



TEE TO GREEN

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Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

An Unwritten Code Worth Writing About

Let's face it; this season has been tough. But the trouble really began last summer with record-breaking heat and water shortages. The winter continued to beat up on the turf with below-normal temperatures, above-average snowfall, and in some areas, heavy ice cover. Then came spring: Courses scrambled to recover from, in some cases, severe winter damage. And just when we thought we had our problems licked, we're hit with unrelenting heat and humidity that's allowed diseases to gain such a foothold on the turf that they're next to impossible to eradicate.

Though a good number of golf courses are in less-than-perfect condition, many—if not most—club members and officials fail to understand that much of what's going on out there has little, if anything, to do with the superintendent's ability.

I've had several golfers from other clubs play here at Westchester and tell me what horrible condition their courses are in. And my own members have said things like, "Why do we need a new irrigation system? We just played X-Y-Z course with a state-of-the-art system, and they don't look any better than us."

In both cases, I've been quick to point out some of the problems we've had here and how the weather's contributed to everyone's troubles. But just as important, I try to *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

Renovation Time!

Area Supers Offer Step-by-Step Accounts of Their Annual Overseeding Programs

Coming out of one of the most difficult growing seasons on record, many golf courses are looking to their annual renovation programs to breathe new life into their flagging turfgrass.

Though the degree of turf troubles may vary from one course to another, few Met area clubs are emerging from this season *completely* unscathed.

Their woe quotient seems to depend largely on the age and construction of the course (with push-up greens far more likely to fail under stress than newer USGA-spec'ed greens); turfgrass species (with poa annua less hardy than bentgrass); micro environment (with low-lying, tree-covered areas more prone to problems); labor, chemical, and equipment budgets; and let's face it, plain old luck of the draw.

Needless to say, annual renovation programs—particularly overseeding of greens—have taken on an all-new importance this year.

Innis Arden Superintendent Pat Lucas surveyed a geographic cross-section of superintendents to find out when and

how they execute their annual renovation programs. As they walk you through their renovation procedures, you may spot a practice you'd like to incorporate in your own program. At the least, we hope these step-by-step accounts will help you confirm—and feel confident—that your annual renovation program is on track.

 Bob Alonzi, CGCS, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY

"We overseed once a year in conjunction with aerification. Our program is nonaggressive and customized especially for Winged Foot. We begin by aerifying with a Ryan Greensaire with 5/8" tines. Next, we broadcast seed—a mix of Penncross/Penneagle and PennLinks when available—at a rate of 1/2 lb. per M. Then, we pulverize the plugs with a verticutter and apply another 1/2 lb. of seed. Next, we drag the greens and blow off the thatch. The final step is to apply either a starter or high-phosphorous fertilizer.

"As everyone *(continued on page 4)*

Also in This Issue

- ② Send Us Your Sherwood A. Moore Award Nominations
- ③ What a Picnic It Was
- ⑦ Country Club of New Canaan Tournament Winners
- ⑦ MetGCSA Two-Ball Results: Rounds One and Two

An Unwritten Code Worth Writing About

make people aware of the inherent differences between courses and how comparing one course to another is really like comparing apples to oranges, for reasons we, as superintendents, know well.

This leads me to the real point of my message. And that is that it's our duty as superintendents and Met members to support and communicate with one another and to abide by—what until now was—an unspoken code of ethics.

Both these principles were recently forgotten. I'm referring specifically to what happened to a fellow superintendent and Met member: He resigned from his job after finding out that his club, without him knowing, had been interviewing candidates for his position.

A simple phone call from one of those people "in the know" could have saved this superintendent's job—or at least better prepared him for what was coming.

In another incident, relating to this same club and circumstance, a Met member was asked to name the top assistant superintendents in the area. Though it may be flattering to be consulted on this issue, we all have to keep in mind that we have our own opinions and biases, and by offering them, we exclude many qualified and worthy candidates from being considered.

There is a fine line between what is ethical and what is not. I personally think that these recent events have crossed the line.

If approached to interview—or to suggest a candidate for hire—it's our responsibility to first ask whether the

superintendent is aware that he or she is being replaced. If not, I think you know what the ethical thing to do is.

In any case, you should suggest the club follow our industry's protocol for seeking a superintendent. They could start by contacting MetGCSA Secretary John Carlone. Our association can advertise the position through a mailing; our newly formed Club Relations Committee is available to meet with the club and guide them in establishing a selection process—ensuring, first, that the superintendent's job can't be saved; or we can recommend an impartial professional, who can aid them in conducting the search.

This season, perhaps more than any other I can remember, points to the fact that, as superintendents, our stance at our clubs frequently has more to do with club politics than with our ability to get the job done. You may, one day, find yourself in the position of the superintendent I mentioned. Would you want to be one of the last to know your job was in jeopardy?

I've said it before, but I'll say it again: Our association's reason for being is to support one another—personally and professionally. We must be willing to work together and share our problems and successes. And above all, we need to promote the highest professional standards and conduct within our profession. That means doing all we can to prevent incidents like the one I described from happening again.

JOE ALONZI, CGCS
President

Info Alert

A Call for Sherwood A. Moore Award Nominations

Now's the time to submit your nominations for the Sherwood A. Moore Award—a high honor presented on a continuing basis to a golf course superintendent who has "advanced the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent."

On the growing list of past SAM Award recipients are Sherwood Moore, Ted Horton, Bruno Vadala, Jim R. Fulwider, Bob Alonzi, and Ted Jozwick.

Please call Awards Committee Chairman Tim O'Neill, 203-656-0600, with your nominations **no later than September 1.**

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Crawford Park Picnic: Fun-and-Games for All



July 25 marked the date for the 1994 MetGCSA Picnic. Held in the past at the Woodway Beach Club, the picnic was relocated this year to Crawford Park in Rye, NY.

With the emphasis being kids, kids, kids, the Met Social & Welfare Committee, chaired by Apawamis Club Superintendent Jeff Scott, certainly succeeded in its goal.

Sponsored by Metro Milorganite and Miles, the day was highlighted by Chuckles the Clown. He entertained the children for hours with stories, tricks, sand jar designs, clay molds, animal balloons, and much, much more. Chuckles apparently enjoyed his audience as much as they enjoyed him: He stayed twice as long as his contract required!

Also included in the festivities were Barney and Rocky, two ponies that were kept busy for two solid hours. As the

kids finished a ride on one, they'd hop into the saddle of the other

A couple of zealous attendees even tried to coerce Ridgeway Superintendent Earl Millett into taking a ride, but to no avail. Lucky for those ponies!

The day offered fun-and-games for adults too. While Chuckles and the ponies occupied the little ones, some of the "big kids" took positions on the ball field for a three-inning softball game, highlighted by Siwanoy Superintendent Dave Mahoney's fine fielding, which included tagging out Dennis Petruzzelli (Lakeover National) when he tried to stretch a single into a triple.

The bad guys, led by the pitching of Old Oaks Super Mark Millett, beat the good guys, with yours truly pitching, by a score of 6 to 5.

Young J.J. Stahl made the game interesting in the last inning with a clutch run-scoring base hit but was left

stranded when his dad (Metro Milorganite) ended the game with a pop-up.

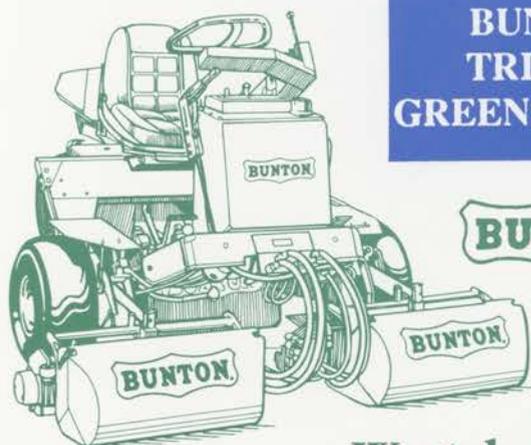
Chef Tom Kavanagh and his crew from Apawamis capped off a great day with a fine spread of food, including chicken cutlets, bratwurst, seafood salad, corn-on-the-cob, burgers, fruit salad, and cake. All were stuffed when they left for home.

The picnic was a nice break from the unrelenting pressures of this season. If there was any disappointment at all, it was the overall light turnout. Those who couldn't make it missed a fantastic time. But, hey, there's always next year.

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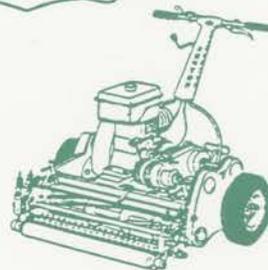
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Renovation Time!

knows, it's best to overseed mid-August for a couple of reasons. First, the existing grass is less vigorous that time of year, so your new seed has minimal competition. Second, that's before poa annua germinates, so the bentgrass—or whatever grass you're seeding in—gets a nice head start.

"All that said, at Winged Foot we're locked into renovating the first and second weeks of September so that we don't interfere with scheduled club events. Though a September program won't yield the optimum results, it's certainly better than forgoing the process altogether."



John O'Keefe, CGCS, Preakness Hills Country Club, Wayne, NJ

"We begin our week-long renovations the second week of August, which is right after our Member-Guest Tournament. We do the entire course.

"Each green is sliced and seeded two ways with a Ryan Mataway with seeder attachment. We use a combination of

PennLinks and Penncross at a rate of 1 lb. per M. At the same time, we core aerify collars and edges of the greens.

"When the seed sprouts, we spoon-feed the greens with a liquid fertilizer. I don't use any growth regulators on the greens.

"On problem greens, we slice and seed two ways and then core aerify with 1/2" tines. We then broadcast seed with a cyclone seeder and break up the plugs and return them into the holes.

"In mid-October, we core aerify all the greens. If the weather is still warm, we broadcast seed into the holes.

"We're pushing hard to create a homogeneous profile in the greens, so we follow this core aerification up with a Verti-Drain Deep Tine treatment in November, adding a dormant seeding and dormant fertilization."



Tim O'Neill, CGCS, Country Club of Darien, Darien, CT

"This year, we've put a new spin on our renovation program. In the past, we core

aerified and overseeded in September. But the cold inhibited germination, and frost affected the survival of our bentgrass seedlings. So this year, we decided to begin our program the first week in April.

"We started by aerifying our greens with a Ryan Greensaire with 1/4" solid tines. Then, we sliced the greens with a Ryan Mataway—without the seeder attachment—using 1/8" blades spaced at 1/2" and slicing at a depth of 1/2" to 3/4".

"Next, we used a cyclone to broadcast seed over the green. We put out Providence at 2 lbs. per M. We also experimented with Redi-Seed, applying it at the same rate to winter-damaged areas. The results weren't impressive, but the ground was probably too cold to give it a fair assessment.

"Next year, we'll go with the same program—minus the Redi-Seed—but delay our start until May 1 to take advantage of the warmer soil temperatures. We'll also apply 1 lb. of N in late April, before beginning our renovation work."

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 **Peter Rappoccio, CGCS, Silver Spring Country Club, Ridgefield, CT**

"We begin our renovation program the second week of September. We start by aerifying the greens, including collars, with a Ryan Greensaire with 1/2" tines. Since the plugs brought up are good material, we just verticut them. Then we add 15 lbs. per M of Sand-Aid and mat it in to fill the holes.

"Next, we overseed with Penncross at a rate of 1/2 lb. per M, using Milorganite as a carrier: one part seed to four parts Milorganite. We drag this in, apply 1/2 lb. N as a starter, and water it in.

"The program's worked well for us: We have a good bentgrass population."

 **Joe Alonzi, CGCS, Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY**

"We take an aggressive approach to overseed-

ing: We oversee whether the turf needs it or not. That's because we're working to introduce more bentgrass into our greens.

"We begin our renovation work right after Labor Day. A better scenario would be to start mid-August to ensure a good bentgrass catch before the poa germinates, but we have to work around club activities.

"We core aerify with a standard walk-behind unit with 5/8" tines. Then we verticut to break up the plugs, and we blow off the thatch.

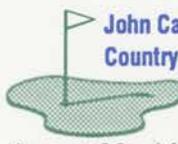
"Next, we incorporate seed into the green—we use Providence or Penn-cross, depending on availability—with walk-behind Rodgers seeders. We also use a cyclone to broadcast the seed.

"After that, we topdress, first dragging it in and then watering it in.

"Immediately following the procedure, we fertilize with 1/2 lb. of either

a starter or high-phosphorous fertilizer.

"Our greens are bumpy for a week or so after, but the good results far outweigh any inconvenience."

 **John Carlone, CGCS, Middle Bay Country Club, Oceanside, NY**

"This year, we began our renovation program August 22 with an application of TGR at the normal rate, which provides six-tenths of a pound of N.

"On September 6, we'll aerify with a Toro, using 1/2" tines. We remove the plugs. Then we topdress and broadcast Providence bentgrass at a rate of 1/2 lb. per M. Because we have a good population of bentgrass, we seed with lower rates.

"Next, we drag the material in with a brush and add 1/2 lb. of N in the form of a starter fertilizer."

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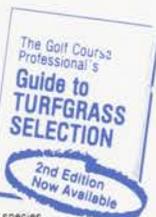
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86 Tee It Up for Individual Best Ball Tourney

The Country Club of New Canaan and Mike Reeb welcomed 86 MetGCSA members to the July 12 meeting and Individual Best Ball Tourney, treating competitors to one of the finest displays of flowers and ornamental plantings around. Emerging victorious from the playing field were:

First Flight (0-11)

Low Gross Winners

- 74 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway CC*
75 Mark Millett, *Old Oaks CC*

Low Net Winners

- 71 Mike Miner, *Connecticut GC*
72 Tony Grasso, *Metropolis CC*

Second Flight (12-18)

Low Gross Winners

- 85 Fred Scheyhing, *Mount Kisco CC*
86 Mark Fuller, *Connecticut GC*

Low Net Winners

- 71 Jim Fulwider, *Life Member*
72 Bob Alonzi, *Winged Foot GC*

Third Flight (19-25)

Low Gross Winners

- 94 Tom Fletcher, *H. Smith Richardson*
95 Scott Boyce, *Burning Tree CC*

Low Net Winners

- 75 Todd Polidor, *Heritage Hills*
79 Joe Kennedy, *Irra-Tech, Inc.*

Fourth Flight (26 and Above)

Low Gross Winners

- 102 Gina Gatto, *Fallsview Resort/Hotel*
106 Bruce Moore, *Eastern Land Mgmt.*

Low Net Winners

- 76 John Howe, *CC of New Canaan*
76 Gary Arlio, *North Jersey CC*

Closest to the Pin

- #16 Mike Cook, *Alpine, the Care of Trees*
#5 Tom Watroba, *Quaker Ridge GC*

Longest Drive

- #7 Mark Fuller, *Connecticut GC*

- ✓ Dave Arel/Joe Cotone *over* Tony Savone/Jim Fulwider
- ✓ Tim Powers/Ed Walsh *over* Jim Farrell/Greg Moore
- ✓ Rick Schock/Gregg Stanley *over* Steve Renzetti/Scott Tretera
- ✓ Mark Fuller/Frank Lamphier *over* Bob Alonzi/Joe Alonzi

Round Two

Second-round matches were played during the heat of the year. With the pressure building and "The Cup" in sight, the level of play picked up.

Advancing to the semifinals were:

- ✓ Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala, fresh from upsetting the champions, kept their form and the lead throughout the day finishing off Bob DeMarco/Gary Arlio *2 up*.
- ✓ Dave Mahoney/Dennis Petruzzelli repeated their first-round victory, beating Dave Arel/Joe Cotone *6 & 4*.
- ✓ Rick Schock/Gregg Stanley continue on the hard road. After a sudden death victory in the first round, they defeated Tim Powers/Ed Walsh *1 up*, needing a clutch eight-foot par putt by Gregg on the home hole.
- ✓ Dennis Flynn/Peter Rappoccio, with their hearts still palpitating from Scott Stark, perfected their famed ham-and-egg routine, riding Peter's hot putter to defeat the strong team of Mark Fuller/Frank Lamphier *1 up*.

Among Class C competitors, the results were:

- ✓ Al Tretera/Ernie Rizzio advanced with a forfeit by competing team Dan Cancelleri/Greg Moran.
- ✓ Bob Lippman/John Farrell defeated Tom Marmelstein/Bob Scott *3 & 2* in a preliminary match. They then ran into a buzz saw. Despite John's round of 70, they were defeated *4 & 3* by John Currie/Joe Kennedy.

Al Tretera/Ernie Rizzio will play John Currie/Joe Kennedy for the championship.

Congratulations to the winners! Semifinal matches should be wrapping up. Watch for the grand-prize winners in the next issue.

DAVE MAHONEY
Siwanoy Country Club

MetGCSA Two-Ball: Rounds One & Two

The first and second rounds of the Met Two-Ball Championship are complete. With a busy spring, our games were in no danger of peaking. Most golf swings were described as tired or as the infamous "rusty gate." That left it down to the flat stick. A hot putter was a necessity to advance.

Round One

The biggest upset was our defending champions Chuck Martineau/Fred Scheyhing falling to Scott Niven/

Larry Pakkala *2 up*.

Another notable note from the first round was that Scott Stark, playing without his injured partner Jeff Scott, had Dennis Flynn/Peter Rappoccio *2 up* on the front side before succumbing to the duo's ham-and-egg pressure.

Other first-round advances were:

- ✓ Bob DeMarco/Gary Arlio *over* Tony Baviello/Matt Ceplo
- ✓ Dave Mahoney/Dennis Petruzzelli *over* Les Kennedy/John Streeter

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Seed, Fertilizer, Control Products, Equipment
Greg Moran: 914-331-4869
800-321-5325
- ☆ **Loft's Seed, Inc.**
John Farrell
P.O. Box 146, Bound Brook, NJ 08805
908-356-8700
- ☆ **Metro Milorganite Inc.**
Rick Appgar/Scott Appgar/Joe Stahl
365 Adams St., Bedford Hills, NY 10507
914-666-3171, FAX 914-666-9183
- Montco/Surf-Side/Zap!**
Surfactants & Defoamers
Box 404, Ambler, PA 19002
Bob Oechsle: 215-836-4992, FAX 215-836-2418
- ☆ **Nassau Suffolk Turf Services, Inc.**
Frank Marra
Turf Supplies & Equipment Rentals
516-286-1052, PAGER 516-278-4766
- Nor-Am Chemical Company/Agr Evo**
David J. Sylvester
311 Carriage Dr., Kensington, CT 06037
203-828-8905
- Partac Golf Course Top-Dressing**
Kelsey Park, Great Meadows, NJ 07838
Jim Kelsey: 800-247-2326/908-637-4191
Bill & Joe Carriere: 914-937-2136
- P.I.E. Supply Company**
Artie deAtienza/Steve Smith
243 Woodmont Rd., Milford, CT 06460
203-878-0658
- Pro-Lawn Products, Inc.**
Richard Cooke
Turf & Ornamental Products
914-883-5881, FAX 914-883-5943
- ☆ **Rhone-Poulenc Co./CHIPCO**
Greg Hutch
877 Yellowbank Rd., Toms River, NJ 08753
908-929-4657
- ☆ **SAV-A-TREE**
Complete Tree & Shrub Care, Naturally
Westchester: 914-666-8202
NJ: 201-891-5379 CT: 203-661-6755
- ☆ **Sawtelle Brothers Inc.**
Jim Rock
21 E. Dudleytown Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06002
800-999-TURF
- ☆ **Shemin Nurseries Inc.**
Horticultural-Irrigation Supplies
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.**
Bruce Pye
23 Route 206, Augusta, NJ 07822
201-579-5656
- ☆ **Tee and Green Sod, Inc.**
Bentgrass, Fescue, Rye, Sod Blends, Washed Sod
P.O. Box 418, Exeter, RI 02822
David Wallace: 401-789-8177
- The Scotts Company**
Steve DiVito: 203-723-5190
111 Mallane Lane, Unit #D, P.O. Box 286
Naugatuck, CT 06770
- ☆ **The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.**
Byron Johnson Jr.
206 Delaware Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014
Office: 201-473-3393 Home: 203-748-5069
- ☆ **Tuckahoe Turf Farms, Inc.**
Bentgrass for Greens, Tees, & Fairways
Fine Fescue, Rye, Bluegrass, Washed Sod
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**
Ernie Rizzio
47 Howell Rd., P.O. Box 296
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046, 201-263-1234
- ☆ **Valley View Greenhouse**
Frank Amodio
RT 123, RR 2, Box 27, So. Salem, NY 10590
914-533-2504/914-533-2526
- ☆ **W.A. Cleary Chemical Co.**
Robert Leslie: 201-746-6734
1049 Somerset St., Somerset, NJ 08873
908-247-8000/800-524-1662
- ☆ **Westchester Ford Tractor Inc.**
John Apple/Ray Beaudry
Meadow St., Goldens Bridge, NY 10526
914-232-7746
- ☆ **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**
Bob Lippman Sr./Bob Lippman Jr.
P.O. Box 198, Lincolnale, NY 10540
Office: 914-248-7476 Mobile: 914-649-0303
- ☆ **White Contractors**
Golf Course Construction & Renovation
P.O. Box 484, Old Greenwich, CT 06870
James E. Morris Jr.: 203-869-8808/914-234-0092
- ☆ **Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.**
Dennis DeSanctis/Chris Santopietro
340 Main Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014
201-365-6801