



TEE TO GREEN

Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

Make a Difference

I was going to talk about the weather. Then I decided we're all painfully aware of those circumstances. Some of us have been pretty dramatically affected and some of us not. It goes to show that every club has a unique ecosystem.

This brings to mind one way we, as superintendents, can make a difference—a topic I wanted to touch on in this President's Message.

Share and Share Alike

One way to make a difference in our crazy business is to share your trials—openly—with other superintendents. Discussing your experiences, and lessons learned, helps to alleviate the inevitable stress we all feel this time of year. When you get a call from a superintendent who's having a turf problem, take the time to drop by and see if you can offer a bit of helpful advice. Invite others to see problems you're battling at your course. Who knows, they might have "been there, done that." Talking things through can make a difference.

Be a Good Host

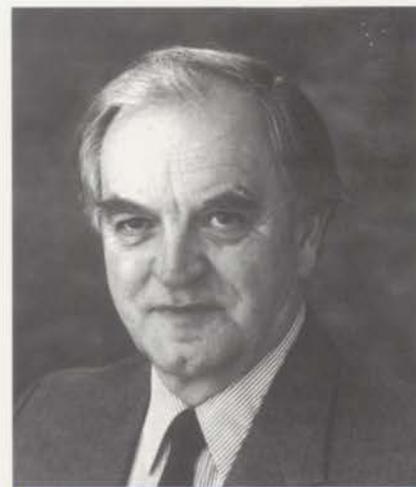
Another way to make a difference: Host an association event at your club. I got a call from our Tournament Committee co-chair, Pat Sisk, who told me that we still don't have a site for the Met Area Team Championship (continued on page 2)

Special Feature

Dr. Noel Jackson to Receive 1999 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

To thousands of golf course superintendents throughout the northern U.S.—and even Canada and northern Europe—Dr. Noel Jackson is renowned for his knowledge of cool-season turfgrass diseases and for his expertise as a turf disease diagnostician. A distinguished teacher, researcher, and extension specialist from the University of Rhode Island, Dr. Jackson has kept close sight of agronomic factors and their influence on disease activity. Most recently, Dr. Jackson's investigations into the deadly turf disease anthracnose—a project funded by the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation—have earned him notoriety among area superintendents.

But among MetGCSA members, Dr. Jackson is probably best known and loved for his ability to listen, reason, and recommend practical solutions. "There's probably not a superintendent in the tri-state area who hasn't looked to Dr. Jackson at one time or another for a quick—always reliable—turf diagnosis or a few disease control recommenda-



The Met's 1999 Reid Award Winner Dr. Noel Jackson of the University of Rhode Island.

tions," says MetGCSA Awards Committee Chairman John O'Keefe.

"His on-site and lab support," adds John, "make him an invaluable ally to golf course superintendents—and to the golfers we serve."

It's no surprise, (continued on page 8)

Also in This Issue

- ② Upcoming Events
- ④ Inside Look at Our Poa Annual Host
- ⑤ Site of Season's Grand Finale
- ⑥ Scholarship Recipients and Other Member Notables
- ⑩ Century Tee Sponsors
- ⑪ Golf Results: Read All About 'Em
- ⑬ Digging Deep for Root Cause of Moss
- ⑭ U.S. Open Conditions—for a Price
- ⑮ Beware of Ash Decline

Make a Difference

in October. I know it's often difficult to get our clubs to host association events, but we need your participation if we're going to sustain our golf/meeting events—and the success of our organization.

Please think about hosting a future event—whether it's golf, business, or social. Contact Pat, our other Tournament co-chair, Tony Girardi, or me if you're able to offer your facility. It can make a difference.

Aid Industry-Related Research

Speaking of offering your facility, Dr. Frank Rossi's moss research is underway. In the course of his three-year study, Dr. Rossi will be looking for superintendents willing to volunteer their courses in the name of research. But first, you can make a significant difference in this

study's success by responding—if you haven't already—to Dr. Rossi's moss survey. Dr. Rossi's prime objective is to reduce the need for regular chemical applications by improving our understanding of specific biological, ecological, nutritional, and sanitary aspects of moss invasion. For more about the study, be sure to read our write-up on page 13.

Monetary support makes the research possible. But it's your support that will determine the outcome of the study.

Support, involvement, participation. These are things that make a difference—in your success as a superintendent and, ultimately, in the success of our entire industry.

EARL F. MILLETT
President

Upcoming Events

Don't Miss These Meetings

September Golf Meeting

Tuesday, September 14
Anglebrook GC, Lincolndale, NY
Host: Louis S. Quick (Watch for his profile in the next issue of Tee to Green!)

Conference

NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition

Tuesday – Thursday, November 9 – 11
OnCenter, Syracuse, NY
NYSTA, in cooperation with Cornell University, will celebrate its 50th year at the annual Turf and Grounds Expo. Its golden anniversary theme is "Committed to Excellence: Plants, People, The Environment, and You." This year's conference will feature more than 60 business and technical sessions addressing all aspects of the green industry.

Well-known and respected speakers from across the country will present conference attendees with a wealth of information. This year's keynote speaker will be Brian Holloway, four-time All-Pro and holder of the NFL record for most consecutive plays from the line of scrimmage.

An expansive trade show with 350 exhibitor booths will bring new technology and innovative ideas to all who attend.

For further information, contact NYSTA at 800-8730-8873 or 518-783-1229.

Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Tuesday, September 28
Wykagyl Country Club
New Rochelle, NY
Host: Steve Renzetti, CGCS (see profile, page 5)

GCSAA Education Seminars

Bentgrass Summer Stress Management for Cool/Humid Regions

Wednesday, October 27
West Orange, NJ

Wednesday, December 1
Berlin, CT

Maximizing Job Satisfaction

Wednesday, November 17
Tarrytown, NY

Monday, December 6
Atlantic City, NJ

Problems and Solutions: Using Annuals and Perennials in the Golfscape

Thursday, December 2
Berlin, CT

Contact GCSAA at 800-472-7878 for further details on seminar locations and times.

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TEE TO GREEN is published bimonthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association
49 Knollwood Road, Elmford, NY 10523-2819
914-347-4653, FAX: 914-347-3437
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Calling all Class C members: Don't miss the **Annual Class C Outing** on Thursday, October 14. This year's event will be hosted by Assistant Superintendent Brian Benedict at Century Country Club in Purchase, NY.

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SERIALS

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RICHIE VALENTINE

- Superintendent, Merion Golf Club, Retired
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Sands Point Super Hosts Worthy Event: The 1999 Poa Annual Golf Tourney

The 1999 Poa Annual Golf Tournament swung into Sands Point Golf Club August 16 with Superintendent Rich Raymond pleased to host the event. "The opportunity to raise money for turf research through the Poa Annual sold me on hosting this year's tourney," says Rich.

A Turf Manager's Work Is Never Done

The 1926 Tillinghast course, located on the sandy soils of Northern Long Island, is generally quiet, with only about 10,000 rounds per season. That's left Rich and his crew a little time between regular course maintenance to tackle a number of renovation projects. Among the more interesting in his 11-year tenure, says Rich, has been restoring the course's bunkers to their original design, using photos from the archives as a guide.

"I really enjoyed uncovering some of the original bunkers that had been buried over the years," says Rich. "The members were impressed when we discovered sand from the original design beneath existing turf, especially at the depth of some of Tillinghast's work."

Another of the maintenance department's recent undertakings was to add internal drainage to 10 of the course's native soil greens. Completed in two phases—one in April '98, the second this past April—Rich notes, "We've already seen increased rooting, less anthracnose pressure, and overall healthier turf—though, I'll admit, this is not the best season to judge whether internal drainage has improved."

The department has also been successful in replacing ancient main lines to the irrigation system and reworking the greenside irrigation. And then there's the ongoing root pruning along fairway, green, and tee edges.

Taking URI by Storm

Rich's entrée into turfgrass management was quite by chance. After serving three years in the U.S. Army, where he reached the rank of sergeant, he enrolled in the liberal arts school at the University of Rhode Island, courtesy of the GI Bill. "I happened to be talking

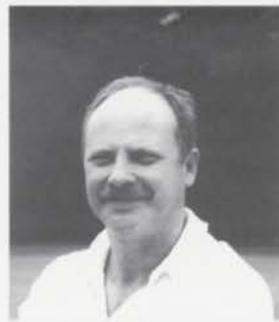
to one of my uncles who was a greens chairman down in Florida, and he suggested that I look into becoming a golf course superintendent," says Rich. "I lived across the street from a golf course where I grew up in Kent, OH—and I loved the game of golf, so it was a natural choice."

While working toward his B.S. in agriculture and resource technology, Rich worked summers at Point Judith Golf Club in Narragansett, RI, and at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

Once he graduated, Rich took a full-time position at Westchester Country Club, where he worked until he was awarded the superintendent's job at Sands Point Golf Club in 1988.

Duck, Duck, Mother Goose

When warming up on the driving range at Sands Point, you'd never know that in the 1920s it was the site of a famous polo field. You also wouldn't know that the turf between the range and 10th tee is claimed by skeet and trap shooters come October of every year.



Sands Point GC
Superintendent
Rich Raymond

"It hasn't been a problem," says Rich of the shared turf. "The shooters are considerate of the golfers."

If you were walking past Rich's cottage near the eighth tee and thought you spotted Mother Goose, chances are you weren't hallucinating. It was probably only Rich's wife, Laura, who's made a business of playing Mother Goose for children and teachers in the community.

"And don't worry," assures Rich, "she hasn't been singing 'Rain, rain, go away. . . .' Not this summer, anyway."

BILL PERLEE

The Apawamis Club

Did You Know?

FUN FACTS AND FIGURES

Rain is enriched with vitamin B¹². This nutrient, necessary for healthy blood, becomes naturally airborne and is brought to earth by wind and rain.



About 15 percent of the Earth's total biomass—the combined weight of all living things—is composed of **ants**. An additional 17 percent is taken up by termites, and according to the Associated Press, the combined weight of all ants on Earth is more than the weight of all humans combined.

There are 125 species of **fireflies** in North America, with the greatest variety found in the tropics. Fireflies prefer moist conditions, which may explain their relatively poor showing in the Northeast this summer.

Season's Grand Finale Goes to Wykagyl

Steve Renzetti Hosts the Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Believe it or not, September 28 marks the last MetGCSA golf meeting of the year: the Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament hosted by Steve Renzetti, director of sports and facilities at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY.

Course Notes

Steve has been with Wykagyl since 1992, welcoming more than just local associations to the course. During each of his seven years at the club, he's had the challenging task of preparing for the annual televised Ladies Japan Airlines (JAL) Big Apple Classic.

In addition to overseeing golf course events and operations, Steve is responsible for the pool, bowling, and paddle tennis operations—employees included, he says. He credits his assistant, Chip Lafferty, with making it possible for him to juggle his myriad responsibilities. "I could not succeed here," says Steve,

"without the extreme support of my assistant, Chip. He handles the day-to-day operations of the course with the skill and judgment of a superintendent."

Also high on Steve's list of credits are this staff of 15, including Second Assistant Grover Alexander and his interns. "They do so much—not only in maintaining, but also improving course conditions," he notes.

Speaking of conditions, Wykagyl has been touched by some of the greats in golf course architecture: Tillinghast, Ross, and most recently Arthur Hills, who in 1994 directed a major renovation project. "That year," says Steve, "we completed 46 new tees, 64 sand traps, three entirely new greens and all 18 green complexes, in addition to an all-new practice facility."

When playing your round September 28, watch out for the Par 4, Fifth Hole. "Statistically, this is the most difficult hole for members and professionals," warns Steve, who advises that you make sure your tee shot lands on the left side of the fairway to ensure a shot to the green.

The Journey

Steve entered into turfgrass management on the advice of his grandfather, a retired golf pro with great insight into the future of the profession. "Twenty years ago, my grandfather told me that the job of golf course superintendent was challenging and interesting—and that one day clubs would recognize the superintendent as one of the most influential employees on staff," says Steve.

Heeding his grandfather's advice, Steve left his Yonkers, NY, hometown and traveled up the East Coast to the University of Rhode Island. He graduated in 1987—along with fellow classmates Bert Dickinson and Jim Calladio—with a B.S. in Turfgrass Management.

Steve went on to Quaker Ridge, where he worked as assistant superintendent to Tony Savone from 1987 to 1989. Then he took his first superintendent's job at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, CT. After spending three years there, Steve accepted his current position at Wykagyl.



Wykagyl CC
Director of Sports
and Facilities
Steve Renzetti,
CGCS

Industry Service

A member of the MetGCSA since 1985, Steve was recently elected to the board of directors. In addition to serving on the Membership Committee, he has accepted the weighty responsibility of co-chairing the Communications Committee.

Steve is also involved in our national association, sitting on the GCSAA Publications Committee for the past two years. "I look at this as an opportunity to be a conduit of information from our national association on down to the MetGCSA," says Steve, who adds, "It's been great to see the level of the commitment GCSAA has toward its members—and how willing they are to respond to and support the affiliated chapters."

Steve's exposure to others throughout the country has driven home what he really already knew: "We have so many talented superintendents in the Met—who could go anywhere in the country and do a great job. The high standard set in the Met increases excellence throughout the ranks, resulting in a fantastic golf course experience."

Happiness Is . . .

When not involved in a professional pursuit, Steve enjoys spending time with his wife of six years, Angela, and their two sons, Austin, who is 3 years old, and Andrew, who is 18 months. "I enjoy my work, and I'm dedicated to the profession," says Steve, "but in the end, it's my family who keeps me happy and centered."

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1999 Scholarship Recipients Honored at Century

The MetGCSA Scholarship and Research Committee awarded a total of \$7,800 in scholarships to eight deserving members' children at the July 6 meeting at Century Country Club. Congratulations to the following scholarship recipients—and their parents:

- **Allison Beth Alonzi**, daughter of Judy and Joe Alonzi, superintendent of Westchester Country Club, started her freshman year at Towson University in Maryland and plans to transfer to the University of Connecticut during her sophomore year.
- **Carly Anne Amodio**, daughter of Jean and Frank Amodio of Valley View Greenhouses, graduated from Our Lady of Good Council High School in White Plains, NY, and will be attending Boston College in the fall.
- **Jacqueline Buschini**, daughter of Donna and Frank Buschini, assistant superintendent at Knollwood Country Club, will be entering her sophomore year at SUNY-Cortland.
- **Bonnie M. Hutch**, daughter of Greg Hutch of Rhone-Poulenc Co., will be entering her senior year at Montclair State University as a music major.
- **David J. Lippman**, son of Maria and Bob Lippman of Westchester Turf Supply, will be entering his senior year at Penn State University as a turfgrass management major.
- **Meredith Moore**, daughter of Beth and Tim Moore, superintendent of Knollwood Country Club, will be entering her sophomore year at SUNY-Plattsburgh as a mass communications major.
- **Lauren D. Pakkala**, daughter of Carol and Larry Pakkala, superintendent of Woodway Country Club, graduated from Darien High School and will be attending the University of Colorado at Boulder as a journalism major.
- **Peter J. Rappoccio**, son of Birdie and Peter Rappoccio, superintendent of Silver Spring Country Club, is entering his junior year at Virginia Technical University as a turfgrass management major.

In Memoriam

We are sorry to announce the death of two MetGCSA members:

- **Ron Shapiro** of The Bruedan Corporation
- **Walter Androsko** who was a long-time Met member and life member

We wish to extend our sincere condolences to their families.



Birth

Congratulations to Creek Club Superintendent **Bill Jones** on the birth of his daughter, **Amanda Rose**, on July 3.

Quotable Quote

“The man who wakes up and finds himself a success hasn't been asleep.”

Edward D. Sullivan

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Dr. Noel Jackson to Receive 1999 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

then, that the MetGCSA has elected to present Dr. Noel Jackson with its coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award—an award reserved for individuals who have “demonstrated a knowledge of, and commitment to, the game of golf and the science of golf course management.”

Well Educated and a Superb Educator

Born and raised in Yorkshire, England, Dr. Jackson was college educated in the U.K., earning a bachelor of science, with honors, in agricultural botany from King's College and a Ph.D. in agronomy from the University of Durham. From 1958 to 1965, he served as a distinguished turfgrass pathologist with the Sports Turf Research Institute in Bingley, England, and then immigrated to the U.S. He joined the faculty of the University of Rhode Island (URI), rising to the rank of professor.

Among Dr. Jackson's greatest contributions has been his unselfish devotion to his students and to all who ask for his assistance. His courses are among the most popular at URI, and graduates often remark that his class was one of the most important they took.

“If education is defined as ‘what you remember after you forget what you learned,’ then all URI turf management graduates got one heck of an education in Dr. Jackson's Plant Pathology class,” says former student and current Meadow Brook Superintendent John Carlone. “Our lives would be much easier if we would all follow Dr. Jackson's simple advice and ‘raise the height of cut.’”

His enthusiasm in the classroom has attracted many students into the field of turfgrass management, and he stays in touch with his graduates and follows their careers with interest and support.

“It was Dr. Jackson who gave me a realistic picture—and true understanding—of what it takes to manage turf under the stressful conditions we all face on our golf courses,” says Country Club of Darien Superintendent Tim O'Neill—also a former student of Dr. Jackson's. “I still look to him for advice when I'm faced with an unusual disease situation.”

Dr. Jackson has also received high

praise for the GCSAA seminar *Identification of Turfgrass Diseases* and for the highly acclaimed *Are We Mowing Our Greens to Death?*, which has been so popular that he agreed to have it videotaped to allow golf course superintendents to show it to their course officials.

Outstanding in His Field

Dr. Jackson is equally revered by his academic peers for his unique understanding of the relationship between disease and agronomic practices and for his exceptional knowledge of the taxonomy, biology, and management of turfgrass diseases. Considered one of the finest turfgrass disease diagnosticians, Dr. Jackson is an expert not only on anthracnose, but also on take-all patch and other rhizosphere diseases, yellow tuft, and mycorrhizae of turfgrasses.

He helped develop many of the fungicides available today, has authored hundreds of research, extension, and popular articles, and coauthored the seminal work *Fungal Diseases of Amenity Grasses*. This monograph is considered the premier reference on the subject of turfgrass diseases among pathologists.

Also noteworthy is Dr. Jackson's work in sustaining the Rhode Island Turfgrass Foundation and establishing the Rhode Island Turfgrass Conference and Show. He was equally influential in the merging of the Rhode Island conference with the Massachusetts conference, creating the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show, which draws more than 2,000 attendees annually.

Dr. Jackson has a rare ability to communicate his vast store of technical knowledge to any type of audience with clarity and humor. As a speaker, he has few peers. His seminar topics and research studies are on the cutting edge of the industry's needs, and his enthusiasm for the topics he presents is infectious.

“As a student of Dr. Jackson's, I never missed a class,” says Tim O'Neill. “And now, I try never to miss his seminars. He has a unique ability to share his insights in a way that not only informs, but keeps you entertained.

“Over the past several years, I've had

the fortunate opportunity to see his work—and great humor—firsthand through my involvement with the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation,” continues Tim. “His work with anthracnose has been helpful to superintendents throughout our region. I can't think of a better choice for this award, and I congratulate the MetGCSA for recognizing the tremendous contributions he has made to our industry.”

When notified of his selection for the Reid Award, Dr. Jackson was both surprised and delighted. “You do me a great honor in presenting me with this prestigious award,” he says, “and I appreciate greatly this recognition for my contributions over the years to the golf turf industry. To my friends in the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association, my sincerest thanks.”

The MetGCSA will present Dr. Jackson with the award at the upcoming September 28 meeting at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY.

The Reid Award's Roots

Initiated in 1986, the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award was named after the man affectionately known as the “Father of American Golf.” John Reid was not only the first to play golf in this country (in 1888), he was also instrumental in forming the first golf club at St. Andrews and, later, the USGA and the Metropolitan Golf Association.

But probably even more important to superintendents is that John Reid, by recognizing that golf courses required daily maintenance and care, was, in large part, responsible for establishing the golf course management profession.

Previous recipients of the John Reid Award are Charles Robson, Dr. Pat Vittum, the late Dr. C. Richard Skogley, Arthur Weber, Jim McLoughlin, Frank Hannigan, Geoffrey Cornish, Dr. Haruo Tashiro, the late Dr. Ralph Engel, Ken Venturi, the late Alexander Radko, and Guido Cribari.

Special thanks to the USGA Green Section Record for allowing us to draw from the piece they published about Dr. Noel Jackson in their May/June 1999 issue.



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Special Thanks to Our Century Meeting Tee Sponsors

At our July 6 meeting at Century Country Club, 36 companies participated in our Tee Sponsorship Program, which raised nearly \$7,000 for our association. As a special thank you, we've put together the following directory with their names, areas of specialty, and phone numbers. We hope you'll save this sheet and, when the opportunity arises, show these companies the same support they've shown us.

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Hosting Club Takes Invitational

Soaring temperatures and humidity levels made this year's Invitational a "survival of the fittest" tourney. The hosting team made the winning score (no sweat), with Wykagy a close second.

Special thanks to Jon Jennings and his crew for providing a well-prepared playing field—and to PGA Pro Jeff Moyher, Clubhouse Manager Ron Cioppa, and General Manager David Beaman for their help throughout the tournament.

We also can't forget to thank the Class AF and C members—Ray Beaudry, Mike Cook, Byron Johnson, and Sean Oberly—who were on hand to help run the day's event.

Low Net Winners

- 57 The Patterson Club,
Superintendent: Jon Jennings
- 58 Wykagyl Country Club
Superintendent: Steve Renzetti
- 60 Old Oaks Country Club
Superintendent: Mark Millett
(won in match of cards)

Low Gross Winners

- 67 Montammy Golf Club
Superintendent: Mike Miner
(won in match of cards)
- 67 Rockrimmon Country Club
Superintendent: Tony Girardi

Longest Drive

Professional: Mark Hanson,
Wykagyl Country Club
Club Official: Steve Murphy,
Knollwood Country Club
Club Official: Drew Campbell,
Fairview Country Club

Nearest to the Pin

Superintendent: Mark Millett,
Old Oaks Country Club
Club Official: Robert Diskin,
Rockrimmon Country Club
Club Official: Don DeMarco,
Rock Ridge Country Club
Club Official: Howard Kaye
PAT SISK
Country Club of Fairfield

MetGCSA Championship Contestants Sweat It Out at Century

Century Country Club hosted the 1999 MetGCSA Championship July 6 under—once again—record-high temps. Seems our host superintendents haven't been able to catch a break with the weather lately. Jim Fulwider and his crew did a wonderful job preparing—and then maintaining—the golf course as temperatures crept toward 100. Many thanks to General Manager Burt Ward, PGA Pro Nelson Long, and the entire Century Country Club staff for helping to make it great day.

Played right along with the MetGCSA Championship was the qualifying round of the Met Area Team Championship. Here are the winning results:

1 MetGCSA Championship: A Division

Championship Flight (Handicap 0-8)

Gross: 78 Earl Millett, *Ridgeway CC* **Net:** 76 Blake Halderman, *Minisceongo*

1st Flight (Handicap 9-13)

Gross: 80 Matt Severino, *Scarsdale GC* **Net:** 70 Tony Grasso, *Metropolis CC*

2nd Flight (Handicap 14-18)

Gross: 93 Joe Alonzi, *Westchester CC* **Net:** 74 Bill Perlee, *The Apawamic Club*

3rd Flight (Handicap 19-36)

Gross: 102 John O'Keefe, *Preakness Hills* **Net:** 77 Mike Reeb, *CC of New Canaan*

2 MetGCSA Championship: AF Division

Championship Flight (Handicap 0-8)

Gross: 80 Jay Antonelli, *Club Car* **Net:** 76 John Apple, *Westchester Ford Tractor*

1st Flight (Handicap 9-13)

Gross: 86 Mike Gesmundo, *Golf Course Enterprises, Inc.* **Net:** 78 John Currie, *Currie Landscaping*
(won in match of cards)

2nd Flight (Handicap 14-18)

Gross: 82 John Richichi, *Dar Par Sales* **Net:** 77 Dick Neufeld, *E/T Equipment*

3rd Flight (Handicap 19-36)

Gross: 104 Scott Apgar, *Metro Milorganite* **Net:** 77 Ray Beaudry, *Westchester Ford Tractor*

3 Met Area Team Championship Qualifiers

Congratulations to the following contestants who qualified to represent the MetGCSA in the Met Area Team Championship this October.

Gross Team Qualifiers

Ed Binsse, *Waccabuc CC* Earl Millett, *Ridgeway CC*
John Carlone, *Meadow Brook Club* Matt Severino, *Scarsdale GC*

Net Team Qualifiers

Tony Grasso, *Metropolis CC* Jeff Wentworth, *Pelham CC*
Blake Halderman, *Minisceongo GC* Bob Zaletsky, *New York CC*
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Digging Deep for the Root Cause of Moss

The MetGCSA Lends a Helping Hand in War Against Moss

As most of you probably know by now, the MetGCSA has joined forces with the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation to support long-awaited moss research being conducted by Cornell University researchers Dr. Frank Rossi (assistant professor) and David Dudones (graduate research assistant).

Initiated this past April, this three-year project will pursue a nonchemical control—and ultimately, cure—for moss found on golf course putting greens and will involve several phases.

A Multi-Faceted Approach

One of the first—and critically important phases—involves gathering information from superintendents in New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey on their experiences with moss on their courses. Surveys were mailed in June. If you have not received a copy, please contact Dr. Rossi at 607-255-3090.

The success of this research relies heavily on your input.

In the second phase, the researchers will be sampling moss populations at golf courses throughout the region to identify genetic profiles and determine how control effectiveness might vary among the different moss species. The Cornell team will also use this opportunity to identify locations suitable for field trials with various nutritional and experimental moss control compounds.

The objective of these field tests is, of course, to explore the effectiveness of new materials, but equally important is that the researchers intend to use these sites to host “Moss Field Days,” which will provide an open forum for Dr. Rossi and his team to discuss the research and educate superintendents and golfers on the complexities of moss control and eradication.

In the third phase of the study, the researchers will explore the nutritional

requirements of both moss and bentgrass to determine whether there are any ecological differences that might aid superintendents in excluding moss from greens that have never had a moss problem and for permanently eliminating moss from greens where the plant has gained a foothold.

Questions Answered

In the end, the Cornell research team hopes to emerge from their studies with answers to the following questions:

- Is all the moss on greens the same species?
- If moss spreads so easily, why do some greens have it and some don't?
- Is there a way to manage greens at championship levels and exclude moss?
- Is there a nutritional program that controls or excludes moss from putting greens?

Watch for periodic updates as Dr. Rossi's research unfolds.

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The High Cost of U.S. Open Conditions

Pinehurst Tells All About What It Takes to Produce a Picture-Perfect Playing Field

Each year after attending—or viewing on TV—the U.S. Open or the other “majors” or professional tour events, golfers invariably inquire: “Why can’t our golf course look perfect like those?”

The answer is it can. It just takes an enormous staff, a huge investment in machinery, and a large sum of money. But we knew that. What we didn’t know—and couldn’t communicate to our inquiring membership—was just *how* sizable an expense it would be. Now, thanks to Pinehurst Resort’s golf course maintenance department, we can tip off our membership to their impossible dream.

The maintenance staff decided to track what it took to prepare for the 1999 U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2. They looked at labor costs as well as the amount of labor hours for the week of the championship. Then they used those figures to estimate what it would take to maintain a course at U.S. Open levels all year long.

The figures are daunting. In their estimation, they would have to add close to \$1 million to their already hefty labor budget to maintain the facility at heightened levels year-round. What’s more, this doesn’t include the added expense for the equipment and machinery required to perform these accelerated maintenance activities. Here’s a more in-depth look at the facts and figures.

The High Price of Picture-Perfect

Labor is the most costly—and probably most necessary—component in maintaining a picture-perfect course. At Pinehurst, for instance, in a normal June period, 16 to 18 full- or part-time employees would work 580 regular hours and 80 hours of overtime in a seven-day workweek.

For the U.S. Open, Pinehurst No. 2 had 28 regular employees and approximately 50 volunteers working 3,120 regular hours (78 total employees x 40-hour workweek) and two hours overtime (78 total employees x 2 hours) for a total of 156 overtime hours. Obviously, the volunteers were crucial to the cause.



These hours translate into the following:

Normal June Week (hours worked)	U.S. Open Week (hours worked)
<i>Full/Part-Time Hours</i> 580 regular + 80 overtime . . .	<i>Full/Part-Time + Volunteers</i> 3,120 regular + 156 overtime . . .
<i>16-18 employees</i> 580 regular hours + 80 overtime . . .	<i>78 employees</i> 3,120 regular hours + 156 overtime . . .
<i>At 1.5 times pay = 700 hours of expense</i>	<i>At 1.5 times pay = 3,354 hours of expense</i>

As you can see, the labor necessary for U.S. Open week is about 4.8 times greater than the labor required for an average workweek in June. That means that, if Pinehurst No. 2 were to sustain the U.S. Open-level of maintenance year-round, it would have to up its payroll budget by a startling \$950,000 annually. With a normal budget of about \$750,000 on No. 2, this increase in labor would result in an annual expense of about \$1.7 million.

Granted, not every U.S. Open course has had the luxury of so many volunteers to prepare the course to quite this level of intensity. More common might be to have a staff of 50, rather than Pinehurst’s 78, to prepared for an Open. The net result over a year would be an annualized expense of three times the normal labor hours. This would bump up the payroll by \$500,000 annually, making for an annual labor budget of \$1.25 million.

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Ash Decline

Prevention Is the Best Medicine



Labor by Comparison

Here's a look at some of the tasks performed and the hours required during both a normal workweek and U.S. Open week.

Course Prepwork Compared

	Normal Week	U.S. Open Week
Greens (mowing)	87.50	168.00
Setup	28.00	56.00
Fairways (mowing)	20.00	105.00
Tees/Short cut (mowing)	60.00	175.00
Rough (mowing)	48.00	168.00
Intermediate rough (mowing)	9.00	21.00
Bunker raking	42.00	280.00
Divot repair	30.00	169.00
Backpack blowers (pine needles off bunkers/turf)	2.00	168.00
Clipping removal (polling)	7.00	252.00
Rake sand cart paths	8.00	63.00
Rake natural sand areas	4.00	105.00
Collect fairway clippings	N/A	42.00

The goal of course preparation for professional events is to have the golf course—the field of play—set up to test the skills of the participants. Consistent, daily preparation of the golf course—from height of fairway cut, green speed, repaired divots, and hand-raked bunkers—ensures that each player encounters the same conditions as their competitors each day of the event. Sure, you can attain those same conditions for your membership at your own course, but as anyone you show these figures to will see, it comes at a terribly steep price.

For additional information, contact Brad Kocher, Pinehurst Resort director of golf course maintenance, at 910-295-8513 or Brad.Kocher@ourclub.com.

USGA Golfer Etiquette: It's Worth Repeating

On the Tee

- Keep pace of play in mind.
- Wait until other groups are out of range before teeing off.

In the Fairway

- Be prepared to hit when it is your turn.
- Replace your divots; leave the course in better condition than you found it.

On the Green

- Fix all ball marks.
- Do not walk on the line of someone else's putt.
- Exit the green immediately upon completion of a hole.

If there were ever a year to beware of Ash Decline, this is one of them.

Though there are many factors that contribute to this tree-threatening disease, drought stress tops the list.

In fact ash trees are most likely to show signs of decline during—or following—drought years. Among the telltale symptoms: reduced growth, sparse canopies, leaf scorch, trunk sprouts, defoliation, and twig dieback.

Other factors that contribute to ash decline are:

- Leaf diseases (anthracnose, leaf spot, rust)
- Cankers and borers
- Viruses and mycoplasma-like organisms
- Site and growing conditions
- Trunk and root injury
- Foliar feeding insects
- Winter injury

To ensure the longevity of the ash trees on your course, it's important that you initiate the proper cultural practices before any symptoms appear.

Be sure to adequately water, fertilize, mulch, and prune your ash trees to help them adjust to transplanting and to encourage healthy growth. Young trees will have the greatest chance of both escaping infection and recovering once an infection has begun. But be aware that once the disease has gained a foothold, it's difficult to reverse.

At the first hint of decline, step up your cultural program, and evaluate the need for pest or disease control.

Quick Facts About Decline

- Ash decline is the result of a combination of factors, not one single cause.
- Stressed trees are most susceptible.
- The onset of ash decline can often be traced to drought stress.
- Preventive cultural practices will be much more effective than curative ones.
- Once decline symptoms appear, it's difficult to halt the disease's progress.

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