



TEE TO GREEN



Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

The Dreaded Phone Call

And Other New-President Notes

It was a rainy Monday in late October—one of many rainy days that month, so I was out on the course scrambling to find work for my crew. When I walked into the office to check my phone messages, there on the pad by the phone was written, “Pandora Wojick called.”

I puzzled for a minute over why she'd be calling. And after considering—and then disqualifying—a number of options, I finally figured it was to discuss one of my turfgrass management practices for the *Tee to Green*.

The suspense finally ended—and the dread began—when I phoned her back. She wanted me to write my first President's Message! Yes, it was the request I probably dreaded most from the moment I knew I'd become the Met's president. Not only would I have to think of something to talk about every issue, but then I'd have to sit down and write it. And worse, it would have to be interesting.

What's more, Joe Alonzi's President's Messages are no easy act to follow. They were articulate and inspirational. He always seemed to bring out the human side of our business and help us recognize that everyone has bad days—and even makes mistakes. His humor—and candor—helped a lot of us get through those bad days.

(continued on page 2)

Special Feature

The MetGCSA Elects John J. O'Keefe Its 22nd President

I am honored to have the opportunity to represent the MetGCSA as your president. I've served on the board since 1985, working under presidents Peter Rappoccio, Pat Lucas, Scott Niven, Larry Pakkala, Tim O'Neill, and of course Joe Alonzi. Each of these individuals has had an impact on the association—and helped it to prosper and grow. I've learned a great deal from our past leaders. . . . They're lessons that, I'm sure, will serve me well in my new role as president.”

Eloquent words spoken by the 22nd president of the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association, John O'Keefe.

In his acceptance speech, our new president emphasized participation, urging everyone to get involved in the association. “This association belongs to you,” he said. “It's what *you* make of it.”

When—and Where—it All Began

Born and raised in Lenox, MA, located



John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, the MetGCSA's newly elected president.

in the Berkshire Mountains, John received an early education in—and respect for—nature. As a young adult, John did his share of fishing, hunting, scuba diving, and snow mobiling in what is one of the most picturesque parts of New England.

His appreciation for the outdoors propelled him into *(continued on page 4)*

Also in This Issue

- ③ Three Met Members Certified as Audubon Cooperative Sanctuaries
- ④ 1996 Kicks Off With Three Important Educational Events
- ⑤ Softball Competition Revisited
- ⑥ A Thank-you to Met Members
- ⑦ Superintendent/Green Chairmen Tournament Outcomes . . . Winners in MetGCSA Two-Ball Championship Finals

The Dreaded Phone Call

There. . . . I've done a few paragraphs, and it hasn't killed me yet. So I guess I'll continue.

Bulletin on the Board

On a more serious note, our new Board of Directors will consist mostly of familiar faces from the past board. New to the board is Bob DeMarco from the Powelton Club. Bob will be filling the vacancy left by Tim Moore, who most of you now know is our newly elected treasurer.

Our new Class C representative is Ray Beaudry. Currently a sales rep for Westchester Ford Tractor, Ray is a former superintendent and long-time member of the MetGCSA.

I have appointed Dave Polidor, assistant at St. Andrews Golf Club, to return as our Class B board member. Dave has been on the board one year, filling the space left by Patrick Lucas, who took the superintendent's position at Woodcrest Country Club.

Chapter Affiliation Notes

Probably the biggest issue facing the MetGCSA this year is the Chapter Affiliation Agreement with GCSAA. Our Board of Directors will be gathering as much information as possible on the proposed agreement to make a decision that will benefit all of us.

We are lucky to have Tim O'Neill (CC of Darien) representing us on this important issue at the National Conference in Orlando. Even though Tim has finished his time on the board, he has generously agreed to stay on as our

voting delegate. That means he'll be following the affiliation agreement process from beginning to end. And he will be making sure our voices are heard on this matter.

If you haven't read last issue's lead article, "The Ins and Outs of the New-and-Improved GCSAA/Chapter Affiliation Agreement," please take a moment to look it over. It will give you a good idea of what the agreement entails—and help you make an informed decision about this new direction.

It's a Wrap!

Now that I've survived my first President's Message, I can honestly say it wasn't that bad. I feel honored to represent our association and you, as its members, and I will do my very best to ensure that the Met continues to grow and prosper under my leadership. With the help of our current Board of Directors, I feel I can do just about anything.

Please don't hesitate to contact me for any reason. I would appreciate your comments, suggestions, and yes, even constructive criticisms. Remember, this is your association, and it is what YOU make it. Get involved and learn more about us. Both of us—you and the association—can only benefit from your participation.

I can be reached at Preakness Hills at 201-694-0260 or by E-Mail at WJES04B@prodigy.com. I look forward to hearing from you—and working with you as MetGCSA president.

JOHN J. O'KEEFE, CGCS
President



Happy Holidays to One and All!

*Our very best wishes for a happy and healthy
New Year!*

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*TEE TO GREEN is published eight times a year by
the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523-2819
914-347-4653, FAX: 914-347-3437
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Three Met Area Courses Earn Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Status

Special congratulations to three Met members who have guided their courses in achieving Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary status.

Larry Pakkala of Woodway Country Club in Darien, CT, was certified the end of 1994, which made him the first in the Met area to meet the rigorous standards set by the Audubon Society's Cooperative Sanctuary Program. Larry has continued to adhere to the program's tenets and is now in the process of applying for recertification.

Second in the area to become certified—in the summer of '95—is **Phil Anderson** of Old Westbury Golf & Country Club in Old Westbury, NY. Newly certified in November is **Greg Wojick** of the Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich, CT.

Greg, Phil, and Larry are among the very few in the Northeast to earn this admirable status, demonstrating their concern for the environment and commitment to the protection of natural resources. Let's give them all a round of applause.

New Members

Christopher Alonzi, Class B, Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY

Robert E. Brown, Class C, Sawtelle Brothers Inc., Lawrence, MA

David Brownell Jr., Class C, Sawtelle Brothers Inc., Lawrence, MA

William Buchanan, Class C, Wm. Buchanan & Associates, Ramsey, NJ

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Blake Halderman, Class B, Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT

Vincent Pavonetti, Class B, Willow Ridge Country Club, Harrison, NY

Scott Ramsey, Class AS, Tower Ridge Country Club, Avon, CT

William Salinetti, Class B, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY

Michael J. Sullivan, Class A, E. Gaynor Brennan Golf Course, Stamford, CT

Jeff Townley, Class B, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY

Jeffrey Weld, Class C, Bayer Corp., Vineland, NJ

Jason Wistrand, Class B, Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY

Get Well Wishes

We would like to send get well wishes to:

✓ Rutgers University Professor Emeritus **Dr. Ralph Engel**. Dr. Engel is an honorary Met member and winner of our 1989 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

✓ **Bob Nielsen's** (Bedford Golf & Tennis Club superintendent's) oldest son, Bobby III, who is recovering from recent surgery.

In Memoriam

It is with great regret that we announce the death of two MetGCSA members:

✓ **John Corsi**, a longtime foreman/assistant superintendent at Winged Foot Golf Club and the Met's only Life B member.

✓ **Alexander Radko**, who was a long-tenured USGA agronomist and honorary member of the MetGCSA. Al Radko was the Met's 1987 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

Birth

Long overdue congratulations to Wollaston Golf Club Superintendent **Dave Dwinell** and his wife, Leslie, on the birth of their daughter, Haley Rebecca, on February 18.

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The MetGCSA Elects John J. O'Keefe Its 22nd President

an "outside" career. As a teenager, he worked for a landscaper, and after gaining a good deal of experience in turf maintenance, he became superintendent of a large luxury condominium complex.

But golf courses were what intrigued him most. "Once I began to play golf, I was not only impressed by the beauty of golf courses, but also interested in the maintenance practices and requirements."

John followed his instincts and pursued formal training in turfgrass management at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. He completed his placement training in 1978 at Longshore Club Park in Westport, CT, and after receiving his Associate in Science in Turf Management in 1979, he was offered the assistant superintendent's job at Longshore. He stayed there until 1981, when he landed his first superintendent's job at Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains, NY.

John put his knowledge to the test

there for five years and then took over his current position at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, NJ, where he became a certified golf course superintendent in 1987.

While most golf course superintendents praise a former school professor or boss for their success, John gives credit to his wife of 16 years, Margaret. "She's always inspired me to get involved and pursue my career goals," says John, who goes on to say that high on his list of priorities is to provide his family with a quality lifestyle. "That includes seeing that our children get the best education Margaret and I can possibly provide," adds John.

Practicing What He Preaches

When it comes to involvement, John has always practiced what he preaches. While a student at Stockbridge, he was active in the Lear Honor Society. Then, about the time John started his schooling in 1978, he became a member of GCSAA. In 1981, John

also joined the Met, becoming a member of the board in 1985. Since then, he's chaired numerous Met committees, including Bylaws, Membership, Public Relations, and Scholarship & Research. His first year on the board, he also co-chaired the Communications Committee that governs the *Tee to Green*, managing the publication's advertising.

Most recently, of course, John was the Met's secretary and then vice president. And as if all that's not enough, John has served on the board of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation for the past three years. And he's been a member of the New Jersey GCSA since 1986 and the New Jersey Turfgrass Association since 1990.

For the past four years, John has also found time to teach an Introduction to Turfgrass Management course at Rutgers University. And amazingly, he's managed to squeeze in several extracurricular activities outside the golf course industry: His two daughters—Adrienne, 12, and Maureen, 10—keep him busy with their Girl Scout activities and soccer teams, which he coaches. And he's involved with the Knights of Columbus for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Wayne.

Looking Ahead

As John prepares for his turn at continuing the advancement of this sound association, he notes a few of the first issues he'll be tackling: "We will be focusing this year on the chapter affiliation agreement with GCSAA, and we'll also be evaluating our annual fall Field Day, perhaps making some changes that will add to local attendance and popularity with our members.

"When my predecessors took office," he continues, "they all had one goal in common: to leave the association a little better than when they took office. This, too, is my goal," promises John. "Please know that I am always available to you—for questions and comments of any kind. Communication, after all, is the name of the game."

SCOTT C. APGAR
Metro Milorganite, Inc.

Upcoming Events

Educational Events

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 10, 1996
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

This annual educational event will feature a number of job-enhancing topics, starting with a presentation from Rutgers' Dr. James Murphy on the pros and cons of various turfgrass cultivation techniques and concluding with a talk by Richard Weir III of the Cornell Cooperative Extension for Nassau County on low-maintenance, disease-resistant trees with ornamental value.

Other valuable sessions by industry experts: the ins and outs of golf course restoration and renovation, how physical and chemical conditions in soils affect turf health and welfare, an update on the USGA's Environmental Research Program.

For further information, call Will Heintz at 914-698-6131.

Massachusetts Turfgrass Conference & Trade Show

Monday - Wednesday, January 15 - 17, 1996
Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA

This 65th annual conference will feature three days of seminars on a wide range of topics—everything from a discussion of the role of the superintendent to managing greens under stress and microbial inoculants for disease management. On the second and third days, attendees will also have the opportunity to visit the trade show.

For further information, contact Denise Ruzsala, 413-562-0120.

GCSAA's 67th International Golf Course Conference and Show

Monday - Saturday, February 5 - 11, 1996
Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, FL
It's not too late to plan on joining fellow professionals at the educational event of the year!

For further information, call GCSAA at 800-472-7878.

Long Island GCSA Takes the Met in Inaugural Softball Competition

Bragging rights to Long Island—and deservedly so. The Long Island superintendents thoroughly annihilated the MetGCSA 26 – 10 in the first MetGCSA/Long Island Softball Competition held this past October.

Long Island, led by game MVP Phil Anderson of Old Westbury Golf & Country Club—who some may think dabbles in steroids after watching his monstrous home runs—jumped out to an early 13 – 0 lead before the Met team could muster its first run.

Harry Bahrenburg of Huntington Crescent Club led all players with six base hits, scoring five times and driving in five runs.

Highlights for the Met were far and few between, but St. Andrews' Assistant Dave Polidor *did* make some outstanding defensive plays in center field, preventing the score from being even more embarrassing.

Elmwood Superintendent Scott Tretera led the Met team with three RBIs and tied the young Polidor for

most team hits, with three in all.

Also on the Met team were Dave Mahoney of Siwanoy, Scott Apgar of Metro Milorganite, John Russer of St. Andrews, Tom Leahy of Sleepy Hollow, and Jeff Weld of the Bayer Corporation.

Heritage Hills Super Todd Polidor and Metro Milorganite's Joe Stahl were on KP duty, rustling up some grub for the hungry and thirsty players.

One grace-saving note for the Met team: After a beverage break—and falling behind 20 to 1—the Met players went on to outscore Long Island 9 to 6 the rest of the game. (Not enough, unfortunately, to overtake the competition.)

The day was sponsored by Jeff Weld and the Bayer Corporation along with Metro Milorganite, Inc. All participants received a softball jersey, sporting their association's logo on the sleeve, and everyone had plenty to eat and drink.

As Harry Bahrenburg put it: "It was a good way to vent all those built up

frustrations after a long, tough season on the golf course. It's also a nice way of meeting other golf course professionals and sharing thoughts and ideas."

Though, as Dave Mahoney points out, the "turnout could have been a little stronger—especially with a 4 p.m. start time," all who joined the competition had a good time.

Other associations are encouraged to put together their own teams. Rumor has it that the New Jersey GCSA has already begun to build one!

But at the very least, we hope more Met members will join us to form a stronger team—and give Long Island a run for their money.

If other manufacturers and distributors were to get involved, we might even be able to turn this event into a fund raiser!

Watch for the notice next spring, and prepare to come take a swing at the *BIG* white ball.

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Dear MetGCSA Members:

On behalf of the Balocca family, I would like to thank you all for your support and encouragement during the preparation of the "Kevin Balocca Recovery Fund" outing.

I could never have imagined the number of thoughtful notes and the generous donations that have been collected. I am proud to be associated with a group of professionals who, time after time, rally to support and encourage one of their own.

Donations and letters of support are graciously appreciated and should be sent to:

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Gratefully,

PATRICK SISK, *Superintendent*
Country Club of Fairfield

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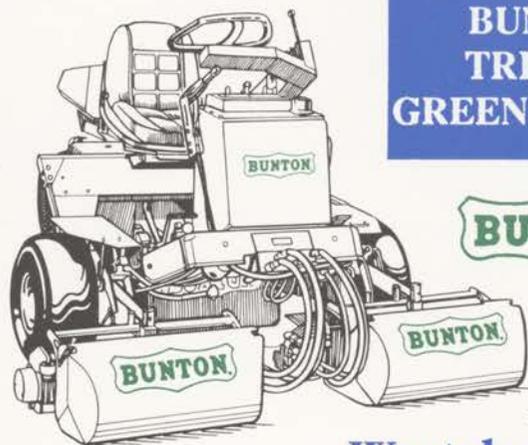
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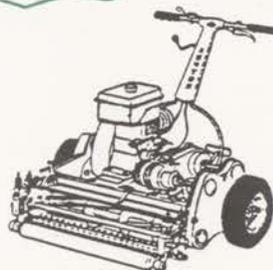
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Burning Tree Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney Outcomes

Bill Perlee was our host at Burning Tree for the October 10 Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney. More than 20 green chairmen were able to see the challenges of surviving the '95 drought with limited water supplies. Bill and the Burning Tree membership had to make the difficult decision to stop irrigating fairways to save water for their greens and tees. This tough call *did* ensure great greens throughout the season and demonstrated just how durable bentgrass really is. Says Bill: "It turned out to be a great way to chase away the poa and increase the bent." As of this writing, Bill's fairways are almost solid bent.

Congratulations to Bill and Burning Tree for surviving the drought of '95—and to the golfers who managed to post winning scores on this very challenging playing field. Twenty-one green chairmen/superintendent teams—92 golfers total—competed in the Two-Man Best Ball. Here's the outcome:

Low Gross Winners

- 70 Ernie Steinhofer/Ms. Bittner
The Nevele Hotel & CC
- 76 Les Kennedy/Mr. Finkenzeller
CC of Waterbury
- 77 Scott Niven/Mr. Sanders
The Stanwich Club

Low Net Winners

- 60 Todd Polidor/Mr. Currie
Heritage Hills of Westchester
- 65 Bob Alonzi/Mr. Gagliardi
Winged Foot GC
- 66 Rick Schock/Mr. Milne
Wee Burn CC

In the Two-Ball event run for the rest of the field, the winners were:

Gross Team

- 73 Tim Garceau/Kevin Lapp
The Tuxedo Club

Net Team

- 63 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway CC*
Mike Miner, *Montammy GC*
- 65 Scott Apgar, *Metro Milorganite*
Tom Leahy, *Sleepy Hollow CC*

Longest Drive

Mr. D. Milne, *Green Chairman,*
Wee Burn CC

Ernie Steinhofer, *Superintendent*
The Nevele Hotel & CC

DAVE MAHONEY
Siwanoy Country Club

Closest to the Pin

Mr. T. Crolius, *Green Chairman,*
Woodway CC

Pat Dawson, *Assistant Superintendent,*
Rolling Hills CC

McNally/Remo Prevail in Met Two-Ball Championship

Jim McNally of Greenrock Corporation and Wayne Remo of Rock Spring Club defeated Dennis Petruzzelli of Lakeover National Golf Club and Dave Mahoney of Siwanoy Country Club—two up to capture the Third Annual MetGCSA Two-Ball Championship.

The site was Blue Hill Golf Club in Pearl River, NY. The conditions were cold, wet, and windy; yet the day was

perfect for good golf.

Among the players, there were seven birdies and an eagle. The eagle was holed on a fly by Wayne Remo moments after Dave Mahoney hit the flagstick on the fly from the same spot—95 yards out in the fairway.

McNally/Remo worked an alternate hole effort while Mahoney/Petruzzelli had a front nine, back nine system. After Mahoney shot a 38 on the front

side, they still were three down to the excellent team play of Remo/McNally. When Wayne didn't birdie or eagle, Jim had a solid par or bogey. (Bogey is otherwise known as a four for three.)

Dennis picked up the pace on the back side with a birdie at 10 and a long putt for par at 11. Wayne won 12 with a par; Dave got it back with a birdie at 13 and finally back to even with a par at 14. With darkness and the temperature falling, the match was all even.

The 15th hole at Blue Hill is its most difficult: a 445 Par 4 with water to the right off the tee and a blind approach that must be threaded through the trees. Three out of four drives found the water; everyone found the trees, and we all knew first in wins. Jim finished with a six to put his team one up.

Dennis and Jim halved 16 and 17. On the back of the 17th green, facing defeat, Dennis drained a 30-foot putt to take it to 18. When the pressure was on, Jim bumped his trusty four wood three times, chipped up, and two-putted for a bogey, giving the McNally/Remo team the championship.

Being fortunate enough to be a competitor in this final match, I never had so much fun going down in defeat. The golf and championship was great. Congratulations to Jim and Wayne—and to everyone who participated.

Miner/Welch Dominate Consolation Bracket

Mike Miner of Montammy Golf Club and Bobby Welch of Rock Ridge Country Club defeated Salem Golf Club's Bob Bruce and Waccabuc Country Club's Ed Binsse—four and three in the finals of the Consolation Bracket. The victory proved to be their easiest in the path to the finals. Two sudden-death matches in the quarter- and semi-finals kept this near at the cusp of elimination.

Thanks to Stanwich's Scott Niven and Woodway's Larry Pakkala for spawning this event. Next year, we will, perhaps, have a 32-team field or again through qualifying championship and consolation. There is an official challenge to Jim McNally and Wayne Remo from Mike and Bobby. Jim and Wayne, the ball is in your court. — DM

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Turf Maintenance Equipment
800-527-3898, 203-443-3530
- ☆ **Fleet Pump & Service Group**
Donald Tiedemann
100 Calvert St., Harrison, NY 10528
914-835-3801
- ☆ **Glenmore Landscape Service**
Glenn S. Moore
98 Hackgreen Rd., Pound Ridge, NY 10576
914-764-4348
- ☆ **Grass Roots Turf Products Inc.**
Ken Kubik
P.O. Box 336, Mt. Freedom, NJ 07970
201-361-5943
- ☆ **Greenacres Company**
Irrigation Contractor
266 Newtown Tpke., Redding, CT 06896
Dave Pijnenburg: 203-938-8618
- ☆ **Hawthorne Bros. Tree Service Inc.**
John Hawthorne/Charles Siemers
5 Center St., Bedford Hills, NY 10507
800-235-7035
- James Barrett Associates, Inc.**
Golf Course Irrigation Design & Consulting
Jim Barrett: 201-744-8237
Montclair, NJ
- ☆ **James Carriere & Sons, Inc.**
Bill and Joe Carriere
7 Cottage St., Port Chester, NY 10573
914-937-2136
- ☆ **LESCO, Inc.**
Seed, Fertilizer, Control Products, Equipment
Greg Moran: 914-331-4869
800-321-5325
- ☆ **Loft's International Golf Development Division**
John Farrell
2202 Hangar Rd., Ste. 170, Allentown, PA 18103
201-267-8358
- ☆ **Metro Milorganite Inc.**
Rick Appar/Scott Appar/Joel Stahl
365 Adams St., Bedford Hills, NY 10507
914-666-3171, FAX 914-666-9183
- ☆ **Mid Westchester Landscaping, Inc.**
Greg Porteus: 914-739-5800
Excavation, Blacktop, Hydroseeding,
Wet Well Installations
- 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
- 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
- ☆ **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**
Thomas Marino
360 Adams St., Bedford Hills, NY 10507
914-666-8202
- ☆ **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
Owen Regan/David Wallace: 401-789-8177
- ☆ **The Cardinals, Inc.**
John E. Callahan
166 River Rd., Unionville, CT 06085
203-673-3699
- ☆ **The Scotts Company**
Steve DiVito: 203-723-5190
Tom Marmelstein: 516-679-1961
- ☆ **The Terre Company of NJ, Inc.**
Byron Johnson Jr.
206 Delawanna Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014
Office: 201-473-3393 Home: 203-748-5069
- ☆ **TurfNet Associates, Inc.**
Peter L. McCormick
21 Brandywine Rd., Skillman, NJ 08558
800-314-7929, FAX 908-359-3389
- ☆ **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 Wholesale Greenhouse**
Frank Amodio
229 Smithridge Rd., So. Salem, NY 10590
914-533-2526, FAX 914-533-2050
- ☆ **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, Lincolndale, NY 10540
Office: 914-248-7476 Mobile: 914-649-0303
- ☆ **White Contractors**
Golf Course Construction & Renovation
P.O. Box 484, Old Greenwich, CT 06870-0484
James E. Morris Jr.: 203-869-8808/914-234-0092
- ☆ **Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.**
Dennis DeSanctis/Chris Santopietro
Rt. 17 & Terminal Rd., Lyndhurst, NJ 07071
201-804-1000