

Tee To Green

April 2013
VOLUME 13 NUMBER 2

Published by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association



Board of Directors



President

BLAKE HALDERMAN, CGCS
Brae Burn Country Club

Vice President

GLEN DUBE, CGCS
Centennial Golf Club

Treasurer

DAVID DUDONES
North Jersey Country Club

Secretary

KENNETH BENOIT JR., CGCS
Glen Arbor Golf Club

Past President

ROBERT NIELSEN JR., CGCS
Bedford Golf & Tennis Club

Directors

ROBERT B. ALONZI JR.
Fenway Golf Club

BRETT CHAPIN
Redding Country Club

DOUG DRUGO
Wee Burn Country Club

ANTHONY HOOKS
Richmond County Country Club

VINCENT PAVONETTI, CGCS
Fairview Country Club

ROBERT WOLVERTON
Edgewood Country Club

Class "C" Rep

GEORGE CHAVEZ
Pelham Country Club

Class "AF" Rep

KEVIN COLLINS
Aquatrols

Executive Director

ED BROCKNER

Executive Secretary

INEKE PIERPOINT

Tee to Green Staff

Editor

JIM PAVONETTI
203-531-8910

Managing Editor

PANDORA C. WOJICK

Editorial Committee

MATT CEPLO	SCOTT NIVEN
KEVIN COLLINS	LARRY PAKKALA
BILL CYGAN	MIKE REEB
CHIP LAFFERTY	TODD SALAMONE
STEVEN MCGLONE	RYAN SEGRUE
GREG WOJICK	

Designer

TERRIE YOUNG

Advertising Manager

BRETT CHAPIN, 203-938-9240

TEE TO GREEN is published bimonthly by the Metropolitan Golf Course Superintendents Association
49 Knollwood Road, Elmsford, NY 10523-2819
914-347-4653, FAX: 914-347-3437, METGCSA.ORG
Copyright © 2013

Tee To Green



Cover: Wee Burn Country Club

In this Issue

Features

Turfgrass Advocacy Day-Goers Enlighten	2
New York State Legislators	

Departments

Regional News	4
Upcoming Events	5
National News	6
National Scorecard	6
Spotlight	8

President's Message

Association and Industry Headlines

I am sure you would all agree that it has been an interesting Spring so far. We went from below average temperatures to 80 degrees overnight. (And if you were like me, you were scrambling to get that water on and keep your sod and aerified greens alive!) Then, as quickly as the warm weather came, it left, with temps dropping a good 30 degrees—and then up and down again! I think we've seen over the past three years that the unpredictable weather patterns are here to stay. Let's just hope for a more reasonable summer.

But the weather isn't the only headliner. Here's an update on several noteworthy association and industry happenings.

Ineke Pierpoint to Retire

For those who haven't heard, Ineke Pierpoint, our executive secretary of nearly 20 years, will be retiring. She has done an outstanding job for our association, as well as a number of other client associations that work out of the MGA's Golf Central headquarters in Elmsford. Ineke is the spouse of George Pierpoint, a retired golf course superintendent. She also has two sons who have followed in their father's footsteps as golf course superintendents.

Ineke and George will be relocating from Hartsdale to the Hudson Valley, but Ineke will continue to work until her replacement is on board. Jay Mottola, executive director of the MGA, and his team are in the process of finding a replacement for this position and are keeping the Met board up-to-date on the search.

I know everyone joins me in wishing Ineke and George the very best, and I hope you all get a chance to thank her for her many years of service and dedication.

Nor'easter Ski Day Doubles as Fundraiser

I'd like to report that the Nor'easter Ski Day organized by Agrium Advanced Technologies' Andy Drohen, who is also our Met Area



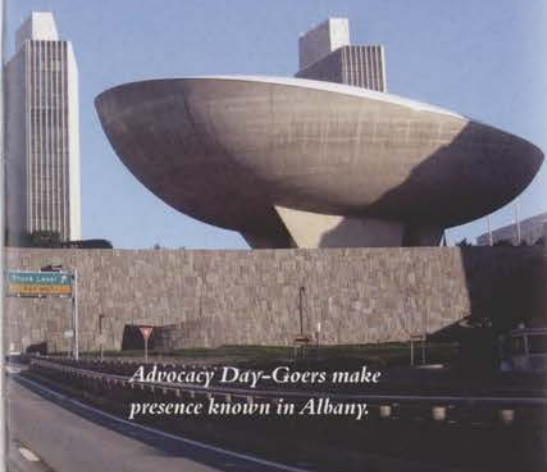
*Blake Halderman, CGCS
MetGCSA President*

Team Championship co-chair, was a great success. The event was held February 28 at the Killington Ski Resort in Killington, VT, and drew more than 100 golf course superintendents and industry representatives, along with their families. Normally, this is an event that involves a little competition on the slopes, but with the two feet of snow that fell the night before, the slalom race had to be canceled because conditions were deemed unsafe. From all accounts, skiing was superb nonetheless, and the event offered a great opportunity for the golf industry to get together in the off-season, enjoy the outdoors, and build on the special camaraderie that's unique to our profession.

This year's Nor'easter Ski Day also served as a fundraiser for Ardsley's Matt Dutremble. Matt was seriously injured after Hurricane Sandy while cleaning up storm-damaged trees on his golf course. The funds raised during the event will help him and his family get through this challenging period. I spoke to Matt recently and was pleased to hear he is expected to make a full recovery. He wanted everyone to know just how much he appreciates all the support he received from his friends within the MetGCSA and from those who participated in the Nor'easter Ski Day. A little help can go a long way.

Making Great Strides at NYSTA's Turfgrass Advocacy Day

In mid-March, I, along with several other Met members, made a trip to Albany for the NYSTA Turfgrass Advocacy Day. (See page 2 for a full account.) A huge success, the day offered us the opportunity to meet with senators and assemblymen to discuss our
continued on page 7



*Advocacy Day-Goers make
presence known in Albany.*

Feature

Turfgrass Advocacy Day- Goers Enlighten New York State Legislators

by Michael Maffei, CGCS

The

14th Annual New York State Turfgrass Advocacy Day was held March 13 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, NY, with 47 superintendents and industry professionals eager to discuss this year's issues: Using Less-Than-Label Rates of Pesticides, support for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund, and the Adoption of a State Definition of IPM. Advocacy Day-goers made a record 70 legislative visits to drive home the impact these legislative issues have on their ability to do their jobs. Joining me in representing the MetGCSA were Ed Brockner, Blake Halderman, CGCS; Bob Nielsen, CGCS; Ken Benoit, CGCS; Brian Bontemps, Matt Ceplo, CGCS; John Carlone, CGCS; and Glen Dube, CGCS. I am pleased to report that optimism was high among all the attendees, since two of the bills—the State Definition of IPM and the Use of Less-Than-Label Rates of Pesticides—were unanimously passed by the Senate just the week before.

The Event Kick-off

The event kicked off with an association breakfast and welcoming remarks by NYSTA Past President Steve Griffen. Jeff Williams, regulatory issues coordinator with the New York Farm Bureau, assumed the podium next with an update on budget issues and the legislative climate in Albany. Jeff also announced NYSTA's recent approval for a New York Farm Bureau Agricultural Alliance membership. NYSTA believes this membership will pave the way for improved communications and collaboration on joint issues. And in fact, the Farm Bureau and NYSTA have already begun a collaborative effort, working with the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns (NYAFEC) to secure funding for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund.

Wayne Lair Jr., legislative associate with The Vandervort Group and lobbyist for the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns, continued the morning briefings, offering insight into the crucial role of the NYAFEC. Lair also noted that the time was



right to meet with the legislators, since they were in the midst of final budget negotiations. He went on to offer advocacy strategies for making the most of every legislative visit, starting with identifying the legislators carrying our bills and the chairpersons of key committees, such as Environmental Conservation and Agriculture. A strong proponent of Advocacy Day, Lair felt it was the legislative visits that drove home to legislators the potential impact of their bills.

"Lawmakers hear from people like me every day," says Lair, "but when they get the opportunity to talk to people who are out in the field actually dealing with the laws and regulations they set up, it shines a bright spotlight on some of the difficulties businesses face. That's why advocacy days like this one are so important, so legislators can get a real-world view of how what they do impacts the people they serve."

The Issues of the Day

Prior to the legislative visits, participants had the opportunity to hear what industry experts had to say about each of the following issues.

Lobbying for Less-Than-Label-Rate Use of Pesticides

Joseph Potrikus, Certified Sports Field Manager and Vice President of Greener World Landscape Maintenance, LLC

Potrikus explained that it is important that turfgrass managers who are trained, licensed commercial pesticide applicators have the flexibility to apply less-than-label rates to aide their ability to reduce overall pesticide use in New York; increase adoption of reduced-risk, biological and organic pest controls; and enhance adoption of a progressive turfgrass IPM program.

According to Dr. Jeffery Scott, professor and chair of the Department of Entomology at Cornell, there is a long list of problems associated with regulations that do not allow less-than-label rates, especially those associated with pesticide loads on the environment and nontarget effects. "In many cases," notes Dr. Scott, "less-than-label rates will reduce the risk of resistance and have no effect on the speed-of-resistance evolution. In only a very few cases will using less-than-label rates increase the risk of resistance. The benefits of allowing less-than-label rates clearly outweighs any potential problems," he says.

NYSTA recommends that legislators support bills A5411 (introduced by Assemblyman Magee) and S2524 (introduced by Senator Marcellino), which create a new section in the Environmental Conservation Law that states that unless the labeling specifically prohibits such use, a pesticide registered for use in New York State may be used by commercial



Wayne Lair Jr., legislative associate with The Vandervort Group and Advocacy Day proponent, discusses the important role of legislative visits.

applicators in a dosage, concentration, or frequency less than that specified on the labeling. This amendment is similar to a law that allows less-than-label rates to be used for agricultural purposes. Senator Marcellino's bill has passed the Senate, and we are awaiting action in the Assembly where, once again, this bill is not being looked on favorably by the Chairman of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee.

Garnering Support for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund

Michael Maffei, CGCS, Co-chair of the NYSTA Government Relations Committee and Golf Course Superintendent at Back O'Beyond.

I spoke about the status and importance of the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund and reported that it was our Number One issue for the day. The 2006-2007, 2007-2008, and 2008-2009 New York State Budgets included a \$175,000 appropriation to support research that provides improved turf management solutions. Budget cuts in 2010 terminated Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund appropriations.

Continuing research is essential in providing turf management solutions that are key in preserving and protecting environmental quality. With this in mind, NYSTA recommended that legislators restore the \$175,000 line item in the 2013-2014 budget.

April 1 update: I am pleased to announce that, as a result of our advocacy efforts and partnership with The Vandervort Group and the New York Farm Bureau, the recently passed New York State Budget does provide a \$150,000 allocation to the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund.

Adopting a State Definition of IPM

Larry Wilson, Chairman of the New York Alliance for Environmental Concerns

Wilson reviewed the adoption of a State Definition of IPM, stating that NYSTA believes New York State would be best served by adopting the IPM terminology recognized by the Food Quality Protection Act, the National Integrated Pest Management Network, and the Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations. Several

legislative proposals define IPM as using pesticides as a last resort. As we all know, pesticides are used as a tool in an IPM program.

NYSTA supports bills S2203 (sponsored by Senator Young) and A1172 (sponsored by Assemblywoman Gunther), which define integrated pest management as a "systematic approach to managing pests that utilizes a diversity of management options to minimize health, environmental, and economic risks and impacts. These options may include biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools to prevent pest infestations or reduce them to acceptable levels."

Senator Young's bill was recently unanimously passed by the Senate and is awaiting action in the Assembly.

Best Management Practices Manual Underway

At this point in the program, Glen Arbor Superintendent Ken Benoit, CGCS, who is chairing the MetGCSA's newly formed Environmental Committee, described an exciting new initiative the Met has spearheaded and is collaborating on with Cornell University and golf course superintendent associations throughout New York State: It's the development of a manual of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for New York State Golf Courses. "By spelling out Best Management Practices for every imaginable golf course maintenance practice, we hope to demonstrate superintendents' environmental awareness and responsibility," noted Benoit. "Just as important," he continued, "we hope this manual will foster relationships with New York State governmental agencies and lawmakers and provide us with a platform with which to offer valuable input during the lawmaking process."

Last but not Least: The Legislative Visits

With the various presentations complete, attendees had the opportunity to meet with legislators and share their views and concerns on upcoming legislation. In addition to focusing their discussions on the issues of the day, attendees were also encouraged to present the BMP concept to legislators during each of their visits. While they made important headway on the issues at hand, attendees felt that they received an overwhelmingly positive response from legislators on the BMP initiative.

"The NYSTA Turfgrass Advocacy Day has become an important component of our ongoing effort to educate legislators and the

continued



NYSTA Government Relations Co-chair Steve Griffen offers opening remarks at the New York State Turfgrass Advocacy Day event.

general public about the benefits of natural turfgrass," says NYSTA's Government Relations Committee Co-chair Steve Griffen, reflecting on the day's events. "We have many dedicated members who take time away from their busy schedules to spend the day in Albany discussing the issues that affect their profession. I am impressed with their dedication and the professional manner in which they are able to communicate with the legislators."

Your Involvement Counts!

More information on NYSTA's Turfgrass Advocacy Day is available on the NYSTA website: <http://www.nysta.org>. Though you may not have been able to attend, consider visiting your Assembly member or Senator in their district offices or writing them to discuss these issues. Either way, get involved and work toward protecting our industry—and your livelihood!

Please give serious consideration to attending Advocacy Day in 2014. Laws and regulations affect everyone, and your input is important.

Michael Maffei, CGCS, golf course superintendent at Back O' Beyond in Brewster, NY, is a past president of NYSTA and co-chair of the NYSTA Government Relations Committee.

Special Thanks to Our Sponsors

We would like to acknowledge the following sponsors who helped make this successful event possible: RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment), the Sullivan County Challenge, the Northeastern Golf Course Superintendents Association, the Central New York Golf Course Superintendents Association, Helena Chemical Company, the Nassau Suffolk Landscape Gardeners' Association, and Dow AgroSciences.

Regional News

Wee Burn Honored With MGA Award for Environmental Stewardship

by Matt Ceplo, CGCS

Congratulations to Met board member Doug Drugo and Wee Burn Country Club, the recipients of the seventh annual Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award. The award was presented at the 2013 MGA/USGA Green Chairman Education Series and Luncheon held March 27 at Willow Ridge Country Club in Harrison, NY.

This honor recognizes an MGA member club that has demonstrated environmental stewardship through improvements in wildlife habitat, IPM, water quality & quantity, education & outreach, and resource conservation. This year's award was presented by MetGCSA board member and Glen Arbor Golf Club Superintendent Ken Benoit. The 2010 recipient of this high honor, Ken is chairman of the MGA Environmental Award Committee.

According to Ken, competition for this year's award was fierce, with only one vote separating Wee Burn from the list of other environmentally responsible clubs. Those receiving honorable mention were Manhattan Woods Golf Club in West Nyack, NY; Newton Country Club in Newton, NJ; and Old Westbury Golf & Country Club in Old Westbury, NY.

Environmental Stewardship in Action

There to accept the award for Wee Burn Country Club were Superintendent Doug Drugo and General Manager Warren Burdock, who offered high praise for Doug's efforts as a steward of the environment. In 2012, the club completed its certification as an Audubon International Cooperative Sanctuary. In the process, Doug developed more than 20 acres of naturalized areas,



rebuilt stream banks, and enhanced the club's maintenance facility, installing new wash pads, chemical storage, and adding solar panels, which have enabled Doug to reduce his electric bill by 20 percent.

The award presentation was the highlight of the Green Chairman Education Series, a program designed to educate club leaders and the golfing public about a wide range of issues affecting Met-area clubs and golfers. This year, more than 150 club representatives enjoyed a lineup of outstanding speakers. Several MetGCSA members were among the presenters who discussed everything from green speeds, slow play issues, and regrassing to best management practices (BMPs) for golf courses and the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation's latest research efforts.

Scott Niven, property manager of The Stanwich Club discussed regrassing greens from *Poa Annua* to bentgrass, while Les Kennedy, Blind Brook Club superintendent and Tri-State Turf Research Foundation president, offered an update on Tri-State activities. Cornell University's Dr. Frank Rossi was also there to walk participants through the development of BMPs for New York State golf courses.

The Award's Beginning

The award is named in honor of past MGA President Arthur P. Weber, who died in 2008. Weber wrote an Environmental Code of Conduct for golf course maintenance at his home club, Old Westbury on Long Island, nearly two decades ago that many Met Area clubs still use as a model. Weber was a longtime member of the USGA Green Section and helped found the MGA Green Committee and the Tri-State Turf Research Foundation.



Nutrient Products



MICRO GREENS GRADE

SGN
100

- 0-0-50 Sulfate of Potash Micro
- 13-20-20 65% Methydure® SOP
- 14-0-12 100% Ammonium Sulfate N-Fusion™ Homogeneous SOP
- 15-0-30 50% Methydure® N-Fusion™ Homogeneous SOP
- 19-0-19 65% Methydure® N-Fusion™ Homogeneous SOP

MINI FAIRWAY GRADE

SGN
145

- 16-0-6 100% 100% Ammoniacal Nitrogen SOP
- 21-0-21 100% Methydure® SOP
- 22-0-22 100% UMAXX® SOP
- 25-0-10 50% UMAXX® & 25% Duration® SOP

MID TURF GRADE

SGN
185

- 25-0-10 50% UMAXX® & 25% XCU® + Mg, Fe SOP
- 28-0-12 50% UFLEX™ & 25% XCU® + Mg, Fe MOP

PRO TURF GRADE

SGN
200

- 14-24-12 25% UFLEX™ Seed Starter MOP
- 21-0-9 50% UFLEX™ & 50% Organic from Nat Pel MOP
- 28-0-10 40% Duration® MOP

COMBO PRODUCT

SGN
200

- 5-0-20 w/0.13% Dithiopyr MOP
- 19-0-3 30% XCU® w/.37 Prodiamine MOP
- 22-0-5 w/0.13% Dithiopyr 40% UFLEX™ MOP
- 22-0-8 w/Trimec® 25% XCU® MOP
- 24-0-4 40% XCU® w/0.2% Mallet® MOP
- Dithiopyr 0.13% Granular

WATER SOLUBLE & MISCELLANEOUS



- 14-14-14 60% Duration® -180 day release SOP
- 20-20-20 and 28-7-14 Water Soluble - 25lb bag
- 21-0-0 Ammonium Sulfate Soluble - 50lb bag
- 46-0-0 UMAXX® Stabilized Nitrogen SGN 220 - 50 lb bag
- Sul Po Mag 0-0-22 SGN 240 11% Mg - 50 lb bag
- 10-0-0 Corn Gluten 80% SR - 40 lb bag
- Acidifying 12-3-6 45% Methydure® 2.5% Fe
- 10-10-10 All mineral - 50lb bag

Call Your Metro Turf Specialist
Main Office (Gary, Todd and Tom): 203-748-GOLF(4653)
Customers, Our Top Priority

Use the **RIGHT TECHNOLOGIES**

Nutrite fertilizers are formulated with premium ingredients and designed specifically to meet the needs of Turf Managers like you to deliver optimum conditions. Each of our proven and exclusive technologies will provide reliable growth response and predictable results that meet your expectations.



Duration CR®

Duration CR® fertilizer releases nitrogen slowly and continually throughout the plant's growth cycle, resulting in precise, predictable feeding that lasts for months. Duration CR® will take the worry out of maintaining healthy turf while giving you the exceptional performance you demand.



Isodure™

Isodure® is a premium quality slow release nitrogen source. It delivers high levels of efficient, available water insoluble nitrogen (WIN). Benefits include reduced nitrogen loss, reduced thatch build-up and a reduction in surge growth all season long. Isodure nutrient release is in line with nutrient demand and turfgrass growth.



Methydure®

Methydure® methylene urea slow release nitrogen is a trusted technology that has a gradual, consistent release. Methydure® allows for the effective feeding of turfgrass with fewer applications for up to 12 to 16 weeks with a decreased risk of nitrate leaching or runoff.



N-Fusion™

N-Fusion™ homogeneous fertilizer provides uniform coverage and exceptional turf response. N-Fusion™ revolutionary dispersing granule technology minimizes mower pick-up with a light irrigation. The highly visible white granules allow for ease of application and ensures maximum results.



UFLEXX™

UFLEXX™ is beneficial for turf and environmentally responsible. UFLEXX™ improves nitrogen efficiency and reduces nitrogen loss due to volatilization, leaching and denitrification. The result is an excellent nitrogen source with improved nitrogen efficiency, extended response for up to 6 to 8 weeks and an improved environmental profile due to less nitrogen loss.



UMAXX®

UMAXX® is a premium stabilized nitrogen fertilizer designed to maximize nitrogen efficiency and minimize nitrogen loss. Stabilized Nitrogen remains in the root zone longer in a usable form, therefore, providing consistent growth and optimum results. When it comes to performance and return on investment no other urea-based product compares to UMAXX® Stabilized Nitrogen. UMAXX® provides consistent color response for up to 12 to 16 weeks.



XCU®

XCU® slow-release fertilizer uses breakthrough technology to provide a unique, durable coating that allows gradual and consistent nutrient release delivering up to 8 weeks of continuous feeding.

Call Your Metro Turf Specialist

Dave Conrad
914-490-3698

Rich Apgar
203-948-4941

Scott Apgar
914-879-9357

Ernie Steinhofer, CGCS
914-760-6112

Rob Steinman, CGCS
914-588-6593

Tim Joyce
516-369-6747



Ken Benoit, chairman of the Environmental Award Committee, left, and Steven Green of the MGA Executive Committee, right, present Wee Burn's superintendent, Doug Drugo, and general manager, Warren Burdock, with the MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award.

Past recipients of the award include Rockland Country Club (2012), the Round Hill Club (2011), Glen Arbor Golf Club (2010), Westchester Country Club (2009), Sebonack Golf Club (2008), and Trump National Golf Club (2007).

Matt Ceplo, a member of the Tee to Green Editorial Committee and previous recipient of the Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award, is superintendent at Rockland Country Club in Sparkill, NY.

Scholarship Award Applications Available Online

Application forms for the 2013 MetGCSA Scholarship Awards are now available on the Met website, www.metgcsa.org, or through MetGCSA Executive Secretary Ineke Pierpoint at ipierpoint@mgagolf.org or 914-909-4843.

Any Class A, Life A, SM, C, Life C, AF, or Life AF member of the MetGCSA or a dependent of a member is eligible to win. If you have any questions about the application process, please feel free to contact Scholarship Chairman Glen Dube at Centennial Golf Club. You can reach him by calling 845-803-1020 or by sending an email to glendube1@gmail.com.

The Scholarship Committee will select recipients based on leadership, maturity, scholastic capabilities, activities, and commitment to a chosen career. **All applications MUST be RECEIVED by end of business day on Friday, June 7.**

Scholarships will be awarded at the August 6 Parent/Child Scholarship Tournament at Mosholu Golf Course.

Upcoming Events

MetGCSA Invitational Tournament

Monday, June 17
Wee Burn Country Club
Darien, CT
Host: Doug Drugo

Nine and Dine: Superintendent/Manager-Guest Tournament

Tuesday, July 16
Pelham Country Club
Pelham Manor, NY
Host: Jeff Wentworth, CGCS

The MetGCSA Summer Picnic

Tuesday, July 23
Paramount Country Club
New City, NY
Host: Brian Chapin

Parent/Child Scholarship Tournament

Tuesday, August 6
Mosholu Golf Course
Bronx, NY
Host: Dave Moffett

Met Championship and Met Area Team Championship Qualifier PLUS The MetGCSA and Hudson Valley GCSA Poa Annual Tournament

Tuesday, September 17
Spook Rock Golf Course
Suffern, NY
Host: Daniel Madar

Met Area Team Championship

Monday, September 30
Mountain Ridge Country Club
West Caldwell, NJ
Host: Cliff Moore

Superintendent/Green Chairperson Tournament

Tuesday, October 8
Sunningdale Country Club
Scarsdale, NY
Host: Sean Cain, CGCS

Educational Events

Rutgers Turfgrass Research Field Day

(Golf & Fine Turf)
Tuesday, July 30
Horticultural Farm II
New Brunswick, NJ
Save the date, and watch for details. Visit www.njturfgrass.org or call 973-812-6467 for further information.

UMass Turf Research Field Day

Thursday, 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 by calling 508-892-0382 or by logging on to fieldday@umassturf.org.

38th Annual New Jersey Green Expo Turf and Landscape Conference

Tuesday – Thursday, December 10 – 12
Trump Taj Mahal Resort Casino
Atlantic City, NY

The New Jersey Green Exp offers a comprehensive educational program providing cutting-edge applications and tactics to guarantee green industry professionals' success on the job. Offering one of the largest trade shows in the tri-state area, the expo also provides attendees with the opportunity to view the latest and greatest products and services on the market.

For further information, call 973-812-6467 or visit www.njturfgrass.org.

New Board Elected at GCSAA Annual Meeting in San Diego

Preakness Hills' John O'Keefe Elected Secretary/Treasurer

At this year's Annual Meeting—held in conjunction with the GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in San Diego, CA—delegates elected a new board of directors with **Patrick Finlen, CGCS**, voted in as the GCSAA's new president. Director of golf operations at the Olympic Club in San Francisco, CA, Finlen hosted the U.S. Open this past summer at his club's Lake Course and also completed a renovation of its Ocean Course.

A graduate of Rockhurst University in Kansas City, MO, Finlen got his start in the business in Kansas City at Lake Quivira Golf and Country Club, and has stops in Virginia and at the Bayonet and Black Horse Courses in Seaside, CA. He is a past recipient of the Superintendent of the Year award from the GCSA of Northern California, where he's served as president. A 27-year member of GCSAA, Finlen is clearly well prepared to lead our national association, having also served as president of the Heart of America GCSA and of the California GCSA, where he is also currently a member.

Also elected to the board:

Vice President

Keith A. Ihms, CGCS, of Country Club of Little Rock in Little Rock, AK

Secretary/Treasurer

John J. O'Keefe, CGCS, director of golf course management at Preakness Hills Country Club in Wayne, NJ, and past president of the MetGCSA (Congratulations, John!)

Immediate Past President

Sandy G. Queen, CGCS, manager of golf operations for the City of Overland Park, KS

Directors

Peter J. Grass, CGCS, of Hilands Golf Club in Billings, MT, was reelected to a two-year term.

Darren J. Davis, GCSAA Class A member at Olde Florida Golf Club in Naples, FL, was elected to a two-year term after serving a one-year appointment in 2012.

John R. Fulling Jr., CGCS, of Kalamazoo (Michigan) Country Club, was newly elected to the board.

William H. Maynard, CGCS, of Country Club of St. Albans in St. Albans, MO, remains on the board for the final year of a two-year director term.

Rafael Barajas, CGCS, at Hacienda Golf Club in La Habra Heights, CA, remains on the board for the final year of a two-year director term.

Robert Randquist, CGCS, of Boca Rio Golf Club in Boca Raton, FL, retires from the board after serving the past year as immediate past president.

Next Year at the Conference and Show

Plan now to join fellow professionals at the 2014 GCSAA Education Conference and Golf Industry Show in Orlando, FL. The Education Conference is scheduled for February 3–7, along with the Golf Industry Show, which will run February 5–6. For further information, visit www.gcsaa.org.

San Diego Makes for Some Healthy Competition in the GCSAA National Championship

by Tony Hooks

This year's GCSAA National Championship and Golf Classic drew more than 450 players to five San Diego-area golf facilities: Torrey Pines North and South Courses—among the most challenging venues in the country—and the Aviara Golf Club, La Costa Resort & Spa, Maderas Golf Club, and Morgan Run Resort & Club. All were in great shape and made for a fun round of golf.

Considering the tourney was on the West Coast, the MetGCSA made a nice showing—and a notable mark on this year's event. Here are the many noteworthy outcomes.

The Four-Ball Mixer

The Four-Ball, held on Sunday, February 3,

was the informal kick-off to the national golf competitions held Monday–Tuesday, February 4–5. The fields were broken up into three flights based on handicap. Here are the Met players who made a notable finish:

In the First Flight . . .

The team of Jeff (The Grinder) Wentworth of Pelham CC and Tony (I-can't-win-the-Two-Ball) Hooks of Richmond County placed a respectable 8th Gross and 3rd Net. It was a Tale of Two Nines, as they were 7 under on the front nine and 7 over on the back. Better luck next year in the Two-Ball!

In the Second Flight . . .

The team of David (The Sandbagger) Dudones of North Jersey CC and Jim (The

Golf Pro) Swiatlowski of Montammy GC won their flight in a match of cards. What a duo! Dave played his normal game of 4 birdies, 4 pars, and then picked it up on the other 10 holes, while his partner also played his normal game: 10 pars, 4 birdies, and 4 others. You guessed it. The four holes that Jimmy didn't finish were the holes where Dave made his birdies! Congratulations guys!

In the Third Flight . . .

Mike (I-hit-a-country-mile) Brunelle of Upper Montclair CC and Tom (I-only-play-eight-days-a-week) Weinert of Plant Food Company teamed up to finish second in the Net Division. These guys were solid all day and were a good bounce and 1 or 2 lip-outs away from winning this division.

Having played with both Mike and Tom, I am sure they had a lot of fun out there.

The National Championship

Charles Costello from Phoenix (AZ) Country Club won his first National Championship, posting a 3-over-par 147 for the two-round event, edging out three other players who finished at a 4-over-par 148. The tourney was contested on the Torrey Pines South Course, which hosts the annual Farmers Insurance Open on the PGA Tour where Tiger Woods won at 14 under par just the week before.

As far as the Met goes, it was Steve Rabideau of Winged Foot GC who took local top honors, coming in 43rd overall. He played Torrey South both rounds, and the course played long and hard. There were 104 contestants, so to finish in the top 50 against the best superintendents in the country is a significant accomplishment. It must also be very gratifying to Rabi considering we hear he's managing 10 contractors and 91 projects, and by this time, Winged Foot could actually be considered a links course!

We also heard that Sean Cain of Sunningdale CC played in the Championship Flight but forgot his calculator and had to stop counting after 80. Maybe you should think about joining us higher handicappers next year!

The Golf Classic

In the Golf Classic, which featured two rounds of play using the point quota system, several Met supers took home a prize:

In the First Flight . . .

It's no surprise that Scott (Mr. Consistent) Niven of The Stanwich Club placed 11th Gross and 8th in the Net Division. He played his usual steady game throughout both rounds and, with a few better bounces, could have really made some noise. It wouldn't be a surprise if Scott won this division next year!

In the Second Flight . . .

Tom Weinert came in 7th Gross and 9th Net. Again, Tom is a solid player. Congrats, Tom, on a great tournament.

In the Third Flight . . .

Doug Drugo of Wee Burn CC placed 4th Gross. Doug brought his A game with him to California and was very happy with a top 5 finish.

Congratulations to all who participated in this year's golf tournament. I strongly urge anyone who is thinking about playing in this annual preconference event to join the fun in Orlando next year!

Tony Hooks, chair of the Tournament Committee, is superintendent at Richmond County Country Club in Staten Island, NY.

President's Message continued from page 1

stance on environmental concerns, the BMP project, and the funding for the Turfgrass Environmental Stewardship Fund. Our persistence with the Stewardship Fund paid off. It has not been funded since 2009, but this year they allocated \$150K, which will allow NYSTA to support turfgrass research, as well as education and outreach. Not only were we successful with this, but we also made contacts that may help us with future endeavors.

I can't say enough about the benefits of taking the time to become involved with your legislators and advocating for our profession and our commitment to environmentally responsible practices. Bob Nielsen and Ken Benoit will be meeting with their senator, here in Westchester, sometime this summer, and Glen Dube and I are joining our senator, Greg Ball, to become part of a newly formed Turfgrass Advisory Council. This council will include other superintendents from Westchester County, as well as professors from the state universities, and will provide an opportunity for all of us to work through issues and concerns before they become legislation.

For the good of the game, I urge you to please stay connected with your legislators. Their support is vital to our success.

BMPs Key Topic at Green Chairman Education Series

At this year's MGA/USGA Green Chairman Series, Doug Drugo, superintendent from Wee Burn Country Club, was able to showcase the many aspects of his environmental stewardship as he accepted the Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award. (See article, page 4.) I would like to congratulate him on receiving this award and, more important, for taking a lead role in environmental awareness. It is vital that we educate the community about how important the open spaces we care for are to both the environment and our well-being. As Doug reminded us all, "We are already doing great things; we just need to document it and let the world know about it!"

Also speaking at the event was Stanwich Club's Scott Niven. He took us through his experience with regrassing greens from *Poa* to bentgrass, while Cornell's Dr. Frank Rossi and Glen Arbor's Ken Benoit spoke about the Best Management Practices for New York State Golf Courses initiative that is underway. This is a very important endeavor, which

leads to my next entry. . . .

Please Support Rounds 4 Research!

In order to ensure that the Best Management Practices for New York State Golf Courses initiative comes to fruition, we need your support. As I mentioned in my last President's Message, the GCSAA and the Environmental Institute for Golf (EIFG) initiated a program called Rounds 4 Research, which is designed to help affiliated chapters and other industry partners generate funds for research and special projects. It's based on golf facilities donating rounds of golf or other items that can be auctioned off online. The EIFG is hard at work developing an online auction platform to sell the rounds and administer the various notification and revenue collection activities. The MetGCSA will receive 80 percent of the proceeds raised through this venue to help support the New York Best Management Practices initiative and other research-based programs, such as education, scholarships, advocacy, and agronomic research.

It will take a committed effort from all of us to make this program a success. You will be asked to solicit rounds of golf from your facilities in 2013 and 2014 to be placed up for auction. The more rounds we secure the greater the revenue we can generate in support of our chapter and members. We hope you can all support the MetGCSA and BMP initiative by asking your club to donate a round!

Final Note on Involvement

With all that's happening in and around our association, I can't urge you all enough to get involved, whether it's advocating for our industry or helping to guide our association through committee work or by joining the Board of Directors. There is no doubt that by becoming closely involved in the association, you will be among the first to know about—and be prepared to act on—legislation or issues that could affect your facility or your ability to do your job effectively. What's more, there's a great deal of satisfaction to be had from volunteering your time and know-how to the industry that's offered you so many advantages. At the very least, please be sure to support your association by attending our meetings and events. I'll look forward to seeing you all during the season!

Blake Halderman, CGCS
MetGCSA President

Wee Burn Welcomes June Invitational

by Ed Bockner, MetGCSA Executive Director

Wee Burn Country Club in Darien, CT, has long been regarded as one of the finest golf courses in the state with its rolling terrain and challenging layout. And over the past nine years under the watch of Golf Course Superintendent Doug Drugo, this classic gem has gotten even better through a series of renovations and upgrades that have continued to enhance its design. As a result, Met members and their guests will enjoy one of most outstanding golfing experiences in the entire region for the upcoming MetGCSA Invitational on June 17.

Wee Burn's Beginnings

Like many of the clubs founded around the turn of the 20th century, Wee Burn began with a very simple course that bears no resemblance to what exists today. In fact, it was established in an entirely different location—a field that the club's founder, John Crimmins, and his son stumbled on when they were out for a leisurely ride in Noroton, CT.

Crimmins hired George Strath, from St. Andrews in Scotland, to transform the field into a six-hole course, which opened in 1896 with Strath becoming the club's first golf professional and greenskeeper. Three more holes were added during the winter of 1897 to 1898, and a small farmhouse on the property was converted into the clubhouse. Strath was one of the first Scottish professionals to venture to the United States and help spread the game in America.

Wee Burn moved from Noroton to its current site in Darien in 1923, this time hiring Devereaux Emmet to design and build an 18-hole championship course, which opened for play in 1925. A true pioneer of golf course design in America, Emmet was instrumental in two of the country's earliest—and most notable—British links-style course designs: Garden City Golf Club and National Golf Links on Long Island. After many years of perfecting his craft, Emmet created Wee Burn. The course is considered among his finest accomplishments—a wonderful mix of long and short holes with his signature small greens and steep surrounds.

"We have done a lot of work on the course at Wee Burn," says Doug, "but we haven't

touched the greens at all. It really says a lot about Emmet as a designer that they are still intact and work well after all these years."

Wee Burn Today

Hired in 2004, our meeting host has worked steadily over the past nine years to not only enhance the course but also the maintenance operation. "The first project we took on in the fall of '04," says Doug, "was the construction of our new maintenance facility."

Adhering closely to the master plan created by Tom Marzolf of the Fazio Golf Course Design Group, Doug has also completed a bunker renovation that included adding 24 new bunkers and recontouring a number of the fairways to bring the club's water features more into play. He also renovated tees, rebuilding almost half of the existing tee boxes and adding new tees, which lengthened the golf course by more than 250 yards. In addition, he's installed a new irrigation system and, with the cooperation of club members, he took the steps necessary for Wee Burn to earn the distinction as a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary and, most recently, the 2013 Arthur P. Weber MGA Club Environmental Leaders in Golf Award. (See article on page 4.)

Not one to steal the limelight, Doug is quick to credit his great team with making it possible for him to accomplish this ambitious workload. Along with capable assistants Justin Miller and Mike Roe, Doug relies heavily on his head mechanic, Winston Grey, and his entire crew. "All of our success at Wee Burn is a direct result of the tremendous group of people we have on our team," says Doug.

"Wee Burn also has a great membership who wholeheartedly supports what we do," he continues. "They really appreciate all that we have done with the course, and they're pleased to give us the resources needed to make the course the best that it can be."

Steel City Born

Born and raised in Pittsburgh, PA, Doug worked summers during high school as a landscaper. After graduating, he set out to pursue a landscape design degree at Penn State. Thanks to the suggestion of his good friend and classmate, John Kaminski (now assistant professor of turfgrass science at



Doug Drugo

Penn State), Doug took a look at the turf program and ended up graduating in 1998 with a degree in both landscape design and turfgrass management.

His first stop after college was the famed Oakmont Country Club right there in his Pittsburgh, PA, hometown. He worked first for superintendent Mark Kuhns, and then two years later, when John Zimmers took over as superintendent, Doug served on his staff as an assistant from 2000 to 2003. Working at Oakmont, Doug learned what it was like to produce championship-quality conditions every day. "It was very demanding," remembers Doug. "The membership wanted U.S. Open conditions, and they got it." John Zimmers was not only a great mentor to Doug but has remained one of his closest friends.

During his Oakmont tenure, Doug also met the love of his life: his wife of nearly eight years, Dana. "We met in 1999 at the last Steelers game ever played at Three Rivers Stadium," Doug remembers fondly. The two were married in 2005 and have been living happily-ever-after in Rowayton, CT, with their 5-year-old daughter, Claire, and a handful of pets: their two pitbulls, Godiva and Penny, and their cat named Beans.

His favorite pastimes? Spending time with his family and, of course, catching as many Steelers games as he can on his return trips to Pittsburgh.

What You Can Expect

The players in this year's Invitational will be welcomed by a course that is not only in top condition, but also offers something for everyone. "It really tests every level of player, from a beginner to scratch player," says Doug. "It allows you to use every club in the bag and is a fun course to play day in and day out." Adding a word to wise, Doug cautions: "On most holes, you can be a little left or right and have a shot, but if you get in the native areas, it can make for a long afternoon."

So come out with your members and pro on June 17. You're sure to be in for a treat at this annual MetGCSA tradition.

Patron Directory

*Patrons listed on this page are supporting our association.
You are encouraged to support them.*

- ★ **A.G. Enterprises**
Staff Uniforms
Rick Gordon
201-488-1276
Fax: 201-489-5830
merrick160@aol.com
www.AGEnterprisesonline.com
- ★ **A. John Harvey Golf Course Design**
491 Naughton Road
Long Valley, NJ
201-280-8389
jharvey442@gmail.com
- ★ **Aquatrols Corp. of America**
Kevin P. Collins, Territory Mgr.
37 Oneonta Road
Carmel, NY 10512
609-841-2077
kevin.collins@Aquatrols.com
- ★ **Argento & Sons, Inc.**
Louis Argento
1 Prospect Avenue
White Plains, NY 10607
914-949-1152
Fax: 914-948-0255
louis@argentoandsons.com
- ★ **Atlantic Irrigation Specialists, Inc.**
Rain Bird & All Related Supplies
Ray Beaudry / Tim Marcoux
800-878-8873
- ★ **BASF**
John Bresnahan
www.BetterTurf.com
John.Bresnahan@basf.com
- ★ **Bayer Environmental Science**
"Backed by Bayer"
Dave Sylvester
860-841-3173
- ★ **Blue Ridge Peat Farms**
Gene Evans / Chuck Evans
Topdressing, Divot, Bunker
570-443-9596 / 570-443-9590
- ★ **DeLea Sod Farms**
Bentgrass, Fescue, & Bluegrass Sod
& U.S. Silica Topdressing
Mike Hollander / Scott Geiser
800-344-7637
- ★ **D & S Turf Products**
Floratine, JRM, Greenleaf
Analync & ISTRC Soil Testing
203-258-7911
Fax: 860-349-1291
- ★ **Dryject N.E. / TurfPounders**
"Your Aeration Solution"
Kevin Collins / Steve Jordan / Bob Lippman
914-672-6029
Fax: 845-228-1728
mcc10512@yahoo.com
- ★ **Egypt Farms Inc.**
Topdressing, Greensmix, Bagged Products
Dan Snyder
800-899-7645
- ★ **Executive Turf Products**
"Specializing in Performance Nutrients"
Ken Gentile
203-496-0891
executiveturf@aol.com
- ★ **Grass Roots, Inc.**
Ryan Batz, Tech. Sales Rep.
973-252-6634
Cell: 631-872-5357
- ★ **Growth Products, LTD**
Howie Gold
80 Lafayette Avenue
White Plains, NY 10603
800-648-7626
Fax: 914-428-2780
hgold@growthproducts.com
- ★ **Harrell's**
"Growing a Better World. Partners for Success"
Joe Stahl: 203-209-6951
Scott Tretera: 914-262-8638
jstahl@harrells.com
www.harrells.com
- ★ **LaCorte Equipment ~ John Deere Golf**
"Your Trusted Northeast John Deere Golf Dealer"
Gale Stenquist / Jim Calladio / Scott Ferguson
800-560-3373 ext 4
Fax: 631-591-3447
golf@lacorteequipment.com
- ★ **Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc.**
Hydrogeologic Consulting & Environmental Engineering Services
Rob Good
860-678-0404
rgood@lbgt.com
- ★ **LidoChem, Inc.**
Performance, Nutrition Division
Randy Rider, Regional Manager
302-319-1001
rrider@lidochem.com
- ★ **Matrix Turf Solutions, LLC**
Gregory R. Moran
259 Lucas Avenue
Kingston, NY 12401
845-338-3650
Cell: 845-849-8640
gmoran@matrixturf.com
- ★ **Metro Turf Specialists**
"Customers, Our Top Priority"
Scott / Ernie / Rob / Tim / Dave
203-748-4653
www.metroturfspecialists.com
- ★ **Morris Golf**
Mike Morris
48 Red Gate Road
Morristown, NJ 07960
973-600-9249 / Fax: 908-766-7747
- ★ **Nutrite**
Supplier of Turf & Specialty Fertilizers
Bob Griffin
Cell: 401-862-5873
bgriffin@nutrite.com
- ★ **Pinnacle Turf, Inc.**
Steven Renzetti, CGCS
914-384-9227
www.pinnaclelawn.net
srenzetti@verizon.net
- ★ **Plant Food Company, Inc.**
"The Liquid Fertilizer Experts"
Larry Pakkala, CGCS: 203-505-3750
Tom Weinert: 914-262-0111
Dick Neufeld: 973-945-6318
- ★ **Playbooks for Golf**
Golf Course Field Guides, Aerials, Consulting, Career Development
Greg Wojick, CGCS: 201-219-0254
Matt Leverich: 913-221-8052
www.goplaybooks.com
- ★ **Quali-Pro**
Quality Turf and Ornamental Products
Phil O'Brien
856-252-4725
PhilO@quali-pro.com
- ★ **Seeton Turf Warehouse, LLC**
Brian Bontemps
Cell: 845-239-7959
brianbontemps@seetonturf.com
- ★ **Soil Solutions, LLC**
Aerification Professionals
Anthony Decicco / John Decicco
7 Whittemore Place
Ryebrook, NY 10573
914-393-0659 / Fax: 914-939-5010
- ★ **Steven Willand, Inc.**
"Quality Turf Equipment"
George Corgan
4 Production Drive
Brookfield, CT 06804
Cell: 914-213-3622
www.StevenWillandInc.com
- ★ **Syngenta**
Fred Montgomery, CGCS
23 Roslyn Drive
Ballston Lake, NY 12019
518-424-0760 / Fax: 518-399-6588
Fred.Montgomery@syngenta.com
- ★ **Tanto Irrigation, LLC**
William Bartels
914-347-5151 / Fax: 914-347-6323
wbartels@tantoirrigation.com
- ★ **The Cardinals, Inc.**
Complete Distributor of Golf Course Accessories & Turf Maint. Supplies
John Callahan
800-861-6256 / Fax: 860-673-8443
- ★ **The Care of Trees**
Mike Cook: 914-345-8733
Jeremiah Green: 914-241-8110
Ken Clear: 203-847-1855
www.thecareoftrees.com
- ★ **The Terre Company of New Jersey, Inc.**
Seed, Pesticides, Nursery Stock, & Fertilizer
Byron Johnson
973-473-3393
Fax: 973-473-4402
bfleury@terrecompany.com
- ★ **Tom Irwin Inc.**
"With Tom Irwin, You Are Not Alone"
Rob Larson / Jeff Houde
800-582-5959
Fax: 781-273-4804
- ★ **Turf Products Corporation**
Buddy Rizzio
P.O. Box 296
Mountain Lakes, NJ 07046
br826@aol.com
- ★ **Turf Products LLC / TORO**
Toro Irrigation & Equipment
Pat Cragin: 860-874-2812
Main Office: 800-243-4355
- ★ **Valley View Wholesale Greenhouses**
229 Smith Ridge Road
South Salem, NY 10590
914-533-2526
Fax: 914-533-3059
www.valleyviewgreenhouses.com
- ★ **Westchester Tractor, Inc.**
60 International Boulevard
Brewster, NY 10509
845-278-7766
www.wttractor.com
- ★ **Westchester Turf Supply, Inc.**
"Serving the MetGCSA for 36 Years"
Bob Lippman: 914-447-6257, bobwestturf@comcast.net
Dave Lippman: 914-447-5192, westturf@comcast.net
- ★ **Westwood Organic Recycling**
James Scoli
914-949-3224
Cell: 914-490-1649
jscoli@westwoodorganic.com
- ★ **Wickes / Arborists**
"Your Property Is Our Branch Office"
11 McNamera Road
Spring Valley, NY 10977
845-354-3400
www.irawickes.com
- ★ **Wilfred MacDonald, Inc.**
Glenn Gallion
Cell: 201-954-5878
www.wilfredmacdonald.com
- ★ **William A. Kelly and Company**
General Contractor ~ Construction Manager
Erick Kelly / Charity Kelly
914-232-3191
eric@wakellyco.com

Thank You to Our Major Sponsors for Their Support

Ace Sponsors



Double Eagle Sponsors



Eagle Sponsors

