

# Tee To Green

November/December 2006

VOLUME 36 NUMBER 5

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**WHEN A  
TOUGH SEASON  
TAKES A TOLL  
ON YOUR TURE**

*Details on Page 2*



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# TEE TO GREEN



Cover story: Bad growing environments make tough seasons tougher.



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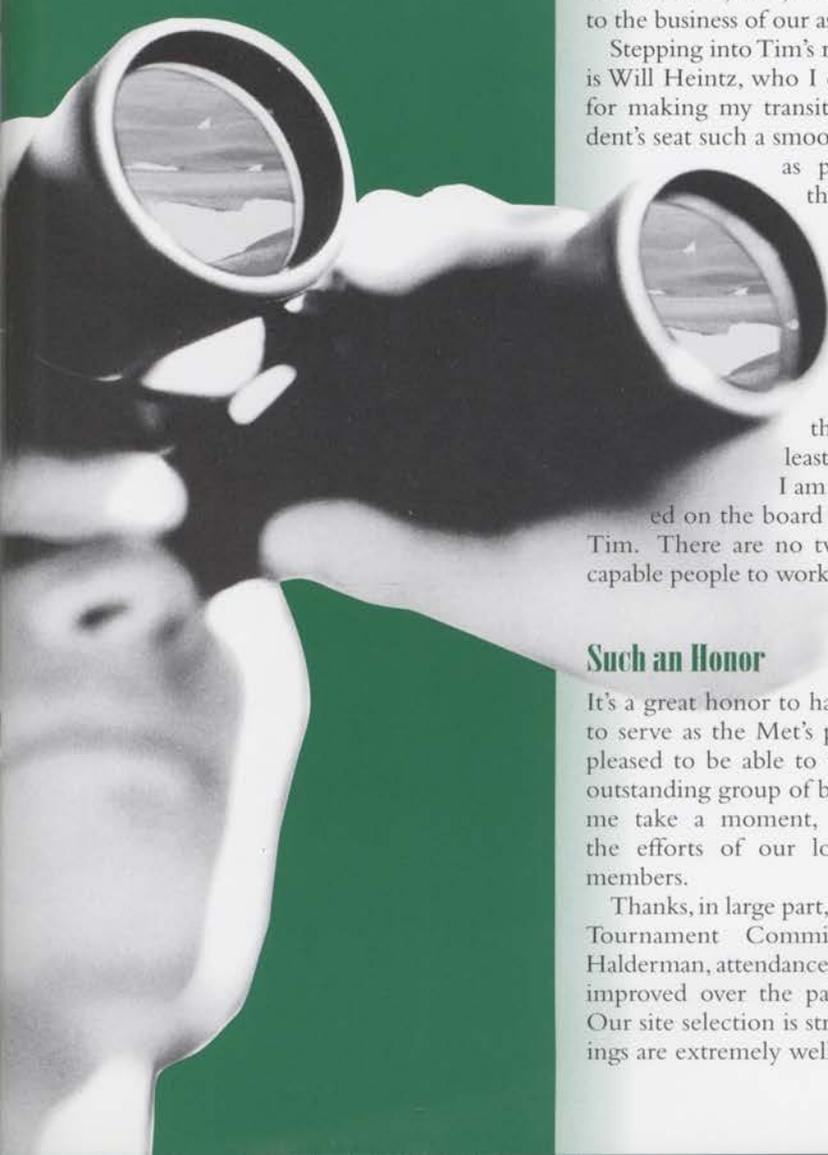
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# President's Message

## What We've Done, Where We're Going



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It's hard to believe, but here we are at the start of a new year—and my first term as MetGCSA president. It doesn't seem that long ago that I started as the advertising chair, working alongside Tim Moore, who was then the *Tee to Green* editor. Tim took me under his wing and showed me the ropes, helping me to become acclimated and comfortable as a new member of the board. For that I am forever grateful.

Tim, who has worked tirelessly on the board for many years, has completed his final term as past president. We all appreciate Tim's time and many efforts and will miss his calm, cool, and collected approach to the business of our association.

Stepping into Tim's role as past president is Will Heintz, who I can't thank enough for making my transition into the president's seat such a smooth one. In his term as president, Will had the board working like a well-oiled machine. Now, in his role as past president, we will still look to Will for counsel and advice. No rest for the weary, Will—at least not yet.

I am proud to have served on the board with both Will and Tim. There are no two nicer and more capable people to work with.

### Such an Honor

It's a great honor to have the opportunity to serve as the Met's president. And I'm pleased to be able to work with such an outstanding group of board members. Let me take a moment, now, to recognize the efforts of our long-standing board members.

Thanks, in large part, to the efforts of our Tournament Committee chair, Blake Halderman, attendance at our meetings has improved over the past couple of years. Our site selection is strong, and our meetings are extremely well run. What's more,



Matt Ceplo, CGCS  
MetGCSA President

Blake has done wonders for the Met Team Championship, bringing it back to its former glory.

Glenn Perry and Rob Alonzi have continued to do a great job with the *Tee to Green*. With the editorial help and guidance of Pandora Wójcik, they've provided content that is informative and well worth sharing with our green chairmen and club officials. I, for one, always make sure my green chair and club president receive a copy.

Glen Dube, our Education Committee chair, has done an outstanding job with our educational programming. Be sure to attend this year's Winter Seminar. Glen's put together a program you can't afford to miss.

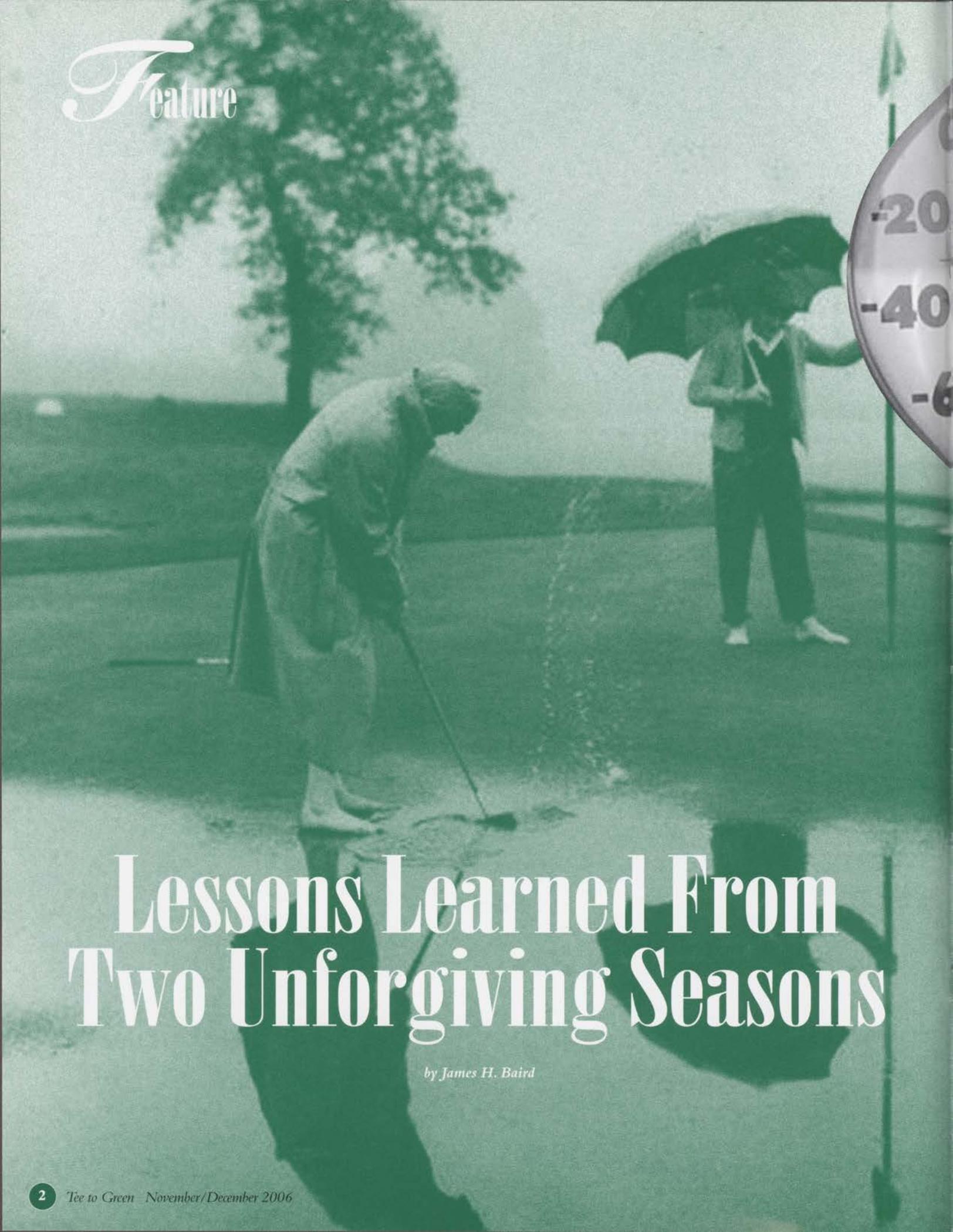
Our social and welfare events have been well attended thanks to Tom Leahy. This year's Christmas party at Mt. Kisco is just one example of the tremendous job our Social and Welfare Committee does for our association.

Also coming back for a repeat performance on the board are Kevin Collins, our Class AF representative, and Dave Moffett, our Class C rep. Both have been highly responsive and provide valuable input in their respective areas.

Stepping off the board this year is Chuck Denny. Chuck was always there to lend a helping hand. We will miss him.

Replacing the vacancies on the board are  
*continued on page 9*

Feature



# Lessons Learned From Two Unforgiving Seasons

by James H. Baird



he summers of 2005 and 2006 produced some of the most stressful weather conditions to hit the Northeast in recent times. Both seasons were marked with record-high temperatures, which often topped the century mark on the thermometer. The real troubles began, however, when heat stress was combined with heavy rainfall.

The painful result for many area golf courses was widespread turfgrass loss—particularly on putting greens. Those hardest hit were the older courses with a predominance of *Poa annua* (annual bluegrass)—the species most likely to succumb to pest pressures, weather extremes, and aggressive maintenance practices. Managing *Poa* has never been easy, but with the changing weather pattern and the ever-increasing demand for fast putting surfaces, it just keeps getting harder—and, as this past season proved for many, pretty near impossible.

### What Went Wrong

How, specifically, did turf die? Let me count the ways. Of course, the usual fungal pathogens causing dollar spot, brown patch, summer patch, and anthracnose diseases were present and accounted for. But while managing these diseases was difficult, more devastating these past two seasons were turfgrass ills like bacterial wilt, which has no known cure, and *Pythium*, which, in a number of instances, did not respond as

expected to prescribed chemical controls.

Another “terminator” was the annual bluegrass weevil, which under normal circumstances can devastate *Poa*, but these past two seasons was all the more damaging due, in part, to the fact that these insects seemingly refused to succumb to the customary chemical controls.

As if pathogens and insects weren’t tough enough to handle, we also had two physiological conditions that contributed to turf loss: scald and wet wilt. As we know now better than ever, these conditions occur when high temperatures and an overabundance of moisture combine to seriously damage the turf plant and its roots. The end result: areas of dead grass—particularly in low-lying or poorly drained areas of putting greens.

Last, but certainly not least was mechanical damage. Mowing saturated greens—and worse, mowing them too low in the name of green speed—was, in many instances, what pushed flagging turf over the edge ... to the point of no return.

### Keeping Your Poa Safe and Sound

Unfortunately, unless your golf course is willing to undergo the expense—and disruption—of regrassing or reconstructing your greens, your only choice is to do all that it takes to keep your *Poa* alive.

What follows is a long list of suggestions—many culled from the successes and failures I’ve observed over the years. Some, I know, you’ve heard before. Others you may have overlooked, responding instead to the unrealistic expectations of the green committee or demanding golfers. If nothing else, let this serve as a reminder—to you and the members of your club—that when it comes to managing *Poa*, you can’t afford to ignore the basics of sound turf management.

**Remain a “cut above” the rest.** Despite all that has been said about *Poa* greens, a good

number of golf courses in our region continue to produce fine playing conditions year in and year out, regardless of the turfgrass species or the weather. How do they do it? Adequate resources and good growing environments are a plus. Limited play is a bonus. But here’s the real secret: The greens are not groomed to be fast all of the time; they’re, quite literally, maintained at a cut above the rest. Those stories from golfers about the course down the road having superfast greens 365 days a year ... I have yet to see it.

Believe me when I say that maintaining low heights of cut is—without a doubt—the most stressful and potentially deadly method of obtaining green speed. Consider raising the height of cut—preferably to 1/8"—and employing other less stressful methods of achieving desired ball roll (see sidebar on page 5).

And if you want to prepare your golf course to play like the U.S. Open for a special tournament or event, schedule it for June or September, when weather conditions are less stressful—not July and August, when the heat’s on. If that’s not possible, be prepared to take what Mother Nature gives you. The worst turf loss I saw this year came as the result of maintaining fast greens when the weather simply did not allow it.

**Cut a tree, save a green.** As hard as it may be, it’s essential that you convince tree-hugging members of the key role tree removal plays in turf health and playability. Trees are, after all, the leading cause of thin or dead turf on golf courses. They block sunlight necessary for photosynthesis and air movement needed to moderate extreme temperatures and eliminate disease-inducing moisture in the leaf canopy. What’s more, encroaching tree roots rob the turf of essential water and nutrients.

Another point to remember in your case for tree removal is that annual bluegrass will dominate putting greens and other areas of the golf course that are shaded by trees because *Poa* can thrive where bentgrass can’t—in low-light areas.

Note: There are times when removing a

## Reconstruction Reality Check

After the trauma of the past two seasons, several clubs in the area have opted to reconstruct their greens (clearly a growing trend in our region). They're using the best possible root zone mix and replacing their high-maintenance *Poa* with creeping bentgrass, the most pest- and stress-tolerant turfgrass for putting greens in our region.

Sounds ideal, but don't be lulled into a false sense of security. For one, even the most stress-tolerant turf can decline under weather extremes if pushed too far. Second, what starts as a monostand of bentgrass will not always stay that way—particularly if you haven't done everything humanly possible to ensure an optimal growing environment. But even under the best circumstances, keeping *Poa* out of new greens is an ongoing and persistent battle. Don't be surprised if in 10 to 15 years, you'll need to regrass again.

tree is not possible or, perhaps, another permanent structure blocks air movement across a playing surface. In these instances, fans are ideal to help supplement air movement. The key is to place large fans close to the green to maximize coverage and effectiveness.

**Don't skimp on the feedings.** Recent research and historical observations point to the fact that well-fed *Poa* turf is healthier and better able to withstand pest pressure and environmental stress. Over the past 20 years, we've gone from applying excess nitrogen to starving the turf in the name of increasing green speed. It makes sense that right around the time that nitrogen levels in soil started to diminish, anthracnose disease began to devastate annual bluegrass on putting greens.

Taking into account green size, growing environments, and traffic, you should be applying a combination of both liquid and granular formulations of nitrogen in the range of 3 to 5 lbs. N/1000 sq. ft. per year on most *Poa* native soil greens.

**Drainage makes a difference.** During heat stress and heavy rainfall, the less time turf is submerged or saturated, the better its chance of survival. It only follows, then, that sand-based greens with little thatch and good internal drainage were best able to tolerate the weather conditions of the past two seasons. Fairing badly—along with

poorly drained, soil-based greens—were sand-based greens that had excess thatch and organic matter content in the upper portion of the soil profile. This, as you know, holds water at the surface, promoting softer greens that are more prone to scalping and other mechanical damage, no matter what the weather.

Fortunately, there are several relatively painless ways to improve drainage on your greens. The drill and sand fill is one of the least expensive and sometimes the only procedure that is necessary to improve putting green drainage. It's usually best to have the greens drilled and filled once a year for



a period of five years to achieve maximum benefit.

The most popular and most effective method of drainage, short of reconstruction, is to install internal drainage lines. This procedure usually takes one to two days per green, and after the job's complete, most golfers would be hard-pressed to tell that anything had been done. Keep in mind, however, that while internal drainage has helped improve many poorly drained greens, poor soil still lies between the drain lines and can adversely affect the performance of greens during periods of wet weather.

**You can get too much of a good thing.** Another key factor in achieving healthy turf and ideal playing conditions is effective water management. Knowing when and how much to irrigate is both an art and a

# Up the Speed of Your Greens Without Lowering Your Height of Cut

by James H. Baird

science. Having a newer, state-of-the-art irrigation system will allow for more site-specific application of water and will ultimately, conserve this valuable resource. Having said that, no irrigation system is a complete substitute for hand-watering, which is especially critical during the summertime when temperatures are high and humidity is low.

## The Shape of Things to Come

I wish I could say that the weather patterns that led to putting green decline these past two seasons were a fluke of nature. The truth is it's bound to happen again. When it will happen, we're not certain. That's why it's critical that you develop strategies now to safeguard your greens from disaster.

Just as important as implementing the practices I've suggested for protecting your *Poa* is communicating to your green committee and membership about the consequences of maintaining optimal green speeds in times of severe stress. The choice is clear: You can keep the turf alive with more conservative heights of cut and maintenance practices or risk the possibility of a long-term decline in playability. If putting green turf dies, it takes weeks or even months to return the turf to playable condition. Many greens in our region still bear the scars of the past two seasons.

The summers of 2005 and 2006 are proof that the only thing turf will do quickly is die. Bringing damaged greens back to life is a long, hard process that we would all do best to avoid. It's not too soon to plan a course of action to keep your turf out of harm's way in the face of yet another unforgiving season.

*Jim Baird is a UGSA Agronomist in the Northeast Region and a frequent contributor to the Tee to Green.*

What follows are several tried-and-true methods for producing good ball roll without lowering the height of cut on your greens. Though common sense, they're not necessarily common practice—no doubt because executing them requires increased time, labor, and money. What you need to realize, however, is that in the end, whatever the cost, it's a small price to pay for keeping your membership happy—and your turf alive and well.

**Increase your cutting frequency.** Although more labor intensive, upping the frequency of cut (e.g., double cutting) will enable you to increase ball roll while maintaining your putting green turf at a reasonable height. Be sure to minimize wear by equipping mowers with solid front rollers—particularly during the summer—and skipping the mowing of cleanup passes every other day. It's also a good idea to take your mower turns on mats or thin plywood boards to further minimize wear on the perimeter of your greens.

**Suppress seedhead production and shoot growth.** This will not only help you increase ball roll, but also maintain its consistency throughout the day. Your best bet is to apply plant growth regulators (PGRs) in early spring to inhibit the production of *Poa* seedheads and then follow that up with regular applications of Primo, which will counterbalance increased shoot growth resulting from higher fertility rates.

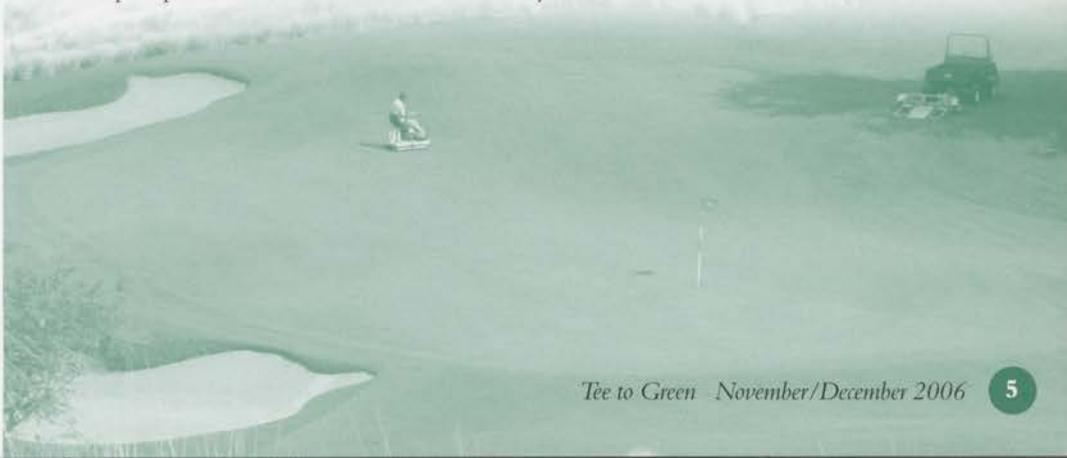
The other benefits of this practice: It will expedite lateral spread of creeping bentgrass and help improve turf stress tolerance.

Don't be afraid to continue using Primo if annual bluegrass is lost due to anthracnose or other stresses. Primo, after all, will help to encourage lateral spread of the creeping bentgrass present.

**Roll, roll, roll your greens.** Research has demonstrated that greens should not be rolled more than three times each week on a regular basis. Bah humbug. If you target roll 20 to 30 feet around each hole on a daily basis, you will not only increase surface smoothness, but also achieve desired ball roll at a greater height of cut without stressing the turf. And I'll bet my bottom dollar that your golfers will never know the difference!

**Groom or lightly verticut.** Do this one or more times per week during the spring and late summer to help remove excess leaf tissue and provide truer ball roll. If the weather is reasonable, you can groom during the summer months, but during most years, you're better off suspending this practice near the end of June and not resuming it again until late August or early September.

**Get your greens topdressed.** Probably the single most important practice to increase ball roll and provide truer putting surfaces is sand topdressing. Light, frequent applications of sand help smooth out and firm up the putting surface, creating increased ball roll. Topdress every week or two using an application rate that is light enough to incorporate into the turf canopy with light brushing or a brief cycle from the irrigation system.



# Chapter Delegates Look to the Future

by Bob Nielsen, CGCS



As the MetGCSA's chapter delegate, I spent October 13 through 14 in Kansas City at GCSAA's 2006 Chapter Delegates Meeting. I was there to represent our association's view of the industry and our national organization and to discuss GCSAA's long-term vision and goals.

There were three main items on the agenda for discussion:

1. The development of a long-term dues strategy to stabilize revenue streams
2. Growing the GCSAA membership
3. Positioning GCSAA and its membership classes in the marketplace (primarily to employers and influential golfers).

Other issues discussed had to do with methods for improving the effectiveness of our chapters, GCSAA's advocacy efforts, and last but not least, our Golf Industry Show.

## Dues Debate

First and foremost was the discussion of finances, which centered on the establishment of a long-term dues pricing strategy. The GCSAA board and staff presented a By-laws amendment proposal that would allow the association to raise dues on a biannual basis—without prior membership approval—and tie the increase to the Consumer Price Index. Historically, the association increased dues every five to seven years in larger increments but felt this resulted in a loss of members.

There was widespread agreement that smaller dues increases would be more easily absorbed by clubs and less likely to result in a decline in membership. Delegates did, however, feel that the membership should retain their ability to approve all dues increases.

In the end, the board withdrew its By-laws amendment, agreeing to make its case for dues increases before the membership at the Annual Meetings—more frequently than in the past, but in smaller increments.

## Growing the Membership

Tied to the discussion of revenues was the examination of the GCSAA membership. From a high of 22,000 in 2001, the associa-

tion's membership has declined approximately 10 percent to just over 20,000 today. Most agreed that this situation was created primarily by a struggling golf economy and the implementation of member standards.

Late last year, GCSAA enacted a seven-phased membership growth and recruitment campaign. Though membership numbers have remained flat, the delegates supported the campaign efforts, realizing that an initiative like this will take time to yield results.

## Positioning Membership Classes

GCSAA's philosophy on the positioning of the association and its membership classes inspired the "liveliest" debate. Delegates shared a variety of opinions, but most agreed that for membership standards to have value in the marketplace, they have to be promoted not just to GCSAA members, but to the entire industry.

There was also support for more dedication to marketing the association, with a focus on Class A as being the preferred membership class. Many chapter delegates felt, however, that any effort to promote Class A members should be part of a broader campaign that supports all GCSAA members and classes.

Responding to the concern, Steve Mona, GCSAA's CEO, emphasized that this was always GCSAA's intention.

As a result of this discussion, the GCSAA board and staff are planning a significant public relations campaign in 2007. A large part of this effort will be showcased on the Golf Channel.

## Improving Chapter Effectiveness

Another point of discussion that emerged was chapter effectiveness. We delegates were charged with providing the board and staff with suggestions on how the association might invest resources to enhance chapter operations. Areas that delegates felt needed the most attention were membership recruitment and retention, chapter executive development and support, and chapter meeting effectiveness, including meeting attendance, value, and satisfaction (doesn't this issue sound familiar?).

In 2006, GCSAA created positions for two

field staff members, whose job it is to travel to individual chapters to attend their meetings and discuss ways that GCSAA can help support them in improving their effectiveness. Many delegates felt that if the field staff pilot program were to be expanded, it would help in implementing chapter effectiveness programs across the country.

## Handling Product Registration

Carrie Reardon, GCSAA's director of information and public policy, discussed the methods by which the GCSAA handles EPA-proposed bans on chemicals. Methyl bromide, PCNB, and MSMA were all discussed. There were problems during the 2006 EUP application for methyl bromide that are being handled by the GCSAA and Florida chapters. Everyone agreed that nothing influences the EPA more than volume of letters, so I hope everyone submitted their letters to the EPA for PCNB prior to the December 4 deadline!

## Golf Industry Show

The 2007 Golf Industry Show in Anaheim, CA, will be the first to include both CMAA and GCSAA members. Many delegates were concerned that the combination show would adversely affect GCSAA attendance as both superintendent and manager may not be able—or want—to be away at the same time. GCSAA feels, however, that attendance should not be affected since there will be only a two- or three-day overlap.

We also had the opportunity to meet the new slate of candidates (see article on page 7) who are all extremely capable and qualified to lead the organization.

## In the End

I walked away from the meeting feeling that the GCSAA membership is in good hands. The board and staff are truly interested in listening to the membership. I feel a great deal of pride in the organization—and in our profession.

*In addition to being the MetGCSA's Chapter Delegate, Bob Nielsen is our association's treasurer and superintendent at Bedford Golf & Tennis Club in Bedford, NY.*

## GCSAA Unveils Plans for Its 2007 Conference and Show

The 2007 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show will run February 19 to 24 in Anaheim, CA. This year, like every year, GCSAA has a whole host of special events and speakers planned. The Education Conference's Opening Session, set for 9 a.m. on February 22, will give top billing to golf legend Charlie Sifford. Sifford will be presented with GCSAA's highest honor, the 2007 Old Tom Morris Award.

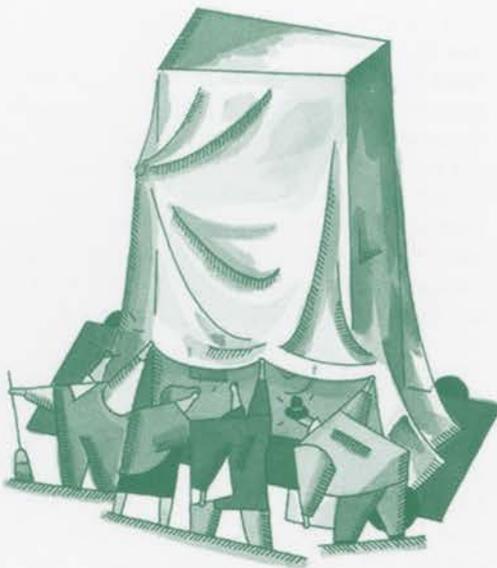
A 2004 World Golf Hall of Fame inductee, Sifford became the first African-American to play on the PGA Tour fulltime (1961) and the first to win on the tour when he claimed the 1967 Hartford Open Trophy. Sifford also won the 1969 Los Angeles Open and the 1975 PGA of America Seniors Championship.

He was introduced to the game of golf as a caddie at age 13 and quickly became a fine player. Though well qualified, Sifford was denied the opportunity to compete in high-profile events due to his heritage. A group, including Sifford and former heavyweight champion Joe Louis, fought to rescind the "Caucasians only" clause on the tour, which was stricken in 1961. He has recounted his career in an autobiography titled, *Just Let Me Play*.

The not-to-be-missed Golf Industry Show General Session at 8:30 a.m. on February 23 will feature keynote speaker Pat Croce. After tasting success as a pioneer in the field of physical therapy, Croce embarked on a career that has been nothing short of remarkable. He became owner and president of the National Basketball Association's Philadelphia 76ers in 1996, bringing the team from worst to first in NBA standings.

Moving from CEO to television personality, Croce served as NBC's commentator for the NBA and the 2004 Summer Olympics.

Croce has shared his gift to communicate and motivate through his works as an author and sought-after speaker. He has written a *New York Times* bestseller, *I Feel Great and You will Too!*, along with *110%*, and *Lead or Get*



*Off the Pot!* He earned the "Best Motivator" title from *Sales & Marketing* magazine, and his likeness has graced the cover of *Success* magazine.

A golf course owner, Croce's latest venture is with Donald Trump to develop a casino in his hometown of Philadelphia.

The President's Reception, starting at 6 p.m. on the 23rd, will mark the passing of the gavel to the incoming president by GCSAA's soon-to-be past president Sean Hoolehan. Music and entertainment will be provided this year by the Pink Flamingos.

### Who's Who in the Slate of Candidates

Speaking of a changing of the guard, a full slate of candidates will be vying for GCSAA Board of Director slots at the February 23 Annual Meeting. Voting members are being asked to elect three officers and three directors. The following candidates will appear on the ballot:

#### For President

Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, general manager and director of grounds at The Golf Club Star Ranch in Austin, TX

#### For Vice President

David S. Downing II, CGCS, at Rivers Edge Golf Club in Shallotte, NC

#### For Secretary/Treasurer

• James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, director/superintendent of Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, MA

• Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, director of grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, NJ

#### For Director (electing three)

• Keith A. Ihms, at the Country Club of Little Rock in Little Rock, AR

• John C. Miller, CGCS, at The Golf Club at Yankee Trace in Centerville, OH

• Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, FL

• Roger M. Ruff, CGCS, at Mountain Dell Golf Course in Salt Lake City, UT

Our very own Tim O'Neill, CGCS, of the Country Club of Darien is retiring from the board of directors after serving the past year as immediate past president. Sean A. Hoolehan, CGCS, at Wildhorse Resort & Casino on the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Pendleton, OR, will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president.

Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf operations for the City of Overland Park, KS, and Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, director of golf course maintenance operations at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA, both are entering the second year of their terms as directors.

### Haven't Registered Yet?

If you're late in registering for the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show, there's a little time left to do it online at [www.golfindustryshow.com](http://www.golfindustryshow.com) or through faxback services at (888) 838-4419. Advance registration is open until the end of the business day on January 31.

## Upcoming Events

# 2007 Met Events Still Seeking Sites

Our 2007 Meeting and Social Calendar is still a work in progress. If anyone is interested in hosting a meeting or social event that does not have a site, please contact the appropriate committee chairman. For professional events, contact either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs: Blake Halderman at 914-946-1074 or Ken Benoit at 914-241-0700. Our Social & Welfare Committee co-chairs are Tom Leahy (914-941-8281) and Bob Nielsen (914-234-3779). Both are available to discuss any upcoming social events.

### Business Meeting

March  
Date & Site OPEN

### Two-Ball Qualifier

Tuesday, April 24  
Centennial Golf Club  
Carmel, NY  
Host: Glen Dube, CGCS

### Superintendent/Manager or Guest Tournament

Date TBA  
Scarsdale Golf Club  
Hartsdale, NY  
Host: Matt Severino

### Family Picnic

Date & Site OPEN

### MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

Date TBA  
Whippoorwill Club  
Armonk, NY  
Host: Paul Gonzalez, CGCS

### Education Meeting

July  
Date & Site OPEN

### Poa Annual Tournament

Monday, July 9  
Powelton Club, Newburgh, NY  
Host: Bob DeMarco

### Summer Social

August  
Date & Site OPEN

### Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier

Date & Site OPEN

### Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament

Date & Site OPEN

### Annual Assistants Championship

Date & Site OPEN

### Met Area Championship

Date & Site TBA

### Annual Meeting

November  
Date & Site OPEN

### MetGCSA Christmas Party

December  
Date & Site OPEN

## Educational Events

### MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 17, 2007  
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY  
Plan now for our upcoming Winter Seminar. Here is the preliminary roster of speakers:

- University of Connecticut's Jason Henderson will discuss fairway topdressing.
- Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers University will provide us with a dollar spot update.
- Dr. Kimberly Erusha of the USGA will discuss issues pertinent to area superintendents.
- Pat Jones of Flagstick LLC, founder of *Golfdom Magazine*, will talk about a variety of industry topics.
- Bill Evans, Channel 7 News meteorologist, will provide superintendents with tips and techniques for using weather forecasts to enhance job performance.

For further information, call our Education Chairman, Glen Dube, at 845-279-8960.

### CAGCS Winter Seminar

Tuesday, January 23  
Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT  
The Winter Seminar program conducted by the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents will include on its roster the following speakers and topics:

- The golf course architectural firm The Roger Rulewich Group will discuss design and construction through an architect's eyes.
- A group of agronomy professors and researchers from the University of Connecticut will be on hand to discuss the university's turf program, research, and new website.
- David Oatis, director, Northeast Region USGA Green Section, will discuss the rebuilding of greens on older courses.
- Dr. Frank Rossi, associate professor of turfgrass science at Cornell University, will share the myths and truths of nutrient management.

For further information, call Mark Mansur of Wintonbury Hills Golf Course at 860-242-1354.

### NYSTA Southeast Regional Conference

Tuesday - Wednesday, January 30 - 31  
Holiday Inn Suffern, Suffern, NY  
Geared toward landscape and turfgrass professionals, this conference will include a trade show and a variety of sessions on topics related to golf turf, lawn and landscape and sports turf. The educational programming will kick off on the 30th with a GCSAA seminar titled "USGA Intermediate Rules of Golf." Dr. Genger Fahleson, the USGA's assistant director of rules education, will discuss how the golf course and its management affect the proper playing of the game of golf. Fahleson will also review basic rules while discussing proper marking of the course.

On the 31st, the educational opportunities will continue with an early bird session at 6:30 a.m., in which Dr. Bruce Branham of the University of Illinois will discuss the future of turf management. At the 8:30 general session, Cornell's Dr. Marty Petrovic will cover current trends in fertilizers, soil testing, and phosphorus.

The 10th  
Annual

# New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

March 5-8, 2007 • R.I. Convention Center, Providence

## Show & Conference Pass Includes

- Opening Reception • Admission to Trade Show
- Keynote Speaker • Educational Sessions
- Show Reception • Luncheon Voucher

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*Planning and Installing a New Irrigation System ~ 8am-12pm*

*Computer Training - PowerPoint 2003 ~ 8am-12pm*

*Turfgrass Diseases of New England ~ 8am-5pm*

*Financial Planning: The Grass Can Be Greener ~ 1pm-5pm*

*Computer Training - MS Excel 2003 ~ 1pm-5pm*

*First Aid/AED Training ~ 1pm-5pm*

## Trade Show Hours:

Tuesday, March 6 • 4:30pm-7:30pm *with reception*

Wednesday, March 7 • 10am-5pm

*Don't Miss This Year's Live Auction!*

*Wed. ~ 4pm ~ on the Trade Show Floor*

Thursday, March 8 • 9am-1pm

## Educational Session Hours:

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*USGA Session & Keynote Speaker Rodney Harrison*

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Thursday, March 8 • 9am-11am



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To obtain a conference brochure and registration forms, call NYSTA at 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229, or contact them by email: [nysta@nysta.org](mailto:nysta@nysta.org).

### **NYSTA's Annual Lobby Day: Turfgrass Advocacy 2007**

Wednesday, February 7

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NYSTA extends this complimentary offer to all green industry professionals. Lobby day offers a priority issue briefing session to inform you about current legislation that could affect the turfgrass and green industry, legislative appointments with your local elected officials, and a luncheon with a legislator. Join NYSTA in Albany and have a chance to be heard.

Please contact Jill Cyr for more information at [jill@nysta.org](mailto:jill@nysta.org) or 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229. Registration deadline is Friday, January 26!

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### **Scholarship Raffle Tickets Still Available!**

The Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, typically held at our December Christmas Party, will be conducted, instead, at the January 17 Winter Seminar at Westchester Country Club. The raffle is the prime source of the scholarship awards we distribute to deserving Met member dependents each year.

For those interested in purchasing tickets to help support this worthy cause, please contact any MetGCSA board member. Their names are listed on the inside front cover of the newsletter.

### *President's Message continued from page 1*

Ken Benoit and Dave Dudones. Ken will be helping Blake with tournaments and has some great ideas for our website. Dave will hit the ground running with the *Tee to Green*. I am looking forward to working with both of them.

Now, a bit about our officers. Bob Nielsen, in his second term as treasurer, has his watchful eye on the association's finances. He's balanced the budget in record fashion.

Glenn Perry has stepped down as *Tee to Green* co-editor to assume the position of secretary and, with it, chairman of the Membership Committee.

Tony Girardi has traded his role as the Met's "webmaster" for the position of vice president and chair of the Scholarship and Research Committee. By the way, have you all checked out our website lately? It's good and getting better all the time.

Behind the scenes working long and hard for our association are our executive secretary, Ineke Pierpoint, and her assistant, Holly Kotiadis. These ladies do a great job with the day-to-day operation of our association. Thank you.

### **Back to the Future**

As with anything, there is always room for improvement. And sometimes, in our quest to improve, we find that by taking a step backward we can actually move forward. Take the *Tee to Green*. When we redesigned the newsletter some years ago, we decided to remove advertising from the publication. In 2006, in an attempt to meet rising production costs and preserve the quality of our newsletter, we reversed our decision and put advertising back into the pages of the *Tee to Green*.

We have been working hard to encourage our vendors to advertise in our publication and are grateful to those who have agreed to help support *Tee to Green*. In return, let me emphasize what

has become our standard motto: We hope all of you will show these vendors the same kind of support they've shown us.

Another area we've had to take an even longer and harder look at is our monthly meetings. Although attendance at our meetings is creeping upward, our numbers often still aren't adequate enough to reserve a course for a Monday meeting. Clubs generally have minimum player requirements on that day since they have to open just for our event. As a result, you may find this coming year more of our meetings scheduled for a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon when clubs are up and running anyway. That will assure the meeting can still go on—even with a limited field—and because it would be on the club's normal day of business, it may also prove to be more economical. It's a win-win.

To encourage greater participation in our monthly meetings, we are also toying with the idea of having a speaker. That way, those who couldn't come for the golf, would still have an incentive to join us for our meeting.

### **What It All Comes Down To**

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, we need greater participation from our members. One of my many goals as president is to inspire all of you to get involved... come to our meetings... join a committee... think about what we can do to enhance our organization and better meet the needs of our membership. With your help, we will continue to keep our association working for you.

In closing, as Larry Pakkala stated when receiving the 2003 Sherwood A. Moore Award, let's all take a moment to thank the people who packed our parachutes. I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2007.

**Matt Ceplo**  
*President*

## Outstanding Results at the 2006 MetGCSA Assistants Championship

On October 12, fifty MetGCSA assistant golf course superintendents converged on the beautiful Seawane Golf Club in Hewlett Harbor, NY. After an overnight thunderstorm scare, golfers were treated to great course conditions at this premier Long Island club.

On arrival, we were showered with shirts, hats, golf balls, and travel bags, thanks to the generosity of all our sponsors.

As we headed out to the course, there was a feeling of "shock and awe" when we were told to play from the black tees. My partner and I were quickly eliminated from the competition with a snowman and double digits on the first two holes. (Boy was I happy to see cocktail hour at the 10th hole).

Rising to the challenge were Jake Parchen of Dellwood and Brian Upton of Woodmere, the individual gross and net champions respectively. Jake partnered with fellow Dellwood assistant Brian Chapin to take first place team gross, as well.

It was also a winning day for Greenwich Country Club's Paul Boyd and Matt Leverich, who took first place team net. Also noteworthy was the play by Country Club of New Canaan's Jake Green, who on the 220-yard, Par 3 Number 11 pulled closest to the pin—with a 20-mile-an-hour wind in his face!

What follows are *all* the outstanding results of the day.

### Individual Gross Winners

- 79 Jake Parchen, *Dellwood Country Club*
- 81 Andrew Sliwa, *Sleepy Hollow Country Club*

### Individual Net Winners

- 74 Brian Upton, *Woodmere Club*  
(won in a match of cards)
- 74 Ryan Linton, *Sunningdale Country Club*

### Team Gross Winners

- 74 Brian Chapin/Jake Parchen  
*Dellwood Country Club*
- 81 Andrew Sliwa/Brett Richards  
*Sleepy Hollow Country Club*

### Team Net Winners

- 67 Paul Boyd/Matt Leverich  
*Greenwich Country Club*  
(won in a match of cards)
- 67 Jake Green/J.D. Ashwood  
*Country Club of New Canaan*

### Closest to the Pin

- #5 Andrew Agnew, *Sleepy Hollow Country Club* 5' 5"
- #8 Ryan Linton, *Sunningdale Country Club* 7' 10"
- #11 Jake Green, *Country Club of New Canaan* 39'
- #14 Ryan Linton, *Sunningdale Country Club* 12' 6"

### Longest Drive

- #2/15 Dave Moffett, *Trump National Golf Club*

Many, many thanks to Seawane assistants Brett Chapin and Tyler Casey, Superintendent Brian Benedict, and the entire Seawane staff for making this such a great event. I hope everyone had fun and met some new people. I, for one, look forward to doing it again next year!

— Dave Moffett

## Golfers Kept Their Heads Super/Green Chair Tour

What better place to hold a golf event the day before Halloween than Sleepy Hollow Country Club, the home of the Headless Horseman! The MetGCSA contested its Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tourney on October 30, a beautiful fall day, with sunshine and a cool breeze to remind us it really was the day before Halloween.

The attendance was fabulous. We had 96 players, with more than half the field composed of Superintendent/Green Chairperson teams. Thanks to all who attended.

Superintendent Tom Leahy and assistants Brett Richards, Doug Vanderlee, Andrew Agnew, and Andrew Sliwa had the golf course in great condition—even in the midst of a renovation project! In addition to the great golf course and facility, we also had some great golf out there.

In the Superintendent/Green Chairperson Division, we had the home club favorites of Phil Cuthbertson/Andrew Sliwa, taking home First Place Gross with a score of 71. Following by two strokes for Second Place was the Sean Cain/Mike Moss duo. In the Net Division, Chip Lafferty and Scott Vandradesich won First Place on a match of cards over Second Place finishers Jeff Wentworth and Justin Meagher, both with scores of 63.

We also had a Guest Division where Rick Gordon and Eurice Rojas won First Place Gross with a score of 70, and Ray Beaudry and Jim Weiland took home the Net Division prize with a score of 61. (We may have to make a committee rule that no two gentleman with over 30 handicaps can play together anymore!)

Not many superintendents would offer their club during such a major project, so a special thank you to Tom Leahy, the Sleepy Hollow Board of Governors, and the rest of the club's staff for hosting such a wonderful event.

# ... at the Sleep Hollow Tourney

## And the Two-Ball Winners Are ...

Congratulations to the winners listed below.

### Superintendent/Green Chairperson Division

#### Net Winners

- 63 Chip Lafferty/Scott Vandravesich  
*Rye Golf Club*  
(won in a match of cards)
- 63 Jeff Wentworth/Justin Meagher  
*Pelham Country Club*

#### Gross Winners

- 71 Andrew Sliwa/Phil Cuthbertson  
*Sleepy Hollow Country Club*
- 72 Sean Cain/Mike Moss  
*Sunningdale Country Club*

### Guest Division

#### Net Winner

- 61 Ray Beaudry, *Atlantic Irrigation  
Specialists*  
Jim Weiland, *Shorehaven Golf Club*

#### Gross Winner

- 61 Rick Gordon, *A.G. Enterprises*  
Eurice Rojas, *guest*

#### Longest Drive

- #15 Mike Moss, *Sunningdale Country  
Club*

#### Closest to the Pin

- #3 Andrew Agnew, *Sleepy Hollow  
Country Club* 2' 11"
- #7 Gerry Tobias, *Dellwood  
Country Club* 3' 5"
- #10 Mike Morton, *North  
Jersey Country Club* 9" (almost!)
- #16 Andrew Sliwa, *Sleepy Hollow  
Country Club* 14' 4"

— Blake Halderman, CGCS

**W**e finally made it down to four teams in each of the two flights. By this time, the trash talk was at a high pitch. Paul Gonzalez reported getting messages from Mike Scott every day leading up to their match. But once the results were in, it was the winners who got the last laugh.

### First Flight Action

In the First Flight, Dube/Halderman beat Cain/Wentworth 2 up to reach the finals only to be shellacked by the Garceau/Steinhofer team. Garceau and Steinhofer had been easily defeating their opponents in the 4 & 3 range all the way to the finals. They continued their trend, beating Dube/Halderman 4 & 3 in a match that was never really a match.

I think the only highlight of that match was on Hole 10 when both Dube and Halderman, once again, hit bad tee shots and Dube slammed his club into his bag. What he forgot was that there was a cold libation in there, which blew up inside his bag making matters much worse but giving the rest of us a great laugh.

Congratulations, Tim and Ernie, on winning the First Flight Championship!

### Second Flight Story

The only really exciting match was the Second Flight final. Until then, Gonzalez and Quick ran the table, reaching the finals with a 3 & 1, 5 & 4, and a 2 up victory. Either they are really good or they are really good sandbaggers. Next year, we may have to play at a 50-percent handicap!

Luckily, these two met their match when they came up against the duo of DeSanctis/Scott, who made it to the finals in the lower portion of the bracket. Although Mike Scott chipped in early in the round to take the wind out of Gonzalez/Quick and hold them 2 down going into 17, Gonzalez/Quick fought back from dormie to get the match to extra

holes. Quick decided to put an early end to this playoff, making a four-foot par putt on the 19th hole to take home the championship. Great playing everyone!

### Be There Next Year

We look forward to seeing everyone participate in the 2007 Two-Ball Championship. The qualifying round will be held in April at Centennial Golf Club. Be sure to watch the newsletter and check out the website at [metgcsa.org](http://metgcsa.org) for updated information on all events, pairings, and winners.

Thank you, and have a great off-season! Here's the complete rundown on the semi and final rounds.

### Semi-Final Division

#### First Flight

- 9) Tim Garceau/Ernie Steinhofer  
*defeated 3 & 2*
- 4) Joe Gardner/Tom Weinert
- 6) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman  
*defeated 1 up*
- 15) Sean Cain/Jeff Wentworth

#### Second Flight

- 5) Paul Gonzalez/Lou Quick  
*defeated 2 up*
- 8) Mark Fuller/Byron Johnson
- 2) Dennis DeSanctis Jr./Mike Scott  
*defeated 1 up*
- 14) Joe Kennedy/Peter Waterous

### Final Match Results

#### First Flight

- 9) Tim Garceau/Ernie Steinhofer  
*defeated 4 & 3*
- 6) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman

#### Second Flight

- 5) Paul Gonzalez/Lou Quick  
*defeated in a first playoff hole*
- 2) Dennis DeSanctis Jr./Mike Scott

— Blake Halderman, CGCS

## Member News

### Members on the Move

- **Chad Anderson** is the new superintendent at The Canyon Club in Armonk, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent, Country Club of Darien, Darien, CT.
- **Tom Ashfield** is the new superintendent at Quaker Ridge Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY. Previous position: Superintendent, Canoe Brook Country Club, Summit, NJ.
- **Paul Gonzalez** is the new superintendent at Whippoorwill Club in Armonk, NY. Previous position: Superintendent, The Canyon Club, Armonk, NY.

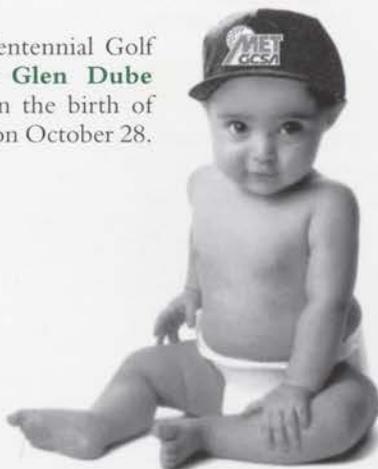
### New Members

Please join the board in welcoming the following new members:

- **John Bresnahan**, Class AF, BASF Chemical Company, Longmeadow, MA
- **Dennis M. Flynn Jr.**, Class AF, D & D Turfworks LLC, Katonah, NY
- **Rick Grant**, Class AF, Phoenix Environmental Care, Valdosta, GA
- **Peter D. Hunter Jr.**, Class C, Manhattan Woods Golf Club, West Nyack, NY
- **Nathaniel Iarmurri**, Class C, Rockland Country Club, Sparkill, NY
- **Ryan Lipton**, Class C, Sunningdale Country Club, Scarsdale, NY
- **Matthew Mol**, Class C, Metropolis Country Club, White Plains, NY
- **Phil O'Brien**, Class AF, Quali-Pro, Audubon, NJ
- **Douglas Pekera**, Class C, Sterling Farms Golf Course, Stamford, CT
- **Andrew Sliwa**, Class C, Sleepy Hollow Country Club, Briarcliff Manor, NY

### Birth

Congratulations to Centennial Golf Club Superintendent **Glen Dube** and his wife, Erica, on the birth of their son, Jacob Ryan, on October 28.



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