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TEE TO GREEN



Published by the
Metropolitan Golf Course
Superintendents Association

President's Message

First, the Good News

As we get ready for another season, I thought I'd bring you up-to-date on a few things. First, the welcome news: As I wrote in my past president's message, we were looking for additional funding for Dr. Frank Rossi's moss research, and we got it—at least a good part of it—from the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation.

Dr. Rossi presented his three-year research proposal to the Tri-State. After detailing his plans for developing a nonchemical control—and ultimately, a cure—for moss that's plaguing courses in the Met area, the foundation unanimously agreed to support his project with \$15,000 annually for three years.

Even with our donation of \$6,000 annually, however, this still leaves us short. We are contacting other regional associations and chemical R&D companies to solicit their assistance in funding this worthy endeavor. We've already received a financial commitment from the Hudson Valley Golf Course Superintendent's Association.

Now, the Not so Good News

There are currently four bills introduced in the New York State Assembly that attempt to limit pesticide use. Along with the New York State Turfgrass Association (NYSTA), we are actively trying to educate our legislators on the grave impact some *(continued on page 2)*

Special Feature

Looking Back at the Business

Three Retired Superintendents Reflect on the Good, the Bad, and Even the Ugly of Our Ever-Changing Industry

To say that the turfgrass management industry has changed would be like saying the sky is blue. We all know it. Many of us have lived it. . . but few longer than three highly successful—now retired—MetGCSA superintendents: Joe Camberato, Sherwood Moore, and Maurice "Skip" Cameron.

Here, in this interview with Patterson Club Superintendent Jon Jennings, these former supers share their uncensored views on how the turfgrass management industry has changed—for better or for worse. Among their comments, you'll find timeless bits of advice on what it takes to succeed—in this infinitely more demanding and sadly less forgiving business.



Joe Camberato

Past Superintendent at:
Sleepy Hollow CC
(Scarborough, NY)

Tenure as a superintendent: 41 years
Retired: 1998

When I first started in the business, clubs were quieter; there were no outings or golf carts, and you didn't have to struggle to get work done on the course without getting in anyone's way. It was the kind of profession that earned respect from the membership. They listened to what the superintendent had to say, placing trust in the person's judgment.

Now, it seems, everyone knows more about how to grow grass than you do. You're confronted for not letting carts out after five inches of rain, just because a particular member has guests coming to play, or one of the groups that golfs during the winter complains about not being allowed to play on frozen greens. The constant complaints wear on you after a while, and your tolerance lessens.

Maintenance Matters

Budgets have increased significantly since I first became a superintendent—but so have golfers' expectations, adding greater pressure on

Also in This Issue

- ② Events Fast-Approaching
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First, the Good News

of these proposed laws could have on our industry.

Here, in short, is what they are.

1. *The first bill, A5511*, would require that we provide information on pesticide use to the golfing public—on request and/or by posting pesticide type and time of application on the first and 10th tees on the day of spray and for three days following.

2. *The second bill, A6017*, addresses the practices, licensing, and recertification of pesticide applicators. The highlights include redefining IPM and requiring recertification, which would involve completing 18 course credits over four years and then passing an exam.

3. *The third bill, A5801*, establishes requirements for pesticide storage and inventory, scrutinizing mixing and equipment loading areas, pesticide container/equipment rinseate, bulk container storage, and personal protective equipment. It also would require that we provide local fire departments with a list of the types, quantities, and location of pesticides stored, as well as a fire response plan.

4. *The fourth and final bill, A5080*, is clearly bad news. It attempts to ban certain categories of pesticides for ornamental and turf pest control. These categories are defined by the USEPA as:

a. known, probable, or possible human carcinogens

b. category I or II according to the product acute toxicity classification for oral, dermal, or inhalation toxicity

c. any pesticide for which there is an outstanding request from the USEPA for health and environmental studies for the purpose of registration or reregistration

d. any pesticide that the commissioner determines is a likely endocrine disrupter, immunotoxin, or chronic neurotoxin, as such info becomes available

e. any pesticides having use restrictions due to any of the following: groundwater contamination, wildlife kills, or threats to endangered species

Yup, this one could be trouble folks.

I'd encourage everyone in New York to contact your state representatives and senators to discuss how you feel about these proposals. For more information, contact our NYSTA rep, Mike Maffei, at 914-279-7179.

Looking toward the future, maybe Dr. Rossi's chemical-free moss control program will come just in time!

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the monthly golf meetings in the coming months. Practice up, everyone!

EARL F. MILLETT
President

Upcoming Events

Don't Miss These Meetings!

Two-Ball Qualifier

Tuesday, April 27
Ardsley Country Club
Ardsley-on-Hudson, NY
Host: George Pierpoint III
(see profile, page 4)



Superintendent/Manager Tournament

Monday, May 17
Willow Ridge Country Club
Harrison, NY
Host: Bert Dickinson (see profile, page 5)

Invitational Tournament

Monday, June 7
The Patterson Club
Fairfield, CT
Host: Jon Jennings

Special Programs

National Workshop on Optimal Use of Insecticidal Nematodes in Pest Management

Saturday – Sunday, August 29 – 30
Rutgers' Cook College Campus, New Brunswick, NJ
This workshop is designed to educate superintendents on how to achieve optimal results in using insecticidal nematodes in controlling a wide array of pest species.

Employer/Superintendent Recognition Program John Deere Classic/Pro-Am Tournament

July 18 – 21 in Moline, IL
John Deere and GCSAA have designated 12 spots in the Pro-Am tourney for superintendent/employer teams who exemplify outstanding relationships. Only CGCS supers can enter to win this all-expenses-paid honor. Entry forms must be completed by April 16. Call GCSAA at 800-472-7878 for more information.

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Prepare to Tee It Up at Ardsley for the Two-Ball Qualifier

Here it is—nearly Opening Day! No, we won't be going to Yankee or Shea Stadium—but to Ardsley Country Club, where the MetGCSA will convene on April 27 for the season's first golf meeting.

Hosted by long-time superintendent George W. Pierpoint III, the Two-Ball Qualifier Tourney will be contested on one of the area's most scenic golf courses, which boasts majestic views of the Hudson River.

Established in 1895 as The Ardsley Casino, the club was a golfing, gaming, and social haven for some of the most successful men in the U.S., including Jay Gould, Cornelius Vanderbilt, J.P. Morgan, and William Rockefeller. Willie Dunn, golfing great of that era, designed the original course which was touted as the "finest and longest golf course in the world."

In between then and 1927, when the club took its current name, Ardsley Country Club, the golf course was redesigned by such noted architects as Donald Ross and Allister Mackenzie. In the '60s the Robert Trent Jones organization did further work to the course.

From the Beginning

George's history with the club began in December 1983, when he assumed the golf course superintendent's position there. In his 15-year tenure at Ardsley, George has worked with architect Marvin Armstrong to redesign and reconstruct more than 50 percent of the golf course—from bunkers, greens, and tees to the practice putting green.

"It's been quite a challenge balancing the day-to-day activities," says George, "but having an excellent relationship with the members, golf pro, and club manager makes all the difference. I get a great feeling of accomplishment when everything gets pulled together—and everyone's satisfied."

George got his feet wet in the turf business—40 years ago in May—at the Otterkill Country Club in Campbell Hall, NY. Starting on the crew as a high school student, George stayed with the club eight years, completing the UMass turf program as he worked his way up

the ranks to assistant superintendent. From there, George leapt into his first superintendent's job at Orange County Golf Club in Middletown, NY, and spent the next 17 years polishing his superintendent skills as he later signed on with New Jersey's Echo Lake Country Club, and finally, the well-known resort The Concord in the Catskills of New York before accepting his current position at Ardsley.

It's a Family Affair

Following in George's footsteps are his two sons: George Pierpoint IV, who's superintending for one of George III's former employers, Orange County Golf Club, and Robert, who is superintendent at Links at Erie Village in East Syracuse, NY.

Also closely linked to the business is his wife of 31 years, Ineke, who is a great asset at MGA Headquarters, juggling many roles and responsibilities, not the least of which of is MetGCSA executive secretary.

Clearly steeped in the business, George is currently a member of the MetGCSA, New Jersey GCSA, GCSAA, and NYSTA and is a charter life member of the Hudson Valley GCSA. What's more, George is an active participant on SUNY Delhi's advisory council. "It gives me a chance to play a role in the development of the turfgrass managers



Ardsley CC
Superintendent
George Pierpoint

of tomorrow," says George about his involvement, which includes supplying equipment to the college, employing interns and graduates, and doing what he can to ensure the turf program curriculum is closely aligned with the day-to-day realities of golf course management.

Though George clearly loves what he does, even he has to get away from it all once in a while. For George, that means hoppin' on his Harley and ridin'—an average of 8,000 to 10,000 miles per year. And guess who's frequently by his side—on her own Harley? Our very own executive secretary, Ineke. (Go girl.)

George is looking forward to hosting the Met on the 27th. This will mark the fourth event he's hosted at Ardsley, between the Met and Hudson Valley GCSAs.

MIKE COOK
Alpine, The Care of Trees

Buy and Sell Equipment On-line

If you're looking to buy or sell equipment, the MetGCSA's new web site is the place to do it. Please e-mail or call Tony Girardi with your listing, and he'll be happy to post it on-line—as soon as we get the site up-and-running!

His phone number and e-mail address are 914-764-5010 and tgirardi@cloud9.net.

In the meantime, we'll be happy to post your equipment listings in the *Tee to Green*—provided we have the space available! Here's the first installment.

Equipment for Sale

- 5-Gang Jacobsen Pull Behind (Worthington) 6 Blade ~ \$4K
 - Kawasaki Mule 2510 (Needs new rear-end unit/\$700 to fix) ~ \$4K
 - Che Tech ~ Ground Force ~ Automatic (Blown engine) ~ \$1K
 - Che Tech ~ Task Force 200 ~ Standard (Needs steering box) ~ \$1,300
- Contact:** Blake Halderman, Minisceongo Golf Club, 914-362-4112.

Manager/Superintendent Tourney Goes to Willow Ridge

When MetGCSA members attend this year's Manager/Superintendent Tournament May 17 at Willow Ridge Country Club in Harrison, NY, they'll have the opportunity to view a course that has just completed major—and as meeting host Bert Dickinson will tell you, “much needed”—renovations.

“The course hadn't changed much since it was built in the 1920s,” says Bert. “Though the layout was interesting, it had such radical dips in elevation that many of the holes were literally under water half the season. The membership decided it was time for a change.”

In Winter of '97, the planning began. Working with golf course architect Ken Dye, they completed phase one of the renovation work this fall, which focused on the shortfalls of the “lower holes.”

“The emphasis in this phase of the project,” explains Bert, “was to create a

water retention area to correct some of the serious flooding problems.” In the process, they rebuilt three fairways, several tees, and one green, and then modified another. They also added irrigation to fairways that were once so wet they didn't need any. “There's some sod that hasn't totally knitted into place,” he says, “but overall, I feel the project was a great success.”

Well Schooled

But then Bert was as well prepared for the challenges as any construction rookie could be, having worked at some of the finest training grounds in the Northeast: Point Judith Country Club in Rhode Island, where he interned while earning his bachelor's at URI, and Westchester Country Club, where he worked as an assistant for then superintendent Ted Horton.

Probably equally valuable was Bert's entrée into the business: a nine-hole



Willow Ridge CC
Superintendent
Bert Dickinson

facility near his home in Jamestown, RI. There, he worked side-by-side with his brother as chief, cook, and bottle washer for several seasons during high school. “My brother and I were the only ones working for an owner, so we did all the jobs. It was a great learning experience,” remembers Bert.

Golfers Beware

Entering his ninth season at Willow Ridge, Bert is looking forward to this coming season—and to hosting his first-ever Met meeting. He does emphasize, however, that the course won't be picture-perfect: “It's still recovering from all the work—and probably will continue its recovery right through the early part of the season.”

Bert also offers tourney players important insight into the course: “The front and back nines are very different,” he cautions. “The front nine is short and tight, while the back is long and open. Most players,” he notes, “won't need a driver until the ninth tee.” This 15 handicapper also points out the greens' severe contours and the many water hazards that come into play.

Kicking Back

Bert's free time is generally spent with his family: his wife, Christine, who's a teacher in Harrison, where they live and his 7-year-old son, Bert, and 5-year-old daughter, Emily, both of whom enjoy visiting Dad—and the playground—at work.

Be sure to plan a visit of your own to Willow Ridge on May 17—and have yourself a challenging round of golf.

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Two Met Members Honored for Honoring the Environment

The MetGCSA is proud to have two environmental leaders in its midst: **Bob Alonzi**, superintendent of Winged Foot Golf Club, and **Ted Horton**, vice president of resource management for the Pebble Beach Golf Co. Both were honored with GCSAA awards.

Bob was one of 17 merit winners of the 1999 GCSAA Environmental Steward Award, which recognizes superintendents for overall course management excellence in the areas of technology use, resource conservation, water quality management, integrated pest management, wildlife/habitat management, and education/outreach.

Ted has been honored with the 1999 President's Award for Environmental Leadership. This award was established in 1991 to recognize "an exceptional environmental contribution to the game of golf: a contribution that further exemplifies the golf course superintendent's image as a steward of the land."

GCSAA board of directors selected Ted on the basis of his environmental leadership at Pebble Beach and his pivotal role in the creation of "The Environmental Principles for Golf Courses in the United States."

Members on the Move

Bob Alonzi is the new superintendent at Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT. Previous position: Superintendent, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY.

John LaVoie is the new superintendent at Pine Barrens Golf Club, Jackson, NJ. Previous position: Assistant superintendent, Minisceongo Golf Club, Pomona, NY.

Richie Marcks is now director of golf operations, overseeing Bill Sandri's

growing roster of golf courses. Based in Bernardston, MA, at the Top 100 public course Crumpin-Fox, Richie will travel among courses from Florida to New England to oversee their operations. Previous position: Superintendent, Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT.

Jason Ziesmer is the new first assistant superintendent at Minisceongo Golf Club, Pomona, NY. Previous position: Second assistant superintendent, The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT.



Recertified

Congratulations to Rockland Country Club Superintendent **Matt Ceplo** for completing the coursework required for renewal of his professional certification. Matt initially achieved his status as a Certified Golf Course Superintendent with GCSAA in 1994.

Birth

Congratulations to Patterson Club Assistant Superintendent **Arik Carlson** and his wife, **Barbara**, who had a baby boy, Emerson Anders, on March 21.

In Memoriam

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of **Joe Lach**, a long-time MetGCSA member who retired in 1996 from Bruce Memorial Golf Course in Greenwich, CT. The entire Met offers its sincere condolences.

Mea Culpa . . . In other words, WE GOOFED!!! Our apologies to

E/T Equipment Co. Equipment Sales 914-271-6126

for mistakenly leaving them off last issue's list of valued Winter Seminar exhibitors.

Committee Chairmen at Your Service

Please feel to contact any of the following committee chairmen with questions or comments.

We've provided their numbers, here, for your convenience.

Awards Committee

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

Bylaws Committee

John Carlone, CGCS,
Meadow Brook Club
516-935-6505

Club Relations Committee

• John Carlone, CGCS,
Meadow Brook Club

516-935-6505

• Dave Mahoney, *Siwanoy CC*

914-961-8698

Communications Committee

• Jon Jennings, CGCS,
The Patterson Club

203-259-7390

• Steve Renzetti, CGCS, *Wykagyl CC*
914-636-8700 ext. 212

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Looking Back at the Business

superintendents than ever before. And as we all know, televised golf hasn't helped matters. Golfers have been made aware of the finer details of maintaining a tournament golf course and then expect you to duplicate those conditions on your course on a daily basis. Or commentators like Ken Venturi or Johnny Miller say something that a member picks up on and discusses in the grill room; suddenly that changes the way they want the course maintained.

We are sometimes our own worst enemy, competing with other clubs in the area to achieve faster green speeds and finer conditions. You always think the job will get easier, but it doesn't. Each year you try to do more and more to keep pace with players' expectations, and next thing you know, you have a budget that is no longer adequate to maintain the golf course at that level.

A Word About the Association

The MetGCSA has remained pretty much the same. There are still cliques and the same battles that have been going on for years. I've always said that we should have done more for ourselves rather than giving so much money away to research. I think the money raised from dues could be better used, for instance, to further our professional image, improve our office setup or our publication for the membership.

Lessons Learned

It's an abnormal person who wants to become a golf course superintendent. It's not a nine-to-five job with weekends off. And even the little time that you're not on the course, it's still on your mind.

You have to have an ego and be able to deal with negative comments. You can't always be politically correct. Have the confidence to stand your ground when you know you are right. The quality and health of the grass should come first. I used to say when asked why the greens were slow on a particular day that the grass was resting.

Sure, you're going to make mistakes. On any given day, if I made 10 mistakes or less, I felt I was having a good day.

Here's another bit of advice: Don't be

afraid to show your course to others. Invite superintendents for lunch and golf to get another perspective on the golf course and the job you're doing.

Last word to the wise: You have to be able to realize when you've been at a club too long. These days, it takes 10 or 12 years before the attitude toward a superintendent begins to change. If you stay at a club too long, you begin to lose credibility. You can ask for an increase in your budget or a piece of equipment and never get it. After you leave, the new superintendent comes in and gets everything you were asking for, including the budget necessary to improve the quality of the golf course.

In the end, you do not become a superintendent for the money. You do it because you enjoy being outside and you love what you do. You do it for your own personal satisfaction.



Sherwood Moore, CGCS

Past Superintendent at:
Lake Mohawk GC (Sparta, NJ), Crestmont CC (W. Orange, NJ), Hollywood GC (Deal, NJ), Woodway CC (Darien, CT), Winged Foot GC (Mamaroneck, NY)

Tenure as a superintendent: 45 years
Retired: 1984

Times have changed. Take the superintendent. Few had formal training or education. The person who ran the farm before it was converted to a golf course was, more than likely, the one to become the superintendent. Today, superintendents have at least some formal turfgrass education; a bachelor's and master's aren't unheard of.

They're more of a public figure at golf courses than in the past. They're expected to attend club functions, make presentations, and play golf with the membership. Despite this, some superintendents are able to manage summer vacations—unheard of in the past. This probably speaks well for the assistants out there today, some of whom have the same level of education, if not higher, than the superintendents they work for.

New Modes of Maintenance

Superintendents have many more tools—more sophisticated equipment, technology, and research data—to assist them in doing their job, but these advances haven't come without a price: Golfers demand increasingly higher levels of maintenance on the course.

In the old days, if you had good greens, your course was considered in good shape. Today, wall-to-wall perfection is imperative. Tees are like greens; fairways are like greens used to be.

Automatic irrigation systems are in part responsible for changing the way golf courses are expected to look and play. A hose by the side of a green used to be the irrigation system. Now you can water boundary to boundary and area by area.

The Evolution of the National

Our national association has grown tremendously. When I started out, the annual conference and trade show would draw 1,800 attendees. Now, the numbers are greater than 22,000. GCSAA's membership dues have become equally flabbergasting.

Camaraderie still is one of the wonderful aspects of the profession. I have always been welcomed at other courses by superintendents, many of whom were also helpful when I needed assistance.

Timeless Truths

Some things that I think contribute to a superintendent's success . . . First, it's important to see every aspect of the golf course. To do this well, you have to walk the course. You tend to miss some of the finer details when you're buzzing around in a golf cart.

Getting the whole picture is the only way to effectively manage activities and communicate with the membership about any concerns. Superintendents today must communicate constantly with the membership *and* their staff to be successful. Every two weeks I'd present, in writing, a report of the activities accomplished on the golf course to my green chairman. This helped him understand what had been done on the golf course and where we were headed.

I also feel it's important for superintendents to attend field days and support universities in their research. Offer whatever you can in return. One way to give back is to welcome interns into your operation. By working with students and guiding them into the profession, you help forge future superintendents.

In the end, your job as a golf course superintendent has to fall second, maybe third, behind family. You have to have a passion for the profession and working outdoors to be able to give the job the time that it demands.

It also helps to have a sense of humor. Enjoying what you do and being able to laugh will help you get through the more difficult periods of your career.

I've made many mistakes, which I won't get into in great detail, but I've learned more from my mistakes than any other experience in the industry. And in the end, that's what counts. That, and loving what you do.



Maurice "Skip" Cameron

Past Superintendent at:

Elmwood CC (Elmsford, NY), High Point CC (Montegut, NJ), Mountain Ridge CC (Caldwell, NJ), Canoe Brook CC (Summit, NJ)

Tenure as a superintendent: 35 years

Retired: 1995

In the old days, things were more relaxed, and it was a lot more fun to be a golf course superintendent. Just recently, Sherwood Moore and I visited Hollywood Golf Club in Deal, NJ, to see their newly renovated golf course. Sherwood was the super there more than 40 years ago, and when he met with some of the old-time members, he was treated like a long lost son.

Superintendents back then had tremendous loyalty to their clubs and their memberships because they were made to feel like part of the family. Now, how many superintendents after spending a lifetime at a single job have any desire to return to the turf they once loved? Not many, thanks to the young bucks involved today in most club operations. They come in and feel it's their job to

move the long-time superintendent out.

This is the kind of change that's bad for the profession and, in turn, for the club. It was a job we all loved: How do you put in all those long hours without a great love affair? Now, unfortunately, it's more of a "what have you done for me lately?" business.

Word to the Wise

To me, it was a challenge trying to produce the finest playing conditions possible, and I was enjoying the battle—until I got a new green chairman, a chef by trade. Suddenly the chef knew a lot more about turf than I did, and it became drudgery to go to work.

Clubs should understand that the fellow who does the most grumbling shouldn't automatically become the next green chairman—any more than anyone complaining about the quality of the hamburgers should become the next house chairman.

Lately, I've been a part-time salesperson, so I visit superintendents a lot. Aside from the technically uneducated farm person as greenskeeper being replaced by the college-educated, certified golf course superintendent, there are two basic changes I see in the profile of superintendent. One is that they're younger, and they need to be to put up with today's unrealistically demanding memberships.

And number two, superintendents have moved into a survival mode. They're making more money and investing that money as a safety net. There's no reason someone making \$80,000 a year can't have \$10,000 automatically withdrawn from their salary and invested properly so that by the time they're in their early 50s, they can tell everyone to go scratch if they want to.

Association Notes

Our association has changed in that it's financially sound and now wants to give away money for various causes. This is not our mission. If we want to contribute to a cause, let's hold a tournament and give with all our hearts but not build these things into our yearly dues. Keep the dues within reach of everyone.

Success Factors

New technology, when used properly, can be a godsend, but you still need someone to get up at 4:30 in the morning with the commonsense and knowledge to know when old mother nature is working for you or against you.

I always felt it was important that I be there before starting time to get everyone going in the right direction. This included having one assistant on each course checking that instructions were being carried out, and I insisted that they check each tee, green, and fairway for proper placement of cups and tee markers, for disease, vandalism, wet or dry spots, weeds, ball marks, divots, storm damage, or any other problem that may have occurred. By doing this every day, there isn't too much that is going to get by you.

I also was available by radio to act immediately when a problem arose. I wanted to be on top of all problems.

The one thing that is most critical to a superintendent's success is people skills. Everyone from the general manager, golf pro, green chairman, caddy master, waiter, and your own laborers can be your best friend or your worst enemy. The one thing that you don't need in this business is enemies.

Communication is the greatest way of building a strong relationship with those you work for and with. The green chairman I mentioned earlier was an example of the consequences of poor communication. He never took the time to visit our maintenance facility to see how I was managing my \$1.4 million budget or 28 employees. He only wanted to send me daily notes, complaining about everything imaginable. That's certainly not the way to motivate a person.

This is a very humbling job. One day you're a hero, the next a bum. In fact, you could be both on the same day, depending on whom you speak with. Successful superintendents tread along the middle lane, trying to make their mistakes small ones and take praises humbly . . . waiting for the inevitable, "But maybe if you did it this way. . . ."

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1999 GCSAA Golf Championship Highlights

Six Tampa-area golf courses were the playing fields for this year's GCSAA Golf Championship, which was contested under near-perfect skies and temps that the Northeast can only dream about during February.

The Met made its presence known in the Chapter Team Competition, with eight teams fighting for first place. The GCSA of New Jersey pulled fourth place with a team of players who are

First Flight, 3rd place net

John Gallagher III, Racebrook CC, CT

Second Flight, 2nd place gross

Gregg Stanley, Hudson Nat'l GC, NY

Third Flight, 5th place gross

Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy CC, NY

Fourth Flight, 4th place gross

Jeff Wentworth, Pelham CC, NY

Fifth Flight

4th place gross: Sean Cain, Sunningdale CC, NY

7th place gross: Rick Schock, Wee Burn CC, CT

Sixth Flight

3rd place net: Wayne Remo, Rock Spring Club, NJ

also members of the Met.

Congratulations to Jim McNally of Greenrock Corporation (Tarrytown, NY), Glenn Miller of Manasquan River GC (Brielle, NJ), John O'Keefe of Preakness Hills CC (Wayne, NJ), and Wayne Remo of Rock Spring Club (W. Orange, NJ).

We also can't forget to congratulate the following championship contestants from the Met who made it to the winner's circle.

4th place net: Mike Miner, Montammy GC, NJ

Eighth Flight

7th place net

Steven Sweet, Mill River Club, NY

Senior I Flight, 2nd place net

James Fulwider, Century CC, NY

Senior II Flight

3rd place gross: Frank Lamphier, Class AL

2nd place net: Fred Scheyhing, Mount Kisco CC, NY

Affiliates

7th place gross: Ken Clear, Alpine, the Care of Trees, CT

1st place net: Mike Cook, Alpine, the Care of Trees, NY

National News

A Near-Win for the Director's Slot

At the MetGCSA March 25 Business Meeting Country Club of Darien Superintendent Tim O'Neill thanked the Met for its support in his candidacy for GCSAA director and reported that he plans to give it a go again next year. "I was proud to represent the Met as a national candidate," says Tim, "and I appreciate the association's support. Being the next highest vote getter, I'm encouraged. I learned a few lessons during this campaign that I'm sure will help me the next time around." Here's a look at how Tim and the other candidates fared in the 1999 GCSAA elections.

President

David W. Ferris, CGCS 7287 Votes

Vice President

R. Scott Woodhead, CGCS 7287 Votes

Secretary/Treasurer

Tom D. Witt, CGCS 5987 Votes

Mike Wallace, CGCS 1300 Votes

Elected Directors

Sam Snyder, CGCS 5518 Votes

Mark Woodward, CGCS 4599 Votes

Mike Wallace, CGCS 3960 Votes

Runner-Ups for Director

Tim O'Neill, CGCS 3198 Votes

Jim Nicol, CGCS 2397 Votes

Joe Emanuel, CGCS 1875 Votes

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New Lyme Disease Vaccine Gets the Bacteria Before It Gets You

Recently, SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals held a seminar in New York to introduce its new vaccine—*LYMERix*—developed to combat Lyme Disease.

Driving home the importance of protecting yourself against an infected deer tick's bite was guest speaker Tim Simpson. The former PGA player revealed how Lyme disease ended his stunning career abruptly in 1991. After a day of hunting in Georgia, he woke up in the middle of the night scratching only to find more than 300 ticks all over his body. With Lyme disease a virtual unknown back then, Simpson suffered for more than a year before doctors could diagnose his condition.

The disease, often called "the great imitator," is frequently difficult to diagnose because it mimics so many other ailments—and can lay dormant in your system for years.

When it does show itself, it may affect

the skin, joints, nervous system, and less frequently the heart and eyes. Between 60 to 80 percent of people who have Lyme disease are fortunate enough to get a telltale red skin rash within a few days to several weeks after the tick bite.

A flu-like illness may occur with or without the rash, including such symptoms as fatigue, intermittent headache, chills, fever, stiff neck, muscle and joint pain, and sore throat.

The trick is to avoid likely tick-infested areas—particularly from early spring to late fall when they're most active. Golfers—and golf course workers—are particularly at risk when working or hunting down a ball in tall grass or wooded areas. Actually, a disease-carrying deer tick can be found anywhere that deer and field mice—the tick's favorite hosts—are.

How the Vaccine Works

The vaccine acts by killing the bac-

teria—*Borrelia burgdorferi*—inside the tick before it can enter your body. Interestingly, the tick is then free of the bacteria and can no longer spread Lyme disease to another person.

Clinical trials prove it to be 85 percent effective—impressive when you consider that flu shots are only 62 percent effective.

Before you're fully protected, you have to receive three shots over the course of one year. The initial shot is followed by another one a month later and a third one 12 months later.

One unknown: How long the vaccine is truly effective. There's a chance you will need a booster in two to three years.

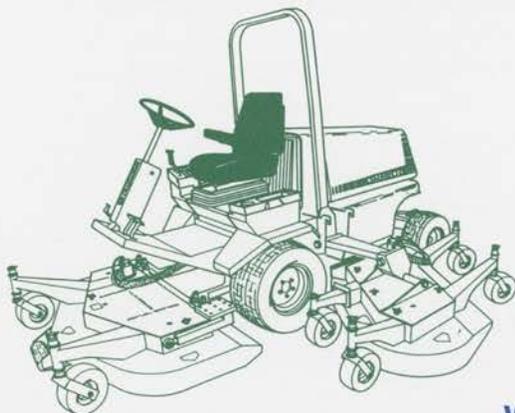
If you're eager to give the shot a shot and want to be fully protected by this time next year, don't delay. Call your physician to get started.

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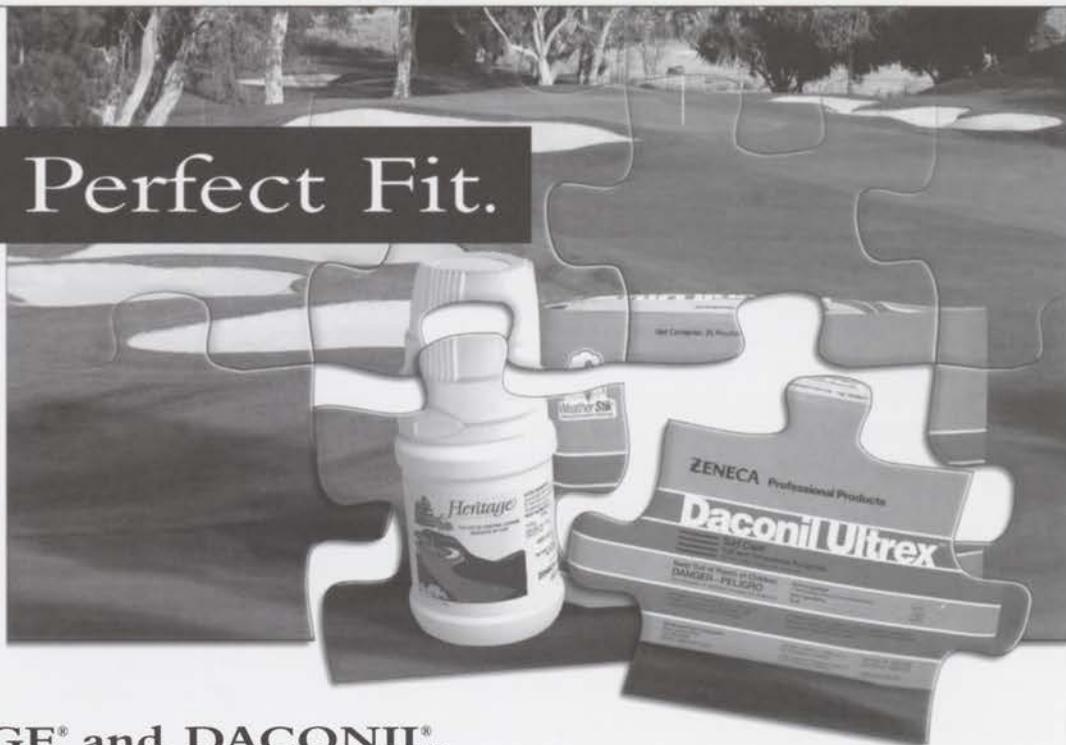
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Superintendents Cite Surprising Factor in Course Grooming Practices

According to a survey conducted by GCSAA at the conference in Orlando, there's a new factor in how golf course superintendents are deciding to groom their courses. No, it's not to accommodate golfers' new titanium clubfaces, graphite shafts, or souped-up balls, but rather to pick up the pace of play, which respondents almost unanimously agreed was bogged down by increased course traffic, high rough, fast greens, and the decline of golfer etiquette.

Among the biggest behavior flaws superintendents cited were failure to repair ball marks (60 percent), rake bunkers (18 percent), and replace divots (8 percent).

To help pick up the pace of play, 46 percent of superintendents said they are lowering the height of the rough at their courses, and 25 percent said they're widening their fairways.

Did the survey offer any revolutionary findings? Probably not. Any groundbreaking ideas? Hardly.

What it did provide was a pertinent reminder to golf's ruling bodies that the biggest threats to the game are the ones that restrict enjoyment: slow play and boorish behavior.

Did You Know?

Approximately 1,700 Superintendents

have achieved the status of Certified Golf course Superintendent (CGCS) with GCSAA.

More than 25 million people subscribe to the Golf Channel, with five million more expected by the end of 1999. Think of all the people who will have access to GCSAA's award-winning "Par for the Course" TV show.

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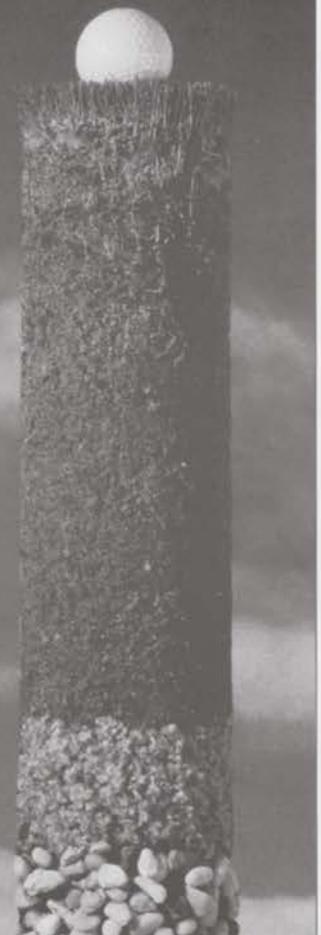
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