



# TEE TO GREEN



Published by the  
Metropolitan Golf Course  
Superintendents Association

## President's Message

### All the News That's Fit to Print

It's midyear already, and everyone on the board has been hard at work. Here's a look at what's been happening.

#### Official Business

On May 15, MetGCSA Vice President Tim Moore, Treasurer Dave Mahoney, and Secretary Will Heintz joined me in representing our association at an outing at Fiddlers Elbow Country Club in New Jersey. Proceeds from this event go toward turfgrass research at Rutgers University, which, right now, is probably the premier research facility in the Northeast. The Met has been supporting this worthwhile endeavor since its inception in the mid-90s.

On June 5, the entire board attended the annual Met Golf Writers Dinner at the Westchester Marriott, which, again, we have been attending for as long as I've been on the board. Being there among others in the golf industry gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our important role in the golf community.

#### Committee Work

• **Membership:** The big news here is that Committee Chairman Will Heintz will be sending out our biannual survey. Watch for it in the mail. It's important that as many members as possible complete this survey so that the results are meaningful *(continued on page 2)*

## Special Feature

### Wykagyl Country Club Cleans Up Its Act

*Wykagyl Superintendent Chip Lafferty Shares His Club's Success With a Specially Funded Nonpoint Pollution Program*

Even if your golf course is miles away from the nearest beach, there's still a good chance that you have drainage paths—usually a series of interconnected streams and ponds—that lead to Long Island Sound. It's through these drainage paths that storm water runoff containing undesirable pollutants can flow directly into the Sound. Environmental groups refer to this as nonpoint pollution.

Golf courses most at risk are those with older drainage systems that haven't been engineered to filter nitrates and other harmful substances from storm water.

Fortunately, The New York Department of Environmental Conservation has received funding to help prevent nonpoint pollution—not just from golf courses, but from any other potential source in Westchester County.

Wykagyl was one of the first projects to benefit from this funding. "We were a prime candidate," says Wykagyl Superintendent Chip Lafferty. "The main siltation basin near our 18th hole wasn't functioning properly. It was so loaded with silt and leaves and debris that any time we had a heavy rain, the basin would spill over, scattering the debris across our 18th fairway."

With the program's funds—\$167,000 when all was said and done—Wykagyl was expected to see that the storm water

drainage system was cleaned up and reengineered to work more efficiently and effectively as a filtering system.

The entire process happened fast and furiously. Work began April 10 and ended Memorial Day weekend. Here, Chip offers insight into the project: the bidding process, what it took to marshal County resources and contractors, and the actual cleanup work itself.

The end result is one we would all like to achieve: a win-win for both the environment and *(continued on page 6)*

## Also in This Issue

- ④ Invitational Goes to Tamarack
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# All the News That's Fit to Print

to our members and useful to our Club Relations Committee, which relies on survey results when offering counsel or advice to clubs requesting the committee's services.

As always, only those who complete the survey will receive the results. If all members complete the survey by the August 1 deadline, we hope to have the results in participants' hands by mid-September.

• **Tournament:** First-year board members and Co-Chairs Jeff Wentworth and Sean Cain have done an excellent job at securing sites for our monthly golf meetings. I know from experience that this is among the most difficult committees to chair. The entire membership should make a point of congratulating them on a job well done.

Our final two meeting calendar openings have finally been filled: Steve Finamore of Alpine Country Club in Demarest, NJ, has agreed to host our Superintendent/Green Chairman meeting on October 10, while Tim Moore of Knollwood Country Club will host our Annual Meeting on November 14.

I'm sure Jeff and Sean are actively seeking spots for meeting sites in 2001. If you would like to host a meeting, it's not too early to secure a date. Give them a call.



• **Communications:** Co-Chairmen Pat Sisk and Steve Renzetti and their committee have been working hard on enhancements to two very important MetGCSA documents: our newsletter and directory. The first to appear on the scene will be our new-and-improved directory, complete with tabbed sections, an expanded cross-reference section, and advertising. These ads will replace those in the *Tee to Green*, which is also being redesigned. Watch for an all-new publication coming soon. Bet you won't recognize it.

Speaking of redesigns, be sure to check out our website, if you haven't already. Website Committee Co-Chairs

Tony Girardi and Peter McCormick have been hard at work on sprucing up—and maintaining—the site. If you would like to post something on the Met's site, e-mail Tony or Peter with the information.

• **Education:** Chairman Matt Ceplo has been hard at work gathering speakers for our monthly meetings and has nearly completed plans for our flagship educational day, our 2001 Winter Seminar, which is already booked for January 10 at Westchester Country Club.

• **Social & Welfare:**

Thanks to Chairman Joe Alonzi and the other



members of the committee for planning what I know will be memorable social events for 2000. Mark your calendar now for these MetGCSA socials:

- ✓ Family Picnic, Woodway Beach Club, August 7, 2000
- ✓ Summer Social, Old Oaks Country Club, August 21, 2000
- ✓ Christmas Party, Mt. Kisco Country Club, December 9, 2000

• **Special Events:** Our July 5 meeting at The Hamlet Golf & Country Club will feature our annual Scholarship & Research golf fundraiser. Matt Ceplo will once again be calling on our valued Affiliate members to support our cause by purchasing a tee sign or by sponsoring a hole-in-one contest on one of the Par 3s.

• **Scholarship & Research:** The S & R Committee, chaired by Tim Moore, recently met and awarded eight applicants MetGCSA scholarships. The monies for this cause are raised primarily from our annual Scholarship & Research Raffle held in the memory of Bill Caputi. Watch for an announcement of the winners in the next issue of *Tee to Green*.

In addition, the Met has committed \$17,500 in research donations for the year 2000. They are:

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Periodical Reading Room  
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- ✓ \$10,000 to Cornell University's Dr. Frank Rossi for his Moss Exclusion Study.
- ✓ \$1,500 to GCSAA's "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" Fund. This is the final year of a three-year commitment.
- ✓ \$1,000 to University of Massachusetts's Dr. Pat Vittum for her ongoing Hyperodes research.
- ✓ \$2,500 to the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation.
- ✓ \$2,500 to Rutgers University Turfgrass Research Center.

In addition, our restricted Scholarship & Research funds continue to grow to support significant future research.

This committee is near and dear to my heart as I feel it is one of the ways the Met gives back to its members.

- **Awards:** Earl Millett, immediate past president and Awards Committee Chairman, is currently accepting nominations for our two prestigious awards: the John Reid Lifetime Achievement

Award and the Sherwood A. Moore Award. Anyone interested in nominating an individual for one of these awards should be sure to contact Earl.



### • Government

**Relations:** Committee Co-Chairs Will Heintz and Tony Girardi put together an informative packet on the West Nile virus that they mailed to all A, B, and Affiliate members. In the last issue of *Tee to Green*, our feature article also offered excellent insight into the virus and how to keep ourselves and our courses out of harm's way. It was so newsworthy, in fact, that *Superintendent News* asked our permission to reprint it.

In general, it's the job of this committee to track and keep us informed of any pesticide legislation that might

affect us. Right now, there are at least 26 bills before State of New York lawmakers regarding pesticides.

### About Our Class Reps

Class AF Rep Peter McCormick of TurfNet Associates and Class C Rep Eric O'Neill of Scarsdale Country Club have been tremendous assets to the Met board of directors. Affiliate members should feel comfortable calling Peter with any issue they would like to see brought before the board, and any assistant superintendent who would like to become involved in a committee or as a volunteer at one of our monthly golf meetings should call Eric.

### Final Word

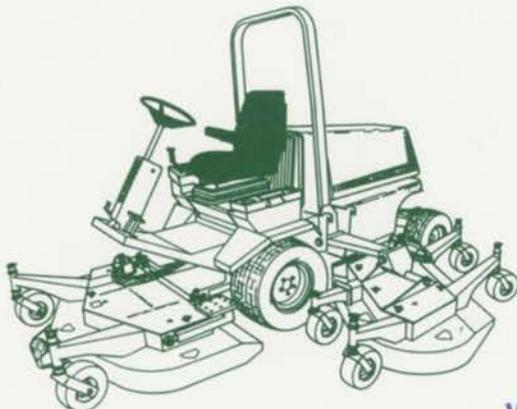
Stay involved, and the Met will continue to thrive!

JOHN CARLONE, CGCS  
President

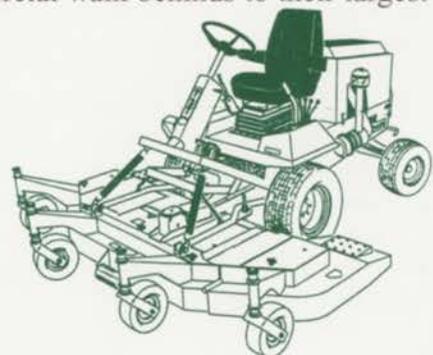


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## Jeff Scott Brings Invitational to Tamarack

On June 26, Met members had the pleasure of contesting this year's Invitational Tournament at one of the area's last "working man's" clubs: Tamarack Country Club in Greenwich, CT.

Nearly three quarters of a century old, this 6,800-plus-yard course was designed by Golf Course Architect Charles "Steam Shovel" Banks. The first to use a machine—the steam shovel—to construct golf courses, Banks was known for designing large playing surfaces, specifically sizable bunkers and greens.

"The greens average 7,600 square feet," explains host Superintendent Jeff Scott. "That's at least a third larger than most clubs' greens."

But at Tamarack, big is beautiful. According to Jeff, the club is putting together a master plan that will include restoring the oversized bunkers and also updating the course's 20-year-old irrigation system. Up for vote, as well, are improvements to the club's 35-year-old clubhouse.

"We should know the outcome this summer," says Jeff, who is currently in the midst of building a brand-new, \$700,000 maintenance facility, scheduled for completion in the fall.

### The Road to Tamarack

Like many superintendents who have been in the business a number of years, turfgrass management wasn't first and foremost on Jeff's mind when he entered college in the mid-70s. "I started out at South Hampton College in Long Island as a Marine Biology major," he explains, "but after five semesters, I decided being a ski bum had a lot more appeal." Jeff headed for the slopes in Colorado, returning to his Pawling, NY, hometown one year later.

He accepted a job with a local landscaper and, then, at the suggestion of friends, he contacted fellow Pawlingite Mark Loper about working on the grounds crew at Fairview Country Club. Mark was the assistant clubhouse manager there at the time.

The rest is history. Jeff worked for Bob Alonzi, Fairview's super at the time, from 1978 to 1979, then headed off to UMass's turf school. While completing his two-year degree, he interned at Baltimore Country Club. In 1984, Jeff returned to Fairview, spent one year there, and then hooked up with another Alonzi—Joe—when he was superintendent at Fenway Golf Club.

In November of '85, Jeff secured his first superintendent's job at Knickerbocker Country Club in Tenafly, NJ. Then he returned to New York in 1988, as superintendent at The Apawamis Club. Nine years later—in February of '97, to be exact—he secured his current position at Tamarack.

### The Loves of His Life

Jeff's personal life is pretty much focused on his wife, Kathy, and three children—Annie, 13; Cali, 11; and Jeff, 7—and, of course, skiing. "We all like to ski," says Jeff who enjoys sharing his still-favorite pastime with his family.

During the winter months, Jeff is a ski instructor many winter weekends and week nights at the Thunderidge Ski Area in Patterson, NY. "The kids all ski competitively on the Thunderidge Ski Team. It's a great place to learn," says Jeff, who notes that he's also president of the Thunderidge Parents Association, which assembled the ski area's 60-member team to compete against other ski teams in the Northeast.



Tamarack CC Superintendent Jeff Scott

Among Jeff's other pleasures are his two German Shepherds, which spend time with him on the golf course. In his office, Jeff also keeps an aquarium full of crickets—not as pets, but as tasty treats for the family's two pet lizards. "You know how it goes," says Jeff, with kind resolution, "the kids want all sorts of animals, and eventually, somehow, I'm the one taking care of them."

### It's Great to Belong

Jeff spent six years on the MetGCSA board, chairing the Social & Welfare Committee and running the Turfgrass Field Day for several years. "The Met, as well as GCSAA, are strong organizations that are dedicated to promoting education and fostering professionalism," says Jeff. "It's great to be part of organizations that provide so much support—not just professionally, but in our personal lives, as well."

"I'm so glad to have been able to host an event for all our members to enjoy."

MIKE COOK

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Be sure to join us for our  
Family Picnic and Summer Social!  
See page 12 for details.

## Rabideau Welcomes Met Members to The Hamlet

**M**et members will visit a course on July 5 that has never before appeared on our meeting roster: The Hamlet Golf & Country Club in Commack, NY. The club's third-year superintendent, Steve Rabideau, will host members in this year's first round MetGCSA Championship and Met Area Team Championship qualifier.

The course, formerly Commack Hills Golf Course, was entirely redesigned by Architect Stephen Kay in 1993. "The new tract doesn't resemble the old layout in any way, shape, or form," says Steve Rabideau. "Upscale houses line many fairways, and out of bounds come into play on almost every hole."

Dotted with small ponds and native grass areas, the course boasts sculpted fairways, well-placed bunkers, and extra-large greens. "The greens average 6,500 square feet with lots of undulations and ample pin locations," says Steve adding, "That gives us the opportunity to tuck a few sucker pins on several holes."

The Par 70, 6,500 layout has strong Par 3s, and according to Steve, a back nine that's a real test.

In addition to the golf course, Steve's in charge of maintaining all the club-

house grounds and tennis courts. As much as Steve hates to admit it, The Hamlet Golf & Country Club is probably better known for tennis than it is for golf—particularly for the tournament it hosts one week prior to the U.S. Tennis Open in August. "The surface of the courts is the same as the Open's, so the field is always strong," notes Steve. "We put a lot of effort into preparing for the tournament," he adds. But Steve is also quick to point out that he and his crew are putting at least as much effort into elevating the status of golf at the club.

Steve's career in golf course management happened quite by accident. While pursuing a business degree at Westfield State College, Steve worked on a four-person crew at Petersham Country Club, a Donald Ross nine-hole course in Western Massachusetts. "Being a small operation, I was able to get a feel for every aspect of golf course maintenance," says Steve, who decided after two seasons on the job to swap his future in a business suit for a degree in turfgrass management.

He enrolled, first, in the Stockbridge School of Agriculture. After completing a two-year turf degree, he pursued a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science at the University of Massachusetts.



While hitting the books, Steve completed two internships, the first at Farm Neck Golf Club on the Vineyard and the second at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY. After graduating in 1995, he accepted a position as assistant superintendent at Seawane Club and then, three years later, landed his current position as superintendent at The Hamlet.

Speaking about his transition from assistant to superintendent, Steve says the biggest challenge he faced had less to do with his new responsibilities and more to do with making the transition to a newly built course. "Every golf course I had worked at prior to The Hamlet had native soil, push-up style greens," says Steve. "It took me a while to adjust to the idiosyncrasies of a new course—things like water management to account for the new USGA sand-based greens."

### When He's Off Duty, He's on the Links

Now well settled in, Steve says he's thoroughly enjoying his position at The Hamlet. And Steve adds, "Being single in this business has its advantages, too." When he's not out grooming his own links, Steve usually joins one his golf course buddies in the Met area for a round of golf and a peak at another person's grooming practices and course layout. And that's the very same thing all of you will have the opportunity to do at The Hamlet, when you join Met members for our July golf meeting.

BILL PERLEE  
The Apawamis Club

### Notable Notes

## Met Member Saves a Life

**C**harlie Siemers, a sales rep for Lesco, Inc., made the headlines in the Westchester section of *The Journal News* last month for saving a woman's life. He was rowing out on the Cuscoot Reservoir in Goldens Bridge, NY, when he heard the faint sound of a woman's cry for help. After 10 minutes of rowing, he reached an overturned boat with a woman clinging to the craft. "She was just 10 feet from shore," says Charlie, "but she couldn't swim and was scared to death." Charlie jumped in the water to save her, bringing her safely to shore.

Unfortunately, it was too late to save the woman's companion who had fallen out of the boat, became tangled in the anchor line, and drowned tragically in less than 10 feet of water. Congratulations to Charlie for this valiant, life-saving efforts.

### Well Wishes

The MetGCSA would like to send well wishes to two members:

**Dom Richichi**, of Dar Par Sales, White Plains, NY, who is recuperating from bypass surgery

**Bob Mullane**, of Alpine, the Care of Trees, New Canaan, CT, who is recuperating from a car accident

## Wykagyl Country Club Cleans Up Its Act

Wykagyl, which in the process of benefiting Long Island Sound, was able to get an aesthetically unpleasant site beautified free of charge.

### First Things First: Putting the Project Out to Bid

The bidding process was a learning experience in itself. To start, we thought the best thing to do would be to require that all prospective contractors attend a formal walk-through of the site so every



**Beginning:** The Site Targeted for Cleanup

bidder would be on the same page. Turns out that, legally, we could not require a walk-through. We could just suggest that it would be in the contractors' best interest to be there to see, firsthand, the scope of the project.

The other unexpected legal detail was that if any questions arose during our walk-through, we had to write them down and fax the answers to all bidders, whether they attended the walk-through or not.

The specification book on the project was 297 pages long. It took seven engineers, hired by the County, to put it together. Needless to say, it covered every base. Bidders were given a deadline—a specific date *and* time—for submitting their bids.

When considering the bids, the County was most concerned that the unit cost match the final cost of the project. In other words, if the job required, in the end, that an extra 500 yards of material be removed, that work had to be billed at the same rate as the first 500 yards.

So many times in our business, we look only at the final cost. The flaw here is that frequently extras are billed at a much higher rate, making the project much more costly than we expect. Low bidder is not, in the end, necessarily the most economical choice.

Taking the needs of our club and membership into consideration, the County awarded the bid far more quickly than customary—in three days, rather than the usual three weeks. ELQ Landscaping was chosen for the job.

### The Task at Hand

Though I had mixed feelings about working with an unknown contractor, the project couldn't have run more smoothly. ELQ did a wonderful job, working quickly and neatly, with little disturbance to club grounds and neigh-

boring properties.

The cleanup was not easy task. I'll explain as I walk you through Wykagyl's storm water engineering.

All our storm water runoff is collected from Quaker Ridge Road and channeled into an irrigation pond. This is the first siltation bed in the plan, and it's used to collect the silt and cleanse the water through a holding capacity.

Once the irrigation lake is full to capacity, the water is then diverted into a 48-inch pipe that outlets at the 10th hole, making the creek crossing this hole the second siltation/cleanup basin. This basin has a series of rip-raps designed to further cleanse and oxygenate the water.

The final basin, and area of prime

concern, eventually leads to a brook that makes its way down to the Sound. Much of this water is parking lot runoff, combined with roadway material. This area was bogged down with silt, branches, and leaves, which had to be removed for this area to function properly as a final cleanup zone.

It was ELQ's job to dredge and clear the area and then stabilize the bank. They used a material resembling rolled chicken wire packed with rock and vegetative material to do the job.

Another aspect of the project was to plant a variety of aquatic and other vegetation at both the inlet and outlet areas of this final basin. This was meant to help filter the nitrates from the water before it left the property.

A separate contractor handled this leg of the project, working inconspicuously on the 18th hole through member play and maintenance activities. The club plans to retain the same contractor to maintain the new plantings, including weed pulling, watering, fertilizing, and overall upkeep of the area.

### Environmentally Friendly Plantings

Many interesting plants were selected



**Middle:** Basin Construction in Progress, Showing Bank Stabilization

for the project. Here's a list that you might find useful on your own course. It's divided by area.

- First, fescue grass, mainly hard fescue, was planted to provide an "Environmental Perimeter" from the golf course.
- A buffer strip was planted with

primarily upland wildflowers, including New England Aster, New York Aster, Purple Coneflower, Blue Flag, Cardinal Flower, Indian Tobacco, Blue Lobelia, Hairy Beardtongue, and Black-eyed Susan.

- Planted in a submerged state along the perimeter core bank stabilization is Fringe Sedge, Marsh Hibiscus, Yellow Flag, Arrow Arum, Pickerel Weed, and Lizards Tail.

- To screen several sewer drainage caps, we've used New Jersey Tea Olive, Sweet Pepper Bush, Silky Dogwood, American Holly, Winterberry Holly, Spicebush, Swamp Azalea, Steeplebush, Arrowwood, Viburnum, and Nanny Berry.



*End: Project Draws to a Close With Native Plantings in Place*

- Several floating varieties have also been planted, including Spatterdock, White Pond Lily, White Water Lily, Pondweed, Watershed, and Button-bush.
- In addition, we planted several Willow trees to replace those that had been lost over the years. They not only

enhance the look of this once-unsightly area, but also help in keeping a low-lying wet area dry because of their superior water uptake capacity.

Once the plantings have reached maturity, this area will not only be beautiful to view, but also help to put an end to any nonpoint pollution that might have been generated from our course and from the surrounding streets and parking lots where the storm water originates.

#### Who Do You Call?

If you think your course might profit from a nonpoint pollution program, here's who to call:

- Gina D'Agrosa, Director of Environmental Planning, 914-285-4423
  - John Morrella, Construction Coordinator, Department of Public Works, 914-285-2693
- CHIP LAFFERTY  
Wykagyl Country Club



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# What Do You Do Out There in Kansas, Anyway?

Tim O'Neill Brings Met Members Inside the GCSAA Boardroom



**D**uring the past couple of months, Tim O'Neill's position as director on the GCSAA board has required that he travel to GCSAA headquarters in Lawrence, KS, for two separate meetings. A general meeting was held first—on May 4 and 5. About a month later—June 9 and 10—Tim joined the Membership Standards Resource Group (MSRG) for a meeting to discuss the Professional Development Initiative (PDI). Here, Tim offers a look at the inner workings—and the outcomes—of these two “meetings of the minds.”

Meetings of the GCSAA board are all business—and a lot of prepwork. Two weeks before each of the meetings, a packet of information arrived on my doorstep so I could be well briefed and prepared for the sessions.

For the May meeting, I received two books—each one pertaining to a separate day of the meeting. Day one's book contained reports, issues, and discussion items related to GCSAA and GCSAA Communications Inc. Day Two's book contained all the materials necessary to discuss GCSAA's fiscal budget.

Each day, the board and the executive officers of the GCSAA staff would convene for the meeting, which President Scott Woodhead would begin promptly at 7 a.m.

## Day One

The meeting agenda was divided into three basic areas:

1. *Consent items*, which are minor issues that require board approval and were generally discussed at a prior meeting.
2. *Action items*, which are more significant issues that were previously discussed but are now coming before the board for final resolution.
3. *Discussion items*, which are issues—minor or significant—that are introduced to the board; depending on the sentiment of the board, they're either killed or tabled for the next meeting as consent or action items.

In this meeting, various items were brought up for discussion, including:

- a new research program designed to test maintenance products, such as wetting agents, biostimulants, fertilizers, and soil amendments
- Web Strategy Committee progress
- the PDI communication plan
- the appointment of Robert Maibusch, MG, CGCS, as a director for the 2000 presidential year

I found this agenda breakdown to be a highly impressive and professional way in which to conduct association business.

## Day Two

The second day focused on issues related to approving the next fiscal budget. We also reviewed the GCSAA Business Plan. GCSAA's fiscal year begins on July 1.

During the approval process, all GCSAA department heads come before the board to discuss and justify their expected expenses and plans for the coming year.

As the Membership Committee chairman, it was my responsibility to pay particular attention to the areas dealing with member services and programs.

Numerous reports are prepared to clearly map out staff resources and expenditures, right down to stationery and postage. Throughout the entire process, Chief Financial Officer Julian Arrendo demonstrated a remarkably clear understanding of all facets of association operations.

This leg of the meeting was particularly rewarding for me since I was able to walk away with a greater understanding of our association business—which includes a \$20-million-plus operating budget—and the need for a well-thought-out business plan that ensures growth and improvement.

I am happy to report that both fiscally and professionally, GCSAA is well positioned to meet the growing needs of superintendents.

## The MSRG Meeting

The June meeting's focus was the Professional Development Initiative. Since the New Orleans conference and show, GCSAA has received significant member feedback, which has helped to mold the latest changes and ongoing development of the PDI.

As the Membership chairman, it was my job to report recommendations generated during the Membership Committee's April meeting. Among them were to:

- Devise an alternative Class A entry path for superintendents who do not have at least a two-year turf degree. This might include such things as requiring that they have more experience and continuing education credits.
- Award membership credits to superintendents who act as mentors to budding turf professionals, e.g., interns.
- Require Class A members to have an appropriate pesticide license or to pass a GCSAA-developed exam.

In other PDI discussions, we decided:

- Ongoing requirements will include such things as credits for continuing education and industry-related service.
- Use of the HR Web, now called the Professional Development Resource (PDR), will not be required, just strongly encouraged, possibly by offering credits. PDR is an online competency evaluation tool designed to allow superintendents to assess their on-the-job effectiveness and target specific areas for improvement.
- Members will be given credit for educational programs taken locally or nationally.

The PDI still has a way to go before it's put into effect. It will be discussed again at upcoming committee meetings in July and at the Delegates Meeting in September.

Prior to the Delegates meeting, the membership will be sent a document that details the latest proposal. Members are encouraged to review this material and contact their delegate with comments. Look for more details about the MSRG meeting in the July issue of *Newsline*.

Also know that, as a GCSAA member, you can learn more about our board and MSRG meetings by visiting the association website—[WWW.gcsaa.com](http://WWW.gcsaa.com)—and logging on to the members-only section.

TIM O'NEILL, CGCS  
Country Club of Darien

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## Tour Caddie for Hire

Superintendent John Carlone Shares His Experiences as a Caddie for an LPGA Touring Pro

Several months ago, I had the experience of a lifetime—the opportunity to caddie for LPGA touring professional Amy Benz at the \$750,000 LPGA Welch's/Circle K Championship in Tucson, AZ. Amy is in her 17th year and has made more than \$1.5 million in prize money. She's won two events in Japan, and she partnered with John Houston to win the J.C. Penny Team Classic at Innisbrook Resort. Amy is a solid ball striker and, as I can now attest, is recognized as one of the best putters on Tour.

So how did I know Amy Benz, much less get invited to caddie for her? Good fortune. Amy is the sister of Mike Benz, who was my assistant at Middle Bay and is now superintendent there. When Mike got married this past January, I was not only invited to the wedding, but asked to be his Best Man—a great honor.

While his sister, Amy, was in town for the wedding, I stole the chance to talk to her about the possibility of my caddying for her at a Tour event. Amy, being a quick study, realized how excited I was with the idea and didn't have the heart to say no.

So there I was, March 5 through 12, carrying clubs for Amy Benz on Randolph Park Golf Course, where the event was contested. Needless to say, it was a tremendous experience, so I thought I'd give you a few of the highlights. Though they'll be from a caddie's, rather than a superintendent's perspective, I will say that this public course, which receives 65,000 rounds a year, was in terrific shape for the event. The tees and fairways were overseeded with Ryegrass and with Rye/Poa trivialis on greens. Here's the rest of the story—through the eyes of a caddie.

### The First Meeting

I flew to Phoenix on Sunday afternoon and was supposed to catch a flight to Tucson. I bumped into Amy, who had come in from Hawaii and was also on her way to Tucson. Bad weather had briefly closed the Phoenix airport, delaying our flights. Amy and I decided to rent a car and drive the 120 miles to Tucson. When we got there, she went on to the home where she was staying for the week, while I went to the Tucson airport to get her clubs and my clothes off the plane.

Amy was scheduled to play in the Pro-Am at 12:30 on Monday, but conditions weren't with us. It was raining and 45 degrees, with a wind chill that made it more like 35! It was the first measurable rainfall in Tucson in about four months. Leave it to me to go to the desert and bring rain.

Despite the weather, I did walk the course between 8 and 11 a.m. to get familiar with the layout, yardage—and all the other things a caddie should know.

By the start of the event, the weather was unbearable. We started on the 18th hole in the shotgun. After playing one hole, Amy, being a seasoned veteran, convinced her amateur partners to quit and go in the clubhouse for some hot chocolate. Sure enough, the event was canceled after 9 holes. We made good

use of the afternoon off with some beverages at a local cantina!

### The Course of Events

Tuesday was practice day. While still cool and cloudy, the rain had stopped. We got in 18 holes and several hours of ball striking, chipping, and putting. Another Pro-Am was scheduled for Wednesday. Amy was not scheduled to play, so we got in another full day of practice and finally saw the sun. I also registered in the "Caddie Shack" (a tent on the range tee). This required me to fill out a form naming the player I was working for and leave a \$20 deposit for the caddie bib, which was refunded when I returned it.

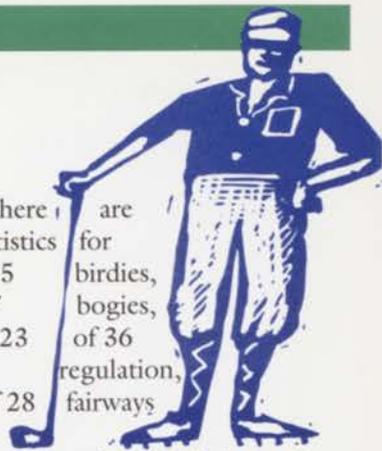
We also got tee times for Thursday and Friday. Just as with the men's tour, you start early one day and late the next, while also alternating starting tees. We had 8:30 a.m. off #10 on Thursday and 1:40 p.m. off #1 on Friday.

I was at the course by 7 a.m. on Thursday. There aren't many rules for tour caddies, but Rule #1 is never be late.

After about an hour warm-up, we headed to the 10th tee. We were paired with Luciana Bemvenuti from Brazil and Jennifer Rosales from Monterey, CA. Jennifer is a tour rookie who left USC after her junior year to turn pro.

I won't describe the rounds shot by

shot, but here are  
"our" statistics for  
36 holes: 5 birdies,  
24 pars, 7 bogies,  
58 putts, 23 of 36  
greens in regulation,  
and 22 of 28 fairways  
hit.



Caddies always keep statistics, and when talking about their player's round, they always say "we" or "our."

Our results were a score of 73 each day for a 2-over-par total of 146. We missed the cut to play on the weekend, which fell at a 1-under-par 143.

Amy played very consistently and put her amazing short game on display. Unfortunately, a couple of bad lies on the dormant Bermuda rough cost us a couple of bogies. At this level of play, there is only minimal margin for error. Every stroke is extremely important.

### Lessons Learned

First and foremost, I rediscovered what a saint my wife is . . . letting me go for a week to caddie. She's the BEST! As for golf, here's what I picked up on tour:

- On the full swing, don't try to imitate the swing of Tiger Woods. Watch the women play on TV. Attend the JAL Classic at Wykagyl. Copy their tempo.
- On putting and chipping, if you want to lower your scores, you have to practice this area of your game twice as much as woods and irons.
- In general, never swing with 100 percent of your power. Pros generally swing at 85 percent, rarely at 100. Watching the women swing so easily—and hit it so far and straight—was enlightening.
- Always practice with intention. Every practice swing should have a specific purpose. Don't just beat the balls.

I'm not sure I can ever properly express my appreciation to Amy Benz. She's a savvy professional who is well liked by everyone involved with the LPGA tour.

Amy actually said I performed pretty well in my tour debut, and that we may even team up at an event again sometime. That would be great by me. I had a tremendous time "inside the ropes."

JOHN CARLONE, CGCS  
Meadow Brook Club

## The Complete MetGCSA Year 2000 Calendar of Events

**T**hanks to the diligent efforts of our Tournament and our Social & Welfare committees, our golf and social events are locked in for the balance of the year. If anyone is interested in hosting one of these events next year, it's not too early to book a site. For Golf Meetings, call one of the Tournament Committee co-chairs—Jeff Wentworth, 914-738-2752, or Sean Cain, 914-723-3238. To host a social event, contact Social & Welfare Committee Chair Joe Alonzi, 914-967-6000, ext. 360.

### Two-Ball Qualifier

April 25  
Centennial Golf Club, Carmel, NY  
Host: Will Heintz

### Superintendent/Manager Tournament

May 18  
Silver Spring Country Club,  
Ridgefield, CT  
Host: Peter Rappoccio, CGCS

### Invitational Tournament

June 26  
Tamarack Country Club, Greenwich, CT  
Host: Jeff Scott, CGCS

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

July 5  
The Hamlet Golf & Country Club,  
Commack, NY  
Host: Steve Rabideau

### MetGCSA Family Picnic

August 7  
Woodway Beach Club,  
Stamford, CT  
Host: Larry Pakkala, CGCS

### Poa Annual Tournament

August 10  
Brooklawn Country Club,  
Fairfield, CT  
Host: Peter Bly

### MetGCSA Summer Social

August 21  
Old Oaks Country Club, Purchase, NY  
Host: Mark Millett

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

September 19  
Burning Tree Country Club, Greenwich, CT  
Host: Gary Glazier

### Annual Class C Outing

October 5  
Scarsdale Golf Club, Hartsdale, NY  
Host: Eric O'Neill, assistant superintendent

### Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

October 10  
Alpine Country Club, Demarest, NJ  
Host: Steve Finamore, CGCS

### Met Area Team Championship

October 16  
Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT  
Host: Pat Sisk

### MetGCSA Annual Meeting

November 14  
Knollwood Country Club, Elmsford, NY  
Host: Tim Moore

### MetGCSA Christmas Party

December 9  
Mt. Kisco Country Club, Mt. Kisco, NY  
Host: Fred Scheyhing, CGCS

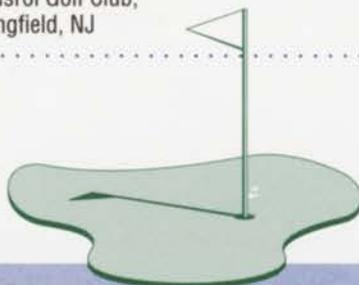
### Area Professional Golf Events

**Japan Airlines (JAL) Big Apple Classic**  
Thursday – Sunday, July 13 – 16  
Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, NY

**The Lightpath Long Island Classic**  
Monday – Sunday, July 24 – 30  
The Meadow Brook Club, Jericho, NY

**The Connecticut Open**  
Monday – Tuesday, July 31 – August 1  
Country Club of Fairfield, Fairfield, CT

**U.S. Amateur Championship**  
Monday – Sunday, August 21 – 27  
Baltusrol Golf Club,  
Springfield, NJ



### Turfgrass Field Days

**Rutgers University Turfgrass Field Day**  
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**Penn State University Turfgrass Field Day**  
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## Centennial a Real Challenge for Two-Ball Qualifiers

The new course in Carmel, NY, was a great way to start our 2000 golf season. Special thanks to Will Heintz and his staff for providing such great playing conditions so early in the year—and to Golf Professional Chris Klaffer and his staff for a smoothly run day. Here's a list of the Two-Ball qualifiers:

### Class A/B

- |  |     |  |
|--|-----|--|
| 1) Fred Scheyhing/Chuck Martineau<br><i>Mt. Kisco CC/Whippoorwill Club</i> | vs. | 16) Scott Ferguson/Bob Johnston<br><i>Mahopac GC/Lake Success GC</i>   |
| 8) Dennis Flynn/Peter Rappoccio<br><i>Brae Burn CC/Silver Spring CC</i>    | vs. | 9) Tim Moore/Todd Polidor<br><i>Knollwood CC/Heritage Hills GC</i>     |
| 4) Rich Feducia/Blake Halderman<br><i>Dellwood CC/Minisceongo GC</i>       | vs. | 13) Matt Ceplo/Tony Baviello<br><i>Rockland CC/Yale GC</i>             |
| 5) Sean Cain/Jeff Wentworth<br><i>Sunningdale CC/Pelham CC</i>             | vs. | 12) Bob Welch/Mike Miner<br><i>Rock Ridge CC/Montammy GC</i>           |
| 2) Matt Severino/Bob Zaletsky<br><i>Scarsdale GC/New York CC</i>           | vs. | 15) John Carlone/Tim O'Neill<br><i>Meadow Brook Club/CC of Darien</i>  |
| 7) Bob Alonzi/Joe Alonzi<br><i>Fenway GC/Westchester CC</i>                | vs. | 10) Jim Fulwider/Jim Fulwider Sr.<br><i>Century CC/Class AL</i>        |
| 3) Mike Reeb/Greg Wojick<br><i>CC of New Canaan/Greenwich CC</i>           | vs. | 14) Bill Perlee/Bert Dickinson<br><i>Apawamis Club/Willow Ridge CC</i> |
| 6) Tony Grasso/Earl Millett<br><i>Metropolis CC/Ridgeway CC</i>            | vs. | 11) Mark Fuller/Mark Millett<br><i>Connecticut GC/Old Oaks CC</i>      |

### Class AF

- |   |     |   |
|---|-----|---|
| 1) Al Tretera/Scott Tretera<br><i>Turf Products/Metro Milorganite</i>           | vs. | 8) Glen Gallion/Rob Good<br><i>Wilfred MacDonald/Leggette,<br/>Brashears &amp; Graham</i> |
| 4) Greg Moran/Charlie Siemers<br><i>Lesco, Inc.</i>                             | vs. | 5) Mike Cook/Ken Clear<br><i>Alpine, the Care of Trees</i>                                |
| 2) Bob Lippman Jr./John Richichi<br><i>Westchester Turf Supply/Dar ParSales</i> | vs. | 7) John Currie/Ernie Steinhofner<br><i>Currie Landscaping/Metro Milorganite</i>           |
| 3) David Griffin/Joe Kennedy<br><i>Down to Earth/Irra-Tech</i>                  | vs. | 6) Keith Kraham/Frank Savakis<br><i>The Bruedan Corporation</i>                           |

## Silver Spring a Hidden Gem

Silver Spring Country Club hosted the MetGCSA Superintendent/Manager meeting on May 18. There isn't much else to say but first class all the way. The golf course was in immaculate condition, the food service top-notch, and the Pro Shop gracious and helpful. Special thanks to Superintendent Peter Rappoccio, General Manager Bob Sommer, Golf Professional Stan Garrett and their staffs. Here are the top plays of the day:

#### Low Net Winner

Bob Miller/Scott Burne  
*Golf Club of Purchase*

#### Closest to the Pin

**Superintendent:** Peter Burnham,  
*Heritage Village GC*

**Manager:** Peter Tunley, *The Stanwich Club*

#### Low Gross Winner

Blake Halderman/John Napier  
*Minisceongo Golf Club*

#### Longest Drive

**Superintendent:** Larry Dodge,  
*Oak Lane Country Club*



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