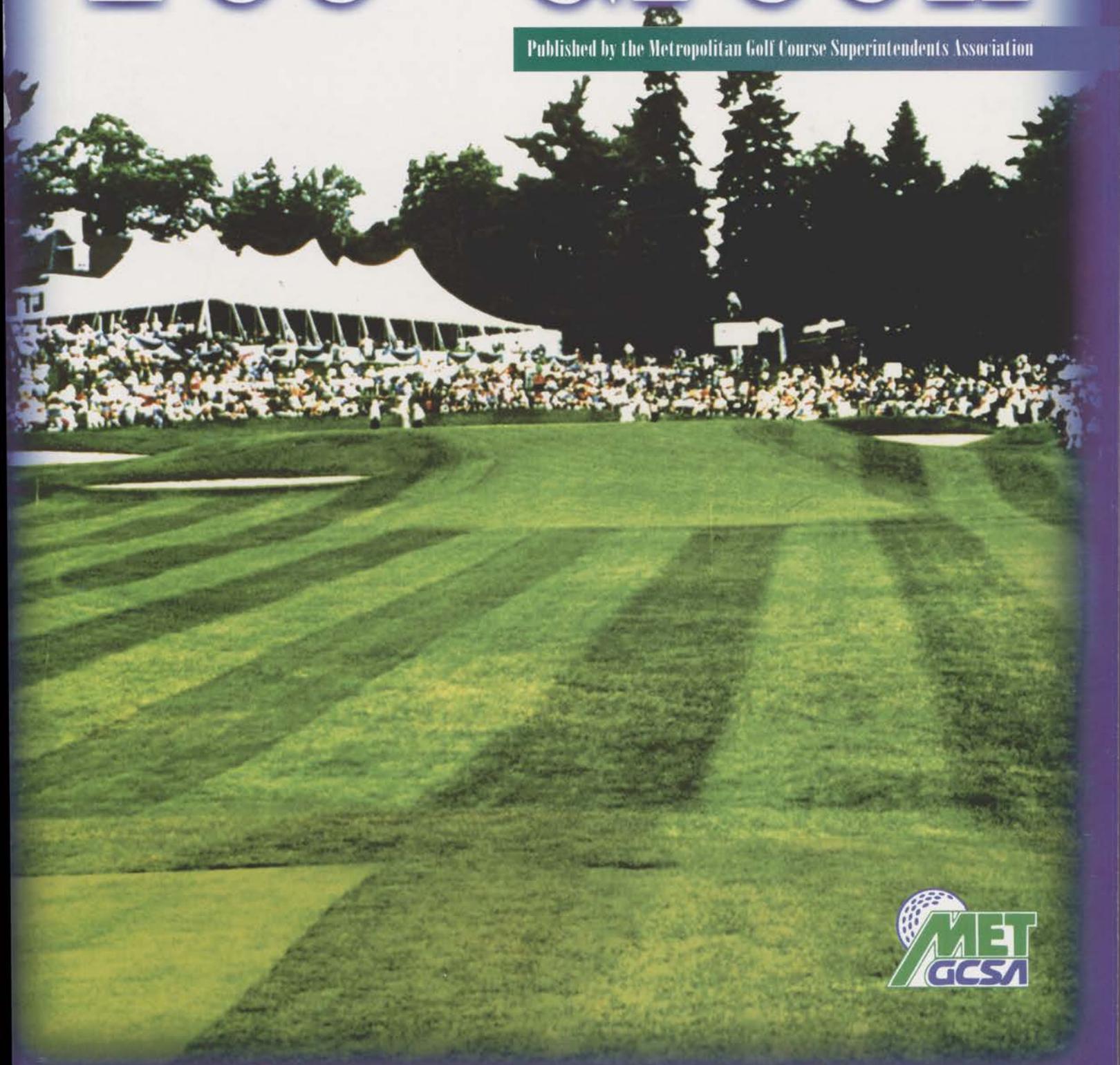


September/October 2001
VOLUME 31 NUMBER 5

NOV 9 2 2001

Tee To Green

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: The Meadow Brook Club.
 Photo by Mike Norwalk,
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President's Message

Putting Things in Perspective



In the days that followed the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon buildings, I did a lot of reflecting. Many of you did, I'm sure. A number of fellow superintendents I spoke with shared similar sentiments, "A little dead grass doesn't seem to matter that much anymore." Or "No more 80-hour workweeks for me." However, the most notable theme of all my conversations was, "What do you think we can do to help?"

In response to that question, the MetGCSA board asked The GCSAA Foundation to assist us in accepting and administering donations.

GCSAA sent out an e-mail, on my behalf, to all affiliated chapters throughout the country, making them aware that there is a way that our associations could come together to help those affected by this unthinkable tragedy.

Basically, the way it works is that if any chapter would like to make a donation to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund or the FDNY and NYPD Relief Fund (this fund provides relief to the children of the firemen and policemen who died in the act of duty during the attacks on the World Trade Center), they could do it through The GCSAA Foundation.

The chapter would then receive credit for its donation within The GCSAA Foundation's Cumulative Giving program. All donations received from the chapters by November 1, 2001 will be forwarded to the American Red Cross and the FDNY and NYPD Relief Fund to assist with the national relief efforts. I am working with GCSAA and The Foundation to see that the contribution is presented on behalf of GCSAA affiliated chapters.

If you would like to make an *individual* contribution to this worthy cause, please make your check payable to The GCSAA Foundation - Relief, and mail it to The GCSAA Foundation, P.O. Box 419004, Kansas City, MO 64141-6004.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Teri Harris, director of development of The GCSAA Foundation, at 800-472-7878, ext. 465.



John Carlone, CGCS
MetGCSA President

The GCSAA Board of Directors has already pledged \$50,000 earmarked specifically for the American Red Cross.

Whatever amount we collect and donate may seem small compared to the millions of dollars corporate America has donated to the relief effort in the days following the attack. But to those in need, any amount, I'm sure, is appreciated.

Congratulations

At the annual Green Chairman/Superintendent meeting that I had the pleasure of hosting October 16 at The Meadow Brook Club, the MetGCSA awarded its highest honor, the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award, to Jay Mottola, executive director of the MGA.

I am extremely proud to add Jay's name to the distinguished list of recipients of this award. His association with our profession through his involvement in such efforts as the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation and the GCSAA's "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign, uniquely qualify him for this award. I know I speak for every member when I say congratulations to Jay and that we look forward to many more years of working with the MGA under his direction.

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Feature



MGA Executive Director Jay Mottola Earns MetGCSA's 2001 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

by Glenn Perry, CGCS



When the MetGCSA was looking for a recipient worthy of its prestigious John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award, it didn't have to look too far. Right there at Golf Central, working on behalf of area golf clubs and golf course superintendents each and every day, was someone who clearly met the criteria of the Met's high honor: MGA Executive Director Jay Mottola.

In describing Jay's many award-worthy accomplishments, MetGCSA President John Carlone, says, "Jay was selected for this award not just because he is a strong supporter of the golf course superintendents in the Metropolitan area, but also because he is an ambassador for the game of golf throughout the country. We are extremely proud to add Jay's name to our distinguished list of Reid Award recipients."

Once in Golf, Always in Golf

Jay's life has long been intertwined with the game of golf. At an early age—in his Tuxedo, NY, hometown—Jay began playing golf with his father. From playing the links, Jay went on to working them, trying his hand at caddying and then, for several years during high school and college, the grounds crew at The Tuxedo Club. During that time, he says, he gained a true appreciation for the roles and responsibilities of the golf course superintendent.

A member of The Tuxedo Club since 1980, Jay has stayed close to the golf course maintenance operation—serving for the past 10 years as co-green chairman.

"Jay's knowledge of the game of golf—and golf course management practices—have been invaluable," says Tuxedo Club Superintendent Tim Garceau. "His input and guidance are always on the mark, and he adds credibility to our department's decisions and special projects. When Jay backs us, the membership is always more apt to follow suit."

Isn't it only fitting, then, that Jay was honored with the Reid Award—reserved for individuals who have "demonstrated a knowledge of, and commitment to, the game of golf and the science of golf course management"—at the MetGCSA's

October 16 Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament at The Meadow Brook Club.

Also fitting is that the award was presented by two long-time colleagues: Meadow Brook member and former MGA President John Baldwin and Met PGA Section executive director and former John Reid Award winner Charlie Robson.

MGA Bound

A graduate of Lafayette College, Jay went on to earn his MBA at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

"Jay was selected for this award not just because he is a strong supporter of the golf course superintendents in the Metropolitan area, but also because he is an ambassador for the game of golf throughout the country."

—John Carlone, CGCS

His next stop, however, was not the MGA—or even a job in the golf course industry. Jay took a position as an accountant, which lasted barely a year. "It didn't take me long to realize I was in the wrong business," says Jay, who from there, became an assistant college basketball coach.

It was at that point that Jay got his foot in the door at the MGA. "David Fay, a lifelong friend who's now the executive director of the USGA, was working for the MGA at the time as its communication manager. He thought I might enjoy working on the MGA's tournament field team. So I gave it a go.

"The rest is history," continues Jay. "I've been with the MGA ever since."

In 1980, Jay accepted a full-time position as tournament director/assistant executive director, and then, in 1981, both he and Jerry Mahoney assumed GCSAA's

bound Jim McLoughlin's duties as executive director. In 1982, Jay assumed sole responsibility for the position, offering his predecessor high praise for his work. "I can't say enough about Jim's contributions," says Jay. He provided a great platform for the MGA to build on."

For the Good of Golf

Jay, like his predecessor on the Reid Award roster, Charlie Robson, has had a knack for making things happen—in a big way. Though Jay modestly and readily credits Jerry Mahoney, Jeanne McCooley, Gene Westmoreland and the "MGA team" for the organization's success, he, himself, has clearly had a far-reaching impact.

Under Jay's leadership, the MGA has grown in leaps and bounds—from an organization of 175 member clubs to more than 400 and with a service staff that has more than tripled.

Considered by all who know him as one of the Met area's and golf's most effective and innovative leaders, Jay's overseen the development of dozens of new, groundbreaking programs that have benefited the game of golf and the golf community at large. Under his charge, the MGA launched *The Met Golfer* magazine, constructed Golf Central, expanded area clubs' caddie training programs and tournament programs, created the MGA Foundation, and developed dozens of new educational programs.

Right now, the MGA Foundation, Met PGA, and The First Tee, have joined forces in the development of a Junior Golf Learning and Teaching Center focused on bringing golf to minorities and underprivileged children. The center, which will operate at the Mosholu Golf Course in the Bronx, includes a nine-hole course and driving range. "I am hoping," says Jay, "that this project will encourage other municipalities, golf organizations, and park systems to develop similar programs."

Anyone who has worked with Jay knows that he is one of the game's true visionaries. His ability to "look ahead" and think "outside the box" have put him in the forefront of the golf industry.

Right now, the MGA Foundation, Met PGA, and The First Tee, have joined forces in the development of a Junior Golf Learning and Teaching Center focused on bringing golf to minorities and underprivileged children.



"I can think of no one more deserving of the 2001 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award than Jay Mottola," says MGA President Connie DeLoca. "In the nearly 20 years I've worked with Jay, he has been a model of excellence in golf administration. His knowledge, zeal for the game and the job, affable personality, and ability to anticipate what is needed today and in the future, are key contributors to his consistent success as executive director of the MGA and the MGA Foundation."

Beyond the MGA

Jay's efforts and initiatives extend beyond the MGA to other areas of the game of golf and the country. He is closely involved with the USGA, serving on numerous committees over the years. Right now, he's chairman of the Handicap Procedure Committee and has among his list of contributions a role in the development and implementation of the USGA GHIN Handicapping Service, as well as the Slope System.

A proponent of involving more young people in the game of golf, Jay is a voice not just locally, but also nationally for the revitalization of caddies and caddie programs and for the MGA Foundation's innovative student intern program, GOLFWORKS.

Jay was also part of a contingent that encouraged the USGA to bring the U.S. Open to Bethpage Black in 2002, the first truly public golf course to hold the national championship.

But then public golf—more specifically affordable public golf—is close to Jay's heart. "I'm concerned," says Jay, "that both public and private golf in the Met area has become so expensive that many people who want to play can't afford it. I'd like to see us find ways to ensure the game remains accessible to people from all walks of life—in the public and private golf sectors."

Super Support

A friend and ardent supporter of the golf course superintendent, Jay has campaigned for research and the dissemination of information on the positive impact golf courses have on the environment. He's even gone so far as to write several articles on the subject and, for the past decade, has sat on the boards of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation and GCSAA's "Investing in the Beauty of Golf" campaign, both of which fund pertinent turfgrass research.

"I don't think that any group of professionals has grown in importance in recent years more than the golf course superintendents," says Jay. "At any club, the golf course is the greatest asset, and the importance of golf course superintendents in maintaining that asset speaks volumes for their role in the game of golf."

Jay strove to strengthen the relationship among Met area golf groups—the MGA, Met PGA, and the MetGCSA—by bringing them under one roof at Golf Central. "I felt strongly," he says, "that sharing our headquarters would improve the ability of all groups to better service golf in the area."

"We are proud to enjoy a wonderful alliance and friendship that Jay has helped foster, not only with the PGA, but with all our working Metropolitan area golf organizations," says the PGA's Charlie Robson, adding, "Jay is not only deserving of the Reid Award for the incredible energy, wisdom, and leadership he provides the MGA, but for his lifetime of contributions to the game of golf and the betterment of golf course management and maintenance."

When pondering how the superinten-

dent's roles and responsibilities have evolved over the years, Jay expresses one concern: the level of maintenance required of superintendents today.

"I'm not just concerned about the undue stress maintaining superfast greens and achieving other unrealistic standards has on the superintendent and turf," says Jay. "I'm troubled by the cost of pushing for these standards and by

the fact that maintaining these conditions requires increased pesticide and irrigation use, which can be counterproductive to the great work golf course superintendents have done to communicate and demonstrate their commitment to preserving the environment."

Looking to the future, Jay is interested in seeing how new golf club and ball technology will affect the game of golf—particularly golf course design and playability. He's hopeful that the Royal & Ancient and the USGA will take a united stand on this important issue and put reasonable limitations on technology.

Joining the Ranks

When asked how he felt about being chosen for an organization's highest honor, Jay, with his typical modesty, responds, "I am honored and flattered to receive the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. It means a great deal coming from the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association. I have always had a great respect for the association and its leaders, and I am honored to be in the company of the others who have received this award."

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

Glenn Perry, co-editor of the Tee to Green, is superintendent at Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton, CT.

Meadow Brook Hosts Superintendent/Green Chairman Tourney



John Carlone

by Glenn Perry, CGCS

On October 16, Superintendent John Carlone and The Meadow Brook Club hosted the MetGCSA's annual Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament and meeting, which we had the pleasure of sharing with our peers from the Long Island GCSA.

Though this event pales in comparison to some of the regional events Meadow Brook has hosted over the years, for MetGCSA members, it was a special day. Not just for the great golf or the opportunity to court their green chairman, but for the opportunity to present one of the association's most prestigious awards—the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award—to the MGA's Executive Director and long-time promoter of golf and the turfgrass management industry, Jay Mattola.

Among the presenters were Meadow Brook member and former MGA President John Baldwin; Met PGA Section executive director and former John Reid Award winner Charlie Robson; and John, himself who we can credit, in large part, for this perfect day.

Colorful Beginnings

Rich in history and tradition, The Meadow Brook Hunt Club—as it's still officially known—has been through several transformations. It started out in 1881 in Westbury, NY, as a polo club. In 1894, members added a nine-hole golf course, which they ended up abandoning by 1905 in favor of polo.

But with a resurgence in golf and the number of players competing for a tee time, golf returned to Meadow Brook 11 years later. The club leased the J. Clinton Smith estate across the road and hired Devereux Emmet to design a new 18-hole course. He used the brook, which gives the club its

name, placing 10 greens beside it.

This course lasted until the early 1950s when the club was forced to make way for the Meadow Brook Parkway, which would connect the middle of Nassau County with the south shore beaches. It was at that point that Meadow Brook moved to its present site in Jericho, NY, which included 450 acres and six polo fields.

The club hired Golf Course Architect Dick Wilson to build a championship-style course on the new grounds. It opened in 1955 but, by 1967, was under construction again. Meadow Brook sold 180 acres to developers, losing its six polo fields and three of its golf holes. The club hired Dick Wilson protégé Joe Lee to rebuild the three holes it lost and reroute the existing holes on the club's current 270-acre site.

In more recent history, the club has held numerous major regional tournaments, including the Metropolitan PGA Championships; The Metropolitan Open, an LPGA event; and now, annually, the Lightpath Long Island Classic, a Senior PGA tour event, which has on its roster of winners golf greats Lee Trevino, Gary Player, and Raymond Floyd.

And no wonder: The club boasts championship tees that stretch 7,108 yards and some of the largest greens in the country, the first green being the club's largest at 11,200 square feet. The eighth is Meadow Brook's centerpiece, a 615-yard par five that doglegs left, then right. Byron Nelson called it the "best extra-long par five in the country."

Among the club's other notable notes: It became the 37th member of the USGA and, in 1897, a charter member of the MGA.

Career in the Making

John became part of Meadow Brook history in 1996, when he accepted his current position as superintendent. It's here that John has been able to achieve one of his larger professional goals: preparing a golf course for a professional tournament. "Each year," says John, "I'm thrilled to not only meet, but in some cases get to know, some of the great people within the world of golf."

Meadow Brook is a club devoted to golf. "There's no tennis, pool, or even dinner service in the clubhouse," says John. "The membership is made up of serious golfers. At least 30 percent of them have single-digit handicaps—and two are former Met Amateur champions."

John started building his career early on

in life. At 11, in his hometown of Portsmouth, RI, he began playing golf and continued right through his college years at the University of Rhode Island.

Though he toyed with becoming a touring pro, John found his way into turf management, with the help of the late Dr. Skogley, a professor then in URI's Plant Sciences Department. While earning his B.S. in Turf Management, John did his placement training at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY, and after graduating in 1983, he worked as an assistant superintendent at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT.

Two-and-a-half years later, John accepted his first superintendent's job at Middle Bay Country Club in Oceanside, NY, where he stayed until moving on to Meadow Brook.

For the past five years, John has continued to improve areas of the course. He's built a new range tee, laser-leveled nine tee complexes, and installed subsurface drainage in seven greens, with six more slated for completion this fall.

Industry Focused

Another of John's professional goals has been to "remain a part of the industry's growth and progress." Soon after becoming a superintendent, John became actively involved in the MetGCSA. A board member since 1986, John's served on numerous committees and as the group's secretary, vice president, and for the past two years, president.

John's also served four years on the board of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation and has been actively involved in the GCSAA. Since 1991, he's served on GCSAA's Election, Education, Tournament, and Membership Committees, and, most recently, its 75th Anniversary Resource Group.

John hopes you enjoyed your day at Meadow Brook and were able to keep your three-putts to a minimum on the large greens!

John lives on club grounds with his wife of 14 years, Leslie, and his three children: Emily, 11, David, 9, and Daniel, 6. In his spare time, he enjoys coaching his son David's soccer team, playing golf, and taking a spin on his motorcycle.

Glenn Perry, co-editor of the Tee to Green, is superintendent at Rolling Hills Country Club in Wilton, CT.

Spotlight



Rob Alonzi

W

by Greg Wojick, CGCS

What do Shinnecock, Newport, The Country Club, Chicago Golf Club, and St. Andrew's have in common? They are the five founding clubs of the USGA. St. Andrew's Golf Club, in fact, has the oldest golf club charter in America!

On Wednesday, November 7, this fabulous, historical club—and its new superintendent, Rob Alonzi—have agreed to host

St. Andrew's New Super to Host MetGCSA Annual Meeting in November

the MetGCSA's Annual Meeting.

Rob, who's the son of Robert (Fenway GC) and the nephew of Joe (Westchester CC), took the helm at St. Andrew's January 1 of this year. "I couldn't be more pleased with the job," says Rob, who holds a B.S. from UMass, with not only a major in plant and soil science, but also a minor in business.

Formerly assistant at Tamarack, Rob is amply experienced by not only literally eating, sleeping, and breathing course maintenance through his childhood years at home, but also through his long list of former mentors.

Before his true indoctrination into the business working as Jeff Scott's assistant at Tamarack (1997 to 2001), Rob worked for Steve Renzetti at Wykagyl from '95 to '97; for Bruce Cadenelli at Caves Valley from '93 to '94; and last but not least, for his father, Robert Alonzi, since he was—according to Rob—"knee-high to a grasshopper."

New Charter

Now at St. Andrew's, Rob has been charged with raising the level of conditions. "There are a few weak greens that need attention and a single-row irrigation system that is constraining," notes Rob, who also expects to battle a significant thatch problem. And although the club has just finished a major clubhouse renovation and addition, Rob will still have an adequate budget to work with: just under \$1 million. But with no general manager in place at St. Andrew's, Rob expects to be very involved with committees and members.

As is characteristic of most superintendents, Rob likes to do his job steadily and quietly. "I love the business, and I like following in my father's footsteps," says Rob, who clearly has not only the lineage, but also the makings of a future "Legend."

Greg Wojick, co-editor of the Tee to Green, is superintendent at Greenwich Country Club in Greenwich, CT.

Spotlight



Dennis Flynn

L

by Chip Lafferty

Just off your dancin' shoes, the MetGCSA's annual holiday bash—believe it or not—is fast approaching. Hosting this year's festivities on December 8 is Brae Burn Country Club Superintendent Dennis Flynn.

Though this event won't take you beyond the clubhouse walls, we want to give you insight into the course—should you have the pleasure of playing a round once the season starts again—and, of course,

'Tis Nearly the Season for the Social Event of the Year... The Annual MetGCSA Christmas Party

an inside look at the super who's providing the backdrop for this always-fun kickoff to the holidays.

The Course, of Course

Located in Purchase, NY, Brae Burn is a relatively new course, designed in 1964 by Frank Duane, who studied under Robert Trent Jones and later joined forces with Arnold Palmer.

The course has seen numerous changes in its 36-year history—most of them under Dennis's watchful eye. In his 20 years on the job, he's swept through the maintenance operation and golf course, freeing the course from many of its agronomic and architectural flaws.

Among the first challenges he took on was weeding out the poa in his fairways, which are now primarily bentgrass; rebuilding #6 green to correct agronomic and other problems related to faulty construction; relocating trees interfering with

growing conditions; and installing additional cart paths, tee to green.

In more recent history, Dennis has overseen the installation of a brand-new Toro Site Pro irrigation system and, along with that, the addition of many new water features. Also among Dennis's long list of accomplishments is the reconfiguration of his maintenance building, which, he's happy to say, has given him a facility double the original size. "We added 5,200-square-feet to the existing structure," explains Dennis, "complete with an employee locker room, lunchroom, and a significantly larger workshop area with a hydraulic lift."

Dennis's latest undertaking—a complete golf course renovation project—consumed him and his staff for the past two years. "We built two new greens and reshaped or recontoured all the others," says Dennis. "We also built several tees, realigned two fairways, and renovated all the bunkers. And in the process, we added new drainage throughout the course."

This sizable undertaking ended—no doubt thankfully—in June.

Climbing the Ladder

A White Plains, NY, native, Dennis credits his interest in turfgrass management to his father, Joseph, who was superintendent at Metropolis Country Club for 29 years—and Dennis's first mentor.

"I worked for my father during my junior high school years," says Dennis, who returned to Metropolis in 1972 many years—and several jobs—later as a crew member under the club's long-tenured former superintendent, the late Bruno Vadala.

During that time, Dennis completed a certificate from Rutgers Professional Golf Turf Management School in 1975. While at Rutgers, he saw his ticket to his first assistant's position. "Al Caravella, Brae Burn's superintendent at the time, spoke to one of our classes and mentioned he was looking for an assistant. I followed up and was offered the job," says Dennis.

He started at Brae Burn in March 1975. From there, he went to Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY, and his first superintendent's position. That was in 1977. Five years later, Dennis "came back to roost" at Brae Burn—this time as superintendent.

A longtime member of both the Met and GCSAA, Dennis is a strong advocate of our industry and profession. "I'm happy to provide a training ground for young people entering the business. I truly enjoy working with assistants—and helping them develop into outstanding superintendents," says Dennis.

Fun, Fun, Fun

Dennis is probably as busy outside of work as he is on the job. Aside from being an avid golfer, he's become, in recent years, a Harley fan, joining fellow superintendents on weekend trips to Vermont or on a 4,000-mile journey to Daytona for Bike Week.

Dennis's other passion is sailing. Up until recently, he owned and raced a 28-foot sailboat. Now, with family and various time constraints, he generally limits his time on the water to vacations, when he and his wife, Cindy, take off and sail the Caribbean.

A family man, Dennis has five children who range in age from 14 to 35. He's also a proud grandfather of two. The Flynns live in Katonah, NY.

Chip Lafferty, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY.

Member News

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new members:

Chris Barnigat, Class C, Friars Head, Riverhead, NY

Brett Chapin, Class D, Siwanoy Country Club, Bronxville, NY

Paul Dottie, Class A, Edgewood Country Club, River Vale, NJ

Shannon Slevin, Class C, Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY

John Tassone, Class C, Country Club at Lake MacGregor, Mahopac, NY

John Wickes, Class AF, Ira Wickes/Arborists, Spring Valley, NY

Well Wishes

We'd like to continue our well wishes to MetGCSA friend **Gerald Mahoney**, MGA Director of Golf Programs.



Births

Congratulations to:

- Rockrimmon Country Club Assistant **Tim Combs** and his wife, Nicki, on the birth of their son, Jordan Timothy, on September 2
- Rolling Hills Country Club Superintendent and *Tee to Green* Co-Editor **Glenn Perry** and his wife, Susan, on the birth of their daughter, Kirsten Elisabeth, on September 18

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the loss of longtime MetGCSA member **Mike Leary**, who passed away August 10. A Met member since 1965, Mike last served as superintendent at Bruce Memorial Golf Course in Greenwich, CT.

Our deepest sympathy to Mike's friends and family.

Our sincere condolences to **Byron Johnson** of The Terre Company on the loss of his mother, September 14.

Remembering September 11, 2001

The MetGCSA wishes to extend our sincere
condolences to all of the families who
have lost loved ones.
Our hearts and prayers are with you.

God Bless America.

GCSAA CEO Steve Mona Named One of Golf Industry's Most Powerful



Steve Mona

Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA) CEO Steve Mona, CAE, has been chosen by Crittenden Golf Inc. Magazine, as one of the "Most Powerful People in Golf."

Mona, GCSAA chief executive since December 1993, was named by the magazine as one of the industry's "Most Dynamic Movers & Shakers" in 1999. This year, he joins 25 others in Crittenden's August 2001 edition on the list for "Most Powerful." Among them was Jack Nicklaus, player and president of Golden Bear International; Tim Finchem, commissioner of the PGA Tour; David Fay, executive director of the USGA; Tom Fazio, president of Fazio Golf Course Designers; and Joe Beditz, president and CEO of the National Golf Foundation.

The magazine's "Most Powerful" are individuals who have the ability to influence the development of courses, the marketing of the game, the number of golfers playing the game, or revenues generated at courses.

"I think the recognition is well-deserved and a credit to Steve and GCSAA as an organization," said GCSAA President Tommy Witt, CGCS. "He came to GCSAA at a critical time and, along with the members, has elevated the association in the eyes of the golf world."

Mona, 44, has a strong record of service to the golf industry. He was tournament director of the Northern California Golf Association from September 1980 to

January 1982. He then became assistant manager of press relations for the United States Golf Association from January 1982 to June 1983. In June 1983, Mona became executive director of the Georgia State Golf Association, a position he held until assuming his current position at GCSAA.

In addition to his role at GCSAA, Mona is active in the administration of the game as a member of the First Tee Advisory Committee, the World Golf Hall of Fame Selection Committee, the National Golf Foundation Board of Directors, the National Minority Golf Foundation Board of Directors, and the National Golf Course Owners Association Advisory Committee.

In the fall of 1999, he was selected to serve along with golf's top allied association leaders on the executive board of the Golf 20/20 initiative.

Mona is also active in the Kansas City-Lawrence metropolitan region, currently serving as president of the Kansas City Society of Association Executives. He was honored by that group as its Executive of the Year in 1997. He is a past chairman of the Lawrence Business/Education Partnership.

In 1998, *Golf Digest* listed Mona as the 25th most powerful person in golf. At that time only one person younger than Mona, Tiger Woods at No. 2, was ranked higher.

Mona holds a bachelor's degree in journalism, cum laude, which he received from San Jose State University in 1980.



Former St. Andrews Greenkeeper to Be Honored With GCSAA's Old Tom Morris Award

W

alter Woods, Esq., has been selected to receive GCSAA's 2002 Old Tom Morris Award. The award will be presented at the President's Dinner Show, Friday, February 8, 2002, during the association's 73rd International Golf Course Conference and Show in Orlando, FL.

GCSAA's most prestigious honor, the Old Tom Morris Award is presented each year to an individual who "through a continuing lifetime commitment to the game of golf has helped to mold the welfare of the game in a manner and style exemplified by Old Tom Morris."

Morris (1821-1908) was greenkeeper and golf professional at the St. Andrews Links Trust Golf Club of St. Andrews, Scotland; a four-time winner of the British Open (1861, '62, '64 and '67); and ranked as one of the top links designers of the 19th century.

Woods has dedicated himself to the development and professional management of fine turf and to the education of young greenkeepers. In his 33 years as a superintendent, 21 were spent at the prestigious St. Andrews Links in Scotland, where he hosted numerous tournaments, including four Open Championships and 11 Dunhill Cups. Woods served as chairman of the Elmwood College Greenkeeping Advisory Committee for 16 years and was past president and director of education for the former Scottish & International Greenkeepers Association.

A recipient of the

British Empire Medal, the Queen's award for contributions toward golf, Woods was the first chairman of the British & International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA) and is an honorary member of GCSAA. Since retiring in 1995, Woods has continued to work as a consultant within the golf industry and for the European Tour.

"How fitting it is that as we celebrate GCSAA's 75th year of existence we recognize a person who was entrusted with maintaining the birthplace of golf," says GCSAA President Tommy D. Witt, CGCS. "Walter Woods has given much to the game and the golf course superintendent profession. We are pleased to honor Walter for his lifelong commitment to golf."

Woods joins a list of highly respected past award winners, including Arnold Palmer, Tom Watson, Robert Trent Jones Sr., Tom Fazio, Gerald Ford, Bob Hope, Byron Nelson, Ken Venturi, Ben Crenshaw, Jaime Ortiz-Patiño, Nancy Lopez, and Tim Finchem.



Walter Woods, Esq.

President's Message continued from page 1

Farewell, not Goodbye

With the Annual Meeting and elections in November, I will have completed my term as MetGCSA president. Serving on the MetGCSA board, and as president for the past two years, has been a rewarding and humbling experience. I feel there is no greater reward in your professional career than being elected to serve your peers.

I plan to stay involved with the MetGCSA as much as I possibly can. I simply can't walk away from something that has been an important part of my career and life for the past 16 years.

A Challenge

I would like to end my final President's Message the same way I started my first: by stating that the MetGCSA is one of the strongest, healthiest chapters in the country. Our chapter is financially healthy. We are providing our members with programs and services that are blueprints for other chapters in the country to follow. We enjoy the recognition and compensation that is expected of a key employee who manages the most valuable asset of some of the finest country clubs in the U.S.

We have accomplished much, but there is still much more to be done. My challenge to all members is this: Get involved in our association, YOUR association. This association will not continue to thrive without your involvement. Do not sit back and ask *why*, get involved and say *why not!*

John Carlone, CGCS
President

GCSAA's 75th Anniversary Celebration Reconsidered

And Other Notes About Our National Association's Future Plans



by Tim O'Neill, CGCS

In my term on the GCSAA Board of Directors—I can't believe I've almost completed my second full season!—probably the most unfortunate course of events I've had to report is the cancellation of GCSAA's 75th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for September 13 and 14 at our headquarters in Lawrence, KS.

As chairman of the 75th Anniversary Resource Group, I saw, firsthand, the extensive planning and preparations that had gone on for many months preceding the September dedication, golf tournament, and gala dinner. All three of the events were part of a spectacular two-day celebration planned in appreciation of our profession and the association. In light of the tragic events September 11, the "show" understandably could not go on.

Although it's impossible to reschedule an event of this magnitude, GCSAA is hoping to fold the celebration into a grander-than-usual finale to the Orlando Conference and Show in February. The board and staff are currently brainstorming options.

Also affected by the terrorist attacks were numerous committee meetings and the Chapter Delegates Meeting. Though the delegates meeting wasn't canceled, it has been rescheduled for December 1 and 2. As always, in addition to association reports and discussions, this annual meeting offers chapter delegates the opportunity to hear from the slate of candidates running for the GCSAA Board of Directors.

At this year's meeting, I will be a candidate for the office of secretary/treasurer. I appreciate the opportunity to be considered and am looking forward to the challenge.

PDI Planning Still Goes On

On other fronts, it's pretty much business as usual. Working with the other directors and GCSAA staff as the membership chairman, I've become immersed in the planning and implementation of the PDI. In particular, the Membership Committee's focus this past season has been to perfect the long-talked-about Code of Standards that will define and regulate qualifications for Class A

status. This document will include:

- Eligibility requirements for Class A
- Application and reclassification processes
- Renewal and reentry requirements
- Point description and values for both education and service that are required for members to achieve—and then retain—Class A status
- An appeal process for members who wish to inquire about various membership rulings

The review process for the Code of Standards hasn't ended. Committees and staff will continue to fine tune this document in preparation for the launch of the PDI in July 2003.

Board Meeting Highlights and Happenings

The GCSAA summer board meeting was held in Charleston, SC—home base for President Tommy Witt. In one day, we covered a substantial amount of ground:

- We approved a partnership agreement with the national Irrigation Association to provide education to superintendents at the Conference and Show, as well as through affiliated chapters. We also approved an agreement to jointly develop and promote a Golf Course Irrigation Auditors program, designed to help superintendents analyze their water needs and irrigation efficiency.
- We renamed the Boardroom at headquarters in Lawrence the John Morley Room, after the founder and first president of GCSAA.
- We reviewed present and potential sponsorship opportunities, which enable GCSAA to provide services and events that would not be possible with GCSAA funds alone.
- We reviewed the financial statements of the association and heard a report from the CEO.

Other noteworthy discussions at the meeting included:

- *The pricing of educational programs.* The association is continuing to explore and

develop new ways to deliver educational programs so that they're easily affordable and accessible to members. We are looking closely at the Internet as a viable option.

- *The proposed SOP for the newly created GCSAA Political Action Committee (PAC).* This is important stuff. The PAC is intended to back candidates for federal election who support the interests and concerns of the golf course superintendent profession and the golf course management industry. The PAC can accept only individual contributions—none from the association. GCSAA can, however, fund the administrative costs of operating the PAC (managing bank accounts, bookkeeping, coordinating reports, etc.), as well as any costs associated with communications and solicitations.

- *The association's Internet—or E-Commerce—strategy.* We reviewed conclusions gathered from industry focus groups on the E-Commerce option and decided to pursue the online mall or "storefront" model. Conceptually, the mall will work much like our trade show: GCSAA will lease storefront space online, and then all transactions will be strictly between the superintendent and the supplier.

For superintendents, it's an opportunity to research and purchase products 24 hours a day. For suppliers, it's an opportunity to set up shop in the turfgrass management industry's most trafficked website for only a fraction of the cost of creating and maintaining their own E-Commerce site.

GCSAA will continue to work with Nterline (a division of XS Inc.) in developing the online mall.

Now that things in our country seem to be getting back to normal—at least as normal as they will ever be from here on in—I, along with the other association board members are looking forward to getting back to business as usual as soon as possible. The impact of our national tragedy on the association will be a topic of discussion at our upcoming fall board meeting.

Tim O'Neill is a member of the GCSAA Board of Directors and superintendent at the Country Club of Darien in Darien, CT.

Scorecard

Many Thanks to Our Poa Annual Host, Minisceongo

This year's Poa Annual Tournament was held August 13 at Minisceongo Golf Club in Pomona, NY. With August's uncompromising weather, this annual fundraiser drew only 36 people. Too bad for those who missed this great opportunity to play a very challenging and well-manicured golf course. Many thanks to Superintendent Jason Ziesmer and his staff for their efforts in preparing the course for this special event.

Here's the outcome:

Low Gross Winners

- 71 Earl Millet, *Ridgeway Country Club*
Tony Grasso, *Metropolis Country Club*

Low Net Winners

- 58 Pat Vittum, *University of Massachusetts*
Michael Nissman, *PDG Enterprises*

- 59 Jason Ziesmer, *Minisceongo Golf Club*
John Wickes, *Ira Wickes/Arborists*

Closest to the Pin

- Brad Sparta, *E/T Equipment*

Longest Drive

- Charlie Siemers, *Lesco, Inc.*

Zaletsky Takes First Place in MetGCSA Championship

Centennial Country Club was the site of both the final round of the 2001 MetGCSA Class A Championship and the final qualifying round for the Met Area Team Championship.

In the MetGCSA Class A Championship, Bob Zaletsky, from New York Country Club, fired a final round 84 to hold off Ridgeway Country Club's Earl Millet and Blind Brook's Les Kennedy, who both posted 162.

Many thanks to Will Heintz and his staff for a job well done—and congratulations to the following high-scoring contestants for the day's events:

Centennial Tournament Results

Low Gross Winner

- 77 Charlie Siemers, *Lesco, Inc.*

Low Net Winners

- 67 Kevin Quist, *Lake Isle Country Club*

Longest Drive

- Scott Niven, *The Stamwich Club*

Closest to the Pin

- John Majchrza, *Pine Hollow Country Club*

Met Area Team Championship Qualifier

Gross Team Qualifiers

- 159 Bob Zaletsky, *New York Country Club*
162 Earl Millet, *Ridgeway Country Club*
162 Les Kennedy, *Blind Brook Club*
164 Jim Fulwider, *Century Country Club*

Net Team Qualifiers

- 142 Mark Fuller, *Connecticut Golf Club*
148 Kevin Quist, *Lake Isle Golf Club*
152 Sean Cain, *Sunningdale Country Club*
155 David Mahoney, *Siwanoy Country Club*

Upcoming Events

MetGCSA Meeting

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, November 7
St. Andrew's GC,
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
Host: Rob Alonzi

Social Event

MetGCSA Christmas Party

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

Educational Events

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.

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.

33rd Annual Professional Turf & Landscape Conference and Trade Show

Wednesday, January 9, 2002
Westchester County Center,
White Plains, NY
For information on exhibiting at the trade show or attending the conference, call 914-946-3005.

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.

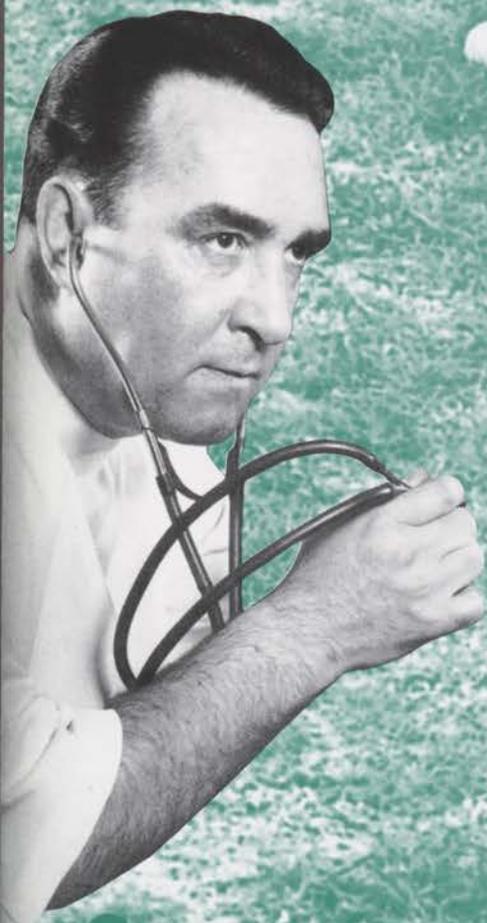
MetGCSA Winter Seminar

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

Giving Your Old Greens a **NEW** Look

by Dr. James H. Baird
USGA Green Section

If what lies beneath is working fine, then regrassing the surface may be just what the turf doctor ordered



Fed up with the grass on your greens? You're not alone. Whether your greens are primarily *Poa* or include several bentgrass genotypes, their growth rates, color, and texture are bound to vary—often times to the point where your club members, and even you, may become dissatisfied with the playability of these all-important putting surfaces.

Fortunately, in most cases, you needn't bulldoze your greens to correct the problem. A less drastic alternative may be to regrass them.

But this procedure, like many others on the golf course, isn't appropriate for every situation. To help you decide whether it's right for you, USGA Green Section Agronomist Dr. Jim Baird will take you through the pluses, minuses, and many misconceptions of establishing new turfgrass on putting greens. For those who decide to move ahead with this procedure, Dr. Baird offers tried-and-true tips for a successful renovation from Oak Hill Superintendent Paul Latshaw, who regrassed all of his greens in 1995, when he was at Merion Golf Club in Ardmore, PA.

The Ups and Downs of Regrassing

Regrassing your greens has its pros and cons. On the upside:

- You create a *Poa*-free environment—at least for a while.
- You have the opportunity to introduce some of the latest and greatest bentgrass cultivars, which are finer textured, tolerate lower heights of cut, and are more resistant to wear, environmental stresses, and pests.
- You can restore uniformity and smoothness to the playing surface.
- Newly regrassed greens will play and feel more like the original greens in less time than reconstructed greens in terms of firmness, resiliency, surface contouring, and putting quality.

Unfortunately, having the latest and greatest turfgrass cultivar on your greens is no guarantee for success without proper management, cultivation practices, and reasonable golfer expectations. There are other reasons regrassing could flop:

- **Soil problems.** If the green's internal

drainage is poor, regrassing will not solve the problem. In this case, reconstruction may be the only alternative.

- **Greens located in difficult growing environments.** If the green you're looking to improve is in a shady or pocketed area and there is no way to improve the grass-growing environment, then there is no point in regrassing. Even the best new bentgrass cultivars will not perform well under these circumstances.

- ***Poa* control.** Keep in mind that just because you regrass your greens, it doesn't mean they'll be *Poa*-free forever. Chances are if you have annual bluegrass on your greens now, you'll have it again. When it will actually creep back into your greens depends on several factors: the method and success of the soil fumigant you use, the annual bluegrass population in areas surrounding the green, and the labor and chemical resources you have available to help keep it out.

Also realize that barring *Poa* from your greens requires tremendous commitment and a golfing clientele that is tolerant of some disruption. The first *Poas* to invade are usually the least desirable ones. They seed prolifically and are very susceptible to stress and disease. Few courses have been successful in keeping annual bluegrass out of regrassed greens for more than just a few years.

If you can wait five to ten years to regrass, it may be worth your while. Researchers are on the heels of developing creeping bentgrass that is resistant to nonselective herbicides, such as Roundup. This would allow you to selectively control *Poa annua* and other weed species on your greens.

On the other hand, many biotypes of annual bluegrass possess excellent characteristics for putting greens, and their release is pending further breeding and development by Dr. David Huff at the Pennsylvania State University. So keep your eye out.

Making a Plan

Successful regrassing takes careful planning and forethought, which you'd be wise to begin right now for the following season. Once you've gotten the go-ahead, here are

some of the things you need to consider before launching in to the process:

- **Establish a timeline.** The best time to regrass your greens is mid-August, when soil temperatures are optimal for fumigation and turf establishment. Growing conditions are good during both the fall and following spring, so it's reasonable to expect that the new greens will be ready for play sometime during the months of May or June.

- **Maintain surface contouring.** Be sure to survey each green to obtain an accurate topographic map of the surface contours. Contours that become lost or changed during the regrassing procedure could then be reestablished prior to seeding.

- **Decide whether to keep or remove existing sod.** This will depend on the thickness of the underlying thatch layer. If you have more than one inch of thatch, you'll need to remove at least one-half to three-quarters of the layer. Excessive thatch impedes gas exchange and water infiltration into the root zone. It will also result in a softer, bumpy playing surface.

On the other hand, it does help to leave the turf with 1/4- to 1/2-inch of thatch. This helps to maintain surface contour characteristics, provide a seedbed for seedling establishment, and provide a playing surface that is more resilient to golf shots and traffic.

- **Recapture lost green space.** Now's the time to consider recapturing original areas of the greens that have shrunk over time. These areas, along with approaches to greens and one to two feet beyond the collar, should be subjected to fumigation. Use the same rule of thumb just described to determine if sod should be removed.

- **Beware of *Poa annua* in the rough.** Annual bluegrass in the rough surrounding the green will likely end up on the newly grassed greens. Therefore, it may be best to strip the sod from these areas and replace it with new sod that is free of annual bluegrass. Another way to eradicate annual bluegrass from the rough is to use the herbicide ethofumesate (Prograss). Please consult the label for specific use information.

- **Choose your fumigation method.** Successful regrassing means eradicating not only annual bluegrass plants, but also their seed banks in the soil. Methyl bromide has been the fumigation method of choice, but recent health and environmental concerns with this highly effective fumigant will likely result in it being taken off the market in the U.S. by 2005.

Another soil fumigant that is gaining widespread use for turf renovation projects is dazomet, better known as Basamid. This product has demonstrated annual bluegrass eradication second only to methyl bromide.

- **Select the bentgrass that's best for you.** One of the biggest challenges may well be deciding on which bentgrass cultivars to

*If you can wait five to ten years to regrass, it may be worth your while. Researchers are on the heels of developing creeping bentgrass that is resistant to nonselective herbicides, such as Roundup. This would allow you to selectively control *Poa annua* and other weed species on your greens.*

plant on your greens. If you can't attend a Research Field Day at a nearby university to observe the National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) Bentgrass Putting Green Test, then you can go online. A summary of the NTEP Tests can be accessed at www.ntep.org. The newer cultivars, A-4 and L-93, continue to be among the most widely used cultivars in the Northeast.

Working the Plan

With all the prepwork and planning behind you, you're ready to regrass. Here's the procedure that Superintendent Paul B. Latshaw implemented with great success when he regrassed his greens at Merion Golf Club in 1995.

1. If the existing sod is kept in place, remove or scalp the majority of shoot tissue from the area to be fumigated.

2. Now is a good time to modify native soil areas as much as possible without significant disruption to surface contouring. Consider using the drill and fill, deep tine, and/or conventional core aeration in two or more directions followed by core or soil removal and filling holes with sand topdressing. Further loosening of the soil using a machine like the Shatter Master vibratory plow is recommended in order to improve penetration of the fumigant.

3. Merion Golf Club hired Hendrix & Dail Inc. to perform the fumigation. Fumigation is done under tarps, which are normally left on the greens for two days. The greens can then be seeded two days after the tarps are removed.

4. Paul Latshaw found it best to prepare the seedbed using a machine like the Job Saver or Proseeder, which will create numerous shallow imprints in the green. In addition, spiking or lightly verticutting the green five

to seven times is recommended to help promote turf establishment.

5. To expedite the establishment process during late fall or early spring, it helps to use pregerminated seed. Paul determined that the amount of bentgrass seed required to cover each green complex was about 1.5 lbs. pure live seed per 1000 sq. ft.

Before spreading the seed, he primed it by placing each lot into pantyhose and soaking it repeatedly in 55-gallon drums of water. If you seed in late summer, there should not be much difference in the rate of turf establishment between primed and unprimed seed.

6. When applying bentgrass seed, it's recommended that you use a carrier, such as a natural organic fertilizer like Milorganite or Cornmeal, which reportedly works just as well. Also recommended: using covers, e.g., Evergreen, to expedite the grow-in process.

7. Fertilization with 1 to 2 lbs. actual N per 1000 sq. ft., using a slow-release, nonburning source, such as a natural organic, is recommended once germination has occurred. Thereafter, applications of 0.1 actual N every three to five days is recommended until sufficient turf cover is achieved.

Final Analysis

Regrassing your greens is a viable option to consider as long as soil conditions are able to support turf health and compaction. If you're thinking of regrassing, think fast. Remember, the most effective of the soil fumigants, methyl bromide, may no longer be available for use by the middle of this decade!

Once you've decided to go the extra mile to improve your putting surfaces, be sure to provide a *Poa annua*-free environment surrounding the green to give yourself the longest window of enjoying a bentgrass monostand. And remember this: *POA ANNUA WILL BE BACK*. The question is how much time and money are you willing to spend to keep it at bay.

Finally, don't let anyone convince you that your newly fumigated soil is depleted of microorganisms and in need of some "bug in a jug" product. Recent university research has demonstrated that fumigation *does not* kill all of the beneficial microorganisms in the soil. In fact, the populations of bacteria are largely unaffected by fumigation, and populations of other microbes build up very rapidly once turf is reestablished.

Acknowledgments to Superintendent Paul B. Latshaw of Oak Hill Country Club in Rochester, NY, for his insightful contributions to this article.

Dr. Jim Baird is an agronomist in the Northeast Region of the USGA Green Section.

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

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