your hand at operating the demos. The day's events will be preceded by Part 3 of the MGA's Green Chairmen Educational Series, which is being held 9–11 a.m. at Westchester.

- Steve Sweet, our Class B representative, has been hard at work organizing our second annual Class B Outing, which is scheduled for October 26 at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

- Last but not least, Co-Chairmen Tim Moore and Mike Mongon, along with the rest of the Communications Committee, should be commended for continuing to produce a high-quality, interesting newsletter. As always, they welcome contributions from the membership. After all, information-sharing is one of the benefits—and duties—of being a part of our association.

Many thanks to all board and committee members for their time and effort. Keep up the good work!

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President

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ADDRESS: P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

Scott Niven Brings the Invitational to Stanwich

Fast, undulating greens, perfect lies, and superb playing conditions await those scheduled to play in the MetGCSA's June 29 Invitational Tournament at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT. Touted by *Golf Digest* as the top course in the State of Connecticut, Stanwich has been likened to a fine wine: It gets better with age.

Nearly 30 years old, the course was designed by William Gordon and his son David, the elder Gordon recognized as a pioneer in the achievement of perfectly finished surfaces on greens, tees, and fairways.

Nine years ago, Scott Niven took charge of the course's maintenance and development and, in that time, has chalked up a long list of accomplishments. Among his most notable is transforming the course from 80 percent poa to 95 percent bentgrass. He credits the success of his aggressive poa reduction program to intensive cultivation and growth regulation programs, lightweight mowing and clipping removal, and careful monitoring and management.

Other enhancements—some of which you'll notice as you round the course—include greenside bunker renovation, golf course and grounds landscaping, and miles of new drainage piping, the cure-all for the course's numerous localized wet spots.

With recently approved funds, Scott says he's planned a complete pump-house renovation and the installation of a new irrigation system, including pipes, wires, and sprinklers.

Other projects he's got up his sleeve: repaving all club roads and building a new equipment storage building and pesticide storage facility, complete with a state-of-the-art rinsate pad.

Scott was born on a Marine base in Quantico, VA, where his father served as a Marine Corps officer.

By the time Scott was 7, his father's eight-year tour of duty had ended, and the Nivens settled in Claremont, NH, where his father embarked on a new profession: superintendent/club manager at the Claremont Country

Club. "He's always been an avid golfer," says Scott. "So it was a logical career move."

Equally logical was that Scott and his younger brother, Curtis, decided to pursue careers as golf course superintendents. Both worked alongside their father at Claremont—Scott from the time he was 9 and until he was 12. That's when his father was given the opportunity to purchase the Angus Lea Golf and Tennis Club in Hillsborough, NH . . . and he took it.

In addition to owner, Scott's father served as the club's superintendent, Class A golf professional, and manager, while Scott and Curtis (now Angus Lea's owner, superintendent, and manager), manned positions on the crew.

Scott worked summers at Angus Lea through high school and then college. He pursued formal training in turfgrass management at the University of Rhode Island, completing a four-year degree in 1976.

From there, he moved right into an assistant superintendent's position at Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich, CT. After three years under then Superintendent Paul Caswell's tutelage, Scott accepted his first superintendent's

position at St. Andrews Golf Club in Hastings, NY. He remained there until 1979, leaving the club—just before its major reconstruction phase—for a superintendent's position at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, NY. Until 1982, Scott worked feverishly on enhancing the fine Donald Ross course—work that, no doubt, gave him entree into his current position at The Stanwich Club.

Rounding out his professional experience, Scott was a member of the MetGCSA Board of Directors for 11 years, serving as president from 1988 to 1989. Still actively involved in the association, Scott is currently a member of three Met committees: the Awards, Long-Range Planning and Steering, and Tournament Committees.

Scott's favorite "off-duty" pastimes are skiing, biking, jogging (he's a two-time New York Marathon runner), and golf (he's wielded a club since age 6).

He and his wife, Dana, also enjoy spending lots of time with their children: 2-year-old Nicholas and 9-month-old Heather. The Niven family lives on Stanwich grounds.

DENNIS PETRUZZELLI
Lakeover Country Club

FYI

Monthly Meetings: Where Your Dollars Are Going

When you send in your check to attend our monthly meetings, your dollars are going toward more than meals. The behind-the-scenes costs for a typical meeting include secretarial services to produce and mail meeting notices, postage, guest dinners, gifts for the host superintendent and manager, gratuities for the host club's staff, and sales tax. Because our meetings are self-funding, all these costs must be passed along to the attendees. On average, they add up to about \$21 per person per meeting.

The Tournament Committee is working hard to keep our meeting costs down, but as you probably realize, there

are many factors beyond our control. The host clubs, for instance, set the pricing schedule for the day, and the other items just listed are the basic costs of putting on a well-run event.

This year's meeting schedule is bringing us to some of the finest courses in the Metropolitan area. We're pleased about the lineup of meeting sites and hope you enjoy each and every event.

In the meantime, if you have any questions about our meeting costs or billing procedures, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 914-948-5023.

MATT CEPLO
Tournament Committee Co-Chairman

The MetGCSA's 1992 Lifetime Achievement Award Goes to Frank Hannigan

authority on the rules of the game, and TV analyst . . . versatility would appear to be his strength. His writing has appeared in every major golf publication, along with features in *Sports Illustrated* and *Reader's Digest*.

Frank Hannigan is without question one of golf's most prominent personalities. He spent almost 30 years with the USGA, most recently as its senior executive director—the association's chief staff officer—before leaving in February of '89 to join ABC-TV and *Golf Magazine* in a pair of influential free-lance positions. He has since left *Golf Magazine* to join *Golf Digest* as a contributing editor.

It was a stirring defense of and tribute to golf course superintendents in a *Golf Magazine* column that first caught the collective eye of MetGCSA members last year.

Evaluating the scope and significance of his many contributions to golf

through his almost three decades of service with the USGA is futile. Suffice it to say the effort was substantial in the areas of USGA championships, rules of golf, amateur status, publications, films, TV broadcasts, and more.



"Golf course maintenance has attained a science that few could imagine a few short seasons ago. Better trained, better educated, [golf course superintendents] have turned 'greenkeeping' into an elite profession."



And it is no secret that it was Frank Hannigan who convinced the doubting Thomases at the USGA to stage the U.S. Open Championship at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club on Long Island a few years back, literally a stroke of pro-

motional genius as it evolved into the most successful Open in USGA history.

Hannigan's efforts in revising the USGA's code of amateurism won the plaudits of many as did his career-long struggle to maintain the integrity of the game. And his burning determination to maintain the status quo on equipment, to discourage the gimmick-making manufacturers (square grooves versus U grooves versus V grooves, etc.), and his effort on rules uniformity are legendary.

"The game has prospered enormously under the USGA system of governance, however quirky," he has said. "This has resulted in one set of rules worldwide. And uniformity is the primary mission of the USGA and R&A."

In addition to winning three major writing awards from the Golf Writers Association of America, Hannigan has coauthored, with PGA great Tom Watson, the popular *Rules of Golf Illustrated*

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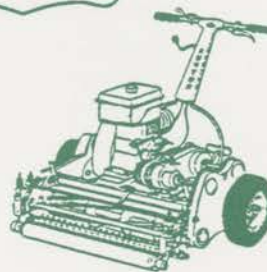
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and *Explained* (Random House). And oh, how the game needed rewriting of those stuffy, stolid rules. As one smarty critic put it, "First time the damn stuffy rule book made sense."

Hannigan also coproduced, with ABC's Jerry Astrow, TV's prize-winning, hour-long history of U.S. Open Championships, a corking compendium of the game's major major. Hannigan is, by the way, a winner of the golf writers' Richardson Memorial Award.

His sudden departure from the USGA after almost 30 years of outstanding service, stunned some observers. Why, they asked, would he step down at the very pinnacle of his USGA career?

In his witty way with words, this master of the impromptu reply said: "I simply had the urge to explain golf as distinct from managing it, when two very unusual opportunities to do so were offered to me simultaneously."

Over his last six years with the USGA,

Hannigan pulled together a splendid staff that functions most efficiently under Executive Director David Fay.

The award-winning Hannigan is quick to praise the work of golf course superintendents nationwide. "In this world, few things get better with time. But golf course maintenance has attained a science that few could imagine a few short seasons ago. Better trained, better educated, these knowledgeable, skillful giants of the game have turned 'green-keeping' into an elite profession."

Previous recipients of the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award are Guido Cribari, retired executive sports editor for the *Gannett Suburban Newspapers*; Alexander Radko, retired head of the USGA's Green Section; pro golf great Ken Venturi; noted turf experts and agronomists Dr. Ralph Engel and Dr. Haruo Tashiro; and renowned golf course architect Geoffrey Cornish.

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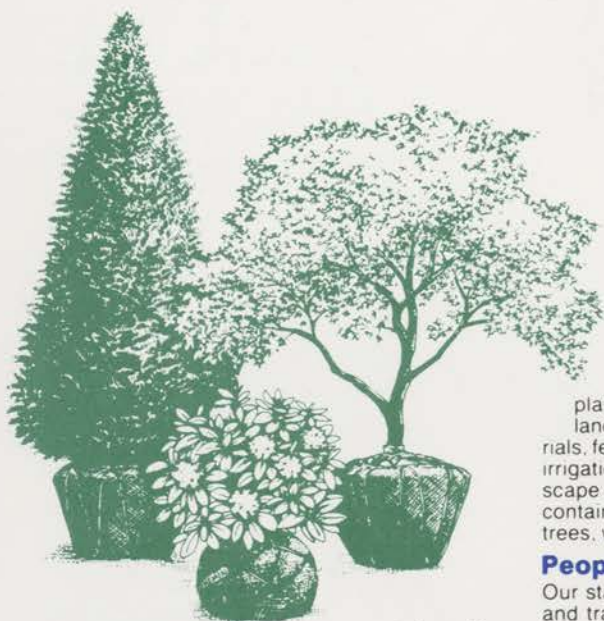
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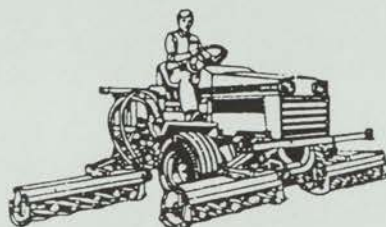
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Superintendent/Manager Meeting Draws Record-Breaking Crowd

The June 1 Whippoorwill meeting drew more than a full house: 108 for golf and 140 for dinner, with 20 would-be attendees turned away. Here's a look at how those who braved the day's inclement weather fared on the links:

Superintendent/Manager

Low Gross Winners

- 75 E. Millett/D. Vasquez
Ridgeway CC
80 G. Wojick/D. Denchy
Greenwich CC

Low Net Winners

- 62 J. Cotone/A. Rubin
Briar Hall CC
(match of cards)
62 D. Flynn/J. Vallis
Brae Burn CC
(match of cards)
65 T. Moore/F. O'Leary
Knollwood CC

Superintendent/Guest

Low Gross Winners

- 75 J. Alonzi/P. Bisconti
Westchester CC
76 J. Carlone/A. Ausserlechner
Middle Bay CC/Sunningdale CC

Low Net Winners

- 64 F. Scheyhing/B. Johnson
Mount Kisco CC/The Terre Co.
65 H. Waterous/B. Mullane
Scarsdale GC/Alpine Tree Care
(match of cards)
65 T. Powers/D. Murphy
Pound Ridge GC
(match of cards)

Closest to the Pin

- #4 D. Murphy, *Guest*

Longest Drive

- #18 J. Carlone, *Middle Bay CC*

Many thanks to Superintendent Chuck Martineau, Manager Ray Grandale, Golf Pro Bob Moro, and the rest of the Whippoorwill staff for making this an enjoyable event.

MATT CEPLO
Westchester Hills Golf Club

Meeting Reminder

Golf Meeting

Tuesday, July 14
Siwanoy Country Club
Bronxville, NY
Host superintendent: Dave Mahoney. (Watch for his profile in the July issue of *Tee to Green*.)

Social Events

See this issue's President's Message for the lowdown on our social calendar for the balance of the year. The next scheduled event: the **MetGCSA Family Picnic** at Woodway Beach Club on July 20—a nearly two-decade tradition no member should miss. Watch for details on this and other upcoming social events.

Educational Events

Part 3, Green Chairmen Educational Series

Tuesday, October 13
9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (before the Met Field Day)
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
For further information, contact the MGA, 914-698-0390, and watch for details as the date grows closer.

Check the President's Message for a sneak peak at two upcoming MetGCSA-sponsored events: the **Professional Turfgrass Field Day** and the **Introduction to Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** seminar.

Tools of the Trade

A By-the-Book Manual for Setting—and Managing—Personnel Policy

Everything you ever wanted to know about setting personnel policy is conveniently packaged into a new personnel management handbook available through the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA).

The handbook offers guidelines for developing a personnel manual tailored to both your maintenance operation and your club's existing personnel policies.

Among the topics covered: developing pay scales, work schedules, and

standards of employee conduct; establishing job descriptions for everyone from your assistant superintendent to your triplex operator; conducting performance reviews; and understanding and adhering to employment laws.

The book is available to GCSAA members for \$10 and to nonmembers for \$15. For further information or to order, contact the GCSAA's membership department at 1421 Research Park Drive, Lawrence, KS 66049-3859, 913-832-4480.

A Pictorial Guide to Ornamental Grasses

Lofts Seed is offering an ornamental grasses poster that is not only attractive, but also useful. It depicts some of the more popular grass species, along with helpful hints on their applications.

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- ☆ Lofts Seed Inc.
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P.O. Box 146, Chimney Rock Rd.
Bound Brook, NJ 08805, 908-356-8700
- Magovern Co.
Peter M. Moran/Bill Perry
Windsor Locks, CT
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- Metro Milorganite Inc.
Rick Apgar & Scott Apgar
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914-666-3171
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Surfactants-Defoamers
Box 404, Amber, PA 19002
Robert Oeschle: 215-836-4992/215-628-3144
- Nor-Am Chemical Company
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203-828-8905
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Kelsey Park, Great Meadows, NJ 07838
Jim Kelsey: 800-247-2326
Bill & Joe Carriere: 914-937-2136
- Pipe & Irrigation Equipment Supply Co.
Jay Anderson/Steve Smith
P.O. Box 3049, Milford, CT 06460
203-878-0658
- ☆ Pro-Lawn Products, Inc.
Stephen M. Kotowicz
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Bronxville, NY 10708, 914-699-4437
- Steven Willand, Inc.
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- ☆ The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.
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- TBS Maintenance & Improvement
Tony Bettino
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