



TEE TO GREEN

Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Reflecting on a Productive Year

Year-end is always the time to reflect on all we've accomplished as an association. We, as a board of directors and association, set several goals as we entered into 1998. They were to:

- 1 raise public awareness of the superintendent as an educated professional and steward of the environment
- 2 fund research projects related to issues within the Met area
- 3 build the scholarship fund into a self-sustaining program
- 4 have the *Tee to Green* become a self-funding publication

Through a good deal of hard work and dedication, we've made great strides.

• In effort to educate the public about the superintendent's role as a steward of the environment, I and several of our members—**John Carlone** of The Meadow Brook Club, **Jon Jennings** of The Patterson Club, **Les Kennedy** of CC of Waterbury, **Mike Maffei** of Back O'Beyond, **John O'Keefe** of Preakness Hills Country Club, **Tim O'Neill** of CC of Darien, and **Jeff Weld** of the Bayer Corp.—have participated in GCSAA's Ambassador Speakers Program, which enlists representatives throughout the country to educate the public about the green industry's environmental benefits (continued on page 2)

Special Feature

Tim O'Neill Hits the Campaign Trail

MetGCSA Supports Tim O'Neill in His Candidacy for GCSAA Director

This year, Met members have a special reason for attending the Annual Meeting February 13 at the GCSAA International Conference and Show in Orlando, FL: Our own Tim O'Neill, former MetGCSA president and Country Club of Darien superintendent, is in the running for the GCSAA Board of Directors. Competition is stiff, with five other superintendents in the country competing for only three open slots.

Tim has been on the campaign trail since early September, sharing with superintendents throughout the country his philosophies and inspirations for building a stronger GCSAA and alliance among affiliated chapters.

Here, in this pointed interview, Tim speaks candidly about his motivation for seeking a position on the GCSAA board and about his grand plans for advancing our national organization and the superintendent's standing within the profession.



Timothy T. O'Neill, CGCS

What inspired you to run for the GCSAA Board of Directors?

Before I answer your question, just let me say how much I appreciate the MetGCSA's vote of confidence by nominating me for the position of GCSAA director. It's an opportunity I

approach with both gratitude and a strong understanding of the responsibilities involved.

In my 18 years as a golf course superintendent, I can hardly remember a time that I haven't been involved in working to advance (continued on page 4)

Also in This Issue

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- ⑤ Scholarship Raffle Winners Announced
- ⑦ Upcoming Educational Seminars and Events
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- ⑨ Perlee and Moore Take MetGCSA Two-Ball Competition
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Reflecting on a Productive Year

and to address consumer concerns.

Another positive step: We've continued to cosponsor the Westchester County Earth Day Celebration, sending a group of members from our association to man a booth and be available to discuss golf course issues and concerns with the general public.

Equally important to the cause are those members who have put the time and effort into becoming certified Audubon

Cooperative Sanctuaries,

demonstrating their concern for preserving the environment. Still others—**Joe Alonzi** of Westchester Country Club, **Ted Horton** of Pebble Beach Company, and **Scott Schukraft** of Huntsville Golf Club—were recognized in 1998 for their expertise in environmental issues and turfgrass management with GCSAA's Environmental Steward Award.

Also to our credit is that we've sought representation on regional task forces. Our participation in the Westchester County Drought Task Force, for instance, has resulted in golf courses being treated as a separate class with special consideration for our needs. In addition, we've worked with the MGA to cosponsor such image-enhancing events such as the Green Chairman/Superintendent Forum. And last but not least, area superintendents are receiving more press for their efforts in national and local publications. This year, the Westchester Gannett paper highlighted **Joe Alonzi** of Westchester Country Club and **Steve Renzetti** of Wykagyl Country Club for their contributions to the major tourneys held at their clubs.

• **On the research front**, we've moved to fund Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi in his pursuit of a nonchemical control—and, ultimately, cure—for moss. This is an issue that affects a good percentage of our membership and will undoubtedly attract the attention of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, which will also look at contributing to this cause.

• **We are still working diligently to build our Scholarship Fund** to a point where the accrued interest can be a substantial part of the scholarship offering. This will be an ongoing challenge.

• **By changing the format and frequency of Tee to Green**, we were able to up ad sales and boost revenues to a point where the publication is, once again, self-sustaining. We will continue to look at ways to enhance the editorial content and appearance of *Tee to Green* in the coming year.

I'd like to take this time to thank the Board of Directors and many association members for their contributions in helping us reach these goals. I'd also like to recognize outgoing board members **Tony Grasso** and **Bob DeMarco** for their years of service to the Met. While 1998 has been a very good year, I look forward to our association having an even better 1999 in preparation for the next millennium.

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 bimonthly by
the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523-2819
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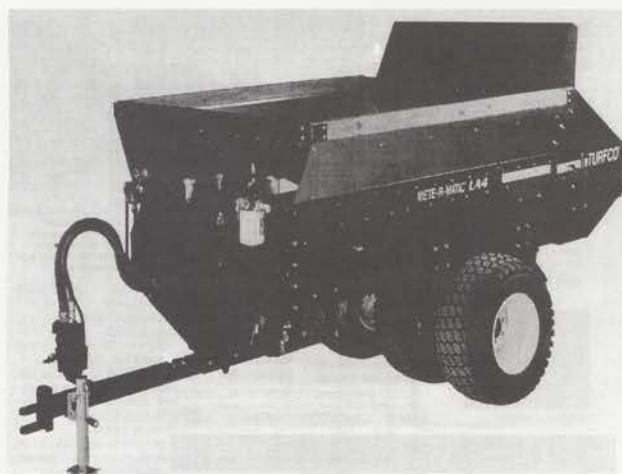
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Tim O'Neill Hits the Campaign Trail

our profession and our standing within the golf industry. I've moved through the chairs of our own association, serving as president, Chapter Delegate, and chairman of nearly every one of our committees. I've assumed a leading role in the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation's activities since its inception in 1990, serving as publications editor and moving up the ranks in another month to president. On a national level, I've worked to promote GCSAA on both the Chapter Relations and Public Relations committees.

Now, I'm ready—and eager—to take my commitment to our profession to a new level. Serving on the board of our national organization would allow me, I feel, to have a much more far-reaching impact on our industry and the individual superintendent. Right now, I would like nothing more than to become part of a team dedicated to leading our group to new heights of performance and professionalism.

How will you handle the added responsibility and time required of a GCSAA Director's position?

As I mentioned, I've always been extremely involved in industry activities. Boards, committees, seminars, and trade shows have always been a part of my life. Though it hasn't always been easy, I've managed to maintain a balance between work and home. Now it will, no doubt, be more challenging. I may have to forego some of my local and regional commitments, but I am prepared to do what it takes to keep all systems running smoothly.

Thankfully, I have the support of my employer—the Country Club of Darien—and my family—my wife, Jennifer, and my children, Justin, who's 9, and Kristen, 7. Prioritizing, communicating, and managing will be three skills I hope to enhance as I serve on the Board. I am confident these and other experiences will make me a better husband and superintendent.

What would you like to accomplish as a director of GCSAA?

I have a number of "grand plans" that I feel would serve to strengthen and advance both GCSAA and our profession. One is in an area that I know is near and dear to the hearts of many Met members. It certainly is to mine. It's support for the education of our children. Many chapters offer scholarships each year to deserving children, but I say, why not expand this effort by creating a cooperative program—between GCSAA and affiliated chapters—that would recognize and award a scholarship to one student from every chapter each year. Not only would this boost the image of our association on a national level, but more important, it would allow us to make a significant difference in the lives of 100 children.

While I'm on the subject of education, I feel it's very important to stay focused on providing educational opportunities for our members too. I strongly support initiatives—like GCSAA's new Capital Campaign, "Investing in the Beauty of Golf"—that enhance our understanding of turf quality and management. We need more of those no-nonsense research projects. As a director, I would look for ways to increase the funding necessary to put this kind of information in the hands of our superintendents. It may be a cliché, but it's absolutely true: Knowledge is power.

Also topping my "to-do" list would be to enhance—and capitalize on—chapter alliances. In our area, for instance, the Met and other surrounding chapters have joined forces in creating and implementing a number of highly successful programs in education and research. The New England Conference and Trade Show in Providence and the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation are just a couple of the cooperative efforts that have been successful in our area and might be useful models to others around the country. Likewise, I'm sure our region could benefit from other chapters' practices as well.

Another of my goals would be to

Votes of Confidence for Tim O'Neill in His Candidacy for Director

John O'Keefe, CGCS, Preakness Hills CC MetGCSA Chapter Delegate Former MetGCSA President

"Tim did a great job presenting his ideas and conveying his commitment and enthusiasm. The issues he presented regarding education, scholarship, and research, were clearly hot buttons for many superintendents throughout the country. He's a very strong candidate—someone superintendents from around the country can really relate to."

Bob Alonzi, CGCS, Winged Foot GC MetGCSA Chapter Delegate Former MetGCSA President

"When I was president of the Met chapter, Tim was a young apprentice at Greenwich Country Club. As a neophyte in the business, he impressed

me because he did not hesitate to take a stand and become involved. I have watched Tim mature and take over the leadership of our Met Chapter, achieving many goals.

Tim is a thinker, a person who believes in acting rather than reacting; his drive is endless. He would be a tremendous asset to the GCSAA board."

Jack Romanos, President Country Club of Darien

"Tim has worked miracles for us for nearly two decades. His dedication to excellence in every aspect of his responsibility as superintendent is reflected in our golf course. The membership of the Country Club of Darien is 100 percent behind him in his candidacy for director on the GCSAA board."

encourage more superintendents around the country to join GCSAA committees and participate in shaping the future of our national organization. If I've learned anything over the past several years, it's that some of our best programs started with ideas from our members. I would work on ways to strengthen—rather than stifle—the flow of ideas regarding any aspect of our association—and actively seek out any and all suggestions for improvement. GCSAA's future as an organization depends on it.

GCSAA's future also depends on our newer members: The new people today will be our leaders tomorrow. If we're to ensure the continued strength of our national association, we have to start

grooming these future leaders today. That's why, as a director, I would work to make it possible for more affiliated chapter leaders to visit GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence early in their careers. If we were to bring 17 people to Lawrence once a month, two additional representatives from each affiliated chapter could visit our headquarters each year. This would improve communication between GCSAA and the chapters and among the chapters themselves.

Ultimately, my goal will be to stay closely connected to individual superintendents. It's that close contact that, I feel, will enable me to better represent and play a positive role in the advancement of GCSAA and our profession.

How do you go about campaigning for a GCSAA directorship?

There's a lot more to campaigning than you might think. My work began probably two years ago, when I first met with a group of members from our association who became, in effect, my advisory board. They sat down and discussed with me my credentials and campaign strategies.

This same group has been busy since early spring reviewing my campaign materials, which so far have included a detailed candidate questionnaire for GCSAA; numerous campaign letters; a brochure, which had to be written, printed, and then distributed to Chapter Delegates throughout the country; and a speech, which I presented at the September Delegate's Meeting at GCSAA Headquarters.

Though I'm in the last leg of the campaign, there's still more to be done. Phone calls for one. Special thanks to the Met members who have taken the time to call friends and colleagues everywhere in an attempt to secure their vote. And thanks, again, to each and every one of you for supporting my campaign. I look forward to the opportunity to serve you all on a national level.

Tim O'Neill's Campaign Platform At a Glance

- Enhance—and capitalize on—chapter alliances
- Expand educational opportunities for our members and our children
- Encourage greater committee involvement and participation in shaping the future of our association
- Enhance the leadership skills of both our current and future leaders

Notable Notes

Eighteen Prizes Awarded in 1998 Scholarship Raffle

The 1998 Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 12 Metropolis Country Club Christmas party, raised a record \$8,170 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, **Mimi Wentworth**, wife of Pelham Country Club Superintendent Jeff Wentworth. The other prize winners were:

Brian Tremalio, Country Club of Fairfield, \$500
The Golf Group, Bernardston, MA, \$500
Table #7, \$500
Carlos Sanabria, Rockland CC, \$250
Joan Thompson, Stamford, CT, \$250

Bill Salinetti, Portsmouth Country Club in NH, \$250
Paul Coombes, Tappan, NY, \$250
Samantha Jennings, daughter of Patterson Club Superintendent Jon Jennings, \$100
Ken Kubik, Grass Roots Inc., \$100

Tony Bettino, TBS Maintenance and Improvement, \$100

John Carlone, The Meadow Brook Club, \$100

Maria Lippman, wife of Bob Lippman of Westchester Turf Supply, \$100

J. Sarlo, Brae Burn CC, \$100

Leslie Carlone, wife of Meadow Brook Club Superintendent John Carlone, \$100

John Streeter, Woodbridge CC, \$100

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Educational Events and Seminars

GCSAA Seminar: Building a Successful Golf Course Image and Balancing Your Golf Career and Personal Relationships

Friday, January 15

Foxwoods Resort & Casino

Cosponsored by the Met, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New England GCSAs and GCSAA, this seminar will feature world-renowned motivational speaker Bobbie Gee. Don't miss it. Spouses are encouraged to attend.

Call Education Committee member Jon Jennings, 203-259-7390, for further information.



GCSAA Seminar: Managerial Productivity

Monday - Tuesday, January 18 - 19

The Holiday Inn Fishkill Hotel, Fishkill, NY

Cosponsored by the Hudson Valley GCSA and GCSAA, this seminar offers practical advice on how to identify and solve employee performance problems. Learn how to establish a system for managing employees based on your personal style and preferences.

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

Turf Equipment

Mechanics Advanced Training School

Monday - Thursday, January 18 - 21

SUNY Delhi, Delhi, NY

SUNY Delhi in cooperation with NYSTA and the Golf Course Mechanics Association will again bring turf equipment mechanics a seminar vital to their professional success. The training will consist of techniques for basic and specialized welding and understanding and troubleshooting turf equipment hydraulic systems.

For further information, call NYSTA at 800-873-8873.

Etonic's Superintendent Leadership Series Human Resource Management Skills

Tuesday, January 26

The Chalet at Spook Rock GC, Suffern, NY

Cosponsored by Hudson Valley GCSA and GCSAA, this presentation offers practical tips on the many aspects of interviewing, hiring, and firing an employee and, ultimately, on increasing staff effectiveness.

For further information, call Daniel Madar at 914-357-7927.

Soil/Water: Characteristics and Behavior

Wednesday, January 27

Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Cosponsored by the MetGCSA and Aquatrols, this 3.5 hour seminar will cover such topics as the properties of water, issues of water repellency, and the ways that water moves through the soil profile and is made available to the plant. Surfactant technology and the role of surfactants in turf maintenance will also be covered.

Call Education Committee member Jon Jennings, 203-259-7390, for further information.

Connecticut Turf and Landscape Conference

Wednesday, February 11, 8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

The Hartford Civic Center, Hartford, CT

Watch for details in the mail. For further information, contact the Connecticut Grounds Keepers Association at 203-699-9912.

New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

Tuesday - Thursday, March 2 - 4

Rhode Island Convention Center, Providence, RI

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Met Pulls Fourth Place in Met Area Team Championship

Mark Fuller and the Connecticut Golf Club in Easton, CT, were hosts on October 8 to seven associations for the 1998 Met Area Team Championship. Strong rains made play a challenge, particularly for the Met Team, which this year came in at fourth place.

The Connecticut team claimed this year's trophy with the Philadelphia GCSA coming up right behind in second place. They were led on the gross side by Chet Walsh with an 81.

Mark Fuller came closest to the pin with 8'8", and Mike Dukette and John Callahan from the Connecticut group made the longest drives—Mike in the gross division and John in the net division.

Also participating in the tourney were teams from the Hudson Valley GCSA, Long Island GCSA, New Jersey GCSA, and Northeastern GCSA.

Special thanks to Connecticut Golf Club for setting up the day and being involved with the tournament. And congratulations to all the championship participants.

PAT SISK

Country Club of Fairfield

Class C Championship and Outing Results

This year's annual Class C Championship and Outing was held October 6 at Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY. Playing a Two-Man Best Ball, Blind Draw format, the following Class C members emerged with winning scores:

Individual Gross

- 1 Brian Benedict, *Century CC*
- 2 Chip Lafferty, *Wykagyl CC*
- 3 Matt Lapinski, *Elmwood CC*

Individual Net

- 1 Kevin Quist, *Ardsley CC*
- 2 Scott Zalinsky, *Siwanoy CC*
- 3 Eric O'Neill, *Middle Bay CC*

Two-Man Best Ball, Blind Draw

Gross

- 1 James Swiatlowski, *Montammy GC*
Dave Henault, *Fenway GC*
- 2 Bryan Jansen, *Mahopac GC*
Chris Donato, *Silver Spring CC*
- 3 Eric Morrison, *Burning Tree CC*
Darrell Marcinek, *Rockland CC*

Net

- 1 Seth Greenwood, *Anglebrook GC*
Sean Oberly, *Silver Spring CC*
- 2 Nick Lerner, *Canyon Club*
Chad Esposito, *CC of Darien*
- 3 Tom Watroba, *Quaker Ridge GC*
Brent Borelli, *Pelham CC*

Closest to Pin

- #5 Kevin Quist, *Ardsley CC* 7'9" #10 Scott Curry, *Scarsdale GC* 8'5"
#9 Chip Lafferty, *Wykagyl CC* 11'4.5" #13 Brian Benedict, *Century CC* 17'10"

Longest Drive

- #16 Rob Goring, *GC of Purchase*

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Two-Ball Champs Announced

The winning round to the Met-GCSA Two-Ball Championship was contested at Sleepy Hollow in Scarborough, NY. When the dust settled, the Bill Perlee (Apawamis Club) and Greg Moore (Rolling Hills) duo emerged the champs.

Class A Division

Bill Perlee/Greg Moore *defeated*
John Streeter/Les Kennedy

John Carlone/Tim O'Neill *defeated*
Rick Schock/Gregg Stanley
(defending champs)

Bill Perlee/Greg Moore *defeated*
John Carlone/Tim O'Neill
for the championship

Affiliate Division

Mike Cook/Ken Clear *defeated*
John Apple/Dan Cancelleri
PAT SISK
Country Club of Fairfield

Sneak Peak at 1999 Meeting Sites and Openings

Though many of our meeting sites have been claimed, we're still looking for a few more volunteers. After you've had a chance to review the list below, consider offering your club for one of the open meeting sites. Call either of the Tournament Committee co-chairs: Pat Sisk, 203-254-1240, or Tony Girardi, 914-764-5010.

MetGCSA Business Meeting

March
Rockrimmon Country Club, Stamford, CT
Host: Tony Girardi

Two-Ball Qualifier

April
SITE OPEN

Superintendent/Manager Tournament

May
Willow Ridge Country Club, Harrison, NY
Host: Bert Dickinson

Invitational Tournament

June
The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT
Host: Jon Jennings, CGCS

MetGCSA Championship/Met Area Team Championship Qualifier, Round 1

July
SITE OPEN

Poa Annual Tournament

August
Sands Point Golf Club, Sands Point, NY
Host: Richard Raymond

Golf Meeting/Format TBA

September
SITE OPEN

Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

October
Wykagyl Country Club
New Rochelle, NY
Host: Steve Renzetti, CGCS

Met Area Team Championship

October
SITE OPEN

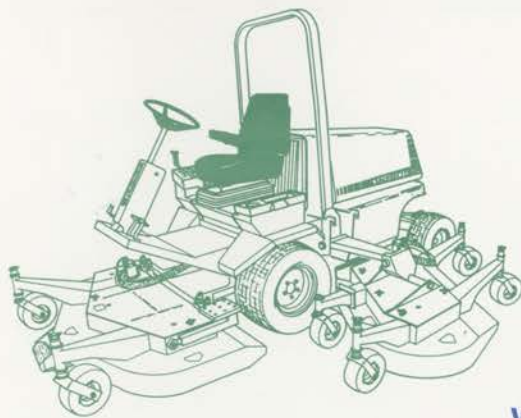
MetGCSA Annual Meeting

November
Milbrook Club, Greenwich, CT
Host: Jim Calladio



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