

Tee To Green

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President's Message

Time to Talk Shop

Here

we are moving full speed ahead into our "off-season." Aside from giving us a much-needed break from daily turf pressures and woes, this is a great time to step back and reflect on how our past year went: our successes, our trials, and how we might improve on the programs we implemented.

I, for one, take this time to itemize all of my programs, review my notes, and try to put a plan in place for the coming season. Setting out a course of action well before I have to put anything into practice makes for a smoother, less stressful transition from winter to spring, and it allows me to more quickly produce the kind of conditions our membership will be pleased with.

This opportunity to catch our breath and reevaluate our practices is, to me, one of the unique benefits of our profession. It's our chance to improve our skill set and grow professionally without the day-to-day pressures of the job. The other major plus of being a golf course superintendent, of course, is having counterparts just a short ride or phone call away to compare notes with and hash out agronomic—and management—practices and issues.

Membership Survey is Ready and Waiting

Talking shop, sharing trade secrets . . . whatever you want to call it . . . this is a practice fundamental to our profession. It's what we're about. With this in mind, we're asking for you to "talk shop," in a more formal way with the entire membership, by participating in our Membership Survey.

Paul Gonzalez has put countless hours into constructing the survey, which asks that our membership share information on a broad range of job-related topics, including operating and capital budgets, staffing for our department, compensation packages, and the size of our operation.

Designed to help each and every one of us better manage our operation, the data we collect will be useful only if everyone participates. So we, as a board, are asking all of you to take the 30 minutes or so required to complete the survey. Only those who partic-



*Tony Girardi, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

ipate will receive a copy of the results.

We're hoping to collect everyone's responses by January 31, so don't delay! The survey is ready and waiting for you on our website. Please don't hesitate to contact any one of us on the board with any questions.

Don't Miss Our Educational Event of the Year

Come one, come all to our annual Winter Seminar on January 20. As always, we have a tremendous slate of speakers covering a wide range of relevant topics (see page 11 for details). Aside from being one of our marquee events of the year, it's a great opportunity to mix and mingle with your peers while furthering your education.

On behalf of the entire MetGCSA board, I'd like to wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year! See you in 2010.

Tony Girardi, CGCS
President

Feature

USGA's David Oatis Selected for Met's 2010 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award



by Jim Snow, National Director, USGA Green Section



The MetGCSA is looking forward to awarding David Oatis, Director of the USGA Green Section's Northeast Region, its coveted 2010 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award at the Winter Seminar on January 20.

Presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated a "knowledge of and commitment to the game of golf and the science of golf course management," Dave was a shoe-in for this year's award, according to the Awards Committee Chairman Matt Ceplo. "To me," says Matt, "David Oatis is to golf courses what Jack Nicklaus is to golf.

He's that well known and respected among superintendents in the Met area—and throughout the country, for that matter.

"Like E.F. Hutton," continues Matt, "when Dave Oatis speaks, people listen. I've seen it . . . at area meetings, seminars, and during his USGA visits at golf courses where I've worked. It is his unending love for the game, commitment to our industry, hard work, and dedication that have made him more than deserving of this award."

Though Dave has, no doubt, received his share of accolades for the many contributions he's made in his counsel

with golf courses, he was taken by surprise when Matt called to tell him the good news. "At first I thought he was joking," says Dave. "Then I was just plain shocked . . . really shocked. I thought, 'I'm not old enough to get an award like this.' Then I looked in the rearview mirror of the car—I was driving at the time—and saw the lines on my face and thought, 'Well, maybe I am old enough!' I am very humbled and flattered because so many great people have won the award. I'm not at all sure I'm deserving, but I most certainly *am* grateful."

“In terms of legacies, my only hope is that I leave the game of golf better than I found it.”

From Golfer to Agronomist

When people think Dave Oatis, they think USGA. After all, Dave has spent the past 22 years with the organization, visiting golf courses and providing agronomic advice and recommendations to courses throughout the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions.

What some may not know is that Dave has been in and around golf a large part of his life. Growing up in Indianapolis, IN—the youngest of five children—Dave was a sports enthusiast. “Swimming, football, basketball, baseball, and wrestling . . . I loved sports and played them all,” says Dave, “until I was about 12 and I picked up golf. My dad, a 10-12 handicap golfer, and I played a lot of golf together.”

So enamored with the game, Dave dropped his other sports involvements and focused every spare moment on golf. At 17, he won the Woodland Jr. Invitational at his home course, making it soon after to the final four of the Indianapolis City Jr. and the City Amateur. Encouraged by his early success, Dave enrolled in Clemson University in South Carolina as an English major hoping to play golf. “Two things happened pretty quickly,” says Dave. “I did not make the golf team, and I found out that I didn’t much care for English as a major.”

Dave worked that summer, first, in a Pro Shop and then on a golf course maintenance crew. “I worked for a Purdue grad named Dwight Ladd, who was a brilliant superintendent and wonderful guy. After a month he looked at me and said, ‘You know, it won’t be long and we’ll have you studying turf up at Purdue.’ I looked at him and said, ‘You gotta be crazy!’ but a few months later, I headed off to Purdue.”

Still not quite ready to trade in his pro golf dream for a career in turf, Dave moved to California to try to play golf one more time. As fate would have it, the first course he walked onto in Southern California was Mesa Verde Country Club, where the assistant superintendent had given notice just an hour or so before. “The superintendent, Reed Yenny, hired me a couple of days later as his assistant, and I ended up staying there for five years.”

Dave returned to school again, earning a two-year degree at Orange Coast College and then completed his formal education with a B.S. at California State Polytechnic University in Ornamental Horticulture, with a turf emphasis.

What happened next would be unprecedented today: Just two weeks out of school, Dave was hired as a golf course superintendent at Rio Hondo Golf Club in Downey, CA. When I took over, I was handed a map of the course and the keys,” remembers Dave. “No pesticide records, no knowledge of the irrigation system, nothing. Not even an experienced staff to fall back on.

“I was there every day at 4 a.m. until 7 p.m., changing cups, mowing greens and roughs, spraying, and hand-watering in the afternoon.” Despite the long hours and intense pressure, Dave managed the course at Rio Hondo for three years before beginning to wonder what other opportunities might come along.

Then, opportunity did knock again: Dave got a call from Larry Gilhuly, Western Director of the Green Section, who he knew from his Turf Advisory Service visits to Rio Hondo. “He called on Wednesday, out of the blue, and asked if I’d be interested in joining the Green Section,” says Dave. “That Saturday, I was on a plane, flying to the Golf House for an interview, and a week after that, I was embarking on a career with the USGA as an agronomist.”

Agronomic Advice on the Road: Miles of Experience

Dave officially signed on with the USGA May of 1988 as an agronomist in the Mid-Atlantic Region and, just two years later, was elevated to his current position as Northeast Region Director.

Reflecting on his start with the USGA, Dave remembers, fondly, his “apprenticeship” with Mid-Atlantic Green Section Director Stanley Zontek: “When I trained with Stan, for the first month, I remember keeping my mouth shut except to ask questions, because I was so overwhelmed with

what I was seeing there in the transition zone. There were just so many grasses, pest problems, and pest control products I wasn’t acquainted with.

“Stanley was an incredible help to me, both as a professional resource and as a friend. He and his wife, Marti, virtually adopted my wife, Cindy, and me. They and a group of their friends even helped paint the inside of our house when Cindy and I finally moved to Pennsylvania. Stan and Marti were the best!”

Apparently, the feeling is mutual. “David always has had one of the friendliest and most outgoing personalities of anyone I’ve ever met,” says the USGA’s Stanley Zontek. “When you couple these traits with being an outstanding agronomist, you have the ingredients for a very successful career. It is with pride that I see David is receiving your prestigious award. It is very deserving.”

In Dave’s tenure with the USGA, he’s racked up some impressive statistics. He has . . .

- authored numerous articles on golf course and turfgrass management issues, currently sitting on the editorial review committee for Dr. James Beard’s book, *Golf Course Management*
- spoken hundreds of times at golf courses, golf course superintendent association meetings, turf conferences, and universities
- made as many as 3,500 Turf Advisory and Championship visits in more than 20 different states and Canada
- been a USGA agronomist for 10 different USGA National Championships and counting
- traveled nearly a million miles and spent 1,500 nights—or four years—away from home in his 22-year tenure

Whew! All this in the name of providing help and counsel to the golf course superintendent, which Dave will tell you has been nothing short of a labor of love. “I’ve had the privilege and the pleasure of consulting with some of the finest superintendents and the finest golf courses in the world,” says Dave, noting his favorite visits are those where he’s been able to help courses facing significant issues develop a realistic plan for resolving the

Dave's staff in the Easton, PA office (left to right): Adam Moeller, Diane O'Rorke, Dave Oatis, Mary Beth Laidlaw.

problems. "Helping to turn courses around gives me tremendous satisfaction," says Dave. "It's what I live for."

Not all visits, however, are smooth sailing. "No one ever wants to see a disaster, but I've seen plenty over the years," says Dave. "The pressure can be intense when I walk into a tough situation, and I definitely feel it. You can tell by the body language and expressions on peoples' faces. Arms will be folded across chests. There will be some nervous tapping. . . . Sometimes you can cut the tension with a knife. I certainly don't hope for courses to have problems, but when I encounter them, I walk in knowing that if I do my job correctly, I may be able to help them. I also know that if I don't handle the situation well, I can pour gas on the fire. Helping a course navigate through the turf or management problems, eventually helping them to make significant improvements in the golf course is really rewarding."

Sometimes, however, even the best advice falls on deaf ears. That was the case at one course Dave visited in Ohio where he recommended that they remove a tree on the edge of a green. "It was just killing the green," says Dave, "and it wasn't a very good tree anyway." Still, the Green Committee reviewed Dave's report and decided they couldn't part with the tree. A month or two later, Dave got a letter from the green chairman along with a Polaroid picture showing that the tree had been hit by lightning and, in Dave's words, "blown to smithereens." Obviously not lacking a sense of humor, the chairman wrote: "Thank you for your visit and report . . . but we had no idea of the USGA's influence with the Lord's Electrical Emissaries, and we bow our heads to your obvious influence." It went on to say, ". . . we are anxiously reconsidering all of your other suggestions." Justice was done.

Mother Nature, however, doesn't always work in the superintendent's favor. "Crazy things happen on golf courses," says Dave. "And it isn't always easy to figure out exactly why certain things happen. I've been baffled more than a few times, and analyzing situations really tests your ability as an agronomist. Sometimes there just isn't a good



explanation. Other times it's a series of events, combined with bad luck, that cause a problem."

In good situations and bad, one thing's become clear to Dave: "Few golfers really appreciate how much blood, sweat, and tears superintendents invest in their golf courses and how many sacrifices they make. Being out there in the trenches with them, I can't help but recognize their efforts," says Dave, noting the remarkable depth and breadth of the superintendent's knowledge and expertise.

"A successful superintendent must be a jack-of-all-trades and a master of as many as possible," he says. "They must have a working knowledge of agronomy, plant pathology, horticulture, plumbing, irrigation, electricity, hydraulics, mechanics, construction techniques for golf courses and buildings, finances, budgeting . . . the list goes on. They have to be salespeople and politicians too! It's a tall order.

"I, personally, owe a huge debt of gratitude to the superintendents I've worked with over the years," continues Dave. "Superintendents too numerous to mention have been incredibly generous in sharing their knowledge and experiences with me, and they have taught me many invaluable lessons over the course of my career. In turn, I've worked hard to pass on to them the knowledge and information I've accumulated.

"I must also mention," continues Dave, "the many wonderful course officials I've worked with over the years. They have the unenviable task of convincing their fellow golfers about the merits of programs that cause short-term disruption but hold the promise of long-term benefit, and that takes a real leap of faith."

One of the beneficiaries of Dave's sage advice has been Craig Carrier, particularly in the years leading up to the U.S. Open at Bethpage Black. "I was cleaning out my desk recently and found 50 USGA reports Dave had written detailing, every step of the way, what we had to do to get the course in U.S. Open form," says Craig. "Dave's one of the most professional, organized, and meticulous people I've ever worked with—and he couldn't be a nicer guy."

Just as pleased with Dave's counsel over the years is former Apawamis Green Chair (now Club President) Sam Carroll. "Dave has been visiting Apawamis as a USGA Green Section agronomist for the past 18 years," says Carroll, adding, "During this period, he has been a precious resource to the club, our golf course superintendents, and the chairs of our Green Committee. The qualities that make Dave so effective are, in my opinion, his invaluable knowledge, extensive experience, and expert advice. Whenever I had a question—and there were many in my two years as Green Chair—he was just a phone call or email away. On top of all that, he is a great person, one whom I truly enjoyed working with.

"On behalf of Apawamis Club management, our golf course superintendent, head golf professional, the Board of Governors, and the club's membership, I would like to congratulate Dave as the recipient of the 2010 John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award."

A Full Life

Dave approaches his job as a USGA Green Section agronomist with such dedication that it's hard to imagine him having a life beyond

Dave and his daughter, Rachael.



work. But he does. And his personal life, like his professional one, is chockfull.

Some of his time off has been occupied with his lifelong passion for reading and pastimes like shooting sporting clays, camping, fishing, and the outdoors. He's also devoted time to coaching softball, baseball, and lacrosse, activities his children participated in. "Rachael and Zach have played sports for years, and I've watched every game/meet/match I could possibly get to," says Dave. Which brings us to one of his greatest pleasures in life: his family.

"I'm blessed," says Dave, "to have a wonderful wife and two incredible kids. My wife, Cindy, is a terrific mother to our kids, and she is a community volunteer-aholic. Cindy was recently given a civic recognition award for her many contributions to our community. My daughter, Rachael, is a sophomore at Quinnipiac University, thor-

oughly enjoying her nursing major, and my son, Zach, is a high school junior who's extremely committed to swimming and hopes to continue the sport in college. I'm so proud of all of them—each one uniquely successful in their own right.

Given the chance, would Dave do anything differently? "Oh, I wouldn't mind writing fewer reports or spending more time

at home with my family," says Dave, "but my time with the USGA has been unbelievably rewarding. I remain very proud to work for and represent the United States Golf Association. Combine working for the USGA with being able to work with some of the best golf course superintendents at some of the best courses in the world? It's really been a magical journey. I've been incredibly fortunate."

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GCSAA 2010 Education Conference and Golf Industry Show to Feature New Format

The 2010 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show will run February 8 to 12 with an enhanced format and modified schedule. For the first time, almost all events—education conferences and trade show—are scheduled to run on weekdays with virtually no events competing with the trade show, which is set for Wednesday and Thursday, February 10 and 11.

But this is only part of what will make the 2010 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show a must-attend event. In addition to the many essential career-building traditional offerings, GCSAA's put together all-new special events and offerings that will set this year's conference in sunny San Diego, CA, apart from any other. Here's the rundown.

The GIS Main Events

Designed to benefit every member of the golf course, club, and facility management team, this year's Golf Industry Show will feature approximately 550 exhibitors sprawled over more than 200,000 square feet of exhibit space.

The highlights:

- **Kicking off the trade show each day** will be a General Session, featuring keynote addresses that will inspire, entertain, and help you grow both professionally and personally.

From 8 to 9 a.m. on February 10, Dr. Brian Little, described as a cross between Robin Williams and Einstein, will present "Multiple Personalities in the World of Golf: Strange Creatures and True Characters." Distinguished research professor emeritus at Carleton College, Dr. Little will offer new psychological insights merged with practical examples of what it takes—personally and professionally—to succeed in the current business environment.

At the February 11 General Session, keynote speaker Chris Gardner will take the floor. Probably best known as the author of *The Pursuit of Happyness*, which inspired the acclaimed movie by the same name, Gardner

shares his "rags to riches" story which began in the 1980s when he found himself homeless and the sole guardian of his toddler son, Chris Jr. Unwilling to give up his son or his dreams, Gardner climbed the financial industry ladder from the very bottom, finally becoming owner and CEO of the brokerage firm Gardner Rich LLC. Gardner's aim, through his speaking engagements and media projects, is to help others achieve their full potential. Be there at 8 a.m. to hear this truly motivating talk.

- **One very special—and unique—aspect of this year's show** is its all-new volunteer project, "No One Should Go Hungry." Beginning on February 8, the partnering associations of the Golf Industry Show are teaming up with the San Diego Food Bank to help feed the more than 480,000 people in San Diego County, alone, who are fighting hunger. If you're not able to volunteer your time at the food bank (participation involves a \$25 registration fee), there are other ways you can help: From February 8 to 13, you are able to drop off food or monetary donations at various sites in the convention center. Don't miss this great opportunity to make a difference.

- **Several exciting giveaways will be announced** during the show. Be sure to stop by the Test Drive Technology Lab in Booth 3148 to register for these great prizes:

- Two HP Netbook computers
- One Lenovo laptop computer
- Four iPod Nanos

- **This year's Golf Industry Show will close in style with a Show Floor Happy Hour**, providing a relaxed atmosphere to conduct business and enjoy entertainment and networking opportunities with colleagues and industry experts.

On the Education Front

Along with the Golf Industry Show, GCSAA will join forces with the NGCOA and CMAA to present our annual education conferences from February 8 to 12 in San Diego. Still the largest show in the turfgrass

management industry, this year's conference will feature more than 95 seminars and 40 additional hours of education sessions, covering all aspects of golf course management, including agronomics, communication, and business management.

One of the highlights of the Education Conference will be an all-new *Celebrate GCSAA!* program on the evening of February 9. Formerly the Opening Session and Welcoming Reception, the event will be hosted by GCSAA President Mark Kuhns, as conference goers celebrate his term as president and the winning accomplishments of numerous well-deserving GCSAA members and industry friends.

- GCSAA's highest honor, the Old Tom Morris Award, will be presented to World Golf Hall of Fame member and golf commentator Judy Rankin, who will also headline the event as the featured speaker.

- Other GCSAA top awards that will be presented are the National Championship Award, the Leo Feser Award, the Excellence in Government Relations Award, GCSAA/*Golf Digest* Environmental Leaders in Golf Awards, the President's Award for Environmental Stewardship, and the Col. John Morley Distinguished Service Award.

The celebration will continue with food and beverages, entertainment, and the company of fellow members.

Annual Meeting Goers Elect New Board

The Annual Meeting, to be held February 12, ushers in the close of the Education Conference and the "changing of the guard" at GCSAA. During the meeting, voting members will elect three officers and two directors. Here's who will appear on the ballot:

For President

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

Continued on page 12

Member News

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- **Shaun Bradford**, Class C, The St. Andrew's Golf Club, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY
- **Zach Brooks**, Class C, Round Hill Club, Greenwich, CT
- **Gregory J. Deckerd**, Class C, Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, NY
- **Jonathan Hill**, Class C, Dellwood Country Club, New City, NY
- **Daniel Manning**, Class C, Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, CT
- **Danny J. Sattler Jr.**, Class C, Dellwood Country Club, New City, NY
- **Robert W. White III**, Class C, Greenwich Country Club, Greenwich, CT

Members on the Move

Jesse Shannon is the new superintendent at Manhattan Woods Golf Club in West Nyack, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Manhattan Woods Golf Club.

Certification

Congratulations to Woodmere Club Superintendent **Tim Benedict** for completing the coursework required in becoming a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with GCSAA.

Recertified

Congratulations to the following MetGCSA members for completing the renewal process for maintaining their CGCS status with GCSAA:

- **Jim Calladio** of LaCorte Equipment Co. in Calverton, NY
- **Scott Niven** of The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT

Birth

Congratulations to Greenwich Country Club Superintendent **Paul Boyd** and his wife, Mariella, on the birth of their daughter, Layla Marie, born on October 2.

In Sympathy

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to Sterling Farms Superintendent **Tracey Holliday** whose father, Ronald Holliday, passed away on November 1.



A Special Thank You to Our Social Event Sponsors

We'd like to thank the vendors whose generous contributions made our social events throughout the year all the more memorable.
A very special thank you to:

- Frank Amodio** of Valley View Greenhouses
- Scott Apgar** of Metro Turf Specialists
- John Callahan** of The Cardinals, Inc.
- Kevin Collins** of Aquatrols, Inc.
- Mike Donahue** of Phoenix Environmental Care
- Dennis Flynn** of D & D Turfworks, Inc.
- Robert Lippman** of Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.
- Joe Stahl** of Harrell's Turf Specialty

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Charles

Scott and Dana Niven



Jasmine and Matt Ceplo

Christmas Party Hosts Donna and Earl Millett



Tom and Paula Weinert



Ernie Steinhofer and Carol Ray



Mark and Mary Pat Millett and friends

MetGCSA Christmas Party 2009

at Ridgeway Country Club



Ineke and George Pierpoint



Yve and Ken Gentile



Christine and Tony Girardi



Mara and Nick Lerner



Tom and Karla Ashfield



Rob and Ann Marie Alonzi



Cindy

Scholarship Raffle's Winning Tickets



Erica Dube, Melodee and Ken Benoit, and Brook Hanna Olson



Doug and Elizabeth George



Neil and Gina Laufenberg



Birdie and Peter Rappoccio



Anne and Mike Maffei



Kerry and George Corgan



Bob Wolverton and Megan

and Dennis Lynn



The Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 12 Met Christmas Party at Ridgeway Country Club, raised an admirable sum for the Met's Scholarship Fund and awarded \$4,400 in cash prizes to 17 lucky ticket holders.

The raffle is the prime source of the scholarship awards we distribute to deserving Met member dependents each year.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this worthwhile fundraiser, and congratulations to our \$1,000-grand-prize winner, Dennis DeSanctis, of Syngenta Professional Products. Obviously on a winning streak, Dennis was also the lucky winner of one of the raffle's \$500 prizes!

The other prize winners were:

\$500 Winners

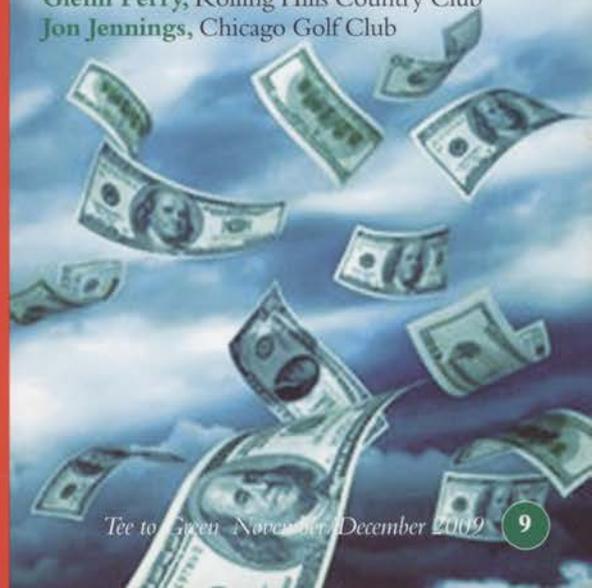
Lucille Grasso, wife of Metropolis Country Club's Tony Grasso
Jeff Houde, Tom Irwin Inc.

\$250 Winners

Dave Sylvester, Bayer Environmental Science
Tony Decicco, Soil Solutions, LLC
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Mike Roe, Winged Foot Golf Club

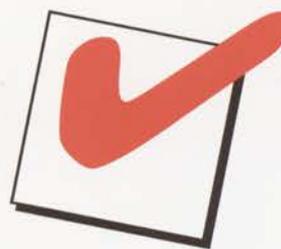
\$100 Winners

Ken Benoit, GlenArbor Golf Club
David Dudones, North Jersey Country Club
John O'Keefe, Preakness Hills Country Club
Rob Milar, St. Andrew's Golf Club
Jim Calladio, LaCorte Equipment Co.
Patrick Lucas, Woodcrest Country Club
Greg Moran, Matrix Turf Solutions, LLC
Glenn Perry, Rolling Hills Country Club
Jon Jennings, Chicago Golf Club



Upcoming Events

Time to Fill in the Blanks!



Here's a look at our very preliminary 2010 Meeting/Social Calendar. Many events are still seeking sites. If anyone is able to host one of the open meeting events, please contact either of our Tournament Committee co-chairs: Ken Benoit at 914-241-0700 or Mark Chant at 631-643-0047.

To discuss any upcoming social events, please contact either of our Social & Welfare Committee co-chairs: Mark Millett at 914-949-4203 or Paul Gonzalez at 914-273-3755.

Business Meeting

Date & Site OPEN

Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier

April date TBA

North Jersey Country Club
Wayne, NJ

Host: David Dudones

Superintendent/Manager or Guest Tournament

Date & Site OPEN

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

July date TBA

Wykagyl Country Club
New Rochelle, NY

Host: Mike Scott

Family Picnic

Date & Site OPEN

Education Meeting

Date & Site OPEN

Summer Social

Date & Site OPEN

Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier AND Poa Annual Tournament

September date TBA

Wheatley Hills Golf Club, East Williston, NY
Host: Stephen Rabideau, CGCS

Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament

Date & Site OPEN

Annual Assistants Championship

Date & Site OPEN

Met Area Team Championship

Date & Site OPEN

Annual Meeting

November date TBA

Date & Site OPEN

MetGCSA Christmas Party

December date TBA

Date & Site OPEN

Educational Events

Empire State Green Industry Show

(Formerly the NYSTA Turf and Grounds Exposition)

Tuesday–Thursday, January 12–14, 2010

Rochester Riverside Convention Center
Rochester, NY

The Empire State Green Industry Show offers an excellent opportunity to network, obtain research updates, and visit the trade show, featuring hundreds of exhibitors. As always, key speakers representing all segments of the green industry will be featured.

For further information, call the show office at 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229, or visit the website at www.nysta.org.

CAGCS Winter Seminar

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

Hawthorne Inn, Berlin, CT

Join the Connecticut Association of Golf Course Superintendents for their 2010 Winter Seminar. For further information, call the CAGCS office at 203-387-0810, or watch the website at www.cagcs.com.

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 20, 2010

Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

See details on page 11.

NYSTA Southeast Regional Conference

NYSTA Southeast Regional Conference

Tuesday–Wednesday, February 23–24, 2010

Holiday Inn, Suffern, NY

Geared toward landscape and turfgrass professionals, this conference will include a trade show and a variety of sessions on topics related to golf turf, lawn and landscape and sports turf.

For further information, contact NYSTA at 800-873-8873 or 518-783-1229, or visit their website at www.nysta.org.

13th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

Monday–Wednesday, March 1–4, 2010

Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, RI

As always, the 2010 annual conference and show's educational sessions will bring you cutting-edge turfgrass management tactics and techniques as well as a host of practical management tools.

MGA/USGA Green Chairman Education Series

Wednesday, March 24

Willow Ridge Country Club
Harrison, NY

This education series is designed to help green chairmen, course officials, and superintendents make informed decisions on issues common to many area golf courses. Following the educational session is a luncheon where the MGA Club Environmental Leadership Award will be presented.

For more information on the series or to register, contact the MGA at 914-347-4653.

What's in Store at the Winter Seminar

Plan now for our January 20 Winter Seminar at the Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY. In addition to a strong educational program, our annual Winter Seminar will feature a range of exhibitor booths and an awards luncheon. This year, the MetGCSA will honor 2010 Sherwood A. Moore Award winner Scott Niven of The Stanwich Club and John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award recipient David Oatis of the USGA.

Among the Winter Seminar's not-to-be-missed educational offerings:

- University of Rhode Island's Dr. Steven Alm will discuss current management options for the annual bluegrass weevil.
- Michigan State University's Ron Calhoun will shed light on how and when to evaluate the effectiveness of plant growth regulators on your course.
- University of Georgia's Dr. Keith Karnok will discuss how to use wetting agents most effectively on your course.
- Rutgers Dr. Bruce Clarke will share best management practices—culled from eight years of research—for the control of *Anthraxnose* on putting green turf.
- University of Connecticut's Dr. John Inguagiato will discuss application strategies for improving fungicide efficacy on Take-all Patch.

Don't delay in registering. The deadline is January 15. For further information, please feel free to contact our Education Chairman, Rob Alonzi, at 914-472-1467.

Scorecard

Assistants Have Winning Day at Wykagyl

The Annual Assistants Championship was held on October 20 at Wykagyl Country Club in New Rochelle, NY. Superintendent Mike Scott and Assistant Superintendent Alan Bean had the golf course in excellent condition. Fifty-one assistants tried their luck at the beautiful Coore & Crenshaw redesign, with some luckier than others.

Congratulations to Scott Curry, who walked away with the individual title for the second consecutive year and to Andrew Agnew and Doug Vanderlee, who joined forces to take the team championship.

Many thanks to the entire Wykagyl staff for their contributions in making this an event to remember.

We'd also like to recognize the AF members who donated their time, resources, and money to make the event happen. Special thanks to A.G. Enterprises, Aquatrols, Metro Turf Specialists, The Care of Trees, Pinnacle Turf, Plant Food Company, Playbooks for Golf, and Westchester Turf Supply.

If there are any assistants out there who would like to host the outing in 2010, please be sure to contact a Met board member.

Here are the day's results:

Gross Team Winners

- 1st Andrew Agnew, *Sleepy Hollow CC*
Doug Vanderlee, *Old Oaks CC*
- 2nd Chris Harring/Kyle Stevens,
Knollwood CC

Net Team Winners

- 1st Dave Moffett, *Ardley CC*
Paul Grabbe, *North Jersey CC*
- 2nd Mike Baptiste/Matt Neus, *Siwanoy CC*

Individual Team Winners

- 1st Scott Curry, *Lake Success GC*
- 2nd Michael Guinan, *Blind Brook Club*

Individual Net Winners

- 1st Jonathan Hill, *Dellwood CC*
- 2nd Doug Vanderlee, *Old Oaks CC*

Closest to Pin

- #4 Stephen Wickstrom, *Quaker Ridge GC*
- #11 Greg Deckard, *Wykagyl CC*

Longest Drive

- #6 Keith Carper, *Sterling Farms GC*



*Wishing you &
yours happiness,
health, and
prosperity in
2010!*



National News continued from page 6

For Vice President

Robert M. Randquist, CGCS, Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, FL

For Secretary/Treasurer

- Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, The Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA
- Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, City of Overland Park, KS

For Director (electing two)

- Robert O. Farren Jr., CGCS, Pinehurst (NC) Resort and Country Club
- Todd A. Lupkes, CGCS, Palouse Ridge Golf Course in Pullman, WA
- Bill H. Maynard, CGCS, Milburn Golf and Country Club in Shawnee Mission, KS
- Mike B. Wooten, CGCS, Cedar Ridge Country Club in Broken Arrow, OK

There are two positions open for director this year, as Finlen and Queen are both at the end of their two-year terms. Peter J. Grass, CGCS; Keith A. Ihms, CGCS; and our own John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, will remain on the board with one year remaining in their two-year director terms. Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, will serve on the board as immediate past president during 2010, and David S. Downing II, CGCS, will be retiring from the GCSAA Board of Directors.

Haven't Registered Yet?

If you haven't registered for the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show, you can still catch the advance registration rate if you complete your registration form by January 21. It's available online at www.golfindustryshow.com.

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