



TEE TO GREEN

Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Promoting Equal Opportunity

Well, here it is, my first president's message. I'd like to start by thanking the members of the association for their vote of confidence in electing me president. It's a great honor for me to represent the Met, and I look forward to serving you for the next two years.

In this first message, I'd like to talk to you about something that I feel is very important, particularly to all Class A, B, and C members—so important, in fact, that it was brought up for discussion at our annual meeting by concerned members.

In case you haven't guessed, I'm talking about equal opportunity—more specifically, making certain that everyone has an equal shot at applying for and being considered for a job, whether it's an assistant's or a superintendent's slot.

I've been involved with the Met for nearly 25 years. Back then, I was probably one of about four assistants in the Met, so each of us had a good shot at any job that came open in the area. Today, the association has close to 50 Class Cs and hundreds of As and Bs. The competition for jobs is stiff, to say the least. But making it tougher—and more frustrating—is that many clubs solicit "short lists" of candidates from member *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

MetGCSA Honors Dr. Patricia J. Vittum With Prestigious John Reid Award

Ted Horton, now with Pebble Beach Co. in California, writes this special tribute to the award-winning Dr. Vittum

Dr. Patricia J. Vittum, who is perhaps best known in the Met area for her groundbreaking research and insights into the turf-devastating *Hyperodes weevil*, is this year's recipient of the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

Program Director of the Department of Entomology at the University of Massachusetts, Pat is dedicated to developing viable IPM programs for not only golf courses, but also home lawns and other turf areas. As you might suspect, she is an expert on how physical conditions—soil pH, water pH, post application irrigation—affect pesticide rates and control and is committed to investigating new application technologies for reducing pesticide loads on turf. She is a strong advocate of cutting insecticide rates by using subsurface application technology and, whenever possible, employing biological control strategies.

Pat shares her wealth of knowledge with students at the Stockbridge School of Agriculture and with Environmental



Dr. Patricia J. Vittum, recipient of the Met's coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

Science majors at the University of Massachusetts. As an affiliate of the UMass Cooperative Extension, she also lectures on greenhouse, lawn, and garden pest control to grower organizations and master *(continued on page 4)*

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Promoting Equal Opportunity

superintendents and never open the job to "the masses."

The drawbacks are twofold: Clubs are cheating themselves by not looking at candidates who may, in fact, be better qualified for the job than any on that short list. And many candidates who may be stagnating in a job they've outgrown aren't given the chance to elevate themselves.

Club Relations Committee to the Rescue

In an attempt to change this situation, our association has established a Club Relations Committee, designed to educate clubs on how to go about hiring the best possible candidate for their operation. The committee will not only answer questions about appropriate hiring practices, but also help draw up an ad for the position, and then, as always, the Met will send out the posting to everyone in the association.

Committee members are also prepared to answer any questions a club may have about their golf course operation, and they will guide club officials, when appropriate, in making the operation more attractive or functional for the incoming superintendent.

Practically the only thing the committee won't do for a club is supply a

list of potential candidates' names. That's not the committee's—or anyone else's—role.

That brings me to my final point. We all can play a role in promoting equal job opportunities. You can start by refusing to supply clubs, if you're solicited, with lists of candidates. As flattering as it is to be sought out for counsel, resist the temptation to get involved. Instead, refer the club to our Club Relations Committee. We've worked long and hard to put together a group who's qualified to guide clubs in the right direction.

I know we have one of the better associations in the country, and I think the reason is that we really do all work together to improve our profession. Promoting equal job opportunities is just another way we can make our group stronger.

In closing, I just want to say, please feel free to contact me or any board member if you have questions or concerns about some aspect of the association. And of course, if anyone would like to become involved in a committee, we'd like to hear from you.

Final words of wisdom: If something you're doing isn't fun, find a way to make it fun. Life's too short.

EARL F. MILLETT
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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MetGCSA Elections Bring Changes to the Board

When the dust settled at the MetGCSA's Annual Meeting and elections held November 13 at Ridgeway Country Club in White Plains, NY, we had not only a new president, but also several new faces on the board.

Moving up the chairs, **Earl Millett** of Ridgeway Country Club assumed the role of president; **John Carlone** of The Meadow Brook Club climbed the rung to vice president; and **Dave Mahoney** of Siwanoy Country Club became secretary.

Tim Moore of Knollwood Country Club remains treasurer, and **John O'Keefe** of Preakness Hills Country

Club stays on as past president.

New directors to the board are **Jon Jennings** of The Patterson Club, **Pat Sisk** of Country Club of Fairfield, Class C Rep **Tom Watroba** of Quaker Ridge Golf Club, and Class AF Rep **Mike Cook** of Alpine, the Care of Trees.

Staying on as directors are **Matt Ceplo** of Rockland Country Club, **Bob DeMarco** of the Powelton Club, and **Tony Grasso** of Metropolis Country Club.

Congratulations and good luck to one and all.

Meet Your New Committee Chairmen

Here's an updated guide to the MetGCSA's Committee Chairman. They're here to serve the association—and you—so please feel free to contact any one of them with questions, comments—or interest in joining their efforts. New committee members are always welcome. For your convenience, we've provided their numbers beneath their names.

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John O'Keefe, *Preakness Hills CC*
973-694-0260

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John Carlone, *The Meadow Brook Club*
516-935-6505

Club Relations

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516-935-6505
Dave Mahoney, *Siwanoy Country Club*
914-961-8698

Communications

Tony Grasso, *Metropolis Country Club*
914-949-0375
Jon Jennings, *The Patterson Club*
203-259-7390

Education

Will Heintz, *Centennial Golf Club*
914-279-8960

Field Day

Matt Ceplo, *Rockland Country Club*
914-359-5346
Mike Cook, *Alpine, the Care of Trees*
914-948-0101

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973-694-0260

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914-961-8698

Scholarship & Research

John Carlone, *The Meadow Brook Club*
516-935-6505

Social & Welfare

Earl Millett, *Ridgeway Country Club*
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Tournament

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MetGCSA Honors Dr. Patricia J. Vittum With Prestigious John Reid Award

gardener groups.

And as if all that's not enough, Pat has been the Pesticide Coordinator and State Liaison Representative for the National Agricultural Pesticide Impact Assessment Program for Massachusetts since December 1990.

The "Bug Lady" Remembered

Though her long list of credentials is reason enough for her selection for the Reid Award, Pat has won a special place in the hearts of Met members, who fondly refer to her as the "Bug Lady."

She earned her title during the summers of 1976 through 1978 when, as a Cornell graduate student, she traveled to various Met area courses to conduct research for her thesis on the biology of the annual bluegrass weevil.

Reminiscing about her field lab at Winged Foot Golf Club—which, as superintendent there at the time, I remember well—she says: "The crew

was wonderful, friendly, and supportive. Practically every day, there would be a 'present' on my table. Frequently, it would be a golf ball someone had found. Occasionally, it would be an



"... I've run out of superlatives, but just know that I think the world of the supers in the Met and can never thank them enough for what they've done for me."



unusual insect, and the donor would always be delighted at my excitement at receiving a new bug." (Pat was so easy to please!)

My wife, Nancy, and I remember those days with fondness. While Pat collected specimens, our boys, Tim and Chris, who were six and four at the

time, loved to visit the golf course and watch Pat sift through her insect collections of the day. Their eyes would widen as they pecked into the tiny bottles. Pat would always welcome them to pick up the bottles and examine the insects through the glass.

"Collecting samples was lots more fun than analyzing them," Pat says, "but Ted's sons were always a high point of the day. Chris, especially, seemed to be fascinated and was always eager to pitch in and help me find weevils. He had such an innocent curiosity and joy about him. We had fun looking for 'cool' insects."

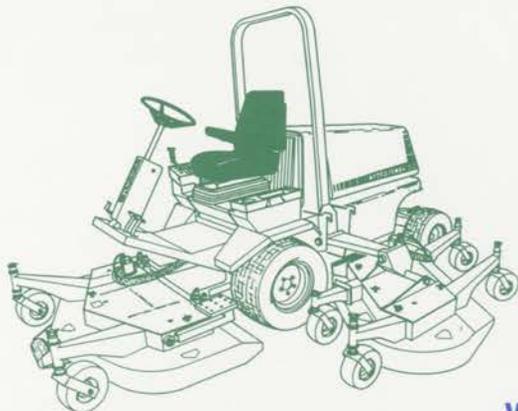
Among Pat's other joys at Winged Foot was playing golf in the evening with the late John Corsi, then the club's foreman. She always seemed pleased with the old E-Z-Go golf car that we had reserved for her use only.

And she remembers, with great appreciation, Winged Foot's mechanic

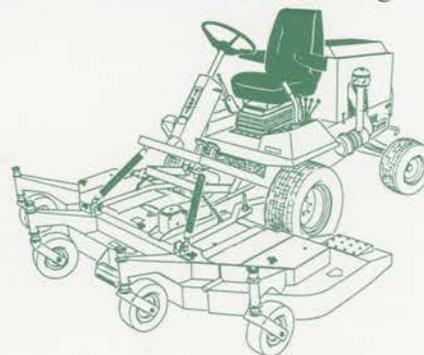


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Charlie Lund "looking out for her." She says, "He knew I didn't have much money, so whenever my car needed fixing, he'd spend his off-hours doing it for me."

Special Memories

Pat professes to owe her Ph.D. to the golf course superintendents in the metropolitan area—and especially to the MetGCSA. She explains: "The Met provided the financial support that enabled Tash (Dr. Haruo Tashiro, a fellow Reid Award recipient) to take on the project. And all of you provided the moral support—and space—I needed to grow into the project. When I started, I had never seen a Hyperodes weevil—and I was scared to death that the supers would figure that out!"

Pat says she loved visiting the various Met golf courses on her weekly rounds. Among her stops—and many fond memories:

- Waccabuc Country Club with then superintendent Al Moore. "I still

remember seeing that red fox trotting across the fairway in the early morning light, dew still glistening."

- Country Club of New Canaan with then superintendent Steve Cadenelli.

"That was my first experience with fairway renovation. I thought he was crazy to kill half of each fairway with RoundUp."

- Old Oaks Country Club with then superintendent Lony Casterella. "I still remember my first—and only—cup of coffee. I was too polite to tell him I didn't think I would like coffee. And I was right."

- Century Country Club with then superintendent Jim Fulwider Sr. "What a pro. He knew so much about the intricacies of maintaining golf courses."

- Burning Tree Country Club with then superintendent Bob Alonzi. "I am so glad to be able to continue this working relationship."

Pat will readily tell you those were among the happiest years of her life. "I didn't realize until I left Westchester

and returned to Ithaca to finish up the data analysis, just how much everyone had taught me—about turf management, time management, and about living life to the fullest," she says.

In a recent letter to me, Pat writes: "Ted, I've run out of superlatives, but just know that I think the world of the supers in the Met and can never thank them enough for what they've done for me."

To Pat, I think we all would respond, "You've repaid your debts many times over." And I know I can speak for every Met member when I say we are all proud to have shared experiences of a lifetime with Pat, and we're fortunate to be able to call on her expertise.

Congratulations, and many thanks from all of us!

Dr. Vittum will be presented with the Reid Award at the MetGCSA Winter Seminar at Westchester Country Club on January 7.

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Sleepy Hollow Honors Retiring Joe Camberato

Sleepy Hollow Country Club gave a hero's send-off to Joe Camberato who, after 40 years at the club as golf course superintendent, announced his retirement. Members, peers, friends, and family numbering close to 200, gathered on October 18 at the impressive Sleepy Hollow. The occasion was filled with tributes and heartfelt appreciation for Joe's unprecedented and tireless service for those many years.

Joe was the first and only golf course superintendent at the club since the role was shared in previous years by a foreman and manager. James Hand, the man who hired Joe in 1957, talked about the need back then for professional guidance for the golf course and the battles he faced in getting Joe on board. "The opposition faded," he recounted, "when they realized the expertise that this 24-year-old possessed." (Joe was quick to point out, however, that he was only 23 at the time.)

Commemorating his many contributions to Sleepy Hollow is a plaque at the entrance of the golf course maintenance facility—only one of the many gifts the membership presented to Joe that special night.

From all of us in the Met, congratulations, and we wish you all the best.

BILL PERLEE
Apawamis Club



Joe Camberato and his wife, Barbara, kicking up their heels at the Met's December 6 Christmas party.

Eighteen Prizes Awarded in 1997 Scholarship Raffle



The 1997 Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 6 Ridgeway 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 our \$1,000-grand-prize-winner, superintendent of Maplewood Country Club.

The other prize winners were:
Phil O'Brien, Aquatrols, \$500
John Madden, Alpine, the Care of Trees, \$500
Paul Muscariello, Alpine, the Care of Trees, \$500
Jim McNally, Greenrock Corporation, \$250
Anthony, Katie, and Joseph Grasso, children of Metropolis Country Club Superintendent Tony Grasso, \$250

Mike Gesmundo, Bruedan Corp., \$250
Andrew Messinger, Metro Milorganite Inc., \$250
Rosemary Love, Alpine, the Care of Trees, \$100
James Staley, Katonah, NY, \$100
Ian Millett, son of Ridgeway Country Club Superintendent Earl Millett, \$100
Barry Anes, Manhattan Woods Country Club, \$100
Rick Meskell, PGA/Meadow Brook Club, \$100
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Bob Wiesher, Green Chairman/Siwanoy Country Club, \$100
Gary Glazier, Burning Tree Country Club, \$100
Jasmine Ceplo, wife of Rockland Country Club Superintendent Matt Ceplo, \$100
Tim Jones, Pomona, NY, \$100

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Scorecard

Poa Annual Tourney Goes to Ridgeway

Earl Millett and Ridgeway Country Club in White Plains, NY, were hosts to the 1997 Poa Annual Tournament. The sun came through just in the nick of time for the 46 golfers who participated in this important fund-raiser. Contestants played a scramble format with the following teams earning winning scores.



Winners

62 Jay Glover, *Bedford Golf & Tennis Club*/Seth Greenwood, *Anglebrook GC*
Peter Kearney, *Pound Ridge Golf Club*

Runners-Up

64 Bob Alonzi, *Winged Foot Golf Club*/Dennis Flynn, *Brac Burn CC*/Tim O'Neill, *CC of Darien*/Tim Garceau, *The Tuxedo Club*

Third Place

65 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway Country Club*/Tony Grasso, *Metropolis CC*/Ed Noroian, *Ridgeway Country Club*/Max Sanz, *Metropolis Country Club*

Closest to the Pin

#7 Peter Kearney, *Pound Ridge Golf Club*
#10 Tony Grasso, *Metropolis Country Club*
#15 Ken Clear, *Alpine, the Care of Trees*
#18 Greg Moore, *Rolling Hills Country Club*

Longest Drive

#12 Mark Millett, *Old Oaks Country Club*
#17 Mark Amoruso, *Elmwood Country Club*

Special thanks to our meeting hosts Ridgeway Manager Ed Noroian and Golf Course Superintendent Earl Millett for their efforts in making this event a success. Many thanks, also, to our 17 Tee Sponsors. With your help, we were able to present a check for \$3,300 to the New York Turfgrass Foundation at the NYSTA Turf & Grounds Expo in November.

MIKE MAFFEI
Back O'Beyond, Inc.

Upcoming Events

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 7
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
Host: Joe Alonzi

This promises to be one of the most exciting Winter Seminars yet, covering such topics as pesticide misperceptions, the latest on anthracnose and other troublesome diseases, up-to-date research on alternative spike golf shoes, the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program, and the rules of golf and their interpretation.

For further information, contact Education Committee Chairman Will Heintz at 914-279-8960.

GCSAA Seminar: Golf Course Design Principles

Monday - Tuesday, January 19 - 20
IBM Mid-Hudson Convention Center
Poughkeepsie, NY

Cosponsored by GCSAA and the Hudson Valley GCSA, this course will cover golf course design, layout, site selection, master planning, construction management, as well as course redesign and restoration.

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For further information, contact GCSAA at 800-472-78787.


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