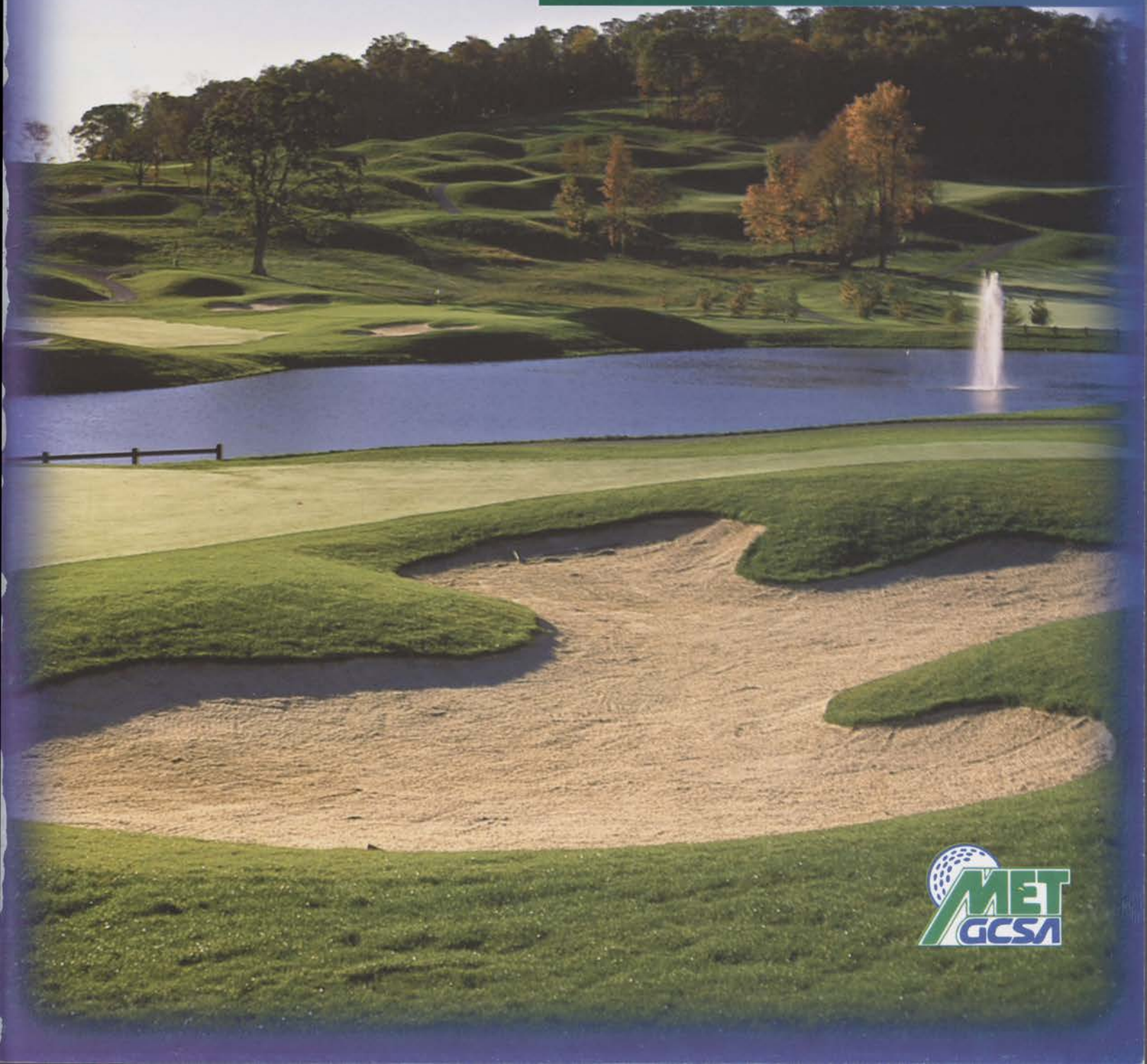


July/August 2001
VOLUME 31 NUMBER 4

Tee To Green

SEP 06 2001

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association



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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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Tee To Green

Cover: Centennial Golf Club. Photo courtesy of Larry Lambrecht.



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President's Message

Priorities, Priorities

M

ost of us set priorities every day—without even realizing it. And these priorities affect the decisions we make in our professional *and* personal lives. Similarly, the MetGCSA Board of Directors makes decisions on behalf of the membership, but we base them on one priority and one priority only: what is best for the membership.

In this month's message, I would like to discuss what I feel are the MetGCSA's priorities for the near future: education, scholarship and research, member involvement, and last but not least, family.

On Education

Education has always been the cornerstone of the MetGCSA's existence. Our annual Winter Seminar in January of each year offers cutting-edge information, as well as important contact with vendors.

At selected monthly meetings, we try to present timely, industry-specific information targeted at enhancing superintendents' on-the-job performance. Probably the least recognized, but most valuable form of education the Met offers is the time and place to network with fellow superintendents.



*John Carlone, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

Whatever the form or forum, golf course superintendents' thirst for knowledge is their greatest asset. I have always felt that once superintendents feel they know it all or that they can sit back and rest on their laurels, something bad happens to remind them of how important it is to keep on top of the latest products, trends, and information. The Board of Directors—the Education Committee, in particular—will always strive to keep the membership informed on the most current trends and issues in our industry.

On Scholarship and Research

In 1989, the Met Board decided to put a portion of every Class A, B, and AF member's dues into a restricted account. The purpose of this account is to support scholarship awards for children of our A, B, and AF members and to fund pertinent research. The board also decided that these accounts should be allowed to grow to the point where, one day, they would be self-supporting. In other words, we could give away the interest each year while maintaining the principle.

I am happy to report that we are well on our way to that goal! In addition, the MetGCSA is in a position where, if there

continued on page 15

Are We Exceeding the Green Speed Limit?

*Met Members Tell All
About Their Green
Speed Philosophy and
Management Practices*

by Scott E. Niven, CGCS



Over the past 50 years, green speeds have practically doubled—and heights of cut have basically halved, dropping in some cases from 1/4" to well below 1/8". To achieve this level of putting green management, Met area superintendents have pulled out all the stops, applying the latest and greatest products and research findings to bump up their green speeds a notch.

If you're like most, you're curious about what your neighbors are doing—and how your green speeds and management practices measure up.

We decided to get the scoop.

Every MetGCSA superintendent received a survey of 17 questions that asked not only for straight facts and figures, but also for their sentiments on our ever-increasing green speeds and grooming practices. Thirty-four—from clubs in northern New Jersey, Long Island, Westchester, and Fairfield County, CT—were kind enough to respond (see list of survey participants on page 6).

Here's the "Met-net" of what they had to say—along with a careful tabulation of each and every one of their responses to give you an idea of just how prevalent various practices are.

Are superintendents exceeding the green speed limit? You be the judge.

Survey Quick Takes

When all was said and done, one thing became crystal clear: Fast green speeds are at least somewhat important to nearly all clubs who participated in the survey and very important to nearly half.

Everyone generates speed in their own way, using various combinations of the typical cultural practices: low heights of cut, grooming/verticutting, topdressing, low fertility, low water use, PGRs, rolling, and multiple cuttings.

There isn't one golf course that doesn't own a Stimpmeter, and all reported using it to check the speed of their greens at least once a week. George Pierpoint III of Ardsley Country Club is one superintendent who uses the Stimpmeter to maximum advantage by checking all of his greens every day. He even keeps data on how weather conditions, height of cut, fertility, mowing schedule, grooming, etc., affect the roll of the ball.

Everyone in the study averages over 9' daily, and half are averaging over 10' each day, with about 60 percent—i.e., 20 clubs—registering 11' or higher on their fastest days. With these impressive numbers, it's not surprising that, on average, each Met area course has four greens with limited cupping area due to steep contours. As we all know, this scenario typically creates wear problems on greens with the severest limitations.

Cutting heights are as low as ever, with more than half of the respondents cutting below 1/8". Today's popular greens mowers—the Jac 422 and Toro 1000, for instance—are also better equipped to provide lower heights of cut than previous models, primarily because of their heavier overall weight. This makes heights of cut .010" to .020" lower than those used in the early '90s and years before.

Not only do we cut lower today, we also cut more often, with half of the courses polled cutting at least twice a day. More than 60 percent regularly use PGRs to aid in keeping up green speeds, while 85 per-

There isn't one golf course that doesn't own a Stimpmeter, and all reported using it to check the speed of their greens at least once a week.

cent now use rollers at least occasionally, with one superintendent claiming to roll every day.

At one-third of our panelist clubs, green speed has actually become more important than the turf; they're willing to sacrifice some grass, they say, in exchange for more speed on their greens. However, in spite of all the extra efforts and risks associated with producing consistently fast greens, only about 20 percent of superintendents believe this issue causes them added personal stress.

Have We Outstimped Ourselves?

Last but not least, we asked survey respondents for their gut reactions on the state of green speeds in the Met area. Here's a sampling of what they had to say:

Larry Pakkala, Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT: Green speeds are what they are because superintendents made

them what they are—*FAST*—and now that seems to be what people want. We are still looking for ways to make them faster. Cutting heights are going down—guys are mowing below 1/8"—and budgets are going up. This trend has not changed for 30 years, and unfortunately, it probably won't change.

Peter Rappoccio, Silver Spring Country Club, Ridgefield, CT: There's just too much emphasis placed on green speed. Fast greens do not make a golf course better. In fact, it's the root of many problems—take our problems with moss, for instance. I believe a course should be judged by its overall appearance and condition, not by the speed of its greens.

Dave Mahoney, Siwanoy Country Club, Bronxville, NY: This club's desire for speed has increased by one foot. If the greens rolled at 9'6", that used to be acceptable. Now if they dip below 10', we hear about it. We try to keep between 10'2" and 10'8" on a daily basis. This is the most difficult aspect of maintaining greens. It's not good enough to be 10' on Friday through Sunday; we have to maintain that speed every day.

Matt Ceplo, Rockland Country Club, Sparkill, NY: To me, it seems we have gone full circle. We have more people asking to slow green speeds down than speed them up.

Lou Quick, Anglebrook Golf Club, Lincolndale, NY: I think that there is too much pressure put on supers to have consistently fast greens. We, as professionals, should be able to make the decision to do what's best for our greens and limit those tournament-type conditions to special events or, at the least, when weather conditions allow. Even when I have a consistent 10' to 10'5", the members are not happy.

Gregg Stanley, Hudson National Golf Club, Croton-on-Hudson, NY: Most folks, I think, have the green speed issue under control. The resources and tools

Charting Green Speed

Over the past half-century, green speeds have increased at a steady and predictable rate: about one foot per decade. Here's a look at where we've been—and where we're headed.

Year	Perceived Fast Green Speeds
1950s	6–7'
1960s	7–8'
1970s	8–9'
1980s	9–10'
1990s	10–11'
2000s	11–12'
2010s	12–13' ???

Recent research has shown that the new As and Gs do not roll any faster than other varieties when cut at 1/8" or lower. At that height, all bentgrasses roll the same.



needed to achieve faster speeds have probably never been greater, but, really, they're only in keeping with the golfers' expectations.

Mark Fuller, Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, CT: Some members play too much of the "let's compare" game. Their perception of what the green speed is versus the actual speed is frequently off-base. Sometimes it's in our favor; other times it's not. Without the use of the Stimpmeter, no one—not even the pros—knows for sure how fast the ball is rolling.

Peter Bly, Brooklawn Country Club, Fairfield, CT: Speed is always a macho issue. We, at Brooklawn, have been promoting trueness of roll over speed. As we explore reestablishing our architects' original design, the speeds will decrease in favor of using all the features of the greens' design.

Bill Perlee, The Apawamis Club, Rye, NY: Putting on quick, smooth greens is fine, but when green speeds become so fast that well-designed, classic greens become obsolete, it's a shame.

John Carlone, The Meadow Brook Club, Jericho, NY: In general, members think faster is better. I wish they could be educated to realize that speed should match green contours. For example, I have large, flat greens; they need to be over 10' to be enjoyable. Other courses, with small sloping greens, probably should be over 8 1/2'.

Don Szymkowicz, Engineers Country Club, Roslyn, NY: I think it is very difficult to accurately assess green speeds on older courses, which have slope percentages that are often above 4 percent. The Stimpmeter requires a relatively level section of green to obtain ball roll lengths that are relatively close in two directions; when you have sloped greens, this is rare. Above

9.5', I am spending more time looking for a fair area to stimp than the information gathered is worth to me.

John O'Keefe, Preakness Hills Country Club, Wayne, NJ: I feel that the new courses with the Gs and As are making the older courses with poa/bent greens look bad. Our members just don't understand why we can't cut much lower than .110. Members play those courses and ask, "Why aren't we cutting the greens lower?"

Bert Dickinson, Willow Ridge Country Club, Harrison, NY: As green speed increases, I get complaints about "unfair pin placements." Fast greens limit the acceptable cupping areas and, as a result, create more concentrated wear.

Scott Niven, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT.

Bottom Line Results

	Number of Respondents
1. Do you post green speeds?	
Yes	5
No	29
<hr/>	
2. How often do you check the speeds each week?	
1 day	10
2 days	5
3 days	5
4 days	2
5 days	2
6 days	1
7 days	4
<hr/>	
3. What is your average green speed?	
9'	6
9' - 9'6"	4
9'6"	7
9'6" - 10'	4
10'	6
10' - 10'6"	2
10'6"	4
11'	1
Total average daily speed = 9'8"	
<hr/>	
4. What is your range of green speed?	
<i>Low end</i>	
8'	8
8'6"	4
9'	14
9'3"	1
9'6"	3
9'9"	1
10'	1
Average low = 8'10"	
<i>High end</i>	
9'	1
10'	3
10'2"	2
10'6"	4
10'9"	1
10'10"	1
11'	8
11'6"	6
12'	3
12'6"	2
13'	1
Average high = 11'1"	

	Number of Respondents
5. What is your usual height of cut?	
.080	1
.115	1
.118	1
.120	2
.125	14
.130	3
.140	2
.150	3
.156	1
Average = .130	
<i>Mower type?</i>	
Toro 1000	20
Jac 422	8
John Deere	2
Ransomes	1
<i>Roller type?</i>	
Grooved-wheile	26
Solid	7
<hr/>	
6. How many times do you cut per day?	
1x	17
2x	5
3x	1
1x or 2x	11
<hr/>	
7. How often do you roll per week?	
0x	5
1x	4
2x	11
3x	9
7x	1
Occasionally	4
<hr/>	
8. How often do you topdress?	
Every week	1
Every 2 weeks	7
Every 3 weeks	5
Every 4 weeks	18
Every 8 weeks	2
With aerification	1
<hr/>	
9. Do you use PGRs regularly?	
Yes	21
No	13
<hr/>	
10. Do you use groomers, brushes, verticutters?	
Yes	31
No	3
<i>How often?</i>	
Every week	7
Every 2 weeks	11
Every 4 weeks	7
As needed	3
Spring/fall	3

	Number of Respondents
11. What is the moisture level of your greens?	
Damp	6
Field Capacity	14
Dry	14
<hr/>	
12. What is your annual fertility level?	
Less than 1 lb.	3
1-2 lbs.	18
2-3 lbs.	10
More than 3 lbs.	3
<hr/>	
13. Do you feel the speeds you are asked to keep for your greens are appropriate for the relative severity of the contours?	
Just right	24
Too fast	8
A little slow	0
<hr/>	
14. How many greens do you have with extremely limited cupping area?	
0	6
1	3
2	4
3	5
4	6
5	2
6	2
7	1
8	2
9	2
18	1
Average = 4 greens/course	
<hr/>	
15. Will you sacrifice some turf for increased green speed?	
Yes	10
No	24
<hr/>	
16. How important are fast green speeds to your membership?	
Very	16
Somewhat	16
Minimal	12
<hr/>	
17. Does this issue give you more personal stress than any other?	
Yes	6
No	28

Special Thanks to Our Survey Participants

Bob Alonzi, CGCS

Fenway Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY

Joe Alonzi, CGCS

Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Peter Bly

Brooklawn Country Club, Fairfield, CT

John Carlone, CGCS

The Meadow Brook Club, Jericho, NY

Arik Carlson

The Patterson Club, Fairfield, CT

Matt Ceplo, CGCS

Rockland Country Club, Sparkill, NY

Bert Dickinson, CGCS

Willow Ridge Country Club, Harrison, NY

Larry Dodge

Oak Lane Country Club, Woodbridge, CT

Steve Finamore

Alpine Country Club, Demarest, NJ

Mark Fuller, CGCS

Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, CT

Jim Fulwider, CGCS

Century Country Club, Purchase, NY

Tony Girardi, CGCS

Rockrimmon Country Club, Stamford, CT

Paul Gonzalez, CGCS

Canyon Club, Armonk, NY

Tony Grasso

Metropolis Country Club, White Plains, NY

Les Kennedy, CGCS

Blind Brook Club, Purchase, NY

Lyman Lambert, CGCS

Nassau Country Club, Glen Cove, NY

Tom Leahy

Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Scarborough, NY

Dave Mahoney

Siwanoy Country Club, Bronxville, NY

Rick McGuinnes

Woodmere Club, Woodmere, NY

Jim McNally

Rock Spring Club, West Orange, NJ

Earl Millett

Ridgeway Country Club, White Plains, NY

Scott Niven, CGCS

The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT

John O'Keefe, CGCS

Preakness Hills Country Club, Wayne, NJ

Tim O'Neill, CGCS

Country Club of Darien, Darien, CT

Larry Pakkala, CGCS

Woodway Country Club, Darien, CT

Bill Perlee

The Apawamis Club, Rye, NY

Glenn Perry, CGCS

Rolling Hills Country Club, Wilton, CT

George Pierpoint III

Ardsley Country Club, Ardsley-on-Hudson, NY

Lou Quick, CGCS

Anglebrook Golf Club, Lincolnale, NY

Peter Rappoccio, CGCS

Silver Spring Country Club, Ridgefield, CT

Rick Schock

Wee Burn Country Club, Darien, CT

Gregg Stanley, CGCS

Hudson National Golf Club, Croton-on-Hudson, NY

Don Szymkowicz, CGCS

Engineers Country Club, Roslyn, NY

Jeff Wentworth

Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY



This was a putting green around the turn of the century. The surface was not even as good as today's fairways.

Oh, Look at What the Stimpmeter's Done!

Facts and Figures Behind Our Escalating Green Speeds

by Scott E. Niven, CGCS

Something happened in the late '70s that changed the way we view green speed—forever. No, it wasn't the invention of the Stimpmeter, which few realize has been around since the mid-1930s. Rather, it was the USGA's distribution—in 1978—of hundreds of these tripod-like devices to golf courses all over the country. Once brought to golf clubs' attention, this innocent-looking device became the measure, not only of green speed, but also of superintendents' mettle: The faster the greens, the more valuable and skilled the superintendent, club officials—and superintendents, themselves—began to think.

Of course, this wasn't the USGA's intent. Their hope was that the Stimpmeter would be used to help superintendents enhance playing conditions by achieving uniform—not superfast—green speeds throughout the course.

In the article "The Stimpmeters Are Coming! The Stimpmeters Are Coming!" reprinted in the *Tee to Green* in 1978, the late Alexander Radko, national director of the Green Section at the time, echoed this sentiment: "When viewing the factors that affect play, in tournament competition or in a friendly knockabout, one element stands out above all the others—the variability of speeds between one green and the next, or even on different areas of the same green.

Variations in green speeds, he firmly believed, can do more to negate a player's true skill than can ragged fairways or unkempt bunkers.

"The Stimpmeter is your speedometer," Radko went on to tell these '70s superintendents. "With it, you can set your green speed at any level your membership desires."

Little did Al Radko—or the USGA—know just what level membership desires would reach.

Building Up Speed

When you look, now, at the following USGA Green Speed Comparison Table—compiled in the late '70s after testing 1,500 greens in 36 states—it's almost laughable. Yet interestingly, this table is still being referred to today.

Fast	8'6"
Medium Fast	7'6"
Medium	6'6"
Medium Slow	5'6"
Slow	4'6"

More accurate now—according to our survey of Met area courses—are the following green speed figures:

Fast	11'
Medium Fast	10'6"
Medium	10'
Medium Slow	9'6"
Slow	9'

For the many Met area superintendents with highly contoured greens, these superfast speeds virtually render their greens unplayable. The current goal for many clubs, therefore, is to determine the fastest speed acceptable for their greens and then find a way to maintain it every day. Because peak speeds and quality are becoming more the norm than the exception, special greens preparation for club tournaments is disappearing.

Who's to Blame?

Of course, the Stimpmeter isn't the only culprit in escalating green speeds. We know all too well the role television golf analysts have played in driving up green speed. By announcing unrealistically high speeds at major golf events, they've planted the seed for club members and superintendents to try to compete.

Just recently, an analyst mentioned that the greens at a certain tournament were rolling at 15 feet on the Stimpmeter. Now, from my own experience and in talking to other superintendents who have produced speeds just over 13 feet, I seriously doubt



that a sustainable 15 feet could be achieved on *live* grass. And frankly, the greens in question sure didn't look that fast as I watched the event on TV. But unfortunately, whether the announcer's call is true or not, the damage has been done: Club members will expect higher green speeds, and superintendents will try to oblige.

Golf course architects aren't helping matters either. They're supporting superfast green speeds by designing putting greens with maximum slopes of only 1 1/2 to 2 percent versus the 8 to 9 percent of years ago. These architects will also tell you that the reason the majority of greens are being rebuilt today is to flatten severe slopes. This trend certainly doesn't bode well for many of our old, classic courses, which are frequently characterized by severe green contours.

Fair Play Rules

In the end, when it comes to discussions on green speed, the one concept we should all keep in mind—and advocate—is fair play. That means supporting a green speed that is appropriate not only for the slope of the greens but also for the skill level of the majority of the players.

As the USGA's Al Radko was quoted in the *Tee to Green* article, "It is the *uniformity* of greens, that is significant. Whether the greens at a particular club are slow, medium, or fast is up to the membership." And he might have added, "... as long as they're appropriate for regular membership play—and the health and welfare of the greens."

Is Your Club 'Permitted'

If you're managing a golf course in Connecticut, then you might have heard some "noise" from the State Capitol about complying with State water diversion regulations that have been in effect, believe it or not, since 1982! Most of us who draw water from ponds and wells on our property are subject to these regulations, but not many of us understand—and in some cases have any inkling of—what they entail.

We spoke to Carla Feroni, Environmental Analyst for the Inland Water Resources Division of the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), to get the full story on these newly enacted laws and what golf courses—and municipalities—throughout the state must do to comply. But probably more telling is the firsthand account from Country Club of Darien Superintendent Tim O'Neill, who for the past year, has been jumping through all the necessary hoops to obtain a diversion permit for his course.

When the Trouble Began

The floodgates opened with a new Public Act, recently passed by the Connecticut General Assembly, which is designed to reach out to any golf course in the State of Connecticut that uses a private water supply for irrigation and has not registered or obtained the necessary State permits for their water diversions.

The first call for registration of your water diversions was back in July of 1982. The Connecticut Water Diversion Policy

Act required that any person or municipality pumping more than 50,000 gallons of ground or surface water a day had to register each of their diversions by July 1, 1983.

If you've never heard a word about this, know that you're not alone. The DEP estimates that there are at least 75 golf courses throughout the state—old and new—diverting water without authorization.

"Our intent is to reach out to superintendents and help them understand what they need to do to comply—without penalty—with newly enacted State laws," says Carla Feroni, who was quick to point out the DEP isn't—nor does it want to be—the "bad guy" in this situation. "We were not, in any way, the driving force behind the new Public Act," she says, "if for no other reason than the fact that the DEP hasn't been approved the additional staff necessary to handle an effort of this magnitude."

But no matter who's issuing the new marching orders, the jig is clearly up. State officials are giving golf courses another chance to comply, but if they fail to at least begin the process by filing a Water Diversion Permit application by July 1, 2003, State officials are going to get tough, threatening a variety of enforcement actions.

The High Price of Compliance

Unfortunately, even voluntary compliance is no picnic. Take Tim O'Neill's story. He first became aware of his club's need for a water diversion permit in July of last year when he went before his local environmental board to gain approval to expand his existing irrigation water holding pond.

"We had no idea a water permit was required by law," says Tim, "so we decided to seek professional advice before contacting the Connecticut DEP."

Country Club of Darien sought the counsel of Russ Slayback, a groundwater engineer with Leggette, Brashears & Graham in Trumbull, CT. "Russ informed us of the regulations and the recommended process," says Tim, who knew then and there that it was not going to be easy.

It was several months before Tim could secure a meeting with the DEP. Finally, in September, Tim and his club president and grounds chairman went along with Russ Slayback to meet Denise Ruzicka, assistant director of the Inland Water Resources Division, and other Connecticut DEP staff.

There, they got all the information they wanted—and more. "One of the worst parts," says Tim, "was learning that it may take three years to go through the full permitting process—and probably run \$30,000 to \$40,000 in engineering fees."

So that Country Club of Darien could continue to irrigate for those three years—without a permit—the club was encouraged to agree, by way of consent order, to abide by a series of conditions. Tim was asked to:

- Limit the course's water use to 288,000 gallons a day (manageable, since this figure was drawn from old records).
- Meter and record water use on a daily basis from all water diversions.
- Provide pumping records and progress reports to the DEP annually.
- Retain a consultant during the consent order.
- Conduct environmental analyses and evaluations. This required that Darien:
 - evaluate the impact—if any—it is having on the fisheries habitat in the Goodwives

to Use Water?

- River, which flows though club property
- conduct a hydrogeologic analysis of any existing well or proposed well to ensure it poses no threat to the viability of any surrounding homeowner wells
- provide a comprehensive evaluation of the irrigation system, documenting water use needs as well as a conservation plan

The consent order also requires that the DEP be allowed to visit the golf course at any time to review the club's records.

How much water Country Club of Darien will be "permitted" to use when all is said and done, will be determined after the DEP's careful scrutiny of all the results.

The Ins and Outs of Compliance

No matter how you slice it, obtaining the appropriate Water Diversion Permit is a lengthy and costly prospect—if not slightly baffling. But not to worry, help is on the way. As part of its new outreach effort, the DEP will be holding a conference at the Country Club of Farmington in Farmington, CT, on October 18 to provide representatives from the golf course industry with information about the state of water resources in Connecticut and how the new water diversion legislation will affect Connecticut golf courses.

Attendees will also hear presentations about hydrology, efficient irrigation and

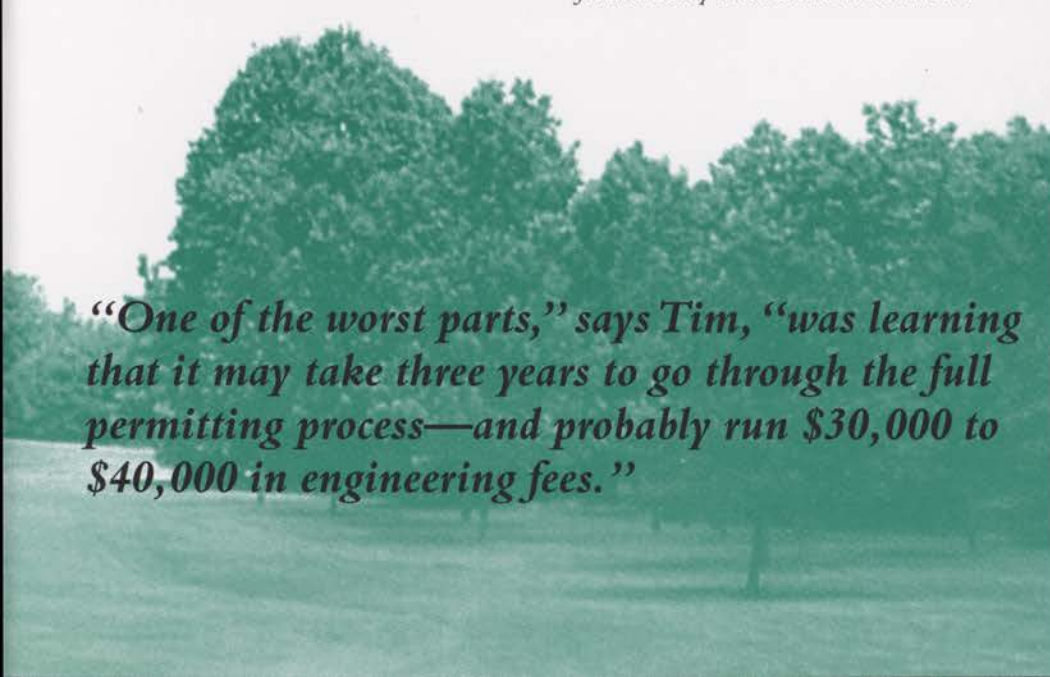
irrigation system audits, the DEP permit process, and how to hire a consultant. In the afternoon, all present will also be introduced to the DEP's newly drafted Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Golf Course Water Use. "We are looking forward to having the group review and comment on the document—before it's etched in stone," says Carla.

For the uninitiated, the BMPs are intended to help golf courses comply with the water diversion requirements by implementing water conservation practices. The document reflects the handiwork of nearly 20 volunteers from the Institute of Water Resources at the University of Connecticut, several environmental groups, DEP staff, and the golf course industry, including water use consultants and four superintendents: Peter Pierson of Pequabuck Golf Club, John Ruzsbatzky of the Country Club of Farmington, Heather Garvin of Canton Public Golf Course, and Tim O'Neill of Country Club of Darien.

The day will conclude with personal testimony—like the one we presented here from Tim—by a variety of stakeholders in the water diversion permit process.

For further information about the conference or applying for a Water Diversion Permit, contact the DEP's Denise Ruzicka at 860-424-3853.

Special thanks to Carla Feroni and Tim O'Neill for their many contributions to this article.



"One of the worst parts," says Tim, "was learning that it may take three years to go through the full permitting process—and probably run \$30,000 to \$40,000 in engineering fees."

Water Permit Requirements, Situation by Situation

Public Act 01-202, which was passed this June, is designed to update the state's water diversion records and see that previously unregistered or unpermitted diversions obtain a Water Diversion Permit.

By July 1, 2002, each golf course that maintains a diversion—i.e., withdraws more than 50,000 gallons of ground water or surface water during a 24-hour period—must submit monthly data on the frequency and withdrawal rate for each individual discharge point—wells, ponds, streams, etc.—for the years 1997 to 2001. If your withdrawal points were not metered, you will be allowed—under the Public Act—to *estimate* your water use.

Beyond that, the depth of information you will be required to report will vary with your course's past history. Here are the three basic scenarios:

Situation 1: If your course is one of the fortunate few that registered its diversion back in 1982, the data you submit must correspond to your already-registered withdrawal points.

Situation 2: If your course maintains—as of July 1, 2001—an unregistered or unpermitted diversion that was eligible for registration in July 1982, you must provide:

- additional information on the location, capacity, frequency, and rate of the withdrawals for each eligible discharge point that was in place as of July 1, 1982
- a description of the water use and water system that was in place on or before July 1, 1982, including information to verify its operation at that time

Situation 3: If your course maintains—again, as of July 1, 2001—a diversion that was not eligible for registration in July 1982 but is eligible now—because it is new since 1982 or it's a diversion whose use has expanded beyond the 50,000-per-day limit—you must provide:

- information on when the diversion was actually initiated
- a description of the current water use and water system operation
- information on the location and capacity of each discharge point

The DEP, along with the Department of Health and the Department of Public Utility Controls, will be developing a form for the required data submission. Watch for an update on the form's availability.

Spotlight



Jason Ziesmer

by Glen Dube

On August 13, Superintendent Jason Ziesmer hosted the Poa Annual Golf Tournament at Minisceongo Golf Club in Pomona, NY. This marked the event's first visit to this links-style golf course and the first time Jason acted as host for the day.

A relative newcomer on the golf course scene, Minisceongo was two years in the making, opening for play in 1994. The Roy Case-designed club sits on 120 acres and boasts a lengthy 7,029 yards from the tips.

What sets this golf course apart from many others is the abundance of high-fescue rough areas. Contrast these with the plush green turf, and you have that "links" look that makes for some breathtaking views.

"Anyone playing this course has to bring

An Inaugural Visit for the Poa Annual

a lot of golf balls," says Jason. "It's target golf. You have to place your tee shot in just the right spot. If you don't make it over the various wetland areas or go wayward with your tee shot, you are in for quite a challenge," he adds with a smile.

A Club With a Past

Minisceongo, though relatively new, has a long and interesting past—some of which was uncovered during the course's construction phase. Arrowheads and other ancient artifacts were unearthed, pointing to the fact that the land had been used by American Indians as a temporary campsite during their seasonal migrations.

Hundreds of years later, during the 1700s, records show that the King of England gave the land to the Conklin family, one of the oldest families to live in Rockland County. The Conklin cemetery is located near the fourth tee, while other signs of the land's historic past—old stone cisterns and several stone foundations—are scattered across the property.

In the early 1900s, the property was sold and turned into a boarding school to help under-privileged children from New York City. In 1991, the property changed hands again—this time to Empire Golf, which formed the Minisceongo Golf Club.

School Days

Jason came to Minisceongo in 1999 as the assistant superintendent. After barely a year on the job—in October 2000—the superintendent's slot opened and Jason was cho-

sen to fill the position. This is his first full season as head of the golf course operation.

Jason, who is a native of Dundee, MI, got "the bug" for golf course management during high school, when he worked at The University of Michigan Golf Club. After graduating, he went on to Michigan State University and received his degree in Turfgrass Management in 1998. While in college, he did his internship at The Patterson Club in Fairfield CT. Then, after graduating, he spent about a year there as an assistant superintendent before moving on to Minisceongo.

A Work in Progress

During Jason's tenure, both as superintendent and assistant, Minisceongo has earned its Audubon Certification—an honor that demonstrates the course's commitment to environmental stewardship—and has undergone numerous transformations. Holes 2, 5, 7, 12, 13, and 15 were reshaped; the second green was rebuilt, and the large sod-faced pot bunker on the 18th green was renovated.

"Our next projects are going to include enlarging the practice green, renovating the greenside bunkers on the fourth hole, and building a soil storage facility," says Jason.

Jason, who enjoys playing golf and mountain biking, lives on the property with his wife of five months, Claire, and their new puppy Rotweiler, Bella.

Glen Dube, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Oak Hills Park Golf Course in Norwalk, CT.

Spotlight



Will Heintz and son,
Thanksgiving 1997

Centennial to Host MetGCSA Championship

by Glen Dube

On September 18, Superintendent Will Heintz will host the MetGCSA Championship and Round 2 of the Met Area Team Championship Qualifier at Centennial Golf Club, located in Carmel, NY. This marks the MetGCSA's second visit to the 350-acre, 27-hole daily fee golf course, where Will has been superintendent for four years—through the course's critical construction phase.

With several years passed since the course's completion, Will and the owners have had time to put the design to the test, which for the most part, has passed with flying colors. "We've fine-tuned the prac-

tice putting green," says Will, "by adding 6,000 square feet, and we've added stonework in various locations on the course."

With a crew of 30, Will finds they can do much of the work in-house. "A small portion of my crew is pretty much dedicated to construction," he explains of the group, which he notes includes some talented masons. But Will is also quick to credit his very capable assistant, Branko Zdravkoski, and equipment technician, Mike Reilly. "They're a tremendous asset to the operation," says Will.

Will's other high praise goes to

Centennial's owners, the Leibowits's. "They're extremely professional," says Will, "and they've never failed to provide the resources necessary to deal with any project or problem," he adds, pointing out that the owners have also gone on to build another high-end facility: Pine Hills in Plymouth, MA.

"This is a 36-hole Jones/Nicklaus daily-fee course that includes a conference center and practice facility," says Will.

Life Before Turf

Will is no stranger to hard work. He grew up with six brothers and five sisters—working the 200-acre dairy/hobby farm where they lived in upstate Clinton, NY.

With a ready-made crew at hand, his father—a now-retired oral surgeon—had decided to activate the farm when Will was just 8. "At an early age," says Will, "we learned to operate equipment, work the soil, care for livestock, and face the elements."

His years on the farm inspired Will to pursue a degree in biology. But after graduating from St. Lawrence University, he realized he was trained for a career he wouldn't enjoy: scientific research. He opted for a job working in a stone quarry instead.

"It didn't take me long to see I was going nowhere—quickly," says Will. "That's when I decided to pursue a career in turfgrass management." A golfer since the age of 10, Will had already gotten his feet wet in the field, working on golf courses summers during high school and college. He enrolled in UMass's Turfgrass Management Program, receiving his associate's in 1977.

Learning the Ropes

His first job out of school was as an assistant at Teugega Country Club in Rome, NY. But his real training ground was Westchester Country Club under then superintendent Ted Horton. Despite his previous experience, it was back to square one. "I started on the divot crew," says Will, "and had to work my way back up to assistant superintendent."

After five years there, Will accepted his first superintendent's job at Hampshire Country Club, where in 1993, he hosted his first Met meeting. Will spent 12 years at Hampshire before moving to Centennial—and a home on the grounds—with his wife of 25 years, Linda, who gave birth to their son, Will Jr., just 17 days after they arrived.

Maybe it was the birth of his son that changed Will's perspective on how he allocates his time. "Giving myself time away from work and with my family has become more of a priority," says Will. "As a result, I manage my time better. I actually have been managing to take one weekend off a month and go to a house we have on Lake Champlain. I come back refreshed and ready to go. In the end, I'm more productive."

Another practice that Will feels goes a long way toward improved time management—and club relations: Thinking before he agrees to accept additional projects. He explains: "I define the work load and the necessary resources, and I establish the voids—in other words, what I need, and may not have, to get the job done. If the club won't agree to fill those voids, then I explain that I won't be able to accomplish what they want.

"Where many superintendents, me

included, have gotten into trouble," continues Will, "is agreeing to do something before they've thought through exactly what it will take. It took me awhile, but I've finally learned my lesson."

Personal and Professional Pursuits

During the winter months, Will and Linda enjoy spending time with four-year-old Will Jr. in their home-away-from-home in upstate New York, an old stone schoolhouse they restored years ago before leaving the area.

Two of Will's other after-hour pursuits are golf and music. An accomplished banjo player, Will plays a few "gigs" now and then.

His latest "gig," however, is as the MetGCSA's secretary, a position he'll hold until the end of this year. In his 11th year on the board, Will has chaired or co-chaired both the Education and Government Relations committees for the past 10 years. And for the past two, he's chaired the Membership Committee.

Steeped in environmental issues through his government relations work, Will has been a member of the Westchester County Pest Management Committee for the past six years and was recently invited to serve as moderator at the Environmental Awareness session at the NYSTA Expo in Syracuse, NY, on November 13.

Despite his busy calendar, Will has kindly agreed to host his fellow superintendents for the second year running. See you all on the links for what promises to be a fine day and a hotly contested competition.

Glen Dube, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Oak Hills Park Golf Course in Norwalk, CT.

Spotlight

Stanwich Club to Host Annual Assistants Championship

The

by Eric O'Neill

Assistants Championship kicks it up a notch this year as the event heads to The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT, on October 2.

Touted by *Golf Digest* as the top course in the State of Connecticut, the nearly 40-year-old golf course was designed by William Gordon and his son, David—the elder Gordon recognized for his perfectly finished surfaces on greens, tees, and fairways.

Assistant host Albion Imondi, along with Stanwich's second assistant, David

Polvino, and Property Manager Scott Niven, are looking forward to an enjoyable day.

Albion has been an assistant at Stanwich for a little more than three years, joining the maintenance staff in 1997 after completing his B.S. in Turfgrass Management from the University of Rhode Island (URI).

He got "hooked" on the business working summers through high school at West Warwick Country Club in his Rhode Island home state. "It was the machinery and the outdoors that really grabbed me,"



Albion Imondi

The Super Behind the Assistants Championship

Albion Imondi may be hosting this year's assistants event, but we can't forget to recognize the person behind the scenes who's making it all possible: Scott Niven, The Stanwich Club's long-tenured property manager.

"I'm always happy to host a MetGCSA event," says Scott, "when I can make the course available (which isn't easy). In this case, I was pleased to hear that Albion had taken the initiative to volunteer Stanwich for this year's Assistants Championship. Both he, and our other assistant, Dave Polvino, play a very important roll in our success here at Stanwich and will certainly make excellent superintendents in the near future.

"Preparing for and hosting this event," continues Scott, "will provide them with a valuable experience that will, no doubt, serve them well in their future golf course management endeavors.

"I hope you all play well and enjoy the unique qualities of The Stanwich Club," he adds.

Living and Breathing Turf

Scott's been heading up the maintenance operation at Stanwich since 1983. In his

nearly 20-year tenure at the club, he's seen the course through numerous improvements—everything from an aggressive poa reduction program that's transformed the turf to nearly 100 percent bentgrass to the installation of a new pumphouse, irrigation system, and equipment and pesticide storage facilities.

Scott was just about born into the business. When he was just 7 years old, his father became superintendent/club manager at the Claremont Country Club in Claremont, NH, where they moved from Quantico, VA.

Scott—along with his brother, Curtis—worked alongside his father at Claremont from the time he was 9 and until he was 12. At that point, his father got an offer he couldn't refuse: to buy the Angus Lea Golf and Tennis Club in Hillsborough, NH. He took it.

Scott and his brother were immediately enlisted as crew members, and Scott continued working summers there through high school and then college. He pursued formal training in turfgrass management at the University of Rhode Island, where he earned a four-year degree in 1976.

From there, he moved into an assistant superintendent's position at Greenwich

Country Club in Greenwich, CT, and three years later, he accepted his first superintendent's job at St. Andrews Golf Club in Hastings, NY. Next stop: the superintendent's job at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, NY, where he worked for two years until accepting his current position at Stanwich.

Professional Affiliations

Rounding out his professional experience, Scott has been a MetGCSA member for 25 years, serving as president in 1988 and 1989. Still actively involved in the association, Scott is currently a member of three Met committees: Awards, Long-Range Planning and Steering, and Communications, where he is a major contributor to the *Tee to Green*.

Also actively involved in our national organization, Scott has served on numerous GCSAA committees and earned his CGCS status in 1985.

Scott lives with his wife, Dana, and their two children, 11-year-old Nicholas and 10-year-old Heather, on Stanwich grounds.

he says. "I enjoyed operating all the equipment, from a triplex to a backhoe."

Once out of high school, he dug right in to his studies at URI. He continued working at West Warwick—until 1995, when he decided to expand his horizons by interning at Alpine Country Club in Cranston, RI. The next year, he interned at Stanwich, where he returned in '97 as an assistant.

A Skill-Building Experience

"I am grateful for the experience and support Stanwich has given me," says Albion, who's quick to point out all he's learned from his mentor, Scott Niven. One area where he feels he's made great strides is his organizational skills.

Says Albion, "I've learned to keep the grounds staff of 20 running pretty smoothly with little downtime. It helps, of course, that they've been around a long time and have had good training."

Albion also contends that his attention to detail has soared. "It's amazing," he says,

"how much the little things really make a difference when it comes to the overall appearance of the course."

During Albion's tenure, he's also had the good fortune of seeing, firsthand, some weighty renovation work. First and foremost, the driving range has been transformed into an admirably good practice facility, which starts with a one-acre grass tee, six target greens, and plenty of room to hit any club in the bag. Stanwich also sprung for a chipping green with a large bunker. "It really suits the membership well because a good portion are single-digit golfers who like to practice," says Albion.

Other, slightly less visible work has included replacing all the bunker sand—a project they completed last winter—and installing internal drainage in all the greens, which took three years from start to finish.

"Working with Scott has taught me a great deal, not only about agronomics, but also about professionalism and diplomacy," notes Albion, who acknowledges that these skills will go a long way toward positioning him for a superintendent's slot one day.

Life Beyond Work

In his free time, Albion enjoys working on his golf game—and watching the pros. He plays most of his golf right on his home turf, which has the added benefit of allowing him to evaluate course conditions.

But Albion does have a life beyond turf. He enjoys working out and visiting the ocean. And when the snow flies, he heads north with his girlfriend, Kate, to hit the trails with his board.

How to Hit 'Em

His advice to fellow assistants teeing it up for the annual assistants event: Hit long and straight off the tee; watch out for the numerous greenside bunkers; and especially keep the ball below the hole! "With the severe undulations on the greens, two-putting is not all that easy," Albion cautions.

Good luck, and see you October 2!

Eric O'Neill, last year's host of the Assistants Championship, is the assistant superintendent at Scarsdale Golf Club in Hartsdale, NY.

Two-Ball Tourney Starting to Heat Up for Round Two!

Round One of our annual Two-Ball Tournament has been completed with some interesting results. The big surprise was the match between Severino/Zaletsky and Scheyhing/Martineau. The past champions fell 4 & 2 to the young bucks. Watch out for Severino/Zaletsky!

In other matches, the Alonzi/Alonzi duo beat Carlone/O'Neill 3 & 2, which sets up a rematch of last year's championship match with Cain/Wentworth.

Sean and Jeff squeezed by Paul Gonzalez and Lou Quick 3 & 2, and Earl Millet and John O'Keefe outlasted the stubborn Fulwiders 1 up after 19 holes.

Here are the full results—along with the Round Two matches:

(1) Bob Alonzi/Joe Alonzi	<i>defeated</i>	(16) John Carlone/Tim O'Neill	3 & 2
<i>vs.</i>			
(8) Sean Cain/ Jeff Wentworth	<i>defeated</i>	(9) Paul Gonzalez/Lou Quick	3 & 2
(13) Tim Moore/Todd Polidor	<i>defeated</i>	(4) Mike Reeb/Greg Wojick	4 & 3
<i>vs.</i>			
(5) Earl Millet/John O'Keefe	<i>defeated</i>	(12) Jim Fulwider/Jim Fulwider Sr.	1 up after 19 holes
(6) Matt Severino/Bob Zaletsky	<i>defeated</i>	(11) Fred Scheyhing/Chuck Martineau	4 & 2
<i>vs.</i>			
(3) Tim Garceau/Rich Browne	<i>defeated</i>	(14) Jason Ziesmer/Glen Dube	1 up
(7) Bert Dickinson/Chip Lafferty	<i>defeated</i>	(10) Mike Miner/Jim Swiatlowski	1 up
<i>vs.</i>			
(15) Mark Fuller/Shawn O'Sullivan	<i>defeated</i>	(2) Bob DeMarco/Gary Arlio	1 up

Reminder: All Second Round matches—and all AF matches—should be completed by August 10.



MetGCSA Championship Contested on New Turf

Garrison Golf Club in Garrison, NY, proved to be a great venue for the first round of the MetGCSA Championship and the Met Area Team Championship Qualifier held on July 10. The Tournament Committee would like to thank our host superintendent, Rich Browne, for providing a fine playing field and the owners of Garrison Golf Club for their gracious hospitality.

Despite the day's hot, humid playing conditions, the following contestants emerged victorious in the meeting's two events:

Individual Gross and Net

Low Gross Winners

- 72 Jim Fulwider, *Century Country Club (Even Par)*
- 76 Shawn O'Sullivan, *D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course*
- 79 Earl Millet, *Ridgeway Country Club*

Low Net Winners

- 63 Bob Zaletsky, *New York Country Club*
- 67 Tony Grasso, *Metropolis Country Club*

Longest Drive

Tony Grasso, *Metropolis Country Club*

Closest to the Pin

Will Heintz, *Centennial Golf Club*

MetGCSA Championship, First Round

Gross Flight

- 72 Jim Fulwider, *Century Country Club*
- 75 Bob Zaletsky, *New York Country Club*
- 76 Shawn O'Sullivan, *D. Fairchild Wheeler Golf Course*
- 79 Earl Millet, *Ridgeway Country Club*
- 79 Tony Grasso, *Metropolis Country Club*
- 82 Matt Ceplo, *Rockland Country Club*
- 82 Les Kennedy, *Blind Brook Club*
- 85 John Carlone, *The Meadow Brook Club*

Net Flight

- 71 Mark Fuller, *Connecticut Golf Club*
- 71 Todd Polidor, *Heritage Hills Golf Club*
- 75 Rob Stienman, *Beekman Country Club*
- 75 Glen Dube, *Oak Hills Park Golf Club*

MetGCSA Scholarships Awarded at Garrison

The

MetGCSA Scholarship and Research Committee awarded a record total of \$10,000 in scholarships to 10 deserving members' children at the July 10 Met meeting at Garrison Golf Club.

Scholarship funds are generated largely from the Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, which has become an institution at our yearly Christmas party. The raffle was named in honor of Bill, who was superintendent at Hampshire Country Club and died unexpectedly at a young age. Bill would have been proud to be associated with the fine group of students who have been awarded our scholarships over the years.

The Scholarship Committee selects candidates based on their maturity, academic history, ambition, extracurricular activities, and effort exhibited in completing their application.

Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients—and their parents:

- **Allison Alonzi**, daughter of Judy and Joe Alonzi, superintendent at Westchester Country Club, is entering her senior year at the University of Connecticut in Storrs and is studying to become a registered dietician.

- **Amanda Jo Alonzi**, daughter of Judy and Joe Alonzi, superintendent at Westchester Country Club, is entering her sophomore year at the University of Connecticut and is majoring in Special Education.

- **Carly Amodio**, daughter of Jean and Frank Amodio of Valley View Greenhouses, will be a junior at Boston College, majoring in Human Development and Communications. Carly is a second-year scholarship recipient.

- **Jennifer Apple**, daughter of Donna and John Apple of Westchester Ford Tractor, completed her freshman year at Western Connecticut State College and will begin her sophomore year at Lehigh University with a major in Psychology. Jennifer is a second-year scholarship recipient.

- **Kelly Fuller**, daughter of Kimberley Jones and Mark Fuller of Connecticut Golf Club, is entering her sophomore year at the University of Massachusetts with a major in Art and a minor in Art History. Kelly is a second-year scholarship recipient.

- **Elizabeth Maffei**, daughter of Anne and Mike Maffei, superintendent at Back O'Beyond, is a Brewster High School graduate with plans to attend Fairfield University's School of Business, majoring in Marketing.

- **Colleen Moore**, daughter of Denise and Glenn Moore of Glenmore Landscape Services, is a Fox Lane High School graduate with plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill as an Education major.

- **Meredith Moore**, daughter of Beth and Tim Moore, superintendent at Knollwood Country Club, is entering her senior year at Plattsburgh State University with a major in Mass Communications. Meredith is a past recipient of the award.

- **Adrienne O'Keefe**, daughter of Margaret and John O'Keefe, superintendent at Preakness Hills Country Club, is a Wayne Valley High School graduate with plans to attend Sacred Heart University with a major in English and English Education.

- **Lauren Pakkala**, daughter of Carole and Larry Pakkala, superintendent at Woodway Country Club, will be entering her junior year at the University of Colorado, continuing her studies in Child Psychology.

Rockland Country Club Recognized for Environmental Excellence

C

ongratulations to Rockland Country Club Superintendent **Matt Ceplo** for leading the effort necessary for his club to achieve designation as a "Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary" by the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System (ACSS), the educational division of Audubon International.

Rockland Country Club is the 14th course in New York and the 317th in the world to receive the honor.

"Rockland has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program," says Carol Thompson, staff ecologist for the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary System. "To reach certification, a course must demonstrate that it is maintaining a high degree of environmental quality in a number of areas."

Among them: Environmental Planning, Wildlife & Habitat Management, Outreach and Education, Integrated Pest Management, Water Conservation, and Water Quality Management.

"Our main goal is to show that the golf course is a great benefit to the community," explains Matt of his environmental mindedness. "It has been a lot of fun working toward certification, and the membership has supported our efforts from the very beginning."

According to Matt, Rockland is currently reaping the rewards of their efforts.

"We have more wildlife on the course than ever before," he notes, "and by adding nest boxes, we were able to attract blue birds for the first time. As part of the program, we also installed an osprey nest box, but there have been no takers so far."

"This is a great program," Matt continues. "I recommend it to everyone."



New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

- **Nicholas Kovalycsik**, Class D, Preakness Hills Country Club, Wayne, NJ
- **David Ryan**, Class C, Sunningdale Country Club, Scarsdale, NY

Members on the Move

- **Dennis Petruzzelli** has joined the sales force at Metro Milorganite in Danbury, CT. Previous position: Superintendent at GlenArbor Golf Club, Bedford Hills, NY.
- **Ken Benoit** is the new superintendent at GlenArbor Golf Club, Bedford Hills, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY.

Honors

Congratulations to **Peter J. Rappoccio**, Class D member and son of Silver Spring Superintendent Peter R., on receiving a \$2,500 scholarship award toward his education at Virginia Polytechnical Institute and University. Peter J. is majoring in Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences with a turf management option.

Retired

Congratulations to longtime MetGCSA member **Barry Petrasko**, who has recently become a Class AL member, retiring as superintendent at South Pine Creek Golf Club in Fairfield, CT. Here's to weekends off the rest of your life! Enjoy, Barry.

Well Wishes

We'd like to send well wishes to the following MetGCSA members and friends:

- **Mike Leary**, superintendent, Bruce Memorial Golf Club, Greenwich, CT
- **Gerald Mahoney**, MGA Director of Golf Programs

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the loss of longtime Met member **Mike Magarone**, who passed away in May. A Life member, Mike was superintendent at the Milbrook Club in Greenwich, CT, for 25 years and a MetGCSA member since 1960.

Our deepest sympathy to Mike's friends and relatives.

President's Message continued from page 1

were a dire need for research in a particular area, we could direct and support the research ourselves.

This is basically what we did with the three-year moss research project headed up by Cornell University's Dr. Frank Rossi. In this case, we joined forces with the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation to supply the funding necessary for what turned out to be a worthwhile endeavor. Moss sufferers now have a concrete plan of action for eradicating—and preventing—moss.

Our Scholarship account is growing in much the same fashion. In fact, this year, we awarded \$10,000 to 10 recipients, the most awarded in Met history. (See Member News, page 14.) Our annual Christmas Scholarship Raffle, in memory of Bill Caputi, also supports this fund.

With the increasing number of Met members with young children and with college tuitions rising at alarming rates, this fund is well on its way to being a valuable source of assistance for more of our members.

On Member Involvement

Let's face it, this is our association. If no one volunteers to help run it, it will fail. I am very fortunate to have been invited to become involved in the Met board at a very early stage in my career. I've enjoyed being involved so much that, 16 years later, I'm still on the board. I don't plan to fade away after stepping down as president. I plan to stay involved on some level.

My recommendation—if not plea—to all of you out there: Don't wait to be invited to become involved. Call the chairman of a Met committee that most interests you, and volunteer to serve on that committee. You'll be welcomed with open arms.

Another option: Volunteer to host a meeting—even if the first date you can get at your club is two years down the road. At least this will give you plenty of time to prepare!!

Also helpful: Volunteer to write an article for the *Tee to Green*. I would love to see

superintendents assign their assistants to write a brief article about an aspect of their operation. Perhaps there is something unique about your maintenance operation that could be shared in the *Tee to Green*.

I think you all see my point: If everyone sat back and waited for someone else to do the work, it simply would not get done! I can truly say that my career has been more rewarding because of my involvement on the board. I have always felt at the forefront of the industry. I have made lifelong friends and gained valuable experience by interacting with members of our allied professions.

On Family

The Social and Welfare Committee is special to me because it was the first committee I chaired as a member of the Met board back in 1988. I sincerely believe our social events should be the best-attended events of any we host.

The July issue of *Golfdom* published an article about balancing family life and career. This article reiterated what we all know to be true: Our career requires a lot of hours and hard slogging work that takes away from the time we can spend with our families.

What better way to make up for some of that lost time than attending the Met social events! Now that the Family Picnic and Summer Social have come and gone, I look forward to seeing record crowds at our Christmas party on December 8 at Brae Burn.

In the End

The central issue is this: Is the MetGCSA a priority to you? I am not trying to say you should bleed MetGCSA blue and green. However, I truly believe you could reap several rewards in your professional and family life by being involved in the Met.

John Carlone, CGCS
President

Getting Gray Leaf Spot Before It Gets You

Tried-and-True Techniques for Fending Off This Ferocious Fungus

by Glen Dube



When Labor Day rolls around, most of us start to see the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. The days get shorter. The nights get cooler. And the severe threat of disease just about vanishes.

This was the case—nearly without exception—until a few years ago, when *Pyricularia grisea* suddenly made the scene. Better known as Gray Leaf Spot, this fungal nuisance was originally found only in the South's St. Augustine grasses. Now, it's made its way to the North, plaguing Met area superintendents who have significant stands of perennial ryegrass on their courses.

Coveted for its quick germination rate and its high tolerance to heat, traffic, and low heights of cut, perennial ryegrass has been a staple in turf management practices for years. But its susceptibility to gray leaf spot has diminished the grass's many advantages and has caused us to rethink how we manage this once seemingly indestructible turfgrass.

Infections usually occur from late August to the second or third week in September. And it's viscous. Gray leaf spot can devastate a healthy stand of mature ryegrass in three to five days and seedling ryegrass in as little as 48 hours. Not unlike rabies in a human, once infection occurs, it's too late. Curative control is very difficult, due to the prolific production of spores. And though preventive programs work, they can get very expensive.

So where do we go from here? Fortunately, Dr. Bruce Clarke, plant pathologist at Rutgers University, can offer some insight. Then read on as local supers share their trials and triumphs in battling the disease.

On the Research Front

After researching gray leaf spot for several years, Dr. Clarke has found the strobilurons—e.g., Heritage and Compass—to be a superintendent's best defense. "Thiophanate methyl—Cleary's 3336—and the sterol inhibitors—e.g., Banner Maxx and Bayleton—also work well," says Dr. Clarke, who adds that Daconil may be used on a preventive basis.

Conidia of Pyricularia grisea



Gray leaf spot is already active in the Southern states. Mid-July, he says, is the time to start paying attention to the weather and any reports coming from the South on the disease's northern migration.

"Maintaining your brown patch programs should keep the inoculum in check," notes Dr. Clarke, who's quick to point out that cultural practices also play a large part in gray leaf spot prevention.

"Grasses are most susceptible four to five weeks after germination," he says. "The second or third week of September is usually the waning cycle of the disease."

Because of this, Dr. Clarke recommends pushing back overseeding times to mid-September. "We've found this to provide significant control in the past few years," he says.

Also key, in Dr. Clarke's book: Don't overfertilize. "We recommend no more than 1/2 lb. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. This rate is less likely to enhance the disease," he explains.

Another important finding: Water-soluble nitrogen—at 3/4 lb.—tends to increase the disease more than slow-release fertilizers.

What does the future hold in store for us? Rutgers researchers have been hot on the trail of resistant turfgrass varieties, collecting grasses from Europe and the Far East. So far, Rutgers Turf Breeder Dr. Bill Meyer has found gray-leaf-spot-resistant selections in some ryegrasses from Europe. "These grasses are in the process of being backcrossed into more elite cultivars," says Dr. Clarke, adding, "Right now we have small plots of these grasses to check overall quality. There should be a resistant cultivar in a couple of years."

The researchers' next focus will be to study the impact that heat and drought have on gray leaf spot disease. So stay tuned.

What's Your Secret?

We asked several area superintendents to share their "weapons of choice" in battling gray leaf spot.

Arik Carlson, superintendent at The Patterson Club in Fairfield CT, has 30 to 70 percent ryegrass coverage on his fairways. "A few years ago, our intermediate and regular

Upcoming Events

MetGCSA Meeting and Golf Events

Poa Annual Tournament

Monday, August 13
Minisceongo GC, Pomona, NY
Host: Jason Ziesmer

MetGCSA Championship/Met Area Team Championship Qualifier, Round 2

Tuesday, September 18
Centennial GC, Carmel, NY
Host: Will Heintz

The Assistants Championship

Tuesday, October 2
The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT
Assistant Hosts: Albion Imondi/David Polvino

Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Tuesday, October 16
The Meadow Brook Club, Jericho, NY
Host: John Carlone, CGCS

Annual Meeting

November: Date & Site TBA
Contact either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs—Jeff Wentworth, 914-738-2752, or Sean Cain, 914-723-3239—to book this meeting at your club!

Educational Events

Univ. of Rhode Island Turfgrass Field Day

Wednesday, August 15
Kingston, RI
Call 401-874-2481 for more information.

CT Water Diversion Legislation Explained

Thursday, October 18
CC of Farmington, Farmington, CT
Sponsored by the Department of Environmental Protection, this day-long conference is designed to inform golf course superintendents in Connecticut about important new water diversion legislation (see article on page 8)—and how to comply. For more information, contact Carla Feroni of the DEP at 860-424-3390.

NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition

Tuesday – Thursday, November 13 – 15
Convention Ctr. at Oncenter, Syracuse, NY
Cosponsored by the Cornell University, the expo is in its 26th year, featuring more than 60 business and technical sessions and an expansive trade show with 350 exhibitor booths. Call 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229 for more information.

Social Event

MetGCSA Christmas Party

Saturday, December 8
Brae Burn CC, Purchase, NY
Host: Dennis Flynn, CGCS

National Event

GCSAA's 75th Anniversary Celebration

Thursday – Friday, September 13 – 14
GCSAA Headquarters, Lawrence, KS
Learn more about the festivities, view the schedule of events, and print the registration form at <http://www.gcsaa.org/about/75th/tribute.html>.



rough got hit pretty hard," Arik explains. "The fairways were fine, but the rough was in bad shape. We preventively spray our intermediate rough to keep the disease from getting to our fairways. That seems to be working.

"We still use ryegrass on the Par 3 tees and the driving range tee," he continues, "but we are using other species on the golf course. When overseeding fairways, we seed with bentgrass and sod with a bluegrass/fescue mix."

Tracey Holliday, superintendent at Sterling Farms Golf Course and Tony Girardi, superintendent at Rockrimmon Country Club, both in Stamford, CT, rely on disease model services to predict, the best they can, when climatic conditions are favorable for disease development. From there, they can go out and treat this disease accordingly.

"I keep on top of the disease by sending plugs out for testing every week," says Tracey. "I sprayed preventively for it once last year and saw nothing," she adds.

Tony Girardi has a few fairways with a small amount of ryegrass, but doesn't worry about a gray leaf spot outbreak there since he sprays fairways for brown patch and other diseases. "Although my fairways haven't suffered from the disease," says Tony, "our intermediate rough and regular rough got hit hard in 1999. We noticed it on the areas with a lot of traffic. Now we spray a horseshoe at the beginning of every fairway."

All three superintendents use a combination of Daconil at approximately 3 to 4 oz./1000 and Banner Maxx at 1oz./1000. Tony Girardi adds, "Using Daconil and Banner Maxx at 14-day intervals is the most cost-effective preventive program. Compass at the .2 oz./1000 works well too."

With some luck, researchers will come up with a cure-all for this devastating disease. In the meantime, we will have to make the best use possible of the available information and combat this intruder one season at a time.

Glen Dube, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Oak Hills Park Golf Course in Norwalk, CT.

GCSAA Seminar: Wildlife and Habitat Management

Thursday, November 15
Tarrytown Marriott, Tarrytown, NY
Cosponsored by the GCSAA and MetGCSA, this seminar will offer new ideas about managing existing wildlife on the golf course. Call 800-472-7878 for more information.

Second Annual Maxwell Turf & Landscape Conference and Trade Show

Wednesday, January 9, 2002
Melville Marriott Hotel, Melville, NY
For information on exhibiting at the trade show or attending the conference, call 631-643-8873.

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 16, 2002
Westchester CC, Westchester, NY
Save the date, and watch for details on this annual educational event.

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Patrons listed on this page are supporting our association. You are encouraged to support them.

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