



# TEE TO GREEN



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Metropolitan Golf Course  
Superintendents Association

## President's Message

### A Good Walk Spoiled???

**S**ome may think so. But the way I see it, time spent walking the course with your green chairman is time well spent. Particularly when you make your rounds, as I've done with my current green chairman, Bill Green (no kidding, that's really his name), in the dead of winter, without clubs or a formal agenda.

I guess what makes it so productive is that the heat's off. The grass isn't growing, the flowers aren't blooming, and yet the whole setting is the same, so you can discuss the course and future plans and projects in a more leisurely, relaxed fashion. I find it one of the best times to communicate with and educate your green chairman—and even other members of your green committee.

Here's my chairman's account of a walk we took one icy January day. I thought it might serve as an example of the kind of ground you can cover in the dead of winter.

Bill Green begins . . .

"I wanted to bring everyone up to date on our considerable progress on course projects. . . . The news is exciting and definitely has me itching for spring to bloom!"

He goes on to explain happenings around the maintenance yard and gives the lowdown on pruning along the fairways and on some *(continued on page 2)*

## Special Feature

### New Committee Lends Helping Hand to Clubs and Superintendents

**W**hether you're a club official or a superintendent grappling with one of the many challenges of the turfgrass management industry, you'll be happy to know help is not just on the way: It's here. . . . through the newly formed Club Relations Committee, which offers a variety of services to both clubs and superintendents.

In the making for years, the committee was finally nudged into existence by the escalating demand for not only employment referral mailings, but also information on how to hire a superintendent.

Says committee Chairman John Carlone of The Meadow Brook Club: "These requests have come from clubs not only within the Met area, but also throughout the country. The Met Board of Directors felt it would be wise to form a committee to address these issues—and ultimately, educate clubs

about our profession, our association, and the individuals in our association."

But equally important to the board was that the committee be equipped to provide assistance and support to member superintendents. Notes John, "The committee is prepared to help with just about any problem that could exist in the business—whether it's turf-related, political, or even personal. And if there's an issue that goes beyond the scope of our committee's expertise, we could certainly find someone in the association with the necessary knowledge and experience to help."

#### The Making of the Committee

Because of the potentially delicate nature of some of the issues the committee may be called on to handle, it will always be composed of the officers and immediate past president of the association. "If we feel others might enhance our ability to resolve a specific issue, *(continued on page 3)*

## Also in This Issue

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- ⑦ Class B Golf Outing a Success . . . Two Met Members Place in Las Vegas Golf Championship

# A Good Walk Spoiled???

of our bunker work. He continues . . .

"The corner tree on #3 has been tested for a bark disease, and the results are negative: The patient will continue aggravating everyone for some time to come. . . .

"The sixth hole shack center island has a new pile of soil to be reshaped for a planting to replace the tall cedar that blew down. Conversation right now is for a bushy white magnolia surrounded by colorful smaller bushes and annual flowers. We'll discuss this further at our meeting, but we should do something dramatic and colorful. . . .

"Fourteen, the monster project, is moving along great now. Early weather problems are behind us, and all three drains are completed and working beautifully. Truckloads of material are ready for shaping into our new trap complex on the right. . . .

"Finally, I'm in the clubhouse trying to warm up. I hope you enjoyed this January afternoon walk around the course and that you feel a little more in

touch with the amount of work that John and his crew have been doing. I encourage each member of the committee to call on John to arrange a personal hour or two walk around the course in the near future. It's a great way to understand what goes into preparing and improving our course. You'll see changes that you can never see or appreciate during summer.

"A visit would also give you a chance to better know and exchange some of your ideas with our best natural resource, John O'Keefe. As you know, I have had the pleasure of learning from—and meeting and planning a great deal with—John over the past several months, and each committee person would definitely benefit greatly from such a visit with John. . . ."

My final words about these winter jaunts: Try it; you might like. But more important, your committee might better understand—and like—you.

**JOHN J. O'KEEFE**  
President

## Notable Notes

### Members on the Move

**Bill Perlee** is the new superintendent at Apawamis Club, Rye, NY. Previous position: Superintendent, Burning Tree Country Club, Greenwich, CT.

**Michael Benz** is the new superintendent at Middle Bay Country Club, Oceanside, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent, Middle Bay.

### New Members

**Bryan Barrington**, Class C, Pine Hollow CC, East Norwich, NY

**Darrin Batsky**, Class A, Orange County GC, Middletown, NY

**Brian Hall**, Class C, Apawamis Club, Rye, NY

**Matt Lapinsky**, Class C, Elmwood CC, White Plains, NY

**Beau McSparin**, Class C, The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT

**Lawrence Taylor**, Class C, Pelham CC, Pelham Manor, NY

**Christopher Westrell**, Class C, Briar Hall CC, Briarcliff Manor, NY

**Scott Zalinski**, Class C, Siwanoy CC, Bronxville, NY

### Newly Certified

**Bert Dickinson**, superintendent of Willow Ridge Country Club in Harrison, NY, was recently designated a Certified Golf Course Superintendent by the GCSAA. Congratulations, Bert!

### In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Scott Alan Jr., newborn son of Huntsville Golf Club Superintendent **Scott Schukraft** and his wife, Heidi. The entire Met offers its sincere condolences. Our thoughts are with you both.

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## New Committee Lends Helping Hand to Clubs and Superintendents

we would look first to the association's past past presidents," says John, who as the Met's secretary, is the committee's first chairman.

"We felt the secretary would be the logical choice for committee chairman since this is the person on the board who handles job notices and acts as a liaison between clubs and the association," says John, to explain his appointment.

John's head role on the committee also requires that he field calls from clubs and superintendents and gather member statistics that the committee would make available to clubs who solicit their help.

Collected from the survey sent to all Class A and B members in January, these stats will include nuts-and-bolts information, such as superintendents' operating and capital budget averages, their staff composition and size, and their salary, wage, and benefits packages.

"The single most important thing a member can do to help the committee is to fill out the survey, which we plan to update annually," says John. "With accurate and current data, we can provide the clubs who solicit our help with the kind of information that will lead to more realistic and, hopefully attractive, working conditions and benefits packages for our members.

"This kind of information will also help superintendents seeking new employment to negotiate the best package for themselves," adds John.

### The Committee at Work

Though only officially up and running since November '96, the committee has already had several assignments, working with both Apawamis in Rye, NY, and Tamarack in Greenwich, CT, to guide them in establishing competitive benefits packages and fair hiring practices.

The committee's hope is that more clubs will take advantage of their full range of services—and why not? They're provided free of charge.

"There are no consultation fees," says John. "Only the standard \$200 charge for those who would like us to produce and distribute a job ad."

Here, in short, is what a club can

expect when it calls on the committee:

When asked to prepare a job ad, the committee will first confirm the position opening with the current superintendent. If a club would like guidance in how to go about filling the position, the committee will meet with club officials to help them determine what they want in a superintendent; educate them about the compensation packages, operating expenses, etc., that are typical in the tri-state area; assist them in developing an appropriate job ad; and then discuss interview techniques that will help them identify the best possible candidate for the job.



***"The committee is prepared to help with just about any problem that could exist in the business—whether it's turf-related, political, or even personal."***



"Something the committee will never do," says John, "is suggest candidates for a position or help conduct interviews." Another taboo: Commenting on the management practices of past and/or future superintendents at that club.

When the committee's work with a club is complete, they'll always seek feedback on the service to see if it could be improved in any way.

"So far, so good," says John. Commenting on the committee's work, Dan Laline, president of Tamarack, says:

"Our meeting with the committee together with the information packet provided by the MetGCSA were invaluable. Especially helpful were the suggestions about structuring the interview process, which included giving access to the course to view conditions and the opportunity to review our operating and capital budgets.

"While the search process is never easy, the help provided by the Met's Club Relations Committee made for a better, more efficient process."

### Assisting Superintendents

Though clubs have profited from the committee's work, it remains to be seen how many superintendents will make use of this valuable service.

"I realize some superintendents may be reluctant to ask for help," says John, "but members should know that whatever service the committee performs will be kept completely confidential."

If a superintendent would like to consult with the committee, he or she should contact the chairman, who, depending on the issue, will rally the appropriate people. "Sometimes superintendents could use an impartial third party to help them resolve a potentially job-threatening conflict with club officials or their green chairman. Others may just want a second opinion on one of their maintenance regimens or on how to best attack a turf problem on their course," says John.

Another of the committee's key functions, John points out, is to offer counsel and support to members who have lost their job. "For this, we will rely on the help of a few of our Family Relations Committee members," says John. "There are people on this committee who have already offered this kind of support, on an informal basis."

But no matter what the hurdle you may be facing, don't expect a committee member to come knocking at your door. "It's always up to the individual to ask for help," says John. "Committee members would never consider pushing themselves on anyone."

### Final Note

Whether assisting a club or superintendent, the Club Relations Committee has one goal in mind: To help elevate the profession—and superintendents' standing at their clubs.

"No club or superintendent should hesitate to call us," says John. "We're there to help—in any way we can."

Those interested in seeking the committee's assistance can reach John Carlone at The Meadow Brook Club at 516-935-6505, FAX 516-938-2985.

PAT SISK

Country Club of Fairfield

## MetGCSA Winter Seminar in a Nutshell

If you weren't among the 190 who attended the MetGCSA's January 8 Winter Seminar, all's not lost.

Here's a quick take on the outstanding educational program Will Heintz and his Education Committee put together for this annual event, which this year featured 22 exhibitor booths (see accompanying piece on the next page) and the Sherwood A. Moore Award ceremony for recipient Pat Lucas, CGCS, of Innis Arden Golf Club in Old Greenwich, CT.

### Ron Forse, Golf Course Architect: "To Tree or Not to Tree: The Architectural Use of Trees on Golf Courses"

Forse aptly presented the benefits of carefully considering the golf course landscape and design when selecting and locating various plant species. Trees that aren't well placed, as we well know, can cause a variety of turf problems. Among those he cited: poor air circulation, which results in wet soils and increased disease activity; excessive shade, which causes weak, sparse turf; and tree root competition with turf for soil moisture.

Another of Forse's strong recommendations: Evaluate club tree planting programs to make sure new plantings serve a true function and do not have the potential for inhibiting quality turf and distorting the golf course architect's intended design for any given hole.

### Dr. Bruce Clarke, Rutgers University: "Take-All Patch: Biology and Control"

Dr. Clarke discussed the biology of the Take-All Patch pathogen, as well as cultural practices that will reduce the severity of the disease and recent developments in controlling this devastating turf ill.

A root-infecting fungus, Take-All Patch does not seem to have a preferred host. Annual bluegrass, rough stalk bluegrass, Kentucky bluegrass, and velvetgrass have all fallen prey to the disease. Bentgrasses, however, do

seem to have the most severe response to the infection, particularly those grown under cool temps (40 to 60 degrees F) with ample soil moisture and high soil and rhizosphere pH.

Acidifying fertilizers and sterol-inhibiting or mercury-based fungicides have shown significant reductions in the incidence and severity of this disease. Current research shows sub-surface fungicide applications as 23 to 36 percent more effective than conventional surface treatments with a specific sterol inhibitor.

Upcoming research will examine the relationship between soil pH, reduced fungicide rates, and disease severity.

### Dr. Eric Nelson, Cornell University: "Biological Control of Turfgrass Diseases"

Dr. Nelson presented the latest research results on biological controls for turfgrass diseases. Microbial inoculates and organic amendments have shown limited disease control—25 to 50 percent. The most promise appears to be achieved by combining microbial/organic materials with lowest labeled fungicide rates.

Another option that has shown potential for lowering chemical use on the golf course—though too labor-intensive right now to be practical—is to extract the leachate from compost and inject it through the course's irrigation system.

### Dr. Frank Rossi, Cornell University: "Cold Weather Injury to Turfgrasses"

Dr. Rossi offered insight into the causes of—and cures for—winter injury. As you might suspect, good management practices that produce healthy turfgrass prior to winter helps the turfgrass plant resist cold weather injury. A weak—or overly lush—plant will be more prone to damage and death.

New research shows that using growth regulators prior to winter may help turf survive harsh winter conditions by relocating food reserves to the root system and producing a hardier

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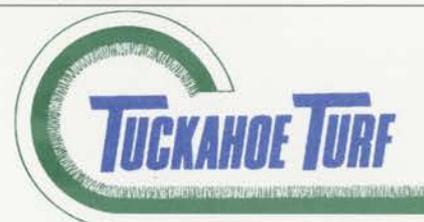
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plant. More research is needed to perfect this concept and establish recommended label rates.

**Richard Weir III, Cornell Cooperative Extension (Nassau County): "Tough/Low Maintenance Trees With Ornamental Value"**  
Weir offered a list of trees that are

disease-resistant and require minimum care, while still offering aesthetic value to the golf course, grounds, and clubhouse area.

He suggested guidelines for selecting trees, cautioning against basing your selection on the plant's attractiveness alone.

Be aware of the tree's maintenance requirements, he warns, and determine whether they fit into your daily routine or budget before you design them into your landscape or, more importantly, purchase them.

**DENNIS PETRUZZELLI, CGCS**  
Lakeover National Golf Club

## MetGCSA Winter Seminar Event Goes Commercial

**J**anuary 8 was an historical day for the MetGCSA. For the first time ever, the association went commercial with its post-holiday educational event, the Winter Seminar, offering vendors an all-new forum for showcasing their wares.

Twenty-two vendors sprung for a table where they were able to distribute new literature and set up product displays. And guess what? It worked!

With a record turnout at the semi-

nar—190 in all—vendors felt it was time, and money, well spent.

One commercial member commented, "It gave my partner and me the opportunity to talk business without feeling uncomfortable. Every year, we have a couple of early order programs that take place during the winter. Because we paid for a table, we felt entitled to solicit potential customers—though still in a very low-key way."

### Special Thanks to Our Exhibitors

As a special thank you to the exhibitors who participated in our Winter Seminar event, we've put together this directory with their names, phone numbers, and areas of specialty.

We hope you'll clip and save this sheet and, when the opportunity arises, show these contractors and suppliers the same support they showed us during our Winter Seminar—and throughout the year.

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#### **CHIPCO/ Rhone-Poulenc Co.**

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#### **Glenmore Landscape Service**

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#### **Turf Products Corporation**

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800-243-4355

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914-232-7746

#### **Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.**

Equipment Sales  
201-804-1000

#### **Unilock Corp.**

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914-278-6700

## Upcoming Events

### MetGCSA 1997 Meeting Calendar

#### MetGCSA Business Meeting

Thursday, March 20  
Siwanoy Country Club, Bronxville, NY  
Host: Dave Mahoney

#### Two-Ball Qualifier

Monday, April 21  
Scarsdale Golf Club, Hartsdale, NY  
Host: Herb Waterous

#### Superintendent/Manager Tournament

Monday, May 5  
Rockland Country Club, Sparkill, NY  
Host: Matt Ceplo, CGCS

#### Invitational Tournament

Site and Date TBA

#### MetGCSA Championship/Met Area Team Championship Qualifier, Round 1

Tuesday, July 22  
Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY  
Host: Jeff Wentworth

#### MetGCSA Championship/Met Area Team Championship Qualifier, Round 2

Site and Date TBA

#### Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Tuesday, October 14  
Preakness Hills Country Club, Wayne, NJ  
Host: John O'Keefe, CGCS

## Looking to Fill Two Meeting Sites!

If you're willing—and able—to host one of the open meetings at your club, please contact one of our Tournament Committee co-chairmen: Bob DeMarco at 914-593-2649 or Dave Mahoney at 914-961-8698.

### Educational Event

#### Turf Equipment Mechanics Advanced Training School

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## A Special Day for Seventh Annual Class B Golf Outing

**G**reeted by warm temps and plenty of sunshine, local MetGCSA assistants gathered at the historic Pelham Country Club for the Seventh Annual Class B Golf Outing (which, next year, will have to be called the Class C Outing!). After working up an appetite on the course, we were treated to a wonderful buffet dinner at the clubhouse.

There were 16 Two-Man Net Best Ball teams competing, and in addition first low net and first low gross individual. Here's the outcome:

### Low Gross Winner

Matt Lapinski, *Elmwood CC*

### Low Net Winner

Rob Goring, *CC of Purchase*

### Two-Man Net Best Ball Event Winners

Nick Lerner, *Lakeover National GC*

Matt Lapinski, *Elmwood CC*

Rob Goring, *CC of Purchase*

George Pierpoint, *Ardley CC*

Brett Richards, *Westchester CC*

Scott Apgar, *Metro Milorganite Inc.*

Matt Lapinski, *Elmwood CC*

Brian Hall, *Apawamis Club*

Kevin Quist, *Stanwich Club*

Blake Halderman, *Woodway CC*

Matt Severino, *Scarsdale GC*

Greg Dubois, *Winged Foot GC*

Frank Buschimi, *Knollwood CC*

Ken Gentile, *Canyon Club*

Arik Carlson, *Patterson Club*

John Callahan, *The Cardinals*

Jeff McNally, *Blind Brook Club*

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Larry Taylor, *Pelham CC*

Doug Middleton, *Emerald Isle*

Bob Johnston, *Scarsdale GC*

Bill Salinetti, *Winged Foot GC*

Cline Propst, *Silver Spring CC*

Glen Dube, *Silver Spring CC*

Greg Nicoll, *Westchester CC*

David Knobloch, *Westchester CC*

Dave Polidor, *St. Andrews GC*

Steve Smith, *Sleepy Hollow CC*

### Longest Drive

#3 Matt Severino, *Scarsdale GC*

#14 Rob Goring, *CC of Purchase*

### Closest to the Pin

#8 Glen Dube, *Silver Spring CC*

#18 Greg Gutter, *Alpine CC*

Many thanks go to the participating Class C members and especially Superintendent Jeff Wentworth.

DAVE POLIDOR

St. Andrews Golf Club

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