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In this Issue

Feature

A Met First: The John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award Goes to an Organization—The New York State Turfgrass Association2

Departments

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| National News | 6 |
| Upcoming Events | 9 |
| Scorecard | 10 |
| Member News | 11 |

President's Message

Giving Thanks



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his Thanksgiving, I had a lot to be thankful for: the end of a tough season—the toughest I can recall—and the beginning of that time of year when I can spend entire weekends with my family, not to mention uninterrupted time throughout the holidays. No need to race between home and the course to check for wilt or monitor the effects of relentless humidity on the turf. The irrigation system, the mowers, and the sprayer are finally . . . thankfully . . . at rest.

Recognizing Board Members: Old and New

In the spirit of giving thanks, I would also like to thank the membership for electing me as president of the MetGCSA. Having served on the board under Tim Moore, Dave Mahoney, Will Heintz, Matt Ceplo, and Tony Girardi, I am both humbled and honored to serve as president.

I apologize that I was unable to thank everyone at the Annual Meeting; however, I was scheduled that day to meet with the GCSAA and EPA regarding the Stop Sale Order of PCNB. I feel participating in this meeting was important to ensuring a positive outcome—for MetGCSA members and the industry as a whole.

So let me take this opportunity, now, to recognize the individuals who have served on the board for the past two years, as well as those new to the board.

Mark Chant has served as Tournament Committee co-chairman and will be sorely missed. Mark Millett was charged with both the Social Committee and Advertising. What advertiser could ever say no to Mark, and who could deny that Mark hosts one heck of a party? Steve Renzetti brought his expertise both as a superintendent and affiliate representative to the board. Matt Ceplo has finished his term as past president, marking 18 years of service to the board; we'll, no doubt, be seeking his guidance and direction for a long time to come.



Bob Nielsen, CGCS
MetGCSA President

Thanks goes to one and all for your contributions.

Our newest board members bring both enthusiasm and new ideas to the board. We welcome Brett Chapin and Jim Pavonetti, both of whom have been active members of the association for a number of years. Mike Cook, our new Class AF rep, and Sean Cain have returned to the board. We look forward to their valued input once again.

A New Era

These are very exciting times for our association. We are in the final stages of hiring an executive director for our association for the first time in more than 20 years. The benefits of this hire will be reflected in the quality of our educational, social, and golf events in the future. Our government relations efforts and industry relationships will also be enhanced as a result of reinstating this position.

The coming year will be one of education, social enjoyment, and professional growth for all of us. We benefited from many insightful
continued on page 12

A Met First: The John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award Goes to an Organization— The New York State Turfgrass Association



New York State Turfgrass Association past presidents gather for their annual luncheon at the 1992 Turf & Grounds Exposition.
From left to right: Richard Sebian (1972-1973), Leo Stellrecht (1964-1965), Janet Dudones (1984-1985), Michael Maffei, CGCS (1992-1993, 2006-2007), William Stark III (1988-1989), Melvin Lucas Jr., CGCS (1978-1979), John Sundholm (1976-1977), Stephen Smith (1990-1991, 1996-1997).



ince its inception in 1986, the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award has been bestowed on the individual who demonstrates a lifetime's knowledge of, and commitment to, golf and golf course management. Worthy designees in the past have included Sports Writer and industry friend Guido Cribari to last year's recipient, the USGA's David Oatis.

This year's recipient signifies both a break in tradition and a reinforcement of it. For the first time ever, the award will go not to an individual, but to an organization—an organization that upholds and enhances the award's criteria and high standards of excellence: The New York State Turfgrass Association.

"With the hard work and devotion of so many individuals over the past 60 years," says Awards Committee Chairman Matt Ceplo, "NYSTA has done more to demonstrate a 'knowledge of and commitment to the game of golf and the science of golf course management' than any one individual could accomplish in a lifetime."

Foundations: A Commitment to Sharing Knowledge

The New York State Turfgrass Association (originally, The New York State Turf Association) was formed at the Second Annual Cornell Turf Conference in Ithaca on March 4, 1949, following nearly a decade of teaching, research, and extension activities in turfgrass management under the direction of John Farnsworth Cornman, professor of ornamental horticulture.

The important role that golf course superintendents played in the inception and growth of the association is reflected in the fact that its first president was John Gormley of Wolferts Roost Country Club. He also served as president in 1956, the year the first statewide educational committee was formed.

Under his stewardship, the first publication of a periodical dealing with matters of interest in the field of turf culture, *The New York State Turfgrass Bulletin*, was developed and authored by Dr. Cornman—who remained its author for the next 22 years. In 1979, Dr. Cornman was the second person ever to receive the New York State Turfgrass As-



NYSTA's current board. Pictured from left to right, back row: Michael Maffei, CGCS, Metropolitan representative; Owen Regan, past president; Greg Chorvas, president; Rick Holfoth, CGCS, secretary/treasurer. Left to right, middle row: Roger Lind, at large; Michael McNamara, Northeast representative. Left to right, front row: Timothy Hahn, Finger Lakes representative; Tom Wright, at large; Robert Sanderson, vice president. Board members not pictured: Joseph Potrikus, CSFM, Central representative; Craig Yunker, Western representative; Jim Hornung Jr., CSP, at large; Craig Currier, Long Island representative.

sociation's Citation of Merit award for his 33 years of service to Cornell University and the turf industry.

Growth, Activism, and Accomplishment

In May of 1949, NYSTA had just over 100 members. In 1950, the association's second president, Al Schardt of Wanaka Golf Course, outlined a plan of action for the future. He wanted to increase membership to 500 while expanding research and education at Cornell. These two goals were met fairly quickly: Grant endowments to Cornell University began in 1950 for turf research and education, and the grants program has expanded to include SUNY Cobleskill, SUNY Delhi, and the University of Massachusetts. Turf research plots were established at Cornell to enhance data collection and provide more accurate information to members.

At the 1958 annual meeting, the first undergraduate scholarship was established and would thereafter be made to a "promising and capable student in the College of Agriculture whose interest is to make some phase of turfgrass management his profession."

This commitment to growth and education continued under the direction of Lynn Kellogg of Oak Hill Country Club, elected president in 1960. The New York State Legislature and Governor Rockefeller appropriated funds for turfgrass research at the

New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. According to an article in NYSTA's *Bulletin*, the event "marked the successful culmination of more than a dozen years of effort by the New York State Turfgrass Association to provide better facilities for studies in turfgrass problems in New York State."

Edwin S. Brown of Lewiston continued this approach of growth and education in the '70s. The annual conferences, for example, moved for the first time off the Cornell Campus to locations in cities throughout the state, including Port Chester, Rochester, and Syracuse. In the years that followed, the attendance grew exponentially. In fact, Melvin B. Lucas Jr., president in 1978 and 1979, was honored in 1987 with the Citation of Merit award for being the "spark that was ignited which led that group from a small nucleus of interested turf professionals to its current membership of 850. The first trade show with equipment held during Mel's presidency in 1979 had grown to 185 booths and 1,300 attending in a short six years."

Going Political

The 1980s saw a series of events that required decisive action in the political arena, most notably the 1987 Environmental Conservation Law, requiring commercial pesticide applicators to have signed contracts

SUNY Cobleskill dedicated its new Turfgrass Building on October 11, 1989 in honor of Dr. Ralph Smalley, who started SUNY Cobleskill's turfgrass curriculum in 1962. A second plaque in the building acknowledges the New York State Turfgrass Association for its financial support.

Pictured from left to right: Dr. Ralph Smalley, SUNY Cobleskill plant science professor emeritus; Robert Emmons, then professor of plant science at SUNY Cobleskill.



with every customer and to post signs every 12 feet around the perimeter of a treated area 48 hours prior to each application. This instigated a legal battle between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the applicator industry.

Executive Director Elizabeth Seme led the fight against these burdensome posting regulations, helping form the New York State Pesticide Coalition and positioning NYSTA as a major supporter of the New York State Green Council, which represented the industry's concerns on legislative issues, pesticides, and environmental concerns. After a two-year struggle, the regulations were struck down in 1989.

In 2001, Seme, who remains NYSTA's

executive director, was the recipient of *Lawn & Landscape* magazine's Leadership Award. She was recognized for successfully leading the industry effort to defeat the neighbor notification law, promoting the legislative interests of lawn care professionals, and playing an instrumental role in growing the association.

Steve Smith, who had a long career in the irrigation industry in the Hudson Valley and Metropolitan area, became president in 1990. Steve set goals not only for the education of NYSTA members, but also for the general public and the state legislature. "The future of the green industry and the environment is one of the major concerns for the coming decade," he correctly prophesized. "Industry is in a position to help state lawmakers create

the best legislation to protect and enhance the environment while maintaining turf to enjoy."

Smith was honored with NYSTA's Citation of Merit award for his 20 years of service in the turf industry. He was one of the organizers of the first Poa Annual Tournament held in the Hudson Valley and of NYSTA's Southeast Regional Conference.

In 1999, he launched the successful Sullivan County Challenge golf tournament, which has raised nearly \$100,000 in the past 10 years for turfgrass research and to support NYSTA's legislative efforts. After his passing in 2007, the Sullivan County Challenge also became known as the Steve Smith Memorial Tournament.

Roll Call: Leaders and Innovations

The accomplishments by NYSTA and its leaders are too lengthy to list here. And it doesn't do these accomplishments justice to say simply that the organization's untiring efforts in the educational, environmental, and legislative fields continue to benefit the entire industry to this day. Here, then, is a brief summary of the organization's most recent leaders and some of the more notable industry innovations.

Michael Maffei, CGCS. President: 1992, 1993, 2006, and 2007. Mike Maffei's visionary leadership led to the establishment of the New York Turfgrass Foundation, a perpetual endowment fund initiated to ensure the



SUNY Delhi celebrates the construction of a new Turf Education Center at a ribbon-cutting ceremony held on August 16, 1994. NYSTA provided the lead donation for the project.

Pictured from left to right, front row: Carol Oakley, Hudson Valley GCSA; Paul Pesci, director of sales and distribution for Ransomes, Inc.; Delhi College's president, Mary Ellen Duncan (center); John Liburdi Jr., president of NYSTA (1994-1995); Stephen Moffett III, president of the S.V. Moffett Company (far right). Left to right, back row: Joseph Alonzi, CGCS, MetGCSA; Dominic Morales, then chair of Delhi College's Plant Sciences Department; Brad Balschmitter, CGCS, Finger Lakes Association of GCS.



NYSTA's Board of Directors attended SUNY Delhi's July 23, 1996 dedication of the 13th hole at the college golf course. This special tribute recognized NYSTA's longstanding support of Delhi's golf education programs and NYSTA's \$25,000 contribution toward development of the back nine holes of the course.

Members of the 1996 Board of Directors, from left to right: Stephen Smith, NYSTA president; Dominic Morales, then chair of Delhi College's Plant Sciences Department; John Rizza, CGCS, NYSTA board member; Fran Berdine, O.M. Scott & Sons; Michael Maffei, CGCS, Back O'Beyond; Elizabeth Seme, NYSTA executive director; Anthony Peca Jr., NYSTA vice president; Delhi College's president, Mary Ellen Duncan.

NYSTA President Anthony Peca Jr. donates a check for \$50,000 to the New York Turfgrass Foundation for turfgrass research and education at the 1998 Cornell Field Day.

Pictured from left to right: John Fik, CGM, NYSTA vice president; Dr. Thomas Weiler, chair of Cornell University's Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture; Anthony Peca Jr., NYSTA president.



future of turf research and education in New York.

The recipient of NYSTA's Citation of Merit award in 2001 for his service on the NYSTA board since 1988 and his participation in public policy, Maffei also serves on the boards of the Council of Agricultural Organizations and the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns. He was awarded for his efforts with the 2008 Excellence in Government Relations Award in the Advocacy Category by the GCSAA Government Advocacy and Compliance Committee. Maffei was also one of the founding members of NYSTA's annual Turfgrass Advocacy Day, which forged the way for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund.

Joseph Hahn, CGCS. President, 2000. Passionate about increasing research funding so that students would continue to enter the workforce without a lot of training and golf maintenance crews could receive the most up-to-date knowledge available from expert turf scientists, Mr. Hahn solicited "Foundation Club" members to make annual contributions at various giving levels ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 per year. Joseph Hahn also worked closely with NYSTA throughout the years, providing assistance with conferences in the Rochester area. He continues to attend every annual conference, awarding Hahn Memorial Scholarships—which honor his nephew, Matthew, and his brother, Peter—to deserving turf students.

Turfgrass Advocacy Day. The first NYSTA Turfgrass Advocacy Day was held in February of 2000. The purpose is to review issues and advocacy strategies that promote the interest of the turfgrass industry and meet directly with legislators to voice concerns. Participants are also given the valuable opportunity to hear legislative updates concerning the turfgrass industry.

Steve Griffen. President, 2003. Effective involvement in the political issues affecting

the turf industry was—and remains—a hallmark of Steve Griffen's tenure and continued involvement in the organization. He received NYSTA's Citation of Merit award for his involvement in the political process and the policy decisions that affect green industry professionals. In 1991, Griffen joined the Council of Agricultural Organizations (CAO) as NYSTA's representative. By 2006, he was chair of CAO, an organization that has enabled its members to develop a united effort on local, state, and national issues affecting the viability of agriculture in New York State.

New York Turfgrass Survey. The dream of NYSTA's second president, Al Schardt, came true in 2004 when NYSTA began conducting the New York Turfgrass Survey. This was a "first" for the industry, documenting the amount of turfgrass acreage in New York and the economic value of turf, turf production, services, and expenditures. It has become an invaluable tool at NYSTA's Turfgrass Advocacy Day because it shows that the turfgrass industry is a growing agricultural commodity in New York State, and it enables the public, industry, and government to work together to ensure its continued growth.

Empire State Green Industry Show. In 2005, the NYSTA Turf & Grounds Exposition became the Empire State Green Industry Show, under the direction of NYSTA president Jim Hornung Sr. The Empire State Green Industry show combined the conferences and trade shows of several green industry organizations. Attendees benefit from multi-association educational programs and the opportunity to network with their peers in a related industry. Hornung received NYSTA's Citation of Merit award in 2007 for his work in creating a united green industry conference.

Turfgrass Industry Summit. In March 2009, 30 turfgrass professionals from across New York State, representing sports, golf, sod,

and lawn and landscape, along with the Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Turfgrass Team gathered in Ithaca. The invitees were recognized leaders with the ability to articulate a vision for turfgrass education in New York State.

After two days, the summit was adjourned, with many expressing overwhelming optimism that the industry could come together and build on collective strengths. Improved leadership structure, better communications, and more thorough coordination were identified as vital components in commencing the task. There was a renewed sense of connection with Cornell, and it was concluded that it would take a coordinated effort with strong leadership to keep the process moving forward in a positive vein.

Here to Stay: To the Benefit of Us All

NYSTA's current president is Greg Chorvas, superintendent at Cantine Veterans Sports Complex. There are currently 1,213 members and a staff of five. NYSTA continues to provide leadership in turfgrass research and education by offering accredited education seminars, conferences, scholarships, and research grants. NYSTA's roots with Cornell University turf programs continue to grow and expand.

"Last year, NYSTA celebrated its 60-year anniversary, which is proof that this organization is here to stay," says Chorvas. "As long as we continue to uphold the principals of our founding members and respect the accomplishments of those who came before us, I see no reason why this organization won't continue to be a strong force in the industry for the next 60 years. We are proud of our past and look forward to providing excellent leadership in the years to come."

The committee for the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award obviously agrees.

"NYSTA has supported superintendents since its inception, and its commitment to them continues to this day," says Awards Committee Chair Matt Ceplo. "Our committee could not be more proud or think of a more deserving organization. Its members, now and through the years, represent a virtual 'Who's Who' in golf course advocacy."

"NYSTA's achievements have increased the stature and influence of the golfing industry to the benefit of us all. In the committee's opinion, and we hope now in yours, there is no more deserving organization for this prestigious award than the New York State Turfgrass Association."

You'll find a full account on the New York State Turfgrass Association's history and accomplishments, authored by NYSTA PR Coordinator, Denise Lewis, on our website, www.metgsa.org.

Chapter Delegates Meeting Draws Near Full House

Delegates Debate Dues Increase, Share Success Stories, and Meet and Greet GCSAA Board Candidates

by Bob Nielsen, CGCS

As usual, the GCSAA drew the majority of its 91 chapters to the annual Chapter Delegates Meeting, held this year October 22 through 24. I was one of 87 delegates to attend this always-informative event, where I had the opportunity to represent the MetGCSA's views of the industry and our national organization.

The meeting began with an orientation session for first-time delegates at GCSAA Headquarters in Lawrence, KS, followed by a networking reception and dinner. The meeting continued at the Airport Hilton in Kansas City, MO, where we had the opportunity to engage in discussions on GCSAA's financial metrics and new association initiatives, as well as listen to a variety of chapter case study presentations.

Two of the chapter presentations were of particular interest. Todd Bohn from the Heart of America chapter discussed his association's advertising strategies, which, although similar to ours, had some interesting twists. Kevin Breen, CGCS, from the California GCSA, discussed his chapter's government relations strategies, which should be a model for all associations.

State of the GCSAA

The meeting opened with a state-of-the-GCSAA address by Rhett Evans, the COO, and interim CEO, of GCSAA. Although more than 25 percent of the GCSAA staff has been cut over the past few years, the association remains focused on its mission to serve the membership. With the GIS having declining numbers the past two years and the very real possibility that the upcoming GIS may have a similar turnout, the GCSAA has been forced to review each and every program to be sure there is a benefit to the majority of members.

Member Dues Increase Discussed

The most discussed item was a proposed GCSAA member dues increase, which would take effect with May 2011 renewals and new member applications. Class A and SM dues would increase \$20 annually and Class C dues \$10 annually.

The process for proposed dues increases was originally created by chapter delegates and uses the Consumer Price Index as a guide. GCSAA members then vote on the proposal at the association's Annual Meeting in February. The process calls for the association to consider a dues adjustment every two years as a means of ensuring a sustainable organization.

The process is not automatic, and the GCSAA Board of Directors may elect *not* to bring forward dues adjustments according to schedule. This was the case last year when the board opted to forgo consideration of an increase. GCSAA Vice President Bob Randquist said the board supports a dues increase for 2011 because it will provide much-needed support for programs that will help members ensure the success of their careers and facilities. Dues account for 27 percent of the GCSAA budget, which is below the average of 38 to 40 percent for associations of a similar size.

"The board fully realizes that raising dues in this current economic climate is difficult," Randquist told us. "But we see this as a necessary investment by members. The increases allow us to make up ground lost to inflation, which has been at 5.8 percent since our last dues increase three years ago. It allows us to continue to offer programs the members have deemed valuable. Ultimately, members will determine whether the dues will increase or not, by voting on the proposal in February."

I, along with most of the other delegates, felt a \$20 dues increase was justified. Clearly, the GCSAA Board of Directors has made a significant effort to cut costs in just about every area possible. This seems to be the only way to help offset rising costs, while allowing GCSAA to continue to offer all of us the quality services and programs we've been accustomed to.

Randquist noted that GCSAA has seen a \$5-million decrease in revenues over the past three years due to a struggling economy, but proactive expense management by the board and staff has resulted in a reduction of expenses by \$5.4 million during that same period. GCSAA will have projected revenues of \$15.7 million by the end of 2010.

Field Staff Gains Traction

Popular with most of the delegates was the presentation of an expanded field staff program. The board has made public its desire to have all nine GCSAA regions staffed by a regional representative as soon as possible. It's expected that GCSAA will have five field staff representatives by the end of 2010 (four in the field and one at headquarters), and seven by the end of 2011 (six in the field and one at headquarters). Although a timetable for staffing all regions has not been created, Randquist noted that the success of the program has been duly recognized by the board.

The objective of the field staff program is to create a closer tie between chapters and GCSAA so that association programs are better utilized, communication is enhanced, and the membership can grow. The feedback from chapters that have taken advantage of the program has been overwhelmingly positive. Field staff have been extremely successful in getting chapters to share resources and nonmembers to join both their local chapter and the GCSAA.

CEO Search

As we mentioned in a previous issue of *Tee to Green*, CEO Mark Woodward resigned in the late spring, and the GCSAA Board has hired Tryon and Heideman, a search firm from Kansas City, to conduct the search for the new CEO. Interviews for the position are targeted for January 2011.

Additional Discussion Items

- Six chapter delegates made presentations on programs they've instituted with the assistance of GCSAA resources in the areas of government relations, corporate partnerships, consolidation/sharing of resources and communications.
- New program initiatives in the areas of web services, environmental programs, marketing communications, surveys and data, and media public relations were shared.
- Considerable advancements were noted in the area of professional development resources with the new job board, self assessment tool, and webcasting software.

• New conference and show features were outlined, including education programs, networking opportunities, and cost-saving options available to attendees.

Candidate Presentations

It was a pleasure to serve on the GCSAA Nominating Committee and bring this slate of candidates to the membership. We heard presentations for the offices of president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and for the three openings for director.

Here's who will appear on the ballot:

For President

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

For Vice President

Sanford G. Queen, CGCS, City of Overland Park, KS

For Secretary/Treasurer

- Patrick R. Finlen, CGCS, The Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA
- Keith A. Ihms, CGCS, Country Club of Little Rock, AR

For Director (electing three)

- Rafael Barajas, CGCS, Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, CA
- Peter J. Grass, CGCS, Hilands Golf Club in Billings, MT
- John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, NJ
- Mike B. Wooten, CGCS, Cedar Ridge Country Club in Broken Arrow, OK

There are three positions open for director this year. The Olympic Club's Patrick Finlen, CGCS, and Bill Maynard, CGCS, of Milburn Golf and Country Club in Shawnee Mission, KS, each have one year remaining in their two-year director terms.

If Finlen is elected, Ihms will run off the floor, and Robert Randquist will appoint someone to fill the one-year term remaining from Finlen. James R. Fitzroy, CGCS, of Wollaston Recreational Facility/Presidents Golf Club in North Quincy, MA, will serve on the board as immediate past president, and Mark D. Kuhns, CGCS, will be retiring from the GCSAA Board of Directors.

For Further Details

For more specifics on any of the GCSAA Delegates Meeting discussions visit <http://www.gcsaa.org/chapters/delegatemeeting.aspx>.

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

What's in Store at the 2011 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show

The 2011 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show will run February 7 through 11 with the same enhanced format and modified schedule that was so well received last year. For the uninitiated, all events—education conferences and trade show—are now scheduled to run on weekdays with virtually no events competing with the trade show, which is set for Wednesday and Thursday, February 9 and 10.

But this is only part of what will make the 2011 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show a must-attend event. In addition to the many essential career-building traditional offerings, GCSAA has put together several all-new special events and offerings based on last year's attendee feedback. Here's the rundown:

The GIS Main Events

Designed to benefit every member of the golf course, club, and equipment management team, this year's Golf Industry Show will feature approximately 600 exhibitors sprawled over 190,000 square feet of exhibit space.

The highlights:

Kicking Off the Trade Show Each Day

At the trade show's opening each day will be a General Session, featuring keynote addresses intended to motivate, inspire, and encourage you to grow both personally and professionally.

From 8 to 9 a.m. on February 9, Judy Rankin, World Golf Hall of Fame member, will touch every emotion as she talks about her career as a world-class champion, acclaimed broadcaster, and cancer survivor.

Honored by virtually every golf organization, including GCSAA with its Old Tom Morris Award, Rankin shares stories of family life on the LPGA Tour that will tickle your funny bone. Her competitive spirit that shined on the course and in the booth will light your motivational fire, while the compassion she displays in helping others will warm your heart. What better way to start your day than with a lesson from the links with Judy Rankin.

At the February 10 General Session, keynote speaker Pat Williams is sure to inspire, humor, and entertain you as he speaks about the Magic of Teamwork.

He is the senior vice president of the NBA's Orlando Magic and, since 1968, has been affiliated with NBA teams in Chicago, Atlanta, Philadelphia (1983 World Champions), and now the Orlando Magic. He co-founded the Magic in 1987 and helped lead it to the NBA finals in 1995. Twenty-three of his teams have gone to the NBA playoffs, and five of them have made the NBA finals. In 1996, he was named one of the 50 most influential people in NBA history by a national publication.

The author of more than 40 books, Williams is also one of America's top motivational speakers and is just as comfortable addressing Fortune 500 employees as he is speaking on college campuses. He and his wife, Ruth, are the parents of 19 children, including 14 adopted from four countries, who range in age from 20 to 34.

New to the Trade Show Floor

- *Answers on the Hour*, a series of 13 educational sessions, will take place on the trade show floor. Presenting a come-and-go opportunity to learn more about topics pertinent to your facility and career success, these informal, 30-minute sessions will be led by industry experts every hour during the trade show.

- *An all-new customized conference and show application* that you can download to your smartphone. This application enables you to access interactive tradeshow floor maps, exhibitor brochures, and plan your week's activities, including your education sessions and seminars, social media interaction, business lunches, dinners, and meetings.

Also available for download are Orlando destination spots and local merchant coupons and discounts.

You can download the application by logging on to www.golfindustryshow.com.

- *Live prize drawings at the close of the trade show* will take place from 4 to 5:30 on February 10, with winners announced over the public address system. Listen for your name

to claim a variety of giveaways and incentives from exhibitors, the Test Drive Technology Center, and partnering associations of the GIS.

On the Education Front

Along with the Golf Industry Show, GCSAA will join forces with the NGCOA to present our annual Education Conference from February 7 to 11 in Orlando. Still the largest show in the turfgrass management industry, this year's conference will feature more than 100 seminars and numerous education sessions, covering all aspects of golf course management, including agronomy, communication, and business management. That's more than 50 hours of educational opportunities for you to take advantage of.

One of the highlights of the Education Conference is the *Celebrate GCSAA!* program on the evening of February 8. Formerly the Opening Session and Welcoming Reception, the event will be hosted by GCSAA President Jim Fitzroy, as conference goers celebrate the winning accomplishments of numerous well-deserving GCSAA members and industry friends.

- GCSAA's most coveted honor, the Old Tom Morris Award, will be presented to World Golf Hall of Fame member Nick Price, who will also headline the event as a featured speaker. A true gentleman and champion, Price will regale the audience with stories of his rise to stardom from his days as a youth growing up in Zimbabwe to his life today on the Champions Tour.

- 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 to Elect New Board

The Annual Meeting, held February 11, 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 three directors.

For a look at who will appear on this year's ballot, see page 7 of Bob Nielsen's article on the Chapter Delegates Meeting. As a member of the GCSAA Nominating Committee, he had a hand in bringing this slate of candidates to the membership.

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 12, 2011 at 5 p.m. Registration forms are available online at www.golfindustryshow.com.

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Plan Now for These Upcoming Events

Business Meeting

March
Site and Date TBA

Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier

Tuesday, April 26
Centennial Golf Club
Host: Glen Dube, CGCS

Superintendent/Manager or Guest Tournament

Tuesday, May 17
Country Club of New Canaan
Host: Mike Reeb, CGCS

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

Thursday, June 9
Silver Spring Country Club
Ridgefield, CT
Host: Peter Rappoccio, CGCS

Educational Events

Empire State Green Industry Show

Tuesday–Thursday, January 11–13
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 more than 100 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 18, 2011
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 visit the website at www.cagcs.com.

MetGCSA Winter Seminar

Wednesday, January 19, 2011
Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Don't miss this year's Winter Seminar, offering the opportunity to visit with area vendors and attend a not-to-be-missed educational program that includes an impressive lineup of speakers. Among the educational offerings:

- Dr. Michael Richardson of the University of Arkansas will discuss new research offering insight into how foliar fertilization applications can result in more uniform growth and consistent conditions on putting green turf.
- Dr. Michael Fidanza of Pennsylvania State University will share recent findings on fairy ring causes, along with a variety of chemical and cultural cures.
- Dominic Meringolo Sr., an environmental engineer with Aquatic Control Technology, Inc., will provide an overview of the methods currently available and being developed for the management of aquatic vegetation and algae in lakes and ponds.
- Dr. Stephen Hart of Rutgers will discuss the latest and greatest weed control strategies for golf courses, with an emphasis on IPM principles.
- David Oatis, the USGA's director of the Northeast region, will share the many lessons learned from the difficult 2010 golf season, offering strategies for overcoming a variety of turf management challenges.

This year's Awards Luncheon will honor NYSTA with the John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

For more information, call our Education Chairman, Rob Alonzi, at 914-472-1467.

14th Annual New England Regional Turfgrass Conference & Show

Monday–Thursday, March 7–10, 2011
Rhode Island Convention Center
Providence, RI

As always, the 2011 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. The trade show kicks off on the 8th with a USGA session, words of wisdom from keynote speaker Mike Eruzione, the former captain of the Olympic Gold Medal Hockey Team, and a reception.

On the show floor, 400 exhibitor booths will offer the opportunity to view the latest in equipment, products, supplies, and services available to the turf industry.

For further information, call the NERTF show office at 401-841-0004, or visit their website at www.nertf.org/show/.

UMass Turf Research Field Day

Wednesday, June 15, 2011
(8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.)
UMass Joseph Troll Turf Research Center
South Deerfield, MA

The field day will focus on the wide range of research projects that university faculty, staff, and graduate students currently have 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. A barbecue lunch is included with registration.

For further information, contact the UMass Extension Turf Program office at 508-892-0382 or at fieldday@umassturf.org.

Pelham Pulls Out All the Stops

by Scott Olson

The Annual Assistants Tournament was held October 20 at Pelham Country Club in Pelham Manor, NY. Superintendent Jeff Wentworth and Assistant Superintendents George Chavez and Tony Price had the greens fast and the golf course in excellent condition.

Forty-four assistants did their best to tame the beautiful Devereux Emmet design, some with more success than others. Congratulations to Micheal Guinan from Blind Brook, who unseated Lake Success Assistant Scott Curry, the two-time defending champ, to win the individual title. Michael and Blind Brook partner Alex Matos, also pulled first place in the Team Championship.

I would like to thank the entire staff at Pelham Country Club for sharing their amazing facility for a day and giving us a great championship. Special thanks also to Metro Turf Specialists, Turf Products, Aquatrols, and DryJect NE/TurfPounders for donating their time, resources, and money to make this event happen.

If there are any assistants out there who would like to host the outing in 2011, please be sure to contact a Met board member.

Here are the day's results:

Gross Team Winners

- 79 Michael Guinan/Alex Matos
Blind Brook Club
- 79 Nick Krohn, *Sleepy Hollow CC*/
Phil Wohler, *Bedford Golf & Tennis*

Net Team Winners

- 56 Chris Haring/Kyle Stevens
Knollwood CC
- 58 A.J. Lewis/Doug Snyder, *Fenway GC*

Individual Gross Winners

- 81 Michael Guinan, *Blind Brook Club*
- 87 Tony Price, *Wykagyl CC*

Individual Net Winners

- 69 Greg Deckerd, *Wykagyl CC*
- 72 Chris Burnett, *Tamarack CC*

Closest to Pin

- #18 Dave Peterson, *Brae Burn CC*

Longest Drive

- #14 A.J. Lewis, *Fenway GC*

Highlights of the 2010 David Mahoney Two-Ball Championship

by Ken Benoit, CGCS

Before I get into the numerous Two-Ball stories, I want to congratulate this year's First Flight bracket winners Steve Rabideau and Sean Cain and, at the risk of patting myself on the back, Second Flight bracket winners Greg Gutter and yours truly.

First Flight Details

The First Flight saw the defending champions, Mark Chant and Mike Benz, lose to the spirited team of Dave Dudones and Grover Alexander, ending their title defense with an early exit in the second round. The joy was short-lived for Dudones and Alexander, however, as they ran into a buzz saw in the team of Tony Hooks and Jeff Wentworth. Though the match was close, a witness described the outcome as "predictable."

On the bottom half of the bracket, the team of Steve Rabideau and Sean Cain started with a comfortable first-round forfeit served up by the Neufeld/Dotti team. Turning in a workmanlike performance in each of their next two matches, they rolled comfortably into the finals where they met the heavily favored team of Hooks and Wentworth. After several postponements, they finally played the match on Thursday, October 14.

A stunning account of the match, contested at Fresh Meadow Country Club, was sent in by Mr. Hooks: "The match was back-and-forth all day, and we had an opportunity to get back to even on 18, but we both missed our par putts and halved the hole with bogeys. Hooks choked around the

course all day and was basically no help at all; Wentworth grinded it out to almost win by himself."

Hooks will have the burden of carrying that memory around until next year's tournament—which, if I know Tony's internal fortitude, could spell trouble for the rest of the field.

Another perspective was offered by Mr. Cain, himself: "Cain & Rabideau win 1 up! We went down 2 on the front; Wentworth was on fire. We got it back to even at 9 when Steve stuck a five-wood from 220 yards. Then he hit a beautiful three-wood on the par 4 number 12 to go up 1, and we never looked back. Rabideau was the horse today at Fresh Meadow!"

Well done and congratulations on winning the championship.

Second Flight Stories

In the Second Flight, Greg Gutter and I fought hard to the finish. We started by winning a close match against Girardi and Thrasher before taking on Tom Weinert. With his partner, Joe Gardner, MIA, Weinert put on a clinic in how to ham-and-egg . . . as a single. But in the end, Gutter and I sent him packing.

The next round was no easy task for the upstart team as they faced the two-time defending champions, Dennis Granahan and Jim Schell. Though Gutter and I were never behind, it was a close match the entire way. It ended on the 18th hole when Schell missed a five-foot putt that would have evened the match. There was discussion overheard among the losing team of a pur-

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posefully misread putt by the losing team's caddie. Both caddies were thankful for the shaky putt as they each had a long day chasing errant shots from all four players.

In the bottom half of the bracket, the team of Nick Lerner and Kevin Collins got off to a quick start by defeating the team of Paul Gonzalez and Lou Quick 6 and 4 at Kevin's home course of Quaker Hill—a strategic mistake the losers will not soon forget. They narrowly escaped the formidable team of Bob Nielsen and Bill Perlee, 2 and 1, before soundly beating Bob and Joe of team Alonzi, 3 and 2.

There were constant murmurs throughout the tournament that Nick Lerner might be juicing up. However, numerous and extensive testing revealed that these charges could not be substantiated. The tests did reveal his diet included near-toxic levels of Twinkie filling . . . but I digress.

The finals for this bracket were played at the beautiful Round Hill Club. The team of Lerner and Collins were in trouble from

the beginning when it was discovered that Collins had to make several trips to the medical tent for help with his bleeding hands. Apparently, Collins was so intent on winning the match he practiced until his hands were nothing more than bloody stumps.

Gutter and I jumped out to an early lead, thanks to the play of my partner, and we never looked back. The front nine was carried by Gutter, who seemed to have had a connection with his putter rarely seen in the Second Flight. I picked up my play on the back nine just in time, as Gutter decided to play something barely resembling the game of golf. Gutter and I ultimately won 4 and 2, leaving the team of Lerner and Collins to spend the winter reflecting on yet another second-place finish.

Thanks to all of the participants and especially the superintendents who offered their courses for the event. Have a great winter, and I hope to see you next year at Centennial for the tournament qualifier.

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

- Alex Matos, Class C, Blind Brook Club, Purchase, NY
- Benjamin Messenger, Class C, Wykagyl Country Club, New Rochelle, NY
- David Porter, Class C, The Seawane Club, Hewlett Harbor, NY

Certification

Congratulations to New Haven Country Club Superintendent Jason Booth for completing the coursework required in becoming a Certified Golf Course Superintendent (CGCS) with GCSAA.

Birth

Congratulations to Rye Golf Club Superintendent Chip Lafferty and his wife, Clare, on the birth of their daughter, Mackenzie Jordan, born on November 9.



speakers at our Education Seminar. The December 10 Christmas party at Apawamis was a fun and festive event, and the Winter Seminar promises to offer yet another highly productive educational and networking experience. One of my first goals for the new year is to work toward enhancing the attendance at our spring Business Meeting. We'll be discussing ideas at our next board meeting.

A Call for Committee Involvement

I urge you all to participate on one of the committees this year. Our Tournament Committee is proud of its work in securing top-notch venues for our golf events every year. Right now, the committee is seeking volunteers to help at our tournaments, as well as secure sites for the Poa Annual and Green Chairman tourneys.

The Social & Welfare Committee is generating ideas for new events while looking for ways to enhance some of our existing ones.

The Communications Committee is always looking for willing and able contributors to the *Tee to Green*, as well as help with the important job of securing advertisers.

The Education Committee works to expand our programs to provide information on the latest research and turf management techniques.

The best way to become involved with the MetGCSA is by serving on a committee. I encourage you to contact me or any member of the board soon, as we will be forming committees over the next several weeks.

I appreciate your confidence in me as I serve as president, and I am excited to work with all of you in continuing to enhance the MetGCSA and its programs and services.

I want to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year.

Bob Nielsen, CGCS
President

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