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Tee To Green

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Fresh Meadow
Country Club.

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The first thing that comes to mind when I sit down to write my message is . . . can you guess? Right. The weather. I don't know about you, but I'm a little weary of it. The season opened for many of us with winter damage followed by a cool wet spring that slowed recovery. Then the temps heated up, leading to a spell of hot, dry weather. Whew! All this added up to one hell of a year for our little friends, the weevils. I feel like I have had six generations with more to come!

In the midst of this, the Met planned some great functions. Two of the four that were scheduled after my last message, unfortunately, had to be postponed. The Superintendent/Manager Tourney at Country Club of New Canaan was—here goes the weather again!—rained out, and the Summer Social, well, it was postponed until September 10 in an attempt to encourage more people to attend. Was it the weather that drove down attendance? I'm hoping that's all it was and that everyone—and I mean *EVERYONE!*—will sign up for this always fun opportunity to let your hair down and socialize with fellow Met members.

The third event, our annual family picnic, was well attended, with more than 50 parents and children enjoying the good food and fun. The softball game and piñata have become a popular tradition. (See photos, page 6.)

Also nicely attended was the all-new Scholarship Awards Event at Mosholu Golf Course. It offered Met members and their children (particularly scholarship recipients) the opportunity to golf at Mosholu's newly renovated nine-hole course—free of charge! At an informal reception after the golf, participants were able to socialize over a delicious dinner that culminated in 14 members' children receiving MetGCSA scholarship awards. (See write-up, page 5.) This first-time event was a huge success, thanks to Erik Feldman, who had the course in great condition, and our executive director, Ed Brockner, who came up with the idea of putting this afternoon together.

Field Days: Worth the Trip

There's never a time that field days are a waste of time. This year's UMass and Rut-



Bob Nielsen, CGCS
MetGCSA President

gers field days were full of valuable information. The two farms are maintained at true putting green and fairway height so they come as close to replicating actual golf course conditions as you could possibly come. Heck, not even Bedford Golf & Tennis members can cause the wear and tear on putting greens that the contraption down at Rutgers does.

The various trials—NTEP, fungicide, and topdressing—all offered new information that you can't see on a slide in a seminar. UMass was doing some environmental fate studies of pesticides that made me wish I had brought my camera. All sorts of different grasses and sedges were tested in various mixes and heights (most were 5' or higher), and 4" Kentucky bluegrass performed as well or better than any of them. You should really make a point of attending at least one field day next year. I would love to duplicate the LIGCSA by getting enough participation to rent a bus.

Make the Most of the Season's End

I'm hoping we've rounded the corner with the weather and everyone can aerify their golf course on sunny mornings followed by cloudy afternoons and light showers during the night. And don't forget to give your hard-working crew a pat on the back. They've had a long summer too.

Last, but *certainly* not least, treat yourself and your wife or significant other to a fun evening of dinner and dancing at Fenway Golf Club on September 10. A Saturday night in September at Fenway should be pretty enticing to anyone.

I look forward to seeing you there!

Bob Nielsen, CGCS
President

Legislative Challenges Keep Coming Our Way

A Look at What We Have in Store

by Bob Nielsen, CGCS



There seems to be no end to the number of proposed laws being generated by both the federal government and state legislatures. To make matters worse, many counties and even individual towns are attempting to enforce their own set of laws.

The GCSAA, with the help of David Evans and his colleagues at Reed Smith, is able to track the federal laws being proposed and introduced. Reed Smith works to advance the GCSAA's government relations and public policy goals, representing our national organization in Congress and with federal regulatory agencies.

With GCSAA's leaner staff, their ability to track bills at the state level has been curtailed. This does not, however, prevent GCSAA staff from lending a helping hand when issues do arise. I especially want to thank Chava McKeel, GCSAA's senior manager of information and public policy, for all of her help in our efforts. Be sure to check out the podcasts she has started to put together. No more than 15 minutes in length, they offer brief, but detailed, synopses of pending legislation. You'll find them on the GCSAA website!

We are also very fortunate to have Larry Wilson and the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns (NYAFEC), which contracts with the Vandervoort Group and lobbyist Wayne Lair, to track bills that are brought up in Albany. They also keep very close tabs on legislative initiatives that occur on the local level. The importance of spotting a bill as soon as it's been introduced cannot be overstated. It's much easier to work with the various committees assigned to draw up a new law, than it is to try to effect change once a bill has reached the General Assembly.

What to Watch Out for on a National Level

#1: Threatening to Put the E-Verify System Into Practice Nationally. A few months ago, in a 5-3 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld an Arizona law requiring employers to use the federal E-Verify system. E-Verify allows employers to electronically verify that newly hired employees are legally au-

thorized to work in the U.S. Specifically, social security numbers of new hires are checked against Social Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security records in order to eliminate fraudulent numbers. The law also permits Arizona state government to revoke the business licenses of employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants. This legislation makes a voluntary federal system mandatory for the State of Arizona.

To make matters worse, on June 14, Representative Lamar Smith, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, introduced legislation (H.R. 2164, the Legal Workforce Act) mandating that all employers in the U.S. use the federal E-Verify system. If passed by Congress, the law would repeal the current paper-based I-9 system and replace it with a completely electronic work eligibility check.

Use of the program would be phased in after date of enactment. Businesses with more than 10,000 employees would be required to comply within six months; businesses with 5,000 to 10,000 would have to comply within a year; and businesses with more than 20 employees would need to comply within 18 months. Employers with fewer than 20 employees would have two years to comply.

In separate Senate action, Judiciary Committee Ranking Member Chuck Grassley also introduced legislation (S.1196) on June 14 regarding the E-Verify program. In S.1196, he proposed that the E-Verify system program be made permanent and that all employers sign on to the system within one year of passage of the bill. If passed, Grassley's legislation also would require the reverification of all employees within three years of bill enactment.

#2: Disaster Relief Funding for Golf Courses. There has been some movement on the disaster relief front. In light of the recent tornado and flooding events, House Republicans are preparing a \$1 billion aid package to make sure federal disaster relief accounts don't run out before the end of the budget year in September.

The Podesta Group, a unique lobbying firm retained by the "We Are Golf" coalition, is currently tracking this activity and working with multiple members of Congress on this front, both Republican and Democrat. They specifically reached out to Jay Goughnour (the GCSAA National Golf Day storyteller this past April in Washington, DC). He is the superintendent who explained the difficulty in rebuilding his golf course because he did not qualify for disaster relief. There should soon be a targeted grass roots effort to be sure that golf courses are not exempted from this bill.

#3: Putting a High Price on H-2B Visa Workers. The H-2B Visa program has been under attack by the U.S. Department of Labor for the past six months. This program is used by many golf facilities to secure temporary, seasonal workers when American workers are unwilling or unavailable to do this work.

The GCSAA submitted final comments on the H-2B Visa program to the Labor Department, noting the serious implications of raising the minimum wage for these workers. This program will require that H-2B Visa workers be paid, in some cases, at double the minimum wage. In a letter cosigned by the MetGCSA and at least 70 other chapters, the GCSAA pointed out, among other things, that this program could only do more harm than good by encouraging employers to seek other avenues for employees they can hire at a more reasonable hourly rate.

Legislation Facing New York State

#1: Water Withdrawal Permitting Hits Golf Courses. This past month, we lost the war against water withdrawal permitting when the Assembly and the Senate passed the Water Withdrawal Bill with no provision for a golf course exemption. The bill was signed by Governor Cuomo a few weeks ago and is now law.

To recap, this bill expands the existing water supply permit program by requiring entities, like golf courses, that have the capacity to withdraw a minimum of 100,000 gallons per day to obtain a permit from the DEC and adhere to stream flow standards and new water conservation practices that, in Connecticut, have cost golf facilities from \$65,000 to \$250,000 to comply.

Another drawback to this legislation is that it leaves us susceptible to open-ended regulations that would allow the DEC to establish restrictions and limits on water use.

At the Met's last board meeting, we voted unanimously to draft a letter to the other New York State chapters and to NYSTA hoping to establish a united front to make sure implementation of this law is not too harsh on golf courses. We believe that if we can establish Best Management Practices similar to those established by the State of Connecticut, we may be able to avert a potential disaster. Stay tuned!

#2: State Definition of IPM Passes the Senate. Finally, some good news! Thanks to Senator Young, the New York State Senate voted 61 - 0 to pass a definition of IPM that we can live with. Getting the green light

from the Assembly, however, could be a major undertaking. The definition the Senate approved provides for judicious use of chemicals for pest and disease management. More specifically, it defines Integrated Pest Management as "a systematic approach to managing pests that utilizes a diversity of management options to minimize health, environmental, and economic risks and impacts. These options may include biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to prevent pest infestations or reduce them to acceptable levels."

At the County Level

#1: Stage II Vapor Collection System No Longer Required. The New York State Department of Conservation has issued an enforcement discretion directive regarding Stage II Vapor Collection Systems. The directive can be found on the NYSDEC website. The Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) will enforce Article XXVI of the County Sanitary Code in accordance with this directive.

The good news: You're no longer required to install Stage II Vapor Collection Systems. *HOWEVER*, existing Stage II Vapor Collection Systems must be maintained in accordance with Article XXVI or decommissioned in accordance with Appendix A of the DEC directive. Then a CARB Vapor Recovery Test must be performed to ensure vapor tightness of the system, so you should contact your installer to decommission your system. All Stage II requirements must be adhered to until they are repealed. This includes inspection and testing requirements.

Final Note

With the number of laws continually being introduced and with the strong implications some of these laws can have on our business, it's in our best interest to become more involved in government relations and public policy.

Though many of our best efforts to squash unfavorable legislation have failed, we can't be discouraged... and we certainly can't give up. Sooner or later the political climate will change and, with it, the results of our efforts.

Bob Nielsen, superintendent at Bedford Golf & Tennis Club in Bedford, NY, is currently the MetGCSA's president and Government Relations Committee co-chair. In addition, Bob is an active member of the GCSAA Government Relations Committee.

New-and-Improved Irrigation Systems Do More Than Keep the Grass Green

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA Executive Director

If there's one thing our Feature article in this issue makes loud and clear, it's that we can't sit by the sidelines and hope the latest regulation imposed on our industry will be the last. In fact, it's becoming increasingly difficult to keep tabs on—and comply with—the many laws being proposed and put into effect.

An important piece of legislation the Met is currently watching closely is the bill on water withdrawal permitting. Already passed in Connecticut, the bill proposed for New Yorkers, could, worst case, leave golf courses susceptible to open-ended restrictions on water use. Though it is certainly in our best interest to become more actively involved in government relations and public policy to keep these regulations from being written, just as important is winning the favor of law-making legislators by clearly demonstrating our commitment to preserving our natural resources and the environment.

One clear example of resource conservation at work: The installation of a new, more efficient irrigation system. Several area clubs have installed—or are planning to install—new systems with water conservation just one of the benefits in mind. Granted, this is no small undertaking. But taking the plunge will not only demonstrate commitment to protecting our resources, but also allow you to more easily comply with any water restrictions, should they come to pass.

What follows are several members' thoughts on the process. If you—or your club—are on the fence about taking on this kind of project, what you read here may help you get to the other side.

Best Laid Plans

Job #1 when gearing up to install a new irrigation system: Hire a qualified consultant to do the design. No two golf courses are alike, and even within a single course, it's often necessary to customize the design to fit each hole and provide the appropriate coverage.

At National Golf Links of America in Southampton, NY, the new irrigation system was tailored to meet the varied width of the fairways. While many of the holes at this classically designed course are triple row, Bill Salinetti points out that some of the newly expanded holes were designed with seven or even eight rows, once the mowing patterns of

the expanded fairways were set.

The restored width of many of the holes at National, along with an irrigation system that now reaches the edges of the fairways, has helped to regain course strategy that was lost as hole corridors gradually narrowed over the years. But it goes without saying that the new state-of-the-art system also allows Bill to water with far greater efficiency.

Rob Alonzi at Fenway Golf Club in Scarsdale, NY, is installing a new irrigation system to apply water more efficiently and effectively to greens that have been enlarged and will likely be expanded further to bring them back to their original size.

To avoid drawing a significant amount of water from the municipal water source, several years ago, the club dug five wells and installed an irrigation reservoir with a 3.5-million-gallon holding capacity. Relying primarily on a water source that is replenished largely with storm water and groundwater has not only resulted in a significant cost savings to the club, but has also allowed Rob to conserve the town's drinkable water source.

New irrigation systems are allowing clubs like National and Fenway to return their courses to the original designers' intent. With the new system in place at National, for instance, Bill is able to vary his watering practices across the course, keeping the rough drier than other areas and true to its original C.B. Macdonald links-style design.

Modern Efficiency

Jim Pavonetti at Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, CT, recently started work on replacing his club's 26-year-old irrigation system that had developed more than a hundred leaks over the past four years. In addition, the sprinkler spacing was inconsistent, causing certain areas to be wet and soggy, and others nearby to be dry and wilting.

Rectifying these issues meant installing a new five-row system that will allow him to water the rough and fairways separately. His system will also include sensors on every green, tee, and fairway to help determine just-the-right-amount of water needed to keep these areas alive and well.

In addition to allowing Jim to create more consistent conditions on the course, this state-of-the-art system will enable him to tailor his water applications to the course's specific needs. He can apply less water on fairways to produce a firmer surface, while

applying more water on the rough. In times of drought or to comply with any future water restrictions, he can easily respond by, perhaps, applying little or no water to the rough, while keeping greens, tees, and fairways well watered.

Jim's looking forward to finally having a system that will enable him to apply water more efficiently, while providing more consistent playing conditions.

For the Round Hill Club's Sean Foley, also in Greenwich, a new irrigation system will help him conserve not one, but *two* precious resources: water and labor.

Just about daily, some of Sean's most skilled employees are being pulled away from the course to repair irrigation problems. Making matters worse, many of the parts for the aging system are outdated and hard-to-find. Sean's looking forward to the completion of his new system so his crew can focus on course maintenance rather than emergency irrigation management.

Making Your Case

Though the benefits of installing a new irrigation system are crystal clear to superintendents, it may take a hard sell to convince your club officials of its value, especially given that a new system can run more than \$3 million when all is said and done.

After discussing all the problems associated with an aging and inadequate irrigation system, it's wise to point out that a state-of-the-art system is not just an expense; it's an investment—one that will pay dividends by offering greater efficiency (in both water and labor) and superior conditions that will make the club more attractive to current and new members.

Of course, in light of all of the new regulations that are being passed at the state and local level, the environmental benefits of a new irrigation system might be the most practical and compelling selling point when working with club officials to get board approval on this major a project.

In any case, before you start your journey, you might increase your chances of success if you speak to the superintendents in this piece and any others you may know who have successfully sold their clubs on a new system. Time spent in preparing your case is always time well spent. We wish you the best of luck!

Congratulations to Our 2011 Scholarship Recipients!

by Blake Halderman, CGCS

The 2011 Scholarship Awards Ceremony this year was held as part of the First Annual Member/Child Golf Event at Mosholu Golf Course on August 4. This is one of America's premier First Tee golf courses and a perfect venue for all of our members' children (young and old) to get out and enjoy the game that's so much a part of their parents' livelihood.

We had 38 participants (parent/child teams) playing in a nine-hole, two-person scramble, which was enjoyed by all. Ed Brockner, the MetGCSA's executive director, spearheaded the event at Mosholu, where he also works with the First Tee Program.

The tournament ended up being a great success thanks to Ed and Mosholu Superintendent Erik Feldman and his staff, who had the course in wonderful shape.

This year, the Scholarship Committee had the pleasure of awarding scholarships to 14 members' sons and daughters. With 21 applications to process, the judging was more challenging than ever. As always, the winning candidates were selected based on maturity, academic history, ambition, extracurricular activities, and effort exhibited in completing their application.

Please join me in congratulating this year's scholarship recipients—and their proud parents:

- **Katherine Amodio**, daughter of Jean and Frank Amodio of Valley View Greenhouses, is a sophomore at Boston College working toward a double major in human development and psychology.

- **Emily Carlone**, daughter of Leslie and John Carlone, has begun her senior year at the University of Rhode Island with a communication disorders major and a double minor in leadership studies and Spanish.

- **Megan Ceplo**, daughter of Jasmine and Matt Ceplo, superintendent of Rockland Country Club, is a sophomore at Paul Smith's College, majoring in baking and pastry arts.

- **LaurAnn Donovan**, daughter of Julie and Shawn Donovan of TPC in Enfield, CT, is enrolled in the doctorate program in clinical health psychology at the Spalding University in Louisville, KY.

- **Corinne A. Finamore**, daughter of Janet and Steve Finamore, superintendent of

Alpine Country Club, is a junior at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, majoring in mathematics education.

- **Amanda Gross**, daughter of Elizabeth and Doug George, superintendent of Waccabuc Country Club, will be a freshman at Northeastern University, majoring in mathematics education.

- **Tim Kerr**, son of Betsy and Dave Kerr, superintendent of Ridgewood Country Club, is a senior at Grove City College in Pennsylvania, majoring in communication studies.

- **Teddy Norman**, a new MetGCSA member working for Superintendent Peter J. Rappoccio at Concord Country Club in Concord, MA, will be attending the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Stockbridge School of Agriculture this fall.

- **Kristin J. O'Neill**, daughter of Jennifer and Tim O'Neill, superintendent of Country Club of Darien, is in her junior year at Connecticut College, majoring in American studies.

- **Jane Sylvester**, daughter of Julie and Dave Sylvester, sales representative for Bayer Environmental Science, is in her sophomore year at Michigan State University, studying music.

- **Mary Frances Sylvester**, daughter of

Julie and Dave Sylvester, sales representative for Bayer Environmental Science, is in her junior year at Central Connecticut State University, pursuing a degree in elementary education.

- **Kathryn Wallace**, daughter of Vicky and Dave Wallace of Wallace Consulting, is a senior at the University of Connecticut, majoring in agricultural and resource economics.

- **Sharyce Willand**, daughter of Synda and Scott Willand of Steven Willand, Inc., is entering her sophomore year at the State University of New York in New Paltz as a media and communications major.

- **Kara Wojick**, daughter of Pandora Wojick, our talented editor, and Greg Wojick, principal, Playbooks™ for Golf, is a sophomore at the University of Connecticut, pursuing a degree in elementary education.

In addition to congratulating our recipients, I'd like to recognize those past boards who had the foresight to initiate our Scholarship Fund, which has enabled us to assist in the ever-increasing college costs thanks to our Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, the 50/50s at our monthly meetings, and last but not least, a portion of our dues. Finally, a special thank you needs to go out to the entire Scholarship Committee for their hard work in reviewing and awarding each scholarship.

Please remember to support our scholarship raffle. It is the major income-generator for our Scholarship Fund. I hope to see you all at Sunningdale Country Club on December 9 for our Annual Christmas Party.

Blake Halderman, chairman of the Scholarship Committee, is superintendent at Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, NY.



Seven of the 14 scholarship winners were able to attend the Scholarship Awards Ceremony at Mosholu to accept their scholarships. From left to right: Dave Kerr with his son, Tim; Frank Amodio with his daughter, Katherine; Corinne Finamore with her mother, Janet; Dave Wallace with his daughter, Kathryn; Greg and Pandora Wojick with their daughter, Kara; Tim O'Neill with his daughter, Kristin; Dave Sylvester, there to accept the scholarship awards for his two daughters, Jane and Mary Frances; and Matt Ceplo with his daughter, Megan.

Matt Ceplo Honored for Environmental Stewardship

Rockland Country Club Superintendent Matt Ceplo was honored with the 2011 Global Sports Alliance (GSA) New York Environmental Stewardship Award. GSA is a global network of sports enthusiasts committed to ensuring a healthy environment for future generations.

Presented annually, the New York Environmental Stewardship Award is "given to an individual who demonstrates an exceptional commitment to protecting the environment in the management of a recreational or sports venue." GSA participated in the Environmental Day celebration in Rockland County, NY, on May 15, hosted by the Rockland County Solid Waste

Management Authority (RCSWMA). Matt was honored at the closing ceremonies by GSA New York Team Captain Kevin Trotta.

"Matt has distinguished himself as a pioneer, a practitioner/researcher, and a leader in the progressive management of the golf course," says Trotta. "He points the way to the future of the game by maintaining the social and economic integrity of the golf course while resolutely defending environmental quality. His many years of involvement and promotion of Audubon International's Cooperative Sanctuary Program and his pursuit of sustainable practices have earned him the respect of his industry and the respect of GSA New York," said Trotta.

Congratulations, Matt, on this high honor.

Newly Certified

Congratulations to **Rob Dorsch**, superintendent of Richter Park Golf Course in Danbury, CT, who has recently completed the coursework required to become a certified golf course superintendent (CGCS) with GCSAA.

Well Wishes

Wishing **Ernie Steinhof** of Metro Turf Specialists a speedy recovery after his recent hip replacement surgery. He will be going in for hip replacement surgery #2 on September 6! We're sending well wishes your way, Ernie!

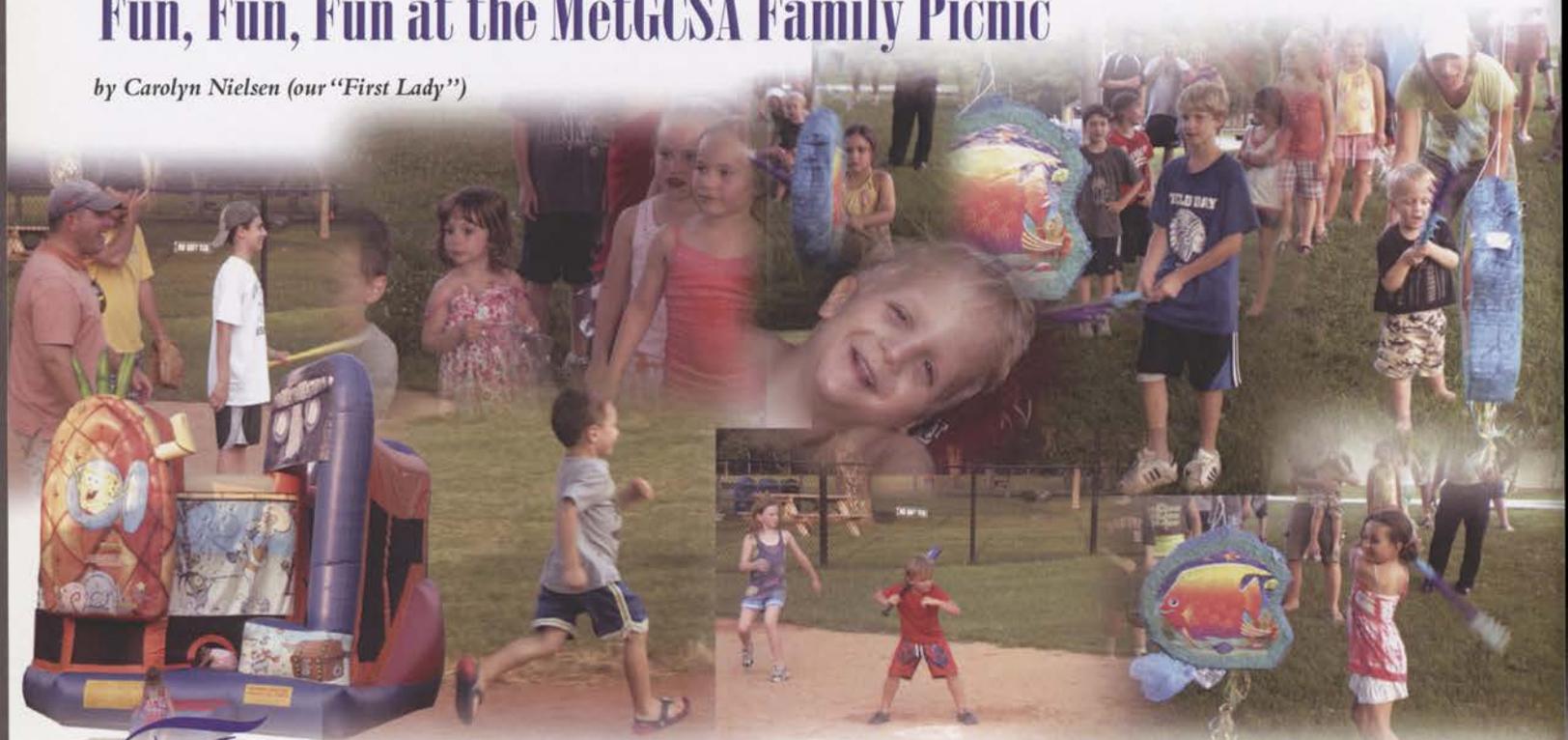
In Sympathy

We would like to offer our sincere condolences to two member superintendents who recently lost their mothers:

- **Paul Gonzalez**, superintendent of The Whippoorwill Club in Armonk, NY. His mother, Linda Gonzalez, passed away on July 15.
- **Peter Waterous**, superintendent of Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains, NY. His mother, Ellen E. Waterous Shokan, died on July 18.

Fun, Fun, Fun at the MetGCSA Family Picnic

by Carolyn Nielsen (our "First Lady")



The July 19 MetGCSA Family Picnic held at Bedford Village Memorial Park was once again a happy reunion for superintendents' families and industry friends. Though the kids get older and some unrecognizable from year to

year, they all seem to share in the fun of the bounce house and the all-you-can-sneak sno cones before dinner, as well as the baseball game and closing piñata whack.

New families joined the fun this year and quickly became acquainted based solely on the fact that we all endure long summer

hours with our families separated. Life on the other side of a golf course is one that only those who experience it can appreciate and begin to understand. It is good to have friends on the same par!

See you all next summer!

Joe Gardner Preps Fresh Meadow for Dual-Association Event

by Eric O'Neill

While Labor Day represents a day of rest for most of the country's workforce, Fresh Meadow Superintendent Joe Gardner and his staff will likely be toiling harder than ever to prepare the course for the Met Area Team Championship Qualifier, and the Poa Annual Tournament on September 6.

A seasoned host, Joe has welcomed association members twice before: in 2003 for the annual Assistants Championship and, again, in 2008 for the Two-Ball Qualifier. This will be Joe's first event at Fresh Meadow Country Club, where he has been superintendent for the past three years.

The Club's Beginning

Opened in 1925 as Lakeville Golf & Country Club, the course was built by golf course architect Charles Alison, and touted as "one of the most beautiful and exclusive clubs in America." Though many rich and famous were among its first members—including Irving Berlin, Eddie Cantor, and Oscar Hammerstein—the Depression hit the club hard, and Lakeville fell into the hands of financial institutions.

During World War II, it was leased to nearby Glen Oaks, whose grounds were taken over by the U.S. Navy. After the war's end, Glen Oaks was able to reclaim its property and returned to its original home. At that point, the Lakeville property was sold, becoming the club we know today: Fresh Meadow Country Club.

Perched on 150 acres on Long Island's North Shore, Fresh Meadow offers golfers a challenging yet picturesque playing field. Its fairways follow the natural roll of the forested terrain. Several tees are elevated well above the fairway, presenting vistas hardly conducive to keeping one's eye on the ball. Almost every hole spotlights the artistry of Charles Alison's deep-faced bunkering, with the home hole a classic example of his craft. A high-lipped cross bunker rises like a wave across the fairway about 75 yards ahead of the green. You'll no doubt find it a fitting finish to a great golf experience.

In Joe's tenure at the club, he's worked with architect Keith Foster to modernize the signature Alison layout. The renovation consisted of rebuilding two greens, all greenside

and fairway bunkers, three tee complexes, adding collection areas around several greens, enlarging greens, and highlighting the large specimen trees on the property. The project was completed December 11 that same year. "Fast and furious; that's all I can say. Keith and McDonald & Sons and I just meshed," says Joe, noting, "It was a great team effort to complete the project two days before the first snowfall."

Resume-building

Joe's prior experience prepared him well for the challenges of renovation work. As Dellwood Country Club's superintendent, a position he held before moving to Fresh Meadow, Joe devoted much of his six-year tenure at the club to course improvement projects: expanding greens, recapturing approach and fairway contouring, and bringing greenside bunkers back into play.

But Joe truly got his feet wet in construction as an assistant superintendent at the Seawane Club, working with Brian Benedict. "We met as assistant superintendents. I was at Old Oaks, and he was at Century," says Joe.

"When Brian became superintendent at Seawane, he called to tell me he had a construction opportunity. I left Old Oaks and spent three years helping him in the transformation of all but the last five holes. It was a great experience," adds Joe. "What I learned enabled me to handle the renovation projects at both Dellwood and Fresh Meadow with creativity and dedication."

Where It All Began

Joe grew up in Danville, OH, working on golf courses through his high school years. He didn't, however, pursue the education track typical of most superintendents. Joe received a B.S. in psychology from Otterbein College. But after graduating, rather than put his degree to work, he took a position doing what he knew best. He signed on as a member of the maintenance crew at The Country Club at Muirfield Village in Dublin, OH. He enjoyed six years there, climbing the ladder to assistant.

In January of 1999, Joe saw an opportunity in the Met area and accepted an assistant's



Joe Gardner

position at Lake Success Village Golf Course in Great Neck, NY (just a three-wood away from Fresh Meadow). It was at that point that Joe realized the opportunity to succeed was in the Met community.

He accepted yet another assistant's position at Old Oaks Country Club, working under Mark Millett, a superintendent he credits with mentoring him both on and off the course. At the same time, Joe began pursuing formal turf management training at Rutgers, completing his certificate in 2001.

"I have a great deal of respect for all the superintendents I've worked with. Good, bad or indifferent, you learn something at each stop. Having the ability to process your experiences and make them work for you is the key. That's what's helped me climb the ladder."

Away From Work

Like most superintendents, Joe values time with his family. He and his wife of eight years, Margaret, and their two daughters, 7-year-old Emma and 2-year-old Clare, enjoy traveling to see family in Ohio, Atlanta, North Carolina, and Chicago—or just a good lazy day at the beach. "I'm a sports fan. I follow college football and basketball, the NFL, the PGA Tour, and NASCAR. Having been involved in sports my whole life, they're just part of me. I enjoy the game of golf these days. There's nothing better than a competitive round with friends, but getting to visit some of the best courses in the world isn't bad either."

For those venturing to the North Shore on September 6, Joe offers this word to the wise: Fresh Meadow is a really good golf course. It's one of those places you play and don't realize how difficult it is until you've finished. Just be sure to hit the fairways . . . but even more important, have a good time!

Eric O'Neill, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Towers Country Club in Floral Park, NY.

North Jersey Claims Invitational Trophy ... Once Again!

North Jersey Country Club returned to form at this year's MetGCSA Invitational, held June 9 at Silver Spring Country Club. They shot an impressive 10 under par in the rain-shortened round, winning the event in a match of cards with Pine Hollow Country Club. North Jersey last won the Invitational at The Whipoorwill Club in 2007.

Meanwhile, Silver Spring Country Club took advantage of a little home cooking and won the gross division with a score of -4, a fitting result considering the tremendous job they did in hosting this year's event. The course was in perfect condition thanks to Peter Rappoccio and his staff.

This year's low pro resulted in a tie between Pelham Country Club's Mike Diffley and North Jersey Country Club's Chris Dachisen, who each shot 2 under par.

The event ended when severe weather forced the field off the course and into the clubhouse an hour early. Though the players

were disappointed not to finish the round, they were treated to a wonderful time in the beautiful clubhouse.

Thanks again Silver Spring Country Club and to all participants for making this year's Invitational a huge success.

Now for a full account of the results:

Net Team Winners

- 10 North Jersey Country Club
David Dudones, Chris Dachisen, Erv Allaghi, Steve Friedberg
- 10 Pine Hollow Country Club
Gerry Kunkle, Richard Butwin, Neil Katzman, Kevin Loftus

Gross Team Winners

- 4 Silver Spring Country Club
Peter Rappoccio, David Jones, Bill Lawrence, Carl Klein
- 3 Mt. Kisco Country Club
Greg Gutter, Pat Sullivan, Carl Sturges, Ken Nilsen

Individual Low Pro

- 2 Mike Diffley, *Pelham Country Club*
- 2 Chris Dachisen, *North Jersey Country Club*

Closest to the Pin

- #8 Carl Sturges, Club Official 24' 0"
Mt. Kisco Country Club
- #15 Neil Katzman, Club Official 6' 3"
Pine Hollow Country Club
- #3 Kevin Loftus, Pro 11' 8"
Pine Hollow Country Club
- #10 Chip Lafferty, Superintendent 16' 7"
Rye Golf Club

Longest Drive

- Michael Retter, Club Official
Lake Waramaug Country Club
- Steve Dougan, Pro
Bedford Golf & Tennis Club
- Jeff Wentworth, Superintendent
Pelham Country Club

- Ken Benoit, CGCS

Two-Ball First-Round Winners

by Larry Pakkala, CGCS

As our teams dodged the raindrops to complete their first rounds in the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship, I happened to catch a story about a Madison, WI, foursome who teed off, like many of us, during a light rain. But when these guys got around the back nine, they could see lightning in the distance, so they decided to head in. Halfway there, a drizzle turned into a heavy downpour, so they took shelter under a tree . . . a 50-foot pine with a 10-foot overhang. When the rain let up a bit, all but one of the guys decided to head in. The fourth remained under the tree, standing next to his bag. Minutes later, a lightning bolt struck his bag and pushcart. Holding onto one of his clubs, he was killed instantly.

Fortunately, none of our members were "struck" by this kind of misfortune during their first Two-Ball match. But the first



round did have to be extended because of the spring rains and the many supers who had to play catch-up on their courses. The picture on page 8, by the way, is what was left of that unfortunate golfer's clubs. Couldn't resist posting this photo since it reminded me of Kevin Collins' clubs at the end of last season's Two-Ball!

A Few of the Highlights

To highlight a few of our first-round matches . . .

- Dave Dudones and Grover Alexander defeated a strong team of Tom Ashfield and Andy Drohen at Centennial 1 up in sudden death after 19 holes. Dudones and Alexander won on the 17th hole to go one down, and on 18, Dudones's 4-iron from 225 yards landed just left of the green. After chipping on, Dudones holed his 20-foot par putt, forcing sudden death. Alexander took over from there, birdying the first hole of sudden death, ending the epic match.

On a side note, Andy Drohen played fantastically, finishing one under par on his own ball. Dave's comment on the round: "It was the best two-ball match I've ever played." Hmmm. Could it have been because he won?

- Tony Hooks and Jeff Wentworth defeated Mark Chant and Mike Benz 4 and 3 at Westchester Country Club. Wentworth shot a blistering 76 in his first visit to Westchester since the regress. After the match, on the way for refreshments, the mad texter, Hooks, was sending results to other competitors in the Two-Ball: "Hooks/Wentworth win 4 and 3 to advance!" One of the recipients was (oops) Mark Chant. His response: "I know!"

- Matt Ceplo and Jim Swiatlowski had a great match going. They were one up heading into the back nine when Jimmy caught fire. While he was two under on the back side, Matt was . . . well . . . there for moral support, handing Jimmy his putter on every hole. This proved too much for Bob DeMarco and Fred Montgomery, who hung in there for quite some time but ultimately lost the battle after the 16th hole. "We had a great day," says Matt, "the course was great and the camaraderie was even better."

- Guy Gurney and Ernie Steinhofer defeated Tony Grasso and Scott Tretera 1 up, despite a steady rain that persisted the whole match. Grasso and Tretera took the early lead, but Gurney and Steinhofer were able to make a comeback. With two bad hips (see Member News), Steinhofer reportedly was barely able to tee the ball up but managed to

make a couple of pars on stroke holes to put Gurney and him two up at one point. Grasso had a few choice words (all in fun) for Steinhofer who was hitting the ball in the fairway off of the tee about 200 yards instead of his usual 260 yards into the woods. The foursome was so wet after nine holes that Grasso and Tretera conceded the match. The four rung out their wet clothes and headed home early.

- "Big Sexy" Topazio and Lippman won 1 up over McGlone and Lippman at Trump National/Westchester.

- Greg Wojick and Brett Chapin won the first round against George Corgan and Trapper VanDunk. This was a match noted for the lousy play from all four players! VanDunk was erratic; Corgan had a case of the hooks; Chapin and Wojick were egg and eggin' it, finding every way to hit bad shots on the same hole. Each team tried very hard to lose, and the match thankfully concluded in the pitch dark at 8:40 p.m. on hole #17 at Fairview (one hole was closed due to the ongoing irrigation installation project).

Wojick and Chapin prevailed to win 3 up with two holes remaining—miraculous, considering Wojick had only his prescription sunglasses (his regular glasses were bezzing repaired), so by the end, he was quite literally taking shots in the dark. At the conclusion of the match, Wojick muttered to his partner, "Brett, thank the Lord that match is over, I couldn't see a thing!"

I'm hoping more of you will provide feedback on your matches so I have a few more stories to tell. Please send your results to lpakkala@plantfoodco.com, and write up a little something or take a picture for me. Thanks and good luck!

The Results

In the meantime, here's a full account of the first-round results:

First Flight Winners

- Bert Dickinson/Chip Lafferty (Willow Ridge CC/Rye GC) defeated Scott Niven/Larry Pakkala (The Stanwich Club/Plant Food Company) 3 & 1 at Round Hill

- Grover Alexander/David Dudones (Hudson Hills GC/North Jersey CC) defeated Tom Ashfield/Andy Drohen (Quaker Ridge GC/Agrium Advanced Technologies) 1 up at Centennial

- Matt Ceplo/Jim Swiatlowski (Rockland CC/Montammy GC) defeated Bob DeMarco/Fred Montgomery (Powelton Club/Syngenta) 3 & 2 at Manhattan Woods

- Tony Hooks/Jeff Wentworth (Pelham/Split Rock GC/Pelham CC) defeated Mark Chant/Mike Benz (Class A/Middle Bay CC) 4 & 3 at Westchester CC

- Guy Gurney/Ernie Steinhofer (Orange CC/Metro Turf Specialists) defeated Tony Grasso/Scott Tretera (Metropolis CC/Metro Turf Specialist) 1 up at Trump National/Hudson Valley

- Glen Dube/Blake Halderman (Centennial GC/Brae Burn CC) defeated Ryan Batz/Scott Blough (John Deere Golf/Trump National GC/NY) 4 & 3 at Silver Spring

- Dave Lippman/Matt Topazio (Westchester Turf Supply/New York CC) defeated Bob Lippman/Steve McGlone (Westchester Turf Supply/Siwanoy CC) 1 up at Trump National GC/Westchester

Second Flight Winners

- Eddie Binsse/Dan Cancelleri (Life A/Life AF) defeated Bob Nielsen/Bill Perlee (Bedford Golf & Tennis/Apawamis Club) 2 & 1 at Silver Spring

- Paul Boyd/Matt Leverich (Greenwich CC/Playbooks for Golf) defeated Rob Alonzi/Bill Bartels (Fenway GC/Tanto Irrigation) by default

- Kevin Collins/Nick Lerner (Aquatrols, Inc./Bonnie Briar CC) defeated Dennis Flynn/Peter Rappoccio (Class LA/Silver Spring CC) 2 & 1 at Bedford Golf & Tennis

- Brett Chapin/Greg Wojick (Redding CC/Playbooks for Golf) defeated George Corgan/Trapper VanDunk (Steven Willand/Leewood GC) 3 & 2 at Fairview

- Mike Cook/Chris Alonzi (The Care of Trees/Elmwood CC) defeated Tony Girardi/Glenn Perry (Rockrimmon CC/Rolling Hills CC) 4 & 3 at Rolling Hills

- Jake Green/Mike Reeb (CC of New Canaan) defeated Joe Alonzi/Frank Amadio (Westchester CC/Valley View Greenhouses) 4 & 2 at Silver Spring

- Kevin Seibel/Bob Wolverton (Century CC/Edgewood CC) defeated Jim Calladio/Mark Fuller (LaCorte Equipment/Connecticut GC) 3 & 2 at Connecticut GC

Larry Pakkala, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is territory manager with Plant Food Company, in Cranbury, NJ.

Mt. Kisco to Host Superintendent/ Green Chairperson Tournament

by Kevin Collins

On Monday, October 3, Mt. Kisco Country Club will hold the MetGCSA's annual Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament. Our host, Greg Gutter, is looking forward to his first MetGCSA event and is anticipating a huge turnout. (Don't disappoint him!)

The Course

Mt. Kisco Country Club opened its doors in 1928 as Lawrence Farms Country Club, a 6,500-yard layout designed by Tom Winton. Originally a greenskeeper, Winton came to America in 1916 to prepare Siwanoy Country Club for the inaugural PGA Championship. At the time, the Mt. Kisco name was taken by the only other club in the area: the Mt. Kisco Golf Club. In the 1940s, however, the club ceased operations, and Lawrence Farms gladly assumed the Mt. Kisco name—with a slight modification: It became Mt. Kisco Country Club rather than Golf Club.

The word "Kisco" is derived from the Indian word "Cisqua," which in Algonquin means "muddy place." This might explain the many miles of drainage pipe that have been installed to keep the fairways dry!

Mt. Kisco Country Club is a challenging course to play. The fairways are mostly generous. The greens are small and fast. The surrounds and the bunkering are real "old school," so if you miss the green or leave your approach shot in a bunker—or worse—good luck! The par 3s are no picnic either, and water hazards are on 13 holes. Aesthetically, Mt. Kisco is very pleasing to the eye, and you can count on Greg to have it in championship condition: firm and fast.

From Economics to Agronomics

Greg was born in Palisades Park, NJ, but didn't stay there for long. "My dad worked for IBM so we moved around a lot," says Greg. "We lived in Endicott, NY, Glastonbury, CT, and finally settled down in Somers, NY, when I was in the third grade."

Greg graduated from Somers High School in 1988 and moved on to SUNY Albany where he received a degree in economics in 1992. Midway through his college career, Greg took a summer job working for former

Superintendent Fred Scheyhing on the crew of Mt. Kisco Country Club—which proved to be the beginning of the end for Greg's career in economics.

"In 1992, I decided to pursue formal training in golf course management and enrolled in the Rutgers two-year turf management program," says Greg. He spent the next two years as an intern at Mt. Kisco while completing his education, officially beginning the long and winding road to becoming a superintendent.

The Waiting Is the Hardest Part

Like Tom Petty lamented in his song, the waiting is the hardest part—particularly for an assistant hoping to become a golf course superintendent.

After completing his degree, Greg accepted an assistant's position at Alpine Country Club, working with Steve Finamore. "I was at Alpine for 10 years," recounts Greg, "and during that period, I interviewed for countless superintendent jobs but just couldn't break through."

Nonetheless, Greg will tell you, those years at Alpine were years well spent: "Steve taught me about managing my time, managing a budget, and how to manage water. I saw it all at Alpine, and it paid off."

In 2004, Greg moved on to the Golf Club of Purchase where he worked for Bob Miller. "Working for the 'Doctor,' I learned how to grow bent and pretty much everything else that goes into managing a newly constructed course," says Greg.

After three years at Purchase, the day Greg feared might never happen finally did. In 2007, he interviewed for—and landed—the job as superintendent at Mt. Kisco Country Club.

Paving the Way to Success

Passing what proved to be a rigorous interview process, Greg was one of only three candidates being considered for the job. "I have to credit Fred for my success in landing this position," says Greg, fondly praising his first mentor. "Fred always trusted me and would give me as much responsibility as I could handle. He had a great knack for empowering people."



Greg Gutter

Though each of Greg's mentors brought something different to the table, it's clear Greg's work ethic and philosophy were forged from all three. "I'm a very hands-on superintendent. I don't spend lot of time in my office. You have to be out there, touching and feeling it. You have to be a part of it. I also tread carefully in my relationships with the crew. I always want to treat them fairly," says Greg.

Making Greg's transition to superintendent at Mt. Kisco that much easier was the fact that he inherited a well-seasoned crew, with two of the longest tenured being his assistant, Tom Tooley, who's been at Mt. Kisco for more than 30 years, and his mechanic, Rich Kilicullen, who has been at the club more than 20 years. "Tom and Rich are a big part of our success," says Greg.

Now in his fifth season at the club, Greg is happy that this past spring is... well... in the past. "We had a fair amount of winter kill affecting the greens and then a cold, wet spring that did little to encourage recovery," says Greg, who can, fortunately, now breathe a lot easier. From all accounts, his greens are looking great and rolling smooth.

Family and Fun

Greg lives in Somers with his wife of 15 years, Loren, who he refers to as "the most important person in my world." They met before senior year in high school. Greg and Loren have two girls: Sarah, 12, and Katherine, 9. In his free time, Greg enjoys fishing, skiing, and a good round of golf with fellow turf professionals and friends.

So be sure to grab your green chair and join him on the links on October 3!

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 Dryject Northeast/TurfPounders.

Redding Country Club to Host Annual Assistants Championship

by Doug Vanderlee

On October 6, MetGCSA assistant superintendents will travel to an all-new venue for the Annual Assistants Championship: Redding Country Club in Redding, CT. Hosting this popular event is Redding First Assistant Steve Kubicki, who along with Superintendent Brett Chapin and fellow assistants Ryan Dexter, Kevin Haglund, and Todd Stites, is looking forward to treating Met assistant superintendents to a day away from it all—and a good round of golf.

The Course: Past and Present

Nestled in the hills of a rustic little northern Fairfield County town, Redding Country Club was the brainchild of several area businessmen interested in creating “a place of complete enjoyment and relaxation” for family and friends. Located on land that was once home to the Costello Farm, Redding opened in 1974 as a nine-hole course designed by Golf Course Architect Ed Ryder.

Four years later, Golf Course Architect Rees Jones transformed the original nine holes to create a stunning, 18-hole championship golf course.

“Jones incorporated the property’s dramatic changes in elevation to carve out a deceptively long *short course*,” says Brett, adding, “It’s a par 71, measuring only 6,295 yards, so those elevation changes will play a big role in scoring. Be ready,” he adds, “to club up or club down according to those elevations.”

Redding Country Club has removed more than 1,500 trees to improve air circulation, sunlight, and vistas across the property. “We’re one of the first clubs in the area to use fans to improve the growing environments on our putting greens—five in all,” says Brett.

Most recently Redding finished the second season of a master plan renovation designed to make the golf course “easier to break 100 but tougher to break 80.” Most noticeable are the rebuilt bunkers by Hawk Shaw Construction that protect the small but tough putting surfaces. Also part of the master plan: an upgrade to the irrigation sys-



The Team at Redding (From Left to Right): First Assistant Steve Kubicki, Assistant Ryan Dexter, Superintendent Brett Chapin, Assistant Kevin Haglund, and Assistant Todd Stites.

tem. “Tanto Irrigation installed a new pump house, a Rainbird irrigation control package, new HDPE piping, and sprinklers for the greens, surrounds, and bunkers,” says Brett, pleased with the outcome.

No rest for the weary, Brett will start work again in the off-season. “We’ll be completing greens drainage on the last few remaining greens and constructing tees, fairway bunkers, and a short game area says Brett, noting the club plans to complete the master plan within five years.

A Bit About Brett

Brett Chapin has been Redding’s superintendent since 2007. A 2002 graduate of the University of Massachusetts, Brett made his internship rounds at some of Westchester County’s finest: Siwanoy County Club, Purchase Golf Club, and The Apawamis Club. With degree in hand, he became an assistant superintendent at the Seawane Club, fine-tuning his skills for five seasons before accepting the superintendent’s position at Redding.

Embroiled in renovation work from just about the start of his four-year tenure at the club, Brett is quick to note his assistants’ crucial role in the maintenance operation.

“From day one, my first assistant, Steve Kubicki, has had the ability to take control of

the day-to-day operations in a calm and professional manner,” notes Brett, adding, “Steve has also been a great asset in dealing with the construction.”

Kevin Haglund is in his third year at Redding and holds a degree from Brett’s alma mater, UMass. “Kevin has a real desire to excel and has worked closely with me, managing the moisture content in the putting surfaces,” says Brett.

“Ryan Dexter has 14 years of experience at Redding as an assistant superintendent and has assumed the role of both acting mechanic and superintendent at least twice in his tenure,” says Brett, adding to his list of talents, “He’s also bilingual. He can converse in Spanish just about as well as he can speak English.”

Rounding out the team is Todd Stites. “A recent college graduate, Todd’s been assigned the all-important task of watch-dogging the newly laid sod during the course renovation,” notes Brett.

Meet Our Meeting Host

Like most of us in the business, Steve was drawn to turf management because of the opportunity it offered to work outdoors—and readily see the results of his work.

Born and raised in Dalton, MA, Steve began mowing lawns at the age of 12 and then,

in high school, took his experience to the nearby Bass Ridge Country Club, where he worked on the crew. A family friend then talked Steve into joining him on the crew at Berkshire Hills Country Club, working under the guidance of Steve Curry, who was superintendent there at the time. It was there that Steve learned there was more to running a golf course than just mowing grass.

"Steve Curry introduced me to the science of turf management," says Steve, who found it so interesting that he decided to make it a career. While pursuing a bachelor's at UMass, Steve interned at Siwanoy Country Club and then worked two summers at Fairview Country Club. After completing his bachelor's in 2005, he returned to Siwanoy—this time as a second assistant.

Making his way up the ladder, Steve moved back to Massachusetts and the Berkshire Hills Country Club, where he had the opportunity to work as a first assistant. Three seasons later—in 2008—Steve accepted his current position at Redding where, as he puts it, he's gained valuable experience in not only the science of turf management, but also in project management.

"Brett's been a terrific mentor," says Steve. "He's given me the guidance and confidence to manage not only many of the day-to-day aspects of the operation, but also various aspects of the construction. I think that's the kind of experience every assistant hopes for!"

Steve lives on the grounds of the country club with his girlfriend, Jess Debakis, and his two dogs, Guinness and Brady. When he's not taking the dogs for a walk in the woods, this time of year, you'll find Steve at his favorite honey hole fishing.

I asked Steve where he sees himself in five years, and like all of us, he'd like to be managing a course of his own, but he qualified that by saying, "I'd like to see Redding through all the construction first."

Steve, Brett, and the entire crew are looking forward to hosting the assistants on October 6 and, no doubt, showcasing the fruits of their hard labor. Brett's final bit of advice for contestants: "Keep the ball in the fairway; the rough is grown to be penal."

It sounds like it will be a challenging day and one, I'm sure, we'll all enjoy.

Doug Vanderlee, a Class C rep on the MetGCSA board, is an assistant superintendent at Westchester Country Club.

Upcoming Events

Come One, Come All!

Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier PLUS The Poa Annual Tournament

Tuesday, September 6
Fresh Meadow Country Club
Scarsdale, NY
Host: Joe Gardner

RESCHEDULED Summer Social

Saturday, September 10
Fenway Golf Club
Scarsdale, NY
Host: Rob Alonzi

Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament

Monday, October 3
Mt. Kisco Country Club
Mt. Kisco, NY
Host: Greg Gutter

Annual Assistants Championship

Thursday, October 6
Redding Country Club,
Redding, CT
Assistant Host: Steve Kubicki
Superintendent Host: Brett Chapin

Met Area Team Championship

Tuesday, October 25
Galloway National Golf Club
Galloway, NJ / Absecon, NJ
Host: Scott McBane

RESCHEDULED Superintendent/Manager or Guest Tournament

Thursday, October 27
Country Club of New Canaan
New Canaan, CT
Host: Mike Reeb, CGCS

MetGCSA Christmas Party

Friday, December 9
Sunningdale Golf Club
Scarsdale, NY
Host: Sean Cain, CGCS

Industry Events

The 8th Annual Dr. Joseph Troll Turf Classic

Tuesday, October 11
The Country Club
Brookline, MA

Superintendent Bill Spence will host this year's UMass Alumni Turf Group fundraiser in support of turf education and research at the University of Massachusetts.

The event, \$450 per person, will include golf, a cocktail reception, dinner, and awards ceremony, which, this year, will honor our meeting host, Bill Spence.

Please plan to attend this worthy fundraiser, and join us in honoring a deserving fellow superintendent. Entry forms and additional information will be available online at www.alumniturfgroup.com.

36th Annual New Jersey Green Expo Turf and Landscape Conference

Tuesday-Thursday, December 6-8
Trump Taj Mahal Resort & Casino
Atlantic City, NJ
Watch for details!

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