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Tee To Green

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Tee To Green



Golf Club of Purchase.

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DO NOT CIRCULATE

President's Message

As the Season Winds Down . . .

SERIALS

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Opening the first week in March sure does make it seem like our season has been dragging on forever. But now that we actually have a 10-day forecast without any 80s or 90s in it, it seems safe to say that the season we thought would never end, might actually be coming to a close! Frankly, I don't know how our Southern counterparts do it!

I just can't believe I still have some Hyperodes weevil out there making their mark. I think they appeared the second week in March and have been a pain in the @#! ever since. Perhaps the inch-and-a-half of rain and these cool temperatures will allow the grass to get ahead of them.

Speaking of the End of the Season . . .

What a finale to our golf season. The Superintendent/Green Chair event held at the Golf Club of Purchase and the Assistants Championship at Old Oaks brings a close to a great season of events for the Met. Thanks to Bob Miller and Mark Millett and his assistants Jason Anderson and Todd Stites, as well as all of the superintendents for hosting events this season.

If the weather holds out in November, you may actually have another shot at nine holes of golf at our Annual Meeting here at Bedford Golf & Tennis. Of course, last year showed us what late October and early November can bring!

Environmental BMP Manual in the Works

Also in November is the NYSTA Turf & Grounds Exposition in Rochester. (See Upcoming Events, page 5.) Not only can you hear some great talks on the latest and greatest in turf management, but there are 21.5 DEC 3A credits available and 1.8 GCSAA credits.

This year's Turf & Grounds Expo is also going to allow the New York State affiliated chapter presidents to get together and meet the authors who are developing the environmental best management practices for New York State. This manual, which was discussed last year at the GIS in Las Vegas and at Lobby Day in March, is being developed along the same lines as the Virginia and Florida BMP manuals for golf courses. It will



*Bob Nielsen, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

cover all aspects of golf course management and how each of our practices influences the environment. The manual will be written so that it can be used not only by golf course superintendents, but by regulators and legislators as well.

Ken Benoit and our Environmental Committee have been hard at work getting a technical editor (Stacy Kingsbury, editor of the Virginia BMP manual) to sit down with the authors from Cornell to develop this manual. That meeting will take place in early October and should outline the chapters and appendices of the manual. All of the authors discussed the manual in a conference call and are eager to begin working on their respective sections. NYSTA has been extremely helpful in coordinating funds, meeting sites, and venues to get the NYS chapters together. Thank you Beth Seme, Mike Maffei, and the NYSTA board!

Meetings were held with the NYSDEC and the Department of Agriculture and Markets to get them on board with the manual. These meetings have been very positive, and both departments are eager to review and offer their feedback on the manual. It would be nice if this effort opened the door to future discussions regarding golf. Watch for an upcoming article detailing the goals and timeline for this manual.

With the cooler temperatures and, hopefully, adequate rainfall, perhaps we can take a little time to reacquaint ourselves with family and friends. We might even be able to enjoy a day off for golf—at someone else's golf course, of course!

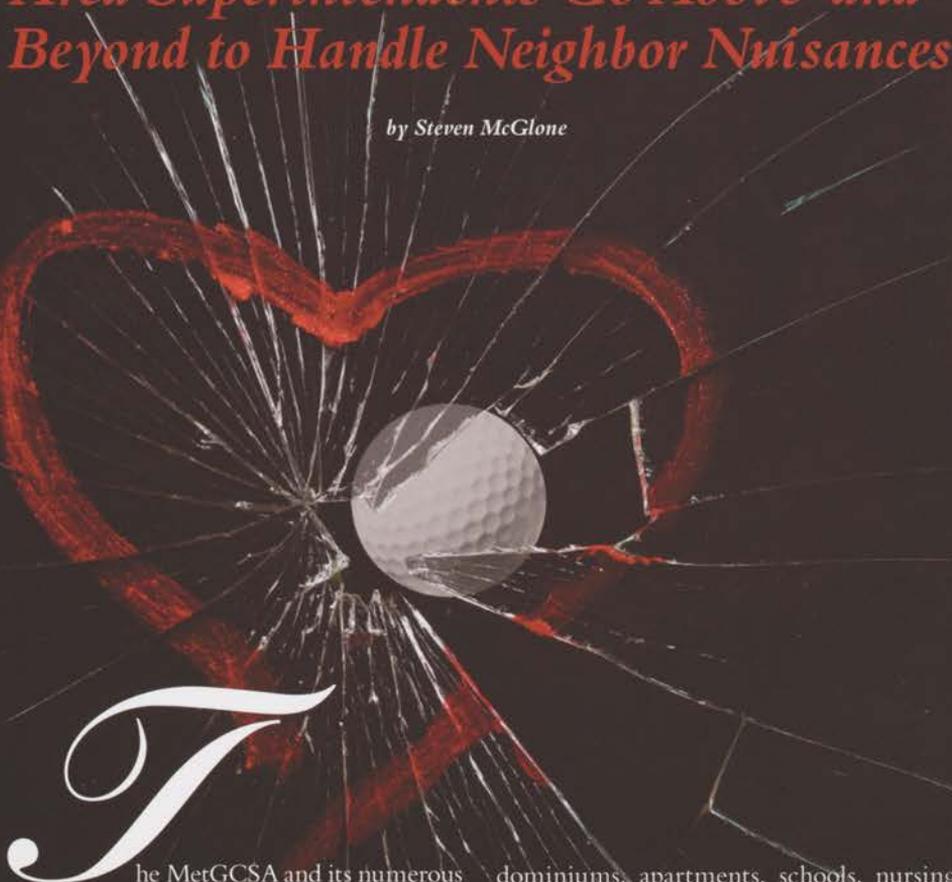
*Bob Nielsen, CGCS
President*

Feature

Love Thy Neighbor

Area Superintendents Go Above-and-Beyond to Handle Neighbor Nuisances

by Steven McGlone



The

he MetGCSA and its numerous golf courses lie within one of the nation's most populated areas. The New York Metropolitan area encompasses 11,850 square miles and has a population of more than 22 million. It's no surprise, then, that many area golf courses and private residences are, perhaps, a little too close for comfort.

Of course, it wasn't always that way. A large majority of the golf courses within our association were built in the early to mid-1900s, prior to the baby boom and subsequent explosion of home construction. As time passed, forests, fields, and farms around golf courses were replaced with homes, con-

dominiums, apartments, schools, nursing homes, and even strip malls. This encroachment created the spark that, for some courses, has led to an inferno of disputes between golf courses and neighboring property owners.

Yup. When golf course neighbors call, you can be sure it's not to discuss what a stellar job the course maintenance crew is doing. Chances are it has something to do with a perceived violation of a noise ordinance, sight line visibility, errant golf balls, unsightly construction equipment, or property line vegetative growth. Whatever the gripe, few area superintendents get through a season without interactions with neighboring property owners.

The remedy? Sadly, there's no easy answer. But there are a few steps you can take to smooth the way for a more harmonious coexistence with your neighbors. Read on, not just for pat rules and regulations, but for real-life stories from your counterparts who have found resolutions to a number of not-so-simple situations.

Rules Are Rules

The cities, towns, and villages in and around the Met all have different ordinances that golf courses must adhere to. Be sure to consult your town website or local Town Hall for details on how they affect the courses in your area. They are, after all, law, which means they can result in a fine, if a neighbor decides to blow the whistle.

Noise ordinances are among the most meddlesome for golf courses. They limit audible noise over a certain number of decibels at certain times of day. In many towns, Monday through Friday you're not free to rev up the blowers or mowers until 6, 7, or even 8 a.m. and then shut down as early as 6 p.m. in some towns. On Saturday and Sunday, most towns expect you to keep the noise down until 9 or 10 a.m.

These laws are in effect for good reason. Would you want your neighbor blowing leaves before 6 a.m. on a Sunday? Heck no. Unfortunately, though, many golf course superintendents having to prep the course for an early tee time are put between a rock and a hard place.

Greenwich Country Club was one of countless Met area clubs that faced whistle-blowing neighbors... well, at least one who, apparently, was so disgruntled by early morning leaf blowing she went one dramatic step beyond regularly calling the club and then police on the workers: She strung up a banner that was at least 20 feet long between two trees on her property line that was boldly printed with the words: "BAN THE BLOWERS!"

"Then one day," says Greenwich Superintendent Paul Boyd, "the complaining stopped—after we found her underage grandson's wallet among the rubble of a party—complete with alcoholic beverages—that had clearly taken place on our ninth tee the night before. The president of the club returned the wallet to the neighbor without pressing charges but not before making arrangements for her to take down the sign and stop the complaining."

On one hand is the need to present a clean golf course for weekend play, and on the other hand is the need to respect the law and nearby homeowners. Here at Siwanoy Country Club, where we have private residences along the first three holes, we find it particularly challenging to prepare the

course for early morning play. To pour salt in a wound, Siwanoy also has a gravel service road along the second hole that we have to use for our utility vehicles. From the loud metal spring rake in the aluminum cargo bed to the rickety trailer hitch hauling the greens mower, early morning property line noise is inevitable. Most of the complaints from our neighbors occur in the spring and fall when people are more apt to sleep with their windows open.

None of our workers have been hauled off the course by law enforcement officers yet, but it's not that this hasn't happened. At least one course on Long Island that I know of did have this experience a number of years ago, when an employee caught "violating" a noise ordinance was taken off his mower and the course. It seemed an unhappy neighbor called the city every other day to complain about a variety of noises that had been occurring on the course—everything from the shutting of a tailgate on a truck to the crew leaving the maintenance area.

In addition to purchasing an electric greens mower and moving equipment to another building that allows equipment to come on the course at an entry point farther from neighboring homes, this club actually sought a variance on the township's noise ordinance. Interestingly, they discovered—and were able to prove—that car traffic going down the road often makes more noise than their golf course work. They can now cut their greens on Saturday and Sunday before 6 a.m.

Beyond Mowers and Blowers

Brae Burn's Blake Halderman had noise concerns that went beyond his course grooming activities. In Purchase, he claims the allowed decibel levels are so low that even a car door shutting would probably be over them. That's why when he felt the need to install fans on two greens that bordered neighboring homes, he avoided going to the Town boards for permission. "They would have pulled out the decibel level minimums, and

there's no way we would have gotten a permit for them," says Blake.

Though portable fans are allowed without permits, they're noisier and less desirable than the ol' standard electric ones. So to get what he wanted, Blake bought the fans and then, rather than bolt them to the ground by the greens, he put them on very small greens mower trailers.

"If the fans can be moved, they're not considered 'permanent' and then don't require a permit," explains Blake. Now, even if a neighbor does complain, there's not much anyone can do. And so far so good. "Surprisingly," says Blake, "no one has complained, and the great news is those greens with the fans were the best ones on the course this summer. I wish I had 16 more!"

Paul Boyd also found himself embroiled in a noise issue of another kind: Heated debates over the shots heard from miles around Greenwich Country Club's skeet and trap facility. "We've had many complaints over the years about the operation of this facility," says Paul, "and though the decibel rating at the property lines do comply with local ordinances, residents have succeeded in having the facility's hours of operation reduced.

"One family who bought a house along the property several summers ago, proceeded to sue their real estate agent for nondisclosure once they heard the shots. I'm not sure of the outcome of that suit, but this neighbor has been lobbying to shut down the gun club ever since. This past winter we removed a 10-foot berm in front of the skeet fields and leveled the area for parking. This neighbor, of course, wasted no time in calling the town, insisting this change would increase the noise level at his property; he even claimed to have the audio testing to prove it. It turned out we were still in compliance," says Paul, adding that to show goodwill to the neighbor and town, the club did construct a fence where the berm had stood. "It remains to be seen what the new skeet and trap season will bring!"

Do Good Fences Really Make Good Neighbors?

Superintendents are also plagued by a variety of property line issues. Whether it has to do with fencing, trees, shrubs and vines, or leaf debris . . . there's always an opportunity for a dispute.

Like any good neighbor, golf courses are responsible for keeping what's on their property under control. But it should go both ways—unless you're Brae Burn's Blake Halderman who will do whatever he can to ensure neighbors look kindly on their early morning mowing and blowing activities. "When trees fall from the course to my neighbors' property, we clean it up, and when a tree falls from their property to ours, we clean it up—even when it's clearly the responsibility of the property owner based on where the tree lies," says Blake, adding, "We'll fix fences, clean backyards when they flood; the list goes on. Whatever we can do to keep them happy."

Of course, there was one instance where Brae Burn and a neighbor had to strike an agreement: "One neighbor on our 15th hole purchased an older house and completely renovated it," says Blake. "In the process, the people decided to cut our trees down 90 feet into our property. (Funny. It's usually the other way around!)" Again, the club tried to be as nice as possible, and instead of pressing charges, worked out an agreement: The neighbor would replant 15 trees. "The neighbor paid us \$12K to purchase and plant the trees," says Blake. "And we've had no issues since—unless you count the fact that a portion of the waterfall the neighbor put in his backyard is on our property!"

Fairview's Jim Pavonetti has a slightly different tale to tell. When he worked at The Edison Club in upstate New York, he was doing what he thought was a good thing by pruning dead trees and limbs that lined both a neighbor's property and the club parking lot and that posed a threat to members' cars.

Rather than getting a thank you for maintaining the property line area, Jim got a tongue-lashing. "The neighbor came out yelling that he was sick and tired of the club trying to steal his land," Jim remembers. "We were able to show him that the trees were on club property, but he still wasn't happy. He lined the perimeter of his property—and the club's—with this horrible-looking orange construction fencing with 'No Trespassing' signs on it. The most amazing part of that story," adds Jim, "is that that fencing remains—seven years later!" What some neighbors will do to get their point across.

Jim couldn't be more pleased, now, at Fairview, where the club's only neighbors aren't homeowners.



Stanwich Club's Scott Niven isn't so lucky. The club is surrounded not by just homes, but large estates, on just about every side of the course, so property line disputes are more the rule than the exception. "I can't go a season without some sort of confrontation," says Scott.

"One of the craziest," says Scott, "was a neighbor who did a survey of his property and found that we were mowing about 4,000 square feet of his land (quite a long way from his house, by the way). He came to us and said that we could 'own' that slice of property if we gave his family a free membership. As you can imagine," says Scott, "that offer fell on deaf ears, and eventually the neighbors forgot all about that little slice of land."

Yet another neighbor wanted the club to stop dumping clippings on "her" land in the woods near her house. "When I had the area surveyed," says Scott, "we found out that about 50 feet of the land she thought was hers was actually the club's. When I told her this, she looked at me sadly and said, 'I feel like I just lost my right arm.' Well, I guess she's off licking her wounds because we never heard from her again."

Perhaps one of the most challenging, and recent battles at Stanwich, had to do with drainage. "Three homes on one side of our property complained individually that our drainage pipes, most of which were day lighted in the woods on our property well before the houses were constructed, were flooding their basements, driveways, etc.," says Scott. "Trying to be a good neighbor, we accommodated all of them by rerouting the pipes to locations on our property."

On another side of Stanwich's golf course, it was the property owner who had to make amends. "This neighbor decided to trim up about a dozen large trees so that he would have a nice view of the golf course," says Scott. When we discovered his handy work, many members at the club were quite angry about being able to see his house. That confrontation ended in the neighbor paying \$12K to plant new trees that would eventually cover up the view he had created."

When the Ball's in YOUR Court

Each year, the distance and height that a golf ball travels off the face of our drivers increase (at least for most of us). Picture this, a long dogleg right par 4 along a property line. Mr. Golfer tees the ball high, brings the club back, makes a beautiful pause at the top, swings his arms through and WHAMMO, he didn't quite get all of it. The ball starts straight, quietly rises, then takes an about-face on a hard-right vector toward the neighbor's property. The silence ends as the golf ball passes through the home-

You might think that homeowners should know what they're getting into when they move into a house that borders a golf course. But things aren't always so simple when the law is involved.

owner's large, second-floor window, and the glass shatters onto the patio.

Mr. Golfer can do one of two things: He can fess up to the neighbor and make arrangements to pay for the repairs, or he can hope no one is home, tee up another ball (with a different club of course), and ignore the fact he caused damage to someone's property. Sadly, the latter is often the case and results in the club being put into a tough position.

When homeowners discover this type of damage, they will usually call the course and demand payment for the window repair, and in some cases further damage. Some courses will gladly oblige to cover the damages with their insurance carrier to keep their neighbor content. Other clubs, however, will simply site the law and offer assistance in finding the guilty party.

In most towns within the Met, the person who hit the ball is liable for the entire flight of the ball and the damages it may cause. We all know this situation well and, for the most part, see both sides of the issue.

Whether or not the golf course compensates homeowners for damages incurred by its players or members' errant golf balls, one thing is important: Make sure you stay consistent with your responses. Precedent can be made with only one move and once a move has been made, it can't be taken back. (This holds true for concessions made in any situation.)

Brae Burn's errant golf balls weren't causing damage, just distress. "One of our neighbors was new to their house, and of course, had been told by their realtor that they'd get only a few balls from time to time," says Blake. "The reality: They couldn't use their pool without fear of getting hit, and worse, they had two little kids. Fortunately, these neighbors were willing to work with us on correcting the problem, so it never got ugly or out of hand."

To remedy the issue, the club considered a large net, but because they'd have to meet the town's Planning Board and Zoning Board requirements, they realized it was too complicated and costly a process (\$40K in engineering and lawyers' fees, when all was said and done!). A simpler, more aesthetic solution, they decided, was to go with 40- to 60-foot woodland trees. But because the trees were tall and skinny, they also had to put up a temporary net to protect the neighbor's property until the trees filled in. That entire project ran \$10K.

But nothing is simple. "We needed to extend the net onto the other neighbor's property too," says Blake. "So as a friendly gesture, we agreed to cut a couple large trees for them and then planted a number of nice flowering trees on the golf course right outside their property line. They were pleased with the soft screening, which also allowed for views of the course. Phew! Problem averted."

Two of the most dramatic—if not infamous—battles over golf balls in Westchester County were at Quaker Ridge and Winged Foot. Both clubs received court mandates to close the holes where golf balls were entering their neighbor's property until the issues were resolved. At Winged Foot, the neighbor was so enraged by the number of golf balls—and people searching for them—crossing into his "territory," he actually hired a person to sit every day for several weeks and record the number of balls that entered the property. In the end, the club settled the dispute by purchasing the neighbor's house and property and putting in a sizable number of screening plantings in preparation for resale of the property.

At Quaker Ridge, the end result was the club being responsible for the purchase and installation of a 40-foot-high barrier net and tree plantings along the second hole. The situation was costly and is still a sore subject between the two parties.

Keep Everyone 'In the Know'

It's always wise to keep the lines of communication open with neighbors, and then with crew and club officials to be sure everyone is on board with any agreements made or discussed.

Greenwich Country Club's Paul Boyd has had to keep his crew and club officials apprised of what they thought was a dead



issue: the noise dispute on number nine. After a number of years' hiatus, the meddlesome, noise-averse neighbor fired back at the crew's activities again with regular calls to the "authorities."

"Without another grandson to hold over this neighbor," says Paul, "we had to get a little more creative. We brought in an acoustic sound engineer to take noise readings at her property line and tested every machine used in the mornings. We determined the arc that each machine must stay out of in the mornings and gave her a drawing detailing the areas that we agreed to be 'out of bounds' for morning work. Of course, it showed that most of her claims were unjustified, and despite the fact that my crew diligently adheres to the new plan, we still get random complaints here or there."

When there's a particularly sensitive situation with a neighbor at Siwanoy, I try to teach my crew that if a tee only has a few leaves on it, don't start up the backpack blower to blast the tee. Simply use a rake or pick them up by hand. This may take a bit more time and effort, but in the end, it will keep the peace—literally!

Similarly, it pays to keep neighbors informed of an upcoming construction project that may present an inconvenience to them. Let them know your plans and assure them that every effort will be made to minimize noise or other disturbances.

As we've seen, tree management projects along or near property lines can also create hard feelings. Even though your neighbors have no right to dictate which trees you can prune or remove, if you know that's a sore subject with certain adjoining property owners, I've found it often helps to speak with them—before the arborist arrives. I try to show them that our tree removal isn't arbitrary but rather has an important purpose for the health and welfare of the golf course and—depending on exactly where the trees are—their property. When they're given a solid rationale, they're less likely to become agitated when their vista changes.

In the End, the Law's the Law

You might think that homeowners should know what they're getting into when they move into a house that borders a golf course. But things aren't always so simple when the law is involved. Be sure to know your local ordinances on all those pesky issues that can arise when you're just doing your job. In the end, ensuring all parties understand the need to manage our local courses can go a long way toward keeping the peace, and avoiding legal hassles and headaches.

Steven McGlone, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is superintendent at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville, NY

A Few Oddball Occurrences



"A neighboring resident every Tuesday decides to put his trash into the receptacle on our 14th tee! We are a city-owned course, but I didn't realize we had a trash route as well!" laughs Rye Golf Club's Chip Lafferty.

"Due to noise complaints from several neighbors, we purchased electric greens mowers," says Millbrook Club's Doug Snyder. "After using the new mowers, we asked the neighbors if they were content on the reduction in noise. We were not prepared for what came next: They told us it was the leaf blower causing the noise, not the mower! We do like the mowers though."

"At Siwanoy, our seventh hole borders an equestrian center. One day, an errant shot hit a horse, which then bucked its rider to the ground. Fortunately, nobody was hurt—except the horse . . . and no one pressed charges!"

"Our easy access from many streets makes us a prime destination for joggers, walkers, dog walkers, and bicyclists," says Pelham Country Club Jeff Wentworth. "I nicely informed one chap that he could not jog on the course and to exit on to Mt. Tom Road. His reply: 'I can't run on pavement. I am going to sue you when I can't walk from my injuries. Fortunately, that was just an idle threat!'"

"When we started having fireworks on July 4 at the club, a neighbor became so concerned—and vocal—about cinders from the fireworks display landing on his home and setting it on fire, that we had to appease him by hiring workers from the town Fire Department every year to watch his house," says Stanwich's Scott Niven. "The kicker: The Fire Chief claimed that, with the type of roof tiles this neighbor has, you couldn't start that roof on fire with a blow torch!"

Upcoming Events

Year-End Happenings

Met Area Team Championship

Thursday, October 18
The Stanwich Club
Greenwich, CT
Host: Scott Niven, CGCS

Annual Meeting

Wednesday, November 7
Bedford Golf & Tennis Club
Bedford, NY
Host: Bob Nielsen, CGCS

MetGCSA/CAGCS Fall Seminar

Wednesday, November 28
The Patterson Club
Fairfield, CT
Host: Jason Meersman

MetGCSA Christmas Party

Friday, November 30
Brae Burn Country Club
Purchase NY
Host: Blake Halderman, CGCS

Educational Events

Turf & Grounds Exposition

Tuesday–Thursday, November 13–15
Rochester Riverside Convention Center,
Rochester, NY

The Turf & Grounds Exposition offers an excellent opportunity to network, obtain research updates, and visit the trade show, featuring more than 100 exhibitors. As always, key speakers representing all segments of the green industry will be featured.

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

37th Annual New Jersey Green Expo Turf and Landscape Conference

Tuesday – Thursday, December 4 – 6
Taj Mahal Hotel Casino Resort
Atlantic City, NY

The New Jersey Green Expo offers a comprehensive educational program and one of the largest trade shows in the tri-state area, providing attendees the opportunity to view the latest and greatest products and services on the market.

Congratulations to Our 2012 Scholarship Recipients!

by *Blake Halderman, CGCS*
MetGCSA Scholarship Chairman

The 2012 Scholarship Awards Ceremony was held on August 8 as part of the second Annual Member/Child Golf Event at Mosholu Golf Course. One of America's premier First Tee golf courses, this was the perfect spot for all of our members' children (young and old) to get out and enjoy playing the game that is such a large part of their parents' livelihood.

The 35 participants (parent/child teams) played in a nine-hole, two-person scramble, which they all seemed to enjoy. The tournament was free to members and ended up being a great success thanks to Ed Brockner, the MetGCSA's executive director, who once again spearheaded the event at Mosholu, where he also works with the First Tee Program. Also key to the day's great outcome, was new course superintendent and MetGCSA member Dave Moffett, who along with his crew, had the course in superb shape.

This year, the Scholarship Committee had the pleasure of awarding scholarships to 15 members' sons and daughters. Our Scholarship Committee members work long and hard to process and evaluate the applications, which were all outstanding. 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 junior at Boston College working toward a Ph.D. in psychology.

Courtney Cook, daughter of Lisa and Mike Cook of The Care of Trees, is a freshman at the University of Delaware studying communications.

Meghan DeGraw, daughter of Beth and Bryan Bolehala, of Cleary Chemical, is enrolled in the master's adult-gerontological nurse practitioner program at Penn State University.

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



At the Mosholu Member/Child Golf Event, MetGCSA scholarship winners receive their well-deserved awards. Pictured left to right: Dave and Betsy Kerr with their son, Samuel; Scott and Dana Niven with their daughter, Heather; Amanda Gross with her parents, Doug and Elizabeth George; Mike and Lisa Cook with their daughter, Courtney; Samantha Jennings with her father, Jon; Teddy Norman, MetGCSA member; Frank Amodio with his daughter, Katherine; and parents of scholarship winners Dave Sylvester accepting for his daughters, Jane and Mary Frances, and Greg Wojick accepting for his daughter, Kara.

Corinne A. Finamore, daughter of Janet and Steve Finamore, superintendent of Alpine Country Club, is a senior 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, is a sophomore at Northeastern University studying civil and environmental engineering.

Samantha Jennings, daughter of Susan and Jon Jennings is a freshman at Syracuse University pursuing a degree in music through the Setnor School of Music.

Samuel Kerr, son of Betsy and Dave Kerr, superintendent of Ridgewood Country Club, will be a junior at Liberty University majoring in business marketing.

Heather Niven, daughter of Dana and Scott Niven, superintendent of The Stanwich Club, is in her senior year at the University of Delaware studying finance.

Teddy Norman, is a member of the MetGCSA working for superintendent Peter J. Rappoccio at Concord Country Club in Concord, MA. He is a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst Stockbridge School of Agriculture.

Kristin J. O'Neill, daughter of Jennifer and Tim O'Neill, superintendent of Country Club of Darien, is in her senior 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 junior year at Michigan State University studying music education and performance.

Mary Frances Sylvester, daughter of Julie and Dave Sylvester, sales representative for Bayer Environmental Science, is in her senior year at Central Connecticut State University studying elementary education.

Sharyce Willand, daughter of Synda and Scott Willand of Steven Willand, Inc., is in her junior year studying global communications at Ramapo College of New Jersey.

Kara Wojick, daughter of Pandora Wojick, our talented editor, and Greg Wojick, principal, Playbooks™ for Golf, is a junior at the University of Connecticut pursuing a bachelor's in English and a master's in secondary 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 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 here at Brae Burn on November 30th for our Annual Christmas Party where we will announce the raffle winners.

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

New Members

Please join us in welcoming the following new MetGCSA members:

Justin Bradbury, Class C, Scarsdale Golf Club, Hartsdale, NY

David Morrow, Class C, Metropolis Country Club, White Plains, NY

Member on the Move

Steve Rabideau is the new superintendent at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck, NY. Previous position: Superintendent at Wheatley Hills Golf Club in East Williston, NY.

Recertified

Congratulations to **Glen Dube**, superintendent at Centennial Golf Club, for completing the renewal process for maintaining CGCS status with GCSAA.

Well Wishes

We would like to wish AF Life member **Al Tretera** a speedy recovery. He was badly injured in a motorcycle accident.

In Sympathy

It is with deep sadness that we inform you that **Stanley Zontek**, director of the USGA Green Section's Mid-Atlantic Region, passed away August 28 after suffering a heart attack. He was 63. Stan was the longest tenured employee at the USGA and served in the Northeast Region for many years before becoming director of the Mid-Atlantic Region. Stan was known as much for his passion for golf course superintendents as he was for his knowledge of turf. He will be missed by all.

And the Band Played On...

Summer Social 2012

The Summer Social at Old Oaks... another wonderfully extravagant social event at one of the most beautiful club locations in the Met area. A warm summer's eve with cocktails, dinner, and dancing under the stars... and a DJ who plays that wonderful funk and classic rock and, yes, a few contemporary tunes that, as time marches on, I'm less familiar with. No matter how many years I'm part of this long-lived tradition, it never gets old—enjoying a dressed-up night out with my handsome date and our Met family of friends! If you could not make this one, don't let another of these events—and the opportunity to meet new friends and strengthen bonds with old—pass you by.

—Carolyn Nielsen, the First Lady



Renee Pavonetti, Mara Lerner, Eve Gentile



Lucille Grasso & Greg Wojcik

Party Hosts Mary Pat & Mark Millett

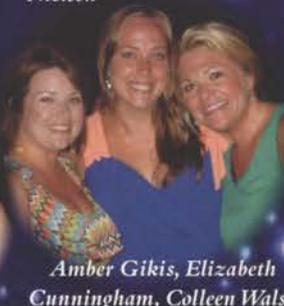


Bob & Carolyn Nielsen

Jim Pavonetti, Ken Gentile, Kevin Collins



Tony & Bea Campanella



Amber Gikis, Elizabeth Cunningham, Colleen Walsh



Erica & Glen Dube

Alicia & Jesse Shannon, Bill & Bridget Bartels, Ann Marie & Rob Alonzi, Rob Milar, Chad Lemere, Blake Halderman



Megan Baggott & Bob Wolverton



Glen Dube, Tony Grasso, Tom Leahy



Carolyn Nielsen & Jennifer Leahy



Bill & Lorah Perlee

Brae Burn Takes Home Invitational Trophy at Tamarack

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA Executive Director

Despite a brief rain delay, Invitational contestants managed to get in all 18 holes on the immaculately conditioned course at Tamarack prepared by Superintendent Jeff Scott and his crew.

Blake Halderman's team placed first in the Net Division with a 58, claiming the Invitational Trophy. While Matt Ceplo and his team from Rockland followed close behind, finishing with a 60.

Tamarack, with its huge greens and deep bunkers, provided great challenge but did not prevent Marina Alex, the professional representing North Jersey Country Club, from shooting an impressive 69 for the day. With Alex's great play, the North Jersey team, led by David Dudones, took the Gross Division with a 66 through a match of cards to edge out Brian Chapin and the foursome from Paramount.

Special thanks go out to Jeff Scott for all of the hard work that he and his crew put

into giving us a great day, as well as GM Brian Gillespie and Bobby Farrell and Andrew Lask from the pro shop.

Here are the full results:

Net Team Winners

- 58 Brae Burn Country Club
Blake Halderman, Nick Yaun, Michael Barasch, Jon Rachlin
- 60 Rockland Country Club
Matt Ceplo, Bobby Everett, John McFadden, Ed Carpezzi

Gross Team Winners

- 66 North Jersey Country Club
David Dudones, Marina Alex, Anthony Masherelli, Ervin Allaghi (match of cards)
- 66 Paramount Country Club
Brian Chapin, Steve Scott, Jeff Mandelbaum, Steve Lapper



The winning team from Brae Burn (left to right): Golf Professional Nick Yaun, Golf Course Superintendent Blake Halderman, Golf Committee Chair Jon Rachlin, and not pictured, Green Committee Chair Michael Barasch.

Closest to the Pin

- #3 Doug Drugo, Superintendent, *Wee Burn Country Club*
- #7 Nick Algiero, Club Official, *Redding Country Club*
- #12 Mike Rapisarda, Club Official, *Tamarack Country Club*
- #15 Anthony Masherelli, Club Official, *North Jersey Country Club*

Longest Drive

- #4 Sean Cain, Superintendent, *Sunningdale Country Club*
- #14 Stephen Kerr, Club Official, *Tamarack Country Club*

Low Professional

- 69 Marina Alex

Century Produces Winning Results

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA Executive Director

Our tournament season has included events at many of our Chapter's best venues, and this year's Met Championship, Met Area Team Championship Qualifier, and Poa Annual Tournament was no exception. Kevin Seibel had the course at Century Country Club in top condition for the day with the greens running fast and true.

Tournament Chair Sean Cain took home the Met Championship title with an impressive 75, fighting off Tony Hook's 78 at the end with some key ups and downs.

That winning score also qualified Sean for the fast-approaching Met Area Team Championship at Stanwich, along with Tony Hooks, Les Kennedy Jr., Matt Ceplo, and Steve Rabideau as an alternate.

In the Individual Net Division were Scott Niven with a 70, followed by Mark Millett, George Corgan, and Glen Dube.

Special thanks to everyone at Century

for such a great day, hosting both our association members and our friends at the LIGCSA!

Here's how the contestants fared:

Poa Annual Tourney Results

Gross Winners

- 75 Geoff DeMarco, son of Powelton Club's *Bob DeMarco*
- 75 Sean Cain, *Sunningdale CC*
- 75 Steve Whipple, *West Point GC*

Net Winners

- 68 Brian Benedict, *Seawane Club*
- 69 Alan Bean, *The Ridge at Black Brook*
- 70 Dave Pijnenburg, *Greenacres Company*

Longest Drive

- Andrew Hannah, *Shuttle Meadow CC*

Closest to the Pin

- #4 Glen Dube, *Centennial GC*
- #13 Steve Whipple, *West Point GC*

The proceeds from the Poa Annual Tournament are donated to NYSTA in support of turfgrass research. This makes the donations from our tournament and Tee Sponsors all the more meaningful. We thank you all for your support.

Met Area Team Championship Qualifiers

In the Gross Division

- 75 Sean Cain, *Sunningdale CC*
- 78 Tony Hooks, *Pelham/Split Rock CC*
- 81 Les Kennedy Jr., *Blind Brook Club*
- 78 Matt Ceplo, *Rockland CC*
- 83 Steve Rabideau, *Winged Foot GC* (Alternate)

In the Net Division

- 70 Scott Niven, *The Stanwich Club*
- 71 Mark Millett, *Old Oaks CC*
- 71 George Corgan, *Steven Willand, Inc.*
- 74 Glen Dube, *Centennial GC*

David Mahoney Two-Ball Contestants Proceed to Semi's

by Larry Pakkala, CGCS

Weather seems to get in the way of everything, and our Two-Ball matches so far this season are no exception. The first two rounds—the “Sweet 16” and “Elite 8”—of our David Mahoney Two-Ball Championship were extended due to weather and schedules, but contestants did complete their rounds with a few tales to tell. Read on for their “winning” stories. The next rounds definitely promise to be interesting!

Round One: The Sweet 16...

In the First Flight, Matt Topazio and Dave Lippman defeated Scott Niven and Larry Pakkala 3 & 2 at the beautifully conditioned Rockrimmon Country Club. Pakkala thought the match had ended on the 15th and congratulations were shared, but as the players left the 16th tee to complete their round, Pakkala noticed that the 15th was halved as he thought Topazio got a stroke when he really hadn't, so the match continued. Niven and Pakkala were now dormie, and on the 16th green, Niven lipped out a 50-foot put that would have continued the match.

At Rye Golf Club, Bert Dickinson and Chip Lafferty prevailed over David Dudsones and Grover Alexander 4 & 3. The turning point in the match occurred early when Lafferty aced the 3rd hole in dramatic Tiger Woods fashion. The shot was a 9-iron over the top of the flag, and thanks to a little spin and a lot of gravity, the ball meandered down the slope, Titleist, Titleist, Titleist, then briefly stopped on the edge while the players held their breath and it dropped. Totally awesome! It was a great shot, enjoyed by even better company.

In the Second Flight at Old Oaks, Mike Scott and Doug Snyder annihilated Peter

Rappoccio, who had to single-handedly take on the younger generation as Dennis Flynn was out with injuries. Scott was on fire paring the first 4 holes. The match ended on the 13th hole. Fortunately, Coach Rappoccio was not taken off the course on a stretcher.

The team of “Woody” (Bobby) DeMarco and “Eighthead” (Fred) Montgomery defeated Bob Lippman and Steven McGlone 2 up at Quaker Ridge. It was a wet, rainy day, and Tommy Ashfield was nice enough to get the players out just in front of an outing and then, when all was said and done, treated them to lunch. How good was that!

After their byes, Matt Ceplo and Jim Swiatlowski of the First Flight and Ken Benoit and Greg Gutter of the Second Flight will begin to see if they can pull off a repeat.

Round Two: The Elite 8...

In the First Flight, two seasoned winners made it to the Semi's, along with two newcomers.

Last year's champs, Matt Ceplo and Jim Swaitlowski won 2 & 1 in a tight match against Matt Tapazio and Dave Lippman at the Knickerbocker Country Club, to advance to the Semi's. Former champions Glen Dube and Blake Halderman also defeated Chip Lafferty and Bert Dickenson in a close match 2 & 1 at Fairview Country Club. The Semi's will be a great match between these former champions.

In the remaining First Flight matches, the team of Tom Ashfield and Andy Drohen clobbered Fred Montgomery and “Woody” DeMarco at Yale 5 & 4 to proceed to the Semi's. They will play against Tony Hooks and Tom Weinert, who defeated Tony Grasso and Scott Tretera 2 up at Pelham Country Club.

The Semi's in the first flight are going to be very exciting with two past champions competing in one match and two low-handicap teams competing in the other. The winners of these groups will advance to the Finals in what could be one of the greatest championship finales ever!

In the Second Flight, there's a chance for a “Three-peat” in the Finals if Ken Benoit and Greg Gutter can advance. These two-time defending champs were pitted

against the team of Mike Scott and Doug Snyder at the beautiful Country Club of Darien. Scott showed up at the practice tee with his usual bravado, and just like that, it was “game on.” The champs, who were given a first-round bye, shook off the rust on the practice tee and came out swinging early in the match as they jumped out to a 2 up lead after the first two holes. The match steadied as they halved the next two holes, thanks in part to the monster 30-foot birdie putt made by Snyder on the par 4 third. Benoit and Gutter would go on to win four out of the last five holes on the front nine, inflating their lead to 6 up at the turn and demoralizing the competitors. It was at the short par 4 tenth that Scott and Snyder won their first and only hole of the match. Their celebration was short-lived, however, as Benoit and Gutter won two out of the next three holes and closed out the match 7 & 5. Apparently, a defeated Scott and Snyder had been beaten to the point of mercy as they both left the course after the 13th hole. It was rumored that the match finished so quickly that Benoit and Gutter had plenty of time to enjoy their victory cigars.

The veteran brothers Bob and Joe Alonzi were at the top of their game, defeating Bill Perlee and Chuck Denny 5 & 4 at Sunningdale. Bob, being retired, has had plenty of time lately to work on his game. Joe, however, helped carry them over the humbled competitors.

Kevin Collins and Nick Lerner edged out Tim Garceau and Ernie Steinhoffer 2 up at Anglebrook Golf Club. Steinhoffer, just back from hip surgery, and Garceau, back in the saddle at a new job, could not quite hang in to stop their competition.

The team of Glenn Perry and Dave Fleury also blew into the Semi's by defeating Greg Wojick and Brett Chapin 4 & 2 at the beautiful seaside course of Country Club of Fairfield.

The End Is Near!

As you read this, I'm gathering stories from the Semi's. Weather and schedules permitting, we should have our First and Second Flight champions decided by the November Annual Meeting.

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

Superintendent/Green Chair Tourney Takes Flight to Purchase

by Kevin Collins

MetGCSA members celebrated the close of another season at our annual Superintendent/Green Chairman Tournament on October 9 at the Golf Club of Purchase, a new venue for Met members.

Our meeting host, Bob Miller, has been the club's superintendent for the past 18 years, starting in August of '94 with the initial course construction and grow-in. Choosing to locate a course in the upscale community of Purchase, which already boasted four outstanding clubs—Blind Brook, Brae Burn, Century, and Old Oaks—made the task of creating a new club of equal distinction a huge undertaking.

Japanese businessman Tokio Kasuga and his son, Masahiko, made it happen. In 1988, the Kasuga's purchased 400 acres of Purchase's old Pforzheimer Farm—property that was located less than five minutes from Westchester County Airport. The developers hired Jack Nicklaus to design the course, setting out to create a high-quality golf experience, international in both scope and reputation.

Golf Club of Purchase opened for play in the fall of 1996. Most holes are narrow and tree lined, bordered by water or wetlands. "Purchase is a tight, unforgiving tract that demands precision and accuracy," says Bob, wondering just how many golf balls were lost during the tourney!

More Than a Turf Doctor

Born in Albert Lea, MN, Bob has a lot of those Midwestern values ingrained in him to this day. Hard work, honesty, and loyalty are just a few of the keys to Bob's success—personally and professionally. His close friends love Bob for his outlook on life, his sense of humor, and his total lack of ego—pretty rare in this day and age. Whippoorwill's Paul Gonzalez gave Bob a nickname that's stuck: "The Doctor," because of his ability to make everyone around him feel good.

Bob attended Albert Lea High School where he played football, baseball, and was captain of the hockey team. At 15, he got his first taste of golf course maintenance work-

ing on the crew at Albert Lea Country Club. "I was making \$2.25 an hour as a high school sophomore and worked my way up to \$3 an hour by the time I was a senior." (Oh, those were the days.)

After high school, Bob enrolled at Rochester Community College where he played hockey with some of his old teammates from high school. "Rochester Community was a great school. There were about 2000 girls and 200 guys. I don't remember what I majored in," Bob laughs.

From there, he went on to the University of Minnesota, but after one semester, he quit and moved to Phoenix, AZ, to work at the Biltmore, which had two 18-hole golf courses.

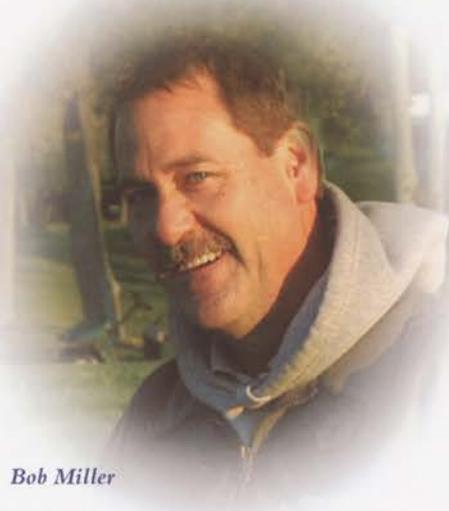
On the Move

Bob had wanderlust. In 1982, after six months at the Biltmore, he headed out to Colorado where he took a job on the crew at The Pinery, a 27-hole facility south of Denver. That lasted about four months. He finished out the year at the renowned Cherry Hills Country Club and then shifted gears, taking a job on the commercial side of the business with an irrigation contractor.

Weary of gluing pipes, Bob returned to Cherry Hills, this time as the assistant mechanic. He stuck this one out through the 1984 PGA Championship before Castle Pines beckoned and offered Bob the position of head mechanic.

Landing at Castle Pines was a turning point in Bob's career. Armand Suny, who had been the superintendent at Cherry Hills, had moved to Castle Pines to get it ready for "The International"—a new PGA tour event that utilized the controversial Stableford scoring system.

Armand recognized Bob's potential and coaxed him to enroll in Penn State's Turfgrass Program. Bob received his diploma in 1987. His first internship was at Siwanoy Country Club, where he spent the summer working for Dave Mahoney (another protégé of Armand's). "I met my good friend, Paul Mulholland (Morris County Golf Club), at Siwanoy and just loved working for Dave," says Bob with a smile.



Bob Miller

Bob's first job as an assistant was a grow-in at Shore Oaks Country Club, a Jack Nicklaus/Johnny Miller design. Construction and grassing was completed in 1989 at this southern New Jersey resort course. Just about the time the course was ready for play, "Doctor" Miller became the superintendent. Letting no grass grow under his feet, after five years, it was time to move on—to his current and longest-tenured position, the Golf Club of Purchase.

Family and Fun

Shore Oaks, by the way, presented another important opportunity for Bob. It's there, in 1989, that he met the love of his life, Marilyn. "Her dad had sold about half of the golf course property to the developers," says Bob. "It was formally a campground. Sooooo... I showed Marilyn the golf course."

Bob and Marilyn married in 1996 and currently reside in Brewster, NY. Marilyn is a great lady who keeps Bob on the straight and narrow. (Well, she tries.) Their family includes daughter, Amber, and three grandkids, plus plenty of pets. At one time, the Brewster residence had six cats, one border collie, a ferret, and Poppy, a 275-lb. pig. They are now down to one cat, one border collie, and a worm farm. Wait... a worm farm? Really? Leave it to a turf manager!

When he's not on pet duty, Bob enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and traveling. But Bob was more than happy to stay put on the 9th to join fellow members for a great round on the links!

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.

Assistants Flock to Old Oaks for Annual Championship

by Bill Cygan

MetGCSA Assistants joined Assistant Superintendent Hosts Jason Anderson and Todd Stites at Old Oaks Country Club on October 10 for this year's Annual Assistants Championship. Jason has been Superintendent Mark Millett's right-hand man—i.e., first assistant—since 2005. Todd came on-board as second assistant at the beginning of the season.

Mark was pleased to support his assistants in hosting this annual end-of-season event and in welcoming area assistants for a day of fun and relaxation at the 114-year-old golf course and country club.

"I have two dedicated and hardworking assistants who put a lot of time and effort into our overall operation here at the club," says Mark. "Having the event here was just a small show of my appreciation for all their efforts."

About Jason ...

Jason grew up in Brewster, NY, and got his first taste of the business during high school working under Superintendent Mike Maffei at Morefar Golf Course. Inspired by his experience there, Jason pursued a bachelor's in business administration and golf course operations at SUNY Delhi. He interned at Winged Foot, and after completing his degree in 2002, he assumed the role of apprentice superintendent, and then, in 2003 became an irrigation tech. Jason's tenure at the club spanned five years. "One of the highlights of my time there was working during the U.S. Amateur," says Jason. "I enjoyed it so much, I came back in 2006 as a volunteer for the U.S. Open."

His next stop: Old Oaks. "I heard through the grapevine that Mark was looking for a second assistant and I went for it," says Jason. That was seven years ago.

Now, as Mark's first assistant, Jason's workday is jam-packed with crew supervision spraying, watering, irrigation system maintenance, and managing myriad other projects. This fall, in addition to his usual duties, Jason will be keeping a watchful eye on the installation of an all-new irrigation system.



The Team at Old Oaks (left to right): First Assistant Jason Anderson, Superintendent Mark Millett, and Second Assistant Todd Stites.

"Sure the job is demanding," says Jason, "but Mark's been great to work for. Our personalities are so similar we tend to think alike," he says with a smile. Like any red-blooded assistant, Jason aspires to manage his own course one day, and he's quick to credit Mark with helping him acquire the skill set needed to do just that. "Mark's definitely opened my eyes to the budget process and, just as important, member relations," says Jason.

Though Jason plays golf now and then, in his downtime, his favorite in-season getaway is to hop on his boat, a Boston Whaler, which he docks in Rye, NY. During the off-season, Jason retreats to a house he owns in upstate New York and enjoys snowmobiling with friends and family.

About Todd ...

Todd's turf schooling began with an associate's degree from Sandhills Community College in Pinehurst, NC, and continued with an internship at Redding Country Club in Redding, CT, during the 2010 season. Promoted to assistant-in-training, Todd stayed on at Redding through October 2011.

"With my girlfriend working in Manhattan, I wanted a job closer to the city," says Todd, who was fortunate enough to find just what he'd hoped for at Old Oaks. "I contacted Mark and went for an interview in early March for the opening for second assistant," says Todd. "The course was impressive, and I felt extremely comfortable around both Mark and Jay. Needless to say, I was sold." And apparently, they were too. A week later, the job was his!

As second assistant, Todd's days start before the crack of dawn. "I can be doing anything from spraying fairways or tees, cutting cups, rolling, hand-watering, or fixing irrigation. When I have a minute, I make lists of things I notice and jobs to be done on the course," says Todd, who's often on-duty beyond quitting time during the heat of the season to babysit greens.

"I may not have worked here long, but it's been long enough to have a tremendous amount of respect for Mark and what he has achieved in his 31 years at Old Oaks. If there's one thing I want to be sure to emulate, it's Mark's commitment to making the course at Old Oaks the absolute best it can be. He's not only here every day; he's usually the last to leave. That's probably why he's always one step ahead of everything that needs to get done on the course."

Todd hopes to take the lessons learned at Old Oaks and add to that experience working at a course hosting a USGA tournament. "Ultimately, I'd like to land a job one day at a golf course close to the ocean," says Todd. "But no matter where I end up, I want to make sure I continue to have fun at what I do."

Todd uses his downtime to hit the Coney Island or Rockaway beaches and do a little swimming, see a few hockey games, and enjoy an evening at the movies or out with friends.

Bill Cygan, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is an assistant superintendent at Innis Arden Golf Club in Old Greenwich, CT.

Stanwich Hosts the Met Area Team Championship

by Ed Brockner, MetGCSA Executive Director

This year, The Stanwich Club is celebrating its 50th anniversary, having been designed in 1962 by William Gordon and his son, David. For more than half of this time, Scott Niven has served as property manager at this venerable Greenwich, CT, club, working there for the past 29 years.

In his lengthy tenure, Scott has overseen numerous improvements to the course, the lion's share completed in the past decade. Recognized by *Golf Digest* in 2006 as the course with "The Best New Renovation," Stanwich had spent the prior year completing a full-scale renovation that left little of the course untouched. Then, just four years later, the course's 18 greens were resodded with bentgrass, making this a superb venue for the upcoming 2012 Met Area Team Championship.

This marks the championship's 32nd year—and the second time Stanwich has hosted this fine event. The first time was in 1985, when the event drew less than half its current number of participating associations. Today, there are 13 superintendent association golf teams competing for the honor of "Best of the East."

An Industry Contributor

A graduate of the University of Rhode Island, Scott's accomplishments are well known to most every golf course superintendent in our area. The 2010 winner the Met's prestigious Sherwood A. Moore Award, Scott has served as president of both the MetGCSA and Tri-State Turf Research Foundation and chaired the GCSAA Research Committee, to name just several of the countless other contributions he's made to the turf industry over the years.

Besides being an avid golfer since age 7, Scott enjoys mountain biking, running (he's a four-time New York Marathon runner), and lifting weights at the gym. Skiing and travel—from Japan and Australia to parts of Central America and Europe—are other passions Scott shares with his wife, Dana, and his son, Nick, and daughter, Heather.

What the Stanwich Course Has in Store

As host to the 2011 Palmer Cup, the 2002 U.S. Mid-Amateur Open, and the 1996 Met Open, Scott knows what it takes to create challenging and competitive conditions, though he promises to give competitors a bit of break by not going all the way back to the tips that now measure almost 7,500 yards.

On the front nine . . . The course starts out with three of the shorter par fours on the layout—the first, a dogleg to the left with a slightly downhill approach, while the second plays slightly back up the hill. Number three is a beautiful hole that plays to a well-guarded green, which can offer chances at birdie but also spell trouble if you're not careful.

After a long par three at the fourth, next up is one of the most challenging holes at Stanwich: the par four fifth that plays significantly uphill to a sloping green with both fairway and greenside bunkers complicating matters. The sixth and seventh are a pair of challenging par fours that play in opposite directions, and the eighth is another tough par three where you're simply hoping to escape with a par. Closing out the front nine is the longest hole on the course with the OB all the way down the left side and another difficult green.

On the back nine . . . Those looking for a bit of breather heading into the back nine get a slight one with the tenth, that much like the opening hole, is a shortish par four that doglegs to the left and downhill. This respite does not last long, however, as the eleventh and twelfth are a pair of stout par fours—the first playing uphill around a large fairway bunker on the right and the second bending left around trees on the inside of the dogleg. After crossing an internal road and playing the medium length par three thirteenth, golfers are faced with another par five where water comes into play on both the first, second, and third shots.



Scott Niven, CGCS

For the final four, the well-balanced and demanding course at Stanwich certainly does not disappoint. Water again comes into play on the fifteenth on both sides of the drive, as does a creek that plays along the right side of the short par three sixteenth. The seventeenth is another fine par five hole that has the potential to be reached in two from the forward tees and a friendly wind with the eighteenth playing as a long par four that ends in front of Stanwich's stately clubhouse.

Success Can Be Yours

In order to score well at Stanwich, those in the Met Area Team Championship will need to have their entire game intact from good driving, accurate approach with their irons, and a short game to help tame the deep bunkers and fast, perfectly rolling greens. It is sure to be a great day at one of the Met area's most celebrated courses, and the competitors will certainly enjoy all of the incredible work that Scott and his team will have performed to get the course in its typically incredible condition.

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