

TEE TO GREEN



Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Having Snow Much Fun

Tips for Making the Most of Winter

The winter started off with a bang—or at least a heck of a lot of snow. But as I'm looking out my office window—and writing this message—I see what's left of the latest snow storm slowly diminishing. Let's hope it takes with it the cabin fever, flaring tempers around the shop, and most important, my winter weight, which I admit is at an all-time high.

Let's also hope that this generous helping of white stuff from above—and I'll bet there's still more to come—will turn out to be a poor man's fertilizer and not a roaring river this spring.

Worthwhile Winter Activities

On a more positive note, there's a lot more we can do with our free time than fret over all those stalled winter projects. This is a great time, in fact, to reflect on the past season—admittedly a tough one—and review our accomplishments and, yes, any areas for improvement, whether they're related to our technical or managerial/interpersonal skills.

One thing our business is great for is fresh starts. Even in the mildest of winters, we have a chance to catch our breath and regroup before launching into an intense work period. If we use our "downtime" productively, we can all develop into better superintendents.

Here are a few suggestions that come to mind: *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

Building a Golf Course From the Ground Up

Hudson National Golf Course Superintendent Gregg Stanley, CGCS, Offers an Inside Look at New Golf Course Construction—From Permitting to Grow-in

These days, you'll be hard-pressed to find a superintendent in the Met area who isn't—or never plans to be—involved in some sort of golf course restoration work. Few, however, have had the ultimate experience—and challenge—of working with an architect to transform an untouched piece of property into a finely manicured playing field.

Here, Golf Course Superintendent Gregg Stanley takes us step-by-step through the making of what promises to be one of the finest golf courses in the area—if not the country: Hudson National Golf Club in Croton-on-Hudson, NY. A Tom Fazio design, the course is slated to open its doors in late May or early June of this year.

We hope you'll find Gregg's account more than just interesting reading, but also useful fodder for your own course's renovation efforts—no matter how small.

A Site Beyond Compare

The site of this nearly 260-acre golf club has at least two distinguishing features: stunning views and historical interest.

During the late 1920s and early 1930s, the Hession Hills Country Club occupied a portion of the site. But by the time construction began for Hudson National, the property was so heavily forested and vine covered that there was no trace of the former golf course. What did remain, however, was a massive stone foundation, the only sign of a building that housed Hession Soldiers (paid British soldiers) during the Revolutionary War. This structure—located on a portion of the property that offers unprecedented views of the Hudson River—was also Hession Hills' clubhouse until a fire in the early 1930s destroyed all but the existing foundation.

The ruins have been cleaned up and restored. Tom Fazio also managed to incorporate two golf *(continued on page 4)*

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Having Snow Much Fun

- **Do the legwork required to get a new program off the ground.** Maybe it's something you've thought of trying but never seemed to have the time to think through and thoroughly plan. The winter is a great time for project planning, of any kind.

- **Join one the MetGCSA's committees.** Our committees can always use another warm body, and much of their work is done this time of year, when it's most convenient to get involved. Any help you could offer would be a great help to our association—an organization that's always there to support you.

What's more, getting together regularly with your peers is a great way to share information and ideas—and to form new and lasting friendships.

A committee listing is located in our directory. Contact one of the chairmen, who you'll also find listed in this issue of *Tee to Green*. I know they'll welcome your interest.

- **Write an article.** You don't have to be part of the *Tee to Green* committee to contribute. Our publication is always looking for articles of interest. If I can write this, you can certainly give it a try.

- **Get on-line with MetByte.** That's our association's very own electronic bulletin board system (BBS). Winter is the time to equip your office with the necessary technology—primarily a computer and modem—and yourself with the know-how to navigate the BBS. MetByte offers a quick-and-easy way to essentially pick the brains of your peers. Area supers have used MetByte to hash out everything from turf-related problems to the latest and

greatest in turf management techniques. But involvement is key to MetByte's usefulness—and survival. The more people who participate, the more valuable the information exchange can be.

If you'd like help getting up-to-speed and on-line, call our gracious system operator and Siwanoy Country Club Super Dave Mahoney at 914-961-8698. The MetByte number, which is also in your directory, is 914-337-3459.

- **Beef up your managerial and technical knowledge.** Participate in our association-sponsored seminars, such as our recent Winter Seminar and the "Environmental Considerations in Golf Course Management" seminar held in December. And attend at least a few of the many area turfgrass conferences. Most critical, of course, is the annual GCSAA International Golf Course Conference and Show. I don't have to tell you how all these functions help us stay on top of industry trends and innovations and offer another important opportunity to communicate with and learn from our peers. There's little excuse for not attending: This time of year, "No time" and "Too busy" just don't seem to hold water.

- **Get away while the getting's good** Let's face it. This time of year, time away from the job is time well spent. A vacation is sometimes the only way to recharge and approach the new season ahead with enthusiasm and vigor. So if you haven't already, plan your getaway—while the getting's good!

JOHN J. O'KEEFE, CGCS
President

Upcoming Events

Meeting Reminder!

MetGCSA Business Meeting
Thursday, March 14
Ridgeway Country Club
White Plains, NY
Host Superintendent: Earl Millett

Special Event

1st Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Classic
Monday, May 15
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club, Far Hills, NJ
Cost: \$250/person to support turfgrass research & education at Cook College and Rutgers University. For further info, call Bea Devine at the New Jersey Turfgrass Foundation, 908-821-7134.

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1996 Committee Chairmen at Your Service

This is your guide to the MetGCSA's committee chairmen. They're here to serve the association—and you—so please feel free to contact any one of them with questions or comments. We've provided their numbers, below, for your convenience.

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914-967-6000, ext. 360

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914-967-6000, ext. 360

Tournament

- Bob DeMarco, *Powelton Club*
914-561-2360

Who's Who on the MetGCSA Board



Front Row, left to right: Vice President Earl Millett, Treasurer Tim Moore, President John O'Keefe, Secretary John Carlone. Back Row, left to right: Director Dave Polidor, Director Bob DeMarco, Director Dennis Petruzzelli, Director Ray Beaudry, Director Dave Mahoney, Director Will Heintz, Director Matt Ceplo, Director Tony Grasso.

- March 14** **Ridgeway CC**
White Plains, NY
Business Meeting
Earl Millett
- April 15** **Siwanoy CC**
Bronxville, NY
Two-Ball Qualifier
Dave Mahoney
- May 23** **Silver Spring CC**
Ridgeway, CT
Superintendent/Manager
Tournament
Peter Rappoccio, CGCS
- May 28** **Winged Foot GC**
Mamaroneck, NY
Invitational Tournament
Bob Alonzi, CGCS
- July 8** **The Tuxedo Club**
Tuxedo Park, NY
Met Area Team Champ
Qualifier, First Round
Tim Garceau
- August ??** **Old Oaks CC**
Purchase, NY
Poa Annual Golf Tourney
Mark Millett
- October 7** **Pine Hollow CC**
East Norwich, NY
Met Area Team Champ
Qualifier, Final Round
Gerry Kunkel
- Oct 24** **Old Westbury Golf & CC**
Old Westbury, NY
Superintendent/Green
Chairman Tournament
Phil Anderson
- Nov ??** **Powelton Club**
Newburgh, NY
Annual Meeting
Bob DeMarco

Chairman Seeking Committee Members

Anyone interested in serving on the Social and Welfare Committee should contact Joe Alonzi at 914-967-6000, ext. 360. The committee is responsible for member support and welfare, as well as for planning the association's social events, such as the Family Picnic, Summer Social, and Christmas Party.

Building a Golf Course From the Ground Up

holes and the club's driving range into this historic landmark. The clubhouse, offering equally stunning views of the Hudson River, will be located on the westernmost portion of the property in a picturesque stone mansion. Renovations will be completed before the 1996 holiday season.

A Bird's-eye View of the Construction

Long before construction could begin, Hudson National had to get the go-ahead from the town. So difficult was this process that, several years before, another company had failed to acquire the necessary permits and was forced to abandon the project—and the design that world-class golf course architect Robert Trent Jones had created for them—before a shovel ever went into the ground.

Hudson National began, in 1992, by hiring the Turf Science Group out of North Carolina to conduct the necessary environmental studies and contracted with Tom Fazio to create a golf course design that, eventually, won the permits required to build on this historic site. Land clearing at Hudson National began in October 1994.

Fortunately, the winter of 1994-1995 was mild, allowing a considerable amount of progress to be made. All storm-water drainage was installed, including about 20 mitigation basins, designed short-term to guard against erosion during construction and long-term to filter runoff before leaving the property.

At the same time, 100,000 cubic yards of rock and ledge were blasted in an effort to tame the very severe site. And under the guidance of "Team Fazio," initial shaping was also started, with most of the green and tee pads bulked into place and the 75 bunkers roughed in before winter's end.

As spring of '95 approached, irrigation work began. A Toro Network 8000 system was installed, with 45 satellites and 1300 sprinkler heads. The pumphouse was equipped with a Plantstar fertigation system.

In May, prepwork for green and tee subgrades began. There are no set

plans for putting greens on a Fazio golf course. They evolve in the field with the help of owners, shapers, course personnel, and most important, Mr. Fazio. All putting green subgrades were lasered on 10-foot grids, with Mr. Fazio, himself, ensuring that slopes did not exceed 3 percent in either direction in "pinn-able" areas.

June through September, the final shaping and drainage work was completed on the bunkers. And tees and greens were seeded from July 20 through September 5. Three putting greens built after September 10 were sodded with washed sod. To create a 4-inch gravel layer on greens and a 2-inch gravel layer on tees, 4,000 tons of pea gravel were trucked in from the Morie Company. The gravel was then covered with an 85-15 topmix. It took 15,000 tons of the topmix to create a 12-inch layer on greens and a 6-inch

layer on tees.

The original specs called for all roughs to be sodded—primarily because the town wanted to assure rapid stabilization of the severe site. Tee and Green Sod started grassing in mid-July. They installed 80 acres (3,500,000 square feet) of bluegrass/fine fescue sod in the roughs and 12 acres (500,000 square feet) of bentgrass on about half of the fairways. The bentgrass sod wasn't part of the original plan, but the sodding process was going so well that the ownership felt it was cost effective to sod many of the more severe fairways. They also did this to enable us to open the course sooner than the original target date of September 1996.

Construction of our maintenance facility began in September. The building is about 10,000 square feet and is heated throughout. We moved into the building the week of February 12.

A Sneak Peak at Two Other Courses Soon to Open in the Area

The Country Club of Purchase Purchase, NY

Superintendent: Robert Miller

The only Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course in the Northeast, this 6,876-yard, 18-hole championship course covers approximately 192 acres. The Metropolitan Golf Association gave The Country Club of Purchase a temporary rating of 73.5 from the back tees and a slope of 136.

The course takes full advantage of the natural beauty of the site, characterized by a gently sloping topography and an abundance of mature oak, maple, birch, and beech trees. Challenging and enjoyable for golfers of all skill levels, the course will be open to play in June.

Says Masahiko Kasuga, president of Hickory Pine Associates Limited Partnership, which owns the course: "By masterfully combining state-of-the-art golf course design with sound environmental planning, Jack Nicklaus has

created a golf course that will surely rank among the top in the nation."

Anglebrook Golf Club Somers, NY

Superintendent: Louis Quick

This 18-hole, 7,190-yard, par 72 championship course is set on 240 picturesque acres. Designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr., Anglebrook makes the most of the gentle rolling hills, wooded terrain, and wetlands to provide a fair but challenging layout.

While several holes are gentle dog-legs with minimal bunkering, others will require forced carries over protected wetlands. The course will have Southshore/Pennlinks tees and fairways and a Southshore/Cato mix on the greens. A fine fescue/bluegrass mix will cover the roughs. Anglebrook will be undergoing final construction and grow-in during 1996, with a grand opening planned for the fall of 1997.

Grow-in Challenges

I was very fortunate to have three outstanding assistants on board quite early. Each assistant was in charge of a different aspect of the construction and grow-in.

Steve Fritsch worked closely with the irrigation system, ensuring that all our newly laid sod survived this past summer's unrelenting heat. Al Wilson worked with the shaping crew on green and tee construction, as well as grow-in. And Chris Smith spent a great deal of time working with the Fazio group on building the bunkers.

It's been—and continues to be—a great learning experience for all of us. I can't thank these gentlemen enough for their hard work and dedication to the project—and Hudson National for allowing me to bring them on board.

Among the remaining work we have to complete before opening day is to install sand in the bunkers, prune trees

on all the holes, and revegetate the mitigation basins. I'll have a crew of 20 to help with these and the standard in-season maintenance rigors, which will include cutting greens, tees, collars, and approaches by hand; using triplex greensmowers to groom fairways and lightweight riding rotaries to cut roughs; and raking traps by hand. During the winter, I'll keep a crew of six or seven.

When All Is Said and Done

Though it will undoubtedly take a few years for the construction scars to fade, the finished product is an exciting one. The 140-acre course will play to just under 7,000 yards and a par 71. The Fazio group worked hard at making the course look difficult but play fairly. The bunkering is beautifully sculpted but will invoke a fair degree of penalty. Clearing limits were wide, and fairway landing areas are generous.

Beyond the playability, the Fazio team strived to make the course look like it's been there for many years. It has a formal, classic look, and vistas that are breathtaking. (The British knew what they were doing when they built their fortress here.)

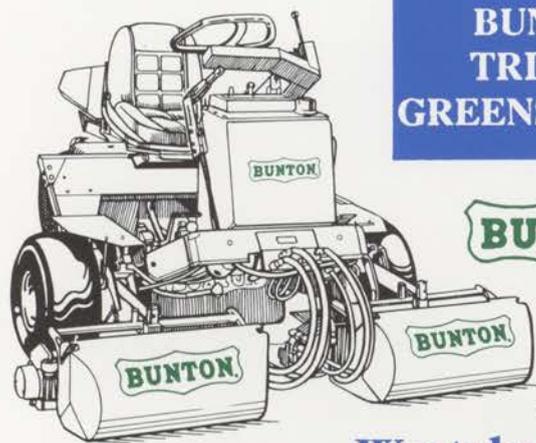
During the summer, golfers will be able to see the Hudson River from almost half the holes and the driving range. What's more, this may well be the only spot in Westchester County where you can catch a glimpse of both Bear Mountain and the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Clearly the most challenging assignment in my short career, I'd be hardpressed to match this experience. The property is dynamic; the design team is arguably the best in the business; and the ownership has great vision and knowledge of the golf business.

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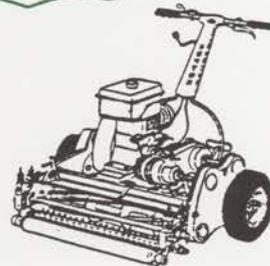
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While the damaging effects of low winter temperatures are tough to eliminate entirely, there *are* maintenance practices that may increase the potential for injury and should be avoided.

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- Excessive Nitrogen
- Late fall Nitrogen applications during the hardening period
- Potassium deficiency
- Excessive late fall irrigation that raises crown hydration levels
- Excessive thatch accumulation that elevates crowns and lateral stems above the protective soil zone
- Close mowing

Adapted from the Connecticut Clippings article, "Turf Clippings," which appeared in the January 1996 issue.

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Eighteen Prize-Winning Tickets in Scholarship Raffle

The 1995 Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 2 Metropolis Country Club Christmas party, raised \$6,000 for the MetGCSA's Scholarship Fund and, in addition, awarded \$4,500 in cash prizes to 18 lucky ticket holders.

Many thanks to all who contributed, and congratulations to \$1,000-grand-prize-winner **Mrs. John Richichi** whose husband most know from Dar Par Sales.

The other prize-winning raffle participants were:

- Larry Grasso**, Lake Isle Park, \$500
- Tim and Jennifer O'Neill**, Country Club of Darien, \$500
- Table #7**, \$500
- Barbara McKenna**, wife of Jay McKenna of Grass Roots, Inc., \$250
- Peter Rappoccio**, Silver Spring Country Club, \$250
- Lyman Lambert**, Nassau Country Club, \$250

- Leslie Carlone**, wife of Middle Bay Country Club Superintendent John Carlone, \$250
- Tony Grasso Sr.**, Life C member, \$100
- Mike Miner**, Montammy Golf Club, \$100
- Gene Evans**, Blue Ridge Peat Farms, \$100
- Terry Mulligan**, Silver Spring Country Club, \$100
- Barney Misiura**, Westchester Country Club, \$100
- Les Kennedy**, Country Club of Waterbury, \$100
- Emily, David, & Daniel Carlone**, children of Middle Bay Country Club Superintendent John Carlone, \$100
- Nicholas Lerner**, Lakeover National Country Club, \$100
- B. Hauptfubrer**, Siwanoy Country Club member, \$100
- Mike Cook**, Alpine, the Care of Trees, \$100

New Members

- Robert Alonzi Jr.**, Class B, Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, NY
- Harold Bahrenburg**, Class A, Huntington Crescent Club, Huntington, NY
- Jay Collins**, Class B, Wee Burn Country Club, Darien, CT
- Scott Imbro**, Class B, Mahopac Golf Course, Mahopac, NY
- Jeffrey Rogers**, Class C, Robert Baker Companies, West Suffield, CT
- Thomas Walsh**, Class B, Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT

Members on the Move

- Steven Colangeli** is the new superintendent at Aspectuck Valley Country Club, Weston, CT. Previous position: Assistant superintendent, Country Club of Darien, Darien, CT
- Stu Sharples** is the new superintendent at Blue Hill Golf Course, Pearl River, NY. Previous position: Superintendent at IBM Country Club, Poughkeepsie, NY.

High Honors

Special congratulations to associate Met member **Dan Rackliffe**, superintendent at Longshore Club Park in Westport, CT.

Dan is GCSAA's 1996 Leo Feser Award winner. A high honor, this annual award recognizes the author of the best superintendent-written article published in the association's monthly magazine, *Golf Course Management (GCM)*. GCSAA's Publications/Technical Resource Advisory Committee selects the article that it believes best serves the interests of golf course superintendents and the golf community.

Published in GCM's April issue, Dan's article, "A Long Time Coming," describes his struggle to replace the 19th-century maintenance "barn" with a new facility built with worker safety and the environment in mind.

Dan's article offers valuable advice for other superintendents facing similar projects. "In fact," he writes, "this project has been one of the most rewarding I have ever completed in my career as a golf course superintendent."

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- ☆ **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 Inc.**
Ken Kubik
Jay McKenna
201-361-5943
- ☆ **Greenacres Company**
Dave Pijnenburg
Irrigation Contractor
203-748-0558
- James Barrett Associates, Inc.**
Jim Barrett
P.O. Box 853, Montclair, NJ 07042
201-744-8237
- ☆ **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
- Long Island Compost Corp.**
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Greened Compost, Blackgold Divot Mix, Topsoil
516-878-0652
- ☆ **Metro Milorganite Inc.**
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Bob Oechsle/Tom Hunter
Box 404, Ambler, PA 19002
800-401-0411
- ☆ **Partac Golf Course Top-Dressing**
Kelsey Park, Great Meadows, NJ 07838
Jim Kelsey: 800-247-2326/908-637-4191
Bill and Joe Carriere: 914-937-2136
- P.I.E. Supply Company**
Chris Weimann
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
- ☆ **Robert Baker Company/Winfield Nursery, Inc.**
Jeff Rogers
1320 Mountain Rd., West Suffield, CT 06093
860-668-5225, FAX 860-668-5714
- SAV-A-TREE**
Thomas Marino
360 Adams St., Bedford Hills, NY 10507
914-666-8202
- ☆ **Sawtelle Brothers Inc.**
65 Glenn St., Lawrence, MA 01843
21 E. Dudley Town Rd., Bloomfield, CT 06662
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**
Stephen Kay/Ron Turek/Doug Smith
495 New Rochelle Rd., Bronxville, NY 10708
914-699-4437
- ☆ **Steven Willand, Inc.**
Bruce Pye
23 Route 206, Augusta, NJ 07822
201-579-5656
- Sullivan's Construction Service Inc.**
Golf Course Construction and Renovation
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- TBS Maintenance and Improvement**
Tony Bettino: 914-949-3362
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102 Fulton St., White Plains, NY 10606
- ☆ **Tee and Green Sod**
Owen Regan/David Wallace
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- ☆ **The Cardinals, Inc.**
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- ☆ **The Scotts Company**
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Fertilizer, Fungicide, Growth Regulators
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Byron Johnson Jr.
206 Delawanna Ave., Clifton, NJ 07014
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- ☆ **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/Buddy Rizzio
47 Howell Rd., Box 296, Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046
201-263-1234, FAX 201-335-2491
- ☆ **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 Baudry
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.**
Chris Santopietro
2 Terminal Rd., Lyndhurst, NJ 07071
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