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# Tee To Green

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### Advertising Managers

BRETT CHAPIN, 203-938-9240

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# Tee To Green



Cover: The Apawamis Club

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# President's Message

## Setting the Stage for a Good Season to Come

# W

hat a difference a year makes. Last year, many of us were wondering what our snow- and ice-covered greens were going to look like come spring. This year, we're thinking about aeration timing and when our members are going to start pressuring us to open—if they haven't already!

This weather has enabled many of us to complete more projects on the course than we have in the past—but, hopefully, not at the expense of taking time off to relax with family and friends. All I know is I'm going to be scrambling to get all those tedious chores, like painting, done if this weather keeps up! I guess that's a small price to pay for a less taxing winter.

### Get Set for Association Happenings

The MetGCSA board with the help of Ed Brockner and our Tournament, Social, and Scholarship committees have been hard at work putting together a great lineup of events for 2012. Our first tournament at Apawamis on April 23 will be followed by the Super/Manager or Guest tourney June 4 at the Country Club of Darien with a new, attendance-made-easy format. Later that month, Invitational goers will have the opportunity to compete on the links at Tamarack, while the latter part of the season will bring us to Century Country Club for the Poa Annual and Met Area Team Championship qualifier. Last but not least, will be our Green Chairman event, which is close to being finalized and is sure to bring a great close to the golf season.

The Social Committee is looking at some new ideas for a couple of the summer events. Look to see the announcements for the Family Picnic, a revamped Summer Social, and the second annual Mosholu nine-hole father-child tournament.

While we're on the subject of association happenings, I'd like to remind everyone to take a close look at the advertisers who have supported the MetGCSA. Their support has been instrumental in the success of many of our association's programs and events.

Mike Cook, our AF representative on the board, offers many suggestions to help improve the association, and he represents a significant portion of our membership who has a genuine interest in the Met.

### Important Reminders!

Hopefully, everyone filed their water withdrawal report in a timely fashion. The Met's new Environmental Committee, headed by Ken Benoit, has been working with the NYSDEC and Cornell University to establish Best Management Practices for golf courses in New York State. The committee is hoping for an outcome similar to the one CAGCS achieved with the CT DEP in which golf courses could agree to abide by the BMPs rather than complete all the costly engineering and testing now required in New York State. We are hoping Ken and his



*Bob Nielsen, CGCS  
MetGCSA President*

committee can accomplish their mission in short order!

I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation annual appeal. Many clubs in the area have been forced to cut this line item from their budget over the past few years. What they fail to realize, however, is that the payback on these dollars can be extraordinary. The research that has been funded by the Tri-State produces real solutions to often turf-devastating problems common to courses in our area. The anthracnose, ABW, and topdressing research that has come from this funding has no doubt saved some clubs thousands of dollars. Support the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation. We really can't afford not to!

Last, I want to remind everyone that some of the best places to see this research in action are the Turfgrass Field days. First in this year's lineup is the biannual field day at UConn being held on July 17. This is followed by Rutgers' field day on July 31, and UMass's on August 1. The URI field day has yet to be announced, but we'll keep you posted. Be sure to check out our Upcoming Events on page 7 for all the event details.

Well, I'm hoping we will all get to enjoy an easy spring, but... with this mild winter, should I have already applied the first ABW treatment?! Good luck in 2012!

*Bob Nielsen, CGCS  
President*

# The Bethpage Project

by Dr. Frank S. Rossi and Dr. Jennifer A. Grant  
Cornell University

*Lessons  
Learned  
After More  
Than a  
Decade of  
Reduced  
Pesticide  
Use*



*T*

he golf course industry has long been under scrutiny for pesticide use. In New York, golf courses have battled restrictions for more than 25 years. The publication of "Toxic Fairways: Risking Groundwater Contamination From Pesticides on Long Island Golf Courses" in 1991 didn't help matters, inflaming a debate that culminated a decade later in landmark legislation proposing to ban pesticide use on municipal golf courses in Suffolk County.

In response to this proposed legislation and growing concern it could spread to other counties, we proposed a research project to the United States Golf Association. The project was established at Bethpage State Park-Green Course with two primary goals in mind:

1. To develop both cultural and pest man-

agement systems for putting greens that would reduce reliance on synthetic chemical pesticides

2. To demonstrate the impact of a pesticide ban on golf turf performance

The project had two basic operating principles. First, we knew going in that job number one was to adopt an alternative cultural management approach that would minimize stress and ultimately reduce the need for pesticides.

Second, and more challenging to our effort, was that we needed to sort through the many synthetic chemical alternatives out there to find those that showed promise. Unfortunately, most of these products lacked the research-based information to support their use, and the few that were studied proved less-than-effective.

## The Work Begins

We began our research during the 2000 growing season, establishing two cultural management systems and three pesticide management programs that incorporated a variety of practices and products all targeted at finding viable solutions to reducing synthetic chemical pesticides. This season marks the project's 12th year.

With outcomes too extensive to cover fully here and now, our hope is to share more detailed accounts of the study's most useful findings in a series of articles in upcoming issues. For now, here's a quick take on the study's intent and observations. Be sure, also, to check out the accompanying article, on page 5, which offers an easy-to-implement formula for making the most environmentally responsible pesticide choices for your course!

## Cultural Management Systems

The two Cultural Management systems employed throughout the study were:

1. Conventional—what most golf courses are doing
2. Alternative—experimental with a focus on reducing turf stress

In each case, the goal was to maintain acceptable visual quality and ball roll distances in the 8.5- to 9.5-foot range.

Over the course of the study, we learned much about the various cultural systems. Among the many findings:

- Mowing heights below 0.120" created significant stress.
- Mowing heights above 0.150" often resulted in more dollar spot, as well as significant reductions in ball roll distances.
- We could roll greens much more than three days per week and skip mowing with the goal of reducing overall stress known to be associated with frequent mowing.

*Perhaps most eye-opening:* We did not apply any fertilizer nutrients other than nitrogen and iron to the Alternative greens in the 12 years of the study and the plants are still alive and well. In fact, soil testing data has revealed that:

- In some cases, there were actually increases in nitrogen and iron, even in the absence of any applications

- In the case of potassium, phosphorus, and calcium, all levels have declined dramatically, but there is no evidence the plants are suffering

The takeaway: We might do well to rethink any preoccupation with turfgrass nutrition. There's no denying it's important, but you might not want to put it at the top of your cultural management list.

## Pest Management Programs

The three Pest Management programs we established included a:

1. Conventional program
2. Progressive IPM program
3. Nonchemical program, as specified by the pending pesticide law to ban all pesticides on municipal parks and golf courses

No surprise that after the first two years, six greens in the nonchemical program failed, resulting in more than 90 percent turf loss. The nonchemical treatment, therefore, evolved into a pest management program focused on using biological and reduced-risk products that might sustain the greens while aspiring to greater environmental compatibility.

## Putting Alternative Products to the Test

When the project was initiated, as noted earlier, there were few alternative chemical

pesticides that had demonstrated any meaningful effect; though, admittedly, some of the lack of efficacy had much to do with the way the products were tested. Oftentimes, they were applied to areas already plagued by high-pest pressure, a circumstance where just about any alternative product is doomed to failure.

As the project progressed, our Cornell University Turfgrass Program began generating its own data on a variety of alternative products. This data continued to weed out nonperformers but also suggested that many products could be used *in conjunction* with existing pesticides to reduce overall rates or extend application intervals.

One of the solutions in this category was Civitas, a product that reduces plant disease by stimulating the plant's natural defenses. In many instances, this product entirely eliminated our reliance on traditional products—or at the least, allowed us to reduce pesticide rates.

## Considering the Pros of IPM

If there's one thing this 12-year project has done well, it's to help us redefine IPM. Our newly published *IPM Manual* (authored by Bob Portmess, Jennifer Grant, and Frank Rossi and available on the Cornell Turfgrass Website) addresses the many misconceptions—it costs too much, takes too much time, it means we can't spray—of integrated pest management with clarifying data and results from this study.



*Kathe Wegman, Bethpage State Park IPM Specialist, aggressively scouting in the early years of the project.*

Through our trials, we saw, firsthand, how:

- Preventive applications of more environmentally compatible products are often more effective than waiting for an outbreak and applying harsher products
- Ensuring ideal growing conditions—improving, for instance, light and air movement and maintaining a permeable root zone, particularly in old pushup greens—is particularly critical to an IPM program's success; as we know, excess water is a death nail
- Putting the Environmental Impact Quotient (see article page 5) into play to assess the environmental impact of products and programs in day-to-day management allows for greater flexibility in developing environmentally sensitive pest management programs

In the end, we have significantly reduced the environmental risk associated with pesticide use by reducing our overall reliance on traditional pesticides and increasing the use of biological and reduced-risk products.

## Moving Forward

We have begun implementing these concepts and practices to some extent on all 27 New York State golf courses. In the process, we've added fairways and tees to our treatment programs and have realized significant reductions in the use of traditional pesticides in these areas. After 10 years of pre-emergence crabgrass herbicide use on fairways, for instance, we learned that we are able to forego treatment at least two to three years before suffering turf loss that begins to allow crabgrass to invade.

This project has taught everyone associated with it that reductions in the use of fertilizer and traditional pesticides is possible, if the turfgrass industry is willing to embrace the idea of working to develop viable alternative products and practices. I doubt the Bethpage Project will answer all the questions, but certainly we think we have begun to lay out a clear direction for environmentally responsible golf course management.

Through our work, it's become clear that there are answers out there if you are willing to break from conventional wisdom and take small steps for change. Don't wait until your hands are tied by restrictions to reach for an alternative solution.



## Golfers

Each year of the experiment at Bethpage, we surveyed the golfers on the course asking them about visual and playing quality of the greens, as well as their thoughts about pesticide use on the golf course. We've learned that:

- Most golfers want acceptable visual quality and greens to putt true
- Few complained about minor blemishes but did not like temporary surfaces when a regular green failed
- Surprisingly, most are not overly concerned about pesticides; in fact, there is a recent trend in the data that golfers want good playing conditions, regardless of how many pesticides need to be used, which is a definite shift in attitude
- Few golfers are able to detect differences in ball roll less than one foot
- When golfers have more uphill putts, they perceive the greens as slower, and if they have more downhill putts they feel the greens are faster

## Non-Golfers

The motivation behind reducing pesticide use clearly comes from the more than 80 percent of the U.S. population that does not play golf. No question, non-golfers dislike pesticide use on golf courses, but in many cases, they simply hate the game, objecting to the land use and the expense, and the perceived elitist and conservative aspects of the game.

A major subset of non-golfers includes policy-makers. A primary goal of this project was to inform policy-makers about the consequences of pesticide bans. In the first

few years of the project, field days were held for policy-makers and aides to view the results.

These meetings had a profound impact, even today, on pesticide legislation, and while the debate has not ended for golf course pesticide use, many policy-makers have recognized the use of pesticides for sustaining the economic aspects of golf.

## Golf Course Maintenance Staff

No doubt, this study challenged the staff at Bethpage State Park who were asked to make major changes to tried-and-true maintenance programs in an effort to reduce reliance on pesticides.

Over time, as some successes were had—or failures noted—a practice or product would either be dropped or investigated further. We have many examples of products or practices that would be dismissed only to emerge again as vital aspects of the program. For example, the Field Scout 300 moisture meter initially gathered dust on a shelf and then became a go-to tool for improving irrigation programs.

Hands down, the most rewarding part of this 12-year project has been our involvement with the staff at the Bethpage State Park: David Catalano, Park superintendent; past Superintendent Craig Currier; Andy Wilson, Craig's replacement and former Green Course superintendent; and Park IPM Specialist Kathe Wegman. The level of professionalism and commitment to the project that these people have demonstrated has been second to none, turning a challenging undertaking into a pleasant and highly productive experience.

# How to Put the Environmental Impact Quotient to Work at Your Course



If you're interested in making the most environmentally responsible pesticide choices for your course, one approach is using a model designed to assess environmental impact: the Environmental Impact Quotient (EIQ) <http://www.nysipm.cornell.edu/publications/eiq/>.

Devised two decades ago, the EIQ is designed to help you determine—and compare—the environmental impact of most commonly used pesticides (insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides) in agriculture and horticulture. When you combine the EIQ criteria with your knowledge of pesticide products' efficacy, cost, and resistance potential, you can make more informed, environmentally sensible pesticide selections for treating your course.

The first step to putting the EIQ to work on your course is understanding it. While at first take, it may seem like more trouble than it's worth, don't give up. Read on. There is a simple method to calculate EIQ. And it's all right here, in this article.

## The Basis of the EIQ

The EIQ is based on data obtained from quite a number of sources:

- EXTOTOXNET (<http://extoxnet.orst.edu/>)
- The Cornell Pesticide Management Education Program (<http://pmep.cce.cornell.edu>)
- SELCTV (<http://ipmnet.org/phosure/database/selctv/selctv.htm>)
- The National Pesticide Information Center (<http://npic.orst.edu/ppdmove.htm>), developed by the USDA Agricultural Research Service and Soil Conservation Service
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)
- EPA factsheets and databases
- The FOOTPRINT database (<http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/aeru/footprint/en/index.htm>)
- Technical bulletins developed by the agricultural chemical industry

## Determining EIQ Value

To calculate an EIQ for a particular pesticide, researchers consider such factors as:

- toxicity: dermal, bird, chronic, bee, fish, beneficial arthropod
- soil and plant surface half-life
- systemicity
- leaching potential
- surface loss potential
- farm worker, consumer, and ecological effects

The result is a single number describing the Environmental Impact Quotient of a pesticide active ingredient or what's referred to as the *base EIQ value*.

The New York State Food and Life Sciences Bulletin No. 139, entitled "A Method to Measure the Environmental Impact of Pesticides," describes in detail the derivation of the EIQ. The full content of this bulletin is available on the website noted in the first paragraph, along with an updated table of base EIQ values, including those for many active ingredients that have come on the market since the model was developed.

Although the model was devised for food crops, the "farm worker" component can be considered equivalent to turfgrass applicators and the "consumer" component to the turfgrass user, e.g., golfer, athlete, child.

## Calculating EIQ Field Use Ratings

Obtaining the base EIQ value of a pesticide is only one piece of the total picture. To accurately compare pesticides and pest management strategies, you have to go on to calculate the *EIQ Field Use Rating* (EIQ-FUR) for the pesticides you're considering. The EIQ-FUR was developed to take into account different formulations of the same active ingredient and different use patterns. It's calculated by multiplying the base EIQ value for a specific chemical by the percent active ingredient in the formulation and by



**Table 1: Example of the EIQ Field Use Rating for Five Fungicides Targeting Dollar Spot**

Material	Active Ingredient	EIQ	% Active Ingredient	Rate	EIQ Field Use Rating
Daconil Ultrex	chlorothalonil	37.4	82.5	3.7 ozs./1000 ft <sup>2</sup> (10.07 lbs./acre)	311
3336F	thiophanate methyl	23.8	41.25	2 fl. ozs./1,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (5.44 pints/acre)	53.5
Bayleton 50% WSP	triadimefon	27	50	1 oz./1,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (2.72 lbs./acre)	36.7
ArmorTech PPZ 143	propiconazole	31.6	14.3	1 oz./1,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (2.72 pints/acre)	12.3
Roots EcoGuard Biofungicide	<i>Bacillus licheniformis</i>	7.3	0.14	20 fl. ozs./1,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (54.45 pints/acre)	0.6

the rate used, usually in pints or pounds of formulated product per acre.

*In the end, the lower the EIQ-FUR, the lower the environmental impact.* Keep in mind: Pesticide comparisons should be based solely on the products' EIQ-FUR, not on the base EIQ value of the active ingredient.

### Visualizing EIQ

Above is an example of the EIQ at work. Table 1 shows a comparison of the environmental impact of five turfgrass fungicides registered for dollar spot control.

The EIQ Field Use Ratings for the five fungicides have been calculated at the low curative rate. Note that although thiophanate methyl has a lower base EIQ (23.8) than most of the other active ingredients listed, it has the second highest EIQ-FUR. The Field Use Rating is dependent on the percentage of active ingredient and the rate of application. Be aware that small differences in the EIQ-FUR are not meaningful.

Here's a guide for determining environmental impact based on a product's EIQ Field Use Rating:

EIQ Field Use Rating	
<25	very low
<50	low
50-100	moderate
>100	high
>150	very high

### Selecting an Overall Management Strategy

The products listed in this example differ in efficacy, mode of action, potential for causing resistance, and cost—as well as EIQ-FUR. It's important that you consider *all* of these factors when selecting a pesticide and an overall management strategy. But clearly, the addition of a measure of environmental impact will enhance your ability to make well-informed choices.

The EIQ Field Use Rating can be used to compare different pest management strategies, and to compare seasonal totals from year to year. To do this, calculate the EIQ-FUR for each application made or planned for the season and simply sum them up. By

using the EIQ model, it becomes possible for IPM practitioners to easily estimate the environmental impact of different pesticide combinations and choices.

### EIQ Calculations Made Easy

A new tool was recently added to the NYS IPM Program website: the *EIQ Calculator*. It makes EIQ calculations easy, regardless of the units of weight, volume, or area being used. The calculator also references the most current base EIQ values in determining EIQ-FURs.

Try it out at <http://cceeqlamp.cit.cornell.edu/EIQCalc/input.php>, and find out the environmental impact of your golf turf management programs.



*Frank Rossi and Project Manager and current Bethpage Golf Course Superintendent Andrew Wilson view the devastation of dollar spot infection under potential law banning pesticides.*

## Upcoming Events

# Plan NOW for These Upcoming Golf Events!

### **Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier**

*Monday, April 23*

The Apawamis Club, Rye, NY  
Host: Bill Perlee (see page 12)

### **Nine and Dine: Superintendent/Manager or Guest Tournament**

*Monday, June 4*

Country Club of Darien, Darien, CT  
Host: Tim O'Neill, CGCS

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

*Monday, August 27*

Century Country Club, Purchase, NY  
Host: Kevin Seibel

### **MetGCSA Invitational Tournament**

*Monday, June 25*

Tamarack Country Club, Greenwich, CT  
Host: Jeff Scott, CGCS

## Educational Events

### **2012 MGA/USGA Green Chairman Seminar**

*Tuesday, March 15*

Alpine Country Club  
Demarest, NJ

The Metropolitan Golf Association Foundation, in conjunction with the United States Golf Association Green Section, has put together another informative program in its ongoing Green Chairman Education Series. An impressive roster of presenters from the USGA's Green Section and the golf industry will address a variety of turfgrass-related issues. Each of the presentations will be followed by a question-and-answer session. The day will conclude with the Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leadership Award Luncheon.

For further information, contact Kevin Kline (kkline@mgagolf.org) or Kate Keller (kkeller@mgagolf.org) at (914)347-4653.

### **17th Annual Rutgers Turfgrass Research Golf Classic**

*Monday, May 7*

Fiddler's Elbow Country Club  
Far Hills, NJ

Join fellow industry professionals for this annual fundraiser and a day of golf, education, and fun. Your participation helps continue turfgrass research and breeding programs at Rutgers University's Center for Turfgrass Science.

For further information, call 973-812-6467 or log on to [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org).

### **2012 University of Connecticut Turfgrass Field Day**

*Tuesday, July 17*

UConn Research and Education Facility  
Storrs, CT

The field day will offer guided tours of a variety of research projects underway at the university followed by a delicious lunch and an opportunity to connect with fellow turf professionals. The afternoon program will include two breakout sessions highlighting current organic management demonstrations for athletic field turf and a turfgrass disease walking tour focused on identification and cultural and chemical control options. Exhibitors from across the region will also be present with product and service information for the turfgrass industry.

Watch the website for further details as the date approaches: [www.turf.uconn.edu](http://www.turf.uconn.edu).

### **Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day (Golf & Fine Turf)**

*Tuesday, July 31*

Horticultural Farm II  
New Brunswick, NJ

Save the date, and watch for details. For further information call 973-812-6467 or visit [www.njturfgrass.org](http://www.njturfgrass.org).

### **UMass Turf Research Field Day**

*Wednesday, August 1 (8:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.)*

UMass Joseph Troll Turf Research Center  
South Deerfield, MA

The field day will focus on the wide range of research projects that university faculty, staff, and graduate students currently have underway at the research center and at other locations. Among the studies you'll see: the biology and integrated management of turf-damaging insects, short- and long-term weed management, pesticide exposure, fertility, drought management, as well as a range of National Turfgrass Evaluation Program fine turf trials. The field day will also feature displays and demonstrations from turf industry vendors. A barbecue lunch is included with registration.

For further information, contact the UMass Extension Turf Program office at 508-892-0382 or by email at [fieldday@umassturf.org](mailto:fieldday@umassturf.org).

# 2012 Winter Seminar Draws Full House

by Jim Pavonetti, CGCS

The 2012 MetGCSA Winter Seminar, held January 18, continued its tradition as a sold-out event, with more than 290 seminar goers and 27 vendor booths filling the corridors and conference room at Westchester Country Club.

Kudos to Education Chair Rob Alonzi and his committee for putting together yet another crowd-pleasing roster of speakers. Seminar participants came away with the latest tactics for managing pests and problems new, and not-so-new, to our golf courses.

### The Sessions Begin

The day began with Dr. Frank Wong of Bayer Environmental Science, who discussed the latest research and control measures for a relatively new threat to the health and welfare of our turf: *Waitea* patch. Also known as brown ring patch, this meddlesome fungus is most prevalent on annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass turf.

Dr. Wong found Heritage and the DMIs most effective in preventing the disease, while Prostar proved most useful as a curative control. Cleary 3336, by contrast, did nothing to prevent or control this fungus. For further information on *Waitea* patch, you can reach Dr. Wong at 571-239-1551, frank.wong@bayer.com.

Next, Dr. Pat Vittum of the University of Massachusetts gave us her latest findings on controlling the long-challenging annual



Awards Committee Chair Tony Girardi and MGA Executive Director Jay Mottola present Sports Columnist Dave Anderson with the MetGCSA's coveted John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award.

bluegrass weevil. She stressed the importance of monitoring weevil activity in achieving effective control and offered a variety of useful approaches, including converting a small leaf-vacuum into a collecting device. For further information on the latest in weevil monitoring and control, you can reach Dr. Vittum at 413-545-0268, pvittum@ent.umass.edu.

Dr. Michelle DaCosta, also from the University of Massachusetts, discussed ways to avoid winter injury to our turf. She spoke about the "Winter Injury Complex," which consists of five ways turf injury can occur

during the winter months: Low-temperature kill, crown hydration, desiccation, ice encasement (anoxia), and winter diseases. She also emphasized the role proper cultural practices play in promoting the health and resilience of golf course turf during the winter months.

After what many local area courses experienced last winter, everyone in attendance was on the edge of their seat, listening to what Dr. DaCosta had to say about preventing turf injury. For more on this topic, you can reach Dr. DaCosta at 413-545-2547, mdacosta@psis.umass.edu.



## Awards Luncheon Marks Half-Time

While seminar goers and vendors enjoyed the always-sumptuous WCC lunch, renowned Sports Columnist Dave Anderson took the podium to receive the MetGCSA's prestigious John Reid Lifetime Achievement Award. MGA Executive Director Jay Motola, a past recipient of the Reid Award himself, introduced Mr. Anderson, who delighted the crowd with stories of his many encounters with such sports greats as Muhammad Ali, Jack Nicklaus, and Ben Hogan.

The afternoon was topped off with Steven McDonald of Turfgrass Disease Solutions, who talked about the latest and greatest herbicide control programs for *Poa annua* and broadleaf and grassy weeds. One very interesting product from Korea may be available to us in the next few years. Called Methiozolin, this herbicide has shown promise in controlling *Poa annua*. To speak to Mr. McDonald about his findings, you can contact him at 610-633-1878, turfgrassdiseasesolutions@yahoo.com.

We ended the day with Dr. Nathaniel Mitkowski of the University of Rhode Island. He discussed management strategies and programs to control or minimize the effects of nematodes now that NemaCur is no longer available. Various biological products have been developed to battle nematodes, but the results have been mixed. His number one recommendation, until a good replacement for NemaCur becomes available, is to ensure the vigor of the turf, working, in particular, to maintain a healthy root mass. For more on this topic, you can reach Dr. Mitkowski at 401-874-5996, mitkowski@mail.uri.edu.

When the education portion of the seminar was over, attendees meandered through the vendor booths where company reps were on hand to answer questions and discuss the latest products and services available to our area. We would like to express our gratitude for our vendors' continued support at this event, as well as throughout the growing season.

Finally, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to host Superintendent Joe Alonzi and the entire Westchester Country Club staff for doing such a wonderful job—once again—in making this a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all who attended.

Special thanks also go out to event Title Sponsor Metro Turf Specialists, and fellow Ace Sponsors LaCorte Equipment, Turf Products, Westchester Turf Supply, Steven Willand, and Morris Golf for their continued support of our association.

See you all next year!

*Jim Pavonetti, editor of Tee to Green, is superintendent at Fairview Country Club in Greenwich, CT.*

## Special Thanks to Our 2012 Winter Seminar Exhibitors

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

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

### A. G. Enterprises

Rick Gordon  
Staff Uniforms  
201-488-1276  
merrick160@aol.com

### Bayer Environmental Science

Dave Sylvester  
Plant Protectants  
860-841-3173  
david.sylvester@bayer.com

### ClubSafe, Inc.

Bonnie Karl  
Medical Emergency Response Plans &  
Employee Health & Safety Plans  
877-936-3300  
karl@clubsafe.com

### DeLea Sod Farms

Mike Hollander  
High-Quality Sod & Root Zone Mixes  
for Golf Courses  
631-484-1211  
mhollander@deleasod.com

### DryJect NE/TurfPounders

Kevin Collins  
DryJect & Aeration Specialists  
914-672-6029  
kpc10512@yahoo.com

### Executive Turf Products

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## Member News

### Scholarship Raffle: Always a Win-Win!

The Annual Bill Caputi Scholarship Raffle, held at the December 9 Met Christmas Party at Sunningdale Country Club, raised an admirable sum for the Met's Scholarship Fund and awarded \$4,500 in cash prizes to 18 lucky ticket holders.

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

Many thanks to all who contributed and also to those who sold tickets for this worthwhile fundraiser. Congratulations to our \$1,000-grand-prize winner, **John Bresnahan**, of BASF Chemical Company.

The other prize winners were:

#### \$500 Winners

**Glenn Perry**, Rolling Hills Country Club  
**Kevin Harrington**, Member, North Jersey Country Club  
**Joe D'Mario**, Member, North Jersey Country Club



#### \$250 Winners

**Joe Alonzi**, Westchester Country Club  
**Ed Brockner**, MetGCSA Executive Director  
**Kevin Breska**, Siwanoy Country Club  
**Joe Stahl**, Harrell's LLC

#### \$100 Winners

**Paul Dotti**, Arcola Country Club  
**Glenn Moore**, Northern Design LLC  
**Pat Sisk**, Milwaukee Country Club  
**Ed Brockner**, MetGCSA Executive Director  
**Kevin Collins**, Aquatrols, Inc.  
**John Garcia**, Atlantic Golf & Turf, LLC  
**Jeff Wentworth**, Pelham Country Club  
**Ernie Steinhofner**, Metro Turf Specialists  
**Bill Bartels**, Tanto Irrigation, LLC  
**Joe Gardner**, Fresh Meadow Country Club

### Renowned Golf Course Architect Geoffrey Cornish Dies at 97

Geoffrey Cornish, fondly known as "the grand old man of New England golf course architecture," died February 10 in Amherst, MA. He was 97.

A native of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, Cornish's experience spanned more than 70 years, starting with his work under renowned Canadian course architect Stanley Thompson.

Cornish authored or co-authored five books on course design, including the landmark reference book, *The Architects of Golf* (with Ron Whitten), and *Golf Course Design* (with Robert Muir Graves). For years, Cornish also shared his knowledge with groups around the world, speaking on the history and practice of golf course architecture.

Cornish earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy from the University of British Columbia and a master's and honorary doctorate from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. He was also honored with the ASGCA Donald Ross Award and the GCSAA Distinguished Service Award and is a member of the Canadian Golf Hall of Fame.

Well known—and respected—by many



Met-area superintendents, Cornish designed more golf courses in New England than any one architect. All told, he and his associates are responsible for 240 golf course designs in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Cornish continued to work until his death with Mungeam Cornish Golf Design.

As ASGCA President Rick Phelps so aptly said, "Mr. Cornish's exceptional work as a golf course architect, author, and lecturer cannot be overstated. His contributions to the profession of golf course architecture and the golf industry will live on for generations."

#### New Members

- **Vincent Anderson**, Class C, of GlenArbor GC in Bedford Hills, NY
- **Sean Crawford**, Class C, of Pelham/Split Rock GC in Bronx, NY
- **Kevin Haglund**, Class C, of Redding CC in Redding, CT
- **Bonnie Karl**, Class AF, of ClubSafe, Inc., Manchester, MA
- **Eric Kelly**, Class AF, of William A. Kelly & Co., Inc., Katonah, NY
- **Michael Keohan**, Class A, of Brookville CC, Old Brookville, NY
- **Kevin Kopay**, Class A, of Trump National GC/Westchester in Briarcliff Manor, NY
- **Chad Lemere**, Class AF, of 360 Golf LLC, White Plains, NY
- **Jason Mulcahy**, Class AF, of DuPont Professional Products, Pembroke, NH
- **Chris O'Malley**, Class C, of Wykagyl CC in New Rochelle, NY
- **Jason Santos**, Class C, of Round Hill Club in Greenwich, CT
- **Brian Schliessman**, Class C, of Pelham/Split Rock GC in Bronx, NY
- **Jeffrey Townley**, Class C, of GlenArbor GC in Bedford Hills, NY

#### Members on the Move

- **Eric Yount** is the new superintendent at Dyker Beach Golf Course in Brooklyn, NY. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Westchester CC in Rye, NY.
- **Justin Mills** is a new assistant superintendent at Tamarack CC in Greenwich, CT. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Fairview CC in Greenwich, CT.
- **Justin Adams** is a new assistant superintendent at Ridgewood CC in Ridgewood, NJ. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Sunningdale CC in Scarsdale, NY.
- **Tim Garceau** is the new superintendent at Haworth CC in Haworth, NJ. Previous position: Agronomic consultant at Metro Turf Specialists in Danbury, CT.
- **Jon Jennings** is the new superintendent at Shinnecock Hills GC in Southampton, NY. Previous position: Superintendent at The Chicago GC in Wheaton, IL.
- **Douglas Snyder** is the new superintendent at the Milbrook Club in Greenwich, CT. Previous position: Assistant superintendent at Fenway GC in Scarsdale, NY.

#### Births

Congratulations to:

- Hartford GC Superintendent **Lindsey Baker** and his wife, Jessie, on the birth of their son, Miller, on October 26.
- Centennial GC Superintendent **Glen Dube** and his wife, Erica, on the birth of their son, Brayden Paul, on December 19.

# Merry Mingling

at The 2011 MetGCSA Christmas Party at Sunningdale Country Club

All captions are from left to right . . .

Steven Kubicki & Jess  
Debakis, Grace-Marie &  
Brett Chapin, Tony & Bea  
Campanella

Karla & Tom Ashfield,  
Sean Cain, Mike Aube,  
Justin Adams

Bill & Bridget Bartels, Gina  
& Neil Laufenberg, Adam &  
Renee Severson, Ann Marie &  
Rob Alonzi

Carolyn & Bob Nielsen,  
Jenny & Mike Brunelle,  
Ken & Melodee Benoit,  
Dana & Dave Dudones,  
P.J. Morgan & Bill  
Tucker

Kevin & Michele  
Collins, Carolyn & Kevin  
Seibel, Blake Halderman,  
Glen Dube, Megan  
Baggott & Bob Wolverton,  
Paul & Terri Gonzalez

Cindy & Dennis Flynn,  
Dana & Scott Niven,  
Anne & Mike Maffei

Brian Gallagher & Gady  
Alcantara, Dave Peterson  
& Kaitlin Casey, Eric  
Yount, Amber & Joe  
Gikis, Beth Cunningham  
& Doug Vanderlee

Pandora, feed copy

Alisha & Steve Turchick,  
Tim & Mariane Garcean

# Apawamis Gets Primed for the Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Qualifier

by Greg Wojick, CGCS

Those of you lucky enough to play The Apawamis Club at this spring's annual Dave Mahoney Two-Ball Championship Qualifier are in for a treat. A notoriously short course, playing just under 6,500 yards, Apawamis offers a challenging round. But don't take my word for it. Take it from golf great Ben Hogan, who called Apawamis "the toughest short course" he ever played.

For my partner and me, hitting shorter irons for our second shots into greens will make us a formidable foe in this year's competition. The long-hitter advantage does not apply at Apawamis. But be forewarned about host Super Bill Perlee's history of producing fast green speeds—a clear threat to your game at this year's opening Met tourney on April 23!

## Apawamis: Past and Present

The golf course at Apawamis is interesting and varied—like its history. Apawamis was founded in 1890—not as a golf club, but rather a beach club on the shores of Long Island Sound.

A few years after the club opened, it left its seaside roost, buying a small plot of land and constructing a nine-hole course. Then, in 1896, the club's current site was purchased, and construction began to build an 18-hole layout. Scotsman Willie Dunn of Shinnecock fame was hired to design the course, much of which has remained the same.

There have been modifications made over the years. Bill's 2001 restoration involved rebuilding six greens and a complete bunker renovation that resulted in the addition of 40 new bunkers. This project also included expanding many of the fairways, rebuilding the tees to add length, and constructing a practice chipping and putting facility.

Today, Bill is excited about the completion of his new maintenance facility, which will be ready for a ribbon-cutting ceremony within the next few weeks.

## On the Golf Circuit

The club has hosted a sizable number of golf tournaments over the years. The most famous would be the four USGA champion-

ships, including the 1911 U.S. Amateur, the 1978 Curtis Cup, and most recently, the 2005 Senior Women's Amateur. Apawamis has also hosted numerous American Junior Golf Association events. Sergio Garcia won one of these events in the mid-'90s as an amateur.

There's one annual event that stands out among all others: the United States Seniors Golf Association's annual championship. This will be the 107th year the club has hosted this event, which has evolved over the years into a two-day, 36-hole competition, held at Apawamis, Blind Brook, Round Hill, and Bedford Golf & Tennis Club.

This year, Apawamis will, again, host the Julian Curtiss Cup, an event that is played among clubs whose history spans 100 years. Also coming this year to Apawamis is the "Four Corners" event, which is the oldest continuous interclub competition in America and includes St. Andrew's, Bedford Golf & Tennis, and Greenwich Country Club. Whoa! What a lot of tournaments!

## The Varied Path to Apawamis

Entering his 16th season at Apawamis, Bill took an interesting, and by today's standards, unconventional route to where he is today. A Northport, NY, native, Bill earned a B.S. in computer science from Empire State College in 1987 while working on the maintenance crew at Nissequogue Country Club in St. James, NY.

"The job I did there," says Bill, "doesn't exist today." He worked as the nighttime waterman, when the club had only a single-row, manual irrigation system. A job that would have driven someone else out of the business served as a steppingstone for Bill.

When Bill's future wife, Lorah, took a job in the Westchester area, Bill decided to follow, pursuing a career in computer science. "When nothing surfaced," says Bill, "I decided that my best play would be a career in golf course management."

He was hired as the assistant superintendent at Sleepy Hollow Country Club, under then Superintendent Joe Camberato. "I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge under Joe that I've carried with me throughout my career," says Bill.

After five years at Sleepy, Bill took his



Bill Perlee

first superintendent's job at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, CT. "After one year there," says Bill, "I finally got some formal training." He completed Cornell University's Winter Turf Management Course and then spent the next four years at Burning Tree mastering "the fine art" of drainage—a skill that's served him well at Apawamis.

"After the crazy rains of last summer, we knew where the problem areas were here at Apawamis," says Bill. "We've spent this winter installing more than 2,000 linear feet of drainage."

## Life Beyond Work

Bill may not always bring work home with him, but he does bring home with him to work—his two kids, that is! He's hired his 16-year-old daughter, Sarah, to assist Apawamis in achieving its certification as an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary. And he's enlisting his 14-year-old son, Bryan, to work on the maintenance crew this summer.

Bill and his family enjoy time together off the course too. They are avid skiers and snowboarders, spending as much time as they can during the winter on the slopes.

Bill also enjoys traveling and claims the highlight of his off-season is a ski trip to Alta in Utah with his golf pro and friend, Jack Perkins, a few members, and Lorah. Lorah is a fitness lover and competes in a local soccer league that fields players of all ages.

While the MetGCSA has held several meetings at Apawamis in Bill's tenure, this is the first time we'll actually get to set foot on the links. If you've never had the pleasure of playing this not-so-hidden gem, be sure to sign up for the Met's season-opening Two-Ball event and enjoy the strategy and conditioning that are sure to bring you back, again and again.

*Greg Wojick, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee, is the principal in Communitool, LLC, and founder of Playbooks for Golf.*

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