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President's Message

Association Accolades and Other Notes

Looking back on this past year and the start of 2010, I can't help but feel there are so many reasons to be proud of our association, its members, and the professionals we work with.

Take, for example, our Winter Seminar. Thanks to the efforts of our former Education Chair, Glen Dube, who set the stage for ever-increasing attendance numbers, and now our current Education Chair Rob Alonzi and his committee, we were able to attract a record-breaking 310 attendees. Also noteworthy was the impressive roster of university professors who shared the results of the research they've been conducting over the past several years. (See article, page 6.) With the ongoing support of the Met and the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, this research will, no doubt, play a significant role in our ability to maintain the health and welfare of our courses.

Another noteworthy aspect of our Winter Seminar—this year and every year—is our annual awards ceremony. At this year's seminar, we recognized the outstanding achievements of The Stanwich Club's Scott Niven with our Sherwood A. Moore Award and the USGA's David Oatis with our John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. As is true of previous years, our Awards Committee could not have selected two more deserving individuals for these prestigious awards, which recognized both Scott and Dave for their many contributions to our profession and industry.

Scott has opened his course to research that has benefited all of us. He's led our association and the Tri-State and has been an active participant in the GCSAA and numerous other organizations, giving selflessly of his time and professional counsel. A mentor to many, Scott consistently demonstrates a high level of professionalism. I'm proud to call him a friend and fellow colleague.

Dave Oatis has represented our fine profession through his more than 25 years of service as the Northeast Region USGA Green Section director. He's offered turf-enhancing guidance and advice to countless superintendents and clubs in the Northeast, providing, in many cases, the steppingstone for lasting course improvement.

Our Winter Seminar and award winners epitomize the fine work of our association,

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*Tony Girardi, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

its members, and industry affiliates—and what it's meant to have professionals who so willingly give back to our industry.

Reminder: Give and You Shall Receive—Survey Data, That Is

On the subject of giving back . . . I'd like to say a few words about our survey. There were an unusually high number of requests this year to generate another associationwide survey. So we did. In fact, as I've noted in previous President's Messages, Paul Gonzalez undertook the time-consuming task of preparing—and posting online—a comprehensive survey that requested information on everything from operating and capital budget numbers to compensation for our staffs and ourselves.

Then, disappointingly—and surprisingly—we've received an unusually low number of responses to date.

As I mentioned in my survey cover letter, the data collected is only as good as the total number of responses received. What's more, because pulling together and tabulating the survey results is nothing short of a lot of work, we'd like it to be worth the yeoman's effort.

The take-home message: PLEASE take the time to download the survey from our website—MetGCSA.org—complete it, and mail it to MGA headquarters. Further incentive to participate: Only those who complete the survey will receive the results—in a confidential and secure fashion!

In response to some comments we received about being able to access, but not complete, the survey online, we hope to have it in a fully electronic format next time we

Continued on page 12

The 'Reel' Story About Turf Equipment Managers Today

by Scott Niven, CGCS

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olf course mechanic. That once-common job title no longer seems to aptly describe the roles and responsibilities of those behind-the-scenes staff members who keep our sophisticated grounds maintenance machinery in top running order.

To meet today's demands for near-perfect playing conditions, our fleet of machinery has grown in number and complexity and our mechanics' skill set has evolved from simple small-engine repair to maintaining machines so sophisticated that many require computer-aided troubleshooting. More highly educated and trained than their predecessors, these skilled technicians are increasingly known today not as mechanics, but as turf equipment managers (EMs).

"With the sheer number of machines and the larger number of equipment operators creating extra wear-and-tear on them, the equipment manager has to be efficient, well organized, and an excellent time manager to keep pace with the greater volume of equipment repairs and maintenance," says Blind Brook Superintendent Les Kennedy. "They're the unsung heroes of the golf course maintenance operation."

"In my eyes," says Brae Burn Superintendent Blake Halderman, "an equipment manager is at least as valuable as an assistant. Assistants you essentially train to move on. But the EM . . . you hope he's there for the long haul, and you're hard-pressed to find a replacement when he leaves."

Not unlike most jobs associated with a golf course's turf management operation, the job of equipment manager has become broader in scope. "Golf courses are looking for people who are about 50 percent manager and 50 percent mechanic," says Dominic Morales of SUNY Delhi in Delhi, NY. "An EM has to know how to design and maintain a clean and well-organized repair workshop and parts inventory storage room; order and keep a reasonable inventory of parts and supplies; establish a comprehensive preventive maintenance program for all machines, including conducting periodic equipment spot checks in the field; use a computer; train equipment

Burning Tree Equipment Manager Stan Pollander at work.



operators and any assistant equipment technicians; attend education seminars to stay abreast of changing technology; have a working knowledge of light and heavy maintenance equipment, and automatic-type vehicles; be able to weld and use a wide variety of equipment repair tools; and perform a variety of high-level equipment maintenance functions." Whew!

The problem is, there are simply not enough skilled equipment managers out there. Confirming the shortage is John Piersol, who directs one of the country's leading golf course operations educational programs at Lake City (Florida) Community College. "I have about 10 tech students enrolled in our program each year and requests from out in the field for 50," says Piersol, who is quick to blame the EM shortage on a lack of career awareness and a lack of support from the superintendents' profession in promoting equipment technician training programs in the U.S.

In addition to Lake City, other prominent—though struggling—tech programs include Horry-Georgetown Technical College in South Carolina, Penn State University, and Walla Walla (Washington) Community College. The industry has also lost two other highly regarded EM certification programs in recent years at Greenville (SC) Tech and SUNY Delhi (NY) because of a lack of students.

EM Support Systems Tool Up

One viable organization attempting to raise awareness of the profession and elevate the status of the turf equipment manager is the International Golf Course Equipment Managers Association (IGCEMA). Established in 2006, with a board of directors consisting of EMs from around the world, the association is "dedicated to expanding the education, enhancing professionalism, and improving the image of the golf course equipment manager and the turf equipment manager worldwide."

Boasting a certification program, annual conference and show, and webcast educational sessions, the association has been working to gain recognition and respect for the turf equipment manager by joining forces with such industry groups as GCSAA, the USGA, the British and International Golf Greenkeepers Association (BIGGA), The Federation of European Golf Greenkeepers Associations (FEGGA), and a variety of equipment manufacturers who provide support and educational opportunities for IGCEMA members.

Doing similar work are several regional groups across the country, like the Turf Equipment Technicians Association of the Carolinas (TETAC). With roughly 200 members, it may very well be the largest chapter in the country. But like all EM organizations, its mission is to enhance the professional image of turf equipment technicians, to raise the safety awareness of technicians, and to improve the technical knowledge of TETAC members through education and communication with the turf equipment industry. The TETAC board credits much of the organization's success to the strong support it's received from the Carolinas Golf Course Superintendents Association (Carolinas GCSA).

In fact, it was at the 2001 Carolinas GCSA Conference and Show where TETAC actually got its start, with a group of equipment managers gathering after attending the conference's series of service tech seminars. Three years later, TETAC hosted its first stand-alone seminar series at the Horry-Georgetown Technical College in Conway, SC. The two-day TETAC conference featured sessions on hydraulic pumps, centrifugal pumps, computerized recordkeeping, diesel engine troubleshooting, welding, shop organization, and a variety of other topics.

Explaining the group's commitment to training, TETAC Past President Dale Rogers explains, "Technology changes so much, with golf course equipment and computer systems too, that it really helps the technician to stay on top of improvements that equipment man-

ufacturers are making." In addition to attending their own seminars, TETAC members also attend training sessions offered by area equipment manufacturers and distributors.

TETAC isn't the only group of its kind. Another of the more formal EM groups, the Chicagoland Golf Course Mechanics Association, is in the Great Lakes region and supports more than 100 members.

While other less formal EM groups exist around the country and have been around for more than 15 years, there aren't any organized groups in the Met area—yet. Stan Pollander, equipment manager at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, CT, however, hopes to get one started.

Encouraging your EM to support any efforts to form an equipment manager association in our area will benefit not just your EM, but also your own job success. Wholeheartedly supporting this theory is Timothy Kreger, the executive director of the Carolinas superintendents association that's supported its local equipment managers' association, TETAC.

"Our superintendents recognize the important role their equipment technicians play," says Kreger. "In fact, most will tell you that having a good, qualified technician is directly proportional to how successful they are on the job. Anything we can do to help make sure that our technicians get the training they need and that they're recognized for how important they are just helps the superintendents and their own profession," Kreger concludes.

Enough said. So who are these highly skilled turf equipment managers working at our clubs? We asked area EMs 26 questions to find out, surveying them on everything from salary and work hours to what they like most—and least—about their jobs. A total of 37 area equipment managers responded.

Here's a look at what they had to say, along with a tabulation of each and every



one of their responses. Please note: For the clubs with more than one course (36 holes+), we divided the numbers into appropriate amounts to help provide consistent data. (See page 11 for list.)

Our Equipment Managers: Getting to Know Them

First, the profile of the average equipment manager in our area is a 45-year-old male who's worked 15 years at his club. This shows that, for the most part, turnover is not high in this profession. What's more, despite the demanding nature of the job, some EMs continue to work well into their 60s.

When asked if they needed help in scheduling their work, all of the respondents reported that they managed their own area with minimum input from the superintendent. This autonomy was one of the primary reasons many of the EMs reported enjoying their work.

The workweek for most EMs averages a reasonable 44 hours of which four are overtime. Those extra hours are usually required on Saturday or Sunday when many clubs have a fairly large staff participating in the weekend setup. We also learned that there were only four salaried EMs out of the 37 who responded, and on average, they put in more hours than the others.

Some EMs reported struggling to keep pace with a growing workload. In fact, about half of the respondents have an average of eight hours of extra help a week, from an assistant EM or other members of the golf course staff. Even with this added assistance, half of the group said they could use more help to keep up with repairs and preventive maintenance.

It seems that what's occurring now in this profession is similar to what happened with assistant superintendents. For years, one assistant was enough to get the job done. Then crews doubled in size, and the job evolved into a 24/7 position that became too much for one person to handle. Today, the second assistant is more the norm than the exception at most clubs. It appears that this trend may be making its way into the area of turf equipment maintenance, where the number of machines are escalating to the point that two people—EM and assistant—will be necessary to handle the day-to-day equipment management and maintenance.

The survey also revealed that the budget amount spent annually on equipment repair varies widely, ranging from \$15k to \$85k depending on such factors as the type of club (public or private), amount of equipment, age of equipment, and how many units are being leased.

Leasing is becoming more popular all the

time, with 25 percent of the clubs leasing, rather than purchasing, their equipment. Most superintendents like this concept because it allows them to keep a relatively new, technologically advanced fleet of mowing machines in use at all times.

The average amount of capital spent on leasing was just about \$100,000. Assuming that other types of machinery still have to be purchased, the capital fund allocation for new equipment may be higher than purchasing all equipment outright, but the tradeoff is less downtime and lower expenses for repairs.

Salaries also varied greatly, ranging from \$18.50 to \$49.50 per hour, with the average salary being \$33 per hour. Many factors contribute to this wide range, such as the size of the club's operating budget and the technician's tenure, years of experience, and skill set.

Speaking of skills, the EMs, it seems, are a multi-faceted group, often possessing skills above and beyond their ability to repair machines. Fifty percent, in fact, spend an average of one hour per day outside the shop, lending a hand with various aspects of overall property management. Among their contributions: construction, plumbing, spraying, irrigation repair, tree work, mowing, personnel management, backhoe operation, and morning machine setup.

The size and quality of the repair shop depends, in large part, on the age of the turf management facility. The newer facilities are invariably larger and outfitted with the latest-and-greatest repair tools. Most of the EMs seem to be satisfied with their existing workspace, regardless of its size, but when asked what would be the optimal amount of space for maximum efficiency and safety, the most common response was 2,500 sq. ft.

The EM's office and parts room average 250 sq. ft., and at least half report having a separate room for grinding reels and bedknives. Given the unhealthy dust from the filings generated by some grinding machines, this is a good idea. However, most up-to-date grinding equipment is housed in an enclosed structure, making it dust-free.

EMs are also diligent about keeping their repair shops clean. On average, they spend five hours per week—or one hour every day—tidying up the shop. You've probably heard the comment that the condition of the maintenance facility often mirrors the condition of the golf course. So the cleaner and more organized the shop, the better!

The greatest amount of time spent cleaning the shop each day was four hours. That must be one of those buildings where you can practically eat off of the floor!

When given the opportunity to fess up to the most difficult part of their job, the two

most common replies were "keeping up with all of the work" and "dealing with the staff." Given the large number of machines and multiple personalities in any given staff, this comes as no surprise.

When asked what they liked most about their job, a number of guys actually said that they were happy with pretty much everything. Others noted specifics, including the challenge of the job, the variety, the ability to manage their own area, and the satisfaction of seeing the beautiful golf course maintained with all of the equipment under their care.

When all was said and done, several survey respondents offered additional thoughts about their job function and how to make it better.

Among their comments:

- "Equipment training should be done by me." This is a point well taken, given that EMs know more about each piece of machinery than anyone else. The only stumbling block might be finding the time to fit this additional responsibility into the EM's already hectic schedule!

- "It would be nice if more clubs used equipment maintenance software to help track equipment maintenance schedules, as well as the cost of maintaining each piece of equipment. It would also be nice to be consulted about equipment purchases, since equipment managers tend to know more about this than superintendents do." To make sound decisions regarding equipment purchases and sales of used units, it certainly would help superintendents to have the support of maintenance records and the input of the equipment manager.

- "I feel with the advanced technology in equipment, educational seminars would be helpful in the future." Continuing education should always be part of the equipment manager's job description.

In the End

After reviewing the results of the survey, it's all the more clear that equipment managers today are a multi-talented, highly skilled, and a largely content group, despite the often tough demands of their jobs. They are striving to enhance their image and earn respect throughout the golf course industry as the true professionals that they are. By doing our part to help them assemble their own professional association and give them the tools and resources they need to do their jobs well, we can't help but succeed, together, in building and maintaining a maintenance operation that runs like a well-oiled machine.

Scott Niven, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at The Stanwich Club in Greenwich, CT.

Survey Results at a Glance

1. How many holes are at your course?
18 holes = 32
27 holes = 3
36 holes = 2
2. How many hours do you work per week on average?
Average = 44 hours
Low = 40 hours
High = 65 hours
3. How many days per week do you work?
Average = 6 days
Low = 5 days
High = 7 days
4. How much overtime do you work per week?
Average = 4 hours
Low = 0 hours
High = 8 hours
Four of the respondents are salaried.
5. Do you have an assistant or help from other staff members?
Yes = 50%
6. If yes, how many hours per week do they put in?
Average = 8 hours
Low = 2 hours
High = 20 hours
7. What is your annual budget for equipment repairs?
Average = \$50,000
Low = \$15,000
High = \$85,000
8. Do you need more help to keep up with equipment maintenance and repairs?
Yes = 15
No = 19
No response = 3
9. How many hours per week are spent cleaning up the repair shop?
Average = 5 hours
Low = 1 hour
High = 20 hours
10. Do you feel your repair shop is an adequate size?
The majority said yes, working well within the confines of the space they're given.
11. How many square feet of floor space would be optimal?
There were 26 responses. The majority said 2,500 sq. ft.
800 sq. ft. = 1
1,000 sq. ft. = 2
1,200 sq. ft. = 2
1,500 sq. ft. = 3
2,100 sq. ft. = 2
2,300 sq. ft. = 1
2,500 sq. ft. = 11
3,000 sq. ft. = 3
4,000 sq. ft. = 1
12. Do you have a separate grinding room?
Yes = 50%
13. Do you have a separate oil storage room?
No = 75%
14. How many square feet is your office/parts room?
Average = 250 sq. ft.
Low = 100 sq. ft.
High = 1,000 sq. ft.
15. What is your salary per week or rate per hour?
Average = \$33/hour
Low = \$18.50/hour
High = \$49.50/hour
16. What is the most difficult part of your job?
The top two: "keeping up with all the work" and "dealing with the staff"
Other comments: "getting staff to treat equipment properly," "finding best prices for parts," "staff not making me aware of problems with equipment," "trying to stay under budget," "understanding Spanish"
17. Do you help out with any work on the golf course?
Yes = 50%
18. If yes, how many hours per week?
Average = 5 hours
Low = 1 hour
High = 30 hours
19. Besides equipment repairs, what other duties do you have, if any?
Topping the list: helping with construction, plumbing, spraying, irrigation repairs, tree removal, mowing practice area and walk paths on the course, dispatching crew, cleaning, operating the backhoe, ordering and monitoring fuel, morning equipment setup, translating Spanish
20. Do you manage your own area or does the superintendent schedule your work?
EM-managed = 100%
21. What is your age?
Average = 45
Youngest = 23
Oldest = 69
22. How many years have you worked at a golf course?
Average = 15 years
Low = 6 months
High = 34 years
23. What do you like least about your job?
The most common gripe: "not enough time to get everything done"
Other issues: "the pressure," "having to be in three places at once," "grinding," "too routine," "aerators," "no air conditioning," "golfers' attitude toward staff," "no time off in summer," "long commute," "fixing something then having it break again right away," "not enough help," "waking up at 5 a.m.," "not enough equipment," "not getting enough notice when equipment needs to go out"
24. What do you like most about your job?
Topping the list: "the challenge of the job," "the variety," "managing my own area," "seeing the equipment make the course look so good!"
Other pluses: "being outside," "good hours," "working at my own pace," "working with my superintendent," "problem solving," "never a dull moment," "every day is different," "pay day," "the challenge," "the ability to run my own operation," "hearing a member or guest tell the super that the course looks great"
25. Does your club lease equipment?
Yes = 25%
No = 75%
26. If yes, how much does the lease cost per year?
Average = \$96K
Low = \$55K
High = \$175K

See Survey Participants on page 11

A Stellar Turnout for the 2010 Winter Seminar

by Paul Grabbe

The 2010 MetGCSA Winter Seminar may have been at the same place, at the same time of year, but it was far from the same ol', same ol'. In fact, this year's Winter Seminar surpassed all previous attendance records, drawing 310 met-area superintendents, assistants, and affiliate members to the Westchester Country Club, where the event's been held for more than 25 years!

With not a seat to spare in the seminar room, latecomers were forced to stand. Attracted to the event for more than just those pesticide credits, they were clearly there for the superb lineup of presenters selected by Education Chair Rob Alonzi Jr. and his hardworking committee.

Adding value to this day of education and camaraderie was the lobby full of supportive vendors—27 in all. We owe a debt of gratitude to these professionals who have dedicated themselves to providing the information and resources necessary for us to excel at our jobs. You'll find their names and numbers listed on page 8.

Finally, we'd like to extend a special thank you to host Superintendent Joe Alonzi and all of the staff at Westchester Country Club for continuing to make this a marquee event on the Met area calendar.

Read on for the high points of the day's presentations, each one focused on the latest research being conducted at turf schools from Georgia to Michigan.

ABW Control: An Update From URI

Dr. Steven Alm, from the University of Rhode Island, was up first, speaking about current management options for the annual bluegrass weevil (ABW). Dr. Alm has been conducting research to understand the nature of pyrethroid resistance and believes it is most likely a biomechanical mechanism, with enzyme interference the main culprit.

He has been studying the synergy between plant growth regulators (PGRs) and pyrethroids, hoping that when used in combination, the PGRs will block the enzymes that interfere with pyrethroids, thereby increasing their efficacy. Lab results have been promising; the next step is to see how this method performs in field trials.



Awards Committee Chair Matt Ceplo (right) strikes a pose with Sherwood A. Moore Award winner Scott Niven (left) and John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award winner David Oatis.

Also key in effective ABW control, Dr. Alm emphasized, is the timing of applications. Early season control is critical in keeping the ABW populations from growing too large and leading to late-season damage.

He stated that overwintering adults are more susceptible to Dursban and recommended a spring application between April 23 and May 7, followed by a rotation of chemistries and modes of action throughout the rest of the season. Dr. Alm warned against pushing too hard with any specific chemistry because it will accelerate the shift to a resistant population.

Acelepryn, a relative newcomer on the block, was a highlight of this session. This product targets muscle tissue, causing contractions and paralysis in the weevil, interestingly while remaining relatively harmless to mammals, birds, fish, and honeybees. And because it falls well below all five EPA toxicity studies, it requires no signal word.

Other pros to Acelepryn: It has the lowest water solubility and application rates, and it controls multiple pests—with a long residual on turf caterpillars—when used early in the season.

Dr. Alm reminded everyone to pay attention to DuPont's "Weevil Track" program this season. Based on growing degree days, the program aids superintendents in select-

ing the optimal time for application to achieve the best possible results with both Acelepryn and Provaunt, another of the newer and more promising weevil controls.

Making the Most of Plant Growth Regulators

Addressing the group next was Michigan State University's Ron Calhoun, who discussed the current trend in the use of plant growth regulators. He began by explaining the classification of Primo, Cutless, Trimmit, Embark, and Proxy, which are the common PGRs used in golf course management today. Originally intended to reduce the amount of clippings, PGRs' uses have expanded to include seed-head suppression, species conversion, enhancement of green speed and turf density and uniformity. They're also credited with improved mowing quality by encouraging the upright growth of the plant.

Calhoun identified three distinct phases the plant will go through when treated with a PGR: inhibition, recovery, and rebound. He noted that in the summer, when high temperatures cause a faster breakdown of the PGR, it's important to shorten spray intervals or increase application rates to maintain a consistent state of inhibition.

If you're hoping to boost ball roll with

PGR use alone, you may be disappointed. Research conducted by Calhoun showed little discernible effect on the quality of ball roll. PGRs also do not seem to have a significant impact on turf recovery. Though when looking at divot closure, Calhoun noted that the rate of recovery on turf treated with a PGR was at least equal to, if not slightly faster than untreated turf.

Perhaps more interesting is that PGRs, when used with similar chemistry fungicides, may actually enhance the fungicides' efficacy. When it comes to seed-head suppression, whether it's with Embark or Primo/Proxy, timing is everything. Calhoun mentioned that the prevalence of seed heads after a suppression spray has been applied has more to do with seed-head pressure in a given year than an application error or lack of control with the products applied.

Products, like Cutless and Trimmit, with an early site of action along the gibberellic acid biosynthesis pathway, have a more damaging effect on annual bluegrass than on creeping bentgrass, making PGRs particularly effective in reducing annual bluegrass populations in a turf stand.

Calhoun cautions superintendents to take stock of their annual bluegrass population before starting a species conversion program. The last thing you want to do is create too much visible damage to your course's playing surface.

The Ins and Outs of Wetting Agents

After a quick coffee break and a visit to the vendor booths, attendees returned to hear Dr. Keith Karnok of the University of Georgia give a presentation on the use of wetting agents on golf courses. After polling a variety of superintendents from across the country, he discovered that a large majority—87 percent—are regular wetting agent users, while 98 percent are occasional users.

How are they using wetting agents? To combat localized dry spots, improve water management and drainage, and even to enhance pesticides' ability to penetrate the thatch and soil and, in turn, work more effectively.

Dr. Karnok went on to explain that dry spots are caused by a water-repellant coating on sand grains that originates from decaying organic matter. He then showed a video that demonstrated a common wetting agent being added to water and then penetrating the soil of a previously impenetrable dry spot.

With the huge number of wetting agents on the market, Dr. Karnok set out to do a comparative analysis of the 10 most common. His research did show some differences among the products, but he noted that there are more similarities than differences, and the ultimate question for any product is whether or not it will wet the soil.

Other observations and advice:

- Wetting agents tend to be safe and non-phytotoxic, with most of their attributed damage occurring when turf is already quite stressed.
- Dr. Karnok suggested that superintendents select a wetting agent based on their specific needs and apply it over the entire surface rather than spot treat in order to promote uniformity. He cautions that just because an area of the grass is green, doesn't mean there isn't a problem.
- Research conducted to determine the effect of wetting agents on water use and efficiency has shown that the use of wetting agents *does* save water by allowing it to penetrate the soil profile, rather than running off the surface.
- Dr. Karnok went on to explain that prolonged wetness has more to do with excessive thatch and could be exacerbated by the application of a wetting agent, but not caused by one.

Awards Over Lunch

While dining on the tasty lunch that Westchester Country Club had cooked up for the even more sizable Awards Luncheon crowd, Winter Seminar goers were able to hear about the many achievements of the MetGCSA's 2009 Sherwood A. Moore and John Reid Lifetime Achievement award recipients.

Receiving this year's SAM Award was Stanwich Club Superintendent Scott Niven, who has dedicated himself, throughout his lengthy career, to furthering the turfgrass management industry. A past president of the MetGCSA, current president of the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation, and steadfast contributor to numerous other industry boards and committees, including the GCSAA, Scott is truly a deserving recipient.

Honored with our John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award was Director of the USGA Green Section's Northeast Region David Oatis. Always a welcome visitor, Dave's wealth of knowledge and humble attitude have made him a terrific counselor and ally to superintendents throughout this part of the country.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you and congratulations to both of these hardworking individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving and advancing the golf industry and profession of golf course superintendent.

BMPs for Managing Anthracnose

Dr. Bruce Clarke from Rutgers University was given the unenviable task of refocusing the group after lunch with his presentation on best management practices for anthracnose on putting greens.

Anthracnose has been one of the most

dreaded and destructive diseases in recent history, and the increase of basal rot anthracnose over the past decade has prompted research that is still going on today.

Drawing from research that's examined the effects of myriad fungicides, growth regulators, cultural practices, and fertility programs, Dr. Clarke offered the following conclusions and words to the wise:

- Nitrogen fertility has the single greatest influence on anthracnose occurrence and severity. Applying nitrogen at higher rates or frequencies has been shown to reduce anthracnose. Most beneficial is applying higher N rates in the spring, *before* any visible damage.
- Anthracnose is stress induced but not related to any reasonable disruption and wounding of the turf through normal cultural practices. In fact, it's been demonstrated that sand topdressing is actually beneficial because it improves the overall health of the plant.
- Increasing mowing height and frequency of cut, as well as rolling, will lead to a decrease in the incidence of anthracnose.
- Irrigation must be managed carefully. Overly dry conditions seem to aggravate anthracnose, while overwatering leads to another host of problems, including a variety of other diseases, anaerobic conditions, and increased mower and traffic damage.

The healthiest approach to anthracnose management is to replace 80 percent of the water lost in evapotranspiration.

- Plant growth regulators have been shown to have a somewhat synergistic effect in the fight against anthracnose. Dr. Clarke stated that a seed-head suppressant applied in conjunction with Primo and followed by subsequent Primo applications has shown promise in reducing the occurrence of anthracnose. Dr. Clarke did make the point that PGRs allow for proper nitrogen fertility without diminishing playing conditions with increased growth.

In concluding his presentation, Dr. Clarke offered a glimpse at future research into anthracnose control. Regulations on the use of chlorothalonil have led researchers to look at tank mixes with phosphonates and phosphonites, as well as the new product Civitas, which is a mineral oil that has shown promising results, but more research is needed.

When all was said and done, Dr. Clarke suggested that your best tack in managing anthracnose is to use sound cultural practices along with broad-spectrum chemical control achieved by the rotation of many different chemistries and tank mixing.

Take-All Patch: Observations and Advice

Last, but not least, on the roster was the

University of Connecticut's Dr. John Inguagiato, who spoke about the ectotrophic root-infecting fungus Take-All Patch. Occurring most readily in new sand root zones or recently fumigated root zones, this fungus thrives in cool temps and in soils with a high moisture content and a pH greater than 6.5. Dr. Inguagiato stated that increased competition with soil microbes leads to a decrease in disease pressure, which is why this particular disease is more prevalent in relatively sterile soils, like those on newly built golf courses.

Sharing the results of his current research, Dr. Inguagiato offered a few pointers on keeping Take-All Patch at bay:

- Ammonium-based fertilizers seem to be able to significantly reduce this disease by lowering the pH in the rhizosphere. Steer clear of nitrate-based fertilizers, which tend to raise pH.

- Take-All Patch alters manganese in the soil to a form that cannot be taken up by the plant, leading to a mineral deficiency and ultimately weakening the plant. To combat this phenomenon and, in turn, decrease disease pressure, Dr. Inguagiato recommends a fertility program that includes an increased dose of manganese.

- Most important, according to Dr. Inguagiato, is that superintendents not only consider the fungicide being applied and the timing of the application, but also ensure that there is enough volume to carry the chemical to the roots of the plant where it can be most effective.

Findings to date suggest a need for a spring application of a strobilurin and a fall application of a DMI fungicide. Dr. Inguagiato did emphasize, however, that more research is needed to determine the best timing and application method for these preventive treatments.

Don't Miss This Not-to-Be-Missed Event

With a sold-out crowd, the January 20 Winter Seminar proved what we already knew: This is an event that no member should miss ... ever.

Special thanks, again, to Westchester Country Club for being such a gracious host, to our vendors for their continued participation and support, and to the Education Committee for their efforts in planning this important event. Rob has carried on the tradition of making the Winter Seminar a worthwhile event that provides attendees with the best tools and information to manage today's most pressing issues.

Paul Grabbe, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is an assistant superintendent at North Jersey Country Club in Wayne, NJ.

Special Thanks to Our 2010 Winter Seminar Exhibitors

We'd like to thank all the vendors who participated in this year's Winter Seminar. As a show of appreciation, we're listing the exhibitors here, along with the areas of specialty and phone numbers.

When the opportunity arises, we hope you'll show these contractors and suppliers the same support they've shown us during our Winter Seminar—and throughout the year.

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Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendar With These Upcoming

It's not too early to plan for the season's coming events. For further information on any of our golf meetings, 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

Thursday, March 18
Grand Prix of New York
Mt. Kisco, NY

Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier

Monday, April 26
North Jersey Country Club
Wayne, NJ
Host: David Dudones

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

Tuesday, July 13
Wykagyl Country Club
New Rochelle, NY
Host: Mike Scott

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

Thursday, September 30
Wheatley Hills Golf Club
East Williston, NY
Host: Stephen Rabideau, CGCS

Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament

Monday, October 18
Wee Burn Country Club
Darien, CT
Host: Doug Drugo

Industry Events

NYSTA's 2010 Turfgrass Advocacy - Lobby Day

Wednesday, March 10
Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY

Lobby Day offers industry professionals the opportunity to learn about current legislation that could affect the turfgrass and green industry.

For further information or to register, contact Jill Cyr at 518-783-1229 or at jill@nysta.org.

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.

2010 Rhode Island Turfgrass Foundation Golf Tournament

Tuesday, April 27
Agawam Hunt
Rumford, RI

Join fellow URI alums for this special event, hosted by Drew Cummins of the Class of '92. There's an 11:30 a.m. registration and buffet lunch and a 1 p.m. shotgun start with dinner to follow.

For further information, contact Julie Heston at jheston@verizon.net.

15th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic

Monday, May 3
Fiddler's Elbow Country Club
Far Hills, NJ

Join Dr. Bruce Clarke and Dr. Bill Meyer for this annual fundraiser and a day of golf, education, and fun.

For further information, call 973-812-6467 or log on to www.njturfgrass.org.

Member News

Members on the Move

• **Peter J. Rappoccio** is the new superintendent at Concord Country Club in Concord, MA. Previous position: assistant superintendent at Westchester Country Club in Rye, NY.

• **Steve Turchick** is a new assistant superintendent at Somers Pointe Golf Club in Somers, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Branton Woods Golf Club in Hopewell Junction, NY.

Same Place, New Name

Doug Hedderick hasn't changed address or job title. But the club he's working for has been sold and renamed from Branton Woods Golf Club to Trump National Golf Club-Hudson Valley in Hopewell Junction, NY.

In Sympathy

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to the following MetGCSA members and their families:

• MetGCSA President and Rockrimmon Country Club Superintendent **Tony Girardi**, whose grandfather, Anthony Grello, passed away January 4 at 89 years old.

• Montclair Golf Club Superintendent **Greg Vadala** and his sister, **Lucille Grasso**, wife of Metropolis Country Club Superintendent **Tony Grasso**. Greg and Lucille's mother, Katherine Vadala, passed away on January 18.

We would also like to offer our deepest sympathy to the family of Life A member **Francis D. Chiappetta**, who passed away on December 22. Known by friends and colleagues as Chippy, he was a member of the MetGCSA since 1960.

North Jersey Country Club to Host Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier

by Kevin Collins

Mark April 26 on your calendars. That's the date of the annual Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier at North Jersey Country Club in Wayne, NJ. Superintendent David Dudones is looking forward to kicking off the Met's tournament season by hosting one of the association's more popular events (see sidebar, page 11) at the nearly century-old Walter Travis course.

Nestled on 295 acres of what was once woodland property in Wayne Township, the championship golf course opened in 1923, offering a challenging, rugged layout and playing a healthy 6,628 yards from the blue tees.

This was the club's second and current location. In fact, the origins of the North Jersey Country Club date back to April 1894 when local businessmen, politicians, and power brokers organized what was first called the Paterson Golf Club. Originally nine holes, the course was expanded to 18 in 1897. Five holes overlooked the Passaic River with the remaining 13 holes located across the river on the Warren Point estate of Thomas Barbour.

In 1899, the original layout was abandoned and five holes were added to the Barbour 13, with the Barbour homestead serving as the clubhouse. After a 1917 fire destroyed the clubhouse and the state proposed building new roads through the property, club officials decided to relocate to its current site, and Paterson officially became North Jersey.

The Course Today

Since taking the reins as North Jersey's superintendent in January 2005, Dave has been working steadily—with the tremendous support of his assistants, Paul Grabbe and Ryan Chuchmach—toward completing the club's multi-million-dollar master plan, which so far, has included the not-so-small task of building a new maintenance facility and renovating various aspects of the course.

Guided by architect John Harvey, the course enhancements have included extensive greens expansion, new tee complexes,

fairway recontouring, tree removal, drainage work, stream and pond stabilization, and a new driving range and short-game facility. And they're not done yet.

"We're only a quarter of the way through the master plan," says Dave, who is waiting for his next marching orders from club officials.

Born Into the Business

Though Dave clearly has his work cut out for him, he can cut it. He was, after all, born into the business. Dave is the fifth generation of the Worthington family to be involved in the turfgrass industry. His great, great grandfather, C.C. Worthington, was an inventor and avid golfer who hired his good friend A.W. Tillinghast to design and build Shawnee Country Club in Pennsylvania—Tillinghast's first effort as a golf course architect.

Worthington, after being shown a homemade gang mower by Tillinghast, tinkered with it and improved on the design, forming the Worthington Mower Company. The company, which provided high-quality mowers and tractors for commercial use, was eventually sold to Jacobsen in the mid-1940s. Dave's grandfather, Ed Worthington Jr., continued the family tradition, founding the Ed Worthington Corp., a turfgrass supply business headquartered in Saranac Lake, NY, Dave's hometown. Dave's mom, Janet Dudones, took over and ran the company in the late 1970s, looking to Dave to help out with the family business throughout his formative years.

Though Dave began his higher education in 1993 as a biology major at SUNY Cortland, he made the switch, three years later, to SUNY Cobleskill, where he completed his bachelor's in Plant Science/Turfgrass Management in 1997. He went on to earn his M.S. in Turfgrass Science in 2001 from Cornell University, studying under Dr. Frank Rossi.

Dave's professional stops went from working summers at the municipal Craigwood Golf Club in Lake Placid, NY, to internships at Westchester Country Club and with the



David Dudones with daughters Kylie, Avery, and Taylor.

USGA, where he accompanied USGA Agronomist Jim Skorulski on a week of Turf Advisory visits.

Assistants' positions followed at Engineers Country Club in Long Island and at Desert Mountain Golf Club in Scottsdale, AZ. Dave's last stop before North Jersey was a return trip to Westchester Country Club, where he worked as an assistant to Joe Alonzi from 2002 to 2005.

"When I called Joe in 2002, he told me to come back," says Dave, remembering with a smile Joe's words to the wise: "He said that working at Westchester for three years would be like six years anywhere else."

And wouldn't you know it? Three years later, Dave moved on to his first and current superintendent's job at North Jersey Country Club.

It's a Balancing Act

Balancing the demands of the job with the demands of raising a young family with wife, Dana, has not daunted this young couple. "Dana's great. She understands the long hours required to be successful in this business," says Dave, adding, "We try to blend both work and family with get-togethers at the course to have lunch or just ride around. You have to combine the two."

Dave and Dana and the kids—Kylie, 4; Taylor, 2; and Avery, 1—do get away, with regular trips to Saranac Lake and Long Island to visit family.

This time of year, Dave also enjoys his nights out on the ice, playing in a men's hockey league about once a week. Like turf, hockey's in Dave's blood. "I was on skates at the age of 5 and outside the Olympic complex in Lake Placid after the U.S. beat the

A Special Thank You to Our Survey Participants

We'd like to thank all who took the time to respond to our first-ever equipment manager survey. Your responses will, no doubt, go a long way toward helping us enhance our working relationships—and maintenance operations.

Athen Bakis, Sterling Farms Golf Course, Stamford, CT

Nelson Barrientos, The Seawane Club, Hewlett Harbor, NY

Bob Bergeron, Country Club of Farmington, Farmington, CT

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Bob Burse, Brae Burn Country Club, Purchase, NY

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Pedro Cedillo, Anglebrook Golf Club, Lincolnville, NY

Andre Chojnowski, Silver Spring Golf Club, Ridgefield, CT

Donald Dlugosz, The Powelton Club, Newburgh, NY

John Flaherty, Westchester Country Club, Rye, NY

Steve Hauxhurst, The Meadow Brook Club, Jericho, NY

Fernand Jean, Sunningdale Country Club, Scarsdale, NY

Fred Kelsey, Black Hall Club, Old Lyme, CT

Jim Kilgallon, Connecticut Golf Club, Easton, CT

Frank Kim, Bayonne Golf Club, Bayonne, NJ

Mike Kompier, Rockland Country Club, Sparkill, NY

Mike Kuzmickas, Alpine Country Club, Demarest, NJ

Steve Lorenzen, Island Hills Golf Club, Sayville, NY

Ray Marks, Crestbrook Park Golf Course, Watertown, CT

Gary McNicholas, Manchester Country Club, Bedford, NH

Bob Nimmo, Shelter Harbor Golf Club, Charlestown, RI

Darren O'Connell, Rockrimmon Country Club, Stamford, CT

Kevin Odau, Rye Golf Club, Rye, NY

Joe Repanti, The Stanwich Club, Greenwich, CT

David Rovero, Shennecossett Golf Course, Groton, CT

Angel Ruiz, Pelham/Split Rock Golf Club, Bronx, NY

Willy Sacas, Westchester Hills Golf Club, White Plains, NY

Paul Standt, The Bridge, Sag Harbor, NY

Greg Szymczak, Ridgewood Country Club, Danbury, CT

Billy Tamucci, Willow Ridge Country Club, Harrison, NY

Juan Tejada, Fenway Golf Club, Scarsdale, NY

Frank Toritto, Blind Brook Club, Purchase, NY

Willie Umtia, Old Westbury Golf & Country Club, Old Westbury, NY

Richard Varga, Medford Village Country Club, Medford, NJ

John Yursa, Winged Foot Golf Club, Mamaroneck, NY

Steve Zimichi, Colonial Springs Golf Club, Farmingdale, NY

Soviet Union in hockey in 1980. I may have been young," says Dave, "but it made a great impression on me."

During the golf season, Dave's favorite extracurricular activity is traveling the Northeast to play golf with colleagues on the same mission: enjoying a day away from the stresses of the season.

Be sure to join Dave at North Jersey April 26 for what promises to be a fun—and stress-free—season opener.

Remembering Dave Mahoney

It still seems like yesterday when the terrible news of Dave's passing spread on that September Saturday morning in 2008. Dave played such an important role in the lives of so many of us. Not having him around to talk with, to laugh with, to consult with, has left an empty space in our lives that can never really be filled.



We can all be sustained by our memories of Dave and his kindness and outrageous sense of humor. I really miss the phone calls I'd always get from Dave prior to the many Jets games we attended, making sure that my wife, Michele, made her famous pasta salad with bowtie—not penne—pasta, Dave's favorite, and not to forget the peas.

When the Tournament Committee decided to name the Two-Ball Championship in Dave's memory, nothing could have been more fitting. I could almost hear him laughing as Nick Lerner and I were being thrashed in last year's Second Flight final. God bless you, Dave. We're lucky to have known you.

Kevin Collins, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is Mid-Atlantic and Northeast territory manager for Aquatrols Corp. of America and the owner/president of DryJet Northeast/TurfPounders.

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President's Message continued from page 1

generate a survey. This time around, we felt it was important to get the survey out as quickly as possible, and the printed version was more readily available to us. We hope you'll overlook the format and get those surveys back to us as soon as possible.

Give just a little of your time and effort, and I promise, you'll receive a tremendous amount of valuable information in return!

More Regulations Ahead?

No sooner did we have time to catch our breath with the New York State phosphorus ban and fuel storage regulations, than we have water diversion issues brewing in New York—and actually at a boiling point in Connecticut.

Please keep your ear to the ground for word on this potentially troublesome issue in your respective states. The Connecticut AGCS has hired Lobbyist Michael Dugan to represent the state's nearly 200 courses. John Garcia, president of the CAGCS, and Scott Ramsay, the group's Government Relations chair, have both done an outstanding job at the state level, explaining why golf courses should qualify for exemption from the Proposed Stream Flow Regulation and noting how this regulation will adversely affect our ability to operate and maintain our facilities.

Anyone in Connecticut who has questions on this issue can contact John Garcia at 203-259-7390 / Cell 203-996-6267 or at jgarcia@thepattersonclub.com; Scott Ramsay at The Course at Yale at 203-392-2310 or at scott.ramsay@yale.edu; or CAGCS Lobbyist Michael Dugan at 860-833-2198.

The Met, under the watchful eye of Government Relations Chair Bob Nielsen, has been working closely with NYSTA and will have representatives attending NYSTA's Annual Lobby Day March 10 to keep close tabs on how New York is going to handle water diversion and other regulations affecting our industry.

We will keep you informed on any new proposed legislation. After all, forewarned is forearmed! In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns or to lend a helping hand in managing any legislation affecting our ability to do our job as golf course managers.

See you all March 18 for our annual Business Meeting. . . .

Tony Girardi, CGCS
President

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