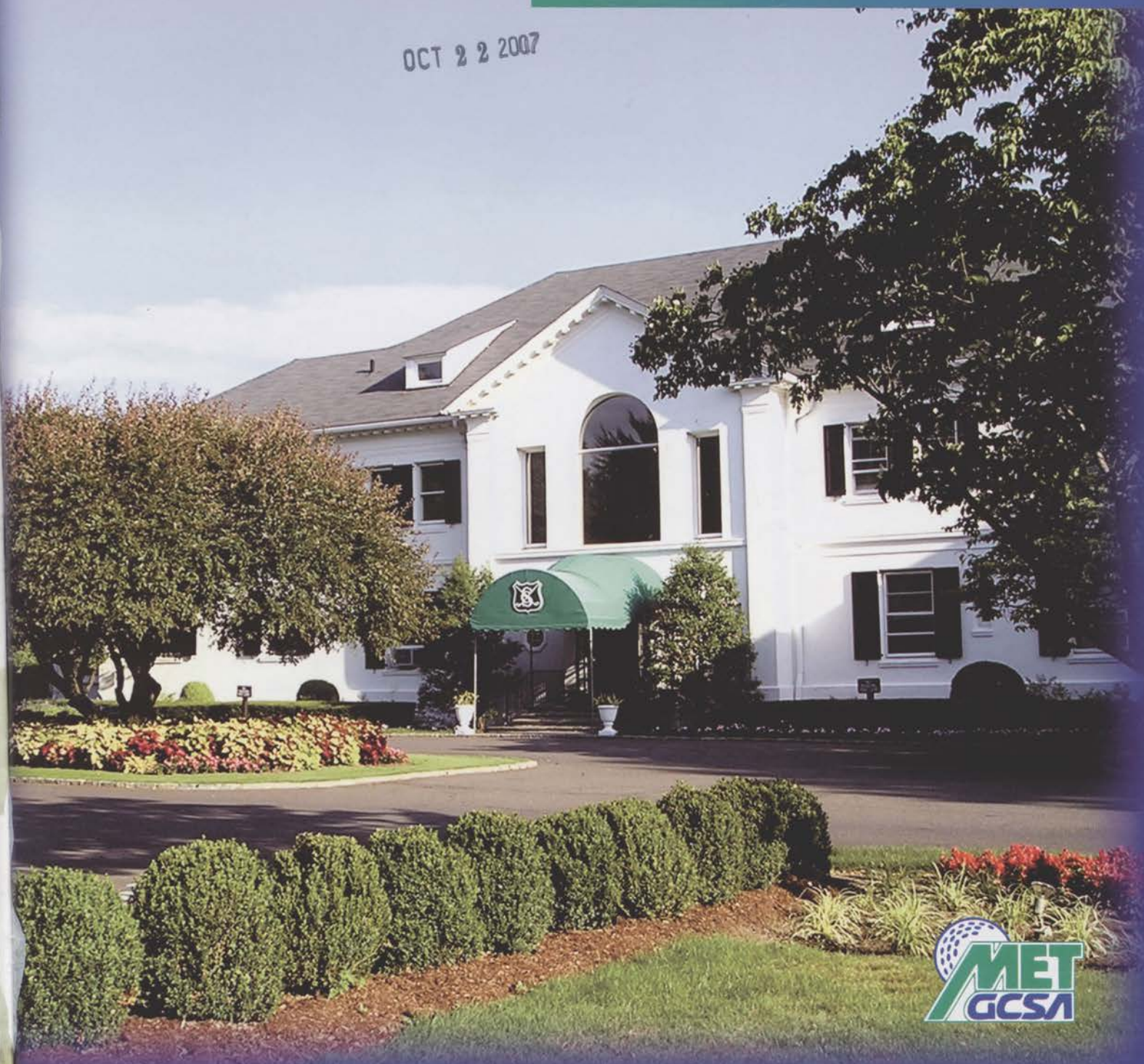


# Tee To Green

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# Tee to Green



Cover: The  
Stanwich Club.

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# President's Message

## End-of-Season Observations

A

hhhh . . . the signs of autumn. Whether it's the shorter days, crickets chirping till late morning, mums for sale, or, hey, how about bowling? Yes, my league has started already. (There's not enough room in this message for me to expound on my bowling escapades.) Oh—and I can't forget to mention my favorite: Monday-night football. Not that I'm able to actually watch the whole game because my eyelids become lead weights by half-time.

All these things symbolize to me that summer stresses are coming to a close. The fact that you don't have to worry about grass dying in an hour is a comforting thought.

My heart still starts to pound when I think back on one particular day in my years as an assistant. It started like any other day with my normal wilt patrol. First I checked the putting green. Everything was fine. Then the sun popped out. Long story short, by the time I got back to the putting green, it was toast. I was very glad when Monday night football started that season.

### They Did Us Proud

Sometimes we take the little things for granted. Something as simple as green grass. And when I say green grass, I mean that deep, dark, rich Kentucky blue . . . the kind that makes our contaminated bunkers look white.

This past month, I had the pleasure of playing a few courses that I normally wouldn't—thanks, in part, to the Two-Ball matches I played with my partner Jim Swiatlowski. And each and every time, I was impressed with the conditions . . . the green grass. I'm talking about the kind of conditions that reflect well not only on the superintendent, but also on our industry. I think about when I first became president, I asked a prominent professional in our business how we can better ourselves . . . improve our image . . . and his response was, "Just keep doing a good job."

Well if that's the case, from what I saw out there, we have a lot to be proud of as a profession. And that's something we should never take for granted.

*Matt Ceplo, CGCS  
MetGCSA President*

### Time to Talk

Now, speaking of the Two-Ball . . . it was a real treat to get out there and play golf with guys I normally wouldn't get the chance to talk to. There's a wealth of information and new ideas out there. All you have to do is venture beyond the perimeter of your golf course and seek out opportunities to talk to fellow turf-grass professionals. And yes, I'm going to say it: Going to our monthly meetings is a great place to start.

By the way, Mark Chant pulled off a good one at our Colonial Springs meeting. We had played four holes when the skies opened up. After the storm had passed, we were able to finish. Talk about good drainage! Other than the weather, the day couldn't have gone more smoothly. It made me feel good to see copies of the *Tee to Green* in Mark's locker room and his profile posted on the bulletin board. A lot of effort goes into our publication, so it's nice to know that our information is being passed on to members and guests. Great job, Mark.

### It Ain't Over Yet

No, the season's not over yet—as much as we'd like it to be. The dog days of summer take their toll on staff. You can see it. When spring arrives, everyone's ready and willing to jump into work. Warmer days are the cure for cabin fever. Now, if we get a few drops of rain, everyone's looking for the door. It's been a long summer.

At the very least, we need to show our appreciation for the efforts of our staff: our assistants, foremen, mechanics, greensmen, horticulturists, laborers, anyone and everyone who helped keep our maintenance operation afloat and, ultimately, helped make our jobs easier. Thank you, one and all, for your hard work.

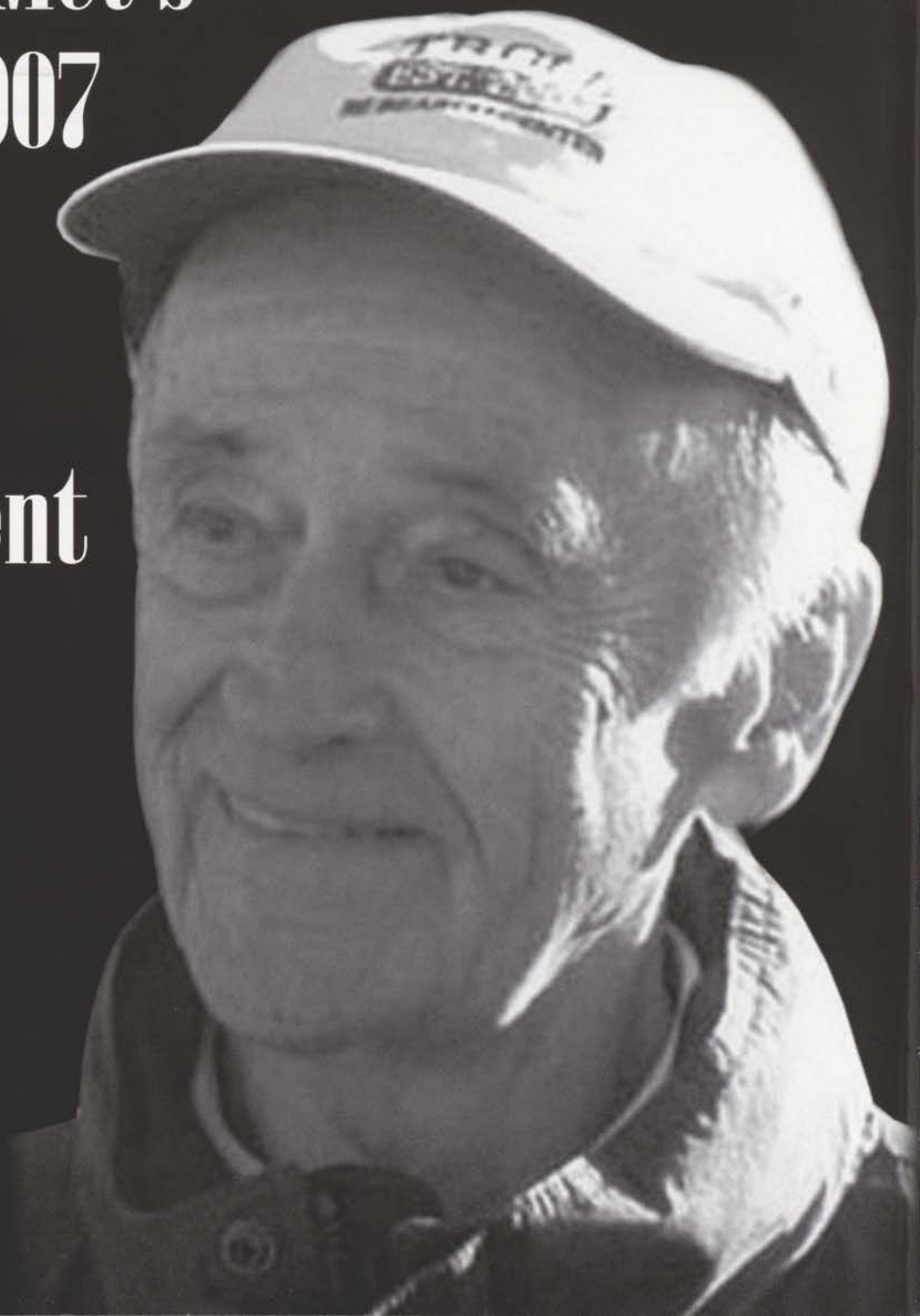
I hope all of you can take some time to recharge before the onslaught of leaves and fall projects. Till next time . . . keep it green!

**Matt Ceplo**  
*President*

*Feature*

# Professor Emeritus Dr. Joe Troll Earns the Met's Coveted 2007 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award

*by Stephen J. Curry*





*Forever etched in the memory of his students: Professor Troll at work in his heyday.*

**I**n keeping with the tradition of presenting the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award to a person who has made an indelible mark on the game of golf and the science of golf course management, the MetGCSA has chosen Dr. Joseph Troll to receive its 2007 Reid Award.

Though now a professor emeritus of Plant and Soil Sciences at the University of Massachusetts—retired since 1985—Dr. Troll needs little introduction. His work as an educator, researcher, and extension specialist are near legendary—even among those new to the turfgrass management industry.

In announcing Dr. Troll's selection, MetGCSA Awards Committee Chair Will Heintz describes him first and foremost as "a tremendous supporter of the golf course superintendent."

Will continues, "Dr. Troll has earned icon status in our industry by persistently supporting his students and unselfishly involving himself over the course of their careers. Even now, more than 20 years into retirement, he is still actively supporting golf course superintendents and, of course, turf research. It was Dr. Troll's guidance and support in recent years that were instrumental in the development and completion of the Center for Turfgrass Research bearing his name at UMass.

"We are proud," says Will, "to add his name to our venerable list of Reid Award recipients."

Equally pleased to learn of Dr. Troll's selection for the Met's coveted award was former student and golf-course-superintendent-turned-consultant, Ted Horton. Now sole proprietor of Ted Horton Consulting in Canyon Lake, CA, he credits Dr. Troll with his success as superintendent at some of the country's top courses—Winged Foot, Westchester, and Pebble Beach among them. Says Ted: "I am finding

it difficult to express my feelings for the person who has affected my life and career so positively for 40-plus years, and I am only one of many hundreds of past students who feel the same. I am so pleased the MetGCSA is honoring Dr. Troll. He is such a deserving individual who has selflessly given so much to our profession."

But Ted and the Met aren't the first to find Dr. Troll's contributions noteworthy. There's GCSAA, which awarded Dr. Troll its Distinguished Service Award, normally reserved for researchers. The Stockbridge School, which not once, but three times elected him Outstanding Professor of the Year. And then there are the USGA awards—first the Green Section Award, then the Ike Grainger Award, which recognizes individuals who have volunteered their time and talent to the game of golf for 25 years. The list goes on . . . and on . . . to include numerous local chapter honors and more.

### **From GI Joe to Educator**

With his many accolades and accomplishments in the field of turfgrass management, you would think Dr. Troll was one of those who knew from the time he could crawl that he was destined for a career in the sciences, particularly growing up under the influence of a chemist father. But interestingly, Dr.

Troll took an unconventional route to his ultimate career as educator.

He left his Paterson, NJ, high school at 17 to join the Navy. After three years, his tour of duty ended and he entered the workforce . . . until World War II broke out. He reenlisted in the Navy and served in the Atlantic as chief petty officer. In 1945, he received an Honorable Discharge, but instead of rushing out in search of a job, the young Joe Troll decided to return to school. "After my time in the workforce, I knew there was a better way to make a living and that it started with school," he says.

He completed his high school degree and, under the GI Bill, enrolled in the University of Rhode Island, where he went on to receive both his B.S. in Agronomy, summa cum laude, and his M.S. in Plant Pathology.

In 1957, he was "shipped up," as he puts it, to the University of Massachusetts, where he joined the department of Plant and Soil Sciences as an instructor. Two years later, Dr. Troll was promoted to professor. He was responsible for teaching graduate and undergraduate courses, conducting an eight-week Winter School for turfgrass managers, and teaching courses in a two-year program at the Stockbridge School, which was, in his tenure, dubbed the Harvard of Turf Management.

Dr. Troll not only taught at UMass, he was also a student there, earning, in 1965, his Ph.D., with a thesis on nematology.

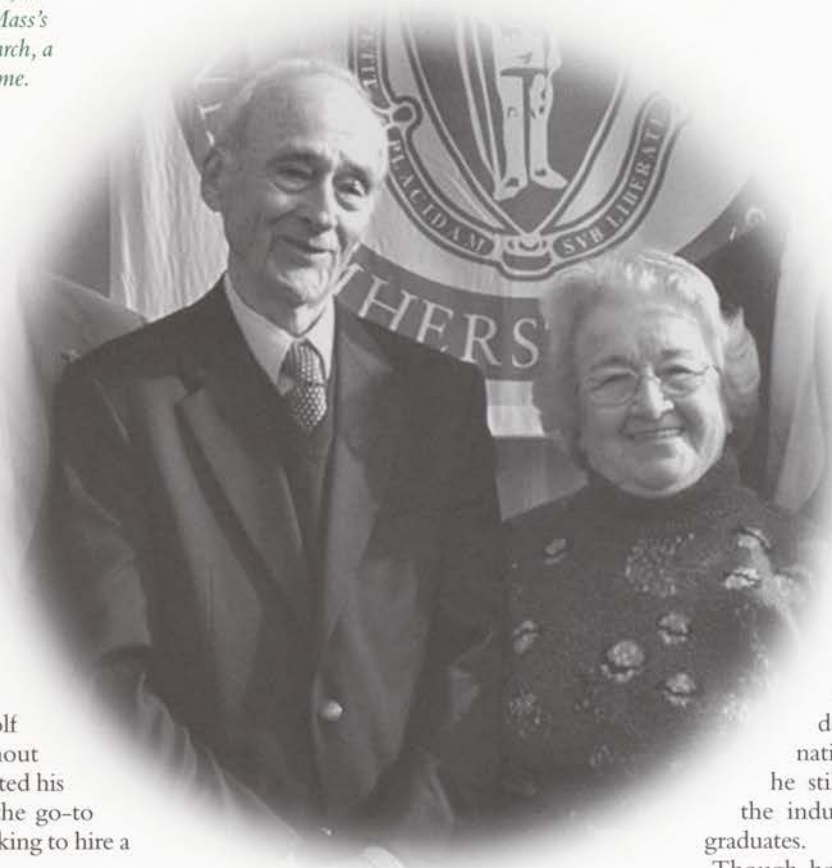
### **The Mentor**

Throughout his years in the industry, Dr. Troll has conducted research projects, published scientific journal papers, and served as an advisor and contributor to turfgrass magazines. But most important, Dr. Troll has focused a large part of his time and effort on educating—and providing guidance to—his students . . . 1,100 in all.

Self-admittedly, he was tough. "I pushed



Dr. Joseph Troll strikes a pose with his wife, Yolanda "Lonnie" Troll, at the dedication ceremony at UMass's new Center for Turfgrass Research, a building that now bears his name.



my students hard because I wanted to be sure they were up for the difficulty of the job," he says, all the while keeping his ear to the grapevine, waiting to hear of just the right position for just the right student.

His far-reaching contacts made it possible to help place students in some of the most prestigious golf course positions throughout the nation. Many clubs trusted his judgment. He was often the go-to person when a club was looking to hire a superintendent.

And yet, once out of sight, his students were never out of mind. Dr. Troll always recalled his students' names and backgrounds and kept tabs on their whereabouts—from internship on through their careers.

Even in retirement, Dr. Troll still holds his former students near and dear. "I love visiting my students, walking their courses, and seeing the beauty they create—that is, unless you take the game too seriously; that can ruin it all," he says with a smile.

those behind-the-scenes tasks that were essential to the conference's success. She, together with Dr. Troll, dedicated many years to building both the turf conference's program and attendance, obviously with great effect.

Well, now, Dr. Troll may be retired, but he's not out of touch. As an honorary member of numerous superintendents' associations on the local, national, and international level, he still follows along with much of the industry's news and, of course, his graduates.

Though he has won many awards on the highest level, he stands very proud as this year's John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award winner.

"Having been retired for more than 20 years, it always makes me feel good inside to be honored and remembered by my students," he says.

*Stephen Curry, president of the UMass Alumni Turf Group, is superintendent at Berkshire Hills Country Club in Pittsfield, MA.*

### Standing Proud

When accolades are flying, Dr. Troll is quick to include his wife of 64 years, Yolanda "Lonnie" Troll, who some say "seems to have extended her husband's arm." She, too, has served the turf business. No small contribution was her work as secretary to the Massachusetts Turf Conference, performing

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## The New Mosholu Makes Way for the Met's Annual Meeting

by Mike Tollner

This year's Annual Meeting will be held November 12 at the Mosholu Golf Course in Bronx, NY—a new venue for MetGCSA members. Our host superintendent, Erik Feldman, has been with Mosholu for five years, and in that time has seen this nine-hole, 2,400-yard, par 32 public course virtually reborn, with nearly \$5 million devoted to renovating everything from the golf course to maintenance facility and clubhouse.

Though you won't be able to experience, firsthand, the course's transformation, it's worthy of mention and a sneak peak when you're at the meeting on the 12th.

### Mosholu, From Start to Finish

Interestingly, the course was originally 18 holes, designed in 1914, according to some, by Golf Course Architect John Van Kleeck, who had his hand in designing seven of the 13 public courses in the City.

A part of the New York City Parks and Recreation Department, Mosholu is located in the 1,146-acre Van Cortlandt Park, which is also home to another golfing facility: the 18-hole Van Cortlandt Golf Course, built in the late 1800s.

Three-quarters of a century after opening, the City opted to cut the 18-hole Mosholu course in half, claiming five holes for additional parkland and using the remaining three to build a driving range. With the guidance of Golf Course Architect Stephen Kay, the course placed among *Golf Range Magazine's* list of "Top Short Courses in America."

A little more than a decade later, Mosholu earned its current claim to fame, becoming in 2001 the New York address for the First Tee Program. Created in 1997 by First Tee Program of Metropolitan New York, which now manages the Mosholu Golf Course, this nonprofit youth development program is intended to help inner city children, ages 8 to 18, build character and life-enhancing values through exposure to the game of golf.

Just as this program was getting started, another change was afoot: The City's Department of Environmental Protection approved the construction of a 13-story, underground water filtration plant, smack dab in the middle of where Mosholu's maintenance facility, driving range, and clubhouse were located.

Mosholu was forced to go back to the drawing board, making plans, again, with Stephen Kay's guidance, to rebuild a large part of the course.

"The course was reconfigured," explains Erik, "with a focus on making it more playable, safe, and a better test of golf. The tee shots have also become a little more practical and visually pleasing," he adds.

Describing the process, which began in October 2002 and ended the spring of 2006, Erik notes: "More than 20,000 yards of fill were brought in, adding elevation changes and contours to what was once a fairly flat course. All of the greens were rebuilt to USGA specifications and were sodded with A-1 bentgrass," he says, adding, "The fairways were grassed with 'low-cut' or 'dwarf' Kentucky bluegrass. We added 16 new bunkers, removed a substantial number of trees, and we installed a new Toro irrigation system with Site-Pro Central Control."

Considering the extent of the project, it's hard to fathom that the course was kept open through the entire process, which also included replacing the original driving range with a shorter Cayman Ball Range and relocating and rebuilding the maintenance facility and clubhouse, which now boasts an all-new pro shop and state-of-the-art learning center for the First Tee Program.

### How Did He Get Himself Into This?

Erik was born and raised in Huntington, NY. When he graduated from high school and went on to Roger Williams College, a career in turfgrass management wasn't exactly what he had in mind. "I worked a number of different jobs . . . stockbroker, restaurant manager, sales jobs," he says, before finding himself at Bethpage Black working alongside Craig Currier. "After about a day there, I was hooked."

Erik got himself up-to-speed in the industry in record time, pursuing a Horticulture degree from SUNY-Farmingdale and aiding Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi with his field research on Evaluation of Turf Management Systems With Reduced Chemical Pesticide Inputs—all while learning the ropes at Bethpage Black.

After just two years with Craig Currier,



Erik Feldman

Erik was offered his first—and current—superintendent's job at Mosholu. Working with a crew of only four, Erik's job at Mosholu is hands-on, to say the least—but with good effect. Even before the course renovation, Erik's work received high marks.

To quote Mosholu Manager Barry McLaughlin on the course's transformation under Erik, "The greens were about 75 percent crabgrass and 25 percent black dirt. Since then, the superintendent has taken greens that were unacceptable in our estimation to the best greens by far in the City." High praise, indeed.

Though Erik's work is never done, he carves out time for fun. "I like being outside," he says, "golfing, mountain biking, fishing. But these days," he adds, "I spend most of my free time with my family, at the park, at fairs . . ."

Erik currently lives in Oyster Bay, NY, with his wife, Shelley, and their three sons: Ryan, age 3, and Devin and Andrew, 9-month-old twins. This begs the question: Where is Erik busier? At work or at home?

### One Last Thing . . .

Because the First Tee Program is nonprofit, Erik and Mosholu would profit from—and gladly accept—donations of used equipment. Erik would also like to thank his suppliers for their generosity in loaning and donating equipment. "There are too many names and companies to mention, but what we've achieved here would not have been possible without the assistance and donations we've received," says Erik.

Erik is looking forward to hosting the meeting on November 12. Try to attend. It's important for the association, and it's a great opportunity to see the new Mosholu.

Mike Tollner, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is an assistant superintendent at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY.



# The Stanwich Club Prepares to Deck the Halls for the MetGCSA Christmas Party

by Chip Lafferty

**T**hough most of us are still working full-throttle on keeping our grass alive and well, it won't be long before the snow starts to fly and we hear those sleigh bells ringing in the start of the holiday season—and the MetGCSA's annual Christmas Party.

This year, on December 15, party goers can kick up their heels at an all-new site . . . well, quite nearly all new, since our host club, The Stanwich Club, has recently completed not only a multi-million-dollar renovation to the golf course, but also invested \$6 million into gussying up and expanding its historic clubhouse.

Once the elegant home of burglar alarm magnate Edward T. Holmes, the clubhouse now sports an entirely new wing allowing for numerous amenities, not the least of which is an expanded dining room and grill room, complete with a new bar area that spills out onto a terrace offering views of Long Island Sound.

Had we all been invited to this "home" a few years earlier . . . let's say in the year 1910 or so . . . we might have been transported to the party by a luxurious horse-drawn carriage, which Holmes was known to send, in those days, to pick up his invited guests.

Even without the carriage and Holmes's purported nine servants on hand, you'll no doubt enjoy the treatment and visions of an era gone by. The clubhouse has maintained the core of the original home, complete with oak paneling and handcrafted ceilings, and the present-day clubhouse staff is as fine as they come.

## Vying for Prime Property

Of course, making this site available to our association is our host and Stanwich's long-tenured property manager, Scott Niven. Scott has been with the club since 1983, assuming the superintendent's position 20 years after the club opened its doors.

Originally Holmes's 330-acre gentlemen's farm—complete with horses, chickens, and cows—the gently rolling property featured numerous lakes, carefully cultivated gardens, and 15 fountains. (Holmes had a grounds

crew of 20!) It was known, even after Holmes died and the property was sold, as the "old Semloh Farm," which an astute observer might notice is the Holmes name spelled backward.

Interestingly, when the "farm" was up for sale again in 1960, three different groups had an interest in developing a golf course on the property: A group of three Round Hill and three Greenwich Country Club members, looking to establish a new club; Greenwich Country Club, itself, which was considering another site after its clubhouse had burned to the ground; and the Town of Greenwich, which was looking to build a public course.

Lucky for Stanwich, the other two parties walked away when they discovered the estate was tied up in litigation, so by October 1962, The Stanwich Club's founders bought 186 acres of the estate, including the main house and four other buildings, for a mere \$475,000.

Construction on the course began the following fall, under the watchful eye of Golf Course Architect William Gordon and his son David. The elder Gordon, a pioneer in the achievement of perfectly finished surfaces on greens, tees, and fairways, was selected over the celebrated Robert Trent Jones.

## The Club Today

Over the years, Stanwich's solid design has earned the club high rankings on *Golf Digest's* TOP 100 LIST. The course has also attracted numerous prestigious local golf events and, in 2002, its first national championship, the USGA Mid-Amateur.

It may have been this event that nudged the club to launch into a full-scale renovation project that spanned three years and required an investment of \$4.5 million.

"After the Mid-Amateur," says Scott, "the USGA suggested that we 'recontour a half-dozen greens and cut down 1,000 trees.' It became clear that we needed to modernize the course by increasing its length for today's longer hitters and softening the highly contoured putting greens to accommodate faster green speeds.

"And while we were at it," continues Scott,



Scott Niven, CGCS

"the membership wanted to enhance the architectural features on a number of holes and improve the bunkers, which they agreed needed to be rebuilt."

This round of course enhancements put the club on yet another of *Golf Digest's* lists: "Best New Remodel" for 2006 among golf courses in the U.S.

It's unfortunate that, this trip, no one will be able to appreciate the fruits of Scott's toil and trouble, but you can always relive the process in Scott's article, "Anatomy of a Golf Course Renovation," which appeared in *Tee to Green's* January/February 2007 issue and offers a comprehensive account of the project. You can access it on our website: MetGCSA.org.

## Beyond Stanwich

Scott was born on a Marine base in Quantico, VA, where his father served as a Marine Corps officer.

By the time Scott was 7, his father's eight-year tour of duty had ended, and the Nivens settled in Claremont, NH, where his father embarked on a new profession: superintendent/club manager/pro at the Claremont Country Club. "He was always an avid golfer," says Scott. "So it was a logical career move."

Equally logical was that Scott and his younger brother, Curtis, decided to pursue careers as golf course superintendents. Both worked alongside their father at Claremont—Scott from the time he was 9 years old—and then at Angus Lea Golf and Tennis Club in Hillsborough, NH, which his father purchased when Scott was 12.

Scott worked summers at Angus Lea through high school and then college. He attended the University of Rhode Island, graduating with a B.S. in turfgrass management in 1976.



Degree in hand, Scott was offered an assistant's position at Greenwich Country Club. After three years under then superintendent Paul Caswell's tutelage, Scott landed his first superintendent's job at St. Andrew's Golf Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. Scott left after two years—just before the club embarked on a major reconstruction project—to accept the superintendent's position at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, NY, his final stop before Stanwich.

Scott compares his long and happy tenure at Stanwich to a marriage. "When your relationship with a club is right," says Scott, "it can go on for an entire career."

Rounding out his professional experience, Scott has been actively involved in numerous industry associations. For GCSAA, Scott has served on nearly every committee, most recently chairing the association's Research Committee.

He's vice president of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, a member of the Connecticut and New Jersey associations, as well as the USGA Research Committee. And if all that's not enough, he continues to serve our own association, which he led as president in '88 and '89, sitting on nearly half the Met's committees, including the Communications Committee, where he is a regular contributor to the *Tee to Green*.

## Yes, He Has a Personal Life

Some way, somehow, Scott manages to eek out time for family and fun. Besides being an avid golfer (he's wielded a club since age 6), Scott's a fitness enthusiast. He enjoys mountain biking, running (he's a four-time New York Marathon runner), and lifting weights at the gym. Scott's philosophy: "If you're active and would like to remain active for as long as possible, you've got to stay in top condition." For Scott that means working out for about an hour on most days.

More for fun than fitness, Scott also enjoys skiing—a passion he shares with his wife of 23 years, Dana, and his kids, Nick and Heather. When the kids are off from school—Nick's a Greenwich High School senior; Heather's a junior—and Dana can steal away from her position as national accounts executive with Hertz, they often plan an exotic ski vacation together, maneuvering slopes from the Swiss Alps to British Columbia.

Hey, maybe a little of that white stuff will come our way in time for the Met's December 15 Christmas Party, capping off what promises to be a truly festive holiday affair. Don't miss it!

*Chip Lafferty, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Rye Golf Club in Rye, NY.*

# Another Great Summer Social at Old Oaks



Earl Millett and  
Kim Alonzi dancin'  
to the beat



Blake and Kristen  
Halderman



Blake Halderman,  
Glen Dube, and  
Ken Benoit talkin'  
everything but turf



Belles of the ball:  
Kristen Halderman,  
Erica Dube, and  
Melodee Benoit



## Upcoming Events

# More Events to Go!

It's that time of year again. As we approach the end of 2007—and our long line of association events—we are looking for volunteers to host our meeting and social events for 2008.

To host a professional event, please contact either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs: Blake Halderman at 914-946-1074 or Ken Benoit at 914-241-0700. For social events, our Social & Welfare Committee co-chairs are Tom Leahy (914-941-8281) and Bob Nielsen (914-234-3779).

Here's what we have for the balance of the year.

### MetGCSA Invitational

Monday, October 29  
Whippoorwill Club  
Armonk, NY  
Host: Paul Gonzalez, CGCS

NEW  
DATE

### Annual Meeting

Monday, November 12  
Mosholu Golf Course  
Bronx, NY  
Host: Erik Feldman

### MetGCSA Christmas Party

Saturday, December 15  
The Stanwich Club  
Greenwich, CT  
Host: Scott Niven, CGCS

## Educational Events

### Empire State Green Industry Show

(Formerly the NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition)

Tuesday–Thursday, November 13–15  
Rochester Riverside Convention Center  
Rochester, NY

The Empire State Green Industry Show continues to offer education sessions for all green industry professionals, as well as the largest green industry trade show in New York. The education sessions will run from Tuesday at 8 a.m. through Thursday at 12:30 p.m. and will feature talks from experts from the turfgrass, arboriculture, nursery/landscape, and floriculture industries. The opening reception of the trade show will be on Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m. On Wednesday, the show will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be industry-related demonstrations on the show floor.

For further information, contact NYSTA at 800-873-8873, or visit their website at [nysta@nysta.org](http://nysta@nysta.org).

### 4th Annual GCSANJ Crystal Conference

Tuesday–Thursday, November 13–15  
Crystal Springs Resort, Vernon, NJ

This annual educational conference will kick off on Tuesday with a Four-Man Scramble Event at Wild Turkey and will be followed by two days of educational sessions. For further information, contact Paul Dotti at 201-803-2466 or [edgepaul@hotmail.com](mailto:edgepaul@hotmail.com). You can

also watch the website as the date draws closer: <http://www.GCSANJ.org>.

### GCSAA Seminar: Cutting-Edge Disease Identification

Wednesday, November 28

The Hampton Inn, Elmsford NY

Dr. Bruce Clarke of Rutgers University and Dr. Bruce Martin of Clemson University will share their knowledge on the latest disease identification strategies. Local Pesticide Credits will be applied for.

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

### MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Plan now for our upcoming Winter Seminar, which in addition to our customary lineup of speakers will include a host of exhibitor booths and the presentation of both the Sherwood A. Moore and John Reid Lifetime Achievement awards.

This year's roster of speakers will include Dr. John Kaminski from The University of Connecticut, Dr. Frank Rossi from Cornell, Dr. Joseph Vargas from Michigan State University, and Karen Plumley of Cleary Chemical to talk about the Food Quality Protection Act's impact on pesticide use restrictions.



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*at the MetGCSA Family Picnic*



## Member News

### New Member

Please join the board in welcoming new member **Peter Speziale**, an assistant superintendent at the Country Club of Darien in Darien, CT.

### Births

Two Met members had baby boys! Congratulations to:

- Ardsley Country Club Superintendent **Matt Dutremble** and his wife, Kristen, on the birth of their son, James, on August 27.
- Bedford Golf & Tennis Club Superintendent **Bob Nielsen** and his wife, Carolyn, on the birth of their son, Sam, on August 29.

### Well Wishes

Sending well wishes to:

- **Bruce Pye** of E/T Equipment Company.
- **Matt Severino** of Scarsdale Country Club. Matt recently suffered a mild heart attack, but we're happy to report he's doing well.



## MetGCSA Two-Ball Contestants Tell Some Tales

After two long months, the Second and Third Rounds of the MetGCSA Two-Ball Championship were completed. We're now left with just two teams in each flight vying for this year's Two-Ball title.

### First Flight Finalists

In the first flight, Second Round, Dube/Halderman got past the team of Garceau/Steinhofer, who beat them last year in the Finals. This year, it was a different story with a victory of 3 & 2 where Garceau & Steinhofer never really got it going. Thank God we didn't find any "burrowing animal holes" this year. You should hear some of the rules these guys come up with!

With this match in the bag, Dube/Halderman went on to defeat Ceplo/Swiatlowski 6 & 5 at Century. Normally a tough team to beat, these guys just couldn't get a streak going after winning the first hole.

Dube/Halderman will now face off in the Finals against a couple of "old" friends: Niven & Pakkala. This duo beat Alexander/Dudones 2 & 1 in a tough match and had just too much tournament experience for the newly formed Corgan/Batz team in the Third Round. They beat them 5 & 4 in a ho-hum match at Bedford without losing a hole.

Dube/Halderman are currently 1-0 vs. Niven/Pakkala in Two-Ball play, so we'll see if they have what it takes to even the score. The final match is set to be played at The Bridge, so I'm sure there will be a lot of negotiation of handicap shots on the trip.

### Second Flighters Tell All

The Second Flight didn't have a lot of close matches, but there sure was a lot of drama when it came to keeping track of all their shots! Wojick/Reeb got by DeSanctis/Ziesmer 2 up in Round Two but then ran into the Nielsen/Perlee team, which has been leaving the competition in the dust.

Nielsen/Perlee handily beat Alonzi/Alonzi 3 & 1 in Round Two before moving on to the Round Three match with Wojick/Reeb. Story has it that Bob was having a really difficult time keeping track of his score and, at the same time, had no idea how many strokes he was getting. The conversa-

tion sounded something like this:

Bob: "I think I'm lying five—no wait—yeah, that's right—five. I think I'm out of it. What did you get?"

Greg: "I made five."

Bob: "Okay. I'm out of it." Bob then casually backhands the ball toward the hole, and it goes in. What he didn't realize was that he got a shot on that hole (one of his many!) to tie the hole and win the match 3 & 2.

We'll have to see if they can play that game against the CHAP team in the finals. For those of you who don't know, CHAP stands for Chapin/Apgar—a name this newly formed duo conjured up themselves. I'm sure the matching pink shirts are coming out next!

Chapin/Apgar, unlike the Corgan/Batz team, has found that connection from Day One. Their closest match was 4 & 3 over C. Alonzi/Cook, and they also beat the #2 seed team of Ferguson/Weiland 5 & 4 to reach the Finals.

After the match, Apgar was asked why the CHAP team was playing so well. His reply: "It's having a partner whose palms don't get sweaty (referring to his previous partner, Robby Steinman, after he four-putted the last hole to lose a match a few years ago).

"I'm so much more relaxed with Brett Chapin as my partner," Apgar continues with a smile. "We're both on the same page that those 30-inch putts must be made."

All I can say is that it's going to be an interesting Final in both flights this year; although the pre-game trash talking may be more exciting than the golf itself!

### Getting Better All the Time

I want to thank all of you who participated. Each year, the field keeps getting larger and stronger. At this year's qualifier, we had seven teams get eliminated from a 32-team bracket, which is definitely an all-time high. In addition, again this year, we had no matches go to a coin toss, which is always the most important part of the event.

This event offers an opportunity to network with peers and friends during those stressful summer months. I've enjoyed it. Hope you all have too. And a special thank you to all those superintendents who made this event possible by hosting our matches at their clubs!

—Blake Halderman

### Second Round Results

#### First Flight

- 9) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman  
Centennial GC/Brae Burn CC  
defeated 3 & 2 @ Sunningdale
- 1) Tim Garceau/Ernie Steinhofer  
The Tuxedo Club/Metro Turf Specialists
- 12) Matt Ceplo/Jim Swiatlowski  
Rockland CC/Montammy GC  
defeated 3 & 2 Whippoorwill
- 13) Jon Barlock/Kevin Seibel  
Turf Products Corp./Century CC
- 14) George Corgan/Ryan Batz  
Steven Willand/Trump National GC/NY  
defeated 4 & 3 @ Metropolis
- 6) Chris Smith/Greg Moran  
Hudson National GC/Matrix Turf  
Solutions
- 7) Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala  
The Stanwich Club/Woodway CC  
defeated 2 & 1 @ Brae Burn
- 2) Dave Dudones/Grover Alexander  
North Jersey CC/Hudson Hills GC

#### Second Flight

- 9) Mike Reeb/Greg Wojick  
CC of New Canaan/Greenwich CC  
defeated 2 up @ Brae Burn
- 16) Dennis DeSanctis/Jason Ziesmer  
Syngenta/Manhattan Woods GC
- 13) Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee  
Bedford Golf & Tennis/Apawamis Club  
defeated 3 & 1 @ Tamarack
- 5) Bob Alonzi/Joe Alonzi  
Fenway GC/Westchester CC
- 14) Scott Apgar/Brett Chapin  
Metro Turf Specialists/Redding CC  
defeated 4 & 3 @ Waccabuc
- 11) Chris Alonzi/Mike Cook  
Elmwood CC/The Care of Trees
- 2) Scott Ferguson/Jim Weiland  
Mahopac GC/Shorehaven GC  
defeated 4 & 2 @ Ridgeway
- 10) Joe Kennedy/Peter Waterous  
Irra-Tech/Westchester Hills GC



# Met & LI GCsAs Convene for Qualifier

Fortunately, the rains didn't put the kibosh on the Superintendent Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier held on September 11 at Colonial Springs Golf Club in Farmingdale, NY. It took only a 40-minute rain delay for the water-covered greens to drain and the competition to continue among the 63 contestants from the MetGCSA and LIGCSA associations.

Host Super Mark Chant and his staff obviously anticipated the forecast and had the course fast and firm heading in to the day.

While the course was in fabulous shape, contestants faced tougher-than-usual playing conditions on a very tight, tree-lined golf course. As a result, only one person—Tom Ashfield—shot a very respectable 74 to take home the MetGCSA Gross Championship. Following not-too-close behind was Blake Halderman with a Gross score of 81 and then Mark Chant with an 85. (Brian Benedict also shot 81, but he was playing for the LIGCSA that day.)

In the Net Division, the Met guys had a difficult time shooting their handicaps. Blake Halderman, therefore, won the Net Championship with a 78, followed closely by Mark Chant and Jeff Wentworth with a pair of 79s.

The LIGCSA had a little home course advantage as they had no problem shooting low Net numbers and cashing in most of the prize money for the day. I guess next year we better pick a course on our turf!

Aside from some great golf, this event offered a wonderful opportunity to meet and network with our neighboring superintendents. Everyone felt we should make this an annual tradition.

I would like to thank Mark Chant and Colonial Springs for making everyone feel welcome. I also want to thank Golf Course Architect Ron Cutlip for making the trip out in the bad weather to discuss the project at Rockefeller Center and for donating a portion of the proceeds to both the LIGCSA's and the MetGCSA's Scholarship and Research funds.

## Third Round Results

### First Flight

- 9) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman  
Centennial GC/Brae Burn CC  
defeated 6 & 5 @ Century
- 12) Matt Ceplo/Jim Swiatlowski  
Rockland CC/Montammy GC
- 7) Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala  
The Stanwich Club/Woodway CC  
defeated 5 & 4 @ Bedford
- 14) George Corgan/Ryan Batz  
Steven Willand/Trump National GC/NY

### Second Flight

- 13) Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee  
Bedford Golf & Tennis/Apawamis Club  
defeated 3 & 2 @ Shorehaven
- 9) Mike Reeb/Greg Wojick  
CC of New Canaan/Greenwich CC
- 14) Scott Apgar/Brett Chapin  
Metro Turf Specialists/Redding CC  
defeated 5 & 4 @ Apawamis
- 2) Scott Ferguson/Jim Weiland  
Mahopac GC/Shorehaven GC

## And the Finalists Are...

### First Flight

- 9) Glen Dube/Blake Halderman  
Centennial GC/Brae Burn CC  
vs.
- 7) Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala  
The Stanwich Club/Woodway CC

### Second Flight

- 13) Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee  
Bedford Golf & Tennis/Apawamis Club  
vs.
- 14) Scott Apgar/Brett Chapin  
Metro Turf Specialists/Redding CC

## The Results

### In the Superintendent Division (Met/LI Members Only)

#### Gross

- 74 Tom Ashfield, Quaker Ridge CC
- 81 Blake Halderman, Brae Burn CC  
(match of cards)
- 81 Brian Benedict, Seawane Club

#### Net

- 70 Steve Rabideau, Wheatley Hills GC
- 74 Ken Lochridge, Hamlet Golf & CC
- 78 Eric O'Neill, Towers CC

### In the Class C/Affiliate/Guest Division

#### Gross

- 82 Tom Styelarke, Nassau-Suffolk Turf Services
- 85 Jon Barlock, Turf Products Corporation
- 109 John Pagan, All Pro Horticultural, Inc.

#### Net

- 73 Tim Joyce, Metro Turf Specialists
- 77 Kevin Collins, Aquatrols, Inc.
- 79 Charlie Siemers, Lesco, Inc.

## Proximities

### Closest to the Pin

- #3~Pine Course John Bradley  
(Supers only) Quogue Field Club
- #8~Pine Course Erik Berg  
(Non-Supers) Guest
- #4~Valley Course Jeff Wentworth  
(Supers only) Pelham CC
- #8~Valley Course Tom Styelarke  
(Non-Supers) Nassau-Suffolk Turf Services

### Longest Drive

- #4~Pine Course Tom Ashfield  
(Supers only) Quaker Ridge CC
- #7~Valley Course Rick Krok  
(Non-Supers) Storr Tractor Company

## Championship Teams

Representing us at Bethpage Black for the Met Area Team Championship:

### Gross Division

- Blake Halderman, Brae Burn CC
- Mark Chant, Colonial Springs GC
- Jeff Wentworth, Pelham CC
- Sean Cain, Sunningdale CC

### Net Division

- Glen Dube, Centennial GC
- Matt Ceplo, Rockland CC
- Dave Dudones, North Jersey CC
- Anthony Hooks, Pelham/Split Rock CC

— Blake Halderman, CGCS



### A Word From John O'Keefe ...

Past MetGCSA President ... Present GCSAA Board Candidate

After much thought and encouragement from fellow superintendents—both locally and from across the country—I've decided to pursue a director's position on the 2008 GCSAA Board of Directors.

I'm proud and grateful to be nominated by my peers from the MetGCSA, GCSANJ, Hudson Valley GCSA, the Long Island GCSA, and the Finger Lakes GCSA. The boards of these organizations have shown great faith in me, and for this I am truly honored.

For most of my 30 years in the industry, I have been actively involved in working to advance our profession. Having moved through the chairs to become president of two local organizations—the Met and the GCSANJ—and one regional—the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation—and having served on countless local and national committees, I believe I am well prepared to serve on the board of our national organization. I would like nothing more than to become part of a team dedicated to enhancing the performance and professionalism of our industry worldwide.

#### Membership Numbers Count

GCSAA has great programs in place to help each and every one of us maintain the high standards of our field. I'm sure those of you who have taken advantage of GCSAA's educational opportunities and other professional development services will agree that our association is second to none when it comes

to the valuable programs it provides its membership.

No matter how great our programs, seminars, and conferences are, they cannot serve the membership *without* the membership. As you may know, our ranks represent approximately 54 percent of the golf facilities in the country. I feel we have to continue to build our reputation, not only to those outside our field, but to our own potential members as well.

Superintendents shouldn't debate whether or not they can afford to join our organization; they should be encouraged to understand that they can't afford *not* to be part of our great network. Just as important, I feel, is that superintendents encourage their assistants to become members as well.

When our assistants have the opportunity to take advantage of GCSAA's many educational opportunities and offerings, they become not only more valuable to our teams, but also more valuable to our industry. Our assistants are our future leaders. It is our responsibility to support—and mentor—their professional growth.

I would not be in the position I'm in today if I did not have positive role models throughout my career. It was through my mentors that I learned the importance of professional ethics and conduct—and the value of becoming a contributing member of our industry associations. I can only hope that I am as effective in instilling these same principles in the people I mentor.

Growing our membership has numerous benefits, not the least of which is helping our programs and services remain affordable.



John O'Keefe, CGCS

There's economy, after all, in numbers. What's more, as our association grows so does our value to Affiliate sponsors, whose support allows us to provide more and better services.

#### Chapter Support

Last but not least, I'm a firm believer in GCSAA's Chapter Field Staffing Program. A part of GCSAA's seven-phased membership growth and recruitment campaign, this program has GCSAA employees visiting and working with various chapters to help them resolve any issues or problems they may be facing. Right now, there are only two field staff members, but I see no limits to the benefits of expanding this network—just as I see no limits to what GCSAA is capable of doing to elevate and support our profession.

With the support of the Preakness Hills Country Club Board of Governors, membership, and staff... and my wife, Margaret, and daughters, Adrienne and Maureen, I am committed to helping GCSAA better serve the most important part of our association... YOU, the members. Thank you, again, to all who are supporting me in my campaign for GCSAA director. I look forward to playing a role in making our great organization even better.

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