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TEE TO GREEN

Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

The Ingredients of Success

Consider it an honor to be your new president. And I accept this honor with a true commitment to furthering the progress the MetGCSA has made over the years. Our list of past presidents is impressive, and thanks to their strong leadership and the hard work and dedication of past boards, the association has made great strides.

Interestingly, this is one of the few associations that has generally had an oversupply of qualified candidates running for office. Most chapters are begging members to run for board positions. I feel fortunate to have such a large pool of willing and talented members to serve on our Board of Directors—each committed to doing everything possible to enhance the association.

That makes my job easier, but more important, it offers the association a solid foundation for success. Another equally important element in our success, however, is that we communicate openly with one another and work together as a true fraternal organization.

This is an area we could all work on. But I'd especially like to see our young superintendents and assistant superintendents make a concerted effort to become actively involved in the association—and with fellow association members. Attend meetings regularly, and as hard as it may seem sometimes, make an effort to talk *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

Joe Alonzi Voted in as the MetGCSA's 21st President

Let us unite and accept the challenge of sharing turf-related ideas and forming a network of information for all of our members. . . .” Those were among Joe Alonzi's first words as president of the MetGCSA and part of an acceptance speech that urged members to view one another as allies—not competitors.

“We've built a solid foundation for success. If we pull together and communicate as one, only greatness lies ahead for the association,” says Joe, who's made a firm commitment to furthering the Met's progress. (See his President's Message.)

Currently Superintendent of Golf Courses and Grounds at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, Joe succeeds Tim O'Neill as the Met's 21st president. He was formally voted into office at the November 18 Annual Meeting at Silver Spring Country Club in Ridgefield, CT.

Like all Met presidents, Joe is well prepared for his new post. A board



Joe Alonzi takes the helm as the MetGCSA's 21st president.

member since 1986, he's served four years as treasurer and two as vice president, and he's chaired or served on nearly every association committee, including the Tournament, Scholarship & Research, Government Relations, Bylaws, and Field Day *(continued on page 4)*

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BEARD
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The Ingredients of Success

to and get to know other assistants and superintendents.

So many of you young, talented professionals are waiting for that first break, but what you have to realize is that you need far more than a solid educational background to get ahead. You need practical experience. You'd be surprised how many more opportunities—and useful bits of business knowledge—will come your way when you make an effort to “network” with fellow members.

I've been fortunate in my years in the association to have hooked up with people like my brother, Bob, Ted Horton, Sherwood Moore, Chuck Martineau, Pete Rappoccio, Mike Maffei, Scott Niven, Tim O'Neill, Dennis Flynn, Earl and Mark Millett . . . the list is endless. I can honestly say I've learned from each and every one of these people, and I continue to learn from my contact with others in the association. The process is one of give-and-take. And it's our charter to take care of one another.

Speaking of taking care of things, you may have heard that Jan Russo, who's ably managed the association's many administrative details, will soon be leaving her position as executive secretary.

(See write-up on Jan on page 4.) We'll all miss Jan, and though it will be hard to fill her shoes, we'll need to find a replacement.

Right now, we're exploring the possibility of setting up a MetGCSA office in the new MGA headquarters being built in Elmsford, NY. That would give us the opportunity to, perhaps, share secretarial services with the MGA. This is all still in the formative stages, but if we can keep our autonomy and work within our budget, then I feel we should, by all means, join the MGA in what could someday be the center for allied golf associations in the Met area.

If we all pull together, this will be just one of many exciting opportunities for the Met, and in the coming two years, I look forward to guiding the association in its new—and day-to-day—endeavors.

Like other presidents before me, I want to keep an open line of communication with all our members. So please feel free to give me a call with any MetGCSA-related questions or concerns you may have.

JOE ALONZI, CGCS
President

Meet Your New Board of Directors



Front Row, left to right: Vice President John O'Keefe, President Joe Alonzi, Treasurer Earl Millett, Secretary John Carlone. Back Row, left to right: Director Jeff Scott, Director Dave Mahoney, Class C Rep Joe Stahl, Past President Tim O'Neill, Director Matt Ceplo, Director Dennis Petruzzelli, Class B Rep Pat Lucas, Director Tim Moore.

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DOMINIC RICHICHI

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

A Year-end Look at the MetGCSA Membership

In 1993, the MetGCSA gained 18 new members, bringing membership totals to an all-time high of 370.

Here's a look at how each membership category has grown, along with stats on GCSAA memberships, pesticide licenses, and certification.

Assembling the statistics were Membership Committee Chairman John O'Keefe (Preakness Hills CC) and committee members Dennis Flynn (Brae Burn CC), Byron Johnson (The Terre Company of NJ), Steve Kopach (Mountain Ridge CC), Earl Millett (Ridgeway CC), Mike Miner (Connecticut GC), Mike Mongon (Arcola CC), Dennis Petruzzelli (Lakeover CC), and Greg Wojick (Greenwich CC).

Membership Activity

During 1993, there were:

- 6 new Class A members; 4 were reclassifications from Class B

- 4 new Class AS members; 1 was reclassified from Class A
- 8 new Class B members
- 3 new Class C members
- 2 new Class CS members

How Many Are Also GCSAA Members?

- 88 percent of Class A members are also GCSAA members.
- 29 percent of Class B members are also GCSAA members.

How Many Have Pesticide Licenses?

- 90.5 percent of Class A members have pesticide license numbers listed in the MetGCSA database.
- 68 percent of Class B members have pesticide license numbers listed in the MetGCSA database.

Who's Certified?

- 41 percent of all Class A and Class AS members have earned CGCS status.

Educational Events

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 19
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
Among the topics to be covered: the fate of fertilizer and pesticides in the soil, the ABCs of soil blending, the history of golf course design & restoration.
For further information, call Will Heintz, 914-698-6131.

Turf and Grounds Exposition II

Wednesday-Thursday, February 16-17
Holiday Inn, Suffern, NY
For further information, call the New York State Turfgrass Association, 800-873-TURF.

Massachusetts Turf Conference

Monday-Wednesday, February 28-March 2
Springfield Civic Center, Springfield, MA
For further information, call Mary Owen, 508-892-0382.

USGA Regional Seminar

Tuesday, March 8
Tarrytown Marriott, Tarrytown, NY
For further information, call James Farrell, USGA Regional Affairs, 401-295-5430.



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Joe Alonzi Voted in as the MetGCSA's 21st President

committees. Equally notable, Joe was appointed to the Westchester County Drought Emergency Task Force by County Executive Andrew O'Rourke in 1991.

"No question, Joe has always been a leader in our association," says Tim of his successor. "I know his extensive committee work—coupled with his strong leadership qualities—will serve him well in his term as president of the MetGCSA. I have no doubt Joe will do a terrific job, and I look forward to working with him as past president."

A long-time superintendent, Joe is well versed in the inner workings of the turfgrass management industry. His interest in golf stems back to the 1960s, when he began caddying at Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich, CT—practically a stone's throw from his hometown of Portchester, NY. His caddying job led to a position on the

grounds crew under then Superintendent Ted Jozwick. He did that for four summers during high school.

Then, in 1968, he signed on at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, where his brother, Bob, had accepted the position as superintendent. Joe's was a part-time position that allowed him to pursue a degree in what he then believed would be his life-long career: electrical engineering.

After graduating from the RCA Institute in Manhattan in 1971, he took a job at United Aircraft in Norwalk, CT, where he worked on the radar tracking system for the F-111 fighter jet. But after two years of what he terms "desk work and pencil pushing," Joe began to long for the outdoors.

That drove him back to Burning Tree—and school. While working, once again, with his older (but littler)

brother, Bob, he enrolled in the Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School. After earning his certificate in 1974, he was offered a superintendent's position at Huntington Crescent Club in Long Island. Ten years later, he went to Fenway Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY, where he stayed until assuming his current position at Westchester in 1992.

Joe and Judy, his wife of 22 years, live in North Salem, NY, with their four children. His son, Christopher, is in his final year at SUNY Agricultural and Technical College in Cobleskill, NY, and plans to follow in his father's footsteps. His daughter Amy is in her freshman year at Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina, while daughters Allison and Amanda are in the eighth and sixth grades.

LARRY PAKKALA, CGCS
Woodway Country Club

Spotlight

A Fairwell to Jan Russo

After Seven Years of Service, Jan Leaves Her Post as the Met's Valued Executive Secretary

Nothing stays the same." That's an old adage that has new meaning for our association, since we'll be saying good-bye to one of the mainstays of our operation: Jan Russo.

Though most of you have undoubtedly heard her name, few probably realize the depth and breadth of her responsibilities as executive secretary for the Met.

"You might say she's the glue that's held the association together," says immediate Past President Tim O'Neill. "Her diligent handling of association affairs is directly responsible for much of the success we have enjoyed these past seven years. And although we will miss her, Jan has established a solid foundation for the association that will serve us well in the future."

Since 1987, Jan has kept the Met's finances in order by handling all of our general bookkeeping functions and

financial record keeping. She's also meticulously maintained a database of member information, created and mailed our many notices, and tended to the various administrative needs of each and every board member.

Says Past President Larry Pakkala, "Jan's made our board members' job a whole lot easier. She was always ready and willing to help out—and she did everything we asked of her with a smile."

"Jan was also instrumental in streamlining the Met's billing and notification procedures," Larry continues, "saving us both time and money. She will be sorely missed."

Jan is leaving the Met to assume full-time secretarial work with Winged Foot Superintendent Bob Alonzi, who's employed her part-time since 1985. It was through Bob—and Westchester Country Club Superintendent Joe Alonzi—that Jan began working for the Met.

Apparently, when Joe was Tourna-

ment Committee Chairman in 1987, he needed some last-minute help preparing and distributing pairing sheets for an upcoming golf meeting, and he asked Jan to help out. From that day on, she was there when we needed her.

Although December 31 marked Jan's last day of service, she's agreed to stay on during the transition period. "The Met has been a very special part of my life," says Jan. The people are terrific and very professional, and the work's been enjoyable. It's allowed me to grow, learning a lot about the golf course business—and business in general. I will miss the Met very much."

Jan lives in Larchmont, NY, with her husband, Joe, who works for Texaco World Headquarters, and her 16-year-old son, Chris, and 17-year-old daughter, Jill.

DENNIS PETRUZZELLI, CGCS
Lakeover National Golf Club

What a Field Day It Was

Special Thanks to All Who Contributed to Its Success

More than 300 turf and landscape professionals attended the October 19 MetGCSA Professional Turfgrass Field Day at Westchester Country Club to view the event's special clinics, equipment demos, and numerous supplier booths.

The Green Chairman seminar, run in coordination with the MGA, was a great success, drawing a record number of club officials.

Special thanks to Field Day Committee Chairmen Al Tretera and Jeff Scott and the 16 other committee members whose hard work made the day a success. They are: **Joe Alonzi, Frank Buschini, Sean Cain, Will Heintz, Tracey Holliday, Byron Johnson,**

Bob Lippman, Mike Maffei, Earl Millett, Tim O'Neill, Larry Pakkala, Scott Stark, Bob DeMarco, Steve Sweet, Jeff Wentworth, and Scott Tretera.

We'd also like to thank Westchester Country Club for hosting the event and Dar Par Sales for supplying us with two-way radios for the day.

Last, but not least, we'd like to thank the exhibitors whose participation made the field day possible. As we've done in the past, we've enclosed a list of exhibitors in this issue with their area of specialty and phone number. Once again, we encourage you to show these people the same support they showed us during our field day.

New Members

Les Pavonetti, Class B, Lake Isle Country Club, Eastchester, NY
Bruce Pye, Class CS, Steven Willand, Inc., Augusta, NJ
Frank Savakis, Class CS, Bruedan Corp. Inc., Chester, NY

New Lifers

The following Class A superintendents have earned "Life" member status:
Red Altomaro, retiring from E. Gaynor Brennan Golf Course, Stamford, CT
Pio Salvati, retiring from Elmwood Country Club, White Plains, NY

Recently Certified

Dave Dwinell, superintendent of Wollaston Golf Club in Milton, MA, has been designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent by the GCSAA. Congratulations, Dave!

Birth

Congratulations to **Tony and Laura Baviello** on the birth of their son, Nicholas Craft, September 17. Tony is superintendent at Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY.

Info Alert

Scholarship Forms

Come and Get 'Em

Applications are now available for the 1994 MetGCSA scholarship awards. The S & R 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 Committee Chairman John O'Keefe at Preakness Hills Country Club, Wayne, NJ, 201-964-0260. The deadline for submissions is April 8.

A Little Help Goes a Long Way

Craig Wistrand Family Fund Tournament Makes Important Contribution to Member Family

Good things happen when we all pull together. That was certainly the case with the recent Craig Wistrand Family Fund Tournament. It was gratifying to see that in so short a time so many friends could rally to alleviate the suffering of a colleague's family.

You cannot imagine the depth of Betty Wistrand's gratitude for your generous response to the challenge she

and the children face. A special thank you to all who participated.

If you were unable to attend but would like to contribute to this worthy cause, donations may be sent to the "Craig Wistrand Family Fund," c/o MetGCSA, P.O. Box 396, Mamaroneck, NY 10543.

BOB ALONZI, CGCS
 Winged Foot Country Club

The Big Winners in the Annual Scholarship Raffle

The 1993 Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 18 Brae Burn Christmas party, raised \$4,000 for the MetGCSA's Scholarship Fund, and awarded \$3,750 in cash prizes.

Many thanks to all who contributed, and congratulations to **Joe Kennedy** of Green Brook Country Club, our \$1,000 grand prize winner. The other lucky winners and their prizes are:

Joan Iorizzo, Hawthorne Bros., \$500
Dorothy Sarta, Ridgewood, NJ, \$500
Mark Ericson, Steven Willand Co., \$250
Alpine Lawn Care, \$250

Party goes at Table #6, \$250
A. Bella, Middle Bay CC, \$100
Cliff Larson, Beekman CC, \$100
Bill Lopez, Apawamis Club, \$100
Jerry Kerr, Preakness Hills CC, \$100
Brian Naddrizny, Alpine, the Care of Trees, \$100
Laura Puchalski, Fenway GC, \$100
Ian Baker Millett, the son of Ridgeway CC superintendent Earl Millett, \$100
Glenn Moore, Glenmore Landscape Service, \$100
Bob Brown, Longmeadow, MA, \$100
Byron Johnson, The Terre Company of NJ, \$100

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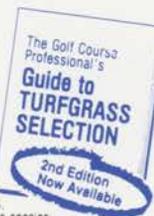
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MetGCSA Takes Fourth Place in Met Area Team Championship

After two qualifying rounds at the MetGCSA's July and September meetings, a Gross Team and Net Team were assembled to attend the 14th Annual Met Area Team Championship at Arcola Country Club in Paramus, NJ, on October 13. The eight-man team consisted of:

Gross Division

John Carlone, *Middle Bay CC*
 Jim Fulwider, *Century CC*
 Mike Medonis, *Bonnie Briar CC*
 Mark Millett, *Old Oaks CC*

Net Division

Mike Miner, *Connecticut GC*
 Todd Polidor, *Heritage Hills*
 Peter Rappoccio, *Silver Spring CC*
 Wayne Remo, *Rock Spring Club*

With a final score of 479, one shot separated the MetGCSA team from a third place finish and a prize. Central Pennsylvania claimed first place with a total of 466, while Philadelphia placed second with 467 and Long Island third with 478.

Also participating in the competition were teams from the Connecticut GCSA (482), Northeast GCSA (482), New Jersey GCSA (485), Mid-Atlantic GCSA (500), Pocono Turfgrass Association (512), and Hudson Valley GCSA (550).

Though the location for next year's event hasn't been finalized, there's talk that the Mid-Atlantic and Philadelphia chapters would like to host the event in the near future. This could mean a road trip for the Met players!

Congratulations to one and all of the championship participants.

JOHN CARLONE, CGCS
 Middle Bay Country Club



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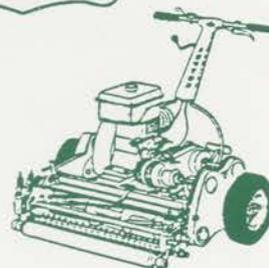
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- Rhone-Poulenc Co./CHIPCO**
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- ☆ **SAV-A-TREE**
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Jim Hespe: 203-531-7352
1081 King St., Greenwich, CT 06831
- ☆ **Stephen Kay, Golf Course Architects**
Renovation, Master Planning, New Golf Courses
495 New Rochelle Rd., Office 2B
Bronxville, NY 10708, 914-699-4437
- Steven Willand, Inc.**
Turf Equipment
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201-579-5656
- ☆ **Tee And Green Sod, Inc.**
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- ☆ **The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.**
Byron Johnson Jr.
206 Delawanna Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014
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- TBS Maintenance & Improvement**
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Skip Deubel: 800-243-7582
- ☆ **Turf Products Corp./TORO**
George Gorton, Irrigation/Al Tretera, Equipment
P.O. Box 1200, Enfield, CT 06083
800-243-4355/203-763-3581
- ☆ **Turf Products Corporation**
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- ☆ **Valley View Greenhouse**
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- ☆ **W.A. Cleary Chemical Co.**
Robert Leslie: 201-746-6734
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- ☆ **Westchester Ford Tractor Inc.**
John Apple
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914-232-7746
- ☆ **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**
Bob Lippman/Bob Lippman Jr.
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914-248-7476
- ☆ **White Contractors**
Golf Course Construction and Renovation
P.O. Box 484, Old Greenwich, CT 06870
James E. Morris Jr.: 203-637-5251/914-234-0092
- ☆ **Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.**
Dennis DeSanctis/Chris Santopietro
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