

Tee to Green

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President's Message

Springtime ... Time to Spring Into Action

I

am taking advantage of a rainy Friday to write this message while my crew is cleaning the shop and putting the finishing touches on the benches and other golf course accessories they've been painting. It's all in the name of getting ready for spring and the start of another season.

Other than those April showers (that fortunately bring May flowers), this is my favorite time of year ... the start of another baseball season and, of course, the Masters ... waking up to the birds outside my window ... watching the perennials start to sprout and the leaves morphing out of buds on the trees ... the sound of the mowers and the smell of fresh-cut grass. And how about that first trip to work with the car windows down and the winter coat left hanging in the closet?

This year's mild winter will make for a smoother start to the season. No snow mold, no ice damage, no real winter injury. I hardly even had to plow this year. But no matter what, there's always the seemingly insurmountable task of getting the course cleaned up and ready for Opening Day.

So Much Work, So Little Time

I'm thankful to have my staff back and glad to see that everyone's survived the winter. We have no shortage of work to keep everyone busy with finishing up our winter projects, cleaning up the sticks and branches, raking the bunkers, getting the pump house and irrigation system up and running, and ensuring every last piece of equipment is in top working order and ready to roll.

This is about the time of year I always seem to look at my diary—just to compare notes on what-we've-done-when in the past. For instance, when did we open greens? What was the first day we mowed greens? Let's see, last year on this day, it started raining at 9 a.m., and we were inside cleaning the shop. (I wonder if I wrote last year's President's Message on this day.) Going back even further, in 1994 I was at Westchester Hills. It was the first day back for the staff, and we did some cleanup work

*Matt Ceplo, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

and mowed greens for the first time on April 8. Going way back to 1984 when I was an assistant, I took my pesticide test on this day. The staff was busy raking bunkers and cleaning. We mowed greens on April 7. It seems we're right on schedule this year. We mowed greens on April 3. I was hoping to start raking bunkers tomorrow, but the forecast isn't looking good. (We should have a lot of flowers this May.)

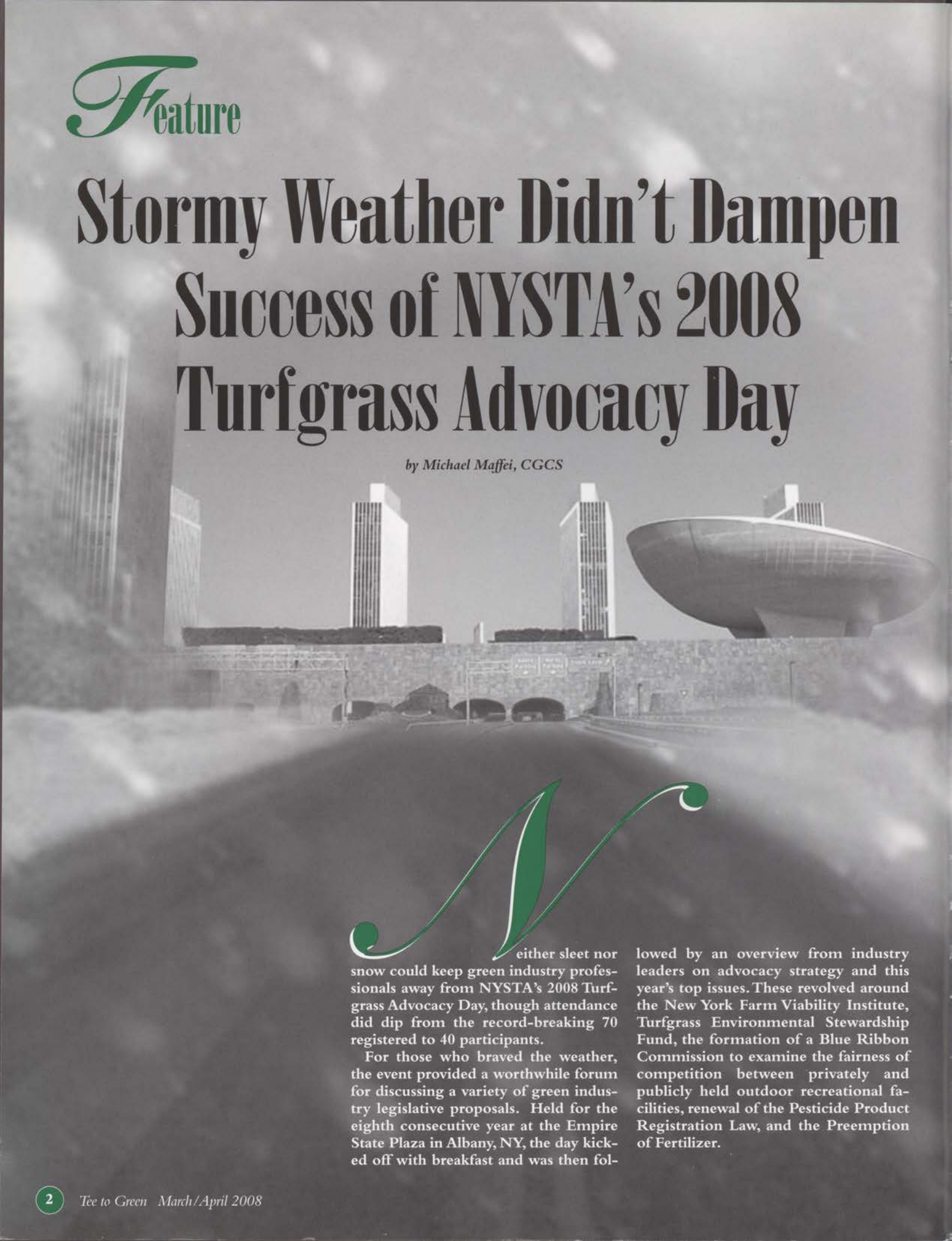
Work Above and Beyond

Last year, we had some issues with our PBS. Remember what that stands for? Yep, Petroleum Bulk Storage. We were lacking the proper vapor recovery system to meet State guidelines. Anyway, the County hosted a seminar that I thought I should attend, and basically what I found out was that regardless of whether your storage tank is underground or aboveground, there are specific requirements that need to be followed. For example, you have to do a reconciliation report daily to make sure there are no leaks in your tank, and you must check—and document—your monitoring equipment weekly.

Do you keep waste oil? We do. We store it in a couple of 55-gallon drums. When they get full, we call a company and have them dispose of it properly. According to the new regulations, you will also be required to monitor and document these drums and then make sure you have proper spill containment in place. You should check your local area for specific regulations.

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Feature

Stormy Weather Didn't Dampen Success of NYSTA's 2008 Turfgrass Advocacy Day

by Michael Maffei, CGCS

Neither sleet nor snow could keep green industry professionals away from NYSTA's 2008 Turfgrass Advocacy Day, though attendance did dip from the record-breaking 70 registered to 40 participants.

For those who braved the weather, the event provided a worthwhile forum for discussing a variety of green industry legislative proposals. Held for the eighth consecutive year at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, NY, the day kicked off with breakfast and was then fol-

lowed by an overview from industry leaders on advocacy strategy and this year's top issues. These revolved around the New York Farm Viability Institute, Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund, the formation of a Blue Ribbon Commission to examine the fairness of competition between privately and publicly held outdoor recreational facilities, renewal of the Pesticide Product Registration Law, and the Preemption of Fertilizer.

Luncheon speaker Senator James Seward strikes a pose with other Turfgrass Advocacy Day attendees. From left to right: Brian Christman of Christman's Windham House; NYSTA Government Relations Committee Co-chair Michael Maffei, CGCS, of Back O'Beyond Inc.; NYSTA VP Greg Chorvas of Cantine Veterans Sports Complex; Senator James Seward; Dan Abbruzzese of Orchard Creek Golf Club; Greg Hennel of Stadium Golf Club, Inc.



Before the mid-day break for lunch, participants were also able to meet and discuss regulatory issues and concerns with state legislators who represent their districts.

In the 50 visits made to legislators, the key committees targeted were Environmental Conservation, Agriculture, Finance, Economic Development, Tourism, and Small Business.

Commenting on the day, Jeff Lane, with The Vandervort Group and lobbyist for the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns (NYAFEC), noted: "Legislators were more than happy to meet with golf course superintendents, owners, lawn care operators, and other turfgrass professionals because they understand the industry's importance to New York State. Responding to such an organized effort on NYSTA's Advocacy Day, assembly members and senators alike pledged to advocate on behalf of our issues both in the budget process and throughout the legislative session."

Jeff presented information on the current legislative climate and discussed budget issues affecting the green industry. He represented NYAFEC last year and was a vocal advocate for the green industry, working with legislators to secure allocations in the annual New York State budget for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund and the New York Farm Viability Institute.

To give golf course superintendents an

idea of the battles fought behind-the-scenes for our industry, here is a recap of the discussions of the day. If nothing else, it makes clear NYSTA's critical role in supporting our industry and shows what you, personally, can do to support NYSTA's work. As always, your voice counts.

Highlights of the Day

New York Farm Viability Institute Seeks Continued Funding. After the opening remarks, we heard from Tom Sleight, executive director of the New York Farm Viability Institute (NYFVI), an independent, non-profit organization that is dedicated to strengthening the agricultural and horticultural industries. His prime concern was securing continued funding for NYFVI.

Direct state funding totaled \$3.4 million in 2005 and \$5 million each year in 2006 and 2007. Those funds have enabled the NYFVI to support a variety of efforts, providing, for instance, turf industry grants to Cornell University's Dr. A. Martin Petrovic, who is studying accelerated sod production, and to Dr. Daniel Peck, at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, for his research on the European crane fly.

Our legislative visits focused on a recommendation for a state appropriation of \$5 million in the 2009 fiscal-year budget to support the New York Farm Viability Institute.

Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund Lobbies for Ongoing Support. I then had the opportunity to present information on the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund. For the uninitiated, the fund was established to support environmental research that extends beyond the traditional turfgrass management practices and techniques.

The 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 New York State budgets each included \$175,000 in appropriations for the fund, which have allowed us to support a variety of worthwhile research endeavors, including:

- "Prospecting for Resistance to the Annual Bluegrass Weevil in Improved Cultivars of *Poa annua*," conducted by Dr. Daniel Peck of Cornell University
- "Development of Molecular Diagnostic Techniques for Identification of Invasive Pest Crane Flies in Turfgrass," conducted by Dr. Daniel Peck and Dr. Ping Wang of Cornell University
- "Benefits of Turf: Reasons Why Pesticides and Fertilizers Applied to Turf are Not Just for Cosmetics," conducted by Cornell University's Dr. A. Martin Petrovic
- "Integrated Cultural Practices to Reduce Dollar Spot on Golf Course Fairways," conducted by Dr. Alex Ellram of SUNY Cobleskill
- The study of Turfgrass and Landscape Weed Management at Cornell University

We are recommending that legislators

As most of you probably are aware, there is a movement by county governments to regulate the application of fertilizer. . . . Counties are instituting these regulations with the erroneous belief that drinking water quality will improve if fertilizers aren't applied. Unfortunately, however, these regulations are not based on sound science.

support an appropriation of \$175,000 again this year so that we can continue to fund research targeted at enhancing turf management solutions that protect environmental quality.

Building a Blue Ribbon Commission. Next, we heard from Greg Hennel, co-owner of Stadium Golf Club. He introduced one of our key issues for 2008: the creation of a Blue Ribbon Commission to examine the fairness of competition between privately and publicly held outdoor recreational facilities, such as golf courses, ski areas, and campgrounds. The commission will be looking at issues such as taxes, equipment purchase costs, advertising and promotional costs, interest and borrowing costs, and insurance costs to determine what inequities exist between privately held entities and their publicly held counterparts.

Renewing the Pesticide Product Registration Law. Barbara Ahern, with the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE), provided an overview of the Pesticide Product Registration Law. She discussed how the 1992 system, which defines specific time frames for the review and approval of pesticide product applications submitted to the Bureau of Pesticides, has proved successful in minimizing delays in DEC registrations.

Our stance is that the legislature should support former Governor Spitzer's request to make these provisions, as well as the current fee structure, a permanent part of the Environmental Conservation Law.

Examining Preemption of Fertilizer. Jeff Williams, with the New York Farm Bureau, presented the final issue, "Preemption of Fertilizer." As most of you probably are aware, there is a movement by county governments to regulate the application of fertilizer. Suffolk County has already begun regulating fertilizer applications, and West-

chester County is attempting to follow suit.

Counties are instituting these regulations with the erroneous belief that drinking water quality will improve if fertilizers aren't applied. Unfortunately, however, these regulations are not based on sound science. Our recommendation is that if fertilizer is going to be regulated, it should be done by the State and through the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Legislators were asked to support legislation providing "preemption" to the State in matters regarding the regulation and use of fertilizer.

Over Lunch. After discussing the various green industry challenges, attendees made their legislative visits and then reconvened for lunch and an informative talk by Senator James Seward, chairman of the Insurance Committee and a member of the Agriculture Committee. Senator Seward—who is supporting legislation (S6835-A) to create the Blue Ribbon Commission discussed earlier—addressed participants on some of the hurdles facing the green industry in New York, not the least of which are taxes and health insurance.

In the End

It was a productive day for all who attended. Recapping the day's events, Larry Wilson, chairman of the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns, said: "As usual, the

2008 Turfgrass Advocacy Day gave our industry a very substantial and direct opportunity to tell legislators what is important to us. All who spoke that day are distinguished representatives who spend a great deal of time with our issues and our agenda. They will be the first to tell you that the involvement of citizens and stakeholders, like you and me, in an event like the annual Turfgrass Advocacy Day, is essential to their effectiveness."

If you could not attend this year's event, you are urged to schedule an appointment with your legislators to make your view known. The Lobby Day Issue Papers are available on the New York State Turfgrass Association website: <http://www.nysta.org/news/govissues.html>. Feel free to print any one of these papers and bring them along with you on your legislative visits:

- New York Farm Viability Institute
- Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund
- Golf Course Owners ~ Blue Ribbon Commission
- Pesticide Product Registration Law
- Preemption of Fertilizer

Despite the weather, all agreed that Turfgrass Advocacy Day 2008 was a success, and NYSTA looks forward to your participation next year.

Michael Maffei, superintendent at Back O' Beyond, Inc., in Brewster, NY, is past president of NYSTA and co-chair of the NYSTA Government Relations Committee.

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Upcoming Events

2008 Met Calendar Inching Toward Completion

As you can see, our 2008 Meeting and Social Calendar is still a work in progress. If anyone is able to host a meeting or social event that does not have a site, please contact the appropriate committee chairmen. 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.

Superintendent/Manager or Guest Tournament

Tuesday, June 3

Pelham Country Club, Pelham Manor, NY
Host: Jeff Wentworth, CGCS

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

Thursday, June 19

Fenway Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY
Host: Bob Alonzi, CGCS

Poa Annual Tournament

Monday, July 14

Pelham/Split Rock Golf Club, Bronx, NY
Host: Anthony Hooks

Family Picnic

Date & Site OPEN

Education Meeting

Date & Site OPEN

Summer Social

Date & Site OPEN

Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier

Monday, September 29

The Seawane Club, Hewlett Harbor, NY
Host: Brian Benedict

Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament

Tuesday, October 21

Rockland Country Club, Sparkill, NY
Host: Matt Ceplo, CGCS

Annual Assistants Championship

October

Date & Site OPEN

Met Area Team Championship

Monday, October 27

Winged Foot Golf Club/West Course
Mamaroneck, NY
Host: Matthew Burrows

Annual Meeting

November

Date & Site OPEN

MetGCSA Christmas Party

December

Date & Site OPEN

Educational Events

UMass Turf Research Field Day

Wednesday, June 18

UMass Joseph Troll Turf Research Center
South Deerfield, MA

The field day will focus on the wide range of research projects currently underway at the research center and at other locations. Among the studies you'll see: the biology and integrated management of turf-damaging insects, short- and long-term weed management, pesticide exposure, fertility, drought management, as well as a range of National Turfgrass Evaluation Program fine turf trials. The field day will also feature displays and demonstrations from turf industry vendors.

For further information, contact the UMass Extension Turf Program office at 508-892-0382 or visit www.umass turf.org and select "Conferences & Workshops."

University of Connecticut Inaugural Turfgrass Field Day

Tuesday, July 22

UConn Plant Science Research and Education Facility, Storrs, CT

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of its Turfgrass Science Program, the University of

Connecticut's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources will host its first Turfgrass Field Day. The field day will focus on current research projects conducted in the areas of professional and residential turfgrass management. Among them: anthracnose, dollar spot, and management strategies for other fine turf diseases; the impact of fairway topdressing programs; rolling and mowing programs for golf course putting greens; selective removal of creeping bentgrass, and more.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to discuss management practices with UConn turf experts, visit with turfgrass vendors, and view a variety of equipment demos.

For further information, contact John Kaminski at 860-486-0162, or check for updates at www.turf.uconn.edu/fieldday08.

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day (Golf & Fine Turf)

Tuesday, July 29

Horticultural Farm II, New Brunswick, NJ

Save the date, and watch for details. Call 973-812-6467 or visit www.njturfgrass.org for further information.

UMass Turf Open House

Thursday, July 31

UMass Joseph Troll Turf Research Center
South Deerfield, MA

Join UMass faculty for its first-ever evening open house. Participants will have the opportunity to hear faculty speak on the most current issues facing turfgrass managers, which will likely include the management of summer disease, weed, and stress problems.

For further information, contact the UMass Extension Turf Program office at 508-892-0382 or visit www.umass turf.org and select "Conferences & Workshops."

University of Rhode Island 77th Annual Turfgrass Field Day

Wednesday, August 20

C.R. Skogley Turfgrass Research Facility
Kingston, RI

The field day offers the opportunity to tour turf plots showing research trials being conducted at the university. In addition, attendees will have access to the largest gathering of regional product distributors outside the New England Regional Turfgrass Conference and Show.

For further information, call 401-874-2791 or visit www.uriturf.org.

The Lineup of 2008 MetGCSA Board Members



Meet your MetGCSA board members. Front Row, left to right: President Matt Ceplo, CGCS, of Rockland CC; Ineke Pierpoint, MetGCSA executive secretary; Vice President Tony Girardi, CGCS, of Rockrimmon CC; Tom Leahy, CGCS, of Sleepy Hollow CC; Glen Dube, CGCS, of Centennial GC; Ken Benoit, CGCS, of GlenArbor GC. Back Row, left to right: Treasurer Bob Nielsen, CGCS, of Bedford Golf & Tennis; David Dudones of North Jersey CC; Past President Will Heintz of Pound Ridge GC; Rob Alonzi of St. Andrew's GC; Secretary Glenn Perry, CGCS, of Rolling Hills CC; Blake Halderman, CGCS, of Brae Burn CC; Class C Rep Scott Olson of Scarsdale GC, and Class AF Rep George Corgan of Steven Willand Inc.

Your 2008 Committee Chairmen at Your Service

We've provided a list—with phone numbers—of each of the MetGCSA's committee chairs. Please feel free to contact any of them with questions, comments, or helpful suggestions.

Awards Committee

Will Heintz, Pound Ridge GC
914-552-2085

Bylaws Committee

Tony Girardi, CGCS, Rockrimmon CC
914-764-5010

Club Relations Committee

Joe Alonzi, CGCS, Westchester CC
914-798-5361
Glenn Perry, CGCS, Rolling Hills CC
203-762-9484
Peter Rappoccio, CGCS, Silver Spring CC
203-438-6720

Communications & Advertising Committee

David Dudones, North Jersey CC
973-942-0566
Rob Alonzi, St. Andrew's GC
914-478-5713

Education Committee

Glen Dube, CGCS, Centennial GC
845-279-8960

Government Relations Committee

Tom Leahy, CGCS, Sleepy Hollow CC
914-941-8281
Glenn Perry, CGCS, Rolling Hills CC
203-762-9484

Long-range Planning & Steering Committee

Will Heintz, Pound Ridge GC
914-552-2085

Membership Committee

Glenn Perry, CGCS, Rolling Hills CC
203-762-9484

Scholarship & Research Committee

Tony Girardi, CGCS, Rockrimmon CC
914-764-5010

Tri-State Turf Research Subcommittee

Matt Ceplo, CGCS, Rockland CC
845-359-5346
Tony Girardi, CGCS, Rockrimmon CC
914-764-5010

Bob Nielsen, CGCS, Bedford Golf & Tennis
914-234-3779

Social & Welfare Committee

Tom Leahy, CGCS, Sleepy Hollow CC
914-941-8281
Bob Nielsen, CGCS, Bedford Golf & Tennis
914-234-3779

Special Events Committee

Glen Dube, CGCS, Centennial GC
845-279-8960
George Corgan, Steven Willand Inc.
914-213-3622

Tournament Committee

Blake Halderman, CGCS, Brae Burn CC
914-946-1074
Ken Benoit, CGCS, GlenArbor GC
914-241-0700 x270

Website Committee

Ken Benoit, CGCS, GlenArbor GC
914-241-0700 x270

MetGCSA Talks Up Our Profession at the 2008 Lower Hudson Golf Show

by Scott Olson

The fourth annual Lower Hudson Golf Show, held March 15 and 16 at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, NY, drew more than 2,000 golf enthusiasts. Once again, the MetGCSA sponsored a booth, staffing it with member superintendents and assistant superintendents who were gracious enough to volunteer their weekend time to help promote our profession and the role we play in enhancing the environment. While answering questions, those staffing the booth provided interested golfers with USGA Rule Books, DVDs on golf etiquette, ball mark repair tools, and literature designed to educate the public on environmental issues and USGA research.

Most popular were the rule books and etiquette DVDs, which many seemed eager to share with members of their golf foursomes. Other passersby were also grateful for the ball mark repair instructions and seemed equally interested in the steps superintendents take to protect the environment.

Along with the MetGCSA—and the MGA, which staffed a booth nearby—there were at least 80 other organizations and companies at the show, marketing their goods and services. There was something for everyone—from golf resort exhibits and pre-golf workout program demos to swing



analysis and club testing opportunities at an indoor driving range. In addition, hourly drawings were held each day, offering attendees the opportunity to win golf trips and a variety of other prizes.

As the show continues to grow, so will the importance of the Met's presence. We must continue to generate innovative and exciting ways to educate the golfing community about our unique profession and our important role in the golf industry. Please consider joining fellow Met members in staffing our booth next year and representing our profession—and professionalism.

Scott Olson, a Class C representative on the Met Board of Directors, is an assistant superintendent at Scarsdale Golf Club in Hartsdale, NY.

Member News

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Michael Aube**, Class C, Sunningdale Country Club, Scarsdale, NY
- **Joel D. Bardwell**, Class C, St. Andrew's Golf Club, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
- **Alan Bean**, Class C, Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, NY
- **Matthew W. Burrows**, Class A, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY
- **Marc DuBour**, Class C, Country Club of New Canaan, New Canaan, CT
- **Ted Fist**, Class AF, Western Nonwovens-Sand Mat, Crystal Lake, IL
- **Christopher Jablonski**, Class C, The Seawane Club, Hewlett Harbor, NY
- **Robert McFee**, Class C, Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY
- **Steven McGlone**, Class C, Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY
- **Eric McPherson**, CGCS, Class AS, Point Judith Country Club, Narragansett, RI
- **Justin Mills**, Class C, Fairview Country Club, Greenwich, CT
- **Scott Reiske**, Class C, Sedgewood Club, Carmel, NY
- **Doug Snyder**, Class C, Quaker Ridge Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY

In Sympathy

We would like to offer our condolences to **Bert Dickinson**, superintendent of Willow Ridge Country Club, whose mother recently passed away.

Birth Notice Correction!!

Our apologies for congratulating the wrong Lippmans last issue on their new arrival. Please join us, now, in congratulating Westchester Turf Supply's **Dave Lippman** and his wife, Dawn, on the birth of their daughter, Sarah Jeanne, on November 8.

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Past MetGCSA President John O'Keefe Earns Seat on the GCSAA Board

This year's Annual Meeting, held in conjunction with the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando on February 1, culminated with Preakness Hills' John O'Keefe, appointed to the GCSAA Board of Directors.

John is the second Met past president to sit on the GCSAA board, following Country Club of Darien's Tim O'Neill, whose term on the GCSAA board culminated with his presidency in 2005. John will fill the remaining year of James R. Fitzroy's term on the board, created by his election to secretary/treasurer. Congratulations, John!

Here are the full election details:

President

David S. Downing II, CGCS, vice president of operations and construction for Signature Golf Group in Myrtle Beach, SC, will serve as GCSAA's president until the 2009 Annual Meeting on February 6 in New Orleans.

Vice President

Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, director of grounds at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, NJ, was elected vice president.

Secretary/Treasurer

James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, director/superintendent at Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, MA, will serve as secretary/treasurer.

Directors

Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf operations for the city of Overland Park, KS, was reelected to the board.

Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, director of golf course maintenance operations at The Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA, is serving another term on the board.

Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, director of golf course and grounds at Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, FL, enters the second year of his term as director.

Keith A. Ihms, CGCS at Country Club of Little Rock in Little Rock, AK, also enters the second year of his term as director.

John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, NJ, was appointed to the board of directors, filling the remaining year of Fitzroy's term.

Immediate Past President

Ricky D. Heine, CGCS, general manager and director of grounds at The Golf Club Star Ranch in Austin, TX, will serve on the board for one year as immediate past president.

Other Conference Notables

Many honors were awarded at the conference, several going to members and friends of our own association. Here's a quick look:

- World Golf Hall of Fame member Greg Norman was presented with the Old Tom Morris Award at the GCSAA Education Conference Opening Session.

- Christopher S. Gray Sr., GCSAA Class A director of golf course operations at The Marvel Golf Club in Benton, KY, was the overall winner of the GCSAA/Golf Digest Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.

- Winning the Excellence in Government Relations Award were Met member (and yet another past MetGCSA president) Mike Maffei, CGCS, of Back O'Beyond in Brewster, NY; Peter McDonough, GCSAA Class A superintendent at The Keswick (Va.) Club; and Richard Staughton, CGCS, at Towne Lake Hills Golf Club in Woodstock, GA.

- Donald Hearn, CGCS, H. James "Jim" Loke, CGCS, at Bent Creek Country Club in Lancaster, PA, and retired superintendent Oscar Miles, CGCS, won GCSAA Distinguished Service Awards.

- Jeff Carlson, CGCS, at Vineyard Golf Club, located on Martha's Vineyard near Edgartown, MA, won the GCSAA President's Award for Environmental Stewardship.

- Chris Carson, GCSAA Class A golf course superintendent at Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield, NJ, won the GCSAA Leo Feser Award for his article, "10 things I wish they'd taught me in turf school," which appeared in the February 2007 issue of *Golf Course Management* magazine.

Also noteworthy: GCSAA members approved a board recommendation to increase dues using a CPI-based formula. The increase will be \$20 for Classes A and SM members, and \$10 for Class C members. The dues change was supported by nearly 93 percent of those voting. Corresponding with the increases for those classes are those for affiliate (now \$320), associate (now \$160), and international superintendent member (now \$160) classes. The new dues structure takes effect May 1.

The 2009 GCSAA Education Conference will be held Feb. 2-7 in New Orleans.



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GCSAA Selects Woodward as CEO



Mark J. Woodward, golf operations manager for the City of San Diego, has been selected chief executive officer for GCSAA. His selection by the GCSAA Board of Directors comes after conducting a national search to replace Steve Mona, who became the chief executive of the World Golf Foundation March 3.

A familiar face to GCSAA, Woodward has been actively involved as a committee participant, a member of the board of directors, and 68th president of the association in 2004. He is in his 30th year as a GCSAA member and became a certified golf course superintendent in 1986. He is the first golf course superintendent to serve as GCSAA's permanent chief executive.

"We were extremely pleased with the quantity and quality of candidates that were interested in the position. Without a doubt, Mark presented the best fit for the association," said GCSAA's newly elected president, David S. Downing II, CGCS. "He is a talented individual with myriad skills and abilities that will serve him, the membership, the association, the industry, and the game well. He has a strong track record of service to GCSAA and success as a golf course superintendent and an administrator. His efforts have earned him rave reviews in bolstering golf operations for the City of San Diego.

Mark will begin his duties at GCSAA on July 1.

National Scorecard

MetGCSA Makes Itself Known at the 2008 National Golf Tournament

by Blake Halderman

Many MetGCSA members blew the dust off their clubs and joined the more than 500 GCSAA members to participate in the 2008 National Championship and Golf Classic held in Orlando, FL, this year. Looking at the results, they must have found some time to hit the heated ranges, because we had some very respectable finishes in most flights. Here's how MetGCSA members fared on the links.

The National Championship

A full field of 97 competitors played in this year's National Championship, which was a three-day, 54-hole stroke play tournament hotly contested on the Independence Course at Reunion Resort. Though we didn't have anyone place, Tom Ashfield of Quaker Ridge and Mark Chant of Colonial Springs were in the hunt for a while. Mark shot a 40-35 for a 75, and Tom shot 35-37 to start the tournament even par and in the leading foursome the following day.

Unfortunately, there was a lot of tough competition out there, and Seth Strickland, playing out of sunny Miami, FL, where they can practice year-round, shot a 68 the first day. He followed it up with two more 68s to finish 12 under par for the tournament, beating the field by 16 shots. Tom and Mark both had respectable second and third rounds but finished just out of the money.

The Golf Classic

The Golf Classic, which featured two rounds of play using the point quota system, was played this year on Florida's Hawk's Landing Golf Club, Grande Pines Golf Club, and the Crooked Cat and Panther Lake Courses at Orange County National.

In the First Flight . . . James Swiatlowski of Montammy finished 2nd Net to take home some crystal.

In the Second Flight . . . Les Kennedy of Blind Brook placed 3rd in the Gross Division, and Aspectuck Valley's Rick Schock placed 4th in the Net Division.

In the Third Flight . . . We had a great show-

ing with Grover Alexander of Hudson Hills finishing 5th in the Gross Division and The Bridge Club's Gregg Stanley and Wheatley Hills' Steve Rabideau finishing 1st and 2nd respectively in the Net Division; both took home a nice crystal trophy.

In the Fifth Flight . . . Michael Benz of Middle Bay shot well enough to get a plate, placing 8th in the Gross Division

In the Senior II Flight . . . Ed Walsh of Shelter Harbor finished 2nd in the Net Division.

In the Affiliate Flight . . . A member who always dominates the competition did so again this year. Andy Drohen of Agrium Advanced Technologies finished 1st in the Affiliate Flight's Gross Division, shooting a quota 65, which is around even par or better.

The Team Events

Just as notable is the MetGCSA's success in the Four-Ball competition. Held the day before the Golf Classic, this event included in the Net I Division the teams of Manhattan Woods Jason Ziesmer & Hudson National's Chris Smith, Wheatley Hill's Steve Rabideau & Pelham's Jeff Wentworth, and Gregg Stanley & Rick Schock, all with nice finishes placing them at the top of the field.

Also, in the Chapter Team event, we may have had the best finish ever by a MetGCSA team. The team of Tom Ashfield of Quaker Ridge, Blake Halderman of Brae Burn, Sean Cain of Sunningdale, and Mark Chant of Colonial Springs finished 2nd out of 83 teams in the Net Division. This is an event where the team members compete individually at their respective courses, and then their combined scores are computed against all the other teams in the field. Though we're still not sure how we finished so well, it's nice to see Met participants making such a nice showing.

There's Always Next Year

If you missed out on the great competition and camaraderie, you'll have another chance to join the fun: The 2009 National Championship and Golf Classic, scheduled for February 1-3 in Gulf Shores, AL, will be here before you know it! We hope to see everyone there.

Pelham Country Club to Host Superintendent/Manager Meeting

by Kevin Collins

Hosting this year's Superintendent/Manager or Guest Tournament on June 3 is Jeff Wentworth and the Pelham Country Club in Pelham Manor, NY.

Just 15 miles from New York City, Pelham had its origins as a small tennis club and five-hole golf course carved out of a cow pasture in 1908. In the summer of 1921, an influential member, Mont Rogers, reinvented the club. He formed a company to buy the land and hired noted architect Devereux Emmet to create a championship golf course.

Just two years after its rebirth, Pelham made history, hosting in 1923 one of the most memorable PGA Championships on record. Gene Sarazen defeated Walter Hagen in a playoff, notching a birdie to clinch the championship in sudden death on the second hole. This epic, 38-hole match is considered one of the most dramatic match play finals in the annals of the championship.

In the late 1950s, the course underwent yet another transformation: It was redesigned to accommodate construction of the New England Thruway, which was routed directly through the course. Architect Alfred Tuill was hired to build five new holes (Holes 4 through 8) across Mount Tom Road.

Celebrating its 100th anniversary, the Pelham Country Club we know today plays close to 6,400 yards from the back tees and is characterized by tight, tree-lined fairways. "Precise tee shots and accurate approach shots are a must," warns Jeff, "if you hope to shoot a decent score."

Early Jeff

Jeff's path to Pelham began in 1988 at the Myopia Hunt Club, where he worked as a placement student. From there, Jeff moved to Ridgewood in New Jersey (also known as Ed Walsh University) and then took a southerly diversion through Maryland to the Columbia Country Club. During that time, Jeff managed to complete the two-year turf program at Stockbridge in 1989 and a B.S. in Urban Forestry from UMass in 1991.

With his diploma in hand, Jeff began a four-year term at Westchester Country Club where, he is quick to tell you, he gained unmatched experience. Having spent most

of his life in New England, there was a lot, Jeff realized, he had to learn.

Lesson #1: How to "talk the talk" ... New York-speak, that is. Steve Sweet, a fellow Westchester Country Club assistant and good friend, was happy to provide some instruction. Here's how the first lesson went:

Sweet: "Let's go to lunch."

Wentworth: "What should we have?"

Sweet: "How about a wedge?"

Wentworth: "What's a wedge?"

Sweet: "It's a long sandwich; that's what we call them down here."

Wentworth: "Okay, I'll have a meatball wedge."

Sweet: "Never have a meatball wedge unless your mother made the meatballs."

Wentworth: "Okay, maybe I'll just have roast beef."

Sweet: "On a hard roll?"

Wentworth: "I want it on a fresh roll."

Sweet: "Down here we call them hard rolls."

Reflecting further on his Westchester days, Jeff remembers fondly working under then Superintendent Patty Knaggs. "She selected me from about 50 other applicants for the assistant's position. I was pleased she felt I had potential and gave me a chance. She was tough but fair. I learned a lot from her."

Jeff also learned a thing or two from Joe Alonzi, who was next in line as Westchester's golf course super. "Joe taught me, first, that all bets are won or lost on the first tee and, second, never give your wife a specific time that you'll be home.

"Seriously, though, from Joe I learned the art—and importance—of communicating effectively with your membership and of carefully thinking things through before making any judgment calls. Joe is empathetic, a good listener, and a great teacher."

On to Pelham

Westchester was the launching pad for Jeff's first and current superintendent's position at Pelham Country Club. From the moment he started in 1994, he hit the ground running and hasn't stopped. The number of improvements he's made to the course in his 14-year tenure is impressive. Jeff has renovated fairways, bunkers, and the clubhouse grounds. He's reconstructed 14 tees, installed a new,



Jeff Wentworth, CGCS

full-coverage irrigation system, built a new, 11,000-square-foot maintenance facility, and added a USGA-spec chipping green and driving range with target fairway. And then there's the land management program Jeff implemented about four years ago, which has included selective tree removal and substantial drainage work.

So, what's next on Jeff's drawing board? "We're bringing all the greens back to their original dimensions. With the use of triplex greens mowers and years of shade issues, they've lost some of their square footage."

A proponent of giving back to the profession, Jeff is proud of his involvement in the UMass Alumni Turf Group. As a founding member, he was instrumental in bringing together other graduates of the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass, who are committed to raising funds to further research and education, promote UMass alumni in the turf management profession, and instill pride in the turf programs at UMass. "This year's Alumni Turf Group event, the Joe Troll Turf Education Fundraiser," explains Jeff, "will be held at Lyman Orchards in Middlefield, CT, on September 29. ATG will be honoring the achievements of George Thompson, CGCS. I hope to see everyone there."

When the Work Day's Done

When not immersed in work, Jeff loves to spend time with his first love, wife Mimi. They share a passion for travel and getaways to ski the mountains of Vermont. "We bought a house in Peru, VT, about 10 years ago. Peru was made famous as the fictional town in the movie *Baby Boom*, starring Diane Keaton. It's the town's only claim to fame, but to Mimi and me, it's our home away from home."

We'll soon witness Jeff having a go at one of his other favorite pastimes—golf—at the fast-approaching June 3 Superintendent/Manager meeting. See you all there!

Kevin Collins, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is Northeast territory manager for Aquatrols Corp. of America.

Fenway and 'The Legend' Host This Year's Invitational

by Dennis Granahan

COn June 19, MetGCSA members will have the fortunate opportunity to compete for the Invitational trophy at Fenway Golf Club for a second time—that is, if you were there when the club's nearly decade-long superintendent, Bob Alonzi, hosted the Invitational in 2002.

Known by all-who-know-him-at-all as "The Legend," Bob is a past MetGCSA president, winner of the association's prestigious Sherwood A. Moore Award, and a superintendent in the Met area for nearly 45 years.

Bob's climb to legend status started long ago, when he began working weekends for the late Ted Jozwich at Tamarack in Greenwich, CT. From there, Bob spent two years in the army, two years at Rutgers University, three years as superintendent at Rye Golf Club, five years as superintendent and six years as general manager at Burning Tree Country Club, and six years at Fairview Country Club before joining Winged Foot as co-superintendent with Sherwood Moore for the 1984 U.S. Open Championship. Sixteen years and two major tournaments later, Bob decided to take a break from the championship course arena. He arrived at Fenway in the fall of '99 after a brief return trip to Fairview.

The Bob I Know

Those are things anyone can find out about Bob. Here's what I've observed firsthand.

It goes back to my days working at Westchester Country Club for Bob's younger brother, Joe, who as most of us know is a well-respected and successful superintendent in his own right. Well, during those days, every Saturday and Sunday during the season, Joe and his assistants would take turns cooking up a breakfast for each other after the morning work was completed. Once Bob got wind of this ritual, he seemed to make frequent unannounced appearances at Westchester. (Was it the free food or the company?) As I look back on those morning meals, I realize I got one heck of an education listening to the Alonzi brothers tell their stories—some of which I will take to the grave. Working for Joe was one of my best career moves, but those informal interactions with Bob were also invaluable. Why? Because Bob, like Joe, is always

willing to share his wealth of knowledge and experience with anyone who asks for it.

And it's this kind of willingness to help his peers that makes Bob—and the entire Alonzi clan, for that matter—truly admirable representatives of our profession.

Bob's Words of Wisdom

It's been awhile since I've had a formal conversation with Bob, so I took this opportunity to, once again, pick his brain. Being a new superintendent, I wanted to know what advice one of the most respected minds in our business would pass on to a rookie.

Without hesitation, Bob said: "Take pride in your work, and always strive to do the best you possibly can. Anyone can do a second-rate job," he told me, "but if you want to excel, you have to be willing to go that extra mile." With pride, Bob refers to the strong work ethic he acquired from his father, who was a stone mason and a perfectionist.

Next, I asked Bob what advice he would give to an assistant trying to get that first superintendent's job. Bob shared a couple of pointers with me: "When applying for a job, you need to convey a message or vision to the people doing the hiring. Of course, there's a fine line you shouldn't cross," he warned. "You don't want to come on too strong and scare people off by telling them, for instance, that the club needs to rebuild all 18 greens. Speak intelligently about what you can do for the club, while showing your compatibility with the job and the people you'll be working for. Advocate your willingness to become part of the club's 'family.'"

A part of the "Fenway Family" for the past nine years, Bob says he's been impressed with how harmoniously everyone at the club works together. "It's a great place to finish my career," says Bob.

What's New-and-Improved at Fenway

Opened in 1924, Fenway is known as one of architect A.W. Tillinghast's finest efforts. Not a particularly long course, it provides all you can handle with deep bunkers that protect the severely undulated greens.

What's new at Fenway since the last Met



Bob Alonzi, CGCS

Invitational in June 2002? Topping the list is Bob's new maintenance facility. Completed in April 2005, it boasts 18,000 square feet of all the latest and greatest in golf course maintenance systems and technology.

No sooner was that job complete than Fenway decided to enlarge its driving range tee. And like many clubs today, it has also pursued some strategic tree removals and replacements. More significant is the time and effort the club has invested in developing an irrigation reservoir system. "We have a new holding pond and pumping facility," says Bob, "and we've rerouted streams on holes 7, 9, 10, and 18. All this work was done in preparation for a new irrigation system, which we hope to begin installing during the fall of 2009 and have completed by the spring of 2010." No rest for the weary.

Speaking of no rest . . . when I asked Bob how many Met Invitationals he's hosted over the years, he said that he's had at least one, if not more, at every club he's worked for over the years . . . not counting Rye Golf Club.

Life Beyond Work

Despite Bob's clear dedication to the job, he has always had a life away from work. He and his wife, Kim, of 41 years raised four children—Jennifer, Rob, Dana, and Cassie—and have lived in Greenwich for the past 33 years, in the house that he and his father built.

Aside from enjoying their two grandchildren, Bob and Kim are planning to spend a little off-season time in Florida, now that Bob has relinquished his day-to-day responsibilities to his son, Rob. Rob is leaving his job as superintendent of St. Andrew's Golf Club just in time to co-host the Invitational with his dad at Fenway.

June 19 is fast-approaching, and the Invitational beckons. Don't miss it.

Dennis Granahan, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Navesink Country Club in Middletown, NJ.

President's Message continued from page 1

Now for Some Industry Headlines

First, I want to thank the MGA for initiating, a year ago, its Club Environmental Award to recognize golf courses and their superintendents for leading the way with programs and practices that enhance the environment. This year's honor went to Sebonack Golf Club in Southampton, NY, which has demonstrated its environmental stewardship through its maintenance practices and attention to water quality, wildlife, education, and outreach efforts. For more information about the award and Sebonack, check out the MGA website at www.mgagolf.org.

On another note, our booth at the local Lower Hudson Golf Show went well this year. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped staff our booth. Check out Scott Olson's article on page 7 for show details. Speaking of Scott, I would like to officially welcome him and George Corgan to our Board of Directors.

Scott is an assistant at Scarsdale and our new Class C representative. George is from Steven Willand and is our new Class AF representative. I am looking forward to working with both of them.

At the spring Business Meeting, Ms. Susan Darling spoke about streams and her volunteer monitoring program in Westchester County. As Susan pointed out, there is more to a healthy stream than just the water. The macro-invertebrates are the real indicators.

Nothing new to report about the phosphorus issue in Westchester County. It's still pending. Long Island has banned the use of fertilizers at certain times of the year. They're working on trying to get an exemption for golf courses. One issue that came up at Apawamis was that the Town of Rye is trying to ban the use of blowers. Pete Waterous from Westchester Hills reported that blowers were already banned in the City of White Plains. It isn't getting any easier, is it?

In closing, enjoy the springtime and the calm before the storm of a new season. I'm still waiting for the day that I can keep my coat in the closet.

Matt Ceplo, CGCS
President

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✧ Denotes MetGCSA member