



TEE TO GREEN

Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Building Goodwill at Work

It Can Be Your Key to Success

Stories about superintendents' experiences with club relations run the gamut. Some good, some miserably bad. When I say club relations, I'm talking about the relationship between the superintendent and the manager, golf pro, comptroller, etc. As hard as it may be for superintendents to devote the time and effort necessary to developing healthy working relationships with golf and clubhouse staff, I can't emphasize how well spent that time can be.

Not only will it make your working environment more pleasant, but also benefit your entire operation—sometimes in ways you may not even recognize.

Let's face it, when you're well liked, people are more apt to go to bat for you—whether it's for a new piece of equipment, a bigger operating budget, or a state-of-the-art maintenance facility. And just as important, they'll tend to give you the benefit of the doubt—and even behind-the-scenes support—during those times that the course looks less than perfect . . . and it happens to the best of us.

I've tried to maintain what I'll call a working friendship with my coworkers, giving them the respect and consideration they deserve. In return, I feel I've earned the same. *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

Read All About It! . . .

GCSAA Chapter Relations Delegates Endorse Dues Increase . . . and More

The Fourth Annual GCSAA Chapter Relations Meeting presented a jam-packed agenda for the 88 chapter delegates who convened at GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS, on September 7 and 8. Discussions centered on everything from dues increases and new membership standards to disheartening Code of Ethics violations. It also included an opportunity to meet the candidates up for election to the GCSAA board at the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

What follows is MetGCSA Chapter Delegate Tim O'Neill's account of each of the major issues up for vote, debate—or just friendly discussion.

Dues Due to Go Up

The delegation overwhelmingly endorsed a 20-percent dues increase, which will likely be brought before the membership at next year's Annual Meeting in Las Vegas.

Dues for Class A and B members

have held steady at \$210 annually for the past six years. The result: As GCSAA has offered more services and programs, the bottom line has grown increasingly thinner.

In 1997, for instance, expenditures are set at \$14,834,000, with excess revenues expected to be \$300,000. Without a dues increase, excess revenues for fiscal year 1998 are expected to plummet to \$133,000.

The proposed 20-percent increase would bring the annual dues to about \$250. With a continued 8-percent growth rate, that would bring the bottom line toward a more reasonable \$600,000.

New Membership Standards on the Horizon

New members may soon be required to meet minimum skill and educational standards before being granted GCSAA membership.

Not unlike the voluntary standards GCSAA has set for *(continued on page 4)*

Also in This Issue

- ② Upcoming Events
- ③ A Call for Nominations . . . Tee to Green Wants You—and Your Brain Power
- ④ Benefits of Serving on a GCSAA Committee
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- ⑧ Inside Look at Old Westbury and Meeting Host Phil Anderson
- ⑩ Bill Caputi Scholarship Winners and Other Member Notables
- ⑪ Are Our Trees at Risk?

Building Goodwill at Work

Admittedly, developing good working relationships isn't always easy. Everyone's work styles and temperaments are rarely in sync. It takes hard work and sometimes lots of compromise to make things run smoothly. But I've found if everyone does their part, offering help when they can—and only the most constructive of criticism—most of those troublesome interpersonal problems can be avoided.

Two other tenets I live by: Think before you act or speak; then nothing has to be smoothed over. Never burn your bridges.

If you take the time to build a cadre of strong allies—and avoid alienating anyone—you're more likely to feel good about your job and club, and

they'll feel even better about you.

Note About Nominations

As you'll see on page 3, we're looking for nominations for the Sherwood A. Moore Award and the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. These awards will be presented at the Winter Seminar in January.

Not mentioned anywhere, however, is that we're also looking for people who might be interested in serving on the Met Board of Directors. Please contact Nominating Committee Chairmen Peter Rappoccio or Mike Maffei if you're interested. New ideas and faces are always welcome.

JOHN J. O'KEEFE
President

Upcoming Events

Meeting Reminder!



Annual Meeting

Tuesday, November 19
Powelton Club, Newburgh, NY
Host Superintendent: Bob DeMarco

Educational Events

NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition

Tuesday – Friday, November 12 – 15
Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY
For further information, call 800-873-TURF.

NYSTA Service School

Friday – Saturday, November 22 – 23
SUNY-Cobleskill, Cobleskill, NY
For further information about this equipment service course for golf course mechanics, call NYSTA at 800-873-TURF or Larry Van De Valk at 518-234-5572.

Two GCSAA Educational Seminars

Plant Nutrition and Fertilizers
Monday – Tuesday, November 18 – 19
Long Island, NY
Co-hosted by the Long Island GCSA.

Educational Events cont.

Developing Your Hazard Communication Program
New Rochelle, NY
Thursday, November 21
Co-hosted by the MetGCSA.

Rhode Island Turfgrass Show and Conference

Tuesday – Thursday, December 3 – 5
Providence, RI
For further information, call 401-847-7666.

Social Event

MetGCSA Christmas Party

Saturday, December 7
Old Oaks Country Club
Host Superintendent: Mark Millett
Mark your calendar now for this festive holiday event!



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We Need Your Nominations!

The Awards Committee is looking for nominations for two of our most prestigious awards: The John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award and the Sherwood A. Moore Award.

Initiated in 1986, the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to a metropolitan area resident "who has demonstrated a knowledge of—and commitment to—the game of golf and the science of golf course management."

Past Reid Award winners are Dr. Richard Skogley, Arthur Weber, Jim McLoughlin, Frank Hannigan, Geoffrey Cornish, Dr. Haruo Tashiro, Dr. Ralph Engel, Ken Venturi, Al Radko, and

Guido Cribari.

The Sherwood A. Moore Award is reserved for a superintendent who has "advanced the professional image, status, and reputation of the golf course superintendent."

On the growing list of Moore Award recipients is Mike Maffei, Ted Jozwick, Bob Alonzi, James Fulwider, Bruno Vadala, Ed Horton, and Sherwood Moore, himself.

The Awards Committee needs your nominations by November 1! So hurry and contact Awards Committee Chairman Joe Alonzi or any of the other Awards Committee members with your list of candidates.

Tee to Green Wants You! . . .

Now that year-end is fast approaching, the Communications Committee is, once again, looking for able-bodied contributors to the *Tee to Green*. Join the committee—the more the merrier—or help us by simply penning an article or two. For your contributions and efforts, you—and hopefully your club manager or green chairman—will see your name in print, earning you career-enhancing recognition. Intrigued? Contact Committee Co-Chairmen Dennis Petruzzelli or Tony Grasso with article ideas or your interest in serving on the committee.

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GCSAA Chapter Relations Delegates Endorse Dues Increase . . . and More

becoming certified, these new requirements will be designed to elevate the superintendents' professionalism and, ultimately, their image—both at their club and in the community.

Some of the standards discussed involved formal and continuing education, professional development, service on local chapters, community service, and publishing articles.

A resource group will be formed to research and develop these standards, which could be on the drawing board for up to seven years before being ready for membership vote.

Assistant Superintendent Classification Revisited

A new bylaw passed last year cut dues in half for Class C assistant superintendents but took away their right to vote. Some career assistants were so unhappy about losing their right to vote on association issues that the delegates recommended creating the following two assistant classes:

- One class would be for assistants with less than three years' experience; they would continue to pay half dues and not vote.
- Another class would be for assistants with more than three years' experience; this class would have their voting rights restored but pay the same dues as superintendents.

Assistants with more than three years' experience would have the right to choose which of the two classes they want to join.

The Standards and Bylaws Committee will determine whether a bylaw amendment adding a second assistant classification should be brought before the Annual Meeting.

Chapter Affiliation Update

In reviewing the chapters' status in the affiliation process, it's clear that the MetGCSA is farther along in meeting the requirements than many other chapters nationwide. We've obtained adequate D&O (directors and officers) and liability insurance, attained tax-

exempt status, become incorporated, and put an annual reporting system in place for outlining such things as association activities, current officers, and an up-to-date membership roster. The only requirement that hasn't been met is to revise our bylaws so that they conform to GCSAA's. Already near completion, these revisions will be presented for membership approval at our Annual Meeting in November.

As the January 1, 1997 deadline approaches, GCSAA will be working closely with chapters that need assistance in meeting any of the affiliation agreement requirements.

Surprising Code of Ethics Violations

False claims of membership and certification status were among the Code of Ethics violations reported to GCSAA this past year. As a result, GCSAA plans to use *Newslines* and other communications tools to increase awareness of these types of violations and discuss proper procedures for dealing with and reporting any unethical behavior.

When developing membership standards, the resource committee may also build in a requirement for demonstrating a thorough understanding of proper conduct.

Chapter Cooperative Research Program Criteria Reconsidered

The Cooperative Research Program is designed to assist affiliated chapters in funding worthwhile local research projects.

At present, however, only those chapters that are Golden Tee or Platinum Tee Club members are eligible to receive assistance, with Golden Tees eligible for \$2,000 toward an approved project and Platinum Tee Club members eligible for \$10,000. Both figures represent twice the cost of the annual club membership.

Though GCSAA acknowledges the importance of supporting meaningful research, it will continue, for the time being, to restrict funding only to club members.

Chapter Seminar Rebate Program Still Stands

As part of its commitment to supporting the continued education of its members, GCSAA offers chapters a financial reward for running a well-attended regional seminar. For GCSAA, that means breaking even, at best, on its regional seminars.

Despite the financial loss, the consensus at the meeting was that GCSAA should continue to "invest" in its members' education.

One-Stop Shopping for Information

GCSAA is striving to gain recognition as the sole source of information for superintendents and clubs alike throughout the nation. It is working to help employers better understand the challenges and various roles of the superintendent and to provide superintendents with the tools necessary to communicate effectively with their employers.

Among the image-enhancing communications already in place is GCSAA's "Par for the Course," television show, which will continue in 1997. It is scheduled to air next spring on Sundays at 7:30 a.m. on ESPN.

Another new resource is GCSAA's Home Page—<http://www.gcsaa.org/gcsaa>—on the worldwide web. The information found here is designed to not only keep us better informed as superintendents, but also offer quick-and-easy access to the tools we need to communicate to our clubs exactly what we do—and why we do it.

Don't forget, too, that we have a Chapter Relations Department that is basically at our beck and call, working with each chapter to provide research, scholarship, education, and informational services.

GCSAA is a tremendous resource for superintendents—and is always extremely responsive to any queries or requests. I challenge anyone to call GCSAA and not be satisfied with the service they receive.

Silent Auction: New Conference Highlight

Nearly 700 companies have donated a wide variety of products and services for the GCSAA's first-ever Silent Auction to be held at this year's national conference. Designed to benefit the Robert Trent Jones Endowment Fund—which funds scholarships and scientific research in the golf course management industry—this event will be open to GCSAA members and conference registrants.

Watch for a description of each of the product offerings early in 1997—and plan to attend for some great buys.

Meet the Candidates Meeting

The delegates' meeting culminated in an opportunity to listen to each of the

candidates running for office in 1997.

On the docket:

- President Paul McGinnis, CGCS, Moon Valley CC in Phoenix, AZ
- Vice President George Renault, CGCS, Burning Tree Club in Bethesda, MD
- Secretary/Treasurer David Fearis, CGCS, Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, MS
- Secretary/Treasurer Scott Woodhead, CGCS, Valley View Golf Club in Bozeman, MT
- Director Jon Maddern, CGCS, Elk Ridge Golf Course, Atlanta, MI
- Director Samuel Snyder, CGCS, Hercules CC, Wilmington, DE
- Director Mike Wallace, CGCS, Hop

Meadow Country Club, Simsbury, CT

As always, these candidates will be up for election at the Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, which will be held on Tuesday, February 11 at 8 a.m. Only two of the three directors will be voted to the board.

Aside from offering the opportunity to meet the candidates who guide our national association, attending the Annual Meeting offers an excellent chance to catch up on association business and issues. Don't wait to read about Annual Meeting events in one of our industry journals. Be there, and see the news in the making.

TIM O'NEILL, CGCS
Country Club of Darien

Beyond Belonging: The Benefits of Serving on a GCSAA Committee

Traveling to Lawrence, KS, for the October 4 and 5 GCSAA Public Relations Committee meeting, I was reminded of the many benefits of not only belonging to our national association, but also helping to shape its future by serving on a committee.

As a Public Relations Committee member, now for three years, I have had a part in the national's attempt to elevate the professionalism and importance of the golf course superintendent, working to promote such image-enhancing programs as the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for both golf courses and schools and the "Par for the Course" TV segment on ESPN.

Many other MetGCSA members have taken the initiative to get involved nationally. Among those currently serving on committees are:

- Bob Alonzi, *Election*
- John Carlone, *Education*
- Les Kennedy, *Tournament*
- Patty Knaggs, *Career Development*

- Mel Lucas, *Historical Preservation*
- Sherwood Moore, *Historical Preservation*
- Scott Niven, *Membership*
- Karl Olson, *Certification*
- John Streeter, *Scholarship*
- Ed Walsh, *Publications* and "Par for the Course" *Resource Committee*

Any GCSAA member is eligible to serve on a committee, though, admittedly, it may take some doing. You can start by completing and sending in the GCSAA Volunteer Interest Form found on page 29B of the 1996 GCSAA Membership Directory and Source Book or in the October issue of GCSAA's membership newsletter, *Newsline*. (The deadline is December 31.)

It's a good idea to follow that up by writing or calling the GCSAA president, who is responsible for making committee appointments—or perhaps a board member you've met or know well.

It helps to make yourself—and your serious interest in serving—known. If you sit and wait to hear about your

committee appointment, chances are your phone will never ring. Right now, GCSAA gets more than 300 members applying for the 200 or so available committee positions, so the competition can be stiff.

If all this seems like more trouble than it's worth, keep in mind that committee work can be tremendously rewarding, both personally and professionally. In addition to the personal satisfaction that comes from doing something positive, volunteering offers a rare opportunity to share experiences and perspectives with superintendents from around the country, gain new skills and sometimes even career-enhancing public recognition.

But don't take it from me. Talk to the many other GCSAA committee members among our ranks. Feel free, too, to contact any one of us with comments, suggestions, or concerns about anything regarding our committees.

TIM O'NEILL, CGCS
Country Club of Darien

Met and LI GCSAs Tee It Up Together at Pine Hollow

After a two-month hiatus, area golf course superintendents got back into full swing October 7 for the final round of the Met Area Team Championship Qualifier at Pine Hollow Country Club in Long Island.

Superintendent Gerry Kunkel took great pleasure in hosting this joint meeting of the Met and Long Island association members.

"In my 13 years as superintendent, dual meetings between associations have been few and far between," says Gerry. "I believe at least one united meeting per year would be nice to give superintendents who would normally not converse with one another, due to geographic location, the chance to do so."

Gerry is a member of both associations and has ties to the Met dating back to his years as assistant superintendent at Westchester Country Club and Metropolis. He is in his fourth year as

head superintendent at Pine Hollow, after being top dog at Deepdale Golf Club from 1987 to 1992 and at Nassau Country Club for three years prior.

A graduate of UMass, Stockbridge, Winter School in 1981, Gerry also holds a Bachelors in Fine Arts (Cinema studies) from New York University and spent two years at the New York Botanical Gardens studying Arboriculture.

A Head for Golf Course History

Born and raised in Trumbull, CT, home of the Little League World Series famed pitcher Ted Drury, Gerry has a spot in his heart for the New England area.

He and his wife of 23 years, Eileen, along with their children Will, 9, and Laura, 11, get away to the ski slopes of Vermont every winter.

"There are still many parts of New England virtually untouched by big

business," says Gerry, who adds, "After a long, tiring season of maintaining the golf course, it's the place to be."

Gerry is also a big hockey fan; his hockey puck paperweight and hockey drawings on his office wall by son Will are a dead giveaway.

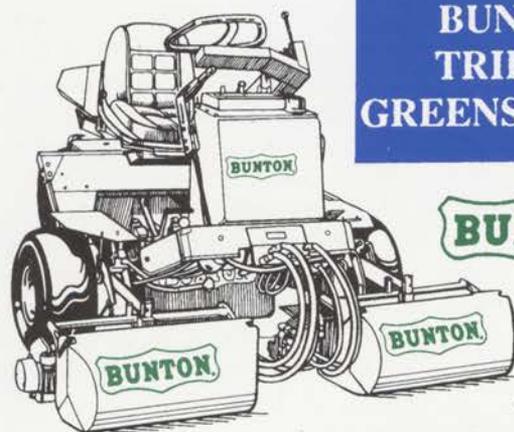
As a season ticket holder of the New York Islanders the past few years, Gerry has seen the team in good times and, more recently, bad but vows to Rangers fans that the Islanders will soon be back in force.

"Like skiing, I've developed a love for the game of hockey because it's a winter sport—the time of year I get to relax," he says. "And I love to watch it snow."

Another of Gerry's favorite pastimes is reading—particularly about golf course history and architects. "I don't necessarily go to association meetings just to play golf. I'm also interested in seeing the design and strategy of a

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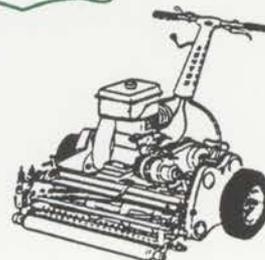
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course. This year, my target was Tuxedo."

This fetish for golf course history has turned into a full-scale hobby for Gerry, who has collected an impressive library of golf books. Topping his list of must-haves is Mackenzie's *Spirit of Saint Andrews*.

But don't expect to borrow this or any other book from Gerry's library—unless you hand over your Visa Gold Card first. "I won't loan them out anymore," explains Gerry, "because they never seem to make it back."

It's truly amazing how Gerry recites golf courses and their architects—original and restoration designers alike. "There is no other place in the world that can tout the number of premier golf course innovators as we can here in Westchester, Fairfield, Nassau, and Suffolk counties," he says. "From Dick Wilson to the Joneses and Travis to Emmett to Strong, it seems like every

great architect has touched our area. Even Nicklaus and Arthur Hills," he adds.

"My favorite architect of all time is Seth Raynor," he says. "Fishers Island Golf Club is the masterpiece for which I most admire him. And please don't leave out Tom Fazio, my favorite contemporary architect," he adds. "Fazio has a knack for adapting golf course design to the land available to him without being overly stylized. The finished product never overtakes the quality of the terrain by calling too much attention to itself."

A Well-Balanced Test to All Calibers of Players

As for Pine Hollow, Gerry has overseen the complete renovation of the Bill Mitchell-designed tees and bunkers his first two years on the job.

"The bunkering is neat," says Gerry, who describes them as traditional "flashed-type" bunkers with sand placed

on an inside bank of the trap, facing the golfer, so it can be seen from a distance.

Gerry feels Pine Hollow is a very fair, well-balanced test to all calibers of players. "When Bill Mitchell designed and built the course in 1954," says Gerry, "there was no one signature hole to boast about. Today, I feel the same way. I have 18 excellent holes. No one hole is greater than another."

If meeting goes took nothing else away from their day at Pine Hollow, Gerry hopes it might have been a new acquaintance—if not friend—or two.

"I've made some long-term friends on Long Island, as well as up in Westchester at past meetings," he says. "Perhaps, new superintendents will be as fortunate. It would be great if we could make this an annual event."

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Old Westbury Golf & Country Club: A Fine Finish to the Season

On October 24, the MetGCSA made a return trip to Long Island—this time to the prestigious Old Westbury Golf & Country Club. Hosting the event was Superintendent Phil Anderson, who is in his sixth year at Old Westbury.

If you ask Phil how he got started in the turf business, he'll probably tell you he's got the "Green Industry" in his blood. "My grandfather had a horticultural background," says Phil, crediting him, in part, with his interest in "growing grass." But equally key to his entree into the turfgrass management business was his love of the game of golf. "I started playing when I was 10," he remembers, "after seeing all these kids on the high school golf team swinging their clubs in our neighborhood park."

Phil began laying the groundwork for his future in the turf business in 1976 when he entered SUNY-Farmingdale as a turfgrass management student.

While pursuing his degree at Farmingdale, Phil worked at The Woodcrest Country Club in Muttontown, NY—first on the maintenance staff, then as the assistant superintendent.

While at Woodcrest, Phil decided to further his education and, in 1979, enrolled in the UMass Winter Turf School. Phil's schooling and work experience landed him his first superintendent's job in 1985 at the Huntington Country Club, where he stayed until securing his current position at Old Westbury in the fall of 1990.

With an Eye Toward the Environment

In his tenure at Old Westbury, Phil has proved himself a true steward of the environment, his efforts earning him the GCSAA Merit Stewardship Award last winter and his course the status of Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary in June of '95.

Trending toward a naturalist, Phil has been experimenting with organic products to help improve the quality of the turf and soils and aid in pest and disease control. "When I started at the club, it was apparent that the turf throughout the entire course was suffering from poorly developed root

systems," he says. "It took a few years, but I finally figured out that soil toxicity was the culprit. We applied Micatrol, a special microbial material, to help break down and neutralize harmful heavy metals in the soil. It took about 60 days before we could see any improvement."

But just as important to the turnaround of the turf on his greens was that Phil also implemented an aggressive aerification program. He explains, "In the spring, we deep aerify with solid tines, filling the holes with organic matter so that it can filter down to the lower soil levels. Then we follow that up with two HydroJect treatments—one in July and one in August. Together, these things have really helped to strengthen the greens' root systems."

An avid spiker, Phil also spikes and seeds his greens every two weeks during the growing season to continually enhance the turf.

Also laudable is Phil's unique composting program that includes not only the club's usable wastes, but also the Village of Old Westbury's.

And there's more. . . . Phil's implemented a successful bentgrass conversion program: "I'd say we're about 70 percent bentgrass on greens and tees and 40 percent on fairways after five years." And he's rebuilt—with in-house labor—12 tees and the driving range and reconstructed a pond at the clubhouse, adding a liner.

Personally Speaking

Phil and his wife, Karen, of 17 years have four children: Douglas, 12; Johnathan, 10; Kevin, 7; and Sarah, 5. A sports enthusiast, Phil enjoys a good round of golf (when he can find it); he coaches youth soccer and is a self-professed softball fanatic. He played on three teams this year and has been more than happy to watch his boys play ball—on their traveling baseball teams.

When he's not wielding a club or bat, Phil is likely to be swinging a hammer. Known to close friends as "The Tool Man" or "McGyver," he takes great pleasure in "tearing down and repairing things"—often just to see how they work.

A Master Plan for the Future

What's down the pike at Old Westbury? "An aggressive master plan is on the table for membership vote soon," says Phil. Drawn up by Golf Course Architect Gil Hanse, the five-year plan includes rebuilding and improving all 27 greens to increase vigor, playability, and cupping area; renovating the remaining tees and all the bunkers; and recontouring several of the fairways. A drainage plan is proposed to eliminate troublesome wet areas, and with the help of irrigation consultant Jim Barrett, they've also mapped out improvements to their current system, which will include individual sprinkler head control to maximize water efficiency and flexibility.

From the sounds of it, if the plan goes through, Phil will be one busy man. But then, knowing Phil, he probably wouldn't have it any other way.

DENNIS PETRUZZELLI, CGCS
Lakeover National Golf Club

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MetGCSA Awards 10 Scholarships in '96

Ten children of MetGCSA members were recipients of the 1996 Bill Caputi Scholarship Awards, which this year totaled \$7,000. Honored at the August 5 meeting at The Tuxedo Club, the winners were selected by the Scholarship Committee based on their maturity, academic history, ambition, extracurricular activities, and effort exhibited in completing their application.

Congratulations to the following recipients and their parents:

- **Cassie Alonzi:** Cassie has completed her first year at Iona College where she is studying early childhood development.

Cassie's parents are Kim and Bob Alonzi, superintendent at Winged Foot Golf Club.

- **Dana Alonzi:** Dana has completed her junior year at Elizabethtown College, where she is pursuing a degree in occupational therapy. She is the daughter of Kim and Bob Alonzi.

- **Robert Carriere:** Robert is a sophomore at Penn State, where he is pursuing a bachelor's in turfgrass science. His parents are Rosemary and Bill Carriere of James Carriere & Sons, Inc.

- **Chris Flynn:** Chris is a freshman at SUNY-Cobleskill where he is studying turfgrass management. He is the son of Brae Burn Country Club Superintendent Dennis Flynn and his wife, Cindy.

- **Benjamin Fulwider:** Benjamin is in his freshman year at Colgate University, where he is considering a degree in philosophy or history with a minor in secondary education. His parents are Natalie and J.C. Fulwider, superintendent at Century Country Club.

- **Kelly Kennedy:** Kelly is in her freshman year at York College of Pennsylvania where she is planning to pursue a degree in international business. Kelly's parents are Kathy and Joe Kennedy, superintendent at Green Brook Country Club.

- **Alden Maddocks:** Alden is in his freshman year at Trinity College and is pursuing a degree in biomedical engineering. He is the son of Ekwanok Country Club Superintendent Ted Maddocks and his wife, Adele.

- **Evan Maddocks:** Evan is now a senior at Vanderbilt University with a major in engineering science and applied physics. Ted and Adele Maddocks are his parents.

- **Christina Pakkala:** Christina is a junior at Penn State University. She is the daughter of Woodway Country Club Superintendent Larry Pakkala and his wife, Carole.

- **Jennifer Rice:** Jennifer is in her junior year at Lafayette College where she is pursuing a degree in psychology. She is the daughter of Pauline and John Streeter, superintendent at Woodbridge Country Club.

Newly Certified

Congratulations to the following two MetGCSA members who were recently designated Certified Golf Course Superintendents by the GCSAA:

- **Peter Cavanaugh,** Stafford Country Club, Batavia, NY
- **Don Szymkowicz,** Engineers Country Club, Roslyn, NY



In Memoriam

We regret to announce the death of longtime friend and honorary member of the MetGCSA **Ed Worthington**. Ed goes back a long time with many members. We will all miss him.

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Are Our Trees at Risk?

Only Time Will Tell

Not since the gypsy moth infestation of the early '80s has the health and welfare of our trees been as threatened as it has been these past two seasons. The offender: wide swings in climatic conditions—first drought, now excessive moisture.

Unlike turfgrass, however, the ill effects of weather extremes on trees is not immediately apparent. It can take as long as two or three years to show up.

The three basic types of tree-threatening weather extremes are:

Winter Injury: During the winter, there are several scenarios that can damage trees:

- *Abnormally cold temperatures*—zero and below—for extended periods can split bark and damage roots.
- *Excessive temperature fluctuations*, particularly when combined with drying winds, can rob trees and shrubs of necessary fluids and cause desiccation.
- *Late frosts* can set back trees in their budding stage.

Drought: Dry soil conditions for prolonged periods of time—especially April through June, which is early in the plant development cycle—can result in root damage and death.

Excess Water: Waterlogged soil, whether it's due to flooding or persistent rainy weather throughout the growing season, will adversely affect trees' ability to grow and flourish.

Be Kind to Your Trees

While you have no control over weather, there are steps you can take to ease the stress on your course's trees. They include:

Mulching: During droughts, this will keep soil temperatures down and hold on to any available moisture. Under any circumstances, mulching benefits trees by encouraging root-enhancing microbial action, helping to prevent harmful soil compaction and providing a buffer zone that protects trees from mower and other power equipment injury.

Fertilizing: Like humans whose systems are under stress, trees can profit from added nutrients when taxed by disease or climatic extremes. Deep root liquid

fertilization offers the added benefit of aerating the soil and relieving any compaction while getting the essential elements right down to the root system. Depending on the extent of the compaction, the fertilizer can be applied at anywhere from 50 to 300 psi.

Fertilization is especially helpful after extreme rainy periods, when essential nutrients are frequently leached out of the soil. In Westchester, for instance, many of the pin oaks' foliage is suffering because so much of the iron has been leached out of the soil.

Pruning: Periodically inspect trees for dieback in limbs, particularly after the previous season's drought. Trees most susceptible are those located near ledge or rocky areas. Pruning will not only help restore the health and vigor of your trees, but also avoid potential hazards to golfers.

Pest and Disease Management: Trees already in a weakened state will show greater signs of dieback when a secondary problem, such as excessive rainfall, exists.

In our area, there are several tree species that have been under siege by insect and disease pathogens and are, therefore, at greater risk. Among them:

- *Hemlocks:* Left unchecked, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid will weaken and kill a tree in as little as three years. Be on the lookout for the pest's egg sacs. They look like rows of white cotton balls about the size of the end of a cotton swab and can be found along the twigs of the shrub's outer growth.

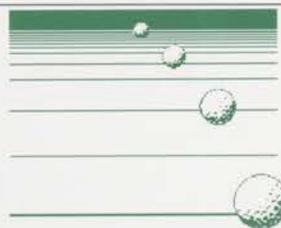
- *Beeches:* Beech scale, a tiny yellow insect typically found on the bark of the tree, stresses the host and allows a secondary pathogen to advance and attach itself to the cambium layer, leading to extensive decay and/or death.

- *Ashes:* Ash Yellows, a microorganism that causes the tree's crown to thin and die back over several years, is particularly prevalent in the Northeast.

- *Maples:* Some species, such as Silver and Norway Maples, are plagued by tar spots, another fungus that can envelop a tree's leaves and defoliate it.

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